

QUO VADIS NOT STATUS QUO

Montreal band triumphs over adversity

BY KEVIN GILLICH

When you think of being in a band, you probably picture an idealized scenario where a couple of friends are constantly hanging out, and if they aren't jamming they are out partying. This lifestyle is only briefly interrupted during the day when members go off to some low-paying part-time job to save up enough cash to make sure they have the best equipment possible for their next gig. For Montreal heavy metal band Quo Vadis, the members' careers, while not the top priority, are still a serious part of their day-to-day lives.

"Yanic [Bercier, drummer] has a PhD in medical physics from McGill," said Bart Frydrychowicz, guitarist and vocalist for Quo Vadis. "He designs MRI scanners." Frydrychowicz works for a media company, despite having studied biology at Concordia. Bassist Remy Beauchamp is a Concordia graduate in mechanical engineering, now an employee of Hydro Québec.

Balancing a full-time career and a full-time band doesn't exactly make for a carefree life, but the band doesn't seem to mind. Having been together for 10 years, being part of Quo Vadis has become a part of each member, and a little adversity won't deter them now.

"It creates a lot of stress," explains

Frydrychowicz. "We've had 16-hour days for the last two months, non-stop."

Between work, writing material for a new album, and preparing for upcoming shows, the band has barely had the time to breathe. Luckily for them, their respective employers are very supportive of their musical careers and are very flexible. "We all, in a sense, love this," said Frydrychowicz. "It's the excitement in our lives."

The members of Quo Vadis are used to challenges, they've had to face them since before the band was even fully formed.

"We went through about 17 bassists before we bumped into Remy," recalled Frydrychowicz. He described some of these bassists as some of the weirdest individuals he has met. One bassist was late for a practice at one member's home, so the band decided to start without him and locked their doors to make sure that they wouldn't be disturbed. Because of this they were quite surprised to see someone walking into the basement where they were practising. When asked how he got inside he said that he had broken in through a window.

The band still faces challenges today. Bercier lives close to Atlanta because of his job, so writing music as a band can at times be challenging.



"The biggest challenge is staying in touch and keeping up-to-date," said Frydrychowicz. Writing new material becomes a longer process because the band members have to send tracks to each other through the internet and then wait for replies and comments.

Despite any bumps in the road, Quo Vadis continues on without even slowing down. The band will be debuting a new vocalist, who might become a permanent member, at their upcoming shows. They are eager to see the reaction to the new lineup and promise lots of surprises. The band is excited about the future, and expects it to be a long future.

"It's a hobby," said Frydrychowicz, "but we are prepared to sacrifice a lot for it. We all see ourselves in this band 10 years from now. We're not just doing this for tomorrow."

Quo Vadis will be performing at the Metropolis on Friday, March 21, opening for Anonymous along with Neuraxis, Ashes of Eden, and Slain. Quo Vadis is also redesigning their logo. Anyone interested in helping with the redesign should contact the band at band@quovadis.qc.ca.