

The Kids in the Hall is the most inventive and original comedy troupe around these days. The members, Bruce McCulloch, Mark McKinney, Kevin McDonald, Scott Thompson and Dave Foley, began as a live improv group in Canada. They were eventually discovered by Lorne Michaels (producer of *Saturday Night Live*), who pro-duced their Canadian TV show that eventually made it to American late-night network TV and later to Comedy Central. Their brilliant brand of sketch humor became a cult favorite in the U.S.

Now that the show is over, they've done a movie entitled Brain Candy, which uses the corrupt world of consumer drugs as a stage for two hours of pure hilarity. Na-turally, all of the Kids play several characters.

Artsweek conducted two interviews with the Kids, the first of which was with Bruce McCulloch over the phone and is transcribed below. The second took place at the Paramount lot in Los Angeles and was with both Bruce

pretty foreboding.

Pretty heavy, eh? That's my Danzig look. He's the leader of the teen movement, I suppose. Something like Smashing Pumpkins, but even more intense, more painful. He ultimately sells out and writes an anthem for the happy drug called Gleemonex, which is what the film is about

Do you ever get people coming up to you and imitat-ing your bits to you?

Yeah, and I also get people coming up to me thinking I'm the head crusher, which I'm not. I get everything from people knowing everything about me and everything I've ever done to people saying, "You're that guy from that thing, right?"

What do you say to the rumor that The Kids in the Hall hate each other?

(laughs) Is that a rumor? Yeah, that's funny. I don't know, I see so much of those guys. I think we like each to see that stuff, but it all seems good. Scott's good on *The Larry Sanders Show* on HBO. I saw his first show he sorta plays it straight. It's a different kind of thing.

What sort of music do you like? The great stuff. Just kidding. The album I'm listening

to currently is *The Presidents of the United States of America*. I like country music, Liz Phair, of course, and all those sorts of types of people. The Black Crowes are the greatest band in the universe.

What about Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet [the band that did the theme song for the Kids' TV show]?

They're great, too. We actually have a soundtrack that's coming out that has Shadowy Men and those people on it.

Do you have a favorite Kid in the Hall?

Probably Kevin. Just 'cause he's fun to be around. Not that he's exciting, he's just happy. But, he's not happy re-

PUCE McCulloch vig) on the far right and the far left



(ids'

and Kevin McDonald. Unfortunately, the tape that held the second interview was incinerated when Assistant Artsweek Editor Eric Charles Steuer's car burned to a crisp in the Arizona desert for a reason that will never be known. Please continue reading.

How ya doin'?

Fine, sir, and how are you?

Knowledge

Great. What was your favorite character to play in the movie?

I always try to think that the character I'm playing that day is my favorite. But I like doing the cops 'cause that's the easiest — they only wear a blue shirt. It really varied. I play the love interest, Alice, which is a lot of work just be-cause it's a woman and it's women's makeup. At first I didn't really want to do it, but later I got real gung-ho ab-out it. I was like, "Shouldn't Alice be in this scene?" I wanted more and more for her.

other, so I'd say that's hogwash. The real truth is that we get along better now than we ever have. Years ago it was way worse. The first year of the show was way worse. We just have difference of opinions, we're all obsessed guys.

So is the TV show over?

Yeah, we finished production with the show and then slowly rolled into the movie.

Is there a possibility of a sequel to Brain Candy if this one's successful?

Yeah. I think we'll sorta assess that later. Now, we're so incredibly sick of each other - not that I can't see their faces, we just need a little breath from each other and the movie, to be quite frank. We'll probably do another one.

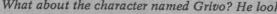
Have you enjoyed Mark on Saturday Night Live and Dave on NewsRadio?

I haven't seen Mark on SNL. I enjoyed Dave on News-What about the character named Grivo? He looks Radio. I haven't seen tons of it. I won't go out of my way

ally, he's obsessed and crazy. If you're writing, then he's the best to be around. He's never late. I guess that's why. So what else are you up to?

This movie's taking up a lot of time. I did some short films for SNL. I also put a record out last year. That's it. Just the movie stuff. That's all that's worth talking about yet.

