

Author proffers clip artistry Board considers Legion property for school site

BY NICOLE BOBITSKI
STAFF WRITER

With the presidential election just weeks away, an enthusiastic crowd at the Bull's Head Bookshop welcomed pop culture political cartoonist David Rees to the University on Tuesday.

Known for his quirky use of clip art as a backdrop to his political and social satire, the Chapel Hill native read from his new comic strip collection, "Get Your War On II."

Rees began by comically alluding to his hometown roots by pointing to his blue-and-white striped shirt and saying he wore it, "in honor of the late, great Matt Doherty."

It was in New York City, while freelance fact-checking for various magazines, that Rees started producing biting comics using public domain clip art.

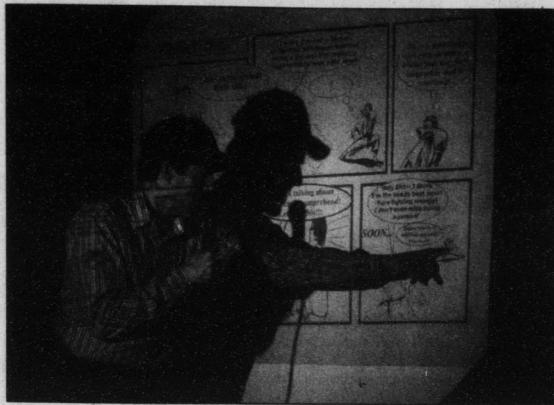
Using word balloons and campy office-worker characters, Rees' strips address everything from the conflict in Afghanistan to President Bush's interest in Mars.

He jokingly urged other comics to "join the 21st century" and use clip art, which he described as "quicker and less messy."

With such politically charged humor, hate mail is ubiquitous, but Rees said he also gets fan mail from both sides of the political spectrum.

"Usually — and this is going to shock you — most of my hate mail comes from the right," Rees said.

Audience members raved about Rees afterward, buying books and



David Rees, political cartoonist who created "Get Your War On," reads from his new comic strip Tuesday afternoon at the Bull's Head Bookshop.

having him sign copies.

Sophomore Alex Nager said he was familiar with Rees' comics before Tuesday's reading.

"It was interesting to hear where he comes from," Nager said. "You can tell that he is really informed from reading his comics."

Steve Backus traveled from Greenville to hear Rees speak.

"I read 'Get Your War On' as soon as it came out," Backus said. "I've always read his stuff online."

Others came to the Bull's Head to experience Rees and his work for the first time.

"I had actually never heard of him," said junior Rob Warren. "I thought he was really funny."

In an interview after the read-

ing, Rees said he is glad to be back in Chapel Hill.

When asked why he isn't in the political realm, Rees said he believes that his brand of political commentary is more effective.

"I think politics is the art of compromise," Rees said.

"With a job like this, you don't have to compromise your values."

As for the future, Rees said that if Democratic candidate John Kerry wins the presidency, he will stop publishing the "Get Your War On" series, but he will continue his work with Rolling Stone.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

BY KATHRYN REED
STAFF WRITER

Despite strong opposition from the American Legion, officials say the city school system will continue to consider putting the legion's property on its list of potential school sites.

The school board will get an update on the property, located on Legion Road in Chapel Hill, at its Thursday meeting.

After the property was placed on a list of potential sites in December, representatives of the legion began circulating petitions to remove the area from consideration.

Last month, the school board delayed the approval of the location as a potential site so it could continue negotiations with the group.

Superintendent Neil Pedersen said that during meetings with legion representatives, the two groups failed to reach an agreement.

"I believe that the American Legion simply doesn't want to be considered," Pedersen said. "We were trying to work out conditions under which they would remain under consideration but we would not interfere with any steps they took with the property that is consistent with its current use."

Legion post commander Al

Hackney said he objected to the board's attempt to put his organization under political constraints.

"We want what's best for our organization," Hackney said.

But Pedersen said the legion's placement on the list would not prevent the group from using the land.

