

Rock statesmen excel on LP

BY CHRIS COLETTA
SENIOR WRITER

At this point in their 25-year career, New York City avant-rock legends Sonic Youth aren't likely to throw any curveballs.

That's not to say the group's last release, 2002's *Murray Street*, was not a fine return to form after a string of subpar albums that called its relevancy into question. It was.

But it, like almost all of the band's best LPs, was more of a step to the side than a step forward.

Murray Street did the same thing all Sonic Youth records try to do: bridge the brute noise of no-wave, the experimental sensibilities of the Velvet Underground and a Beatlesque sense of melody into a coherent package. It just did those things better than previous efforts.

So it's no surprise that the group's new album, *Sonic Nurse*, picks up where *Murray Street*'s lengthy meditations left off and combines them with the rougher edges of the band's earlier work — with impressive results.

The primary difference between the two albums is one of tone. Where *Murray Street* was plaintive

MUSICREVIEW

SONIC YOUTH
SONIC NURSE

★★★★

and languid, *Sonic Nurse* is restless and agitated, qualities that reveal themselves immediately in the album's opener, "Pattern Recognition."

The first song on *Murray Street*, "The Empty Page," rolled along on waves of counterpoint and texture, breaking only momentarily for a cathartic, dissonant release. By contrast, "Pattern Recognition" immediately kicks in with heavy drums and an amelodic guitar lick before giving way to the earthy rasps of bassist Kim Gordon and an avalanche of feedback.

It's a hell of an opener, and in fact, Gordon's contributions are perhaps the biggest surprises on *Sonic Nurse*.

Throughout the band's history, Gordon has come up with some gems, including *Murray Street*'s sexy "Sympathy for the Strawberry." Just as often, she's come up with momentum killers

such as the aforementioned album's "Plastic Sun."

But all her songs here range from good (the quasi-feminist, sludge-like "Kim Gordon and the Arthur Doyle Hand Cream") to fantastic (the seven-minute, atmospheric "I Love You Golden Blue").

Of course, ageless wonder Thurston Moore comes through with five of the album's remaining six songs, including the closer, "Peace Attack." A quiet, gorgeous rumination on President Bush's post-Sept. 11 policies, it's one of the few respectable protest songs released in the wake of war and serves as a poignant reminder of the outside world.

Ultimately, *Sonic Nurse* doesn't break any new ground, and its few missteps, particularly the dull "Paper Cut Exit," prevent it from matching the band's late-'80s peak. Still, you can expect this one to show up on lots of end-of-year lists — alongside a dozen albums made by younger bands who worship at their altar.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Buddhist fable reflects on life's timeless ideals

BY PHILIP MCFEE
SENIOR WRITER

In the green highlands of Korea, there sits a Buddhist shrine, floating on a serene, isolated lake.

In this magical setting reside a young boy and his elderly mentor, a strict, but warm-hearted monk.

The premise for Ki-duk Kim's "Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter ... and Spring" presents the film as a visual treat — a delicate, respectful fable about the power of natural beauty, and, ultimately, love.

Perhaps that's the movie's lone shortfall. It makes a promise and fulfills it, offering little in the way of variation or nuances.

But, for what it offers, this warm tale delivers. It's a treat for audiences seeking a glimpse of an austere life, full of morals and spiritual significance.

And seasons. Four of them, you might say.

Keeping in mind the aforementioned allusions, however, each phase of the year represents a phase in the life of the young monk, who viewers follow through to the geriatric status of his former master.

Pacing, one might think, could be a problem, but it only poses a hindrance in the context of the Hollywood norm. Eastern films aren't renowned for their jump cuts or sexed-up speed, and Kim's direction, although verging on labored at times, continues on with a deliberate footing — ever looking forward to the next vignette.

The vernal segment focuses on the stern, but caring tutelage of the elder monk (the veritable newcomer Yeong-su Oh). Through



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The taciturn Yeong-su Oh becomes infatuated with a young monk whose master (Young-su Oh) waits to carry her ashore from the floating shrine.