Who do you think is funny? I actually like Seinfeld a lot. I usually don't watch shows like that. I think Michael Richards [Kramer] is really fun to watch. I like The Simpsons. I'm not a comedy fan. I'm more apt to think that someone in a supermarket trying to figure out prices is funnier than actual comedy stuff. I like real stuff that's funny. For instance, I like to watch Cops. I know it's a horrible show, but I like to see the people and how they live. It's more interesting to me than jokes and gags. Cops is horrible and sad, but it's just kinda real.





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Daily Nexus

Thursday, April 11, 1996 3A



I think I know why New York is a brimming hotbed for insight — the place is full of weirdos! Weirdos to observe, weirdos to talk to, weirdos to try to understand. I bet there'd be more good writers and musicians and philosophers coming out of Santa Barbara if we had the amount of crazies that they do in New York. Strange surround-ings breed brilliance, or something like that. It makes perfect sense then, that PS 122 Field Trips, a program making its Santa Bar-bara premiere Tuesday in Campbell Hall, is a product of the East Coast state of mind.

The show is comprised of four unique (some might even say weird) performers who use New York's Performance Space 122, an abandoned public school where innovative locals do their stuff, as a venue for their experimental art. PS 122 gathers together groups of these insightful artists and sends them on tour (hence the name of the show)

to give the rest of America a slice of the Big Apple. The four PS 122ers that members of UCSB and the community will be lucky enough to see next week are actor/writer Danny Hoch, dancer/choreographer Molissa Fenley, mixed media artist John Kelly and urban comedian Reno. Artsweek highly recommends this show because, well, it's weird, but weird in a really cool, New York way.

PS 122 Field Trips makes its local premiere Tuesday, April 16 at 8 p.m. in Camp-bell Hall. Call Arts & Lectures at 893-3535 for tickets or more information.



After making Spanking the Monkey, a dark satire about a mother and son's incestu-ous love affair, writer/director David O. Russell wanted to tackle something "lighter." Apparently, a twisted guy like Russell considers a film about LSD, bisexuality and the destruction of federal property pretty light, seeing as how he chose the new *Flirting With Disaster* as his follow-up project.

Flirting With Disaster is the tale of Mel (Ben Stiller), an adopted son who is so disoriented by his personal feelings of abandonment that he convinces himself that he can't name his newborn child until he learns all the secrets of his own childhood. In turn, he gets the address of his birth mother from an adoption agency employee named Tina, played by Téa Leoni, who agrees to pick up the entire tab for Mel's trip to visit his parents if he allows her to come along and document the experience. Tina, Mel, his wife Nancy (Patricia Arquette) and their unnamed child hop on a plane for San Diego, where the plot begins to twist.

As the film and road trip simultaneously unfold, the various characters swap part-ners and wisecracks. All the while, Mel moves toward predictable realizations about his own life and his two sets of parents. Admittedly, I was not prepared to enjoy a film that shared a premise with one of the more asinine episodes of Chris Elliot's old sitcom, Get a Life. Still, thanks to Russell's particular abaient de large areas of the defense time the parent life.

casting choices, his clever dialogue and a keen sense of the dysfunctional personality, Flirting's predictable premise pays off in ways the canceled Fox sitcom could never





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reach.

Surprisingly, the formidable lineup of lead actors are less impressive than expected. Stiller is rarely able to rise above the one-dimensional role of the neurotic straight man, while relative newcomer Leoni (*Bad Boys*, TV's *The Naked Truth*) is convincing but has a bit to learn before she can hold her own with a good cast. Arquette is, as always, an enjoyable and capable performer. Unfortunately, her role is not structured to allow her to carry the film alone.

The real strength of *Flirting* is its supporting performances. Mel's adoptive parents, as played by George Segal and Mary Tyler Moore, are absolutely inspired characters. Segal's apathetic, Droopy Dog routine is the perfect foil for Moore's nervous energy. I believe that I have seen a comedy duo this well-balanced before, but I sure can't remember when.

