

Dear Readers:

This week, in keeping with the Valentine's Day tradition, we decided to take a look at the current dating trends at A&M. So, if you've been battling below average, maybe you just need to be briefed on what is hot and what is not as far as dating etiquette goes.

We have also included in this issue a comprehensive article on birth control and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Since a high number of college-age men and women are sexually active, we felt that such an article would be appropriate for our audience. Even if you are not sexually active, you need to know the facts about contraception.

In publishing this article, our primary purpose is to educate and inform. As a college publication, we feel these are appropriate objectives. We do not wish to condemn those who are sexually active, nor do we wish to embarrass those who aren't. We merely want to present you with the facts.

Fact: Sex happens.

Fact: Sex without contraception can result in unwanted pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Yet information on contraception is often hard to come by because of social mores. Many people feel uncomfortable talking about sex, and therefore the subject of contraception is all but ignored. They think that if they address the issue of birth control, then they are advocating or encouraging promiscuity.

In addition to the article, we have included a list of contraceptives, their effectiveness, and the advantages and disadvantages of each method.

We want to thank everyone who has been sending us submissions for the attention!! page. Keep up the good work, and have a happy Valentine's Day.

Karen

Nancy

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# inside

## The Dating Game \_\_\_\_\_ 8

Going to college is synonymous with studying, budgeting, and — for those of us of the single persuasion — dating. *At Ease* researches the current courting trends at A&M. And whether you're in or out of love, you may be interested to know what tidbits our unsystematic research turned up.

## Smart Sex \_\_\_\_\_ 6

See page 6 for everything you ever wanted to know about contraception but were afraid to ask.

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Karl says the remake of "Little Shop of Horrors" isn't quite as good as the original, but it's still worth seeing. Turn the page to find out more.

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