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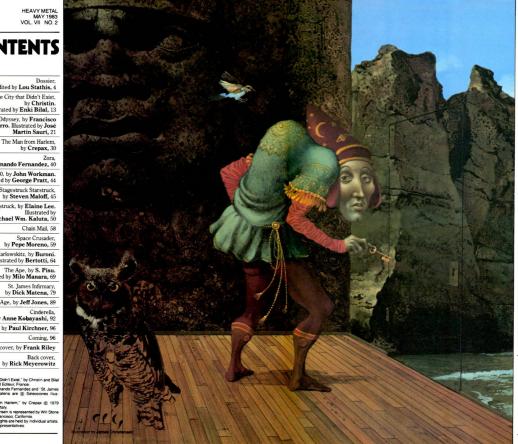
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"The City that Didn't Exist," by Christin and Bilal @ 1977, Dargaud Editeur, France. "Zora," by Fernando Fernandez and "St. James Infirmary," by Matena are @ Selecciones Illus-

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION: Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Return postage must accompany submissions; otherwise. return of artwork is not guaranteed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Published monthly by HM Communications, Inc., 635 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, \$19.00 paid annual subscription \$32.00 paid two-year subscription, and \$39.00 paid three-year subscription in territorial U.S. Add \$5.00 per year for Canada, Mexico, and other foreign countries. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Subscriber, please send change of address to Circulation Director. Heavy Metal Magazine, 635 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Allow six weeks for change. POSTMASTER: Please mail form 3579 notices to Circulation Director, Heavy Metal Magazine, 635 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022

ADVERTISING OFFICES: New York: Advertising Director. Heavy Metal Magazine, 635 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, (212) 688-4070. Midwest: Guenther & Company, River Plaza, 405 North Wabash, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 670-6800. West Coast: Jim McGinley, Scott, Marshall, Sands & McGinley, 3450 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 407, Los Angeles, CA 90010 (213) 382-6346. Dick Sands, Scott, Marshall, Sands & McGinley. 433 California Street. Suite 505. San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 421-7950. Southern Offices: Brown & Co., 5110 Roswell Road, Marietta, GA 30062, (404) 998-2889.

HM COMMUNICATIONS is a subsidiary of National Lampoon, Inc.

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DOSSIER

David Cronenberg works on his Marcel Marceau impression.



"I think there's a breed of video-psychotic in the making

CRONENBERG: THE MEDIUM AND THE MESSENGER

It should've come as no surprise when a local CRS-TV "culture" reviewer snarlingly labeled David Cronenbergs latest film Videodrome. The tacklest movie of the year." Videodrome, which rips away any comfortable distance those who manufacture TV programming might like to have from their viewers, is a direct challenge to such arbiters of the tutter.

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And challenge, particularly
really scary threats encompossing mind controls and
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action-reaction. Cronenberg's play to a differentpace. With slow, inexorable beauty, they wrap sensuality and slime into a pulsating fusion of possible bromorows. When and women fuse with alien creatures, other minds or machines—to truly become, as in Videodrome, The new Nesh:

The purveyor of such disturbing transformations is a 39-year-old native-born Torontonian who speaks in well-modulated grammatical English and resembles a better-looking Clark Kent, Of his upbringing, David Cronenberg chuckles in a refined manner, saving, "I don't think you'll find the seeds of my madness there. Freud would be bored." He grew up in a warm, comfortable, middle-class environment, raised by a writer father and pianist mother (who still plays for

Nureyev's exercise classes, whenever the artist is in town.)

Educated at the University of Toronto (hest known for the distinct spiritual presence of Marshall McLuhan—who in the quise of Professor Brian O'Blivion is at the care of Videodrome). Cronenberg studied biochemistry and Fnalish Unexpectedly, his formal education evolved into Cronenberg's directing 16mm shorts starting in 1966 Among his acknowledged influences are fellow Canadian Michael Snow and Americans Kenneth Anger and William Burroughs

Cronenberg released his first feature film. They Came From Within, Conjonally called Shivers) in 1975. The movie, which portroyed the takeover of apartment-complex inhabiliants by sexual parasites—leading to all manner of frenzy—bears an extraordinary resemblance to LG. Ballard's High Rise, published that same very

They Came Fram Within was followed by Robid (1977), in which a motorcycle accident victim (played by porn queen Marilyn Chambers) wakes up from surgery to become a rapist-vampire. In 1979's The Broad, Samantha

Eggar transmutes her anger onto a cadre of fetuses that exact revenge on the targets of her wrath. Scanners (1980), widened Cronenberg's (200), widened cronenberg's and movie houses (and utilimately, Home Box Office) offered his battle between those who can destroy through mind control and their proponers.

Cronenberg confinues to move fowards what will hopefully be his utilinate place in society—cotentially a Spielberg for those who'd rather think about a tele-phone's real meaning than "phone home" on II—by making his next project Stephen Kings 'the Dead Zone' is sooke with Doud late on a Sunday night when her build reformed from the small build reformed to the stephen of the size of the stephen of the small build reformed to the small build reform the small b

-Toby Goldstein

HM: Tell the truth—how much of a McLuhanite are vau?

DC: Well, I'm not a cardcarrying McLuhanite, but I am a bit of one. After all, I'm from Toronto, which is where Mc-Luhan was from; I was educated at the University of Toronto, and his influence was

First things first: Midnight Movies by J. Hoberman and Jonathan Rosenbaum (Harper & Row) isn't as much fun to read as the movies if covers are to see. As a film professor remarked to me. Hoberman and Rosenbaum are academics without a university. Midnight Movies takes cult films seri-

NIGHT OF THE LIVING MOVIE

ously—even loony ones like Rocky Horror and Pink Flamingos—so it isn't the kind of book you'd take along to the beach for some light reading. That said, Hoberman and Rosenbaum have done an impressive job of covering the bases. First base: the movies themselves, how they were made and cast. Second base: details about the lives and careers of the film-makers third base: where the films played in special midnight showings around the USA, and for how long they were in vogue, thome plate for Midnight Movies is its

very much felt there. I've read several of his books, and he's always been a very fascinating character for me-even though I never actually met

HM: After watching Videodrome I said to myself the fact that Understanding Media is subtitled "The Extensions of Man" cannot be totally coincidental

DC: Oh no. definitely not And of course, Brian O'Blivion has a lot in common with Mr. McLuhan In fact McLuhan converted to Catholicism and was a very religious man. And for that reason, in part at least, O'Blivion's room is my version of McLuhan's Catholicism. His office with the wooden angels and the religious icons

HM: Can you accept things like video-game parlors as some real-life manifestations of the Cathode Ray Mission in the film?

DC: I suppose so. There's a television reality which is, for a lot of people, more real than the world of their own particular experience. If you watch TV and the news is depressing and then you read the paper and everything's terrible, you walk outside and you feel awful It could be a beautiful spring day and the people you meet on the street smile at you and say hello, but you still feel depressed and paranoid. In a case like that the media reality is much stronger than your own reality.

And yet, it could be totally false. The reports of various things on the news are not necessarily true or accurate. And people react to them as though they were experiences they actually had. And I guess if you extended that into video games, there's a sort of video world you plug into that somehow I think attaches itself very well onto the human nervous system-because it certainly can be ad-

dictive. Yeah, I think there's a breed of video-psychotic in the making, who can't tell certain kinds of reality from fantasy

HM: When I was a communications araduate student, we spent an entire class studying the implications of it being impossible to distinquish a "live" event from something "on tape," Isn't that another aspect of Videodrome?

DC: That's absolutely true, because O'Blivion's daughter says that O'Blivion felt life on television was more real than life in the flesh answay so he didn't mind dving. And it's true. Johnny Carson could've died three years ago. Who would know? Haven't you ever had an occasion where you'd be watching someone on television and you'd say, "Hey, is he still alive? Didn't he die last vear?" and vou can't remember whether the person's alive or dead. There's a media version of the guy, who is more real to you than the real guy-and who can go on living in many forms after the real auv is dead. And it doesn't make any difference to you.

I was thinking of the Israeli war in Beirut. That the Israelis seemed to feel that they won the war but they totally lost the media war-the shadow version of it, which is what most of the world reacted to It turned out to be a huge defeat for them, in the sense of

world opinion.

HM: You must think a lot about propaganda DC: Of course, in a dictator-

ship you do have that kind of focus that I think is missing in the Western world, I know there are a lot of conspiracy freaks, especially in the States but I don't think there's a disciplined, well-organized attempt to use the media for specific purposes in the West But you could see how it could be done

But even if it is uncontrolled I think that's what Mc-Luhan was talking about. when he said that television in particular, but the media in general, have enormous impact on us, even physically, I don't think I'm exaggerating to say television has changed our bodies. We have different bodies from people who've never been exposed to it. And yet, it's totally uncontrolled and not very well understood, but it's altering all kinds of things in our lives. And since people are control Max Renn (James Woods) wonders if it's real, or if it's Memorex.

