Capp Explains Relations With 'Victims'

By John Montanus

Cartoonist Al Capp, creator of "Li'l Abner," spoke Thursday in Kresge Auditorium about his professional experiences. His talk, sponsored by the LRC, was a revealing commentary on past and present, filled with his distinctive humor.

Mr. Capp began with an explanation of the relation he has with his "victims," the people he satirizes. Most of them take no offense at his jokes, and are even pleased at his humor. Mr. Capp noted, however, that this applies only to his cartoon strip, and not to the syndicated column which he writes for paper chains.

Performers and politicians have longed him for his comic strip parodies, yet laughed him for expressing the same thoughts in direct sentences. Evidently the comics seem less serious, but Mr. Capp states that, however useful this appearance may be in keeping friends, it is not at all true. He means everything he says.

Mr. Capp discussed his characters from "Li'l Abner" and their home in Dogpatch, USA. He picked a fictional name for his location in the South because nobody could complain about the detail: the real Southerners in the area he assumed unable to read, and no one else would know. Mr. Capp asserts that when he visited the region of his imaginary county, he found he had been accurate in his portrayal.

On the local scene, Mr. Capp mentioned his pride in the brilliance of the youngest Mr. Kennedy, who used a professional comic's lines in a recent press conferenee. When the audience replied to the "no "pride" with subdued hissing, he noted this seemed to share his pride.

Noting the quality of common food, Capp reflected on the technology of the cold war. He suggested that MIT send dinner to the Russians.

Mr. Capp also pointed out the tremendous popularity that comic strip cartoonists, a very small group who do most of their own work, have.

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four, South having made the first eleven tricks. He must make a trump trick, giving his con- tract. Bidding when you are not sup- posed to, such as after the oppo- nents have opened a strong two- bid, carries many risks, many mis- taked a more prosperous society, he was told That differences were great, and that differences gave the right to kick other people around. Al Capp's aim since then has been for him and his countrymen to "return to BIOSA STREET."