Inaugural SoulFest proves successful
By Charbak Mitra
Contributing Writer

For a city so richly endowed with hip hop culture, it comes as no surprise that Atlanta's first Soul Fest was a resounding success.

The two-day event boasted an impressive roster with L.L. Cool J and Outkast's Big Boi topping off the list. However, last minute complications led to L.L. Cool J's inability to attend.

Demento, Strong Bad, and Arwen (FFLTPG"UMBOUBVOJUFBU%SBHPO$PO) performed...

however, the audience was already geared up for the Atlanta native to give them a shell of a time for their money. Of course he lived up to the hype. He came onstage in a San Diego Chargers jersey and greeted the crowd as he riled them up in preparation for a show worthy of an audience from the Dirty South.

“[Ludacris] came onstage... and greeted the crowd as he riled them up in preparation for a show worthy of an audience from the Dirty South.”

ArtExpo makes Atlanta stop
By Jon Kaye
Staff Writer

It is an opportunity to meet Dr. Demento, Strong Bad, and Arwen in the same weekend, but all of them appeared together this Labor Day weekend at DragonCon 2004.

The four-day event started Friday and lasted throughout the holiday weekend, bringing thousands of visitors from all over the world to joyously revel with their fellow geeks.

Geeks of Atlanta unite at DragonCon

By Jon Kaye
Staff Writer

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The conference brought representatives from nearly every domain of science fiction and fantasy together to converge on the Hyatt and Marriott hotels downtown.

The conference offered a myriad of events and activities, so virtually anyone could find something to please them.

With events including concerts, movie viewings, panel discussions, dancing, visual arts, autograph signings, and a masquerade, one could easily move around and events to suit their interests.

Among the most popular events at DragonCon were the concerts. Artists of various sci-fi and fantasy genres performed, ranging from Celtic to acoustic goth.

The great variety of artists provided a rich and diverse musical experience that potentially exposed thousands of conference attendees to new musical styles.

Perhaps the most prolific artist at DragonCon was acoustic goth performer Voltaire.

This talented singer/songwriter took to the stage on several occasions during the conference, each time drawing cheers from the crowd with his provocatively dry wit and edgy commentary between songs.

See Dragon, page 26

Reading is FUNdamental
By Andrew Rearden
Senior Staff Writer

This Saturday, September 11 is the Atlanta Book Festival, taking place at the Atlanta Fulton Central Library. Events for the day include meetings with authors of all different genres, free writer's workshops, and of course, there will be a huge book sale for anyone needing to punch up their library. The festival runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Edwin McCain plays Chastain
By Jon Kaye
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Edwin McCain is performing at the Chastain Park Amphitheater on Stella Drive N.W. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets will cost from $20 to $45. Be there or be square. Though considering that Edwin McCain isn't exactly the Rolling Stones, you can have rounded edges if you want.

Remember 9/11 at Carter Library

The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library is exhibiting “After 9/11: Messages From the World and Images of Ground Zero,” which will feature photos, letters, poems, paintings and other memorabilia from September 11, 2001. The exhibit runs until January 2, 2005 and is open from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Sundays.

Come to Black Box improv festival

DramaTech's Let's Try This! improv troupe is hosting The Black Box Improv Festival this Friday and Saturday. Workshops will be held throughout the day for improv troopers attending the festival, and the shows at night will be open to all students, faculty and friends. On Friday and Saturday each show starts promptly at 7:30 p.m. and includes six 20-minute performances featuring different troupes. Friday also features performances by JaCKPie and Dad's Garage, and we think it's going to do a good job of bringing Matter to the stage. Tickets are $10 for general admission, $8 for seniors, and $5 for students. Call 404-894-2745 for reservations or buy them at the door.
Lucas Woodgeard plays Atlanta, no “Waste of Time”

By Halley Espy
Contributing writer

Aspiring singer and songwriter Lucas Woodgeard turned heads this past week with his solo performance at the Peachtree Tavern. With his voice and acoustic guitar, Lucas took the stage at 9 p.m. last Thursday showcasing his own material in an intimate setting.

Touring apart from his four-piece rock band, Kickstand, Lucas is doing a stint of small solo acoustic shows. Stripped of power cords, drum beats and underlying bass lines, Lucas relies on his talent as a singer and songwriter to attract attention.

Drawing inspiration from Coldplay, Toric, John Mayer and Matchbox 20, Lucas has worked to develop a unique acoustic sound that emulates a cross between Dave Matthews and Maroon 5.

