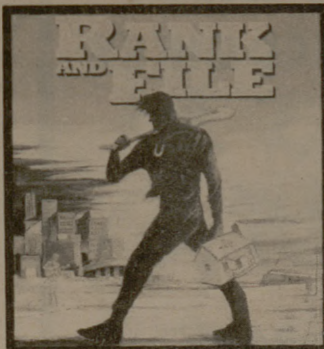


Reviews



"Rank and File"
Rank and File
Rhino Records
★★★★

For over five years, Rank and File has been unjustly ignored by the record-buying public. But the band's influence on other bands can't be ignored.

All one has to do is listen to the music of the Georgia Satellites, the Del Fuegos or any of the other back-to-the-basics, bar-band rockers cranking out hard, old-fashioned rock

to hear Rank and File's influence. Even the Everly Brothers, who were making rock 'n' roll before most of the members of Rank and File were born, have acknowledged Rank and File's talent by including the band's "Amanda Ruth" on their "Born Yesterday" album last year.

"Rank and File" marks the band's debut on Rhino Records. The band's first two albums on Slash Records, "Sundown" (1983) and "Long Gone Dead" (1984), received favorable reviews and gained the band a cult following. The band's live shows have helped to expand that cult.

The band was formed by guitarist Chip and bassist Tony Kinman in 1981. The brothers write the band's material and

alternate on lead vocals. Drummer R. Kahr and guitarist Jeff Ross complete the quartet.

The best thing about Rank and File's music is that it cuts through the crap and gets right down to business. The band puts up a solid wall of guitars, bass and drums for the Kinman brothers' voices to scale. There are easily indentifiable country, blues, punk and heavy metal influences in the band's sound that blend together well. The lyrics are simple and unambitious but don't come off as mindless.

The album's strongest track, "Pistol Dawn," is one of the best songs yet written about apartheid. Its lyrics are a straightforward view of life in South Africa intensified by Ross' guitar solo. Ross' guitar becomes a

metaphor for the black South African people in that you can sense a great power that is being restrained.

Ross belongs to that rare breed of guitarists that can crank out the jams without unnecessary bravado. His playing, especially on "Golden Age" and "Love House," recalls the best of the '60s electric blues styles. The western punk of "Unlucky in Love" and the metal thrash of "Oh! That Girl" also provide showcases for Ross' guitar.

"Black Book" is a perfect blend of thundering drums and guitar power chords. "RBI" and "Good Times" combine inspired lyrics and sharp vocals to good effect. Only "One Big Thing" and "Sweet Life" come off as being forced and uneasy.

Rank and File deserves a hit album and "Rank and File" could be it. The album's only weakness is that it leaves you wondering just how good the band is live.—*Review by Karl Pallmeyer*

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Best Bets

Howdy! Welcome to the first summer issue of *At Ease*. This summer Best Bets goes off the beaten path to discover new and varied entertainment opportunities. If your agency or group has an interesting event coming up, let us know by calling *At Ease* at 845-3312.

Friday, June 12

Movie In The Park: College Station Parks and Recreation will be showing "Black Cauldron" in Central Park. The feature will begin at dusk, admission is free and concessions will be available. For more information call 764-3773.

The Burleson County Fair and Rodeo: If it's been a while since you've been to a county fair, you might want to head for the Burleson County Fair Grounds in Caldwell. For more fair information call 567-7979.

Moonlight Swim: For those who don't have time to swim during the day, the Bryan Aquatic Center will be open from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Anyone age 18 or older will be admitted.

Fiddler's Festival: If you enjoy Blue Grass entertainment then you probably won't mind the hour and a half drive to Crockett for the fifty-first World Championship Fiddler's

Festival sponsored by the Mu Sigma chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. The show will begin at 12 p.m. at Davy Crockett Memorial Park.

Saturday, June 13

Bring A Picnic Tour: This tour of the Messina Hof Wine Cellars on Old Reliance Road might be an interesting way to spend an afternoon. Be sure to make reservations by calling 778-WINE.

Burleson County Fair and Rodeo: continues today.

Fiddler's Festival: If you waited until Saturday to drive to Crockett, you should plan on getting up early because the show starts at 10 a.m. If you want to stick around and you like to dance, a dance will commence at 8 p.m. and run until 1 a.m.

Sunday, June 14

Summer Concert: For free music and relaxed atmosphere, the College Station Parks and Recreation is sponsoring two bands. "Carter Creek Blue" will perform from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and "Horse Sense" from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Concessions will be available and you'll need your lawn chair.

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