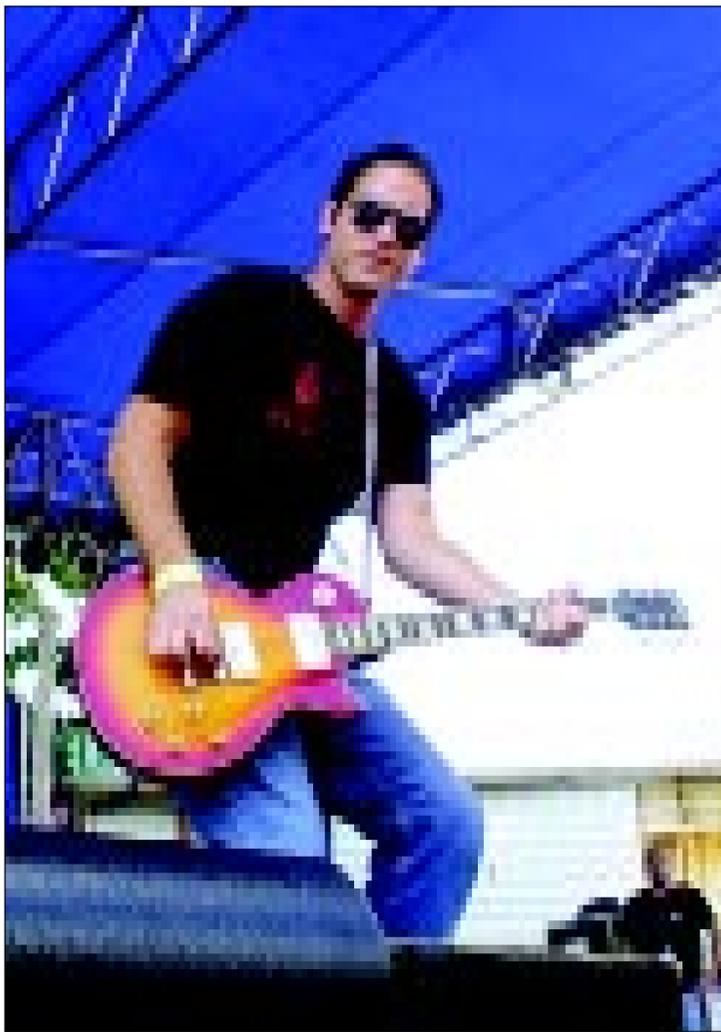


Rocking it up close with Left Front Tire



By Hillary Lipko
Contributing Writer

Somewhere within the cosmos there exists a parallel universe in which concert festivals go off without a hitch. Every band arrives on time, there are no equipment disasters and the crowd is relatively well behaved.

Somewhere between Tech Tower and the Masquerade I must have stepped through a wormhole that transported me to this universe, as 99X's inaugural Upstart Fest took place under these conditions.

Under a hot sun on a Saturday afternoon and into a warm night, eight bands rocked the Masquerade Music Park with sounds that ranged from reggae-inspired rock to a reincarnation of 80s new wave to just flat-out good alternative music.

The afternoon began with local bands Transmission and Lights Out and continued with the hell-raisers of Habersham County, Left Front Tire.

Having arrived in Atlanta from Tampa, Florida, at 6 a.m., the members of Left Front Tire found themselves a bit road-weary.

Despite this, their 40-minute set was one of the most energetic of all the bands at Upstart.

Aside from being a powerful force onstage, by involving the fans and creating a bond with the audience through the live performance, LFT is all about their fans offstage as well.

"You kind of have to be [all about the fans]. They're the ones who make you," said Charlie Hamilton, LFT's long-time road manager.

Following their set, Left Front Tire spent a good long time talking to fans and signing autographs.

Even after the official time for autographs had ended, the guys stuck around and talked to several fans who had been cut off at the end of the line.

"We just want everyone to be

though.

"I was brainwashed," drummer and Georgia Tech graduate Josh Davis laughs.

