

Wheaton Will Boycott Waterman-Norton Cab

Protest Begins Immediately

The Wheaton News

Thursday, February 18, 1965

EXTRA!

We Support...

News supports the Liberal Union's boycott of Norton Cab Co. We urge all Wheaton students and faculty members to cooperate in the boycott. Do not call Norton or Waterman taxis. Bus service on weekends will be provided by William Rocha of Norton for the duration of the boycott. If you need cab service when the buses are not running, contact the Liberal Union representative and she will arrange transportation either by coordinating cabs or by recommending a Wheaton student to take you to Mansfield free of charge. We must prove to Norton Cab Co. that Wheaton is self-sufficient and is not dependent on Andrew Bennett to leave Norton.

Students Discuss Service, Fare, Attitudes of Cab Co.

The following statements were collected by members of the Liberal Union and News staff from various students who have had unpleasant experiences with the Waterman Cab Company. They illustrate the necessity for this boycott.

One Wheaton student reports missing her train, which was to connect her with a plane leaving from Boston, because a Waterman's cab did not pick her up. She had called the cab company several times to find out where the cab was and each time the dispatcher said that the cab was on its way.

"No cabs came last Sunday to take Wheaton girls to the 10 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's although such cabs have been called for each Sunday. When Waterman's was called, they said there was no 10 a.m. Mass. The priest said, however, that the 10 a.m. Mass was held as usual. Due to Waterman's failure to appear at the appointed time, the girls missed Mass."

A Waterman's cab was fifteen minutes late in picking up a student. She had to catch a train and so grabbed a ride with a Wheaton student who was passing by at that time. When the girl trying to catch the train arrived at the Mansfield station, she took out her wallet. At that time the student who was driving the car noticed a Waterman's taxi cab driver taking down her license. When she asked him what he was doing, he replied: "Do you have a license to run a cab company?" He was referring to the fact that the girl had taken out her wallet as if to pay the student driver. However, he had no proof that this girl was actually going to pay the student driver as money had not yet exchanged hands. She might have been taking out her wallet to pay for the train ticket. He was making a false accusation.

"Last year I took a cab from Mansfield with several Norton residents, all of whom were delivered to their homes before I was and who were charged full fare. I, too, was charged the full fare when I was left at Wheaton."

"A friend of mine and I took a Waterman cab from the Mansfield station several weekends ago. There were three other Wheaton girls at the station who wished to share our cab, but when the driver notified the dispatch center that he

had five Wheaton students to transport, the dispatcher ordered him to leave the other three girls for another cab. Thus we all had to pay 75¢ or \$1 each instead of 45¢ for the trip from Mansfield to Wheaton."

Several of the students who go to Catholic mass on Sunday report that Waterman's comes too early and will not wait for the girls who are ready at the time for which the cab was specified. They usually pick up the girls after mass, but often half an hour late.

"One Sunday night at least a dozen Wheaton girls got off the train at Mansfield and got into the taxis there. There was plenty of room for one more girl in our cab and there were several girls left at the station to wait for the next trip. When I told the driver there was room for one more, he said he would determine how many girls went in that cab, not the students. When we got to Wheaton he was still rude and threw my skis on the ground, luckily without damaging them."

Several students have called Waterman's when their cabs have been late, only to be told that they never ordered a cab.

"Waterman Taxi told me I could share a cab to Mansfield if any other Wheaton students called to go to the same train. I was called for alone, no students were picked up at other stops on campus, yet when I reached the station, I met three other Wheaton girls who had been transported by Waterman to the same train, leaving the campus the same time I did. I was charged full fare, but they had a chance to share the cost, although I had explicitly asked to share a cab if possible."

"Waterman's picked me up in the morning to make a train at Mansfield. Rather than driving straight to the station, the taxi driver went off the route to pick up another man. I barely made the train. I was charged full fare of \$2.20 plus tip, but it seemed the man was a friend of the driver and didn't have to pay. On the return trip that afternoon, I almost had to cut an English class because the taxi drove to East Mansfield to leave another woman passenger, even though I was the first one in the cab."

Another student told about the

Rebellion Against Monopoly: Students Organize Travel

The Wheaton Liberal Union is organizing a complete boycott of Andrew Bennett's Waterman or Norton Cab Companies which operates as a virtual monopoly of Wheaton service. If the boycott is to be effective, every Wheaton student and faculty member must shun Andrew Bennett's service. The boycott is effective tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 19.

Traditionally, there are three ways to reach Mansfield and the trains to the "outside world" from Wheaton: 1) bus on Friday afternoon and Saturday mornings; 2) cab when there are too few students to warrant a school bus; 3) student cars. The Liberal Union

is organizing each of these means of transportation.

Mr. Bennett will be asked not to send buses tomorrow or Saturday to transport Wheaton students to the trains. His service will be taken over by William Rocha, a Norton resident, who operates a school bus and limousine service in Foxboro. Peggy Remington, CGA bus chairman, has announced the following buses this weekend:

Friday 5 p.m. to meet:
5:44 Boston; 5:51 Prov.
Sat. 8:50 a.m.
9:13 Boston; 10:22 Prov.
11:15 a.m.
11:59 Boston; 11:39 Prov.

