

Distractions

RIFE



It's name says it all

by CALUM JOHNSTON
Editor

"Rife with Possibilities" is exactly as its name states. Rife is a 20 page, magazine-size compic printed in black and white and consists of "stomache(sic)-churning stories, spine-chilling events, mind-tingling tales, and more!"

In its first issue are stories on "Six-Gun Slade and his little compadre", "the Christ in the House of His Parents" and others. On inside front cover is a parody of the syndicated comic strip Cathy. In Rife, it's "Cathie" by "Cathie" Smith of John Belushi fame. The art work for this strip is very good. An excellent parody of Guisen-wite's own work and is filled with many background gags, "Stalin's tomb is a communist plot" being one. "Cathie" is by Chris Kelly and drawn by Carle Bacha.

The lead story in Rife, "Dead man's ship-a true story", is a moody, expressive piece written and drawn by David Bacha. In it the reader is taken aboard an 18th century scientific expedition to "Leper Island" to find metal deposits described by the last voyage some 30 years ago. I'd rather not tell of the rest of the story

compadre is a spoof of the western hero comics of the 1940's and 50's. Ringokid, Kid Colt, Rawhide Kid, Two-gun Kid, and Ghost Rider were very popular in their time and epitomized the bang-em-up days of the World War II-McCarthy era. Ronald Reagan



could have been brought up on comics like those. Slade is tough, drinks spruce beer, eats popcorn, and doesn't take crap from anyone.

The sequential narrative, that is, the story telling, is superior to that of any comic magazine found on the newstands today, with the possible exception being the excellent Swamp Thing series.



but will say that it is a well drawn peice of work although the story can be found in almost any of the E.C. horror comics produces in the 1950's. The next story is my favorite. Six-Gun Slade and his little

The perspective in many panels is up close to show a face with teeth clenched and a poised fist or the aloof calmness of the hero's expression as he fires a gun. The little compadre (l.c.) is, of course, Slade's own

Robin, or Bucky, or Toro, etc., in other words, a kid sidekick placed in the strip not to aid the protagonist but to voice his triumphs and pitfalls like a comic strip "Mr. Bill", "Oh, noooooo!"

"The Christ in the House of His Parents" is strange. Very strange. The artwork is more that of an illustrator or painter than a "normal" comic artist. I hesitate to review anything like this story as I don't fully understand it, and as many psychologists have pointed out, many people hate what they don't understand. It's message is completely conveyed through its imagery. There are no words save those of the title and the word at the end, amen. This intriguing pictorial narrative is by Helene Vincent.

To close out the book is a two page "Darby O'Crash" in which characters from Picasso paintings vent their own view points of the state of the Earth. Tres bizarre.

Following "O'Crash" is another "Slade", just a two-pager, but it's funny. The noble hero doesn't want fans emulating him so Slade punches him in the head.

On the inside back page is a four panel set of new Curious George adventures that are available from "Useless Press". If you remember George, you'll like these. Especially "Curious George goes to a leather bar."

The back cover is descriptive of the whole magazine, strange. "Geena on the Island of Cute Women" is, well, unreviewable. Whatever the creator was on when he or she did this strip should be prohibited if it isn't already.

All in all, "Rife with possibilities" No. 1 is very good. It's above the standard of most "homegrown" comics and some strips are better than what's being produced by many professionals. Should anyone like to get a copy of Rife, call me at the Brunswickan, 453-4993, and I'll tell you how to get one.

WHITTE-MATTER BY PAUL WHITE

