

## Los Guys: Muy Bueno

#### Los Guys

We're Getting Nowhere on Our Looks ... And Fast!

Paper Canoe Records

#### \*\*\*

Jeremy Donaldson has been trying to get Barbara Uehling's attention for a long time. Three years, actually, ever since he and partner Harold Lee — Los Guys — first started performing "Barbara's Song" for Isla Vista audiences. Anyone who's gone to the popular local band's shows knows this song well - a plebeian cry from a guy who feels like a number somewhere between one and 18,500.

If this song, the first track on their new CD, can't grab the chancellor's attention, nothing can. (Hrrumph. Chortle.) Backed by Lee's frenzied, distorted guitar playing, Donaldson sings about an education that has more to do with booze than books, referring to Uehling as his "snugglebunny," and listing off various tools she uses in the throes of passion (Wesson oil, electrodes and baseball bats,

to name a few). All in good fun, of course. Good fun, essentially, is what Los Guys is all about, although the "fun" melodies and foot-tapping beats on We're Getting Nowhere on Our Looks are often disguises for more sober subjects. Equipped with two guitars and their ver-sion of the truth, Los Guys stir hardhitting cynicism into wacky parody on this 14-song album. Sometimes, these guys are just downright silly. Lyrics like "I'd rather that they cut out my heart/and" plus Lee's amazing (for lack of a better or

put it with the fish in the Cuisinart/than to be without you for just an hour or two/ It ain't worth much to me when we're apart," from "Bad Wine," would sound like absolutely inanity coming from anyone but Los Guys, who draw the words into unflinching ears with magician's grace. This is because they're good. The kind of good that doesn't hit you over the head, but gradually sinks into you until you realize you're listening to a song about the chancellor's sex life and singing along, smiling.

At the same time, Donaldson's lyrics are often surprising in their maturity. It's almost hard to believe that the guy who's "scared that there might be more to life than beer and sex" in "Wannabe" is the same guy singing about wife (girlfriend?) abuse in "Alison's Song": "Little boys, they learn to play war; little girls play house." This, from a recent college graduate? The same is true for "Soundcheck," about the irony of Oregon's Propostion 9, and "Romeo and Juliet," a song about the relationship between pimp and prostitute that reflects Donaldson's general cynic-ism towards America's "flesh for cash" ethos

Musically, it's easy to forget that there are two people in Los Guys. Two people vocals, guitars, that's it. This is because, as I said, they're good. No drums, no synthesizers, no troupe of doo-wopping backup vocalists. Their rich, round sound is just Donaldson's croon-



funny.

#### Look, look! It's Jeremy and Harold!

more accurate word) lead guitar. Lee plays guitar like Wolfgang Puck makes a souffle — a little of this, a pinch of that and a lot of know-how. He's good, real good.

According to the liner notes, most of the songs on We're Getting Nowhere on Our Looks are first takes, glitches and flubs included. In an age where even good bands laminate their sound through overproduction, it's refreshing that Los Guys chose to go the simple route.

Oh, and Babs, you're not the only "leader" who gets dogged on this CD. Donaldson gives George Bush the works in "Ode to the 41st President," home of the infamous chant, "Goodbye. Adios. You motherfucker."

"Out of the loop? Out of the loop? I lied better than that when I was six!" Not only are these guys good; they're

-Bonnie Bills

### Following the Herd, With a Twist

WILLIAM

BALDWIN

#### **Sheep On Drugs**

SHARON

Sheep On Drugs Greatest Hits **Island Records** 

\*\*\*

If you like techno but haven't yet heard of Sheep on Drugs, you will. Admittedly, the first thing I liked about

this band was their name, which I liked even better when I discovered how they came up with the idea for such a creative title: "We make music for the audience, and they are the sheep on drugs. Everyone is a sheep on drugs, because drugs are basically an addiction everyone has, it could be TV, cigarettes, books, whatever it's sheep because none of us are there ahead of everyone else, everyone follows

the pack," lead singer Duncan says. Likewise, in an attempt to be original in the repetitious world of techno, Duncan and Lee (they apparently don't have last names) incorporate many unique sounds into their synthesized beat.

