ENTERTAINMENT

IMAGINE A MIXED BAG

The new film Imagine Me & You is out in theaters, but the results are mixed. See if it's for you. Page 14

MURTON STARTS SEASON

Freshman Luke Murton is preparing to start his baseball career at Tech, and great things are expected. Page 21

Bubble plods drearily into mediocrity

page 13

By James Stephenson Staff Writer

The movie Bubble, a Steven Soderbergh experience, has hit theaters. To start off, if you are standing in line at the movie theater and see Bubble in the window,

The movie does do a

good job of painting

the bleak picture of

a poor rural town....

do not go to see it. If you do go see it, you will be wasting what you paid for admission. I wasted what I paid for admission, and I was

able to see the movie for free.

If you think that does not make any sense, then you certainly will not be able to understand the movie.

The movie does do a good job of painting a bleak picture of a poor

rural town and the hopelessness of the people who live there. None of the characters have a full high school education, and, through various circumstances in their lives, find themselves in a hole that they cannot climb out of. It is an experience that people who

have escaped such towns can relate to, but the rest of society cannot.

The movie is hindered, though, by the

acting or lack thereof. The movie has a reality TV feel to it that seems misplaced. While the effect helps add to the rural town portrayal Soderbergh is



For reasons surpassing understanding, creepy doll heads are featured prominently in Bubble's advertising. Those things are scary,

See **Bubble**, page 15

Mullins rings hollow with 9th Ward

By Devin Brown Contributing Writer

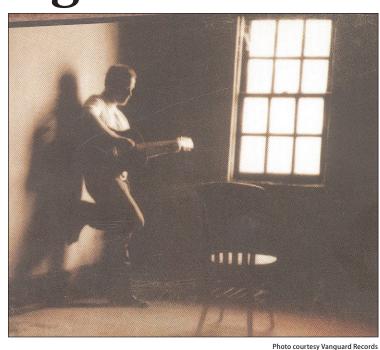
The album under investigation this week is 9th Ward Pickin' Parlor by Shawn Mullins. You may know Mullins, an Atlanta-based singer, who was nominated for a Grammy in 1999 and whose single "Lullaby" was a chart topper back then. The album is a country and blues flavored endeavor that is seemingly carefully crafted to be digestible for commercial radio.

The problem I'm having with this album is that I don't connect emotionally with the songs. I feel like he's singing songs that he thinks are supposed to be sung about and not experiences he's really had.

There's the jealous boyfriend shoots somebody in a rage song, there's the drunk song, the nature song, the gotta have faith song, the anti-war song ... and so on. It all seems a little too planned.

It's as if he sat down and said, "I'm gonna write me the perfect song that captures (insert emotion here), that people can relate to." I don't think you can write songs that way. The rule about writing about what you know comes to mind.

An artist has to write about real experiences as honestly as he can



Apparently the *Pickin' Parlor* isn't so much a parlor as it is a big empty room with an old chair in it. In short, not a parlor at all.

and hope that the emotion is communicated to others.

The message might be a mess, it might be contradictory, confusing and who knows what else, but it will be real. It will be that thing we call art, that's hard to describe, but we know it when we see it.

If it isn't real, it better be a real clever trick. We all know magic's not real but still enjoy a magic show. Yet the old quarter-from-behind-the-ear trick won't cut it.

If they are real experiences he's had, then they come off as shallow. For example, on "Talkin' Goin' to Alaska Blues," Mullins generically blames the rest of the world for his problems in clichéd categories.

Photo courtesy Magnolia Pictures

Meanwhile, I'm having a hard time feeling his pain on what sounds like a very expensive flight to what is basically his vacation in Alaska.

On the other hand, one doesn't necessarily need to connect emotionally with a song to enjoy it. There are plenty of songs I love that get my head nodding and foot tapping, and

The problem I'm having with this album is that I don't connect emotionally with the songs.

I have absolutely no idea what the song is about, nor do I really care. But Mullins only barely scores some points in this category. While the playing is good, it's just all sort of uninteresting.

