

ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, September 13, 2002

Coldplay review

Before you catch the Coldplay show this Saturday at the Masquerade, read the review of their new CD. **Page 21**

Volleyball dominates

Led by a new coach, the women's volleyball team is off to the best start in school history. **Page 31**

Sixteenth annual DragonCon attracts fans of all types

Introverted fanatics of sci-fi, fantasy and comics congregated in Atlanta for a 96-hour nonstop convention

By Gray Gunter
Contributing Writer

For the sixteenth straight year DragonCon, the Southeast's largest science fiction, fantasy and comic book convention, invaded downtown Atlanta. Over the Labor Day weekend, the convention packed 25,000 fans into the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Fan conventions always make for interesting social contradictions because they are for the most part gatherings of introverts. The girl who loves Dr. Who isn't going to find a lot of people who share her interest in everyday life, but at a sci-fi show she'll be one of dozens who feel exactly the same way.

Combine her sect with a small group of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan fiction writers, then add other devoted fan bases, and you quickly get a majority comprised entirely of what are otherwise obscure minorities.

Most surprisingly these ultra-minorities come together in staggering harmony. What is on the surface a theater of the bizarre ends up feeling rather normal. In terms of peace and decorum, DragonCon makes the United Nations look like Thunderdome. It could be a result of the shy nature of so many of the participants or the ease people feel around those who share their hobbies.

Whatever the feeling is, it's infectious. Rather than attempt to adequately describe the disease itself, it's best to highlight a few of this year's symptoms.

• This year's convention saw the first annual DragonCon parade, a six-block march from the gates of

Centennial Olympic Park to the doorstep of the Hyatt. Downtown residents were greeted at 10 a.m. by a crowd of bag pipe players, Klingons, several squads of Storm troopers and two Darth Vaders moving in lock step.

• Big girls in corsets. Lots of big girls in corsets. There's nothing else to say about that.

• Because the event is staged in a hotel as opposed to a convention center, DragonCon operated twenty-four hours a day. This allowed for a variety of all night concerts, movie screenings and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer: The Slumber Party*.

• Black T-shirts with witty statements printed on them in white were a boom industry at the convention. Two separate vendors at this year's DragonCon exclusively sell these comedic gems. Only one shirt actually managed to pull off the desired effect, a XXL clinging to a man behind a laptop reading, "No, I will not fix your computer."

• A young girl walked around handing out samples of Pocky (the delightful Japanese pretzel candy). If you have any doubt about the disarming power of a comic convention, understand that hundreds of people happily took unwrapped candy from a stranger.

• In *Star Wars* costume news, this year's DragonCon saw four Boba Fetts and one sly middle-aged man who dressed up as George Lucas.

• As always the convention brought together a variety of celebrities, most of whom were major names in the world of art, literature and comics.

But far more importantly the organizers scraped together a bunch of former TV and film stars that fans were shocked to discover not



By Gray Gunter / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Fans of all types showed up for the annual DragonCon convention, held over Labor Day weekend. Above, fans dressed in medieval attire lead off the parade that led from Centennial Olympic Park to the convention.

only are still breathing but also charging \$20 for an autograph.

This year's slate included television's *The Incredible Hulk* Lou Ferrigno and Linda Blair of the *Exorcist* films.

Blair boasted an hour wait for her signature, while Ferrigno boasted a free black-and-white 8x10 photo of himself with your purchase of a

Polaroid with him.

• Comic book creator John Vazquez made a rare East Coast appearance. The author of the popular dark comedy titles *Johnny the Homicidal Maniac*, *Squee* and *I Feel Sick*, as well as the animated series *Invader Zim*, dropped in to spread his own brand of vicious, killing-spree based sarcasm. Vazquez spent

the majority of the show mocking the fourteen-year-old Goth girls he's attracted with the cartoon show and railing against Nickelodeon's decision to flood Hot Topic stores with cheap *Zim* merchandise.

Check out the interview with DragonCon Guest of Honor Alex Grey on page 23.

Tamarind serves up authentic Thai food and atmosphere



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Tamarind Thai Cuisine, run by Charlie and Nan Niyomkul, offers a wide selection of affordable authentic Thai dishes in a friendly atmosphere.

