Q&A with award-winning writer Alex Wilson

By Maddy Baldwin Staff Writer

Local writer Alex Wilson's comic, "The Time of Reflection," recently won an internationally acclaimed comic writing award. Staff writer Maddy Baldwin talked to Wilson about his Eagle awardwinning comic, his writing experiences and ideas on illustrations.

Daily Tar Heel: Can you describe what the Eagle Award is?

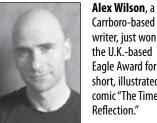
Alex Wilson: They are Britishbased awards. They're definitely the longest running awards currently in comics. They're one of the big three. There's the Harveys, the Eisners and the Eagles. The Eisners and the Harveys are both U.S. based. So, it's a pretty exciting thing. It (the comic) had to be a five-page dark fantasy story, fully-colored.

DTH: What other types of writing do you do?

AW: Mainly fiction and comics, I would say. I've written some short film scripts. I'm also an actor, so I've gotten into writing film scripts as an actor.

DTH: Would you say that writing for comics is similar to writing for movies because you have the pictures to help?

AW: So, dialogue is always the least important part of both. And when you're scripting a comic the dialogue is important, but plotting and pacing is probably more important and getting the story right. When a movie fails, or when



writer, just won the U.K.-based Eagle Award for his short, illustrated comic "The Time of Reflection."

a comic book fails, nine times out of ten, it's the story that's the problem, and when it succeeds it's because the story and the other things are all succeeding.

DTH: Have you ever had any aspirations to illustrate?

AW: I had plans to. It's always been a dream, but I'm a firm believer in Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000 hours. The philosophy that you need to put in 10,000 hours before you will be good at something. It has always been an adage in writing that you need to write 100,000 words of crap before you start producing good

DTH: Was the decision to pur-

sue writing rather than illustration a difficult one?

AW: Not really. I've always been more interested in story telling. In college, I did a lot of acting. Some of my best friends were working on becoming actors. I wasn't, I was planning on becoming a writer, and we always joked that they would be out-of-work actors and I would be an out-of-work writer.

> Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

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BR = Bedroom • BA = Bath • mo = month • hr = hour • wk = week • W/D = washer/dryer • OBO = or best offer • AC = air conditioning • w/ = with • LR = living room

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Announcements

NOTICE TO ALL DTH CUSTOMERS Deadlines are NOON one business day prior to publication for classified ads. We publish Monday thru Friday when classes are in session. A university holiday is a DTH holiday too (i.e. this affects deadlines). We reserve the right to reject, edit, or reclassify any ad. Acceptance of ad copy or prepayment does not imply agreement to publish an ad. You may stop your ad at any time, but NO REFUNDS or credits for stopped ads will be provided. No advertising for housing or amployment in acceptance. advertising for housing or employment, in ac-cordance with federal law, can state a prefer-

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CHILD CARE NEEDED: Seeking child care for 8 year-old boy and 6 year-old girl from roughly 9am-5:30pm M-F starting early July through mid-August in Carrboro. I would be willing to split the week between 2 child care providers. Must be non-smoker and able to drive and swim. References required. Contact Natalie at 919-259-5800.

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919-593-4439. STUDENTS! TELL YOUR PARENTS about this great house for sale on Davie Circle. Live in 1 section, they can rent the other. Your folks get to make a great investment, earn some income, and give you a fantastic place to live! It's 46 Davie Circle, with 3BR/2BA upstairs, 1BR/1BA downstairs. \$379,000. Call Wendy Tanson, RE/MAX: 971-7180 or wendy@Tanson.com.

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Horoscopes

Horoscopes



To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Today is a 7 - It gets easier to spend impulsively for the next few days. Combat this with a solid financial plan. Do the math and things get simple. There is more coming in

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Today is a 5 - You're getting more sensitive. Practice your elevator speech. Get ready for the main event and shine. Repeat what worked before.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
Today is a 5 - Insightful dreams inspire romance. Think about it for a while. Carefully review your principle. orities. You're wiser than you give

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Today is a 5 - Share ideas and dreams with friends. Support each other to accomplish goals and increase income. Creativity counts double. A rising sea floats

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is a 6 - You're getting stronger to get up for a challenge, and your friends like that. Travel looks adventuresome. Mystery doesn't hurt. Grab a new opportunity. Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 5 - You're entering a time of growth and expansion. Inject some glamour into your work. Your creativity could be profitable. Market it. Listen to a dream.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Today is a 6 - Business intensity is on the rise. The days aheaed are good for financial planning. Relieve stress by drawing or doodling. Opposites especially attract.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is a 7 - Consult with experts and verify data. Infuse meetings with imagination. Remove clutter from your environment to open space for your creative self. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is a 5 - Use the tools at your disposal to create change. Get busy,

but remember to take it easy at the same time. Find motivation in the people you love. Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today is a 5 - You're lucky in love for a change, which is a comfort when money's tight. Let your sweetie set the schedule. Enjoy a creative boost.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is a 5 - Begin a period of home improvement. Do what you promised (even if you're late). in communication. Review budget ary considerations carefully.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Today is a 7 - You're even smarter than usual. Solve the problem with a little help from a partner. Learn what you need to realize the vision.

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