



The Melting Pot:

Fondue fun gives diners unique experience

FOOD

The Melting Pot
LOCATION: 754 Peachtree St. NE
CUISINE: Fondue
PRICE: \$16 – \$25
RESERVATIONS: Recommended
OUR TAKE: ★★★★★

By Kristin Hanson
Staff Writer

The Melting Pot is a restaurant with a unique style of dining that was first opened in Florida in 1975. Today, they have more than 138 locations across 37 states and have won countless awards for their food, service and community involvement. We are lucky

enough to have one located very close to Tech on Peachtree Street NE.

From the valet parking to the personalized service, it is an experience unlike any other. To get the whole experience, be sure to come with a large wallet and an even larger appetite, because the Melting Pot offers a meal choice of a cheese fondue, a salad and a main entrée. And who can resist getting a dessert plate?

The choices for cheese fondue range from beer flavored cheese to good old classic cheddar. Regardless of cheese choice, everyone gets pieces of bread, apples, carrots and celery to dip with. At first, the thought of dipping fruits and vegetables into any type of cheese might be a little odd for those of us without a more sophisticated

palette, but, surprisingly, I enjoyed the different taste combinations and jumping in and trying something I normally wouldn't. The Melting Pot is definitely a place to experiment with different flavors and foods.

Up next, there are several choices of salad to be had, but I almost didn't want to eat one because I knew the main course was coming and there was no way I was going to miss out on the duck, shrimp, beef, chicken and wonton noodles we ordered. When the main course comes it is really intimidating when the waiter or waitress sets down a whole plate of raw meat, about six different sauces and two types of batter.

The people who work there re-

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MUSIC

Killers' Day & Age tries new direction, takes step backwards

The Killers
Day & Age
LABEL: Island
GENRE: Rock
TRACK PICKS: "Human," "I Can't Stay"
RELEASE DATE: Nov. 24, 2008
OUR TAKE: ★★☆☆☆

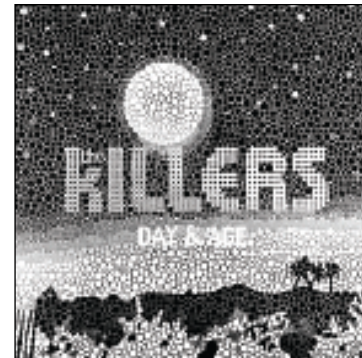


Image courtesy of Island

By Zheng Zheng
Contributing Writer

When The Killers first kicked off all the way back in 2004 with their debut album *Hot Fuss*, they identified themselves as a strong member of the post-punk revival movement with their simple yet catchy music style. However, their latest production *Day & Age* marks the group's attempt to transition into a different subgenre of new wave synthpop. Sadly, the result is too far from what diehard Killers fans are used to. And for new listeners, consider twice before being falsely bedazzled by the beautifully designed album cover.

Day & Age attempts to redirect both the band's style and lyrical creativity from the youthful and controversial style that captured many fans into a more mature and sophisticated direction. However, the heard-it-before philosophical lyrics and the rather predictable and calm beats make the Killers' coming of age rather boring. Where old fans could proudly sing along with the car radio while pondering over the fact that "You had a boyfriend, who looked like a girlfriend," now they can sit back and relax and wonder what on

earth "Are we human, or are we dancer?" means.

Conformity seems to be the best answer, but it is a topic so overrated and overused that the real emotions and curiosity behind the sexual ambiguity of "your boyfriend" are still more captivating. This is not the case solely for the album's first single "Human," but rather most of the tracks. The deep lyrics are really not that deep; they rather come off as the band trying too hard to let go of their youth.

Lead vocalist/keyboardist Brandon Flowers declared *Day & Age* the band's "most playful record." This statement is somewhat correct in that the group's experimentation with new sounds and musical instruments is apparent in almost every track. However, many of these changes come as a shock. "Joyride" employs the surprise of saxophone about one minute in while "This is Your Life" begins with the chanting of a chorus.

