

Reflections on the word 'love'

With the passing of Valentine's day, everyone has given at least some thought to the topic of love.

Of course, the word love can be defined any way we please.

Love, as in what one thinks of chocolate ice cream, a score of zero in tennis or what Brooke Shields has an endless amount of, is probably recognized by most as not really being love.

But there is a more subtle distinction between feelings we sometimes call love and the love we intuitively approve of and recognize as being valuable to people and worthy of pursuit.

Many mistake feelings of kindness, affection, attraction and tenderness for love. No feeling—however wonderful or sincere—ever constitutes love.

All these feelings may be, and usually are, present with love, but none of them qualify as being love.

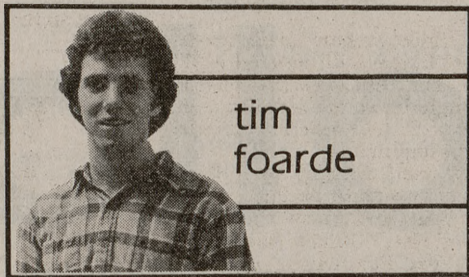
Every type of legitimate love is rooted in what may be called disinterested love.

Love, as with the other virtues it produces: sincerity, patience, justice, mercy, etc., is not based on our emotions but rather our will.

Love is good-willing.

It is a commitment of the will to benevolence regardless of the direct benefit to self or the feelings involved.

Love based on feeling is always self-motivated. It is as consistent as the desire or emotion that creates it. When another stronger desire or emotion comes along, the self-serving lover will abandon his



tim foarde

previous object of love to pursue one that will satisfy his new desire.

This is why so many people "in love" display constant jealousy, usury, dishonesty, impatience and fickleness towards each other.

Looking at all the cards, gifts and words that say, "I love you", may cause some to wonder how many—or how few—of these statements reflect a sincere disinterested love.

Fortunately for Valentine's Day and for us, this type of disinterested love can be demonstrated by the example Valentine himself gave.

Valentine was martyred because of his love for God.

He put his love for man and God before his love for himself, choosing death rather than deny God and man the truth and love they deserve.

This same type of love can be the basis for all the love relationships we have.

Marriage, for example, is based on a

commitment of the will to the good of one's spouse. When trouble arises there is a willingness to adjust to new circumstances, make sacrifices, swallow pride and do all the other things we know can be done to save relationships when there is a will.

Disinterested love will also establish lasting, sincere friendships. When a friend's intention proves not to be some form of self-gain, but rather love, the relationship can breathe and grow in an atmosphere of candor and trust.

To come full circle, love provides the basis for a beneficial, reasonable self-love. Disinterested love wills one's own good and the good of others in correct proportion.

Self-motivated love seeks first its own benefit and results in no one's good.

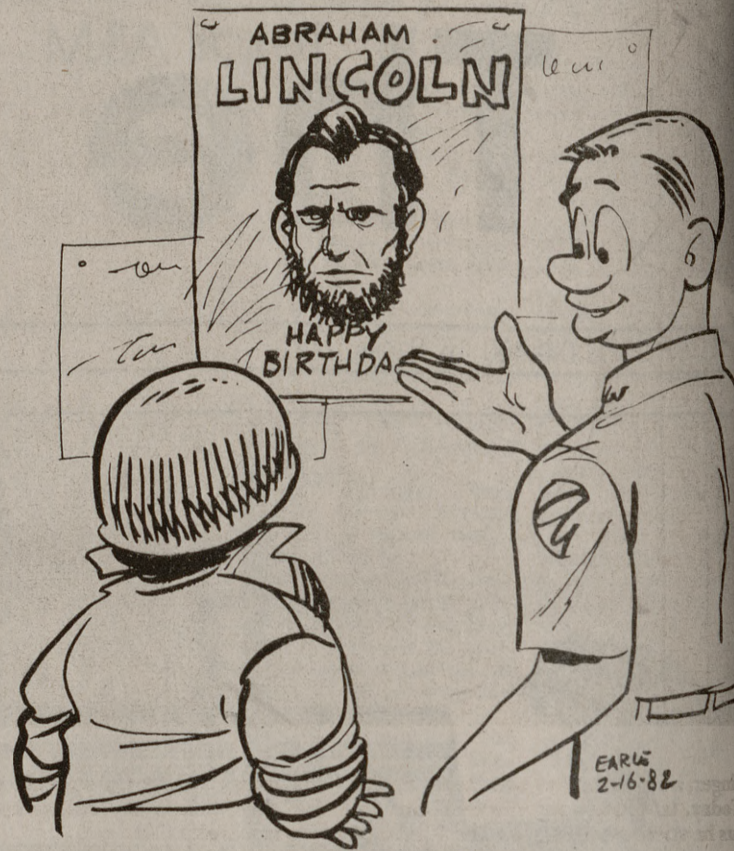
It yields the choice of the will away from the intelligent choice of love and makes the will of whatever emotion or desire happens to be the strongest at that point in time.

