

I must be getting old. In the not too distant past, a naughty, sexy, funny film like PRIVATE LESSONS would have made for a riotous evening of entertainment, but this movie is so cheap, so tacky, and so childish that it leaves the laughs hollow.

PRIVATE LESSONS is all about 15 year old Philly (Eric Brown), and how he is seduced by his housekeeper, Miss Mallow (Sylvia Kristel). There is a sub-plot thrown in, but it only serves to keep a 90 minute movie from being a 60 minute one.

The subject of an adolescent boy-mature woman relationship has been dealt with in movies before, (i.e. SUMMER OF '42), but to my knowledge PRIVATE LESSONS is the first to put the matter in a completely comedic

vein. Screenwriter Dan Greenburg is allowed to do this only because of the double sexual standards that still exists. (I would like to see someone try to write a farce about the seduction of a 15 year old girl by a 30 year old man.)

The really funny thing about PRIVATE LESSONS is that the script is often quite good. It captures with near-perfection the pure fun that 15 year olds can have when up to no good. The movie reaches its finest moments when Philly and his friend

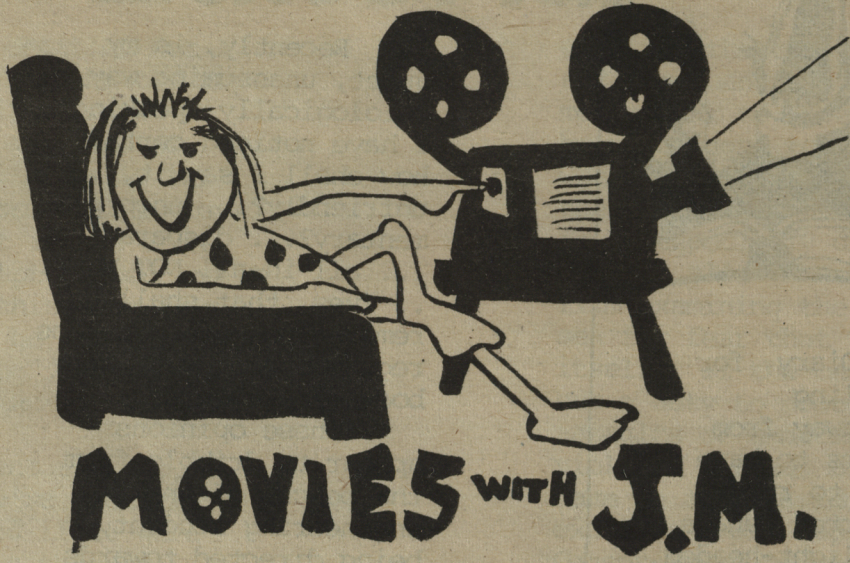
Sherman are being their devilish selves. The problem, however, is that Greenburg insists his adults also behave as adolescents. Howard (Dr. Fever) Hesseman should be side-splitting as a sarcastic servant, but his juvenile lines fall flat.

With all the hype it is receiving, this bit of grade 8 classroom humor will probably succeed in its cheap play for the public's dollar.