"Every time a character in one of my films dies, it's really an experimental death for me . . . "

freaks anyway, they might as well figure out how to control it, or at least understand what's going on.

HM: To be honest I'll have to see Videodrome more than once. I'm confused as to whether the conclusion and fate of Max Renn was supposed to represent victory or

defeat

DC: Well I don't think that's a bad reaction, because the duality of it is intentional. Certainly, the character smiles when he says, "Long live the new flesh." As the character Masha says to him. "The Videadrome people have a philosophy, which is something you don't have Max" And by the end of the film, he has got that philosophy, but it leads him to a kind of suicide. And vet because he's willing and

HM: Do you believe in the idea of "death as life?" DC: Well. I'd like to come to some sort of resolution be-

confident it's also positive.

tween life and death that is positive. I can't say in my life that I've reached that. But it's certainly something that I play with a lot in the films that make, and I've said this before but it's still true-that every time a character in one of my films dies, it's really an

effect on readers who haven't seen a certain flick: after reading about it, do you want to go out and catch the next showing? For me and David Lynch's Eraserhead, the answer is ves; for me and Jodorowsky's El Topo, the answer is no

Cult films covered in Midnight Movies include Night of the Living Dead, Glen and Glenda (morel), Performance, Reefer Madness, Rock 'n' Roll High School, The Harder They Come, Myra Breckinridge, Beyond the Valley of the Dolls, King of Hearts, Scorpio Rising, Chelsea Girls, and just about anything else that ever kept you out 'til three a.m. staring

at the big screen. Best bits: the info about David Lynch's life in the Philly slums and his eating habits, and the mainstream press's hysterical responses to most of the above flicks upon their release ("the most nauseating movie of all time, the filmmaker should be committed . . ." blah, blah, blah).

As Roger Ebert put it so well. the aim of these movies is to "rise below vulgarity." A little less politeness from the authors about their subject might've helped Midnight Movies rise in the same direction-but as it is, this is better than a film textbook has any right to be.

-Michael S. Barson

experimental death for me, a kind of rehearsal for my own

death. HM: Do these "rehearsals" stem from your trying to get a arip on fear?

DC: Absolutely, no question about it. But there are many other things involved. Life is a very mysterious thing, and I don't pretend to have any answers. And if there is emotional confusion in the ending of a film for a viewer, it's only because there is in myself. I think it's very legitimate to express enlightened confusion. HM: From fear, it's a natural jump to pain. It seems to me that Videodrome conveys a

tacit acceptance of pain as a part of sex. DC: To me, pain is a potential component of sex I happen to think that sex in nature, has a very violent aspect to it. I don't mean people slapping each other around, and I'm not talking about S&M. Even doing it in the missionary position with some-

one you love—there's pene-

by another body. To me, that kind of intimacy is violent.

HM: There's also the tie between sex and death. DC: Sex and death have al-

ways been linked, for as long as people have written about it. For the metaphysical poets, "to die" was a euphemism for "to have an orgasm." And also, sex and death are linked because, when you think of it in terms of procreation, our most biological claim to immortality is through children. So there is always a connection between sex and death, and sex and violence, as far as I'm concerned.

But it's very complex and I think you've got to watch out for simplistic sloganeering. I think Videodrome deals with some of that in a relatively complex way. Because although the characters Max and Nicki get into some relatively mild S&M, even in the ear-piercing scene, they kiss each other rather tenderly. The music there is rather lush

almost romantic-and that

important areas of

was also intentional HM: The Dead Zone will be the first film you haven't written. What made you decide

to do it? DC: Aside from being interested in working with Dino Di-Laurentiis, Stephen Kina, and Deborah Hill ... the book itself has some themes that are similar to some of the stuff I do. For example, the idea that someone begins embedded in his society relatively secure and then some-

"I happen to think that sex has a very violent aspect to it.

thing happens to make him a kind of freak, putting him on the outside of society by virtue of his extra sensitivity. Now that's just like Scanners, for instance. Also the idea of the visions that the auy has, and the challenge of reinventing those for the cinema. In Videodrome I deal with the idea of someone slipping into a

very convincing hallucination. And of course, the preoccupation with death

But the things that were different also intrigued me. Because Stephen's characters tend to be very familiar, very nice, simple, and honest, even when they're bad auxs. And mine tend to be very arcane and complex. And I was interested in trying to fuse that.

HM: There's a specific morality to Stephen King's work -the good guys win-which is certainly not as clear cut in vour work

DC: That's true. Although, I must say, the way in which the victory is won in Dead Zone is at a great cost to several people. That makes it

something I can relate to HM: Is it true that you plan to make a film of Burroughs' Naked Lunch?

DC: That is something I've said I've always wanted to do. And I have, in fact, talked to some of his people. But I haven't really had the time to pursue it. It would be awfully



research in modern science is the brain. Can the brain understand the brain? Francis Crick, the breaker of the genetic code, said in Scientific American (9/79), "There is no scientific study more vital to man than the study of his own brain. Our entire view of the universe



der Robinson comes up with a new twist in the st sub-genre of inner space and the workings of the brain/mind in Mind. killer (Holf, Rinehart & Winston). His story could be set in the present but for reqular infusions of objects (like ashless cigarettes) and situations which give the book its sense of a subtle time shift

into a credible near



future. Robinson builds on a Larry Niven idea called "wireheading," a nineties pleasureseeking activity involving direct electrical stimulation to the brain, to tell a moralistic tale of mind control and brain reward.

The book is structured finely, and eventually-crosscutting between contrasts in rural/ur-



pleasure/pain, and apparently unrelated time framesintegrates into a pattern which rewards the reader for staying with the until-the-last-minute unresolved plot.

ban, mind/brain,

Deview/Illustrations by Brian Evans

hard, and I'd really have to reinvent it for the screen. There is a certain amount of Burroughs imagery that runs through my films, and he was certainly a bia influence on me as a kid

HM: So what do you like to record on your own videotape machine?

DC: I'm pretty middle-class I like car racing, boxing, I normally record things I want to see later, just like most people. I rent tapes to watch movies. I'm just a normal, everyday kind of person. Go to the home of a comedian. That's where vou'll find true sadism

FUTURE

Science fiction writers seem to be a grim lot. What's eating them, anyway? After all, if high Reagan administration officials are so sure that our blooming economy will snap back four or five vears after a nuclear holocaust, isn't it time we got happy? Aren't sf novels unnecessarily depressing? Judging from the most recent efforts of Anderson, Kaye & Godwin, Thurston, and Varley, the future isn't all it used to be cracked up to be Poul Anderson's most re-

cent sf novel. Orion Shall Rise (Timescape/Simon & Schuster), would hardly turn our president's hair gray, but it does report on the aftermath of a harrowing nuclear war that four or five centuries hence has changed the face of the Earth (and makes no provision for a post-nuclear GNP). Anderson has turned his considerable powers once again to the writing of a leisurely and richly detailed novel that borrows from the antique literature of the Danes to cast the future in a suffusing, enobling light. His odd mixture of pastoral and heroic sagas is unique in science fiction, and Orion Shall Rise is particularly fine—even sagacious—and it may be (as his publishers maintain) his Big One.

Disaster gloft is the theme of John Varley's engrossing sf thriller, Millenium (Berklev). If it weren't for the last four pages, which uncomfortably summon to mind the deus ex machina endina of 2001, this might be the best time travel novel since Wells let his Sleeper wake. It's also one of the most successfullyworked alternating chapter compositions I've encountered in years. Bill Smith, who accounts for roughly half the chapters, is an air crash investigator working for the Federal Aviation Board. Louise Baltimore, a denizen of future Farth already longlived and a survivor in her twenties is a kidnapper. She replaces passengers on doomed aircraft with premaimed bodies, catapulting healthy twentieth century types into the bleak poisioned future. Varley's mixture of Smith's present and Balti-

more's graphic final days

warning to anti-conservations

is just short of masterful In still another far, far postholocaust future, four thousand years from now, humanity is divided into two camps: those living in the City. and a simple pastoral nation of Coveners, Sound familiar? Marvin Kay and Parke Godwin have taken the situation of Clarke's The City and the Stars and brought to it their own wit and sensibility, turning an adventure premise into a crafty exploration of culture clash. The second of their novels set in this future world Wintermind (Doubleday), is an effective sequel to the authors' 1978 The Masters of Solitude, a novel that quickly achieved cult status among readers undeterred by Kaye and Godwin's uncompromisingly dense prose and complicated parrative Wintermind follows through without hesitation—in fact it might be better looked upon as the second half of a long. epic tale, rather than as a separate book (though even first time readers should find the novel's texture and breadth ultimately rewardina).