Day & Age also includes the new addition of electronic music sounds and disco beats such as in "Joyride." The new sounds

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MUSIC

Merriweather strays from old Collective sound

Animal Collective
Merriweather Post Pavilion
LABEL: Domino
GENRE: Indie Rock
TRACK PICKS: "In the Flowers," "My Girls," "Taste"
RELEASE DATE: Jan. 20, 2009
OUR TAKE: ★★★★★

By Philip Poole
Contributing Writer

The word experimental seems to show up in iTunes' genre category a lot. As sort of a catch-all for indie bands that head in a non-traditional direction, it's generally a bad tag; some of the most experimental music isn't classified as such according to the endless levels of categorization music nerds love to create.

There is a common thread though: experimental music can often be pretentious. Bands in

this genre try to get around that label in different ways. Mr. Bungle avoided it by being incredibly non-serious (lyrically and musically), The Dillinger Escape Plan does it by being intensely aggressive and The Mars Volta does it by mixing several diverse genres (unfortunately those guys get that reputation for other reasons).

In *Merriweather Post Pavilion*, Animal Collective tries to avoid it the way people like Brian Eno have done before—by creating a sound that's very content to not be the center of attention. There are never any grand crescendos where the music starts to really assert itself. In the vein of so much electronica, it almost begs to be background noise.

Does that effectively stave off the label of self-importance? Well, mostly. Animal Collective does seem to take their music really seriously, a lot more than you would expect from artists who name themselves things like Panda Bear

and Geologist. But either way, the choice to keep their sound pleasantly contained helps AC avoid the same pitfalls of conceit that similar indie bands fall into.

That agreeable atmosphere is pretty consistent throughout the record. The individual songs flow well into each other, less because the album was designed as a coherent concept but more because the pieces just sound similar. "Taste" is a standout song. It's very glitchy and sort of industrial, and it gives the album's atmosphere a much needed lift toward the end.

Speaking of consistency, the fuzzy, harmonizing, singing-in-a-cave routine does get repetitive, but I'd bet that vocal style works better in person due to Animal Collective's strong reputation for outstanding live shows.

I found that to be true with Yeasayer (an indie band with similar vocals) after comparing a pick from their studio album to a live rendition of the same song

on YouTube. Even in that horrible quality the difference was stark; an X factor must be lost in production somewhere while they try to soften up the music.

The cover art is so crappy. It's a leaf pattern optical illusion in the spirit of those old Magic Eye pictures. That might have been cool a few years back, but in this technological era it's just reminiscent of pop-up window content. They might as well have made the cover a punch-the-monkey banner or an ultimate IQ test.

Actually, they should have done just that; no doubt their core indie fanbase would have called it "ironic" and eaten it up. Thankfully the worst part about this release is something that really doesn't matter, since few of us bother to keep CD cases anymore and even fewer impulse buy based on cover art.

What does matter is that Animal Collective is very comfortable with their sound by this eighth

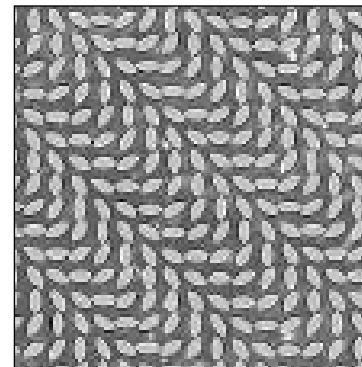


Image courtesy of Domino

studio album. Not that they haven't grown from previous efforts; they're comfortable in a way that lets them maintain their music's integrity while growing into something a bit more accessible.

This is not spiritual music, but it's not hipster garbage either. It's good casual listening that by all indications makes for an even better live show. *Merriweather Post Pavilion* should easily satisfy Atlanta Animal Collective fans until they roll back through.

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ally know their stuff, because our waiter rattled off the instructions for how to fondue our own meat in a matter of minutes and never got confused about the cooking times.