Typical of the '90s, this band's mindset revolves around sex, drugs, money and speed — in that order. It combines a fastpaced rhythmical beat with pessimistic and promiscuous undertones. Although the sound is enjoyable, like most techno it tends to become a bit redundant and tedious after a while. Nevertheless, if you're in the mood to move and groove — here's your band.

TOM

BERENGER

-Molly Meade



Anti-Racism Rock **Creature** Feature

(pictured) will be one of five bands performing in Anisq' Oyo' Park this Saturday from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. The concert, also featuring rappers Joint Effort, acid rockers Glue, speed metal types Cold, and the grungy Green fingers, is called Rock Against Racism.





YOU LIKE TO WATCH DON'T YOU

## **SLIVER**

Paramount Pictures presents Robert Evans production Sharon Stone William Baldwin Tom Berenger SLIVER Martin Landau white Howard Shore approver Tim Sexton product William J. Macdonald diff Richard Francis-Bruce Production Paul Sylbert diverse of Vilmos Zsigmond, LS.C. pretering Howard W. Koch, Jr. and Joe Eszterhas and and the levin screening Joe Eszterhas produced Robert Evans SOCNOTRACK ALBERN AVAILABLE ON VIRCEN MOVIE MESIC COMPACT DISCS AND CASSETTES Intered Phillip Novce A Paramount Com READ THE BANTAN BOOK NS FRIDAY, MAY 21st AT THEATRES EVERYW



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#### ARTSWEEK



Drummer Zakir Hussain will bring his drum talent to campus.

### The Percussionist to Beat

Zakir Hussain performs with UCSB's Indian Music Ensemble. A native of India, and a musical pro-

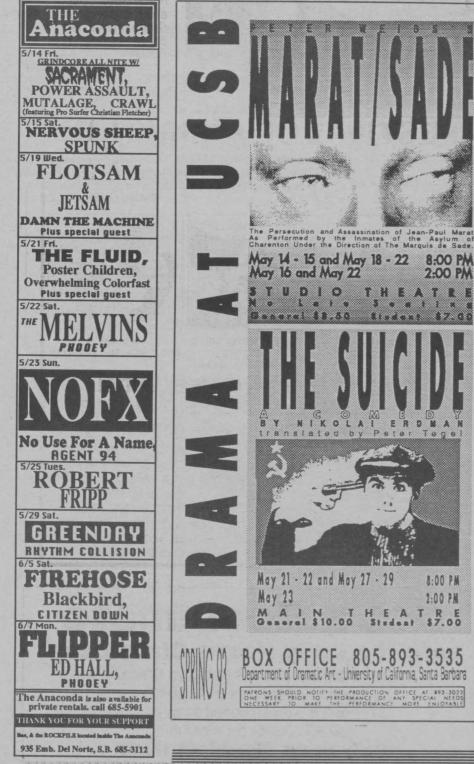
digy who was touring by the age of 12, Hussain is known around the world for his ability on the *tabla* as well as any biner percussion instrument that lands in his hands. (The *tabla*, by the way, is a spe-cial type of Indian drum.) In addition to winning high praise in India for his musi-cal abilities — including the "Padma Shri," a title given to civilians of merit by the Indian government — he has sold al-bums worldwide and accentrated a summer of the solution of the soluti bums worldwide and accrued numerous international awards for his unique brand of world music.

Hussain's international tour schedule

The sound of drums will reverberate generally includes 150 concerts a year, inthrough Lotte Lehmann Hall next week when *tabla* virtuoso and Grammy winner he has toured since 1970, and he has perhe has toured since 1970, and he has per-formed with high-caliber musicians like guitarists George Harrison and John McGlaughlin, and sitarist Ravi Shanker. His lengthy list of musical achievements includes a 1992 album he and Grateful his ability on the *tabla* as well as any Dead drummer Mickey Hart created other percussion instrument that lands in called *Planet Drum*, which garnered the

often, so go take a listen. Zakir Hussain will perform at Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall on Tuesday, May 18 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Arts and Lectures Ticket Office.