Ultimately, 9th Ward Pickin' Parlor, while not without its perks, is a hollow album full of shallow songs, and anybody looking for a really great country album can definitely do better.

Guns, girls, fish and game

Because there's more than one way to skin and tan the hide of a deer. The 2006 Atlanta Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Show will be held at the Atlanta Expo Center from Feb. 3-5. Admission ranges from \$4-\$8. Children under 6 get in for free.

She's got a ticket to ride...a train

The Great Train Expo will be making a quick stop at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross on February 4 and 5. Everything you can imagine related to model trains will be there. Admission is \$7. The expo is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days.

Come and see the best of Atlanta

For those out there of the time to find out, officially, what the best parts of our fair city are, Atlanta Magazine will be hosting the 18th annual Best of Atlanta Party on February 7 at the Cobb Galleria Centre. The party starts at 7 p.m. and will benefit Camp Twin Lakes. Tickets are \$55 in advance; \$65 at the door.

Near dead rockers to play Philips

The Rolling Stones, self-proclaimed World's Greatest Rock and Roll Band, will be playing at Philips Arena on Wednesday, Feb. 8. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$62 to \$352. Ticketmaster's convenience charge will set you back an additional \$14.45 for no real reason.

What's love got to do with it?

Puccini's grand opera Madame Butterfly will start its run at the Fox Theater on Feb. 9. The play ends its run on Saturday, Feb. 18. Tickets priced from \$8 to \$76, unless you go to a scalper.

Nintendo delivers with Wild World

Bv Nathan Garcia Contributing Writer

If you've ever wanted to fish and pick fruit all the livelong day, Animal Crossing: Wild World for the Nintendo DS should not disappoint. A port of the popular GameCube game, this new version contains almost everything that made the original so addictive, while adding enough to keep it interesting for returning players.

You arrive in your virtual town with nothing more than the shirt on your back and a pocketful of the local currency, Bells. However, seeing that you need a place to stay, local shopkeeper/handyman/Mafioso

Tom Nook, who is also a raccoon, sells you a house.

you can pay him

back at your lei-

sure, but we all

know what hap-

pens when you

don't repay your

debts, especially

when dealing

with a raccoon.

have a swank

Nowthatyou

Of course, since you have no money, he says

> ...but we all know what happens when you don't repay your debts, especially when dealing with a raccoon.

pad, you can go about the village chatting with the locals. It turns out Tom Nook isn't the only animal in the town; all of

your neighbors are also animals, hence the name.

They don't seem to mind that you are a being

of higher intelligence, however. They will interact with you like a human would: engage you in contests, share gossip, ask or tell you advice and even give (or take) items. It is

even possible to

selves as a memento.

While it isn't hard to maintain a stable town, the residents are apt to move out at the drop of a hat, and even a good friend can be hard to rein in. Still, there are always new critters ready to move in just as quickly. There is more to do than just being a social butterfly. Tom Nook doesn't accept hot air as a form of payment, so you need some way to earn money so you won't end up sleeping with the trout. Two of the more reliable sources of income are fishing and gathering fruit. Fishing is a simple test of timing skills and, while you may catch

Tired of indie? You should go Hindi

This Saturday, Hindi singer Mahrenda Kapoor will be doing a little foreign-language crooning at Earthlink Live in Midtown. The show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets range from \$30 to \$75.

Everybody loves a stand-up comic

Feb. 3 and 4, comic Wendy Liebman is playing at Punchline in Dunwoody. Tickets are \$18.50.

form relationships with them to a degree and if they like you enough, they'll give you a picture of them-

See Wild, page 17

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Imagine provides a mixed bag

By Siddhartha Parmar Contributing Writer

Imagine Me & You is another British import, which basically means it has smart humor mixed with a little drama and foreign accents.

The premise behind *Imagine* is as follows: it is your wedding day, and right when you are about to be married, you catch a glimpse of a girl in the crowd and make a connection. You get married and wonder what that connection was.

What do you do? Normally, this would be a typical love triangle movie, but it has a twist. You are a girl and you make a connection with another girl. Yes, this movie has lesbians. No, there is no sex or nudity.

