



⊕ Festival still best summer show ⊕

It certainly is a different world. Topless girls with nipple rings. A guy dressed up as a big penis.

A girl wearing only electrical tape in strategic places.

Hair dye, hair dye, hair dye.

People with every imaginable body part pierced.

These are but a few things that become the norm in the world of Lollapalooza. Just to sit down and watch the freaky people go by is worth the price of the ticket.

Music, of course, is the focus of the wildly successful summer festival. But this year's lineup gave Lolla leader Perry Farrell more headaches than ever, as arguments spewed over the goal of the concert.

Did Farrell go with the mainstream, and accordingly, money?

Or did he keep the original intent of the festival intact, which is to provide an interesting day of creative, cutting-edge bands for an affordable price.

Surely Farrell could've pleased the mainstream masses with Stone Temple Pilots or Snoop Doggy Dogg as the headliner.

The typical 104 KRBE listener would've been thrilled with that.

U2 guru Bono once commented on the drastic change of styles that began with *Achtung Baby* by saying, "We may lose the pop kids ... but we don't need them."

Good advice.

So instead of STP or Snoop, Farrell took the risk of Sonic Youth as the headliner.

Ever heard a Sonic Youth song on the radio?

Most people probably haven't.

Does that make Sonic Youth unworthy of the headlining spot? Of course not.

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Thurston Moore, Kim Gordon and the rest of the band have long been one of the most progressive and influential bands around.

Supporting the band on the bill was Hole, the lone Lolla band that could be accused of being more of a media circus than a musical group.

But despite the ridiculous antics of Courtney Love, Hole's debut album *Live Through This* was one of last year's strongest albums.

"We may lose the pop kids ... but we don't need them."

— Bono, 1992
U2 lead singer

And Hole's performance at Lollapalooza lived up to the album's success.

Yes, Love looked and talked like trash, but when the music started playing, she was in total control.

During "Doll Parts" and especially "Violet," Love's concert presence was perhaps the most impressive of the festival.

The blunt brigade of Cypress Hill was the most crowd-pleasing performance of the day.

As a Middle Eastern drum beat introduced the performance, a huge inflatable Buddha figure slowly grew into a monstrous stage prop. And as the throbbing beats filled the air, so did the puffs of smoke from the legions of mari-

juana fans who lit up when Cypress Hill took the stage.

Lead rapper B-Real was the ring-leader, taking the advice of his own songs "Hits From The Bong" and "I Want To Get High."

But aside from the gargantuan ganja, Cypress Hill's performance was one of the most energetic as B-Real and Sen Dog worked the crowd to perfection.

Also impressive was Moby, originally scheduled for the second stage but promoted to replace Elastica on the day's bill.

The industrial techno beats were a welcomed change of pace for the main stage. Especially when he donned a cowboy hat and sang "Sweet Home Alabama," Moby proved he would've been an asset to the main stage throughout the tour.

Also impressive was The Mighty Mighty Bosstones with a frantic horn section and an equally frantic stage show.

Beck's goofy antics and The Jesus Lizard's and Pavement's unintelligible lyrics were the weaker spots of the day, and Elastica was definitely missed.

And in comparison to last year, when Green Day, Beastie Boys, George Clinton and Smashing Pumpkins provided the most mainstream Lolla lineup ever, this year was quite a drastic change.

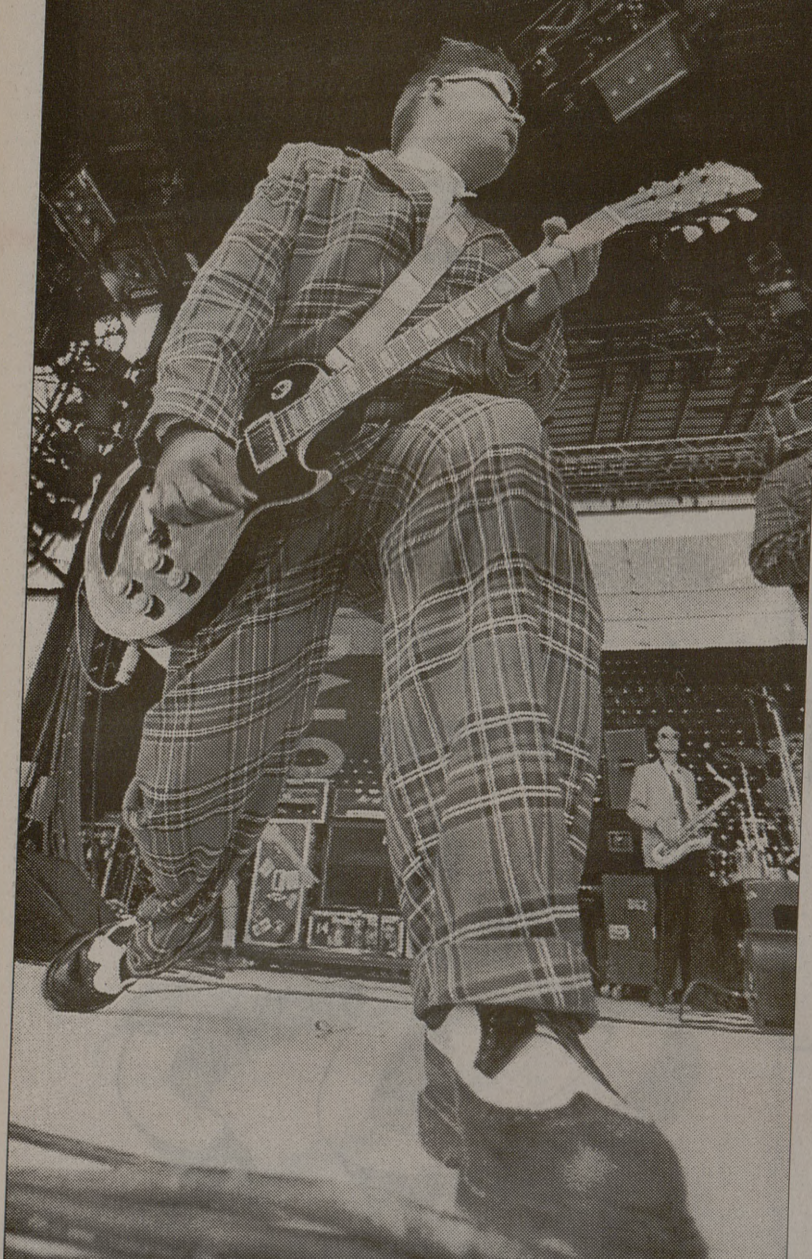
But Farrell proved the festival could still be successful without reaching for MTV's favorite bands.

So what if the lineup wasn't quite as enjoyable as last year's? It's still the best concert of the summer and the only opportunity to see eight bands (plus the second stage) for \$30.

A different world, indeed, but Lollapalooza is still the most interesting concert and escape a summer could bring.



THE MIGHTY MIGHTY BOSSTONES



THE JESUS LIZARD



CYPRESS HILL



Photos by