Each type of meat has to be left in the hot oil for a different amount of time in order for it to be safe to eat. Any time you leave it in after that is a personal choice. First, the meat is dipped into the batter of your choice and then held on a skewer in the oil. All the different sauce choices for dipping after the meat is cooked can really make every bite taste different. It's kind of scary cooking your own meat, because sometimes it's hard to tell if it is actually cooked because of the dim lighting. Somehow, we made it through okay without food poisoning and were ready for dessert.

By far, dessert was the best part of the meal. By the time dessert rolled around, I felt like I could not handle eating any more, but I manned up and we ordered a small plate of desserts, which ended up being not so small, just like every other previous course. There are tons of choices for the type of chocolate to dip pieces of cheesecake, pound cake, brownies, marshmallows and strawberries in. There is chocolate with caramel, nuts and even alcohol as a dipping base.

Aside from the nightly dining, the Melting Pot gives customers an option of joining something called The Melting Pot's Club Fondue where they offer the members wine tastings, food samplings and entry into exclusive events held at the restaurant.

Needless to say, everyone leaves the Melting Pot feeling satisfied, if not overly stuffed. Whether for a birthday, a romantic evening out or a get together with friends, the Melting Pot prides itself on an experience you won't soon forget.

MOVIES

Hoffman cannot save *Harvey***Last Chance Harvey****GENRE:** Drama/Romance**STARRING:** Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson**DIRECTOR:** Joel Hopkins**RATING:** PG-13**RELEASE DATE:** Jan. 16, 2009**OUR TAKE:** ★★☆☆☆☆

By **Kenny Phillips**
Staff Writer

Released in most theaters last Friday, *Last Chance Harvey* is a story of an American songwriter who finds an English woman who changes his life. The film stars Dustin Hoffman (Harvey Shine) and Emma Thompson (Kate Walker).

Both Harvey's job and his family have suffered to the point that he has been driven out of each. Although the relationship seems parasitic at first, the couple soon becomes symbiotic as Harvey woos Kate with his persistent ardor and musical talent.

The film has many problems. There is no conflict. This movie lasts only for one hour and thirty minutes, but it is filled with excruciating nothingness.

The relationship between Harvey and Kate is a welcome reprieve that heroically saves the film from being labeled with a cautionary warning of extreme boredom.

The pair of Hoffman and Thompson is quite a match. The strange latching of Harvey to Kate after a chance meeting does not add any additional merriment, but it deserves points as a different way to make a connection in a film. Unlike the old standby of



Image courtesy of Overture Films

couples randomly meeting time and time again as seen in most romances, Harvey works a different angle showing that he must basically tag along with Kate hoping his personality makes an impression. The situation may knock hopeful, fictional love down a peg and would be terribly creepy in a non-fictional setting, but it shows realism in that the relationship needs work to keep its fire.

To be most frank, this film is unbelievably poor because of writer/director Joel Hopkins. Not knowing Hopkins' earlier works, I can still only come to this logical conclusion because there was nothing deemed worthy of any praise in this movie.

Stylistically, the camera work and directing were adequate, but nothing jumped off the screen to make me think that this was a masterpiece.

Hopkins' writing was quite far from greatness. The plot was left longing for something more dramatic. The ending was not at all surprising and most of the plot development was something that could have been deduced with

simple intelligence. The dialog of characters other than Harvey and Kate was unimaginably bad, and their performance could have been played by mannequins with a speech bubble of text read by a narrator (as for the extras having no dialog, they could have been replaced by cardboard cutouts).

That is to say, the smaller roles did absolutely nothing for the main characters. Hoffman and Thompson were alright in the film and had a nice chemistry, but it seemed overly platonic for a romance. The inner feelings were noticeable in each shared scene, but there was no external passion. With such awful writing and directing I am thankful that my berating can focus solely on Hopkins.

The movie really does not perform as well as it should with such actors as Hoffman and Thompson. The pair is the only quality of the film I would not smash apart in hopes that Hopkins may do a better job the second time around, and because of that I do not wish to recommend this movie to anyone.