This inevitably results in repelling any type of disinterested love relationship with a spouse, friends or God.

Love will often involve deep emotion and pleasure. But love that depends on the return one gets—instead of a commitment to love because men ought to be loved—is not true love.

Jesus said: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even the wicked love those who love them."

Slouch By Jim Earle



"Sure, he was a great president, but would he have been as great if he had been named Billy Bob instead of Abraham?"

Abortion: Responses to letter ignite fiery emotions

Editor:

This letter is in reply to the first half of Murray Moore's letter (Feb. 10). For a moment we'll put aside the case of pregnancy due to "just plain ol' sex." You know, the girl who slept with her boyfriend (they were "in love") and he promised her he would be careful (but he wasn't) and she didn't know what the chances were of her getting pregnant without using any form of birth control (which are pretty high) because there were not sex education classes in her school (a handful of "concerned parents" managed to "keep it in the home") and her parents didn't tell her (they didn't really know). She should have found out about this stuff on her own (she did, when it was too late and "dreamboat" said he really didn't love her).

What about rape? Mr. Moore, you're a guy—chances of you getting raped are slim and chances of you getting pregnant are slimmer. While you're busy contemplating the morality of "killing," some little girl may be pregnant. What about a ten-year-old kid? She's not even old enough to fully understand rape, incest or even sex and yet she's supposed to allow this fertilized egg in her body to become a baby.

Is a rape victim supposed to carry around a reminder of this crime for nine months? I sure would have a tough time not hating that baby.

There are probably plenty of misconstrued ideas tied on this legislation but to make abortion illegal will send us back to prohibition days—it will still be done and a lot more lives will be lost because of it.

It makes me wonder about these "born again Christians" who are trying to shove their beliefs on people with the right to their own ideals. I don't know of any Bible passages that tell us of Jesus forcing

his convictions on anyone. In many cases, abortion may be the Christian thing to do.

Bonnie B. Langford '84

Editor:

I'm writing in response to Kala Jo Philo's letter in Monday, February 8th's edition of The Battalion. I guess some people will never see abortion for what it really is: murder. Scientists agree that human life begins at conception. Let me relate to you the ways this murder is accomplished. I'm not writing this with the intention of making people sick to their stomachs; I only want to wake people up to what abortion really is.

The most popular method of abortion is called suction aspiration. Anesthesia is given to the mother but not the child. A hollowed tube with a razor-sharp edge tip is inserted into the womb and a strong suction tears the baby to pieces, drawing the pieces into a container. Photographs record recognizable parts of tiny human body.

Another popular method is saline injection, in which a concentrated saline solution is injected into the amniotic sac. The baby breathes and swallows the solution and dies of salt poisoning, dehydration, convulsions and brain hemorrhages. Often, the skin is stripped off by the salt solution. A dead or dying baby is born 24 to 48 hours later.

Still another method is hysterotomy, which is like a Caesarean section. Almost all of these babies are born alive. The abdomen and womb are opened by surgery and the infant is lifted out. It moves, breathes and sometimes cries before dying or being encouraged to die.

Finally, a D&C abortion involves slic-

ing the child to pieces with a loop-shaped knife. Operating nurses have the job of putting the baby back together outside the womb to make sure an arm or a leg wasn't left inside the mother.

Anyone who could murder their child in such a way deserves no better for herself. I'm sure anyone who has a conscience will join me in writing Senators Tower and Bentsen in support of the Right to Life movement. No woman has the right to murder her unborn baby; the baby is not part of the woman's body, the baby has a body all its own.

Abortion is just one more example of the moral decay our society is now undergoing. If God doesn't judge America soon, He ought to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Woodrow W. Coppedge '85

Editor:

Forgive me if I fail to deal with anything not of international or even national importance such as El Salvador or even the "Kermit People." I just want to ask Murray Moore (Feb. 10) to reread Kala Jo Philo's letter (Feb. 8). I don't know whether it is accurate or not, I'll just have to look it up. Personally, I do find it hard to believe that the target of future legislation is the outlawing of contraceptives. But Kala is rightly concerned about legislation outlawing abortions even in cases where the mother's life is endangered or in the case of incest or rape. After all, it is not only a woman's body we are talking about, but in some cases, we are talking about her life. Under such extreme circumstances, I cannot see how anyone but the woman concerned could make the decision whether or not to terminate the pregnancy.

Secondly, Kala is merely guilty of doing our entire University community a

service by taking the time to inform us about legislation that is awaiting debate. I truly fail to see how this makes Kala a "bleeding-heart liberal" or gives her the dubious honor of being compared with Ted Kennedy or the Spartans. As for dear Murray, I must comment him on the fine job he did of putting words in Kala's mouth. She never said "a human baby should be executed merely because he or she is unwanted"—these are entirely Murray's words. Poor Kala never even implied it.

