

Helium takes off with new album

Distinct indie-rock sound survives in today's commercial music scene

By Matt Harrington
Old Gold and Black Reviewer

With the release of a new CD, *The Magic City*, two weeks ago, as well as the release of an EP, *No Guitars*, back in April, Helium has been an extremely busy band. With these two albums, Helium reaffirms its reputation as indie-rock stalwarts, but does not figure to find modern rock success.

Helium consists of Mary Timony on guitars and vocals, Ash Bowie on bass and Shawn Devlin on drums. *The Magic City* is their fifth major release on Matador Records, including two full-length albums and three EP's. The new album is a continuation of their previous albums rather than a major departure from their usual sound. Helium has a distinct sound that is different from most other indie-rock bands, and its members seem content to continue this sound rather than change just to fit commercial rock.

Helium, which continues the great tradition of the Boston music scene, employs several instruments in its music. By including a mandolin and keyboards, among other instruments, Helium develops a

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sound that is unique in today's music scene. Floating above it all is Timony's fantastic voice.

The Magic City is an odyssey of 14 songs, most of which are involved and not just three minute pieces of recycled garbage. The perfect example of this is the song "Medieval People," an instrumental song which includes some incredible keyboards, as well as sound effects which bring to mind a nuclear explosion. Timony has said that the inspiration for many of her songs comes from fantasy stories of faraway lands. This is represented through songs about dragons, princesses and angels.

No Guitars, on the other hand, is a short, six-song EP which leaves the listener begging for more Helium. Although none of Helium's songs are really radio friendly, the song "Silver Strings" has a singable

chorus and is extremely enjoyable to listen to. Helium's songs evoke images of medieval times, when warriors fought for glory and the realm of their kings.

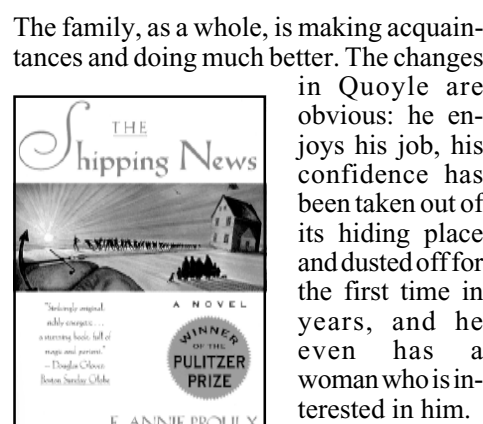
Helium will be touring Europe in October with another good band, Sleater-Kinney, before coming back to do a tour of the United States in November.



Helium
The Magic City
Matador Records

Shipping News offers reality-driven novel

Continued from B3



The family, as a whole, is making acquaintances and doing much better. The changes in Quoyle are obvious: he enjoys his job, his confidence has been taken out of its hiding place and dusted off for the first time in years, and he even has a woman who is interested in him.

This is a novel that is free of bows and flowery fields, although there are a few beams of sunlight through its clouds. The characters are never introduced by the narrator; instead, we learn their strengths and weaknesses through their own thoughts. They are disturbingly true-to-life.

Proulx's interesting misuses of grammar, leaving out a pronoun here and a

subject there, although sometimes leaving sentences abruptly, provide a refreshingly accurate thought record from the characters. It is almost as if their thoughts were never edited by the author before being placed onto paper.

Not once in these 337 pages did I ever correctly anticipate what a person was going to say or think next. The dialogue ranges from death to rocks to the thoughts of children; Proulx leaves no emotion untouched and no thought unprinted, yet does very little explaining on behalf of her character's comments.

She precedes each chapter with a quote from the *Ashley Book of Knots* or the *Mariner's Dictionary* that serves as a foreshadowing of what is to come. Her paragraphs move quickly with short sentences and sudden changes in topic, point of view, and atmosphere.

The Shipping News requires you to think as well as feel and is a perfect read for those who are tired of the traditional and want an honest account of a life from which we can all learn a lot.

CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send e-mail to arts@ogb.wfu.edu, fax to 910-759-4561 or write to P.O. Box 7569.

