

Material Mother

Birth of Madonna's baby demonstrates sinking American values

Hormonal students should hide away

It's the middle of the day ... She knows when I get out of class. ... I can't believe what I heard when I opened that door. ... Has she no shame?" my friend thundered.

I immediately understood. It was one of those all too familiar "catching your roommate doing the nasty" scenarios. This is a typical occurrence, it is a sure bet that any Aggie has a firsthand story or knows someone who has caught a roommate in a compromising situation with his or her flame.

It seems impossible that people would be bold enough to have the risk of being discovered, but nakedness is nonetheless in full effect.

And it doesn't stop with the dorm room. People resort to many unique measures to get their pleasure on. Creative places range from the 50-year line of the Field to the Rec Center pool to the steps of the Administration Building. Of course, the list would not be complete without the infamous Research Park.

Now, here are a few questions. Wouldn't the grass on Kyle field cause booty-burn? Wouldn't it be embarrassing to get caught by police when breaking over a Rec Center fence after hours? Wouldn't the steps of the Administration Building be a bold and uncomfortable setting for romance? And what about those little ladders in Research Park? These places of pleasure obviously have their drawbacks. I guess that is why people decide to suck up the risk and go for it in their dorm room, preferably when the roommate traps on the Jansport and heads to class.

Before judging the pleasure-seekers, keep in mind that this is completely the University's fault. Perhaps if it invested in larger beds than those matchboxes that are now provided, lovebugs who trap together wouldn't be in such a tempting position to get it on. Also, if the mattresses were a little fluffier, shifting for comfort wouldn't occur so much, hence body bumping would be less frequent.

To add to the uncomfortable bedtime situation, consider A&M's environment. Perhaps if the buzzing metropolis of College Station had more to offer in forms of cultural activity, students would not have to resort to conjuring up creative places to do their thing. Maybe folks would go to the opera or see a play instead of sitting around in boredom, eventually succumbing to dreamy activities.

However, since College Station will never be the hub of excitement, and the rock beds will continue to be placed in residence halls, it is best to just keep an eye out for the hormonally overcharged Aggies.

So, if you ever open your door and hear muffled love sounds, just walk in and calmly suggest they take their business to Research Park. And if you stumble on something slippery on Kyle Field ... walk on, walk on.

Picture the classic American romance: girl exploits her sexuality for money, decides it's time to crank out a kid, meets random cyclist while jogging in the park and asks him to help her out with the particulars. Sound familiar?

Madonna's birth to daughter Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon (weighing in at 6 pounds, 9 ounces) shocked some, amused others and left the rest wondering just what the heck was wrong with family values these days.

Although it appears the foundations of the American family have been irrevocably rocked by the birth, American values are securely in place. And Madonna's baby is demonstrative of that fact. The self-proclaimed material girl has established quite a shady past. Roaring to the top of the charts with controversial songs such as "Like a Virgin" and "Justify My Love," it's no wonder many American mommies winced every time their daughters donned Madonna-like apparel and came home with sensual Italian lovers.

Her book, aptly titled "Sex," was bought in hordes and undoubtedly hidden in many male adolescent's closets for late-night sneak-peeks.

Sexy videos, risqué live performances and a relationship with basketball's naughty boy Dennis Rodman did nothing to improve her image.

So how can one assert that little Leon can still live a life based on American values?

Because values in America have changed. Now, Americans adopt more lofty ideals based on true substance.



Chris Miller
Junior English major

For instance, it's very American to make obscene amounts of money by selling dysfunctional family stories. Just ask Lorena Bobbitt, Amy Fisher, the Menendez brothers or any of the guests on Jerry Springer's quality program.

And no one could refute the fact that little Leon is going to have quite a story to tell. The average American will probably be fascinated by her inevitable accounts of the numerous "bedtime friends" that Mommy will bring home for her to meet. We know she won't be hurting in the money department.

Obsessive physical fitness is another of the many new American values everyone is trying to uphold nowadays. The child's father, Carlos Leon, is an amateur cyclist and personal trainer for Madonna. With his help, little Leon should be able to flaunt a near-perfect body just like Mommy did in the old days.

And there's nothing more American than bonding with a baby while still in the womb, relishing the miracle and beauty of life in the delicate features of the fetus. Madonna obviously agrees. Upon seeing her fetus during an ultrasound test, Madonna said, "I was stunned when I saw on the ultrasound a tiny, living creature spinning around in my womb. Tap-dancing, I think. Waving its tiny arms around and trying to suck its thumb. I could have

sworn I heard it laughing."

Well put, Madonna. So the next time you fret about the deterioration of American values, just think about a little tyke named Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon. Indeed, she is the true representation of what it means to cherish American values.



A&M 'Pesty' Control doesn't curb rampant rat problem

Miss Reveille Ma'am has a new rival on campus. It's not the crickets, the ants or the cockroaches. It's the dirty rats.