As Mel's biological parents, Lily Tomlin and Alan Alda are also refreshingly unrestrained. The camera tilts with euphoric abandon as they reminisce about Jerry Garcia and hint at the LSD lab hidden behind a cabinet in their kitchen. It is a true pleasure to watch the two comic veterans unite in a gleeful ease to steal every scene in which they appear

Finally, Josh Brolin is perfectly cast as the maternal, bisexual half of a homosexual couple that hook on to the trio of wanderers. He is relaxed and open as he begins to re-veal an attraction to the recently estranged Nancy. Brolin is both funny and intelligent in a role that could have easily become a nightmare for the politically correct. -Chad Bishop

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4A Thursday, April 11, 1996



not emotions. Show them a better way of achieving their ends. × Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 10 - This is your lucky day! A

riend can clue you to a great opportunity. Think it over carefully, but not for very long. Action taken now should be successful, especially if it in-× volves love, group efforts, travel or higher education.

★ Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - Pick up the paperwork you

need to achieve your next objective. If it's money or a job you want, fill × everything out precisely. Meanwhile, go along with an older person's de-

* mands. You're not in a good position to argue, yet.

★ Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 9 - Delegate your most difficult 🛓 chores to a partner today. If you choose the right one, he or she will think they're easy. Gather with friends to plot your next adventure tonight. ×

- + Prepare carefully, to minimize mishaps
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 3 You're under a great deal of pressure today. It may seem like you're working too hard for little return. ×
- * What's required is a change in the way you see yourself. A change in your career might be forthcoming as well. ×
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today is a 10 What an improvement over * yesterday! Suddenly you're brilliant, exciting and more attractive than *
- usual. Travel's favored, so go someplace exotic for lunch. Get a lottery ticket or two while you're out there.
- ★ Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Today is a 4 Things will get worse be-
- fore they get better. Now somebody at home wants more of your atten-* tion. Let your roommate make a decision alone. It means more to him or
- her than it does to you, anyway. Tonight, listen.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 9 You're lookin' good *
- today. Smarter than usual, too. Focus that laser intellect on a tough tech-★ nical problem. Also, read the manual. An attractive person will be im- ★
- pressed when you triumph over the machine. *
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 5 You've survived your
- recent breakthrough. Now concentrate on finances. Get something nice ★ × for the house today and you'll solve a domestic problem. Let your sweet-
- * heart pick it out and make even more points.

resus Christ Superstar is definitely the coolest thing Andrew Lloyd Webber has ever been involved with, unless he had a say in casting Benson, Robert Gulliame, in the Los Angeles production of his Phantom of the Opera.

Along with lyricist Tim Rice, now famous for putting platitudes into lyrics for Disney songs, Webber recorded and released the platinumselling single "Superstar" in July 1969, which, in turn, spawned the Broadway rock opera that launched his career. Controversial due to its reverential subject matter, the musical debuted in 1971 and is now playing at Santa Barbara's own Civic Light Opera through April 30. The cast features Paul Ainsley in the role of Herod (the role he created on Broadway). Ainsley also played the bartender at the Regal Beagle on the television classic Three's Company for three years.

After watching the production with the biggest (and maybe only) Jesus Christ Superstar fan I know, I interviewed Ainsley and John Bison, who played Judas. I was nervous and worried about offending them. I forgot I was dealing with theater people. They reminded me almost immediately.

You played Herod on Broadway.

Paul Ainsley: I did.

And you've gone to theater since then....

Paul: For many years.

So what do you think about theater here in Santa Barbara?

Paul: It's absolutely great. I've worked here before. My producer is standing over my shoulder, so I better say nice things. (The producer laughs hysterically, allowing several unidentified objects to fly from his face.) Our producer who is so kind and generous and who recently lost 80 pounds! That's kind of impressive, isn't it?

How did he lose 80 pounds? Did he go on a lowfat diet?

Paul: He had his head cut off. (Laughter; the producer disappears.) He really went on a serious

you're healthy. But yes, it's been 25 years since I've done this role on Broadway. I've done tons of other theater and some movie things.

I noticed here, and I was completely shocked when I read it, that you were on Three's Company.

Paul: I was on *Three's Company* for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Did the sexual tension that came into my living room every week exist on that set?

Paul: Absolutely not! (laughs) That was the beginning of T&A. Suzanne Somers was one of the originators of that, but she was just a sweet, lovely and smart businesswoman....

Yeah, the Thighmaster.... Paul: The Buttmaster, too! She





did not cause any of that ugly stuff that happened. There were several reasons she left the show. She was a lovely lady.

And John Ritter, of course, is a gifted physical comedian.

