

uated in August with a degree in sociology, is a patrolman and field training officer. She says being a student has helped her relate to the students she encounters while on the job.

"I can understand what's going on a little more," Scott says. "I know what they are going through and I can talk to them a little easier."

D.J. Dunlap, desk sergeant, is a graduate student in sociology. She was born and raised in College Station and her father is an A&M professor. She says the constant influx of new people and ideas keeps her job interesting.

"We've got a lot of people who are not set solid in their ways," Dunlap says. "Everyone is receptive to new ideas and we're always trying to strive for something better."

She says the effort is paying off.

"We're succeeding in trying to better ourselves," Dunlap says. "We're growing in leaps and bounds and improving every day."

Despite the growth, Phillips says many students complain that the department can't perform the supersleuth feats pulled off by T.V. cops.

"Students watch T.V.," Phillips says, "and assume that you can lift a fingerprint off some-

thing and tell exactly whose it is."

Dunlap says the main complaint is the parking shortage on campus. A parking garage is in the planning stages, she says, but in the meantime, students needed a temporary solution. The University Police initiated and implemented the idea of intracampus buses that allow students to park across the tracks and ride the bus to class. Dunlap says she feels the plan has been a success.

That feeling of success seems to permeate the entire department.

Ragan proudly points out the fact that the hiring requirements of the University Police are tougher than state requirements.

The state requires officers to have a high school diploma or GED equivalent. The University Police, in addition, require at least some college hours, Ragan says. Officers are encouraged, but not required, to get a degree.

According to Ragan, all officers must go through a rigid hiring process that includes a state entrance exam, a background investigation, two oral review boards, a psychological examination and a ten-week basic training course.



Battalion file photo

Parking patrol officers are responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations for campus parking.

In addition, new officers at A&M must go through 16 weeks of field training with an experienced officer to better prepare them for the situations they may encounter, Ragan says.

"We're very happy with the (16 week training) program," Ragan says. "It's turned out some good officers."

And those good officers enjoy working for A&M and its students.

Detective William Scott began working for the University Police in May, 1979. His father is an A&M professor. He says he enjoys the diversity of working in a "human factor" job.

"I don't know from one day to the next what's going to be on my desk," Scott says. "We handle anything from murder, suicide and rape all the way down to stolen purses."

Although most of what they deal with is very serious, Scott remembers an amusing incident that happened in 1983.

An A&M professor was out of the country and his secretary was handling his mail for him. She came across a bulky envelope with a suspicious ticking sound coming from inside. Assuming it was some sort of bomb, she immediately called the University Police. Taking no chances, the police called the bomb squad in from Fort Hood. Scott says everyone was shocked and a little embarrassed when the "bomb" turned out to be a greeting card that played "Happy Birthday."

Scott still keeps the device in his scrapbook, and it still plays.



In addition to regular patrol duty, university police help students with problems such as starting a stalled car.