In-laws, Muppet Movie, Meatballs are good fun

By Gordon R. Huff

It is midsummer. Newspaper and magazine readers, TV viewers, and movie-goers are pounded incessantly by publicity for a movie has been inversely proportionate to the film’s quality.

Dracula, adapted (poorly) from the Broadway play, is one of the numerous attempts to transform that old Transylvanian legend popularized by Bram Stoker out of the "B" horror movie class. Its producers would better to have left it there.

The film is confusing from the outset. Even a knowledge of the original novel is little use since the script twists obscure paths which leave the viewer struggling to figure out what is going on.

Frank Langella, as Dracula, attempts to add a little charm and sex appeal to Stoker's thoroughly evil count. However, the prequel which made this concept successful on Broadway are not fully implemented on the silver screen. The movie Dracula takes itself altogether too seriously, employing none of the tongue-in-cheek humor which was so essential to the total view of the Dracula on stage.

Still, Dracula isn't totally without merit. Very few films which sport its cast and production budget are. It is sick, perhaps too slick. The acting is consistent, to very good at times. Lawrence Olivier is excellent in his usual role, when not being a Shakespearean actor, of an aging German. Even Frank Langella does a very credible job of portraying Dracula, faulty as that character may be.

However, some effective photography sequences combined with some neat tricks and John Williams' music do not a movie make. I think that I'll stick to Neufzen.

Munster is James Bond thrown into the space age - in more ways than one. It incorporates special effects which would have been impossible even just a few years ago.

Unfortunately, the film as a whole does not live up to the standards of its production. Despite several brilliant sequences, the thread with which the movie is woven together is weak - it cannot hold together the high points.

Munsterkirk seeks to its lowest point when Jaws is reintroduced from The Spy Who Loved Me. The old Jaws was bad enough - breaching the line between being a typical Bond villains and being ridiculous. The coruscating Jaws could seem ingloriously survive anything short of a nuclear blast at twelve feet. To top it off, he falls in love in what might be rated as the hottest scene in Bond history.

Finally, although Roger Moore in The Spy Who Loved Me and Moonraker are almost equal: Sean Connery, the other Munsterkirk character are two - dimensionally, even by James Bond standards. The villain Drax is so boring that it is hard to even dislike him. His accomplishments are worse.

Without its fabulous production team, Munsterkirk would probably rank as one of the worst Bonds ever. However, although these glittering jewels raise it a great deal, they cannot, in themselves, boost it into orbit.

The In-Laws, on the other hand, is a delightfully zany comedy starring Peter Falk and Alan Arkin. Peter Falk plays a suit who may or may not be a CIA agent.

College Knowledge useless

By Gordon R. Huff

The 13 - 30 Corporation, for those who haven't heard of it, is the branchchild of a 'young entrepreneurs-who-made-it - when they bought up their diametrically profitable college guides by the use of national advertising. Since then their business has blossomed, their latest feat being the takeover of Esquire. 13 - 30 Corporation's target is the young'-professional-to-be in the age group from almost 13 to 30, hence the name.

College Knowledge by Michael Edelhart was largely financed by the 13 - 30 Corporation. The book is poorly written while talking down to the very audience it assumes to be reasonably intelligent. It contains information on financial aid, how to take tests, how to deal with parents - in almost everything the author thinks is necessary to know to get through college. Unfortunately, College Knowledge contains too little information and far too much verbal diarrhea. Many of the book's lists of addresses to write about, that and the other thing are reasonably exhaustive and an entire book of them would have been very useful. Unfortunately, the author apparently concluded that such an approach would not let him spout off deep philosophy on everything connected with going to college.

Perhaps you can find enough useful information buried under all the stuff to make College Knowledge worth your money. I personally would not count on it, particularly since what information there is is poorly indexed and cross-referenced. I guess College Knowledge bears out the fact that guides are easy to write but very difficult to write well.

Seventh Annual MIT Black Students' Conference: Preliminary Program

'Black Excellence in Science and Business: Problems, Prospects, and Promises of the 1980s,'

MIT, Cambridge, Mass.
Friday and Saturday,
September 14 and 15, 1979

Friday, September 14, 1979
9:00 a.m. — 12:00 noon
Kresge Lobby
Conference Registration
Kresge Little Theater
High School Students' Conference
Historical Presentation and Display:
"A Glimpse of African-American Contributions to the Development of Science and Technology"
Bus Room
MIT Alumni Workshop
3:00 p.m — 6:00 p.m
Kresge Auditorium
Conference Opening
Greetings
Keynote Speaker: Honorable Wallace D. Muhammad, Leader World Community of Al-Islam in the West
6:00 — 7:30 p.m
Sala de Puerto Rico
Reception for Keynote Speaker
9:00 — 1:00 a.m
Conference Social: Alumni and Participants
Saturday, September 15, 1979
9:00 — 11:30 a.m
Student Center Lobby
Conference Registration II
West Lounge
Presentation: "Blacks in Science and Invention" — Professor Ronald Mickens, the Physics Department, Fisk University
10:00 — 11:30 a.m
Mezzanine Lounge
National Society of Black Engineers Meeting
2:30 — 4:30 p.m
Room 473
Workshop: "Black Women in Science and Technology: Setting Goals and Getting to the Top"
Room 491
Coordinated by the Student Planning Committee, with the cooperation of Mary O. Hope, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, MIT.
12:00 noon — 2:00 p.m
Sala de Puerto Rico
Conference Luncheon
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ronald McNair, Ph.D., (MIT) CB Astronaut, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX
3:00 — 5:00 p.m
Room 400
Workshop: "Career Opportunities in the 1980s"
Room 487
Workshop: "Problems, Prospects and Promises of Doing Business in the 1980s"
5:00 — 6:00 p.m
Mezzanine Lounge
Conference Closing
Workshop Summaries and Closing Remarks: workshop moderators and participants