The rest of the album does not meet up to the promise of the aforementioned cut. Most of the songs are marginally interesting types that pervaded Heavy Horses — pleasant, but not memorable. Two instrumental tracks are included, which is a bit of a surprise (the last instrumental appeared on Stand Up, the second Tull LP), especially since one of them was penned by David Palmer, the band’s synthesizer player and orchestral arranger. His experience does not serve him well in this case, however; his song “Elegy” is rather boring — Anderson’s instrumental “Warm Sporran,” fares much better.

Stormwatch is an interesting but somewhat disappointing album, but still a must for the die-hard Tull freaks. I think that Anderson is finally getting a little too old to rock and roll.

The Rose rehearses
Janis Joplin legend

The Rose: starring Bette Midler, Alan Bates, and Frederic Forrest; directed by Mark Rydell. A Marvin Worth/Aaron Russo production; opens November 3 at Suck Theaters.

For those of us familiar with the lives of rock ‘n’ roll legends, The Rose may seem like an idle daydream come to life. Rose Foster (Bette Midler) is a trashy girl from the backwaters of Florida who has balled and belted her way to the top of the rock ‘n’ roll heap. She is reckless, self-destructive, omnisexual and always looking for love. As “The Rose,” Midler makes a convincing screen debut. The role gives her a chance to expand the raunchy side of her stage persona into a full-fledged personality. She makes you want to hug her and punch her at the same time.

In spite of Midler’s performance and Alan Bates’ stunning turn as Rose’s greedy, tough manager, the Rose is a noisy two- and-a-half-hourspectacle that barrells to its inevitable conclusion. You enjoy what happens, but you don’t particularly care about the people involved. Midler’s movie band is fleshed out by some wonderful players, most notable guitarist Steve Hunter and harmonica player Norton Buffalo. For a movie set in the late ’60s, the band comes off a little too prosperous and laid-back. Frey boots and precision haircuts didn’t make the scene until the early or mid-’70s.

Even with these minor flaws, the Rose is a fairly accurate portrayal of rock ‘n’ roll life. The movie falls apart, however, when it tries to detail Midler’s life. She’s the only prerequisite for joining the XX Fraternity is an appreciation for the strong taste, unique color and freshness you won’t find in any other import. And a light, natural carbonation that won’t fill you up. Join the uncommon fraternity. Discover Dos Equis. The uncommon import that stands out from the crowd. Just like you.