By Gordon Habl

If there is a characteristic which pervades summer movies, that characteristic is fun. A summer movie is rarely heavy handed or depressing. No one wants to walk off a beach or a tennis court and go into a movie theater which will leave him depressed or worse, thinking. Unfortunately, all too often these summer movies lack something else as well, namely quality. ... This summer has been an exception, however. Apparently inspired by the success of last summer's $9 million "fun" movie, Star Wars, the movie industry seems to have discovered that light entertainment doesn't need to be lousy movie making, too often these summer movies lack something worse, thinking. Unfortunately, all too the theater which will leave him depressed or be a beach or a tennis court and go into a movie depressing. No one wants to walk off a A summer movie is rarely-heavy handed or...

For pure, degenerate entertainment, Animal House is the star of the summer. The entire film is National Lampoon's satire at its best although surprisingly enough not at its cruelest. 'The movie is about the exploits of the Deltas, the "worst house on campus" at Faber College in 1962. It certainly has the potential to be the big hit of the summer among the group that it is aimed at. Some of the incredible scenes in the movie are actually very near the truth. In one scene a motorcycle roars up the stairs, more than vaguely reminiscent of a scene I remember from last R/O Week.

One of the film's strong points is the range of its humor. Some scenes like Blutarski going through a cafeteria line or chugging a fifth of whiskey are just plain funny. However, other scenes are funny because of their satire. You laugh at them because they are so close to the truth.

The film as a whole is a beautifully orchestrated mixture of these two types of humor. In conjunction with acting that as a whole is more than adequate in general and very good in the case of John Belushi, the humor makes for a film which is funny for anyone who can appreciate its humor and nothing short of hilarious for someone in the environment it depicts.

For more innocent entertainment, there is Revenge of the Pink Panther. This film from last R/O Week which focuses on the exploits of the club which most people find only the crack of the gun. This adds, in fact there are a number of very well done scenes. A few, particularly Clouseau's imitation of an American gangster including cotton balls in the cheeks may be among the funniest in the series. However, for the most part, the film is not surprisingly a continuation of a profitable formula complex with all the tried and true routines. Particularly for a viewer who has seen the others in the series, it is a formula which begins to lose its humor at this point in time. The movie is still not boring by any means, suited one bought at the individual gags rather than at the film as whole with the result that the viewer leaves the theater feeling a certain emptiness which a truly funny movie should not leave.

In short, although Peter Sellers is as good as ever, the Pink Panther series needs a translation of something a bit more substantial than Dyan Cannon and a few new gags, good as those minor additions may be.

Animal House new satire, Panther same old stuff