Paul: Brilliant! I knew John when he was going to USC - he was always that way, improvisational and real physical.

Now this question is for John. I read in your biography that you have played both Jesus and Judas. There are a lot of esoteric questions I could ask, but the easiest one is, which do you prefer?

John Bison: Jesus. It's the easier one to sing. (laughs) Honestly. Judas is definitely more interesting and I have a lot of fun, but it does take its toll.

I've been told that Judas is usually played by an African-American.

John: We thought about blackface. (laughter) No, no, no, I'm kidding. Someone actually asked me if I would be doing this in blackface and I just thought no, of course not. The director did tell me this role is usually played by an African-

Jesus (Supers RUNS throug April Cí he ight C ís on S Street. 966-2 for tic inform

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 10 - You are magnificent 🖈 * today. You're also brilliant, so get your best ideas down on paper. Begin 🔸 * new projects and fall in love. Buy a lottery ticket, too. Why not? Tonight, × relax with your sweetie and talk.

★ Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 4 - You're in a bit of a pinch ★ today. Something you promised is coming due. Also, fill out paperwork * carefully. Go over it twice; a lot is riding on your answers. If you can't handle the pressure, get a friend to help. *

Today's Birthday (April 11). Your friends are the key to your success * this year. Investigate a new career option now. A group excursion taps * your resources in May. You'll learn a lot and maybe fall in love in June. Take a gamble in August. Heed your partner's cautions in October. Sched-* ule an adventure for December. You may get a promotion in January. × Your team will triumph in February if you're out on the cutting edge of * technology.

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diet. He used to be a real tub. Like I should talk (he grabs his stomach). But full-figured is in; it means



Daily Nexus

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3 15 s Christ

erstar bugh Civic t Opera a State eet. Call -2324 ticket rmation. American, but it didn't put any pressure on me.

Paul: Over all the years I've done this, I've done it with an equal amount of black and white Judases. It depends on the person and the voice.

I can't watch this show without thinking how close this is to my interpretation of what happened in Israel 2,000 years ago. It seems that every religion has a role for Jesus in it. You don't talk to many people who know his story and don't think of him as at least a nifty teacher. How close is this play to what you think might have happened?

John: Aside from the electric guitars, I think it's pretty accurate. (laughter)

Christ Superstar at the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera)

Paul: It's one interpretation. It's a 1970s interpretation. It's just the way the guys felt at the time. They thought, "Hey - Jesus, everyone knows about him. Why don't we make a rock musical about it?" That's what they did.

I looked around at this audience and I see people who look like people I've offended by doing much less than putting their conception of God on the stage in a rock musical. Do you think this musical is still offensive today?

Paul: To some people, absolutely. John and I have talked about this before. When I did this originally, the streets in New York were blocked off. There was picketing from everyone: Jews, Catholics, fundamentalists.... Everyone had something to say and they had never even seen it because it had never been done before. Maybe they heard the album, but probably not even that. But someone's always going to be offended. If you do Hello Dolly, someone's going to be

audience would tend to be more offended than a Los Angeles audience?

John: I would have to say yes. I'm not from up here, but I get the feeling it's pretty conservative.

Probably less so on campus.... Paul: On campus it's a whole other world.... Near the beach, it's a totally different world. Of course, there are loads of radical people. But the people with all the money and everything are, of course, conservative.

John: That's how they get all that money and keep it.

From Jim Morrison to John Lennon, there are tons of vague comparisons you can make between the modern "rebel's" plight and the Christ myth. Are these reasonable, I mean the whole idea of the popular hero against the government? Or just easy because the story is so well-known?

John: I don't know.

Paul: Somebody always wants what the other person has. Somebody always has to be on the bottom. When we started the United States of America, first we had to have the Irish on the bottom, then the Jews, the Hispanics, the Asians.... It's always been that way. If somebody comes up with a new idea, they're wrong. Just look, the Earth is flat. It just goes on and on. I don't think it will ever change.

One simple last question: Who's more popular, Jesus or the **Beatles?**

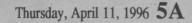
John: This day and age, the Beatles.

