

DEFIANT COMICS: THE STATE OF THE STORY

Defiant's Schism storyline will be a crossover including every title in the Defiant Universe. Defiant's one-shot on the subject, also titled *Schism*, is a 48-page book due out in July.

"The Defiant Universe that survives *Schism* will be the same one that our readers already know," remarked Len Wein, "but it will be far more complex. Many roles will change and new characters will be introduced."

Playing central roles in the event will be War Dancer, Charlemagne, the Org, Chasm, and Michael Alexander. Others like the Dogs of War and the Good Guys will have minor roles. He added, "Some of our major characters will undergo profound changes. But others are just going to muddle along through the crisis. Hey, that's the way it is in real life."

Schism will also introduce new characters. "Defiant has given me a great deal of room to bring some of my long-held creative ideas to fruition," said Alan Weiss. "War Dancer is a concept that has been in my head for a number of years. *Schism* furthers that opportunity for expression. One of the new characters to emerge from this storyline will be another creation of mine — Raven Madd."

Defiant has been planting the seeds for



Schism TM & © 1994, Enlightened Entertainment

this crossover from the very beginning. However, Jim Shooter explained to *Vantage*, "I like to leave loose ends and to search for correlations even as the stories unfold and the concepts evolve. This helps the story concepts to flow naturally into the answers, rather than trying to force those answers early on. This technique helps me to



Schism TM & © 1994, Enlightened Entertainment

avoid the pitfalls of comic cliches."

One of the cliches in storytelling — not just comics — is that the good guys win in the end. "That is not necessarily true in life," said Shooter, "so why should it be so in our stories. At Defiant we strive to project a real-world feel into our stories. Not everyone is equally heroic or brave. That is a fact of any group of people. That truth will be played out in *Schism*. Some of our heroes will rise to the occasion, but others will not. The readers may see some noble attempt end in failure and some vile plans emerge victorious."

Shooter added, "It used to be in comics that when two heroes got together for the first time, they would pound each other before exchanging any meaningful dialogue. It's another of the cliches in the industry. But at Defiant, we ask ourselves, now what would really happen?"

"This is a fun time for me," said Shooter. "This is when all the threads that have been left dangling are tied together in a manner that almost seems predetermined."