

ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, April 16, 2004

Butter your toast

Two Bits Man proposes the cell phone be replaced as a status symbol. Toasters are the new thing. Page 23

Eat my dust

Track and field vies for a spot in the ACC Championships this weekend. Check out our preview. Page 32

Fuel ignites, Bubba just throws Sparxxx

By Hillary Lipko
Staff Writer

When the Student Center Programs Council conducted a survey last semester asking which bands students would like to see at a proposed spring concert event, I must admit I was a bit skeptical that the concert would be worth attending. I figured that of all the bands worth seeing, the odds of one being chosen and then actually being booked were about the same as it snowing in Atlanta—not entirely improbable, but still rather unlikely.

The fact that it did snow this winter should have wasted all of the good odds for any other unlikely, including that of a good line up for the planned Sting Break concert. Fate must have made a compromise with fortune though, because in exchange for getting the short end of the stick when it came to getting a snow day, Tech managed a fairly decent concert bill for Sting Break.

While I wouldn't necessarily call it the fairest of exchanges, or assert with any kind of seriousness that our lack of a snow day back in February really had anything to do with Fuel being booked for Sting Break,

it is at least an amusing notion to entertain. I also can't pretend that this supposed exchange of fate left us on an entirely even keel, as after all, we do still have to get shafted somewhere.

Last Thursday's billing featured Tech Battle of the Bands winner Schming and hip-hop artist Bubba Sparxxx. As much as I dislike being

harshly critical of anyone, sometimes there is just no way around it. Sparxxx proved once again that Eminem is the exception rather than the rule, and that white guys are generally not cut out to be rappers. Following Schming's awkward yet still engaging set,

Bubba Sparxxx failed to impress.

The performance seemed to be heading in a better direction as DJ Scientist was given the spotlight, but soon took a crash landing as the heavyset Sparxxx proclaimed his sexiness to the audience and removed his shirt. As he crossed the stage, his low-slung shorts also revealed to the audience a reminder to just say no to crack.

While a few audience members seemed to genuinely enjoy Bubba Sparxxx's performance, it was a wel-

See *Fuel*, page 19

"Sparxxx proved once again that Eminem is the exception rather than the rule, and that white guys are generally not cut out to be rappers."



By Stephen Marek / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Brett Scallions, Fuel's lead singer, sings to the crowd at Yellow Jacket Park Thursday last week. Battle of the Bands winner Schming opened the show.

Cotton Club hosts Dexter Freebish

Dexter Freebish and the Pat McGee Band will perform at the Cotton Club this Saturday, April 17. The show will cost \$15 and it begins at 9 p.m. Josh Groban will appear at the Fox Theatre this Tuesday, April 20. The show is at 8 p.m., and tickets range from \$39.50 - \$59.50.

Earthlink offers dual shows this weekend

The Crystal Method will be at Earthlink Live, also at 9 p.m. on Saturday, so fans will have to choose between shows. Tickets are \$22 in advance and \$25 the day of the show. Sugar Ray has left California for the time being and will also entertain at Earthlink Live, also at 8 p.m. on the 20. Tickets for the event are \$18.50.

Get down robotics at Georgia Dome

There will be a robotics competition held at the Georgia Dome this Friday and Saturday. The event, which attracts over 300 high schools from around the world, will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday. Students will be competing in championships aimed at testing robotic design, strategy and fabrication. The event is free and open to the public. Head to www.usfirst.org.

Catch culture of Africa this evening

The African Student Association is celebrating the cultures of Africa this Friday. Afrifest will feature live music from the Soukosa Stars, free food and drinks. Look for them out in front of the Ferst Center around 7 p.m.

Tons of performers to choose among

Comedian Lewis Black will return to Atlanta June 11, at the Tabernacle. The show is at 8 p.m., and seating is reserved. Tickets will cost \$32.50 and will go on sale today. Buy early, as his performances tend to sell out. John Mayer tickets go on sale tomorrow. The show will be August 29 at the HiFi Buys Amphitheatre. Maroon 5 opens the show, which begins at 7 p.m. Lawn seats are \$35.50 and reserved seats are \$10 more.

