# Mail Call

# Abstinence is unrealistic

In response to Mia Moody's Jan. 30 column concerning abstinence from sex, I am pleased to hear that you can abstain from premarital sex or at least feel guilty about it. I am not being sarcastic.

I have many friends who abstain from sex for reasons other than the fear of sexually transmitted diseases. I admire their faith in what they believe and their will to practice their beliefs.

However, you have shown everyone of your readers that you have a fundamental misconception of the moral codes of other people.

By your morals, a band of gold, a promise and God's blessing is the only way to achieve your conscience's permission to become sexually active.

I do not disagree with this behavior. Unfortunately, you believe everyone does agree.

Look again, Mia!

As you said, it is true that many parents do not teach that premarital sex is wrong. This is not because "everybody is supposedly having sex." It is because they believe it is okay.

To say that all members of the student body who are sexually active feel guilty about premarital sex is wrong. To say that many people can't study because they think about sex too much is also wrong. It is OK to say you think that unmarried, sexually active people should feel guilty about their sex lives; however, I find it hard to believe that many people will.

Alan Kutach '92

# Nothing wrong with sex

In reference to Mia Moody's column I would like to say "Bravo!" Never before have I seen such a perfectly executed avoidance of a

Miss Moody had donned her angelic robe and grasped her gavel to pass judgment by saying ". . . people who have sex know that it is wrong."

Some of us radical liberals happen to believe that it's not so wrong to share something that is extremely special with someone you really care about. Please speak for yourself.

Another statement that is grossly exaggerated is, "Many people can't study because they think about the sex they could be having.

Well, let's eliminate every single distraction in the whole world. Let's get rid of television and night clubs and restaurants. The next thing she'll be saying is that people can't study because they are thinking of the pizza that they could be eating.

Yes, distractons are rampant, but we are made whole persons by learning to discipline and control ourselves.

There is a real problem in our society with the ghastly appearance of AIDS, but a realistic approach in the best means with which to combat the disease. This is the real world and people are having sex. Instead of passing judgment on them, we should educate them as to the dangers, precautions and responsibilities that come along with having sex.

Chad Nusbaum '92

## Morton not entertaining

This letter is in response to Timm Doolen's column concerning the Morton Downey. In the true spirit of his idol Morton Downey: Shut up, you

If I had a slime like you in the White House, I'd puke on you! You pablum-puking, right-wing, neo-fascist sensationlism junkie!

There, now didn't that make a cogent, incisive point?

Morton seems to win becuase it is his show and he can always get in the last word. He also seems to win for you because the "most logical" arguments within "his frame of mind" are inevitably from the point of view of young, white, neo-conservative college males who are either already wealthy or hoping to be.

It's too bad that society has "biased" everybody else with the illogical views of women, the poor, hungry and those unfortunates with neither a Mercedes nor a yacht to their name.

At least Ronald Reagan had the grace not to rant and scream at his foes when he was telling his constituents that greed, selfishness and jingoism were fashionable again.

Steven K. Baum **Department of Oceanography** 

# Abortion is personal decision

I am amazed at how someone who will never have to face the prospect of an unwanted pregnancy can "urge, implore and beg" women not to consider abortion as an option.

In his letter to The Battalion on Jan. 31, Richard Bohannon made some very valid points. First and foremost, making abortions illegal will not stop them from happening. And secondly, abortions done out of "convenience" are a terrible tragedy

However, I am realistic enough to know that the definition of the term "convenience abortion" will vary from person to person. I seriously doubt that Richard's opinion would correspond very well with that of a woman who was having to deal with an unwanted pregnancy. Without actually being in that situation, you can't judge someone for the decisions they make.

Therefore, I personally urge, implore and beg Richard Bohannon and others like him to realize that everyone is entitled to their opinions — and that includes a woman's right to make decisions about her own life.

Don Atkinson '91

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

## The Battalion

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

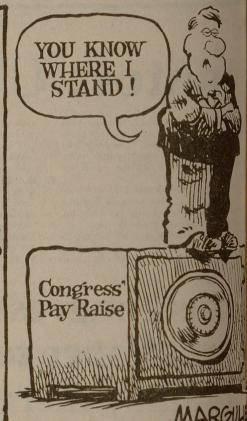
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Do we know what love is also

The days have of late felt like the coming of spring, but winter has not yet left us. Even so, love and life fills the air and burdens the thoughts of old and

Love can be between man and woman, man and man, or woman and woman. Physical ideals do not need to be involved; love also encompasses emotional, intellectual, and spiritual aspects.

It is easy to show your love, at least for most people, but it is an entirely different experience to create love. Who can even say exactly what love is? Who has the courage to boast that they have it static. Cobwebs form on the curtains in its entirety?

Perhaps that is too cynical a view, though.

Love is ever eluding, ever changing. It is not something that you can necessarily seek out, catch with a butterfly net, chase down and wound with an arrow. No, love is much too fleeting for that. But though a search is futile, the pain in waiting for love to come upon you is tremendous indeed.