By Irene Gung & Narendhra Seshadri

Contributing Writers

Tamarind Thai Restaurant
80 14th Street NE
Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 873-4888
www.spotcity.com/tamarind

The authentic flavor of traditional Thai cuisine made with freshly grown herbs and spices sets Tamarind apart from other Thai restaurants. The strong aroma, floral decorations and cozy atmosphere catch your attention even before being seated.

Grilled lemon grass chicken breast served with sweet and spicy Panang curry is one of the many varieties of dishes to choose from. Other traditional favorites include the Pad Prik King (sautéed vegetables in roasted red curry paste with string beans topped with Kaffir Thyme leaves), Gang-Phed (chicken, beef or pork in red curry with bamboo shoots, Thai eggplant, fresh basil and coconut milk) and the Golden Triangle (a combination of chicken, beef and pork cooked and sautéed in a fresh panting red curry topped with Julian lemon leaves). Other than its main

entrees, Tamarind also has a variety of noodles and rice dishes to choose from.

While there are a few exclusive items for vegetarians including the vegetable fried rice, the sautéed mixed vegetables (with fresh garlic sauce, tofu and Thai herbs), or the sautéed mixed vegetable curry (with red curry sauce, tofu and a touch of coconut milk), all the dishes can be cooked vegetarian style by adding other vegetables, coconut milk and spices. The flavor is still retained in the dishes with a vegetarian alternative; instead of using fish sauce, mushroom sauce is used.

Originating in New York, the owners of Tamarind Thai Cuisine, Mr. Charlie Niyomkul and Mrs. Nan Niyomkul, brought their business to midtown Atlanta in 1995. Mr. Niyomkul pointed out that the "Midtown area is very active" and filled with a "diverse range" of people.

Not only has the restaurant catered for Georgia Tech football players but also to famous celebrities including Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, and Brooke Shields. Their family-oriented restaurant gives a very warm feeling for its customers with its abundance of traditional

Thai artwork. The decorated walls not only showcase picture frames of celebrities, but also flaunt great critiques such as "Best Thai Restaurant in Atlanta," "America's Top Ten restaurants," and "Esquire's Top Five Women Chefs in the Nation." Mrs. Nan Niyomkul has worked with quite a number of chefs and has even catered for the Augusta National Golf Tournament.

Mr. Niyomkul said, "The food is authentic and we won't reduce our taste and standards. When they come for Thai food, it should be Thai food." A typical meal will consist of a curry dish served in either Masman (mild) or Penang (sweet and spicy) sauce and will be served with jasmine rice or noodles. However, the presentation style is most noteworthy especially with the traditional salads and the extra efforts given to the garnishing.

Tamarind Thai Restaurant is an ideal place for a romantic dinner for two or just a casual night out with friends. It is conveniently located near Georgia Tech's campus in Midtown.

Verdict: Yummy Thai food at affordable prices with a cozy atmosphere.

Coldplay’s new album diverges from mainstream music



By Tom Sheehan / © EMI

The UK band Coldplay consists of members, from left, Will Champion, Chris Martin, Jon Buckland, and Guy Berryman. They will perform this Saturday evening at the Masquerade to promote their new album.

By *Pete Mocker*
Contributing Writer

Artist: Coldplay
Album: *A Rush of Blood to the Head*
Label: Capitol Records
Length: 54:11

Not since the 60’s have the British been caught so red-handedly importing rock bands into the U.S. With each additional band being shipped over and marketed, it’s becoming increasingly popular to file the new arrivals together into a deep genre drawer and force it shut. Just as easy would be the filing away of London-based Coldplay inside the overloaded cabinet of Brit-rock.

However, this resolved foursome, whose 2000 release *Parachutes* garnered the band a Grammy for Best Alternative Album in 2001, is aiming to repeat their success with their latest effort, *A Rush of Blood to the Head*.

Attempting to paint over the subdued, mellow image with which the band has been labeled, much in part thanks to its soft-and-spoony hit, “Yellow,” Coldplay hopes to further accentuate itself above other British bands currently touring the U.S. charts, and, while they’re at it, just about every corporate-output band playing on American radio.

