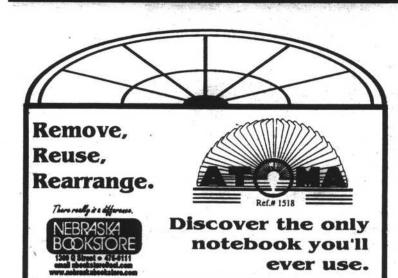


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Fans insist on living no code

By Laura Capitano Staff Reporter

Homer's Records on 61st and O streets paired with radio station KDGE-FM (101.9) Monday night for a midnight release party of Pearl Jam's latest album, "No Code."

For nearly two hours, a mild-mannered crowd of roughly 150 Pearl Jam fans enjoyed 101.9's live broadcast

"This was a really good turn-out for an in-sale, midnight release," said Arny Brechbill, buyer for Homers Records.

She said the release of this album is at least as big, if not bigger, than the midnight release of Metallica's "Load." Sales were still brisk Tuesday.

"No Code" contains 13 brand new tracks, including radio hits "Who You two albums to create a disc that can Are" and "Mosquito," and is available compare with the overwhelming emoat Homer's and all area record stores. tional outlet captured on "Ten." While



"No Code" **Epic Records**

Pearl Jam has struggled with its past



Vedder once again steps on the soap box as with "vs." and expounds lecture lyrics with songs such as "Habit" —about the trappings of drug use (any-body else smell the irony?). "Smile" sports some snappy Seattle-esque lyrics such as "When the sun don't shine, don't it make you smile, I miss you al-"Who You Are" is a guaranteed Edge hit with Vedder accompanied by

"No Code" may not contain the bellowing vocals and surging grunge gui-

tars of "Ten," it harnesses a more mature and intelligent message than past

album has gone before. Pianos resonate in the background of several cuts.

They are used in "Around the Bend,"

which asserts itself as a folksy tune with

a bit of a Seattle-Spanish love ballad tossed in, to "Off He Goes", a lyrically soft and sorrowful song about the stress

of existence and bowing out when it

by any of its predecessors. Eddie

Lyrically this album is unequalled

becomes too great.

This disc goes where no Pearl Jam

background harmonizing that would make Boyz II Men forget to match their khakis. "I'm Open" begins with a spoken word intro accompanied with scifi instrumentals—and here I think we see a glimpse of the pain puncturing his songs: "After spending half his life searching he still felt as blank as the ceiling at which he stared. He is alive

but feels nothing, so is he?" Vedder's deep vocals and ambient lyrics have attained a new level of insight and precision. He is jaded and poetic and angry and sad, as is the entire disc.

Vedder is backed brilliantly by the band, whose recent exposure to Neil Young is extremely apparent on tracks such as "Mankind" and "Smile." Pearl Jam's new drummer, Jack Irons (I assume it's his real name) makes an extremely strong showing and exerts blazing vibrance in "In My Tree." Gossard's vocals are simply cool in "Mankind" and he writes Vedder lyr-

ics better than Eddie.
This is the best project Pearl Jam has put together since "Ten." While every album they assemble will con-stantly be graded in its shadow, "No Code" surpasses "Ten" with the strong variety of melodic, lyrical and instrumental style. They out and out jam on this disc. And Vedder allows us to see a little more of why he sings like he

-Bret Schulte

The

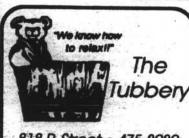




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