# Comic strip to end later this year

■ **CARTOON:** The strip first appeared in 1986, and is distributed to almost 2,400 newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Calvin and Hobbes, the terrible tyke and his sidekick tiger, will be retired from the funny pages on Dec. 31.

In a letter to newspaper editors Thursday, cartoonist Bill Watterson said the decision to end the strip was not a recent or easy decision.

"I believe I've done what I can do within the constraints of daily deadlines and small panels," Watterson, 38, said in the letter. "I am eager to work at a more thoughtful pace, with fewer artistic compromises."

*Calvin and Hobbes* hit the comic pages in 1986 and entertained millions with the antics a 6-year-old boy with an overactive imagination and a not-so-stuffed tiger.

The letter featured a drawing of the two cartoon characters getting kicked out a door. The two buddies are shown clutching each other as they fly through the air, leaving a trail of stars.

In the past nine years, the pair launched countless snowball ambushes, journeyed through space, tormented a baby sitter and ran afoul of Calvin's patient parents.

*Calvin and Hobbes* is distributed internationally to nearly 2,400 newspapers. More than 23 million copies of books based on the cartoon are in print. All 13 collections were million-dollar sellers in their first year.

In his letter, Watterson said he had not decided on what he will do next.

Lee Salem, editorial director at the Universal Press Syndicate in Kansas City, said that after Dec. 31, the company will not provide reruns of the strip to newspapers the way it did when Watterson took a nine-month leave of absence in 1991 and again last year.

Salem said two *Calvin and Hobbes* book collections will be released next year. The books include comic strips that have already appeared in newspapers.

Beyond that, Salem said Universal Press does not know if Watterson will produce new books or other materials.

"We hope he'll come up with something we can use in the market," Salem said, "but we don't know what the market will be."

The reclusive cartoonist has refused to be interviewed and will not reveal where he lives.

# Civil Case: Schmidt wins $1 countersuit

■ Continued from Page 1

countersuit was to prove that he was the one that was assaulted and to show that he wasn't in it for money.

"[The $108,000] was a bogus amount of money and the countersuit was to prove it," Schmidt said. "I was the one assaulted. The $1 was a statement to say 'You're wrong and in it for the money.'"

While Schmidt still faces a criminal trial on Jan. 30, Morrow said that the decision in the civil court case will probably foreshadow the outcome of the criminal case.

"For us to have prevailed in that civil case, the jury had to find that the evidence weighed greater in our favor," Morrow said, adding that in order for the district attorney to convict Schmidt on fourth-degree assault, it would have to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Engelmann was the one who got assaulted.

"Given the fact that the evidence has been tested, I don't think it will go forward," Morrow said.

# Credited free speech series starts next week

■ **LECTURE:** University President David Frohnmayer's brother heads list of speakers

**By Mara Stine**
*Higher Education Reporter*

Students can earn one credit by attending a free, week-long lecture series on free speech and censorship entitled "A Nation of Chickens: Our Forgotten First Amendment."

Talks begin at 9 a.m. and end at 10:50 a.m. and take place at the Alumni Lounge in Gerlinger Hall.

John Frohnmayer, former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts and brother of University President David Frohnmayer, will lead the series.

Topics include: "Hate Speech: Should Intolerance be Tolerated?" on Monday, Nov. 13; "Collisions on the Information Superhighway" on Tuesday; "Mending the Constitution with Reckless Abandon" on Wednesday; "Censorship: The Tyranny of the Majority" on Thursday; and "Ethic, Politics and Art: Aliens to Each Other" on Friday.

Students interested in attending the series for credit can call the Arts and Administration Program at 346-3639 for information. The public is also welcome to attend the talks said Linda Ettinger, program director of the Arts and Administration Program.

Free speech issues are now more than ever in the forefront of our cultural and national concerns, Ettinger said.

"All of us realize how many different perspectives there are in this nation, and it's difficult to say it's all right for one group to speak and not another," she said.

The First Amendment is always under attack, said Garrett Epps, an assistant law professor who is teaching a First Amendment class at the University's Law School.

"There are always some groups with political power who want to explain why their political aims should be honored to the detriment of free speech," he said.

The series is important because the issue of free speech is crucial to a free society, said David Schuman, Assistant Dean of the Law School.

"This is an opportunity to hear first hand accounts of someone who has dealt with official censorship at the highest levels," he said.

Epps said he doubts people will fall asleep during the talks.

"I expect it will be a very lively and interesting series," he said. "Mr. Frohnmayer is not afraid to stir controversy and that's good."

**SPEECH CALENDAR**

■ Monday, Nov. 13
Hate Speech: Should Intolerance Be Tolerated?

■ Tuesday, Nov. 14
Collisions on the Information Superhighway

■ Wednesday, Nov.15
Amending the Constitution with Reckless Abandon

■ Thursday, Nov. 16
Censorship: The Tyranny of the Majority

■ Friday, Nov. 17
Ethics, Politics and Art: Aliens to Each Other

EMERALD

# Students: Allard not new to hiking and the outdoors

■ Continued from Page 1

"It doesn't take very much for someone to die in this weather," he said.

Allard is an experienced outdoorsman who has gone on several hikes, said Jim Blanchard, director of the Outdoors Pursuits Program. Allard has taken several of the program's classes.

Rescue efforts were called off over night for the 40 searchers. There had been 60 searchers in Wednesday's efforts.


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