Coldplay isn’t exactly shy about its “back to the roots” policy. “We wanted to be a reaction against soulless rubbish,” said singer Chris Martin puts it.

However, at times on *Rush of Blood*, the band’s exertions more resemble a runaway freighter than a well-planned getaway vehicle escaping from the perceived woes of mainstream rock. The album occasionally finds the band meandering too much for its own good, with such tired and unduly fitted tunes as “A Whisper” and “Politik.”

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Visionary artist visits DragonCon

By Gray Gunter
Contributing Writer

Alex Grey is an artist who was selected as the Guest of Honor at DragonCon 2002. He has done CD design for Tool's *Lateralus*, Nirvana's *In Utero*, and *The Beastie Boys' Ill Communication*. He also designed the set for the current Tool tour.

He has been featured in *Newsweek* and *High Times*. More information on Alex Grey is available online at www.alexgrey.com and www.sacredmirrors.org. The following is an interview conducted at DragonCon.

Technique: Most people probably have seen your work on Tool's latest album, *Lateralus*. Where else would people have seen your artwork?

Alex Grey: My works have been in *Newsweek* in articles on science and art. *The Discovery Channel* did a feature on art and creativity in altered states, and I was a participant in that.

The Beastie Boys included my work on a CD of theirs. And it was on an old Nirvana CD, *In Utero*. Some in your audience might have been to a retrospective of my work in San Diego at a very respectable museum.

T: You're of course a painter and you've done set design and CD design. You even have home photos of yourself doing body paint on Maynard James Keenan. What other art genres are you involved in?

AG: It's all stemming off of the painting really. And the painting is stemming off of the visions that are the real source of artwork.

In whatever medium you're working with, you're working with your consciousness. That's the medium where the visions come through. And if you don't have that you're looking to the world for inspiration. I prefer looking inside.

T: A lot of your work has a mathematical or geometric theme to it. Your paintings employ grid lines and symmetry. Do you look to math for inspiration?



By Gray Gunter / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Artist and DragonCon Guest of Honor Alex Grey poses next to one of his artworks. His work has been published in several national magazines.

AG: Of course. It's beauty, rhythm, proportion, harmony. It's all these things that can be measured by mathematical principles. The principles of sacred geometry are a somewhat esoteric, but becoming a better-known, kind of field. You can analyze the world's great architecture by these principles. It's a field that's worthy of study by anyone in the arts. You learn about the Golden Section, the Golden Rectangle—things that have been part of the sacred arts for a long time.

T: Is there any particular religious art you draw from?

AG: I try to look at all the different sacred arts from the various cultures because what I'm trying to do is put forward a nondenominational sacred art. Which is sort of a contradiction because most sacred art would be religious art, and art-

work that you'd have recognizable deities illustrated in.

But with a lot of the religions at war and the various problems of dogmatic adherence to faith, I'm trying to point towards the validity of spiritual and mystical insight without having to isolate or latch onto one religion for the answers.

My piece "Cosmic Christ" is a revisioning of Christ that brings in the entire human history within a framework of fire and eyes. It's not a real human figure. It's a figure made out of symbols, referencing that we're all individuals making up a greater being.

T: What are you working on right now?

AG: Well, I've got a project waiting for me at home. It's about a seven-

See Grey, page 25

Heisman, a Musical?

By John Rafferty
Contributing Writer

Show: *Heisman, A New Musical*
Writer/Director: Garland Atkins
Musical Writer: Karen Pressley

Having been sent an e-mail link from a friend who knows my affinity for Georgia Tech history, I was intrigued to learn that "Heisman, A New Musical" was being shown at Queens University of Charlotte. Immediately I jumped on the opportunity, realizing that a play entitled "Heisman, A New Musical" may not last long enough for me to see in a different city, and hastily began plotting a road trip. I decided to call the phone number listed at heisman.homestead.com to make sure that it hadn't been cancelled in the week that it had been posted online, and was quickly answered by a man purporting to be the writer, Garland Atkins.

