

Rebelpalooza! attracts crowd

By Chelsi Cheatom
Sentinel-Voice

On Saturday, UNLV hosted its 10th annual Rebelpalooza concert. This year's concert featured local artists, as well as widely famous hip-hop artists such as Talib Kweli, Redman and Method Man. The outdoor concert was held at UNLV intramural field at the corner of Harmon and Swenson.

The concert started off slowly when gates opened at 5 p.m. There were four opening groups this year. The concert was kicked off by the group, For Twenty Daze. Next on the billing was Bonafide, a local reggae band, which played covers of popular reggae artists, including Bob Marley and Sean Paul. They were followed by a hip-hop dance team that entertained the crowd until the next band, The Chapter, a local hip-hop band, performed.

Upon entrance into the concert, everyone received a free Rebelpalooza 2005 T-shirt and a numbered ticket. During the breaks between performers, there were drawings for prizes such as digital cameras and iPods.

It wasn't until a punk rock/hip-hop band from Atlanta, Ga., named El Pus went on stage at approximately 8 p.m. that the attendance and energy started to pick up. There were approximately 4,000 students and members of the public at the height of the festival.

The concert director Aaron Arneson, head of Entertainment and Programming for CSUN, the student union, talked about this year's all hip-hop show. "It was my idea; I do all the talent buying. [In the fall] we have Rebel Ruckus which is part of our homecoming celebration. This year we routed through a punk rock tour which featured Yellowcard," he said.

Arneson continued, "For all of the kids who don't really enjoy punk or rock music, we decided to give them back a little something this spring by throwing a great hip-hop show."

At 9 p.m., Talib Kweli took to the stage and performed a number of the songs, including songs from his newest album, "The Beautiful Struggle," including his hit "Get By." His performance was exciting from beginning to end and was peppered with periodic

chants of "Kweli! Kweli! Kweli!" by the crowd.

The weather was not perfect for the outdoor venue. In the beginning of Kweli's set, the wind reached 14 miles per hour and began blowing dust around the venue. It also drizzled lightly for about 10 minutes. The crowd was not turned away and stayed to watch all of Talib's high energy performance.

At approximately 10 p.m., the headliners of the festival, Method Man and Redman, took the stage. They performed a one-hour set that included songs from each of their many albums. Both Method and Red commanded the stage and had the audience participating from beginning to end. They had fun with the crowd throughout their performance, which included Redman flipping into the audience and crowd surfing.

Method Man discussed coming to Las Vegas and his plans for this year.

"I just got in today. I came in from L.A. where I am recording my next album. [The album] will be out before the end of this year," he said, adding, "I'm going right back, I have to go back into the studio."

He also talked about his movie coming out later this year and said "[it's] kind of like 'Bad Boy's,' but with Redman and Method Man. Hopefully, it will be in theatres in August."

Unfortunately, for those who enjoyed the show, Method Man couldn't say if he will be playing in Las Vegas anytime soon. He hasn't planned his touring schedule for 2005 yet.

"I thought the concert was really cool. I hope Rebelpalooza will be this fun every year," said UNLV freshman Jennifer Sanchez. "I thought Method Man and Redman had a great performance. I definitely want to see them when they come back to Vegas," she added.

The annual concert is a music celebration that started as a much smaller event primarily for students on campus and has grown to include locals and visitors.

The concert was funded by UNLV's CSUN student government. Student fees help to finance concerts like this one. Concert tickets were sold to the public for \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of show. UNLV students were admitted free of charge.

Abdul denies pain killer addictions

NEW YORK (AP) — Don't mistake Paula Abdul's "American Idol" niceties or silliness for drug addiction. Despite a neuropathic disorder and 12 operations, Abdul says she's "not addicted to pills of any kind."

"If people only knew what I've gone through with pain and pills," Abdul, 42, tells the May 2 issue of People magazine. "I'm dancing for joy at the fact that not even a year ago I was in so much pain I could barely get up."

Last November, the "Idol" judge was diagnosed with Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a chronic neurological disorder that causes severe pain.

"I get a shot (of an anti-inflammatory drug) once a week," she said. "I give it to myself."

Abdul remarked that her 25 years of pain have been long and arduous, beginning with a cheerleading accident at 17 that injured a disc in her neck. The pain was punctuated with "a couple of car accidents" in the 1980s, her battle

with bulimia, an emergency plane landing in 1992, paralysis in 1998 and years of failed treatments including prescription drugs, acupuncture and live leech therapy.

"By 1999, everywhere I went, I'd look for something sharp to lean up against and jam a corner into my neck - something to fight the pain," Abdul said.

The choreographer and former Laker girl is talking about her chronic pain after reading messages posted on the Fox talent show's Web site that attributed her odd antics to drug addiction.

"From where I was to where I am is a miracle," she said. "It's beyond a miracle."

Last month, Abdul was fined and sentenced to two years' probation after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor count of hit-and-run driving. The charge stemmed from an accident last December in which her car clipped another vehicle on a San Fernando Valley freeway.

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