Imagine follows Rachel (Piper Perabo from *Coyote Ugly*), who is married to her best friend Heck (Matthew Goode from Chasing Liberty and Match Point) but begins to wonder what love is after meeting Luce (Lena Headey from The Brothers Grimm).

Rachel is the quintessential Barbie doll who likes anything pink and cute. Heck is a stock broker who despises his job because of its deceitful nature. Luce is a free spirited flower shop owner. Coop (Darren Boyd) is Heck's best friend and seeks to have sex with every hot girl on the planet.

The love triangle with a twist



Photo courtesy Fox Searchlight Pictu

Adulterous lesbians Rachel (Piper Perabo) and Luce (Lena Headey) enjoy a brief tryst at what looks to be an arcade of some kind.

seems interesting, but the movie comes off as bland and easily forgettable. The jokes are funny but not side-splitting and the emotional response isn't a tear-jerker.

The movie is well-acted but Perabo fails to convince the audience of her inner struggle. Perabo is a talented actress but could have accomplished more with a better script.

Instead of revealing the inner workings of the main characters, the plot focuses entirely on the two girls and skims over the rest of the cast. Heck is literally given a few

minutes to react and come to terms with everything, while Rachel gets too many minutes.

Imagine is in limited release and is currently not in wide-release in Atlanta. However, anyone interested in seeing the movie can get a free screening pass for two on the website, www2.foxsearchlight. com/imaginemeandyou.

Despite its potential as an avantgarde film, this movie will fail to have any ripple effect in the fabric of society; it will also be a disappointment to lesbians and horny guys alike.

File Online Today It only takes a W2 form, 15 minutes and ten bucks!

Tart wrote the following sliver: Owned! Hi I eat a lot of bran and some porcupine balls. 417 is hot. Love, 418 How did we get here? I led you here...for I am Spartacus! Plus/Minus Grading...I am positive it will have a negative effect...ZING! I love the way my balls smell sometimes. boobs

See page 17 for more Slivers!



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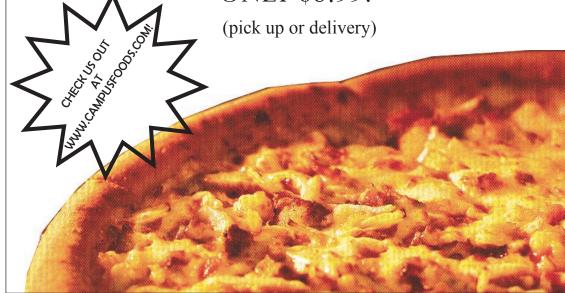
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Bubble from page 13

trying to create, the stumbling lines, lack of voice inflection and poorly written dialogue make the plot hard to follow in several places.

The length of the movie also hindersits success. In an era of exceptionally long featured films, Bubble is exceptionally short, barely crossing the one-hour mark. The short time frame does not allow for any character or plot development.

The movie is billed as having a 'love-triangle," but the nature of the triangle and the relationship between two of the participants is extremely hazy.

The plot seems to plod along without any real purpose to it. Perhaps Soderbergh did this on purpose to liken the movie to real life with no big build up to a climax that explodes onto the screen and leaves everyone satisfied with what they just saw. If that was his purpose, he was successful.

Another problem was the ending. The movie ended without a complete sense of resolution, but instead of leaving the viewer wanting more, it left the view wanting something, anything.

Several people in the audience were thoroughly disappointed when the ending credits began to roll, myself included. It was not a disappointment of "bummer the movie ended," but a disappointment of feeling almost cheated out of that hour of your life.

I will be the first to admit that I may have completely missed the point of the movie. Independent films usually have some underlying quality that the layman usually does not pick up on.

The movie did do a good job painting a bleak picture of hopelessness in rural America, but did little more.

If you wish to see a portrait of poor rural America, take a trip outside the city and see the real thing. If you want to see a movie, see something else.