I asked him whether or not he had ever tried to get the play shown in Atlanta, since according to his website, the brunt of the play occurred at the Georgia School of Technology, where John Heisman coached for 19 years. He notified me that he was completely rebuffed by the staff members of the First Theater that he talked to, implying that there would be no interest for such a play at Tech.

When he found out that I planned on driving from Atlanta to see his play, he offered me free tickets to anyone I could bring with me. When I only found one daring soul to go with me, I invited my aunt and cousin near Charlotte to meet me there to use the remaining tickets.

The reason that Queens University hosted the play for two weekend showings was that one of their graduates, Mrs. Karen Pressley, penned the original songs for the play. One such song was "The Foot-

ball and the Play's the Thing," heard in a dream sequence when Heisman falls asleep to discuss the similarities of football and acting with the then-deceased William Shakespeare. This scene would be written out if I made a revision, along with the treatment of 1910s Georgia racial situation. Those scenes were a detriment to the football, school, and family relation aspects of the play, which were actually needed to make the plot flow.

On the good side, the story of Heisman's coming to Tech on the heels of 11 consecutive losing seasons and a 73-0 thrashing by Clemson were factually accurate. Atkins also portrayed Tech legends "Uncle Heinie" and Lyman Hall in a favorable light, as they were directly responsible for hiring the coaching legend. He also threw in tidbits of

information like Margaret Mitchell (of *Gone With the Wind* fame) writing for the Atlanta Journal. There were old Coca-Cola jingles used during the play which spiced up the musical numbers, which included such

[The play] showed that Tech has a strong history in both academics and athletics, and that it is well respected across the country.

timeless hits as "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" and "Shine on Harvest Moon."

But the heart of the play is the score created by Pressley for the musical, including "Southern Hospitality" and "Read All About It," but headlined by the aforementioned "The Football and the Play's the Thing." An excerpt from this song, featured in a recent *ESPN: The Magazine* article, has Heisman singing, "I shall don quill and paper/Thou don helmet and pad/If pen is mightier than the sword/Then perchance I've just been had." And although the singing is good, there's no way to make a dream sequence with William Shakespeare viable in a play about a football legend.

See Heisman, page 23



The Live List



ECHO LOUNGE (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 681-3600
www.echostatic.com/echolounge
9/13 The Forty Fives/The Modey Lemon
9/14 The Frames/Nad Navillus
9/18 Bitch and Animal/The Butchies
9/19 Maserati/Paper Lions/Fin Fang Foom
9/20 Jason Blackwell/Chain of Thought

COTTON CLUB (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 688-1193
www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp
9/13 Phix
9/15 Minus
9/18 Greenwheel
9/19 Lake Trout
9/20 Speech

SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522
www.smithsoldebar.com
9/13 Captain Soular Cat/King Johnson
9/14 Plankroad Chaingang/Charlie Mars
9/15 The Dappled Grays/Bailey Jester
9/16 Modern Marriage/Chip Dangerous
9/18 Heather Luttrell and Friends
9/19 Victoria Williams/Mark Olson

THE EARL (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 522-3950
www.badearl.com
9/13 Dropsonic/Rutabega/The Wrist
9/14 The White Lights/A Fir-Ju Well
9/16 U.S. Maple/The Flakes/Victory Girls
9/19 The Cherry Valance/Tom Collins
9/20 Milemarker

10 HIGH (816 North Highland Ave.)
(404) 873-3607
www.darkhorseatlanta.com
9/13 Film/Connor
9/14 Paul Melancon/Ether Family Presents
9/16 The Gizmo/DJ Amphion
9/17 Lazlo/Baleen
9/18 Leo/Hundred Dollar Day/Kip Darby
9/19 Audiobridge/Kilgore Trout/Adamsday
9/20 Ian Webber/Loud American Tourists

VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786
www.variety-playhouse.com
9/13 Jupiter Coyote
9/18 Grant Lee Phillips/Kristin Hersh
9/19 Savoy Brown/Wishbone Ash
9/20 Jimmy Smith Group

STAR BAR (437 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018
www.starbar.net
9/13 U.K. Subs/The Vibrators
9/14 Kevin Kinney Band/Gibb Droll
9/18 The Creeps/Boss
9/19 F8 with Leif Garrett
9/20 The Woggles/The Preacher's Kids