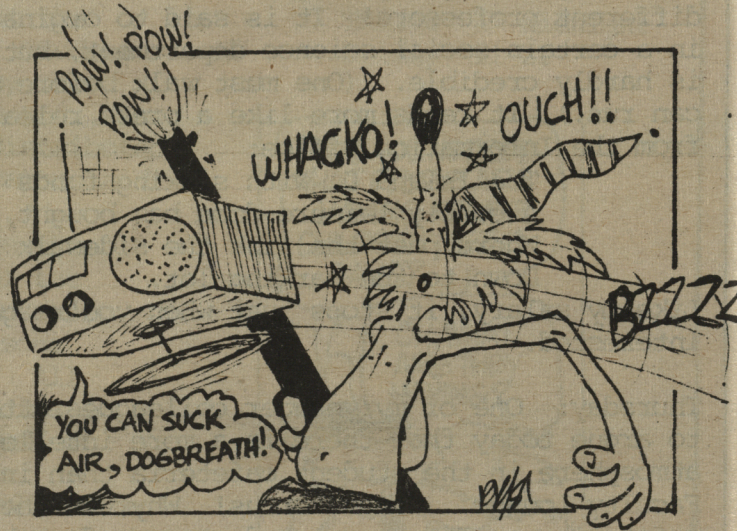
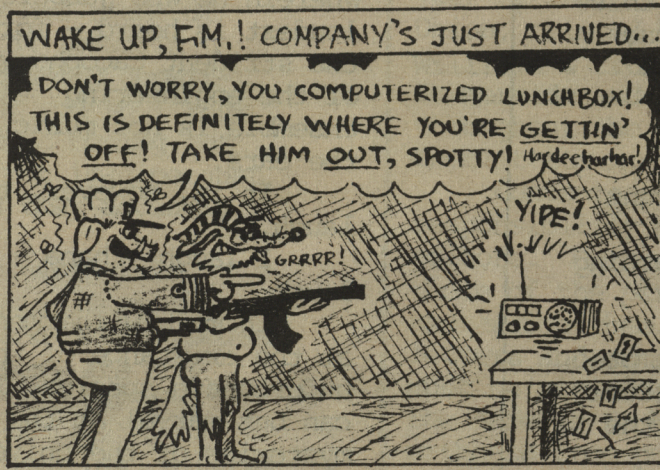
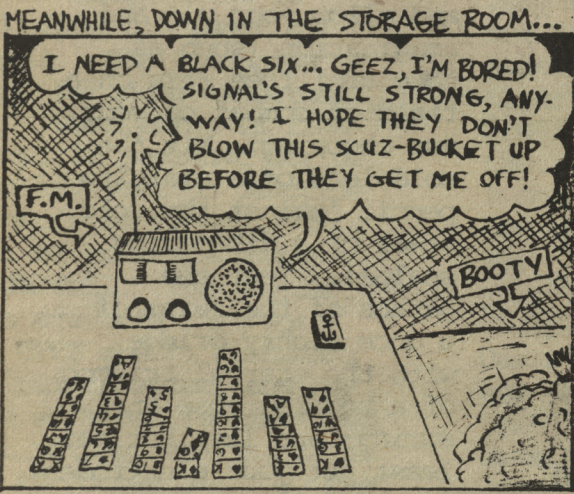
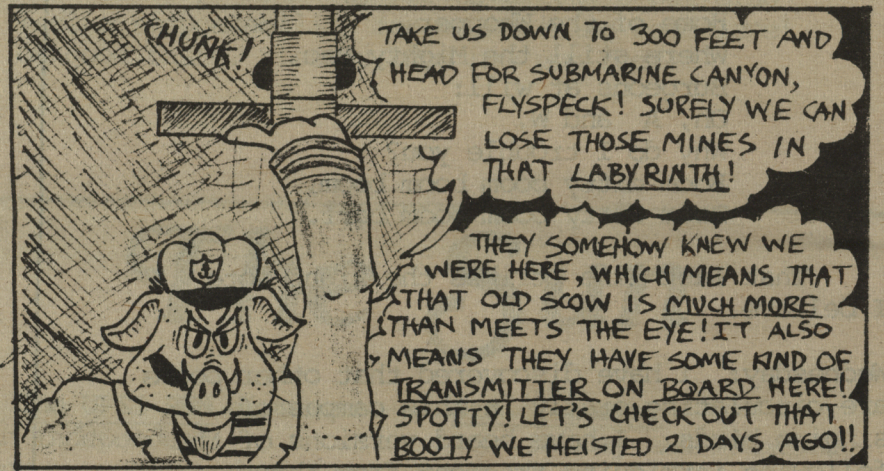
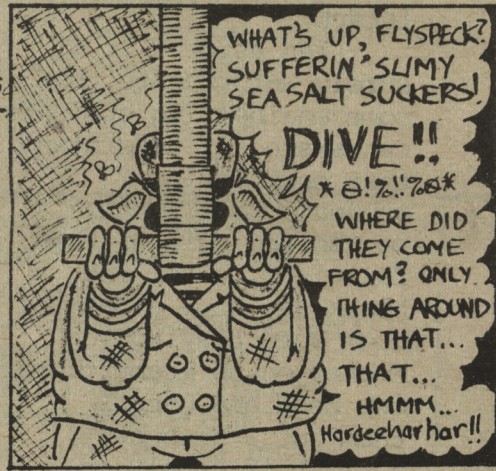
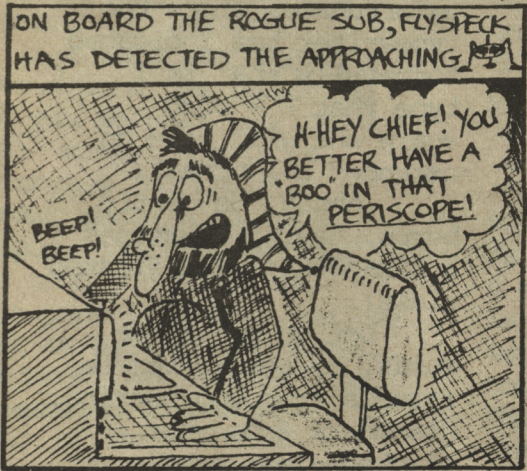
If you are still unconvinced about this movie's mentality, just have a gander at the come on that appears on the PRIVATE LESSONS poster. "What happened to him should happen to you" it reads.

Right.

May a plague of juvenile delinquents descend upon this movie and spitwad it to death.



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