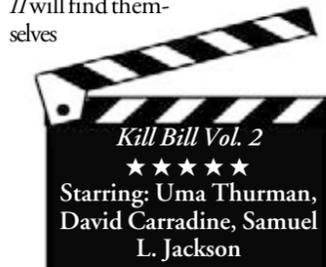
Tech professors liven Plaza Gallery

Five Georgia Tech professors are holding a gallery showing of their work entitled Five: Five Media, Five Artists. The exhibit can be viewed now through June 17 in the Sun-trust Plaza Gallery lower level lobby. The gallery is open Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Saturdays 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tarantino slices *Kill Bill Vol. 2* from new angle

By C. Jason Mabry
Senior Staff Writer

Kill Bill: Vol. II is, first and foremost, a Quentin Tarantino film. That in itself speaks volumes. Most who viewed the first installment were probably awaiting the second with some anticipation. Rest assured, the waiting pays off. For those who have yet to partake of *Volume I*, make it a priority, even if Tarantino has not been palatable prior. Both films deserve viewing, as those expecting more of the same in *Volume II* will find themselves



pleasantly caught off-guard.

Volume I and *Volume II* may well be completely different movies, but at times, they mesh with an incredible clarity that Tarantino executes much in the same manner that The Bride executes O-ren Ishii—with deadly precision and beauty to boot. If there is fault to be found with the first film, it would be that it is full of action and little sustenance, though by no means does it disappoint.

Volume II takes quite the oppo-

site approach, focusing mainly on story line and dialogue. Intense relationships are described and nurtured within the second film, supporting actions and moves from *Volume I*, and characters are more

fleshed-out, a certain necessity for the conclusion of the film.

This is not to say that *Volume II* is by any means lacking in excitement and action. It is quite the contrary. However, Tarantino has

devised a method by which his story is told less by gore and the blade than by calculated moments and precise interactions.

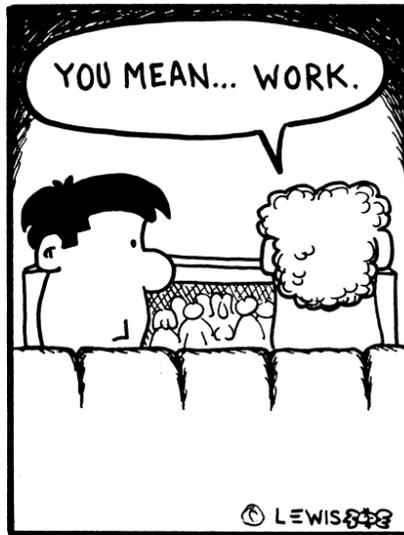
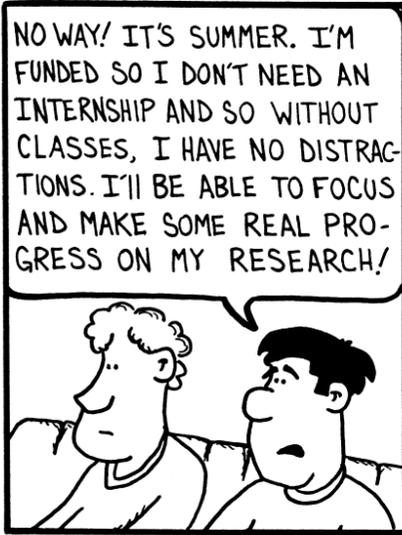
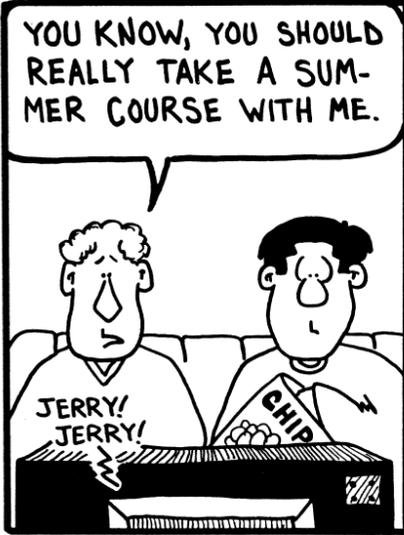
See *Kill Bill*, page 20



