

All college boys (and especially Aggies) whose bodies aren't grossly deformed and who don't possess child-frightening faces, are going to receive, in varying quantities throughout their college careers, so-called "fan mail" from members of the opposite sex. It seems to be a sad but true fact that the longer we remain the college the less of the proverbial fan mail we are blessed (?) with. Seldom, if ever, during our "fish" year is our P. O. box empty; but business begins to slacken noticeably during the second year, and it's nip and tuck all the way (so I am told) during the third and fourth years.

I have never known an Aggie who didn't express some sign of satisfaction on receiving a letter from a girl; that is, if she is still within a possible "romance" age—say between 14 and 40. But, as much as we admittedly like to receive this fan mail, it seems to me (and I don't think I am alone in this reasoning) that the gals have settled into a few well worn ruts. For over nineteen-hundred and thirty-nine years the petticoat wearers have been cutting these ruts deeper and deeper and by now they are becoming fairly obvious—even boresome.

I don't intend to represent myself as a connoisseur of feminine letters, but I do believe that the average Joe College can easily discern the six major approaches that girls now use in their letters and have been using since Eve wrote Adam the first letter (if she did).

The First Approach—the mushy attack

Winston's Simplified Dictionary, Advanced Edition, defines "mush" as "any soft, thick mixture," "that which is effusively sentimental," and Mr. Winston's definition accurately applies to a letter of this nature. This type letter hardly merits discussion because its obvious "come and get me" attitude is no tribute to the "line" or probable romantical qualities of the girl who writes it.

The Second Approach—the mercenary attack

(a) The girl that writes this type letter doesn't particularly care what she says or how you take it; but she prefers that you take it the wrong way—or the right, depending on your point of view. At any rate, her principal aim is to get all you've got and then to hell with you.

(b) Then there is the less subtle attack under this approach made by the girl who has known you in the dim dark past but who hasn't written for several months. However, a letter is always forthcoming a few weeks before Christmas, and the affair usually reaches an instant termination when she receives the expected and "fished-for" gift. A more certain way to put an immediate end to this type of correspondence is to neglect to send the gift. (However, this is rather rough on the girl who has, after all, spent several cents postage money on you. Besides, this isn't fair; it just isn't done—so the girls believe!)

The Third Approach—the deceitful insinulative attack

This, I think, is one of the most widely used and one of the most effective approaches. Some girls will try to insinuate something that they really don't mean. That is, a girl may write "things" which suggest that you have almost got her on the proverbial and well-known line. She infers that all you need to do to make the final "push" is to come to Denton, Austin, or wherever she may be. However, the feeling of enlightenment that many a poor Aggie has received after making a two or three-hundred-mile trip can only be likened to Public Disappointment Number One. As far as I

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always turns out NOT to be!

can determine, the general idea behind this approach is based on a girl's burning desire to be popular. Evidently, the shortcut to being popular is to be true to no less than a dozen boys! Thus a girl believes that she has caused a round dozen boys to "fall" for her—which is nice work if she is woman enough to handle it. Incidentally, it may be said here that the evident purpose of nearly all fan mail is toward the end of popularity.