

# Your Man at Batt

by Greg Moses

Finding the library a poor place for serious study, David Sneed, a junior zoology major, went to the Zachry Engineering Center for his weekend book-cracking. He expected to spend a few hours studying in the afternoon, but all the rooms were locked.

"Last semester... rules for the Engineering Center classrooms were posted on bulletin boards in each classroom," noted Sneed in a letter to The Battalion. "One of the rules stated that all classrooms were to be open for studying at all times when not in use by scheduled classes. Why has the rule been suddenly abandoned?"

David J. Harvell, administrative assistant for TEES, said the rooms were locked beginning Jan. 21 due to "extensive abuse of the classrooms" after normal class hours.

Sneed mentioned in his letter that in the many nights he studied at Zachry before it was closed he saw trash in classrooms only rarely.

Harvell said complaints of trash was one reason the Engineering Center was closed. "Faculty members said that classes were unfit for use in the morning," said Harvell. Besides the litter problem, there were chairs broken in the classrooms and lounge chairs from the halls were being dragged into the rooms, he added.

"We're not trying to lock anyone out of an education," said Harvell. "That's why we held off as long as we did."

"The front doors are always open and we still have four classrooms open for study until midnight on weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends," said Harvell.

The rooms are 104A, B, C and D. "If they were locked when (Sneed) was there, it was a mistake and I'll look into it," said Harvell.

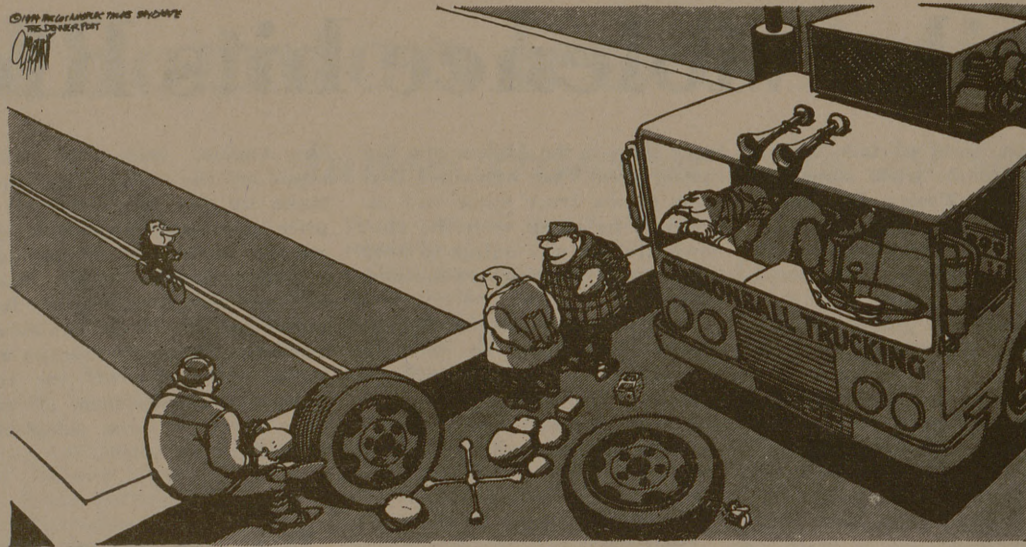
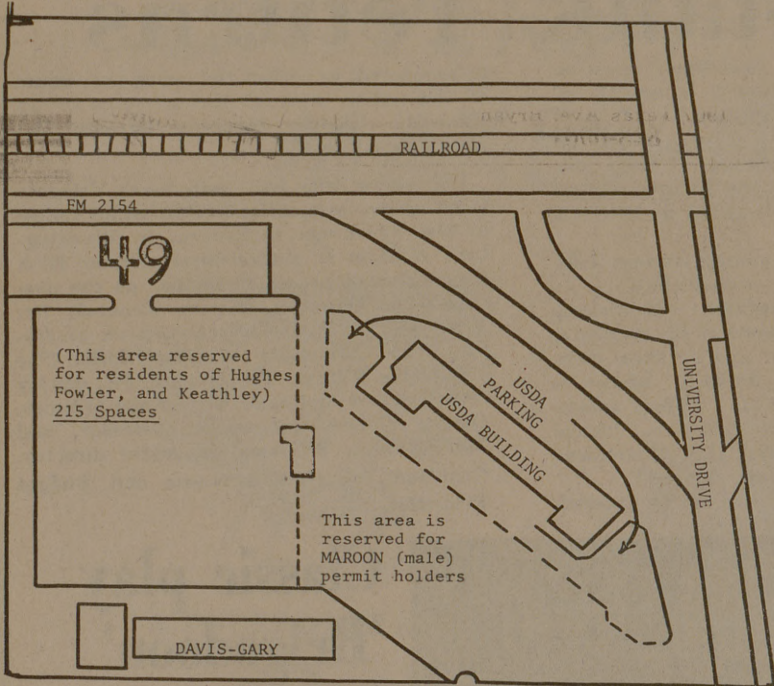
## Parking blues

