

A TRULY OUTSTANDING CONCERT

It shall always "stand out" in my mind

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Music inspires and entertains the average person. Many people derive even greater ^{appreciation of music} ~~from attending~~ live performances of the musicians whom they greatly enjoy listening to. Those of us who have experienced the power and the intoxicating effect of an unforgettable rock concert will attest to the latter statement. But, sometimes things happen at rock concerts that are more memorable than the concerts themselves.

Last summer I went with two friends Paul and Dan to the Hollywood Sportatorium to see Rush, my favorite rock band, in concert. Paul drove because the trip was long and his Toyota gets the best gas mileage of all our cars. If Paul had only known what was going to happen that night, he would have refused to drive.

Rush was as excellent as I had expected them to be. They displayed their superb musical talent which was enhanced by appropriate visual effects. The performance was particularly enjoyable because we managed to "borrow" three extremely good seats which no one ever claimed through the entire show. In short, the concert, itself, was a truly unforgettable experience. Yet, whenever I reminisce about the concert I am primarily reminded of two unexpected events, one of which definitely overshadows the impact of the concert.

The first event occurred during the concert drawing my attention and certainly everyone else's. A fan had apparently crawled across a

beam on the ceiling^g in order to get better view of the the musicians and most likely to attract attention to himself. He was more successful with the latter goal than the former one, for he ended up clinging with both hands for dear life on a spotlight rod high above the stage-level audience. Then, after failing to climb back onto the horizontal rod, he was dangling by only one hand. At this point, the audience, my friends, and I were all wondering if he would have enough strength left to pull himself up again. By this time the bouncers were climbing the beams with the adeptness of monkeys in an effort to save him. The fan did manage to get back on the rod, and he was escorted to safety by the bouncers shortly thereafter. The over^lenthusiastic fan was quite fortunate; he left the concert in roughly the same condition he arrived in. As things turned out, we three weren't going to be as lucky.

The second incident certainly was more exciting for my friends and me than the first. It happened as we were leaving the Sportatorium. Due to ^{the} mass exodus from the big metal auditorium, traffic was "bumper to bumper" on Hollywood Boulevard, the only road out of the Spotatorium. Much to our horror and amazement ^{an old} pickup truck's bumper found it's way into the backseat of Paul's very recently purchased 1982 Toyota SR5. Naturally, Paul was quite a bit more hysterical than anyone else involved in the accident including me. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured; although, Dan, who had been sitting in the backseat at the time, cut himself on the chin. As for the car, the rear end was totaled. Shortly after the

accident, the police arrived and proceeded to write down our names, addresses, and individual accounts of the accident and those of the other party involved. Finally, a tow truck arrived on the scene, hooked up the Toyota, and gave the three of us a ride to a nearby Howard Johnsons restaurant. From there Dan called his father who picked us up and drove us home. We arrived home at about 2:30 a.m., two hours later than we had expected. The results of the accident were as follows: the damage to Paul's car was estimated at \$6000; the truck suffered a minor dent to its front bumper; and the driver of the truck was charged with not having control of his vehicle. And so, what started out to be a beautiful concert ended in an ugly accident.

I had hoped the concert would be a memorable one. I certainly got my wish, in a few unplanned ways: ^{we} ~~witnessed~~ ^{ed} a fan almost seriously injure himself; and a truck ~~rear ended~~ ^{ed} us. It seems to me that you shouldn't ask for excitement because you may get more than you bargained for, and I also advise that when you least expect it, expect it.