Mark's Ultra-Accurate Horoscopes

by Mark Cameron

Capricorn 12/22-1/19
That "special present" you got for Christmas is not what it seems. A semi-excorcism may be required to fully enjoy the gift.

Aquarius 1/20-2/18
This week, the number 8 has no special meaning. If it comes up repeatedly, just ignore it and go about your business.

Pisces 2/19-3/20
Time travel is likely to occur in your immediate future. And your past, soon.

Aries 3/21-4/19
You will have a major impact on the eternal struggle between two evils. Now is the time to decide your true calling. Pepsi or Coke?

Taurus 4/20-5/20
You will read a horoscope this week.

Gemini 5/21-6/21
Your dream of becoming a world famous janitor may come to fruition this week. Someday you could surpass Mr. Clean.

Cancer 6/22-7/22
You are developing the ability to speak with poultry. Use it wisely and the world will become a better place.

Leo 7/23-8/22
Things will go exactly according to your plan this week. So make one up that involves all kinds of craziness, just to cause some chaos.

Virgo 8/23-9/22
Keep this in mind for next Christmas: You want DVDs, not STDs. Be careful what you wish for.

Libra 9/23-10/22
Your relationship with yourself will take an interesting twist. If you should ask yourself out on a date, you should go. You have much in common.

Scorpio 10/23-11/21
When you are shopping for textbooks, you will find a copy of the Necronomicon. You can revive your hamburger.

Sagittarius 11/22-12/21
Sleeping in could save your life this week. If you get up against the will of your bed, you could be hit by a bus.

The Power of Word Balloons

by Stefan Robak



Powers: Little Deaths, Vol. 3

Detective Christian Walker isn't a normal homicide detective. Sure, his completely straight-laced demeanor might indicate that he's just another cop doing his job. However his job happens to be extraordinary: he's a homicide detective who happens to investigate superhero-homicide cases. And he prefers to do it alone. Of course, if you watch enough movies, you'll realize this means he's going to be teamed up with a partner, much to his chagrin. In this case it's the short tempered, foul-mouthed Deena Pilgrim, who's enthusiastic to learn all about the world of super-heroes. The world of *Powers*.

The main characters are instantly likable. Christian Walker is sort of an everyman who secretly used to be the super-hero Diamond before losing his powers to a mysterious villain. Deena Pilgrim is constantly talking and wants to know everything about the world of heroes. Writer Brian Michael Bendis (writer of *Ultimate Spider-Man*) makes these characters memorable and fun. While the series may seem like a mystery series at first, it proves it's really more of a crime drama. However, solving the mystery rarely solves any problems (and sometimes makes things worse) and the situations of the murders tend to come out of left field (though they all make sense in the end none-the-less).

This set-up could easily lead to many clichés, but *Powers* is a smarter book than that. A lot of writers could use this as an opportunity to deconstruct super-heroes or simply paint them in a bad light like so many *Watchmen* rip-offs, but *Powers* is more about the true lives behind these heroes. None of them are truly bad people, but they are heavily flawed. Olympia ends up dead after meeting with one of his many, many mistresses. An unfairly hated super-hero named The Shark accidentally kills a criminal while trying to get in the authorities' good graces. Bendis compares these heroes to rock stars: some have wild double lives, some are simply in it for popularity, and some end up selling out (such as Mountain, who makes a deal with a cola company to turn his name to Thirst Quencher).

The world of *Powers* is quite amazing. There are whole sets of police procedures for dealing with super-humans. Interrogation rooms, for example, have "drainers" that drain the powers out of people and make them lightheaded so they won't fight back too hard. The book also explores the relationships of the super-heroes and the way the public views these super-heroes like the ultimate celebrities. The creators even made a coloring/activity book similar to the kind that can be found at the police station.

Michael Avon Oeming (creator of *Bastard Samurai)* became a big name in the comics industry because of this book and it's no wonder why. With designs similar to that of the various DC comics animated series (Batman, Justice League), Oeming makes the book truly his own using imaginative panel placements and imagery. Using some rather simple cartoony art and placing it in gritty crime comic may not sound like it works, but the end result is nothing less than amazing.

