

# Comics

**Batman**  
Created by Bob Kane  
©1978 DC Comics

**Fantastic Four**  
Created by Stan Lee  
©1978 Marvel Comics Group

**Spider-Man**  
Created by Stan Lee  
©1978 Marvel Comics Group

The average comic book reader used to be about seven years old and appreciated no more depth than "whiff, zam and powie!"

The comic fan of today is anywhere between 13 and 95 and demands romance, angst and tragedy from his superheroes. The do-gooders and the villains are strictly 20th century and consequently, their lives read like soap operas.

Here's a wrap-up of the current status of three fantasy heroes that we grew up with.

The original soul-searching superhero, your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man, has woven a tangled web. In his alter-identity of Peter Parker, boy genius and freelance photojournalist, he is rejected by his scarlet haired girlfriend, Mary Jane Watson.

With a diamond ring in his pocket, he returns to his dreary little pad to find none other than his old heart throb, Betty Brant, waiting eagerly for him.

Betty, a delicious dish in jet black knee high boots, literally throws herself at him, an offer that no red blooded Spider-Man can refuse. But there is a stumbling block: Betty Brant is actually Betty Leeds — a married woman! Since this comic needs a seal of approval, Peter discreetly turns her down.

Betty, however, is undaunted by his rejection and continues the proposition on and off for several issues.

Finally, Peter, who has seriously considered and reconsidered her offer many times, lets his morality get the best of him. In a ploy straight out of *Love Boat*, Peter asks Mary Jane out again in hopes that it will give him an excuse not to get-it-on with Betty.

M.J. accepts and Parker says: "Now that I have a date with M.J. maybe Betty will go back to Ned Leeds where she belongs. Well, Parker, it looks like you're finally having some luck."

No chance. Four frames later, Spider-Man is battling it out with

the seemingly omnipresent Spider-Slayer, a robot especially designed to kill the web slinger. The duties of a hero are never done.

This year the Fantastic Four split up for about the fourth time. Reed Richards, the stretching leader of the group, is just getting too old for the crime-fighting business; rigor mortis sets in and he loses his elasticity.

Brittle, broken hearted and sexually frustrated, he mopes around for a while and then finally disbands the group. But never fear because in just three issues the resilient Richards, the muscle bound Thing, the hot headed Human Torch and the inscrutable Invisible Girl are back together fighting their old arch-nemesis Dr. Victor Von Doom.

Masking his foul plan in the guise of good will, the mail-clad megalomaniac shoots Richards into space where, exposed to some cosmic rays that made him elastic over a decade ago, Mr. Fantastic regains his power. Reed re-enters the atmosphere as pliant as ever.

Reed, feeling macho again, dukes it out with the psychopathic

Ph.D. one-on-one and tears off the mask that covers Doom's hideously disfigured face. The doctor sees himself in a mirror and, with his facade gone, flips



out. "Oh God, I'm ugly!" he screams.

Off comes the armor. On goes the straight jacket and Doom is led to a padded cell at Bellvue.

The nocturnal Batman is by far

one of the most complex characters in comicdom today. With a twisted vigilance for self-styled justice, he takes out his revenge for his parents' murder years ago on every petty street punk he meets. Unlike the moral crime fighter of 10 years ago, today's Batman seems to take fiendish delight in knocking heads together.

He may be a bit trigger happy, but he is the greatest detective in the world of fantasy. He is also, in his alias of Bruce Wayne, one of the greatest womanizers, and with his influential young ward, Dick (Robin) Grayson, away at Hudson University, he has a house guest — female, of course.

After a wild romance with Silver St. Cloud, a foxy society girl, who is forced to dump him when she finds out his Bat-alias, Bruce Wayne swears he hates Batman and never wants to see him again. This is quite a trick since they are the same person but who expects logic from a latent schizophrenic.

It is not easy, however, to teach an old bat new habits and in the next issue he dons his cape and cowl again, ready to strike fear into the black hearts of villains. Once a vigilante always a vigilante. **By Keith Allen**

# out and about

Compiled by Michael Brand  
Campus Information: 686-INFO

Jan. 18 to  
Jan. 24

## Thursday

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Dinner — Susan Arrow (guitar).

Eugene Hotel: UPEPO, \$1.50.

Harvester: Mithrandir.

The Place: Any Old Time String Band, no cover.

Odetta, Beall Hall, 8 p.m. \$2 at EMU and at door. Odetta has performed all over the world and made numerous recordings. Her repertoire includes blues, spirituals, jazz, and all kinds of folk songs.

Mid-winter folk music festival, Ida Patterson Community School, 7 p.m., \$1. Featuring Tommy Smith, Linda Danielson, Chico Schwall, John Addiego and Mike Ford.

### Theater

"him," Pocket Playhouse in Villard Hall, 8 p.m. Plays Jan. 18-20 and 25-27. \$1.50 students and senior citizens, \$3 general public. Tickets may be reserved by calling UT box office 686-4191. "him", with its huge cast of 23 actors and unique theatrical style which blends vaudevillian and surrealistic techniques, describes the process of artistic creation. A rare production of e.e. cummings' only play.

"The Importance of Being Earnest," ORT Atrium Mall, 8 p.m. Jan. 17-21, 24-28, 31-Feb. 4, with Sunday matinees each week at 2 p.m. Call ORT box office 485-1946 for ticket info. Oscar Wilde's turn-of-the-century comedy of mistaken identities.

## Friday

### Film

"The Goodbye Girl," 150 Geology, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$1. Neil Simon's script with Oscar winner Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason.

"Network," 180 PLC, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$1.25. All-star cast depicting future of boob-tube.

