

## Music Reviews

### Guns 'n' Roses use same old magic on 'Use Your Illusion'

By Rob Newberry  
The Battalion

Guns 'n' Roses  
*Use Your Illusion I and II*  
Geffen

The wait is over - over three years since *Appetite for Destruction* was released, the band with the most attitude (and ability to cause trouble) finally gets some new material out. Well, some of it's new material, at least. And most of it's pretty good.

To be honest, I'm a little disappointed that of the thirty tracks released on the new discs, I'm already familiar with eight of them. "Civil War" was released almost a year ago as part of a Romanian children's benefit album. The studio version of Dylan's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door" was on the "Days of Thunder" soundtrack last summer (I've heard I don't know how many live versions). And "You Could Be Mine" was released earlier this summer as part of the "Terminator 2" soundtrack.

I'll admit, the rest of the tunes I already know, I wasn't supposed to know about. But "November Rain," "Back Off Bitch" and "Don't Cry" have been available on bootleg for two years. Granted - the versions on *Use Your Illusion* are better. But not that much better.

As for the rest of the tunes, they're pretty much standard G'n'R fare. Lots of blues-based metal guitar licks from Slash and Izzy Stradlin, coated with Axl Rose's sometimes screaming abuse, sometimes sweet melodies. Overall, I like *Illusion II* better than *I*, but they both have their high points.

Even though "Civil War" has been out for a while, it shows some of Rose's best lyrical work. And the sampled portion from "Cool Hand Luke" and the lines from the Peruvian guerilla general add a certain element to the song, give it an all-to-clear feeling that the problem with war and peace spans more than our land or our time.

Rose's bluesy piano work on "14 Years" is a nice addition to the band's sound. The blues influences on "Yesterdays" also show Guns at their best - the lyrics are more what I

expect from these guys. As far as new sounds go, the almost funk sound of "Locomotive" is a welcomed experiment. I'm not quite as sure about the synthetic garbage of "My World," but I'll give Rose the benefit of the doubt - I'm sure he had fun venting his anger with all those effects.

As for *Illusion I*, I'll give its best-of to "November Rain" - the lyrics are catchy enough to roll through my head all day, and the instrumentation and harmonies are good, even if the whole thing is a little mushy for Guns 'n' Roses.

Close to second place is "Bad Apples" and "Dead Horse" - the first, written by almost everybody in the band, sums up a lot of G'n'R's attitude over the frustrations that came with being a young, very successful band; the second is Rose's own frustration, with relationships and life in general.

The blues influence is intact on *Illusion I* as well. The slide guitars on "You Ain't the First" and "Bad Obsession" show Slash's mastery of blues guitar, and the second tune adds Mike Monroe on harmonica for a real bluesy intro.

I couldn't finish the review without mentioning "Get in the Ring." After all the press controversy concerning Guns over the last few years, Rose backfires with more profanity-laden abuse than I think was on their first record altogether. As he rips into all the magazines and writers who've misrepresented the band, I worry a little bit about what he'd say about my review. Who cares - he'll never read it anyway.

On *Appetite*, the more poppy-sounding songs made me a fan - "Sweet Child O'Mine"



and "Think About You" show the boys 'n' girls side of Guns 'n' Roses. On *Illusion*, there's quite a bit less of the relationship problem in the music. But I don't miss it. I'll admit to liking the alternate-lyrics take of "Don't Cry" on *Illusion II* better than the original version on *I*, and it doesn't say much about relationships at all.

The ripping "Rocket Queen" that closed the first album convinced me of the band's musicianship; the song is just too pretty for a metal band. The pretty guitar lines in "The Garden" (guest appearance by Alice Cooper) and "Estranged" are almost as good, but Slash's guitar work is intact all the way through.

Slash's guitar may even be a little improved, although that's not the most notable change in the line-up here. Axl's piano playing was a nice addition, enough to make Guns

See Guns/Page 8

### Bad English's latest has hope; beware of radio station overkill

By Chris Eklaf  
The Battalion

Bad English  
*Backlash*  
Epic

A successful debut album can affect a band in several ways. If they rush to put out a second album, they can succumb to the dreaded sophomore jinx, producing an inferior record. Some groups create a record that is even better than the first, while other groups turn out an album that is almost identical to their debut.