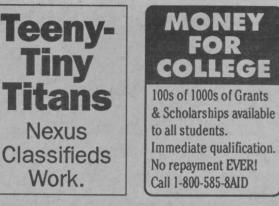
Paul: I think Jesus, with all these fundamentalists who are pro-life, anti-this, anti-that, anti-gay.

If you look at a newsstand today, you'd see Jesus on the cover of three magazines for Easter.

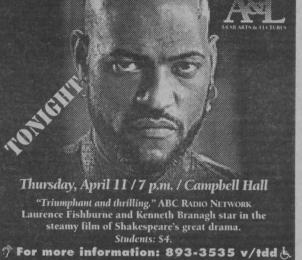
Paul: He's made a comeback. Of course if you look inside, they note that "God Is Dead" was on the cover 25 years ago. We've all gone through all of that, it takes different phases. Jesus was like this piece is trying to say - a man. You can put whatever else on top of it that you want to.

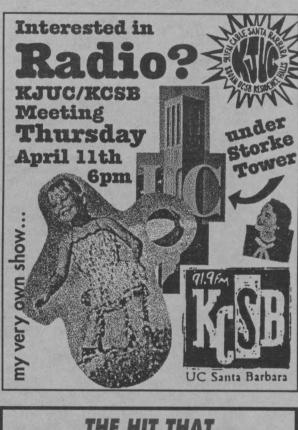
Just like the Beatles were just a





Othello







offended because it's about a matchmaker.

Do you think a Santa Barbara

band. Paul: Exactly.

John: And a very good one.



6A Thursday, April 11, 1996

Artsweek Recommends:

Ex-Ignota (formerly known as ig-88) live at The Alligator Lounge on Tuesday the 16th!

Set 1

The hot new I.V. supergroup Henchmyn live at Auggie's Place Friday night at 9ish.

Arts & Lectures presentation of Othello (the film) tonight at 7 in Compbell Hall.



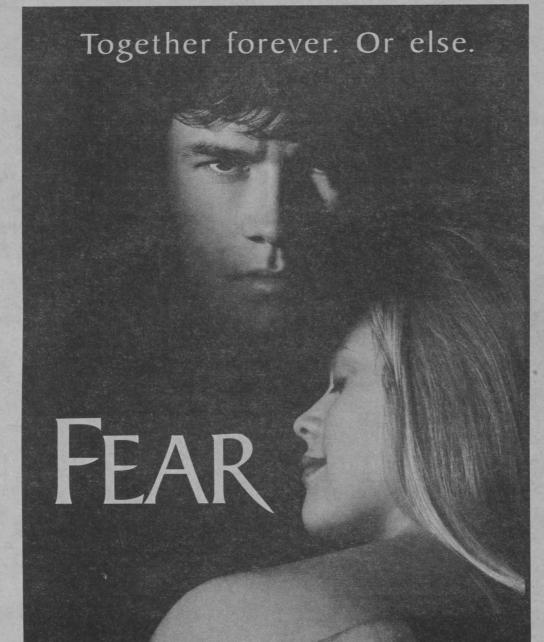


Ride Tarantula Sire

It seems everyone and their brother is going around proclaiming Oasis to be the new Fab Four, despite the fact that there are five members in the band. Most music fans are also oblivious to the fact that the group that actually most resembles the famous Liverpudlians has been around for many more years than Oasis — and has just split up.

Ride, the Oxford-based group credited with inspiring (among others) the kooky Supergrass tykes, recently called it quits due to some very Beatlesque reasons: 1) Singer/songwriter Andy Bell grew frustrated with what he felt was the stifling of his musical creativity by a bandmate. 2) Bell's foreign wife (a musician with a four-letter name) began to exert influence over her husband, meddling with the band's chemistry in the process. 3) Bell's partner, singer/songwriter Mark Gardener, relocated to the freethinking musical colony of New York.

In spite of — or maybe *because* of — these factors, Ride has managed to produce an album's worth of classic rock 'n' roll with their latest and last (unless some





riff-borrowing Mancunian band decides to renew interest in Ride 20 years from now, causing Sire to put out a series of anthologies) effort, *Tarantula*.

