

# MUSIC

## Concerts trounce summer blues

I can remember thinking how boring it was going to be to be stuck in Eugene for the summer. Ugh, I thought. How am I ever going to bear this? Most of my friends will be gone, I won't have much money... Oh well, getting Oregon state residency will be worth it in the long run... at least dollar and cents-wise, right?

**Reporter's Notebook**  
by Carolyn Lamberson

But looking back, I realize it wasn't all that bad. Granted, I'm flat broke, and I did have my share of boring times, but all in all there were two major events that helped me see it through. Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead in Autzen Stadium on July 19 and David Bowie with Duran Duran in Portland Civic Stadium on Aug. 14.

Now, some of you may be wondering just what the hell I'm doing putting two completely different shows into one concert story. The answer is simple. A concert is a concert. And while the musical styles, stage shows and audiences of the two may have been completely different, there were certain areas of similarity.

First of all, each show evoked its own particular style or fashion. My initial thought at walking into Autzen that gorgeous July day was "My God, I've never seen so much tie-dye in one place in my entire life." The floor of Autzen was a sea of movement and blending color. If one was on any kind of mind-altering drugs, seeing the Deadheads writhe around in technicolor was an experience in itself.

What was perhaps most amusing about the show was various types of fans and the methods one could use to distinguish between them. The true Deadheads were obvious. Some were in honest-to-goodness "Dead" garb — old, hand-made tie dyes, long hair, beards, beads... the list could go on. Then there were those who weren't necessarily into the Dead lifestyle, but came for the musical aspect.

The most hilarious were the pseudo-Deadheads: former 60s hippies trying to get back into the "summer of love." Seeing these people with their families in the family station wagon wearing tennis shorts, Reeboks and \$20 tie dyes purchased from the Eugene Saturday Market was something that gave me an idea for an episode of "Family Ties." You know, Michael and Elise

Keaton take Alex, Mallory, Jennifer and little Andrew to a Grateful Dead show. "What?" exclaims Mallory. "Make your own tie dyes? Absurd. That would only mess up the tub in the laundry room. Here, let's take my Nordstrom's card. Tie-dyes for everyone."

Oh well, I guess that's why the United States is still a capitalist country.

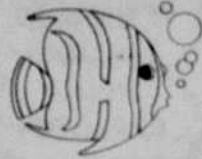
Now of course, Bowie for years has been considered a fashion chameleon, a trend setter. And even though he's been recording since the late 60s, his concert evoked none of the 60s nostalgia that the Dylan/Dead show did. Nevertheless, there were echoes of Bowie's various trends visible throughout the stadium. There was everything from Ziggy Stardust to Aladdin Sane to the Thin White Duke to the more recent Euro-dance lounge lizard of his "Let's Dance" album and "Serious Moonlight" tour. And of course, I can't forget to mention what I'll call weekend punk. Those are the folks who wore every black article of clothing they owned just for the concert. Just to look cool.

And I've never seen so much hairspray in one place in my entire life.

As expected, the styles of the performers themselves were quite different. Dylan and the Dead gave the audience what it wanted: a long, laid-back show that proved to many that neither were close to leaving the business. As the afternoon sun beat down on the fans of all ages, these two not-so-oldies-but-certainly-goodies gave a straight ahead rock and roll show. No frills, no extraneous effects, with the exception of the skywriters writing "Impeach Reagan" across the sky.

Bowie, as one could imagine, was like something from another planet. With a huge spider dangling above the stage and five dancers who looked like they had just escaped an episode of "Solid Gold featuring your host Mad Max inside the Thunderdome" flanking him, Bowie proved to be not just a musician but a showman. A little burlesque at times, Bowie nevertheless did not fail to please those who had trekked from Portland and throughout the state of Oregon to witness the media event.

I suppose that gets to the point of it: pleasing the audience. Both shows left legions of spectators exhausted, happy and really wanting more, but knowing they'd gotten their money's worth. So as the smell of marijuana wafted across the atmosphere of both Eugene and Portland, two of the hottest road acts of the summer packed up and moved on. But not without leaving an impression that will be hard to forget.



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