

W&L: this ain't no Gangsta's Paradise

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1... 2... 3... 4...? That's about as many Coolio songs as the average W&L student can name. Still, an overwhelming number of them plan to "get up" and "get down" to the pavilion tonight for the much-awaited concert.

When the Student Activities Board first announced that Coolio was going to be the entertainment for Fancy Dress weekend, reactions ranged from enthusiasm to dissatisfaction. After all, it seems that Lexington more closely resembles Wierd Al Yankovic's "Amish Paradise" than the "Gangsta's Paradise" of Coolio's lyrics.

In spite of one student's opinion that the selection of Coolio was "wildly inappropriate for one of the most conservative schools in the U.S.," anticipation for the concert is growing. Anyone with as much fame as Coolio coming to W&L is bound to attract attention.

Although Coolio may not be the most popular artist on campus, it seems as if most W&L students have become enthusiastic about this Thursday's performance.

Freshman Liz Meloy declares that she is "thrilled with SAB's selection of Coolio," though she would have been even more elated had the Beastie Boys been chosen.

Liz adds, "It sucked that tickets were open to the townies so soon" Elizabeth James, excited about the Coolio concert, expresses disappointment at its quick sellout.

The 1800 available tickets were able to be purchased for five days by the W&L community, and for only one day by outsiders. The last ticket was sold on Monday at 3pm.

Senior Ted Waters says that he approves of the different scheduled performance at W&L, but expresses some concern that Coolio may be received by a less than ideal audience, "given the taste of most W&L students."

Elizabeth Huston, though eagerly anticipating the concert, adds, "I wouldn't say that I own his boxed set."

Director of Security Mike Young says that three local police officers will be added for the purpose of maintaining security at Thursday's performance. Although Coolio had originally requested the presence of metal detectors and a search at the door. Young informed them that these measures were not feasible. Instead, signs will be posted to remind those attending that they may be subject to random searches. According to Young, this procedure is not out of the ordinary.

In spite of the fame resulting from his 1994 Platium, Coolio remarks that "I still hang with the same people, still do the same

things.... life on the streets, regular life and everyday life, that's reality."

Perhaps Thursday's concert

will give us all a glimpse of the reality which exists beyond W&L's campus.

