

Guns N' Roses make a hit on Vegas

by Tricia Romano

Few bands in the history of rock n' roll have managed to create as much controversy as Guns N' Roses. After only two major releases, the band has already survived three member changes, various drug habits and the seemingly unending chaos that surrounds lead singer W. Axl Rose.

And on Saturday, the most talked about band in America is coming to the Thomas & Mack Center.

"I'm really pleased to see a band of such wide-spread popularity come to Las Vegas," said Paul Smalley, a junior at UNLV.

When the band does take the stage, one thing is certain, it will not be just another concert. The members of Guns N'

Roses have sparked riots at their own shows and they usually are not on time for the concert, but one thing is expected, the concert will be explosive.

"I think it should be pretty cool. Soundgarden will be a good opener," said freshman Amy Bumpas.

The Las Vegas date is sold-out with more than 10,000 tickets sold in the first day alone, which is miraculous for Las Vegas. Two recent shows at the T&M, Queensrÿche and Metallica, came close, but did not sell out the entire facility.

The fury surrounding the band started with the release of their debut album *Appetite for Destruction*. *Appetite* sat on the *Billboard* charts with no dramatic movement for a year.

Then in the summer of 1988, propelled by the single "Sweet Child of Mine," both the album and the single shot to No. 1.

The Gunners followed the hard-hitting album with an EP, *G N' R Lies*, containing mostly acoustic numbers, including the controversial "One In a Million." *G N' R Lies* entered the *Billboard* charts in the top five, joining *Appetite for Destruction*. Such a feat had not been accomplished in over 20 years.

Eventually drugs caught up with the reckless band. Drummer Steven Adler was fired by the four other members for his drug abuse and was subsequently replaced by former Cult drummer Matt Sorum.

During the recording of the bands' two current LP's, *Use Your Illusion I* and *II*,

keyboardist Dizzy Reed was welcomed on board.

Guns N' Roses' first headlining tour was kicked off before the albums were even released, and they still managed to hold the second-most successful tour this summer. The success of this tour was second only to the Grateful Dead's.

In July, controversy again appeared. Rose inadvertently started a riot in St. Louis when he yelled at a fan for taking a picture of him. Rose, angry at the lack of security, lashed into the crowd and then walked off the stage.

On the release date of the twin LP's, record chains across the country were staying open until midnight. Fans lined up to buy the new disks. At Tower Records in Las Vegas some 300

people waited in line to purchase the CDs.

A combined 5 million units have been sold so far.

The most recent news surrounding the band has been the departure of rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin. Stradlin, whose interest in videos and touring were, at best, feeble (he didn't show up for the "Don't Cry" video), left the band. Gilby Clarke is currently filling in for Stradlin on rhythm guitar.

All of this leads one to wonder what the future holds for Guns N' Roses. One thing is certain: It will not be boring and it is coming to Las Vegas.

Soundgarden shouldn't be overlooked

by Ched Whitney

Being the opening band on the average rock concert tour can be a tedious unfulfilling business. You tag along, across the country, sometimes getting booed by the headlining act's fans.

For Soundgarden, though, this shouldn't be a problem.

The Seattle-based band has built enough of a following with their current release *Badmotorfinger* to entertain the crowd of Guns N' Roses fans Saturday night.

The band is appreciative of their opportunity on this current tour.

"We're probably reaching some fans that we wouldn't

otherwise," said bassist Ben Shepherd.

Soundgarden, considered "heavy metal" in some circles and "alternative" in others does not mind either moniker.

"It's all about the fans," Shepherd said. "We have fans in both groups."

Though they formed in 1984, *Badmotorfinger* is the band's second major-label release. In that time they've seen the rise of other Seattle bands. Queensrÿche has gone from cult success to superstar success; Nirvana has jumped from the college charts to the top of the pop charts and Pearl Jam and Alice In Chains have secured released their debut albums.

Some of the band performed



Kim Thayil, Ben Shepherd, Chris Cornell and Matt Cameron of the rock group Soundgarden.

(with members of Pearl Jam) on the Temple of the Dog project, a tribute to the late singer of the now-defunct Seattle band Mother Love Bone.

Soundgarden's success has been enhanced by their video "Outshined," now a buzz clip on MTV. Shepherd says the band

has plans to shoot a second video, for the song "Rusty Cage."

Shepherd is actually the band's third bass player. He has known the band members for some time but said he is new to the recording process.

"They're (the rest of the band) used to putting out

records," he said. "For me it's a new experience."

The Guns tour is nearing its end for Soundgarden, in early February they will tour with Skid Row.

Soundgarden will hit the stage at 9 p.m. Saturday night at the Thomas & Mack.

When you party remember to...



Don't get wrecked. If you're not sober- or you're not sure- let someone else do the driving

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