

'Rattle and Hum' takes diverse trip

By MARK BRETT

Review

Rattle and Hum. The words just seem to roll right off your lips, don't they? They are a part of the song "Bullet the Blue Sky" by U2. They are also the title of a new movie about U2. They also, in a very satisfying way, describe the feel of the better rock music of the last 30 to 35 years. All of which brings us around to the topic of this review, U2's newest album, "Rattle and Hum."

From blistering blues-rock to gentle, thought-provoking ballads (with a stop along the way for some gospel,) this album trips along through some very diverse territory. Not content to let the listener settle into a comfortable groove, the album mixes up-tempo numbers with low-key, quiet songs in quick succession.

The album also mixes old songs with new, and live performances with studio recordings. The album almost appears to have been thrown

together like a yard sale: a little of this, a little of that, and, what the hell, maybe some of this other stuff over there. Organization is not the strong point of this album, but that's okay. The style in which everything is presented rolls just as naturally as the album's title.

The roll of that title may be one of the nicest touches about this album. "Rattle and Hum." It just seems to capture the sound of really good rock and roll. "Rock and Roll." "Rattle and Hum." They play off each other nicely. Bono has said that the album is really about the history of rock and roll, so I suppose this is all very fitting.

"Rattle and Hum" begins with the words, "This is a song Charles Manson stole from the Beatles. We're stealin' it back." This exclamation is followed by an excellent live version of "Helter Skelter," basing the album firmly in rock and roll history. We then move on to "Van Diemen's Land," a new song and a first for U2 in that the Edge sings lead vocals (and doesn't do a half bad job of it, either). Next, we get "Desire," and a guitar riff stolen directly from Bo Diddly.

The album goes on, with lots of highlights: a really nailed live version of "All Along the Watchtower," a gospel version of "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," the anti-apartheid "Silver and Gold," in which Bono asks the audience "Am I buggin' you?" then tells the Edge to "play the blues;" "When Love Comes To Town," with B.B. King; "God Part II," a song dedicated to John Lennon (which oddly enough, includes the lines, "I don't believe in the 60's in the golden age of pop.

You glorify the past when the future dries up;" Jim Hendrix's version of "The Star Spangled Banner"

(the real Hendrix version. Not a cover;) and a heart-felt live version of "Bullet the Blue Sky" in which Bono slips in a jab at TV evangelists: "The God I believe in ain't shorta cash, mister."

While I don't think that "Rattle and Hum" can be considered a real growth in the band's style, it is a solid

look back. I get a feeling from this album of reviewing what has gone before to get a firmer grasp on where to go in the future. I have no idea what this band's next album will sound like, but I do think that we'll be hearing a lot more from U2 in the years to come. And that can't be a bad thing.

Variety of activities slated for Wesleyan during week

By JACK PENIFEL

On Nov. 12, there will be a Table Tennis Tournament at 2 p.m. Sign up in Student Life Office before Friday Nov. 11.

On Nov. 13, a movie will be shown in the TV room. If you have any movie suggestions drop a note in the Campus Box in Student Life in care of Pam Gourley.

Just a reminder, Yearbook photos will be taken Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Student Activity Center so look your best.

On Nov. 16 and 17 there will be a J.F.K. Display from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the S.A. Center in remembrance of J.F.K.'s death 25 years ago.

On Nov. 17 at 5 p.m. the Campus Organizations are invited to participate in a Thanksgiving Scavenger Hunt for the Less Fortunate. For more details contact Pam Gourley at Student Life.

On Saturday Nov. 19 at 11 p.m. there will be the Second Annual Turkey Trot two mile fun run. Participates are to report to the S.A. Center that Saturday. Prizes will be given to first male and female winners.

