THE SEVEN LADY GODIVAS
By Dr. Seuss

By V. MICHAEL BOVE

READERS WHO WERE SURPRISED by "You've Only Got One Once"—last
year's Dr. Seuss book for adults—may be yet more amazed to
learn that Theodore Seuss Geisel's first book—and the only one
written entirely in prose—was also aimed at adults.

"The Seven Lady Godivas" originally came out in 1939, and as Seuss himself has
written, was "promptly remaindered." In our more enlightened and (it is hoped)
free-spending age, Random House has de
cided to try again. Before anyone gets ex
cited by the prospect of an "adult" Dr.
Seuss book, it must be pointed out that this
book deserves at most a PG rating,
and it is unlikely to offend anyone but Briti
sh historians.

Long available only in rare-book shops,
the newly-reissued "The Seven Lady Godi
vas" aims to right what the author claims
is an historical inaccuracy. In truth, says
Seuss, there were seven Lady Godivas, the
daughters of Lord Godiva, Earl of Coventry.
Their nakedness, which figures promi
nently in the illustrations, is incidental to
the story at hand—as the narrator ex
plains, "They were simply themselves and
chose not to disguise it."

On his way to the Battle of Hastings in
1066, the Lord is thrown from his horse
and killed, and each of his daughters
pledges not to wed until she has made
some contribution to the then-small canon
of equestrian knowledge. What follows is
a series of seven shaggy-dog tales explai
ning the origin of such proverbs as "Never
look a gift horse in the mouth."

The illustrations in this volume (some
too-scholarly even excepted are classic
Seuss, the wildly exaggerated subject mat
ter lending itself to wildly exaggerated pic
tures. The writing—and there really isn't
that much writing here—is perhaps closer
to Stephen Leacock's "Nonsense Novels"
than to any later Seussian verse.

"The Seven Lady Godivas" is definitely
not Seuss' best work, and it wouldn't have
stayed out of print for a half-century. But
it's also not a book that will be purchased
only by true Dr. Seuss fans for the sake of
completeness; others should find this a
timelyly humorous bit of revisionist his

tory-writing.

Lawndale is surfing high on their refreshing, jamming guitar sound

SASQUATCH ROCK
Lawndale on SST Records.

Despite the seeming silliness of some of
their music, Lawndale is not a novelty
band. Rather, they're a group of self
proclaimed beach bums who love guitar
music—any guitar music—so much that
they don't care about cultural boundaries
(let's not forget that Link Wray recorded
"Dixie Doodle," a mixture of "Dixie" and
"Hound Doodle").

The title cut and "Last Train to No
where" are excellent updated surf-guitar
workouts à la Barrettes. "Alabama Sham
mer" (for which the recipe is included:
I own each slay gin, Southern Comfort,
amaro, orange juice) recalls Dick Dale's
sweetest shirting, with a little southern and
Russian folk influence thrown in. "Instru
mental" is an extended jam consisting of
seven movements with titles like "Amanda
can Forget," each done in a different
style.

The band has thoughtfully included a
song of liberation to be read while listening to
the record. Skimming this, the reader
learners that "Ambush" is a tribute to Lt.
Col. Oliver North. (Could this be the first
record about North? Trendy to the min
ute, Lawndale has previously recorded
"Dixie Doodle," a mixture of "Dixie" and
"Hound Doodle").

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"Goddivas" rewrites history with timeless, zany humor

Lawndale

"The Story of Vanna White")

With radio dominated by music choked out of memory chips, it's refreshing to
hear a group just get together some guitars and jam. The results are worth repeated
listennings.

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