

ME FIRST! ME FIRST!

Priority registration allows some students to register earlier than the rest. Is this fair to everyone else? Page 7

MAKING A SPLASH

Two-time All-American swimmer Sam Morgan looks forward to the new season and has high hopes. Page 15

99X's summer series delivers free Cake

Downtown Rocks welcomes alternative bands to Underground

By Charbak Mitra
Contributing Writer

In their free Downtown Rocks series, 99X brought Cake to Underground Atlanta at no cost to its Freeloader members. For those of you looking into being Freeloaders, the application is readily available

on the 99X website, and for those of you too lazy even for that, don't worry: they don't check. The crowd was jam-packed as openers including Stereophonics performed set lists for the audience.

The Downtown Rocks series is located conveniently near the Five Points station on MARTA, from

which you can follow your ears to find the show and vendors nearby. As most of you are aware, Saturday night was plagued with rain to finish off a week of rainy event nights including the Fourth of July and Flicks on Fifth.

However, with the heat and sweat of a summer crowd, the rain was refreshing and even better than no rain at all.

During their set, Cake played a host of their favorite songs, including "Sheep go to Heaven," "Stick-shifts and Safety Belts" and "The Distance."

What was unexpected was their cover of "Guitar Man," which John McCrea mentioned to be a well-written song about years of touring, adding it was written in the '70s before the audience was even born.

No complaints here about wild card songs, but the Sacramento quartet threw a stone in the gears with their set. Popular songs like "Short Skirt/Long Jacket," "Rock 'n' Roll Lifestyle" and "Never There" weren't included, and the one-song encore was somewhat predictable: a cover of Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive."

True to their pragmatic perambulations, McCrea snidely made remarks on topics discussed in their anti-hipster myths of lyrics ranging from public transportation to

social mores. The scenic locale and well judged lighting on the stage made for an ambient clarity not held by many concerts. Good job on 99X's part.

However, don't plan on attending future Downtown Rocks events unless you can hold your own in a crowd. The pervasive domineering of crowd dynamics can overshadow the placid environs engineered by 99X.

The all-ages crowd was subject to crowd surfers flailing their legs around so a good deal of people had to keep their guard up for the dearth of crowd control.

Although bouncers were present at the event, most of their work involved collecting the crowd surfers who made their way to the front. The reach of the police was limited to shining

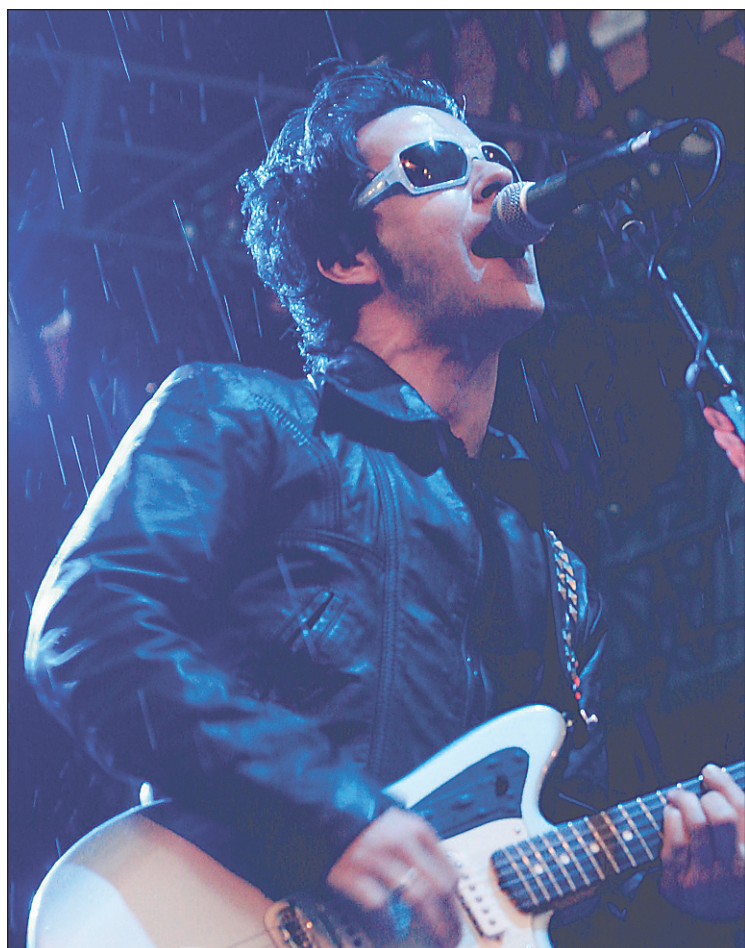
"At my position in the front I could see a pot-bellied, mustached policeman singing along...and snapping souvenir shots with his camera."

lights on miscreants.