Lucas Woodgeard also gave a solo dinner performance at the Alpha Xi Delta Sorority House on last Wednesday. Andrea Zaplatynsky, a third-year Applied Psychology major, offered her opinion on the up-and-coming artist. “He was very talented and had a vast knowledge of songs by other artists as well as a great collection of original work. We enjoyed his serenade at dinner very much,” she said.

“[His] music can be summed up as unforgettable...[with] simple and direct storylines and themes.”

Ricky Harrison
Manager

Lucas’s simple lyrics are fused with vitality and a captivating beat that reveals the candor behind writing and performing his own work. Manager Ricky Harrison stated, “[his] music can be summed up as unforgettable... hooks, undeniably radio-friendly songs, [with] simple and direct storylines and themes.”

With roots in a musical family, the 23-year-old from Macon, Georgia, began playing in his brother’s cover band Echospeed soon after he picked up the guitar at age 16. Since then, Woodgeard has gone on to try his hand at the solo scene and also to develop his band, Kickstand.

Looking to make a name for himself, Lucas has recorded several songs with his band on self-produced label, Imperial. With emphasis on guitar and light lyrics, Lucas and his band have recorded a number of songs.

“One Step Behind You” starts with a heavy lead guitar part that tapers into mellow verse capped with a rock-pop chorus. A simple drum beat drives ‘One in a Million” and builds to the catchy chorus line.

Atlanta station 99X and 96Rock have devoted air time to Lucas’s original songs “Linger Here” and “Waste of Time.” Woodgeard comments on the honest feel to his music saying, “I write songs that stick.”

Lucas is currently pursuing a record deal with Virgin and Lava/Atlantic Records both expressing interest.

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Lucas Woodgeard is currently touring apart from his band Kickstand in support of his solo efforts.
By Evan Zasoski
Senior Staff Writer

Enid Zentelis’ Evergreen was an official selection at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival. So it stands to reason that somewhere there exists someone who not only liked this movie, but liked it enough to give it prizes and allow the people who made it to put one of those little laurel wreaths on their movie poster.

For the record, if anyone reading this review is keeping some sort of tally, I didn’t much care for it. In fact, I downright disliked it.

First off, the movie is just plain ugly. The colors are pointlessly muted and the quality of the camera work ranges from mercifully disinteresting to full on Blair Witch, hand-held-nasuiating.

Granted, there are a couple of good shots in this thing, but mostly you can just count yourself lucky when the visual quality of a given scene leaves you merely bored and not reaching for the Dramamine.

I suppose that this could be a function of something being wrong with the projector, but it seems much more likely, given the overall picture quality, that it was just shot on someone’s Sony Handicam. They even used a built-in green filter to ham-handedly showcase the main character’s envy of the rich kid’s fabulous lifestyle.

Then there’s the plot. Frankly, you’ve seen this movie before. Here’s the rundown.

A down-on-her-luck working mom is forced to move herself and her daughter back in with her supposed-to-be hilariously out of touch Eastern European mother until things pick back up.

The daughter, being ashamed of her impoverished lifestyle, more or less disowns her mother and grandmother and spends all of her time with her right side of the tracks beau whom she just happens to pick up the first day of school.

She continues to debase her mother, grandmother, and in a subplot which is set up but never really pans out at all, her mother’s overweight, Native American boyfriend who built his own car.

She continues this behavior until such time as she shockingly learns that rich people have problems too and that she should be thankful for what she has. There, I just saved you 10 bucks.

The acting is equally unremarkable, but everyone pretty much gets through their lines with a bare minimum of muss and fuss.

Addie Land, our young heroine, makes her debut with an offering that she at least won’t be particularly ashamed of should her career ever go anywhere.

The biggest name in the film is Bruce Davison who plays the rich boy’s dad. Since he’s better known to you and me as that senator guy from the X-Men movies, that’s not saying too much for the film’s star power.

He does, however, mail in a respectable performance. Most everyone else also sends in decent showings, not that they had a whole lot to work with.

Addie Land, our young heroine, makes her debut with an offering that she at least won’t be particularly ashamed of should her career ever actually go anywhere.

So, is Evergreen just awful? No. It’s ugly, poorly paced and derivative, but it is one step up from the Lifetime movies that doubtlessly spawned it.

And hey, at least, Enid Zentelis tried. She got up and made a movie, and maybe next time she’ll get it right.
Long-awaited Hero brings nuance to martial arts films

By Andrew Gauthier

Boulder Herald

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - Since advertising began for the U.S. release of Zhang Yimou’s film Hero, a name has been coupled with the project more prominently than Zhang’s or even that of the film’s star, Jet Li Quantian Tarantino.