-Bonnie Bills





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#### ARTSWE



#### text by Martin Boer

yberpunk has officially arrived. Time magazine devoted a cover story to the phenomenon a while back, and Billy Idol has titled his upcoming album Cyberpunk Press. And while the idea of cyberpunk has long been passe within the science fic-tion community, it is now being embraced warmly by "popular" culture.

Out of the margins and the esoteric imaginations of computer hackers and phone phreaks, cyberpunk has gone mainstream and in some ways has become as much a part of our generation as MTV and Jane's Addiction. Yet while as much attention has been given to this phenomena as to the supposed "Generation X," few of us ac-tually know what cyberpunk means.

According to English Professor Frank McConnell, who teaches a course on science fiction, cyberpunk began with William Gibson's novel Neuromancer. "Nobody had seen anything like it before. Cyberpunk was a phrase created to describe what Gibson was writing. Suddenly everybody was crazy about it and a bunch of second and third-rate writers were doing it," he said. But is cyberpunk any different from science fiction?

"That's like asking is Steely Dan rock 'n' roll or jazz?

All cyberpunk is science fiction, but not all science fic-tion is cyberpunk," McConnell said. Paul McHenry, the editorial assistant of cyberpunk magazine Mondo 2000, says that cyberpunk is a new and different cultural phenomenon. It's "technophilia, anti-authoritarian, deliberately low-culture, anarchistic, sharing of information which is otherwise hidden, interested in information-technology as a prosthetic of the mind, to dissolve the barriers between personality and

information, and pushing self-empowerment," he said. Women's studies and film studies professor Con-stance Penley is perhaps the only UCSB faculty member that has been featured in cyberpunk magazines. Mondo 2000 printed a review of her Technoculture book and recently included one of her articles about "surveillance art."

The cyberpunk arena was dominated by men in the past, Penley said, although the newer magazines have broadened the field. She said she initially found cyberpunk "to have been a very boy thing. There have been a few writers that were women, and in virtual reality research it is almost entirely a man's world. But magazines like Mondo 2000, which is cyberpunk and new edge, can bring women into it."

While "new edge" is basically an upgraded version of cyberpunk, Penley sees some fundamental differences between the two.

"New edge is much more fluid about sexual roles and sexual identities; it's interested in appropriation of technology, virtual reality, drugs, smart drugs. New edge generally tends to be more transgendered and less heterosexist," Penley said.

So what merely started as a literary subgenre of science fiction has become much larger than just a canon. Science fiction meets art meets fashion meets music meets everything. What used to be an underground movement is now taking on the aura of a cultural phenomenon with all the requisite trimmings, like Absolut Vodka advertisements in high-gloss magazines.

Madison Avenue and Silicon Valley (who have big financial incentives to promote the phenomenon) have helped cyberpunk evolve into a much broader category

which now embraces art, technology, music and culture. In a sense cyberpunk has *become* culture. To find out about cyberpunk, there are various elec-tronic bulletin boards that can be called up for information, and there also are cyberpunk magazines devoted entirely to this culture. Artsweek located three 'zines that take different approaches to the nexus between the arts and a rapidly evolving technology. And judging from the content of these magazines, the realm of cyberpunk apparently has no boundaries.

#### Mondo 2000

This glossy magazine from Berkeley with a global dis-tribution is by far the most well-known cyberpunk 'zine. With 130 pages of almost ad-free information, Mondo

takes some time to digest. Mondo's McHenry says that their audience consists of "people on the inside of the technology world — as opposed to magazines like Wired that write to the unfamil-iar — and a more youthful and cultural audience."

Their slick look and banal ads for record companies make Mondo nearly indistinguishable from a Details or a Newsweek from a distance. But they're so good at what they do that Time magazine ran to Mondo when it

#### art by Matt Ragland

needed computerized illustrations for their Feb. 8 cyberpunk issue

Because it is written for technology freaks, many of the articles are riddled with acronyms and abbreviations that mean little to most casual readers. But if the average reader is willing to trudge through some of the more esoteric articles, there are quite a few that explore the edge of modern art and technology in a simpler fashion.

But up close we see that Mondo really is not your normal type of magazine. The bride on the cover of the issue we picked up, for instance, is really a man. Timothy Leary is a contributing editor and a certain "Queen Mu" holds the staff position of "Domineditrix." Right away the magazine impresses, considering that the "faxes to the editor" are some of the smartest writings around. (Though we can hardly credit the magazine's staff for this.)

