

Cartoonist Profile: Don Atkinson Jr. "Adventures in Cartooning"

By Keith Spera
Of The Battalion Staff

If you have lived Bryan-College Station for 15 years, chances are you're going to have something to say about it. Senior journalism major Don Atkinson Jr. has and does. He plans to let the rest of the

world in on his thoughts about life and love in Aggieland through his new cartoon strip, "Adventures in Cartooning."

Throughout the summer, the Texas A&M community has been treated to a sneak preview of Atkinson's perspective with his weekly opinion page cartoons.

"Adventures in Cartooning" will

be more of a true cartoon strip. "I'm in strip mode now," Atkinson said. "Most of the ideas I write occur in four-panel, intro/build-up/resolution format."

The world almost missed out on this strip. When Atkinson originally applied to be a Battalion cartoonist last spring, his strip was rejected.

"It was obvious the strip had no direction then," Atkinson said. "The idea was not well-formed, and it was rejected. So, I had more time to think about it. Using the four months of the spring semester, I could create a framework where I could go anywhere and still stay grounded."

Within this framework, the only recurring characters will be Atkinson's rendering of himself and his

dog, allowing the cartoonist much freedom to deal with different issues using different characters.

"The strip will go in any direction, and cover anything," Atkinson said. "If something happens in the local arena, I'm not above using President Mobley as a character."

what he called "tasteless or sick humor."

Atkinson lists "Doonesbury," "Bloom County," "Calvin and Hobbes" and "The Far Side" as his favorite cartoons. He says that these cartoons will influence his work some, but he won't get carried away and become too much like any of these cartoons.

"I like how 'Cathy' is very analytical as far as the role of women. One thing I want to do is be analytical with the role of men."

— Don Atkinson Jr.,
Cartoonist

The strip will take a satirical look at local issues and national issues that affect the local community, but Atkinson says he will not stoop to

"I don't want to be as political as 'Doonesbury' is," Atkinson said. "I don't want to go to far off in that direction; I want to pick things (to

draw) that everyone locally understand."

One cartoon that Atkinson try to emulate to an extent, they.

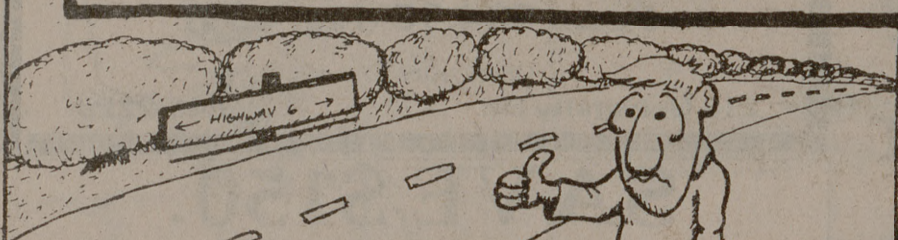
"I like how 'Cathy' is very analytical as far as the role of women said. "One thing I want to do is analytical with the role of men."

Atkinson said he wants to approach his strip from the angle of "Cathy" and talk about problems associated with men in today's world.

"The definition of 'man' these days," Atkinson said, "either got to be a Schwarzenegger, Stallone, or Alan Alda or Phil Sue, or a cross between the types. For a while, the feeling man was in. Now we're to the muscle-bound idiot."

A GUIDE TO TEXAS A&M by Don ATKINSON JR.

PHRASES AND TERMS YOU SHOULD KNOW:



"HIGHWAY 6 RUNS BOTH WAYS" - WHAT YOU SAY TO SOMEONE YOU DISAGREE WITH, REGARDLESS OF IF THEY'RE RIGHT OR WRONG.



"2-PERCENTER (GENERIC)" - WHAT YOU CALL SOMEONE YOU DISAGREE WITH, REGARDLESS OF IF THEY'RE RIGHT OR WRONG.



"2-PERCENTER (FOOTBALL)" - WHAT YOU CALL SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT WALK INTO THE STADIUM AND LIVE THERE FOLLOWING A GAME.



"GOOD AG" - WHAT YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE YOU HAPPEN TO AGREE WITH ARE.



"LIBERAL, COMMIE SWINE" - THE BATTALION STAFF. THEY MAY CLAIM TO BE FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY BUT WE KNOW THEY REALLY WANT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT AND RAISE THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE TO 65.

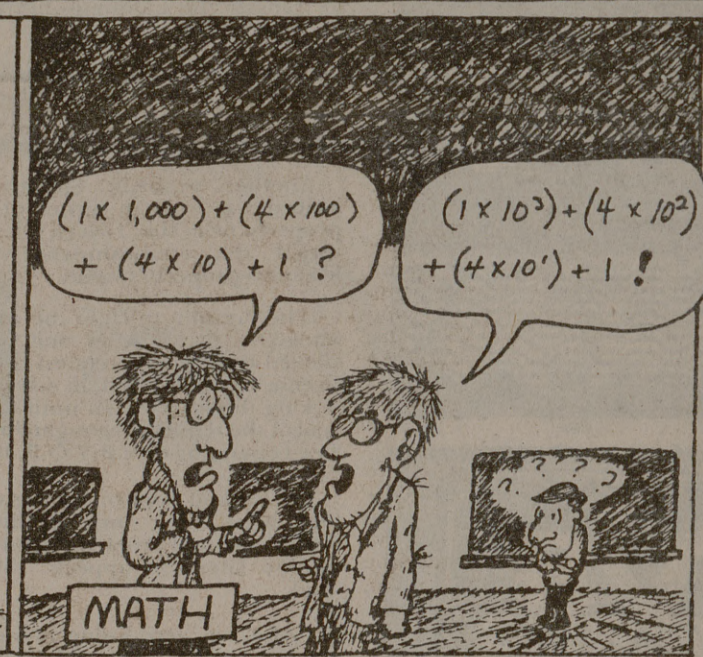


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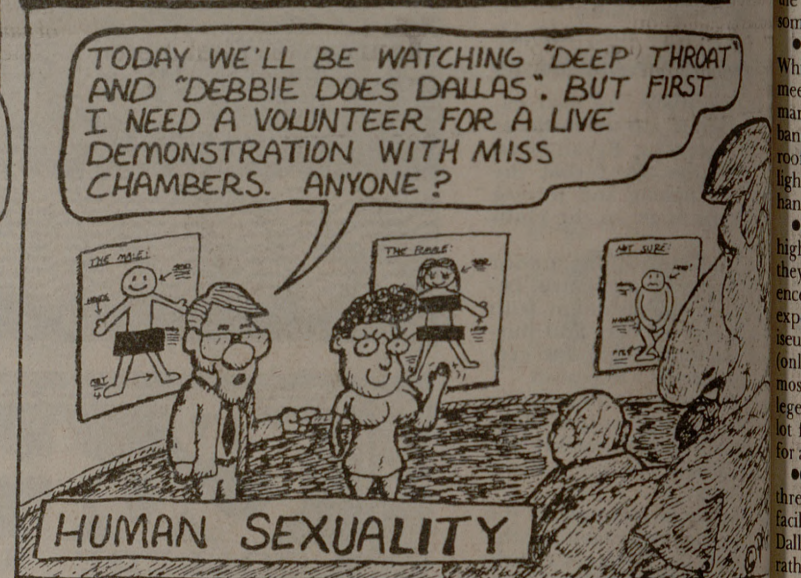


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