

# ARCHIVES

# FITZ <sup>BITZ</sup>

Our Intentions are pure and noble  
our cause is just; the future  
cannot fail us.

Louis Faucherbe, 1885

FITZGERALD HOUSE, OAKLAND UNIVERSITY Feb. 1, 1968 Volume 4 number 5

## THE LETTER THE OBSERVER WAS AFRAID TO PRINT

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS SUBMITTED BY MR EDWARD BUOTE, CHINESE LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES, TO THE OAKLAND OBSERVER ON JANUARY 17, 1968. THE OBSERVER OCCASIONALLY FOR THE REASONS IN THEIR REPLY TO MR BUOTE PRINTED BELOW WOULD NOT SHOW PROFESSOR BUOTE THE COURTESY OF PRINTING THE LETTER.

Oakland Observer

To the Editor:

I am now engaged in putting together a file concerning the activities of Mr. Strong and the personnel of the Department of Public Safety on this campus. Anyone who has a grievance against this man or any of his subordinates, please communicate with me. My office is 427 Wilson Hall, ext. 2234; my home telephone number is 651-7651, where I can generally be reached at any time when I am not on campus.

Edward L. Buote

Chinese Language and Area Studies

EDITORS NOTE: MR. BUOTE'S LETTER WAS RETURNED TO HIM WITH THE WORDS "UNRECORDED CHARACTER" WRITTEN UNDER HIS SIGNATURE AND THEN SCRATCHED OUT

Mr. Edward L. Buote  
Department of Modern Languages

Dear Mr. Buote,

Concerning your letter of January 17, 1968, to the Oakland Observer after careful consideration by the editorial staff, we feel the issue involved is of a personal nature and at this time should not be handled by the Observer. Thank you for taking the time to talk with us Wednesday evening.

Yours Truly,

Janet Crouse  
for the Oakland Observer

EDITORS NOTE: IF ANYONE IS UNABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MR. BUOTE CONCERNING A GRIEVANCE OVER PUBLIC SAFETY, CONTACT FITZ BITZ (Fitz rm 107 ext. 2407) WE WILL SEE YOUR GRIEVANCE REACHES MR. BUOTE. IF YOU WISH YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GIVE YOUR NAME.

## EDITORIAL: THOROUGH HOUSECLEANING NEEDED IN PUBLIC SAFETY

When we were children, we were taught that the policeman is your friend and deserved the highest respect. At Oakland University experience teaches one the exact opposite. Our security force is unfortunately not the friend of the student or faculty nor do they deserve much respect.

NO one can deny that this university needs a security force to protect the students. Unfortunately we do not have a security force whose main duty is to protect the students, faculty and staff. We have instead a traffic force, and a poor one at that, whose main purpose seems to be to harass. We the students remain unprotected. A student is physically assaulted by a group of individuals in Vandenberg parking lot while our cop is sitting on his fat duff somewhere looking for traffic violations. When situations such as this are brought to the attention of Mr. Strong he passes them over with the excuse he doesn't have enough men.

The officers he does have are often arrogant, rude, uncivil and so taken with their own importance that they stop people for violations they haven't committed so they can strut around and act important. They seem to get some kind of vicarious thrill out of giving tickets. This obnoxious behavior on the part of Strong's boys is reprehensible enough when dealing with men and intolerable when dealing with young women. After being stopped for two violations she did not commit, a professor's wife is treated in an uncivil manner on a first name basis by one of Strong's boys. No police force in the country would tolerate an officer stopping a young woman and addressing her on a first name basis. But this practice is common among Oakland cops. Where among professional police organizations this would call for dismissal, here Strong by his indifference sanctions it. After paying one ticket and having the other voided (Never believe Public Safety when they say they can't void a ticket, they can), the professor and his wife were shocked to find apparently Strong or one of his boys let it get around that the prof's wife "tried to lie her way out of the ticket", behavior of the most reprehensible and unprofessional kind. The level of the officers on the Oakland force is shown by the fact the officer in this case misspelled both squirrel and university on the ticket. This gives a clear indication of the type of persons entrusted with our security.

We have examples of similar rude treatment on the part of the Oakland cops toward young ladies and male students. Have you ever seen an Oakland cop get out of his car for anything other than to give a ticket? Have you ever seen for any reason an Oakland Cop voluntarily help a student? They refused to help one young lady with a flat tire telling her to go to the grill and find someone, no doubt so they could hide and wait for unsuspecting motorists. Why do we need three cops at the basketball games as is frequently the case and who is watching the university while they watch basketball?

In order that the full picture of the activities of Public Safety can be assembled we strongly urge everyone with information about Strong and his boys to contact Mr. Baete or Fitz Bitz.

The time for a change has long since come. Fitz Bitz demands that a written apology be sent to the young women involved in the rude behavior of our cops (Mr. Strong knows who they are). Then a thorough housecleaning should be held and Mr. Strong and several of his officers should be replaced by men who can do a professional job.