

# ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, February 8, 2002

## Swimming forward

Georgia Tech freshman Cara DeVinnie becomes first member of the women's swim team to qualify for an NCAA championship. Page 29

## Two Bits: Big Problems

What is one to do when your alarm clock's artistic preferences are not meshing well with your own? Page 23

# Schwarzenegger disappoints with latest, 'Collateral Damage'

*Arnold Schwarzenegger's latest action fare Collateral Damage was pre-screened Tuesday in the Student Center Theater to a mostly apathetic audience.*

By Bryan Basamanowicz  
Assistant Entertainment Editor

**Title:** *Collateral Damage*  
**Starring:** Arnold Schwarzenegger  
**Director:** Andrew Davis  
**Running Time:** 115 minutes  
**Rating:** ★ 1/2

Arnold Schwarzenegger seemed to be having a little trouble when responding to a Tech student's inquiry about his feelings regarding the action hero spoof character McBain from *The Simpsons*. Likewise, the nearly two hundred or so students who crowded into the student center theater on Tuesday might have had a little trouble digesting Schwarzenegger's latest action cinema offering.

Funded and facilitated by Citibank and sponsored by Kodak and Adidas, the Georgia Tech Student Center hosted a free pre-screening of Schwarzenegger's new film free of charge, to students who had obtained passes on a first come, first serve basis.

Immediately following the film, Tech students joined fifteen thousand other college students across the country for a live question and answer session with Arnold, via satellite. Fortunately for Arnold's sake, most of the questions he volleyed were pertinent to his former film credentials rather than his latest dis-



Photo courtesy WARNER BROS. PICTURES

**Arnold Schwarzenegger, pictured here in his latest film 'Collateral Damage,' however, is currently working tirelessly to promote the movie with everyone from Georgia Tech students to Hollywood critics. Arnold heads to Berlin this week for the film's European premiere.**

credential, *Collateral Damage*. Crucially off-beat and sub-caliber, there is no doubt that this film won't wind up in the "Best of Schwarzenegger" volumes.

Gordy Brewer (Schwarzenegger), firefighter and family man, is the film's vengeance-hungry, explosion-friendly protagonist. Running late to meet his family at a downtown high rise, Gordy arrives just in time to witness,

first hand, the horrific bombing that claims the lives of his wife and son. Responsibility for the incident is claimed shortly thereafter by "The Wolf," a notorious terrorist renegade seeking to neutralize U.S. influence in Colombia.

The intended targets of the bombing were members of the Colombian consulate and American intelligence agents; the

deaths of Gordy's wife and son were merely incidental "collateral damage".

After the U.S. investigations into tracking down the Wolf stall off, Gordy heads to Colombia to take control of the pursuit himself despite grave warnings from the CIA and the FBI. The trail of the wolf takes Gordy

See *Damage*, page 20

# Munch works make appearance at High



Photo courtesy HIGH MUSEUM OF ART

**This "Model with Wicker Chair" was one of the works of Edvard Munch painted "After the Scream," the name of his High show.**

By Kimberly Rieck  
Staff Writer

For over 60 years after his death, the general public has ignored a large body of Edvard Munch's works. People generally tended to focus on his most famous masterpiece, "The Scream," but Munch painted that in 1893 when he was 30. "People don't realize that there was a whole body of work after that time" said Dr. Elizabeth Prelinger, Wright Family Distinguished Scholar of Georgetown. After the success of "The Scream," Munch continued to paint until his death on January 23, 1944, leaving behind over 1100 paintings, 18,000 prints, 4,500 watercolors and drawings, 6 sculptures, and numerous manuscripts and writings in his hometown of Oslo, Norway.

Starting February 9 the High Museum is recognizing the importance of Munch's work after "The Scream" by showing a once in a lifetime exhibit of the artist's late work. The exhibit will be the first of its kind in the U.S., the only one to display these works on loan from the

Munch-Museet in Oslo.

The exhibit was organized by Prelinger, Carrie Pryzbilla, co-curator of the exhibit and curator of Contemporary Art at the High, Gudmund Vigtel, the Director Emeritus of the High, and the American-Scandinavian Foundation, with the latter two, Pryzbilla and Vigtel, sharing a Norwegian heritage with Munch.

