

ENTERTAINMENT

Technique • Friday, November 1, 2002

Bowling for Columbine

Michael Moore's new documentary focuses on America's fascination with guns. Page 24

Cross Country

The cross country team will be part hosting the ACC championship this weekend. Page 36

Tim Allen reprises his jolly role in *The Santa Clause 2*By Art Seavey
Contributing Writer**Title:** *The Santa Clause 2*
Starring: Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell, Judge Reinhold
Director: Michael Lembeck
Length: 105 minutes
Rating: G

Tim Allen is back at it again after a hiatus of almost eight years from playing the big guy in the red suit. *The Santa Clause 2*, from Walt Disney Pictures, opens today, which might seem a bit early for the holidays, but appropriate, considering his task.

This time around, there's another clause to worry about: "The Mrs. Clause." The elves inform Scott Calvin, played by Tim Allen, that if he does not find a wife by Christmas, he will cease to be Santa Claus.

Another problem: his son Charlie is on the "Naughty" list. He does what every good parent would do and leaves work to guide his rebellious teen. His replacement, however, decides to take initiative around the toy shop and makes changes that could ruin Christmas forever.

The majority of the cast returns from the first film. Elizabeth Mitchell joins as Carol Newman, the principal of Charlie's high school. Michael Lembeck was brought on to direct the feature.

Tim Allen is best known for his role as the accident-prone "Tim the Tool Man Taylor" from the hit television series *Home Improvement*. He has also ventured into the animated world, playing the voice of Buzz Lightyear in *Toy Story* and *Toy Story 2*. His latest films include *Galaxy Quest*, *Joe Somebody*, and *Big Trou-*

ble.

"Somebody said earlier, 'You've become the Tom Cruise of kids' movies.' And I punched him," Allen joked.

He commented that it is easy to fall into that typecast, and stated that it's not his preference, but at the same time not a bad one. "I look at it that this is a Santa Claus movie for adults... I don't particularly like these kinds of movies. I do them as though I would go see them. And this one I would go see."

It is only the lack of sex, violence and curse words that gives the movie its G rating, not lack of humor. "It's tough to do high brow comedy these days, because no one's used to it. You're used to a constant stream of crap. We do have one gas joke, though," Tim laughed.

"What's funnier than a reindeer fart?" questioned Lembeck.

"A reindeer fart—there's nothing funnier. Unless you're near it," Allen followed up with supporting sound effects.

The prosthetics used to transform the otherwise slender Tim Allen into the jelly-belly big guy are truly incredible. There is no second-guessing his character based on looks. They took close to four and a half hours each day to apply.

"The one guy that did some of my stunt work had to get in it so he was the only one I really liked on the set," Allen said.

Needless to say, it was a little uncomfortable. Once he was in the prosthetic suit, there was no getting out. His pattern of eating was definitely affected, and when he had to go, well, he went. "There's a little poop and pee vent. You don't want to be doing a lot of movement," Allen said.

Allen believes that the audience



By Joseph Lederer / © Disney Enterprises Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Santa Claus (played by Tim Allen) is the man with the plan at the North Pole in Disney's *The Santa Clause 2*, the sequel to the 1994 smash family hit. In this installment, Santa must find a wife to keep his holiday role.

will get their money's worth. With the time and effort he put into it, he assures that it will be enjoyable. "You walk away with a little bit more hope and faith and a cheesy grin. It's a cheesy movie. Cheesy, big smile, lovable," said Allen.

Elizabeth Mitchell stars opposite Allen. Her past credits include the mother in *Frequency*, Molly in *Nurse Betty*, and her breakthrough performance in the HBO production, *Gia*, opposite Angelina Jolie. She is widely known for her role as Dr. Kim Legaspi on the NBC series *ER*.

Mitchell became involved with the project through the desire of the director. "Michael came to me, which I thought was a surprise—it's not my usual fare. I didn't think that I was in any way big enough. I do little movies."

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By Joseph Lederer / © Disney Enterprises Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Santa still finds time to hang out with his reindeer Comet and his son's step-sister, Lucy (Lilian Mury). He also finds time to woo his son's principal.