United Features Syndicate AACROSS 1. Defrauds 6. Opening bout 12. Words with a nod 82. Swerves 16. Sire 84. State to be true 17. St. Ignatius — 85. Fatigued 18. Notes one's arrival 87. — Lanka 22. Valentine from 88. Ocean flyer Carrie Jacobs Bond 89. Loud noise 24. Spider woman? 90. Spree 25. Film's Bridget 91. Seller's 26. Characteristic warning 27. Desiccated 92. Far-out, 29. Brew in slang 30. On the horizon 93. Oven 31. One of 50 emanation 32. Hymn of praise 94. Past or present 95. Face-to-face exams 33. Drained, in a way 34. Harbor workhorse 96. Standout 35. Inscribed stone 98. Valentine 36. Carved symbol from Oscar 37. Applies gold leaf 38. One with a vote Hammerstein and Jerome Kern 40. Locket contents, 101. Italian treat perhaps 102. On TV 41. Hands 103. Go back on a 42. Use an axe promise 43. Mother 104. Hardens of the gods 105. __ of the guard 44. French party 106. Civil war 46. Actress — Shire 49. Valentine from photographer Cole Porter DOWN 53. Morse syllable 1. Menacing, 55. Bikini, e.g. as a look 56. Canon rival 2. It began about 57. Say OK 1,000 B.C. 58. 100 square meters 3. Prying tool 59. Migrate 4. Patella site 60. "Poker Flat" 5. Porker's place 6. More than one 61. Take issue 7. Spin 62. Not in favor 8. Ĥigh spot 63. Chem. suffix 9. Boor 64. Of the nose 10. Queasy 65. Wading bird 11. Distress calls 66. A meistersinger 12. O.T. prophet 67. Party ident. 13. Squad car signal 68. Valentine from the

author

Gershwins

By Robert Zimmerman

THEME CROSSWORD: SAY IT WITH MUSIC= 70. Spring for a party 71. Barney Fife, e.g. 73. Cupid 74. Court 75. Decimal units 76. Scuffle 78. Pop singer Tony -

16. Copy illegally 19. Valentine from Richard Rodgers 20. Cove 21. Requirements 23. Sleek swimmer 28. Some sales agents 31. Pack 32. Skirt feature 33. Oktoberfest order 35. Big bargain 36. New, in a way 37. Grouse 39. Valparaiso's country 40. Painful event 41. Cry for attention 43. Steal from a ranch 44. Like a guitar 45. Miss — Kitt 46. Subdued

47. Made amends

48. Valentine from Elvis 49. Frothy 50. Talk show queen 51. "Uncle Remus" creator 52. Encourage 54. Underworld caper 60. Handles 61. Fable author 62. "Hammerin' Hank" 64. Verb preceders, usually 65. Ohio college, founded 1850 66. Flinty 69. Spooky 72. Papa in Paris 74. "- Off to See the Wizard" 76. — dunk 77. Seed for

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See **Solutions**, page 22

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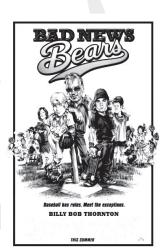
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This Week on GTCN:



<u>GTCN</u> 21

This week's GTCN Cinema @ 7 movie is The Bad News Bears!: A washed up former baseball player is thrown into the mix with a washed up group of 12 year olds who are about to be thrown out of the league. See how they team together to give the rest of the league nothing but trouble as well as a run at the championship. Billy Bob Thornton stars in the GTCN Cinema @ 7 presentation of The Bad News Bears. All this week at 7:00pm!

GT Basketball This Week



The team faces a test from way down south! First, the Jackets host Miami on Saturday, February 4th at 1:30, then will hit the road for a battle with the Florida State Seminoles on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00pm. Don't miss the action as the Jackets battle two of the hottest teams from the Sunshine State! Check your local listing for television coverage.



mon, tue. & thurs.

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Join GTCN as we celebrate Black History Month with a special presentation of Citizen King. This program takes a look at Dr. Martin Luther King's life through interviews with friends and family, as well as eye witness accounts of his most important work that shaped a nation. Don't miss the GTCN special presentation of, Citizen King, this week on GTCN 21.

