

89L

THE HARTFORD COURANT MAY 15-21, 2003



RANE DROPS BY WEBSTER FRIDAY

With a new drummer to debut, a live album available for free download and a studio album in the works, rane returns for a hometown show Friday at the Webster Theatre.

Formed in 1996 by students at South Windsor and Manchester high schools, rane has evolved into one of New England's most inventive bands. The group disdains the "jam band" moniker, though it's probably the most concise description of rane's music, which crosses the boundaries of genre and defies easy classification.

Drummer Bruce Menard, formerly of Mighty Purple, replaces Travis LaMothe, who left earlier this year to pursue other interests. Menard (above left, with Kurt Rinaldi, Dan Prindle, Ryan Bowman and Alan Veniscofsky) joins a band that has created a word-of-mouth following without the benefit of major-label record distribution or radio play. Yet rane's second album, "Camelopardalis" — released on a label the band members founded five years ago — has charted on SoundScan's Top 50 albums in the Hartford/New Britain market and the Top 100 in the Springfield area.

Fans and the curious can download a live album of the band's Dec. 28, 2002, performance at Cheney Hall in Manchester at www.tidesrecords.com. The band headlines the Webster Friday with Missing Joe, the Goods and Burning Ferns. Tickets are \$10; doors open at 7 p.m. Information: 860-525-5553.

— ERIC R. DANTON