

FEATURES

Jennifer Nettles blends styles in Grey Eagle performance

Sarah Grano
Features Reporter



SARAH GRANO/FEATURES REPORTER
Jennifer Nettles was gettin' it at her Sept. 6 show at the Grey Eagle.

The Jennifer Nettles Band played to a packed house at the Grey Eagle on Sept. 6. The standing-room-only crowd was made up of both men and women, college to middle age. Nettles, wearing a messy ponytail and jeans, was animated and impassioned in front of the microphone.

"This evening we intend on taking you back in time, taking you forward in time, bringing you to the present, and attempting to do all that while blowing our minds on crossing genre," Nettles warned the crowd.

The band played re-tooled songs from the days of their former band, Soul Miner's Daughter, and also genre hopped with reckless abandon.

The Jennifer Nettles Band is classified by most as folk, probably due to the fact that they are fronted by a woman with an acoustic guitar. This being said, the band followed through with their threat and played bluegrass, rock, blues and honky-tonk country.

"I thought it was a nice mix," said Sarah Cleveland, a junior sociology major. "It was music that makes people feel good."

Nettles' voice settled well into every genre she sang. "She's got one of the most powerful voices I think I've ever heard,"

said Mary Anne Bennick a junior psychology major. "She's right up there, like a mixture of Morrisette, Joplin and Fitzgerald. I mean, she lays it out there for you, and she brings it down. It's good stuff."

Tara Doll, a junior biochemistry major, raved about Nettles' voice, and said her voice was different than mainstream pop stars.

"She's got a really good voice, and she's better live than on her CD," said Doll. "She actually sings, and she doesn't require a lot of technical stuff."

It was clear that the crowd loved the band, and by the end everyone was up and dancing.

It started with two women dancing together up front while Nettles sang some of the band's liveliest tunes.

Later on, people started dancing in the corners and in the aisles. Little by little, everyone was out of their seats, and by the end of the show, everyone was up and having a good time.

"Thanks for dancing. Wow!" Nettles told the crowd. "I'll take you on the road with us."

Cleveland said her favorite part of the show was "everyone coming together and just getting up and dancing around, being all uninhibited and having a good time."

Not only was the crowd dancing by the end of the show, they were also singing all of Nettles' lyrics at the top of their lungs. Her autobio-

graphical lyrics created a strong connection with her audience.

"Any female growing up in our generation right now can listen to her lyrics," said Bennick. "They alone are very powerful but, just the way she puts together her music is great, it just brings it together."

After every song the Jennifer Nettles Band was rewarded with loud applause.

Nettles' songs ranged from fun to dark and confessional. She filled the audience in on the inspiration for many of her songs.

Of the song "Gravity" Nettles said, "It's very, very dear to me. It came from a dark time. But, it's important to have those

dark times, so you can recognize the light."

She also played the first song she ever wrote.

"It's definitely a college song," said Nettles. "If it's a college song it has to be about one of two, and that's either sex or beer. Either of which in the right quantity could be a very nice inspiration."

The older members in the crowd were divided equally between the sexes. The band's college-age fans, however, were made up of mostly women.

Andrew Thomason, a UNCA creative writing major, was an exception.

"I love Jennifer Nettles and I've been following her since her Soul Miner's Daughter days," said

Thomason. "She's an awesome performer."

Nettles began performing while attending Agnes Scott College, where she graduated with a double major in Spanish and anthropology.

She was one of two lead singers in the band Soul Miner's Daughter. Just when the band was beginning to garner national attention through things such as Lilith Fair, they broke up.

Nettles and several other members of Soul Miner's Daughter joined together to make a new band, and so the Jennifer Nettles Band was born.

The band is now touring to promote its new CD, "Rewind" which is redone versions of old Soul Miner's Daughter's songs.

"We're trying to give you just a lot all the time, [songs] that are on this new record, this new, old record," said Nettles.

The audience really enjoyed the songs from the "new, old record."

Nettles seemed happy to be playing in Asheville.

"Every time we come here, this is the most wonderful area. I've decided it's because it's so temperate here," said Nettles. "Where I'm from it's like 5,000 degrees until November."

Judging from the crowd's reaction, Nettles is certainly welcome to come back soon.

She will be playing the Asheville area again in October.

Review

Underwater archaeologist lectures on remains of Civil War submarine

Douglas Davidson
Features Reporter

South Carolina's underwater archaeologist Christopher F. Amer discussed finding the H.L. Hunley, the first United States submarine to ever attack and sink an enemy in a time of war, at the Owen Conference Center Sept. 6.

