Features

Pearl Jam's new album "yields" rave reviews

by John Amorose
staff writer

Dearly beloved, we have gathered here to pay our last respects to the fast, aggressive, angst-filled, anger induced, heroin driven genre of music known as grunge. Kurt Cobain has been gone for some time now; Soundgarden finally called it quits; and the Smashing Pumpkins are putting out double-length concept albums.

Please don't be mad at me, I didn't kill it; it was dead when I got here. Blame those pseudo-alternative, one and a half- hit wonders, like The Gin Blossoms and Matchbox 20, who flooded the air waves with cheesy jingling happy rock. Something had to give, and it was grunge that paid the price.

Pearl Jam tried (and tried) to change with the times, but were twice unsuccessful. After their wildly popular debut, *Ten*, and its record breaking follow-up *Vs.*, the band had established themselves as one of Seattle's elite. But their straightforward rock and roll sound was abandoned for the soulful and horribly depressing *Vitalogy*, and *No Code*, an album I would rather hear the sounds of my own screams than listen to. Eddie Vedder and his mates were on the ropes, and one more flop away from being knocked into musical mediocrity.

With their fifth effort *Yield*, Pearl Jam returns to the basics.

Yield is more about a life lived, not disdain for life itself. The songs are smart, and well-thought-out, and the band itself has matured a great deal.

The opening track "Brain of J" is an all out rocker. Eddie Vedder's usual gruff and powerful voice is surprisingly overshadowed by the electrifying guitar solos of Mike McCready and Stone Gossard, as well as the driving bass of Jeff Ament; a theme that echoes throughout the entire album.

Sure, *Yield* has its share of slower songs, but they really aren't all that bad. "Wishlist," one of the most depressing songs of recent memory, is also one of the most amazing of the album. We all wish for the seemingly unattainable things in life, and Eddie lists his in a soft, monotone voice backed by whining guitars.

"Low Light" combines every aspect of the Pearl Jam sound; Eddie's soft and pure voice, a piano melody, and solid acoustic guitars make this probably the best cut on the album, and is destined to be a future hit for the band.

I would definitely recommend *Yield* as a valued addition to anyone's music collection. But, as always, listen to it without preconceived notions. Pearl Jam is not the angry, flannel-clad early twenty-somethings that produced *Ten*. *Yield* is more about a life lived, not disdain for life itself. The songs are smart, and well-thought-out, and the band itself has matured a great deal.

For everyone expecting to hear the young, all-out jams of early Pearl Jam, and will except no alternative, you are barnacles on the sinking ship that is grunge music. It's time to grow up and open your minds: Eddie and the boys certainly did.

On my classes-I'd-skip-to-go-see-them-scale, Pearl Jam will always receive a resounding five out of five. Not every song on *Yield* is good, but they are all good tries; and the album, as a whole, is as close to greatness as Pearl Jam has come in five years, and has restored my faith in music.

Restaurant review: Chuck and Ginny's Place

by Daniel Riefstahl
staff writer

"Friendly" is the best way to describe the people and service you will find at Chuck and Ginny's. Located on 4th and Raspberry, you get the feeling it is a neighborhood meeting place. There is a lot of conversation and light laughter in the air. If you are shy and personal, then this is not the place for you.

It is sort of like a large family dinner. The dining room is about 25 x 25 feet and all the tables are relatively close together. Large portraits of both Chuck and Ginny grace the dining room. There is a bar in a separate small room adjacent to the dining room if you just need a drink or want to relax with friends.

You can choose from a large selection of pasta and Italian specialties. They also have steak, burgers and other tempting entrees. They stock a large selection of import and domestic beers and have a full range of soft drinks. All meals include a fresh loaf of Italian bread and a salad.

I have heard good things about their pasta; since that is their specialty, I decided to try Chuck and Ginny's Famous Italian Platter. It included one stuffed shell, two beef ravioli, and spaghetti and meatball or sausage. The price was $6.95, and the portions were satisfying. The sauce was a traditionally chunky Italian sauce, unlike store-bought smooth sauce. The two large ravioli were tasty, and the stuffed shell was divine.

If you are looking for a place of elegance and glory, or to dine in pure luxury, then don't come here. If you are looking for a place that is private, quiet, and secluded, this place doesn't fit the bill. But, if you are looking for a good, home cooked Italian meal at a great price, then Chuck and Ginny's is for you.

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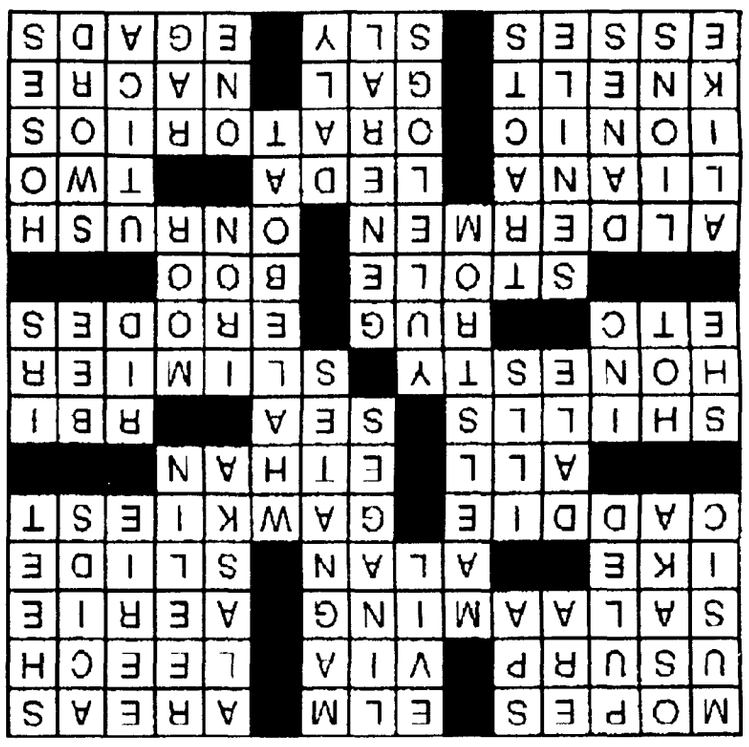

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