After traveling so many vears into the future. Robert Thurston's A Set of Wheels (Berkley) seems just ground the corner in time. While the others predict quick disaster falling from the sky. Thurston "A Set of Wheels may be the best book published this year

describes a gradual and alltoo-convincing deterioration in our quality of life. If 1984 reflected the depressed/oppressed spirit of an age looking into a bleak future. Thurston's novel may well be the 1984 of the eighties. It may also be the best book published this year, in or out of genre; the picaresque journey of Lee Kestner, compounded of boredom, sensitivity, and a great urge to drive on out of here might be the central message for our time A pleasure to read about a

and like ourselves, born to run. But if there's any lesson in these books, it's this; the future won't wait until we get there. -John W. Silbersack

thinking man like ourselves.

LONGO

s now everybody?" It's a valid auestion, coming at the end of Thomas Pynchon's Gravity's Rainbow, but Pynchon probably never expected Robert Longo's reply. Longo, a so-called "SoHo artist," "new wave artist," and "punk gone professional," had a double oneman show in February at New York's Castelli and Metro Pictures galleries called "NOWEVERYBODY," in which he answers Pynchon more

than affirmatively Longo himself is practically everybody. The leading exponent of the latest art movement termed "image scavenging," he makes sculpture, drawings, reliefs, music, performances, and film. The art is more the attitude than the form. The "new wave" moniker refers to the influence of music of that ilk on his work, but more to his deliberate depictions of a sort of malevolent ambiguity. The image scavengers are a school of post-graduates of post-modernism who are so burdened with media images

Robert Longo and his "Corporate Wars" photo by Robin Holland



ment on the impossibility of originality, often by manipulating images from other work Longo does this with more originality than most.

His series of enormous drawings (eight or nine feet high) called "Men in the Cities" is made up of individual male and female fiaures in black and white against white backgrounds who look like hip young nightclubbing urbanites-from the eighties, or the fifties. But they are all writhing and twisted, seemingly caught in the middle of a dance of death to New Order-or. maybe they've just been shot in the back. There's total abandonment in both, an escape from the over-stimulation of city life into the only available oblivion

Longo often shows the

drawings in a series, broken up by a monument or alant relief-these, in the Castelli show, look like authoritative buildings tipping, about to fall on and smother you. According to the artist, huge buildings are always smothering you Other reliefs denict bronzed men at war-who on closer examination, are corporate executives. All of it touches on the smallness and confusion of the individual, given the largess of everything else. What is Longo's stance in all of this? Accordinaly, he leaves it ambiguously up to the viewer. His chilling figures and reliefs are hopefully so distancing they frighten the taker into something

other than the usual media Longo, 30, grew up in New

submission.

Grandmaster Flash: The Bronx's Mr. Clean. photo by Joe Stevens



York and is now beginning to receive mass recognition. "Yee got a live-wire to culture," he explains, without presumption, "and I know exactly what's going to happen. I think if you're going to make art, you have to see into the future. That's what I see my real job as—warning people."

-Merle Ginsberg

RAP-UP

Rap is the sound of the streets. If began there, on the sidewalks and schoolyards of the Bronx, kids bragging in thythm and rhyme, like Muhammad Ali before a fight. Moving indoors to parties and clubs, rappers worked with Dis who created new music out of melodic and thythmic fragments of

existing records. Dis then developed new techniques called authing and scratching— —xtending a song's percussion break by relaying the beat from turntable to turntable. By elongating the music, cutting gives the rapper—or MC—a steady rhythm to stretch out on and tella atony.

The stories of rap move from street (dealing with dayto-day reality) to slick (formulaic self-promotion) and back again. Good examples of the street/slick split are '79-80 rap hits like the Sugarhill Gang's "Rapper's Delight" (Sugarhill), based on Chic's "Good Times," and preoccupied with the rapper's skill as a lover ("Hotel/Motel/ Holiday Inn/If your airl starts messin' up/You take off with her friend."). Brother D. and Collective Effort's "How You Gonna Make the Black Nation Rise" (Clapper) is the polificized response to the vacu-

ity of "Rapper's Delight."

By 1982 rap had entered a new, mature phase. Spurred by the high-culture notoriety of its attendant art formsbreak dancing and graffiti rap spawned what will probably be its most influential records, "Planet Rock" by Afrika Bambaataa and the Soul Sonic Force (Tommy Boy) contains an unbeat interplanetary philosophy, a new chanting/singing rap style, and-most importantly-rap's first all-synthesizer backing track (lifted from Kraftwerk), merging rap with electro-disco. Since "Planet Rock," there has vet to be an important rap record without electronics.

The synthesizer also provides the musical hook for the biggest rap hit of all, "The Message," by **Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five** (Sugarhill). But it's the verbal hook. "Don't push me/Cause I'm close to the edge," that

brings "The Message" back to the street. It catalogues the extremes of urban life—from birth in poverty to death in a jail cell—with a gritly reality rarely found in other mediums.

Since these songs hit, rappers have foured the USA and Europe, and their records have become the music of choice at chic New York at openings and at the Row, the frendlest NYC disco since Studio 54. Newer records merge the street and slick even further—Bornboatdos Tooking for the Perfect Bear Cours (Footh of 11" (Fighy), and the Treacherous Three's "New We Can Con (Supprille)."

to the pro basketball court. As New Jersey Nets' center Darryl Dawkins informed a New York Post sportswriter: "When I'm dead/They can buy me deep/Put both turntables at my feet/Put my mixers right by my head/So when I'm gone I can rock the dead."

Rap has even found its way

Now that's what I call getting over!

—Stuart Cohn

Discog-rap-hy

record ever.

"Rapper's belight" can be found an The Greatest Phi Great

THE NUVINYL CHOPPING BLOCK

The Birthday Party, Junkyard (U.K. 4 A.D.): Like a vinyl nightmare co-directed by Davids Lynch and Cronenberg, featuring Iggy gobbling Jim Morrison's entrails to a soundtrack of Romero doomzombies playing the Black Sabbath songbook. In other words, the nastiest, ugliest, sleaziest, trashiest, slimiest, and most enjoyable record five heard since Raw Power. With a superb, hell-on-wheels cover by Big Daddy Roth.

Black Sabbath, Live Evil (Marner Bros). Speak of the devil (heh, heh). The one Sabbot record everyone needs to awn. Though my eighteenyear-old nephew from New Jersey claims these limpwirst 90 flaccid in the presence of Judas Priest, I find BS; swalling thunder-drone and Jack Kirby-style satanism kinda cute. Best when they stick to the short, simple, stentorian, story-song mode. Come to think of it, along with Motorhead's No Sleep TII Hammer-smith, this is the only heavy metal record you need to

Hauven, Haarven Bent' (Columbio): Unlike this Aussie band's American debut, Heavy metal is like sex—only of lew variations on one basic idea, but somehow lots of people still have an insaflotile appette for it Musically this one's a cross between the Sabs and Bad Co, and sarrorially an outfake from The Road Warrior (same leather-loving designer), but

skins don't make the band. Their "In the Beginning," an hm tribute/greatest hits riffmedley, only shows how little we've progressed in ten years.

Ric Ocasek, Beatifude (Geffen): A disappointment, if you expected Ocaseks solo debut to move beyond facile pop automotives (as I dia), but okay if you like the Cars (which I do on the second Tuesday of each month). While underjoth skilli-

pop automotives (as I clid), but okay if you like the Cars (which I do on the second Tuesday of each month), While undeniably shifth skillful and intermittently occluded by a penumbral sense of allenation, this one's just too unadventurous for the stringy guy who brought suicide to The Midnight Special. Essential 12" Singles: Spoonie Gee, "Spoonie Is

Back" (Sugarhill) The Jonzun Crew, "Space Is the Place" (Tommy Boy) Fab 5 Freddy, "Une Salle Histoire" (Celluloid)

Grand Mixer DST and Infinity, "Grand Mixer (Cuts It Up)" (Celluloid) Hurt 'Em Bad, "Monday Night

Football" (Profile)-to keep vou Howard Cosell freaks warm until next September.

(If you live in South Africa, or some other place without easy access to a good black music record store, try the following helpful mail-order outfits: Vinyl Mania: 30 Carmine St., NYC 10014, (212) 929-1658. Downstairs Records: 20 W. 43rd St., NYC 10036, (212) 354-4684, Down Town Records: 119 Worth St., NYC 10013, (212) 227-3816 and 799 6th Ave., NYC 10011. (212) 924-5791, Mail-O-Disc: 855e Conklin St., Farmingdale, NY 11735, (516) 694-0088.)