As a band on an independent label, many of the responsibilities usually covered by larger labels fall upon the band. Depending upon the band, this can be either a blessing or a curse. For LFT, a short stint on the Universal label, while it helped them get their name and music out to a slightly larger audience by contributing a track to the *American Pie 2* soundtrack, also made the band realize that the major label life was not for them.

"It was too impersonal. There was nothing that they were doing for us that we couldn't already do for ourselves," said Dillard.

Carrying out their responsibilities as a self-promoting band, the members of LFT mention their new album *42 Ways to Lose a Friend* at every opportunity.

"It's an upbeat album with a kind of depressing name," said bassist Brent Reems.

"The name came from us thinking and talking about all that we'd been through as a band and how we still were friends after it all," said Dillard said.

"As we were talking, we realized that there were at least 42 girls that at least two or more of us had dated," said guitarist Justin Holcomb.

Resisting the urge to go home

See *Tire*, page 22

Left Front Tire guitarist Justin Holcomb hams it up for the audience. The band and others including Saves the Day and Hot Hot Heat performed last Saturday at the Masquerade for the 99x Upstart Festival.

By Hillary Lipko / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Last chance to catch *Les Misérables* at Fox Theater

By Charu Fadnavis
Contributing Writer

It is one of the all-time classics of literature, and finally Atlantans can have a full feast of *Les Misérables* at the Fox Theater.

The play is based on Victor Hugo's novel of the same title but, even without being fresh up on the book, I was able to follow the story, thanks mainly to the eloquent songs and amazing voices of the performers.

The acoustics of the theatre are impressive and enhance the experience of watching a Broadway show.

The music flows from scene

to scene with barely a pause. One marvels at the musicians in the pit and their flawless synchronization with what is happening on stage.

The show is remarkably briskly paced and will keep you on your toes as you struggle to keep apace with it. And yet, for the crucial scenes, the tempo drops down and the audience is permitted to soak in the emotion and empathize with what is taking place.

"The show is remarkably briskly paced and will keep you on your toes as you struggle to keep apace with it."

It is inevitable that a theatrical adaptation will lose some of the richness of the book on which it is based. However, I found *Les Misérables* the Broadway show to be an absorbing and whole experience.

The visuals, songs and theatrical feel more than made up for any compromises with the content of the book or characterizations.

Besides, there is so much that is added to the narrative of the story by virtue of it being dramatized.

The dramatization of Fantine's death, with white light bathing her death bed and her dying request to Valjean to take care of her daughter, left a

lasting impression.

The story is set in France, amidst the turmoil of the French Revolution, and revolves around Jean Valjean, played by Randal Keith.

Valjean is imprisoned for 19 years of his life for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his starving nephew.

The play opens with Valjean violating his parole and entering the

See *Fox* page 19

Sushi, Chinese abound off Piedmont

By C. Jason Mabry
Senior Staff Writer

The Aloha Asian Bistro is precisely what any good Asian fare restaurant should be: healthy, appetizing, fast and filling. The sushi is amazing. Any of the chef's specialties are sure bets. The food is satisfying and the experience quite enjoyable, and afterwards, plenty remains for subsequent meals at home.

The ambiance at Aloha is very laid back. Lacking is the typical pseudo-Asian décor of low lighting, bamboo, tiger motifs and reproduction furnishings.

These trivialities do not make a statement at Aloha Asian Bistro, thus allowing the food to take center stage.

The dining experience is a bit of a surprise. Service is the primary goal, and it is most certainly attained. Patrons are checked on by the waiter, hostess and owner.

Everyone in the restaurant is extremely nice and very helpful, willing to explain the contents of any dish. Service is prompt and timely, and deliveries are free in the surrounding area.

For starters, try the staple egg drop soup. It is extremely delicious and has body, unlike many others that rely too heavily on water. This soup is great.

For a completely different taste, the seaweed salad, prepared cold and in thin strips, is quite interesting,



By Art Seavey / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Aloha Asian Bistro, located across from Publix, offers quality Chinese and exceptional sushi. The exemplary service sets the restaurant apart.

and makes the idea of a salad composed of seaweed much more appealing.

