

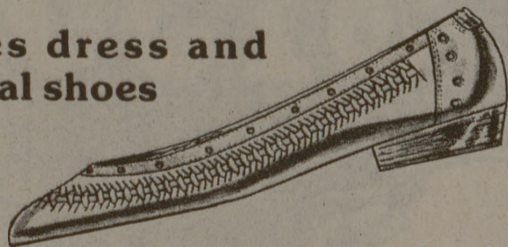
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**Minors**

(continued from page 1)

consent and without notifying their  
parents. He says young people gener-  
ally cannot be treated for any  
other non-emergencies without par-  
ental consent.

He says states have become more  
liberal in these areas because adults  
think young people will not get  
treatment if they have to tell their  
parents they have a social disease.  
Thus, a problem arises when chil-  
dren's actions clash with parents'  
morals.

"We don't want kids to be pun-  
ished for things adults regard as  
bad," Guggenheim says. "Though it  
may be what we consider appropriate  
punishment, we don't want to al-  
low them to keep a harmful disease  
and also to pass it on."

He says the ability to get preg-  
nancy-connected care at any age also  
allows minors to get medical care  
without anybody's permission.

In the area of marriage, Guggen-  
heim says that minors in Texas be-  
tween the ages of 14 and 18 must  
have parental consent to wed. And if  
they are younger than 14, minors  
must have both parental and judicial  
consent.

Guggenheim also elaborated on a  
right that minors have gained within  
the last 20 years — the right, under  
certain circumstances, to sue par-  
ents.

"It depends on the purpose of the  
lawsuit," he says. "In a case where an  
identical action by the parent would  
be considered a breach of duty to  
anyone, not especially to children,  
then a minor can sue."

"For instance, children can sue  
when parents drive their car neg-  
ligently. If a child is in a car driven  
by his mother and is suing as a pas-  
senger, most states today permit the  
suit. This is a major change in law  
from several years ago, and particu-  
larly 20 years ago."

Guggenheim says that at that time  
the United States had an intrafamily  
tort immunity doctrine, which bar-  
red lawsuits from inside the family.  
It prevented suits in which spouses  
were suing one another or children  
were suing their parents.

Twenty years ago the risk of fraud  
in these cases was considered too  
great, he says. Insurance companies  
thought allowing such lawsuits  
would be too risky and would, in ef-  
fect, amount to the same people su-  
ing each other.

**News**

(continued from page 1)

more broad core curriculum, in-  
creased tuition, the purpose of Student  
Government and tradition for the  
sake of tradition.

Larry Hickman, associate profes-  
sor of philosophy and humanities,  
says, "The Battalion has been very  
supportive of social change on  
campus."

He adds that the newspaper's re-  
sponse to the Gay Student Services  
and the Melanie Zentgraf (women in  
the band) cases proves The Battalion  
is not afraid to take unpopular  
stands.

Freshman Kenny Flores says, "A  
liberal paper is good for everyone  
because it exposes different ideas.  
People want the paper to conform to  
their ideas and that's not free press."

Senior Jessica Sterling adds,  
"You're not supposed to be so close-  
minded."

Dr. John Koldus, vice president of  
student services, says, "Those that  
tend to go into journalism are going  
to be a little bit more liberal."

But whether The Battalion is sim-  
ply read or labeled 'Red,' the staff  
writers grin and bear the onslaught  
of reactions.

"We joke about it," former re-  
porter Kirsten Dietz says. "We call  
each other 'Comrade.' But it hurts  
when people don't take the time to  
understand."

However, some of the newspa-  
per's readers say the editorials  
should at least reflect the views of  
the student body, the majority of  
which is Republican.

Brannon says, "The paper should  
not be a rubber stamp for the people  
it serves, but it should be a fair  
indication of the wishes of its people."

Some students call The Battalion  
disloyal. Some call it heroic. Some  
call it unfair.

Alders says The Battalion owns a  
monopoly on the printed publica-  
tions market, so the students are ex-  
posed to only one opinion on each is-  
sue.

"(The newspaper) has a greater  
obligation to give more than knee-  
jerk responses," he says.

Alders says the treatment of Student  
Government's election commis-  
sion was "presumptuous and immat-  
ure," and matters are made worse  
because "it's readership is pretty im-  
pressionable."

And whenever matters heated up,  
this semester's editorial board dug in  
deeper, says Dr. Murray Milford,  
speaker of the Faculty Senate.

