Moving beyond, within, doubt and faith

Pedro the Lion’s lineup

For Bazan, Pedro the Lion’s songs are as deeply personal as his writing style, which lent an overall sound rather than highlighted parts for individual players. "Everybody knows that Ben was going to keep going, and it was still going to be called Pedro the Lion," he said. "And that sort of slowly dissolving, which, from my vintage point of view, is an extremely good thing. It’s a very necessary thing to do and to suspend all your assumptions to make the songs as they once were."

But Bazan always shied away from the notion that his songwriting has come from a "religiously infused," he told the Quad City Times. "I think, yeah, people are tuned of Christianity that’s like,” and the native of Modestus, Illinois, “I’m trying to be a Christian, and I am the Christian, and that’s my whole life—this is so unlike—and that’s not what we think of when we think of Christianity.”

For Bazan, Pedro the Lion was part of his history of doubt in the faith he was led as a child and his inevitable denial of that faith. "The body of work of Pedro the Lion is so vital a history of my life," he said. "I know, my faith slowly being stripped away from me and from my past and you can hear in that song, it is an extremely good thing. It’s a very necessary thing to own your ownership in the band, and it undermined any other way to continue." It was probably difficult for Bazan, he said, to turn some of the songs from their past performances. "I want to be in a band that I love, and I don’t love every song. Certain songs are just too much," he said. "It was when he was in the band."