In fact, a large part of love is pain pain from loneliness and loss, from decay and death, from display and refusal. And the pain hurts, but it is necessary. Through pain one can grow to greater One can only share what one has in heights in love and things other than love. Sometimes I feel that pain is the only way one can grow. As Bob Dylan sings, "You give something up for everything you gain." Every time you hurt, you are giving up part of yourself.

from love, perhaps you are not growing, perhaps you are not loving. Loveles- the fear that makes love so distant and



Todd Honeycutt Columnist

emerges, followed by death, and death comes unnaturally to those who crave it. Rooms with locks become stale and challenge of love. and the hinges find themselves rusty. Is your door locked? Do you have a key? Perhaps it is more relevant to ask if someone else has it. Love for another is impossible with-

sness turns to lifelessness, decay

out self-love. And what is self-love greed, selfishness, egocentricity? In an extreme, yes, but that would be considered narcissism. (All things taken to an extreme deviate intensely from their original design and purpose.)

Self-love is a belief, a power, a drive in one's self to do and to be! It is a pride in one's accomplishments and abilities and desires. A positive emotion, without self-love there can be no love for others. one's possession. And there are no limits in the sharing of love, as love is not a finite, inexhaustable quantity. You cannot lose it through sharing.

Is love a surrendering of the self? Not quite, it is rather a displaying of the self If you never hurt, never feel pain and an exchange between two selves. The problem with this concept is fear —

difficult. Love is easy to pretend to have giving nothing and receiving the same But is that love?

Some have that type of illusion resolution he love, but perhaps that is better define as infatuation (the initial high between two people which falls quickly), exploit tion (the use of one soul by another for specific need or goal), or dependent (the need for one to be with another without whom life would be "unbeard le" when there is no substance into relationship). A fantasy relationship an easy existence when compared to

Love requires effort and discomfort a stripping of the soul. Fear of nake ness is the root of fantasy and imagin tion, for living life is living naked.

Perhaps the best, most concise expla nation of love comes from a sociolo class I had in high school. Love is an change, a sharing of one's inner s freely, without demands or goals.

And to bring another into our life love, we must rid ourselves of cent needs: the need to be always right, need to be first in everything, the need to be constantly in control, the need be perfect, the need to be loved by eryone, the need to possess, the need be free of conflict and frustration, need to change others for our need the need to manipulate, the need blame, and the need to dominate.

Love is a constant, growing process is to be experienced in every way, an day without love is a day lost.

Todd Honeycutt is a sophomorep chology major and a columnist for T Battalion.

# TV's going down the tubes

I can't take it anymore. It's asinine. Last year I splurged and bought the remote control to give me more power over it, but the novelty has worn off. Now, I rarely even look at it. Of course, I'm talking about the television.

Everyone says it at least once when they turn it on: "I can't believe it! Thirty-five channels and nothing to watch!" Between the major networks and Cinemax, I can have my intelligence insulted or watch something I saw eight times last summer. Oh, decisions,

This is where the remote control comes in. I can switch through the channels quickly enough so that my intelligence is insulted with reruns in a shorter time period. No, it's not something I really enjoy, but it can be relaxing, and it motivates me to study so that I can avoid becoming an imbecile like so many of the characters they show.

There are a few enjoyable shows. Some of the syndicated network reruns like "Cheers," "MASH," "The Cosby Show," "Family Ties" and "Night Court" are classics and always entertaining; they even have a little character development. Even better, some of these shows are on five times a day.

But then there are shows like "Webs-"Punky Brewester," and "Different Strokes" where little obnoxious, smartmouthed brats have a world revolving around their every whim. These shows We have the daytime variety with ion.



James Cecil Columnist

are offensively predictable, but I doubt they are aimed to please people like me anyway. They are made to give small children a skewed idea of what their usually presents quality movies home life should be like.

Television's lack of quality has even spread to other TV events besides regular network programs. I think most of us saw that display of . . . well, I don't know what it was. But they called it the Super Bowl halftime "entertainment." I haven't quite decided which I liked best: the cheesy musical performance or the tacky, very ordinary uniforms being worn by the hundreds of people covering the field.

Because the routine itself was artistically and musically void, they broadcast part of it in 3-D. I thought it was a joke at first, but I think it says something about the aesthetic appreciation of the people who put it on.

In recent years television has been hit with a barrage of personality talk shows.

Oprah, Phil, "Geraldo," "The Tollub," "Attitudes," and Regis Philbi These types of shows can be interesting sometimes bordering on sensational tic, but amusing.

Since the new year several late-nig talk shows have emerged as well, but wouldn't bet on their longevity. I sically, these are Letterman wanna-be who aren't. Pat Sajak's hour of raucou unbridled wit could cure even the wor cases of insomnia.

It's not all doom and gloom though The Arts and Entertainment netwo aren't seen on the major networks. 0 casionally PBS has something intere ing and entertaining. But actually, m of my viewing time is spent on CNN know, it's not terribly exciting, but real and it's not offensive — and I kin of like absorbing information. I add that sometimes I can be found watchi something mindless like "Gilligan's land" or "Bewitched" but I don't enjo it, really.

I don't watch much television, may an hour a day when I figure I ought make use of a \$200 box connected to \$30-a-month cable system. By the wa Cinemax is gone as of today. I high recommend it for anyone who likes on centrated programming of western and World War II films.

James Cecil is a senior econom major and a columnist for The Batta

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