

improved.

**R.E.M.:** Even Stipe,

Buck and Mills weren't overjoyed with 2004's *Around The Sun* but signs are that the Jackknife Lee-produced *Accelerate* (out March 31) is a return to form. Confirmed tracks include *Until The Day Is Done*, *Living Well Is The Best Revenge*, *Mr Richards* and *I'm Gonna DJ* (a set regular on their 2004/05 world tour.) Stipe says the guitar-driven LP is "the fastest we've made in 20 years".