Killers from page 15

make the latest album sound very happy and free, but much less interesting than the emotional music about a little girl's dreams or Uncle Johnny's cocaine. Sadly, the entirely new sound that is *Day & Age* contains very little of the Killers' former glories. Lead guitarist Dave Keuning's loud guitar riffs are long gone and Flower's catchy yet exotic beats are nowhere to be heard.

Though the new album is filled with new experimentation with musical influence, Flowers' singing is far less exploratory. The new tracks accompanied by his bounded smooth and perfected tone are in reality much less enchanting. However, when judged alone, several tracks on the album do deserve special mentioning.

"Human," perhaps the most well-known song and the reason that most purchased the album all together, is quite worthy of its fame. Voted the best song of 2008 by readers of Rolling Stone, this single stands out in the alternative rock genre.

"A Dustland Fairytale" manages to capture the old magic of The Killers with Flowers' crisp keyboard play and emotional voice.

"I Can't Stay" is a personal favorite. While the beginning is weak, the song builds up to a quite open and free sound that makes the listener feel like he is singing his heart out on a green hill or a mountain.

"The World We Live In" is a perfect example of the group's transformation. The beginning is very similar to "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay, which is a problem that several songs suffer from.

The Killers' effort to transcend genres and bring something new to the table is much appreciated and sometimes necessary among musicians. Sadly, not everyone is destined to succeed in doing so.



Student Center
Programs Council
www.fun.gatech.edu

Weekly Activities



Student Center
Programs Council
www.fun.gatech.edu

**Options Classes
Spring 2009**

Registration dates: January 12 - 23
Late Registration for Non-Dance:
January 26 - 30 (\$10 late fee)
Late Registration for Dance:
January 26 - February 5 (\$10 late fee)

Georgia Tech Students/
Faculty/Staff: Register online via
the BuzzCard website @ www.buzzcard.gatech.edu, log in to your
account, click eMarketplace

Community Members: visit www.fun.gatech.edu/Options, click on the
community link and download the
registration form.

**GT Night @
Georgia Aquarium**

Thursday, February 12, 6 - 10 pm
\$7. students \$15. others
Tickets on sale now @
www.buzzcard.gatech.edu,
log in to your account,
click eMarketplace
For more information go to
www.fun.gatech.edu



**Feature Movie:
"Tropic Thunder"**

Friday, January 23
7pm & 10pm,
\$2 with Buzzcard, \$3 without
Student Center Theater
Tickets online @ www.buzzcard.gatech.edu, log in to your account,
click eMarketplace.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL THESE EVENTS AND MORE VISIT OUR
WEBSITE: www.fun.gatech.edu

sliverwww.nique.net

Why in the hell is my roommates alarm clock going off at 10PM?
Walking with a panda bear
yeah, i wanna steal the campus movie fest gear
i thought things were awkward between us.
It took you half an hour to remember the words "wine coolers"
turns out Target doesn't sell alcohol.
I bought a beer based on the name. bad move.
You know how we deal with hippies: Harpoon!
skunk ape lives.
I like my life in the sunshine.
the day the campaneille freezes over...
dude, you stank-nasty.
See the quiet boy who's taking notes next to you? Say hi to him- I,
uh, he promises it'll be worth it.
I want to tell you that you're amazing and that I want to marry
you. Too bad I'm a pussy.
I have OCD, reason 42- I have to stack my Rubix Cubes so that
all the colors face the same direction.
The smell test is law. Why can't women understand?
Kooooooza!!
PrankTech@gmail.com
digital aphasia
who's gonna test the sound and mess around?
motocross: prepare to be firebombed!!!
Keep it unreal
yeah i saw you walking into Cheetah
Thanks to technology, I can sliver while taking a dump. My mom
would be proud of my multitasking ability!
i'm paying good money for my NA apartment, now give me some
hot water, dammit!
I can understand hot water going out in glenn last year (kinda
but this is absurd!
The longer I'm here the more I'm convinced that GaTech doesn't
care about the students
awesome, north ave west has no hot water again.....
WILLY FTW^^^

