

Chapel Hill's own Christmas story

BY ALEXA DIXON
STAFF WRITER

'Twas a night in December when all through Chapel Hill, not a creature was stirring but four determined judges critiquing holiday cheer.

Pat Evans, Freddie Kiger, Debbie Dibbert and Bob Ward braved the elements Monday evening to walk the length and breadth of Franklin Street judging holiday window displays — and ultimately determined that The Trail Shop, 308 W. Franklin St., was the clear winner.

"Despite cold weather and numb fingers, we, the judges, had a great time, and it's fun to reacquaint oneself with Franklin Street and the creativity that everyone can do," Kiger said.

The Trail Shop's display included dummies dressed in Trail Shop gear with a mountain backdrop, a tree decorated in gloves and socks and a simulated fire. The judges also were impressed that the whole building was decorated.

The second annual Holiday Window Display Contest was run by the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership and Friends of Downtown.

The Chapel Hill Herald and News Talk WCHL 1360 sponsored the event and provided free advertisements to the top three displays.

Displays were judged on creativity, use of merchandise and lights. Second place went to Julian's, 140 E. Franklin St., whose "Classical with

a Twist" logo matched the window display. The judges agreed the display was very classy, with wrapped boxes displaying ties and even Roy Williams' championship tie with a framed picture of him beside it.

The third-place winner was the left-field addition, Hazmat Inc., 405 W. Franklin St. The judges all found the use of lights and multicultural aspects — Jesus, Moses and Houdini action figures, packaging peanuts for snow, a tree with presents and even some Hanukkah decorations — to be the deciding factor.

Other organizations, including University Baptist Church and several fraternity houses, received honorable mentions from the group. All the judges said the voting was

difficult, and they were pleased to see increased participation this year.

But Evans said they hope to encourage more businesses to get festive and participate next year. "It's a tradition now."

"We'd like broader participation," she said. "It is wonderful that the fraternities decorate, but it all goes down when students leave. We need participation on Rosemary, Cameron cross streets and more on Franklin."

"Wouldn't it be great if there were just lights going all down the street? It's going to catch on, I know it will."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



DTH/RICKY LEUNG

The Trail Shop on Franklin Street combined various merchandise to create an award-winning holiday display through the efforts of four store clerks.

Alumna brings comics to life

BY ADAM WRIGHT
STAFF WRITER

Thanks to a herd of grotesque zombies, a UNC alum is making quite a name for herself.

Johanna Stokes, an English and communications graduate of the University, has found success in the comic book world with the graphic novel anthology "Zombie Tales."

After moving to Los Angeles five years ago, Stokes met publisher Ross Richie through a series of mutual friendships stemming from a blind date.

Though the date didn't lead anywhere, Stokes said, her meeting with Richie proved to be a lucky break professionally.

Richie recently had decided to launch his own comic book company, BOOM! Studios, and was in need of fresh writing talent.

The publisher enlisted the help of Stokes, along with John Rogers, screenwriter of "The Core," and Andrew Cosby, a successful television series creator.

The writers collaborated on "Zombie Tales," a comic book of obvious content that became so popular that the group was asked to turn the story into an ongoing series.

"Comics are always a little bit more revolutionary because you can do more. You don't have a budget ..."

JOHANNA STOKES, UNC GRADUATE, AUTHOR OF "ZOMBIE TALES"

Andrew Neal, owner of Chapel Hill Comics, said the comics have sold well in Stokes' hometown.

"With the success of 'The Walking Dead,' a comic that revolutionized the zombie genre, and movies like '28 Days Later,' there has been a huge increase in demand for stories involving zombies."

The latest edition in the series, "Zombie Tales: Death Valley," which hits stands today, originally was a screenplay written by Stokes.

"While working on finishing the script ... we decided to adapt it as a comic book as a way to enter the back door of Hollywood," she said. "The industry loves to make movies out of comics now."

"Comics are always a little bit more revolutionary because you can do more. You don't have a budget, so as a writer you're free to do whatever you want," she added.

Stokes said she enjoyed her experience with "Zombie Tales" so much that she is now working with Cosby on a series called "Eureka" for the Sci-Fi Network.

Cosby initially asked Stokes to help with the series' pitch meeting, but she was such a hit with the network executives that Cosby asked her to join on as a staff writer.

"It's a really fun premise," she said. "During the Cold War, the idea is that our country is built on information. The president put aside this little town for geniuses, and they all collaborate on these incredible ideas. So basically the guy next door whose music is playing too loud is also the guy that has access to nuclear weaponry."

