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The Story of Rock 'n' Roll Comics (NR)

Wild Eye Releasing

Proudly unauthorized, Rock 'n' Roll Comics were hard to find. They were never carried in grocery stores or comic shops. Usually you'd track them down in flea markets or thrift stores. They were low-budget, black-and-white bios featuring the like of Guns N' Roses, Alice Cooper and Metallica — cult products of a little-known tale of triumph and tragedy. This enthralling documentary tells the story of publisher Todd Loren, a staunch defender of the First Amendment, who was brutally murdered in a crime that remains unsolved. Rock 'n' Roll Comics goes beyond the cult, and into the heretofore unknown heroism of a true American freedom fighter. And it's totally authorized. — Louis Fowler

The Conquest (NR)

Music Box Films

European heads of state often appear more dashing and benign to American audiences than they do to their own constituencies.

The Conquest reveals not only the bluntly ambitious, self-obsessed Nicolas Sarkozy that so often gets lost in translation, but also some insight into how he's viewed by his countrymen, Paris-born TV-movie director Xavier Durringer guides a restrained, impeccably dressed cast through the motions of Sarko's rapid, ruthless rise from minister of the Interior to president of the

French Republic. As in some of HBO's great recent political re-enactments, the portrayals of real-life politicians transcend imitation to become their own interesting characters. — Justin Strout

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Thou Shalt Not Kill ... Except (NR) (Blu-ray)

Synapse Films

Before Sam Raimi became the blockbuster director of such films as Spider-Man, he was just some guy making low-budget garbage with his buddies in Michigan. The most famous, of course, was The Evil Dead, but my favorite has to be Vietnam-era revenge flick Thou Shalt Not Kill ... Except, directed by Josh Becker, co-written by Bruce Campbell, and starring Raimi as a deranged Charles Manson type leading a tribe of murdering hippies on a swath of brutal chaos. When they run across Stryker and his pals, just back from 'Nam, they find out they messed with the wrong Marines. It's Platoon meets Helter Skelter, and even better than The Evil Dead. — Louis Fowler

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