Photo Courtesy Miramax Publicity

Uma Thurman returns in the second installment *Kill Bill*. Quentin Tarantino decides to remove the story from its Japanese setting and take it to the American West. The sequel relies more on character development.

Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip



by Brian Lewis (gtg043f@mail.gatech.edu)

technique

making friday lectures more interesting

Theme Crossword: Stage Business

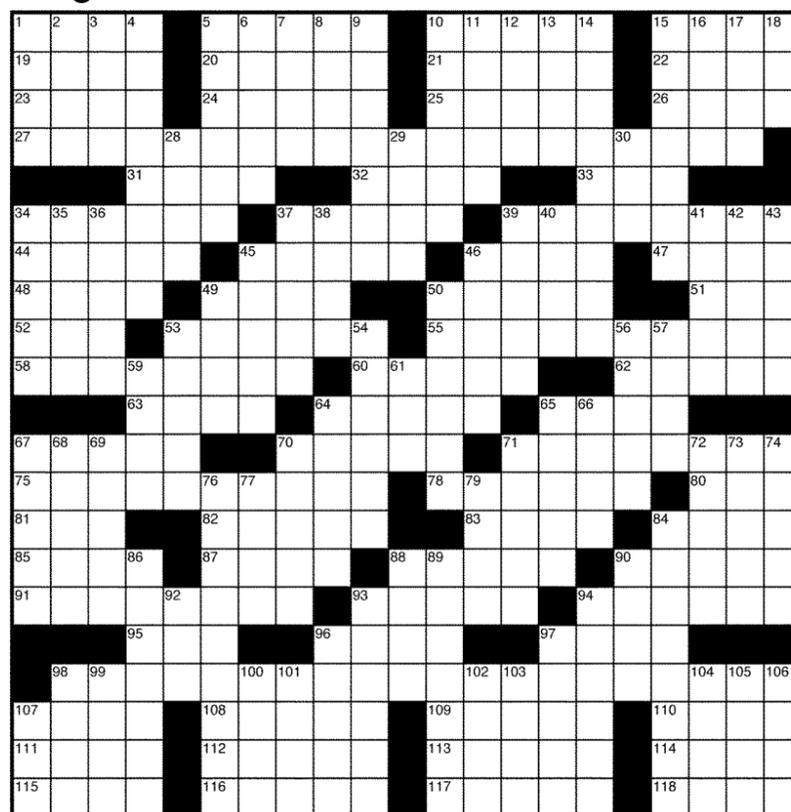
By Robert Zimmerman
United Features

ACROSS

- 1. Spheres
- 5. Dessert choices
- 10. Leaf pore
- 15. Online activity
- 19. Classify
- 20. Head off
- 21. Hunter killed by Artemis
- 22. First name in country music
- 23. Headliner
- 24. Low point
- 25. Soft color
- 26. Provo neighbor
- 27. Start of a quip by Sir Ralph Richardson: 5 wds.
- 31. Cutie
- 32. Socket location
- 33. Table scrap
- 34. Give in
- 37. Teeny- -
- 39. Hand in poker
- 44. Gleamed
- 45. - Gras
- 46. Lamb's nom de plume
- 47. Song
- 48. Pitch
- 49. Amah or ayah
- 50. Ringing sound
- 51. Tiny colonist
- 52. Astern
- 53. Goddess of wisdom
- 55. Part 2 of quip: 3 wds.
- 58. Countrymen
- 60. Radium discoverer
- 62. Legless creature
- 63. Abbr. in datebooks
- 64. Opera by Massenet