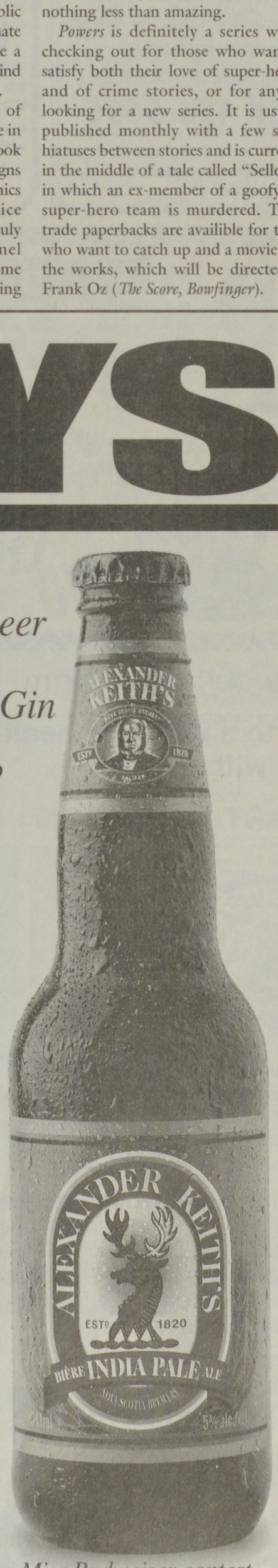
Powers is definitely a series worth checking out for those who want to satisfy both their love of super-heroes and of crime stories, or for anyone looking for a new series. It is usually published monthly with a few short hiatuses between stories and is currently in the middle of a tale called "Sellout," in which an ex-member of a goofy 70s super-hero team is murdered. Three trade paperbacks are availible for those who want to catch up and a movie is in the works, which will be directed by Frank Oz (*The Score, Bowfinger*).

FRIDAYS

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Mixed Drinks
Rum, Vodka, Rye, Gin

5-close



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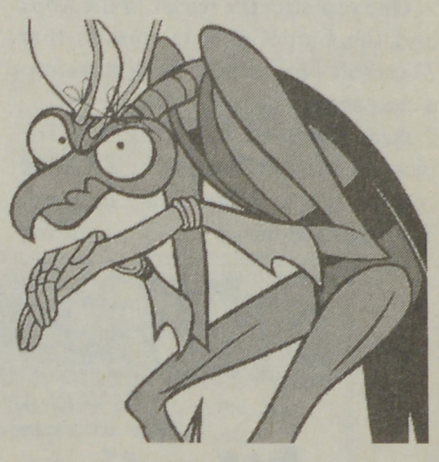
by Brendan Doyle

VIEWPOINT

Why are you so damn excited to be back at school?



"Trying to use UNB's computer systems will give me the rage I need to destroy Voltron once and for all."
-Prince Lotor



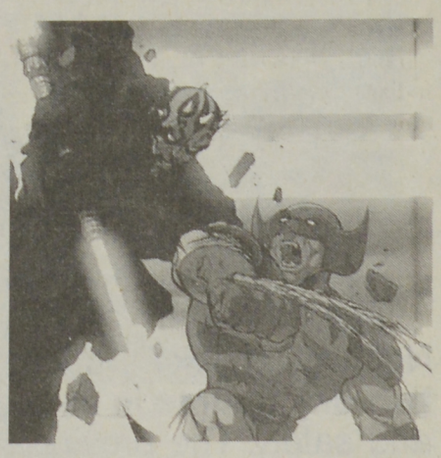
"I've obviously got some sort of scheme in the works. Keep your eyes peeled for some random melting!"
- Zorak



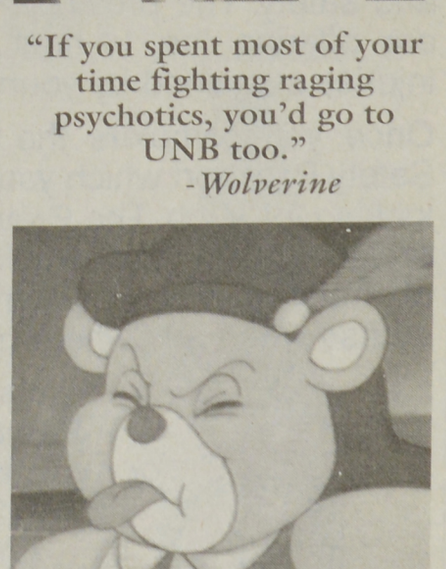
"It will give us the opportunity to learn how these costumes work and how to get them off. And what's with these helmets? These are some damn tight threads."
- Power Rangers



"Anything to get away from those merciless Turtles and their rat. Also the random wetness."
-Rocksteady and Bebop



"If you spent most of your time fighting raging psychotics, you'd go to UNB too."
- Wolverine



"What makes you think I want to go back?"
-Cubbi Gummi