GTCN staff member Scott Sergent publishes fictional novel



Photo courtesy of Scott Sergent

Scott Sergent, the programming manager for the Georgia Tech Cable Network, published his first novel, *An Invincible Summer*, this fall.

By Ananya Paul
Contributing Writer

Who would guess that a staff member at the Georgia Institute of Technology could publish a fictional novel? Well, Scott Sergent did just that. Recently, under the pen name Ivan Scott, Sergent published his first novel, titled *An Invincible Summer*.

Scott manages programming for the campus television station, GTCN. For example, last week when the HBO channel stopped working for a day or so, chances are you were speaking to him.

He attended East Tennessee and is originally from Knoxville. Many of his childhood friends came down to Atlanta after graduation, and he was also looking forward to moving to a large city; therefore, he shifted to Atlanta.

"I started working on the novel in April 1995, then I broke up in

June 1995, and also my father passed away. Too many blows at one time," he said.

"I found a way to escape my troubles through writing and I found it therapeutic. And at that point I put most of my effort into this book."

Such was the beginning of *An Invincible Summer*, a novel written from the heart and quite an entertaining read. It was released earlier this month, and Sergent is currently in the process of getting booksellers around Atlanta to carry copies of the novel.

Much of the setting of the novel is based in Chicago. Upon asking Sergent why he chose this as a setting, he replied, "Chicago: it's fun [and] is my second favorite city—besides Atlanta of course."

There are two main characters in the book, Sam Murdock, "who is convinced his life is over after a broken heart," and Jack, a saint introduced to mend Sam's broken heart.

Jack is described as a man "who carries 40 years of pain in his heart," and is to help Sam and himself overcome grief.

When I asked Sergent if there was any character in the book whom he would consider a reflection of himself, he replied, "When I started writing the book I saw myself as Sam, but it took seven and a half years to write and publish, so now I see myself more as Jack."

Jack is the most intriguing character in this novel, his living in the 1930s emphasized by the fact that he always wears a fedora. He is one of those people who acts like a talking encyclopedia and happens to know everything. While reading the book, the reader develops a certain affection for Jack and a longing for his happiness.

The amount of research put into this book was incredibly tedious yet

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Bowling an entertaining documentary on important issues

By Bryan Basamanowicz
Senior Staff Writer

Title: *Bowling for Columbine*
Starring: George W. Bush, Marilyn Manson, Michael Moore, Dick Clark
Director: Michael Moore
Length: 120 minutes
Rating: R

Tragically, mainstream cinema still retains a considerable ignorance towards the rising art of documentary film making. However, in Michael Moore's new documentary, *Bowling for Columbine*, ignorance is not an option.

Moore, director of *Canadian Bacon* and *Roger and Me*, is the investigative documentarian of *Bowling for Columbine*. From a Taco Bell parking lot in suburban Canada to the Hollywood Mansion complex of actor/NRA guru Charlton Heston, Moore attempts to break down the phenomenon of Ameri-

can gun violence. Through an almost therapeutic series of exposing interviews, stunts, and snafus, Moore tugs at the fabric of contemporary America's paranoid media frenzy and corporate neurosis.

The interviews alone recorded in *Bowling for Columbine* make the film well worth watching. Moore's interviewing pool is quite broad and his methods are often hilariously exposing.

Among Moore's many subjects and targets, famous and mundane, are James Nichols (suspected Oklahoma City bombing culprit and brother of convicted culprit Terry Nichols), and the accused violence-inspiring rock musician Marilyn Manson.

Nichols is a backwoods tofu farmer who keeps a gun under his pillow 24/7. Keeping well to himself and still apparently clinging to the radical beliefs that inspired his brother and Timothy McVeigh, Nichols makes for an enormously entertain-

ing (and somewhat frightening) interview subject. Manson offers some of the most thoughtful commentary on the subject matter in his explanation of a fear-driven society being inspired to perpetually consume. It's interesting stuff.

One truly outstanding mark of a good documentarian is the ability to keep the audience entertained, thus attentive. *Bowling for Columbine* is much easier to sit through than a lot of films that seem to muscle their way into public consumption. *Bowling for Columbine* is scattered with short vignettes, such as a clip from South Park satirizing gun obsession in America.