The parking problem won't go away.

"Our major problem is getting people in their designated parking areas," said Chief O. L. Luther of the University Police. Recent changes in a few parking areas has compounded the confusion. Twenty spaces on the South side of lot 32 (across Houston Street from Sbis) will remain faculty staff area but the others have been changed to day student parking. Lot 49 will be used according to the map below, not according to the parking map, which was a misprint.

There are enough spaces for all students, but some are just more convenient than others. Parking Lot 50, behind the Engineering Center, has an average of 300 vacancies per day, says Luther. Between 350 and 450 spaces are usually available in PA 40 and the south end of PA 24, behind the Krueger-Dunn complex. Spaces are also available in PA 40, behind K-D, according to Luther. Happy parking.

"Your Man at Batt" is a column for student problems. All calls to The Battalion which may contribute to this column are welcome.



## Lease Line—

# Tenants live with mold, rats

By BARB SEARS

Two grave wrongs have been done to the tenants of West Knoll Townhouses in College Station: one perpetrated by their landlord and one by the local government. The poor maintenance on the part of the landlord is amazing. The roofs of the apartments leak so badly that many tenants report that mold grows on their walls and ceilings. One observed mildew beginning to overtake her carpet, and during rainy weather, water even drips from the ceiling light fixtures! The internal humidity of the apartments has also caused the entrance doors to warp and stick.

In addition to these complaints, the tenants have informed me that the apartments are infested with rats, which frolic in the playground and yards at night. One report referred to a child that had actually been bitten by a rat.

THIS SPOTLIGHT on West Knoll Townhouses is not taken arbitrarily. Members of the Fair Housing Commission have talked personally with three different tenants who have described similar complaints and who guarantee that there are many other dissatisfied tenants.

In spite of continual complaints for many months, little has been done by the landlord to rectify the situation. The manager made some feeble attempts to patch the roof himself, but the reports indicate that he only aggravated the situation. It seems obvious that a professional roofing job is needed, but the landlord seems hesitant about spending any money for maintenance.

After receiving little action from the landlord, the tenants tried other alternatives. The Public Works Department of College Station was called, but it refused to send a building inspector due to a loophole in the current housing code. The minimum housing standards apply only to buildings constructed after the adoption of the code, and that was only three years ago. West Knoll Townhouses are four years old.

THE TENANTS thought that the water dripping from the light fixtures could be a severe electrical hazard, and they were able to obtain a visit and cursory inspection by the College Station Fire Department. In one area, the Fire Department official was quite helpful, because he pointed out to the manager that the door stuck so badly that the little children could not open it, and thus could be trapped inside during a fire. But in relation to the electrical circuits and the danger of their exposure to water, the official said that it appeared to be a serious problem, but he could not determine exactly how significant without tearing the roof off, and he would need permission. Finally the owner responded and said that he personally would fix the roof that week. The date he specified was over a week ago, so it has become apparent that he is not going to be as diligent with the repairs as the tenants had hoped.

The tenants decided to try another route. In relation to the dampness and rats, the tenants felt they had a reasonable objection in relation to occupancy and health, and so they called the County Health Office. They were told the Health Department only investigates matters concerning state buildings. Pursuing this angle, the tenants called the Sanitation Department, described the situation, and were told that they would be called back. They were not contacted, however.

IN DESPERATION, the tenants called the Mayor and the County Attorney, who, although sympathetic, just referred them to the Better Business Bureau.

It is clear that the landlord has not provided a "habitable place" for his tenants. Therefore, it can

be construed that he did not live up to his responsibilities, and thus nullified the contract. If they so desired, the tenants could move out and legitimately demand their deposits back. However, such an action could place them in a position vulnerable to a suit or eviction by the landlord. Although the matter is not at all settled, it is possible that they will seek justice through the court system and try to force their recalcitrant landlord to provide them with a decent place to live.

