

Peppers, Pearls and Pumpkins rock music's newest ingredients

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Very hot. Very hot. Red hot to be exact. Braden auditorium was hot-wired with an energized frenzy for over three hours last night. The Hollywood-based Red Hot Chili Peppers launched a musical attack in support of their new release, "Blood Sugar Sex Magik." From the moment the Peppers hit the stage, all three levels of Braden looked like a human popcorn popper.

Their ultra-loud sound is a rowdy fusion of heavy-duty funk, rap and a '90s version of punk rock. Up until recently this blend was a predominantly underground phenomenon. But it is now bringing together many new followers with diverse listening preferences. The crowd's appearance reflected this wide range of taste while shaking their long hair, their

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shaved heads and their 'dos straight out of "Beverly Hills 90210."

The Peppers played a very tight set with only one or two questionable transitions. They tore through songs like "If You Have to Ask," "Give It Away" and "Suck My Kiss."

The Chili Peppers are a team of musical maniacs — in a positive way. Lead singer Anthony Kiedis along with co-founder bass player, Flea, a.k.a. Michael Balzary, were the pitcher-catcher combo, while guitarist John Frusciante and drummer Chad Smith covered the rest of the field.

Flea's spastic behavior and percussive bass riffs shined on "Nobody Weird Like Me," "Stone Cold Bush" and their highly-volatile

cover of Stevie Wonder's "Higher Ground," all from their 1989 gold release "Mother's Milk."

Kiedis' many vocal textures were highlighted through the power-packed encore of "Blood Sugar Sex Magik" and Jimi Hendrix's "Cross-town Traffic."

One fan was escorted out after charging the stage, causing Kiedis to stop singing and invite him back. Then Flea cordially invited the whole crowd to join them on stage, thus creating chaos for five to 10 minutes of an unforgettable concert finale.

If you were not familiar with their music, or the crowd's stage-diving antics in last night's show, it was a definite smack-in-the-chops introduction.

Their were two opening acts. Seattle-based Pearl Jam primed the crowd with cuts like "Alive," "Why Go" and "Deep" from their debut disc "Ten."

Smashing Pumpkins was the second band, carrying the heavy crunchy sound with loads 'o feedback displayed between songs like "I Am One" and "Rhinoceros" from their new disc "Gish."