

ENTERTAINMENT

Rock The Bells good, not great

By **PETER MARCUS**
Denver Daily News Staff Writer

If marijuana is illegal in Colorado, you sure couldn't tell by the scene at Red Rocks Wednesday night.

Every one of the main hip-hop acts included in the Rock The Bells tour that stopped in Denver on Wednesday kept asking the audience to light 'em if you got 'em, screaming for fans to raise their "stinky, green, kind bud" into the air throughout the afternoon and into the night.

But I suppose that's what a hip-hop festival is all about these days. Especially one where Cypress Hill and Wu-

More effort would have been nice

Tang Clan are performing at.

The lineup was pretty incredible for a hip-hop bill. In addition to Wu-Tang and Cypress Hill, Nas, Talib Kweli, Pharoahe Monch, Immortal Technique, Jedi Mind Tricks, Rahzel, Hi-Tek and Supernatural, also performed.

That's some of the best names in the business.

Not all great

But not all lived up to their reputations. Wu-Tang Clan gave a good performance, but at times found itself

wrestling with the audience to get them to jump around to tracks like "Wu-Tang Clan Ain't Nothing To (Expletive) Wit" and "Liquid Swords."

That's understandable considering the show started at 3 p.m. and went to 11 p.m. Fans were tired from jumping around and "throwing their hands in the air" all day.

Nas solid

Nas gave a solid performance earlier in the night, but stirred some controversy when he performed "Shoot 'Em

Up" and said he can't be held responsible for events like the Virginia Tech Massacre.

Before Nas' performance was classic hip-hop pioneers Cypress Hill — some of the first to fuse Latin music with hip-hop. Cypress Hill's performance took fans on a trip down memory lane, playing plenty of tracks off of "Black Sunday," including the all-time favorite, "Insane in the Brain."

What was so great about Cypress Hill was the full percussion set the group brought onto the stage with them, giving the audience a full Lat- [See BELLS, page 29]

CHILLI

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our lives," he said. "I try to write songs about relationships and songs that are just good party music."

Original and covers

In addition to its original music, Chilli Willi also has a large collection of covers that the band plays each night. Prince and Maroon 5 are popular covers by the band. In fact, Rodriguez said Chilli Willi considers itself a Latin version of Maroon 5.

He said the crossover from Latin to pop is what

makes the band so popular.

"It's not like hardcore salsa, it's more of a pop-Latin thing," Rodriguez said. "The people love it."

Chilli Willi's fanbase is mixed, including people of all ages, genders and race. Rodriguez said that the band itself is also mixed, especially when it comes to musical styles. Everyone brings their own musical passion to the band, like how drummer Russell brought reggae to the group.

There are not many bands in Denver that play into

the Latin-pop genre of music, so Chilli Willi is carving itself a niche in an open market.

"We might be paving the way, Rodriguez said. "We're one of the few band's that do Latin originals."

Chilli Willi

WHEN: Saturday, 9 p.m.

WHERE: Supreme Court Cafe and Nightclub, 1550 Court Place

TICKETS: Free

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