Off the Wall's Heart Throb's controversial

By Claudia Perry

_Heart Throbs '77_. Off the Wall's current program of films, is a good example of the major difference between pornography and erotica. Whereas pornography bids you in the face with a wet something-or-other, erotica sneaks up behind you and tickles you.

This year's program contains the best throbs from last year's banned-in-Cambridge spectacle. One of the more confounding moments of the evening was James Broughton's _The Bed_, a holdover from the previous festival. A rather intense talk about a bed and its several inhabitants, it could be the best example of Off the Wall's commitment to alternative cinema even at its most abusive.

The other irreals are not nearly as oblique. _Eurynome_, a clay animation by John Stanton that opens the evening, is a very sensual rendering of the passion of creation. Clay animations are disarmingly real in their attempts to recreate human actions. _Eurynome_ is no exception to this. Stanton's Eve is a very erotic figure, whose actions are alluring at least.

Another striking film is that of Cambridge-based filmmaker Lisa Crafts. _Her Desire For_ makes a very pointed statement concerning feelings about and during sex. Her two lovers, once engaged in carnal activity, forget about their surroundings and each other. Crafts changes their appearances to suit what each person is thinking about their partner. It is a marvelous realization of the concept of sexual fantasy.

The new additions are no less enchanting. A personal favorite is Frank Mouton's _Moun'ts Screentest_. A fast-moving, witty piece, it concerns the reactions of nine men to being filmed doing a number of unusual things, the most mundane of which was dressing up in women's clothes. The soundtrack to this film is a conversation with the nine participants and Mouton concerning what people would think when they saw this film. The result is a collage of styles and effects that is deliciously madcap.

Not all of the new throbs can rival _Eurynome_. Max Fisher and Lisa Kraft's _Contracts_ is at best indious. Interracial grooping is no more interesting than intra-racial grooping. For some strange reason Kraft and Fisher don't seem to notice this and the film runs for eight minutes to no apparent conclusion.

Off the Wall is an idea that works well. They serve numerous homemade baked goods, a variety of spaced gases, coffee and the notorious Baby Watson Cheeseake. Their selection of films is usually first rate. In addition to Heart Throbs '77, Off the Wall offers a monthly evening of women's video art and a weekly program of alternative children's cinema. _Heart Throbs '77_ is just another achievement in their commitment to alternative cinema.