

R.E.M. makes concert goers "feel fine"

A few months ago I started hearing announcements on the radio for the R.E.M. concert. I just had to go, so, a few days later, I called Ticket Master to order tickets. After being on the phone for 30 minutes with an employee who asked me 500 questions and could only answer my questions with, "We aren't allowed to give out our personal opinions of seats," I finally got two tickets!

So this past Friday night, I picked up my boyfriend and we headed for Chapel Hill. I was cruisin' along and all of a sudden came to a complete stop. The traffic was horrendous, I was going 35mph in a 65mph zone. I hate traffic and the longer I was in it the more I thought this concert better be worth it.

We finally got to the Dean Smith Center, parked, and fought through all the people to find seats. I was really amazed at the variety of people I saw. There were annoying 10 year olds sitting near us, teenagers there with their parents, and there were couples in their 30's and 40's.

The opening band for R.E.M. was Luscious Jackson. I had never heard of them before and was curious as to what they'd sound like. When the band came on stage I was surprised because there aren't many female bands, and

this one consisted of all females, except a male drummer and a back-up keyboardist. A few of their songs were pretty good and they got the crowd going.

While I was in line to get something to drink, R.E.M. came out and everyone rushed back to their seats. Their first song was "What's the Frequency?", which really excited the crowd. They played about an even amount of new and old songs. I personally like their old songs better; their new ones just don't sound like what you would think of when you think of R.E.M.

During one song, "Drowning", huge mesh screens came up and slides of a naked woman was shown over and over through the whole song. Granted that R.E.M.'s slide shows do consist of rather obscure things, showing the exact same naked woman under water repeatedly was a little strange. The slide of a nude woman and Michael Stipe saying during his concert that he was, "a little disappointed," because he didn't see very

much flesh showing from the crowd definitely shows he's one for baring it all.

Along with the mesh screens and slides, the lighting was very unique. There were white Christmas lights wrapped along four poles on the corners of the stage and around lights that hung down. During one song a disco ball came down and twirled to send shimmers of light across the crowd. The lighting enhanced each song and changed the moods of the crowd. During the climax of "It's the End of the World" the stage exploded with bright lights to raise excitement in the crowd.

Before R.E.M. came on, my boyfriend told me that he was watching MTV Unplugged one night when Michael Stipe was on. The host asked Stipe to sing a certain song, and Stipe said that he couldn't because he didn't

have the sheet there and that he has so many songs, he doesn't know all the words to them. This showed true when the stage crew was preparing for R.E.M. and placed sheets of music on a stand for Stipe. During the show Stipe was wearing an ear piece which played some of the songs so he could "sing along." Also during a song, he stopped in the middle because he said he didn't remember the words and had to get his crew to help him along.

After playing their last song and leaving the stage, the crowd shouted for more. The enthusiasm in the yells was so high that my ears rang and the sound waves were vibrating. After a long five minutes of shouting and cheering, R.E.M. finally came back for their encore.

The concert overall was mellow. There were a few songs which sent the crowd roaring, but most of the songs were more relaxed, not upbeat. I thought the concert was worth all the hideous traffic I had to go through to get there.

Concert Review

By Melissa Cloer

SGA Corner

- Senate is sponsoring a student body referendum on Wednesday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Cate Center. It is very important for everyone to vote so that the Senate can attempt to change the male visitation policy.
- The Service Council and SGA are continuing to sponsor the Can Food Drive. You are encouraged to contribute so that we can help others in the state and unite as a campus.

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