YELLOW Journalism

The biggest reggae sensation since Bob Marley is not a fearsome rasta, hardly a fire-breathing dread. He doesn't even sing about smoking pot. In fact, he's not really a singer at all. The man known as Yellowman is a mellow-rappin' MC, a DJ who

drives Kingston dance-hall "With pink, perpetucrowds wild with patois pat-

ally sunburned skin ter, corny crooning, and and starchy, cornnonsense singsong rhymealongs. Armed only with a vellow braids, vou'd best believe Yellowman cuts a distinc-

> ghetto. He got the nickname from his albino complexion: he literally is a vellow man. With pink perpetually sunburned skin and starchy, corn-yellow braids, vou'd best believe he cuts a pretty distinct figure in the ghetto. But Yellowman's talents have helped him turn what some would call a disadvantage into a distinguish-

tive figure in the

ing characteristic. They say that Yellowman can't walk down the street these days without causing a ruckus. When he chants, "All the young girls them a-mad over me," the horny toaster's Yellowman in black & photo by Sara Rios

traditional boast is tinged with a shade or two of irony.

So far, Yellowman's biggest hit has been a languid, loopy reworking of that old croaker "I'm Getting Married in the Morning." Grafting slices of "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" and "Bring It on Home to Me" onto a natty pre-nuptial narrative. the song captures Yellowman's improv-a-story ease over a haunting rhythm track He sounds happy, but understandably uncertain about the pending event. As the JA music scene still revolves ground small-label singles. Yellowman's prolific output remained unobtainable here until the recent U.S. release Mr. Yellowman (Greensleeves). It features "Yellowman Getting Married," and further, crucial statements on guns, tourism, and grocery shopping, pushed by the clean session skank of the

crack Roots Radics band. Unlike the rock-influenced

Landscape, Manhattan Boogle-Woogle (RCA): A synth-based band has got to be pretty damn miserable to bore old Moog-maven Louand these limevs manage handily. A couple of diverting moments-"It's Not My Real Name" and the wry title cut (sequel to their '81 hit "Einstein A Go-Go"?)—can't spruce up an overwhelminaly soulless.

Mnemonic Devices Playing on the Dark Keys (Bernisbrain Records, 200 Termino Ave., Long Beach CA 90803): Discovery of the month. From a tiny Elay Indie previously

autless, and brainless LP.

devoted to teenage garage grumblings comes this foursong EP of smart, passionate, freshly appealing post-modern pop-love songs. Life songs, actually, Great lines like "Love is just another sick venereal disease," and chanteuse Ann DeJarnett's gutsy rock'n'roll violin push a multitude of Lou's big buttons. Watch 'em.

microphone, he's become a

local legend over the last

attuned announcers have

provided low-rent live enter-

tainment in Jamaica since

the mid-sixties. Backed by

mobile sound systems with

turntable lockevs mixing the

hits, the DJs "togst" or rap to

the music-prefiguring

Grandmaster Flash and the

NYC rap scene by a few

vears, at least. The DJ style

has come to the forefront in

JA in the last two years, and in

a scene populated with

characters like Lone Ranger,

Papa Michigan and General

Smiley, Sister Nancy and

Nicodemus - Yellowman

And not only because of

that relaxed, mellifluous rap.

stands out from the crowd.

Why Yellowman? Musically-

vegr or so

Berlin, Pleasure Victim (Geffen): Ignore 'em. Though not as lame as Landscape, this augmented trio of synthetic Californians generates fast-food electronic dance music with some taste but little flavor. Terri Nunn sings like Pat Benatar with a microMoroderchip stuffed up her cov little ass. Undoubtedly an imminent massive success.

Andy Summers/Robert Fripp. I Advance Masked (A&M): Everyone's been dumping on this one, so naturally I won't. Perhaps Fripp's trademark licks are courting cliché canonization, but by tossing himself into continually changing contexts-this time one-on-one with Police-man Summershe keeps life interesting for himself and, more often than not, for us, too. Not a bigale. but a perfectly adequate side dish.

Craig Leon, Visiting (Enigma Records, P.O. Box 2896, Torrance CA 90509): Producer and synthesist Leon's follow-up to his Nommos. winner of the 1981 Claude Rains Award for best invisible record of the year (now relegated to bargain-bin ignominy). Hypnotic, transcendent, wispily minimal, and more melodic than its predecessor. His middle name must be Klaus.

Simple Minds, New Gold Dream 81-82-83-84 (Virgin/ A&M): My favorite record of 1982 finally released on these Stone Age shores. Buy two

—Lou Stathis

"Coleman rarely makes concessions, and his Of Human Feelings is no exception."

later bands and the Mahavishnu Orchestra.

A good example is Billy Cobham's Glass Mengaerie, which has produced Observations & (Elektra/ Musician). Cobham, the original Mahavishnu drummer, has distilled all the technical tricks of fusion without once coming to grips with the emotional intensity that fueled Mahavishnu at its best. What is presented here, on the latest of a long line of Cobham LPs, is technique and music-by-rote, soulless and derivative, forgotten as soon as it is heard.

David Sancious has fusion credentials as good as anyone's (keyboardist in the original Bruce Springsteen band), but his newest album, The Bridge (Elektra/Musician) is considerably better than Cobham's-not the least because he has some feeling for what rock, in its prettier moments, can be like. Much of the record is solo piano (Sancious has a lovely touch and the sensitivity to go with his formidable technique). but several tracks use string synthesizer and other electronic keyboard overdubs,

evolking rich sonic tapestries.

Ornette Coleman, the
man who liberated jazz from
Chaffle Partiers' domination
and gave us "free jazz" has
come to rock from the oppositle direction. His "Prime
Time Band" jalys modern
funk-rock over which he waits
with his limeless saccybrone.
Coleman rarely makes conFeetings (antilling) is find and
ception. The thythms are accessible, the musics is interes.

Ornette Coleman: timeless saxophony.



kind of superstar. A religious visionary he's not, but Yellow-man's guiding lights—a sense of humor, a supple voice, and a pulsating bass line—are illuminating and

-Mark Coleman

fun, too.

regage of the seventies, Yel-

lowman and his fellow DJs

have yet to go international.

However, reports from last

fall's First Jamaican World

Music Festival claim that it

was Yellowman who stole the

show from the Clash, Rick

James, and the Grateful

Dead. While many regage

fans righteously pine for the

"next Marley." Jamaica has

produced a very different

BURNT Fusion

Jazz and rock share common origins, but jazz has been around roughly three times longer, and has encompassed many more styles and stylistic leaders. When rock started in mature in the lafe states it was fasticular to the lafe states and stylistic leaders. When rock started in mature in the lafe states it was fasticular to the lafe states and the state of the lafe states are concused in put down jazzpeared at the Fillmore East, a fruce was declared.

For the most part attempts to crossbreed the two have resulted in sterile offspring—specifically the so-called "fusion" music of the midseventies, inspired by the younger members of Miles's

but you'll never hear this kind cian), the of lazz on a lukebox. the albu

Some jazz musicians have largely ignored rock—along with most of what's happened in the last twenty years. In the case of Clifford Brown and Max Roach's Pure Genlus (Elektra/Musi-

cian), this is hardly surprising; the album comes from a private tape made in 1956, not long before frumpeter Brown's untimely death. As a historical document then this album ("Volume One," which means there"il be more) is uniquely important. As music, uniquely important is music.

it's typical mid-fifties "hard bop"—but it's not very enjoyable to listen to, despite attempts to "restore" the sound.

Birell Lagrene, a young European gypsy who was only thirleen (i) when he recorded Routes to Django (Antilles). Nas followed the lead of Django Reinhardt (himself a European gypsy, and the first major, nonnative-American jazz musican) with timeless music un-

cannily reminiscent of the records Reinhardt was making forty years ago.

On the other hand, both Dexter Gordon and Phill Woods, long-time saxophone veterans, have turned out albums which pale into insignificance when compared to what they were doing twenty and thirty years

ago. Gordon's **An American** Classic (Elektra/Musician) would have been labeled 'mood jaz' hvenhy-five years ago: it's a set of unchal-lenging coddai-lounge renditions of bollads, stalling anonymous and without a hint of Gordon's pioneering hint of Gordon's pioneering on his Birds of a Feather (Anillea), is far less laid book than Gordon's but after digging up and relistening to his Rights of Swing (re-leased a) little over twenty.

"An American Classic is without a hint of Dexter Gordon's pioneering work as a bopper."

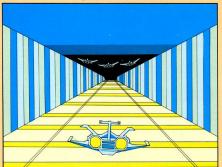
years ago on Candid), the fact that he's coasting on Birds of a Feather was underscored; the material offers little challenge.

(I must add that Antilles has brought the manufacture of album jackets to a new low in quality—the glue failed to hold past the first time I removed the records, leaving the jackets flapping use-lessity.)