THEME CROSSWORD: FUEL EFFICIENCY

By Robert Zimmerman
United Features Syndicate

ACROSS

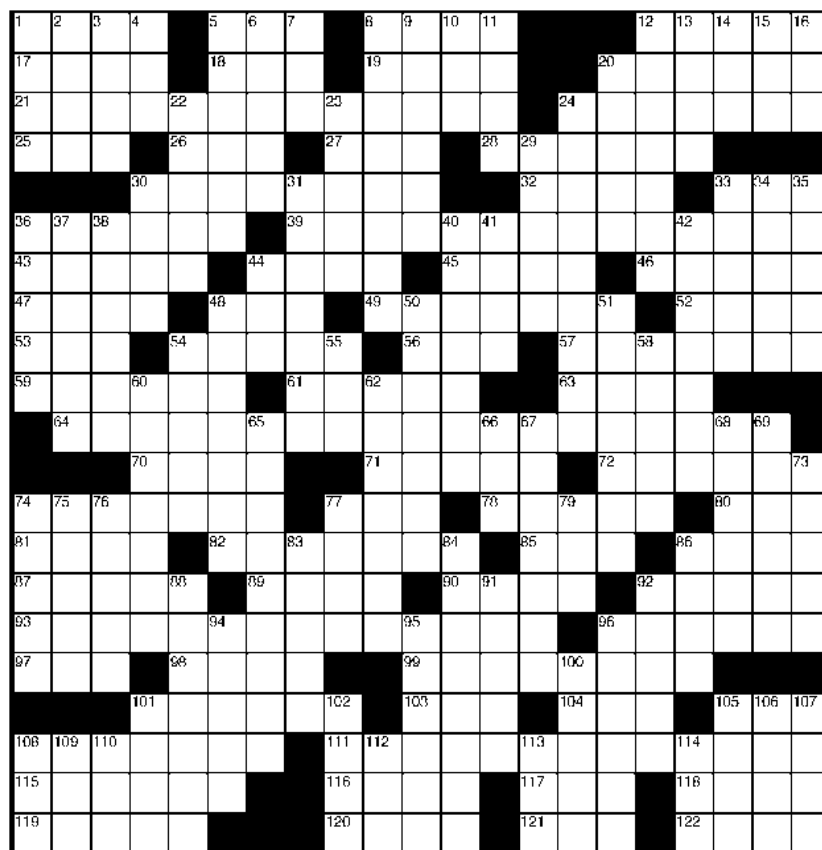
- 1. Carrey and Henson
- 5. Forefront
- 8. Ship of 1492
- 12. Black, in heraldry
- 17. Redolence
- 18. Bucket's contents
- 19. Oka River city
- 20. Very numerous
- 21. Start of a quip by Milton Berle: 4 wds.
- 24. Ignore: 2 wds.
- 25. Certain vote
- 26. Support for tracks
- 27. Self-made -
- 28. Trophies
- 30. Aromatic plant: 2 wds.
- 32. Hastens
- 33. Arab garment
- 36. Standards of behavior
- 39. Part 2 of quip: 4 wds.
- 43. Summon
- 44. Noggin
- 45. Croft or Antipova

DOWN

- 1. - Q. Public
- 2. Abstraction
- 3. Start of a Melville title
- 4. Box-office announcement
- 5. Night watches
- 6. Yearned
- 7. Bottom-line number
- 8. Plane figures
- 9. Dunne and Ryan
- 10. Anagram for "eon"
- 11. - Romeo
- 12. Parodies: 2 wds.
- 13. Times

