

Comic books: another world

COMICS from Page 30

Of smaller independent publishers, Eclipse is growing the fastest. Among their productions are a 3D Three Stooges one-shot, "ESPers" (a limited series by Jim Hudnall and David Lloyd), two biweekly titles — "Airboy" and "New Wave," "Scout," by Tim Truman, "Tales of Terror," "Tales of the Beanworld," by Larry Marder, "Crossfire and Rainbow" limited series and "DNAgents" regular series written by Mark Evanier.

Comico has several popular books out. "Robotech" is the comic adaptation of the animated serial. "Elementals" written and drawn by Bill Willingham, is a surreal cross between the supernatural and superheroes.

Fantagraphics Books puts out comics with a definite sense of individual style. "Threat!" is a spoofy-serious magazine featuring several different stories and creative teams. "Love & Rockets" is a title that has received little but praise for itself and its creators, Los Brothers Hernandez. It's realism and characterizations are setting new standards for adult comics.

Even smaller publishers, too numerous to mention, also publish many good books. Their styles and subject matter range from a 1930s fledgling writer doing his thing in "Wordsmith" to a group of humans transporting cute aliens across space in "Escape To The Stars," to a modern samurai living in a low-rent neighborhood with trips to orbital giant robot ships and dangerous criminals in "Samurai."

There is a whole world of comics out there just waiting to be discovered. The independents for novel ideas and rampant creativity, DC for the familiar but revitalized titles and new projects, and Marvel for fan-favorites and new talent. Take the time to visit one of Lincoln's two comic specialty shops, Trade-a-Tape uptown or Cosmic Comics at East Park, and look through the stands. Chances are you'll find something that appeals to you. Comics have grown up.

Metal albums get your blood racing

METAL from Page 36

Bonnie James Dio — former lead singer for Black Sabbath and Rainbow — and his band, the group features such heavy metal performers as Rob Halford (Judas Priest), George Lynch (Dokken), Dave Murray (Iron Maiden), Yngwie Malmsteen, and Ted Nugent. The super group was put together in order to raise money for famine relief.

As the only song that was specifically recorded for the Hear 'N Aid album, "Stars" is a well-made piece of work. It matches up a variety of

vocals with the different playing styles of several guitarists. The almost eight minute song tells how we can save the children by being strong and joining together. Ten different guitarists trade the lead for a fantastic three minute solo that produces a feeling of power and gets your blood racing.

"Stars" is a fantastic cut that artistically blends the talents of 40 performers, and I would highly recommend it for anyone that appreciates heavy metal music.

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