

Holy Homicide! Batfans give Robin the big BIFF

I remember as a kid, waking up early, going to Grandma's house and snuggling into her plush couch as the smell of hotcakes wafted in from the kitchen. I'd settle back with a breakfast beverage — usually chocolate milk (two parts chocolate syrup, one part milk) or coffee milk (two parts milk, one part coffee) — and absorb myself in a daily dose of boob tube.



Anthony Wilson
Opinion Page Editor

Each day began the same: a clownish criminal would commit a heinous crime, the subsequent call from Commissioner Gordon via the Batphone, followed by Bruce and Dick saying "to the Batpoles," concluding with the Batmobile peeling out of the side of a mountain.

Yes, Batman was The Man. The Caped Crusader, the Detective of Darkness, the Masked Avenger — Batman was the star of the show. Yet, he was never the reason I watched the series. I just couldn't identify with him.

Yeah, Batman was intelligent, suave, handsome, witty and smooth with the ladies. But that was the problem. He was too perfect — a sort of cross between Ward Cleaver, Cary Grant and Joe DiMaggio. And besides that, he was old. At least 30.

So it was Robin, Batman's excitable teenage sidekick, with whom I identified. I figured anyone who could gain the respect of adults while wearing green tights and elf shoes was all right by me. And those lines. Right off the top of his head he came up with something like: "Prancing pickled Penguin patties" or "Riddling rastafarian rumors" or "Caustic, colorful Catwoman capers." The kid was what we journalists call a quote machine.

So imagine my dismay when I saw a headline in last week's newspaper reading, "HOLY HOMICIDE! Batman fans play Joker, give Robin a fatal BLAST!" In this week's "Batman," issue No. 428, Robin's 48-year existence will come to a gruesome end when the Joker, Iran's new ambassador to the United Nations, blows him to smithereens.

But that's not the worst of it. It was faithful Batman readers who decided Robin's fate. (BIFF! POW! ZOWIE!)

In a September phone-in poll, Bat-

maniacs voted 5,343 to 5,271 to off the Boy Wonder. No doubt those are also the only 5,343 people in America who watch "Gerald" (and enjoy it), drink blueberry Kool-Aid and voted for Walter Mondale.

The good news is that the ill-fated Robin is not the one we grew up with.

That Robin, the alter-ego of Dick Grayson, traded in his red-breasted uniform in 1984 to become Nightwing, head of the crime-fighting Teen Titans. Readers complained that Jason Todd, Robin II, was "a vengeful little brat" and "a wimp" (were they referring to the Boy Wonder or Pee Wee Herman?) and urged DC Comic editors to "waste him."

Batman editor Dennis O'Neill promises that Robin won't be returning via the Bobby Ewing/Thomas Magnum dream sequence, so it's obvious that he'll soon be looking for a replacement for the dearly departed half of the Dynamic Duo. Since I am a fan of the television and comic book series, and something of a Bat(t) authority, I've compiled an official "Robin Replacement Roster." Any of these substitutes would make a fine Robin III:

•**Robin Leech** — The host of "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" would make a fine Caped Crusader. Just imagine: Batman and Robin Leech burst into the roguish Joker's hideout. During the ensuing brawl, Robin Leech punches out one of the Joker's henchmen while exclaiming, "Champagne wishes and caviar dreams!"

•**Robin Williams** — This frenetic comic could easily fulfill the expectations of excitability and wacky lines that we've come to expect from Batman's better half. For example: "GOOD MORNING GOTHAM CITY! This is



the new-and-improved Boy Wonder, cleaning up crime from the Cave to the Commissioner's office. Hey, ever notice the comparable makeup application techniques of the Joker and Tammy Faye Bakker? And is it purely coincidental that the Penguin and Mike Dukakis are the same height? SUR-PRISE, SUR-PRISE, SUR-PRISE!!! The Democrats are going to make me eat breakfast with Lloyd Bentsen for that one."

•**Robin Givens** — With her experience as the soon-to-be former Mrs. Mike Tyson, her "kid gloves" are already off, so-to-speak. This woman is brutal, vicious, ferocious — and that's just with a credit card. Of course, if Batman recruited Robin Givens, he'd also get her mother, since they are a package deal. However, that wouldn't be a problem.

Ruth Roper could just assume the secret identity of Bat-tle Axe. The only setback would be that if the trio split, Robin and Ruth would definitely seek custody of the Batmobile, the Batcopter, the Batboat, the Batcave . . .

•**Lady Bird Johnson** — So what if the bird lady is a senior citizen? She must be a very tough cookie to have handled LBJ at one time. And she already comes equipped with her own support hose.

•**Larry Bird** — The Hick from French Lick is much smarter than he lets on. And the Penguin would wet his waddle when confronted by a 6-foot-9 superhero. He's used to wearing goofy-looking green shoes and working in a cave-like environment. Beside, Egghead's got to be easier to handle than

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (if in fact they are not the same person).

