'Sugar Cane Alley's' problems lie in its genre

A new genre is developing on the filmic horizon, and Sugar Cane Alley belongs very much to this trend.

The "cultural epic" can be characterized by five major traits, toward which Sugar Cane Alley and another recent film, El Norte, show strong tendencies.

The first characteristic of the genre is a concentration on an individual's struggle to transcend his rich, albeit suppressed, cultural and social environment. Sugar Cane Alley takes place in Martinique in the 1930s, telling of a young boy's self-realization amidst the deprived class of black harvesters on a sugar plantation.

Steve Carr

Review

Garry Cadenat, who plays the boy Jose, instills a wonderful sense of innocence in his character, and this marks the second distinction of a cultural epic: The central character is an innocent. He is, in fact, so good that his embodiment of all that is universally admired borders on being bland.

In contrast to the main character, the satellite roles prove much more markedly defined in their personalities and their environment. Jose's grandmother, M'Man Tine, and his quasispiritual father, Medouze, give the picaresque story its backbone with their deeply felt, fully realized personifications of African culture. Particularly outstanding is Darling Legitimus as M'Man Tine, who despite her cruelty desperately wants her grandson to escape the will-breaking work of the sugar cane fields.

Inspired in part by Medouze's tales, Jose shows himself to be an unusually gifted student, and is accepted into the competitive high school at Fort de France. This marks the fourth characteristic of the cultural epic: The hero



In the form of a cultural epic, 'Sugar Cane Alley' tells the story of black harvesters on a sugar plantation

overcomes his obstacles and limits, but not without hardship.

Once at the school, Jose learns he will receive only a partial scholarship, which means his overworked grandmother still will have to provide for him.

Only after Jose writes a brilliant essay does he obtain a full scholarship, and even that occurs after the teacher wrongly accuses Jose of plagiarism.

The production values of Sugar Cane Alley are surprisingly high but not extravagant. This is the last mark of the cultural epic: It attempts to reach a large portion of the audience through conforming to certain esthetic and dramatic expectations. Hence the film's smooth, somewhat glossy style is in marked contrast with the gritty, harsh way of life that it depicts.

To regard Sugar Cane Alley only as the product of a genre would be a mistake, however. Individual scenes give the film an identity of its own. In one scene, Jose's mulatto friend

Leopold listens in as his dying father disowns him because "It's only a white man's name." Another scene shows a girl learning of her acceptance to the high school,

only to have her father explain that she must help him in the fields. At other times, however, Sugar Cane Alley becomes too pat. Jose's scolding a black box office cashier for a self-

denigrating, racist remark is one example, as the cashier is shown behind a screen.

The main weakness of Sugar Cane Alley lies not so much in the film itself

Textbook reserve set up

Student Government and the UNC library system have combined forces in sponsoring a textbook reserve program for UNC students.

The program will start with 40 textbooks which were financed by a \$800 donation from the library. UNC professors have been asked to donate desk copies of books for use in the program.

The reserve textbooks will represent 10 to 15 different classes with attendance of 250 students or more. and success will determine expansion of the program, said Student Government textbook task force leader Michele Killough.

The textbooks will be in place by Oct. 15 but won't be available to students until next semester.

Texan band at Cradle should appeal to students

The most popular bar band in Austin. Texas is coming to Chapel Hill. Zeitgeist, a neo-psychedelic group, will play tonight at Cat's Cradle.

Zeitgeist is a German phrase that, by extension, has come to refer to the spirit of an age as well as the trend of thought and feeling in a period.

The band Zeitgeist echoes the thought and feeling of American rock 'n' roll of the late '60s, sharing the neopsychedelic label with R.E.M., Dream Syndicate and Green on Red.

The band plays Velvet Undergroundinfluenced power pop with a dance beat. Zeitgeist has opened for Rain Parade

and Dream Syndicate but has more of a pop feel than either of those bands. The group compares favorably with the exuberance of R.E.M. and Austin's now-disbanded Standing Waves.

Standing Waves was a long-time Chapel Hill favorite, and Zeitgeist

probably will appeal to fans of that band. In fact, Zeitgeist has opened for the Optimystics, a band formed by two members of Standing Waves.

Zeitgeist formed late in 1983 with John Croslin and Kim Longacre singing, writing songs, and playing guitar. Garrett Williams is the drummer. Cindy Toth replaced original bassist Kelly Bradley four months ago to complete the band's current lineup.

Popularity in Austin clubs led Zeitgeist to record its first single, Freight Train Rain, which was backed by "Electra" and "Wherehaus Jamb," an instrumental. The band hopes to spread its success through sales of Freight Train Rain and through its energetic

Tonight's show will be Zeitgeist's first appearance in Chapel Hill. No opening band is scheduled, and the music will start around 9:30 p.m.

