

The Week in Preview

MUSIC

Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.
Monday: new band night
Thursday: live karaoke with Shithook

Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.
Monday: open stage with Dangerous Dan
Tuesday: St. Patrick's Party with Giles Kirk and Kiltie Band
Wednesday: Rhythm Method
Thursday-Friday: Travis Wagner

Kimball Recital Hall, 11th and R streets
Tuesday: Moran Woodwind Quintet
Wednesday: University Chorale Invitational for Women's Choruses

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Wednesday: (19 & over show) Apparition and Denison Band

Lied Center for Performing Arts, 301 N. 12th St.
Thursday: Jon Nakamatsu, Van Cliburn International Piano Gold Medal Winner

The Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Monday: Chris Duarte Group
Tuesday: Slim Dunlap
Wednesday: The Atoll
Thursday: Boss Philly
Friday: The Grateful Dudes

THEATER

Studio Theatre, Temple Building, 12th and R streets
Tuesday-Saturday: the UNL Theater Department presents "Doctor Faustus"

ART GALLERIES

Gallery of the Department of Art and Art History, 102 Richards Hall
Thursday: Annual Undergraduate Art Exhibition closes

Great Plains Art Gallery, 205 Love Library
Monday: "Reflections on Life and Well Being: Drawings by Elizabeth Layton" exhibition opens

The Week in Preview runs Mondays in the Daily Nebraskan and is compiled by members of the arts and entertainment staff. Send all listings to The Week in Preview c/o Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE 68588-0448

THE ART OF EVERCLEAR

Band set to sparkle at Sokol

By **JIM ZAVODNY**
Staff Reporter

Pop/punk trio Everclear is preparing to invade Nebraska for the first time this Wednesday, and Art Alexakis is planning a rowdy performance.

"(Nebraska) is a place that I've been wanting to come to," Alexakis said. "But before the success of 'Sparkle and Fade' and the song 'Santa Monica,' there really wasn't an interest to play here, not at the indie level and not before we signed with Capitol."

Originally scheduled to take place at the Ranch Bowl in Omaha, Everclear's show moved to Sokol Hall, which is a much larger venue, after the Ranch Bowl show sold out.

"I wanted to move the show to a larger venue so more people could see it," Alexakis said. "(Sokol) is the perfect size, I like the 1,400- to 1,500-sized venues, and I'm looking forward to it. It's going to be fun."

Everclear's current headline tour of the United States includes the bands Jimmie's Chicken Shack and Feeder, both of whom Alexakis had spirited words for.

"We've had sell-outs everywhere, and it's been a lot of fun," he said. "Jimmie's is kind of a rock 'n' jam band, and Feeder is just an amazing power-pop band from England. I think they're great."

"So Much For The Afterglow," Everclear's latest release and third album since they formed in 1992, has much more of a pop feel to it than their other two punk inspired releases, 1993's "World of Noise" and 1995's "Sparkle and Fade."

Alexakis, who will turn 36 in April, said younger kids would have a hard time with "Afterglow" because it's more poppy. But, he said, he doesn't write music for teenagers.

"I think this is a much better record because it's a more diverse record. But the whole point is that 'Sparkle and Fade' was a more diverse record than 'World of Noise,' and the next record is going to be even different than this record," Alexakis said.

"I don't want to do the same thing over and over again, that's boring."

Alexakis thinks the song writing on "Afterglow" is much better lyrically than the group's previous albums. The backing vocals on "Afterglow" were something the band worked hard on during the recording of the album, he said.

"I love vocals as an instrument, and I ended up pushing the boys to do it," Alexakis said. "I told them that we were going to throw down on this record and really work on it. And things have come a long way."

IN THE MIX
Everclear's lineup - which includes bassist Craig Montoya and drummer Greg Eklund - was recently

supplemented with the addition of guitarist Steven Birch.

But any rumors of Everclear becoming a four-piece band are greatly exaggerated, Alexakis said.

"We're not a four-piece, we have a touring guitar player to help fill out the sound live and let me concentrate more on being a front guy and singing," he said.

"We also have a percussionist playing with us 'cause on the record we use loops and samples and a lot of percussion, but we didn't want to play with machinery on stage."

Along with writing

Everclear's songs and helping direct the band's business affairs, Alexakis has produced every Everclear album.

"(I produce Everclear's albums) because it works. Why f**k with it if it's not broke?" he said. "It would be nice to see what someone else can bring to the table, but it seems, even in videos, to work better when I am very involved with it."

"I just want to get it right. I don't care who gets it right. I don't care about the ego aspect of it. I just want to get it right."

And for Alexakis, part of getting things right with Everclear involved kicking out the group's former drummer, Scott Cuthbert. Cuthbert, who

played on "World of Noise," was asked to leave the band in 1994.

"World of Noise" is basically Craig and I telling Scott what to play 'cause Scott had no idea what the hell he was doing, and he was very inconsistent," Alexakis said. "He could never play the same thing twice, and he had real bad emotional problems and a problem with marijuana to the point of addiction. And he couldn't function really, but now he's doing really well."

Shortly after Cuthbert's departure, Eklund and the remaining bandmates hooked up; and, with their new drummer in hand, Everclear prepared to take over the world. They signed a major label deal with Capitol Records in June 1994, released their platinum-selling album "Sparkle and Fade" in May of 1995, and the rest is history.

