





Brian Cabot describes his totemic palm-frond work "Cowfish" as "not your average mackerel "

by laura funkhouser

If you live in Santa Barbara long enough you begin to realize that underneath its hip looking surface, this town is a hermetically sealed mason jar, keeping out what challenges local tradition and the established social order - especially anything that hints of a takeover by L.A. culture. Sure, Santa Barbarans love new trends, but don't mess with the carefully balanced ecosystem here, of what's what and

who's who; such as Cabot, and paintings by what gets built here and who gets free advertising in the Independent.

The local art scene is no exception to this rule. The new art show at Gallery G is a carefully placed bomb which wipes out any ideas you might artists being even close to the cutting edge of the art scene. Without giving in to big city art gallery pretentiousness, this show is effective enough to make an impact in L.A., center.

Gallery G is what you've always dreamed of. It's an unconventional industrial factory style loft fluenced by industrial where the five artists in style art, but his materials the show work and gather. They're a small serious circle of young artists (ranging from 21 to 28), some from here, some from L.A., but all attended either UCSB or City College. Jeff Overlie, one of the artists in the show, who teaches at City College, turned the downtown studio from Work Inc. building into Gallery G. He did this to bypass the route of the cliquey local art scene, in order have a space to show work on his own terms. The others have formed a close-knit group around the space. Word gets around fast in this town and their opening show in May brought in an estimated 200 people and sold 13 works - an astounding number for any gallery

anywhere. The new show

which opened Saturday

night includes sculpture by Jeff Overlie and Brian

Mike Kresky, Bill Barany and Erik Weisenberger and it proves that the first show was no fluke, they've gotten even better.

Jeff Overlie works with elemental materials such as metal, chain, cables, marble and alabaster. All of his pieces are mixed have had about any media - and all of them previous Santa Barbara are very disturbing. His piece, "Primordial Ecstasy," is a huge chunk of marble that has been broken in half and rejoined with a large stainless steel hinge. Half of the slab has been left New York or any real art raw, the other half is sculpted into a subtle profile, with the hinged part forming the jaw. Overlie's work is inbelong to no specific time in history, they constitute the marrow of all cultures in all time periods. What makes his work so jarring is how he manipulates his media as if he were tampering with the laws of nature. Bill Barany has photographic mixed media images of classical sculptures works in the show, and rough, expressionistic pastel and charcoal portaits. Both of his styles are delicately balanced and quite beautifully poignant - a 180 degree opposition to Overlie's massive caustic pieces, although their works are not in conflict. Mike Kresky has huge paintings on paper and canvas. His diptych, "Malcolm X," is black on black paint through which his primal, bone-like forms emerge as totems written on an ancient, (See STUDIO G, p.4A)



"Ogglers of Babylon," by Erik Weisenberger, a work in paint and mixed-media.

Photos by Richard O'Rourke



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The Arts and Lectures

Chinese

question

Japanese soldiers at the years, Evening Bell has

end of the Second World been re-released in a re-

the focal point of the traditional "China as film. Wartime always victor'' format, Wu

pits man against man in shows that times are situations that seem indeed changing

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who has the right to kill, definitely worth your

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War, the ensuing

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Queen Ida by walker "guitar" wells an economic phylosophy is more important than a human life, begin to creep their ambiguity into wartime decisions. The role and future of humanity is the big

july 26 -? a jug o' wine, a plate o' food, and a stage full o' folks singing and dancing

and making you laugh. If you haven't been to a dinner theater before, do yourself a favor, splurge and see The Little Shop of Horrors at the Savoy Dinner Theater on 409 State St. You've seen the movie now go and eat. For details dial 966-0999.

july 26 - sept 9

"a fast-breaking wisecracking comedy," Shooting Stars, a play continuing at the Alhecama Theater (962-8606) about a female

professional basketball team. Not just your average night out, Shooting Stars boasts UCSB's Amy Love as the team's star. july 26

A Band Called Horse is playing at Zelo (966-5792) at 10 p.m. I've never heard them or seen them, but don't they just have the best name?

july 28 - august 5 Moliere's The Miser, a hilarious indictment of greed and the lust for money, has for three centuries continued to be

one of the most popular comedies in world theater. And for only a short time will it be right here at the Main Theater. Tickets are at the A&L ticket booth, 961-3535.

