

Prince pleases fans on, off screen

From the Video Vault

By BRIAN SHELTON
Staff Writer

Well, Guns N'Roses released their new albums *Use Your Illusions I* and *II* yesterday, and I'm sure many of you are planning to go out and purchase them, or you may already have. That's cool and if that's how you want to spend your money, more power to you. Personally, I'd rather shell out my hard-earned dough on an artist who actually has a little talent. I'd rather listen to someone who does not sing like he's being embalmed alive and who doesn't have a guitar player in his band that looks like Cousin It from the *Addams Family*. Fortunately, an artist named Prince meets that description.

That competition might be close, but Prince is already beating Guns N' Roses in one field. To date, he's released four movies to Guns N' Roses' none, and even though most of them bombed, they still merit a viewing from fan and non-fan alike. In fact, since I brought it up, I might as well review them for you now in this week's "Video Vault".

On October 1, Prince is releasing a new album called *Diamonds and Pearls*, which will return him

back to the popularity he had when he came out with *Purple Rain*. His latest creation not only promises to be the best collection "his royal badness" has put on vinyl but also the most commercial, so I wouldn't be surprised to see a "battle royale" at the top of the charts between Prince and Guns N' Roses in the next couple of weeks.

Purple Rain (1984): So what if this is just a whole bunch of music videos strung together with a little dialogue thrown in? It's still a great movie and virtually has something for everyone. If you like music, it's got tons of electrifying stage performances from Prince and the Revolution and also some from the Time. If you like women, it's got that hot babe Apollonia who, after this movie, went on to release 6 or 7 albums that currently reside in the "\$3.99 bin" of record stores all over the country. If you like good acting, go see something with Jeremy Irons in it and leave this puppy on the shelf. (B+)

Under the Cherry Moon (1986): Okay, so the title is goofy and the music in this sucks, but I liked this movie. Unfortunately, every critic in the solar system felt differently and carved it up like a Thanksgiving turkey, making the picture disappear from theaters faster than you can say "has-been." It's really a shame there was such an adverse reaction to this, because the film is really just lighthearted fluff that desperately tries to entertain and sometimes succeeds.

Under the Cherry Moon is an old-fashioned romance/comedy that has Prince playing an American gigolo who's hanging out in Nice, France with his pal Tricky (played amusingly by Jerome Benton who also starred in *Purple Rain*). The two have no problems getting chicks (and, subsequently their money) but Prince has a special place in his heart for Mary, a rich heiress who's arranged to marry someone else. Prince and Mary must overcome the forces that obstruct their love (including Mary's father who's a cross between Darth Vader and Adolf Hitler), but the film never gets too mushy or maudlin and in some parts is quite funny. Don't believe the hype, y'all. This ain't that bad. (B-)

Sign O' the Times (1987): *Sign O' the Times* is, to date, the best album Prince has released and this concert film, which showcases most of the songs on the album, is pretty competent in its own right. Shot at Rotterdam Music Hall in the Netherlands, the movie focuses on what Prince does best - performing live. He's backed up by a truly awesome band, including Sheila E. on drums, and if you like Prince, or good music in general, this film is a must-see. (A-)

Graffiti Bridge (1990): Now, as a Prince fan, I hate telling you to avoid something Prince is in, but in this case, I have no choice. This movie is totally incomprehensible, and watching it will likely screw up your head and make you pon-

der for hours what the heck Prince could have possibly been thinking when he made this.

Supposedly a sequel to *Purple Rain*, *Graffiti Bridge* has Prince reprising his role as the enigmatic Kid who, this time, battles the evil Morris Day for control of a night club. Along the way, he encounters a chick who's really an angel (I am not making this up), and she tells him to embrace his spiritual side and not to give in to temptation. He does give in, of course, until the end when the angel is squashed by a jeep and turns into a feather (again, I'm not making this up). Even the great music in this film can't save this confusing (and embarrassing) ego trip, and hopefully it'll show Prince that as a movie director, he's a great musician. (D)

Like his albums over the past few years, Prince's cinematic forays have been a mixed bag. They have not been as bad as many critics would like you to believe, but only one has had any mainstream success, showing that sometimes Prince is just too deep for the masses to grasp. Once you're figured out (like Guns N' Roses will be soon) people lose interest and go on to the next big thing. Enigmas like Prince, however, people who constantly keep you guessing and make music that sounds like nothing else you've ever heard before will be around longer and will continue to thrive when Guns N' Roses is just a memory. Peace.

Fair to help new students settle in

By COLEEN BROWN
Staff Writer

"You've got the right one baby," that's the theme of this year's Student Organization Fair," Chrissy Vaughn said of the Campus Activities Center.

Seventy of the 240 student organizations will be represented in the fair to educate students about their organizations and try to get them involved. This year's fair is focusing on all Carolina students but most importantly new and uninvolved students. Adjusting to college can be difficult and joining an organization is one way to make the transition a easier.

"The Student Organization Fair is a unique opportunity for students to explore involvement opportunities with over 65 student organizations," Novella Fortner of Student Life said.

There will be a broad range of organizations represented, including the student organizations Amnesty International, Mountaineering and White Water Club, USC Young Democrats, Homecoming Commission, Campus Rape Awareness, Association of African American Students and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

In addition to their tables, demonstrations will be given for World Tae Kwon Do, African Students Association and the Campus Coalition for Literacy. "This is a great opportunity for students to get involved on campus," Vaughn said. "All they need to do is come and talk to some of the organization's members."

The Student Organization Fair is beneficial to both students and organizations. It boosts club membership, and it gives students a chance to get involved. New students who are having a hard time adjusting to such a large environment will find that getting involved in a student organization will minimize the overwhelming size of campus.

Some organizations may have deadlines and set membership dates, but many do not. Check with each organization on their specific membership information. "Don't assume there isn't a place for you, because typically there is," Fortner said.

The fair will be held on the Russell House Patio from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th. In case of rain, the fair will be held in the Russell House Ballroom.

MANDATORY WORKSHOP

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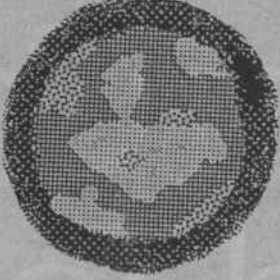
All student organization presidents & treasurers must attend a budget and renewal workshop to continue to be recognized as a registered student organization and to be eligible to receive student activity funds in the 1991-92 school year

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to attend a workshop for the 1991-92 school year. The workshop will be held **TODAY at 3:30** in the **Russell House Theater**.

The **DEADLINE** for submission of renewal forms for student organizations is: **Friday, Sept. 20, 1991 at 5PM** in the **Campus Activities Center**

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For more information, please come by room 209 RH or call 777-7130
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