

Laba really yaps

## Bug poems in your pools

Laurie Kruk

*Movies In The Insect Temple* by Mark Laba, Proper Tales Press, 36 pp., \$2.00.

Toronto writer Mark Laba has put together a collection of poems that were obviously written more for fun than anything else. Throughout, his poems romp with cockroaches and spiders, outrageous images, and teasing questions such as:

Why can't the bodies move without their fossils?  
If islands

and sperm ducts begin comparing themselves to poems,  
do I smile and approach  
or give up these dead inoculations?

Laba's poetry is sprinkled with often playful references to such intellectual figures as Conrad, Kafka, and Mr. Toad. Some of his poems display a pleasing simplicity and unity of theme. From "The Fish":

I'm almost anxious  
to lie thrashing  
in the bottom of a boat  
wheezing out  
the last of my air.

The great majority of them combine satiric wit with mind-boggling metaphors, as in "Yapping Eyes Blues In D7th":

I am the tiny skulls that fill  
your coffee cup  
each morning  
doing the funky chicken.

Many of the poems mock the seriousness with which modern verse is taken today. Laba captures nightmare visions and reflects them back in the negative/positive style of his wit, as in the chant-poem, "In The Crow-Black Eyes of Goya":

Nightmares are parachuting down to your houses  
There is congestion in the sky  
There is congestion in the sky  
Nightmares are drowning  
in your backyard swimming pools.

The repetition and simple harmony of this poem make it one of the most effective in this collection.

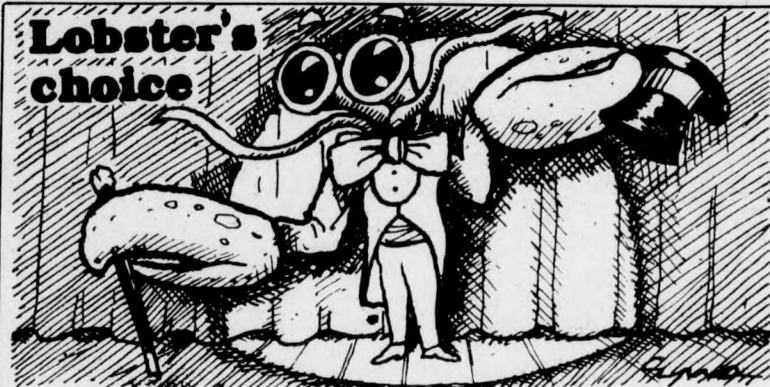
Laba returns to his fondness for insects throughout the book, most powerfully in the closing poem, "The Exterminator":

The exterminator  
has come today.  
The cockroaches  
are sitting around  
the dinner table.

*Movies In The Insect Temple* is an entertaining work, perhaps a bit baffling at times, but amusing if taken in the spirit in which it was written—the spirit of fun.

(Available at selected bookstores, including York's; the streets of Toronto; or from Proper Tales Press, 1555 Finch Ave. E., Suite 2208, Willowdale M2J 4X9.)

No eyelids: fish have no eyelids



Here he is piscatorians, it's Daphne's favourite uncle, Uncle Lobby. And look—he's got another bag of sweet treats with him, 'cause things are really hopping at posh York U. Aren't you glad you're in school? All you film buffies out there should feel fortunate the Lobster's such a big fan himself: Sunday night at 8:30 it's the censored version of *The Tin Drum*. Go to Curtis L and meet other thrill-seekers in a joint effort to reconstruct the missing frames. Then, Tuesday at 7, it's a freebie screening of Truffaut's *The Wild Child* starring the director himself. It's in Stedman D. But since it's also being shown next Thursday (same time, etc.) head over to Curtis L Tuesday at 7:30 instead for a German double-bill: brawny Bruno Ganz starring in the incredible *Knife in the Head* and Wim Wender's *The American Friend* (with every school-child's idol, Dennis Hopper). And before the Lobster submerges once again, here's a hot tip from the Clawed-One: The Excal Short-Story-Writing Competition will be officially announced next week. The prizes will be real valuable-type Canadian fiction collections, so get out your pens and start your claws a-scrawlin'. Good luck, little lobsters.

RP & SR

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