

Over&Out

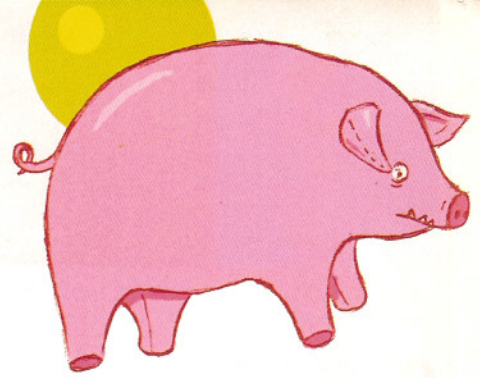
The last word of the week



ROCK MONSTER

Lollapalooza organizers scrapped plans to bring a giant robot monkey to Grant Park. Too bad, because we loved these other rock creatures.

By Joel Reese Illustrations by Emily Flake



IRON MAIDEN

Mascot: Eddie. Every Maiden album cover has been graced by "Eddie," a murderous, green, freaky-ass skeletal figure. In concert, a massive, remote-controlled Eddie comes to the edge of the stage, to the delight of the fingers-made-into-devil-horns-gesturing throng.

Band's intended effect: To scare the living hell out of 13-year-old boys' mothers.

Likely fan response: "Dude, it's Eddie! Check it out! EDDIE! Whoooooo!" (punching friend in neck).

Interesting tidbit: Those enthralled by the emaciated figure can buy Eddie action figures, lapel pins, belt buckles, video games and, if you look hard enough, bongos.

PINK FLOYD

Mascot: A floating pig. Said swine graced the cover of Floyd's 1977 album, *Animals*. At concerts, an airborne porcine figure wafted gracefully through the weed-scented air.

Band's intended effect: Hard to say. Capitalist greed? "Aren't we out there" surrealism? Maybe the pig is named Floyd. Pigs are pink.

Likely fan response: Silence, since most weren't sure if they were actually seeing a pig floating in the air or if they were tripping really, really hard.

Interesting tidbit: At the *Animals* photo shoot, a gust of wind broke the line holding down the 40-foot pig and sent it soaring through the air. Imagine being in a plane and seeing a massive pig float past. Whoa.



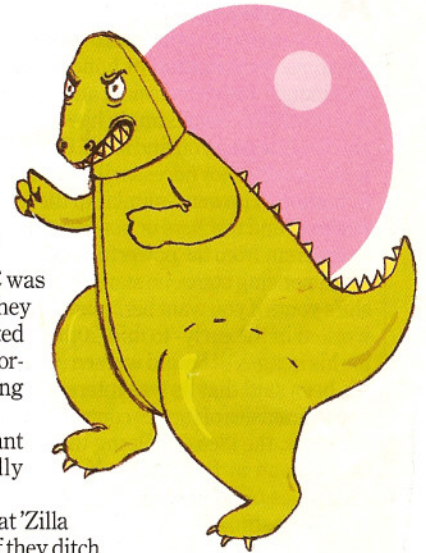
THE FLAMING LIPS

Mascot: A giant bunny. During Lips' concerts, the band has been joined by a person in a pink rabbit costume. You know the equation: pink bunny="weird."

Band's intended effect: To introduce the kinder, gentler Flaming Lips.

Likely fan response: Most people like it, but plushies—they *really* like it.

Interesting tidbit: Now that the Oklahoma-based Lips are no longer doing their psychedelic punk (for proof, see their ads for a massive computer company), celebs Drew Barrymore, Juliette Lewis, Justin Timberlake and Coldplay's Chris Martin have donned the costume onstage. Awww.



BLUE ÖYSTER CULT

Mascot: Godzilla. Before BÖC was a staple on the ribfest circuit, they honored the radioactively created Japanese beast by putting a ginormous, flame-and-smoke-spewing Godzilla head above the stage.

Band's intended effect: A giant mechanical lizard undoubtedly helps with crowd control.

Likely fan response: "Man, that 'Zilla head will never go out of style! If they ditch that thing, it's a one-way ticket to funnel-cake city."

Interesting tidbit: BÖC's song "Godzilla" contains the word *purposeful*. ("With a purposeful grimace and a terrible sound, he pulls the spitting high-tension wires down.") How many bands can say that?