To keep the film's pace energetic, Moore also throws in a handful of clips and images from the news and other cinematic productions. Add in all that and the tenaciously funny antics of Michael Moore and you get an easily digestible, and surely

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File photo

Michael Moore, the famed documentary film maker, takes a stand on gun violence in his new film, which includes an interview with Marilyn Manson.

Technique Crossword North Avenue Trade School

By *Joey Katzen*
Contributing Writer

- Across**
 1. First German chancellor, to friends
 5. Iridescent stone
 9. Arboretum finds
 14. Lima locale
 15. Not crazy
 16. Bits
 17. I-95 gateway
 18. Chocolate lover
 20. Noisy machines
 22. Ion prefix
 23. Meatheads
 24. Biblical prince of Asher, for short
 25. Ginger, briefly
 27. Weak
 28. French coin
 30. Church aisle
 32. Three of _____
 34. Neck adornment
 36. Roman road
 37. Ochre cyclones
 40. Exist
 41. Haley miniseries
 42. Frankenstein's monster's loss
 43. Comprehensive quiz
 45. European fee

46. Smut
 47. Babylonian water god
 48. Norma ____
 50. Brockovich of fame
 51. Jose's
 53. Lemon blazers
 57. Rip Van Winkle's state
 59. The Orient
 60. Sewer tributary
 61. Doily material
 62. Used a doorbell
 63. Takes care of
 64. Picnic army
 65. Moulin Rouge foil of film
- Down**
 1. Phantom's Paris home
 2. Sam Austin or George Bush
 3. Lean
 4. Afternoon freeway direction, of-ten
 5. Harden
 6. Minutemen in game
 7. Fresh
 8. Sexual glance
 9. Abercrombie's mate
 10. Popular red-light passerby activity
 11. Native Nebraskans
 12. Freshman pejorative

13. Cigarette byproduct
 19. Herbal brewing vessel
 21. Took port
 25. Graduated from Dartmouth
 26. Pink Pony employee
 27. Accumulations
 28. F ____ Fitzgerald
 29. Paddles
 31. Dodge
 32. Spotted quartzlike rock
 33. Divided nation
 34. Greek Colonnade
 35. Garment material
 38. Brontë compositions
 39. Lush
 44. Cowardly
 46. Mourning band
 49. Ladd and Arkin
 50. Leave the cockpit in a hurry
 51. Odor
 52. Exploitation
 53. Give birth
 54. Earthenware jug
 55. Slowly detach from habit
 56. Birthright seller
 57. Banned insecticide
 58. Before, poetically

Solutions on page 29

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Novel

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satisfying, according to Sergeant. "My minor in college was history, so I spent many days at the library. I had to research the history of 1930s, and I felt like I was in that time period because I was so immersed in the research," he said. "Also, I got to know this stat guy, who has all sorts of baseball info since the late 1800s. So anything I needed I could ask him for."

Reading through the chapters, I had to ask Sergeant if he was a baseball fan. His reply was simple: "I still love the game but topics like free agency, side talks, and salary has soured my taste for baseball. But I used to work with the Braves."

Usually, it is impossible for writers to keep up with literary agents and publishing companies. In this case, *An Invincible Summer* is self-

published.

After going through difficulties finding a book deal and literary agent, John Doane recommended his publishing company, Avantine Press, to Sergeant. Avantine Press is a company that does the cover work and art for author.

An Invincible Summer is a great read for fiction lovers as well as baseball fans. An important conclusion from reading this novel: it perhaps is a love story and a romance novel, but more importantly it is about living life to the fullest and not regretting the past.

Scott Sergeant will be signing his novel Nov. 7 at noon at the Georgia Tech Bookstore. For more information about his novel, please visit www.IvanScott.com.

Bowling

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not a boring, film-going experience.

The only drawback to this film comes in that although the film is informative to an extent, the entertainment aspect of the documentary supersedes its credibility at an intellectual level. The political points made are drawn out extensively and Moore's good hand at editing yields little opportunity for voices to be heard from the opposing side.

Furthermore, Moore remains confined to the social and economic aspects of gun violence and greatly ignores the obviously relevant political influence. None of his interviews, aside from an obscure one conducted with a small town sheriff, subject any U.S. public officials to questioning on the issue. The film does, however, offer a side-vignette illustrating the global in-

justices committed by the U.S. around the world within the last century. But an interview with a key politician who opposes gun control laws would have added much to the film.

