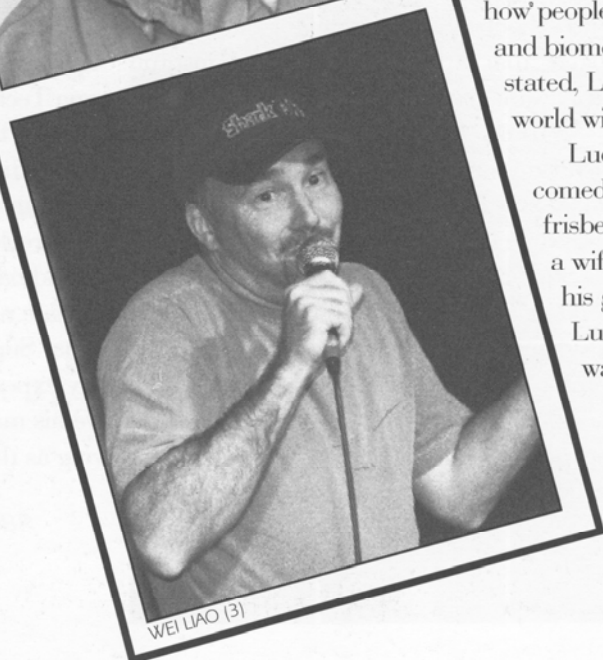
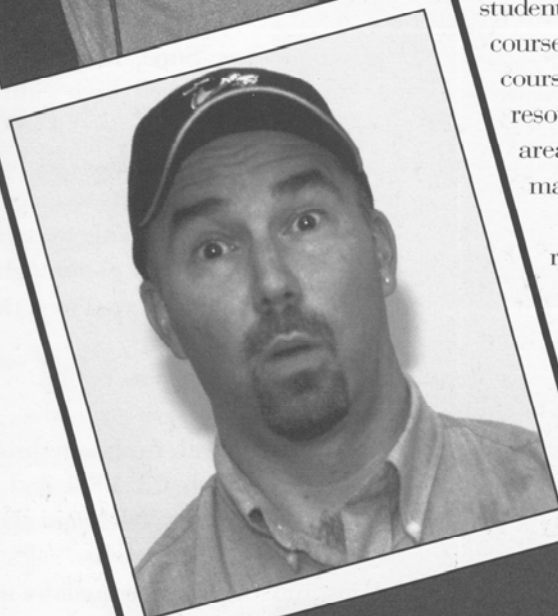
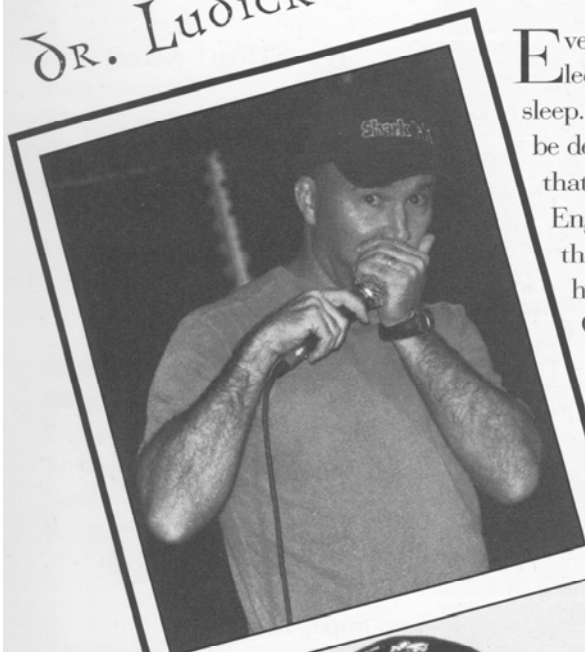


# Pete Ludovice

By Katy Riddle

DR. LUDICROUS



Every student at some point had a professor whose lectures were monotonous to the point of inducing sleep. However, Dr. Pete Ludovice's classes could not be described in such a manner. Perhaps the reason was that, in addition to being a Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering professor, Ludovice was also a comedian on the side. He called his particular brand of comedy "nerd humor," which played on the idiosyncrasies of academia. One of his stand-up bits entitled, "Fun with Toothpaste" entailed reading every chemical ingredient listed on the tube and making fun of the fact that people do not actually know what any of them are.

Ludovice had worked in industry for a short time before being asked to teach here, where he was in his 11th year in 2004. He enjoyed working with freshmen students as a professor for the Co-Teach introductory course, as a helper to format the introductory computing course for engineers, and as the advisor for T-Book (a resource for freshmen). Ludovice also researched in the area of molecular simulation of synthetic and biological macromolecules.

Comedy was a more recent addition to Ludovice's repertoire. In January 2004, he started attending open-mic nights at local comedy clubs. Ludovice may have joked that dabbling in comedy was his "mid-life crisis," but he booked many comedy shows. Most of his appearances were in the greater Atlanta area, but he also had shows as far as Portland, Oregon. He believed that topics borrowed from his academic career could yield much humor. For instance, he implored, "Imagine how people react when you tell them you are a chemical and biomolecular engineering professor." As his resume stated, Ludovice might have been "the only comic in the world with a Ph.D. from M.I.T."

Ludovice's interesting hobbies did not end with comedy. He also played jazz trumpet and ultimate frisbee, and had been a scuba diver for 20 years. He had a wife and two children, 5 and 10. Ludovice declared that his greatest accomplishment was having a normal family. Ludovice's motto was, "If you can't be funny, be funny looking."

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