

Pearl Jam battles bootlegs with 25 new CDs

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pearl Jam fans will have their loyalty tested on Tuesday. The rock band isn't just releasing a new album — it's putting out 25 of them.

In an unprecedented attempt to beat bootleggers at their own game, the Seattle-based band is selling live two-CD sets recorded at more than two dozen concerts during a European tour earlier this summer.

"We just thought it was pretty cool," said guitar player Mike Mc-

Cready. "If fans have to buy bootlegs, it can cost them \$50. We wanted to do something that was cheaper."

Each album carries a suggested retail price of \$16.98.

No one can remember one act flooding the marketplace with so much music at the same time. Even Pearl Jam admits it's not for everyone.

Most musical acts don't vary their set lists much from city to city, making such a project redundant. But like Phish or Bruce Spring-

steen, Pearl Jam prides itself on being unpredictable in concert. Each show contains about two dozen songs; Pearl Jam played more than 80 different songs during the European tour.

Virtually every Pearl Jam concert is made available on disc by bootleggers, he said. Curtis knows this is true because the band has collected most of them.

The musicians rather wickedly considered releasing a compilation of the best live recordings from those discs. After all, what could

the bootleggers do — sue Pearl Jam for stealing their unauthorized recordings of the band's music?

But Curtis said Pearl Jam took its own approach when they realized they didn't have enough well-recorded material to produce a full album.

"We're not trying to talk people who usually don't buy this stuff into buying it," he said. "It's more for the people who buy it already. We really didn't have any idea of how many people that is. We still don't."

For a few weeks, the discs have been available through the band's Web site, selling at \$10.98 each for fan club members and \$12.98 for others. More than 50,000 discs have been sold that way, he said.

For fans who aren't able to buy all 25, does McCready have any

recommendations of shows he remembers going particularly well? He mentions disc No. 16, from Poland, disc No. 10 from Paris, and either of the two shows from London (Nos. 4 and 5).

"There are some really fantastic shows and some OK ones," the guitarist said. "But there aren't any real bad ones."

McCready himself doesn't worry much about the Pearl Jam bootleggers. His music collection contains about 100 bootlegs of favorite bands like the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin.

"I think people that buy the bootlegs buy the records anyway," he said. "I was that way. It's just another thing about the band, so I don't really care if they're making money."

Voters

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turnout rates.

Besides the presidential and state office elections, the outcome of many of this year's ballot measures will affect how higher education is funded and the access to affordable health care in the coming years.

University President Dave Frohnmayer echoed the importance of students voting and said the outcomes of this year's elections and ballot measures will have a more direct impact on students than any he has seen as president of the University.

"This year is very important," Frohnmayer said.

So important that state Sen. Susan Castillo, D-Lane County, state Rep. Vicki Walker, D-Lane County, and Executive Assistant to the University President Dave Hubin also will speak about how students can register to vote and the importance of taking the necessary steps to do so.

"This election in itself is crucial to the whole program, including the University," Hubin said. "But much broader than that, this University has traditionally been active in participating in the electoral process. On other campuses, voter registration is separate effort from the students. Here, students take the lead. That's why I'm participating and I assume that's why [Castil-

lo and Walker] are as well."

Kitzhaber's speech kicks off the formal commencement of a voter registration drive by the ASUO Executive office. Through sidewalk registration of voters and the lure of submitting votes to the world's largest ballot box — a 20-foot-7-inches tall, 9-foot-2-inches wide box approved by the Lane County Elections Department — ASUO hopes to register 6,000 student voters.

ASUO President Jay Breslow said he talked to students in the School of Architecture and Allied Arts and off-campus lumber suppliers and contractors about construction of the giant box, but nothing is finalized. If the box is completed, students will need to stand at a height of two stories to deposit their ballots in it. The ASUO would like to see the box recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records, Breslow said.

Oregon's November election is by mail-in ballot, and students will have access to boxes across campus to drop off their ballots, which must be mailed by Oct. 20.

As of last Friday, ASUO had registered 1,430 students to vote, said Melissa Unger, the legislative organizer for ASUO.

Breslow believes a speech by the governor, in addition to speeches by Castillo and Walker, can only further that cause.

"It definitely helps," he said.

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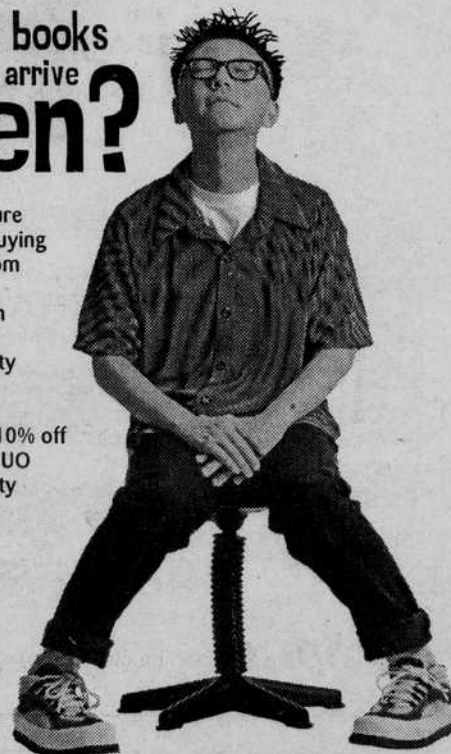
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