Books offer glimpse of unexplored vistas

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reprint of his 1904 collection of essays about writers, books, and life. Scholarly Press proudly uses "a fine acid-free, permanent/durable paper of the type commonly referred to as '300-year paper.'" "A man may be judged by his library," Stephen says to us from a different cultural milieu. His long, winding, pithy sentences roll from one observation to the next with apparent ease but actual felicity. Felicity is not a word we now take seriously, but the grandeur of Victorian prose is that it is felicitous: "A gentleman convicted at the present day of practices comparable to those in which Pope indulged so freely might find it expedient to take his name off the books of any respectable club." Leslie Stephen wrote more important books [indeed, he had more important creations],

but a nineteenth-century British educated man's reading notes continue to illuminate these pages.

The energy pulsating from an unopened book would light up the world if anyone could harness it. No other invention so dominates our intellectual history as does the book. Language is the book's medium and no other human characteristic has such important intellectual ramifications as language does. Reading changes people slowly, as they (re)shape their perceptions to be the reader of a new book. The results from this reshaping are difficult to measure; the rewards are subtle. But haven't the well-read people in your life been immediately obvious? Reading makes us limitless.

Meanwhile, excuse me, a couple of catalogues have arrived and I want to see what's in them.

Paper draws fire in letters

(Continued from Page 2)

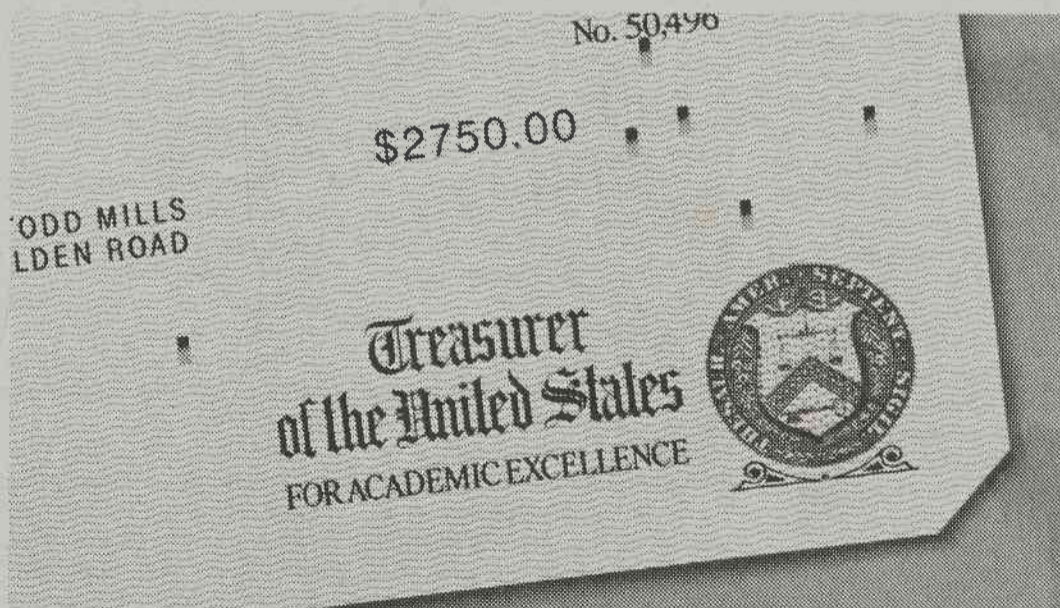
read, particularly with sentences which begin with inappropriate adverbs set off by a comma. These sentences often end up being grammatically correct non sequiturs. Writers would be well advised to have their copy proofread by a qualified individual. May I suggest an English prof?

Secondly, I quote: "What every faculty and administration member, as well as every student, needs to know is that *The Decree* staff is too small and too constrained by deadline pressure to verify every little

piece of information in our paper." A very interesting attitude toward journalistic responsibility for a newspaper in an academic community, and one to which I, personally, cannot subscribe! Just how much confidence can the reader have in what is printed after such a statement? None. With freedom of the press comes responsibility. I suggest serious reconsideration of the policy and perhaps restatement in a future issue. This policy is disgraceful, even when the following paragraph of the editorial is taken into consideration.

Marvin J. Ward, PhD
Adjunct Instructor of French

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