Go. L.A.'s Thelonious Monster, (that band with 6 guitar players) will be at the Ventura Theater with Crucial D.B.C. If you're lucky they'll play Tracy Chapman's "For My Lover" which appears on their new record. KCSB is sponsoring it so call

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MEATHEAD'S WORST GREAT MOVIE

by jesse engdahl

Meathead just became moneybags. If that doesn't bother you, or if you want Billy Crystal to keep hosting the Grammy's, go ahead and see Rob Reiner's newest flick, When Harry Met Sally...., the latest yuppie love comedy staring Crystal as Harry and Meg Ryan as Sally (no relation to Sally Bunker/-Stivak).

This movie reminded me a lot of Dead Poet's Society, which starred Crystal's Comic Relief partner Robin Williams. Just like Poet's was a watered-down, commercialized vision of what Great Literature can do for your life, Harry ... is a watered-down, commercialized vision of what True Love can do. The fact that Great Literature is there for the taking and True Love has yet to be verified makes Harry ... infinitely more forgivable in retrospect; too bad it's not as manipulatively entertaining in the process.

It's just so annoying that directors Reiner and Peter Weir are getting all of these disgusting accolades by disgusting people like Gene Shalit and Gary Franklin for their "best effort to date." What's actually being said is "congratulations for bringing part of your artistic talent down to a level that noncreative morons can understand and enjoy. Now your movie will get plenty of Batman overflow at the multi-plexes and soon you'll be making enough money to be a respected director in America.'

The killer is that Weir has directed such haunting, powerful films like Gallipoli and Picnic at Hanging Rock (rent that for viewing after Dead Poet's and get really freaked on the liberating and destructive power of poetry and nature at an all-girls' school), while Rob Reiner has turned out such comic masterpieces as

This Is Spinal Tap, The Sure Thing, Stand By Me, and The Princess Bride. When Harry Met Sally ... isn't his best effort; it's by far his weakest. But what really hurts me is admitting it's pretty cute.

See, if I hadn't been so bugged by all the T.V. critics telling me it was brilliant, friends telling me it was great, and previews giving away the best jokes (all of which were not Reiner's fault), I'd have been rather entertained. When Harry Met Sally is a more than adequate adult romantic comedy, especially in light of the recent competition.

Meg Ryan, as Sally, is both gorgeous and hilarious, while Billy Crystal is shockingly bearable and believable in a part that allows him to be both a sensitive guy and a pig.

You will die laughing when you see Crystal running through the streets of New York to declare his love for Ryan, even though it's supposed to be the dramatic climax (at least she wasn't waiting for a plane or about to say "I do" to someone else). Everybody is in love with her from the beginning, which is why she's dressed down in slacks and blazers for the dual purpose of fitting her character and being a barely-believable match for Crystal.

Too bad Ryan is one of the most spontaneous and sexy actresses around, with a bod to match. Her outfits are too reminiscent of Annie Hall's, and the whole movie smacks of low-rent Woody Allen, from the New York setting to the Jewish guy-shiksha couple to the semi-tough comedic insights on men, women, and love. It's pathetic that Reiner is a lot closer, both philosophically and artistically to Allen than the pap-infected movie he's got here. It'll definitely play Peoria.

Hope the wife enjoys the new Mercedes, Rob.

UNDERGROUND

by christina zafiris

to the band's sound. single, their Soundgarden is no ex- which sold o Now for a crash course ception to this rule; but, has since b although their best stuff by is the Subpop vinyl, the production on the SST releases is really pleasing to the ear. I haven't heard the A&M release but my guess is that the necessary measures will be taken to help the general public understand the message of Soundgarden, and I haven't decided if that is so bad. Another band on Subpop but much more faithful to the label is Mudhoney. One can call these guys the college sensation of 1988 and 1989. Consisting of members of the now defunct Green River and Hiss, Mudhoney captures the honesty of amplified guitar melodies mixed with the whining screams of lead singer Mark Arm. It sounds composed from the bottom of a slimey bog

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THEATER ARTISTS GROUP **SUMMER** 1989 o presents oo A hilarious indictment of the lust for money





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on a small record label the big guys are watching with Confusion. Subpop Records from Seattle, Washington, a label that has grown from a few friends putting out records by local bands to a highly respected en-terprize the major labels look to steal bands from.

