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Duo of Firesign Theatre arrive with topical humor

Back in the old days, the worth of a hip high school student was directly proportional to the amount of Firesign Theatre he or she could recite from memory.

"She's no fun — she fell right over."

"Shadow Valley Condoms. If you lived here, you'd be home by now."

"They're in everybody's eggs."

Twelve years and countless skits later, Phil Proctor and Peter Bergman have released another album, and will be appearing in the EMU Ballroom Friday at 8 p.m.

The Firesign Theatre, named such because all four members are fire signs, began in 1966 on radio station KPFK-FM in Los Angeles. In the next four years, they produced some of the classic humor pieces of the 60s, included on such albums as *Waiting for the Electrician or Someone Like Him*, *How Can You be in Two Places at Once When you're Not Anywhere at All*, *Don't Crush that Dwarf, Hand me the Pliers*, and *I Think We're all Bozos on this Bus*.

They are also responsible for a

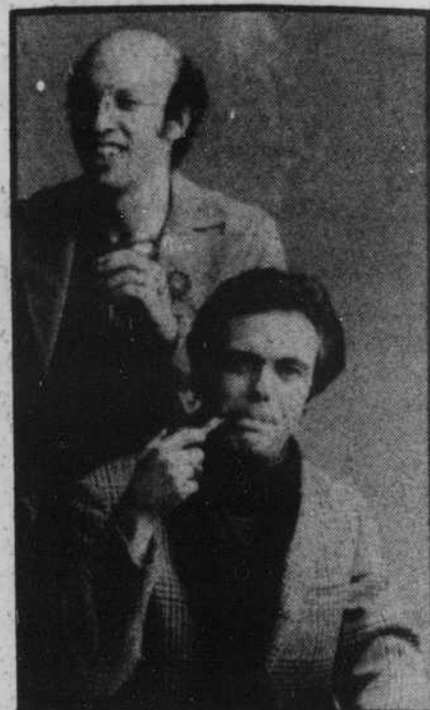
radio program in LA, and the screenplay for *Zachariah*, and their "Temporarily Humboldt County" was used for a film on Indian treaty rights.

Proctor and Bergman have done a number of albums on their own, including *TV or Not TV* and their latest, *Give Us a Break*.

The latter is a look at Hot Rock Radio, there, as the tune goes, "if the records weren't free, we'd be all news!" It includes news spot, ads, and radio features, including "C.B. Course," "Nukes in the News," and "Sat. Nite Gun Mart."

Give Us a Break is not as conceptual as early Firesign Theatre, composed instead of 21 shorts. It is also much more topical, dealing with the Panama Canal, Idi Amin, sugar, and gun control.

Some of the best humor is contained in the ads, always a Firesign Theatre forte. (Who can forget Ralph Spoilsport?) They take on everything from cereals ("Idiots, the breakfast of madmen") to movies ("Doggies: if cute can kill, they will"). And some of the plays on words are, as usual,



Pete Bergman & Phil Proctor

terrifying (Benjamin Sugar, for instance, invented the Philadelphia Mint).

Friday's show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50, and available only at the door.

Rounder wins with Thorogood

George Thorogood's discovery is a variation on the actress - at the - drug - store - fountain routine.

John Forward and some friends were cruising Boston looking for a night club when they ran across Joe's Place in Cambridge. There they found Thorogood and his Destroyers tearing down the walls.

Three years later, Thorogood has a contract with Rounder Records and is getting rave reviews wherever he plays.

The purists are shocked. Rounder Records is a folk/bluegrass label, and Thorogood is anything but folk — he is basic, raw blues/rock. But Rounder Records

George Thorogood and the Destroyers will be at The Place Saturday for 8:30 and 11:30 p.m. shows. Tickets are \$3.75 in advance.

knows a good thing when they see one, and Thorogood's album is their all-time best seller.

There's no question about it — Thorogood plays a fine slide guitar. Furthermore, he has a decent voice — raspy, fluent and unpretentious. Finally, and most importantly, he has an energy that hits you like a hammer.

George Thorogood and the Destroyers is, at worst, inconsistent. "Kind Hearted Woman" and "I'll Change My Style" are slow tunes out of character with the rest of the album, and it doesn't sound like he's gotten a handle on them yet.

But at its best, the album has some of the best white blues to be produced in a long time.

The showcases are Earl Hooker's "You Got to Lose," Elmore James' "Madison Blues,"

(Continued on Page 6B)



George Thorogood

Midnight series offers premiere

My Cup Ranneth Over will be given its world premiere this week as part of the Oregon Repertory Theatre's Midnight Mafia series.

The one-act comedy will run May 26-27 and June 2-3, with all

shows starting at midnight.

The play is written by Robert Patrick, who recently traveled to Eugene to watch the ORT's production of *Kennedy's Children*. It is, according to the author, "part of a series of plays called *I Came to New York to Write*. I wrote this piece as a TV special for Lily Tomlin and Marlo Thomas, which wasn't made because of their commitments."

My Cup Ranneth Over features Jane Stevens-Jones as Yucca, a

punk rock singer modeled after Patti Smith and Linda Ronstadt, who achieves overnight success in New York. Also performing is Bonnie Cohen as Paula, her writer-roommate whose greatest desire is to sell an article to *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

The production is directed by Carol Baker.

Tickets are \$1.50 at the door. For more information call 485-1946.

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