

MOVIE REVIEW 'ALIEN'

by Daniel Hopkins

The outer space version of "Jaws" comes to the screen in the well publicized movie "Alien". It begins with the waking of the crew. The Nostromo, a huge cargo cruiser's voyage home is interrupted by an alien transmission. Astronauts being under contract to the company they work for, investigate the possibility of intelligent alien life. Soon they are looking for the source of the mystery. One fellow gets a big hello kiss from a newly hatched alien. Several hours later he wakes up feeling fine, except for a bit of an upset stomach that explodes all over the dinner table. And so the alien is born.

To this point, the movie is acceptable - even good. Luckily special effects, miniature sequences, overlap photography and a gruesome alien carry the movie to the end. The plot seems to get forgotten. What could have been a good movie becomes, storywise, the "Jaws" of outer space. The monster is as interesting as the shark. Ash, the ship's science officer, says the alien is the perfect organism. Its structural perfection is surpassed only by its aggressive behaviour which becomes only too predictable.

This is not that bad a

movie if you like horror shows, and a lack of plot. A lot of scenes don't make sense. Ash, being a very heady fellow, goes crazy; he tries to screw the third officer, Ripley, in the mouth with a girlie magazine. John Noight, in the "Midnight Cowboy", does a much more disgusting job, screwing a fag in the mouth with a telephone. It works in the "Midnight Cowboy" but it doesn't work in this movie. The hatching of the alien comes from "The Body Snatchers",

very unoriginal. The crew seems to have no concern for safety. They just land on an unknown planet and practically crash. Then in a matter of hours everything is fixed and they take off. There are only two guys doing repair work. They try and decode the alien transmission and then forget about it. There are agreements about jobs and money that are just forgotten. The plot becomes the savagery of the alien, and that is only frighten-

ing, not interesting.

It's the sort of show you would see if you wished you hadn't missed "Jaws". The acting by Sigourney Weaver, John Hurt, and Yaphet Kotto is excellent. An actor like John Hurt, whom you will remember from "Midnight Express", deserves a more expressive part and a movie that has a little more to say, rather than a movie that is just trying to frighten. Aesthetically the movie is terrible, but people are going to see it. 'Til next time.

"I used to think banks were filled with women who followed orders - and men who gave them."



Lotta Harasym, B. Comm.
Queen's University, 1974.

"I used to think banks were huge and impersonal. Add to that my notion they weren't fussy about women in management, and you can see I had a grim view of the banking business.

"Boy, was I wrong.

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"I was impressed with the recruiter. And so I decided to give TD a chance.

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