One of the fist bands on Subpop, Soundgarden, released a single and two EPs (Screaming Life and Fopp) which managed to get their heavy but funky rock sound noticed. From Subpop, they moved to SST (the "Black Flag label'') where they released the Ultramegaok! LP and the Flower 12". They kept going until they were signed by A&M, who'll release their new album in matter of weeks. Going to a major label

can be good for a band's ego and pocketbooks, but it's normally detrimental

The Touch Me I'm Sick is especially

All have rece LPs, and Ni

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them or the Ventura Theater for details of the show that will kick anything Love and Sprockets will ever do. Speaking of kicking,

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Grammy winner Queen Ida & The Bon Temps Zydeco Band will be ripping up the Lobero Theatre with all that cajun and Delta blues you've grown up with. Todd "Mr. Doe" Francis saw her last summer and raves "it was fun." As an added treat, the Palace Cafe will be serving authentic

tastes of their fine cajun food and drink, for a modest charge, on the Lobero's front patio starting at 7 p.m. The Monarch or Zydeco goes on at 8 p.m., for more info about this foot-stompin, stomach-pleasin evening dial 963-0761.

Perhaps you'd like a nice evening listening to some live Beethoven and Ravel? Heck, we got that too. The Essex String Quartet will be playing Ludwig's "Quartet in G. Op 18, No 2" (an old

favorite of the sports dept.), and Ravel's "Quartet in F," 8 p.m. in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall. Tickets only at the door (\$3 for students). july 30

The Way of the Lotus finishes up Arts & Lectures fine summer presentation of International Cinema. If you haven't seen anything in this series, you've missed out. Make up for it by seeing this philosophical drama from Sri Lanka. Your parents will be quite

impressed and may even send you more money. See, we're always trying to look out for you here, even if it means peeking through that part in your curtains late at night.

Amy Love.

by jeffrey c. whalen

The world would be a much easier place to live in if you could hate "Weird Al" Yankovic as much as you'd like to. "Weird Al" is the

comedy auteur of the entire

goonsquad of the eighth

grade, embodying all the dumb jokes that these

kids come up with during

lunch period: puns, gross

food jokes, amateur

parodies and general goofing off. This is the

kind of humor that makes

junior high girls give that

special scowl exclusive to

emales of the thir-

The cool, the artsy, and

the beautiful don't want

to find "Weird AI" funny

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two movies, and a T.V. show under his white belt. 'Weird Al's" first film,

well and good, the problem remains: this film is funny.

Co-written (with Yankovic) and directed by Jay Levey, UHF takes place at a soon-to-bebankrupt UHF channel that "Weird Al's" uncle wins in a poker game. "Weird Al" becomes manager of the station after he loses his job at Big Edna's Burger World, and starts a battle with network station Channel 8 that climaxes in a chilling and uplifting people vs. the corporates ending.

Yankovic's audience are boys in that "difficult" age group: 9 to 14. The boys are pleased to laugh at a silly, homely character that spoofs everything that the boys of the Third Kind, and would rather not take seriously.

The humor is smallminded, but for what it lacks in quality, it more than compensates in The just-opened UHF is quantity. There are about four or five great jokes, and depending on ticket and about four or five

up the slack, UHF succeeds on a comedic level. There are not going to be any serious people lauding Yankovic's film as "beautifully shot," "flawlessly executed," "wonderfully acted," or probably even "good." But with the understanding that most people would rather not laugh, getting this movie made is a success in and of itself.

