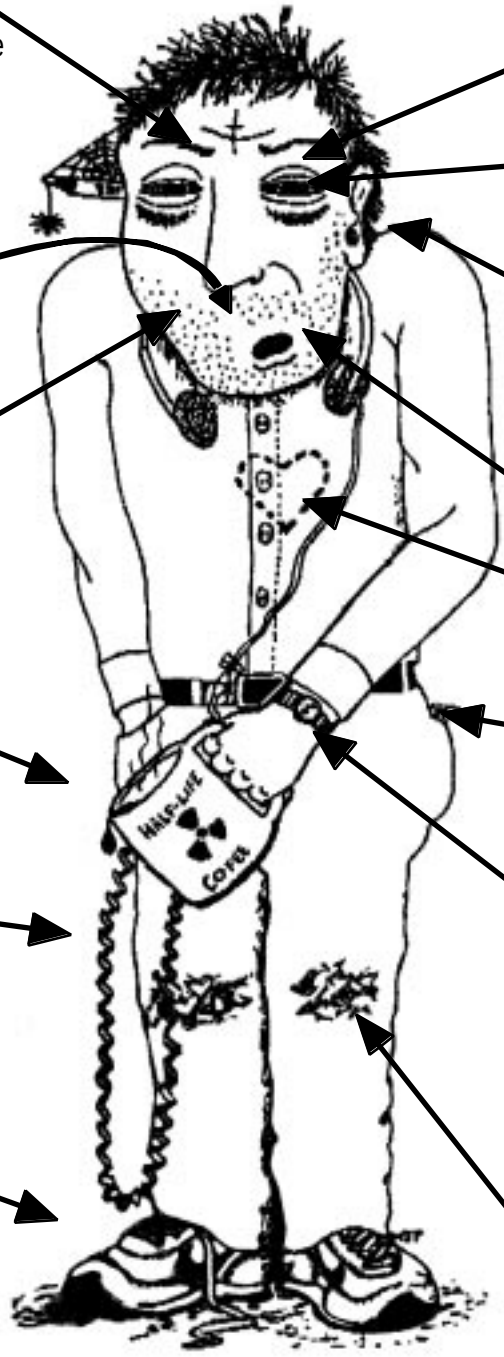
The Midnight Dispatcher



Tousled hair for that "overworked and underslept" look

Wrinkled brow from wondering if he'll get more sleep today than the 4 hours he got yesterday

Red eyes from watching the red L.E.D. clocks change four-hundred and seventy-eight times a night

Pen always ready— in case there happens to be a call

Black circles under eyes reduce glare from rising sun on trip home at 0700

Mouth sagging from excessive yawning

"Dispatchers ear" can selectively tune out background noise, boring conversation, or his name being called—to tune in radio traffic, juicy gossip or supervisory-type footsteps

Strengthened neck from fighting the dreaded "Dog with bobbing head on the platform in your car's rear window" syndrome

Miami Vice (A.K.A. 5 o'clock A.M. shadow) look

Big heart for adrenaline bursts during 211's or when Comm 1 enters building

Coffee provides caffeine rush to survive the longest 2 hours of the morning between 0400 and 0430 hrs

Bulging back pocket due to wallet full of enormous shift differential

Headset cord stretched by those trips from radio to the coffee pot without unplugging

Chronograph watch so you don't forget that tomorrow's O.T., which you signed up for yesterday, is really for today, so instead of sleeping yesterday morning, you should have slept tomorrow evening in addition to the afternoon…

Sneakers for that mad dash through icy air to the car when dayshift arrives

Dirty knees from begging not to be ordered on overtime (as well as not to be transferred to swings two weeks before rotation!)

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