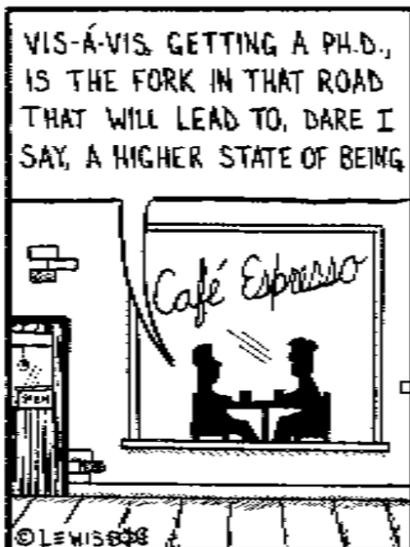
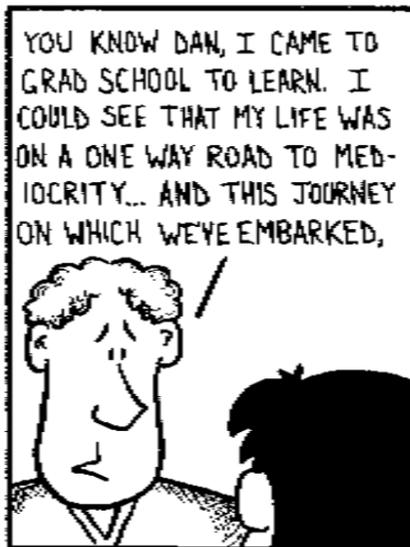
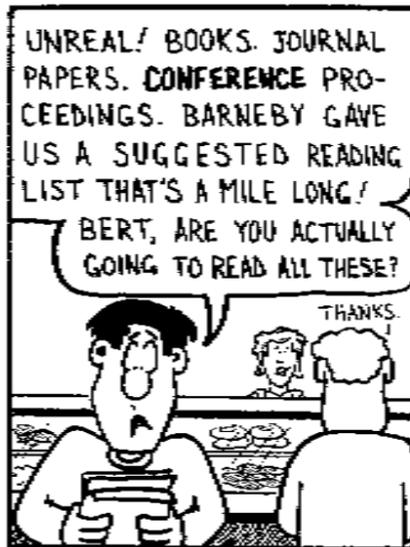
The teriyaki chicken strips, more of a small meal than an appetizer, are full of flavor and fun, great for sharing with a friend.

In terms of the main course, any item from the chef's specialties sec-

tion is certain to go over well. The General Tso's chicken has a lot of flavor. The Triple Mongolian is composed of chicken, beef and shrimp in ample portions and has a sauce one could bottle and place on other dishes as well.

See *Aloha*, page 22

Q.E.D. Original Comic Strip by Brian Lewis



Come to our weekly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in room 137 of the Student Services building and eat free pizza.



By Joan Marcus/ Courtesy Glenn Agency

The cast of *Les Misérables* performs this weekend at the Fox Theater. The classic story by Victor Hugo never seems to lose its appeal. With amazing sets and a talented cast, the show should be on everyone's schedule.

Fox

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life of a fugitive. His nemesis, Javert (James Clow), is a police inspector who considers it his duty to uphold the law and bring to justice those who flaunt it.

The relationship between the two is strange, convoluted and intriguing. The book covers it in much more depth, having better characterized both the defender of the law and the transgressor.

On stage you see both of them performing diametrically opposite things, both in the name of God. Javert is ultimately unable to reconcile the truth of his life with that of Valjean's and meets a tragic end.

Returning to the story, 19 years of cruelty and mistreatment have embittered Valjean and he has lost all faith in human kindness.

However, one deed of extraordinary kindness rekindles his good nature and he dedicates his life to helping those in need. Within eight years of starting his life anew, Valjean becomes a factory owner and mayor.

One of the women working at his factory, Fantine (Tonya Dixon), is harassed by Valjean's foreman and appeals to him for help.