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Breakfast — Sigfig; dinner — Terese Weber (harp).

Odetta, Beall Hall, 12:30 p.m. Workshops by American folk singer. Admission to workshop is \$1.

La Julienne, Beall Hall, 8 p.m. Early music ensemble from Ashland. Tickets are available at the door for \$2.50 for students and

senior citizens and \$3.50 for the general public. La Julienne will conduct a workshop on Saturday. For information call 686-3575.

Eugene Hotel: UPEPO, \$2.

Harvester: Mithrandir.

The Place: Any Old Time String Band, no cover.

Olde Dexter Theatre: Fox Hollow String Band, barn dance with caller, 8 p.m., \$1. Follow Hwy. 58 to the heart of Dexter. For information call 937-3473.

### Theater

"him," (See Thursday's listing).

"The Importance of Being Earnest," (See Thursday's listing).

### Miscellaneous

Curry/Oslund Dance Co., Springfield High School, 875 N. 7th, 8:15 p.m., \$3 adults, \$1.50 kids and senior citizens.

Jack Welpott, photographer, guests on "Art Access," broadcast on KWAX-FM, 9:45 a.m. Welpott's photos are currently displayed at the Photography at Oregon Gallery in the University art museum.

## Saturday

### Film

"The Rescuers," (Kids' matinee), 180 PLC, 4 & 7 p.m., \$1/50¢.

"Annie Hall," 150 Geology, 7 & 9 p.m., \$1.25. Another Woody-Keaton biggy.

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Breakfast — Sattva (Mideastern); dinner — Chico (guitar).

Eugene Hotel: UPEPO, \$2.

Harvester: Mithrandir.

The Place: Any Old Time String Band, no cover.

Walker Cunningham, guest organ recital, Central Lutheran Church, 8 p.m. \$2 public; \$1 students and seniors. His program will include works by Sweelinck, Scheidemann, C.P.E. Bach, and J.S. Bach.

Arcturus, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th, 8 p.m. Tickets \$2.50 at door. A jazz quintet whose members have played in a number of respected bands.

### Theater

"him," (See Thursday's listing).

"The Importance of Being Earnest," (See Thursday's listing).

## Sunday

### Film

"Annie Hall," 150 Geology, 7 & 9 p.m., \$1.25.

"Lawrence of Arabia," 180 PLC, 8 p.m. only, \$1. Peter O'Toole's best remembered role.

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Breakfast — The Saraswati Trio; dinner — Andy Guzie (classical guitar).

Eugene Hotel: Pete Karnes Blues Band, \$1.

La Chambre Woodwind Quintet, Maude I. Kerns Art Center, 4 p.m., free. La Chambre, which is formerly the Symphony Woodwind Quintet, is composed of Jeanne Wolfgang, Kay Holbo, Nancy Belpat, Larry Brezicka, and Cindy McManus.

### Theater

"The Importance of Being Earnest,"

### Miscellaneous

"Dream and Art Workgroup," creative inner work; exploring inner symbols expressed in dreams and art. Weekly 7-10 p.m., \$35 month. Call 342-7001 for information. Workshops led by Gene Marks and Deborah Sadowsky.

## Monday

### Music

Eugene Hotel: Pete Karnes Blues Band, \$1.

The Place: Billy C. Farlow, no cover.

Eugene Symphony Orchestra Preview Concert, Beall Hall, 7:30 p.m. Program includes works by Copland, Hovhanness, Griffes, Ives, and Barber.

Live from the Center, WOW Hall, 10 p.m. Dave and Grady along with friends and folk-singer Paul Halpern. Tickets \$1 at door.

Ragtime Millionaires, Oregon Repertory Theatre — Atrium, 8 p.m., \$2 general admission, \$1.50 Eugene Folklore Society members. The Millionaires are a jug band playing blues and swing.

## Tuesday

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Breakfast — Emmy Fox (Banjo); lunch — Carole Platas (guitar); dinner — Danishman (guitar).

Eugene Hotel: Marty Erlich (Reeds), \$1.

The Place: Jules & The Polar Bears, \$1. New Punk group. Could The Place be turning into Eugene's own CBGB's?

Eugene Symphony Orchestra, Beall Hall, 8 p.m. Tickets \$3, \$4, and \$6 from School of Music. Program Tuesday and Wednesday nights: Copland — "Danson Cubano," Hovhanness — "Mysterious Mountain," Griffes — "Pleasure Dome of Kubla Khan," Ives — "Central Park in the Dark," and Barber — "Symphony #1.

## Wednesday

### Music

Homefried Truckstop: Breakfast — Josh Schurman (guitar); lunch: Kat; dinner — Linda Danielson (fiddle).

Eugene Hotel: Marty Erlich (reeds), \$1.

The Place: Wheatfield, no cover. Eugene Symphony Orchestra, (See Tuesday's listing).

### Theater

"The Importance of Being Earnest," (See Thursday's listing).

## Continuing

Maude I. Kerns Art Center: Michael Smith (landscapes in ceramic and clay) during month of January.

High Street Coffee Gallery, 1243 High St.: Tom Blodgett (drawings from New York show) Jan. 7-27.

Northside Gallery: "Eklektik Elektrik," some tracings and erasings from an inquiry into electronic image generation by David Foster. Jan. 15-25.

UO Museum of Art: Jack Welpott (photography) Jan. 7-Feb. 11. Welpott deals with the urban landscape and with the "psychological landscape," attempting through his photographs to define changing reality in terms of human psychology. George Cruikshank (amusing and entertaining illustrations) and Ellie Fidler (wool tapestries).