

Mail Call

Correction

A column concerning the Aggie Band's performance at the Southwest Conference Post-season Classic, which appeared in the March 22 issue of The Battalion, incorrectly identified the person directing the band as Col. Joe T. Haney.

Col. Haney did not accompany the band to the tournament, and he was in no way involved in the Aggie Band's performance during the tournament. The Battalion regrets the error.

Greeks study, too

EDITOR:

In response to the March 8 letter of Ray Kornhoff and Kevin Jimmerson, I would like to defend the actions of at least one of the Greeks at the Feb. 21 Aggie basketball game.

I am a sophomore electrical engineering major taking 18 hours and, believe it or not, I left the game at halftime to go home and study.

You obviously still cling to the outdated notion that "fine young fraternity men" party to the exclusion of all other activities. My lifestyle far more resembles that of the stereotypical Geek rather than the stereotypical Greek discussed in a recent *Battalion* column.

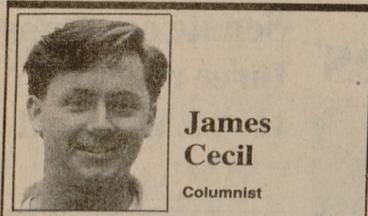
Most Greeks are "real" students, here for the primary reason of obtaining an education and a degree. What really says little of your intelligence is that you assume otherwise.

Dan Darveau '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.



Confusion is normal in today's relationships



James Cecil
Columnist

I caught part of a conversation the other day in which a guy said to a friend: "I tried to drop her a hint by asking her who else she had gone out with lately, and I just about died when she said I was the only person she was seeing. I don't know what to do about her. She's nice and all, but... oh, I don't know. I told her she ought to see other people."

At first I didn't think anything of it; I hear about this from a lot of guys. Then it hit me, I really hear this type of problem from a lot of guys. A girl decides to make a certain guy the object of her affection, and the guy feels like he's put on the spot if he's not interested. Why?

In these situations it's the girl who is making the advances. The guys feel the pressure and has to devise a carefully planned response (or no response) that will get him out of a bind.

Call me a romantic, but isn't it supposed to be the other way around? At least traditionally? I hesitate to use that word, *traditionally*, because it has been known to incite anger on this campus from some fringe groups, but here I'm referring to the traditions in human existence.

Traditionally, women expected a man to be strong, virile and wise so he could help support a family and bring home an income. The wife was expected to nurture the family and use the money for food and household items. This affected the way men approached women because men were supposed to portray this "macho" figure during courtship, while women were to be supposed to act timid and subordinate. Even people who did not possess these qualities usually had a good act to get them through the initial attraction stage. For the good of the family, the man was expected to be the best he could be in the career world. The woman, being virtually excluded from career ladders, was expected to take care of things at home.

Now things are different, generally for the better.

The job market says it wants women. It offers them higher wages and better jobs than in the past. If they were to stay at home they would miss out on the opportunity to make more money and advance themselves professionally and socially. So, as has been obvious in the past twenty years, women have started working.

This gives women an option they didn't have before. Now they can do their best work at home or at the office. What does this do to the traditional courtship?

Women are no longer looking at men as bread-winners — they can win their own bread if they want to. Because of this, men have had to change the way they approach women. They've dropped the "I can put you in a castle, baby" attitude and tried to figure out what the ladies are looking for in men.

Because the role of women has constantly been changing, so have the pick-up lines men use in a vain attempt to find the new attributes women want.

Men tried everything from comparing astrological charts with, "Hey baby, what's your sign?" to wearing tight pants and gyrating to disco music. All were just fads that didn't work.

So what do we have now?

We no longer have defined roles in our mating rituals. It is not clear who should be pursued and who should do the pursuing. At times, women may want to pursue a particular man, but are usually unsure about how to do it. When men pursue women, the men aren't sure what to do anymore. So we have an awkward confrontation in which neither person knows what is going on.

How is a girl supposed to respond to a guy's advances in a way that will show her independence and strength without scaring off the guy? How is a guy supposed to respond to advances made by a girl and still exhibit a little of the traditional male control?

These dilemmas have led to other problems for us. Because sex roles have changed, most of us experience *relationships* rather than actual love. Relationships are something that two people work to maintain, usually without much commitment. Love is something spontaneous and exciting that doesn't need to have a great deal of effort exerted for it to work.