Tutor-Vision ON GTCN 20

Tutor-Vision is live tutoring on GTCN 20! Sunday through Thursday at 9pm, tutors are available for help with Calculus, Chemistry and Physics. Check out the informational video at

C'MON. WE CAN **WHO** Do THIS] NEEDS Original Comic THE GYM WHEN IST YES HAVE THE FRESHMEN HILL! Christine Lee: gth818e@mail.gatech.edu

Two Bits Man goes off on a long series of tangents in his quest to find his socks

I am a being of phenomenal intelligence. As a matter of fact, I'm pretty much phenomenal in general, but let us, for the moment, just try to focus on this one aspect of my greatness.

The sheer, overwhelming magnitude of my brain-not to mention other parts of me which shall

go unnamed because that joke's gettingold—notwithstanding, there are certain things out there in the wide world which I do not understand. And as I do not understand them, they frustrate and infuriate me.

They make me want to break things. They make me want to break them. In short, Hulk smash.

For instance, I don't understand what the hell keeps happening to all my socks. I know I had more socks than this.

Byallrights, I should never have to buy CHEMISTRY new socks (I CALCULU mean, where are they gonna go?), but there I am

every year at Wal-Mart picking up a new twelve pack of below-the-calf, white, light support Hanes and pondering just how far the lowest common denominator could possibly fall as I pass by a DVD rack containing the latest abortive offering from the world of American Pie before remembering, "Oh yeah, Kevin Federlein's got an album coming

out." And I know They make me want this isn't an exto break things. perience unique to me. Hell, just They make me want by writing a colto break them. In umn on such a well-traveled short, Hulk smash. topic, I've officially cast myself

into "hack" territory. That's how committed I am to the idea of unraveling the mystery of the missing socks, a mission, by the way, that I will undertake with the help of my dear friends, The Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, and—sure, why the hell not-the gang from Sweet Valley High.

Though, if I'm enlisting the help of mediocre young adult literature characters, I might want to make a call on the Goosebumps-verse, 'cause this really does seem like the sort of thing that'd be right up R.L. Stine's alley.

They would have to have been

would, in some hackneyed way, be using them purposes, and me, the boys, Miss Drew and the gang would have to put a

stolen by murderous trolls who for nefarious

stop to it.

Fortunately, everyone would make it out alive—Goosebumps being the most non-threatening horror series ever-except maybe some of those jerks from Sweet Valley, because nobody read that crap anyway.

What was I talking about again? Oh yeah, socks. Ah screw it. It's not like I really cared anyway.

Wild from page 13 the occasional boot, a good way to

score some Bells. The types of fish even change with the seasons. You can also donate fish to the local museum, as well as bugs, paintings and fossils.

Fossils in particular can help boost your income if the museum already has that same kind. The second prime method is selling fruit.

However, if you really want to rake it in, you need to get fruit that is not native to your town, but how would you go out to get it?

By using Nintendo's Wi-Fi Network and visiting other friends, of course. Not only can you get new kinds of fruit, you can visit their stores, share custom designs for clothes and even have a fishing/bugcatching competition. By exchanging key codes, you can open up to the whole world. Kinda.

The big problem with this code system is that while it may keep unwanted visitors out of your town, you can only have 32 codes saved at any one time. Still, despite the few shortcomings with the online play, which was one of the main draws of this game, it should still provide hours of entertainment.

sliver www.nique.net/sliver

No scope for proposed GPA changes! Plus/Minus grades suck 1908 I love my big cute doggie :) denis is my hero! Fraternity teams should stay in their own IM league! TKE GOT THEIR TREE STOLEN...HAHAHA wonder who took it....?;) the apples on the top branch can stay there Happy Birthday Katie!! No Plus/Minus !!! okay so this plus/minus crap needs to go away like ... o... NOW How many more calls can the refs cheat us on? The refs at the Maryland game had to be paid off. Perrin vou are a stud in my eyes - Mark 24 is better than sex COME ON! Jenn rocks my WORLD!





See page 20 for more Slivers!



