

Lampoon's strip One Year Affair painful, romantic

By Michael Zangari
One Year Affair/ Byron Preiss and Ralph Reese/Workman Publishing Company, New York/\$2.50

National Lampoon magazine has published its fair share of garbage over the last few years. From the forget-it-as-soon-as-possible audacity of the very serious looking Ted Kennedy ad for air-tight Volkswagens, to the recent squabbles with Liza Minnelli over the constant usage of Judy Garland jokes, *Lampoon* has managed to offend just about everyone.

That aside, *Lampoon* also has consistently provided one of the best outlets for comic strip art currently available.

It has always used the best artists and taken chances on new talent.

Neal Adams, late of DC and Marvel comics is a regular, Gahan Wilson's bizarre art is often featured, the late Vaughn Bode provided the world with its first cartoon

feedback

messiah, *Cheech Wizard*. All in all, there were times when the only readable feature of the magazine was its comic section.

One of the best strips, *One Year Affair*, by Byron Preiss and Ralph Reese has been released in paperback form.

With the charm and subtlety of *Doonesbury*, Reese and Preiss dissect the one year relationship of Steve and Jill, an unlikely pair of people trying to understand themselves and each other in the course of their affair.

Courtship

From the traumatic first meeting on through the various stages of courtship, falling in love, jealousy, pregnancy, breaking up, and falling back together again, Preiss and Reese manage to be tremendously insightful and intelligent through-out.

Because the strip was continuous, the story has a definite beginning and a very definite end. It is as novelistic as is possible for a cartoon strip.

For example, Jill goes home to tell her mom about her new love thirteen weeks into the relationship:
Mom: So... you've slept with this fellow.
Jill: Yes Mom.

Mom: My daughter the tramp! Why don't you go out on a street corner and make yourself available.
(Jill leaves rather than yell at her mom, and goes to the corner in front of her house and stops the first man to walk by, all in plain sight of her mom.)
Mom (To herself): Maybe he's a doctor...

This emphasis on dialogue combined with the incredible realism of Reese's art makes reading the book very much like watching a movie. Much of the humor is silent, using facial expression rather than dialogue to punch the point home.

Sensitivity

This dialogue with Jill's mom also points to the sensitivity of the strip. The naivety of the mother trying to cope clashes with the characteristic independence of Jill.

Steve is more self examining and quiet. He tends to be the one to wonder things like "what does she see in me" and "what is she thinking." Jill is the smart alec, doing her best to keep things light.

However, it also shows that things are often inverted. Another example is when Jill's pregnancy has been terminated, Jill and Steve are walking down a street, Jill, lost in thought about why they are still together and fighting to keep from crying, Steve, totally unaware and unresponsive, keeps talking about the lack of prunes at home.

The obvious intellect of the two artists makes reading the strip a mixture of pleasure and pain.

The fact that they have avoided many sexist traps throughout speaks well for the time and trouble that must have gone into its creation.

One Year Affair is a microcosm of the tangled affairs and group loneliness of the '70s. From its unlikely beginning to its haunting ending, the strip runs a gauntlet of emotions and manages to touch on almost every vital romantic nerve, without ever losing its sense of humor.

For those interested, or tangled in the throes of the dating game or long relationship, or those who are just getting over one, this book is a natural.

For the cynic, there is cynicism, for the romantic, romance, and for those of us who lie somewhere in between, and just like to watch, *One Year Affair* is an enjoyable and often cleansing outlet.

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arts and entertainment

Comet threatens Earth in show

"The time, the not too distant future. The events described in this production are fictitious. The comet we discuss is not real, but the facts about comets are true to science. Including our prediction of what might happen. Remember this is only a story."

So starts the Ralph Mueller Planetarium show, *Borders of Infinity*, which runs until April 1. Showings are Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:45 p.m.

It's not exactly H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, but the show borders on the same plot.

Borders of Infinity tries to make the audience believe the events are happening outside a radio station, according to Jack Dunn, planetarium coordinator.

As the plot thickens the audience is made aware by radio comet reports that comet Rothum (a fictitious comet) may hit Earth.

The show tries to sound real by using news breaks on the air, sequels of rock music and phoned-in calls to the disk jockey.

The final outcome of the comet's fate is left up to the audience, Dunn said.

He added he did it that way in hopes of making a sequel to the show.

Borders of Infinity cost about \$50 to produce, not including production time, Dunn said. It took about 20 hours to record, mix and edit the sound track.

This science fiction story is one of the planetarium's first attempts to do a show other than a documentary, Dunn said.

Dunn said most of the shows are conceived and produced by the planetarium, and it's common for planetariums to trade shows.

Borders of Infinity was originally a traded show and Dunn said he localized and retitled it.

Audiences seem to enjoy a show more if the events happen around Lincoln, he added.

In the original script, 100 slides were to be used, but Dunn said the slides of original art work would cost too much to use, so they usually use slides from their files.

"We'll trade *Borders of Infinity*, but other planetariums will probably have to remake the sound track because of the localizing aspect," he added.

