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# Sports Collection

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## Band forges mystic mood

**By Paula Lavigne**  
*Senior Reporter*

Physical stamina and psychedelic sound contributed to the worldly power of rockers I Mother Earth at the Ranch Bowl in Omaha Wednesday night.

Playing songs off their first album "Dig," this Toronto-based band proved Rush wasn't the only Canadian export.

I Mother Earth was a refreshing change from the "new band syndrome" of today. Instead of tapping into the alternative pipeline, they broke the typical grunge mold.

Guitarist Jagori Tanna said I Mother Earth's sound was influenced by classic rock bands such as Santana and Pink Floyd.

"We were weaned on that kind of stuff by our parents," Tanna said. "All those groups have something way beyond what these bands today have. They had no boundaries. They weren't looking around to see what's popular."

Tanna said I Mother Earth didn't really "fit in" with the new bands of today.

"We just kind of bounce around the outside of all of them," he said.

Instead of categorizing the band's music, Tanna said the interpretation was left to the audience.

"I would rather hear what you think about a song," he said. "Otherwise, it's just a one-sided conversation."

I Mother Earth's sound had more than one side, ranging from fluid psychedelic to harsh jungle-like rhythms created by a variety of bongo drums and other bizarre percussion instruments.

With an Eddie Vedderish aura, I Mother Earth's lead singer, ironically named Edwin, had incredible endurance but was often drowned out by the rest of the band.

Bassist Bruce Gordon and drummer Christian Tanna generated the backup power to the band's forceful sound.

I Mother Earth isn't nurtured on sound alone.

"We put on these pretty grandiose kind of shows," Tanna said.

At a show in Toronto, the band had an artist paint a scene on a big canvas behind the performers. When the show was over, the artist had finished his painting.

"I love shows where you go see something besides music. It's the whole feeling of being in that room and you're just swarmed," he said. "It's not special effects, it's just a vibe. It's like creating your own atmosphere."

"If you want to hear just music, listen to the record. Live isn't just an aural experience. You body is moved by the power," Jagori Tanna said.

Unfortunately, the cramped stage area of the Ranch Bowl didn't allow for the band to create an elaborate set. But the band made up for it in performance style.

I Mother Earth has the power to take our planet of new bands into the future.

## Levine

Continued from Page 9

yourself; you have a responsibility to words.

"If you start to think about audiences, any audience, you're gonna f— yourself up. It's hard enough just to write well."

In his 20 books of poetry, he has made a mark through his commitment to his working-class background and his use of colloquial language.

Through his poetry, Levine has made heroes out of the hard-working people he has known. He has memorialized their ability to live and work and love in the face of incredible difficulties.

Levine's new book, "The Bread of Time: Toward an Autobiography," is scheduled to be released soon.

His University of Nebraska-Lincoln reading is part of a nationwide project called "The Writing Life" and is sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council. The council is one of six to receive funding for this program.

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