

# AGGIELIFE

## Mirror Ball reflects Young's experience

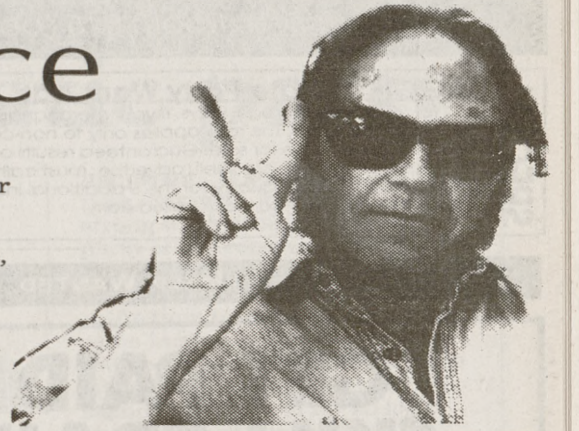
By Rob Clark  
THE BATTALION

As the massive legions of grunge fans are probably rushing out to grab the latest piece of the alternative pie, they might be a bit disappointed at first. Any new release with Pearl Jam involved is sure to rocket to the top of the charts. However, *Mirror Ball* is not a Pearl Jam album, but rather a ferocious tour-de-force by Neil Young. Pearl Jam's backing music does provide extra power to Young's repertoire, but this is Young's turn to shine. Because of Pearl Jam's extreme popularity, Young probably has never had such an huge audience or such a hotly-anticipated album. But he comes through with flying

colors. Using the theme of peace and love (most notably on, well, "Peace and Love"), Young recreates a picture of the '60s and '70s that so many young grungers try to emulate. Trouble is, they weren't there and Young was. The album gets off to an intriguing start with "Song X," an eerily haunting song reminiscent of "The House of the Rising Sun." A booming chorus with the lyrics "Hey, ho away we go / We're on the road to never" creates an unmistakable mystique that swallows the listener. The vibe of the '70s comes crashing back in "Downtown," where Young

sings "the hippies all go." No major messages here, just a simple, enjoyable rock performance. Perhaps *Mirror Ball's* most intriguing song is "The Ocean," a tale of wandering woe. Young's lyrics burst with hopelessness in a way that surely would make Sen. Bob Dole squirm: "Need distraction, need romance and candlelight, need random violence, need the evidence, want the testimony of expert witnesses on the brutal crimes of love." Young paints a picture of irony with lyrics like "I'm not present, I'm a drug that makes you dream / I'm an

Aerostar, I'm a Cutlass Supreme." Startling imagery marks "Throw Your Hatred Down," a song comparing "the conscious world" to "the underworld" where evil is born and bred. "Meanwhile, in the underworld the weaknesses are seen by peasants and presidents who plan the counter-scheme," Young sings. "Children in the schoolyard finish choosing teams, divided by their dreams while a TV screams." Pearl Jam does provide a vicious backing for Young throughout the album, but conspicuously absent is Eddie Vedder, whose vocal presence is only noticeable on "Peace and Love." No matter, though. Young's vocals, while lacking Vedder's rage, are powerful enough to do justice to the outstanding lyrics.



For those Pearl Jam fans still loyal after the canceled tour fiasco, *Mirror Ball* is not the next *Vs.* or *Vitalogy*. But those same fans probably will be turned on to Young, a musical legend whose knowledge and experience has been a guiding light for today's alternative movement.

**ALBUM REVIEW**  
**Neil Young**  
**Mirror Ball**  
**Reprise Records**  
**★★★★ 1/2 (out of five)**

## Helping with transition

### Orientation leaders give new students glimpse of college life

By Libe Goad  
THE BATTALION

Walking backwards isn't a fad on campus — it is almost an A&M tradition for the orientation leaders who give campus tours. Members of the Aggie Orientation Leader Program guide incoming students and parents around campus during four-day orientation program. Orientation leaders give up part of their summer to help ease incoming students into the college scene. The program is the largest college orientation in the country. That none of the participants get paid for their work also sets the program apart from other university orientation programs. Paul Springer, a junior psychology major and orientation executive, said he wanted to work with the program to pay the University back for his freshman orientation experience. "I liked the openness of orientation's format," he said. "It was laid back." Springer said he fondly remembers his Aggie Insights group, a group of about 10 incoming stu-

dents who meet with orientation leaders to discuss their upcoming transition into college life. These groups allow students to ask questions without their parents around. "We talked about what to do if you're failing a class and what's fun to do on campus," he said. Tracy Wright, a junior business major and orientation leader, said insights groups allow students to get personal. "We're normal students like them," Wright said. "We've all been there and we tell them things will get better." Jessica Morris, a junior civil engineering major and orientation leader, said working with the new students reminds her of being a first-year student. "Through them you relive your freshman year and all you went through when you first got here," she said. After an interview and application process, a 16-person executive committee chooses 200 orientation leaders, who train to be mentors for incoming students. Since the leaders were selected from 350 applicants, Ursula Wimberly, an orientation leader executive who coordinates parents' socials, said

