

MOCK THE VOTE

A lesser-known candidate for the presidency has his say after being left out of the debates this past week. Page 16

ICE, ICE, BABY

A four-time winner of the Thrasher Cup, Tech's ice hockey club continues its great success. Page 28

Ben Kweller opens for Incubus, wins fans

By Charbak Mitra
Contributing Writer

Last Saturday, the lights dimmed in the Arena at Gwinnett Center and a pit saturated with passionate Incubus fans was greeted by an artist few of them had ever heard of at the time.

Ben Kweller, an independent, promising and relatively unknown artist, met them with a mission: to rock as many faces as he could and

“What Kweller must weather is the current state of affairs in the industry and go against the grain of self-righteous music connoisseurs...”

make as many fans of his music as possible.

What Ben Kweller represents to the industry is a musician in the truest sense of the word. Some might say that he was born 30 years too late. Yet others might hold that his lot in life is to bring back the idea of the rock star from when that term once never to die.

There was a time when idolatry was fathomable and those who reached the highest levels of fame became legends in their own right. These were men like Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix, who were simply made



By Charbak Mitra / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

A rock & roll staple, Ben Kweller enjoys a moment singing and playing the electric guitar backed up by vocals from his drummer. Kweller opened for Incubus last Saturday at the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

of greater stuff than mortal men, heroes who mankind has marked never to die.

One might speculate that attaining that kind of fame is a task beyond the bounds of music in the modern age. In today's scene, rock is populated with bands that cough up little more than a front man, and

country and hip-hop have precious few names that may be remembered in the same history books as Elvis Presley. It is this challenge that Ben Kweller sees as his own.

Whether or not he is made of the same “stuff” as the icons of music history is not a debate. What Kweller must weather is the current state of

affairs in the industry and go against the grain of self-righteous music connoisseurs who don't hesitate to label anything and everything they hear. He has to bring back into the world the idea that music should be taken for what it is at face value: music.

Armored in an outfit of denim and equipped with an electro-acous-

tic guitar, he commenced to rally the audience with a folksy ballad, something that might have caught the army of Incubus fans with their pants down.

“Dr. Dre ain't got nothing on me, or the Snoop D-O-double-G”, he assured the crowd.

The snide remark was received with laughter. He traded in for an electric guitar and presented the audience with “Commerce, TX” shortly before setting aside the guitar for his third instrument of the night:

“...The experience of seeing [Springsteen] live led Kweller to verse himself in an armory of musical instruments including the organ, bass, harmonica and drums.”

the keyboard.

It might be prudent to note that Kweller has a musical advantage instilled in him from his childhood. The Texas native's six degrees to Bruce Springsteen were more like three and the experience of seeing him live led Kweller to verse himself in an armory of musical instruments including the organ, bass, harmonica and drums.

“How Should it Be” from his first

See Kweller, page 17

Wait to see *September Tapes* on video

By Evan Zasoski
Senior Staff Writer

Before actually writing the review for Christian Johnston's *September Tapes*, it would perhaps be beneficial to explain exactly what this movie is. *September Tapes* is what you might call a hybrid documentary.

That is, it combines elements of both a traditional documentary with a fictional storyline and characters. The end result is frankly more than a little confusing.

The film tells the story of Don Larson (George Calil) who travels to Afghanistan with his guide Wali Zarif (Wali Razaqi) and obviously a cameraman to make a documentary detailing the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

The film is a little hazy about this, but apparently the ultimate goal is to, through some serious finagling, get a meeting with bin Laden himself and either interview him, put a bullet in his head or both.

The first third or so of the movie, in all truthfulness, sucks. It details

Larson's clumsy attempts to play detective in and around the city of Kabul. Repeatedly, and with little to no remorse or desire to learn from past mistakes, Larson not only bumbles around wildly, but also endangers the lives of himself, Wali and the cameraman.

This seriously tests the limits of believability as to why these characters, particularly Wali, who have no

great personal stake in Larson's film, would stick around while this idiot cowboy puts their lives in jeopardy time and time again.

After that, the film picks up a bit with some fairly well-shot action sequences.

es. With the exception of a few good scenes, however, it never really seems to get off the ground.

The story is fairly weak and predictable, and the non-fiction interviews interspersed lightly throughout only serve to confuse the situation and by virtue of their very short average time on screen, offer

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Photo courtesy First Look Pictures

***September Tapes* stars George Calil as Don Larson, a documentary filmmaker who travels to Afghanistan with the ultimate goal of interviewing Osama bin Laden.**

Larry the Cable Guy: “Git ‘er done!”

Your favorite (or at the very least fourth-favorite) blue-collar comic Larry the Cable Guy performs this Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Gwinnett Arena. Show starts a 8 p.m. and tickets cost \$40.

