



**The Replacements  
Don't Tell A Soul  
Sire Records**

The last, best band of the 1980s. This is a phrase that is beginning to pop up in a number of interesting places in reference to The Replacements. Granted, mostly it appears in the ads for their own new album, but it's also been said in articles in places like Musician magazine.

It's a dramatic claim that recalls the days of The Clash: The Only Band That Matters, and it looks real good in white print on the black background above singer/songwriter/guitarist Paul Westerberg's face in the ad. And it seems like it merits a little discussion.

So, is it true? Well, a number of their early neck and neck competitors for the title have in one way or another fallen aside (this is presumably

where the 'last' comes from). R.E.M. has been exposed, Husker Du has disintegrated, and the Minutemen were prematurely taken out of the game by a car crash that took D. Boon's life.

It's only fair to say right now that as a group record reviewers have a tendency to think too much in decades. Scott Miller of Game Theory could lay a strong claim to best songwriter in the world at present, and if someone rivals Paul Westerberg for lyrical portrayals of these times, it's him. In fact he wins.

But since he and his band didn't really get going until 1985, and since they seem to operate out in their own little musical world rather than being one of the spearheads of an '80s musical move-

ment, they are out of the title chase. Elvis Costello and the Attractions could make a strong claim to best band ever, but since they started in the seventies and continued on into the eighties, they will never get to rule a decade of their own. The Greatest Band of the late '70s and the early to mid-'80s doesn't have much of a ring to it, and if there's one thing the rock music world likes, it's something with a ring to it.

And of course there about 600 more bands with little pockets of diehard fanatics for fans out there that are being ignored here.

But up to this point, a far more important issue has been ignored--The Replacements themselves. All they have done is put out a series

of albums ranging from above average to great, each with at least a couple of moments of brilliance.

Their newest album, "Don't Tell a Soul," isn't any different in this respect.

Although they have survived the last few years better than R.E.M. or Husker Du, these years have been turbulent ones for The Replacements, with internal problems resulting in the departure of Bob Stinson, player of insane blues licks and champion beer drinker. In many peoples' eyes, the quintessential Replacement.

On "Don't Tell a Soul," he is replaced by Slim Dunlap, who sort of hung around and played a few

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## Twisters' owner is happy with store site

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for their businesses."

McCallum said he thinks more shop keepers and retailers will abandon downtown Lincoln the longer they "have to stay in limbo. They are the backbone of downtown Lincoln right now," he said.

Recent developments have jeopardized the future of downtown redevelopment, he said. The

"apparent lack of interest on the part of Dillard's department store to remain in downtown Lincoln as part of the redevelopment (should) signal a reason to abandon that formula," McCallum said.

He said the formula requires "two very large anchor retail tenants plus 150 specialty shops" and will involve four square blocks.

McCallum thinks the entire plan for downtown redevelopment was a poor idea from the start.

"I don't think a concept of that intense an amount of retail will work, because of the number of people it requires to support it," he said.

"The city should look at something besides regional mall retailing in downtown Lincoln," he said.

McCallum said he thought the city should focus on developing more housing in the downtown area.

"It will enhance the retail environment" if more people live in the area, he said.

"More housing and small, specialized retailing make a lot of sense. A regional mall makes no sense at all," he said. The downtown area should have a "people

orientation, not a big business orientation," he added.

McCallum would support a different redevelopment plan, one not centered on a regional mall.

"Downtowns are not the place where the bulk of retailing is done. That is the reality we are dealing with," he said.

"There is no cause to abandon enhancement of what is already in downtown Lincoln," he said.

Instead, McCallum said he thinks a plan should focus on the "specific strengths and weaknesses of downtown. Everyone agrees that it is important to keep downtown vital, but there are differences of opinion on how to do so."

"My opinion is not to level everything that is down here and build a monolithic retail center. We enhance our consumer base by concentrating on housing and specialized shops."

McCallum said there is no way to postpone the development of regional malls on the Southeast side of town. "Once that happens, any regional mall in downtown Lincoln will probably be a ghost town," McCallum said.

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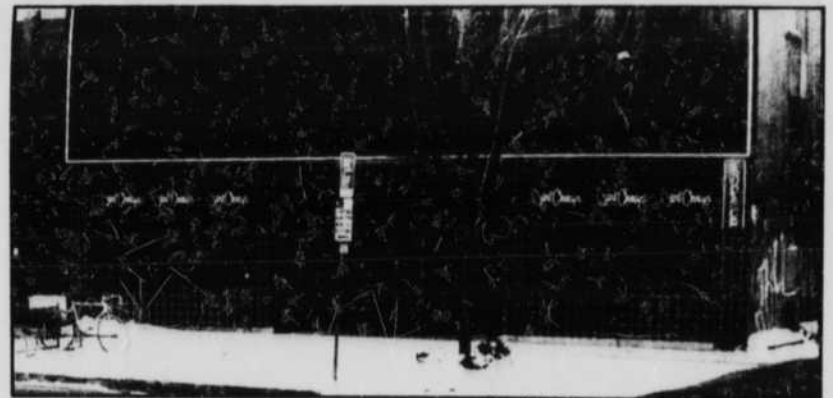
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