

Latest Woodstock more war than peace

By Brian Mccollum
College Press Exchange

ROME, N.Y. — So much for flower power.

The lingering images from the latest edition of Woodstock, which wrapped up Sunday, have little to do with peace signs and bombers turning into butterflies.

What fans got — indeed, what they demanded — was a slew of heavy, aggressive music custom-made for angry release. Woodstock '99, when it came down to it, was one big middle finger.

The original Woodstock was rich in feminine character: the bright colors, the cooperative, nonviolent spirit, the Mother Earth vibe. Woodstock '99, staged, appropriately, at the former Griffiss Air Force Base, was all testosterone. The frenzy reached its peak Saturday night, when Limp Bizkit, Rage Against the Machine and Metallica turned the sprawling festival grounds into a scene of intense, fierce energy.

Maybe it was the location: For all the user-friendly amenities offered by Griffiss, the festival definitely lost something in the translation from its rustic 1969 and 1994 settings, 150 miles to the southeast.

But more likely it was the startlingly angry attitude of young male music fans among the crowd

of 225,000 — fans who stampeded into Woodstock as if mob madness were a means to an end.

The world's biggest concert started out peacefully enough Friday, with bright-eyed fans milling around getting their festival legs. That all changed within a day. During Bizkit's 90-minute set, the young crowd down front became a rowdy maelstrom, crowd-surfing on plywood ripped from a midfield sound-mixing tower.

It all followed two days of intense sun and heat. By set's end, felled concertgoers lined cardboard mats in the medical tent backstage — writhing, bleeding, groaning. Ambulances zipped in and out, and the disturbing pace continued the rest of the night.

Organizers John Scher and Michael Lang insisted Sunday morning that the problems were created by a small batch of troublemakers.

But Insane Clown Posse had already revealed Friday just how far the festival has strayed from the Woodstock ethic. When the Detroit duo kicked a couple dozen plastic balls into the crowd — all with \$100 and \$500 bills taped to them — the ensuing mayhem, with elbows and fists flying, was downright disgusting.

In the face of the decadence that emerged

across the grounds — drunks passed out next to portable toilets, naked fans covering themselves with sewage mud, drugs of all sorts getting openly peddled in the campground — the weekend's music was generally top-notch. Kid Rock delivered one of the festival's premier moments, a street-wise blast of funky rap-rock.

Other stellar acts included Live, which brought back memories of Woodstock '94 with its soaring, sky-reaching rock; the Roots, joined onstage by Erykah Badu for an hour of jazzy, thick-grooved hip-hop; and ever-reliable Metallica, whose precise, fist-pumping metal again revealed why it's the best live band in contemporary rock.

Limp Bizkit arrived at the festival with the hottest cachet: a new album that just spent three weeks atop the Billboard 200. Front man Fred Durst was visibly pumped, his rhymes fluid, though his stylized stage manner often came off as uncomfortably self-conscious.

Misses included Wyclef Jean's overrated rap-reggae — a passionless, erratic shot of tunes that brought the main stage to a grinding halt Saturday afternoon. Sheryl Crow stumbled off-pitch throughout her hour-long set Friday, and the Offspring laid a sluggish egg an hour later.

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News Briefs

Oregon Travel Guide best in the nation

For the second consecutive year, the Official Oregon Travel Guide was named best in the country by the Travel Industry Association of America. The guide was produced by The Mandala Agency, a marketing and advertising firm in Bend. Updated annually, the book is an important tool in the campaign to market Oregon as a visitor destination.

Kitzhaber signs college savings bill

Governor John Kitzhaber signed into law SB 756 on July 16, allowing Oregon families to save, tax deferred, for future college expenses. The bill passed almost unanimously in both the House and Senate. The bill will also permit families to deduct up to \$2,000 from their state income taxes for contributing to the college-savings plan.

Task force

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either a full coverage plan or a supplementary plan to an outside-managed health care program that does not cover health-center charges. The costs are \$660 per year for a comprehensive plan that covers both campus and off-campus health care or \$70 per term for services rendered at the health center alone.

Heath service fees at Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology and Western Oregon University are being implemented as a common-cov-

erage package for all students beginning this fall. Students showing proof of outside health coverage can obtain a \$17 per term waiver of the common fee at these schools.

In a related matter, after Gov. Kitzhaber vetoed the Republican-sponsored bill that contained a \$3.4 million cut to the Oregon Health Plan for college students, the legislators backed down and ended their 1999 session maintaining the provision that low-income students could be eligible for coverage under the state health plan.



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