HI-FI BUYS AMPHITHEATRE
(404) 443-5090
www.hob.com/venues/concerts/hifibuy
9/14 John Mayer/Guster
9/15 Eddie Money/Survivor/Loverboy
9/20 Allman Brothers Band

CJ'S LANDING (Buckhead Ave.)
(404) 237-7657
www.cjslanding.com
9/13 Wes Yoakam
9/14 Mike & Hank/Anitra Holley

MASQUERADE (695 North Ave.)
(404) 577-2007
www.masq.com
9/14 Coldplay
9/18 Hank III/Southern Bitch

Upcoming Events at the Ferst Center

Remember when you were leaving home to come to Georgia Tech and your mother told you, "Please, get some form of culture in you life!" Well, here's your chance. The Robert Ferst Center for the Arts provides all types of cultural experiences. Here is the rundown of events occurring this September and October.

September 13, 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. — Lewis Black, Comedian
This funnyman from "The Daily Show" will have you laughing until it hurts. Black is the winner of the 2001 American Comedy Awards' Viewer's Choice Stand-Up Comic. Known to many as "America's foremost commentator on everything," this Yale graduate has appeared on many talk shows and sitcoms.

September 20, 5:00-10:00 p.m. — Abe Ordovery, Photographer
This exhibit features unique photography from Antarctica, Africa, and the desert southwest. Many of Ordovery's nature photographs appear so dreamlike that it is hard to believe they are real. He has photographed for organizations in the Atlanta area including the Atlanta Zoo and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

September 26, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. — Open House
This event features free food, prizes and cheap tickets to upcoming events. Spend your lunch hour taking a tour of the theatre, playing games, or purchasing \$15 tickets to many of the upcoming theatre events. The discount only applies to students and is a great and thrifty way to experience the Ferst Center.

October 18, 8:00 p.m. — Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, and Truls Merk, Musicians
Three fantastic artists join up in a performance before their debut at Carnegie Hall. Yefim Bronfman is a virtuoso pianist who has worked with the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Symphony and the Chicago Symphony, among others. Gil Shaham is a child protégé classical violinist who has preformed concerts worldwide and won a Grammy award in 1999. Truls Merk is considered one of the greatest cellists on the international concert scene, and he founded the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger.

October 19, 8:00 p.m. — Manhattan Transfer, Musicians
This unique group has been singing together for close to 30 years. The group's four members, Cheryl Bentyne, Tim Hauser, Alan Paul and Janis Segal, combine their distinct voices to generate outstanding music. The group's style is constantly evolving creating a variety of musical styles anywhere from children's songs to contemporary pop. The ten-time Grammy winners produce tons of energy as they exhilarate audiences with their soulful melodies.

October 25, 8:00 p.m. — Bill Maher, Comedian
This quick-witted comedian created the ABC/Comedy Central program "Politically Incorrect." The show combines some of today's most fascinating politicians, entertainers and journalists, and lets them to discuss controversial subjects with a comical undertone. Bill's intelligent humor will have you thinking and chuckling.

Heisman

from page 21

The best parts of the play are the scenes where the football games are reenacted, as a whole act is devoted to the Cumberland versus Tech match in 1916 that ended with the most lopsided score in Division 1 history, a 222-0 Tech win. The scenes were well researched, included the football technique of the age, and the vintage costumes were accurate throughout the show. There were also numerous quality backdrops used to illustrate the interior of the Administration Building (complete with a framed painting of primary Tech President Isaac Hopkins). A negative of the play was the constant waffling over the school's correct name at the time. During the play, Georgia School of Technology was used correctly during a

song, but Georgia Institute of Technology was incorrect in another scene, since the entire play was set before 1920, and the school changed names in the forties. Atkins also made the unforgivable error of labeling us Georgia Tech University once, which we have never been in the 117-year history of our fine institute. As the scope of the play was mainly about Heisman's Tech years, it closed sadly by detailing his divorce, which led him to seek employment in the Northeast. It especially hit home to me, since only two years ago I saw his divorce certificate for sale at the football Kickoff Celebration for a sum of \$2,500. Although no one bought it, if I had had the money, I would have picked it up at the time, since it's a notarized signature of a Tech legend. Think of it like an 85 year old Certificate of Authenticity.

