

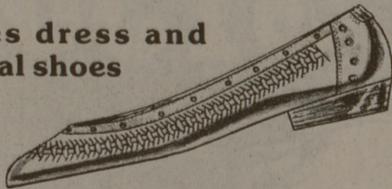
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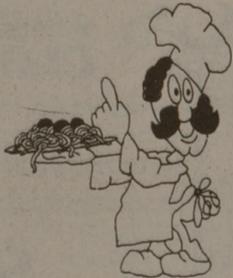
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Minors

(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 pa-
rental 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 appropri-
ate 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 editorials
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 edito-
rial 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 edito-
rial 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
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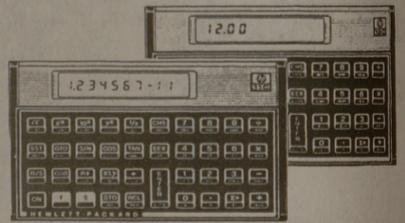
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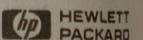
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