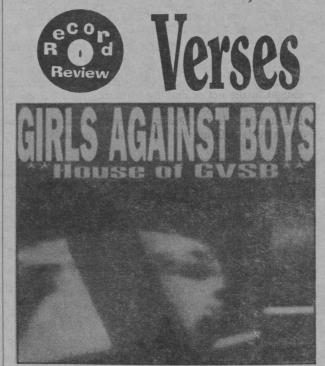
The rolling and melodic "Deep Inside My Pocket," is Gardener's attempt to rationalize Bell's coup within Ride. "While you were trying to control and trying to grab my soul / I blinked and saw right through you," he assures himself.

Bell takes the band's demise more personally than his partner in the tranquil "Sunshine": "Spotlight drew me over, now it's burning me away / So I'm looking for the real me, not some shadow when I play," he ponders to a spirited tune.

In fact, nine titanic tracks on *Tarantula* were written solely by Bell, who ends up revealing himself as the talented driving force behind Ride. While Gardener is working on solo material with some techno friends in New York, Bell is set to continue on with Ride drummer Loz Colbert and bassist Steve Queralt.

Incidentally, a trip with the Ride of days gone by can be found on a new live album featuring the older, Gardener-dominated incarnation of the band. A collection of Ride favorites, like the swirling "Chelsea Girl" and "Leave Them All Behind," have been released by the stateside Mutiny Records as *Live Light*, despite the fact that the band hasn't toured America in four years and that their main fan base lies in Britain. Nevertheless, if you pick it up, the next time you go to England you can probably sell it to some Ride fan for 25 bucks, seeing as how the album sells for a lot more there than it does in America.





Girls Against Boys House of GVSB Touch and Go

House of GVSB is an unbelievable sonic assault, aggressive but shadowy, like you wonder where these guys sprung up from (possibly the depths of the Earth, knowing the dark side of human existence). I believe singer Scott McCloud when he says, "It goes deeper than you think / It goes deeper than you know / Deeper than I go," because without morbidity or drollness, Girls Against Boys reaches deeper planes of musical darkness than any other band I can recall. Figure out the secrets of Girls Against Boys. Maybe it's McCloud's slightly distorted vocals and the unfurling atonal guitars that grate on your brain in a mindblowing and simultaneously gripping sensation. Or the powerful movement of the music — it moves at a frantically relentless forward pace, drilling into a dark place in your head. It is an experience to get totally wrapped up in as you feel your imagination taken forward by its sheer aggression. I was physically taken by this album, totally compelled by its intensity and semi-creepy attractiveness. The weird contrast between the two vocalists, one falsetto (Eli Janney) and one deep and distorted and a bit disturbed (McCloud), has the effect of being a surprisingly effective, postmodernist take on the traditional back-up singer role of mimicking the singer; the loopiness adds a certain manic feel to the album, rather than coming off as inane (see the latest Chili Peppers album). Also, the presence of two bassists makes for powerful and blending basslines, which are accompanied by manic guitar distortion, feedback and puncturing speed. Yet the power of each band member never overshadows another; it all comes down to a spilling center of total musical sensation and amazing precision. Especially lis-ten for "Super-fire," "Crash 17 (X-Rated Car)," "Life in Pink" and "Zodiac Love Team," even though this album is truly best when listened to in one big drench of musical ferocity.

Daily Nexus



-Nicole Milne

Daily Nexus

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that literally drops science with lyrics like: "The distance from the crust to the mantle to the core is much greater than previous measurements." Somehow it all makes sense when you listen to it.

-Eric Steuer



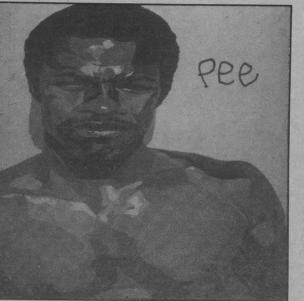
Lateef / "The Wreckoning" b/w "Latyrx" / solesides

SVL

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Lateef is one of the most out-there emcees to drop since the glory days of Freestyle Fellowship, and this ultra-experimental 12-inch should help him get his name on the map as one of the more creative kids to come off the West Coast. Lyrx Born guests on "Latyrx," a track



