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Dylan, band still rock crowd

By ROB NEWBERRY

Classic songs can die. No matter how relevant or important the lyrics are, no matter how catchy the melody is, some songs get played to death.

Bob Dylan's music could have been like that... but it's not.

Dylan and his three-piece back-up band, made up of G.E. Smith (of Saturday Night Live fame) on guitar, Christopher Parker on drums and Tony Garnier on bass, played at Palmer Auditorium in Austin over the weekend.

Dylan proved that most of his music is still alive and kicking.

After a slow set from opening act Wire Train, Dylan took the stage about 9. The audience ranged from high school teens to the oldest rock'n'roll addicts, and during their initial applause, Dylan and company played through an instrumental version of "Shores of Tripoli."

The crowd immediately understood: only Bob Dylan would start off a show with the battle hymn of the Marine Corps.

To kick off his own music, Dylan jumped into a spiffed-up rock arrangement of "Tangled Up In Blue." Smith helped the tune with some high-class blues guitar, but Dylan still carried the song by changing the melody to match the new rhythm.

Dylan then turned out several of his better rarities. The band switched to a purely acoustic setup to coast through "Gates of Eden" and "Desolation Row." Later, Dylan rolled through "It's Alright Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)" and last year's "Shooting Star."

The last time I saw Dylan, he refused to relate to the audience at all. In Austin, he actually enjoyed the crowd. He asked for their "go ahead" on a couple of songs (of course he got it), and a few times he stood back from the microphone just to laugh with the fans. Instead of showing his usual indifference to the performance, Dylan actually looked like he enjoyed playing.

About an hour through the set, he cranked into some of his more well-known tunes. Dylan used his own acoustic guitar to spruce-up "Every Grain of Sand," then Smith and crew kicked in for a powerful "All Along the Watchtower."

Most of Dylan's great songs are nearly twenty years old. But with this band behind him, Dylan makes a '60's-protest song sound like a '80's radio hit.

In the same spirit, Dylan turned the classic "Like a Rolling Stone" into a rock'n'roll anthem to close the set.

For an encore, Dylan tried "Blowin' in the Wind" with an upbeat rhythm and melody. Then he finished off the night with the closet favorite, "Highway 61," with Smith still pouring on the blues.

By trying new twists on his own classic songs, Dylan shows exactly what timelessness in music really is.

I ran into Sneaky Pete on my way out of the show, and he was headed back to College Station that night just like I was. We both agreed, though, that we wouldn't have any trouble with the late night drive after such a dose of musical excitement.

The Battalion

Thursdays, September 13

by Scott McCullar

Warped

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...WAIT A MINUTE! THIS IS TAP WATER.

by Matt Kowalski

Spade Phillips, P.I.

PSST! BARKMULCH! IS THE COAST CLEAR?

WHY, MISS BLUTARSKI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE?

I'M HIDING FROM MR. PHILLIPS' SONS, ROLF AND DOLE. OH! THEY'RE SO HORRIBLE! HORRIBLE!!!

YES, THEY ARE QUITE UNIQUE, AREN'T THEY?

UNIQUE? MORE LIKE SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED. YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THEY'RE TRYING TO GET ME TO DO.

WHAT'S THAT?

THEY WANT TO CROSS ME WITH AN AVACADO!

AN AVACADO? THOSE CRAZY KIDS!

by Boomer Cardinale

Tubularman

TUBULARMAN'S FIRST DISTRESS CALL PART I

I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A CRIME FIGHTER AND THERE'S NO CRIME! SOME GUY EXPOSES HIS GENITALS AND IT MAKES POLICE BEAT HOW LAME.

TUBULARMAN! TUBULARMAN!

TUBULARMAN, YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US! ONE OF OUR COFF MEMBERS HAS GONE INSANE!! HE'S STOLEN A CANNON AND TAKEN OVER A GIRL'S DORM!

HE'S MINE.

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU. THE GUY IS 6'5" AND 270 LBS.

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!

Nerd House by Tom A. Madison

Post Oak Mall announces new retailers

National retailers Victoria's Secret and Express, divisions of The Limited, Inc., will open at Post Oak Mall in College Station. Construction of the 3,458 sq. foot Victoria's Secret under way with a projected opening later this month.

Express is scheduled to open in 15 with 8,595 sq. feet of retail space. The opening of the two stores brings Post Oak Mall's occupancy rate to 96%.

Victoria's Secret, one of the world's largest purveyors of lingerie, showcases intimate apparel, personal gifts and, more recently, fragrances and bath products in redesigned shops reminiscent of a maniac English country manor.

Acquired in 1982, Victoria's Secret is one of the fastest growing gerie brands in the U.S.

Established in 1981, Express has grown to become the international fashion sportswear store in United States, offering chic European fashions and accessories in automatically-designed stores.

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