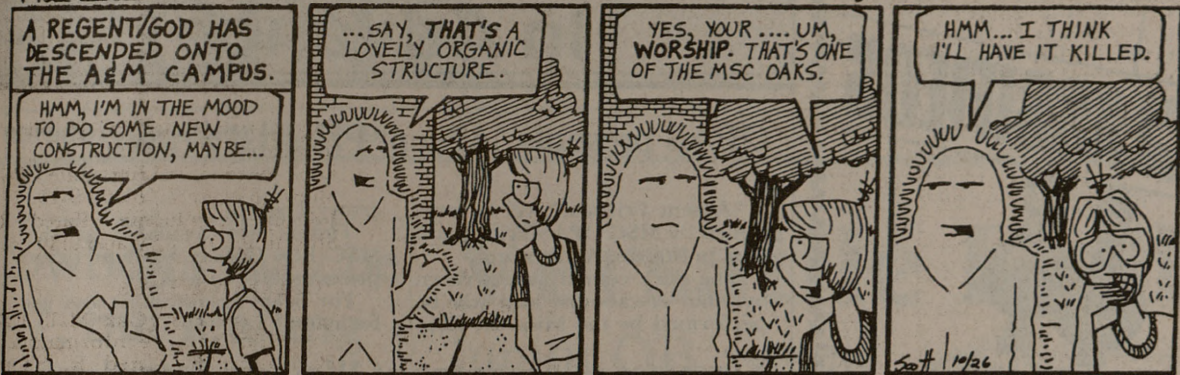
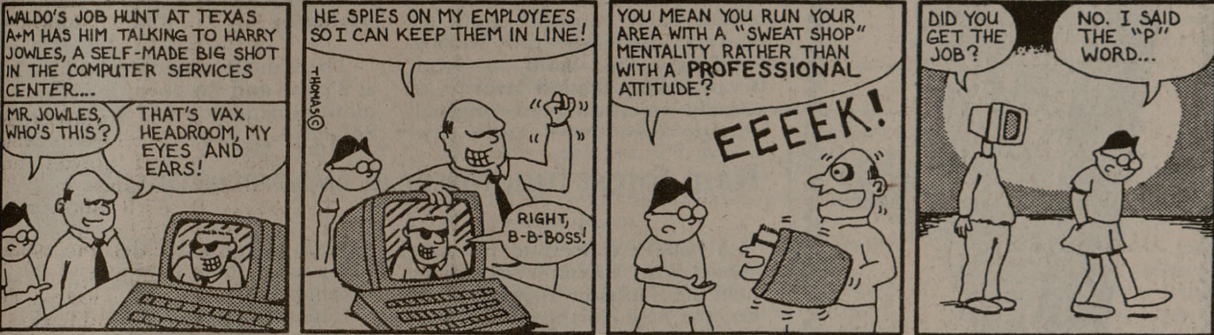


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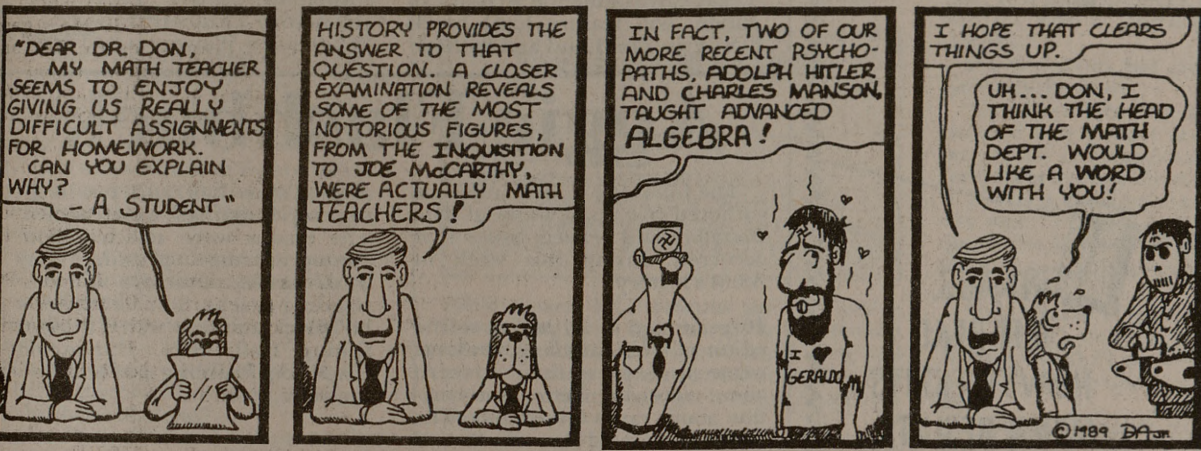


