

## EMT's goals accomplished through trust

By Rachel Barry  
THE BATTALION

Scott Young and Ryan Wolford act like an old married couple.

"We work very well together," Young said. It's been just over a year and a half since Young, an EMT-B, and Wolford, an EMT-P, met in their emergency medical technician class, and now they finish each other's sentences and talk in unison.

Young describes their relationship as "screwy," but the tag-team joking stops when they are called out for an emergency.

"On call, we are very serious," Young said. "There are no jokes. It's all business."

Snug in the basement of A. P. Beutel Health Center, the Squad Room is where Wolford and Young wait, knowing that to getting comfortable would bring on the inevitability of an emergency call. Until then, they wait — and joke.

"We always know when to have a good time," Wolford said.

Having a good time, Wolford said, is a product of their close friendship. Being on a call is all business, Young said.

"The patient is the highest responsibility — no matter what," Young said.

As an EMT-B, Young is trained in basic life-saving techniques, and Wolford, as an EMT-P, is a paramedic trained in advanced life-saving techniques. Together, they work as if they are appendages of the same body, communicating with a connection that is apparent in everything they do.

Starting an i.v. in a patient while barreling down the road requires an exceptional amount of trust in the person driving the ambulance, Wolford said. He said seeing Young develop as an EMT has given him the ability to have full trust in him on a call.

"That is a luxury I have with Scott," he said. "I don't blindly place trust in him. I have damn good reason to trust him. I willingly trust him because I know his ability."

If a problem arises, Wolford said, it can be easily solved.

"The fact that we're friends makes it easier to appreciate our differences and appreciate our similarities as well," he said.

Watching them take care of a patient, it is evident what they share most is the ability to work together to ease the physical and emotional pain of someone in need. They are always aware of how the patient feels, asking questions every few seconds and talking to the patient through every single thing they do.

Wolford said one of the most sacred rules in dealing with a patient is not to lie to them about their condition or what the paramedic is doing.

"You start lying to people," he said, "and you've lost your trust."

Young, as he often does, finishes Wolford's sentence.

"You lose your trust," he said, "and then you've lost it all," he said.

Wolford said gaining patient's trust can sometimes be accomplished by something as simple as putting his hand on their shoulder and talking to them. Working on campus and sharing the bond of being a student also helps the patients feel more comfortable, he said.

"They see our Aggie rings, and they can immediately come down to our level and identify with us," he said. "It makes you feel needed. It's incredible to be able to ease someone's pain just by showing up."

Young and Wolford said they are not easing people's pain for monetary rewards or résumé material. Their time spent with Emergency Medical Services is strictly voluntary. Juggling classes, 14-hour shifts on weekends and other jobs, their commitment to EMS comes from the desire to help other people.

"You're giving something to the University that no one else can," Wolford said.

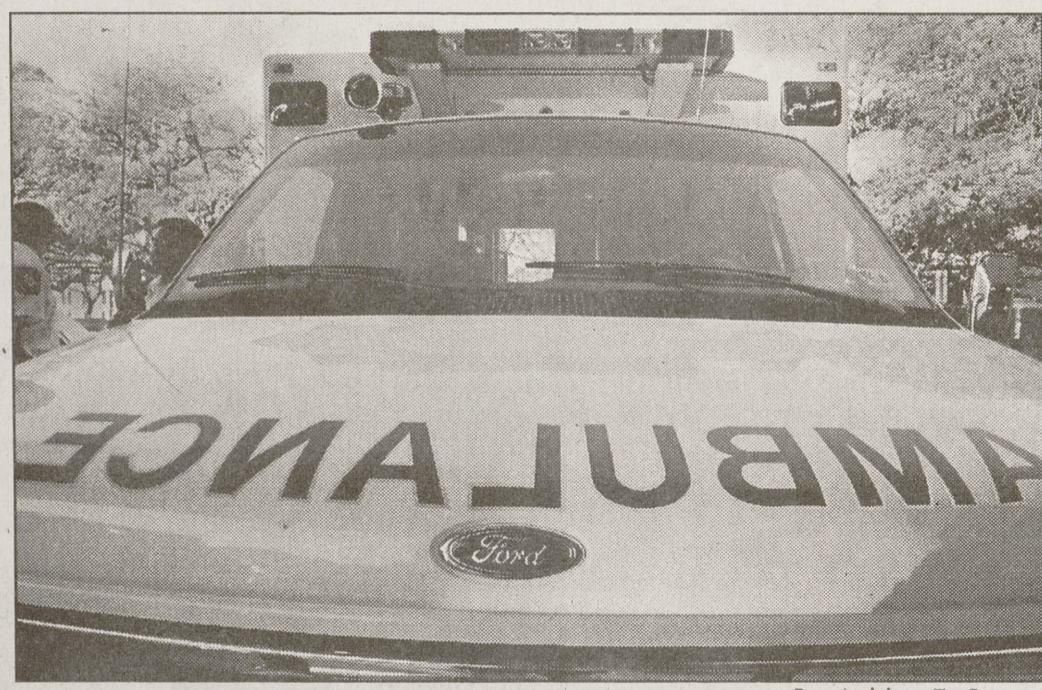
Wolford said being an EMT offers the opportunity to never have the same kind of day at work.