- 65. Charter
 - 67. Districts
 - 70. Mogul's cousin
 - 71. Brunch fare
 - 75. Part 3 of quip: 2 wds.
 - 78. State strongly
 - 80. Investment option: abbr.
 - 81. Greek letter
 - 82. Years and years
 - 83. - breve
 - 84. Open to question
 - 85. Soaks flax
 - 87. Old seat of Irish kings
 - 88. Snoops
 - 90. Outmoded
 - 91. Bell-bottoms
 - 93. Checks (with "in")
 - 94. Like some superheroes
 - 95. "Be quiet!"
 - 96. Cobblers
 - 97. Habit
 - 98. End of the quip: 4 wds.
 - 107. Eye
 - 108. An archangel
 - 109. Rends
 - 110. Item for a fencer
 - 111. Cutting
 - 112. Unriddle
 - 113. Laconic
 - 114. Relative of an org.
 - 115. Do a farm job
- DOWN
- 1. Greek peak
 - 2. Campus mil. gp.
 - 3. Little terror
 - 4. Loud
 - 5. Snarl

- 6. Be of use to
- 7. Ohio players
- 8. Prune
- 9. Sprinkled
- 10. To the exclusion of others
- 11. Vibrato
- 12. Unctuous
- 13. Barrier of a kind
- 14. Mooring area
- 15. Neighbor of Hungary
- 16. Mister, in Munich
- 17. Further
- 18. Cap
- 28. Stem joint
- 29. Eastern queen
- 30. Time
- 34. Music industry org.
- 35. Rub
- 36. - del Sol
- 37. Laments
- 38. Earth goddess
- 39. Quench
- 40. Antler branch
- 41. Wonderful
- 42. Flexible joint
- 43. Turkic language
- 45. Milkshakes
- 46. Like a sprite
- 49. Animal hair
- 50. Circle of light
- 53. Intermission
- 54. Steep cliffs
- 56. Dry
- 57. Brainchild
- 59. Excluding women
- 61. Numero -
- 64. - Kea
- 65. Transports
- 66. Quechua
- 67. Warning signal



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- 68. One that appraises
- 69. Greek Muse
- 70. Loutish fellows
- 71. Rods
- 72. Information booth
- 73. Notched, as a leaf
- 74. Glutted
- 76. Structure on an estate
- 77. Raise
- 79. Unsuccessful
- 84. Magazine "nameplate"
- 86. Freeze
- 88. - pressure
- 89. Rice dish
- 90. Twinge
- 92. Haggard title
- 93. Firearms
- 94. Predatory pet
- 96. Vex
- 97. Sicker
- 98. Cyma reversa
- 99. Escape
- 100. Experts
- 101. Jaunty rhythm
- 102. Athletic event
- 103. Tumbrel
- 104. - facto
- 105. Promontory
- 106. Factor in heredity
- 107. Approves

See Solutions, page 29

Fuel

from page 17

come moment for most when the set ended and the crew began to set up for Fuel. Though it was nearly an hour's wait for Fuel to take the stage, it is to the credit of those who organized the Sting Break concert that everything ran on schedule.

Fuel took the stage to a relatively small crowd that had gathered at

the fenced-off Yellow Jacket Park. After the first few songs, however, the crowd grew significantly, and by the end of the show, the park appeared to be rather full. Their set included well-known crowd favorites such as "Hemorrhage (In My Hands)" and the new single "Falls On Me."

The highlight of Fuel's performance was when Brett Scallions and

Carl Bell began a guitar duet of the intro to Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven," much to the delight of the audience, but Scallions killed the moment as he half-heartedly sang the first line and then stopped.

"Sorry, we can't play that for you," he said to a rather disappointed crowd, "but we can play a good pot smoking song." This introduction to the cover of Tom Petty's

"Mary Jane's Last Dance" was met with laughter and cheers.

