

New paper brings comics, humor with premier issue

By LAURA TAYLOR
Staff Writer

A new area publication called The Triangle Comic Review introduced a combination of editorial cartoons and humorous articles to Chapel Hill-Carrboro residents last week.

"What we're mainly doing is showing the work of America's best cartoonists," Publisher Diana Hersh said. "We want to bring humor in a sophisticated manner to people in the Triangle area."

Hersh said the newspaper was a forum for local talent. There are four contributors from the Triangle and 13 artists and writers from around the country who submit material.

"I want people to pick up the paper and learn something," Hersh said.

The newspaper is presented on a fun and uplifting level for all types of readers, she said.

"We want people to think of it as a gift that comes out every other week," Hersh said.

Business support is essential to The Triangle Comic Review, Hersh said. There were 25 local businesses that

advertised in the premier issue, and Hersh said she hopes further interest will increase.

"We're supported strictly by businesses who advertise with us," Hersh said. "We are very grateful to all the businesses that supported us with the first issue."

It is a totally free publication for the readers, she said.

Positive responses have come from readers of different ages, Hersh said. Originally, it was thought that key interest would come from university students.

"Our target audience has really surprised us," Hersh said.

Hersh settled in Chapel Hill to begin The Triangle Comic Review after relocating from Santa Cruz, Calif. She said she developed the idea for the newspaper after working directly with the Santa Cruz Comic News.

California readers and advertisers responded favorably to the newspaper, she said. "It is a niche that is needed here."

"I love Chapel Hill. The people are

kind and well-educated. This is an area I responded to."

The newspaper is starting small but hopes to expand in the future, Hersh said.

"We're going to be exploring different possibilities," she said. "We want to hear what the community wants."

"For the first issue, it was (about) letting people know we were here."

Many stores carrying The Triangle Comic Review have had to be restocked, she said.

Chapel Hill Newspaper Publisher Lea Campbell described the comic newspaper as a "specialty magazine," and referred to the first issue as "lively and interesting."

"It is going to be a difficult pace to maintain," because the comic focus could be somewhat limited in scope for consistent and continual publication, Campbell said.

Doug Rogers, general manager for The Village Advocate, said The Triangle Comic Review would not have a real impact on other established newspapers in the area.

Carrboro aldermen approve safety program for bicyclists

By ELIZABETH SHERROD
Staff Writer

The Carrboro Board of Alderman voted unanimously Tuesday to enact a public relations program to prompt cyclists to obey traffic regulations.

Alderman Randy Marshall said the Carrboro Police Department is condoning illegal acts by omission.

"We should not wait until a serious accident happens before we consider the problems," he said.

Carrboro Police Chief A.S. Herje said the department does issue citations to cyclists who break the law, but the cases are usually thrown out of court because enforcement of bike regulations does not receive high priority.

"Bicyclists who break the law give a bad name to all bicyclists," said Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird.

Alderman Frances Shetley said she thought everything in the chief's report was correct. Motorists crowd cyclists, brush by them and drive in

the bike lane.

Shetley said she believed the most serious violations occur when the roads are the most congested and travel is dangerous. Officers cannot get out of their cars to chase violators.

Herje said bike safety programs are available, but they are targeted toward younger children.

Kinnaird said she believes if there were more bike lanes, there would be fewer violations.

Marshall said those who would attend safety programs are not the ones who violate the laws.

"I think the people who are the problems would laugh us right out of the place if we suggested they attend a bike safety program," he said.

The key is strict enforcement and issuing warnings, Marshall said.

If a violator receives three warnings, the case must be taken to court, he said.

"The bottom line is that if the

public doesn't think there is a penalty, then they are not going to bother them," said Alderman Jay Bryan.

Shetley proposed erecting "Share the Road" signs to remind cyclists to obey traffic regulations and remind motorists not to drive in the bike lanes.

In other business, the board voted 4-2 against a proposal for a joint town-school venture to expand a new gymnasium to be built at Carrboro Elementary School.

"I'm very disappointed," said Kinnaird. "Sometimes you have to use a little imagination when you don't have a lot of money."

Alderman Tom Gurganus said there is not strong community support for the project and the town cannot afford the gymnasium and the community center.

The gymnasium would not be in the best interest of Carrboro residents because the town would not have sole control of the facility, Gurganus said.

Arts

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 Friday calendar form. The deadline 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.

Items of Interest

Senior Class of 1989 is now accepting original entries from seniors for the Senior Class Poem. The deadline is March 20; applications are available at the Senior Class Office, Suite B, Student Union.

Campus Y is accepting applications for chairperson positions through March 23. Applications are

available in the Campus Y office.

Student Government — Executive Branch is accepting applications, which are available in Suite C, the Union Desk and during the day in the Pit until March 23.

Fine Arts Festival 1989 — Flashback: the '60s will present "Then and Now: 1960s-1980s," an exhibit of works by regional artists.

Contemporary art will be on display at the Horace Williams House, Franklin Street and the 1960s exhibition will be in the Carolina Union Gallery. The exhibits will be on display until April 2.

The Judicial System will begin accepting applications for the Undergraduate Student Court and the Attorney General's staff on March 3. Applications can be picked up starting then in Suite C and D in the Union or at the Union Desk. Applications are due no later than noon, March 10, in Suite D.

Carolina Students Credit Union will offer traveler's checks for Spring Break to members and non-members through March 10. CSCU is open from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and is located next to the Union Theater.