With a career built on comics, Stokes says she is having a great time. "I'm pulling 12- to 13-hour days, but I'm loving it. We already shot the two-hour pilot, and I'm hoping that I can write an episode on my own soon."

Inspired by the experience she has gained on "Eureka," Stokes is developing a comic series of her own.

There is just one rule, she said. "My only caveat is that it have no zombies in it!"

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Today is the last day for the Scholastic Warehouse Book Fair at Orange High School. Sponsored by the Orange High Parent Teacher Student Organization, the fair will be held from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the school's media center. All books are half-price.

Give the gift of life, a blood drive sponsored by APPLES, UNC American Red Cross Club and Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity, will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the Great Hall of the Student Union.

Students with a meal plan can donate their extra meals to hunger relief in Kenya and Tanzania from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., today through Friday, in front of Lenoir Dining Hall. Those without a meal plan can purchase an all-you-can-eat meal for \$3. The event is sponsored by Students Working in the Environment 4 Active Transformation.

The process subcommittee

of the Horace Williams Citizens' Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. today at Town Hall. The meeting is being held to prepare options for a process for the council to consider for planning and developing the Horace Williams property.

The forum committee of the Carolina Union Activities Board will present a discussion today prepared by UNC astronomy and physics professor Gerald Cecil and environmental science professor Douglas Crawford-Brown. The event will take place at 6 p.m. in the Hanes Art Center Auditorium.

The academic affairs committee of student government will meet from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today in Saunders 104.

The General Alumni Association will hold a holiday concert at 7 p.m. today in the Alumni Center on Stadium Drive. The event will include performances by

the Clefhangers and Loreleis.

A Nintendo 64 and GCU tournament will be held at 7:30 p.m. today in Union 3503. The tournament will feature Super Smash Brothers and free pizza. For more information contact thepat@unc.edu.

Grammy Award-winner Bonnie Raitt will perform from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. today in Memorial Hall as part of the Carolina Performing Arts Series. Tickets are \$10 for students with a valid One Card. For more ticket information, call the box office at 843-3333.

Compassion Over Killing, a nonprofit animal welfare group, is offering a free vegetarian starter guide. Go to TryVeg.com or call 1-866-MEAT-FREE to learn more.

To make a calendar submission, visit www.dailytarheel.com for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

It is the policy of The Daily Tar Heel to report any inaccurate information published in our newspaper as soon as the error is discovered.

Any incorrect information printed on the front page will result in a correction printed on the front page. Any incorrect information printed on any other page will be corrected at the top left of page 3. Errors committed on the Editorial Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

Please contact Managing Editor Joseph Schwartz, at joseph_schwartz@unc.edu, with issues about this policy or to report corrections.

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POLICE LOG

A Burlington man reported Tuesday that he was threatened on campus by a recently fired construction worker, according to University police reports.

The worker came to a construction site near Hinton James Residence Hall and threatened the man with a

pipe bender, reports state.

Alonzo Antonio McMullen, 23, of Durham, was arrested at 10:51 p.m. Monday on charges of driving without a valid license and failure to appear in court, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

Reports state that McMullen, who was arrested at 1500 E. Franklin St., was taken to Orange County Jail on a \$350 secured bond pending an appearance today in District Criminal Court in Hillsborough.

Several items were reported stolen and recovered Tuesday morning on McMasters Street, according to Chapel Hill police reports.

The items, later recovered, included three Xbox games, a leather jacket, the car's CD player and a DVD, and were worth \$510,

reports state.

A Carrboro woman reported a parking permit stolen from her car Tuesday, according to University police reports.

She said she parked her car at 8 a.m. Friday on Stadium Drive and when she returned that day the permit was missing from her rearview mirror, reports state.

Reports state the women did not know whether she had locked her car, but nothing else was reported missing from the vehicle.

APPLY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Applications due on January 10, 2006

The B.S.P.H. Program in the Department of Health Policy and Administration prepares undergraduate students for management positions in hospitals, group practices, health departments, consulting firms and other health organizations in the public and private sectors.

For applications go to:

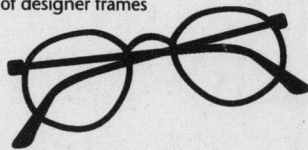
http://www.sph.unc.edu/portal_admissions/ or contact Cara Doyle, Student Services Coordinator at 966-7391.

For more information about the B.S.P.H. Program, including a list of prerequisites, go to: <http://www.sph.unc.edu/hpaa/academic/>

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