Scallions led into the conclusion of the band's set by proclaiming that he wanted Fuel to become the house band for Tech. A performance of the band's most well known song and finally a three-song encore rounded out the show. As enthralled as the crowd that had gathered seemed to be during Fuel's performance, it

cleared out pretty quickly.

Unfortunately, this served as a reminder that it was in fact a Thursday night and that I still had classes the next day. On the upside, the show provided a nice diversion as well as completely different atmosphere from the usual pushing and shoving crowds that one usually has to battle in order to see a good rock show.

Do you like to write? Come write for us! Weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in Room 137 of the Flag Building.

Kill Bill

from page 17

For fans of the Quentin Tarantino library, *Kill Bill: Vol. II* will offer surprises in terms of directorial tricks, much as his audience is used to, but some are even fairly decent by his standards.

Expect plenty of nonlinear story-telling, strange characters and occurrences and the typical perplexing moments, but appreciate the variety in the direction of each of the

remaining five chapters.

One of the beautiful elements of these Tarantino films is the wide variety of film genres he manages to combine in a more-or-less plausible manner. If the first film was Asian-saturated, *Volume II* is almost pure spaghetti western, with some exciting martial arts training sequences thrown in for good measure and story progression. Be prepared for a heated cat fight, as well as more Hattori Hanzo swordplay action.

Certainly the most developed and

admired actor emerging from this volume would be Uma Thurman. She illustrates her ability to tell of her plight through dialogue and interaction even better than through her ass-kicking talents developed in the first film.

Viewers will appreciate the air that Thurman has brought to the Bride and the relationship with Bill could not be better executed.

Needless to say, *Kill Bill: Vol. II* is an incredible film. Due to the copious but not overbearing amount

of story it includes, not to mention the conclusion of the conflict, *Volume II* stands alone as a complete movie better than the first. The masses will more than likely be split as to which is the favored film, with no clear winner shining, but *Volume II*, even if less on the visuals, is likely to be the ultimate champion.

Quentin Tarantino has outdone himself yet again, and this is hopefully a trend that will continue. Rumors speak of a third installment, but not for some years in the future,

so be on the watch.

Don't enter the theater expecting *Volume I*, or else disappointment will be hard found. As with all his films, Tarantino loves to make an appearance. This one is no exception. Kudos to anyone who locates the director within the film; he is easy to miss, but his hand in the crafting is not.

Kill Bill Volume II opens in theaters today. Definitely make sure to rent the first *Kill Bill* if this film piques your interest.

Phantom Planet talks about drummer replacement, *O.C.*

By Eric Ridenour
Copyboy.com

(U-WIRE) San Diego—After a decade of playing together with three albums under their belt, the members of Phantom Planet are finally beginning to feel like they are actually getting some respect.

At first, Phantom Planet began gaining a reputation as “that band with the guy from ‘Rushmore’ in it.” Just as people began to respect them as a band they evolved into “those guys with that song on *The O.C.*”

The experiences of the band for the past two years have been for the benefit of all, between almost non-stop touring and the replacement of their actor drummer, Phantom Planet is finally going somewhere with it’s

talent as a band, instead of it’s reputation from other forms of pop culture.

“It’s definitely an improvement,

“Since Jason left, we are all getting along better now, like our heart is in the right direction...”

Darrin Robinson
Guitarist

something that needed to happen,” says Guitarist Darrin Robinson. “It was time for [drummer Jason Schwartzman] to decide which di-

rection he wanted to take.”

It looks like the direction Phantom Planet is taking is the right one. With a new CD on the “Featured Artist” shelf at K-Mart (“Are you serious? Wait until the guys hear about that!” was Robinsons reaction to hearing the news), and most shows selling out, you won’t be hearing many complaints out of them.

“Our shows are selling great! Tonight is sold out at Irving Plaza,” Robinson said. “New York is one of my favorite cities, and Irving Plaza is one of my favorite venues. Most shows sell out. If they don’t, we come very close.”

