

deal with this supposed problem; some of the support for his point of view came from the 'expert' testimony of an 11 year old boy who, when asked what he thought about comics, replied: "I don't think they're real good. I read this comic book, and after I threw up." (Quite possibly the most epiphanic moment in the movie.)

Confidential goes on to discuss the surging and receding trends in comics over the years, using numerous interviews with different people connected to the industry. Though it may sound boring, I was kept alert and enthused by the interspersal of those interviews with comic-graphics footage and the artists' own readings of sam-

ples of their comic work.

A minor flaw in *Confidential* is the fact that it assumes a basic knowledge of comic books by the viewer, but this shortcoming is more than made up for by the quality of the production values. The sound was clear, transitions were fairly smooth, and the picture quality was a visual treat

(including the interviews, which appeared to be shot on video). Overall, *Confidential* was (and still is) worth the price of admission — if not to learn more about comic history, then to marvel at the 30 year difference in the physical appearance of Bill Gaines.

POP



BANG

BLAM!

POW

the portal: Illyana Rasputin, Magik of The New Mutants.

Illyana spent half of her life growing up in Limbo, a slave to the evil wizard Belasco and his pet demon S'ym. Illyana drove Belasco from the dark dimension but, in doing so, she had to give in to the dark magic within her soul. It is prophesied that this darkness will overcome her, transforming her into the Darkchilde, and bring destruction to Earth. The prophesy is about to be fulfilled.

INFERNO! A horde of demons' rains form a huge rift in the sky above Manhattan and Marvel Comics' superheroes must protect the inhabitants of the city while the X-teams battle the instigators; N'Astirh and S'ym. Can they defeat the demon-lords in time? Or will they be too busy fighting each other? Inferno! All you need is a spark to ignite the fury.

Inferno promises to tie up many loose plotlines in the X-Men series and, if Chris Claremont lives up to his reputation, it could mean that some characters will meet their deaths and leave other characters irrevocably changed. Until all this nastiness is cleared up, I advise you to be careful dialing the phone, don't step into any grinning elevators, and leave the housecleaning for another week. I w iLl ... hE yy wh at'S ha pPeniN g to mY t yPe wriT AAARRRRGGGGHHH!!!!

that they died in battle for Earth so that they may enact vengeance against their many enemies without sacrificing the safety of their friends and family. The X-Men seek to vindicate themselves, Madelyn uses the computers in their underground to access television transmissions from America. She accidentally catches a news program showing her husband, Scott, with an Grey. Madelyn lashes out at the screen rendering herself unconscious by the resulting electric shock. As she sleeps, she dreams. Madelyn's dreams show a mystical dimension called Limbo which is ruled by a powerful demon named S'ym who uses his evil lackeys to invade our dimension. But one of S'ym's cohorts decides to make plans of his own. N'Astirh, a demon of vast magical powers, promises Madelyn a power beyond her own for her use to find her son and gain vengeance on Cyclops and Marvel Girl. But at what price is this power given? Phoenix, Jean, and Madelyn are about to meet, and the fate of the world hangs in the balance.

FIRE. N'Astirh requires ten mutant babies of vast powers to construct a portal between Earth and Limbo. One of these infants is Christopher Summers. As the Terminators battle in vain to prevent N'Astirh from obtaining his prize, the demon locates the power source necessary to open