

# Entertainment

## Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited* earns spot on Nolan's list of must-have albums

by Gary Nolan  
Collegian Staff Writer

As we look back on the yester year of Rock and Roll, several big names come immediately to mind. One name that will surely top many lists is American native Bob Dylan, who earned both public and critical acclaim in three decades of music. His most accomplished work remains his 1965 release *Highway 61 Revisited*.

Dylan began his musical career in the now legendary coffeehouses in New York. He played no original tunes, but entertained many audiences armed only with his acoustic guitar, a harmonica, and an original nasal voice that gave new emphasis to traditional music.

Bob Dylan later donned a pen to create some original works that landed on his first release in 1961. The young Dylan began to grow musically behind his idol Woody Guthrie. He went on to release several "protest" albums

that seemed to put a soundtrack to a generation.

Dylan switched his style of music from folk to electric and began on the rock and roll trail, somewhat abandoning folk music. He then released the now famous *Highway 61 Revisited* album, named after a road in his native Minnesota state.

Throughout his career, his style and inspiration has remained a mystery to critics and fans alike. He has purposely shied away from the press and, when confronted, has facetious, sarcastic comments that only seem to fuel fans' curiosity. This album is no exception, with wild tales on a lively background that is sure to entertain even the most critical audiences.

The album begins with what many critics call "one of the best ever written." The improbable hit "Like a Rolling Stone," which is over six minutes in length, proved to critics and radio people alike that hits did not have to loom in the

three minute realm.

"Like a Rolling Stone" tells a tale of self-confidence by being given everything with all the advantages and being left devastated and alone, without anything, to the point of desperation. Dylan climaxes the futility of this world by quipping "When you ain't got nothin', you got nothin' to lose." Dylan serves it up with a particular

"Tombstone Blues," this one even more crazy than the last. This one includes many characters, among them Jack the Ripper, Belle Star, Mom, Dad, Jezebel the Nun and even Paul Revere's horse. Only Dylan could incorporate these wildly different personalities into a story. This tale could be forever analyzed.

In "It Takes a Lot to Laugh

tracks such as these still remains Dylan's trademark.

On the final track, "Desolation Row," Dylan concludes with the most crazy and confusing tale of them all. The acoustic melody lends a soft edge to these wild lyrics. Critics have tried to explain this track for several years to no avail. With Dylan's complex metaphors this track must be grasped line by line. In this over 11 minute masterpiece, he lends more meaning in one song than most groups do in a lifetime, with no exception to the glamor metal bands flourishing today.

Dylan lends meaning and creates thought in the listener's mind due to the complexity of this man. Several have tried to emulate, but none have ever duplicated this lyrical master. *Highway 61 Revisited* remains a superb album, and Dylan has surely earned his place in listener's hearts.

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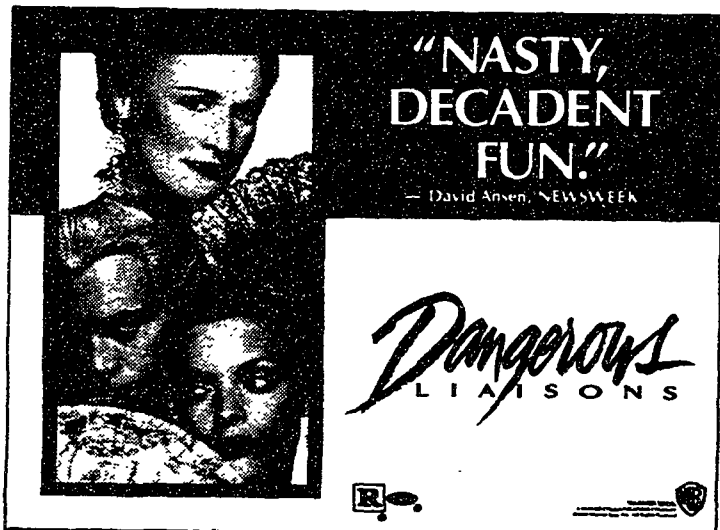
style that shows little sympathy, almost tauntingly. The rockin' piano background and drums lend flavor and help to keep the track rolling.

Another tale begins with

it Takes a Train to Cry" and "From a Buick 6," Dylan discusses death, love, and an assortment of other messages to the tune of a well placed piano and guitar. Lending cryptic

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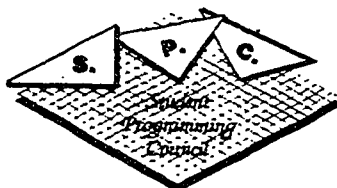
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