Lastly, I detected a note of sarcasm when Murray referred to the University of Texas at Austin as the "noble bastion of free-thinking liberalism." I sincerely wish our school could be bestowed such an honorable distinction.

Otto F. W. Boneta '83

Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent letters in The Battalion concerning the issue of abortions. Before taking a stand for or against abortion, one must answer the following question: When does human life begin? This is the important question.

Does life begin at a set time limit after conception, when physiological occur-

ances are noticed in the fetus, at at conception?

I will consider the first two together. If a legislator or a judge "time" other than conception or which human life begins, what will base the decision upon? If he/she upon the passage of time from the time, life's beginning point will be mated! If based on physiological which are timed differently in fetuses, then life's beginning will be upon the advance of technology sensitivity of humans and their mate to the necessary physical stimuli that an event has occurred.

If life is based upon normal passage through the vaginal canal, becomes of those babies delivered Ceasarean section since some follows this method? And then the kicks a mother feels delivered non-human?

The preceding answers have a questionable of basing or else the my inner feelings of what is therefore, life must begin at con-

If this is the case, shouldn't protect the youngest to the oldest others concerning their worth of ance? Think about it.

Steve Mueller

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any matter should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit style and length, but will make every effort to reflect the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, and the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome and are not subject to the same length constraints. Address all inquiries and correspondence to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 261-1111.

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Letter: Why pay to be brainwashed?

Editor:

I was reading about SCONA and the great opportunities given the Russian diplomat to "explain" their behavior in Afghanistan.

I would bet that the Russians were happy for this chance to visit Texas and brainwash its youth. At the same time, a Polish diplomat has been refused a visa.

I would like to briefly explain my view on Poland. With the determination of the West, the problems and sufferings in Poland could be solved quickly. But the West decided the fate of Poland by selling out at Yalta. The Russians have now the advantage in Western Europe and are reaching toward America. The damage done by American diplomats (who are no match against the Russians) such as H. Kissinger and many others will be hard to repair.

While Polish soldiers were murdered in cold blood and buried at Katyn, the West was quiet (even though the facts were known) and did not feel like offending Uncle Joe. Many other people from Poland and other conquered countries were taken to Siberia and never heard from again.

We can only hope that it is not too late and a solution can be found of how to really deal with Russian expansionism. The West needs to be determined and firm, not naive. I doubt if many would like it if Russia ran the world.

One good step would be to cancel visits such as the recent one by a Russian to "explain" their peace-loving intentions in Afghanistan and Poland. What a waste of money!

George Raczkowski
Assoc. Prof. Mechanical Engineering

Hood appointment reasonable

Editor:

In response to Mr. Lemmons and Mr. Turcotte's letter of 15 February, criticizing Greg Hood's appointment as Student Senator, I have an observation. Gentlemen, you fail to see the reasoning in Mr. Hood's appointment, and I fail to see

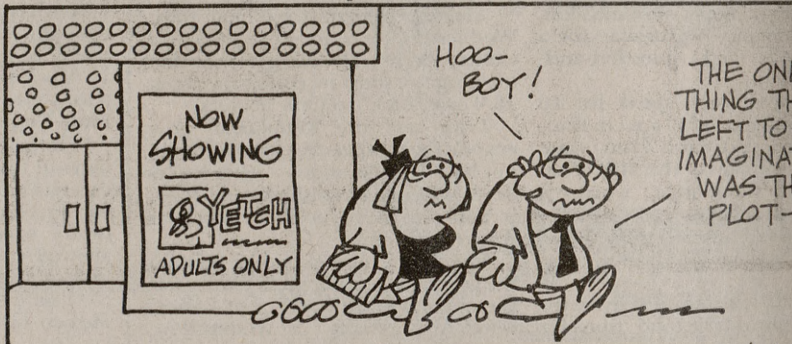
your reasoning. That is because your argument is not supported by reason.

Mr. Hood indeed committed a great error in judgement at the SMU football game. He was dismissed from the University for the remainder of the semester as his punishment. Note: there are no restrictions placed on getting into Student Government upon his return. That punishment has been served. If you disagree with the severity of the punishment, that is one stance. If you hold that Mr. Hood should have been banned from Student Government because of the collective whim of a large number of people, that is another stance, and one that I completely despise. That stance is the result of thinking that is not based on Aggie integrity, but is instead based on fear of collective opinion, most times not.

My pride in Texas A&M, gentleman, rests on the integrity of the school as a place of higher education, integrity which places no value on collective whim and great value on a rational system that proceeds with its actions, whether subject to 100 or 100,000 Aggie jokes.

Frank Knickerbocker
First Wing Commander

the small society by Brick



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