What's disturbing is that the sum is ten percent more than the contract that Heisman signed to coach the football, baseball, and track seasons at Tech in 1904. I will say that I enjoyed the play, as it showed that Tech has a strong history in both academics and athletics, and that it is well respected across the country. With a rewrite to eliminate the dream sequence and the haphazard coverage of the racial tensions of the day, the play could become very good. When that happens, I will suggest personally that the Ferst Theater carry the play to introduce younger Tech fans to a piece of their proud history.

Verdict: An interesting take on one of Tech's heroes, this musical is great for lovers of Tech history.

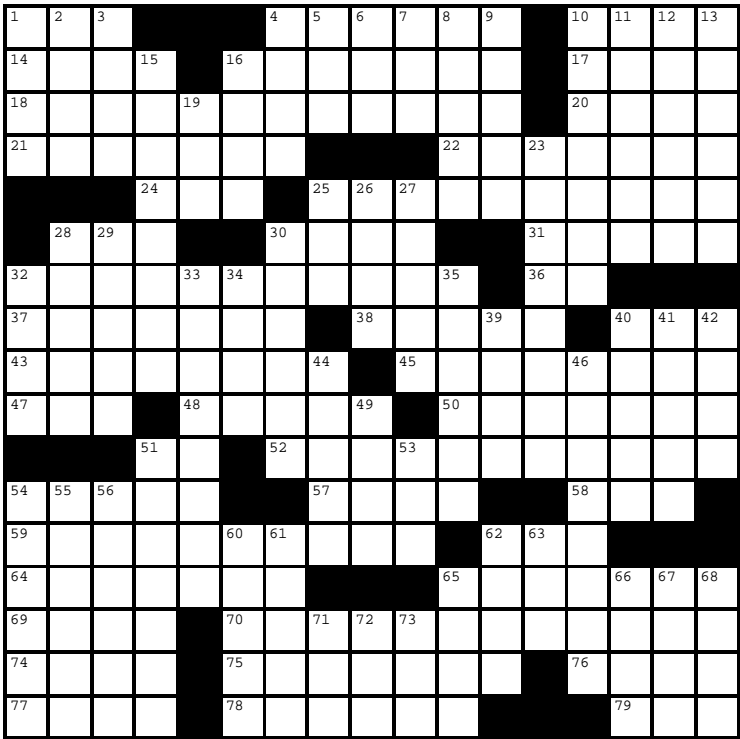
Technique Crossword: Edsels Everywhere

By *Joey Katzen*
Staff Writer

- Across
- 1. ____ a wrap
 - 4. Character of tank engine fame
 - 10. Dry
 - 14. Carry
 - 16. Hammer in at an angle
 - 17. Grimm’s witch demise
 - 18. Albino flop
 - 20. Aniston husband Brad
 - 21. Baked Native American cake
 - 22. Student
 - 24. Mimic
 - 25. Downtown concert venue
 - 28. TV host Rafael, to friends
 - 30. Biltmore basement lounge
 - 31. Anoint
 - 32. Handheld flop
 - 36. Fro partner
 - 37. Murder investigator
 - 38. African religion
 - 40. Grandma’s daughter
 - 43. Ryder Cup and Stanley Cup
 - 45. Troll the ancient _____ carol
 - 47. Ms. Clinton, for short
 - 48. Hello from Honolulu
 - 50. Sends back
 - 51. Article, before A... or O...
 - 52. Extra sweet flop

