

Cartoonist Profile: Scott McCullar "Warped"

By Keith Spera

Of The Battalion Staff

The Academic Building has been around for over 50 years. The Corps of Cadets has been at Texas A&M since the beginning. And it seems as if the "Warped" cartoon strip has been here almost as long.

It's the granddaddy of *The Battalion's* cartoons, going on its tenth year of publication. Scott McCullar is the cartoonist behind this legacy, which shows no sign of ending. McCullar is a full-time employee of the Sterling C. Evans Library. He plans to keep working here and drawing his cartoon until he gets a coveted national syndication deal for

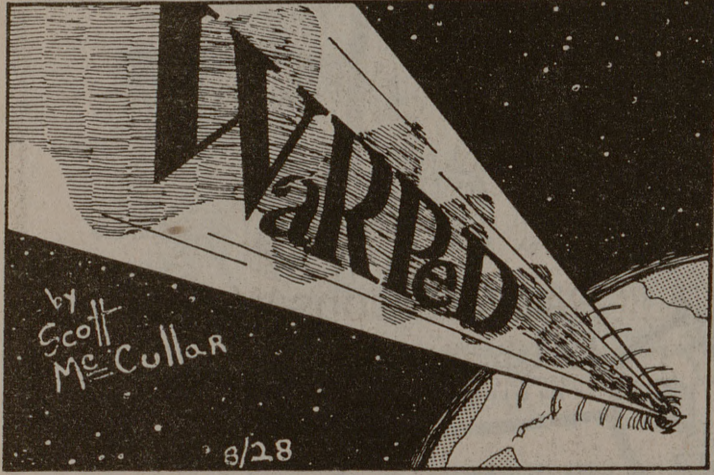
his strip and can become a full-time cartoonist. The new "Warped" season kicks off with a "prequel" to introduce a new concept concerning the origins of TV station WRPD, the setting of the strip: the station, it seems, was made from the remains of a wrecked alien spacecraft. In future episodes, we will learn that the station possesses some of the spacecraft's powers, like being able to transport people into the station for impromptu interviews. "This adds a sort of 'Bloom County' element," McCullar said. "I'm not trying to copy that strip, but this allows me to do a lot more." McCullar is excited about the prospect of four cartoonists working for *The Battalion*. "It will be interesting to see what events happen on campus, and in-

teresting to see what we each do with them," McCullar said. The addition of two more cartoonists to the staff will probably aggravate a problem that has plagued A&M's cartoonists for years: students have a hard time keeping track of who does which comic. McCullar's co-worker Kevin Thomas who does that strip. "Name recognition of cartoonists here has never been really high," McCullar said. "People get the strips confused; they don't generally know who does what." This year, an average of three out of a week's five "Warped" cartoons will deal with local issues, McCullar said. Although cartoons about na-

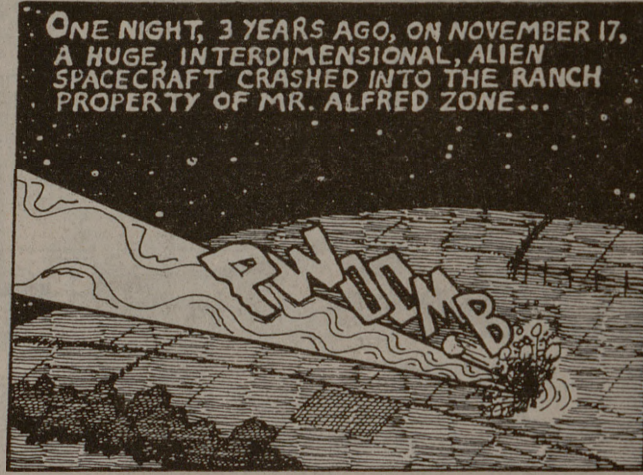
tional topics are more likely to affect people here," McCullar said. "Bonfire, the local mayor's people get more interested in you get away from local people don't pay as much attention. If we do more satire and ride local stuff, people will notice." "Most of the national stuff affects people here," McCullar said. "If I can get people stuck on a mindless tune, or get them to groan at an awful pun, then I've done my job."

