

THE BEST OF SAN DIEGO'S WEEKEND

■ A selective guide to what's happening in art, dance, film, jazz, music, pop and stage.

POP MUSIC: Jewel of a Band

■ Last year, Pearl Jam emerged from the fertile Seattle rock scene with a debut album that earned near-unanimous acclaim. Although not all of the Northwest acts deserve the hype that has turned the Space Needle into an oppressive exclamation point, Pearl Jam is worthy enough. The band's album, "Ten," is a combustible mixture of grunge-riffing, slab-thick chording, primal mysticism and raw-nerved emotion that promotes an insular world view without sliding into self-indulgence. Vocalist-lyricist Eddie Vedder is a former San Diego surfer who worked as a stagehand at local clubs and as a midnight-shift security guard before hooking up with Pearl Jam



Epic Records

Pearl Jam will perform at Iguanas at 9 p.m. Sunday.

(so-named after an allegedly hallucinogenic preserve concocted by Vedder's great-grandmother). But Pearl Jam's tenuous local connection is the weakest of the reasons to hear them at Iguanas at 9 p.m. Sunday. The strongest is the fact that they are among the most promising of the current crop of American bands. Tribe After Tribe opens the bill. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased through TicketMaster (278-TIXS).