The Hunley was a mystery since its disappearance in 1864, until it was found in 1995 outside the Charleston Harbor by archaeologists Ralph Wilbanks, Wes Hall, and Harry Pevorille, according to the "Friends of the Hunley" Web site. Since then, everyone from National Geographic to the White House has been interested in the mysteries held within the vessel.

The H.L. Hunley was one of a series of submarines designed and built for the South during the Civil War to help protect Charleston harbor against northern aggression. James McClintock, Baxter Watson and Horace Hunley built the submarine "Pioneer" to defend New Orleans, and then went on to build both "American Diver" and the "H.L. Hunley."

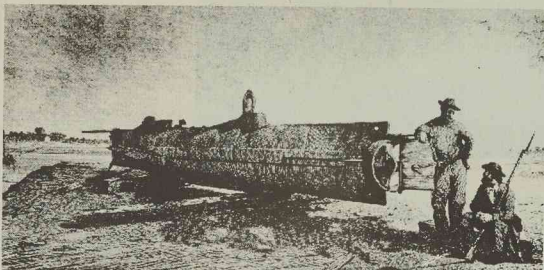
Amer explained in his lecture that the only reason that the North developed submarines to combat against the southern submarines was to make sure that technologically they were balanced.

Being buried under sand for over 100 years has protected the submarine from barnacles, rust, and other forms of deterioration.

Once the hull was cracked open, the archaeologists were able to see the location of where each crew sat, along with the placement of all the mechanisms within the submarine.

One of the truly interesting things about the preservation quality of the submarine was that remains of the crew were found along with their paraphernalia.

By looking at some of the remains of the crew, they were able to determine more may have been going on in the Hunley than was previously thought.



The H.L. Hunley, one of the first submarines ever built, was the first to sink an enemy vessel in war.

A foot was found and examined which possessed certain stress markings which established the fact that the foot was broken in several places.

Amer illustrated the point by explaining that when torpedoes exploded, the shock waves often rattled the inside of the small submarines, causing vibrations that could break the feet of crew members.

A coin, also found within the remains of the submarine, has sparked the interest of historians studying the Hunley.

A story had been told of Lieutenant George Dixon, a crewmember of the Hunley, whose life was saved by a single gold coin.

During the Battle of Shiloh, Dixon

was shot, but survived because the bullet hit the gold coin given to him as a good luck charm by the woman he loved.

The coin found on the Hunley has the initials G.E.D. and is bent as if it had been struck.

Another artifact found aboard the submarine is a dog tag, believed to have belonged to a man who died during the time that the Hunley was built.

As the records of many who died during the Civil War are not clear, it is uncertain if someone was merely posing as this man or if he had indeed been a member of the H.L. Hunley crew.

Other mysteries surrounding the Hunley lie in what actually caused

the submarine to sink. Many believe the Hunley sank because it was too close to the enemy submarine that it hit with a torpedo.

Others have a different theory. They believe that the crew had a death pact in case northern soldiers caught them.

Had they been caught, they would be tried as traitors against the Union, and death by their own hands was better than death by their enemies.

The H.L. Hunley itself has been moved and excavated, and the bodies of the crew are the next to be catalogued.

By 2003 they hope to have face moldings, depicting how each crew member of the H.L. Hunley may have looked.

Upcoming shows that won't suck

Stella Blue: Thurs./Strut, Fri./Rebirth Brass Band, Sat./Dr. Dan

Grey Eagle: 10/11-The Hackensaw Boys, 10/18-James McMurtry

Thomas Wolfe Auditorium: 10/31-Trey Anastasio

Get out there and boogie 'till ya fall over.

Photographs from the features section of the Sept. 12 issue appeared with incorrect captions. We would like to apologize for these mistakes, and note the corrections here. The Reductio Ad Absurdum and demasiado pictures were switched, with John Haynes appearing in the Glass House on the right, and Reductio on the left. The photo below appears with the correct caption.

Thanks, *The Blue Banner* staff



COURTESY HENRY STERN
Marcel Andrade, pictured at far right, attended a reception with colleagues in the department of foreign language this summer.

Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies

Mellon Fellowships in Humanistic Studies provide fellowships for those pursuing careers in teaching and scholarship. Approximately 100-125 fellowships of \$15,000 each are awarded annually. Fellowships are for one year only. Qualifications: be a senior or recent graduate, present evidence of outstanding academic promise, and be seeking a Ph.D. in one of the traditional humanities disciplines, including history. Those students pursuing work in the creative and performing arts or social sciences, education, law or social work are not eligible. The application deadline is December 21 (application must be requested by December 7). Web Address: www.woodrow.org/mellon/ If you are interested in applying, contact Doug Jones, University Honors Program, 140 Karpen Hall, 251.8607, djones@unca.edu.