The Portland Observer -

Focus

May 12, 1999 Page 3

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he L.A. area-trio may still be young, but the core of the band have been writing and performing together for five years - developing songs that capture angst and frustration with a refreshing honesty and poeticism as well as musical sophistication and raw power.

Twenty-year-old singer and bass player Max Collins, who also writes the lyrics, and his classmate 19 yearold-guitarist Jon Siebels have been collaborating together since their freshman year in high school, drawn together by a seriousness about playing in a rock band and a love of punk music. They were signed to The RCA Records Label two years ago while still in high school. Now, having teamed up with 20 year-old drummer Tony Fagenson and adopting the Eve 6 moniker, the band has recorded an infectious, self-titled debut album.

The first single, "Inside Out" about "wanting people to understand you" ("I would swallow my pride ... "), states the album's theme of the distance between outside appearances and internal reality, while the seductive catch-and-hold chorus of "Leech" underlines the tale of an emotional parasite ("Sucking on my brain/You're the teacher/I'm the student/Turning things around/Your story's not congruent").

One wouldn't expect such catchy choruses and sophisticated melodic subtleties from a young band's music. "That comes from having a wide range of tastes," explains Max. "We'll listen to classic singersongwriters like Elvis Costello and Tom Petty on the one hand, and noisy pop like the Pixies, Jawbreaker club appearances.

and the Muffs on the other." Eve 6 recorded the album in Los

Angeles at Sound City and Chomsky Ranch, New York at Electric Lady and predominately in Seattle at Stepping Stone, the home of Don Gilmore - an admired engineer turned producer who had previously worked

"Inspire me,' sings Max in "Small Town Trap,' the final song on the album and a paean to making something of yourself. "Cause if you don't/I think I'll dissipate to dust/The liar in me/Says something's gonna happen soon/ Because it must."

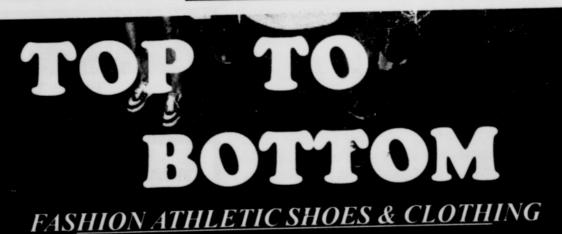


Left to right: Jon Siebels, Max Collins and Tony Fagenson of Eve 6.

with the likes of X and John Doe. Wanting to get away from the pressure of recording in their hometown, the band spent several weeks in the Northwest city, where they won over new fans with a number of acclaimed local live

Local Events Top Five

- 1. Down from the Shimmering Sky: Masks of the Northwest Coast
- 2. Tony N' Tina's Wedding
- 3. An Escher Celebration
- 4. 1999 All-State Music Festival
- 5. 1999-2000 Millennium Masterpieces Gala Opening Concert



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