The earliest painting in the exhibit is from 1916, significant is because up until then Munch had lived a traumatic and melancholy life, and his paintings reflected that. At the age of 5 Munch's mother died of tuberculosis and he himself suffered from illness for most of his childhood. Munch suffered another devastating heartbreak when his favorite sister Sophie died when he was 15 in 1887. In 1890, he went against his father's wishes and discontinued his engineering education to become an artist and study at the Royal School of Drawing. During the 1890s, he would paint a series of symbolic paintings that portrayed the artist as a tormented, bohe-

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## iMovieFest concludes with awards ceremony

By Kimberly Rieck  
Staff Writer

After weeks of iMovie madness on Georgia Tech's campus, the ambitious project came to an end on February 5 with the unveiling of the first Annual iMovieNite winners, and awards presentation. The Georgia Tech project was the second of its kind, Tushar Thrivikraman, David Roemer and others had first started at Emory. Overall there were 26 films submitted for judging. "We said there's all this technology out there that's really cool, and we should introduce it to everybody," said Roemer, president of the Apple user group at Emory. When Thrivikraman came to Tech this year as a joint enrollment student, he wanted to bring the idea to Tech. "I'm really impressed with what Tushar and everyone else here has been able to do. That's the idea, that it can work at any school even if they think they are apathetic, it really has nothing to do with it, it's just about people coming together to make movies," said Roemer. Together with the Freshman Activities Board, Apple Users Group, Andy Dykes, the Student Center Programs Council, the STAC Society and RHA, Thrivikraman put the awards night together.

The process of establishing iMovieNite was a difficult one due to controversy. The group was unable to obtain funding from SGA to hold the awards night at the First Center. The event ended up being hosted in the Student Center Ballroom with over 800 people in attendance.

After door prizes of an MP3 player, DVD player, palm pilot and t-shirts were given away, the winners were unveiled. "We could have picked ten winners. There were a lot of excellent films, and it just came down to the number of judges, and the scores," said Rich Steele, Student Center Director and one of the judges. The third place winner was *Chaos*, and they won a prize of two free movie rentals for everyone in the hall. *Chaos* was a philosophical art film that contemplated the randomness and order of life. The filmmakers included Michael Abraham, David Harris, Nirmal Patel, Matt Manning, Jared Derva and other Glenn residents. "The third place was abstract, they used something that was kind of a unique device with the poem that went across the screen. It was very unique in its style, trickery with the camera. It played a lot of games with you. It was tough to do, tough to film, and for the authors of the movie to perform that," said Steele.

The second place winner won a prize of a hall event valued at \$714. The winner was the movie *Afflicted*. The group was the focus of the behind the scenes article on iMovieFest a few weeks ago. *Afflicted* captured the essence of every punk rocker who has had his heart broken by a fraternity boy's girlfriend. *Afflicted* was made by Christopher Rampton, Jason Fletcher, Ben Murdock, David Redwine, and Chris Kelly. "The second place had a very strong theme from beginning to end. It was a lot more serious. It wasn't as upbeat as the winner but it was strong in terms of cinematography. The way it was filmed, put together, and edited, it was a complete package from beginning to end," said Steele.

The first place winner, *Freestyle Walking*, was a departure from the other winners in that it was a hilarious comedy instead of a somber, melancholy film. "For the most part we were looking for the most complete iMovie from start to finish. The one that held a theme, and made some sense; the

See *iMovie*, page 22

# Damage

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through the violent war-torn hills of Colombia and soon back to Washington, D.C. where another bombing is being anticipated. With nothing left to lose, Gordy isn't at all hesitant to risk everything he has left in an effort to root out the Wolf and bring his family to justice.

Already accomplished as a body-builder and an action movie star, not much more is expected out of Schwarzenegger (besides *Terminator 3*). His performance as the lead role in *Collateral Damage* shows at least he still, in his mid fifties, has the endurance for demanding action leads.

However, in the case of *Collateral Damage*, the audience might not have the capacity to endure nearly two hours of action cinema at its worst.