ON CAMPUS

Auditions

Fool for Love. The Anthony Aston players will be holding auditions for *Fool for Love*.
When: 7-10 p.m. Sept. 29, 4-6 p.m. Sept. 30
Where: Ring Theater, Scales Fine Arts Center
Info: Ext. 5295

Exhibits

Prairie Music. Exhibit features prints and poems by eight artists from the United States and Canada.
When: Through Oct. 5
Where: Scales Fine Arts Center Gallery
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5585

Cultural Landscape of the Plantation. The touring exhibit from the Library of Congress features photographs, drawings and testimonies of ex-slaves.
When: Through Oct. 5
Where: Scales Fine Arts Center Gallery
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5585

Lecture

Wade Davis. The author of *The Serpent and the Rainbow* will speak on his experiences with the secret voodoo societies of Haiti.
When: 8 p.m. Tues. Sept. 30
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: Free

Movies

Film Series. GALBA and the Philomethian Society present a film series addressing the issue of homosexuality as portrayed in film. On Sept. 26 *The Celluloid Closet*, a documentary on the topic, will be shown. Sept. 27 features the films *Jeffrey* and *Maurice*. *Go Fish* will be shown on Sept. 28, followed by a discussion of all the movies with Sally Barbour, a professor of Romance Languages, and Gary Ljungquist, a professor from Salem College.
When: 7 p.m. Sept. 26; 7 and 9 p.m. Sept. 27; 3 p.m. Sept. 28
Where: Tribble A-3
Cost: Free

Lolita. Based on the novel by Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* is the story of middle-aged novelist Humbert Humbert who rents a room in a house after he falls passionately in love with the owner's daughter, Lolita, who is only fourteen.
When: 8 p.m. Today
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: Free

Con Air. Nicholas Cage stars with John Malcovich, Steve Buscemi and John Cusack in this action packed movie about a group of convicts that take over an airplane.
When: 7 and 10 p.m. Sept. 26, 27, 28
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: \$2. Deacon Dollars accepted

Music

Faculty Recital. Mark Hartman, violin and Marlene Horiup, piano, will perform.
When: 3 p.m. Sun. Sept. 28
Where: Brendle Recital Hall, Scales Fine Arts Center
Cost: Free

Theater

You Can't Take It With You. The play,

from George Kaufman and Moss Hart, is the story of two families and the weird events they go through.

When: 8 p.m. Sept. 26, 27; Oct. 1-5
Where: Mainstage, Scales Fine Arts Center
Cost and info: \$5 for students, \$10 for general admission. Ext. 5295

ELSEWHERE

Concerts

Ziggy's. Sept. 26: Kim Richey. Sept. 27: Cravin Melon. Sept. 30: Leftover Salmon. Oct. 1: Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers.
Where: 433 Baity St.
Info: 748-1064

Cat's Cradle. Sept. 25: Leo Kottke. Sept. 26: Mr. T Experience with Groovie Ghoulies & The Scaries. Sept. 27: Superchunk. Sept. 29: Dog's Eye View. Sept. 30: Johnny Winter. Oct. 1: Shortwave Night with Eugene Chadbourne.
Where: 300 E. Main St., Carrboro
Info: (919) 967-9053

Lizard and Snake Cafe. Sept. 25:

Frigg A-Go-Go with El Caminos. Sept. 27: Blanks 77 with Quinicy Punks and Patriot. Sept. 28: Sofa with Mile Marker. Sept. 29: Plain with Pound Sign and Wingnut. Sept. 30: Bazoooka with Sorry about Dresden.
Where: 110 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill
Info: (919) 929-2828

Blockbuster Pavilion. Sept. 25: Aerosmith. Sept. 26: Tim McGraw. Oct. 2: Live.
Where: 707 Pavilion Blvd., Charlotte
Info: 704-337-2883

Hardee's Walnut Creek. Sept. 27: Tim McGraw. Oct. 4: Live.
Where: 3801 Rock Quarry Rd., Raleigh
Info: 919-831-6400

Exhibits

Women's Work. Exhibit will feature ten female artists, showcasing the gender differences in the creation of art.
When: Through Sept. 30
Where: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive
Cost and info: \$2 for students. 725-1904

Walton Ford. An exhibit of his paintings and watercolors will be on display. His works are reinterpretations of the Hudson River School traditions.
When: Through Sept. 30
Where: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive
Cost and info: \$2 for students. 725-1904