Some of the stories about breakthroughs in technol-ogy explore the practical uses and their implications as well. "Escaping the Desktrap: Wearables," for example, explores a new invention: sunglasses with a personal computer screen inside, that allows the wearer to hold an umbrella and walk his or her dog while simultaneously getting up-to-date information on the monitor. Another useful invention is a keyboard that attaches

to the waist, so that the wearer can type on the way to work or on the run.

In another article, "Computer as Furoshiki," we are asked to envision a computer made out of a lightweight flexible cloth, shaped much like a gentleman's handker-chief. In Japanese daily life, Furoshikis are used as grocery bags, book-totes and wrapping paper. But a new computer Furoshiki would be able to move, even fly, and be capable of the most advanced computer techniques. When you're not using it to compute, the author suggests, "the Furoshiki can be worn, as a scarf, tie, turban or bandanna."

But what sets Mondo apart from other technical jour-nals like Scientific American is that it laces culture within its science columns. One section displays various models in women's clothes — who certainly don't look like men, but are — titled, "The New Gender Euphor-ics." Alternative bands like GWAR, Laibach and the Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy complement the scientific articles.

But it's the bizarre fringe articles that could probably not be found anywhere else. Seeping of anarchy, "Dirty Little Secrets: Shiny-Brite Swiss Bank Accounts," explores various ways the reader can obtain foreign pass-ports, secretive bank accounts, post office boxes and of-fice headquarters, as well as how to ensure privacy and save money.

Penley's article, "Some Thing to Watch Over You," is an interview with "surveillance artist" Julia Scher, who sets up surveillance systems for a living and creates art out of them on the side. As a performance art piece she recently "surveilled the city of Buffalo." Articles like this show how ties of tech to juggle surveilland compromi Allinal zine that amount of

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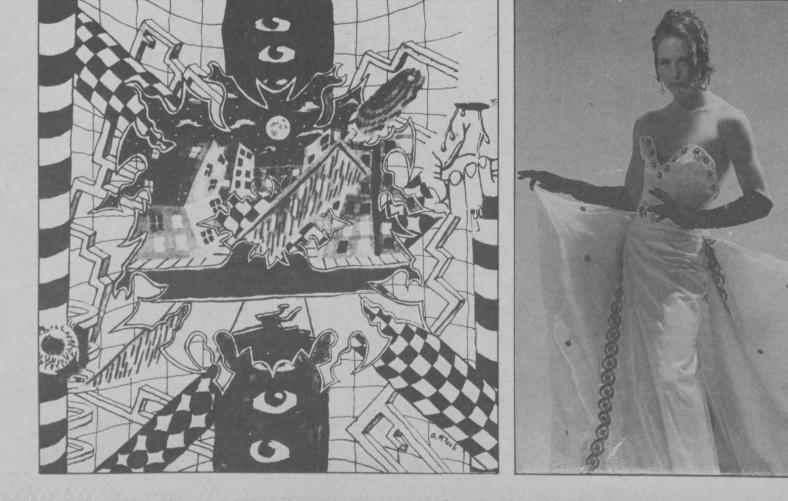
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Cyberpunk then ... and now. The cartoon on the outside left, taken from 'Cyber-Psycho's AOD,' is an example of the artwork featured in old-style cyberpunk zines. Current magazines have as many advertisements as issues, which include gender-euphorics, as featured in 'Mondo 2000' (inside left). That's not a woman, folks. Cover photo of the cyberpunk magazines 'WIRED,' 'Mondo 2000 ' and 'Cyber-Psycho's AOD' by Gerry Melendez.

An article dueling wit National S als where battles. Another enjoyed du movies wit ity enjoy a Cyber, a

bles what c Mondo an Cyber lool TSWEEK

now how today's artists can combine the new possibilies of technology with aesthetic qualities, while having o juggle their ethics accordingly. For in setting up arveillance systems for others, Scher sometimes has to ompromise her beliefs in privacy. All in all, Mondo is a densely packed intelligent magane that leaves the reader much to marvel at. The

All in all, Mondo is a densely packed intelligent magane that leaves the reader much to marvel at. The mount of jargon the writers employ reminds me of literry theorists and their fancy for saying everything in the lost complicated fashion. But what can one expect of utting edge culture?

