

Concert with cookies lacks Chicago edge

By John Payne
Senior Editor

They weren't serving cookies at the Aragon Ballroom in Chicago Saturday night. At least I couldn't see any from the lobby, which was as far as I was going without a ticket to the sold-out Anthrax/Public Enemy/Primus concert. The show was nearly half over and Public Enemy's promoters, Set to Run Publicity, still hadn't given the PE guest list to Aragon security. That left a lot of people, myself included, waiting for press passes that would never come.

two choices: Get fleeced by opportunistic scalpers or wait until the following night in Champaign, Ill., where the unlikely triple bill would perform for a much younger, much whiter crowd. There would even be cookies.

One hundred twenty miles and a galaxy of attitude separate the safe college town of Champaign from the Windy City. And a concert lineup featuring genres as different as rap, speed-metal and funk turned out to be a great way to gauge the differences between a big city and small one.

First, I was amazed that less than two hours before the concert in

Champaign, plenty of good seats were still available. The Chicago venue, on the other hand, had been sold out for weeks. That was understandable. Hyped by MTV as one of the most provocative tours of the year, the Anthrax/PE collaboration had a lot of people curious. Yet things were pretty calm outside of Assembly Hall in Champaign. A little too calm for my liking.

Assembly Hall, home of the probation-plagued University of Illinois basketball program, left me with a lot to remember, or at least it should have. It was certainly a powerful show, culminating with

PE and Anthrax sharing the stage for the finale, the impossible rap/metal fusion "Bring tha Noize."

Even if the show had been a bust, Primus front man Les Claypool and PE crowd-pleaser Favor Flav would still have provided enough entertainment for 10 gigs.

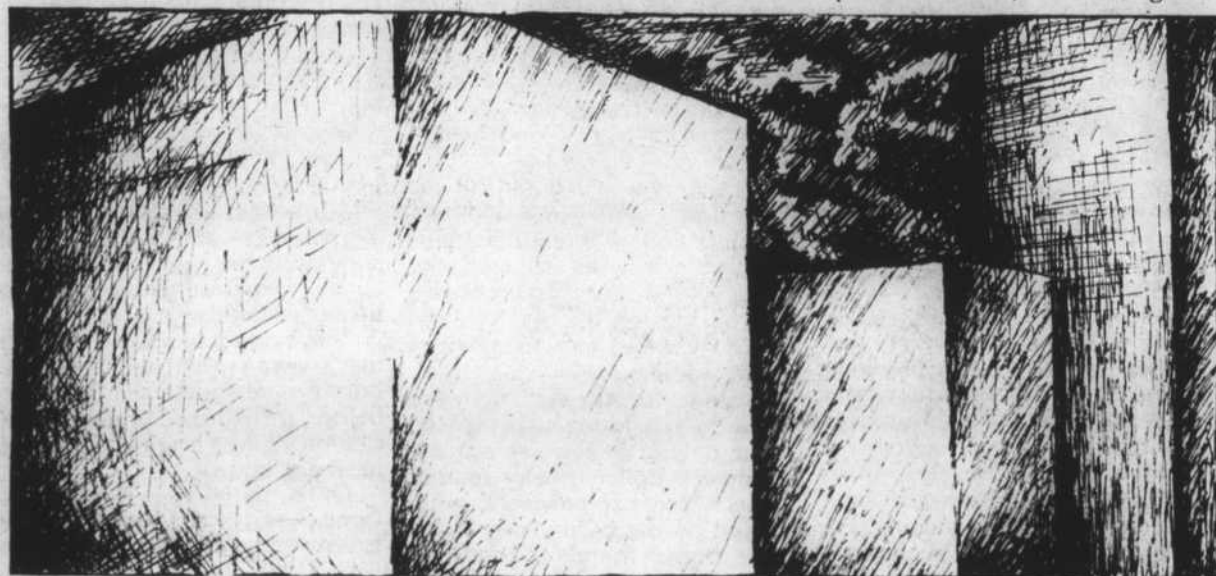
But what really sticks in my head is the concert I didn't get to see. The one without the cookies.

