



ENTERTAINMENT'S REGULAR FEATURE ON CONTEMPORARY GRAPHIC FICTION.

With Christmas only seven weeks away, most of the publishing houses are bringing out their best books to stuff stockings and lay waste to wallets. Some examples: Gary Larson's third *Far Side Treasury* is just out. At around \$15 it's a good buy for this off-the-wall out-of-the-reactor weirdness. Of note to Far Sidiens, Larson is taking a vacation to "recharge" and won't be heard from till Jan. 1, 1990. Most papers will be running a "best of Far Side" until then. Another great collection of strips, as previously noted in *STRIP*, is *The Essential Calvin and Hobbes*. The name says it all, the book is essential to your well-being.



**InterAct 2**

**TONIGHT!**

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TNB's InterAct Series is sponsored by **ESSO**

Comics as a whole have been receiving quite a bit of mainstream media attention lately. There is a new feature length documentray about comics and their history entitled *Comic Book Confidential*. I doubt it will get to Freddy Beach, but it will very likely be released on vid. Even *Playboy* has gotten on the bandwagon with their December issue which just hit the stands. In it you'll find, among other things, a lengthy article on many of the hipper new comics as reviewed by sci-fi author Harlan Ellison.

Now...on with the show...

**The Adventures of Tintin (\$5-\$8 - Magnet Books)**

Tintin is a young French reporter who, accompanied by his dog "Snowy", becomes involved in all types of adventures. Breaking up a counterfeit operation in Scotland, putting away Al Capone, revealing opium smuggling in China, and many others. Created by Hergé (hair-zhay), a pseudonym for Georges Rémi (it's his initials said backwards), in the 1930's, Tintin has become one of the most recognizable comic characters and one of the widest distributed, having been translated from French into dozens of other languages. New Tintin adventures appeared regularly up until Rémi's death about four years ago. Tintin and the Art Forgers was in progress and will remain unfinished as without Rémi, there will be no new Tintin's. All of the books already published, and there are over twenty, are available from most bookstores.

**Ginger Fox (\$2.25 - Comico)**

Mike Baron and the Pander Brothers have put together a slick 4 issue mini-series full of scandal, betrayal, backstabbing, intrigue, and action. Ginger Fox is the CEO of Peppertree Studios and the story revolves around herself, the actors and actresses, directors, and other "Hollywood types" that are found in and around Peppertree Studios. The plot is very involved and reads like a soap opera, but it's very good. With no spandex-clad muscle-bound chest beater jumping from tree to building, Ginger Fox makes a nice change of pace. \*\*\*

**Invasion! (\$4 - DC Comics)**

A monumental 3 issue series from DC Comics by Bill Mantlo, Todd McFarlane, and Keith Giffen. *Invasion* pits every alien race known to exist in the "DC Universe" against Earth. "Too often have the meta-humans (super-heroes) of Earth interefered in our plans of conquest!" or something to that effect. The aliens have formed a shaky alliance bent on wiping out the meta-humans, and should the earthlings decide not to give up their heroes, the aliens are very willing to take them by force. The storyline is fast-paced and easy to follow despite everything that's going on. What makes this worth my \$4 is Todd McFarlanes artwork. It's dynamic and visually exciting. Each issue of *Invasion* runs a hefty 80 pages with no ads and is of special interest for those readers of DC comics from the silver age of the 60's: many older space-faring characters will be appearing. So far we've seen "Snapper" Carr and Adam Strange, with others to come I hope. The storyline will be crossing over into just about every DC title but *Invasio* is all that's necessary to get the gist of it. \*\*\*



**AKIRA! (\$4.75 - Epic Comics)**

Katsuhiro Otomo has created an 1800 page science fiction story of mammoth proportions set in New Tokyo 38 years after World War III. The government is creating albino mutants capable of tremendous psychokinetic feats. Why? We aren't told yet. Are they to be used in intelligence, as weapons, surveillance, repopulation? Meanwhile, one escapes, called No.26, and stumbles into the path of some hopped-up students in a motorcycle gang. A group of anti-government rebels begin to search for this no.26. *Akira* is one of these mutants. To speak his name causes the military to stumble and worry. Who/what is *Akira*, we have yet to learn, but the ride until then is terrific. Originally published in Japan in balck and white, *Akira* is seen in colour for the first time ever in the Epic Comics edition. The story will run about 26 - 30 issues and the 4th issue has just been published. Great stuff. This seem to hold a tremendous amount of appeal to both *Robotech* fans and those who like the more realistic "Mad Max" apocalyptic vision of the future. Buy this, read this, learn this. There's a test tomorrow. \*\*\*\*

**Walt Disney's Christmas Parade (\$3.75 - Gladstone)**

Just in time for Xmas, a 100 page collection of yuletide stores starring all your Disney favourites. Uncle Scrooge, Donald Duck and his nephews, Mickey, and others. For your

friend, brother, sister, professor, or yourself, this is a great stocking stuffer. \*\*\*\*

**Dr. Fate (\$1.75 - DC Comics)**

Another occult comics but his time the character is a young boy and an older woman who have to join to form Dr. Fate. This just didn't grab me. It's meant as a sort of spin-off from the hugely successful sitcom disguised as a comic *Justice League International*, but this one misses the mark despite the little bits of suburbanite humour thrown in. For humour, read *Ralph Snart*; for occult-horror, try *Hellblazer*.

Other stuff you should give a try...

*Animal Man*  
*Godzilla*  
*The American Legion of Super-Heroes*  
*Excalibur*

Stay away from...

*G.I. Joe*  
*Wanderers*  
*Cloak and Dagger*  
*Ex-Mutants*  
*Area 88*

Well, that's it for this week. Be back in two weeks with some more stuff. Thanx for reading, and, as always, a pòx on those who don't.

(P.S. Does anyone have a taped copy of the last part of the trial of a timelord where they switch Baker for McCoy. I missed it. Contact me via the Bruns. Thanx. - A Who Fan

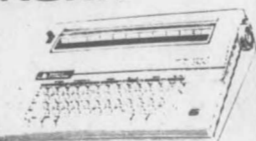
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