Tarantino’s name does not appear anywhere in the actual print of the film, yet there is on every movie poster and trailer: “Quentin Tarantino Presents...”

This is curious for a couple of reasons, but the most saddening of these is that Hero is aesthetically and textually so very far from the work of Tarantino.

In fact, hopefully Mr. Tarantino, along with the majority of modern American filmmakers, can learn a lesson in artistic restraint from the film.

Zhang understands the absence of a symbol can be just as powerful as its presence. Hero creates a sense of foreboding using the flickering of hundreds of candles, as opposed to a loaded pistol or bloodied sword.

What Zhang accomplishes is a piece of brilliant filmmaking and something as very foreign to many modern American filmmakers — a bold war film about peace.

“The film unfolds over three principle flashbacks, each shot primarily with a differently hued mise-en-scene.”

While Voltaire’s strength is rooted in his intelligent and piquant lyrics, his talent as a musician is unmistakable. Flowing smoothly over a current of up-tempo acoustic guitar, was a mellow yet bold voice.

By the plaudits from the audience, Voltaire was obviously a hit. Nonetheless, he did endure one heckler, yet ended triumphantly tearing the concertgoer apart with his aggressive sarcasm.

Other musical talent at DragonCon came from goth band The Cruxshadows in a hugely successful onCon for the science fiction and fantasy angle, there were a slew of forums for everything from Buffy the Vampire Slayer to making one’s own chain mail.

In one of the sessions, a panel of novelists discussed sex and its role in science fiction literature, and they came to the conclusion that if they personally don’t consider sex sexy, then it’s not going to ultimately end up in the novel.

“The film unfolds over three principle flashbacks, each shot primarily with a differently hued mise-en-scene.”

Several bands played at this year’s DragonCon, including goth bands Voltaire and Cruxshadows. The music represented was an eclectic mix ranging from acoustic to electronic.

Dragon

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“The film unfolds over three principle flashbacks, each shot primarily with a differently hued mise-en-scene.”
assassins, Sky (Donnie Yen), Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung), and Broken Sword (Tony Leung Chiu-wai) are expertly constructed bits of filmmaking, but they are by no means the crux of the movie.

Her also has an intelligence and empathy that is not present in the majority of martial-arts epics. It continues the tradition of the wuxia film, the Chinese equivalent of the American war film genre, which Coaching Tiger recently and successfully revisited.

But one would have to go back to the works of Kurosawa to find an example of the sort of film with as much breadth and social awareness as Hero.

As Emperor Qin relates to Nameless his ultimate plan to create one unified, unilingual and homogenized empire out of the seven warring kingdoms, one cannot help but sense a nod to the imperalism—something China has yet to outgrow.

It is a compact action film with themes and imagery that resonate with the audience long after they leave the theater. It demonstrates that the ultimate ideal of a warrior is to lay down the sword -- an ideal from which Hollywood filmmakers could learn.

It has been four long years since I appealed to my loyal readers to take part in the Two Bits in 2000 Write-in Campaign. Since then, my running mate, Madame d'Amour has graduated, the Technique has changed its front-page layout, and most of the questionable business dealings have been swept safely under the rug.

I've grown a lot in these past four years, and I am ready to appeal to you once again to stop towing the party line when instead you could vote for me and leave it in a wrecked heap by the side of the road. For those of you who don't follow presidential politics, let me jog your memory: Florida screwed me!
ACROSS
1. Housemaid of ‘60s TV (10)
6. Utilization
11. It may be found on the web
17. Felt hat
18. Greek city-state
19. Given arsenic
23. Lincoln’s Ann -
24. Undivided
25. Fed fuel to
26. Early telegrapher
27. Scram, out West
28.-case scenario
31. Miss Olsen in “The Apartment” (1960)
33. Sugar source
34. Seaweed wraps it
35. Review harshly
36. Electrical meas.
37. Mariner
39. Make sure
41. Perfume ingredient
43. Bust
44. Basel’s river
45. “All the Things You -”
46. Pitcher
47. Spirited presentations
49. Student stat.
50. Heavy reading
52. Book identifier
56. Part of a steeple
57. N.M. art center
59. She loved Narcissus
60. Goofs off
61. News anchor, of yore
63. Actor - Dennehy
64. Exposes
65. Oddball
66. Orfello’s nemesis
68. Hoof-on-pavement sound
69. Lively
70. Lingerie item
71. Shelling out
72. 1952 Winter Olympics site
74. Pub order
75. Make cloudy
76. Starts a task: 2 wds.
79. Rural spread
81. Unity
84. Wipes out
85. Medic
86. Former White House init.
87. Canonical hour
89. Composer - Porter
90. Solomon’s mom
93. Early computer
94. Santa - , Calif.
95. Politician’s concern
97. Find
100. Oust the monarch
102. Moving van, of yore
105. Loners
106. Rewrite, as a law
107. Make insane
108. Shows impertinence
109. Computer sockets
110. Long time
114. “Auntie -”

