

the sorta-depressing "Hemingway," the touching "Sunshine Out of the Rain" and the sludgy "Eye Dream."

This is a good album for those who enjoy dreamy early alternative sounds.

'Dirt Road Driveway,' Granger Smith (Pioneer Music, HHH 1/2)

This April 16 CD is Granger Smith's ninth studio album, and is being released in conjunction with his third annual 100-Mile Boot Walk from Austin to Fort Hood honoring troops and raising awareness about returning soldiers' needs. This column will be published after the Boot Walk's conclusion, but I'm sure Granger and the charity will appreciate the support from Sun Herald readers who visit the Boot Walk website.

I'm not a regular country-radio listener, so my opinion that today's country music is mostly "Southern rock with pedal steel and fiddles" applies here.

A difference is that this album of self/co-written songs (one by David Ramirez) was recorded and self-produced at Smith's home studio with his road band.

"We Do It In a Field" is very catchy; and, there are other highlights, like the fiddle-driven "I Am the Midnight," the banjo-bouncing "Miles and Mud Tires," and the first of the "Earl Dibbles, Jr." songs, "Country Boy Love."

Fans of heartfelt modern country music will enjoy this CD.

'Hong Kong Confidential,' (MVDvisual, HHH)

This March 26 DVD is the Latvian entry for Oscar's Best Foreign Language Film and is the first ever Latvian-Hong Kong co-production.

The movie features cool Hong Kong scenery, but gets off to an extremely slow start. When your reviewer has a short attention span and is easily distracted, that's almost a death sentence.

However, the movie is a twisted tale involving subtitles, long-time romance, massage, clock and bicycle repair; plus a guy whose hair looks like mine would look if it had turned white instead of going away.

Mystery fans, this is one that you will enjoy if you don't mind doing some reading while watching.

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