You'll have to look up for this one

With A-10 Warthogs, P-51 Mustangs and even a “flying Chevy truck,” there's something for everyone at the Great Georgia Air Show. The show is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Falcon Field in Fayette County. Tickets cost \$13 for adults and \$7 for children 13 and under.

They really know how to party

Longing for a taste of the culture that brought you Socrates, Aristotle and Zorbo? Then the Atlanta Greek Festival just might be right up your alley. The festival will be at Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, 2500 Clairmont Road N.E. Oct. 7-10. Tickets cost \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 11.

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album (*Sha Sha*, 2002), followed in the set. The song is a foot-stomping, light-hearted reminder of how fun music can be. Even Kweller stomped his feet. Among his other selections were "Wasted & Ready" and the melancholic "In Other Words."

"I would have paid 200 bucks for this. It was awesome."

John Bockelman
Concertgoer

A powerful factor of his charisma is his undeniable stage presence, a tried-and-true shot to the head of Americana that receives lavish adulation from his existing fans and quickly gathers new ones.

Kweller ended an unfortunately

briefset with "No Reason" but left the stage for dead after giving it a three-course beating complemented by guitar leaps, rapid fire progressions, and an end-all guitar solo in the vein of the rock & roll legends he labors to be. Judging from the audience's reaction, it's safe to consider him one step closer to his goal.

"I heard he was good, but he exceeded my expectations," Will Smith, a junior at Georgia State University who attended the event, said.

"I would have paid 200 bucks for this. It was awesome," John Bockelman, a concertgoer who actually looked suspiciously like Kweller, said.

With a fan base as dedicated as his, Kweller is already beginning to show the symptoms of a budding rock star.

Two such fans are Lauren and Ashley, Emory students who could be found in line eagerly anticipating autographs. Ben treated them to a personal performance of Lauren's personal favorite, "Different but the

Same" (*On My Way*, 2004).

"Ben is our idol...an iconic figure," she said, clearly writhing in euphoria from Kweller's earlier serenade.

"I used to think indie had a sound."

Ben Kweller
Singer/musician

She proudly stated she was a fan of nine months who listened to him every day.

After the show, Kweller nursed a beer and reflected on those who played pivotal roles in his musical direction. He credited his influences to the Velvet Underground, Violent Femmes, Johnny Cash, the Beatles and Nirvana.

Part of the palpable charm around Kweller is the unfaltering assurance that he gets as much out of performing live as his fans do. He finds it to

be an outlet in which he discovers new meanings to his songs.

In response to his label as an indie rocker, Kweller said, "I used to think indie had a sound."

He then pointed out that indie simply meant he didn't have to answer to anyone. "I'm a rock singer," he concluded.

Kweller even went out on a limb and gave an implied thanks to file sharing for helping people recognize his songs when he was starting out. "I'm a huge fan of iTunes," he said.

One aspect of Kweller's efforts that shouldn't go unnoticed is his political activism. He spent the previous night performing a show for John Kerry. When approached about his political leanings, he summarized his sentiments in a simple statement. "I'm just fed up with our government," he said.

Political awareness is something that Kweller sees to be important. "We're gonna inherit this country," he said.

Kweller is sometimes referred to simply as "BK." Upon further

questioning, he validated the nick name. "I *am* the burger king," he disclosed.

With further comment, he shared that "most people don't know that about me."

Looking into the future, Kweller's plans hold to his ambitions and are sincere to his grand vision. "I wanna be able to tour around the world," he said.

"I just wanna keep being creative...and maybe buy a farm in Texas."

Ben Kweller
Singer/musician

He looks forward to putting out more records and welcomes the idea of receiving more play on the radio. "I just wanna keep being creative... and maybe buy a farm in Texas."



The Technique

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very little insight into very much of anything beyond the occasional decent sound byte.

Also, this movie is just plain ugly. Granted it's supposed to be a documentary, so no one is expecting amazing camera work, but after this movie, you'll look back with reverence and awe at a simpler time when the calm and steady hand behind the camera of *Blair Witch Project* controlled what was on your movie screen.

At the very least this film will give you a headache. I've usually got a pretty solid stomach as far as

motion sickness goes and this movie made me a little queasy. Ultimately, *September Tapes* is a film that doesn't really know what it wants to be and is, on the whole, a bit of a muddled pile.

“You spend a good portion of the film trying to figure out when it's supposed to be a documentary and when it's supposed to be just a movie.”

You spend a good portion of the film trying to figure out when it's supposed to be a documentary and when it's supposed to be just a movie.

Couple that with camera work that's an epileptic's worst nightmare and you've got a movie that just never really goes anywhere but does so in a frantic fashion.

Wait for the rental because smart money says that this movie won't lose a whole lot of its luster on the small screen.

