

# No rules, No Code

## Pearl Jam returns to its roots of Ten and Vs.

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Collegian Staff

Pearl Jam's new CD, *No Code*, is a return to the classic Pearl Jam of *Ten* and *Vs.* that made the band what they are today.

The album cover is an eclectic collection of photographs taken by band members Eddie Veddar and Jeff Ament. The photos are of a wide range of subjects, all of which are either out of focus or otherwise indistinguishable.

The album also includes a series of nine Polaroids containing some of the album's lyrics. Most of the lyrics are

either missing or unreadable due to poor handwriting or bad exposure making it very difficult to decipher.

The first single off *No Code* is a ballad, "Who Are You." The song has a folksy melody with catchy, introspective lyrics. It sounds nothing like anything the group has previously done or anything else on the album.

Pearl Jam also did this with the release of *Vitalogy*. Its first single, "Spin the Black Circle," was forgotten after the album was released.

Track number eight, "Red Mosquito," describes Veddar's fears of the dark and of demons

assuming the form of a red mosquito. Its lyrics, "I was not allowed to leave the room. . . /saw the sun go down. . . and now it's coming up. . . was bitten. . . must have been the devil," illustrate those fears.

The protagonist, Veddar, feels most vulnerable between the hours of dusk 'til dawn and anything, human or not, threatens him during this time.

"Red Mosquito," music-wise, is most like their earlier works. Mike McCready's guitar and Jeff Ament's bass power this tune with chords similar to "Jeremy," "Evenflow" or "Alive."

The song "I'm Open" has an ominous musical undertone to coincide with Veddar's psychedelic lyrics. The song is about the time when a child

becomes adult and discovers that what he once thought was magical, can be explained and written-off by science.

The album finishes in the style of Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. The final song, "Over the Bend," closes the album with a happy, yet tragic tune reminiscent of Floyd's "Over the Wall."

The escapist feeling reveals itself as we realize that Veddar has worked out the demons that plagued him earlier.

*No Code* can be called Pearl Jam's concept album. The album finds a common theme early with songs like "Sometimes," "Hail, Hail" and "Red Mosquito" and progresses through a vast range of musical styles such as punk, psychedelic, hard rock, ballads and classic grunge.

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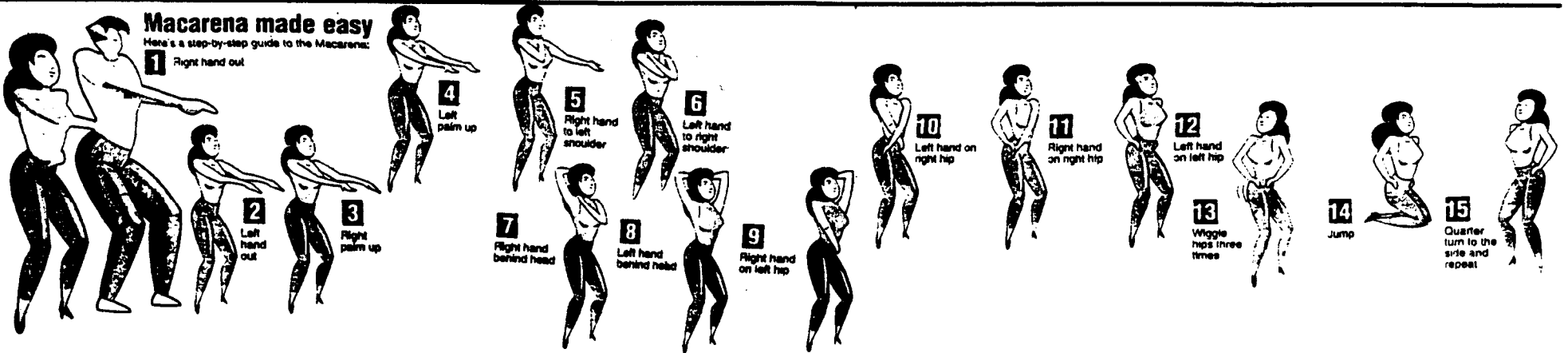
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