Another slight disappointment comes in the climactic ending of the film where Moore (aided by a "star map") acquires an interview with the NRA's very own Charlton Heston. Moore acquires the interview by telling Heston that he is a member of the NRA making a documentary on guns.

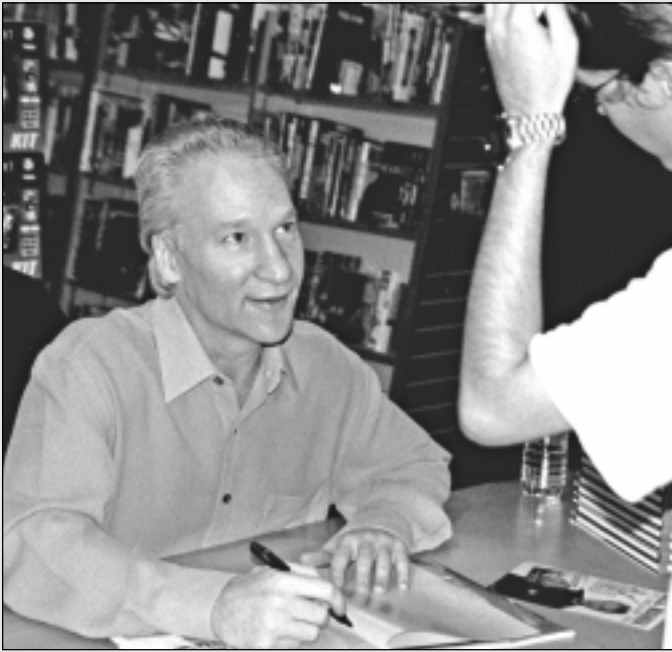
But it isn't soon after the interview gets underway before it becomes apparent that Moore is not quite yet a member of the NRA and has some ulterior plans for Heston. Heston, somewhat aghast that he has been obviously duped into the interview, quietly walks away in a scene that seems pretty sad. It looks

to me like an attempt at a legitimate interview floundered because of Moore's tactics being found out.

Moore, however, apparently thought it would make a good ending as it is the last recorded interview of the movie. Moore is trying to sensationalize the way some Americans ignorantly "turn their backs" on societal ills, but the scene with Heston makes Moore come off looking more like a childish prankster than a investigator in search of truth.

The matter is subjective and the goal of the documentary is clearly to make the viewer aware of the reality of the issues and to inspire thought.

The Verdict: *Bowling for Columbine*, hands down, is a remarkable film with much potential for stimulating the minds of all those looking for a fun movie to watch.

Book signing Bill Maher

By Konrad Rykaczewski / STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Bill Maher signed copies of his new book, *When You Ride Alone You Ride with bin Laden*, before his performance last Friday.

Bourne poetry reading at Ferst Center

By *Vivian Vakili*
Contributing Writer

Charles Baudelaire once said, "Any healthy man can go without food for two days—but not without poetry." If this is true, we must all be tremendously thankful to the Bourne Poetry Reading for ending our hunger strike.

The Bourne Poetry Reading was held at the Ferst Center Monday night and featured readings by Thomas Lux, Lucille Clifton, Billy Collins, Stephen Dobyns, and Rita Dove.

The evening began with introductions delivered by Thomas Lux, Tech's McEver Visiting Chair in Writing. The position of the McEver Visiting Chair was actually created by Dr. H. Bruce McEver, who once served as Tech's interim president, vice president of Academic Affairs, and professor of electrical engineering. He intended the position to ensure that, "in the highly special-

ized and technical areas of architecture, engineering, science, and management, students' aptitudes in the humanities are nurtured and supported as a foundation for lifelong learning."

Lux began his speech by outlining the four reasons why he took the position as the McEver Visiting Chair: the students, the students, his wife is also a poet and enjoys the city, and Atlanta's baseball team.

Lux is currently the author of eight books of poetry, as well as a winner of the renowned Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. He began the evening by reciting one of his own poems, entitled "Refrigerator 1957."

It was actually quite humorous, with a number of very vivid analogies, including one that compared a bottle of maraschino cherries in a mundane refrigerator to strippers at a church social.