Today, people are too concerned

about fitting into the "independent women" role and the "sensitive guy" role to allow their emotions to carry them away. Where these two personas are supposed to come together is still vague. No one is "swept off their feet" like the generation before ours.

What about the guy I mentioned in the beginning of this column?

He has enough respect for the girl's feelings not to hurt her, but because he

doesn't know where he stands, he can't approach her and tell her how he feels. So he plays games with her until she gets the hint or gets tired. She will keep calling him for a while until she feels that she has gone too far in her pursuit to still be considered "lady-like," in the traditional sense. It seems like an awful lot of effort is spent just because these two people don't know what level they're on with each other.

Despite the social progress made by

women being able to advance on their own, we are now faced with other social dilemmas. Sex roles have changed and men can show respect for women's freedoms. But, in our haste to abandon the traditional definitions and expectations we did not make any new rules for the game. Courtship no longer exists as did, and our "mating rituals" have been replaced by confusion and chaos.

James Cecil is a senior economics major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Those who protest must be responsible for their actions

Soviets are protesting the election bid sabotage of a man who is not favored by the Communist Party.

Students at Howard University took over their administration building to protest the self-appointment of Lee Atwater, George Bush's former campaign manager, to the board of trustees because the students feel Atwater used racist tactics during the campaign.

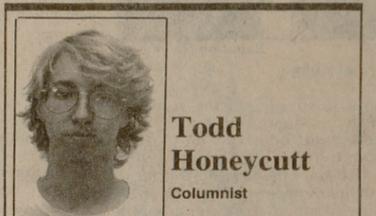
It would seem that protesting is off to strong start this year.

Protesting is an art form that should be used to alert officials that something isn't being taken care of — that some people are dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. It is a way for a minority (or occasionally a majority) of the people to bring their cases out in the open. Protesting is a way for the masses to relieve some frustrations, and it is also a means for showing people in high positions that it is time for change. To paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, a little rebellion now and then does wonders for both the people and the government — provided, of course, that both parties realize the full extent of the problem.

A recent student art exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago involved the laying of the American flag on the ground.

What more do you need for a writhing folly?

Scott Tyler, a student at the Institute, displayed the flag on the floor as a protest of the inequality and injustices he finds in America. In his view, he was expressing his feelings and thoughts in a "free" form of speech — art.



Todd Honeycutt
Columnist

This infuriated many citizens, especially war veterans, who began to protest Tyler's exhibit and the Institute itself. They thought the flag was too important a symbol of America to be thrown down and stepped upon. The flag is what the veterans fought for in wars. The exhibit was a desecration of America.

Their demonstrations initiated counter-protests by students who believed Tyler's actions were protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

But it didn't end there. The government got into the act.

The Chicago City Council came up with a resolution condemning the Art Institute for allowing such an exhibit and called upon it to remove the flag from the display as a gesture of respect.

The chairman of the U.S. House Veterans' Affairs Committee, G. V. Montgomery (from Mississippi, a logical place of origin), is trying to push a bill through Congress which would make it a crime to display a flag on the ground or floor.

The entire escapade is ridiculous,

showing the absurdity of our system and our people and giving Tyler a few minutes of recognition in the art world.

When did Americans become worshippers of icons and idols, fighting for a ridiculous flag? When did the stop living for freedom and democracy and the rights to live as they want and say what they believe?

Why should it be a crime to call attention to a problem, even if it involves using drastic measures. Why are institutions denounced for allowing freedom of expression?

Why is it that one can criticize America through words with impunity, but the symbols of America cannot be touched?

On the other side of the issue, what about America that is so wrong that a person would lay the American flag on the ground in an art exhibit? What issues is he trying to get across? Is he succeeding? Or is it his purpose to attract attention for his art?

Protesting incurs responsibility. It is not a means of change to be used blindly for every problem that comes along. Other methods exist — letter writing, petitioning, lobbying. To achieve protesting's full impact, it must be used as a last resort and not abused.

The case of Scott Tyler and the controversy he created is one of abuse — on both sides.

Todd Honeycutt is a sophomore psychology major and a columnist for The Battalion.

BLOOM COUNTY



The Battalion

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