

Lethal Weapon wanna-be

by Gurn Blansten

What can you say about a film like *Loose Cannons*? This slipshod effort is yet another cop-buddy movie that tries to be *Lethal Weapon*. However, this time it is Dan Aykroyd and Gene Hackman who team up as a mismatched pair to solve a very poorly realized plot involving

Nazis, Israeli agents and a porn king.

Normally, one would assume that after their recent critical and financial successes, the two stars would avoid duds like these, but one only has to watch carefully in order to see that this film is two years old. Originally slated for release last summer, it was pulled at the last minute in order to avoid the stiff competition of the

big summer blockbusters. In retrospect it was a wise move. *Loose Cannons* is a poorly written, directed, and edited film. If you would have avoided it in the summer in favour of such superior products as *Batman* and *Lethal Weapon II*, then there is no reason to lower your standards now and pay seven dollars to see it.

The problem with the film does not lie with the actors. Aykroyd and Hackman do what they can with the meagre material they are provided. The big problem is behind the scenes, namely director Bob Clark (*From the Hip, Turk 182!*). Clark is more of a loose cannon than the characters in the film. He allows the film to go in all directions at once, and as a result he cannot retain any con-

sistency of tone. This is particularly evident when scenes try to build up suspense and then are utterly sabotaged by the slapstick antics of Aykroyd's character.

The editing is equally abominable. Scenes change location with little or no explanation and the villain appears to have had a larger role, but in the final cut he is in only two scenes. These are minor points, however, when compared to the plot of the film. Not only is it confusing and sloppy, it is misleading and manipulative as well. This film caters to the lowest common denominator and even judged on that basis it is sadly lacking. This is Bob Clark's first action film, and it is clear that he is not up to the task. But what can you expect from the director of *Porky's*?



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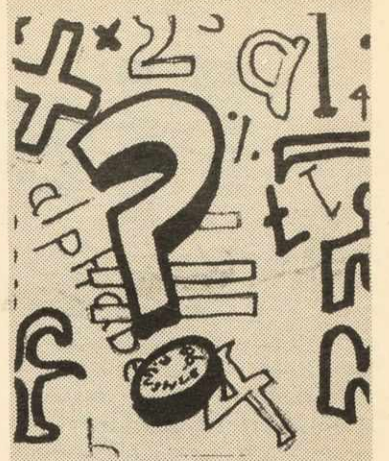
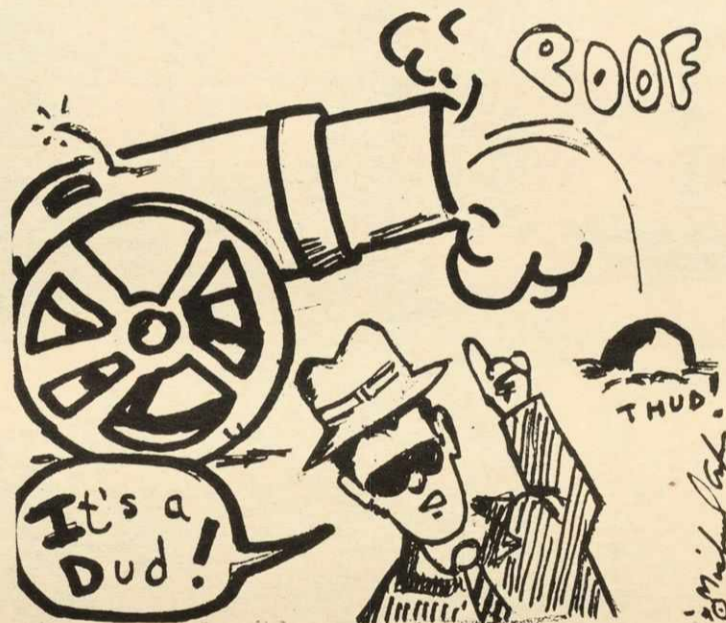
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Equation Analysis

Each equation below contains initials of words that will make it correct, e.g. 26 = L of the A would be:

- 26 letters of the alphabet.
- 7 = W of the A W
- 1001 = A N
- 12 = S of the Z
- 54 = C in a D (with J)
- 9 = P in the S S
- 88 = P K
- 13 = S on the A F
- 18 = H on a G C
- 32 = D F at which W F
- 90 = D in a R A
- 200 = D for P G in M
- 8 = S on a S S
- 3 = B M (S H T R)
- 4 = Q in a G
- 24 = H in a D
- 1 = W on a U
- 6 = D in a P C
- 57 = H V
- 11 = P on a F T
- 1000 = W that a P is W
- 29 = D in F in a L Y
- 64 = S on a C
- 40 = D and N of the G F

Few people can solve more than half on the first try; many experience 'eureka's' long after the test had been put aside; some complete it over a period of days. It is certainly not a test of intelligence, fluency or mathematical ability but rather a gauge of flexibility and creativity.

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