When the one hundred and fifteen minutes are over and the credits are rolling up the screen, it is hard to figure out why the movie was as long as it was. Not much happens. One explanation may be that both the action sequences and pseudo-plot development scenes are poorly shot and under-edited and have a tendency to drag severely. The audience of course isn't expecting the most provoking plot and isn't looking for the most intriguing characters, but when the should-be innocently entertaining action scenes

seem to suffer along with the rest of the film, it's collateral damage at its worst.

In one of the many overdrawn and under-stimulating action sequences, Arnold is running away from the bad guys and forced to escape into a rapid river. He goes through some rapids, then goes through some more rapids, then falls down a waterfall, and then (you guessed it) falls down a bigger waterfall. The camera goes back to the bad guys, who are surveying the basin of the last waterfall for Gordy, eventually concluding that he must have died. But apparently the bad guys haven't watched enough bad action films

to know that Arnold's hands will soon rise out of the water and pull himself back to the shore. Too bad for the bad guys; and more importantly, too bad for moviegoers.

Good action movies are not a Hollywood scarcity. Take for instance *The Fugitive*, an earlier venture by *Collateral Damage* director, Andrew Davis. It's quite hard to believe that the same director was responsible for both films. Unlike in *The Fugitive*, Davis doesn't capture an effect of nonstop action in *Collateral Damage*, but rather throws together a movie experience of non-stop disappointment for action and non-action movie fans alike.

...both the action sequences and pseudo-plot development scenes are poorly shot and under-edited.

# Munch

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mian soul. Those paintings included the famous ones "Madonna," "Vampire" and "Jealousy"; These made up his Frieze of Life series that had motifs of angst, love and death. Before the close of the 1800s, he also painted the famous "Fin de Siecle", another heavily symbolic painting.

A major turning point in Munch's life and career came in 1908 when he suffered a nervous breakdown while living in Copenhagen, Denmark. He stayed at a sanitarium there until 1909. After his stay Munch was cured and lightened up in both his temperament and work, said Prelinger. To accompany this better mood, Munch bought a large, beautiful estate in 1916 in Ekely, outside of Oslo.

The High's exhibit's earliest painting is from 1916, directly after this transaction. The paintings completed during this time period are significant for a number of reasons, according to Prelinger. Munch started painting new kinds of scenes including beautiful landscape paintings from his own property. In his new paintings, the artist used bright, breathtaking colors. This showed that Munch was becoming a contemporary artist and that he used a style similar to Henri Matisse. Additionally, Munch began to handle his brush in a gestural fashion. "You can just see him moving his brush across the canvas in big bold strokes," said Prelinger.

Another important facet of the exhibit is the showing of several self-portraits by Munch. The portraits are influenced by the self-portraits

of Rembrandt and Peter Picasso. "The Night of the Wanderer" shows the ghostly exterior of the artist wandering around at night. Munch used his self-portraits to reflect his feelings about his life and age. The portraits are "very intense" and "insightful," said Prelinger. Another important piece featured in the exhibit is "Clock and Bed," painted between 1940 and 1942. It shows the aged artist, a grandfather clock with no hands and Munch's own spartan bed.

An intriguing aspect of Munch's work is the paintings he worked on during World War II. Despite the Nazi occupation of his homeland, and the literal presence of tanks on his own estate, the staunchly anti-Nazi Munch continued to paint

beautiful landscape paintings. "Starry Night" is a painting of snowy fields with a "wonderful night" influenced by Vincent Van Gogh's painting by the same name.

The work uses bright and "optimistic" colors at a devastating time for Munch, his country and the world. Munch continued to create paintings similar to "Starry Night" until his death in 1944.

This landmark exhibit will be at the High starting tomorrow, Feb. 9, until May 5, after which it will return to the Munch-Museet in Norway.

Overall there will be a total of 62 paintings shown in the exhibit, only 3 of which have ever previously been previously viewed by the American public before.