Following Lux was John D. Maguire, who introduced Andrew Young, former mayor of Atlanta,

former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and current chairman of GoodWorks International.

Unbeknownst to most, Young himself was also a poet at one time. He described his poetry as existential, and said that much of his work was an expression of the anger and frustration he felt as a youth in the struggle for racial equality. Young then proceeded to introduce the night's first featured poet, Lucille Clifton, whose poetry he described having a sort of "visceral energy."

Clifton is not only a National Book Award winner, but also former poet laureate of Maryland. She mentioned how she feels her job is to "comfort the afflicted," and to "afflict the comforted."

Much of her poetry seemed to have to do with equality. One example of this is a poem she read entitled, "Jasper, Texas, 1998," which obviously is in regards to the brutal

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Live List

Echo Lounge (551 Flat Shoals Rd.)
(404) 681-3600

www.echostatic.com/echolounge

11/1 ph Balance/Minamina Goodsong
11/2 Rosa Believe
11/4 Calexico/Black Heart Procession
11/5 Amon Tobin/DJ Food/Bonobo
11/7 Homeroom/Five-Eight/Re-Model
11/8 Mooney Suzuki/The Forty Fives
11/9 The Mountain Goats
11/10 Pedro the Lion/Seldom/Scientific
11/11 Melt-Banana/Cream Abdul Babar
11/13 (Smog)/shannonwright
11/14 Lennon/Lucideon/Shattered Existence

Cotton Club (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 688-1193

www.atlantaconcerts.com/cottonclub.asp

11/3 Riddlin' Kids
11/12 Bif Naked
11/14 Particle

Smith's Olde Bar (1580 Piedmont Ave.)
(404) 875-1522

www.smithsoldebar.com

11/1 Soundtrack of Our Lives
11/2 Cigar Store Indians/Martin Zellar
11/3 John Thomas Griffith/Leisure McCorkle
11/5 The Shining/Film
11/6 Shemekia Copeland
11/7 The Slip/Skydog/Kaki King
11/8 Stewart & Winfield/Bradley Cole Smith
11/9 Tishamingo/Sundogs
11/10 Asylum Street Spankers
11/11 Ours/Blake Rainey
11/12 The Clumsy Lovers/Tim Easton
11/13 The Derailers/David Zollo
11/14 Tim Webber/Blue Merle

The Earl (488 Flat Shoals Ave.)
(404) 522-3950

www.badearl.com

11/1 The Motolitas/The Figgs
11/4 Les Savy Fav/Pretty Girls Make Graves
11/5 Stereo Total/Soviet
11/6 Karate/Explosions in the Sky/Maserati
11/7 Imperial Teen/Fairburn Royals
11/8 Mary Prankster/Metroscene
11/9 Rainer Maria/Rilo Kiley/Koester
11/12 Theory of Rain/Totimoshi
11/13 Koufax/The Pinetop Seven/Clemente

Variety Playhouse (1099 Euclid Ave.)
(404) 521-1786

www.variety-playhouse.com

11/1 Thomas Mapfuno
11/2 Björn Again
11/3 Salif Keita
11/4 The Flaming Lips

11/5 Melissa Ferrick
11/6 Sigur Rós
11/8 The Samples
11/9 Pork Tornado
11/10 Beth Horton
11/11 The Residents
11/12 Leo Kottke and Mike Gordon

Star Bar (437 Moreland Ave.)
(404) 681-9018

www.starbar.net

11/1 Lust/Jimmy and the Teasers/The Pits
11/2 Catfight!/Boss/Born to Please
11/6 The Night Watchman
11/8 Deke Dickerson/Tom Clarke
11/9 Rocket 350
11/13 Stateside
11/14 Boss Martians

CJ's Landing (Buckhead Ave.)
(404) 237-7657

www.cjlanding.com

11/1 Brian Wiltsey
11/2 Brian Wiltsey
11/8 Scott Munns
11/9 Gareth Hornsby
11/14 Jo

Masquerade (695 North Ave.)
(404) 577-2007

www.masq.com

11/1 hed (PE)/Z Trip
11/3 Immolation/Origin
11/5 Saliva/Audiovent
11/6 Mudvayne
11/7 The Misfits
11/8 The Mighty Mighty Bosstones/Big Wig

