

# Chat & Chew

with Dr. Malon Southerland '65  
Vice President for Student Affairs

October 20, 1999  
11:00am-1:00pm  
Zachry Lobby



- Voice Concerns
- Ask Questions
- Light Refreshments

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MSC 230

7:00 pm

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# Do you feel lucky?

Students have run-ins with law; survive to tell tale

BY MELISSA PANTANO  
The Battalion

Mike Fritsch groaned as the phone jarred him from a peaceful slumber. He picked up the receiver and mumbled "Hello." On the other end of the line was the frantic voice of a friend, calling from the "drunk tank" of the College Station jail.

Fritsch, a junior accounting major, said his friend was lucky to not get into more trouble after he stumbled away at a party and ended up naked in the back of a stranger's pickup truck.

"He still doesn't know who found him, or more importantly, what happened to his clothes," Fritsch said. "But he only got a [public intoxication] for the whole thing, so he was lucky."

One of the hardships of college life is dealing with the long arm of the law, but some students have had better experiences than others.

Richard Carter, a senior business major, said his escape from the grasp of the law was a run-in with the College Station Police Department.

"One night it was pretty late and raining really hard," Carter said. "I pulled my car over into Central Park near the bypass to wait until the rain let up a little bit. Then this cop pulled into the parking lot, got out of his car in the pouring-down rain and banged on my window just to tell me that the park closed at 1 [a.m.]. I guess he thought I was doing something illegal."

Sometimes a person's sex can help determine how they are handled by the police.

Lori Vernor, a sophomore history major, said her feminine prowess got her out of a ticket once.

"I was speeding in a school zone," she said. "I didn't have my insurance with me. My new car had dealer plates, and the paper one had fallen off the back window."

Vernor said as soon as she saw the police lights in her rearview mirror she knew she was in big trouble.

"I started crying and shaking, and the cop let me go," she said. "He was even nice enough to tape the paper license plate back onto my window."

Vernor said it is much easier for women to deal with the law than men.

"Girls can play the guilt card — make the cop think of their little sister or something," she said.

Joey Hammon, a senior economics major, said sometimes people get lucky with the law.

"My freshman year, we were all in the dorm drinking," Hammon said. "A few buddies and I went out to the front of the dorm to smoke a cigarette when I decided that I needed to be sick."

"I was puking in the bushes, and this bike cop rides up. He asked to see my I.D., and I showed him my student I.D. He gave it back and asked for my license, [and] I accidentally gave him my library card."

Hammon said quick thinking and a little luck saved him from any serious trouble.

"I finally found my license and handed it to him," Hammon said. "I then told him that I was just getting over a really bad stomach flu and that I really needed to go up to my room and go to bed. He agreed, gave me my license back and rode away."



ANTHONY DISALVO/THE BATTALION  
Officer Clay Oliver of the College Station Police Department displays his cuffs from his case.

Brandon Savat, a junior engineering technology major, said a simple dorm prank got him in some major trouble.

"The night before Final Review [of] my freshman year, some buddies and I were sitting around the dorm," he said. "One of my buddies gets the idea to go out and burn a couch in the middle of the band field. So we got a couch out of the dumpster, went to the gas station and got five gallons of gasoline."

"We pulled the truck up to the marching field, and we saw campus security pull up behind us. One of my friends didn't see him, and the next thing we knew, the couch was in flames."

Savat said the night's outcome was as bad as it could have been.

"We all piled into the truck, and then followed us all the way to Kyle Field," he said. "We finally just pulled over, and they questioned us and made us clean up the ashes from the burned couch. They were nice enough to escort us to the field so the BQs wouldn't give us a hard time."

"We all ended up having to do 16 hours in community service in all and \$200. Now, whenever someone needs done, they ask us when we are going to do another couch."

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