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GO BEHIND THE
SCENES WITH POP
MUSIC WRITER
MARIAN LIU.

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"RED-GREEN-BLUE
SUN" (2000)
IS A 3-MONITOR
VIDEO PIECE BY
DIANA THATER ON
VIEW AT BERKELEY
ART MUSEUM
THROUGH AUG. 14.
IMAGES FROM HER
FOOTAGE OF THE
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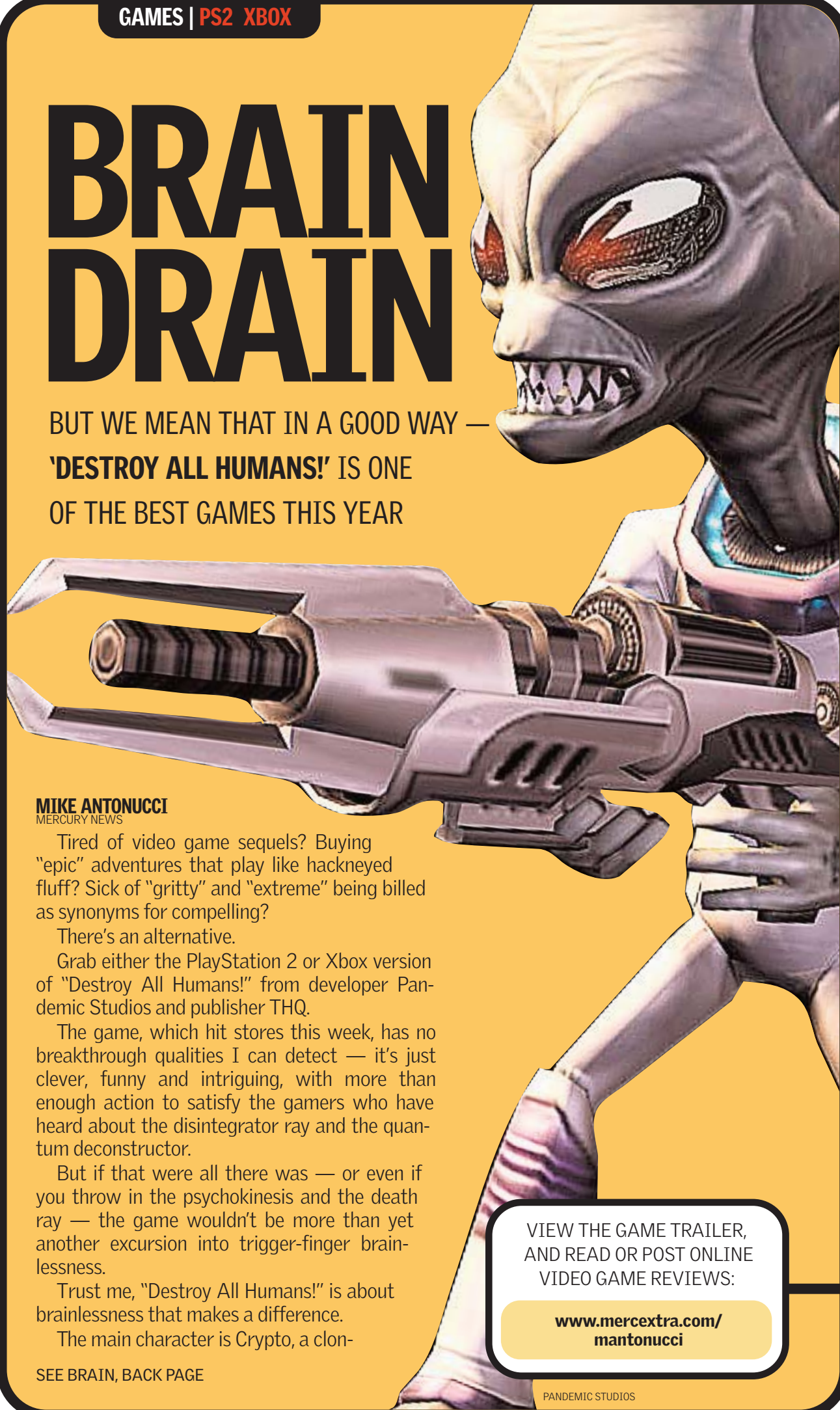
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GAMES | PS2 XBOX

BRAIN DRAIN

BUT WE MEAN THAT IN A GOOD WAY —
'DESTROY ALL HUMANS!' IS ONE
OF THE BEST GAMES THIS YEAR



MIKE ANTONUCCI
MERCURY NEWS

Tired of video game sequels? Buying "epic" adventures that play like hackneyed fluff? Sick of "gritty" and "extreme" being billed as synonyms for compelling?