- 46. Portion of ground beef
- 47. Coin with reeding
- 48. Gull
- 49. Paint thinner, e.g.
- 52. Tossspots
- 53. "Love -- Many-Splendored Thing"
- 54. Of hair
- 56. Contend
- 57. Weasels
- 59. Ancient Biblical region
- 61. Lay out anew
- 63. Signet
- 64. Part 3 of quip: 5 wds.
- 70. Roseanne of "Roseanne"
- 71. A relative
- 72. Puget Sound city
- 74. Nazareth's province
- 77. Wedding-day answer
- 78. Ogre
- 80. Crib
- 81. Butterfly wings
- 82. Russian empress
- 85. Sallie -
- 86. Building area
- 87. Lighter part
- 89. Family
- 90. Ending for young or old
- 92. Trickery
- 93. Part 4 of quip: 4 wds.
- 96. Most rational
- 97. Part of GPS: abbr.
- 98. Hoosgow
- 99. Cables and anchors
- 101. Armies
- 103. Eagle
- 104. - Paulo
- 105. Archaic greeting
- 108. A Great Lake
- 111. End of the quip: 4 wds
- 115. Edible masses
- 116. Measure of area
- 117. Annex
- 118. Shortly
- 119. Inched
- 120. Interpret
- 121. French article
- 122. Lugosi

- 14. Story of a kind, for short
- 15. Mary - Retton
- 16. MD specialty
- 20. Tackle-box items
- 22. Of service
- 23. Amerindian
- 24. Taipei denizens
- 29. "Fools rush in -..."
- 30. Rouse
- 31. "Daily Show" host
- 33. - Martin
- 34. Mesa
- 35. Pit
- 36. Corpsman
- 37. Ootheca
- 38. Cheese, often grated
- 40. Oval
- 41. Wheel hub
- 42. Vein in the arm
- 44. - canto
- 48. Muezzin's tower
- 50. Expression of acclaim
- 51. Support
- 54. Of a church leader
- 55. Legal matter
- 58. Taj -
- 60. Surrounding
- 62. "Who's - the store?"



- 65. Direction in music
- 66. Pretend
- 67. Noted Dutch painter
- 68. Ambulatory
- 69. Organic compounds
- 73. Existential dread
- 74. Fishing poles
- 75. Pewter is one
- 76. Dens
- 77. Word in a gazetteer
- 79. Scull
- 83. Equally
- 84. Mixed
- 86. Victories
- 88. Gave private lessons
- 91. Braided whip
- 92. Vehicle for hayrides
- 94. Nostril
- 95. Egyptian god: hyph.
- 96. Escargots
- 100. Tropical-plant fiber
- 101. Privileged one
- 102. Cicatrix
- 105. The best: hyph.
- 106. Old stringed instrument
- 107. Lab burner
- 108. Bravo!
- 109. Land of -
- 110. Schoolyard game
- 112. Expert
- 113. Pickled fish
- 114. Bar bill

