

Cartoonist Profile
Matt Kowalski
 "Spade Phillips, P.I."

By Keith Spera
 Of The Battalion Staff

Matt Kowalski always thought if he ever drew a cartoon, he'd like it to be a spoof of the Humphrey Bogart detective movies of the 1940s. After reading a couple of his own cartoons and noticing an advertisement that said *The Battalion* was looking for cartoonists, Kowalski decided to put his ideas on paper.

The story of Spade Phillips washed-up, out of work private investigator, soon emerged.

He submitted his drawings to *Battalion*. Low and behold, he was accepted for publication before you now.

Although Kowalski, a junior anthropology major, has never anything published prior to this semester, he said that if his strip goes off, he would consider cartooning full time.

Kowalski said that he would be those stalwarts of *Battalion* strips, "Warped" and "Waldo," the occasions he would pick up a copy of the paper, but doesn't have any sense of competition with veteran cartoonists.

"I didn't even know there was competition," Kowalski said.

Like the other cartoonists, Kowalski says he plans to have most of his strip's action take place around College Station, and much of his treatment of local subjects to be slightly on the side.

"This campus is kind of strange, there's a lot to make fun of," Kowalski said. "No one will get without being teased a little."

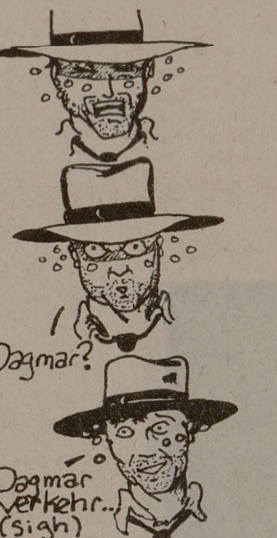
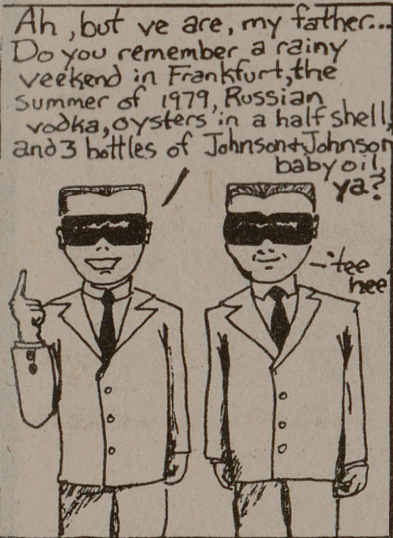
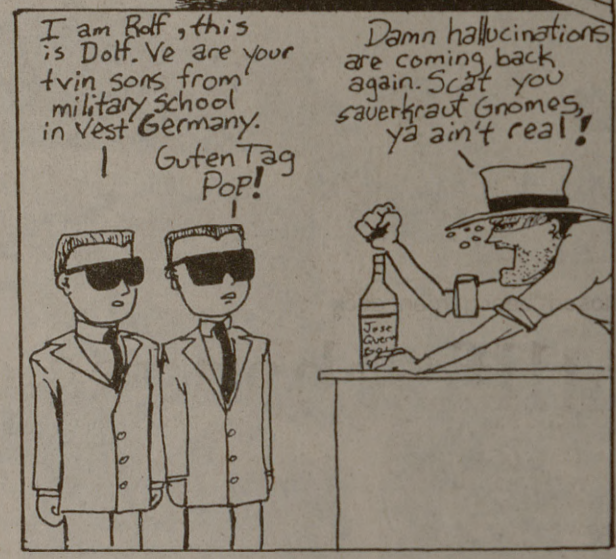
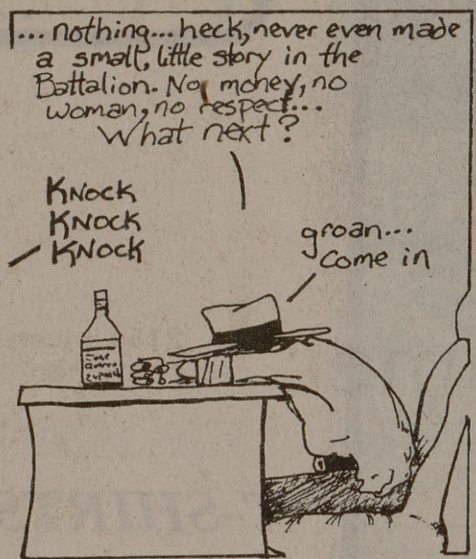
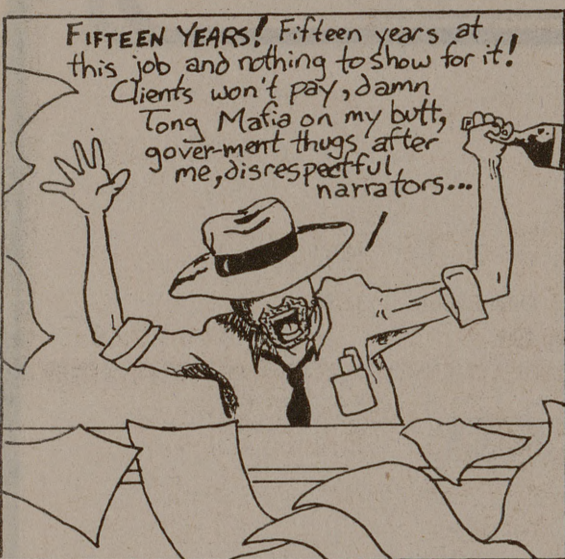
Whether or not he is successful with his strip will depend on two factors, Kowalski said.

"If people thought the strip was good, they would at least know my name," he said. "If I hear people talking about the characters, that would be a good indication of success, too."

The fact that his characters seem to end up more famous than he does seem to bother Kowalski.

"It's no big deal that the characters may be more famous than me," he said. "The characters are kind like the cartoonist — he takes elements out of his life and puts them into the characters."

Besides himself, Kowalski said he gets ideas from acquaintances.



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