"It's about complete independence and chaos," he said. "My job will never be the same every day."

The chaos of a call may snap the two into a serious mode; and the severity of a patient's condition may shake their day, but Wolford said they never lose the ability to joke.

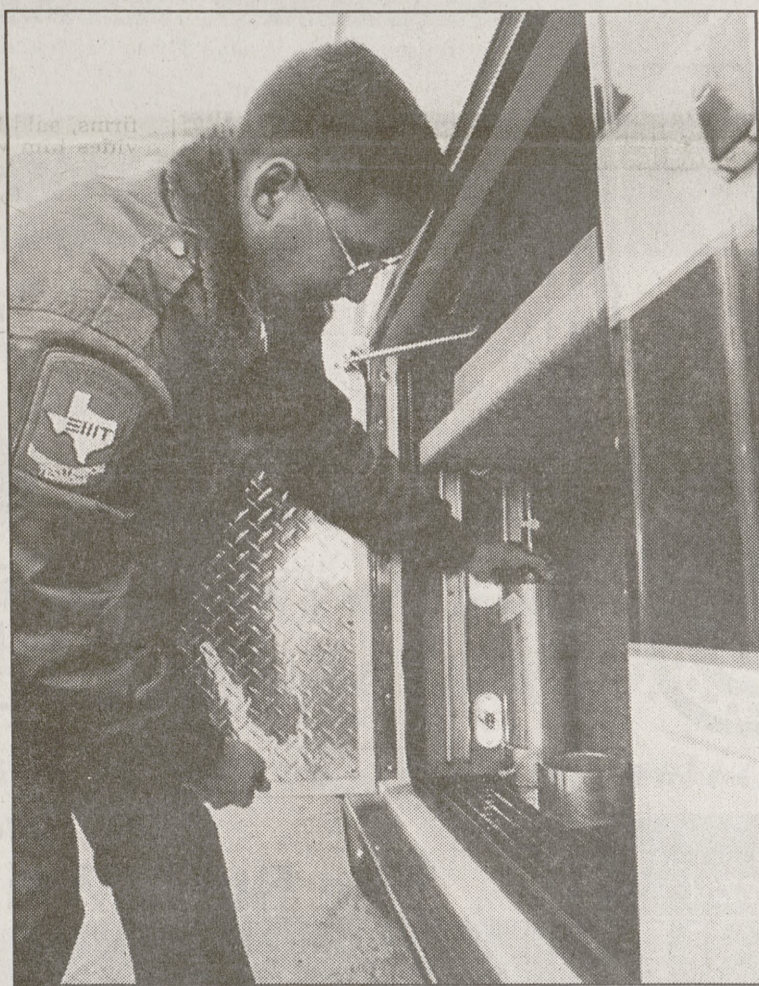
"If we didn't play around, we would go insane," he said. "It's the only way you can deal with it."

# LIGHTS and SIRENS



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services has three full-service ambulances.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Left: Juan Hernandez, a senior psychology major, prepares an ambulance for his EMS ride. Hernandez has worked for Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services for three semesters.

## UPD officers serve, protect A&M campus

By Libe Goad and Alex Walters  
THE BATTALION

They were once the Batman of campus, responding to a beacon of light atop the Academic Building. Now, they patrol the streets of Texas A&M, keeping the campus safe for the city within a city.

They are the women and men of the University Police Department.

Throughout the week, UPD officers can be spotted on campus patrolling in their blue Chevy Caprices, stopping to make sure buildings are secure and scouting out any suspicious-looking people.

Kristi Hosea, a UPD officer and a 1987 A&M graduate, offered a look into the workings of the UPD from inside her car.

Hosea's one-hour patrol through campus gave little insight to how campus police deal with crises. With the exception of pulling someone over for a broken taillight, the shift passed without a complication.

Hosea said that, even on a slow night, she rarely gets lonely while patrolling around the University.

"There's enough to keep us occupied," she said, "and there's a radio."

When Hosea stopped at a stop sign in front of DeWare Field House and waited to move on, a pedestrian scoffed.

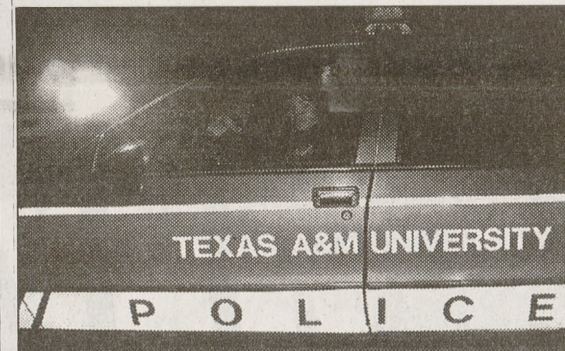
"Oh, it's just the University police," the pedestrian said.

Hosea said people react differently to her presence. Some scoff, but most are appreciative of her help.

"In general, [the response] is very good," Hosea said.

