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R.E.M. READIES SECOND LP, 'RECKONING' ON I.R.S., ANNOUNCES TOUR PLANS

R.E.M., the band from Athens, GA, who won critical accolades with their first single, EP and LP, has completed the recording of its second full-length album, entitled Reckoning.

The album, co-produced by Mitch Easter (R.E.M.'s long-time collaborator and member of I.R.S. act Let's Active) and Don Dixon, was recorded at Reflection Sound Studios in Charlotte, N.C., where its predecessor, Murmur, was cut.

Release of the LP is set for April 16, at which time the band's European tour will be in progress through May 1. The American tour -- nearly all appearances to be headline dates -- will commence in May and run through the summer months.

Reckoning follows on the heels of 1983's Murmur, one of the most critically-acclaimed albums of the year. The record was the recipient of Rolling Stone's "Album of the Year," Record magazine's "Debut Album of the Year," and the No. 2 "Album of the Year" in the annual Village Voice "Pazz & Jop Poll." R.E.M. themselves were voted "Best New Artists of 1983" in the Rolling Stone critics' poll.

Responding to the great expectations for the follow-up, R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck states that "quite often a second album sounds like an inferior rehash of the first. But Reckoning represents a real departure from Murmur. We didn't want it to be the same type of production. Reckoning is less a mood record, more a song record."

Atlanta video artist Howard Libov filmed one LP track, "S. Central Rain (I'm Sorry)," with the band recording live at Reflection. As a final touch, Reckoning's distinctive cover was created by the renowned Georgia folk artist, the Rev. Howard Finster, who has exhibited in galleries throughout the country.

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