Tabernacle (152 Luckie St.)
(404) 659-9022

www.atlantaconcerts.com/tabernacle.asp

11/1 Trey Anastasio
11/6 Elvis Costello
11/7 Elvis Costello
11/8 Mary Chapin Carpenter
11/10 New Found Glory
11/12 Jars of Clay

Roxy Theatre (3110 Roswell Rd.)
(404) 233-7699

www.atlantaconcerts.com/roxy.asp

11/1 Sound Tribe Sector 9
11/2 Jennifer Nettles Band
11/4 Jack Johnson
11/5 Jurassic 5
11/7 Cowboy Mouth
11/8 Galactic
11/9 Rhett Miller & The Instigators / Tift Merritt & The Carlines

Santa

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Mitchell plays the role of the principal, and obviously the possible love interest of Scott Calvin [Tim Allen]. She plays it sternly and often disturbingly tough, as though she was dealing with students from *Dangerous Minds*.

"My boyfriend was holding my hand and I swear to you he let it go. When I was playing it I thought I was just being exacting and kind of tough. Maybe I have an evil side I'm not aware of," Mitchell said.

She has a deep admiration for Tim Allen after spending endless hours with him on the set. "I realized you're really only as good as the person with you. And Tim is so funny," she said. "Everything I do in that movie is just reacting to him and trying not to laugh, and in some cases trying not to cry. He actually has the ability to be truly genuine and amazing."

Mitchell was not always a star of the screen. "Money was always a problem. I worked every temp job you could possibly work," Mitchell recalled. "I'm also a huge believer in education. I was educated up the wazoo before I actually started to work professionally."

An understatement if anything. She earned a BFA in acting from Stephens College, performed graduate studies at the British American Drama Academy, and spent six years at the Dallas Theater Center.

There is a recurring theme with her roles. She's solely attracted to those that convey strong women. "I never am attracted to victims. I find victim mentality to be something that begets women of all ages and I can't stand it," she said. "Not only that, but I wouldn't know how to play it."

As far as upcoming projects, the slate is clean for now. "I've read things, and I haven't liked anything," she said. It is a matter of finding what she wants to do. With the exposure that she will earn from *The Santa Clause 2*, Elizabeth Mitchell surely will not have to wait for Hollywood to come to her.

Way back in 1994, Disney's *The Santa Clause* was a box office hit. The extended period between films is primarily due to Allen's search for an ideal follow-up that would match,



By Joseph Lederer / © Disney Enterprises Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Scott Calvin (Tim Allen, right) falls for Carol (Elizabeth Mitchell, left), the principal at his son's high school, during a magical sleigh ride.

if not rival, the first.

"[Tim's] mantra has always been, I won't do a sequel for sequel's sake, it's gotta be a wonderful story," clarified Lembeck.

Lembeck, is one of the premiere veterans of television. He has ap-

and went over to a producer's house where all the Disney executives and everybody were gathered. And I had to pitch it all over again."

Michael Lembeck had to keep order on the set, and with Tim Allen's inner-child nearby that proved to be a daunting task. But Lembeck also contributed to the mayhem.

"It was an impossible task. Everyday was torture," he jokingly said. "It's like two eight-year-old brothers were left the entire house to themselves and their parents are gone...and they said you can do anything you want for as long as you want and you don't have to clean up."

"From the very beginning I wanted to have a unique experience. I treated this movie as if it were the first one," Lembeck said. People might think the pressure was enormous to produce a hit film, and it was. Lembeck coolly ignored that.

"Every big movie represents the success or death knell of a studio it seems nowadays. I don't take any of that s— with me," he stated.

The Verdict: The movie is cinematically rich and vibrant; the intended audience is adults and children. However, it is hard to live up to the first film, and this one falls just short.

"Everything I do in that movie is just reacting to [Tim] and trying not to laugh, or in some cases...cry."

Elizabeth Mitchell
Actress, *The Santa Clause 2*

peared in over 200 episodes and directed nearly 300 in the past fourteen years. He is most famous for his work on *Friends*, which earned him an Emmy in 1996.