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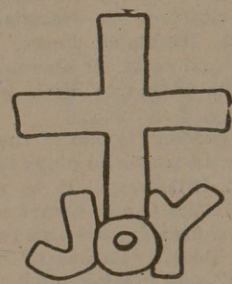
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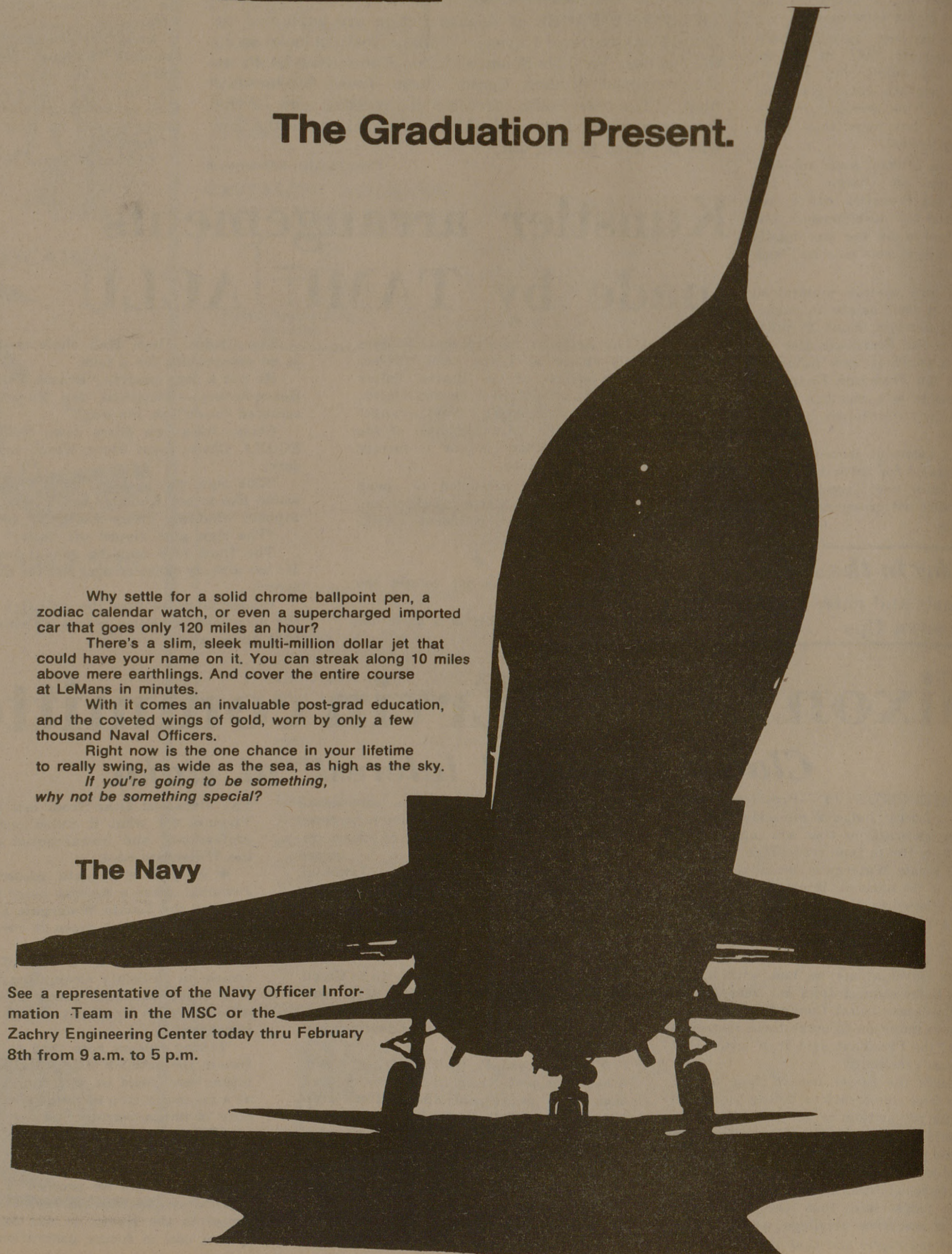


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BIBLE CLASS  
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## The Graduation Present.



## The Navy

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