Sign-up in Cage by Friday morning for these buses. Place of departure will be listed in Cage.

The Liberal Union letter lists telephone numbers and rates of cab companies other than Norton (Waterman) which can service Wheaton students to Mansfield or Attleboro or other points. News wishes to note: 1) Taunton cabs will cost nearly \$4 since they charge on basis of Taunton to Mansfield; 2) Houle's Cab which has the franchise at Attleboro is City Cab of Attleboro; 3) Ideal Taxi of Mansfield provides one cab—rates \$1.75 for one person; \$2.20 shared by more than one passenger—phone number 339-8300.

A student shuttle service is being established for the duration of the boycott. Leaflets are being distributed today to all students requesting volunteers to drive their fellow students to Mansfield. No fares may be charged students by students or else we can be accused of running a taxi service illegally.

This volunteer system can also be used to pick up students at Mansfield Station. Arrangements should be made before leaving Wheaton.

Any student who cannot contact a cab other than Norton (Waterman) should call 285-3265 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. This private student phone will be manned during those hours by student volunteers who will coordinate all student shuttles. Volunteers are needed to "bell-hop"—Contact Citti Allsup in Clark. Volunteer drivers should submit name and preferred hours to Terry Alexander or Jenny Connor.

Additional notes: Mr. Rocha's bus at the request of the student committee will meet the last train from Boston and the last train from Providence on Saturday and Sunday nights. Students participating in the boycott should look for his bus and refuse to use Mr. Bennett's conveyance. Buses will meet the following trains:

Saturday:
Leaves Boston—11:45 p.m.
Arrives Mansfield—12:29 a.m.
no trains from Providence will be met (last one leaves 5:20)

Sunday:
Leaves Boston—11:45 p.m.
Arrives Mansfield—12:25 a.m.
Leaves Prov.—11 p.m.
Arrives Mansfield—11:20 p.m.

Finally, Mr. Rocha will transport Catholic girls to Mass Sunday as a volunteer service. Contact Paula Stoppa to determine time and place of departure for 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. Mass.

A student who wishes to leave campus now has three alternatives: 1) sign-up in the Cage for a scheduled bus to Mansfield; 2) call any cab other than Norton (Waterman). Note: Bill's is only available nights and weekends; 3) call 285-3265 for student shuttle service.

Liberal Union Demands Waterman Cab Boycott

The Wheaton Liberal Union deplors the unfair practices of Norton (Waterman's) Cab Company. We decry the unfair advantages the company has taken because of its exclusive franchise with the New Haven railroad. In protest we hereby demand a boycott of Norton Cab Company by the entire Wheaton Community. The boycott will begin this week-end and will continue until the following requests have been met.

- 1) lower and uniform rates.
- 2) a policy of non-discrimination to be followed by the company's drivers.
- 3) equal sharing of the cab fare by all passengers to or from the Wheaton campus regardless of whether they are students or not. The campus includes all college-owned property and the buildings thereupon.
- 4) a reduced and equitable price when the cab company finds it necessary for one cab to make stops outside a 1-mile radius of the Wheaton campus in the course of a single trip.
- 5) an honest policy in answering queries about other Norton Co. cabs requested for the same times and going in the same direction.

The Liberal Union urges all members of the Wheaton Community to use the following cab companies instead of Waterman's Cab.

Attleboro	City Cab	CA 2-5000	\$2.50 from Wheaton to Attleboro
	Covell Cab	CA 2-0770	\$2.00 from " " "
	Pleasant Cab	CA 2-0771	\$2.00 from " " "
Taunton	Broadway Taxi Service		45¢ 1st mile—
		824-5832	40¢ after for every mile
	Central Cab Co.	824-6904	45¢ per mile
	Checker Cab Co.	824-5831	45¢ per mile
	City Cab Co.	824-4055	
Mansfield	Bill's	339-8811	\$2.00 from Wheaton to Mansfield

The Liberal Union would also like to call attention to the bus service every hour from Providence to Attleboro for 75¢. The bus driver will signal for a cab to take you to Wheaton. We will also post in the Cage a list of girls with cars who have offered to drive. Arrangements for Friday and Saturday busses have been made with Mr. William Rocha to meet Mansfield trains.

Susan Schoch
Susan Sherk
Citti Allsup

exorbitant price of a cab going to Wesleyan. She called Waterman's to get an estimate of the trip's cost. She was told \$80. Just as she declined to use the cab, she was told a deal could be made. But she insisted she did not want the cab. She called another company in Norton, and they quoted her a price of \$30. The cab she then ordered turned out to be a limousine owned by Waterman's, and she had to pay \$80. She did not know that Norton and Waterman cabs are the same.

One Wheaton student ordered the Volkswagon bus for seven girls for 4 p.m. At 4:45 a cab appeared

with one door tied on. Three girls were left behind because they could not fit into the cab.

A teacher from House in the Pines, who got out on the Wheaton campus, was forced to pay the same rate as if she had taken the cab by herself.

A Wheaton student ordered a Waterman's cab for four girls. It arrived late. When the girls got into the cab it lurched backwards and fumes came pouring out of the engine. They had to find a Wheaton student to take them to the station.