Elmer Schneider, assistant director of UPD, said people should respect the work of the campus police.

"They don't know what type of work that the campus police officer has to face today," Schneider said. "They face the same types of crime that any police officer faces."



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Kristi Hosea on her hour-long patrol.

During the tour, Hosea explained the job of a UPD officer, detailing the problems that might arise on a routine patrol.

On any given night, a UPD officer could deal with traffic violations, theft, break-ins and serving as reinforcements for the College Station Police Department.

For instance, UPD officers recently came to the rescue of the College Station Police Department, who were trying to break up a brawl on Northgate.

Hosea said since the nearest College Station patrolman was on Southwest Parkway, the UPD jumped in to help.

UPD carries the same authority as the Bryan and College Station Police Departments.

Like the city police officers, UPD officers carry guns and can make arrests in College Station and Bryan.

UPD officers can issue citations and detain or arrest offenders in any county that has A&M property.

Schneider said it takes a special type of person to carry these responsibilities.

"It takes a diplomat to move between the various strata," he said.

Hosea said the root of good police work involves honed communication skills.

"It's all in how you deal with people," she said.

Her nine years of experience make Hosea seem calm and confident, yet serious while discussing the demands of her job.

"The stress levels are highly concentrated, but sporadic and short-lived," she said.

As far as being a woman on the UPD force is concerned, Hosea said she makes the adjustments necessary to do her job.

"If it doesn't work one way," she said, "we'll do it a different way to make it work."

Hosea said people should not underestimate her abilities as an officer because she is a woman.

"You have to know what your strengths and weaknesses are," she said. "You use that to your advantage."

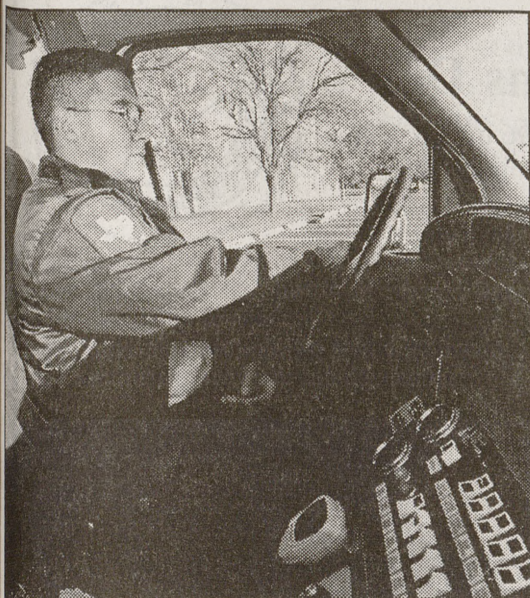
UPD officers like Hosea were commissioned for the first time at A&M in 1968.

Schneider said that before then, A&M hired night watchmen to keep a watchful eye on A&M.

"The watchmen had a certain amount of time to walk their beat, and they had to punch in to show they made the check at the building," Schneider said.

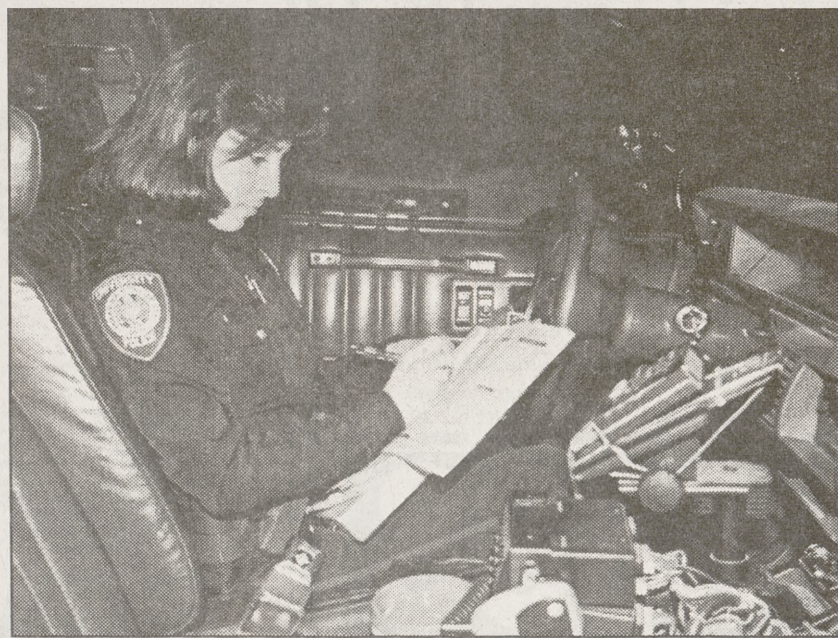
When trouble arose, they looked to the President's Moon for help. The Moon was a light set on top of the Academic Building. Like the citizens of Gotham calling for Batman's help, the shining light summoned the watchmen to call the office.

Now, UPD officers remain a radio call away.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Juan Hernandez during his patrol.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Kristi Hosea, an officer for the University Police Department and Class of '87, prepares for her patrol of the campus.

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