#### WIRED

This San Francisco-based magazine is the equivalent f Mondo, except it's for the layman. While the articles emain scientifically oriented there are noticeably few cronyms and abbreviations. They spell everything out or you — AI becomes artificial intelligence and VR turns to virtual reality.

And along with a need to address a broader audience, omes the inevitable Absolut Vodka advertisement on ne back cover.

Like Mondo, the technology reviews contain fascinatag accounts of a world that was once only known to the habitants of the Pentagon.

Just think, this winter Sega is releasing a virtual reality elmet for their Genesis game for around \$150 which ill place you within a three-dimensional videogame enronment. Another company has created a glove that ill allow a surgeon to perform micro surgery on a single ell.

"Surrender the Pink" is a paranoid article about a conbiracy between Apple and IBM. Apparently, a new oprating system called Pink is so advanced that all Macinsh and IBM PCs would immediately become obsolete it were released. Since the two computer companies

esigned the system together as part of a new program, hey have been blocking its release for fear of making all f their millions of computers outdated, the article leges.

Other articles keep the computer enthusiast abreast of ne latest developments in Silicon Valley and the ways in hich the White House is using these breakthroughs.

While Mondo devoted much attention to music and erformance art, *Wired* prefers to simply remain within the realm of technology. There are a few album reviews alternative bands Jesus Jones, Belly, Zap Mama and teen, but generally the interest lies in the technological alm. With over 100 pages — and few of them advertiseents — *Wired* has an amazing amount of information digest.

But, like Mondo, writers in *Wired* view the U.S. govnment as a direct impediment of freedoms and privacy. In article on the rising amount of cyberpunk hackers beling with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the ational Security Agency regarding E-mail privacy reves where the modern libertarians are fighting their attles.

Another article considers the popularity VCRs first ujoyed due to the fact that people could watch "dirty" ovies without going to "dirty places." Will virtual realor enjoy a similar boon of interest, the writer wonders.

#### Cyber-Psycho's A.O.D.

Cyber, a Denver-based magazine, most closely resemes what cyberpunk as a literary genre used to be. While ondo and *Wired* look very similar to most magazines, yber looks like a punk-rock record 'zine. This black and white quarterly is filled with science fiction stories and futuristic illustrations that look awfully reminiscent of the pictures Dungeons and Dragons fans used to tote around in junior high school.

While its cover claims the magazine is "the guide to accessing the culture of the future, without the long wait," this claim is somewhat relative to one's conception of the future. Interviews with industrial band Pigface and superhero tales about lynching LAPD cops are certainly valid topics, but I really don't know if it's the *future* we are accessing.

Besides strong science fiction stories and decent strips, there are quite a few record reviews of gothic and techno bands in this magazine, as well as band interviews. Where *Wired* represented the technology aspect of cyberpunk, Cyber contains the artistic aspects.

The thing to keep in mind is that the true cyberpunk discussions are occurring online, not in the magazines. If you want to know what is really going on right now in the computer world, a modem is still the best means of access.

If you want to see what's occurring at the crossroads of the arts and the state-of-the-art, or if you're simply curious about what technology will be commonplace in 10 years, cyberpunk magazines are the way to go.



#### **ARTSWEEK**

LOCAL BANDS: Artsweek's local band issue will be coming out next week, so if you want to have your demo reviewed, or if you just want to let us know you exist, come by the Nexus office below Storke Tower immediately. Ask for Bonnie or Martin. Or call 893-2691. Thanks.

# Pearl Stewart **Profile of an Editor**

Pearl Stewart is the first Black Woman to edit a metro daily newspaper in a major U.S. city. One of her goals for the Dakland Tribune is to publish "an urban newspaper for a diverse community." As a former reporter, Stewart has



## **Two Halves Are Better** Than One, Or Are They?

horror movies yet like psychological thrillers as well, they're in for a real treat. Stephen King's latest offering to the film industry, *The Dark Half*, provides the best of both, rolled into one. It is an old cliché — the evil twin brother — but with an innovative twist. We've seen fraternal twins, we've seen identical twins, but how often is it that one twin is born out of the other twin's brain?