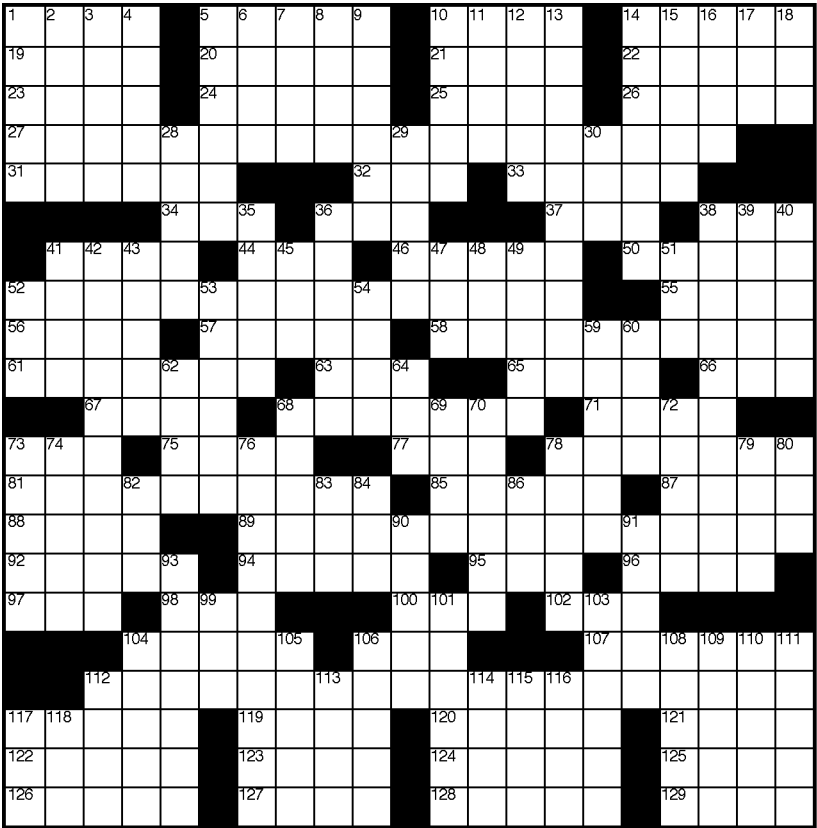


Photo courtesy HIGH MUSEUM OF ART

"Two Women on the Shore," is one of the paintings traveling to the High from the Munch-Museet in Oslo, Norway, for an exclusive exhibition.

THEME CROSSWORD

YAKETY-YAK



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Crossword feedback? thoughts?  
Do you want to write it yourself?

entertainment@technique.gatech.edu

By James Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 Outdo
- 5 Mild cigar
- 10 Advantage
- 14 Hayes or Stern
- 19 Liturgy
- 20 Atmospheres
- 21 Abba —
- 22 Brash
- 23 Quite some time
- 24 Interweave
- 25 Abbr. in grammar
- 26 Ideology
- 27 Start of a quip by George Bernard Shaw: 5 wds.
- 31 Streak
- 32 “— longa...”
- 33 Brother of Moses

- 34 Teachers' gp.
- 36 One of fifty: abbr.
- 37 Dial letters
- 38 Big network
- 41 Bony fish
- 44 Necklace
- 46 Gold or Ivory
- 50 Flag
- 52 Part 2 of quip: 4 wds.
- 55 Textile color
- 56 Silage tower
- 57 Imitative
- 58 Summer-suit material
- 61 Disappear
- 63 Homophone for sea
- 65 On the double: abbr.
- 66 Speedy transport
- 67 Net

- 68 Part 3 of quip: 2 wds.
- 71 Royal treasury
- 73 — de coeur
- 75 Hill
- 77 Pinella
- 78 Means of underground access
- 81 Broiler
- 85 Rose oil
- 87 Singer Tori
- 88 Estimation
- 89 Part 4 of quip: 2 wds.
- 92 “Cat in the Hat” author
- 94 Ancient
- 95 Med. specialty
- 96 Doctor's directive
- 97 3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots
- 98 Trick

- 100 Bug's undoing
- 102 Bend in a pipe
- 104 Coagulated stuff
- 106 Miss Piggy's “I”
- 107 Vessels
- 112 End of the quip: 5 wds.
- 117 Athletics
- 119 Footless
- 120 McLachlan the singer
- 121 Depilated
- 122 Strive to excel
- 123 Shift's start
- 124 Bert's buddy
- 125 Accustomed
- 126 Musty
- 127 Nine — wonder
- 128 Some glances
- 129 1979 Polanski film