Wright's offbeat humor thaws wintry evening

Randy Basinger
Comedy

The weather outside was anything but hospitable, but Steven Wright managed to heat up the sellout crowd at Memorial Hall Wednesday night.

Local talent James & Rodney warmed up his act and tried hard to please a crowd bent on seeing Steven Wright. The duo struggled, and it was obvious that they were stalling for time to allow Wright to, as they said, part his hair. But the two showed promise with a skit on foreign TAs and another skit on '70s television shows that was highlighted by excellent impressions. The crowd needed to keep in mind that these two found out they were opening for Wright just a day before the show and, therefore, should receive thumbs up for their effort.

Wright took command of the stage at about 9 p.m. and never looked back. He strutted onstage, drooping, to a large round of applause from the crowd. They were primed and ready for weird, and weird is what they got. Wright strolled around the stage flaunting a new beard and when the crowd finally silenced, he greeted them with a humble and scratchy "Thanks."

He had with him on stage a lone stool, a chair, a couple of mikes and a glass of water, all of which played a part in the show. The glass of water created some interesting moments when Wright reminded the crowd that the human body was 98 percent water and that as he drank he was getting

closer to drowning himself. "I love living on the edge," he told the crowd as he gulped heavily from the glass.

Throughout the entire performance he kept his anti-emotion face and voice, cracking a smile at the weird stuff as if he knew people were laughing at jokes they only partially understood.

"I have a friend who practices voodoo acupuncture," said Wright. "You don't even have to go, you're just walking along and bam (slight pause) you feel much better."

Wright also mentioned watching television and having Smokey the Bear tell him that only he could prevent forest fires. He then pointed his finger at himself as if in recognition and slapped his forehead at the recognition of that responsibility on his shoulders. "I sat up late each night with a bucket of water next to the window," he said, coercing laughter from the crowd.

After the song he finished out the hour of comedy with his characteristic deadpan humor and more great jokes filled with the abstract, like "The prescription on my eyeglasses just ran out," or "I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges." Come on, think about it.

Writers' symposium to study Betts' work

By JESSICA YATES
Staff Writer

The literary work of UNC English professor Doris Betts will be the focus of the eighth annual Southern Writers' Symposium at Methodist College in Fayetteville March 17 and 18.

The symposium, titled "The Home Truths of Doris Betts," will feature a variety of programs to analyze and interpret Betts' short stories and novels. Lectures, plays, art work, music and a film will be used to examine and appreciate her writing. The symposium is open to the general public.

Sue Laslie Kimball, professor of English at Methodist College, is directing the symposium. Kimball said she chose to have Betts' work as the focus of the symposium because "I happen to like her writing. She's a wonderful citizen of North Carolina, as well as a wonderful writer and professor, and I believe it's time to honor her."

Joseph Flora, chairman of the UNC English department, agreed that Betts is worthy of the honor. "We are all very delighted that Doris' work is getting this kind of credit," he said. Flora also expressed approval of the symposium as an annual event. "This state has lots of tradition in honoring its writers," he said. "The symposium indicates the place Southern writers have in contemporary literature."

Writers, editors, literary scholars and former students of Betts are among the speakers slated to lecture at the symposium. Nine professors will present papers. Betts herself will highlight the event by speaking at the luncheon on March 17.

Three one-act plays will be performed under the direction of Lee Yopp. The plays, "The Ugliest Pil-



Doris Betts

grim," "The Mandarin" and "Spies in the Herb House," are based on short stories by Betts. Kimball stressed that Yopp worked with Betts to write the plays. "They will be wonderful," she said.

A new addition to the regular symposium programs is the juried art exhibit. "We invited professional artists to portray scenes from her work," Kimball said. Although most of the art pieces are paintings using either watercolors or oils, there will be at least one sculpture and one work of computer-designed art presented. Kimball said the art show is generating a lot of excitement because it

is a "first for both the symposium and for Doris Betts."

Betts has published four novels, including "The Scarlet Thread" and "Heading West," as well as three collections of short stories. She has won numerous awards for her literature, including the UNC-Putnam Book Prize for the story collection "The Gentle Insurrection." She also has received three Sir Walter Raleigh Awards for best fiction book by a North Carolinian.

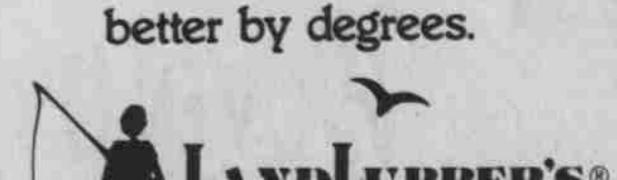
As a member of the UNC English faculty since 1966, Betts has repeatedly been honored for her teaching. She has received the Tanner award and the Katherine Carmichael Teaching Award, and she was named Alumni Distinguished Professor of English in 1980.

Kimball feels that Betts, whom she describes as "much loved," has a lot to offer as a writer. "She has a marvelous sense of humor and great sensitivity," she said. Kimball noted that Jonathan Yardley, a literary critic of The Washington Post, named Betts among the writers of the best contemporary literature done by women.

Flora holds a similar view regarding the unique qualities of Betts' writing. "She offers humor and compassion," he said, "and those wear very well." Flora also stressed, "Doris is a marvelous colleague, as well as a very good teacher. UNC is fortunate to have her."

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