

Screamo LP leaves ears shot 'Arthur' quest a mythic muddle

BY BECCA MOORE
STAFF WRITER

Everyone owns a few of them, even if they won't admit to it. Self-loathing, angry at the world, no-one-understands-my-pain-or-cares albums.

Although not always musically sophisticated, they can be cathartically enjoyable and seem to fill a much-desired niche for angry rock consumers.

Enter Los Angeles-based, Earshot, a band chock-full of enough diluted testosterone and self-loathing to please pissed-off teenagers with low standards.

The band had a single, "Get Away," on their first album, *Letting Go*, that made radio listeners perk up and wonder if Maynard from Tool had formed yet another side project.

The familiar croon instead

belonged to a Wil Martin, lead guitar, songwriter and vocalist for Earshot.

Simplicity is really at the heart of the group's second studio release, effortlessly entitled *Two*. On it, Earshot explores a variety of angst-soaked topics: being "forever alone," contemplating suicide and daydreaming about killing an offending ex-lover.

Martin has been blessed with a strong and wide-ranging voice, but his lyrics are far from poignant or subtle, as he's often bluntly railing against the pain inside his head and heart. He doesn't seem to be having a very good year, and he'd rather shout and let it all out instead of cry.

On *Two*, Earshot have perfected the technique of having each song, each hook and each verse sound exactly the same, while raging

MUSICREVIEW

EARSHOT

TWO
★★

on about how tough life can ultimately be.

The tuning on the guitars sounds as if it's rarely changed throughout the album, and the band is fond of culminating verses with the same roaring guitars and overwhelming drums.

As if that wasn't enough, the glaring lack of distinct underlying melodies cause the majority of tracks to blend together. It's enough to capture the attention for a track or two, but to not to hold it for a forty-five minute album.

The one exception to the relentless-guitar format is the ballad-esque track, "Should've Been

There." It's here that the band finally turns down the amps and softly strums along as Martin apologizes for not supporting a loved one, "Should've been there to be with you/ After all that we've been through."

In "Fall Apart," a track dedicated to soul-searching and grappling to just hold it all together, Martin screams, "I just wanna feel like I belong."

With their play list-friendly, unoffending brand of rock, the boys of Earshot can count on being embraced by music conglomerates keen on marketable guys who are angry (but not too threatening) and who will be sure to sell records to their incessantly frustrated peers.

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

BY JENNIFER SAMUELS

SENIOR WRITER

"King Arthur" has all the characteristics of a typical summer blockbuster.

There's a chick in leather, cool fight scenes and a hero who broods all the time about fulfilling his duties.

What "King Arthur" doesn't have — and what will likely cause it to be overshadowed by such fare as "Spider-Man 2" — is a strong sense of purpose.

The film struggles with its epic aspirations, trying to hold its own on the battlefield while remaining, at its core, a story about the relationship between seven men.

Most people already are familiar with the legend of King Arthur and his knights. Here, Arthur (Clive Owen) is a half-Roman, half-British soldier charged with leading a group of knights for 15 years.

On the eve of their release, a smarmy bishop charges the group with one last mission — to rescue a favored godson of the pope in exchange for freedom. The men, particularly Lancelot (Ioan Gruffudd), are hesitant to undertake this mission due to the imminent threat of invading Saxons.

Throw in the Woods, a multi-accented tribe of native Britons who favor blue war paint, and it's understandable why they're afraid of not making it home alive.

Fortunately, director Antoine Fuqua chose substance over stardom when making his casting decisions. The fabled Round Table encourages equality, and having someone like Brad Pitt or Russell Crowe as the lead would have sucked attention away from the interplay between the characters.

Instead, Fuqua decided on a

MOVIEREVIEW

"KING ARTHUR"

★★★

strong group of European actors whose anonymity to American audiences is a strength.

With the exception of Keira Knightley, whose cleavage in "Pirates of the Caribbean" launched thousands of teenage boys into manhood, these actors are best known for small European films.

This pedigree makes the cheesy parts of "King Arthur" seem much worse. At times, the film comes off like a bad Renaissance fair, with over-the-top costumes, absurdly perfect hair and jolly music.

"King Arthur" does have a few innovative moments, a highlight of which is an intricate battle on an ice-covered lake. The scene even lends the film its best line, in which Guinevere (Knightley) promises to protect Lancelot from the hordes of lonely Saxon men.

But one fleeting moment of creativity isn't enough to save "King Arthur."

The climactic battle offers little in the way of originality. The two sides clash and die. It happened in "The Alamo," it happened in "Troy," and it's no different here.

Turns out, it leaves the audience wondering why Fuqua didn't pursue the relationships between the men further. In the end, it's not the battles but the image of seven solitary men that stands out.

It's emblematic of what the movie could have been had Fuqua taken more risks and furthered himself from the summer movie battlefield.

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FORD

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Ford last coached in 2000 under Bill Guthridge. While an assistant, UNC went to six Final Fours and won five ACC tournaments.

In the wake of Guthridge's retirement, newly-hired Matt Doherty broke Carolina tradition and brought over his entire staff from Notre Dame. When current head coach Roy Williams was hired in March 2003, he brought along his staff from Kansas.

"This is a great opportunity for Phil," Williams said in a statement. "I will miss him personally, as he was a phenomenal help in my first year back at North Carolina."

