Music Reviews

The Battalion

Lifestyles

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 bluesbased 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

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'

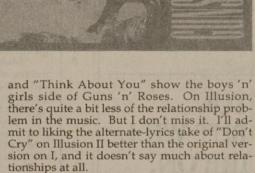
Close to second place is "Bad Apples" and "Dead Horse" - the first, written by almost everybody in the band, sums up a lot of G'n'R's attitude over the frustrations that

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 men-tioning "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"



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 play ing 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 Eklof

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 "supergroup" will fall prey to the sophomore jinx. They have years of experience with The Babies, Journey and Santana.

Bad English achieved multiplatinum 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 appar-ently 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.

Page 7

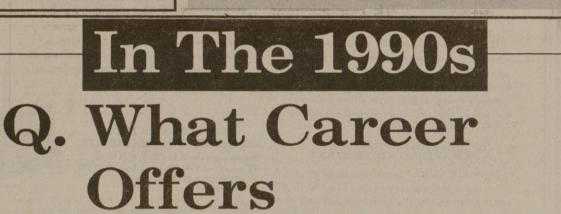
Jonathan Cain's keyboard playing takes control on "The Time Alone With You", another ballad. Radio stations will probably play this song 100 times a day, so be ready to get sick of

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 sugarcoated pop rock band due to their past hits, but that reputa-tion 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.





effects

Tuesday, September 24, 1991

r 24, 199

92 gradua

ont of the

in 228 MS

971 for mor

formatio

floor of the Intact Sandy

) 6:30 p.m.

2651 for mo

ICH. Call

rian at 846.

All are

plett at 846.

764-5210 for

ave the

oplications ormation.

ious athlet

:00 p.m. in

ricia Shanle

way to pr gainst attac contact Key

rwin at 846

ted at 707

Hospital -

m. in 228

r more

hke at 845-

22 for more

bleachers.

enviror

d weekend

Stephani

at 846-068

nation

33 for mor

550 for mor

eering/P

nts. All are

les will be

at St. Man

and college

696-8629 fo

)-231 MSC.

for more

Presbyteria

Everyone

a.m. to 3:3

ISC. Call

re inform

eaturing Be

is before the lion service of an entry

e informat

ENGINEER

Natural Choice.

Make the

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 :

		1.8	-
			-
	and a		1000
	-	-	-
			-

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

Delhi Gas Pipeline Corporation An Equal Opportunity Employer

Unlimited **Earnings**? 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 throughtful, 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



