



ENTERTAINMENT'S REGULAR FEATURE ON CONTEMPORARY GRAPHIC FICTION.

After a two week hiatus, I'm back with some more of the best graphix to tickle your marrow to the bone. Before getting on with it, I've noticed that I rarely give a scathingly bad review. The reason for this is that these comics are my own and I'm not shelling out a couple of bucks just to tell the Brunns readers, "Don't buy this trash!" That having been said, let's get on with it...

Havok & Wolverine:
Meltdown #1
(\$4.75 - Epic Comics)

This is a four issue mini-series written by Walter and Louise Simonson with painted art by Kent Williams and



Jon Jay Muth. Using mainly water-colours, Muth and Williams have struck upon an interesting collaborative thought: Muth does the Havok figure and Williams does Wolverine with both illustrating the backgrounds. The main characters, from Marvel Comics' X-Men title are on vacation in Mexico, getting into fist fights and generally

drinking themselves silly. Meanwhile, (a very comic book word, eh?), the Russians are playing around with Chernobyl and would like an alternative source of power, such as cosmic waves just like the ones that Havok absorbs and turns into terrific blasts of force. This gets Havok and Wolverine shot up with beubonic plague after a great car chase. When Wolverine comes to, he's told that his friend is dead. The next scene at the graveyard is hilarious but should be seen and not described. *Visit this mag. It's t'rifflin'!*

Two chances to catch a surreal comic nightmare

By Pamela Lougheed

The Exterminating Angel

The UNB Film Society presents Luis Bunuel's 1962 movie *The Exterminating Angel*. This award-winning movie (the International Critics Award and the Fipresci Prize at Cannes) is a satire which aims, according to its director, "to shatter the optimism of the bourgeois world" and to force the audience "to question the permanence of the prevailing order." I can only hope that the movie might have a similar effect on a UNB audience.

The film revolves around a bizarre dinner party which

begins ordinarily enough but quickly descends into a surrealist comic nightmare. Feel free to read the scene as a UNB residence party or an administrative luncheon or any other modern equivalent that you like. For no apparent reasons, the guests become trapped within their ideology--oops, I mean within their ideal hosts' home. They begin to crack after a while and succumb to lust, cruelty, drugs, hysteria, and-almost-to human sacrifice.

The film has been described as "a scathingly comic portrait of a society coming apart at the seams." There are indications in the film that there is a revolution brewing just outside the house of the dinner party, but the guests scarcely notice this even when they finally get outside. Instead, their dedication to questionable conventions draws them into a church where they once again become entrapped by their own conventions.

There will be two showings: Sat. and Sun. Dec. 3rd and 4th at 8 p.m. in Tilley 102. Nightly memberships: \$3.00.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles #15 (\$2.00 - Mirage Studios)

Under a torn, soiled, taped cover that gives it a 1940's Golden Age appearance lies a fun, action-packed romp. What started as a parody of comics has come to epitomize what a good, funny, throwaway comic can be. It's entertaining and well worth two bucks. Try some! This is not the cartoon, this is the real thing. ****



Black Orchid #1 (\$4.75 - DC Comics)

Black Orchid was a super-heroine surrounded by mystery when she first appeared in the early 1970's in Adventure Comics. She appeared in less than a dozen issues and then...nothing. We knew little about her except that she was immensely strong, bullet proof, and she could fly. Now, almost twenty years later, a pair of Brits have decided to shed some light upon the secretive Black Orchid. Published as a 3 issue mini-series in DC's prestige format (squarebound, slick paper, full colour),

Black Orchid is a beautiful production. Written by Neil Gaiman and painted by Dave McKean (you may have seen the covers of "Hellblazer" painted by McKean), Black Orchid will encounter some equally enigmatic characters like Swamp Thing, Lex Luthor, and the Batman. This is a series aimed at people who like a bit of mystery and suspense. If you've never read a comic before; if you haven't read one in years; or if you read them every day; you should definitely try some Black Orchid. I might say, "Go pick a Black Orchid", but I won't. ****

RATINGS:

- ****: Excellent or Rip-Roaring, take your pick.
- ***: Darn Close to Excellent.
- ** : Worth the coverprice, but just that.
- * : Not completely bad, but save money and read someone else's copy.
- † : Unbelievably bad dog droppings.



Batman #426-429 "A Death in the Family" (\$1.00 - DC Comics)

This is a four part story by Jim Starlin and Jim Aparo that was put together with a great deal of commercial sense involved. The story revolved around Robin's search for his true mother. In the second part of the series, Robin has found her only to be trapped in a warehouse with a time bomb set to explode in seconds. That's it. That's the end of that episode. On the inside back cover were a pair of telephone numbers

to call. One for "Yes, Robin escapes and lives.", the other, "No, Robin fails to escape and dies." The votes were tallied and the result was found in the third part of the story. Robin was dead. Killed by a margin of 72 votes. The fourth part has just been released and deals with Batman seeking revenge against the Joker for setting the bomb. This series received an incredible amount of media coverage - radio, tv, newspaper articles and more, and this has spurred sales to go through the roof. The first three parts are sold out completely and are selling for \$10, \$15, and \$35 respectively. DC comics announced a trade paperback collecting all four issues to be released a mere 3 weeks after the concluding episode. It will sell for \$4.95 Canadian. While being a good story with important repercussions on the Batman mythos and always-great Aparo art, I'd recommend getting the paperback collection for \$5 rather than the 4 issues for \$50. ***

★

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