— Scott McCullar, Cartoonist

What does McCullar see as his real job? "If I can get people stuck on a mindless tune, or get them to groan at an awful pun, then I've done my job."



ANNOUNCING:
A CHANGE IN STRIP CONCEPT AND ORIGINS (HEY, IF BERKE BREATHED CAN CHANGE AROUND, SO CAN I).
THE TRUE NATURE OF TV STATION WRPD CAN FINALLY BE REVEALED!
(AND DRAWN.)



UPON INVESTIGATING, HE DISCOVERS THAT THE EMPTY DERELICT SHIP HAS SURVIVED THE ACCIDENTAL "LANDING," COMPLETELY UNNOTICED BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

BEING A TINKERER AT HEART (AND BORED WITH RANCHING) ALFRED ZONE SOLEMNLY VOWS TO MAKE USE OF THIS INCREDIBLE WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY FROM THE SKIES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF ALL MANKIND....

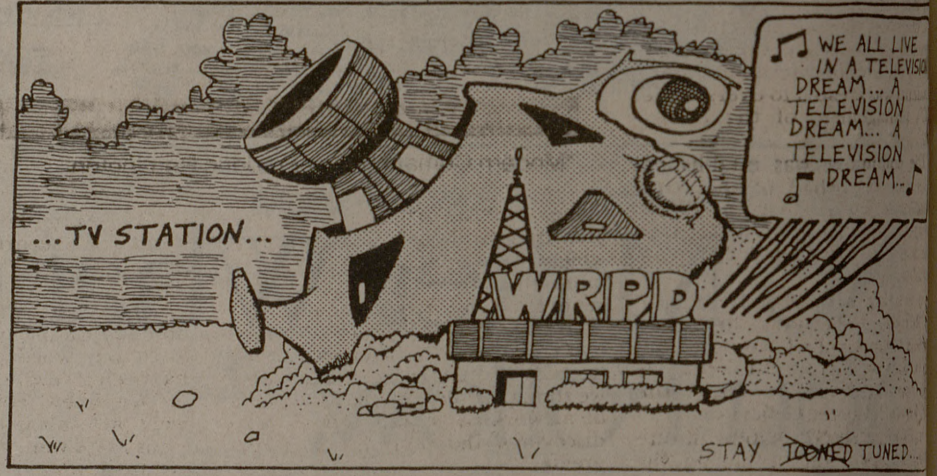


IN THE PROCESS OF POKING AROUND IN THE BURIED REMAINS OF THE WRECK HE DISCOVERS A SHAPE-CHANGING ALIEN PET/DEVICE/INSECT... (WHATEVER) HIBERNATING IN ONE OF THE COMPARTMENTS. BECAUSE OF HER CHAMELEON TYPE TALENTS HE DECIDES TO CALL HER...
CAMILLE!
(YAWN) WHAT DIMENSION ARE WE IN?

WITH "HER" HELP, READING LABELS AND IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE DEVICES, HE SPENDS A COUPLE OF YEARS PATCHING, ADAPTING, REWIRING, SPLICING, GRAFTING AND KICKING TOGETHER ENOUGH OF THE SHIP'S REMAINS TO GET HIS STATION PARTIALLY WORKING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT NEEDS A NEW POG-TORG? WHERE AM I GOING TO GET A NEW POG-TORG UNIT?
OKAY, OKAY. HAND ME SOME MORE COMPUTER CHIPS AND TIMBER TOYS THEN...



...AND TURNS THEM ALL LOOSE IN THE OFFICES, STUDIOS AND LIVING AREAS HE'S HOLLOWED OUT OF THE BURIED WRECKAGE...
...OF A HUGE, POWERFUL, AND OFTEN QUIRKY ALIEN SPACE CRAFT...
... NOW KNOWN AS...



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