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'The Sure Thing': not the usual teen flick

By MARCY BASILE
Movie Reviewer

As most everybody knows, one goal of incoming college freshmen males is finding the "college woman" of their dreams.

Observations over the past three and a half years have proven to me that, while the guys try, few succeed. These guys dutifully attend mixers but something gets lost in the translation — they usually lean against an obscure wall consuming mass quantities of beer with the buddies.

"The Sure Thing," the newest offering by Rob "Meathead" Reiner, deals with the pain of finding the right girl only to discover she hate your guts. Gib (John Cusack) and Alison (Daphne Zuniga) are two New England college freshmen who meet in a creative writing class taught by a professor any freshman would love. This lady, Professor Taub (Viveca Lindfors) operates on the same wavelengths as Dr. Ruth — she tells everything as it is.

Gib, who resembles a young Julian Lennon, is the sort of guy who thrives on cold pizza breakfasts and procrastinated English papers (sound familiar?). True to form, he falls into immediate infatuation the instant he sees Alison. Not being too obvious, Gib motions to



John Cusack and Daphne Zuniga star in "The Sure Thing."

the seat next to him when she walks into the classroom. Alison, being the hot-blooded woman she is, coolly ignores him. Undaunted, Gib persists in his quest to win Alison's heart.

Until they end up in the same car bound for UCLA.

You see, Gib's best friend has

invited Gib to visit over Christmas Break with the promise of conjuring up a "sure thing." What guy could pass up the prospects of a no-strings, no-guilt relationship with one of the most gorgeous bottle-blonds in California? On the flip side, Alison's yuppie boyfriend, Jay-son, is in the

process of becoming a lawyer (and a darn good one, too) when Alison decides to pack up and visit him in sunny California.

Along the way, Gib and Alison begin to enjoy each other's company, although it takes a while for them to realize it. Gib teaches Alison how to be im-

pulsive (and how to properly shotgun beer while eating fried pork rinds). Alison, on the other hand, teaches Gib the meaning of friendship (i.e. it's OK to have girls for friends not just for thrills).

John Cusack ("Sixteen Candles," "Grandview U.S.A.") does a good job portraying Gib, considering Cusack just graduated from high school himself. Although Gib starts out as a guy hot on the trail of the perfect female, he matures enough to realize that the words "I love you" mean more than just a key to "it." (Judging from crowd reaction and personal opinion, Cusack is a definite asset to the male species, too.)

Although Cusack plays a believable college freshman, Zuniga lacks something. Most freshmen girls aren't as well planned out as Alison. Maybe it isn't Zuniga's portrayal (bad writing could be a possible culprit) but something definitely is wrong. I must admit though, watching her shotgun beer is pretty humorous.

All in all, the movie is tastefully executed. For once, there is no nudity and little profanity to speak of. Actually, if you want to take someone of the opposite sex with you to this one — go right ahead. All you'll do is laugh. ♪

Music

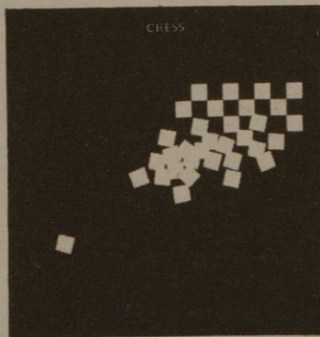
From brain games to inane games

By WALTER SMITH
Music Reviewer

Tim Rice is at it again. In the past, he's delivered the lyrics to such Broadway hits as "Evita" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." Now he's teamed up with Abba members Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus for the recording of "Chess." Although still in progress, this work promises to get even better.

This show differs greatly from most theatrical productions because it has two songs, "One Night in Bangkok" and "I Know Him So Well," playing on Top-40 radio.

A 20-page booklet included in the two-record set has a forward by an international chess master that outlines a brief, but insightful, historical look at the world of international chess playing. This, as well as the synopsis of the two-act show, should be read prior to



"Chess" Soundtrack
Andersson, Rice & Ulvaeus
RCA Records

listening in order to better understand the lyrics, which sometimes are confusing.

The show opens with the American (Murray Head) and his second, Florence Vassy (Elaine Page), defending his world title against the Russian

(Tommy Körberg) in northern Italy. Florence inevitably falls for the Russian because he's the enemy and because she's tired of the mother-child relationship that she shares with the American. One obstacle, however, is the Russian's wife, Svetlana (Barbara Dickson).

The strategy and pomposity of the players in the championship represent a specific situation, although much of their behavior and actions might be paralleled to some current Cold War tactics.

"Friction" is the aptly named new release from the Canadian metal heads, Coney Hatch. The stream of sparks on the album cover greatly resembles the shards of vinyl that spewed from my turntable as my freshly disintegrated stylus dug deep into the record's surface. Fortunately (unfortunately), I



Friction
Coney Hatch
Polygram Records

had a spare industrial-strength stylus so I could (had to) listen to the rest of the album.

Where's the unwritten law that says heavy metal band members have to look like a bunch of leather-clad drag queens? Needless butchering

all those innocent cows for the sake of their egotistic aesthetics. I mean, do their mothers know they're doing this?

These guys have about as much charisma and creativity as lime Jell-O. Well, they are somewhat inventive; they've managed to devise many new ways of making monotonous music (i.e. dynamic range of almost two decibels, use of three chords, etc).

The lyrical content of this LP reads like a seedy adult novel. "Girl from Last Night's Dream" divulges more about the singer's nocturnal sexcapades than even Dr. Ruth Westheimer could handle.

Because I am a music reviewer, I might not be truly qualified to review this stuff. I do know, however, that this vinyl could have been used for a better purpose, like upholstering the back seat of a Pinto. ♪