Valjean doesn't hear her and unwittingly spurns her in her hour of need. Fantine, who has an illegitimate daughter, suffers a cruel fate and ultimately dies in Valjean's arms.

He promises to care for Fantine's girl, Cossette, for the rest of his life.

What follows occupies most of the play. The production has a sprawl-

ing cast and, though it is sometimes difficult to keep track of them all, most of them do a competent job.

There is a curious mix of superficiality and depth to the show. Though you root for Valjean, the nuances of his personality are lost. However, this is admirably compensated by Randal Keith's spectacular performance.

The same goes for James Clow's portrayal of Javert. Some of the best songs of the show belong to Keith, Clow and Tonya Dixon.

The most realistic scenes are those from the uprising. The scenes depicting the night-long battle are very well executed. For this scene, the stage is transformed into a very convincing barricade with action shown from both sides of it.

Special mention

must be made, at this point, of the unique ways in which the set design adds to this tale of sad souls.

Perhaps I have watched too many films and too few plays, but the startlingly different use of space in theatre is rather refreshing.

The way in which the barricade is managed and the people are shown traveling vast distances through a rolling stage just adds to the appeal of watching a live performance.

Overall I highly recommend attending the show. The music is great, the story is ambitious—in all, the show is rather good and time watching it is time well spent.

The show will be playing for the rest of this weekend at the Fox Theater off Peachtree Street.

Fighting Temptations should vacate movie theater as quickly as possible

By Phillip Wilcox
Contributing Writer

Darren Hill, played by Cuba Gooding Jr., is an advertising executive who has just been fired. His luck seems to have disappeared. However, he finds out that he is the only surviving relative to his Aunt Sally and is entitled to \$150,000.

But, here comes the catch: to obtain the money, he has to enter a new choir in the annual Gospel Explosion and emerge victorious. Of course, Lilly, played by Beyoncé Knowles, shows up to help him along the way.

The Fighting Temptations concerns itself much less with being a movie than with perfecting its musical segments.

While this naturally leads to the portions of the movie dedicated to the actual plot being forgettable and largely uninspiring, the energy injected into the songs is almost able to make up for this.

There is a clear division between the cast members who are there for their musical talent and those who are actually actors or actresses, and while the musicians are not exactly stellar at the acting business, they aren't asked to do all that much of it.

The majority of the rest of the performances are solid, with Gooding carrying the lead role decently, though hardly spectacularly.

The movie seems to understand that it is simply there as a vehicle for the musical sequences and, as such doesn't have the painful feeling that could be expected from the cliché plot and largely predictable and forgettable happenings.

It probably won't have you laughing all that much, but it also doesn't make you roll your eyes a great deal,



Photo Courtesy Paramount Pictures

Beyoncé Knowles showcases her singing talent in *The Fighting Temptations*, which opens today. However, the cast forgot that they were making a movie and missed the boat when it came to actually acting.

either. The majority of the movie is mediocre, with a few good jokes amidst the rest, but then it is apparent that the producers were not trying to put together a great movie, but merely something to carry the musical scenes.

A large portion of the humor is derived from the southern Georgia small-town setting. Gooding is a fish out of water with little experience with that type of place, which adds the rest. It's hard to say if the treatment given in the movie is accurate, but it is played pretty well

for laughs.

If you think you would enjoy the musical sequences that the movie offers, then it would probably be worth seeing *The Fighting Temptations*. The musical scenes are a bit long in places, but then again, that seems to be the point.

The movie does its best not to get in the way of some pretty good musical performances, and falls squarely into the "average" category. Its earnestness earns points, but as a movie it is still rather predictable and forgettable.

Coffee, coffee everywhere, but which is the best to drink?

By *Erich Hansen*
Contributing Writer

If there is one thing that unites all Tech students by a common bond, it would have to be late-night study sessions. Some students have no trouble staying awake in the wee hours of the morning; others need a little caffeine to keep going. Whether you're looking for a Frappuccino, Cooler or plain coffee for this caffeine boost, the following five spots have fine coffee necessary for late-night mental encouragement.