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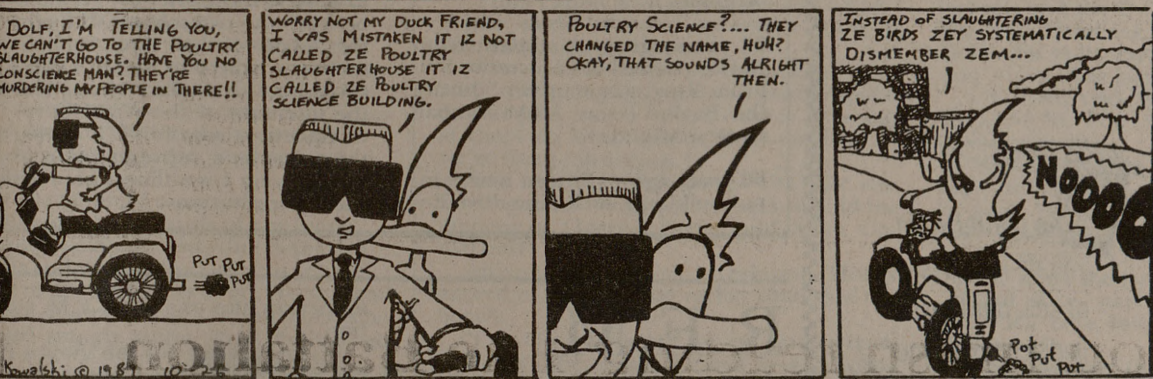


Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.



SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I. by Matt Nowalski



R.E.M. to perform in G. Rollie White Sunday

By John Righter

Of The Battalion Staff

They're back! The bohemian gods from Athens, Ga., are once again riding into Aggieland on their wave of bloated egos and social pleas. After a successful visit in support of 1987's Work Tour, R.E.M. is returning, this time making A&M the lone Texas performance on its current college tour.

This Sunday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum, Michael Stipe (vocals), Mike Mills (bass), Peter Buck (guitar) and Bill Berry (drums) will try to back up their title as America's best band. (That title, however, is not self-proclaimed. According to R.E.M., Pylon is the best band in America. More on Pylon later.)

The show is scheduled to start at 9 p.m., and tickets are still available at the MSC box office for \$15, which is a pretty cheap price to see America's best band.

Seriously, R.E.M. has been one of America's top contributions to the

wild and unpredictable '80's music scene. The classic "college band," R.E.M. has grown from an early signee of the then unknown I.R.S. label, to one of the biggest acts on Warner Bros., the band's new label, for whom they released last year's Green album.

R.E.M.'s commercial success has paralleled the band's increasing influence on young, unestablished bands. Rarely do college cover bands get through a set without paying homage to R.E.M., arguably the major catalyst behind the current wave of modern folk music. While most bands strive to make their mark through a hit single or wild image, R.E.M. has made its mark by developing an everchanging, always original approach to music that has only succeeded in redefining an entire segment of pop music.

From the release of *Chronic Town*, the band's debut EP, R.E.M.

See R.E.M./Page 10

Guitarist Reed performs at Texas Star Tavern

By John Righter

Of The Battalion Staff

Guitar virtuoso Preston Reed will showcase his fingerstyle playing this Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Texas Star Tavern.