LIFE LESSONS

Over this same period of time, Alexakis quit drugs, got married and witnessed the birth of his daughter. He said these things affected not only his lifestyle, but his music and lyrics.

"All of those are just a phase of growing up," Alexakis said. "I've been married twice, and the more life you live, the more experiences you have to draw from."

Alexakis has plenty of material he could pull from his life and include in his lyrics, but he said there were only three autobiographical songs on the new record: "Father of Mine," "Why I Don't Believe In God" and "I Will Buy You a New Life."

"I think for the most part, those songs are things taken from my life, but I wouldn't put them on the record if I didn't think they were universal themes that other people could relate to," Alexakis said.

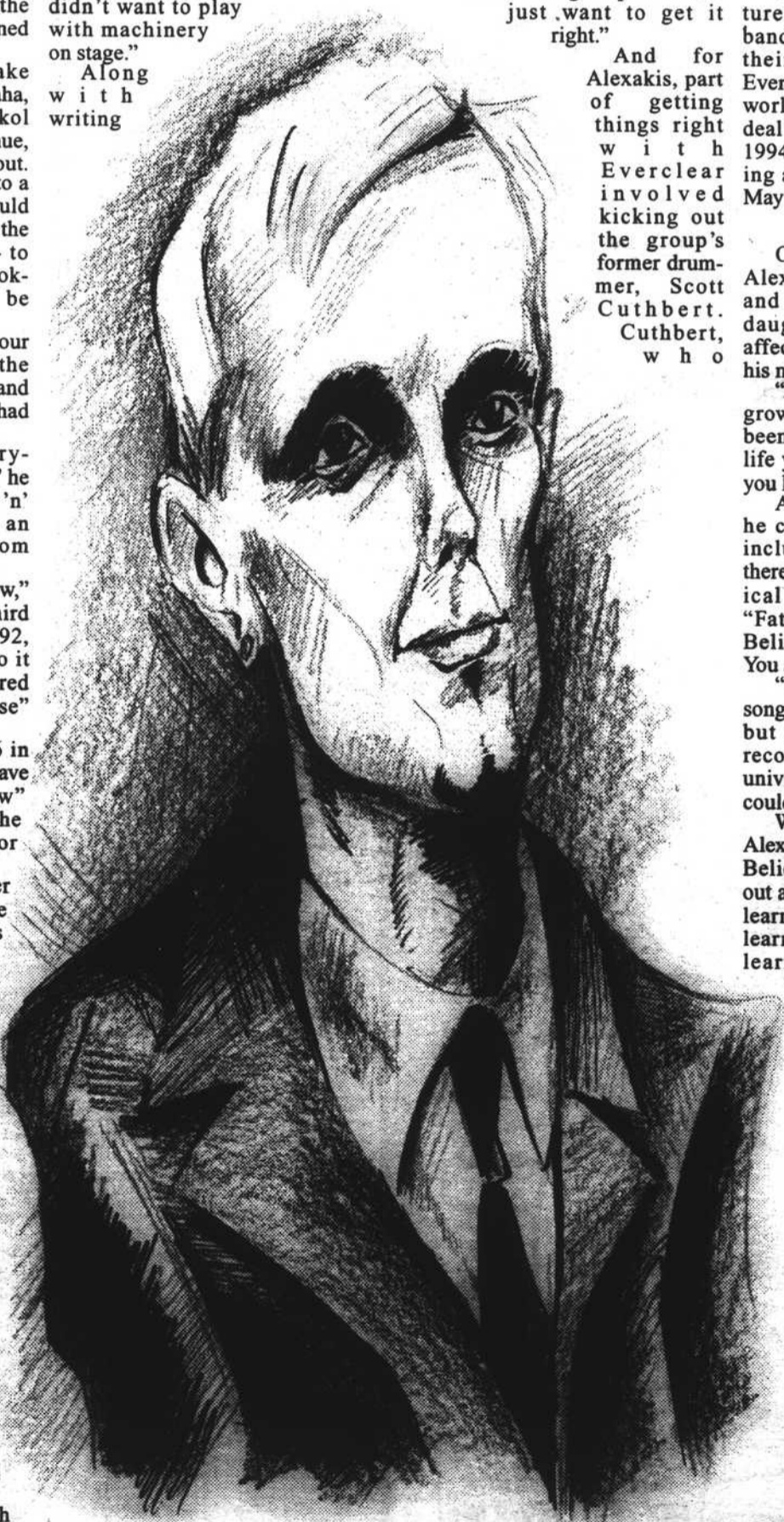
While "Father of Mine" is about Alexakis' own father, "Why I Don't Believe In God" concerns finding out about things as he got older and learning to perceive things that he learned as a child as an adult and learning to make that change, Alexakis said.

"I believe in God. I just don't believe in religion," he said. "I didn't need it forced down my throat, and that's kind of what it's like growing up with a religious mom."

Most of the record is about relationships, Alexakis said, whether they are boy-girl relationships, parental relationships, relationships with the world outside or relationships with one's self.

"I'm really proud of the record the more I listen to it now, and I haven't listened to it for awhile until recently," he said. "But I'm proud of it; it turned out good."

Everclear's concert at Sokol Hall in Omaha begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Tickets for the all-ages show are sold out.



MATT HANEY/DN