The Santa Clause 2 is his directorial feature film debut. He was the thirteenth director in over a two-day period pitching their ideas for the movie. "They flew me to Tim's house and we spent two hours together there, and then I left his house

Frida follows life of Mexican political activist and artist

By Lauren Bell
Contributing Writer

Frida examines the life of Frida Kahlo, the famous Mexican artist and political activist. Going in to the film, I knew very little about the life of Frida Kahlo other than she was really weird (direct quote from high school Spanish teacher), she married renowned artist Diego Rivera twice, and that she had a unibrow.

But it turned out to be an excellent movie. The colors and scenery were fantastic, the storyline was exciting, and the soundtrack was electrifying. Actress Salma Hayek played the main part of Frida. She was perfect for the part, not only because she still looked gorgeous even with one eyebrow, but for her energy and intensity.

My favorite character was Diego (played by Alfred Molina), Frida's loving but not so faithful husband. He played the part so well that you almost understood why Frida put up with

his infidelity, again, and again, and again—you get the point.

The movie also included famous actors such as Antonio Banderas, Ashley Judd, Geoffrey Rush, and Edward Norton.

Although this movie was absolutely great, there is something that I really must warn you about. If you have any problems with excessive nudity, female/female relations, exiled Communist leaders getting naked, and some just plain weird scenes, do not go see this movie. I knew going in to this, thanks again to my high school Spanish teacher, that this was no Disney movie, so it wasn't too shocking for me. Just know there may be some parts where you might have to cover your eyes.

Aside from that, the sneak preview was great. I would love to tell you about the storyline but I would rather you go see it yourself, or if you heeded my warning from above, well, I guess just go check out a book from the library.

Poetry

hate crime committed against James Byrd. As Maryland's poet laureate, she recounted how she had been asked to write a poem about "Our Happy Colonial Days." She also wrote a poem for herself about this occasion entitled, "Why Some People be Mad at Me Sometimes."

Clifton explained how much of her poetry has to do with personal experiences, such as experiences shared with her family, about her family, and even about her own multiple struggles with cancer.

It was all very touching, but Clifton also revealed a rather humorous side, exemplified by the telling statement that she is a huge fan of horror movies but she was never scared of the monsters because she noticed that the monsters "only liked white girls."

Following Clifton was Billy Collins, currently the bestselling poet in the US as well as the current US poet laureate. In 2004, Collins will be serving as Tech's McEver Visiting Chair in Writing. Collins' poetry seemed to have quite a lighthearted feel, and his mastery of the metaphor and even for storytelling was very evident. He described his best poetry as leaving the reader guessing as to whether the tone was seri-

ous or funny.

One poem, entitled "Night Club," was exceptionally funny. It basically made fun of the cliché saying, "I am a fool to be in love with you." This cliché was manipulated, and Collins, in his poem, makes fun of how no one ever thinks, "You are a fool to be in love with me."

He also read a poem in which he

Collins' poetry seemed to have quite a lighthearted feel, and his mastery of the metaphor and even for storytelling was very evident.

makes fun of how adolescents use the term "genius." He described how "genius" relates to the guy that trips over his shoelaces, or the girl that accidentally stumbles against her locker. His poetry was very relatable and witty.

The tone was somewhat changed as Stephen Dobyns took the podi-

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um. Dobyns is set to be Tech's McEver Visiting Chair in Writing in 2003. Dobyns' poems all seemed rather long and very story-like. One of his poems, "Spiderwebs," was about the ephemeral quality of spiderwebs. "The Invitation" and "The Gardener" were also both very detailed and anecdotal. His most recent book is called *The Porcupine's Kisses*.

The evening was completed with Rita Dove, who served as US poet laureate from 1993 until 1995, received the National Humanities Medal, and, most notably, won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Unfortunately, I had to leave early and thus missed Dove's readings.

However, looking online, I found "The Fish in the Stone," "The Boast," and "Hade's Pitch." Reading through these, I noted a very delicate and perceptive quality, and thought of how beautifully constructed all of her metaphors were.

Overall, the Bourne Poetry Reading was quite a scrumptious occasion for a campus starving for more events of a literary persuasion.

Fortunately, this event is only one in a series of poetry readings. Future poetry readings are to be held Feb. 6, April 12, March 24, and June 7.