They're here. They're diseased. And A&M Pest Control isn't adequately addressing the problem.

Take, for example, the case of Jason Hubbert. A former resident of the former residence hall, Law, Hubbert battled with the A&M rats two years ago. They were eating his food, chewing holes in his wall and disturbing his late-night studies with their trash-disco parties. When the rats refused to pitch in for groceries, he decided to call his Resident Adviser.

A&M Pest Control came to the rescue — sort of. They delivered the humane rodent trap of the future: the dreaded sticky paper of death. Having brilliantly positioned the sticky paper in front of the hole, they awaited the villainous rodents' capture with glee.

It didn't work. A rat dragged the sticky paper all over the room, spreading the trap's horrid stickiness before tearing free.

"I still have a power strip with sticky stuff all over it," the valiant Hubbert confessed. Fortunately, he decided to throw away the sticky paper covered with blood, fur and bits of rat skin.



Marcus Goodyear
Senior English major

Rats are gross. Of course, Law and Puryear were gross, too. No doubt the dorms' rodent problem was a factor in their demolition. But don't think the rats were destroyed with the building.

Thurman Schweitzer, an RA in Walton Hall, has personally never seen a live rat in his dorm. However, he said he saw a dead rat last semester on C ramp. A resident, discovering the futility of Pest Control's sticky paper, finally caught a rat in his own trap. The carcass was displayed proudly in his window with a sign saying, "This is what we do to rats here."

Schweitzer laughed about the anecdote. Mostly, the rodents just get into pretzel and chip bags, he said. No one makes a big deal about them.

Ignorance and apathy may be the root of A&M's rodent problem. Students and especially A&M workers need to realize that rats aren't a laughing matter.

Sharon Arnold, assistant director for Nursing Services, is properly disgusted by these animals that "cause all sorts of stuff." They caused the bubonic plague in the Middle Ages and killed 50 percent of the world's humans. More recently, rats were connected with mysterious deaths in New Mexico from the Santa Virus.

Luckily, Dave Pickens, a Brazos County Health Inspector, said the virus doesn't occur locally.

The biggest problem he finds with rats is their calls of nature. They get into the food supply and then poop and urinate all over it. "They spread filth," Pickens said.

Not every dorm on campus has rats, of course. Tom Murray, Manager of Custodial and Maintenance Services, says the only current rat problem he is aware of is in the Aston or Dunn courtyard. He's not sure which one.

Poor Murray seems to be left in the dark about A&M's rat troubles. The last incident he can remember was about five years ago in Law Hall.

At least Murray is willing to discuss the problem, though. A&M's Pest Control declined to comment. It probably thinks the rats are trapped in the rubble

of Law and Puryear. But rats were never confined to those dorms. Nurse Arnold said, "The rats are in the (steam) tunnels." They even made their way into the basement of Beutel a few years ago, further proof that any place on campus is just a scamper away for the rodents.

A&M's rats must be attacked in their home base. Sticky paper is useless. Humane traps are useless. Rats are filthy, disgusting, diseased animals.

Kill them. Spread D-con in the tunnels and clean up the dead. Make A&M hostile for rats. As Pickens explains, "Rats are transient. They won't stick around where it's not a great place to live."

If Pest Control seriously acknowledges the problem, perhaps our campus will cease to be a great place for rats to live. Pickens suggests a reasonable approach to rodents: "Rats are something that happens. It's nature. You take care of it, then the problem goes away."

A&M's real problem is not the rats. It is the ludicrous attempts Pest Control makes to control them. If Pest Control employees themselves lived in dorms with rats, the problem might be taken seriously.



MAIL CALL

Wildcat appreciates Aggie friendliness

I am a student at Kansas State who made the road trip last Saturday to see the game. Wearing my Kansas State purple and sitting in the student section, I was surprised at how friendly the

students were. It shocked me because I expected to get ridiculed for rooting for my team in enemy territory. I think that says a lot about the Aggies and your school. One fan after the game even congratulated me on my school's win. I was also very impressed with the campus and all the traditions.

The chants, the band, the Corps of Cadets and all the other traditions at Texas A&M made a huge impression on me. Next year when play us here in Kansas, I hope all the Wildcats treat you with as much courtesy and respect as I was given. Gig'em Aggies!

Tim Bannwarth
Kansas State student

Clinton's actions deserve criticism

Regarding Jon Apgar's Oct. 22 column, "Criticism mistaken for mudslinging": It's about time someone ac-

knowledges the difference between mudslinging and talking about issues of character.

What kind of a person commits adultery, breaks the laws, perjures himself in court, covers up the illegal activities of his friends and co-workers, spends money that is not his and openly admits to a willingness to use illegal drugs?

It's a pretty sad thing that this man is president of the United States. Furthermore, if Dole fails to bring these actions to the attention of the American people, then he does us a great disservice.

People deserve to be informed about the candidates they vote on.

Lesley Craven
Class of '00

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