DOWN

- 1 Little terrors
- 2 “— Days a Week”
- 3 Direct
- 4 Seed coat
- 5 “Scarface”
- 6 Humdinger
- 7 Silky-haired horse
- 8 Bar
- 9 Relating to bone
- 10 Trucking rigs
- 11 Blind as — —
- 12 Buckwheat porridge
- 13 Sorcerers
- 14 Hipsters
- 15 Canary relative
- 16 Son of Zeus and Hera
- 17 Rd.
- 18 Ms. Charisse

- 28 Discarded items
- 29 — and ruin
- 30 White-tailed bird
- 35 Hebrew letter
- 36 Debacle
- 38 Fleshy crests
- 39 Windbags
- 40 Jet
- 41 Knife: sl.
- 42 Bringing ruin
- 43 Pay a penalty
- 45 OT judge
- 47 CIA forerunner
- 48 Dug in
- 49 Bundle
- 51 Chronicle: abbr.
- 52 Mao — -tung
- 53 Chops up
- 54 Use tobacco
- 59 Journey of a kind
- 60 — — arms
- 62 Doctrines

- 64 Sniggler's catch
- 68 Word of mouth
- 69 Big-top sound
- 70 Commence-ment
- 72 Alan Ladd role
- 73 Thwart
- 74 Roping event
- 76 Not from the horse's mouth
- 78 Lusterless
- 79 Stumblebum
- 80 Ballpark fig.
- 82 Taxing letters
- 83 Party affiliation: abbr.
- 84 Poetic time
- 86 Bronzed
- 90 Set up a fund
- 91 Lowest deck
- 93 Sink
- 99 Table scrap
- 101 Heavy-oil engine
- 103 Whips

- 104 Reef material
- 105 Burnt sienna
- 106 Manners
- 108 Controvert
- 109 Beleaguer
- 110 Landed estate
- 111 Shakes off
- 112 Star that flares
- 113 Glass for liquor
- 114 Thin
- 115 River in France
- 116 Comely
- 117 Some students: abbr.
- 118 Quarry

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2002

The Sliver Box

All I want are some Sea Monkeys and a Tu-Tu, then I would be happy!  
Women: Who needs em?  
“I’m special! I get to be on top!” Shutup.  
I love Juice.  
Thank you, mommy and daddy, for the pretty flowers. You plotted well.  
Sliver rhymes with liver.  
The AE senior design false info tradition continues, Wo>700,000.  
Who’s your daddy? Juice.  
And suddenly, I’ve run out of humorous things to say.  
Ahh, the joy of finger-sized tuna salad sandwiches.  
Am I considered “old school” because I play Madden 2001 instead of Madden 2002?  
Boys are idiots.  
I guess I never told you I’m so happy that you’re mine If I made you feel second-best I’m so sorry I was blind You were always on my mind You were-dammit. Thanks Derek.  
Time heals all wounds except those which time itself creates. Sadly, those are often deepest cut. What does heal all wounds you ask? Band-Aids.  
It was like hide and go seek. He was the seeker, but it was a weird game.  
Happy Valentine’s Day Babykins!  
AFLAC!!!!!!  
Swedish fish ad Sour Patch Kids are my main food groups!  
Now that I don’t have physics, my brain is back on track on the hot mens.  
Where’s the T? T^3. Wait to find out.  
No pants! No pants!  
Too bad her pants are on  
Ansley is my new baby’s daddy  
It’s a “this minute only” thing  
What’s worse: to be dead, or to live dead?  
Go see that guy on the 20th in the student center.  
I’m going to punch Duhon in the nose!  
Has anyone ever wondered what makes cheese so tasty?  
What the waheed?  
That Luke from Montgomery is small and goofy looking.  
I am just trying to find an innocent looking wild girl.  
The new ResumeCheck software is neither a success nor a failure...  
Jesus! My headshot is HUGE!  
Well, I now know what M-life is. I can sleep better.  
Ahh yess.... more humanity @ Tech, thank God for Realy -Cadet- Single Tech Man, 21, 6’1, 175lb-Call me....  
I wish real life were incompressible.  
Can you say asshole in the paper?  
The sliver column was empty after purging. I had to put something in.

