

features

R.E.M.: File Under Fire

by A. Thomas Mamaux
 Collegian Staff Writer

This space was originally reserved for The Cure's new album 'Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me'. After I got my hands on R.E.M.'s new album 'Document' The Cure went straight to the trash can. I got 'Document' two days before the deadline was due and was inspired to stay up late to type this review because the album is that good. I listened to the first song 'Finest Worksong' four times in a row. "The time to rise has been engaged/good better best to rearrange/ I'm talking here to me alone/I listen to the finest worksong/the finest that I've ever heard." Michael Stipe, lead singer, is telling the truth. It is one of the

finest songs.

Michael Stipe sometimes on TV seems arrogant and long-winded, but really he is just plain amazing. He is the driving force of R.E.M. His lyrics are not always clear cut, but they always show some of his own idealism. R.E.M., like U2, was one of the greatest underground bands. Now whether they want it or not, they will be pushed up the charts and to the front of the crowd. 'Document' is short for documentary which Michael Stipe classifies as a Commercial. This album is their commercial.

The first song 'Finest Worksong' is an automatic winner. Bill Berry's drums are relentless while Peter Buck spills a load of guitar work onto the song. Stipe's voice really comes through strong. 'Finest

Worksong' is inspiring and the lyrics are good.

The next song 'Welcome to the Occupation' is a plea to change American policies in Central America. "Hang your freedom higher/ listen to the congress propagate the confusion/fire in the hemisphere below." 'Exhuming McCarthy' is about American business that drives it point home with live recordings from McCarthy's speeches. 'Strange' makes Stipe sound deranged. This song will get a lot of airplay from the college radio because of the constant driving beat that makes the song danceable and singable.

I think the song 'End of the World As We Know It (And I'm Still Fine)', is R.E.M.'s version of a rap song gone reckless. The lyrics are so fast that they are hard to

catch. The beat is so fast that the words heard are quickly forgotten. Stipe sings "offer me solutions/offer me alternatives/and I will decline" which shows us part of his theology and why R.E.M. does not sacrifice originality for commercial success.

'The One I Love' is the first single and will probably be the first video. It is a slow love song with a twist of violence. 'King of Birds' uses a sitar and an army drum beat. It is like a folk song with its overlapping verses. 'Old Longfellow's 151' starts out with a distorted guitar that reminded of psychedelic rock. Peter Buck keeps jabbing distortion into the song the whole way thru. The last song 'Maps and Legends' was recorded live. Stipe's voice is drowned out in

the beginning but recovers. I would be a good idea to see R.E.M. live.

All of R.E.M.'s songs have a great bass and drum section thanks to Mike Mills and Bill Berry. Peter Buck provides plenty of guitar work. Usually a strong rhythm laced with blazing leads. Plenty of muscle here. Some may not like Stipe's voice, complaining of a nasal twang, but it has much improved since the days of 'Reckoning'. His voice never lacks passion. You can tell he puts all he has into each song. His lyrics are like no one else's. Stipe is purely original.

Overall it is a sound album which will spring to life if given the chance. You better turn the stereo up loud when you listen to 'Document'. It is naked, raw edge music with lyrics that punch.

MUSIC REVIEW

Your key to cultural events at Penn State Behrend

Whether you prefer Bach or boogie-woogie, the classics or comedians, Penn State-Behrend provides programs that are in perfect harmony with your cultural tastes.

Cultural Series

The Wright Brothers
 August 26, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Juggling, storytelling, mime and acrobatics from a vaudeville comedy troupe.

The Astonishing Neal
 August 27, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. A journey into the world of ESP and hypnosis with the psychic entertainer.

The Phil Giordano Quartet
 September 19, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Big band jazz in the tradition of Count Basie and Woody Herman.

Don Kamin: "Masquerade"
 October 6, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. The internationally acclaimed mime creates a comic vision of American life.

The Dulcimer Music of Kevin Roth
 October 12, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. A kaleidoscope of music and poetry from an innovative dulcimer player.

Pascual Olivera and Angela Del Moral
 October 30, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Vibrant style and impeccable technique inform the work of ballet and Spanish dance artists Pascual Olivera and Angela Del Moral.

Mr. B
 November 10, 1987, 8 p.m. Wintergreen Cafe. Blues piano in the style of masters such as Blind John Davis and Sunnyland Slim.

Pennsylvania Dance Theatre
 November 16, 1987, 8:30 p.m. Erie Hall. Contemporary dance from a company known for its talent and creativity.

Third Stream Jazz
 January 21, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. All that jazz — Dixieland, swing, be-bop, avant-garde and fusion — from a group which has shared the bill with Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea.

Jonathan Frid
 January 25, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Jonathan Frid, Barnabus Collins on TV's cult classic, "Dark Shadows," weaves a ghoulish selection of stories from Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen King and others into a terrifying cloak of horror.