-Ted White

PLENET OF ZOOM

Q1983. BY JOHN HOLMSTROM



BUCK ROGERS HIMSELF
SVEVE APPEAG TO BUCK'S
BUCK AND STATE OF THE STATE

OVES TILL. THE QUESTION PERSISTS - 15 IT A SHOOTING GAME, OR IS IT A DRIVING GAME, BUCK ROGERS IS THE SHOOTING GAME THAT PLAYS LIKE A DRIVING GAME THAT PLAYS LIKE SPACE TURBO ONLY IN TURBO YOU COULDN'TS. BLOWNING BUCK ROCERS MAYES ME WISH THEY COULD

MAKES ME WISH THEY COULD BRING BACK DEATH RACE 2000 - TURBO STYLE!! MAGINE BEING ABLE TO BRIVE AROUND A TOWN, RUNNING OVER HAPLESS TO THE MEANTIME, BUCK ROGERS 15 THE NEXT BEST

THING. JOHN HOLMSTROM

BUCK ROGERSTM INDICATES
TRADEMARK OF THE DILLE
FAMILY TRUST.
BUCK ROGERS VIDEO GAME
0/1983 SEGA ENTERPRISES INC.



Nose-by-Northwest • Artificial blood, artificial skin, bionic ears (they just started testing them in Australia), brain implants-pretty soon, even if you weren't born a robot you're gonna die one (if you ever get to die, that is). However, there's at least one group of bio-livers who think we don't start off as just flesh and blood in the first place. Robin Baker and friends, at England's University of Manchester, have published material in the prestigious science journal Nature claiming discovery of magnetic iron deposits in the human body just inside the sinus bones. According to Baker, peoplelike only a few other creatures-can detect direction by reference to the Earth's magnetic field. Over the last five years animals have been found to be a mine of iron deposits as well. Bad news for anyone toying with the idea of selling the exploration rights to their noses: there's a glut of steel on the world market.

Thumbdrum . Amateur thumbtwiddlers, now you too can be as good as the pros. New technology to help develop your skills and have fun while you're doing it has been patented by Horace Knowles, of Washington, D.C. Comprising thumbholes in a block of plastic that you crank over and over, this invention is a vital contribution to the dynamic discipline of twiddling your thumbs. The deluxe model comes with a switch that flashes for every twiddle turn, and there's also an optional digital read-out for twiddle-counting. Or, if you like to show off and attract attention, there's the get-vourself-thrownout-of-libraries-and-theaters model that clicks loudly or jingles as you go.

Japadermis . No doubt the image still pullulating in the national mindpost A-Bomb bodies with skin peeling like wallpaper-has helped the cause: Japanese companies plan to start manufacturing human skin. It's been tested for a couple of years and it works, helping burn victims to grow new epidermis. The stuff is made from animal protein and collagen (the fibrous matter in bones, tissue, and cartilage). Plans are to market the non-woven fabric in sheets of varying lengths, and if I tell you where, you're gonna understand why the Japanese are the smartest industrialists around. Hiroshima



Snowballs . What happens when your balls catch cold? Do they freeze, wheeze, sneeze, or what? Four doctors in Ireland came to arips with the problem and found an answer. They handled forty-six cases of a sub-zero syndrome called "testicular torsion"the cold-weather contraction of the testicle sac which causes unwelcome realignment of contents therein. Verdict: balls, like turtles, are given to disappearing inside when things don't look too hot outside. . Bodies have two ways of dealing with the cold: the human way-grow accustomed to cold gradually, raise metabolism and body heat to meet new conditions; or the turtle way-keep metabolism low and become cold-blooded. Turns out humans can actually do both-at least according to recent Canadian research outlined in the Journal of Applied Physiology, Eleven men, about to spend sixteen days in unheated tents too close to the Arctic Circle for comfort, were asked to pre-adapt with nine days of daily half-hour cold baths. Only three masochists volunteered. After a battery of tests, highlighted by heavy rectal thermometer use, they joined the rest and took off for the north. The prefrozen ones adapted easily, shivering less, sleeping better, and barely feeling the temperaturewhich tells you that anyone who can get used to icy thermometers up the anus can get used to anything.



MASH Music . Local anaesthesia and acupuncture have taken the high out of surgery. These days, the only way to be stoned during an operation is to share a joint with the janitor beforehand. Hip surgeons (pun Intended) smart enough to realize they may be forfeiting their main attraction have come up with a way to compensate at London's Charing Cross Hospital. Patients in danger of being bored to death by the drone and arind of drill and hacksaw get to listen to their favorite music on headphones Apparently Sex Pistols records gren't allowed cos they sound too much like the power tools they're supposed to block out.

Rodent Redux . Genetic engineers splashing around in the gene pools of mice have found a way to trigger the rodents' growth hormones into action. The two far-sighted fathers of research responsible for creating a breed of monster mice are Mssrs. Palmiter and Brinster, of the Universities of Washington and Pennsylvania. Okay, there's no immediate popular demand for vulture-sized vermin-the profs reckon some time in the remote future livestock could get bigger and short people could become basketball players. . Luckily, creative counterforces cancel out. Experiments aimed in the other direction (in search of a human male contraceptive) have spawned a new rat poison so toxic as to be both spermicidal and homicidal. Undeterred, Ron Ericsson, Inventor and PhD. President of his sperm-warfare headquarters, saw the terminal effect on lab mice and figured, "Hey, if that's what it does ." Epibloc it's called, epicurean it ain't. Most rat poisons are anti-coagulants; they kill effectively but survivors respond with massive propagation (with less competition, more food, and more space, wouldn't you?). Though it has a high kill fee, Epibloc's ability to sterilize the leftovers makes it competitive. Isn't nature wonderful? Trouble is, Murphy's Law: you just know the mouse-magnifiers above'll ignore it, but Ronald Reagan might just find a -Melik Kaylan

The City That Didn't Exist by P. Christin and Enki Bilal



























































































































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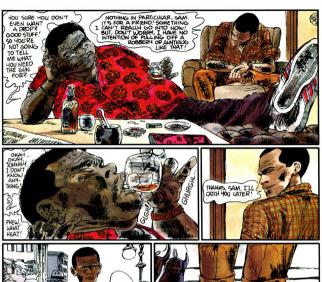












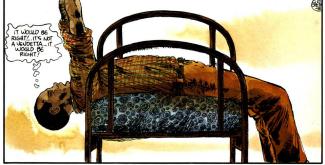


36 HEAVY METAL















38 HEAVY METAL











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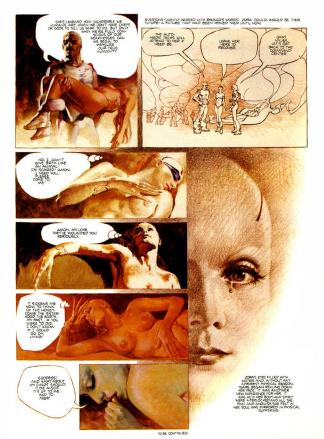
















Erotica Ann (Karen Bebb), Galatia 9 (Elaine Lee), Sister Bronwyn (Kathy K. Gerber), and Brucilla the Muscle (Norfleet Lee) stand ready for action.
Costumes and set design are by Michael Kaluta.
Photographs by Sean Smith

STAGESTRUCK STARSTRUCK by Steven Maloff

Before "Starstruck" was a comic strip, now devoured monthly by Heavy Metal readers, it was a play that ran at New York's Network theater in the Spring of 1980. On the third anniversary of its opening, the play is being resurrected at Tomi's Park Royal (23 W. 73rd St., New York, NY 10023, (212-787-3980), April 16 through May 8.

When Michael Kaluta, illustrator, approached writer Elaine Lee, who was pouring over a stack of sf fanzines in a New York restaurant, Lee mentioned a play that she was mulling over, and Kaluta offered to work on the sets and costumes. So began the prolific team of Lee and Kaluta.

"I re-read the Bible and picked up some science fiction themes from that."

"Starstruck started out as a spoof of popular media science fiction, with stock characters," says Lee. "Then I re-read the Bible, and picked up some science fiction themes from that, and Michael fed me other original sf ideas. Of course, it includes some social commentary—people often comment on the feminism—but it's all comedy. I want people to enjoy it. People accept new ideas and commentary more readily if they're funny."

By April 1980, the cast and crew were not ready to spring Starstruck on theatergoers, but they did. "The set was being built right up until people started coming in. At 7:45, the stage manager was on stage, drying Verloona's throne with a hair dryer. We really had our dress rehearsal a week after we opened."

"Kaluta is just the designer for folks with a limited budget," Lee continues. "We built Harpy, the good guys' spaceship out of coffee cans, an old Hot Wheels set, Alka Seltzer bottles filled with marbles and water, and Bingo chips, among other things."

