

to Star



Entertainment

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1977

REACH FOR A



— Star photo by Dick Derrell
BASSIST-SINGER Goddy Lee took Toronto's Rush band through its most important concert ever at the Grandstand last night, says Star rock critic Peter Goddard. The 20,800 people who jammed the stadium was biggest crowd band had played to as a headline act.

Rush makes noise but without style

By PETER GODDARD

Star rock critic

The exercise of power is never more menacing than when it's done without humor. It seems so monstrously banal, so lacking in human qualities.

There's nothing menacing about Rush's three members, bassist-singer Geddy Lee, drummer Neil Peart or guitarist Alex Lifeson. Nothing personally menacing, that is, and certainly nothing particularly banal.

Big night

But the moment they become a unit on stage, as was the case at the Canadian National Exhibition's Grandstand last night, they seem thoroughly depersonalized.

It was the Toronto band's most important concert yet. With 20,800 people jammed into the stadium, it was the biggest crowd the group had played to as a headline act.

It also gave Rush a chance to premier material from its sixth album, *A Farewell To Kings*, the most adventurous album in its career.

Yet it all left this reviewer numb.

Restless crowd

The crowd cheered everything and then fought or threw sparklers when the blunt, almost brutal excite-

ment waned ever so slightly.

And the vast sound system — which seemed better tuned for the opening act, Max Webster, than for Rush — made every piece flutter like a flag to be saluted, even good

songs like *A Farewell To Kings*.

There was no style, no grace, no touch of humor to leaven this colossal display.

Like Peart's mystical lyrics, there was little to respond to.