Attention, disciples of sliver: please check your grammar and spelling before submitting your sliver. The Sliver Boy can’t read your mind. **submissions: nique.net/sliver**

iMovie

from page 19

winner was just hilarious from start to finish. It was a good documentary, good comedy, good film,” said Steele. The filmmakers and actors were Ryan Westapher, Brian Corner, Shawn Lankton, John Epstein, Nick Genthner and other contributors from Glenn. The comedy depicted all of the crazy and atypical ways of walking and getting around campus. The boys won a prize for the hall valued at \$1200.

“It [the winner] was a good documentary, good comedy, good film.”

Rich Steele  
Director, Student Center

Due to the success of this year’s festival, the plan is to continue the tradition. “One of the goals for the rest of the semester with the Freshman Activities Board and the Apple Users Group is to try and find a way to make this a new tradition, make it even bigger next year and significantly more so. Our goal next year is to make it open to the entire campus, and to try to appeal to the tech-

nology fee fund, get some funding for a lot of new equipment, DV cameras, new computers, and to be on a larger scale,” said Danny White, Senior Advisor for FAB.

In case you missed the iMovieNite, or you want to see the movies again, GTCN, on channel 20, will be showing all of the movies made twice on February 9 and 10. Also all of the films will be available for download at the iMovie event website at [www.imoviefest.gatech.edu](http://www.imoviefest.gatech.edu).

If you have the craving to make your own film, four digital video cameras are available through OIT, and the Student Center movies council will be hosting the White and Gold iMovieFest this semester to showcase more of these Tech students aspiring to be the next Spielberg.



By Robert Hill / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The masters of ceremonies at iMovieNite, resplendent in black tie and tuxedo, handed out awards to student filmmakers, finishing iMovieFest.



**COTTON CLUB (152 Luckie St.)**  
**(404) 688-1193**  
<http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp>  
2/26 Michelle Branch  
3/2 Shemekia Copeland  
3/3 The Calling  
3/5 ..and you will know us by the trail of the dead  
3/8 Bob Schneider  
3/10 Dismemberment Plan  
3/11 Starsailor  
3/13 South & Elbow  
3/27 Anti-Flag  
4/28 Dave Weckl

**ECHO LOUNGES (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)**  
**(404) 681-3600**  
<http://www.echostatic.com/echolounge>  
2/8 pH BALANCE, Asian Underground Sounds by NAV UK, subMedia Sharaab ATL, Universal Culture Bollywood Megamix by The Stimulator, also two pH Balance music videos  
2/9 MIRA, American Dream, Martyr and Pistol  
2/11 Brian Jonestown Massacre, Young Antiques, Eltro  
2/13 IMAGE FILM NIGHT - Mr. Smithereen Goes to Washington  
2/14 THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS (Neko Case w/ members of Zupano & Destroyer) w/ The Frames (Ireland) / Grumpy  
2/15 Metrosceen / Film / Shamgod  
2/16 Five Eight / David Dondero w/ Special Guests

**FOX THEATRE (660 Peachtree St. NE)**  
**(404) 881-2100**  
<http://www.foxtheatre.org>  
2/7-2/10 Dracula  
2/12-2/17 Blast  
2/19 Moiseyev Dance Company  
2/22-2/24 David Copperfield  
2/26-3/3 Swing  
3/5-3/6 Gerald Levert & Babyface  
3/8-3/9 Hank Williams, Jr.

The Live List:  
To February 8...  
and beyond!



**GEORGIA THEATRE (Athens)**  
<http://www.georgiatheatre.com>  
2/8 Skydog Gypsy  
2/9 Steve Kimock  
2/11 Movie Night - The end of the road  
2/13 Merle Haggard with Elizabeth Cook  
2/14 Hedwig & the Angry Inch (with appearance by John Cameron Mitchell)  
2/15 Blind Boys of Alabama feat. Clarence Fountain with Precious Bryant  
2/19-2/20 Darkstar Orchestra

**MASQUERADE (695 North Ave.)**  
**(404) 577-2007**  
<http://www.masq.com>  
2/20 Dimmu Borgir  
2/23 H2O  
2/27 Saves the Day  
3/10 NOFX