There's an alternative.

Grab either the PlayStation 2 or Xbox version of "Destroy All Humans!" from developer Pandemic Studios and publisher THQ.

The game, which hit stores this week, has no breakthrough qualities I can detect — it's just clever, funny and intriguing, with more than enough action to satisfy the gamers who have heard about the disintegrator ray and the quantum deconstructor.

But if that were all there was — or even if you throw in the psychokinesis and the death ray — the game wouldn't be more than yet another excursion into trigger-finger brainlessness.

Trust me, "Destroy All Humans!" is about brainlessness that makes a difference.

The main character is Crypto, a clon-

SEE BRAIN, BACK PAGE

VIEW THE GAME TRAILER,
AND READ OR POST ONLINE
VIDEO GAME REVIEWS:

www.mercextra.com/mantonucci

PANDEMIC STUDIOS

MUSIC | PEOPLE

BAVGATE CARRIES ON



Oakland emcee BavGate will rock the mike on Saturday at his CD release party at San Jose's Deep club (www.deepsj.com). His newest album, "The InstaGator," includes such A-listers as the Game and Juvenile.

The 25-year-old, born Billy Moore, has worked with the likes of Master P, Snoop Dogg and Mystikal. Since then, the rapper, whose style is a mix of Los Angeles gangsta rap and Bay Area funk, was signed to Vallejo rapper Mac Dre's label Thizz Entertainment with other rising rappers such as Keak da Sneak, who also will be performing Saturday (\$20 at door; free before 10:30 p.m. with guest list on the Deep Web site).

Mac Dre was killed in November, but BavGate hopes to continue Dre's legacy of bringing attention to the Bay Area. "He left a seed behind," BavGate says about his late mentor. "It just grew. It just sprouted, blossomed. He opened up a new thing, a new sound, a whole other outlook on the Bay Area."

MARIAN LIU

TO HEAR EXCERPTS FROM BAVGATE'S INTERVIEW,
OR TO POST COMMENTS ABOUT HIS SHOW:

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COURTESY OF BAVGATE

READER REVIEW



WARNER BROS.

'BATMAN BEGINS'

What would cause a young billionaire to dress up in a Halloween costume and beat the snot out of bad guys? When put that way, the idea of Batman seems unrealistic and comic. However, director Christopher Nolan expertly navigates the story, from a young boy losing his parents in a back-alley mugging, through the vengeance-plagued years of unrest and into the full genesis of Batman. Supporting characters are given good screen time to round out their personas. And the organic emergence of the villains affords Bruce Wayne the opportunity to embrace his alter ego. Every element fits together and brings the story into focus.

ALTON LEE

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CAPCOM

"Killer 7" arrives next month.

THE HOT LIST TOP UPCOMING GAMES

'MIDNIGHT CLUB 3: DUB EDITION'

ROCKSTAR

FOR PLAYSTATION PORTABLE.
SCHEDULED TO BE IN STORES
NEXT WEEK. RATING: EVERYONE.

'KILLER 7'

CAPCOM

FOR PS2 AND GAMECUBE. IN
STORES JULY 7. RATING: MATURE.

'FANTASTIC FOUR'

ACTIVISION

FOR PS2, XBOX, GAMECUBE, PCs
AND GAME BOY ADVANCE. NEXT
WEEK. RATING: TEEN, EXCEPT
FOR THE GBA VERSION, WHICH IS
EVERYONE.

'METEOS'

NINTENDO

FOR NINTENDO DS. NEXT WEEK.
RATING: EVERYONE.

'DEAD TO RIGHTS: RECKONING'

NAMCO

FOR PSP. NEXT WEEK.
RATING: MATURE.

'SPLINTER CELL: CHAOS THEORY'

UBISOFT

FOR NINTENDO DS. NEXT WEEK.
RATING: TEEN.

'GUNDAM VS. ZETA GUNDAM'

BANDAI

FOR PS2. NEXT WEEK.
RATING: TEEN.

'GLIMMERATI'

NOKIA

FOR NOKIA N-GAGE. SHIPS TO
STORES THE FIRST WEEK OF
JULY. RATING: MATURE.

MIKE ANTONUCCI