

# JAMMIN'

## *What's a Spring Dance Fantasy? It's a Pearl Jam surprise party*

**BY JIM KERSHNER**

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**T**he surprise Pearl Jam concert at The Met Thursday had enough secrecy and intrigue to make a pretty good spy novel.

For instance, there was that marquee message, "Spring Dance Fantasy, Thursday, 7:30 p.m." dreamed up by Met manager Michael Smith early in the week.

"That was just a ruse to buy us some time," said Smith.

The concert was actually booked about six weeks ago, but the promoters asked that the concert be a secret.

Why the secrecy? Partly for business reasons — the promoters preferred not to alert the competition — and partly because Pearl Jam wanted to slip into town and play a relatively small show.

The secret stayed intact until last weekend, when some technicians at the Tina Turner show at The Gorge let slip that Pearl Jam would play Spokane. Word spread, and some of the radio stations in town actually announced the show, to the

promoter's displeasure.

However, the "official" station, KEZE-FM, didn't mention the band or the location until noon on the day of the show. But they teased it incessantly Wednesday and Thursday morning, sometimes in terms that hinted strongly that Pearl Jam was the band.

So, by the time Thursday rolled around, Spokane fans were in a pitch of frenzy over this not-so-well-kept secret concert. When KEZE-FM finally announced the Opera House as the ticket-buying location, fans waiting at the Met took off at a dead run.

Even though Pearl Jam is hot enough to sell out the Coliseum, they chose The Met because, as Smith said, "The Seattle bands think The Met is a cool place to play." Also, this is just a mini-tour of the Northwest, intended as a tuneup for an upcoming European tour.

"They just wanted to surprise the fans," said Gary Allen of KEZE-FM. "They didn't want a scene created by people standing

in line. They wanted to avoid those kinds of situations."

For KEZE-FM listeners, the suspense lasted up until the last moment, although not necessarily for MTV viewers. A few astute viewers noticed that early in the week, MTV's "This Week In Rock" program listed a Pearl Jam date in — good old Spokane.