**Rush rocks with grace, maturity**

**By Diane P. Lore**
Of the Dispatch Staff

Rush was, well, tasteful. The Canadian-based group’s music, light show and T-shirts all had a special aura of rock ‘n’ roll respectability Sunday night at the Ohio Center.

Promoting its new album, *Grace Under Pressure*, Rush did a dynamic job of mixing hits and new material. However, the band seemed a little too low-key. Both lead singer Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson looked only mildly punkish in their modestly subdued blazers. Obviously, they weren’t going to work up a sweat if they didn’t have to.

THAT IS NOT to berate the musical quality of the sold-out show. It was great. Lee belted out the classic, consistent Rush sound in a clean and strong voice, particularly evidenced on the hit song, “Tom Sawyer,” and the band’s opener, “Spirit of Radio.”

Rush concentrated on what Rush does best, singing about individuals fighting against a high-tech world. Attracting a crowd of teen-agers, Rush warmed up the show with its older hits such as the crowd-pleasing “Close to the Heart” from its *A Farewell to Kings* album.

Visibly missing from the evening’s performance were two older hits, “Xanadu” and “Fly by Night.” More than one person complained about the injection of too much new material and not enough of the older songs.

Rush played about five songs from *Grace Under Pressure*. Most of the crowd did not know the words to these songs. As a matter of fact, the audience seemed to spend the performance time concentrating on its Be啦 lighters.

**THE ONLY SONG** from the new LP that generated enthusiasm among the crowd was “Red Alert,” a sci-fi song popularized by the video.

Another attention-grabber was the combination of laser lights and video displays during various songs. On the instrumental, YYZ, drummer Neil Pert was totally encased in a prismatic laser cage that surrounded his rotating drum set. The flashy technique was effective and the crowd thoroughly enjoyed both the lights and the talents of Pert.

But Lee’s strong vocals stole the show, although he appeared to tire for the final half-hour of the two-hour concert. The songs began to suffer slightly as he strained to keep up the fast-paced musical tone of the evening. The song *Temples of Syrinx*, off the 2112 album, definitely showed signs of weariness.

Overall, however, the band did a classy, understated job of creating a rock ‘n’ roll concert in which the music was high-keyed and the immature antics were low-keyed.