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For Information,
 see page 6

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WHEN: Wednesday, October 8 --- 6:00 PM

WHERE:

- Class '98 --- Rudder 401
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Ska • No Cover

Everclear release breathe a little life into grunge music

Music Review

So Much for the Afterglow
 Everclear
 Capitol Records
 ★★★ (out of five)

By MICHAEL SCHAUB
 Staff writer

"I hear you gave the world a brand new voice," Art Alexakis sings on Everclear's second major-label effort, *So Much for the Afterglow*. "Such a happy melody with a new wave whine / Yeah, I see you hide behind your own noise."

Intentionally or not, he sets himself up big time. Alexakis' self-deprecating, brutal lyrics are one of the many risks the erstwhile indie-grunge band takes on its new album.

More or less, the risks pay off. The album opens with an a cappella vocal harmony that bears more than a passing resemblance to a Beach Boys tune. Gimmicks like that might make the listener wonder, but they are at least interesting enough to

suggest that Everclear is defying the musical stasis that seems to be haunting like-minded Pacific Northwest bands.

The most striking difference between *So Much for the Afterglow* and its predecessor, *Sparkle and Fade*, is the disappearance of the grinding feedback that helped define the grunge scene of the early '90s. In its place are jangly, staccato guitars, integrating the Minneapolis, Minn., and Athens, Ga., sounds of the '80s. Alexakis even breaks out the banjo and mandolin on songs like "Why I Don't Believe in God," an interesting, if ill-advised, instrumental choice.

Everclear still knows how to write a melody and hook, even if it is not always strikingly original. There is nothing in the first single, "Everything to Everyone," that will distinguish it from any other guitar-oriented alternative outfit, proof that even the most adventuresome of bands will only take so many chances.

Alexakis' lyrics have never been braver. At times, his emotional candor reminds the listener of that strange guy at the bar who insists on telling everyone about his divorce. But in an age of obtuse, intentionally vague songwriting, his honesty can be a breath of fresh air.

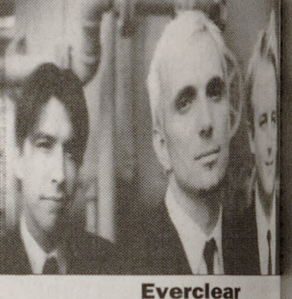
In "Normal Like You," the album's highlight, Alexakis sings, "You wouldn't even know me / Since you went away / The Prozac doesn't do it

for me anymore."
 The singer has been open about his battles with clinical depression and heroin addiction, and the stark account of youthful ennui and alienation.

Perhaps most interesting, though, is the album's closing track, "California King," a song Alexakis claims he wrote about himself. "What makes you think you are better?" he growls at the song's end. "What makes you think you are complete? / What makes you think you are the only one immune to falling down?"

It is this vulnerability that makes Alexakis and Everclear occasionally fascinating to listen to.

Can indie-rock survive the newly-defined media circus that is grunge? That is the \$64,000 question. At the very least, Everclear has guts to ask it.



Everclear

Stone, star cast turn out classic film

Movie Review

U-Turn
 Starring Sean Penn, Nick Nolte and Jennifer Lopez
 Directed by Oliver Stone
 Rated R
 Playing at Hollywood 16
 ★★★ 1/2 (out of five)

By CHRIS FERRELL
 Sports editor

U-Turn is the expected Oliver Stone film. From the unusual plot to the camera angles to the editing, the movie is similar to some of his other works including

Natural Born Killers and *The Doors*.

The movie, which was shot over 42 days in the Arizona desert, was made on a shoe string \$20 million budget. Because of Stone's stature, he was able to put together an all-star cast.

Sean Penn leads the cast in the starring role of Bobby Cooper, a down-on-his-luck former tennis player who owes money to Russian gangsters. While driving to Las Vegas to pay them, he experiences car trouble and gets stranded in the small town of Superior, Ariz.

Cooper takes his car to the town's only mechanic, Darrell (Billy

Bob Thornton of *Sling Blade* fame). Thornton turns in an outstanding performance as the small-town mechanic.

He soon learns that he will be in town much longer than he anticipates because of the resources available in Superior.

While roaming through town he meets up with Grace McKenna (Jennifer Lopez). After returning home with her, he is caught by her husband Jake (Nick Nolte).

The two each proposition him to become involved in murder-for-hire schemes to kill the other spouse. Other big-name stars to

work for peanuts in an Oliver Stone film include Powers Boothe as town's sheriff, Jon Voight as a Native American, and a Nam veteran philosopher who can see the world despite that he is blind.

Stone also implements the bright acid-wash-like colors to various points throughout the movie in a similar fashion to the work he did in *Natural Born Killers*.

He also uses time-lapse photography to speed the clouds over the mountains in the Arizona desert. Stone's signature over this film, and he will not be disappointed

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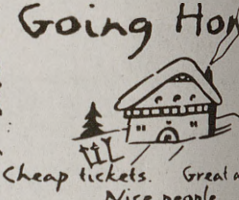
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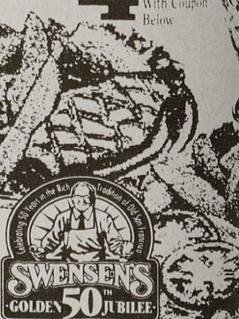


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