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www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.html

10/14 Tortured Soul with DJ Salah Anance

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10/12 DIO, Anthrax, Fireball Ministry

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10/10 August Falls (featuring Cole Thomas)
10/11 I Can Lick any SOB in the House
10/12 Twinemen (featuring ex-members of Morphine)
10/13 The Big Wu
10/14 Line of Sight

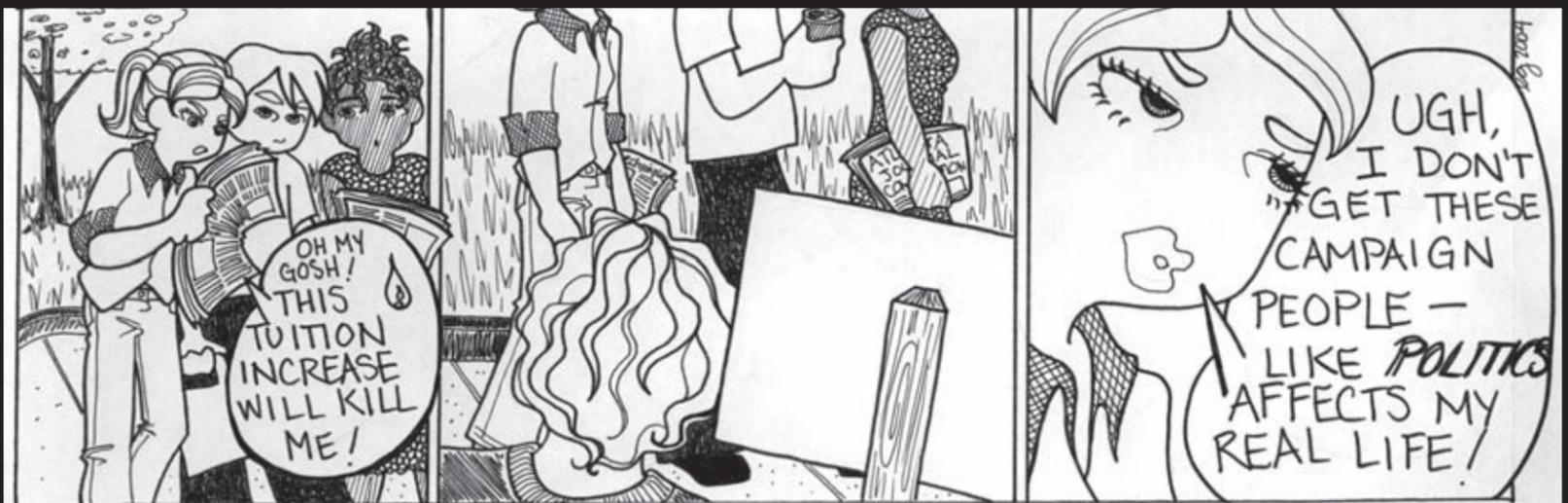
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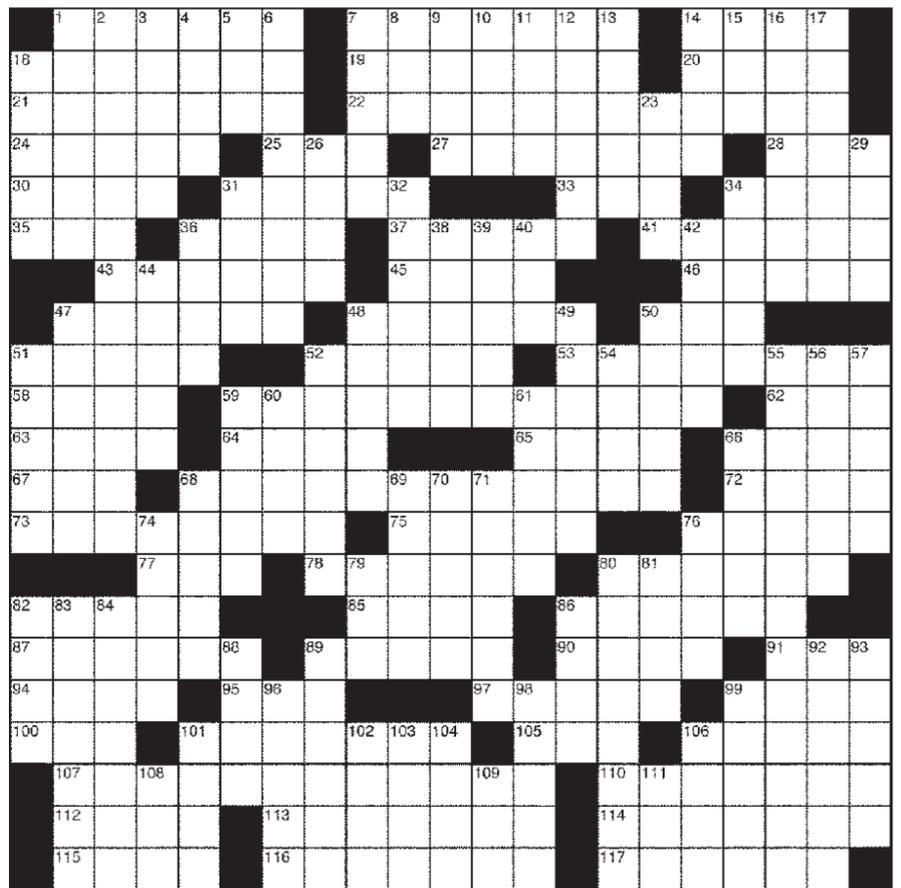
- 1. Out of the sun
- 7. Intimidate
- 14. Radio's Don ___
- 18. Washington high point
- 19. Coleridge's ancient one
- 20. Order to broker
- 21. High schooler's challenge
- 22. Bruised
- 24. Gielgud and Goodman
- 25. Needlefish
- 27. Characteristic of GBS
- 28. Fired up
- 30. One of a Latin trio
- 31. Hang overhead
- 33. Slippery swimmer
- 34. Knight's servant
- 35. Chicken
- 36. Use a strop
- 37. Mideast big shot: var.
- 41. Miss Kitt
- 43. Chiffonier feature
- 45. Home in Havana
- 46. Windblown clay
- 47. Talisman
- 48. Diplomat
- 50. Paper holder
- 51. Roman Forum, e.g.
- 52. Not a soul
- 53. Knick-knack stands
- 58. Therefore
- 59. Good times and bad times
- 62. Motorists find it changeable
- 63. Columbia Pictures founder
- 64. Texas city
- 65. Emulate Leo

