

Club keeps on cutting edge of trends in modern comics

By MYRNA MILLER
Assistant Features Editor

Batman and Superman will never be the same. Modern comic books are no longer child's play. Members of the Carolina Comic Book Club read comics for fun, but they also analyze the creators, content and style of modern day comics, said club coordinator Kevin Ming Yee, a junior medical technology major from Hickory.

"The club is a place for anyone who likes to talk comics," he said. "There are no fees, requirements or blood tests." Students especially interested in the inner workings of comic books will learn a lot at the meetings, he said. Even though many members collect comic books, a collection is not required.

Tom Heintje created the club in March 1983, with 12 people attending the first meeting. Now with about 20 active members the club is hoping to attract more interested students.

Members get together on the third Thursday of every month and discuss subjects such as the personalities of the creators and how they handle the characters, Ming Yee said.

Comic book characters just aren't the same nice guys they used to be 20 or 30 years ago. Comic books have undergone many radical

Campus Group Focus

changes since their creation. Vice Coordinator James O'Brian, a sophomore journalism major from Raleigh, said many modern comics are written specifically for adults. "Many are very internally psychological," O'Brian said. "You probably wouldn't want your kids to read some of these books."

Two examples of modern comic books are "Watchmen," written by Alan Moore and "Batman: The Dark Knight Returns," created by Frank Miller.

"Watchmen" gives a realistic view of what our world would be like if super-heroes really could exist," O'Brian said. "That might sound silly, but the comic takes the topic seriously." The comic involves political, psychological and philosophical themes.

In one excerpt from "The Dark Knight Returns," readers find a 50-year-old Batman grinning at a battered criminal. Batman tells the bad guy, "You've got rights. Lots of rights. Sometimes I count them just to make myself feel crazy. But right now you've got a piece of glass shoved into a major artery in your arm. Right now you're bleeding to death. Right now I'm the only one in the world who can get you to a

hospital in time."

These lines sound much more drastic than comic books of the past. "Actually, changes have occurred over the last 20 years, especially the last five," O'Brian said.

The history of comic books evolved from newspaper comic strips. The first publication of a true comic book was "Famous Funnies" in 1934. Although this publication was extremely popular, comic books weren't really differentiated from comic strips for several years.

In 1938 Action Comics presented characters such as Superman, and comic books became famous. At that time most comic books were geared toward children, but many others still enjoyed them, and sales soared. Comic book sales are much more limited today than they were early in their creation.

Today, many comics cost more than \$3.50 each and are printed on heavier paper with glossy, sturdy covers. "The price of some comics knocks kids out of the picture," O'Brian said.

Students who are kids at heart and miss their old comic book favorites should not despair. Ordinary comic books that cost \$1 still exist, he said.

The Comic Book Club will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Union.



Human Torch, Hulk, Nightcrawler, Captain America © 1989 Marvel Comics. Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman © 1989 DC Comics

Casting process adds efficiency to downtown jewelry business

By LEIGH PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Blue and yellow diamonds . . . orange opals . . . purple sapphires . . . This collection sounds like a box of Lucky Charms cereal, not the stones found in Manire's Goldsmith on Franklin Street.

Philip and Erica Manire, the husband-and-wife team which owns the shop beside the Rathskeller, are both jewelers and gemologists. The store is filled with extraordinary gemstones and hundreds of miniature models used to duplicate jewelry.

The Manires use a process called "lost-wax casting" to reproduce a popular style quickly, to design an original piece of jewelry, or to take parts of an old ring and add unusual characteristics.

The process proves to be a time-saving mechanism for the Manires. The Egyptians used the same process," Philip Manire said. "The technique is the same, but the tools are better now. How long it takes you to do something reflects in the price."

The casting process begins with the piece being placed into a rubber mold. After the rubber mold is heated to 375 degrees in an oven,

the sides are slit open with a scalpel and the piece of jewelry is carved out. A rubber mold with the indentation of the piece is left.

Hot wax is then injected into the mold, filling the cavity that the old piece left, giving the jewelers a model to reproduce new pieces. The wax model is attached to a base and covered with a flask. Later the flask is poured with a type of plaster and left to harden. The entire flask is heated in a kiln so the wax will evaporate.

The jewelers then melt gold and inject it into the flask, creating a new piece of jewelry. The last steps include filing and finishing the new piece.

The main benefit of the process is the ability to reproduce popular pieces like plain wedding bands at a fast speed. "We keep the wax molds that we might want to do over and over again, or the styles we know we'll shape a lot," Philip Manire said.

Because Manire's Goldsmith buys models from four different wax houses as well as making their own, the store has access to thousands of styles.

Philip Manire is a native of Chapel Hill and a graduate of UNC. After graduation he apprenticed in

Charleston under a jeweler who taught him the process. The same jeweler pointed him to the Gemological Institute of America in Santa Monica, where he met his wife, Erica.

The Manires graduated from the school in a year, were married and began working in Charleston. When an opening became available on Franklin Street in October 1985, the Manires opened the new store. Business has been growing ever since, and they are opening a new store Feb. 1 beside Hector's.

The couple said their gemology degrees enable them to test and distinguish between different types of gemstones. "We got the degrees so we would know what we were dealing with, so we could be absolutely sure of what we're doing," Philip Manire said.