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING

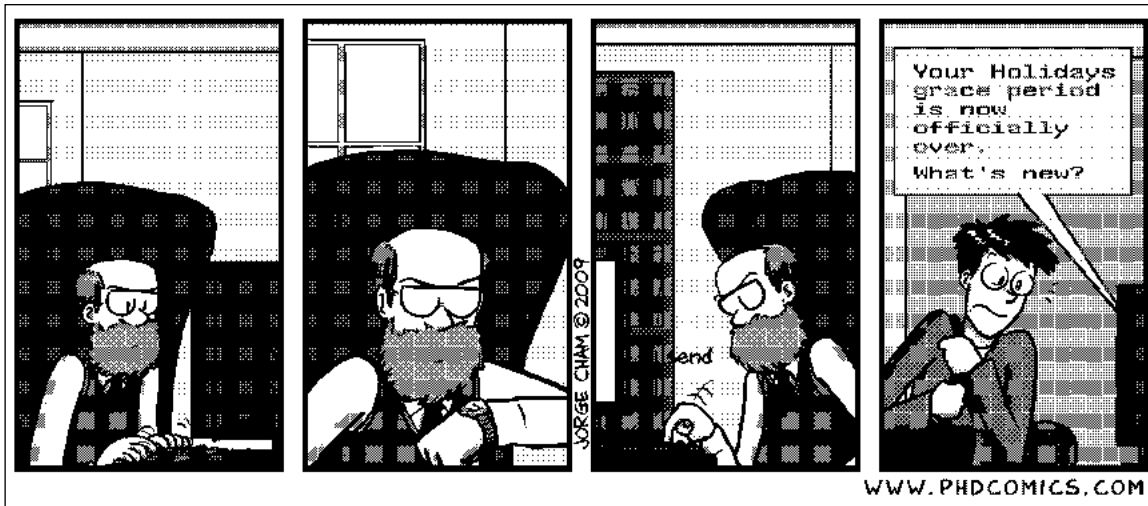
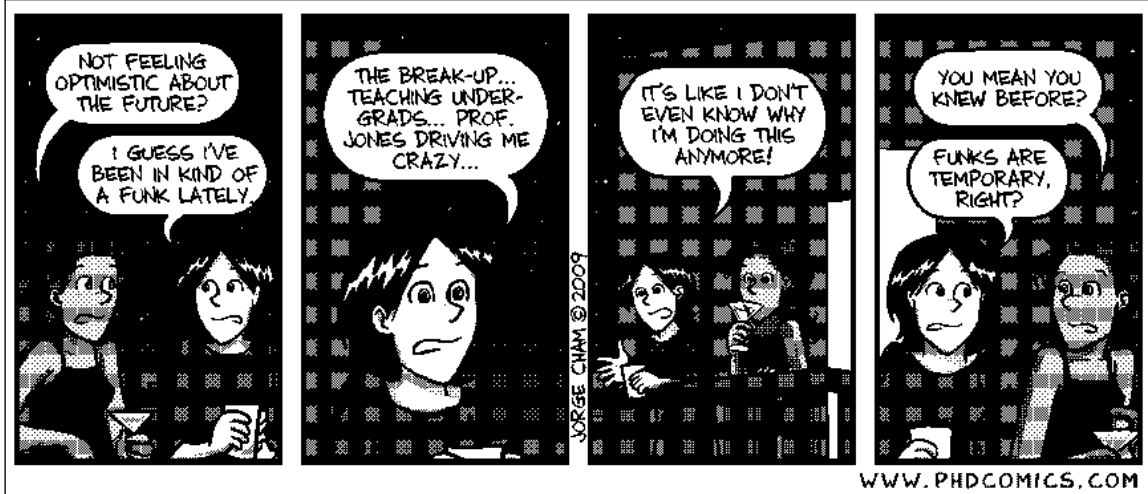
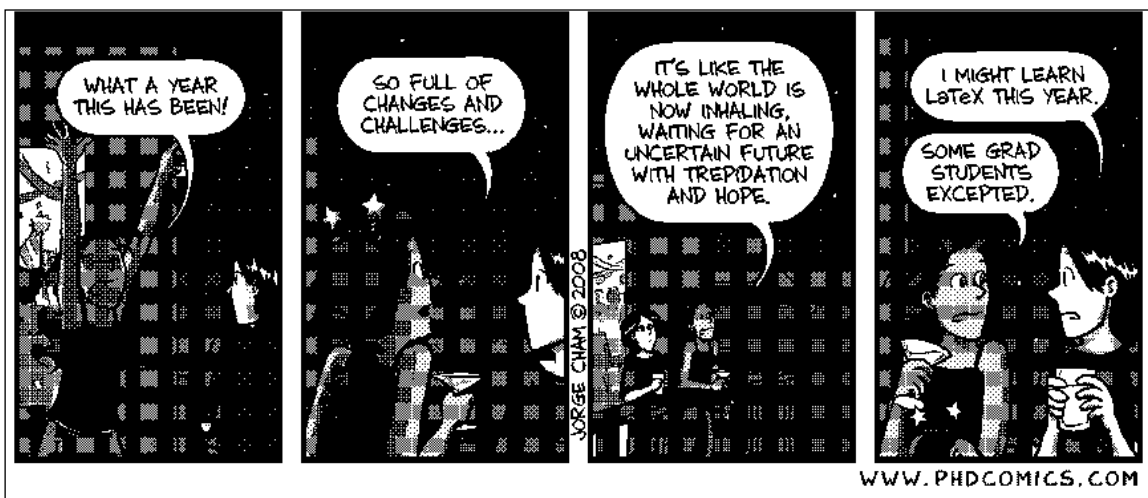
give back to the community without giving a cent.