DOWN
1. Grievous, as a crime
2. "Anthony -"
3. Actress - Wanamaker
4. Blunder
5. Sets down
6. Modern
7. Absorb
8. Pulitzer playwright
9. Hayworth role
10. Language suffix
11. Goes bad
12. Miserable place
14. John, of police reports
15. Chess climax
16. Resnik namesakes
17. Moves along
19. Give a cue
20. Wheel lock
22. Convenient garments
26. "Auntie -"
29. SWAT team, of yore
30. Church supporters
32. Brubeck’s of jazz
33. Air mail, of yore
35. Air mail, of yore
36. Poet’s before
37. Mark
38. Hotheaded
40. Uncrutched
41. Chicken specialty
42. Hotheaded
46. Gulf big shot
47. Asian capital
48. “Republic” author
49. Chains
50. Siberian woodland
51. Nabisco item
53. Heir
54. Cannabis preparation
55. Not any
56. Political coalition
57. Hammer, e.g.
61. Kind of list
62. Speak orders?
63. Jersey City, N.J., neighbor
65. Ovens
67. Eater
70. - d’Azur
73. German pronoun
74. - of Constantine
75. Has with artillery
76. Section of a rosary
77. Laundry workers
78. Pygmalion’s creation
79. Old sayings
80. - d’Azur
82. Laugh slyly
83. Vivaldi subject
86. Of late
88. Meager
90. Afflictions
91. Kind of replay
92. Circle above
93. Fleur de lis
96. Speck
98. Country music’s - Arnold

100. - Bounty
101. - Bounty
102. Place for a feather
103. Tiny
104. Org. founded in 1847

See Solutions, page 36
SoulFest from page 23

"Welcome to Atlanta." He teased the audience by stopping the song abruptly and accusing a single person of not complying with his request. The bulk of the show consisted of the rapper pounding through hit after hit and receiving unfailing satisfaction from an adoring crowd. The southern superstar included famous songs such as "Area Codes" and "Act a Fool," covering pressing issues ranging from fast cars to his many, many hos.

He was joined on stage by fellow rappers such as I-20 and included selections from his double platinum 2003 release Chicken & Beer. The audience was thoroughly content with his show.

"Luda rocked the house," exclaimed Jenice Carter, a concert-goer who managed to make her way to the front. She was accompanied by her friend Toni Greene, who came all the way from South Bend, IN for the show.

The performances of day two lived up to the standards set by the artists of Saturday's lineup. The roster boasted the likes of The Gap Band, Frankie Beverly & Maze and Big Boi featuring Sleepy Brown.

"One of the memorable moments of the night was the rock solid performance of Chaka Khan, who poured her lungs out in an infectious blend of soul and R&B." One of the memorable moments of the night was the rock solid performance of Chaka Khan, who poured her lungs out in an infectious blend of soul and R&B accompanied by funk-laden guitar lines.

The members of the crowd, infected by Khan's radiant stage presence, were all clapping or raising their arms in participation. The friendliness of the atmosphere was palpable. In a bizarre violation of schedule, Big Boi preceded Maze. Unaccompanied by fellow Outkast member André Benjamin, Big Boi (Antwan Patton) managed to adapt the duo's widely recognizable music to compensate his absence. Nevertheless, Big Boi took to the crowd with a sincerity that more members of the music community could afford to engage.

Like Ludacris, he began the gamut of the Outkast musical canon with hit singles and tracks from the group's sixth release, Speakerboxx/The Love Below (winner of 2004's Grammy for Album of the Year). For a man accessorized in a backwards cap and colossal necklace, he struck the concertgoers with a degree of professionalism. Embodied by his trademark ability to approach his lyrics with a rehearsed rapidity, Ludacris delivered nothing short of a phenomenal performance.

His stage was populated by a contingent of musicians playing away on various horns, making the act seem a little less synthesized than one would expect from a hip hop concert.

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Maze rounded out the festival with an upbeat crew of musicians contributing with the electric guitar, keyboard, wind chime and drums. SoulFest was put together in part by V103. DJ Soul represented "The People’s Station" and expressed how important it was to do this event for the people.

In the future, he hopes to see more big acts and venues. Atlanta's first-ever SoulFest was well-conceived, well executed and well worth the ticket price.