

Bush, along with the Goo Goo Dolls and No Doubt, came, saw and conquered Columbia this past Sunday, posing the question . . .

Is everything Zen?



TYSON PETTIGREW The Gamecock

Bush lead singer Gavin Rossdale sings to his adoring fans at the Coliseum this past Sunday night.

STEPHANIE SONNENFELD Features Ed.

So, Bush may be wallowing in a pit of one-hit wonders this time next year, but for now, they have what many bands want: fans, fans and more fans.

Why wouldn't they have fans? They have a sexy lead singer, pulsating song rhythms and a triple-platinum release album, which could translate into an American success story (at least to 17-year-old teens, who seem to populate the band's fan dynasty).

According to an article in The State newspaper, Bush's debut disc, "Sixteen Stone," is still on Billboard's Album chart after 54 weeks, thanks to hit singles such as "Comedown," "Everything Zen" and "Glycerine." They've become staples on MTV and the latest poster boys for the newest phase of "grunge" rockers.

The band, which hails from England, is currently in the midst of a heavy tour planned to end in Odessa, Texas, on March 26.

Joining them on the tour are the Goo Goo Dolls and No Doubt, two more of MTV's newest buzz bin inhabitants.

Even though all three of the bands have drastically different styles, they complement each other in a strange, but pop music friendly sort of way.

Bush is a heavily grunge-influenced band, while the Goo Goo Dolls sound like Extreme gone collegiate. Finally, No Doubt rounds out the slate of variety with their ska-like songs.

The Goo Goo Dolls' Sunday night performance was proof that maybe, just maybe, Glam Rock is alive and well.

Their songs truly lacked originality, and they seemed to be carbon, '90s versions of the '80s greats, like Extreme and Mr. Big, with perhaps a twinge of Candlebox, '90s stars missing in action.

Naturally, the Goo Goo Dolls played their hits "Name" and "Naked," spacing them out so they could play a wealth of somewhat unknown hits for their prescribed set.

Bush definitely ruled this show. They sounded good, almost like you could be sitting at home listening to their CD. There wasn't much difference between the way they sounded onstage and on

the radio, a problem many bands actually face.

It was obvious they knew how to play the game of the live performance. Like the Goo Goo Dolls, Bush strategically placed their hits among their unknown tunes. "Glycerine" and "Everything Zen" were reserved for the encore, while "Comedown" and "Little Things" dominated the main show.

One surprise for the show was when Bush performed a cover of REM's "Document" hit "The One I Love." It was poorly done and completely unnecessary, but the crowd loved it, and they seemed to dictate the mood of the evening.

Perhaps the crowd was the most interesting factor of the entire concert. Bush, which consists of Gavin Rossdale, Nigel Pulsford, Dave Parsons and Robin Goodridge, seemed to know their fan turf pretty well.

Everything seemed orchestrated towards the audience, and that wasn't a poor business move.

After all, the audience had paid for the show, or at least most of their parents had. And perhaps the young crowd attending the Bush concert was the most interesting aspect of all.

Teenagers were everywhere. They dominated the half-choreographed mosh pit, and they yelled from the stands. They made out in the dimness of the multi-colored stage lights, and they slumped by the concession stands.

They wondered how to sneak a smoke, and they moved in herds. They bought the merchandise; they were injured while dancing. They screamed for Gavin Rossdale, and they lit their lighters during the Goo Goo Dolls. They broke their curfews, and they dyed their hair with Kool-Aid inspired colors.

Here and there, amongst the sweat and the toil, you could spot a few random USC students or maybe even a "grown-up." They were easy to spot — they were the ones who knew the words to the REM cover.

But the teens ruled this concert. They relished in every aspect of Bush and heralded it as next Led Zeppelin.

A boy was overheard halfway boasting and halfway amazed that he had received an autograph from a Bush member. His followers all reached to touch the autograph and listened to their leader's story with awe. Transfixed, they were silenced by the scribble scabble of an autograph.

No doubt that autograph would be the main topic of conversation during study hall on Monday. No doubt.

Editor's Note: Due to ticket complications, the reviewer was unable to see No Doubt's performance. Apologies are offered to readers.



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Concert goers eagerly await Bush.

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