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**FEEL THE BEAT**

Music Review V 2.002

**Blue October**  
"History For Sale"  
Universal Records

College Station staple Blue October will more than likely be a national act after the release of its album "History For Sale."

The single "Calling You" received considerable airplay this summer and is also featured on the soundtrack of the movie "American Wedding."

Applly titled, "History for Sale" allows Blue October to let loose the triumphs and pains of the band members' lives and pour them out through their music. Lead singer Justin Furstenfeld gives a poignant disclaimer to the individual after which the song "Amazing" was penned, "... and now our history is for sale and that I apologize."

The 12 tracks of "History for Sale" are superbly constructed and amazing to listen to. Many of the tracks vary in style, but never in quality as Blue October explores different sounds and tries new creative avenues. Classics in the making are "A Quite Mind," "Somebody," "Come in Closer" and "Amazing."

Blue October should not apologize for the experiences its members have had because it has been translated into something beautiful. The combination of a great band, the uniqueness of having a violin player, killer vocals and lyrics make this band a pleasure to listen to.

★★★★★

--Daniel Chapman

Music Review V 2.002

**Saves the Day**  
"In Reverie"  
Dreamworks Records

Faithful Saves the Day followers listening to its new album, "In Reverie," might be asking if it's the same band. Much to the disappointment of many fans eager for a return to the band's original sound, this album basically travels down the same road "Stay What You Are" did but with less gas in the tank.

Chris Conley's voice sounds a bit different. OK, a bit like a 12-year-old choir boy going through puberty. And yes, it is a complete departure from the band's humble beginnings on "Through Being Cool," but don't dismiss "In Reverie" just yet.

To think a band will never change its sound as it matures is naive, especially when you factor in several lineup changes in the band. After giving this CD a second listen, you might find it surprisingly upbeat and a good change of pace.

The intricate layering of guitar and soft drumming are reminiscent of early Weezer, and this almost gives the album a pop-like Sesame Street feel. One thing that didn't change are the distinctive lyrics, such as on "In My Waking Life:"

"I'm never in my waking life, dreaming is my all the time, whether it's the weather on my mind, it's all too much."

The opening tracks "Anywhere with You" and "Driving in the Dark" make it impossible not to bob your head along to the melodic choruses. The album loses its pace on "She," which is essentially a party poem with faded acoustics in the background. The CD comes to an appropriate end with the last track "Tomorrow too Late," which starts out slow but picks up with an infectious chorus.

The bottom line: It's a love or hate type of album. Old school fans might find it hard to get used to the new sound, but give it a second listen and you'll be hypnotized by the melodies.

★★★★☆

--Chris Elm

Music Review V 2.002

**Yellowcard**  
"Ocean Avenue"  
Capitol Records

If you've never heard of Yellowcard before, it shouldn't take you long to hear what sets this band apart from the others: an electronic violin. It's not like it's ever been done before, ("Glycerine" by Bush and "Good Riddance" by Green Day), but Yellowcard has found a way to incorporate this unusual accompaniment for a rock band seamlessly into every song.

Yellowcard does have a tendency to turn a few heads on the Vans Warped Tour when concert-goers see a violinist on stage rocking out like a third guitarist.

It's not your typical boy-meets-girl, girl-breaks-boy's-heart lyrics standard for the emo/pop-punk bands of today. Yellowcard is all grown up on its sophomore album, "Ocean Avenue." This surprisingly-together album includes songs about faith, tragedy, losing band members and a heartfelt tribute to the 9-11 tragedy.

Through extensive touring, the band has mastered its unique sound and is starting to get some recognition on college radio. The first single, "Way Away," is a little edgier than vintage Yellowcard but doesn't disappoint. A few songs that can't help but stick out are "View from Heaven," with its country-esque riffs and "One Year, Six Months," a delightful acoustic with warming lyrics.

Another feature that is well showcased is the Goldilocks style of drumming; not too much, not too little, but just right. Perhaps the most refreshing thing about this album is that each song is distinctively different, they don't all blur together into one elongated song. One of the best tracks on the album is "Inside Out." It's not exceptionally outstanding, but it has that quality that makes you press the repeat button over and over.

"Ocean Avenue" is definitely a must buy; don't miss out on one of the best breakout bands of the year.

★★★★☆

--Chris Elm

★★★★★

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