**PHILLIPS ARENA (1 Phillips Dr.)**  
**(404) 878-3000**  
<http://www.phillipsarena.com>  
2/9 Bob Dylan  
2/14-2/18 Barnum & Bailey Circus  
3/10 Neil Diamond  
3/25 Santana  
4/8 Champions on Ice

**ROXY (3110 Roswell Rd.)**  
<http://www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp>  
2/8 Human League  
2/9 Jimmie Vaughn  
2/15 The Jennifer Nettles Band  
2/16 Clarence Carter  
2/21 John Hiatt  
2/23 aerial  
2/25 Soulfly  
2/26 Injected  
3/11 Jagermeister Music Tour feat. Drowning Pool

**SMITH'S OLDE BAR (1580 Piedmont Ave.)**  
**(404) 875-1522**  
<http://www.smithsoldebar.com>  
2/8 In Like Flynn  
2/9 Blue Dogs  
2/10 Amy Palys  
2/11 Roam, Terry Boyer

2/12 Rosebud  
2/13 Jeniphoria, Tea Leaves  
2/14 Susi French Connection, Nil-lah  
2/15 Charlie Mars Band, Steep, Bow Echo  
2/16 Fighting Gravity, Gruvnh, Buzby  
2/17 Over the Rhine

**TABERNACLE (152 Luckie St.)**  
**(404) 659-0922**  
<http://www.tabernaclemusic.com>  
2/12 Fat Tuesday  
2/14 Ludacris  
2/16 Alicia Keys  
2/22-2/23 moe.  
3/7 Bad Religion  
3/14 RatDog  
3/15 Nelly Furtado

**UNDER THE COUCH (Couch Bldg.)**  
**(404) 206-0985**  
<http://utc.gatech.edu>  
2/9 Stranger by Day, Cynosure, Army of Ponch  
2/13 Hip Hop  
2/16 Rocking Horse Winner, Style over substance, one way letter  
2/17 Chi Omega Tau Recruitment Trivia Night  
2/22 GALA Annual Mardi Gras

**VARIETY PLAYHOUSE (1099 Euclid Ave.)**  
**(404) 521-1786**  
<http://www.variety-playhouse.com>  
2/8 Tripping Billies  
2/9 Adrian Belew and the Bears  
2/14 Brothers Johnson  
2/15 Rodney Crowell, Jonathan Richman, Moe Tucker, Vic Chestnutt  
2/16 Victor Wooten  
2/17 Saw Doctors  
2/21 Keller Williams  
2/23 JoJo, C Dawg, Luther, Cody  
3/14 RatDog  
3/15 Nelly Furtado

For more Atlanta concert listings, the Technique recommends visiting [www.accessatlanta.com](http://www.accessatlanta.com).

**...Two Bits**

I fear for America's youth and for the future of clock radios. The fact is that about five minutes after I submitted my last edition of Two-Bits, I knew exactly what I wanted to write about for this week's. However, I decided to change my topic after a whirlwind of misdeeds that ended in a Target cashier having a panic attack over a dollar.

My tale of woe begins about a year and a half ago on the alarm clock aisle of a local electronics store in which I can now file under the category of it-seemed-like-a-good-idea-at-the-time even though the superhero in me is just a mortal man. His love of consumer electronics that vain, I fell for a sixty-dollar clock radio from a certain company with “pony.”

What, you may ask, could possibly make an alarm clock worth sixty big ones? Is it gold-plated? Does it come with a pair of strippers to jump on the bed at 6:30 a.m.? Can it grant me three wishes? Of course not. That would actually make it *worth* sixty bucks.

However, it does have a digital tuner and I guess they feel that's a pretty swank feature. It was a swank feature until last week, when it declared Mix 105.7 as its favorite radio station. Inanimate objects aren't supposed to have preferences are they? I mean, if they could, wouldn't there be an overabundance of cars driving off cliffs instead of inching along 285 during rush hour five days a week? Wouldn't toasters burn

cheapo white bread in retaliation against their owners who won't feed them quality bakery bread?

At least, I didn't think inanimate objects could have preferences, but now, regardless of what the

digits read, I get to hear the greatest hits of yesterday and today. In fact, the only station that can muscle its way beyond the clock's preference for mix 105.7 is Star94. So, with a single tear, I resolved myself to the fact that I would have to wake up to Steve and Vicki.

