

Delphic Dreams

Delphic Dreams is back for the second semester to answer all of your nightly mysteries. Send in your puzzling dreams to the X-Press by letter or e-mail, address them to Delphic Dreams please.

My boyfriend and I broke up about 3 months ago, and I have been dreaming about him A LOT ever since. What is unusual (although pleasant) is that most of these dreams are about us getting back together. What do you think this could mean?

Lonely without him

Dear Lonely,

Honey, I don't even need to use my delphic powers for this one! Your dreams are telling you something that you just don't want to admit to yourself. Reconcile with him, and give your relationship another try!

Every night I have dreams of being chased by lampshades. They are pink and have bunnies on them. Oh, and the lamps aren't there, just the shades. Should I have myself committed, or can this have some logical meaning?

Confuzzled

Confuzzled:

It would appear that you are being chased by the mythic bunny of happiness. The usual connotation for the lampshade is one that we may have all experienced at one time or another: that fabled party where you get so drunk that lampshades make great hats. It would appear that you will not open yourself to your inner party animal. Let loose, go wild.



Dear Delphic:

Last night I dreamt that all of my friends (from high school through till university) lined up and then each one told me specifically why they disliked me. Needless to say, this has me very disturbed. Does this really mean that I have no friends?

Friendless

Dear Friendless:

Maybe you're insecure about your faults, or maybe you're insecure about your friends. The actions of people in dreams often represents what you need to recognize in yourself, in your case low self esteem. Appreciate yourself!

Dear Delphic Dreams:

Every month or so, I have a dream about my jaw becoming locked open, this causes me great distress for awhile and when I manage to clamp it shut again it shatters my teeth in the process.

Toothless in Seattle

Dear TL

Dreaming of teeth in various forms generally represent change in your life. There are issues in your life that need to be dealt with. The breaking of teeth is symbolic of transition in your life. (Freud says that this can represent penis anxiety, but we all know what to think of Freud, right?) Then again, maybe you just need to switch toothpaste.

Stella (Dec. 1994)

As darkness falls
and the cold wind blows,
I walk alone, alone
through the dark frozen fields.

Lost, and without a care,
or a reason to live,
I wander aimlessly,
not knowing my path home.

Suddenly the sky clears
and she begins to emerge.

Helping guide me,
she takes away my fears,
lighting my path,
and hiding my tears.

The path is long,
and I am cold.
So I sing a song,
hoping our love will hold.

-- Marco Scappa



This Week: Pointless, silly, stupid animated violence! Cool!

A nuclear war. The survivors of the holocaust fight for survival in a blasted waste where water, food, hope, and just about everything else except motorcycles and street gangs are almost gone. And through this bloody, brutal world wanders Ken, The Fist of the North Star, trying to improve the lot of the world by being even more bloodily, disgustingly, senselessly violent that the gangs he destroys.

That's right folks, this week we cover a true classic of Japanese animation: *The Fist of the North Star*. It's the incoherent tale of a man and his fists, and the killer headaches they give people.

Plotwise, there's not a whole lot you need to know. Nukes fall. World goes to hell. Ken, the Fist of the North Star, (kind of a cross between a king, a messiah, and Bruce Lee), is killed by one of his four 'brothers'. One of his 'brothers', Ral (or Ruh, or Raoul, or whatever), a big, stoic, bulky black guy, goes to the Temple of the North Star and attempts to prove that he is the new Fist. We don't see him again until the last ten minutes or so

Meanwhile, a young boy named Fox and his sister get into trouble with a street gang. They are rescued by a guy in a beard who practices a bizarre form of slum clearance before wiping out the bad guys. Guess what? It's Ken, back from the dead and pissed as hell!

The rest of the movie is pretty straight forward. Ken wanders across someone who claims to be The Fist of the North Star, wipes out about a zillion henchmen, and then bursts his cool leather jacket and blows up the imposter's head. Along the way he finds his old girlfriend, makes a few allies, meets a couple of cool fighters and kills hundreds of people in rather messy fashion. Then, about fifteen minutes from the end, he meets of with Ral (or whatever) and they have a big fight full of laser lines, unexplained earthquakes and speed effects before realizing that they are two sides of the same coin and cannot destroy each other. Ken wanders off, and the movie ends.

Acting (or Lack Thereof): Three words: Bad English Dubbing. B.E.D. has been the downfall of many a Japanimation classic. It changes the story, destroys the mood of the original, and makes you long for subtitles. Or earplugs. This dub was done by Streamline Pictures back in their worst days, and you'll probably recognize a few of the good voices from *Robotech*. The rest sound like they flunked the audition for *Enter The Dragon*. It can get to be painful.

The really scary part is that it was

based, word for word and scene for scene, a Japanese comic of the same name that makes even less sense.

Not-So-Special Effects: Ever had one of those days when you just had to see two hours of laser lines and speed effects? This movie has more of 'em than your average *Star Wars* marathon. Not to say that's a bad thing; the movie is justifiably a classic, and the creative use of these old animation stand-bys is one reason why. My favourite character in the whole movie is a guy I call Ray, after his ability to draw lines of energy with his fingertips as then slice people into chunks with them.

Stuff to Watch For: FIGHT SCENES! Glorious, bloody, ultra-sickening FIGHT SCENES! As Ken meanders along from imposter to imposter, he fights many large, interesting people and kills them all. His North Star technique allows him to punch a guy hundreds of times a second. If that don't put them down he can cause all the nerves in their body to fire simultaneously. This has the effect of boiling their brain and causing them to explode messily, skull first. As Plucky Duck once said "Eewwww". These creative little boom scenes are fun at first, but they get repetitive after while: Ken gets threatened. Ken says, "I am the Fist of the North Star. You're already dead." Ken's leather jacket explodes as he flexes his muscles. Ken hits the bad guy several times, then walks away. Bad guy says "Come back here! I'm not through with you yet!" and then he goes Ker-splork.

My favourite scene is not a fight, however. It's the one where Ken, back from the dead, strolls through a forest of deserted skyscrapers and casually breaks them off at the foundation with his bare hands. One of them falls on his head, and he keeps walking through it like Wile E. Coyote on earthquake pilings. Now that's an attitude!

The Bottom Line: Okay, it's bloody, disgusting, senseless, horrifying, disturbing, redundant, gory, stupid and violent, but it's kind of fun to ridicule. You can have endless fun making up a Rocky Horror-like audience participation script to mock its silliness. Note the little glitches like Ken's regenerating leather jacket.

Also, one has to wonder just how this wasteland can be, when there are armies literally thousands marching across it with no food, water or logic. And all the ten foot muscle bound mutant giants! Is it something in the non-existent water, or are they just using irradiated steroids, or what? <sigh> Just watch it when the kids are asleep, okay?

Available at: *Off The Wall Video*, Richmond Street, across from Confed Centre.