

# Your Man at Batt

by Greg Moses

For the last "Man at Batt" column this semester we will look at complaints directed at the University Police Department.

Dale Powell, a freshman political science major, wrote the following letter (dated April 29) to Chief O. L. Luther of the University Police:

This afternoon, a friend and I were at the MSC and saw the new fountains over toward the west side. We noticed that the new wing on this part of the MSC was almost finished so we decided to look in. We were surprised to find furniture, including lit lamps. Obviously someone was staying there. Let me say right now, however, that I thought that this new wing was to be a "hotel" for visiting parents to stay in on the weekends. Therefore, we went to the main entrance (facing the athletic dorms), intending to at least see the lobby. Noticing many people standing near the doorway, we decided not to go in there, however, and be stared at by a group of parents. So we went up to the second level via the outside stairs, hoping to find a less-crowded entrance.

At this time, a campus police officer came up the stairs and demanded our IDs. In an extremely harsh and accusing manner, he asked why we were up there. We tried to explain, but he didn't seem to listen. We then found that this new wing in reality was not part of the MSC but a home for the Board of Directors. This surprised us certainly; but to an even greater extent, we were surprised at his manner in telling us this. He told us to "go play over there," pointing to the part of the Memorial Student Center where the post office is.

Sir, needless to say, this type of behavior on the part of the officer is unduly humiliating. My friend and I were certainly innocent of any crime, lest it be ignorance. In any case, the persecution which we received was uncalled for. I was very much upset by this incident—to the point even of considering transferring to another university. This is unlikely because I like A&M too much; nonetheless, where before there was nothing but pride and admiration for both the MSC and the University Police, now there will be an occasional instance of anger and disgust.

To avoid this from happening to other students, I respectfully request you to encourage a more friendly manner among the University Police when dealing with students. Also, please place signs which read "Private" around the Board of Directors' home or do something so that everyone will know that this is not part of the MSC, that this is not for students to "hang around," but that this wing is for the Board of Directors' use only.

Thank you very much, Chief Luther, for your time and consideration.

Something similar happened to a Batt staff member a few weeks ago: An officer met him in a dark stairwell and shined a flashlight in his eyes. Then the officer demanded the student's ID in a voice far from polite. The student was then taken out the front door and was asked if a certain bicycle was his. The student said he did not own a bike.

The officer took the student to his patrol car where another officer positively identified the student as the culprit. Culprit of what? The officer seemed belligerent and obnoxious, but he finally explained that the student was charged with running a stop sign and riding a bicycle without a light. When the student tried to explain to the officer that he had not done any of this, the officer threatened to write another citation for fleeing arrest.

About this time the student asked for the names and badge numbers of the two officers. The officer again spoke in an obnoxious manner. He told the student, who had a pad and pencil, that he could not use the hood of the police car to rest his pad on while he copied the names and number. The student turned around to use a car parked nearby. The officer told the student that he could not use that car either and directed the student to use a nearby garbage can.

The student then tried to clear himself of the charges by suggesting that he and the officers go to the Batt office and verify that the student was working there during the alleged time of the violation. The officer said he was going to write the ticket anyway but the student could go to the office and get witnesses if necessary. When the student started to go back in the building for witnesses the officer changed his mind and sent his partner up to the office with the student's ID. A few minutes later the officers were apologizing to the student.

Powell's letter and the Batt staffer's experience are the two best documented of a number of complaints that the Batt has received concerning the campus police.

Luther said he had no comment to make on Powell's letter at this time.

The incident involving the Batt staff member was brought to Luther's attention the night it happened and he was receptive to the complaint and straightened the matter out within the department.

"I'm 100 percent for the students," said Luther. He added that students having gripes concerning the police should complain to the police department. "We need to know about legitimate complaints," he said.



## Listen Up Marsh feels 'intimidation' from action of Batt staff

Editor:

Very few times in my political career in Student Government here at A&M have I actually felt intimidated. Previous to this last week I can recall only minor intimidation from one senior member of the Corps when I first entered the Senate at the end of my freshman year. That practice died with the class of 1973.

Now it seems that the Battalion editor and a few members of his staff have taken it upon themselves to advise members of the Senate and Executive Committee on how to vote on key presidential appointments. Here are a few of their methods: Lift a tentatively complete list of University Committee appointments from President Eberhard's office; Call nearly every member of the Senate encouraging them not to approve two such appointments—Bill Davis for Publications Board and Jerri Ward for Judicial Board Chairwoman; Raise insinuations that three members of the present Executive Committee have "dated" Ms. Ward at some time in the past; Write letters to at least two such Executive Committee members chastising them for voting for Bill Davis because of such claims as (a) "they voted against the Batt," (b) they voted against the "interests of the student body," (c) they voted against the Corps, although neither specifically represents the Corps, and (d) they were being politically blind by not openly considering other possible applicants.