Eventually, concertgoers took to climbing traffic posts and taking crowd dives. There's nothing wrong with that, except for the fact that it was a Cake concert and a good fraction of the crowd was getting really pissed off.

At my position in the front I could see a pot-bellied, mustached policeman singing along, ignoring the need to go into the crowd to stop the jumpers and snapping souvenir shots with his camera.

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By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Stereophonics was among the bands that played Downtown Rocks at Underground. Cake headlined last weekend's concert event.

Crashers delivers well-balanced comedy

By Vedran Oruc
Contributing Writer

From David Dobkin, director of *Shanghai Knights* and *Clay Pigeons*, comes a heart-warming tale of two guys out to get laid. *Wedding Crashers* follows childhood friends John Beckwith (Owen Wilson) and

Following the greatest wedding season of their lives, the team makes the boldest crash of their career by arriving at the wedding of the daughter of powerhouse politician Treasury Secretary William Cleary

(Christopher Walken) and set sights on his two available daughters.

While Jeremy sticks to the typical get-in-get-out routine with daughter Gloria Cleary (Isla Fisher), John breaks the fundamental rule

of wedding crashing by accepting an invitation for the weekend to the Cleary summer house in hopes of going into overtime and stealing

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"Following the greatest wedding season of their lives, the team makes the boldest crash of their career..."

Jeremy Grey (Vince Vaughn) as they masterfully sneak into weddings and sneak out with the pick of the litter.

Irish, Italian, Jewish or Hindu makes no difference; the duo can succeed in any atmosphere with the help of the coveted rules of wedding crashing, clever back stories and, of course, enough ingenuity to instantly become the life of the party.



Photo courtesy New Line Cinema

Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn star in the summer comedy *Wedding Crashers*. The film chronicles the exploits of two friends who are experts at crashing weddings and seducing female guests.

Rednecks unite under Foxworthy

Jeff Foxworthy, the most famous redneck in the world, will be performing at the Arena at Gwinnett Center tonight at 8 p.m. Foxworthy has most recently been a co-headliner on the Blue Collar Comedy Tour and co-stars on Blue Collar TV on Comedy Central. Tickets for Friday's show are \$39.75 for all levels.

Michael Jackson not involved

The Fabulous Fox Theatre is running performances of *Peter Pan* through Sunday with show times at 8 p.m. tonight, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. tomorrow night, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday night. The performance stars Cathy Rigby as Peter Pan and tickets range from \$20 to \$59. To get there, take the first star to the right and go straight on 'til morning.

Great rock combo to play Roxy

Rockers Vertical Horizon and the Pat McGee band will be playing a show next Friday, July 22 at the Roxy. The show is general admission and tickets are \$20. The music starts at 8 p.m.

Nail and tanning salon opens

For those of you who ignore the megamod messages, it may be news that Tech Square is now home to Nail Talk & Tan. As the name may suggest, the salon offers manicure and pedicure services as well as tanning sessions. The salon also offers limited cosmetic waxing services. Tech students can take advantage of a 15% discount on all salon services for the next two months. Provided that Nail Talk & Tan doesn't succumb to the curse of the Tech Square businesses, we might start seeing fewer pasty students come winter.

The Boss comes to Atlanta

Next Saturday, July 23, the Boss, Bruce Springsteen will be performing at Philips Arena. Tickets are pricey (\$75-85) but well in line with ticket prices for other rock legends. While it might blow your party budget for the next month or so, seeing Mr. Springsteen in concert could very well be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Vision nightclub reopens tomorrow

Atlanta nightclub, Vision, celebrates its grand re-opening tomorrow night at 9 p.m. Cover is \$10 before midnight and \$15 after, or \$20 all night for VIP access.

Excitement surrounds release of sixth Potter book

Heavy security, accidental sales and media saturation mark the new volume

By Hillary Lipko
Entertainment Editor

Bookstores all over Atlanta will be staying open late tonight in celebration of the midnight release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Most Borders, Barnes & Noble and Chapter 11 bookstores in the Atlanta area will be open past midnight, with the exception of the Barnes & Noble in Tech Square, which will close at its usual time. If you've reserved your copy there, you're out of luck until 8 a.m. tomorrow when the bookstore opens.

