

ST Julian Rain CD impressive

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Correspondent

The four members of the Stouffville rock band Julian Rain have been together for less than a year, but an independently released CD is already on the way. Recording for the album was completed before Christmas and the finished product was ready for release last month.

They'll probably be working on Pearl Jam's new album, so ours just might get pushed to the side for a little bit. Ronnie Shuker jokes about his uncertainty of the actual release date. Shuker is the lead singer of Julian Rain and plays rhythm guitar for the band's live shows. The name Julian Rain originated from a poem that Shuker had written.

The eight-song CD will be entitled *Featherstone Tree*. The cover features artwork by Steffon Sepa, the band's guitarist. He created a sculpture that was the inspiration for the name of the album.

A spin of the unmastered tracks found it to be an impressive, solid rock album. It has the sound of an alternative rock album with a head-banging edge to it that makes it a worthwhile listen. From the strong opening of *Bullets by the Radio* to the sweeping finale of *Dreams*, this album has a lot to offer. The strongest track on the album would have to be *Springtime*. It's a deceiving title to a song that's powerful with a dark edge to it.

Maybe the album's biggest downfall is that it leaves the listener wanting more. It seems this band has only begun to experiment with an original sound, but it's obvious that Julian Rain is capable of only improving upon this solid foundation.

The CD will cost \$10 and is worth the

price to anyone who is sick of the same tired radio songs and are ready to hear what youthful energy and imagination can achieve.

Shuker and Sepa first played together doing cover songs a couple of years ago at a high school assembly. They lost their original bass player and drummer about nine months ago, which paved the way for Sean Fitz-Gerald to take over the drums, and Steffon's brother, Peiter, to become the new bass player.

The members of Julian Rain are proud to be from Stouffville, and Shuker said that it's the first thing they mention when performing. This four-some's main goal is to sign a major label record deal.

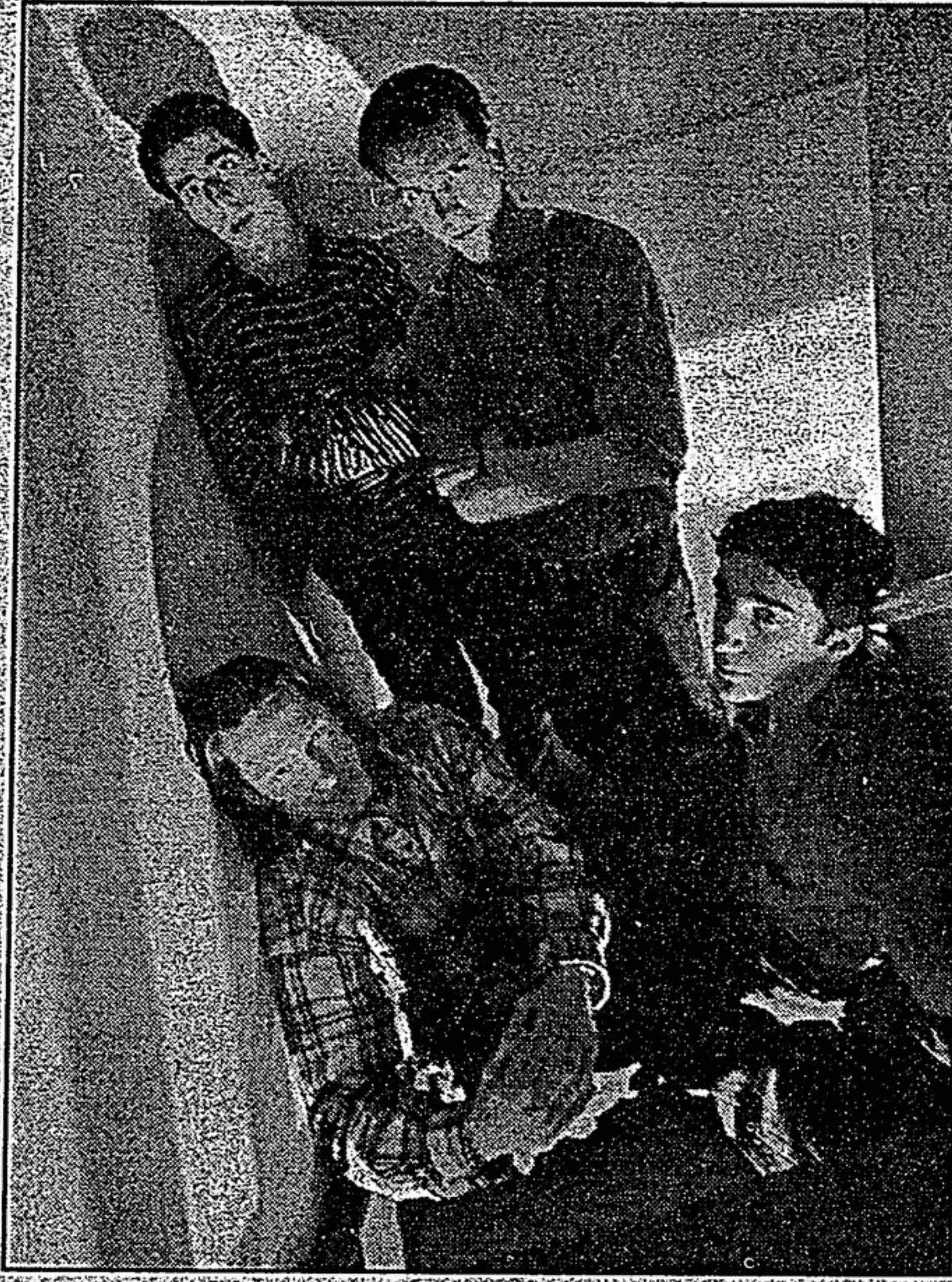
The band has already played at popular downtown clubs like the El Mocambo and Lee's Palace. They are hoping to tour Ontario this summer. Sepa sees their music as "appealing to a wide range of people."

The band's influences show that wide range of tastes from Bruce Cockburn to the Doors to Mother Earth. Lyrically, Shuker cites Bob Marley as a big influ-

ENTERTAINMENT

ence. Anyone interested in purchasing a CD or finding out more information about Julian Rain can write to them at 205 Lori Ave., Stouffville, L4A 6C7.

The band can also be reached by calling (905) 853-9854, faxing to (905) 473-3498 or sending an e-mail to rshuker@ultratech.ca.



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spotlight

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