If any one student did any one of these things by himself, independently of the other events, I could respect him for trying to voice his opinion. However, none of these events occurred independently nor did one person engineer this smear campaign.

Concerning the accusation of personal involvement of members of the Executive Committee with Ms. Ward, it is true that two individuals have escorted Ms. Ward to several university functions. To construe such social acquaintance as sexually or emotionally based is both misleading and incorrect. I don't appreciate Hank Wahrmond, of the Batt, calling me at 1:20 in the morning and telling me that I should not even vote due to "conflict of interest." I call this intimidation.

I also do not feel that the Sen-

ate could logically consider other applicants for certain offices appointed by the Student Government President since the Senate has no assurance that the president would under any circumstances appoint any of the others. In reference to conflict of interests—the Batt's choices for these two appointments were Rod Speer, the present Batt editor, for Publications Board and Mike Perrin, ad salesman and husband of a Batt staff writer, for the position of Judicial Board Chairman.

The Battalion's use of editorial comment should be kept on page two of The Battalion and should not be expressed in such smear campaigns. Nor should Hank Wahrmond set himself up as the conscience of the Corps of Cadets.

Curtis W. Marsh  
Vice-President for Finance

The Battalion endorsed no one for the Student Publications Board or for Judicial Board Chairman. Different staff members did call their senators concerning these appointments as any constituent would express his beliefs to his representative.—Ed.

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Goodbye

Editor:

As this school year comes to a

close please let me express once more my love, appreciation and best wishes to my Aggies

To the seniors of 1974 it is with a feeling of sadness that I see you go. It seems only yesterday that you were my Fish and the four years have gone by too swiftly. I know that where ever you go the spirit of this university will go with you and you will remember how great it was to be a part of it and how much it means to be an Aggie. I can't begin to thank you for the wonderful times we have shared and for the many kind and beautiful things you have done for me. My love, interest and best wishes will go with you always.

I look forward to the months ahead with my Aggies of '75, '76 and '77. All of you have made this school year a very happy one. The memories are very special and I will cherish them always.

The love and friendship of my Fish mean more to me than I know how to express. I hope my sophomores will forgive me if I neglected them. You were my Fish last year—remember?

To the Corps of Cadets, my girls, my civilian friends—to every one at Texas A&M that I know and love. Thank you and God bless you.

Ruth Huns  
(former Aggie Mother of the Year)

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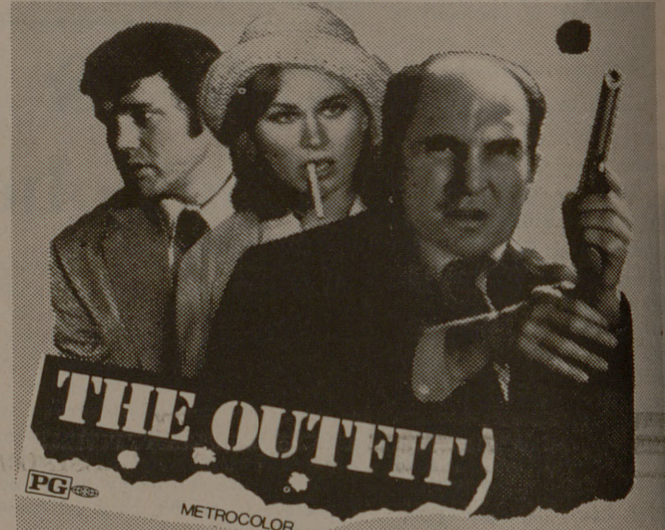
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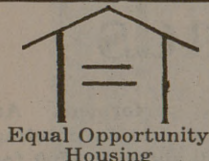
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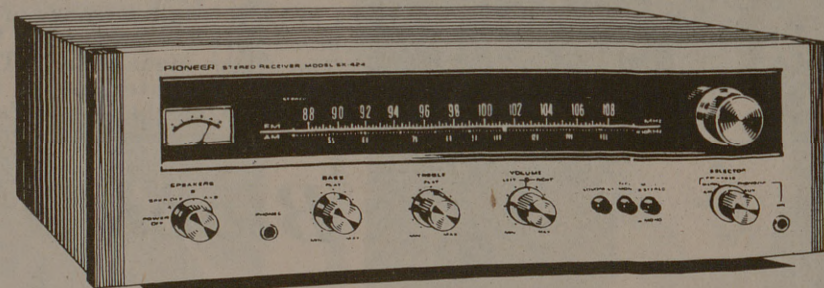
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