The Tavern is promoting the Reed show as one of its main attractions for the fall season, and for good reason. Reed is quickly establishing himself as a leader of the fledgling fingerstyle genre of acoustic guitarists. Hailed by *Guitar Player* as a musician of "exceptionally fine... compositional diversity and... guitaristic brilliance..." Reed has been wowing audiences on his current circuit with his dexterous finger picks that weave every which way and his innovative neck-slapping style.

In the last few years Reed has finally started to receive the recognition he so aptly deserves. While critically acclaimed, Reed has suffered from a lack of commercial notoriety. In the vocal,

Teacher's family lives without TV

CANADIAN (AP) — They say there's at least one in almost every home in America. Its invention unveiled a worldwide communication explosion, and some claim that it is the most important informational source ever created. They won't get any argument from Canadian school teacher Jim Hawley. He's been proclaiming the virtues of the printed page ever since he switched off the television two decades ago.

"I was raised on the tube, you know, and I didn't read much," said Hawley. That changed when he married his wife, Pennie, also a school teacher, 21 years ago this December. They got rid of the TV set. "To tell you the truth, I can't recall the moment we decided not to own one. We've never been in the market for one," he said.

He concedes that it is unusual for a 20th century American family to be without a television set, but said they decided to do without the electronic houseguest for two reasons.

"Spiritually, we didn't want the undesirable part of it in our home. Secondly, we wanted to raise our kids in the best educational environment... we wanted to be readers instead of watchers."

Reading has replaced viewing almost entirely for the family of four. In an average school year, Hawley estimated his family checks out about 600 books from the library.

Although he admits the effect a literary diet has had on his children's education can't be verified, Hawley said he suspects the influence has been positive. His oldest daughter, Dena, a sophomore, was ranked first in her class last year and his youngest daughter, Lee Anne, is a fifth-grade honor student.

The girls watch television occasionally at their grandparents' homes, he said, but don't miss something that's never been a part of their lives.

Their friends, he said, are another matter. "The kids at school don't believe our kids can live without one. They think they would die."

On occasion, Hawley said, a National Geographic special or other program might cause him to tape a program at another location so he can view it later, but it rarely happens.

group-oriented music industry, a solo acoustic artist is at a major disadvantage.

Fortunately for Reed, lack of notoriety has not resulted in lack of appeal. Playing in a number of smaller cities, and subsequently smaller venues, Reed has worked hard, not only amazing audiences with his 6-and 12-string acoustic pieces, but also with his warm rapport that includes impromptu guitar lessons and standup comedy. (He used to do music relief for comedy clubs, performing with Robin Williams and Billy Rafferty, among others.)

With *Instrument Landing*, his latest release on MCA/Universal Records, Reed has strengthened his reputation as an innovative guitarist who defies categorization.

In a review of his 1986 *The Road Less Traveled* (a road Reed knows all too well), *Playboy* critic Charles M. Young named Reed "... my nomination for ace

See Reed/Page 10

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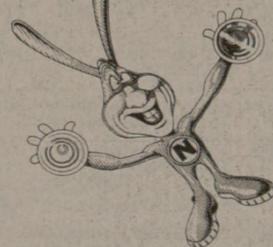
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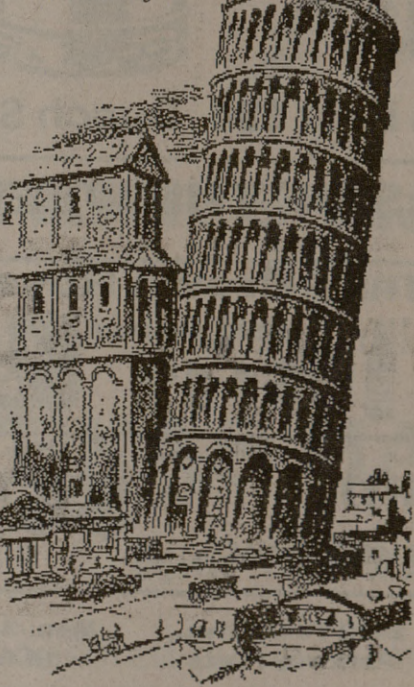
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