

Death

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gives the ironic message that all efforts to artificially and vainly beautify oneself and look younger are not much different than painting veneer on a dead body to make for proper, socially desired viewing.

Special effects are not dazzlingly noticeable in the film until the latter

half, when they are used to convey a rather twisted sense of humor.

The whole of the movie is set in a similar, strangely humored vein, which is neither comfortable nor satisfying.

One never can build up a good belly laugh nor thrill to good drama.

The themes of aging, vanity and death are never comfortable or settling to face, and this movie did not have the saving grace of skill to deal with them effectively.

Allen-Farrow fight gets TV ban

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge barred microphones and television cameras from a hearing Tuesday in Woody Allen's public child-custody dispute.

The director's ex-lover, Mia Farrow, planned to attend, but Allen — who sued for custody of their three children Aug. 13 — did not, their publicists said.

Justice Phyllis Gangel-Jacob decided Monday against television and radio coverage of Tuesday's hearing after lawyers for both sides asked for the ban. Normally, custody hearings are closed to the public to protect the children.

The dispute has been complicated by child abuse allegations against Allen and by allegations of his romance with Farrow's adopted daughter Soon-Yi Farrow Previn, believed to be between 19 and 21.

Allen is seeking custody of Satchel, 4 1/2, his biological son with Farrow, and their adopted children, Dylan, 7, and Moses, 14. He has charged that Farrow is an unfit mother.

Connecticut and New York authorities are also investigating allegations — denied by Allen — that he sexually abused the 7-year-old.



Photo courtesy of Atlantic Records

Testament is Eric Peterson, Greg Christian, Chuck Billy, Louie Clemente and Alex Skolnick.

Testament rocks again

Band highlights issues of society

SOUNDS

Testament
"The Ritual"
Atlantic Records

For heavy metal lovers of the world, Testament has come up with the ultimate rockin' thrash album with "The Ritual."

Starting their career in 1987, this five-man band produced "The Legacy," and moved on to create "The New Order," "Practice What You Preach," "Souls of Black" and "Seen

Between the Lines."

With the help from producer Tony Platt, "The Ritual" is the band's best yet.

Other than complicated lyrics, the rhythmic beat and heavy guitar strumming almost persuade listeners to move their heads in an up and down fashion.

But isn't heavy metal music satanic?

Not this album.

Singing about everyday problems, Testament has a grasp on reality, despite being a tad depressing.

"The Sermon" presents the perverse problems within our political system today. It was inspired by David Duke and how a man so controversial could rise so far in the chain of authority.

"As the Seasons Grey" is a song about growing older and having a hard time dealing with birthdays.

"Let Go of My World" captures

the problem of society misled by lies.

Work, sleep, eat. "Deadline" is about an individual who lives that repetitive process day after day and hates it.

Gloominess of society aside, "The Ritual" is about those things that help people get through each day.

With inspiration from bands such as Raven, Judas Priest, the Scorpions and Iron Maiden, Testament slowly built its own type of music and write its own songs.

Accused of being the Bay Area Metallica, Testament has dedicated itself long and hard to acquiring its own sound and music.

Worshipping the devil is not on the list of criteria for this heavy metal band, but be sure and wear your crash helmet.

—Stacie Hakel

John Gorka's new release leads listeners down road of emotions

SOUNDS

John Gorka
"Temporary Road"
High Street Records

Lazy Sundays, rainy evenings, relaxing drives along a country road... these are images evoked by the latest effort by John Gorka.

"Temporary Road" grabs a hold of its listener with its easy-listening/folk/country flavor. The musicianship is especially strong and solid.

By way of comparison, Gorka's voice and style sound so much like James Taylor that it often seems "Temporary Road" is "New Moon Shine" or any Taylor release.

However, Gorka has his own musical signature in the form of the themes of his music.

In addition to the "I-love-this-woman-more-than-life" songs, Gorka also uses his music to express his feelings about such weighty subjects as war (with "The Gypsy Life") and crime and punishment (with "Vinnie Charles is Free" and "Grand Larceny").

Another way in which Gorka differs from Taylor is that his music has more of a country feel than Taylor's.

Helping Gorka to attain the quality sounds of his third album are keyboardist Sean Hopper (Huey Lewis), singers Nanci Griffith and Cliff Eberhardt, drummer Denny Fongheiser, Mike Harshall of the



Courtesy of High Street Records

John Gorka's third release, "Temporary Road"

Modern Mandolin Quartet, and Roy Rogers, John Lee Hooker's producer.

"Temporary Road" takes the listener on a journey along Gorka's road of emotions and world awareness. The journey leads to places all over the country — places where Gorka has lived and observed the people.

For example, "Vinnie Charles is Free" was begun in Portland, Ore., and finished in Mexico.

"This song came about after overhearing a conversation in a bar... The waitress was talking on the pay

phone, inviting a friend to a party for her uncle, who was getting out of jail," is the explanation on the liner notes.

This tune and others are based partly in fact, but Gorka allowed his imagination to fill in the blanks when he didn't know the truth or his own version was better.

The sounds and music are gorgeous and relaxing, and the lyrics are fresh and thought-provoking. Once in music collections, "Temporary Road" won't be temporary.

—Shannon Uehling

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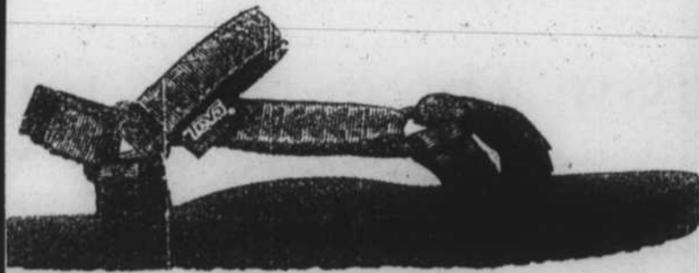
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