

Pearl Jam absent at MTV grunge fest

But Nirvana rocks at Seattle waterfront

SEATTLE (AP) — MTV executives and city officials labored to keep the details of the musical affair as mysterious as possible. After all, a rare joint performance by Pearl Jam and Nirvana in their native city had the potential for a stampede.

When it was over, there was no stampede. But there was no Pearl Jam, either.

Eddie Vedder, Pearl Jam's vocalist, called in sick just hours before the Monday night taping of MTV's "Live and Loud" production at Pier 48 on the waterfront.

"We were really disappointed, but these things happen," said Joel Stillerman, the executive

producer of the production. "From what I know of this band, he has to be pretty sick to not come out and perform."

The "Live and Loud" production was videotaped as part of a package that will be broadcast by MTV on New Year's Eve.

MTV will try to reschedule the Pearl Jam performance before New Year's Eve, but that depends on the band's itinerary and Vedder's health, Stillerman said.

Pearl Jam is coming off three sold-out performances at the Seattle Center Arena last week.

Nirvana did take the stage, playing with a new fourth member, and tore through more than 15 songs to the delight of a raucous crowd of 2,000 at Pier 48 on the waterfront. Most of the

fans won tickets through radio contests.

Although playing in front of a home crowd, band members weren't especially talkative. Bassist Kris Novoselic did note, "So many familiar faces."

Nirvana's enigmatic singer-guitar player Kurt Cobain remained silent between songs.

Nirvana ended its show with the chaotic climax that has become the trademark of the band's MTV performances. Cobain and Novoselic smashed their instruments into their amplifiers while Cobain urged the crowd to jump on stage and join in the mayhem. Half a dozen fans jumped on stage and helped Cobain destroy the Gothic set MTV had created.



Associated Press photo

Nirvana lead singer Kurt Cobain.