

## AG Silver Performs at Lake State

Contributed by Kayla Robertson  
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In a performance on February 25, AG Silver brought their unique style to LSSU's Peacock Cove. The band was touring college campuses across the United States (Lake State being their second stop) with their newest album, "Wake Up and Smell Reality". The band had a great performance (with a wonderful audience of almost 150 students). Despite their small "stage", the boys of AG Silver were full of enthusiasm. They made the stage their own and brought a lot of excitement to the basement of the Cislser Center. They performed mainly original pieces (several upbeat songs that sound like a cross between U2 & Muse and then several slower songs that you put you in the mind of Keane) but also covered some material. A cover of The Killers' "Somebody Told Me" was a crowd pleaser as well as their seamless transition between original work and the theme from "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air". Both covers had touches of originality but The Fresh Prince received a face lift, to say the least.

After the show, The Compass was able to get an interview with Jon Ornee, AG Silver's keyboardist and lead singer.

TC: Who were some of your personal influences?

Ornee: The one that people pick up on a lot is U2, mostly because I had a really sad musical beginning to my life...my first CD I ever had was the Bodyguard Soundtrack. My brother was my idol growing up and when he went away to college I was in fifth grade, and he left me a mix tape, and one side was U2's "Achtung Baby" and the other side was U2's "Rattle and Hum". So whether I like it or not it's just engrained. Otherwise, I'm a big Radiohead fan, personally. I really like Counting Crows, August and Everything After is another album that was forming. And of course the normal ones like the Beatles and Queen, we really like Queen.

TC: So what's up with the family-style drum kit?

Ornee: Craig, our drummer, has a lot of history doing drum line stuff, and there's just something really cool about when multiple people...like my favorite part is when I'm playing piano but the guys are taking turns, when you really do it in sync it's pretty sweet. We just like to mix it up.

TC: Who taught your boy to play guitar with a drumstick?

Ornee: Trying to mix it up again. The guitar he plays is a total piece of trash, for that reason. Actually, that same guitar, at our CD release show, I chucked it through the bass drum.

TC: Favorite place that you've played?

Ornee: Like outside of home? Home is obvious always very special because you've got lots of die-hards. But probably, other than here, Baypath College, it's an all-girls school in Massachusetts, which, I'm a married guy so I'm not really interested in meeting girls at shows but we really felt like rock stars, it was like the Beatles screaming.

TC: So who's the chem student? How'd you come up with the band name?

Ornee: Right well that's interesting, we had been playing music on and off together since we were 14 so we had, ya know, normal, crappy, high school band roots. I sang and Chris and I played guitar and Craig played drums. So we had one song and we entered a talent show at our school and we needed a name by like the end of fourth hour and Chris was in Chemistry class and was like "AG Sliver". So that's like as much thought as we put into it.

TC: What do you guys think you sound like?

Ornee: I'd probably say Late 90's U2 meets mid-90s Radiohead, before they got real weird, meets current day Muse.