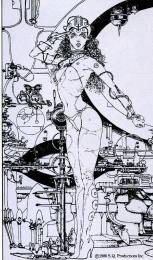
By the time the play closed, Kaluta and Lee were hopelessly immersed in Starstruck, and couldn't abandon it. It was then that Kaluta suggested a comic strip. "I'd never done a strip before," Lee remembers, "it's such a big commitment." She soon found out what a commitment it was when she found herself walled up in Kaluta's apartment for months on end. inventing new characters and pasts for them-things that may never have been used, just, perhaps, mentioned in passing by a minor character. The two have stacks of index cards with definitions of new words. descriptions of systems. "We ask ourselves all kinds of questions, and we argue a lot." For instance, "Did this religion grow out of conditions on the planet, or was it an import? We have a system of planets whose government is based on the National Enquirer's 'Simple Recipe for Happiness,' and it works! The ideas for the major stories were suggested by things the characters in the play had revealed about their





Above: The evil Verloona (Sandra Spurney) has a few choice words for Kalif Bajar (Paul Rathevich). Below: Kaluta's original sketch of Verloona's costume.





Above: Erotica Ann and Kalif Bajar share a tender moment, Below: Kaluta's version of the beautiful android as seen in the Starstruck Portfolio from S. Q. Productions,

"Starstruck is the universe, and Michael and I are the Gods."

pasts. We know our universe, and we hope that will add an extra dimension to the stories that actually make it into the books. Michael and I have been living in our own alternate universe for over three years now."

Even though the play had closed and the strip had begun, Lee and Kaluta were anxious to mount the theatrical production again. A few directors made suggestions—one director said to make more good vs. evil, like Star Wars. another said to make it more decadent, like Rocky Horror. But Lee and Kaluta are committed to their personal vision of what Starstruck is, and they remain unpersuaded.

"It's fantasy entertainment. I think fantasy has replaced religion for a lot of people. It's the 'ecstatic experience,' when make-believe becomes real. God is just too far away, and science fiction is now giving that to people. Fantasy is touching deeper, it strikes at the hearts and minds of people. Other people's science fiction future is becoming our present experience! It has more to do with today."

"Since this is the second time around for Starstruck," she continues, "it's a lot easier and more professional, naturally. We're not going to finish the costumes opening night. We began re-working the play immediately. It's basically the same set, but with a lot of decorative differences—for instance, our spaceships have video monitors. But we've been working on Starstruck for three years, and the play itself has also evolved. We've taken stuff from the strip and put it into the play. We've cut a couple of characters and condensed a few scenes.

The characters have grown past us and now exist on their own. *Starstruck* is the universe, and Michael and I are the Gods. The play and the strip have come from *that*."

Lee will next begin to study video, and we can expect a taped production to emerge from the universe of Elaine Lee and Michael Kaluta's Starstruck.





Park - Towns and - Emergency - Prince - Rev - Park - Pa

Above: Kalif Bajar in the flesh.

Below: Kalif Bajar in pencil, captured by the nimble hand of Michael Kaluta.



Above: The entire cast of characters as envisioned by Kaluta.

Opposite: The somewhat menacing Verloona, skipper of the Siren 3 and leader of the pack in the "Queen of Outer Space" contest.



STARSTRUCK

WRITTEN BY ELAINE LEE-ILLUSTRATED BY M. W. KALLITA LETTERED BY TODO KLEIN



"...belching bile from its great churning gut, and each brave Brigader of Point Group saw his or her face reflected in its omnivorous teeth as he or she stared grim-faced down the trembling throat of death!



"Unbeknownst to me, "Damper" and the Hi-Boys had cut out the malignant Base 5 like the cancer it was. My full attention was, at the time, primarily focused on keepin' Point Group clear of the fast-fryin' fangs of the death-dealin' droids.





"...I saw it comin' at 'em, but before I could say 'Stan! Claw off to Port!', Stan and "Butcher" had been reduced to a fond memory... ... and just as suddenly-"





"As we sped toward obliteration, I hoisted myself up in my stirrups, pressing the barrel of my blaster slowly into and thru the trenslucent field of force whose quivering skin of energy was the only thing that kept me from that final date with the void ...



"I've never been able to explain what happened next. Suffice it to say... I am here to tell the story... and I never fired my blaster. SOMETHING took out V-base 10... I don't know what ... perhaps I never will...

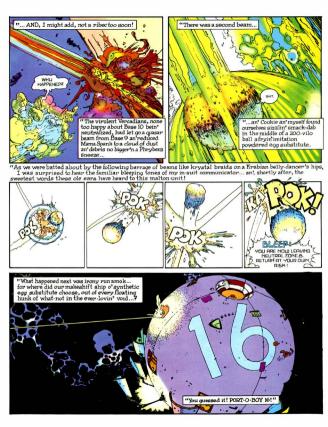


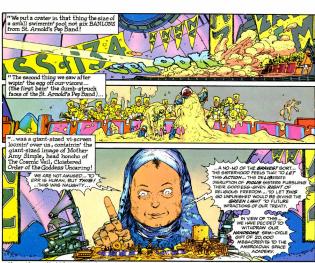
Before I could breathe the usual sigh of relief, I became aware that we had entered an atmospheric envelope surrounding the ex-V-base. This fact became clear to me when I noticed the condition of the ship!











"It would seem that Mother 'A' had a crimp in her craw due to the fact that the Sisterhood had one of its cosmic hercoops tucked back in the Neutral Zone, and the commotion caused by Squadron 4's collision with the forces of chaos had disturbed their meditory ulprations.



"The next few marbecs were a nightmare. Little did I suspect that I was to play the pawn in a drama of deception that made a travesty of justice and a mockery of the words 'fair play'.









"... down deep into and through the dank gray back corridors of Brigade Headquarters. I hung my head, so filled was I with shame and burning rage and then, by yet another foul turn of fate, found myself face to face with the last guy in Amercadia I wanted to run into at this moment."







EXCERPTED FROM THE "I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW 'CAUSE I GET BETTER-LOOKIN' EVERY MALTON-UNIT"
AUTOBIOGRAPHY: The Life and Times of Brucilla" The Muscle": Woman of War- Lucky in Love

56 HEAVY METAL. TO BE CONTINUED...

"YOU'RE ALL CRAZY"

That's what the publishers of comic books in the late Sixties were saying. "You can't sell comic books where one artist does his own writing, inking and lettering," they said. "The public wants assembly-line art, You guys are crazy."

They were right — but after over 1,000,000 underground comix have been sold, it seems like they were only right about the last part. These artists were crazy, and countless fash six enjoyed their brand of insanity ever since. Underground comix are alive and well after over a decade of breaking the old rules of cartooning. And they are available, through this offer, in their original form. You must be 18 to order these outstanding collections of adult comic art.



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10W 5 mies. 30.23

Dear Ms. Simmons-Lynch:

I should tell you that I enjoy HM very much. I offer you nothing but encouragement. Keep doing your thing. I read February's "Chain Mail" and reacted to your treatment of the letter from "Frank Thring Somewhere Out West." After first glancing at your somewhat nasty interjections. I thought, "God, what a bitch!" (Hold it right there, bozo. Those are Lou's nasty interiections you're talking about. Credit where credit's due

-ls) But I changed my mind, particularly since I happen to like "rock noise," and yes, it is too music. Mr. Thring, thank you very much. Just as much as Bach, Bartók. Berg. and Boulez were influenced (is in the latter case) by the folk music of their times, so are today's composers influenced by the Beatles. Coltrane, etc., and vice-versa, I think you are perfectly justified in the defense of your

own art. Your cause is noble. Why do people feel the need to criticize art? These people seem to be the self-worshiping types who think their opinions are so important that they should try to convince others. Twentieth century crusaders. They are also, directly or indirectly, the "Oh dahling, do let's go to the symphony and I'll wear my new mink," types. This is why socalled classical music has its snobbish reputation. I can't stand that (ves. I read Gregory Sandow's insightful article in the January issue). So you may ask, why am I a violinist? (Of course, this probably was the furthest from your mind, since you don't even know me) Because I find that Bach's D Minor Partita for solo violin has something meaningful to say to me as a person living in the present, and gives me a sort of post-mortem rapport with the composer, and helps me understand how he's influenced virtually every other composer since. I can only hope as a performer that no matter whether I'm playing Bach or Ligeti or Stevie Wonder or Frank Zappa that there is even one person out there listening to the music and what's being said, rather than making judgements or feigning interest out of conformity. There is a great deal of peer pressure in the "classical world," and many different reasons why people go to concerts of any kind of music.



And it's always acceptable to propitiate someone by emulating his/her record collection or taste in art. I suppose one way to understand someone is to be able to appreciate the kind of music s/he likes-but I'll never be able to understand these critics. amateur or professional, who never seem to like anything any more.

Of course, if critics are assholes, then I, too, am an asshole, since I've just criticized critics. But then, what the Hell, I mean, like everybody rationalizes.