"It isn't about taking their property," Pedersen said. "We're not talking about eminent domain."

Pedersen said that under a proposed agreement, which the legion declined to accept, the school board would waive its right to interfere with the land unless the legion decided to sell it or use it for a different purpose.

"We have no intention to interfere," he said.

This agreement was not acceptable to Hackney and other members of the legion.

"We don't deserve that kind of treatment," said Hackney, who added that his group is working for the betterment of the millions of veterans in the country.

Attorney Chris Willett, who works with the school system's lawyer, John McCormick, said there is not much the legion can do to keep itself off the list.

He said the school board can't take steps toward acquiring a property on

the list unless its owner decides to sell the land or change its use.

In such instances, owners must obtain a special-use permit for their land and notify the school board, which then has 18 months to decide whether it wants to use the property. If so, it must purchase the land from the owner at a fair price.

If an owner refuses to sell, the school board can push for condemnation proceedings to determine the amount it must pay. Property owners can contest any ruling, but ultimately the school board can seize any property, regardless of whether it is reserved on the list, through eminent domain.

Pedersen said the school board has not faced such active opposition from other property owners whose land is included on the list of potential sites. He added that the legion's property is important to the school board because it is one of the few pieces of open land in the district.

"People haven't raised concerns because it really doesn't carry too much weight," he said. "It more keeps us informed than gives us too much power."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

Trio of professors waxes political

BY KATHRYN BALES
STAFF WRITER

Three passionate UNC professors explained to a group of politically minded students Tuesday three important issues in the presidential campaign: foreign policy, economics and health care.

Mark Crescenzi, professor of political science, called himself an "equal opportunity debunker" as he tried to explain the catchy yet often confusing one-liners used by both candidates to describe foreign policy.

Crescenzi argued that President Bush's claim that the world is safer after Saddam Hussein's capture is not true. He said the logic behind Bush's statement is based on the assumption that Hussein had ties to terrorist organizations.

"There is no evidence that Hussein had ties to terrorist groups of any kind," Crescenzi said. "There is no reason to have a close relationship with someone

who will eventually kill you."

Crescenzi also addressed Sen. John Kerry's platform, which calls for a multilateral effort to jump-start a resolution to the Iraq conflict.

He said that concessions must be made to France and Germany. "They will not join a Kerry-led America just to save the world," he said.

Boone Turchi, an economics professor, said that when the presidential debates turned to economics, the candidates' answers were slogan-filled and poorly served the issue. He discussed issues including monopolies, Social Security, fiscal policy and the outsourcing of jobs.

"Without question, this is the most important presidential election that I've ever voted in," he said.

Joel Schwartz, professor of political science and public policy, tackled the issue of health policy. The issue has two facets: proposals to provide health benefits to uninsured Americans and pro-

posals to lower costs of prescription drugs.

Schwartz wrote off Bush's proposals for health savings accounts and tax credit for those in the bottom 40 percent of income. "What good is tax credit to those who don't have any taxes to pay?" he said.

But he also argued that "you need more than a Ph.D." to understand Kerry's multidimensional plan. "As they say in Texas," Schwartz concluded, "this hound won't hunt anymore, so let's shoot it, bury it and start all over."

Senior Tempe Carlton was undecided before attending but said the forum helped her shape a decision. "I think they did a good job clarifying the issues," she said.

The event was sponsored by VoteCarolina, student government's voter-drive initiative, and the Carolina Union Activities Board.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

CORRECTIONS

■ Due to an editing error, the headline for the Oct. 18 article "Walk raises \$67K for education," as well as the story itself, state that the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Public School Foundation raised about \$67,000 total in its race and walk for education. The event actually raised between \$90,000 and \$98,000.

■ Due to an editing error, the raised quote accompanying the Oct. 19 article "Task force nears release of system's safety report" attributes a statement to Dara Edelman that actually was spoken by Willie Bell.

To report corrections, contact Managing Editor Chris Coletta at ccoletta@email.unc.edu.

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