



## Bloom County shoots from the hip

By SHARON MALLOY

With its captivating blend of soaring fantasy and down-to-earth satire, Berke Breathed's *Bloom County* is unique among strips on today's comic pages.

It features a larger than usual cast of characters, from the archetypal politician, Senator Bedfellow, Milo Bloom, a cub reporter from the Bloom Beacon, to the neurotic Binkley, who has a closet full of anxieties and a talking pet penguin.

*Loose Tails*, the first collection of the 27-year-old Breathed's comic strip, has been on the New York Times bestseller list for eight months. Since its syndication in 1981 by the Washington Post Writers' Group, the strip has spread to over 500 newspapers.

*Bloom County's* humour is best described as conversational humour. The strip has a chuckly in every panel and is similar in style to L'le Abner, Pogo and Doonesbury. In fact, many fans believed Berke Breathed was a pseudonym for G.B. Trudeau.

The targets of Breathed's drawing pen range from the moral majority and the creationists to the media mania surrounding the royal couple.

In *Bloom County*, anything can happen. A group of animals stage a protest in a fast-food store; Santa Claus' elves go on strike, the Rolling Stones play at Bloom County Elementary School dance; Opus the talking penguin runs for U.S. vice-president.

The man behind all this lunacy, Iowa City resident Berke Breathed, started cartooning while studying photojournalism at the University of Texas. He was a reporter and photographer for the student newspaper, *The Daily Texan*, but it was his comic strip *Academia Waltz* that made him notorious. The Washington Post Writers' Group, whose editors had heard of the strip, contacted Breathed to suggest

he start a national comic strip. This is in marked contrast to most aspiring cartoonists who face rejection slip after rejection slip in a profession where few succeed.

Ironically, Breathed is a newcomer to the cartooning world and does not intend to do the strip for very long. Although he admits he is not very familiar with the history of comics, he names Trudeau, Walt Kelly and Walt Disney as his major influences.

The success of *Loose Tails* has caught everyone by surprise, not

the least of which is Breathed himself. The first printing was small and sold out a week before the official publishing date, with many stores selling out on the first day.

It is hoped this intelligent, socially aware and very funny comic strip will be around for a long time, and this book will be followed by more of the same. After all, there is not justice when comic fans can choose from seven Garfield books but have to settle for only one hard to get collection of *Bloom County*.

Hungry for Good Food?  
Thirsty for a Great Time?

Then You Need

**SAM'S**

BEVERAGE ROOM  
1560 HOLLIS ST.

Your Downtown  
Meeting Place  
with  
Dining Room Food  
at  
Tavern Prices

Downtown **BUT**  
Loads of Parking Nightly.

OVER 19 ADMITTED. NSLLB I.D. REQUIRED

TRAVEL CUTS  
Going Your Way!  
The travel company of CFS

**AUSTRALIA**  
SPECIAL STUDENT FARES  
Depart from: MONTREAL, TORONTO  
EDMONTON, VANCOUVER  
Also Available....  
SPECIAL ADVENTURE TOURS  
Contact your local TRAVEL CUTS office for details

TRAVEL CUTS HALIFAX  
Student Union Building

Dalhousie University  
902 424-2054

## Dalhousie Theatre Productions

1984/85 Subscription Series

Four Great Shows:

See How They Run

Oct. 17-21

The Crucible

Nov. 28-Dec. 2

A Flea in Her Ear

Feb. 13-17

An Elizabethan Romp

March 27-31

Subscribe now!

424-2233 (Special Student Prices)



Join Us!

On Stage  
at  
the Cohn

### Seldom Scene

PROBABLY THE MOST POPULAR  
CONTEMPORARY BLUEGRASS BAND  
IN NORTH AMERICA TODAY.

Friday, October 12, 8 p.m.

REG.: \$12/\$11 STU./SR. CIT. \$11/\$10

### Ramsey Lewis Trio

"WADE IN THE WATER," "HANG ON SLOOPY," "THE IN CROWD" ARE JUST A FEW HITS RECORDED BY THIS VERSATILE AND TALENTED TRIO.

Friday, October 19, 8 p.m.

REG.: \$18 and \$16

### LILLE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA

BRINGING THE RICH MUSICAL TRADITIONS OF FRANCE TO THE COHN AUDITORIUM

Saturday, October 27, 8 p.m.

REG. \$19/\$18 STU./SR. CIT. \$18/\$17

Box Office-424-2298

Visa Purchases-424-3820

Visa phone orders — 50¢ service charge per ticket to maximum \$5