Tom Fetherston Cleveland Ohio

HM:

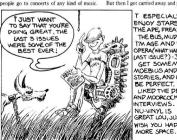
Never before have I enjoyed a magazine as much as I enjoyed your December issue. I had to buy two just to satisfy myself. I sorta destroyed the first copy. The Dossier section is the cause of the destruction-please let me explain in two words: Billy Idol! I've rarely had as much fun in my life as I had while I was beating hell out of his smug mug. But then I got carried away and proceeded to obliterate any and all resemblances to a magazine your rag ever had. That's when I had to buy another one. The rest of the issue was just as good. I beg you never to remove "The Bus" from your pages. It's the ultimate ending to the ultimate magazine.

Vo Mama Adderbury, England

Paul Kirchner-from the room where we've got him chained to a drawing board-sez thanks. We're perfectly willing to keep printing his stuff as all he asks in payment is old Transit Authority transfer tickets. - Is

Heavy Metalites: Your best cover art usually lurks on the back of the mag, but alas. February finds tits on both front and back. It's a shame that you feel the need to pander to a sex hungry male audience. You have a fine magazine—quality art and quality production. Don't you think you'd boost the size and quality of your audience if you didn't alienate so many potential lady readers? It's no wonder you have a 95% male readership-the reason is obvious and you continue to feed the fire. I am. in no way espousing a "wholesome" magazine. I just don't understand why you are letting lay dormant the potential for an even greater publication-one that aims itself at a wide audience of both guys and gals. If you really think you'd lose more readers than you'd gain by giving guys equal time on the cover (oh God, and threaten that 95%'s selfperceived masculinity?) along with a fair share of non-sex-oriented art, well, Lord Profit will have his way. (Some of us here agree with you, some don't. I think the winner is obvious - Is) Women are heautiful, which is why they should be more welcomed as readers. Your steadily boob-infested cover is doing the opposite. (You're right, of coursels) If I could find a magazine which presented HM's type of art with a healthier, bipartisan sexuality, vou'd lose this subscriber. Until then, you've got me by the balls. (Talk about self-herceived-masculinity'-ls) Bret Nelson

Christianburg, VA (I didn't name the place, I just live there)



Y ESPECIALY ENJOY STARSTRUCK. THE APE, FREAK SHOW. THE BUS, MUDWOG. I'M AGE AND ROCK OPERA(WHAT HAPPENED LAST ISSUE?) - JUST GET SOMEMORE MOFBILLS AND BILAL STORIES, AND IT'LL BE PERFECT. YALSO LIKED THE DELANY AND MOORCOCK INTERVIEWS. NU-VINYL IS GREAT LOU JUST WISH YOU HAP



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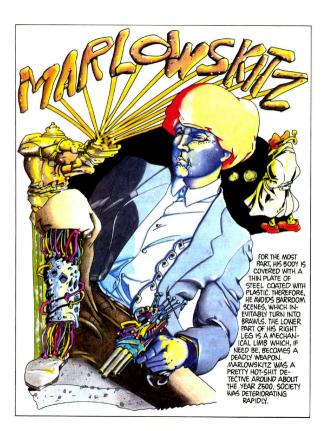


















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Mondy and Candy here have just had one of the most owful arguments you ever heard. Well, Mondy to Jod Condy (they're both marketing experts with MBAs) that she could sall more subscriptions to National Lampoon by wearing lots of eye shadow and posing in wholesome ourdoor surroundings than Condy could posing her way. Candy said, "fell me another one!" Candy says that modern men respond better to a sales pitch that features an attractive woman, wearing minimal

makeup, more coyly posed against a plain dark background. "Double phooey," says Mandy.

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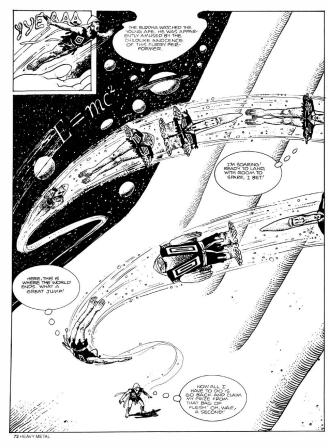
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HEAVY METAL 77



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BIERY OVER N.A. WHILE THEY TO BET ME BECAUSE THEY GAY THAT I'M CHANGING BOYS NTO GIRLS TO SELL THEM TO THE BROTHELS!

DRIY MINDS'ALL I WANT TO DO IS MAKE PEOPLE HAPPE.



























GREAT NOTES, AREN'T THEY! I LEARNED THEM.

LA DI, DI LA, LA DI LA DI, LA DI, DI LA, DI LA LA DI, DI LA.

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#1/APRIL '77: SORRY-SOLD

#2/MAY '77: Russian astronauts. "Roger" the paranoid puppet, "Con-quering Armies." the ultimate rock festival, and more.

#3/.IIINE '77: Macado's "Postblitz," highly praised "Shells." be-ginning of Davis's "World Apart." Moebius, Corben, Bodé, more,

#4/JULY '77: Lots of Moebius: "Arzach," part 1 of "The Long Tomorrow": conclusion of "Sunpot #5/AUGUST '77: The saga of

"Polonius" begins, "The Long Tomorrow" concludes and "World Apart" and "Den" continue #6/SEPTEMBER '77: Roger Zelazny has a short story, and Moebius, a space opera; plus more "World Apart." "Den." and "Polonius."

#7/OCTOBER '77: Fiction by Theodore Sturgeon, Moebius's "Airtight Garage," "Den" and "Polonius" back again, yet more.

#8/NOVEMBER '77: New Harlan Ellison fiction, 9 color pages by Moebius and Rimbaud, conclusions for "Polonius" and "World Apart."

#9/DECEMBER '77: Extra pages for the complete "Vuzz," by Druillet,
"Fortune's Fool," by Chaykin and Wein, plus full-color Corben, Macedo. Claveloux, and Moebius. #10/JANUARY '78: Morrow illus-

trates Zelazny, Lob and Pichard up-date Ulysses. "Conquering Armies" concludes, "Den" continues #11/FEBRUARY '78: New adven-

tures of "Barbarella," wraparound cover and center spread by Nino. plus Moebius, Corben, et al #12/MARCH '78: Swashbuckling Orion" debuts courtesy of Gray

Morrow: more "Barbarella." "Urm. #13/APRIL '78: Our 1st anniversary issue! A 30-page insert from "Paradise 9," and "Barbarella" gives birth, while "Den" wraps it up.

and "Den "

#14/MAY '78: "Urm the Mad" waves bye-bye, but "Orion" and "Barbarella" continue, and Alex Nino tips his hat.

#15/JUNE '78: Corben introduces Shahrazad. Sturgeon's classic "More Than Human" is illustrated. more "Barbarella," and the origins of "Heilman.

#16/JULY '78: A happy ending for "Barbarella," a sad ending for 1996 resumption of Druillet's 'Gail, " more "Heilman." "Orion, "More Than Human," and Corben's Arabian Nights.

#17/AUGUST '78: SORRY -SOLD OUT! #18/SEPTEMBER '78: SORRY -

SOLDOUT #19/OCTOBER '78: "Exterminator

17." Ellison's illustrated "Glass Goblin." debut of McKie's "So Beautiful and So Dangerous," plus usual.

COLLECTOR'S ITEMS



#20/NOVEMBER '78: Twenty pages of the Delany/Chaykin "Emmore "Sindbad" "Exterminpire ator," Major Grubert, "Heilman" 's final rehirth more

#21/DECEMBER *78: The stocking's full with "Orion," Kirchner's "Tarot," and 12 beautiful pages of Moebius

#22/JANUARY '79: Trina debuts here, and Druillet concludes "Gail plus McKie and Corben. How much can you take?

#23/FEBRUARY '79: "Galactic Geographic," "Starcrown," Corben's "Sindbad," McKie's "So Beautiful and So Dangerous," plus Moebius Bilal and Macedo

#24/MARCH '79: Twenty pages of Chavkin illustrating Bester's "The Stars My Destination," "Starcrown" II, and Ellison's late show.

#25/APRIL '79: SORRY - SOLD OUT #26/MAY '79: It's all-American (ex-

cept for Druillet's "Dancin" and a Proust joke): 15 entries including Corben, Morrow, the illustrated

#27/JUNE 79: SORRY - SOLD OUT

#28/JULY '79: Bodé's "Zooks" premieres, Corben's "Sindbad" concludes. Morrow and Moebius continue, Mike Hinge debuts #29/AUGUST '79: Caza steals

show with "New Ark City," plus Mayerik, Suydam, "Galactic Geographic "Bodé more #30/SEPTEMBER '79: "Elric." "Buck Rogers," a lizard named "Elvis," and "Little Red V-3," along-

side Montellier and Moebius. #31/OCTOBER '79: A Halloween tribute to H. P. Lovecraft, with Moebius, Breccia, Druillet, Suydam.

