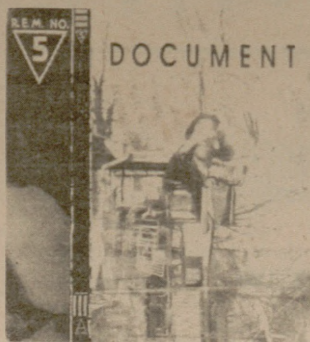


# reviews



**"Document"**  
R.E.M.  
I.R.S. Records  
\*\*\*

Each previous LP of R.E.M. has done well on the rock 'n' roll album charts, but the band has yet to release a single that can match the success of the albums. Since most of the previous works of this group were in the form of concept albums rather than collections of songs, this comes as no surprise.

With "Document," the band's fifth album, R.E.M. is trying to emphasize the songs as separate entities.

R.E.M. started in Athens, Georgia, where the band was discovered by I.R.S. Records. The first EP, "Chronic Town," was recorded in 1982, and the first LP, "Murmur," was released the following year. The band members are drummer Bill Berry, bassist and keyboardist Mike Mills, guitarist Peter Buck and singer Michael Stipe.

Stipe writes most of the lyrics. The words he uses do not tell stories as much as create moods. Stipe draws his inspirations from a variety of sources. The lyrics on "Fireside" are a paraphrasing of a

speech by Mother Ann Lee, a founder of the Quakers.

The first single from the album is "The One I Love," a slow pop song that includes some good guitar work from Buck. This song is the first on side two, and is the only bright spot of the side. The other four songs do not have any punch and appear to be filler.

Side one is much better. "Welcome to the Occupation" hauntingly protests U.S. policy in Central America. "Exhuming McCarthy" has a beatnik sound and seems to be comparing the attitude of that period to the yuppie attitude of today. The best song on the album is "It's the End of the World (And I Feel

Fine)." It's an upbeat, catchy song that does a fair amount of name dropping.

The vocals of Stipe are more intelligible than on any previous album and the band seems more accomplished at writing songs. There are some songs on "Document" that are as good as on any previous R.E.M. album, but the album as a whole falls short of the quality of "Murmur" and "Chronic Town."

This could have been a great EP if most of side two had been omitted. Instead, this latest release is only a good LP.

R.E.M. will start touring in October to support the album, and one of their stops will be in College Station on November 19. MSC Town Hall is sponsoring the event and tickets should go on sale sometime next month.

-Review by Thomas Reinarts

**"The Principal"**  
Starring James Belushi and Louis Gossett Jr.  
Directed by Christopher Cain  
Rated R  
\*\*\*\*

"The Principal," an early release of the fall film season, could easily prove to be one of the best films of the year.

The movie tells the story of Rick Latimer (played by James Belushi), a recently divorced teacher in a middle class high school in some unnamed city. His troubles begin when he sees his former wife in a bar with another man and Latimer attacks the guy's car with a baseball bat.

The next day at school Latimer finds that instead of being fired he is being "promoted" to principal. The only problem is that the school he is to be principal of is Brandel, the most violent high school in the city.

At his new school Latimer quickly finds out who his friends and enemies are. His best friend turns out to be Jake Phillips, the head of security, and his worst enemy is Victor Duncan, the leader of the top gang at the high school.

Problems that the new


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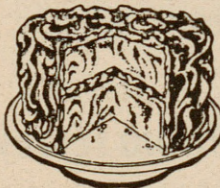
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