•**Big Bird** — With Big Bird's attire and high-pitched voice, he would even notice the difference between him and Robin. Of course, he might have a little trouble squeezing into the passenger's seat of the Batmobile. And the Catwoman could be even more intimidating to him since he's a bird. But handling Egghead would be a breeze.

So there you have it, Batfans — Robin Replacement Roster. For Batman's running mate, until tomorrow's presidential election, it will be one close one.

Anthony Wilson is a senior journalism major and opinion page editor at The Battalion.

Mail Call

Awareness Week successful

EDITOR:
I would like to thank *The Battalion* for its excellent coverage of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week events, Oct. 17-21. Texas A&M University has been participating in this nationally observed week for several years, and it was this year that committee members launched activities with the purpose of targeting as many student groups and individuals as possible. This year's theme, "Choices of a New Generation," encouraged students to make informed choices about the role that alcohol plays in their lives.

Many people helped to make this year's program a big success. Student organizations and campus departments that coordinated and sponsored the week's events include Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Residence Hall Association, Interfraternity Council, Student "Y", BACCHUS, Circle K, Department of Student Affairs, Center for Drug Prevention and Education, Department of Student Activities, Off Campus Aggies, Department of Food Services and Judicial Affairs. Retail sponsors who donated publicity and door prizes include Rother's Bookstore, Loupot's Bookstore, Flying Tomato, Garfield's, Bennis's, Popabilities, Red Lobster, Graffiti, Mission Jewelers and Putt-Putt Golf.

A special thanks goes to our co-sponsor KKYS 105 and Chuck Reddin for air publicity and live remote coverage.

Alcohol is an issue on this campus and at other universities across the nation. Through awareness and education, students can make responsible choices about alcohol which will enhance their development.

Debra Doyle
Graduate student

Students await finals decision

EDITOR:
For most of this semester the Admissions and Records office has been handing out the "official" final exam schedule for the fall semester. In an article in the Oct. 20 *Battalion* it was reported that the president's office was considering shifting this exam schedule by one day so that graduating seniors could receive diplomas at the graduation ceremony.

More than a week later, students are still awaiting a decision. Many students need this information to make plane reservations and other travel arrangements for returning home for the semester break. A final decision must be made soon or we'll all be spending Christmas in College Station.

Jeff Sanchez '90

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

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(USPS 045 360)
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The *Battalion* also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.
The *Battalion* is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.
Mail subscriptions are \$17.44 per semester, \$34.62 per school year and \$36.44 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: *The Battalion*, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.

DWM plays the alphabet dating game

I was glancing through the paper the other day and I came across personal ads in the classified section.

Ever read those ads? "GWM wants to meet GWM for travel and intimate relationship. Must be nonsmoker."

After some thinking (I'm also brilliant on the Jumble word game, having "UTIGRA" — guitar — in 15 seconds), I figured what the capital letters in the ads stood for.

"GWM," of course, is a "gay white male," and I'm thinking here's this gay guy who's got to know the facts about AIDS, but what he's concerned about is breathing secondhand smoke from his lover's cigarette.

Another ad read, "SWF wants SWM who's into jazz, the classics, vintage wines and hiking."

"SWF" and "SWM," I figure, have to stand for "single white female" and "single white male."

Any single white female who has to

Lewis Grizzard
Columnist

resort to taking out an ad to find a boyfriend would take a SWM who's into yodeling. "Hustler" magazine, Ripple and robbing convenience stores.

Still another ad read: "SBM, handsome, athletic, financially secure, wants SBF, 20s, who will be his princesses."

If I were a SBF (single black female) I would want to know how this narcissist got his money and if being his princess meant I'd have to get tied up or do anything involving live animals.

I don't think I'd ever put an ad in the personal section, but if I ever did resort to such a thing, I'm afraid I'd have a difficult time getting all I wanted to say about myself in a few capital letters.

I'm a "DWM," a divorced white male (OK, an oft-DWM). On top of that I'm a

"MAODWM," a "Middle-aged-divorced-white-male," and I don't know which makes me a "MAODWMNS."

I'd also like for prospective candidates to know I'm a Protestant, a graduate, a 14-handicap golfer, a snore, which now has me up to the MMAODWMNSPCG14HGWS.

Naturally, I'd also want to put in a dog lover who brushes his hair regularly, still has his hair, loves sandwiches, and often entertains friends by doing a simply marvelous impression of FDR declaring war on Japanese in 1941.

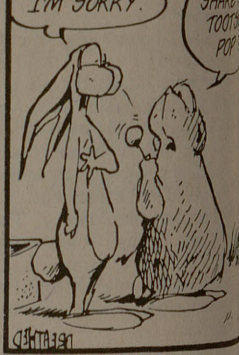
Now, how are you going to get a classified ad?

If my social life reaches the deep point, I can always go after "SWHWS."

Single Waffle House waitress. They're around 24 hours a day making the best egg sandwiches in town.
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by Berke Breath

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BLOOM COUNTY



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