The scene in front of the Aragon in Chicago was a perfect example of what a rock show ought to be: chaotic, understaffed and danger-

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Tourist misses point of trip

By John Gardner
Staff Reporter

The main tourist attraction in Chicago is probably the world-famous Sears Tower. It is, as many know, the tallest building in the world. The observatory, which is on the 103rd floor, is more than 1,300 feet above the streets of the Windy City.

When a few friends and I decided to road trip to Chicago to see the Primus/Public Enemy/Anthrax concert, all I could think about was going to the top of the Sears Tower — and, of course, going to all the clubs that stay open until 5 a.m. I swear, that building is so tall I thought I could see it right out of Lincoln. Anyway, about 10 hours later, we were in Chicago.

Driving through Chicago at night is quite a thrill, to say the least. Lights can be seen for miles and miles, and the city is simply beautiful. And enormous.

It was about 2 a.m. when we pulled in, and tons of cars still were zipping around at about 80 mph. One of the first things I saw was the Sears Tower. I nearly ran off the road looking at it. It was incredible!

A short time later, everything was gone and we were in northern Chicago. Just two hours earlier, we had set up a place to stay with an old Daily Nebraskan acquaintance. After sleeping on the floor for what seemed like a day, we got up and headed for the city, via the el.

Before setting out on this wondrous journey, we stopped at a pizzeria called Chicago's Pizza. I ate enough there to practically lose my lunch, but everything turned

out all right. After that near stomach explosion, we walked a few blocks and boarded the el, which cost a mere \$1.25.

Beforehand, we were given specific directions to take the el to Quincy Street, then look straight up to see the Sears Tower.

The ride into Chicago provided many beautiful sights and enlightening graffiti. I was awestruck and it apparently took my mind off our destination. When we finally arrived at the Quincy Street stop, we got out and started walking, failing to "look up." I just wanted to see Chicago, all of it.

After lollygagging around for about half an hour, I realized I definitely had the wrong shoes on for walking in Chicago. And it was kind of cold, too. Anyway, we walked by many bookstores, posh hotels and lots of Burger Kings.

I then spotted the Sears Tower and began walking a little faster. On the way, I dropped bits of change into street musician's dreams, laughed at taxi drivers who repeatedly screamed at each other about stealing clients and kept my eyes glued to the top of my destination.

When we finally got there, the sign out front read "John Hancock Center." I just figured it was the "official title" of the Sears Tower. After a short wait at the observatory elevators, we were on our way to the top.

About 35 people packed into the elevator and it took off. And did it take off! The pressure quickly built up inside my head until I thought it would explode.

Next thing I knew, we were there. I asked the attendant how

fast the elevator climbed. She said about 40 mph.

We paid our \$3.50 and headed for the windows. The view was utterly breathtaking. On one side, Lake Michigan extended to the horizon. On another, Lakeshore Drive bordered several skyscrapers. In the distance sat Wrigley Field.

Then came the real shock. I looked out the south window and saw Soldier Field, the new Comiskey Park and two very tall buildings, one of which looked very much like the one we were in. After pondering this for a moment, I realized it was the Sears Tower. We were in the wrong building. We had walked more than two miles and went into the wrong building.

Well, it wasn't all that bad. We were still more than 1,100 feet in the air, and from what I've heard, it cost a lot less to be up there. So, we continued to gaze across the Windy City, pinpointing all the different places we had been. But the time was slipping by and we needed to start thinking about going to the concert.

So, I went to Chicago for the first time and didn't even go inside the Sears Tower. Nor did I go to any of the famed night clubs. But I did see a great concert even though we had to drive to Champaign, Ill., to see it.

I hope to return to Chicago soon. This time, I will plan ahead. I now know where the Sears Tower is, so it will be the first place I go. I would also like to go to a Bears game, a White Sox game, a Cubs game, see the Art Institute, go to the Hard Rock Cafe, etc., etc., etc.

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Bancroft	Monday, October 21	1:30 to 3:00
SuperPaint for Macintosh		
Andrews	Monday, October 28	1:30 to 3:00
Intro to WordPerfect 5.1 on IBM		
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