Pee / now, more charm / March

This San Francisco band has come out of nowhere and really impressed a lot of people with its hard, melodic, dissonant beauty. Pee's alternating female and male vocals are not unique but are done in a unique way. Rapid-fire riffage complemented with more melodic guitar and punchy drumming are the staples. "Copacetic" is one of the highlights and is representative of Pee's over-all sound. Two previous 7-inch singles, "Salt Garden" b/w "Icarus" and "Little El-Pee," are also available. -Noah "Ritz" Blumberg

LYRIC OF THE WEAK:

"Robbin' little kids for bags/ 'til the lawman got behind our ass"

-Bushwick Bill

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Villains RCA

Review

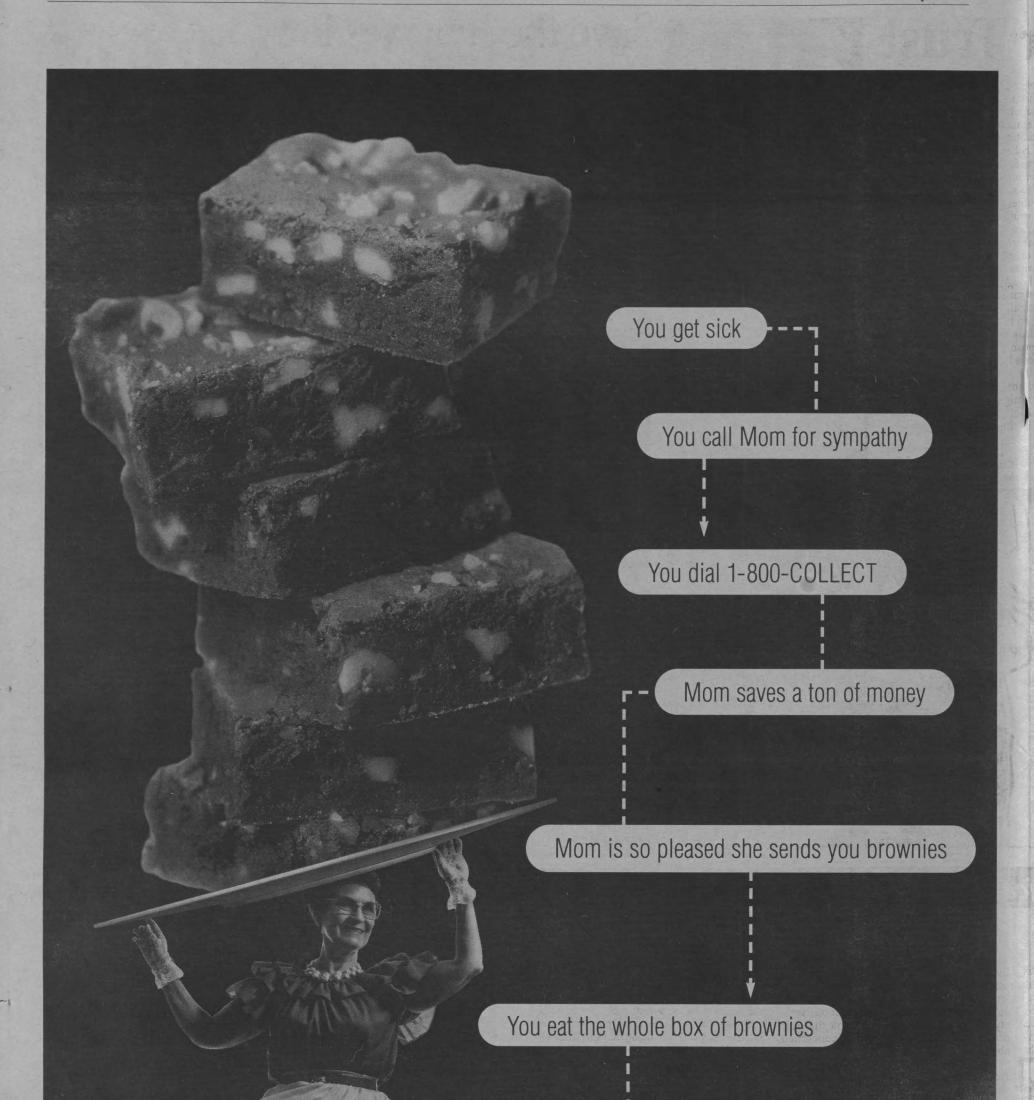
No.

lueless

"We are today / We are for the moment / We are a cru-







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