The 1978 National Player of the Year won't begin his duties as Detroit's assistant coach until late August, but his hiring might persuade unrestricted free agent Rasheed Wallace, whom Ford coached for two seasons at UNC, to re-sign with the Pistons.

"I will be trying as hard as I can, but I understand this is a lot different than college," Ford said. "Rasheed has to make decisions based on what's best for his family."

Though he's unsure of what to expect from the NBA, reuniting with his Carolina coaches ultimately proved too tempting to resist.

"I've turned down many opportunities to coach before," he said. "I couldn't pass this one up."

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POLITICS

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Johnson, communications director for the N.C. Democratic Party.

But the historical balance in state elections is offset by Tar Heels' record in national races. The state has voted Republican in every presidential election since picking Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1976.

Thad Beyle, professor of political science at UNC-Chapel Hill, said the civil rights and women's movements initiated the Democratic exodus.

"The real break came during the 1960s," he said. "A lot of the conservative Democrats moved away from the Democratic ticket."

But given Edwards' home-field advantage, it might appear he holds the key to the state's hearts and ballots this time. His candidacy is certainly bringing attention, from both parties, to the state.

Already, Democrats and Republicans have poured resources into statewide advertisements and personal appearances.

Bush has made appearances that include a fund-raising dinner

in Raleigh last week, while Kerry and Edwards stopped at N.C. State University on Saturday after a celebratory tour that crossed the nation. "I think the interesting thing about the Edwards pick is: It forces Bush to spend some more money there," Schaller said.

And both parties have launched major advertising campaigns in North Carolina — unheard of for presidential candidates in the last 20 years.

But despite the positive buzz and attention Edwards is drawing, skeptics abound as to whether he can carry his own state.

Lindsay Taylor, spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, said it is unlikely the state will see a change in its voting habits come November.

"I don't think that John Edwards is any more likely to carry his home state than Al Gore was in 2000," she said. Gore lost Tennessee, his home state, to Bush.

To buttress her claims, Taylor cited North Carolina's conservative ideals, which she said run contrary to Kerry and Edwards' views.

The two were ranked the No. 1

and No. 4 most liberal members of the Senate by the nonpartisan National Journal. A USA Today-CNN-Gallup poll held after Kerry's announcement demonstrates early agreement with Taylor's claims that Edwards' popularity is far from absolute.

Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney lead Kerry and Edwards among likely voters in the state, 54 percent to 39 percent. "I think they recognize that (Edwards') ideals and his voting record are outside the mainstream," Taylor said.

All this attention might bring Edwards more N.C. votes, but Schaller said he also doesn't think it will be enough. "Maybe Edwards cuts Bush's margin in half, but it doesn't count. You have to win the Electoral College in the state."

Reid Dickens, spokesman for the Bush-Cheney campaign, said he expects voters to stick to their guns and ignore Edwards' charm.

"We are just expecting North Carolina voters to put the Southern accent on mute," he said.

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BOG

FROM PAGE 1

take the helm of the University of California-San Diego on Aug. 16.

Fox will earn \$350,000 at UCSD, a raise of more than \$100,000 from her salary at N.C. State. Her departure left some at the university and in the system as

a whole worried that other schools will lure away top officials.

But Amanda Devore, president of the system's Association of Student Governments and an ex officio BOG member, said after Friday's meeting that the board made the right decision. "I was very pleased that that policy was reaffirmed," Devore said.

The vote reflected the recommendation of the board's Personnel and Tenure Committee, which met June 8.

At that meeting, panel members considered the plight of Michael Adams, president of the University

of Georgia. Adams, who receives part of his pay from the university's private fund-raising foundation, caused a major rift when he fired a popular athletic director.

Despite the blessing Adams received from the University System of Georgia's chancellor, many foundation members called for his dismissal — a situation, board members don't want to see.

"You lose track of who the chancellors work for if you pay them with private funds," Devore said.

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EDWARDS

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us stories about how they have to unbolt the equipment and put it in crates and send it to China. Some of them even have to train their own replacements," Kerry said.

The attention came amid speculation that Edwards' addition to the newly formed ticket might put North Carolina and its 15 electoral votes up for grabs.

The state has not been won by a Democrat since 1976, when Georgian Jimmy Carter performed the feat — and getting Bush out of office was a popular theme.

Kerry energized the crowd by asking if he could borrow Edwards for four years. It responded by

chanting, "Eight, eight" — to which Kerry asked, "How about 16?"

Ultimately, many at the rally see Edwards, the charismatic son of a Robbins, N.C., mill worker, as the key factor who will propel Democrats into the White House.

Mildred Spivey, a lifelong Democrat from Carthage, said she thinks Edwards' personable skills coupled with his hometown roots will pull voters away from Bush.

"I think young voters will vote for Edwards," she said.

"The young people will fall in love with him. Edwards will be the power behind the Democratic Party."

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

impasse that has settled in over the negotiations.


"I think most people believe the budget won't go far without the buildings, and the buildings won't go far without the budget," said Mark Fleming, UNC-system associate vice president for state governmental affairs.

But major differences still loom,

Fleming said — adding that any further delays could prompt the top trio of legislators to take things into their own hands.

"We're at the point in the process where the two co-speakers and Senator Basnight are going to have to sit down and make the decisions so the legislature can finish their work and go home."

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