Along with the killer album and touring sales, Phantom Planet sees no slowing down in the near future. “Since Jason left, we are all getting along better now, like our heart is in the right direction,” observes Robinson.

“It’s like the band has taken on a new dynamic.”

The band will be finishing up it’s headlining tour at the end of April, followed by a spot on the first day of the Coachella Festival in Indio, Calif., followed by a two-week break.

“It’s gonna be amazing! We are playing the same day as Radiohead and the Pixies,” said Robinson, obviously excited about the gig. “It will be a very surreal adventure.”

After Coachella, they will go on a four-show supporting tour leg for No Doubt and blink-182. “After that, we plan on touring more, but nothing is set in stone yet,” said Robinson.

With stories of busses breaking down, being away from family and friends for almost a solid two years, one would think a break for the band would be in order. “I wouldn’t mind a couple days off, but whenever I get it, after a couple days I can’t wait to get back on the road.”

Phantom Planet has no inten-

tion of relaxing in the near future — and why would they? They have a strong new album, sold-out shows, and are beginning to shed the stigma that comes with being labeled as “*The O.C.* guys.” Even with the tour bus breaking down lately. “The generators been going out, two flat tires, some cabinets falling off, our tour support has been cut back a little,” said Robinson.

Time for a Heineken sponsorship?

“Hell ya,” Robinson lightens up, “I love Heineken, too.”

Regardless of a few cutbacks being made, Phantom Planet is riding this album into the fast lane. With their sophomore album “*The Guest*” now re-released due to new-found teen soap opera fame, the band has a growing audience to cater to.

“We’ve been given several plastic skulls, but one time we got a real skull...”

Darrin Robinson
Guitarist

“When originally approached, ‘California’ we all agreed worked,” commented the guitarist on allowing the hit song to act as a soundtrack to *The O.C.* “We initially said no, but they showed us the pilot, it had sex, drugs, violence and how could we say no?”

Their newest self-titled album is a bit different from their past projects. It wasn’t recorded in a trendy Los Angeles studio. Their current release was done entirely in Fredonia, N.Y. — an Amish town — after coming off a grueling 18 months on the road. With this album, you can hear the band has developed into a

tight-knit group.

“The new sound isn’t intentional, all the touring just made us more aggressive,” said Robinson.

Touring like that can either make or break a band as we discuss further. A lot of bands on the fringe learn a lot at this point why every penny is earned, and the millions given to rock stars is well deserved. A lot don’t think it all is worth it.

“*The Guest*” was a good representation of where the band was, more pop-ish,” said Robinson. “This is where we are now.”

Phantom Planet knows how to do it.

I remember they used to have on their rider (a list of items required by the band for the dressing room), a baby tiger, just to see if the new guy was paying attention. “We never got the live baby tiger,” Robinson admits.

“Actually we gave up on that. We went to a human skull. People gave us all kinds of stuff, but we did get the skull.” Robinson gives little details as if trying to avoid prosecution. “We’ve been given several plastic skulls, but one time we got a real skull, I bet Alex (Greenwald, vocals) kept it.”

Suggestions of a new hood ornament went laughed at, almost in a wondering way. When thinking about the “Big Brat” video (the band’s new single from “Phantom Planet” which features decaying zombies feasting on each others’ rotting flesh), one would have to. “I would think about making a live show out of it (the zombie effects), but no make-up or anything,” said Robinson.

“Alex enjoys it the most, I’d always look into the horrors—t when I was a kid.” What young boy didn’t?

When asked if he had anything to say as a message to fans of the band and good rock music, he chose to keep it simple. “Buy our album!”



Photo Courtesy Sony Music

Phantom Planet recently released *The Guest*. Although you may only know them for the *O.C.* theme “California” this band has much more to offer.

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we’ll print it in the
paper!

Go to www.nique.net/sliver,
and express your
feelings!