#32/NOVEMBER '79: Let's give thanks for Corben's "Rowlf," Bodé's
"Zooks," Brunner's "Elric," Chavkin's "The Stars My Destination, Moebius, and more.

#33/DECEMBER '79: A Christmas package from Caza, Corben, Kofoed, Suydam, Stiles, Trina, Moebius, and Ellison, plus "Gnomes" and "Giants."

#34/JANUARY '80: A new year/ new decade begins with new look for HM with debut of 4 new columnists new artists Neal McPheeters and Dan Steffan, conclusion of Corben's Rowlf," and much more!

#35/FEBRUARY '80: An eerie Couratin cover adorns this winter issue Corben's "The Beast of Wolfton" begins. McKie experiments with the Air Pump, and we join Matt Howarth on a grazed said trie

#36/MARCH '80: Why did "The Crevasse" take Jeannette? Read the Schuiten Bros. strip! Plus: Corben, Matena, Moebius, and Lee Marrs's "Good Vibrations."

#37/APRIL '80: Our 3rd anniversary issue — 32 nanes of "Champakou" in living color, final installment of Moebius's "Airtight Garage," plus Caza, Bilal, Howarth, Corben, Bodé - and moral

#38/MAY '80: Does the Supreme Alchemist exist? Will Axle ever find out? Will "Champakou" reach the Doll of Jade? Will Joe strike out with the alien Marilyn, too? We'll never

#39/JUNE '80: "Champakou" meets his fate, while "Captain Sternn" saves the day. And in their revenge, the Flying Wallendas vs. Farth

#40/JULY '80: "The Alchemist Supreme" continues: Axle learns truth about sidekick Musky, Bilat's "Progress!" begins, and Moebius returns with "Shore Leave."

#41/AUGUST '80: Druillet returns with the 1st installment of "Salammbo" while Moebius concludes "Shore Leave" (and is interviewed). Bilal continues "Progress!"

#42/SEPTEMBER '80: "The Alchemist Supreme" concludes while Bilal's "Progress!" picks up steam. Ernie Colon, Paul Kirchner, Leo Duranona contribute nifty shorts, while "Rock Opera" gets stranger yet.



#44/NOVEMBER '80: With the Shogun spirit ablaze this issue's cover, by Hajime Soravama, is definitely in its element. Inside we give you some lovely Claveloux Moehius, Kaluta, Springett, and Bilal,

#45/DECEMBER '80: Premiering Corben's illustrated "Bloodstar," Crepax's "Valentina," and Godard and Ribera's "What Is Reality. Papa?" Plus "The Cutter of the Fog." "Rock Opera," and Moebius!



#47/FEBRUARY '81: William S Burroughs discusses "Civilian Defense." while "The Horny Goof." an inimitable Moebius character, gets himself in and outa trouble. Special added attraction! Pages from Jeff Jones's Yesterday's Lily and an interview with the man himself

#48/MARCH '81: "Tex Arcana," John Findley's epic Western, be-

continue: Druillet's interpretation of Flaubert's classic Salammbo ends. Plus Harlan Ellison's ever timely essay on violence in America.

#49/APRIL '81: "Art and the Nazis," Corben's "Bloodstar," Gi-ménez's "Good-bye, Soldier!," Harry North's "Stories from London." and an interview with Julio Ribera. Di'n't think we could do it in one shot, did va?

#50/MAY '81: Premiers of Chay kin's "Cody Starbuck" and Bilal's
"The Immortals' Fêtel" Plus: Suydam's "The Toll Bridge" and William S. Burroughs on immortality

#51/JUNE '81: The 1st part of the Richard Corben interview, Jim Steranko's adaptation of Outland premieres, Howarth's "Changes" winds up Plus Caza Chaykin Crepax and our own John Workman!

#52/JULY '81: Stephen King terrifies with "The Blue Air Compres-Steranko's adaptation of Outsor land continues, while Chris Moore's fantastic pinup girl wraps it all up.

#53/AUGUST '81: SORRY-SOLDOUT

#54/SEPTEMBER '81: SORRY-

SOLD OUT! #55/OCTOBER '81: "Shakespeare for Americans": 1st episode of Segrelles's "Mercenary"; a gallery sec-tion devoted to Druillet; plus Jeff

Jones, Bilal, and Steranko. #56/NOVEMBER '81: Jeronaton's Egg of the World," Jeff Jones Segrelles, and Bilal all frame the art

of Leo and Diane Dillon beautifully. #57/DECEMBER '81: Strange encounters with Debbie Harry, Jeffrey Jones, Segrelles, and Corben. Plus odd ending to "The Immortals" Foto '

#58/JANUARY '82: Our "Happy Future" issue. Includes Arno, Lou-stal, Voss, Hé, and Gillon; and "The Autonomous Man." by Davis, Chudnow, and Balfour. All surrounded by Chaykin and Simonson, Segrelles, Steranko, et al.

#59/FEBRUARY '82: Begins with a further adventure of John Difool in "The Incal Light," Wein and Chay-"Gideon Faust" gets goingagain. Plus Fernandez, Jones. Schuiten et al.

#60/MARCH '82: Our 2nd Special Rock Issue featuring Dick Matena's "A Life in the Day," a surrealistic look at the life of John Lennon. Luis

gins, "What Is Reality, Papa?" and Garcia's "Nova 2" begins, Elliott The Amhassador of the Shadows Murphy brings us the Elvis Cult. Plus our regulars "Mercenary." "Don "Rock Opera," etc. Enjoy.

> #61/APRIL '82: Our 5th anniversary issue offers a variety of material What with Claveloux Druillet Moebius, Bilal, and an essay on J.G. Ballard, you'll be busy until our 6th!

#62/MAY '82: In this issue, we give you the 1st part of David Black's "Third Sexual Revolution" and let you look at "The Art of De Es Schwertberger." Plus: "Sixteen and Vanilla" by Ted White and Val Lakey.

#63/JUNE '82: We proudly bring you our Fantastic Cities issue. With rtists Voss, Caza, Scibelli, and R. Crumb. All surrounded by regulars: Druillet, Moebius, Schuiten, and Fernandez, Enjoy

#64/JULY '82: Marcele and Lacome's strange "Life at the Circus" and names from Corbon's Flights into Fantasy. Plus Jones, Garcia, Druillet etc

#65/AUGUST '82: We proudly present Jones and Wrightson's "Freak Show" and Pisu and Manara's "The Ape." Plus the finale of "The Incal Light," by Moebius and Jodorowsky.

#66/SEPTEMBER '82: We give you Hecht's "Music-Video Interface," Lupoff's "Barscom!" and Hinge's "Object " Plus our regulars: Bilal, Fernandez, Kierkegaard, etc.

#67/OCTOBER '82: You'll have Scary Dreams after reading our special horror section. It has everyng from Eddie Poe to the weirde phobias possible. Don't read it alone! P.S.: Last part of Black's Third Sexual Revolution.

#68/NOVEMBER '82: Part 1 of Kaluta's "Starstruck." Findley's "Tex Arcana" continues as does "Den II" and Druillet's "Yragael." Plus: a peek at Wrightson's National Lampoon's Class Reunion.

#69/DECEMBER '82: A Will Stone Gallery, the return of Suydam's "Mudwog," and Mark Fisher's "Amino Men," Plus our regulars: Corben, Fernandez, and Kierke-

#70/JANUARY '83: We bring the strange conclusion to Wrightson's "Freak Show," a look at The Dark rystal, and our regulars: Manara. Corben, Fernandez, etc. Happy reading

#71/FFRRUARY '83: The making of the film The Entity. Kim Deitch's Eating Raoul, and our regulars, Cor-

ben, Kaluta, Crepax, etc.



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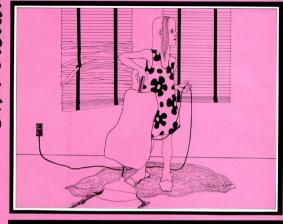
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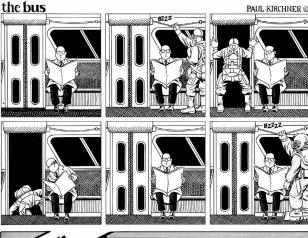














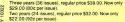
A look at Ray Bradbury's <u>Dinosaur Tales!</u>
Liberatore's "Ranxerox" premieres!
Plus: Bilal continues and Crepax est fini!

Could it be? By George, it is! After a six month quest, a newsstand that hasn't sold out of Heavy Metal!



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"Marlowskitz," the robotic detective premieres!

Matena checks in at the "St. James Infirmary"!

Bilal and Kaluta continue!