"Those who have written editor-  
ials have tended to be people who use  
a little greater depth (in researching  
the topic)," he says.

Election Commissioner Laura  
Madla was criticized in two editorials  
because of the commission's policy  
of not releasing the candidates'  
names for Student Government of-  
fices prior to the election.

Madla says, "I think (The Battal-  
ion writers) meant well, but they

aren't there all the time to know  
what really went on."

The Battalion reporters give little  
heed to Student Government issues  
until they come across a morsel of  
controversy, Jim Collins, election  
commissioner, adds.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of the  
Department of Student Activities,  
says, "(The Battalion writers) tend to  
see the 'newsy' side rather than cov-  
ering the stories objectively."

"They report on one segment and  
take the the story out of context,"  
she says, adding that those people  
who see the reported events first-  
hand often consider The Battalion's  
reporting "very disgusting."

When The Battalion Editorial  
Board criticized some cadets for pre-  
venting a newspaper photographer  
from taking pictures of exhausted  
dropouts of the "Bloody Cross," an  
exercise run, the editorial did not  
tell the whole story, says Leung.

"For people that worked out for  
(Bloody Cross), it's not a big deal,"  
Leung says. "It wasn't forced upon  
(cadets). There were ways of getting  
out of it."

"It seems like that photographer  
was gathering information for a  
story that was going to be anti-  
Corps."

But The Battalion editors say they  
challenged the matter only after dig-  
ging deeper into the details of the  
Bloody Cross, notifying the Corps'  
public relations official of the pho-  
tographer's treatment and inform-  
ing the official that the newspaper  
expected corrective action to be  
taken.

"We waited for them to respond,"  
Powe says. "After waiting a week,  
they hadn't taken any action."

So, she says, the editors let the of-  
ficial know in advance that an editor-  
ial would be written.

Powe says, "We do call people and  
talk to both sides. I don't think  
there's anything where we just re-  
acted without doing research."

The limited space given each edi-  
torial hinders her from writing the  
supporting facts behind the reason-  
ing of every printed statement,  
she says.

When an editorial is perceived to  
carry a stigma of anti-Corps or anti-  
Student Government, many stu-  
dents say they consequently suspect  
the editorial board of having an anti-  
everything attitude.

"There's usually resentment  
within the Corps," Chuck Rollins,  
Corps Commander, says.

He says many cadets believe that  
when they accomplish a noteworthy  
act, it garners brief recognition in  
the back of the newspaper, but when  
the Corps step out of line The Bat-  
talion will emblazon the derogatory  
news on Page 1.

But former editor Brigid Brock-  
man says the very nature of news  
steers away from the norm, and that  
continually worthwhile deeds are  
"something that should be expected  
of society."

**Natural gas explosion  
kills five in Kentucky**

Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Ky. — A natural  
gas line explosion killed at least five  
people, gouged a 20-foot-deep  
crater and flattened six buildings in  
a tiny community, igniting fires that  
were visible 20 miles away, authori-  
ties said Sunday.

At least three other people were  
seriously injured in the blast Satur-  
day night that ripped up a section of  
Kentucky Route 90 and devastated a  
mile-square area, according to au-  
thorities.

Dick Brown, a spokesman for the  
state Department of Disaster and  
Emergency Services, said two  
houses, three mobile homes and a  
saw mill were destroyed in Marrow-

bone Hill, a settlement about a mile  
east of Beaumont, whose population  
is 60. The blast site is 90 miles south  
of Louisville.

A crater 100 feet long, 30 feet  
wide and 20 feet deep was left by the  
blast, which occurred about 9:30  
p.m., Brown said.

Fires sparked by the explosion  
could be seen 20 miles away, officials  
said.

"It was described to me as resem-  
bling where a bomb went off," said  
Bob Walter, a disaster and emer-  
gency services worker. "If you've  
ever been to Vietnam, that's exactly  
what it looked like."

Three bodies were found early  
Sunday.

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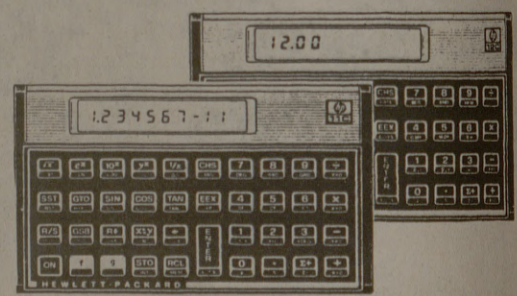
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