



## PPD Spotlight on Crime Prevention Column

This month's column comes from the Prattville Police Department's Investigations Division.

### Stock Scam

It has come to our attention that a new scam has been tried on at least two residents of Prattville. With that in mind, it is timely to get this information out to you.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has issued a nationwide investor alert to warn of a telephone scam that's been hitting the cities all over the country.

A woman calling herself "Wendy" (aka "Tiffany") calls looking for her friend, Steff. She supposedly got this number from her friend, Brandy. She acts as though she believes she's talking to the friend's answering machine and says she's got this great insider information from her stockbroker/boyfriend. The woman gives the names of the so-called promising stocks, advises making a big investment and says that she and her dad are buying all they can.

The idea behind this "pump and dump" scheme is to get as many people buying the stock as possible. This drives up the stock value. Once they've managed to inflate the price of the stock, they sell it off.

An SEC spokeswoman said that the scheme is evidently working because the stocks named in the messages have gone up. Unfortunately, as the schemers behind this thing begin dumping their stock, the values will plummet.

Try to remember that there is no such thing as a "free lunch." Don't let people touting get rich quick schemes cause you to lose that which you've worked so hard to acquire. If you have any questions or need further information, please call the Prattville Police Department at 361-3671.