- 54. Golden
 - 57. Very long period of time (var.)
 - 58. Attempt
 - 59. Tapes for use on a rerun
 - 62. Mai-_____
 - 64. Chain gang appendage
 - 65. Dead body
 - 69. Foreboding sign
 - 70. Video flops
 - 74. Dynasty famous for vases
 - 75. Paper art
 - 76. Quantum jump
 - 77. Sonar-emitting creatures
 - 78. High schools in Normandy
 - 79. Arid
- Down
- 1. Seven year _____
 - 2. Mower manufacturer
 - 3. Eye ailment
 - 4. Gilded metalware
 - 5. Rosebush fruit
 - 6. The loneliest number
 - 7. Cartographer’s concern
 - 8. Odds and evens division?
 - 9. More foxy
 - 10. TV therapist patient Tony
 - 11. Demonstrate
 - 12. Convey again
 - 13. Main course
 - 15. Shellfish delicacy item
 - 16. Abscond

- 19. _____ Dance Kid
- 23. Excommunication
- 25. Large marble
- 26. Alternative to 10 Down
- 27. Kind of trap
- 28. Anthrax unit
- 29. Chef’s attire
- 30. Thereupon
- 32. Tempest sections
- 33. Augmenter
- 34. Simon or Diamond
- 35. Zero charge particle
- 39. Billy’s brother
- 40. Prelaw or modern language, maybe
- 41. Strangely enough
- 42. Arizona town
- 44. Clip Dolly
- 46. Skillfully planned and executed
- 49. Amazed
- 51. Fireside chats, for instance
- 53. Sin complement
- 54. Confidence
- 55. Kidney disease
- 56. University system officer
- 60. Archaic programming language
- 61. Cantankerous, with dialect
- 62. Chicago checker
- 63. It can be liberal
- 65. Web _____ : desk items



- 66. Previously did 24 Across
- 67. Char
- 68. Glimpse
- 71. _____ Tac Toe

- 72. Bronze or Ice follower
- 73. Actress West

Solutions on page 25

Grey

from page 21

by-fourteen foot painting that’s a lot of heads interlinking each other that look like pillars in a building. All the foreheads are connecting with each other...in an infinite space. It’s not easy to explain.

T: You’ve used the phrase “vision” several times. What do you mean by that?

AG: They come in a variety of ways. You can look at your own dreams every night. You’re having dreams of unexplainable types. Sometimes they come without warning, they just pop into your head.

Then of course I’ve always used psychedelics since I was around twenty-one years old. Some of the visions have been inspired by my

psychedelic experiences.

T: From the design students at Tech: Do we have any chance of creating anything meaningful?

AG: I’ve heard that a very small percentage [of those] who go to design school will remain doing it about five years.

But that shouldn’t stop you from making your work. You can’t let the outer world dictate to you what your drive should be.

If you’re going to say “Oh, nobody is buying it. Therefore it’s crap. I’m not going to make it,” then you’re selling out to the rest of the world. It’s not about making a living; it’s about making a space you can live in.

Coldplay

from page 20

It’s unfortunate to say that *Rush of Blood*’s lead-off track is itself “Politik,” a numbing plea to allow fair trade for smaller countries, as the liner notes will remind listeners. It consists of front man Martin endlessly crooning, “Open up your eyes,” to deep drum beats and blank guitar chords that are a bit too reminiscent of Radiohead.

Fortunately, elsewhere on the record Coldplay finds its way entirely and nails several memorable pieces, including the chillingly melodic “Clocks” and the wry “God Put a Smile Upon Your Face.”

Never halting on *Rush of Blood* is the band’s obvious talent for crafting a mellow song. Sure, drummer Will Champion can hit the snare a

smidge harder and rattle the shaker at a faster pace here than on *Parachutes*, but what stands isn’t a vast

Coldplay finds its way entirely and nails several memorable pieces, including the chillingly melodic “Clocks.”

departure from the tranquility of Coldplay’s previous album. Martin eases into each song with a welcome

sincerity and a voice that playfully swaggers throughout the album, wallowing in the melancholy laid out by guitarist Jon Buckland and bassist Guy Berryman.

Overall, Coldplay manages to hit a mark with *A Rush of Blood to the Head*. Both old and new listeners of the band will find many enjoyable tunes, albeit sometimes amid images of a decaffeinated Radiohead. But any lumping in with other Brit bands can be ceased there, because as the album shows, Coldplay can rock on its own merits – even if it is a bit mellow.

Verdict: Despite a few out-of-place tracks, a good follow-up to their Grammy-winning album.

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