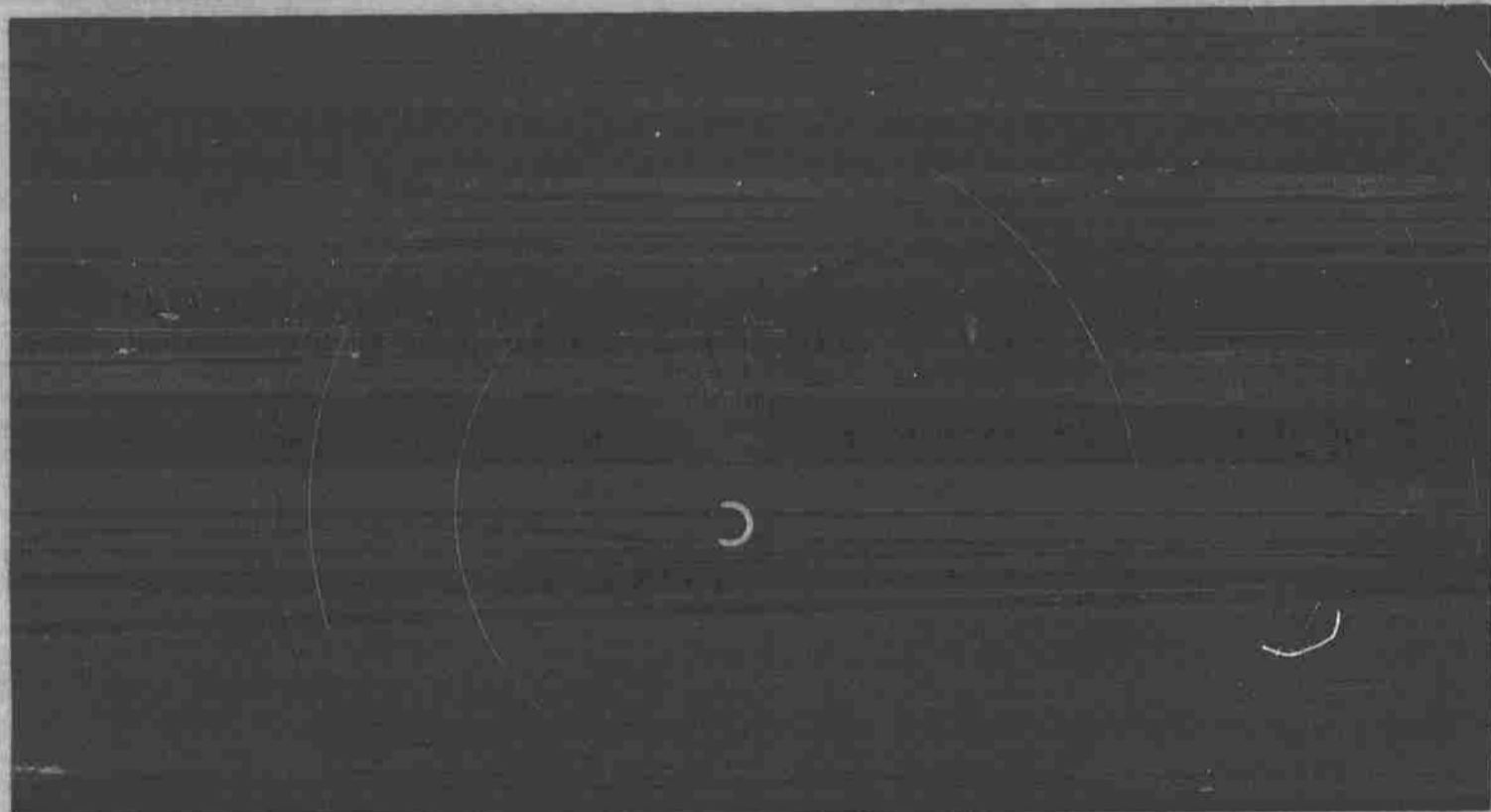


Photo courtesy of Ralph Mueller Planetarium.

Stars leave tracks across the sky at the Ralph Mueller Planetarium.

Haggh endorsed for job

UNL music Prof. Raymond Haggh will be recommended by the School of Music's faculty and endorsed by the College of Arts and Sciences to be director of the School of Music at UNL.

The appointment, subject to approval of the NU Board of Regents Saturday, would become effective July 1

The current director, John Moran, wants to return to teaching at UNL when his five-year term ends this summer.

Haggh became a UNL assistant professor of music in 1960 after serving at Memphis State University for 10 years. During his work at UNL, he was named associate professor in 1961 and full professor in 1964.

Haggh holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. from Indiana University. His research work includes a fellowship from the Fund for the Advancement of Education at Harvard and a Woods Foundation Fellowship from UNL.

Some of Haggh's past positions include chairman of the search committee for the UNL School of Music and chairman of the Nebraska Music Educators Association.

Haggh currently is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda music honorary, Phi Mu Alpha professional music fraternity, the American Musicological Society and the Music Teachers National Association.

Movies

- Plaza 1: *Freaky Friday* (G)-5, 7:10 and 9:20 p.m.
- Plaza 2: *Freaky Friday* (G)-6 and 8:15 p.m.
- Plaza 3: *Cousin Cousine*, (R)-5:45, 7:40 and 9:35 p.m.
- Plaza 4: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (R)-5:30 and 9 p.m.
- Cooper/Lincoln: *Lady Sings the Blues* (R)-6:05 and 9 p.m.
- Douglas 1: *Rocky* (PG)-5:15, 7:20 and 9:25 p.m.
- Douglas 2: *King Kong* (PG)-5:05, 7:25 and 9:45 p.m.
- Douglas 3: *Network* (R)-5:30, 7:40 and 9:50
- Sheldon Film Theatre: *The Challenge-A Tribute to Modern Art*-3, 7 and 9 p.m.
- Cinema 1: *Fun with Dick and Jane* (PG)-7:30 and 9:25
- Cinema 2: *A Star Is Born* (R)-7:05 and 9:40
- State: *Led Zeppelin* (PG)-7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Stuart: *Silver Streak* (PG)-1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.
- Joyo: *Ma & Pa Kettle At the Fair* (G)-7:20
- Embassy: *Angel on Fire* (X)-continuous from 11 a.m.
- Cinema X: *Winter of 1849* (X)-open 24hours.

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