Music

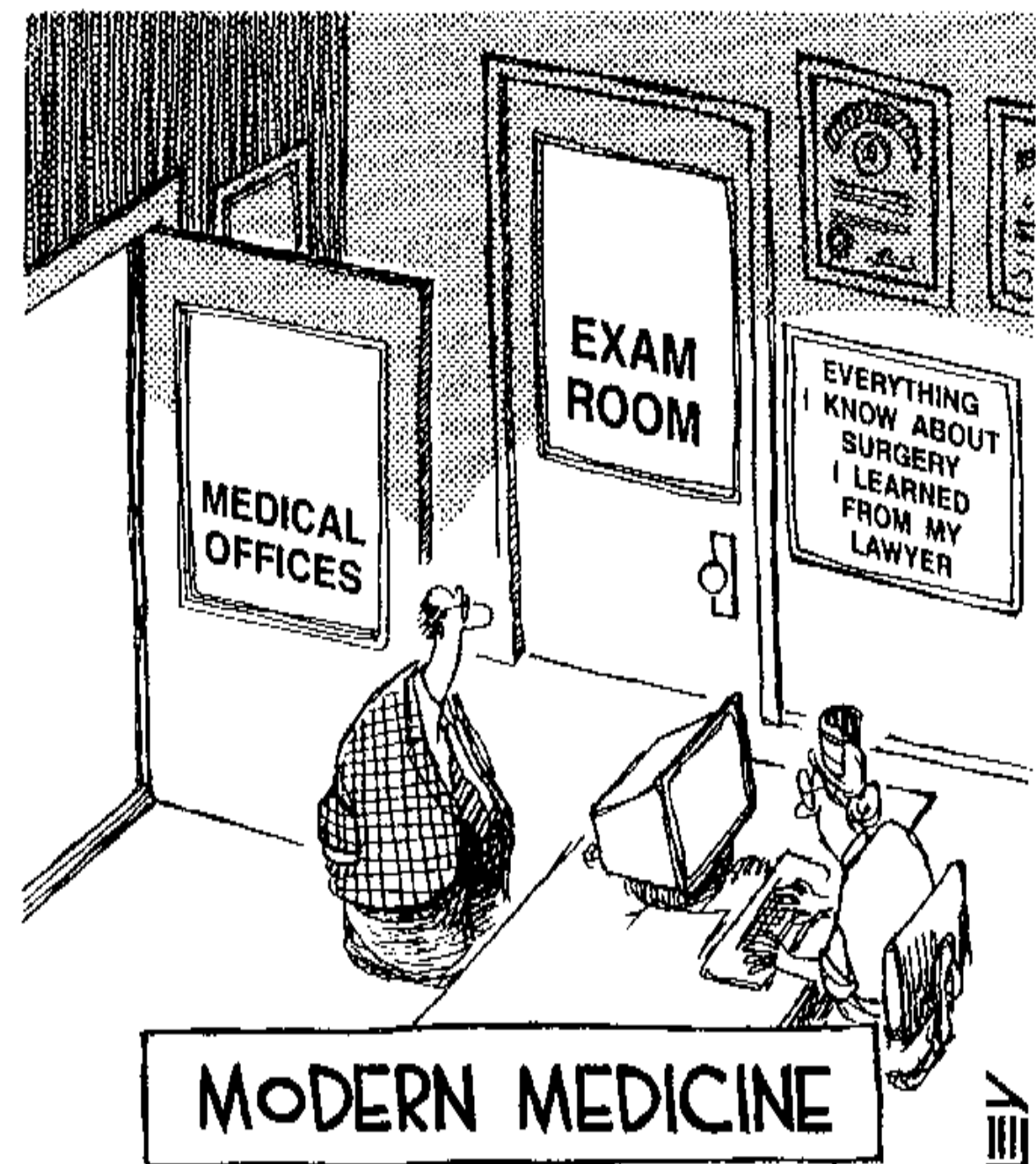
Lightnin' Wells. The show will feature folk music drawn from the Piedmont region. Saturday will feature Keith Knight, a Raleigh musician, showcasing his finger-style guitar playing skills.
When: 9 p.m. Sept. 26, 27
Where: The Horse's Mouth, 424 West Fourth St.
Cost: Free

Theater

Deathtrap. The suspenseful murder-mystery, part comedic play by Ira Levin will be performed.
When: 8 p.m. Sept. 25, 26, 27
Where: The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem, 610 Coliseum Drive
Info: 725-4001

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Schumann's Ward

By Ken Perkins and Matt Nimchek

WELL, IT TURNS OUT THE NAME OF THE NEW WARD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RELIGION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL IS NAMING IT AFTER HIS FAVORITE COMPOSER - ROBERT SCHUMANN.



No, No... IT'S "SCHUMANN." "SCHUMANN."