MOVIE REVIEW

"SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER ... AND SPRING"

★★★★

repeated incidents and images, Kim enforces the constant theme of universal respect — particularly toward animals — that pervades the film.

The summer and fall segments, in addition to providing the most vivid visuals, feature the arrival of an ailing girl who catches the eye of the now-matured monk. It's summer, after all.

Heavy-handed, albeit just as stunning, the autumn landscape heralds a slew of changes in the lives of the main characters. It also marks one of the only inclusions of

a metropolitan influence, as a pair of policemen arrive at the floating refuge.

Of course, this breeds its fair share of opportunities for the now-ancient monk to teach them the value of patience, among other things. Oh's portrayal of the monk is the picture's single constant, a more subtle hint at the timeless wisdom of Buddhist practices.

In the end, the film hits home, lack of complexities aside. It won't sculpt lives, but it presents enough empathetic characters and accessible lessons to have viewers captivated by winter.

Inevitably, the cycle comes to completion, as one would expect, and the film draws to a close. The seasons might change, but audiences shouldn't count on a similar metamorphosis.

But, in the category of attractiveness, this could well be the film of the season.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Philip J. Anderson

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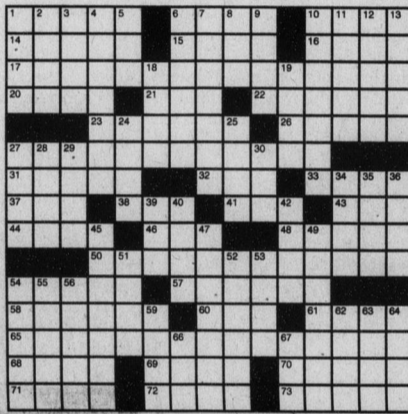
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SOAP ABIDE
WREAKS SPIRAL
RENDS DUANE WEE
OFT FROMISTRAIN
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ERR RAISPS ATSEA

SAFETY

FROM PAGE 3

operational policy since the deaths at UNC-W, preferring instead to continue their on-campus safety efforts.

Admissions policies at UNC-system campuses also have come under scrutiny. The system's task force will consider the feasibility of performing background checks on admitted students, a practice that would provide an added measure of security but that also would cost a great deal of time

and money.

At UNC-CH, students are asked to list and explain convictions for any crimes besides minor traffic violations, but no system is in place that could ensure truthfulness.

Still, Woods said, students can't live in fear simply because of a few incidents.

"You really just can't limit it to a university," she said. "Things like that happen all the time in the real world."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

CAMPUS Y

FROM PAGE 3

the time, several floors of the building were condemned and the structure was suffering from water damage.

Trustees decided to greenlight renovation plans as long as the money was raised through private funds.

Since then, members of the group raised \$2 million of the \$3.5 million necessary for the renovation, but continuing damage spurred campus leaders to request aid from the BOT.

Many of the trustees agreed that forming a committee to reanalyze

the issues would allow for an informed decision during the board's June meeting.

"It would give us an opportunity to understand the building and how the building is used," Perry said during the May 27 meeting.

Virginia Carson, director of the Campus Y and member of the committee, said the group responded to its mission successfully in its meeting Monday.

"I think we came out with a really good and thoughtful response to the questions that we were asked."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PARKING

FROM PAGE 3

would be able to take advantage of the 10 foot to 18 foot decline from Franklin Street to Rosemary Street to make the project aesthetically pleasing from all angles.

There are 438 existing spaces to be replaced and 564 needed for the increased traffic that the new mixed-use developments will create.

That means a total of 1,002 spaces will be required. After parking spaces were shuffled around, the planners came to a total of 1,375 spots, which is more than originally anticipated.

Planners also hope to create a transit center to deal with the increased activity. "We're meeting your demand and exceeding it in some areas," Pobiner said.

Planners have the duration of the summer to conduct a financial feasibility study for the plans.

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