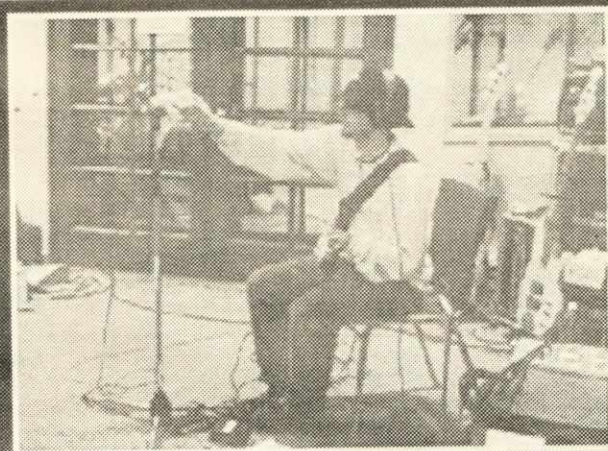


A Day in the Life of



Jazzberry Ram

BY JANET FRENCH

Three independent releases and a plethora of cross country tours have cemented Vancouver's Jazzberry Ram as one of Canada's most prominent indie bands. Jazzberry Ram consists of Allan McInnis, Colin Stobie and brothers Drew and Stephen Stewart. We snagged the band on the road in Belleville, Ontario, and this is what they had to say for themselves.

Gaz: How do your varied musical backgrounds affect your songwriting and your sound?

JBR: If we weren't so varied like we are, we wouldn't sound like Jazzberry Ram. Each of us brings something totally different

to the table every time we jam, write songs or play live. Drew has an excellent sense of pop melody and incredible showmanship; Stephen is jazz trained and a wicked piano player; Colin loves trippy, far-out obscure music; and Allan has crazy influences, including a stint in a highland pipe band.

Gaz: How do you feel about being an indie band? Is the freedom of having no record label a good thing?

JBR: As far as integrity and headaches [are concerned], it's great. We've always been proud of what we have accomplished without the help of others. We're proud to be independent artists, free of corporate music in Canada,

but there definitely are things we are missing. It would be easier to tour if we had a video on Muchmusic, which is very difficult to get without the backing of a record company. We're happy with what we have achieved in Canada, but our future as a band [may depend] on getting more popular in the United States. [On our own], it is too hard to get across the border and get paying gigs, because of the exposure that you need.

Gaz: Are you actively looking for a label to join?

JBR: Somewhat, but nothing has come across our table that would make us happy. After doing everything on our own, with all the funding coming from our

own pockets and playing our asses off for the last six years, we're not going to give it away for some contract where the company takes 80% of everything first. We're looking for a contract where we still have complete creative control and ownership of everything. Until that comes along, we're not going to sign a deal, because we could keep going like we are now for years, and still be satisfied.

Gaz: What are your most and least favourite things about touring?

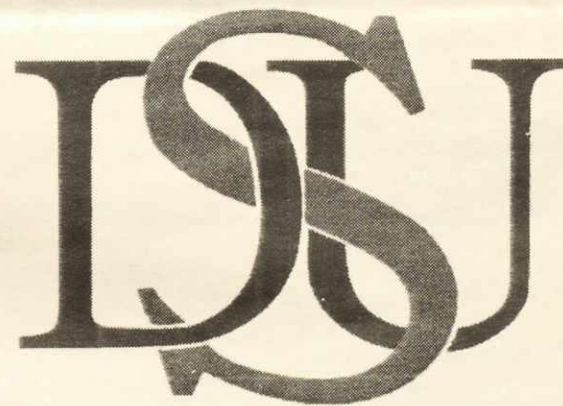
JBR: Meeting people and whole experience of travelling, that would have to be the best thing. The worst thing? Our country is too big. It's the best

country in the world, but it would be really nice if every city could be a couple hours closer together. These 12 hour drives don't do anything for your interpersonal relations.

Gaz: What's the craziest thing that has ever happened to you on tour?

JBR: The first time we played in Fredericton, we had never been there before and we didn't even know where it was. We show up to the gig expecting five people, and the place is packed. Everybody there had our CD's, and sang along to every song. Another time, we opened for a Tragically Hip cover band, called 'the Practically Hip' in Peterborough. There was a full

ALREADY COVERED?



Dalhousie University
Students' Union

Last day to opt out of the
Health Plan is
September 24th

Drop by the office, rm 310, 3rd floor,
Dalhousie Student Union Building.