

REM to play Portland on Friday

R & B quartet will open

By Mike Barrett
Emerald Contributor

REM, the critics choice for the best band of the 80s, will appear in Portland's Memorial Coliseum on Friday at 8 p.m. The four-man band from Athens, Ga. is promoting its most recent release *Green*, which quickly became one of the top-selling albums of 1988.

The band was formed by vocalist and songwriter Michael Stipe and guitarist Peter Buck, who at one time roomed together in an abandoned church. After recruiting University of Georgia students Mike Mills and Bill Berry, the seed was planted for one of rock 'n' roll's future phenomena.

REM, which formed in 1980, has nine albums to its name. The band's debut album was an extended-play titled *Chronic Town*, which was released in 1982. Although *Chronic Town* drew interest and added a unique style to the ongoing musical evolution, it was their next album *Murmur* that put

them on the map.

Murmur, which was hailed by *Rolling Stone's* critic's poll as 1983 Album of the Year, made clear that REM had developed a style all its own.

Happy but far from satisfied with its newly found success, the band proceeded to produce albums such as *Reckoning*, *Dead Letter Office*, *Fables of the Reconstruction*, *Life's Rich Pageant*, *Document*, and *Eponymus*. Although these albums fared well, it was not until the release of *Green* that the band was catapulted to commercial success.

Green is meant to be very uplifting, according to Stipe, unlike its predecessor *Document*. *Green* contains more energy with songs such as "Stand" and "Pop Song," as well as the powerful anti-Vietnam tune "Orange Crush." This appears a turnabout from the melancholy beat displayed on *Document* in "Finest Worksong" and "The One I Love."

"After *Document*, we did want to make a slight left turn

... *Green* is just this year's installment; the latest chapter in the continuing saga. The point, I guess, is that we never really know where we're going until we get there," Buck said.

Stipe attributes the band's success to its freedom in the studio. "We've been fortunate to work with people who have given us a lot of leeway," he said. It is this concept which serves as the basis for the group's fundamental operating principle: If you're not doing it your way, it's not worth doing.

The band's style of music, which Buck calls "Bubble Gum Heavy Metal," is both compelling and enigmatic. The energy level may vary between songs such as "Begin the Begin," "Radio Free Europe," "World Leader" and "I Remember California," but all of these songs deliver the quality listeners have come to expect from a band of REM's stature.

The New Rhythm And Blues Quartet will open the show. Tickets are still available, so "Get Up" and go. REM will be sure to "Turn You Inside Out."

Park Continued from Page 1

this might be a result."

Stotter added, however, that LUBA is a political body, with members appointed by Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, and that the group's decision is "the last hoop we've had to jump through that's political."

Now the appeal may be taken further, Stotter said.

"It's very likely we'll take it to the Oregon Court of Appeals," he said. Beyond that, another possibility is taking the case to the state Supreme Court, he said. He has been involved with the research park site issue for four years.

"We still believe that there is a way to accommodate a research park without sacrificing the area close to the river," he said. "This decision calls for a student response. If students want to protect the riverfront, this may be their last opportunity before bulldozers and jack-

hammers hit it."

The University administration supports the project, Stotter said, though students have approved two separate ballot measures advocating protection of open space on the Willamette River.

Urquhart did not comment on the LUBA decision, but said he advocates preserving recreational grounds along the river.

"All of us have said we have supported the Riverfront Research Park," he said. "We do not support its (proposed) location and the way it was planned."


Mike Holstun, chief referee for LUBA, said that much of the board's report is technical and specific, and the decision on the research park land was more complicated than most. An announcement on a decision was scheduled to be made more than a month ago.

Holstun said that some defenses in the appeal that were rejected dealt with statutory and code issues of the City of Eugene. Other provisions were not applicable to a conditional use permit decision, he said.

LUBA also disagreed with a section of the appeal which called for protection of vegetation and habitat along a wide area along the river bank, because the stipulation contradicts city code, Holstun said.

The 67-acre site proposed for the park is in the Willamette Greenway, a corridor of land designated by state statute for protection and enhancement of the river bank.

The research park project is a joint enterprise of the University, the City of Eugene, the state of Oregon and the Utah-based Institutional Development Associates.



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