The training is also helpful in working on different types of stones, knowing what properties and limitations certain gems have. "We like to introduce new stones to people, too," Erica Manire said.

They believe the winning formula to success is friendly, knowledgeable, courteous service.

"We're here to help people explain grade and differences in stone, spend time in the microscope, and show them why the price is what it is," Philip Manire said.

To avoid a high markup, the store sells gold by weight according to the gold market. "We would prefer someone to buy five pieces of jewelry, and us make a little on each piece than to make one big kill," Erica Manire said.

If a customer has an idea in mind, the jewelers can work with the person to create a new piece. "We want to make what you want," Philip Manire said. "We're here to help. "We don't want people to be intimidated to come in and look," he said. "Jewelry is fun."

Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

Wednesday

Noon Institute of Latin American Studies will continue its Brown Bag Lunch Series with a presentation by Steve Whitesell and Kevin Furmen on the St. Thomas More program for UNC students in 210 Union.

2 p.m. Study Abroad in Israel will have an informational meeting for Fall '89 enrollment in 12 Caldwell.

3 p.m. Study Abroad in Australia will have an informational meeting for Fall '89 enrollment in 12 Caldwell.

University Career Planning and Placement Services will have an interviewing skills workshop for senior business majors in 209 Hanes. UCPPS will have a workshop in 108 Hanes for sophomores or juniors interested in academic credit internships.

Carolina Athletic

Association - Publicity Committee will meet in the South Gallery Meeting Room, Union to begin production of the "Carolina Sports Outlook" booklet. All are welcome.

3:30 p.m. UCPPS will have a career planning workshop for freshmen and juniors in 210 Hanes.

Graduate English Club, as part of its '88-'89 Critical Speakers Series, will sponsor "Women and Boredom: Two Emmas," a talk by Patricia Meyer Spacks, a professor at Yale and author, will speak in the Assembly Room of Wilson Library. A reception will follow in 224 Greenlaw.

7 p.m. Alpha Phi Omega, national co-ed service fraternity, will have an informal rush in 205-206 Union. Formal rush will be Jan. 31 in 224 Union at 7 p.m.

Carolina Critic will have an organizational meeting for the spring semester in the Di Chamber, New West. All students interested in writing, advertising, or production are encouraged to attend.

Sangam will hold a general body meeting in 101 Bingham to discuss plans for the N.C. State and Duke mixer and Sangam Night.

St. Anthony Hall will have an open poetry reading, with readers and listeners welcome, at 207 Pittsboro Street, across from the Carolina Inn.

Items of Interest

Union Bowling League will be holding sign-ups until Feb. 5 in 208 Union. Sign up for individual or team competition.

UNC IM-Rec Sports requires entries for intramural indoor soccer by tomorrow, Jan. 26. For more information, call the IM-Rec Sports Office.

Senior Class will be having SR 200 Race all day at Ham's and Franklin Street Bar and Grill. More information on I.D. cards to play in Suite B, Union.

Yackety Yack is making appointments for yearbook portraits in 213 Union. Contact the Yack to make an appointment.

Delta Phi Epsilon will be having informal rush in the Pit.

Order of the Golden Fleece, Order of the Old Wall and Order of the Gray Valkyries, campus honorary societies, have nomination forms available at the Union Desk.

Government internship applications for the Institute of Government and N.C. State Government are due Friday, Jan. 27. Applications and information are available at UCPPS, 211 Hanes.

UNC Glee Clubs and The Carolina Choir will be having auditions for membership soon. Sign up at 106 Person.

North Carolina Memorial Hospital Volunteer Services will be holding volunteer registration weekdays until Jan. 27 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 966-4793 for more information.

Library

from page 1

got to the library, he behaved nonchalantly. She said that when she told the officer the suspect might still be in the vicinity, he said, "Well, maybe we'll see him."

"I don't think they take this seriously," she said. "This is a real serious security issue for women on this campus."

Sgt. Ned Comar, University police public safety officer, said this incident is not like the other reports of sexual assault in the library. "Usually, they masturbate into the woman's hair," he said.

The suspects from all four incidents could be the same person, although that is just a possibility, Comar said.

"You can't always catch them," he said. "Sometimes they can be very elusive."

Comar said the tardiness of the officer should be more closely examined. "This shouldn't be going on," he said.

Composites of the suspects from the other incidents have been drawn, Dunn said. A composite of the suspect from this past incident can only be done if the victim consents, he said.

Kathleen Benzaquin, associate dean of students, said she has never heard complaints like this about the University police before, but that it should be looked into.

CAA

from page 1

competitions that Carolina Fever could target, she said.

"The idea is not just to get Carolina Fever people there, but for them to bring other people too," she said.

Frye also proposes increasing student awareness of the proposed Student Recreation Center and distributing monthly schedules of non-revenue sports teams to dormitory rooms, dining halls and libraries.

Frye has been a member of Caro-

lina Fever, a division of the CAA, since its beginning last year. As fundraising director of Carolina Fever this year, she worked closely with CAA officers and helped raise \$8,000 from T-shirt sales. Frye is also a member of the honor court and works for the Carolina Contact program.

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