

## Mail Call

### Film has no educational merit

EDITOR:

The film, "Birth Of A Nation," has no educational merit. Although D. W. Griffith's approach to making this film was sheer innovation, it continues to portray negative stereotypes of African Americans. The film portrayed African Americans as Uncle Toms, self-gratifying drunkards, and rapists, and it attempts to divide the race by placing mulattos on a higher plain than their darker counterparts.

It was evident that many students marveled in the suppression and degradation of African Americans that were perpetrated in the film by many of the comments that I overheard. Comments ranged from "things haven't changed much" when slaves danced for the pleasure of the slave master to "he's going to rape her" whenever an African American male and a Caucasian female were alone.

In one particular scene, African Americans who were in power (fictitiously) passed a law that allowed interracial marriage. I could not count the number of females who gasped for air throughout the room.

If you would take the time to shed some light on your ignorance and interact with African American males you would find out that sex, particularly that from Caucasian women, is not our driving force.

Please don't underestimate my intelligence by assuming that I perceived this to be the intent of the instructor. I genuinely feel that her basis for showing this film was purely educational, but the negative aspects outweigh the positive.

This entire film was not an 'historical facsimile' but a multitude of historical falsehoods.

Mark Lambert, '91

### Foreign profs make STAT harder

EDITOR:

I would like to call your attention to something that has been bothering me since the beginning of the semester. I am very disappointed in the statistics class I am currently enrolled in. My professor makes a very poor attempt at speaking English. I understand that this is no eye opening revelation, but I feel attention needs to be brought to this subject.

It is to my understanding that before foreign professors teach a course that they must take several hours of an English competency course, but seriously, does one course in English qualify a foreign professor to teach an upper level course at an American university. After my professor has finished the lecture, I leave the class understanding no more than when I had entered.

Statistics is a very difficult course to begin with, only made worse by the fact that the instructor speaks English on a fifth or sixth grade level. I know the instructors are very knowledgeable in the field of statistics, but are greatly lacking in the verbal skills necessary to relay this information to the class.

To make this situation seem better, the statistics department has "help" desks for students free of charge. With K. Choi, T.H. Lung, S.T. Ou, and S. Yi being the first four names on the statistics 'help' sheet, I found myself right back where I had started. Are we supposed to seek the aid of these people because we can't understand our own professor?

I have nothing at all against these people individually, but during my four years at this university, one of the first things I found helpful in passing any course was to be able to under-

stand the professor and know what he or she wanted or didn't want.

I know I'm not the first person to discuss this, nor will I be the last. It is a shame that I will probably have to pay \$100.00 to \$150.00 to an individual tutor in order to pass this class, not to mention the enrollment fee for the class. Because of this controversy, I feel that the credibility of the statistics department has been compromised.

Branden Cornelius, '91

### Capitalists benefit from aggression

EDITOR:

Dr. George Edward's analysis of the opposition to the deployment of U.S. troops in the Middle East (New York Times, Sept. 8, 1990) is way off the mark. For it is not education that determines class; it is class that determines education. His analysis is largely an attempt to paint those who oppose the troop deployment as ignorant.

The truth of the matter is that those who support the troop deployment are those that buy into the capitalist system. For it is only capitalists who will benefit from this latest example of U.S. aggression. Lenin indeed spoke correctly when he characterized imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism.

The troop deployment is at the behest of the oil companies who are seeking higher profits at the expense of the working class.

If one adds in the cost of the military operation to the price of oil, one comes up with a figure much higher than \$30 a barrel, but who makes up the difference between the price of oil on the market and the price with the military action added in? Not the oil companies. It is the working class which pays the majority of the taxes in this country.

But there is even more at play here. It is no coincidence that this operation has taken place just before the fall campaign. No one talks about the savings and loan boondoggle anymore. Ditto on homelessness, unemployment and poverty. And there is no more talk about a peace dividend.

It gives everyone seeking election to preserve the status quo, Democrats and Republicans alike, a chance to wrap themselves in the flag.

Paul Kennedy  
Graduate Student

### No more flat, thanks to Ags

EDITOR:

This past weekend, I was driving on South Wellborn Rd. and got a flat tire. As I was struggling to change it, five very kind Aggie men from the Les Appelt dorm offered their help. If it wasn't for them, I would probably still be sitting there today. Thanks again, guys!

Ann Madison '93

### Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

## Sorority member speaks up for rush

Katie Carlson

Reader's Opinion

The past few articles on the evils of sorority rush have prompted me to write in defense of sororities.

Mrs. Johnson's August article about the humiliations of rush had some validity, but she was sadly misinformed about some aspects of rush. For Mrs. Johnson and other people who feel wronged by the Greek system, I would like to clarify some things.

Acceptance is desired by everyone and going through rush can make a person feel as if they somehow are being examined too closely. But the girls in the sororities face similar feelings during rush. It is a mutual selection process.

This was my first year to experience rush from the sorority's side and it's just as hard. Sometimes girls you really like choose not to return and it's very difficult not to take it personally.

For the rushees, there are minimum grade standards for each sorority. Our minimum grade standard is based on the national grade standard for initiation into our sorority. It doesn't make sense to pledge a girl who cannot be initiated.