UHF knows that this is a kid's movie, and attempts to please the parents on a number of occasions. However, these moments probably only end up alienating all age groups by doing childish allusions to movies that children won't remember, namely: The Shining, Close Encounter, Ghandi. A perfect example of this is during the horrendous opening sequence when Yankovic plays a very Hollywood Insiders joke on Steven Spielberg, a joke most people in the audience will not get. The film's sales, could very possibly hundred "uunuhhnhnh- major flaw is in the motive signal the end of his nh" jokes. With a couple of the humor; they're career. With that being all dozen chucklers to take done for the wrong

...

reasons. For the college student UHF may play upon simpler happier time when jokes came easie than dates, and everybody wore too much

corduroy. Or it ma disgust. It probably depends on what you were doing during lunch period back in eighth grade.





le, their first release for its packaging and h sold out in minutes, sound. since been reissued

The black and silver

negative image of the

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popular demand. r LP, Superfuzz Bigmuff ned after their ars) got them critical aim and great record s without the money ajor label promotion nd them or mass o support. Their third ase on Subpop is the Got It (Keep It Outta My single that features nger melodies and distorted production. shows how honey's music is oth and flexible, full hange so they don't oring

irrently Mudhoney is ing on a new LP and aring for a possible ornia tour before head off to Australia dazzle those down er. Other Subpop ls include Tad, The I, The Walkabouts, low, and Nirvana. ave recently released and Nirvana's Bleach specially noteworthy

band on the cover of Bleach leads the theme of this record, some of which come on white vinyl to complete the bleached look. Nirvava can ultimately be called heavy metal for about half of its album and a down home country influenced band for the other.

Most of the Subpop bands, plus special guests from other labels, appear on the compilation Subpop 200 which was recently released on CD. This little ditty is a good example of the different sound innovations stemming from the Pacific Northwest the major labels are scratching their heads about.



by tony pierce

Led Zeppelin, released In group. Through The Out Door, the for the exception of a drunken Live Aid gig, and an appearance for

It's hard to believe, but niversary, Led Zep hasn't it's been 10 years since played together, let alone KCSB's favorite band, record anything as a

So since they won't band's last true, complete swallow their pride and album. After drummer get a new drummer (or at John Bonham's death in least use Bonzo's kid), 11 1981, the band broke up struggling Californian and Atlantic Records bands hooked up with released Coda, a sloppy producer John Baccollection of rejected cigaluppi and released material left over from The Song Retains The their older albums. But Name, new covers of old Zep classics.

It's very cool.

Springsteen songs called Rhino collected major groups like the Beat Farmers and Manfred Mann, this has been made by guys you know stay up late trying to figure out "The Lemon Song.'

arts

Making you immediately realize that and completely change these are completely new versions of the songs, the album kicks off with a Beastie-like rap assault of "Black Dog" by a group called The Royal Mixxers. Those who take this song seriously are missing the boat. The joke is the fact that guys are rapping over crushing metal guitars and yelling "black dawg." Get it? $\star \star \star \star$.

Rich Hardesty an The Del Reys bring a little cow-punk to "Living Loving Maid" which gives one visions of what The King might sound like filling Robert Plant's curly locks. B plus.

"Good Times, Bad Cooler than Rhino's Times" by the Dali Lamas on this track, including a finish up the record with Atlantic's 25th an- collection of Bruce reminds you that it's a lot lame three second great harmonica, per- Retains...'

easier to copy music than harmonica solo in the Cover Me, because where vocals. Like most of the middle of the song. On other bands on this compilation, this song epitomizes the mastery garage guitarists have copying (arguably) rock's greatest guitar hero; meanwhile the vocals suck in comparison. 94.

The Earwigs add horns the arrangement of "Four Sticks." To add to this confusion, the singer thinks he's on a Doors record. toss-up.

The "Immigrant Song" has never been the same since Dark Angel thrashed it earlier this year on their own record; however, Headface does a damn good job, themselves. Better yet is the fact that the singer sounds like Ozzy. Thumbs up.

It could have been really easy to screw up "In The Evening" with its "oh oh, I need your love"'s and Twice Shy kills itself in many ways

the Franklin Scale of 1 to 10, 10 being best, I give it a 2.

One of the best songs on this 41 minute offering from Mad Rover Records is I Love Ethyl's Neil Young-esqe version of "No Quarter." Where they lack in originality, these boys make up in note for note perfection of drums and guitars. But because you can never be exactly perfect, Ethyl's cover sorta turns into its own song. Four Quarters.