Thad Beaumont (played by Timothy Hutton) is a struggling writer who creates fine literature that the critics rave about, although his work does not catch the interest of the public. In an effort to increase sales and his income, he changes his title name to George Stark and starts a career in writing what he feels would catch the public eye — trashy novels that contain a lot of sex and violence. He continues to write literature as Thad Beaumont, but makes most of his money from his sleaze novels under the alias George Stark.

His scheme seems to work perfectly until his ploy gets discovered by Fred Clausen (played by Robert Joy), who pro-ceeds to blackmail Thad with his newfound knowledge. For this reason, Thad decides to terminate George Stark. However, he finds out the hard way that Stark has developed into something a little bit more than just a figment of his imagina-tion. Getting rid of him is much easier said than done.

Throughout most of the movie, director George Romero does an excellent job

For all those folks who love bloody of keeping the audience wondering if orror movies yet like psychological George Stark lives outside of Thad's imagination or if Stark is the Mr. Hyde that inhabits the realm of Thad's psyche, especially when Thad's friends and relatives start getting killed off. And of course, there are sparrows.

Romero creates his own version of Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds, with swarming sparrows appearing whenever Thad has his mood swings. The symbolism is en-hanced when Stark begins to physically deteriorate as time passes and still Thad hasn't begun a new sleaze novel, which

Stark desperately wants him to do. Timothy Hutton does a fine job playing two characters with opposite personalities. Michael Rooker (JFK) is efficient in his portrayal of Alan Pangborn, a cop who is also Thad's friend, but is torn between his beliefs in Thad's innocence and the opposing evidence of the bloody murders. Amy Madigan plays Thad's caring wife, Liz, who spends most of her time taking care of their two children who are, ironically, twins.

Unlike recent movie adaptations of Stephen King novels (we remember Maximum Overdrive) which turn out to be flops, Romero is successful at making a thriller out of this one. The audience gets riveted in this twisted seesaw battle that only a mastermind like Stephen King can conjure up. They leave the theater feeling like they have just ridden a roller coaster.

-Tom Santos



#### Give Cinematographers a Chance

A documentary film, 'Visions of Light,' provides an introduction to the most indespensible part of a motion picture, the often over-looked cinematographer. The film, co-directed by Arnold Glassman, Todd McCarthy and Stuart Samuels, will have its Santa Barbara premiere on Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. in Campbell Hall.

covered many controversial issues. She talks about her background, education, life experiences, skills and attitudes.

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## Friday, May 14, 12:00-1:30pm Center for Black Studies, South Hall, Room 4603



#### Daily Nexus

ARTSWEEK

## **Major League Money Making**

Are American Baseball Teams Really Hitting Financial Foul Balls?

#### by Scott McPherson

With baseball season now hitting full stride in America, fans across the country have had their fears about the state of the game temporarily alleviated. Despite persistent offseason cries that the financial sky would be falling on Major League Baseball this year, the boys of summer are back on the diamond and all seems right with the universe.

But is it? That's what economist Andrew Zimbalist set out to find in his book *Baseball and Billions*, which takes a rare look inside the big business of baseball.

Unlike most authors that document the national passtime, Zimbalist — an economics professor at Smith College whose credits include 10 books on comparative economics — tries to go to the heart of the financial end of Major League Baseball. But, as Zimbalist will be the first to tell you, baseball franchises guard their financial books with such ferocity that it is almost impossible to get a handle on what's going on with the game.

One thing about the business of baseball is certain, however: Major League Baseball is the only industry in America which is both exempt from antitrust laws and free from government regulation. This unique staus, Zimbalist shows, leaves baseball with an unprecedented amount of power and freedom as it takes in millions upon millions of dollars a year. Just how many millions baseball takes in is anyone's

Just how many millions baseball takes in is anyone's guess, but Zimbalist tries to find the accurate numbers. Although most teams in the majors report large losses every season, he shows how a franchise that is raking in the money can use a certain accounting technique to make it seem on paper like they're losing it. "Anyone who quotes profits of a baseball club is missing the point," says Paul Beeston, former vice president of business operations for the Toronto Blue Jays, whom Zimbalist quotes in his chapter on frachise finances. "Under generally accepted accounting principles, I can turn a \$4 million profit into a \$2 million loss, and I can get every national accounting firm to agree with me."

