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In any rock band, the musician who holds the whole thing together is the bass player. Pete Lowen's bass line was solid and called in the other band members when they tended to wander. He strayed from the standard line to do some unique fretwork that was most interesting, adding versatility but retaining the honesty of the band's music.

Guitarist Joey Serlin performs double duty. He is also the primary song writer for the *Watchmen*. His musicianship is as distinct as the songs he creates. His rhythm playing is soft but audible during Danny's vocals, but when he breaks, he really breaks. He can pull a solo together with his guitar wailing intensely one second, sighing quietly and melodically the next. The transitions are smooth and the style original to say the least.

This band has some obvious influences. The best way to describe their music, in my opinion, would be a combination of certain traits such as the energy of the *Tragically Hip*, the mystery of the *Blues Traveller*, and the

harmonies of the *Northern Pikes*. When I spoke with Danny Greaves, he said that the musical interests of the band members were so diverse that they don't attempt to style their tunes after any particular artists or have any real common influence. Danny went on to say that although they want to become known for their original stuff, they still throw in a few covers that the audience can identify with. They chose two for the first set that really surprised and delighted me. They delivered powerful renditions of *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood* and *Somebody to Love*, two of my favorites. The best part was that they performed their own arrangements of these covers and didn't simply copy...a great effort indeed.

The average age of the band members is twenty-two years and they are already tour veterans. Some of you may remember that they opened for the *Pikes* last autumn. When I suggested that the name of the band was rather simple and reminiscent of names of several Celtic folk bands, Danny told me that it was derived from a graphic novel by an author named Moore. The

story had something to do with Super-Heroes.

The band is more than willing to tour to support their progress. They are especially pleased with this tour as it was coordinated much better than the last one. They began in October (the 4th) in Thunder Bay, and continued through Sudbury, Toronto, North Bay; played at both Western and Mohawk and then came to the Maritimes. From Fredericton, they headed back to Toronto and then

home to their native Winnipeg.

In early November, in Toronto, they will be privately showcasing their special brand of progressive rock to the record reps in hopes of getting recognition and in anticipation of a possible record deal. We wish the *Watchmen* the best of luck and hope to see them return before long.



TEN-PENNY ALE. THE TASTE OF INDEPENDENCE.