

Album reviews: Jane's Addiction and Bad Company

by John Glynn
Reporter

JANE'S ADDICTION
Ritual De Lo Habitual
(Warner Brothers)
Grade: B-

Jane's Addiction is probably most famous for the controversial cover of their debut album, "Nothing's Shocking," rather than their music. The band did not change one bit for the new album, they placed a picture made by lead singer Perry Farrell and an artist named Casey. I will let you find out on your own what it looks like, but beware because there are two versions. One has the controversial picture and the other has only the First Amendment on the cover.

The band not only makes wild album covers but they also play music! They mix several styles of music like punk, thrash, melodic rock and funk. The funk side of the band comes out on "Been Caught Stealing". The song moves with a slow funk feel. The melodic side shows up on "Classic Girl" when the band mixes a U2 feel to the song. On the first single, "Stop", they mix a punk sounding bass line with a thrashing guitar and the whole album is full of different styles of music fused together.

Singer Perry Farrell has a style that can't compare to anyone and he has some things to say that people should listen to very carefully. The only problem is that you have to strain so hard to hear him that it's doubtful anyone will ever hear anything

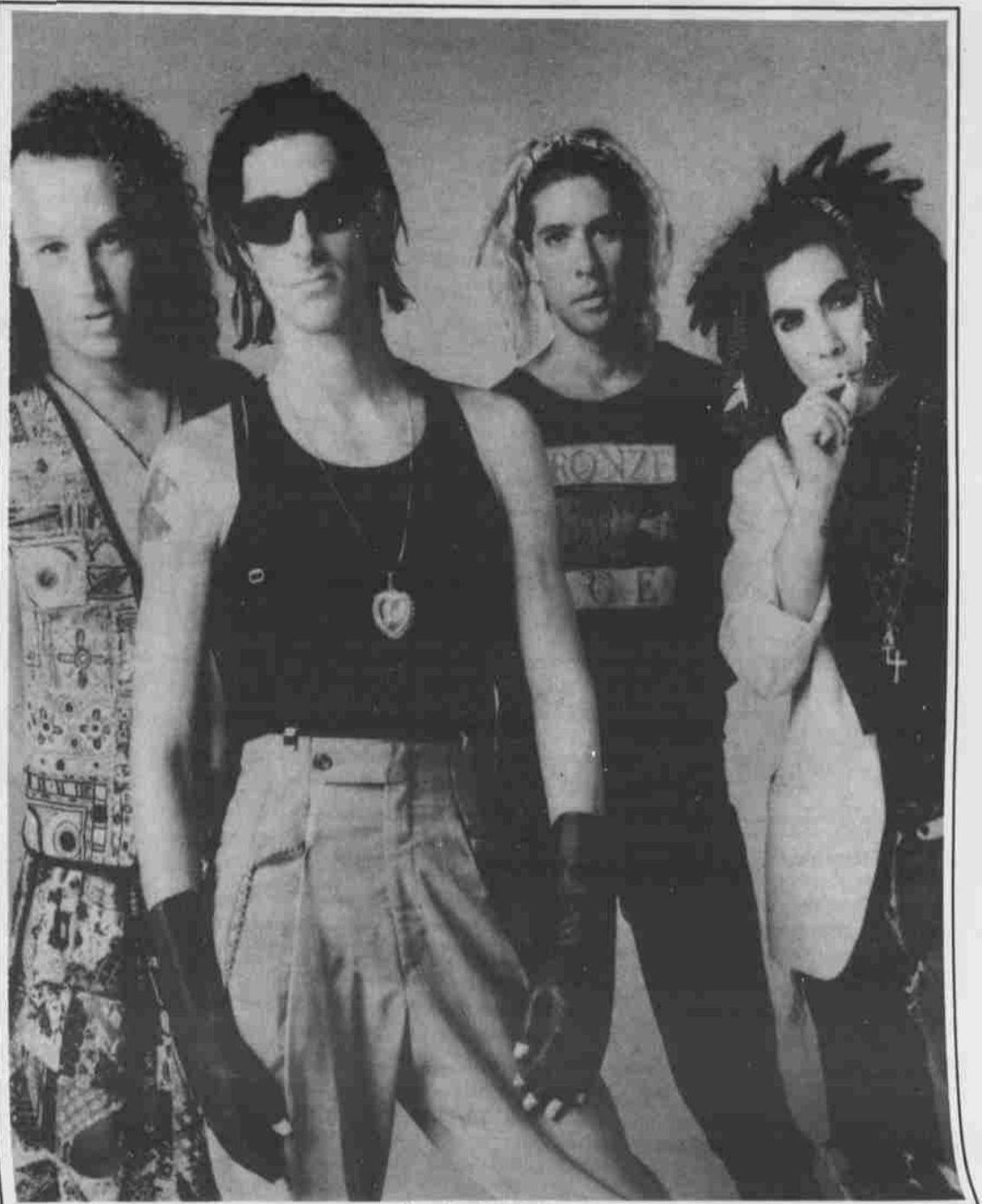
he has to say. Instead follow along in the lyrical handout inside the album to get better lyrical feel.

It took me two straight listenings to really get into the album, but if you like music with a different style, than this is for you.

BAD COMPANY
Holy Water
(ATCO)
Grade: B

The big band from the 70's have come back for their third album after Paul Rogers (Vocals, Main Songwriter) departure for the film etc.. The band should have changed their name after Paul left, but they probably wanted to keep the name to ride the old coattails (a la Pink Floyd). The band does sound great, but I think that it is missing the main ingredient with Paul not being there.

Well, I can't change their name, so the "new" Bad Company consisting of Brian Howe (Vocals), Mick Ralphs (Guitar) and Simon Kirke (Drums) rocks us into the 90's. The album is good because the band doesn't try to exactly copy the big 70's rock sounds for which they're famous. The sweet acoustic guitar beat of "Boys Cry Tough" is the biggest standout on the album. The song also mixes a great electric guitar riff along with a well-played-out solo. The big guitar sounds of "Holy Water" and "Fearless" are all over the album. The guitar playing is not going 100 mph so you can really enjoy it. If you like rock with soul and not speed, this is the album for you.



Jane's Addiction

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Shakespeare and witchcraft

Steven Greenblatt, an English professor at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), will present a lecture titled "Shakespeare Bewitched, or Shakespeare and Witchcraft" on Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m., in UNLV's John S. Wright Hall, Room 116.

The free, public lecture is part of the University Forum Series, which is sponsored each semester by UNLV's College of Liberal Arts.

A member of UCB's faculty since 1969, Greenblatt is at the forefront of the new historicism movement, which is growing in popularity among English teachers and critics, according to Chris Hudgins, professor and chairperson of UNLV's English Department. Those who study literature and follow the new historicism movement take into account historical and political events that influenced great literature written in earlier centuries.

In his lecture, Greenblatt will

use the new historicism method of studying literature when he discusses the Elizabethan attitudes toward witchcraft and spiritual mysteries during Shakespeare's time, Hudgins said.

Greenblatt will take part in a round table discussion about the Renaissance period on Sept. 24 at 4:30 p.m. in Wright Hall, Room 116. This is also free and open to the public.

The author and editor of more than 10 books, Greenblatt has lectured widely in the United States, Canada, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, and Australia. He has also served as a visiting professor at such prestigious institutions as Harvard University and Northwestern University.

For more information about the lecture or round table discussion, call UNLV's College of Liberal Arts at 739-3401.

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