the executive committee was able to find a variety of people. "It gives all people a chance to get involved," Wimberly said. Wimberly stayed at A&M after her May graduation to stay involved in the program. She said the orientation program has challenged her and prepared her for the future. "You don't necessarily have to have leadership experience in other groups," she said. "Working as an orientation leader develops leadership skills." Springer sharpened his skills while coordinating Aggie Energizer, a program that helps students talk to each other and learn A&M traditions while playing games. He said parents often act more excited than the students during energizers. "At one energizer, we wanted the parents to do the wave while the students were playing games in the middle," he said. "Instead, the parents jumped up and started doing the 'funky chicken.'" After the conferences are over and there are no more energizers left to coordinate, the Orientation Leader Program turns its attention to the



Chris Bradburry, senior biomedical science major, and Karen Lotterhos, senior chemical engineering major, give campus tours as orientation leaders.

phone lines. At the beginning of the fall semester, orientation leaders become the First-time Aggie Contact Team. Team members call new students to ask about their college experiences and to see if they need help adjusting to their new lives. Springer said the leaders also provide an invaluable service to the University. Aside from all the activities, the conferences give new students a chance to register for classes. "Without orientation, the University would have a tough time getting their students into A&M," he said.

# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Esquire gives Hurley credit for Grant's success

NEW YORK (AP) — If not for Elizabeth Hurley, Hugh Grant would be just another "faceless schlub," Ron Rosenbaum writes in Esquire's "Women We Love" issue. Rosenbaum credits the Estee Lauder model with turning Grant into a movie idol. The piece was written before the actor was arrested last month in Los Angeles on charges of public lewdness with a prostitute. He's due to appear in court July 18. "Here was a guy with NOTHING going for him, a faceless schlub lacking looks, charm or any other appeal (the brooding intensity of a writer, for instance)," Rosenbaum writes. "But once in the Hurley orbit, seen through the lens

### "Baywatch" star has miscarriage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has had a miscarriage. Last month, the actress and her husband, Motley Crue rocker Tommy Lee, announced they were expecting a child in February. Her publicist, Paul Nichols, confirmed Monday that Anderson had a miscarriage in late June. He declined further comment. Anderson, who plays lifeguard C.J. Parker on "Baywatch," and Lee were married in Mexico in February after a four-day courtship.

### Blige's driver tries to avoid post-concert traffic and crashes van

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A driver carrying backup singers and dancers for singer Mary J. Blige was trying to avoid a post-concert traffic jam when he drove his van into a ditch, authorities said. The driver, Vince Burton, and four of the 12 passengers were hurt in the accident, but none seriously, authorities said. Burton had been looking for a shortcut to avoid traffic after Sunday's Boyz II Men concert,

said Sheriff's Sgt. Eddie Moore. He drove off the road and wound up in a ditch going about 35 mph. Blige was one of the opening acts.

### Bobbitt sings "My Ding-A-Ling"

LAS VEGAS (AP) — John Wayne Bobbitt's resume now includes porno star, stripper and recording artist: He's done a takeoff on Chuck Berry's "My Ding-A-Ling." Bobbitt, who lives in Las Vegas and performs in strip clubs around the world, also is making a sequel to his pornographic movie, *John Bobbitt ... Uncut*, his agent, Aaron Gordon, said Monday. Last week, Bobbitt completed a six-day sentence for battery against his former fiancée, Kristina Elliott. He was convicted last year on two misdemeanor counts of battery against her and previously served 12 days in jail on the other conviction. Bobbitt became something of an international celebrity in 1993 when his former wife, Lorena, cut off his penis while he was sleeping. Surgeons put him back together.

### Hall says North has shunned her

NEW YORK (AP) — Fawn Hall, a recovering crack addict, is bitter about former boss Oliver North.

"Ollie used me," North's former secretary says in the August issue of Redbook magazine. "I was like a piece of Kleenex to him." Hall testified during North's Iran-Contra trial that she and the one-time National Security Council aide shredded documents after the Reagan administration's illegal arms-for-hostage deal came to light. Hall, who later became addicted to crack and is now married to another recovering addict, Danny Sugarman, says North has ignored her phone calls and "is different now than when I knew him." Sugarman says he has a question for North: "Just what did my wife do to you that you can't even return her phone calls?" "Your actions directly destroyed my wife's career and her life as she knew it," he said, "and you couldn't even pick up the phone and say, 'I'm sorry' or 'Thanks.'" An assistant to North replied, "Ollie asks people to pray for Fawn during this difficult time in her life."

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