Thursday • March 20, 1997



Artwork by James Vineyard

exual experimentation in college? Not these days — kids are starting ounger, with more consequences

By MICHAEL SCHAUB THE BATTALION

Joung people are not just worrying about their math homework anymore.

Jason Elms, a senior civil engiering major, has heard stories out the changing face of grade hool life from his friend, a junior gh school substitute teacher.

"He told me he had to pick up a e from a kid in one of his classes at said she had to buy a home mancy test," Elms said.

The growing social permissiveness sexuality has made young people re curious about sex, he said.

"When you're 12 or 13, your mones are running like crazy," ms said. "Hell, you turn on every lk show, there's an 11-year-old lking about having a kid. Nothg's shocking."

Psychologist Betty Milburn, asociate director of Student Counling Services, said young people re forced to handle sexual issues

"Kids are active at way too early nage, at 13 and 14," Milburn said. u can't handle the emotional asts at that early an age

Milburn said she partly attribthe growing trends in youth uality to media treatment of

"There's so much of it out ere, we kind of become desenized, and it doesn't seem like chabig deal," she said. "There's ts of sexual stuff in all forms of

"We have all these beauty geants for young preteen girls. repeople would say that's sexu-

Kendall Madden, a junior agrilso believes people are becom-

sexually active too early. "One of the causes is TV," Maden said. "Another is family upbringing. There's a loss of morals people are straying away from the church.

If the threats of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy have not deterred children from becoming sexually active, Milburn said it may have at least influenced some young people to remain monogamous.

"There probably is a little less promiscuity nowadays," Milburn said, "but again, there seems to be plenty of one-night stands.'

The increasing divorce rate in the country has led some students to try to sustain problematic relationships, Milburn said.

"I'm surprised by the number of students who are willing to stick with a relationship that's having problems," she said. "There are lots of factors there. Certainly STDs is one of them, and another is the divorce rate.'

Debra Grant, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church and a chaplain with the Campus Ministers Association, said definitions of sex and marriage change with time

"A higher percentage of students are products of broken relationships in their parents," Grant matter what the denomination is, the church has had to deal with open discussions as to what 'marriage' means.'

Despite increasing media coverage of AIDS and othral development major, said er STDs, not all young people take disease into consideration, Elms said.

See SEX, Page 4

In today's sex-dominated world, virginity is a blessing — and yields more benefits than preventing STDs

T t's hard to think of something to say af-L ter telling someone you are a virgin. People react with raised eyebrows and the ever-present "Wow," or a shaking head and a look of bewilderment.

I do not tell people I am a virgin. I just tell them I've

never had sex before. The word "virgin" implies that I am next in line to be thrown in a volcano or something.

It is not like I started my life trying to be a virgin, but here I am, sexless and 21. "Sexless and 21" — it sounds like a bad spin-off of Beverly Hills 90210.

The media has decided recently that sex is "out" and chastity is "in." Gone are the days when watching television meant seeing more bare flesh than is at a nudist colony. These days, Oprah shouts about "second virginities.'



Aaron Meier Junior political science major

Ross from the sitcom Friends confessed he was a virgin when he got married.

As I sit alone in my bed and watch these events unfold on television, I have to laugh. I do not tune in to Baywatch to see Pamela Anderson Lee develop morals (a new addition next season, along with a brain)

I am not going to find a good role model on television. The same media that hypes Dennis Rodman and his cross-dressing escapades on ice cannot dictate morality.

Friends ask why I have stayed a virgin for 21 years. The answer is, "I really don't know.

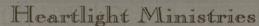
I never made a conscious decision to not have sex. It just evolved from my life. Some people say religion is the reason they remain virgins. This does not apply to me. Too many people in the world beat their Bibles during the day, then hop in bed at night faster than porno stars Some people say they do it because they are afraid of catching sexually transmitted diseases.

Surprisingly, not enough people say yes to this. With diseases such as herpes and gonorrhea and AIDS rampant in society, sex. has become one of the most dan-

gerous things to do. People say, "This is Texas A&M, the most conservative school in America. STDs are not a problem here." To these people, I say you can wither away in a hospital, remembering your days at the most conservative school in America.

Personally, I am not going to risk the rest of my life for a night of pleasure.

See MEIER, Page 4



of Longview, Texas is currently looking for college graduates who are Christians and desire to be challenged by working with kids from around the country. These kids are struggling with life issues and are currently living with us in our residential counseling center located in the piney woods of East Texas



Fleartlight is a ministry dedicated to work with families and kids who have been victimized or caught in crisis situations. These young people come and live with us for a year. During that time, we work intensely with each child, grow to love them dearly, struggle with them, and commit to helping them through their individual and family issues

We have twenty-four kids here at a time, counsel from a Biblical model, are athletic and "outdoorsy" by nature, use horses and water sports to enhance our relationships with the kids, require the families to be a part of the healing process and are dedicated to a spirit of excellence in all that we do

Full-time salaried beginning positions re available. If you would be interested in finding out we about Heartlight and the possibility of you joining our staff, please give us a call at (903) 668-2173 and we'll send



ou information including a video explaining the ministry and a job description defining the position



Heartlight Ministries P.O. Box 286 Hallsville, Texas 75650 FAX Number (903) 558-3453

Join us for



"A Sunday Morning **Worship Celebration** On Campus"

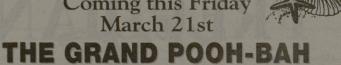
AT A NEW TIME 10:30 AM **Beginning March 23** Koldus 110 - 111

Sponsored by



IN SCUE

Coming this Friday March 21st



OF SCUBA Bryan Aquatic Center

3100 Oak Ridge Drive (alongside Bryan Viking Stadium) 7pm-9pm \$2°° per person

For Divers, Wanna-Be-Divers, and "Just Interested" Folks.

- Come practice your skills in the heated pool.
 - Try out the latest dive equipment.
- Special Dive Travel Packages to Cozumel, Bonaire, Belize & Grand Cayman.
 - Munchies Provided.

Register to win one of these prizes:

- A trip for 2 to Cozumel
- Basic Scuba Equipment
- · A Year-Round Pass to the Bryan Aquatic Center

RAVEL AGENTS

INTERNATIONAL

Brought to you by: raradise



Buy one, Get

one Free w/

this coupon