Caribou Coffee

Wood panels and a fireplace give Caribou Coffee the feeling of a log cabin. There is an artistic flair here with posters and fliers promoting everything from local bands to film festivals. Honest Abe couldn't ask for a better coffee house!

Starbucks @ Tech Square

The new Barnes and Noble bookstore is home to a brand new Starbucks location, complete with classic favorites. Wireless and Walkup internet access abound. The old bookstore houses the Cyber Café, another great on-campus coffee location.

Ashton's

Ashton's blends brick walls, oriental rugs and sky-themed fixtures together in a cornucopia of styles to create a unique experience. The fares also include delicious homemade ice cream. A hip staff contributes to the cool atmosphere.

Aurora Coffee

Concrete floors, an open ceiling and stainless steel fixtures give Aurora Coffee the appearance of a warehouse. Far from MARTA, Aurora is really not worth the bus fare. Although the staff is friendly, the beverages are not up to par.

Café Intermezzo

Café Intermezzo is styled after a traditional European coffeehouse, complete with an outside patio. Candles and dim lighting offer a personal atmosphere. The menu also includes food, deserts and alcohol. Expensive prices may be a deterrent from ordering here.

Location	Style	Price	Quality	Address
Café Intermezzo	European	\$\$\$\$\$	★★★★	1845 Peachtree Rd NE
Caribou Coffee	Log Cabin	\$\$\$	★★★★★	1000 Piedmont Ave NE
Starbucks @ Tech Square	Cyber Café	\$\$	★★★	48 5th St NW
Aurora Coffee	Warehouse	\$	★★	1572 Piedmont Ave
Ashton's	Postmodern	\$\$\$	★★★	314 E Howard Ave, Decatur

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By Hillary Lipko / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Left Front Tire rocked the stage last Saturday. They took time out to speak with the *Technique* following a superb performance.

Tire

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and watch the end of the Georgia game, a few of the members of Left Front Tire stayed behind for the rest of the party that was Upstart Fest.

A few more independent bands followed LFT, and included The Rising, Billy Talent and Hot Hot Heat. One festival-goer was almost speechless with awe.

"I, I ... they, they signed this. They're ... amazing," he said as he pointed to his autographed copy of Billy Talent's self-titled debut.

After night had fallen, the crowd size grew exponentially as fans awaited the event's headliners, Saves The Day.

At this point, the crowd began to look more like the kind of concert crowd that most of us are used to, with pushing, shoving and the occasional obnoxious, screaming teenage girl.

Regardless, it was still much less violent than most. Saves The Day

miraculously took the stage on time after having flown in from Pennsylvania that evening just to play at Upstart.

As if the fact that they had flown in specially to play the show was not proof enough that the band wanted to be there, the performance provided further evidence.

Everyone seemed to be dead on target with all aspects of the show, and the entire band almost became not only one with each other, but with the massive audience as well.

As I watched at a distance from the large crowd near the stage, all I could do was smile.

Now that Upstart Fest has ended and I am back on the Tech Tower end of North Avenue, I can't help but wonder if I stepped back into the universe I left, or if I remained in the perfect parallel universe where concerts begin on time, crowds are courteous and everything just seems to go my way. A test and a class or two this week ought to answer that question.

Aloha

from page 17

The chef makes each piece of sushi to order. The rice is sticky enough to hold together but not so sticky as to adhere to the chopsticks. The wrap is crispy. The fish has a reserved presence, allowing the flavor of the combination to express itself without any piece being overpowering.

The restaurant has a great variety of sushi and nigiri, and individuals will be hard-pressed to find items not well crafted.

Diners can anticipate spending around \$15 a person for dinner, and a little less for lunch. This amount is ample for an appetizer, main course and a drink. Sushi costs can run a little higher.

Aloha Asian Bistro has even gone so far as to provide a sectioned orange or multi-flavored ice cream for desert as part of their thanks for dining there. Everyone is certain to find what they desire at the Aloha Asian Bistro.

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