

Silvertide -- Riding the Wave of Success

By Stacy De Angelo, Editor in Chief



Silvertide is (left to right) lead guitarist Nick Perri, drummer Kevin Frank, vocalist Walt Lafty, rhythm guitarist Mark Melchiorre, and bassist Brian Weever

When I was approached to do a phone interview with the band Silvertide, I had no idea what I was in for. I had just received their demo that day and had yet to listen to it. All I had to go on when agreeing to the interview was a 3-song demo and a folder full of bios and news articles. So we set the interview up for Friday November 1 and I went home, opened up the folder and threw in the CD. All I can say is wow! It was refreshing to hear music by a group of talented guys under the age of 21 that wasn't bubblegum Backstreet Boys pop. These guys decided that they weren't going to go for the mainstream junk that is cluttering radio airwaves, but to bring back the rock music that our country is in dire need of. I eagerly read through the press folder and got all the info I could get from it and formulated some questions based on what I didn't find there. Lead singer Walt Lafty and rhythm guitarist Mark Melchiorre were the first members of the band in January of 2001 and soon brought together lead guitarist Nick Perri and drummer Kevin Frank. Both Perry and Frank were still in high school at the time. Soon after, the band

was completed with the addition of bass player Brian Weever who had been playing music with Melchiorre since they were 8 years old. This fresh young group of five would soon become the hot (and still young) group Silvertide.

Now I was excited to talk to a member of the band that literally and figuratively brought music to my ears. At every ring of the phone I would jump with anticipation, this was the first time I ever did a phone interview with someone as accomplished as these guys. Fear and anticipation of screwing up (which we all know I am good at sometimes) mounted as the appoint time approached. Boy, the phone rang a lot that day. But finally, the voice on the other line said, "Hi, this is Mark from the band Silvertide." His calm, down to earth tone and manner set me at ease. After a little chitchat about where we were from and where we were at present, the interview was underway.

I found out that they are relatively local, hailing from Northeast Philadelphia. Melchiorre himself wanted to go to Penn State but ended up

going to Drexel University and taking up engineering before getting into full swing with Silvertide. At that moment in time the band was in New York and would be going back to LA where they are working on their first album (which personally I can't wait for) that is due out the end of February. "We went out to LA to work on the writing. We never had time to focus on just the writing," Melchiorre stated. When asked who writes the song he replied, "we all do. The songs never stop coming," adding that he hopes they never do. I was curious to know how they escaped the dreaded abyss that is today's pop music scene. He laughed at this question and gave one of the best answers I ever heard. "We grew up with classic rock... we don't try to write anything specific. What we write is what it is."

I couldn't help but inquire about the origin of the band's name, "Silvertide." There is usually a deep, philosophical or very personal meaning for choosing a band's name and such was the case for Silvertide. Melchiorre lamented, "We were at a bonfire on the Jersey Shore and one of the guys' sister said to look at the tide, that it looked like a 'silver tide.'" Next thing they knew, they had become "Silvertide."

It came to my attention prior to the interview that Silvertide was fortunate enough to open for classic rock icons Aerosmith in Philadelphia. When asked what it was like all Melchiorre could say was, "It was chaotic. We had like 3 hours to prepare before opening up for Aerosmith." Another chaotic point in the life of Silvertide was the quick rise to success, only having been together close to 2 years, and have already been signed to a label (music legend Clive Davis' J Records) for about 6 months. They have dreams of hitting it big, perhaps working with some of the artist that have inspired them. Their collective favorite and inspiration are rock legends Led Zeppelin.

Now they have the band, they have the name, they have the record deal, and with all that comes the worries. Melchiorre said, "We're excited. This is our first big deal." However, when failure was mentioned, he stated, "It's a big fear in all of us." They are taking a big risk by going against the grain of the overly common boy/girl groups and the emergence of punk, emo, and indirock. He went on to add, "we're hoping maybe can revive the whole rock scene... its choking right now."

Upon ending the interview I fired my last question, asking if he could sum up what the last year. Melchiorre's reply, "Scary and weird because we're so young... it's a weird feeling."

Did You Know...

You Could Live At

CALDER COMMONS APARTMENTS

For The 2003-2004 School Year

RENT FREE!!!

Sign A Lease by March 30, 2003, and Enter Our FREE RENT Drawing!!!

Plus Enjoy: * Huge 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Apartment Homes

* On Site Laundry * FREE Cable TV

* Fabulous NEW Fitness Center and Study Lounge

* Covered Parking Available * Convenient Location

(814) 238-3456

520 E. Calder Way, State College

www.caldercommons.com

HURRY!
LIMITED TIME
OFFER.
APARTMENTS
ARE GOING
FAST!!!