This minimum grade standard is not unreasonably high; and since our primary role here is as students, I think emphasizing grades is rather positive.

I was surprised to hear a parent dispute the importance of grades. Maybe Mrs. Johnson and my father should have a chat.

The financial criteria of sororities is very simple. Each rushee is told, during rush, about dues. This is a Panhellenic rule and every house displays this information during rush.

It does not matter if you are on financial aid and can barely scrape up the money to pay your dues or if your parents give you so much money that you could probably pay everyone's, as long as you can fulfill your own obligation. The sorority does not benefit from pledging a more wealthy girl. It's not as if dues are scaled to income.

Dues serve a purpose, by the way. Without that money, we wouldn't have our houses or our social calendars or even our national charters.

The point I'm trying to make is that Mrs. Johnson's anguish over the importance of her husband's career to her daughter during rush was unnecessary.

Nobody cares if a girl's father is a welder or a doctor or a ditch-digger or

whatever, as long as somehow she meets the same financial obligation as every other girl in the sorority she pledged.

Activities can be important because sororities want girls to be active — that's how we get things done. So, yes, it can help you to have activities listed on your rush application. But I can't imagine why it would matter what the activity was, and the range of possibilities is great. Mrs. Johnson, your daughter must have been interested in something — work, church, school or community organizations.

Rush is a very emotional experience for rushees and sorority members, but most find that the results make it

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worthwhile. More than 400 girls pledged sororities this fall.

For all of you who wonder why, I tell you that — as cheesy as it may sound — the bonds of sisterhood formed in every house make sorority life very rewarding. I have never regretted my decision to pledge and am now very active in my sorority.

I find it ironic to hear people rank sorority girls for being judgmental. Are you not judging us? Being in a sorority may not be for everyone, but rushing isn't mandatory.

For those of us who take pride in our Greek affiliation, who are you to judge us so unfairly?

Katie Carlson is a senior political science major.

## Consumers pay good money for mediocre service

It certainly is a rarity to get good service today.

When we find a good service company whose employees are nice, and who provides the service efficiently and at a price we think is realistic, we are more likely to be surprised than if we discover we are dealing with a service company whose service we rate mediocre or poor.

It's part of a plague that affects most consumers in the United States — paying good money for poor service.

One of the best examples of a practice that has become accepted not only by the companies but also by the consumers is that of making incredibly vague service call appointments.

Too many companies that provide services at consumers' homes, especially services we consider necessary, have policies that narrow down the time of the arrival of delivery or service representative only to between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Ellen Hobbs

Opinion Page Editor

Those are the office hours of the company, of course, and it is easier for the company to keep up with their appointments if they are not very specific about when they are going to arrive at your home.

It can even be argued that the eight-to-five appointment policy may make service better: Without keeping strict appointments they are able to make as many service calls as possible in one day, since some appointments take less time than others.

But who has the time or the

inclination to sit at home for nine hours and wait for some service representative to get there?

Once, while I was sitting at home complaining while I waited for my gas to be turned on, a neighbor told me that, really, it was to be expected. We were in college, and since we had to go to class every day it made it difficult for the service people to find somebody at home. They are usually dealing with families in which there is always someone able to stay home and wait.

Oh, come on. The days of the "Leave-it-to-Beaver" family are coming to an end. More and more wives are working outside the home, and not just because they're liberated, but because they need the money. There are more and more single-parent families.

Just because people are homemakers doesn't mean their responsibilities are totally contained within the walls of

their houses. There are fewer and fewer homemakers able (or willing) to wait all day for the service companies to send somebody out at their leisure to do their job.

And what happens when they don't make it to your house between eight and five? Or if you just have to leave for a minute and they come while you're not there? More than likely, the company is more than willing to re-schedule your service call between eight and five the next day.

We pay for better service than we get. After the service charges and startup fees and delivery charges, must we lose time at work and school too?

The "between eight and five" service schedule is silly and outdated, and not what consumers want to pay for. We want the convenience of being able to make an appointment, even if it means taking a little more time for the service representative to get there. I know of

few people who would rather hear that the service representative will be at the home "tomorrow between eight and five" than in two days at 3:45 p.m.

Not all service companies base their appointments on a "somewhere-between-eight-and-five" basis, but enough do to add to the plague of poor service we are beginning to expect from many of the companies we depend on.

It's time that we quit just putting up with it. If we have a problem with a service, we need to complain. And if we don't think our comments are taken to heart by the person we make them to, then we should take them higher.

We must challenge the service providers to make their services worth the money we pay for them. We've got to remember that the customer is always right, and remind them if they forget.

Ellen Hobbs is a senior journalism major.

### The Battalion

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### Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

OUR STORY SO FAR: DON, OUR MAIN CHARACTER, INSULTED TWO COMPUTER NERDS.

FOR REVENGE, THEY ENROLL HIM IN THE CORPS OF CADETS.

TWO BURLY OFFICERS SHOW UP AND DRAG DON OFF.

FIRST STOP: THE CORPS OF CADETS' BARBER!

