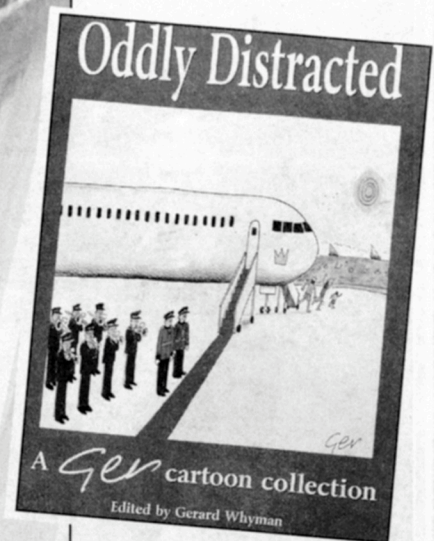


Fun filled: City cartoonist publishes collection of his work



CREATIVE PROCESS: Cartoonist Gerard Whyman at work at home in Newport.
Top: the front cover of Mr Whyman's book *Oddly Distracted* and above illustrations from the book

Picture: MIKE LEWIS ML_8601

Designer inspired to new publication

A NEWPORT cartoonist is playing it for laughs, as he publishes his first collection of joke cartoons.

Gerard Whyman, 43, of Cae Perllan Road, initially hoped to get into children's book illustration having studied graphic design at the Gwent College of Higher Education 20 years ago, but a lack of success left him despondent and he turned to cartoons.

He said: "It wasn't a life long ambition, I just sort of fell into it. Drawing simple figures in pen

By Alex Cinus

and ink seemed a lot easier than drawing labour intensive coloured pencil illustrations and I didn't have to cart around a portfolio to dreaded portfolio inspections with would-be clients.

"My first efforts were tentative and, I have to say, not particularly good, but unbelievably I sold one from the very first batch I sent out for £50 at the beginning of 1994 to *The Spectator*."

Since then, Mr Whyman, who worked for a year as an editorial

graphic designer at the Argus in 1990, has had cartoons published in *The Oldie*, *Private Eye*, *The Sun*, *The Times* and *Punch*.

He cites his main cartoon inspiration as the former *Daily Express* cartoonist 'Giles.'

Mr Whyman attended St Joseph's High School in Newport and he said it is the place where his passion for drawing took off.

He said: "Although I had always drawn as a child it was when I took an O-Level in art at school that I knew I wanted to take it seriously."

Mr Whyman's cartoons are

based on everyday life and to celebrate his fifteenth year in the cartoon industry, he has compiled a book of his best drawings, entitled *Oddly Distracted*.

He said: "The main subjects that inspire me are observing everyday life situations in domestic settings."

Mr Whyman is hoping to get some high street retailers to take on his self-published book, but the collection is currently available to buy online at www.lulu.com/content/3625147.

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