

Joining Forces

Co-enrollment offers students opportunities, drawbacks

By APRIL TOWERY
Staff writer

Attending just one university can be plenty stressful. However, some students attend two universities — at the same time. For each semester, more than a thousand students enroll at Texas A&M and Blinn Junior College. Justin Davis, a sophomore biological science major, is co-enrolled and said she recommends students taking classes at Blinn use them to be more personal. The classes are smaller, and you get one-on-one attention from teachers," Davis said. "If you're in one subject and need additional help, I would recommend it." Smaller classes and lower tuition are not the only advantages of Blinn, says Austin, Blinn's director of institutional development. "Classes at Blinn are easier than at A&M," he said. "You're harder on high school classes, but you really have to think a lot of people would [co-enroll] if they

thought about it." But co-enrolling is not that simple. Danny England, Blinn's dean of student services for the Bryan campus, said rumors that co-enrollment will be terminated seem to circulate every semester. "Almost every year, co-enrollment is brought up as a bad thing for academic or economic reasons," England said. "Some think if a student is co-enrolled at Blinn and takes first-semester chemistry at Blinn and second-semester chemistry at A&M, they're not getting the prerequisites. It's not necessarily that Blinn isn't good teaching; it's just different." Another subject that has been discussed is the effect of co-enrolling on A&M's enrollment.

When classes are cancelled, there is talk that too many students are enrolling at Blinn, England said. However, England said a study reported that about 1,500 students are co-enrolled, fewer than faculty members expected. "The enemies, so to speak, those against co-enrolling, were somewhat disarmed when they found out the figures," he said. "I do think the uproar has been quieted a great deal by the actual figures." For example, problems arise when, the College of Liberal Arts allows a student to co-enroll in a

math class. The math department, a service department, depends on colleges such as liberal arts for its students. Likewise, when engineering colleges allow students to take English classes at Blinn, it can leave empty seats in A&M classrooms, which costs the faculty in terms of their salary. This is considered a disadvantage of co-enrolling by some faculty members, but, as far as most students are concerned, there are few disadvantages to taking classes at both campuses. "The only disadvantage is that there are a lot of classes you can't take at Blinn because of your major," Austin said.

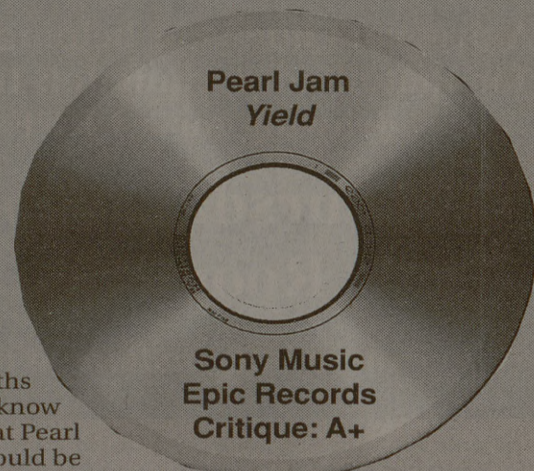
Davis said she agrees there are few downsides to co-enrolling. "I guess the long drive to Blinn might be a disadvantage," she said. As for the rumors and talk of no more co-enrollment, A&M's director of veterinary medicine Ralph Smith said they are just that — rumors.

PLEASE SEE ENROLL ON PAGE 4.

Pearl Jam soars on album *Yield*



LEN CALLAWAY
staff writer



Over the past several months those in the know have wondered what Pearl Jam's new album would be called and how it would sound. Well, the time is finally here and *Yield* is true to the task of being a Pearl Jam album.

The mere mention of the name Pearl Jam in certain circles is enough to spark a serious debate. Arguments can range in topic from which one of their five studio albums is the best to what the correct meaning of their various songs might be.

Pearl Jam has become an institution of sorts for millions of "Generation X" fans, but one thing remains constant — everyone who likes rock 'n' roll likes something about Pearl Jam.

Beginning with the 1992 release *Ten* and continuing now with *Yield*, Pearl Jam has known global success and achieved a rare position of fame and stability.

Each of the four previous studio releases, *Ten*, *VS.*, *Vitalogy* and *No Code* have their own unique style and attitude. These albums remain distinctly Pearl Jam, and *Yield* follows up in grand fashion.

In the beginning, Pearl Jam devastated their audiences with loud and boisterous sound mixed with the inevitable message that seems to naturally flow from their songs.

The next two albums followed a similar path of hard-rock guitar riffs suitable for a '90s crowd, but the band began to loosen up a bit with ballads like "Nothingman," "Off He Goes," "Immortality" and now "Low Light" and "In Hiding."

The merit of these songs is consistent with the true value of all pearl Jam songs — the infinitely contemplative nature of front man Eddie Vedder's voice coupled with the sheer musical genius of Mike McCready, Stone Gossard and Jeff Ament.

After some tumultuous times and typical inner-band politics the band axed drummer Dave Abbruzzese and opted for ex-Chili Pepper's phenom Jack Irons for the production of *Vitalogy* and *No Code*, as well as their joint work with Neil Young on "Mirror Ball."

1996's *No Code* marked the beginning of what will hopefully prove to be permanent changes in the most celebrated band of the '90s.

Yield gives the listener an opportunity to enjoy a continual mood and reveals a lighter and more fun side of Pearl Jam. Eddie Vedder seems to leave the sound of mental angst and torment behind as he croons out love songs like "Faithful" and "Wishlist."

PLEASE SEE PEARL ON PAGE 5.



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