With veteran performers John Waite, Neal Schon and Jonathan Cain, it is doubtful that this "super-group" will fall prey to the sophomore jinx. They have years of experience with The Babys, Journey and Santana.

Bad English achieved multi-platinum success with their 1989 self-titled debut album. *Bad English* spawned several top 10 hits including "When I See You Smile" and "Possession". The songs that became commercial hits off this album were slow, soft ballads. However, *Bad English* also contained a number of hard rocking tunes that never made it to commercial radio. The first release off that album was "Forget Me Not", an excellent, guitar-based song that went nowhere on the singles charts.

This pattern of success apparently affected Bad English's second album, *Backlash*. There is a plentiful supply of ballads custom made for top-40 radio. The best of these is "Time Stood Still", a tender love song that will grasp the hearts of teen-age girls across the country.

Neal Schon's acoustic guitar intro has a distinctive Latin sound that catches the ear. "Time Stood Still" is a song that people will like, but gets played so much on the radio that you will want to throw up after you hear it for the 3,000th time.

Jonathan Cain's keyboard playing takes control on "Time Alone With You", another ballad. Radio stations will probably play this song 100 times a day, so be ready to get sick of this song as well.

*Backlash* does not contain only ballads, though. "Rebel Say A Prayer," "So This Is Eden" and "Life At The Top" are powerful songs that keep this album from going too far into the pop music gutter. However, you will never hear these songs on the radio because they do not have the light rock sound that has proven commercially successful for Bad English.

The only way to hear the "other side" of Bad English is to buy the album. They have gained a reputation as a sugar-coated pop rock band due to their past hits, but that reputation is falsely based.

The members of Bad English have the musical talent to play a wide range of songs. Neal Schon became famous for playing tremendous guitar solos in his days with Journey and Jonathan Cain's keyboard dexterity enables him to play along with a hard rocking song as easily as with a slow ballad.

Bad English has not changed their sound drastically from their first album. *Backlash* is basically a remake of the first album with a bit of the hard edge removed.

ENGINEERS

# Make the Natural Choice.

Thursday and Friday, September 26th and 27th

Natural gas is predicted to become the fuel of the future for the United States. Now's the time to consider a career opportunity with a leader in natural gas - Delhi. Delhi's leadership status would not be possible without the contributions of the many talented and innovative engineers who exemplify the "can-do" attitude we seek. Delhi engineers hold many key positions on our management team and are essential to the future of our business.

We're searching for ambitious and enthusiastic petroleum, mechanical and chemical engineers who want to join one of the pioneers in the natural gas gathering and wholesaling business. Delhi has found new life as a stand-alone entity within the USX Marathon Group and continues to strengthen as it adds talented engineers to its team.

Make the natural choice and contact Delhi. We'll be on campus Thursday and Friday, September 26 and 27, 1991. Contact your College Placement Office to schedule an interview or write to us at:



First City Center  
1700 Pacific Avenue  
Lock Box 10, Dept. AM  
Dallas, Texas 75201-4696

Delhi Gas Pipeline Corporation  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

## In The 1990s

Q. What Career Offers Unlimited Earnings?

A. A Career As An IDS Financial Planner.

Join us. We are expanding our sales force.

If you enjoy working with people, are self-motivated and have good communication skills, contact IDS today.

As a personal financial planner with IDS, you'll receive:

- extensive training
- an extremely competitive compensation package
- ongoing home office support
- over 150 financial products and services to draw upon



During the last five years, IDS has had an outstanding record of sales and earnings growth. Our commitment to financial planning, and thoughtful, prudent management of our clients' assets, positions us for continued success in the 1990s.

Graduating Seniors and Masters Candidates -

On campus recruiting seminar:

This Thursday September 26th, 6:30 pm, Rm. 212 M.S.C. or Tuesday October 15th, 5:00 pm, Rm. 302 Rudder Tower or contact: Brien L. Smith, Training Manager, @ 693-5060 and send resume to: P.O. Box 13011 College Station, TX 77842

America's Leading Financial Planning Company