

KID FROST & CHICANO RAP • FIGHTING OVER USED CDS • HUNDREDS OF REVIEWS

OPTION

MUSIC ALTERNATIVES

NOV/DEC 1993
NO.
53
\$3.50 USA \$4.50 CAN

● **TRANCE MISSION** The music this San Francisco four-piece makes is based around clarinet, didgeridoos, ethnic percussion and samples, but it sounds a lot more interesting than you might think. Some of the pieces contain the ambient drones the name would lead you to expect, but others are another story. "Bo Didgeley" is a boisterous variation on the old Bo Diddley "hambone" beat, led by Beth Custer's jaunty bass clarinet, while "Red Man" is an interesting blend of Indian rhythms and country blues with funky acoustic guitar and a nice blue clarinet played over tablas. Eastern rhythms stay in the background for most pieces while up-front clarinets, toy horns and lord-knows-what-else play jigs and slow drag blues. With continually roaring and rattling percussion in the background, this music is often quiet but never stands still. It's too repetitive to be called jazz but definitely too lively for new age. It's a fun excursion into the exotic that makes its own category. You may not know what to call it, but you might enjoy hearing it. (City of Tribes, 63 Fountain St., S.F, CA 94114) — Jerome Wilson.