Frankly, I'm a bit scared now. If Hollywood can be believed, then I'm in for some really hard times. Think about it, folks. I'm gonna be stuck with a machine not unlike Chucky or Herbie the Love Bug. Either way, this *has* to suck. Do I really want my clock radio sexually advancing on me? Absolutely not! The Internet is the only forum in which clock radio fetishism is allowed.

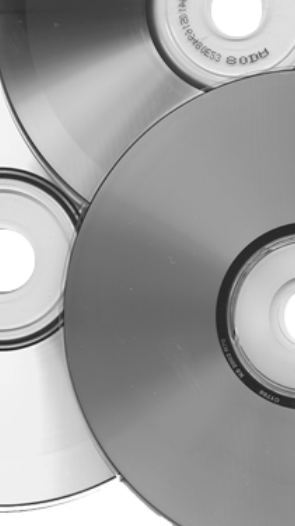
On the other hand, if my clock radio leans towards the Chucky end of the spectrum, I have to go to bed every night with the fear that it might try to strangle me with its cord. Either way, the alarm clock has to go.

At this realization, a decision was made: I would buy a sixty dollar

clock radio that included strippers! Sadly, such a miraculous alarm clock isn't available at Target, so I decided to settle for a nice looking digitally tuned one that was a mere twenty-five bucks.

After all, what kind of person would I be if I weren't willing to make a compromise? Then, tragedy struck! There were no more of that model. Why? Why such a terrible fate for waking up? Was the TwoBits Man doomed to wake up to happy-go-lucky pop and potentially have the homicidal clock coming after him?

Fortu-  
nately for  
our  
down-



trodden  
hero and consumer  
of priced-to-sell personal electronics, all was not lost. The store still had a CD that I wanted. Of course, buying a CD is never easy when you have to deal with the leaders of tomorrow (the high schoolers of today). She scanned my \$13.99 CD,

and it rang up \$14.99, so I questioned the price. The fact that there was actually a \$13.99 sticker on the box really did wonders for my case as well. The cashier's voice was memorable for sure, not unlike Minnie Mouse singing falsetto. "Oh my gosh! You're right!"

Whoa! Profundity from the cashier! So, here's where I draw the intellect of youth into question: After she pressed the price correction button, the screen read, "ENTER QTY OR SCAN ITEM." So, logic would hold that she would enter "1," but she decided to type the UPC instead. Naturally, the register was dissatisfied with her response, and quickly shot her the error, "NUMBER TOO BIG." So she decided to return to the original screen. This time when prompted to enter the qty or to scan, she very cleverly decided to enter "1399," because it clearly wanted the price. Before she could hit enter though, I told her, "Um, don't you want to just enter '1'? I don't really want to buy one thousand three hundred ninety-nine copies of 'Hybrid Theory' tonight." She quickly chided my ineptitude.

How on earth could this fool possibly know how to work a cash register? After all, it is a job reserved for the intellectual elite. Did you know that over 80% of cashiers are members of MENSA? So, she hit the enter key, and voila, "NUMBER TOO BIG." Three more iter-

ations of this and she finally called another cashier.

At this point, I'd been standing at the register over five minutes to buy one item. The other cashier then repeated the first one's mistakes, but he finally read the screen and actually followed the register's seemingly direct instructions. Naturally, my story doesn't end that abruptly. Consumer advocacy requires eternal vigilance, and that is why my eyeballs shot out of my head when she gave me a total of over thirty bucks. At this point, she just started shaking uncontrollably and blurting apologies. In the end, she got the price right, and I only had to stand at the register for ten minutes. Sheesh. I worry about the future.

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After all was said and done, I am stuck with a clock that may want to kill me, but at least I got a good CD. As for today, I begin my quest again for the perfect clock radio.

stuck with a clock that may want to kill me, but at least I got a good CD. As for today, I begin my quest again for the perfect clock radio. Until next week, this is the TwoBits Man reminding you that if your refrigerator talks to you, it probably isn't your imagination.

*If you think you have what it takes to be a member of the Two-Bits corps, that secret society that protects students from the stupidity of others, drop us a line.*

