

Entertainment Presents COMIX!!

Steven Wells reviews things you might rather want to read instead of Archie and Peanuts.

Heads up kids - comics have grown up! In the past five years comic book fantasy has become serious art form with good writing and fabbo art such that any serious hipster

RATINGS GUIDE

* = A vast, steaming, maggot-infested heap of poodle excrement.

** = Yawnsville.

*** = Pretty av, dad.

**** = A jolly good read.

****+ = Eyeball melting, gut-busting, trouser-wrenchingly brilliant etc.

WASTELAND (DC) ***

Pretty ho-hum Hill St. Blues thingy.

CALVIN AND HOBBS (A.M & P) ****+ +

A newspaper cartoon strip that's funny! I mean I actually laughed!

LOVE AND ROCKETS (Fantagraphics)

****+ + +

Life in a West Coast punk band. Two Mexican Motorhead fans come to blows over HM vs. Speed Core. Totally authentic LA street gang life. The strongest female characters in comics. A punk comic as in proud, uppity and nosebitingly crazy.

2000 AD (Fleetway)

Brilliant alma mater of a lot of Brit artists now flocking to the US to inject new insight into the super hero medium. Wow to the exploits of Judge Dredd and the anti-racist savagery of Nemesis. A must for all serious comics fans.

AREA 88 (Eclipse)****

Another Japanese translation, this time about a mercenary fighter pilot who looks like Marine Boy.

UNDERWORLD (DC)****

Excellent short horror stories with a subtle SF bent. Recommended.

THE PUNISHER (Marvel)

Another Viet vet with a mission - Destroy crime! Surprisingly superb considering its total ideological unsoundness.

MIRACLEMAN (Eclipse)

Early Alan Moore "What if superheroes existed in the real world" story. Remarkable in that one episode actually shows a birth!?!?! Shock horror.

will jump at the chance to get his peepers on 'em. NME's Steven Wells all round radical clever chappie and exhibitionist of curious pull overs gets his overactive paws on the best and worst of them.

HECKLING HITLER (IB Taurus)

Expensive but fascinating collection of anti-nazi cartoons. Shame about the text.

CHARLEY'S WAR Book II (Titan Books) ****

The war comic to end all war comics. Story of a WW1 Tommy that just seethes with class anger.

MAI THE PSYCHIC GIRL (Eclipse)****

Imagine a 'girls' comic where the heroine is chased by a terrorist organisation who want to use her ESP powers to knock 'world peace'. Probably right up your street. Another Japanese reprint.

IN COUNTRY 'NAM (Apple)

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Yes! It's another 'Nam jerkoff!! Totally without merit, verging on the racist.

DOC SAVAGE (DC) ****

Another '30s superhero updated. Fine art from Kubert Snr. & Jr.

THE SPIRIT (Kitchen Sink)

****+ +

Reprint pulp classics of the first and still the best comics parody from the '40s. Superbly crafted.

DEAD WORLD (Kitchen Sink)

Curious. The comic equivalent of a zombie B-movie. "Jimmy's still out there!" Crap art but who cares!

REAL WAR STORIES (DC)

BUY!BUY!BUY! US foreign policy ruthlessly exposed. The war comic that points a finger, and points it straight at the Pentagon.

SWAMP THING Volume II (Titan Books) ****+ + +

Yet another chunk of Alan Moore's tour de force. A truly frightening and readable work about an omnipotent compost heap with a CND badge.

OUTCASTS (DC) ****

Blade Runner meets Holocaust. Brit Brain Bolland's (the Dredd artist) pretty pictures only serve to highlight how desperately short of good writers the US is.

The sickening and frightening world of "Wasteland". In the future nobody can hear you.



MARSHALL LAW (Epic)

****+ +

Wow. Totally mental. Post nuked city ripped to dripping shreds by superhero cops, superhero vigilantes, superhero baddies and superhero politicians. Thing is, they're all incredibly mad bastards and it's total ketchup agogo. Written and drawn by the cream of Brit comics.

REID FLEMING: The world's toughest milkman (Eclipse) ****

This psychotic milkman wanders around small town America. He's so hard that no one takes him on. Well they do but they end up as dog food. 'Cos he's hard!

THE SHADOW (DC) **

'30s vigilante updated, brilliant art, overcomplicated and badly paced plot.

VIDEO JACK (Epic) ****

Promising spoilt yank brat saga with techno fear rumbings. Great art.

THE CARTOON HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE (Rip Off Press) ****

Brilliant. Cartoon politics with far more style than any of the beginners' books. Fascinating Marxist history seen through a swirling fog of dope smoke. Hilarious.

GROO (Marvel) ****

With the chin of Arnold Swassywotsit and the body of a steroid junkie bag lady, Groo wanders round early civilisation and he's so hard that no one dare take him on. Well, they do actually but they end up as dog food. Thicker than Conan and even funnier.

LONE WOLF AND CUB (First)

****+ +

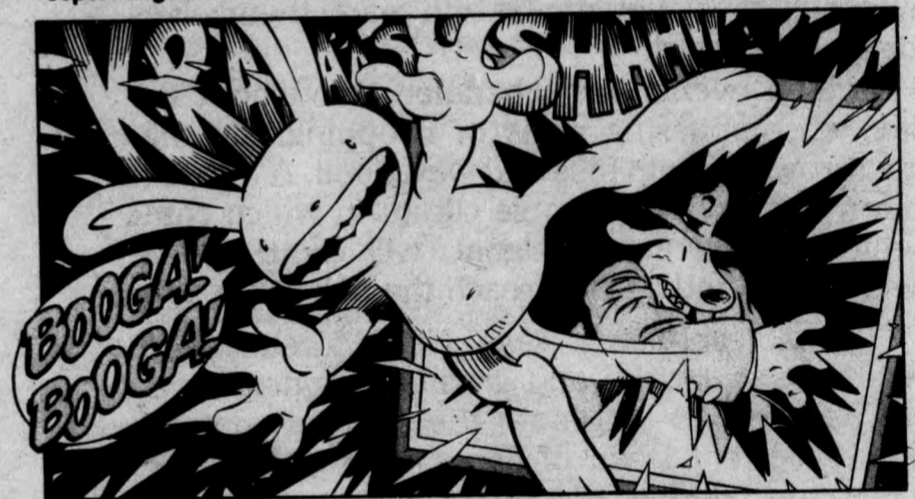
This samurai geezer wanders around old Japan with his kid in a pram. He's so bleedin' hard that no bastard tries it on. Well, actually they do but they end up as dog food. More severed limbs than an Iranian shoplifters convention. A brilliant comic.

AIRBOY AND MR MONSTER (Eclipse) ****

Mr Monster is horror comic piss-takery par excellence. Airboy sucks a big one in the yank Biggles mould. Buy the individual Mr Monster.



Super-tough Babe Grendel on the trail of vampire scum in the big city.



"Sam and Max freelance police" kicking some serious sh*

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