-EDDIE HUFFMAN

WEEKLY FEATURES

Weaving Massage **Bridge Knitting**

Spinning Yoga Sign Language **Ballet** Clogging

Tai-Chi **Belly-dancing Aerobics**

Sign up for classes - Room 213 of the Union

September 17 & 18

(More information at Union Desk)

11 AM-1 PM



Modern Dance

Monday

Registration for Carolina Union Weekly Features in 213 1:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement orientation/resume writing workshop in 306 Hanes. Call

as in the qualities of the cultural epic.

Jose does not have to be a multi-

faceted character, but he needs more

delineation. The blandness of his

personality relegates him to a lower level

of identification with the audience,

which finds itself more interested in the

plights of Leopold or M'Man Tine.

There should be some middle ground

between the innocent and the worldly

its main characters with a clearer, more

distinct and less allegorical focus, the

genre will have come to fruition.

Campus Calendar

When a film comes along that treats

The Carolina Student Fund/DTH Cam-

ous Calandar will appear daily. Announce-

ments to be run in the expanded version

on Mondays and Thursdays must be

placed in the box outside the Carolina

Student Fund office on the third floor of

South Building by 3 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m.

Wednesday, respectively. The deadlines

for the limited editions will be noon one

day before the announcement is to run.

Only announcements from University

recognized and campus organizations will

characters.

962-6507. Phi Theta Kappa organiza-tional meeting in the Union. CGA Lambda staff meeting. All

help welcome. Anglican Student Fellowship, Service of Holy Communion, Chapel of the Cross.

Tuesday

International Health Forum lecture: "Health Problems in the Ubangi," Dr. Lwo Lanoie in 105 Berryhill.

Administrators organizational meeting and guest speaker in T-7 New Carroll Y Crafts Bazaar Committee organizational meeting in 104

Campus Y Footfalls organizational meeting in the Y Lounge. Call 962-2333.

6:30 p.m. Navigators small group bible study in 205 Union. Delta Sigma Pi business meeting for brothers in T-2 Carroll Delta Sigma Pi pinning ceremony for pledges in T-2 Carroll.

Alpha Ejpsilon Delta meeting with UNC and ECU deans of

in 103 Berryhill. N.C. Student Legislature meeting in 226 Union. Program in Judiac Studies lecture: "On Dreams, Visions, and Prophecy: Maimonides and Freud" by Dr. David Bakan of York University, Toronto in

Dey Hall Faculty Lounge.

admissions, followed by Rush

College Republicans speech from Bill Cobey in the Union. Young Democrats Unity Day in

Wednesday

3:30 p.m. School of Business Administraadmissions preparation meeting in Carroll Hall Auditorium. Association of Business Students Career Planning Committee in 220 New Carroll. Industrial Relations Career Night in Great Hall.

UNC Outing Club meeting in

the Union, Call 933-7705.

Items of Interest

Career Planning and Placement will Sponsor a Minority Career Fair Thursday from Noon to 5 p.m. in Carmichael

Career Planning and Placement will sponsor a Careers in Business Fair with 70 companies Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Carmichael Auditorium. Predent/Premed Advising will arrange rides to the Optometry Information meeting in Greensboro from 3 - 5 p.m. Contract Schools and Optometrists will present a program. Call J. Allcott, 966-5116 or 962-2157.

OPEN HOUSE APPLE DAY

WED. SEPT. 19, 1984 STUDENT UNION ROOMS 211 & 212 AT 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, AND 3:00 PM Hands On Session To Follow In The Ram Shop Located In The Student Stores

Macintosh

32-bit power without complex manuals, codes or typing skills.



Point at what you want, click the mouse, and it's done.

NEW PRICE Macintosh

> with a 128K 1 drive Macwrite Macpaint \$1646.00

Get a FREE Mac T-Shirt with purchase of a system

Image Writer Printer \$411.00

Now Taking **Orders** For Macintosh With 512K Memory

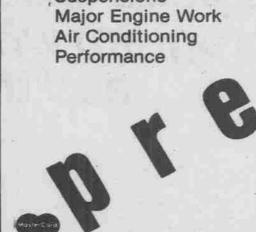
THERE'S MORE AT YOUR

STUDENT STORES

JAPANESE/GERMAN AUTO REPAIRS

Quality Maintenance And Repairs: Scheduled Maintenance

Tune-Ups Brakes Fuel Injection **Electrical Systems** Diesels Suspensions Major Engine Work Air Conditioning

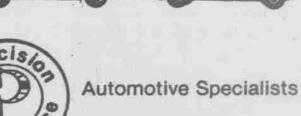




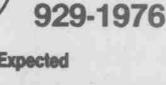
200 W. Main., Carrboro



ASE CERTIFIED HONDA/RABBIT SPECIALISTS



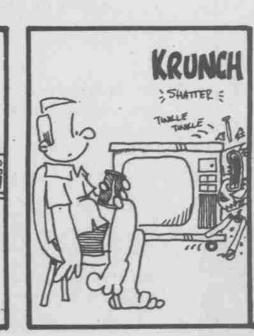
Where Excellence Is Expected



The man from UNCle









Bloom County