January 27,
28, and 29.
11 - 4 in the
student center ballroom.
reserve time slot at www.givelife.org, code: gatech
give blood,
save a life.
it's easy.



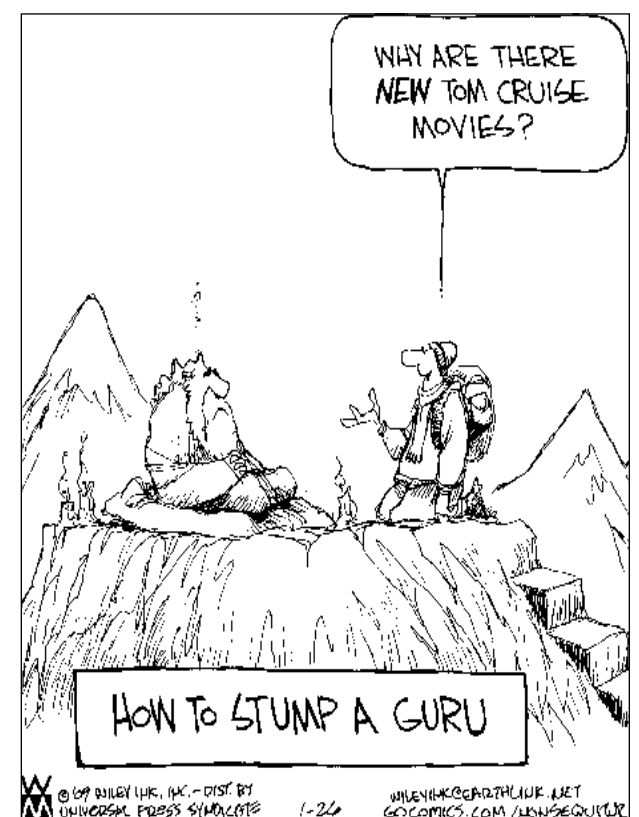
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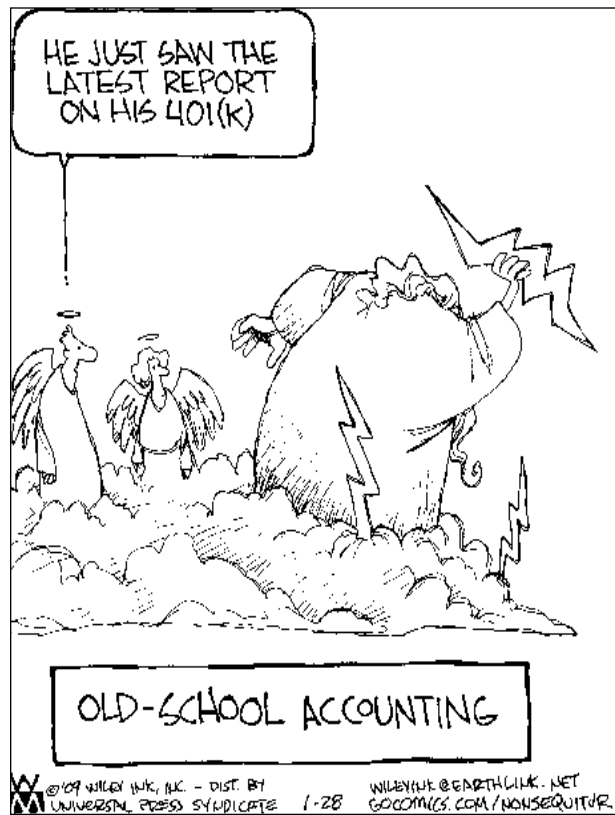


CROSSWORD SOLUTION FROM PAGE 17

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NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY



DILBERT® BY SCOTT ADAMS