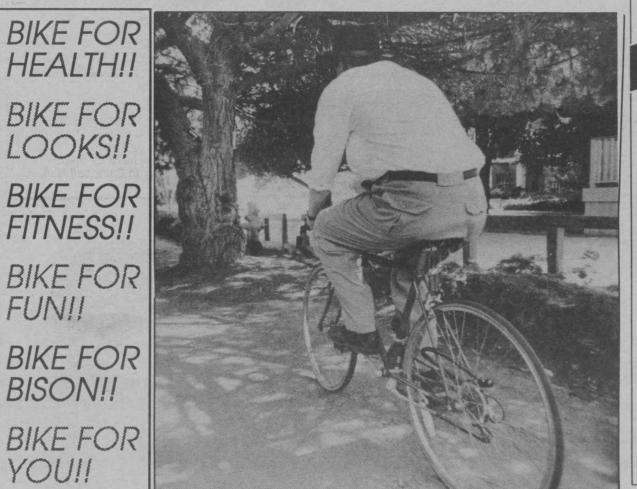
firm to agree with me." Zimbalist goes past the bogus bookkeeping to find the real numbers, giving Major League Baseball the sort of objective, businesslike approach that baseball fans have been hoping to see. Through an almost endless stream of numbers and tables, the author shows how baseball is really doing quite well financially. Rumors of baseball's imminent bankruptcy, Zimbalist writes, is nothing new and yet the game has survived for well over 100 years. But because of baseball's unique monopoly, as long as franchise owners can make people believe they are in financial peril they can extort subsidies, stadiums or other benefits from their home cities by threatening to relocate.

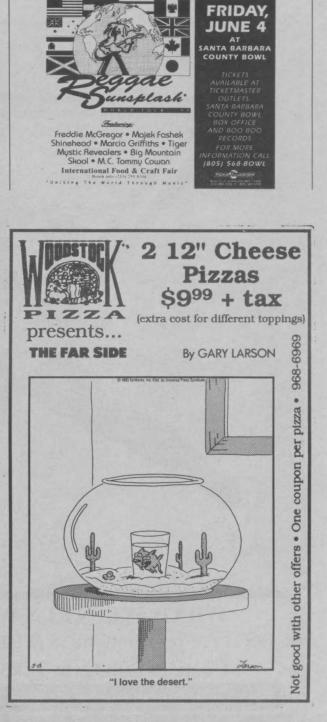


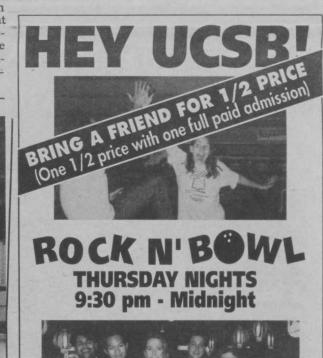
**Andrew Zimbalist** 

But while his economic approach to the game is what has been needed for too long, it is not always interesting. Zimbalist's writing often has the tone of an economics textbook. In discussing the practice of using "player depreciation" as a source of financial loss when owners file their taxes, he maintains that "baseball players do not produce a net income stream unless the additional revenue they generate for a team (their marginal revenue product) is greater than their salary." This academic tone, though it is neccessary for the kind of businesslike approach that *Baseball and Billions* is going for, takes something away from its readability in many places. Also, Zimbalist's speculation on the possible actions of the commissioner of baseball — a position since destroyed by the owners — leaves the book slightly outdated.

Nevertheless, *Baseball and Billions* should be required reading for all baseball fans who are hoping that something will save the game from self-destruction. Zimbalist's own solution is a combination of expansion (some 12 more teams by the year 2,000) and government regulation in the form of an agency to overlook professional sports in America. However, since Major League Baseball owners are unlikely to even consider such measures, the conditions that Zimbalist identifies will probably not be changing any time soon.









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