The website www.potterparties.com has a listing of release party locations all around the world. Eighty-five parties are currently listed for the state of Georgia, 14 of which are in Atlanta. Several others are being held in suburbs of Atlanta.

Half-Blood Prince is the sixth book in the Harry Potter series by British author J.K. Rowling,

Security surrounding the delivery of the book to stores and distributors is unprecedented for any book release, employing GPS tracking on armored delivery trucks to make sure the drivers don't stop.

“Security surrounding the delivery of the book...is unprecedented for any book release, employing GPS tracking on armored delivery trucks...”

Boxes containing the books are printed with the words, “do not open until midnight, July 16, 2005,”

and warnings to bookstores by U.S. publisher Scholastic that if the books are made available before the release date that the store will no longer be allowed to carry any books published by Scholastic.

Despite all of the measures taken, a bookstore in Canada accidentally sold 15 copies of *Half-Blood Prince* earlier this week. The Canadian publisher of the books, Raincoast, was able to successfully file injunctions against the purchasers to keep the contents of the book a secret until the release, and has also offered incentives for the purchasers to return their books, including an autographed bookplate and a gift bag of Harry Potter merchandise.

A drugstore in Kingston, N.Y. also mistakenly put its shipment of the sixth Potter book on the shelves, where a copy was purchased by a nine-year-old boy. The copies were removed approximately an hour later and the purchased book was returned

once the boy and his mother learned of the mistake.

The high-profile release of the sixth Harry Potter book has also been the center of a media frenzy, including an appearance by Jim

be reading an excerpt from *Half-Blood Prince*, but instead, he read a brief passage from the fifth book, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

Many fans at the Harry Potter fan site www.cosforums.com were incensed by what they viewed as a deliberate attempt to cash in on the release of *Half-Blood Prince* with a “bait and switch” trick in order to boost ratings.

The books in the Harry Potter series have topped both adult and children's bestseller lists all over the world and *Half-Blood Prince* has been one of Amazon's top sellers almost since it became available for presale.

The English-language edition will be released worldwide as midnight rolls around in each country. *Half-Blood Prince* is also the first book in history to have a Braille edition released simultaneously with the print edition.

“A drugstore in New York...mistakenly put its shipment of the sixth Potter book on the shelves where a copy was purchased by a nine-year-old boy.”

Dale, the voice of the Harry Potter audio books in the U.S., on the *Today Show* on Tuesday.

NBC alluded that Dale would

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away Claire Cleary from her arrogant boyfriend Sack (Bradley Cooper).

This leads to the heart of the movie which focuses in on a unique blend of situational humor based on the dysfunctional happenings at the Cleary household and bizarre relationships that are formed. As the latest release featuring Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn, this star-studded movie clearly had the makings of either a summer hit or a notorious disaster.

Though the latter seems to lurk around the corner as the movie opens to a scene of quick-talking, cliché shock humor, it quickly evolves into a well-developed social satire,

balanced with a plethora of witty one-liners.

Improbable as it seems, this group of actors seem to have the formula down for making consistently good comedies and *Wedding Crashers* is no exception. The movie offers a variety of humor for a diverse audience, and though it is sometimes frustrating to be in a theater sitting with people laughing at parts of a movie that you personally may not find amusing, this will more than likely go away not long after the first ten minutes of the movie.

If you enjoyed movies such as *Star-sky and Hutch*, *Dodgeball* and *Meet the Parents*, then *Wedding Crashers* should not be a disappointment in the least and will more than likely leave you quoting the movie for days.

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Way to keep it up, Atlanta's finest. Not that I can blame him, he was paid to have a front and center position at a Cake show. So if you plan on attending these shows, choose your place in the crowd carefully or go in a group.

Tickets to future events are free to the unmitigated whole of music lovers who find their way there. However, the event is held for the 99X Freeloaders. In order to sign up and join, visit www.99X.com and fill out a quick survey for free membership. Future acts for the event include Weezer, Chevelle and Garbage. Check the website for event dates and directions.



By Wei Liao / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Hipster band Cake headlined 99X's Downtown Rocks concert last Saturday. Future headliners include Weezer, Chevelle and Garbage.