

LOLLAPALOOZA

Lollapalooza just not worth the effort anymore

It's time to add Lollapalooza to the list that begins with New Coke and the Chia Pet — good ideas gone bad.

The creators of Death Metal Fest, I mean Lollapalooza, have come up with a couple of prerequisites for those planning to attend this year's concert.

1. Concert goers must own at least four black Iron Maiden T-Shirts.
2. Concert goers must have won the lottery within the past six months in order to pay for tickets, water, and drugs. Drugs are optional.

Lollapalooza used to be a good thing, when bands such as Sonic Youth, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Smashing Pumpkins, Hole, Green Day, the Beastie Boys and Pavement were featured.

Instead of providing entertainment, the show has set out to make money. For example, the sudden change to have Metallica headline is more about how much money can be made off Metallica than about the not-as-mainstream bands that have headlined in the past.

Rather than Metallica and Soundgarden — whom many fans didn't even stay for — Rancid and Sponge should have headlined.

Does anyone even listen to Metallica anymore? Keith Randolph, a senior environmental design major and employee of Marooned Records, said the Metallica release, *Load*, last month has not been a popular sell.

"We had a midnight release party the night it came out and sold less than 10," Randolph said. "It surprised me — I thought we would sell even fewer than that."

Metallica hit its peak during the "Enter Sandman" era in 1991, and has only gone downhill from there. Lead singer James "I think I have a loogie in my throat" Hetfield has lost his touch.

Another problem with Lollapalooza are the costs. People are now paying over \$40 for tickets to stand up for 12 hours and listen to people scream.

For anyone who has actually been waiting to see Metallica, by the time the band takes the stage and begins "singing" its distasteful blasphemies, the fans are tired, hungry and thirsty for another two-dollar cup of water.

Okay, so some people just want to have a good time with their friends by taking a road trip and seeing a few bands play. There are alternatives, and there is plenty of good music out there just waiting to be discovered for those who value their eardrums.



APRIL TOWERY COLUMNIST

There is the Enit tour, which is similar to Lollapalooza but instead features good bands. Music is played all afternoon and continues through the night and the next morning. Problem is, the closest date to Texas is Denver, Co.

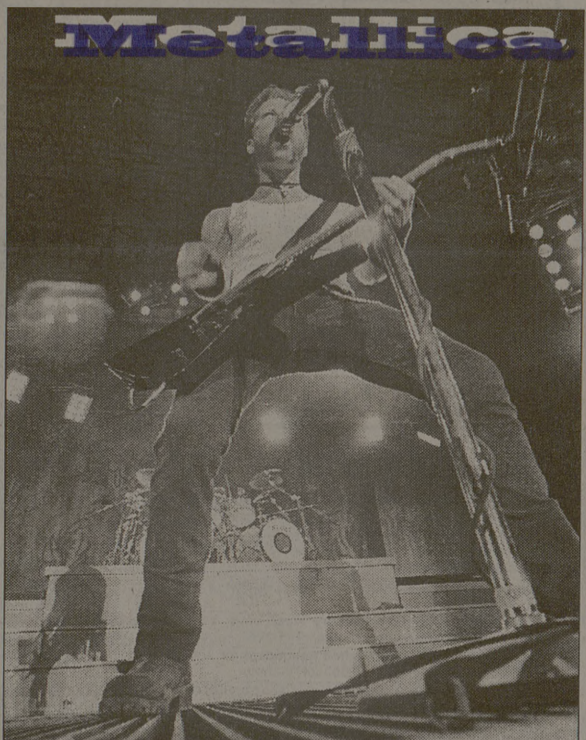
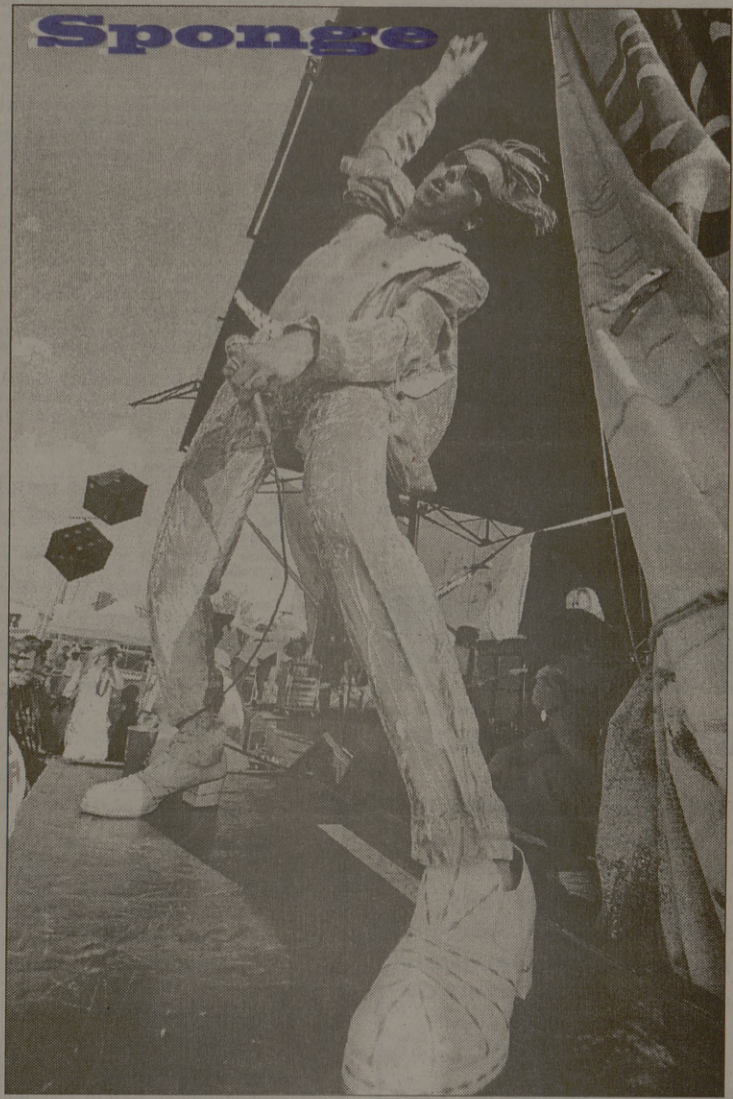
Money should not be wasted on Lollapalooza when there are three-dollar and five-dollar shows in Dallas, Austin and Houston every night. The bands may not be as well-known as Metallica, but you can understand the lyrics and leave the concert free of moshing injuries.

It's just too hot to spend the day outdoors with thousands of other people who may or may not have used Dial.

The logic of the masterminds behind Lollapalooza is unfathomable — "Hey, let's have a huge outdoor concert in the hottest months of the entire year," — as if the fans weren't suffering enough from the music.

It's just not worth it anymore. The drugs, the heat, the noise they call music and the high prices will eventually bring the megadeath of Lollapalooza.

April Towery is a Class of '99 journalism major



otosew Milne andames