Helen Keller Plaid gives the best guitar performance and the vocal production is really nifty too on "What Is and What Should Never Be." It's just like how mom used to sing it to you when you were falling asleep. AAA.

The Tent Poles reminds us of Zep's heavy blues influence with a Honky-Tonk Woman-like version of "Rock and Roll." They

cussion, and acoustic guitar.

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There aren't any "Stairway to Heaven" covers on this particular hunk of wax, which adds just that much credibility to this pretty good record that encourages young folks to ramble on.

DREAD ZEPPELIN

If this record wasn't enough Zep covers, there's a new single out on Birdcage Records (p.o.box 784, Sierra Madre CA, 91024) by a group that calls themselves Dread Zeppelin. In a quasi-reagae attempt to poke fun/celebrate the music of John, Rob, Jimmy, and Bonzo these boys have released a clear vinyl single of "The Immigrant Song" with Bside "Hey Hey What Can I Do." It's very accessible and pretty funny and much more cleaned up than "The Song

TOM JONES' SATISFIED SLOPPY WET KISS

by joel brand

Imagine Michael Jackson, Rick James and your dad just kickin' it in a recording studio and that's what Move Closer, the new album from Tom Jones, sounds like. The album is a compilation of cover songs from Prince's "Kiss" to the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," with a little Billy Vera and the Beaters thrown in. These songs might be appealing, but the stuff in-between is iffy.

Soul fans will be glad to hear the heavy bass that was lacking in Devo's version of "Satisfaction,' but after Jones' producers got a hold of this new version, it's hard to believe that even Mick Jagger wouldn't even recognize his own song on this album. Not that Mick remembers much, but the music is cleaned up, toned down and has had guitar riffs added that your parents could snap their fingers to.

I wonder how Keith feels about his reworked guitar riffs.

The strength of this record is that it is good soul; the weakness of this record is its cheesyness. The idea of a musical compilation as diverse as this in the style it is presented, has no other choice but to come across as an upgraded K-Tel record for the fortysomething gang. To add to the weirdness of the production of this record by this onetime seventies sex object, the album even came out on the hip "Jive" record label, a record company that works with such non-K-Tel type bands as Schooley D, Kool Moe D and Samantha Fox.

Despite doubts about the album's creativity, it does have commercial potential. There are people who will enjoy this album, and for that reason I did not simply ignore it and review something else. This

album will probably be largely overlooked by those under 40 because of its format and presentation, but it does have a place in some record collections not as a lead album, but an album to listen to in the right mood.

This record is not treading new territory; it's the type of album that will be produced,

present for parents and not as an inspiration to live.

distributed and sold without any noticeable effect on other soul music. For the majority of people, Move Closer will best serve as a Christmas



GALLERY G (CONT.)



blackened wall. In his other brightly colored pieces, these forms look more like DNA strands, performing a dance of life.

Brian Cabot paints palm fronds to look like primitive deepsea fish. He combines them with cow, horse and bird bones to create an object that looks like nothing that could have come from our culture. His works, rather, look like they were unearthed from the remains of a lost civilization. His seemingly simple work, "Cow Fish" is actually a complex creature which suggests transmutation, tying together the earth, sea and sky realms.

Erik small paintings are products of technical genius in their composition and color. They also hit you on a gut level with their pointed social comments as in "Ogglers of Babylon" which is a play on Santa Barbara and its obsession with beauty, as well as an illustration of materialism as the downfall of man.

Although their styles couldn't be further apart, there is a feeling that grows as you look at this show, that this is a family of artists with a similar frame of reference. What unites their work is their individual investigations of myth behind everyday existence, and their Watch this space.

aros - Sidigon - 20 and

Weisberger's developing approaches to art as a ritual act.

> Gallery G is a much needed alternative to the academic and commercial art scene in Santa Barbara. Unfortunately Barany and Weisenberger are both moving - so catch this show before it comes down you may not have a chance to see their work again, and if you show your support, maybe the rest of them will stick around. This show is running until these artists' new works overrun it. For information and directions, call Gallery G at 966-7439. Their next show is scheduled for some time in October.