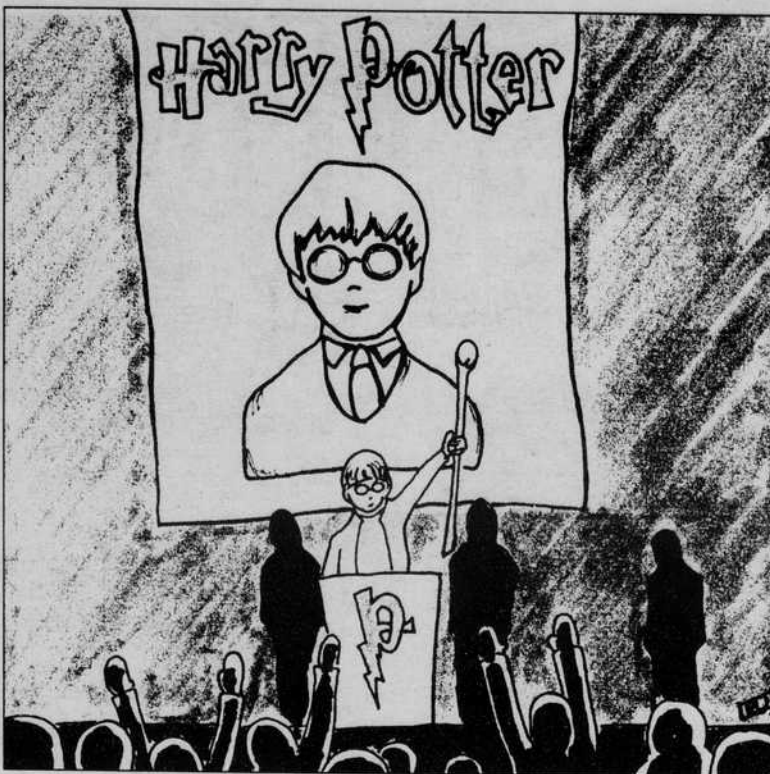




Peter Utsey Emerald

Obsession becomes a little bit Harry

Harry Potter is evil. That damned British kid has stolen my eternal soul with his humorous and adventurous antics. I swear, there is magic in those books. J.K. Rowling has bewitched the better part of the public, myself included, into loving those books. You can't help it.

After much hard time spent resisting the Potter Phenomenon, I was forced into reading the first book for my Teen and Children's Literature class spring term 2001 (it's only offered in the spring). I read the whole book in one sitting. I tell you, it's a drug. Once you start, you yearn for more. More! I couldn't wait to spend hours discussing the finer points of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" with my classmates — many of whom were already obsessed. I recently confronted the English teacher of that class, Betsy Wheeler, to see if she has guilt for giving me this affliction. She only quoted a graffiti artist, saying, "If art is a crime, may God forgive me."

As soon as the summer rolled around, I read the other three books as fast as I could get my

tainted hands on them. The stagnant times spent waiting for books to return to the library were horrible. I felt like Ewan McGregor trying to kick heroin in "Trainspotting." But I was committed to not buying the books myself. It was the only thing keeping me from completely losing control.



Mason West

The big issues

But now, I'm done with the lot of them, and I'm foaming at the mouth at the prospect of the first movie coming out Nov. 16. Watching the preview before movies, I delight in knowing exactly where the fragmented bits of film fit in the story. I can't wait to see Harry take flight on his Nimbus 2000* in the Quidditch* match versus Slytherin*. And John Cleese is playing Nearly

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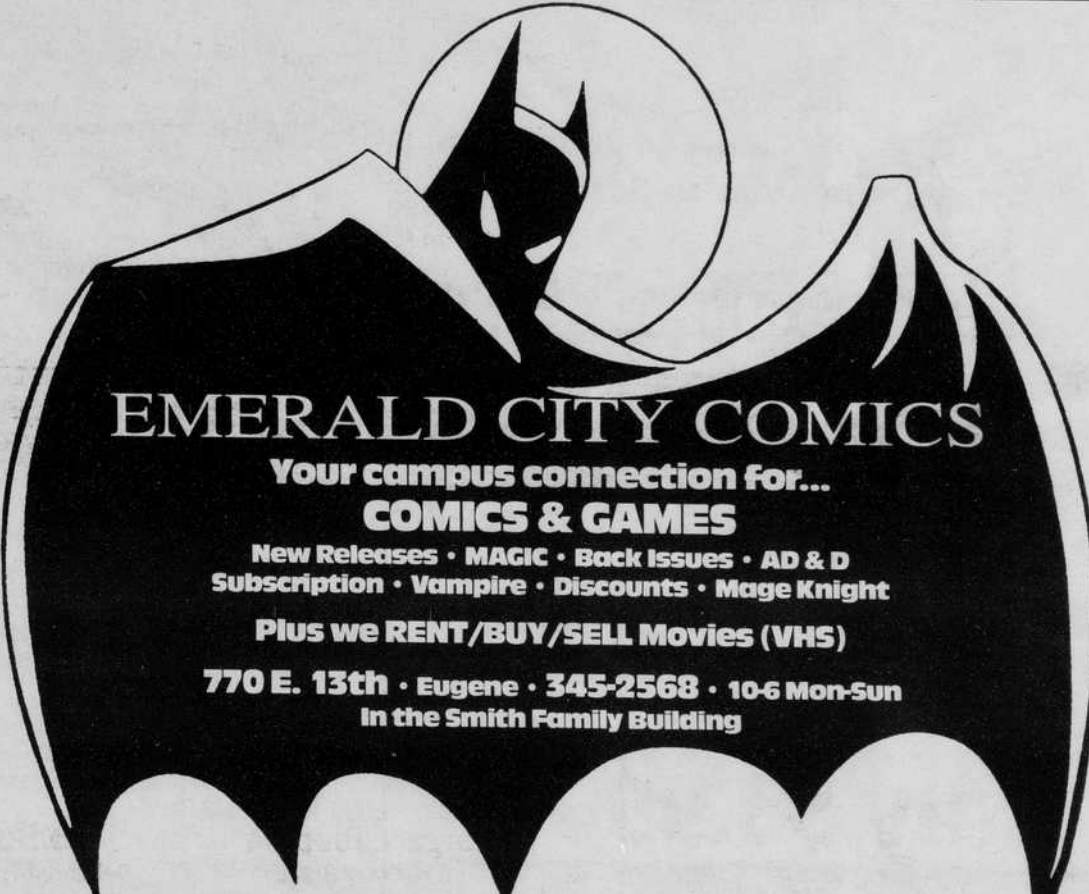
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