Big Lou and the Move
 January 30, 1988, 10 p.m. Wintergreen Cafe. Rock around the clock with music from the '50's and '60's.

James Moeser
 February 7, 1988, 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church (707 Sassafras Street). Concert organist James Moeser, dean of Penn State's College of Arts and Architecture, gives a performance *The Washington Post* has called "a strange and wonderful experience."

Vinie Burrows:
 "Walk Together Children"
 February 11, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. The tragedy and triumph of the Black experience in America in a one-woman show of prose, poem and song.

The Hancock Chamber Players
 February 20, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. A rich and varied repertoire of classical music from America's only trio of oboe, horn and piano.

Clairsearch
 March 11, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Irish ballads, ditties, reels, jigs and war marches performed on the harp and traditional Irish instruments.

Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble
 March 22, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. *The Play's The Thing* uses a variety of theatrical styles to trace the relationship between two people through the ages.

Alpha Omega Players
 April 14, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. The Repertory Theatre of America's national touring company, celebrating its 20th anniversary, presents a Neil Simon play.

Bruce 'n' Bizarre
 April 19, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Comedy stars Scott Bruce and John Bizarre team up in an act that includes stand-up and sketch comedy, audience participation and improvisation.

Speakers Series

The Voyager Crew
 September 2, 1987, 8 p.m. Erie Hall. Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager recount their historic nine-day, non-stop flight around the world.

Peter James
 September 3, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Intelligence expert and ex-spy Peter James discusses CIA operations, the Iran-Contra scandal and how the Soviets spy on the United States.

Rev. Arthur Langford
 January 18, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. A moving dramatic portrayal of Martin Luther King, Jr. marks the 20th anniversary of the civil rights leader's assassination.

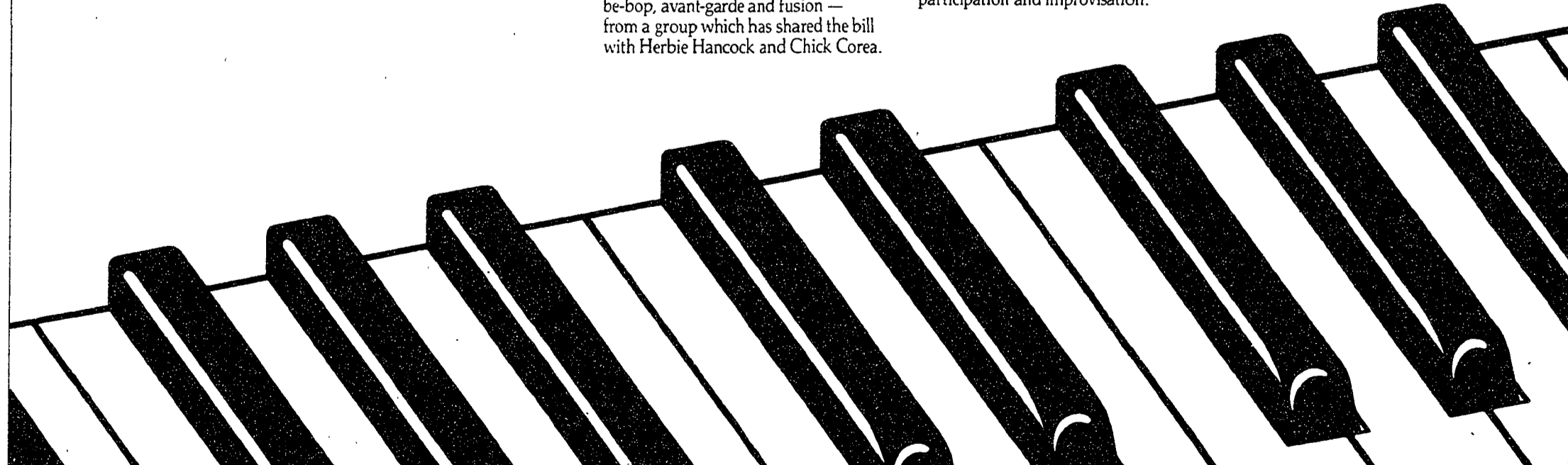
Dr. Alvin Poussaint
 February 1, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Dr. Alvin Poussaint, associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, is a social activist and *The Cosby Show* script consultant.

Ellen Goodman
 March 21, 1988, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. An evening with the Pulitzer Prize-winner whose columns "... touch readers in a very personal way, like a reassuring squeeze of the hand..." (*Time* magazine).

George McGovern vs. William F. Buckley, Jr.
 March 28, 1988, 8 p.m. Erie Hall. The liberal former senator debates the editor of *National Review* on "Resolved: Foreign Policy is Better Entrusted to the Republicans than the Democrats."

Dr. Ralph Abernathy
 April 12, 1987, 8 p.m. Reed Lecture Hall. Past director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Ralph Abernathy preaches on behalf of racial equality and justice.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 898-6159.



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