

UNDERSTANDING COMICS IN NORTH CAROLINA

by Zack Smith • Art by J.P. Trostle

ZACK SMITH
(Thinner than in Real life)

In the last several years, **comic books** and **graphic novels** have broken out across multiple mediums.

Time magazine recently picked Alison Bechdel's graphic memoir "Fun Home" as its "Best Book of the Year."

Japanese comics or "Manga," such as Viz's "Naruto," are huge with teenagers...

...and alternative books such as "Ghost World" and "American Splendor" have become acclaimed films.

In N.C., there are a number of popular and up-and-coming comic creators.

Many N.C. creators have worked for **Marvel** and **DC**...

...including Burlington native **Jeff Parker** and Durham's **Mike Wieringo**, who will collaborate on a "Spider-Man/Fantastic Four" miniseries in April.

Lulu.com and NC State's College of Design recently hosted a packed lecture where creator **Scott McCloud** discussed the visual style of comics and the popularity of webcomics.

COMICS ARE A LANGUAGE!

The **North Carolina WebComics Coffee Clatch** is a group of local creators who meet monthly to discuss the medium.

Two members, **Ursula Vernon** and **Larry Holderfield**, were just nominated for Web Cartoonist's Choice Awards.

URSULA VERNON'S "DIGGER"

There's **TONS** I haven't covered, but I only had one page...

...so check out these sites for more info.

Coffee Clatch
www.ncwccc.com
www.thewebcomicslist.com

Larry Holderfield
mckenzee.comicgenesis.com

Ursula Vernon - www.graphicsmash.com/comics/digger.php

Alison Bechdel - www.dykestopwatchoutfor.com

www.scottmccloud.com