

that in a lot of ways we are missing out on the scenes that other eras of popular music have had. There's a lot of guys going in for the quick cash and disappearing.

It hurts because the scene doesn't have a chance to grow musically. We're looking to build our (personal) identity. Look at how R.E.M. did it. They built a career and you can't do that quickly."

Plenty of road work has served to further the success of the singles "4 A:M" and "Superman's Dead." While filling the middle spot on Third Eye Blind's Bonfire Tour (power pop upstarts Eve 6 provided the intro honors), Our Lady Peace often stole the show from the headliners. A revolving set list and a stirring cover of Jeff Buckley's "Eternal Life" complemented Raine's rising energy and the band's back line of dynamic power.

JEREMY: "We've been changing the set list on this tour quite a bit. To keep every thing fresh, we change it a least three times a week. This tour has been very relaxed, we're not headlining so we don't have that pressure.

Raine: We're very comfortable with who we are. We don't really sound like anyone else, so it sort of makes us the black sheeps of the bill. It's good for rock fans because they can see a variety of sounds, it gives them the chance to compare and contrast."

Contrary to the presumed Catholic overtones, Raine went on to point out that the band's namesake is not a saint, but the genesis of an old war poem. "We all just dug how it sounded. It's very open ended. You don't hear it and think 'Oh that's a metal band or a alternative band, or a rock band.'" (That's good for us) because our lyrics are very much open to interpretation (also). I write about things that are close to me but I don't grandstand or preach. I walk that line between my problems and (what other people can take in as their own). I don't get so self absorbed that I don't realize when what I'm writing may not connect (with people).

It's such a special feeling when people tell you what word or a

line may have meant to them in their lives. It's just like a painting that can be viewed through the eyes of the beholder. It's crucial that our material keeps that ability to move (people) individually."

That x factor plays a huge part in their overall battle plan. Taggart and Maida both concur on their theory that "People tend to stick with a band that they've grown up with. It's that core audience that make it worth it. They are just as much of a part of it as we are. It's natural for those people to stick with us no matter what we do."

Our Lady Peace has achieved their goals without the usual controversy, VIP girl friends or gossip chatter that often propels a band into the charts. When the subject comes up the duo laughs off the thought as if it's the first time they've been posed the question.

JEREMY: "We are so not involved with that sort of thing. We all grew up in small towns, we've had

regular lives, there really is no big story besides the music.

RAINE: If anything it would probably hurt us if people knew how boringly normal we really are. If you want to look at our (tour) rider to see what we eat and drink you can, but do people really care about our personal lives that much?"

The answer to Raine's remark is yes and no. As they connect with individual after individual, it's only a matter of time before high school flames and disgruntled former friends begin selling 'I knew them when' stories to the media.

The beauty of the situation is that the personal, deep sonic relationships that are developing between them and their audience should always keep the number one priority the exchange of words, music and experiences. Time should bear them out as one of the more stable and proficient acts of the 90's

Under a cloudy Canadian day, these Maple Leaves are probably thinking of something related to rock. From left to right: Taggart, Maida, Coutts, and Turner. Raine admits that he and band members are "boringly normal."