The secret to getting on radio: Cut the glossiness, be yourself

RADIO from page 5

You don't need a professionally produced and ackaged album. Home-made CD-Rs work just fine. Granted, scrawling on your CD-R with a sharpie will probably only cut it at your hometown college station, so be prepared to at least maybe do some typing and printing

Just like there's a difference between making an effort and overdoing it, there's a difference between making an effort and blowing it. The key here is that it's not the packaging that matters.

If you want to get played on college radio, you need to make the reviewer's job as easy as possible, and here is how to do it.

Put a sticker on the CD case that includes:

1. Your band name

2. The album name

3. Your label name (if you have one)

4. Which tracks you recommend 5. What artists you might sound like

6. Which tracks (if any) contain profanity
The first three items help the reviewer when they

The last three items help the reviewer immensely when they have a lot of material to go through and not much time. The reviewer, when choosing which albums to review, will almost always choose an album that tells him or her which tracks to avoid. If they can listen to a song for quality as opposed to listening for profanity, they're going to get more out of

are reporting your ad to the College Media Journal. If your album case designer thought they'd be artsy and

experimental with their layout, this is extremely help-

I guarantee it. And that's what you want.

If you insist on including anything else, include at most one 8.5-inch by 11-inch piece of paper. On this paper, restate the information on the sticker and include a short biography or any trivia about your band that you think might be useful.

Remember that word - useful. That sums up everything you need. If it's cute, if it's cool, then it's no good. These people see and hear the coolest stuff out there-you're not going to wow them with your wit or

Oleander deals with success

FLOWERS from page 5

experiences, bottled them up and put them into songs, he said.

I think this is a much more successful album as far as going into the studio and recording something from the heart," Flowers said

One of the most important songs on the album, Flowers said, is "Halo." With words like "Of things we should not climb/And I'm the first in line" and "Stay around, and we will shine," Flowers said the song became much more than he had expected when it was written

But Flowers has seen that this song is not just important for the band - after an honest performance, the fans know they've seen something special.

"There was something about ('Halo') that just came together," Flowers said. "There's times when the music and lyrics and the performance click, and it makes something much bigger then you had ever anticipated.

"There's nothing more powerful than every-thing connecting musically as well as with an emotional sensitivity to being honest. It really extends outward and extends to the fans.'

Fans in Lincoln will soon get to see Oleander for a second time. After playing with Candlebox in 1999, Flowers said he liked visiting the "very cool college town."

lege town atmosphere.

"(Smaller towns) are not as transient as the bigger cities; they're not as fickle as the bigger cities," Flowers said. "They're pretty much happy to have music and performing, and they're genuinely more into it.

But success didn't come easy for Oleander. Flowers and Eldridge have been playing together for more than a decade. In 1996, Oleander independently recorded "Shrinking the Blob," but they were still keeping their day jobs. Flowers, who was a bus boy for many years, said he wouldn't have it any other way.

"I think the worst thing that can happen to a band is to have rapid success," Flowers said, because you get jaded and you don't learn to appreciate the things that other people have had to go through and struggle to achieve the same

Now with a gold album under their belt and their single "Are You There" rapidly going up the charts, Oleander is far from settling.

Success they've accepted, Flowers said, but

they are still looking to grow and improve.
"We've accepted the fact that we're fortunate enough and blessed enough to have landed some stability in the industry by achieving gold status," Flowers said, "but I don't think we've settled for

"There's so much more out there to be had,