- 66. Kind of slipper
- 67. "But is it ___?"
- 68. Surviving in good shape
- 72. Grew old
- 73. Buyer's burden, at times
- 75. Spout
- 76. Hurts
- 77. Offering from 35 Across
- 78. Oppose
- 80. Patriot ___ Hale
- 82. Gallic goodbye
- 85. Small dam
- 86. Homily
- 87. Leased
- 89. Gabriel of "Miller's Crossing"
- 90. Emoters
- 91. Spring clock setting: abbr.
- 94. Bounders
- 95. Columbus inst.
- 97. Letter sign-off
- 99. Verdi specialty
- 100. Lyric poem
- 101. Leading lady
- 105. Tiny
- 106. Senator ___ Lott
- 107. Really clean
- 110. Farm, perhaps
- 112. Draw with acid
- 113. Bureaucracy by-product
- 114. More reasoned
- 115. Quaker pronoun
- 116. Lou Grant portrayer
- 117. Wines from Hungary

DOWN

- 1. "Seven veils" dancer
- 2. Self-important
- 3. Concerning
- 4. Claim
- 5. Auction or mountain

- 6. Tropical fish
- 7. Spanish card game
- 8. Actor ___ Kilmer
- 9. Significant years
- 10. Heavy on the calories
- 11. "Diana" composer
- 12. Textile maker
- 13. Correspondent ___ Pyle
- 14. Publication ID
- 15. Filmmaker ___ Gibson
- 16. Howl
- 17. Their bells may jingle
- 18. Indian prince
- 23. Valley
- 26. Declare
- 29. Black, green, etc.
- 31. Inventor Elias ___
- 32. Put back on the heat
- 34. Having a tendency
- 36. Holbrook, et al.
- 38. Exodus menu
- 39. Ruhr city
- 40. Vichy export
- 42. Line up
- 44. Keep going
- 47. Northern lights
- 48. ___ Beach, Fla.
- 49. Discharge, in a way
- 50. Renowned puppeteer
- 51. Summarize
- 52. Most gracious
- 54. Holier ___ thou
- 55. Prepared for all comers
- 56. Actress ___ Brennan
- 57. Coasters
- 59. Guitar sound
- 60. Handle
- 61. Let fall: var.
- 66. He-man-ish quality
- 68. Transition
- 69. More up-to-date
- 70. Target of certain snakes



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- 71. Horse-drawn carriage
- 74. Tournaments
- 76. Cash providers
- 79. Interstate: abbr.
- 80. The Levant
- 81. Weapons
- 82. Tanker insignia
- 83. Fixed on one's purpose
- 84. With thoroughness
- 86. Cage's "Leaving Las Ve-

- gas" co-star
- 88. Pier
- 89. More than tanned
- 92. Sears
- 93. Future french fries
- 96. Gaze fixedly
- 98. Pro sports big shot
- 99. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 101. Dull pain

- 102. Icelandic poetry
- 103. Fast flyers
- 104. Bridge
- 106. WWII Japanese naval base
- 108. Lipinski's milieu
- 109. Mighty Joe Young, for one
- 111. Bill and ___

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