

LOLLAPALOOZA '92 HITS BIG

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Music shares stage at Pine Knob

The smells of ethnic food wafted and blended in the air. Merchants hawked their wares on the midway. People lined up to win prizes at a game of chance.

The average family fair? Hardly. Not when the game is called the Wheel of Safe Sex, and the prizes include souvenir, black latex condoms. Not when a few yards away, a guy called the Torture King is pushing a six-inch rivet through his cheeks.

Lollapalooza '92 — a concert, carnival and marketplace celebrating youth culture — hit town Friday for the first of two sold-out shows at Clarkston's Pine Knob Music Theatre.

"It's like a big, rolling monster that has taken over every city it rolls into," said Eddie Vedder, singer of the Seattle hard-rock group Pearl Jam, one of

the seven rock acts headlining the festival.

Vedder wasn't kidding. Like its predecessor last summer, Lollapalooza '92 is the hottest ticket of the season. All 15,253 tickets to Friday's show sold out in 22 minutes while today's show sold out in 17 minutes. Outside the theater, scalpers were commanding up to \$150 for \$28 tickets.

Three of the bands — Pearl Jam, Ministry and the Red Hot Chili Peppers — have albums near the top of the charts, while rapper Ice Cube enjoys controversial notoriety.

There was a contentious moment when Ministry threatened to walk off unless crowd members stopped throwing sod and mud from the rain-soaked lawn at the band.

"If you want to be baseball pitchers,

go to a Tigers game," yelled one band member.

But the draw was clearly the music, not rowdiness. The lineup was was enough to prod Jeremy White, 19, to drive 6½ hours from State College, Pa.

Chris Orpheus, 20, of Toledo, Ohio, said: "We're going to come every year. Everybody comes from a different world, but for one day we come together. The bands are great, but so is the environment."

Indeed, Lollapaloozers barely had to catch the big-name acts to have a grand time Friday. After a rainy morning, the sun emerged as the first notes of the nine-hour concert were played, allowing fans to browse around a plaza of booths that promoted social causes mostly politically correct and left-of-center. Others sold food, clothing, jew-

elry and provided ear and nose piercing.

The location was a bit of a change up; rain forced the festival organizers to close down the original second stage, which was to host local and lesser-known national bands.

But a makeshift second stage was hastily assembled. "We're ad-libbing as we go," said Lollapalooza's Peter Barsotti, adding that rain had affected five previous shows. "If we can't get the streets to the sideshow, we'll get the sideshow to the streets."

The main attraction on the second stage was the Jim Rose Circus Side Show, an orgy of self-mutilating stunts that Rose called "the circus of the scars."

The ringmaster's own antics were tame; stapling a dollar bill to his forehead was the peak. More arresting was Mr. Lifty, who hoisted concrete blocks via a chain attached to safety pins that pierced his nipples, or the keyboard

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player who feasted on worms, maggots and crickets. The display lured lots of folks from the main show, though grunts, groans and a few fainting spells replaced the traditional oohs and ahs.

In all, it was an unconventional good time, which is just what fans expected and organizers designed.