# Hump it, Ags! (responsible)

re you having trouble ificant other have been seehis best friend he side? ybe you gave

ir roommate's n more than a

pus tour for Parent's Weekend? you go to South Padre for spring ak and catch more than some sun? If take heart, help may be on the way. MSC Icons is bring-



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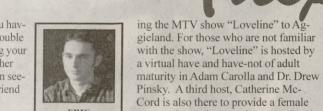
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Cord is also there to provide a female perspective and smug glances at Carol-DICKENS la. Carolla you may recognize from his stellar performance on Comedy Central's "The Man Show" or from 1-800-Collect commercials - TV's equivalent of wearing a "I have no talent" sign. The program, which gives

> all those videos the station plays, will be rolling out the dirty jokes and a little bit of sexual knowledge on the A&M campus this Saturday. Fortunately for the show and A&M, "Loveline" does a fine job of balancing humor with seriousness, and in the process helps its audience.

MTV's viewers a break from

In everyday life, many aspects of love, sex and relationships are often banished to the proverbial sexual closet. People typically do not want to strike up conversations about Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) or what it is like to not be able to tell anybody about their sexual orientation. It is im-

portant that people dealing with serious issues like these are not silenced out of fear or embarrassment, and "Loveline" offers an open, honest forum for dealing with these Further, all too often,

people who do seek out help for their sexual woes are given bad, or simply wrong, advice. Dr. Drew, McCord and occasionally

straight-forward and, most importantly, accurate information about all things sexual. The show does a good job at giving its callers and audience worthwhile answers and helps dispel many misconceptions people have about their predicament.

While the show may be helpful for its standard viewers, Aggies in particular will benefit from the show's onenight gig at A&M. In College Station, the sexual gag order seems to be in effect stronger than at many other places. A&M both benefits and is hindered by its conservative atmosphere, and some of those hindrances come up when talking about sex. For example, A&M students who are experiencing difficulty coming to terms with their sexual identity may feel all alone in a place where "No Fags" shirts are worn on campus and mock gay weddings are decried as satanic rituals.

Presumed heterosexuality is almost a tradition at A&M. But in reality there is a variety of sexual attitudes, beliefs and practices amongst the student body. Bringing "Loveline" to A&M might also bring attending Aggies awareness of this diversity. Students hear about the Aggie Family all the time — hopefully this weekend the family will get to hear from the transgendered cousin they never knew they had. Programs like "Loveline" expose their listeners to sexual viewpoints other than their own — something that benefits everybody, especially those fearful of alternative lifestyles.

As far as preventing and learning about sexually related medical problems, "Loveline" can help A&M students in that subject too. College Station may be known for its conservatism, but that restrained attitude does not always hold up between the sheets. STI's do get caught and students will have questions about what to do. Dr. Drew and maybe even Carolla can give these Aggies the advice and information they are looking for.

Finally, "Loveline" in G. Rollie, as it does on MTV, will offer a place for those who do not have other eager ears to turn to. Many college students have had their heart broken and felt depressed, but for some it is worse than others. For Aggies who have playing

The Cure's "Letter to Elise" non-stop since February, "Loveline" offers a great alternative to the prerecorded tapes the Student Counseling Center

phoneline offers. Even if this heart-broken Aggie does not get a word in with Dr. Drew and Carolla, perhaps some other Poe-reading Aggie will, and others who feel as the same will understand they are not alone.

MTV's "Loveline" coming to the



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION MSC is a great opportunity for Aggies And if you are one of those stuto learn about themselves and about

dents who has a problem to ask of the show's hosts, here is one last word of advice: Pay attention to the blonde guy with wire-rim glasses and try to ignore the curly haired foul-mouth sitting be-

> Eric Dickens is a junior English major.

#### MAIL CALL

#### oftware skills (C/C+, kee) Student defends Evans Library renovations the Students for Peace sponsored.

response to Summer Hicks' April 28

As a student who has attended A&M for e years and been employed at Evans Liary, I feel there are issues in Hick's colon that must be addressed.

First, I have seen the library improve leaps and bounds since I have attend-IA&M. I believe that in Hicks' desire to ove her point, she has lent herself to exeme exaggeration and unfair manipulaon of observed library conditions.

Also, Hicks can hardly fault student workfor not being able to "offer much assisce beyond their section." I know few peowho would be willing to memorize the vey Decimal system and keep up with the er-changing configuration of a library unconstruction for minimum wage.

out the Value Anyone can look at something and say it!" In the future it would be nice to ur Diploma see an column contain some suggestions tead of just criticism.

> Lisa L. Johnson Class of '99

## hard earned dip Student organization show us your dis promotes different view

ould take a potshot at one of the few groups on this campus raising awareness bout the injustices in our world. Students for Peace are trying to give us a different lew on the Iraq Sanctions other than the

I personally had no opinion on this Iraq issue until I went to one of the meetings

The speaker was well informed, had data, and had visited Iraq on several occasions

The Students for Peace are not pro-Hussein, there pro-human rights. The people of Iraq should not all have to suffer from a dictator or our need for oil. It seems Passwaters' research entailed reading the evening news or listening to our government's stance.

We can all agree that Hussein is a dictator, but as far as the history of warfare goes, never has cutting off a country made the citizens in that country turn against its leaders. If anything it gives them extra support.

Maybe Passwaters should have gone to one of the events the Students for Peace held before he insulted the group and its president.

> Chris Langford Class of '00

# Metallica MP3 lawsuit a futile action

their fellow students. Public forums on

open a listener's mind to ways of think-

ual problems should attend the program

and listen to and be exposed to the situ-

ations and sentiments of others.

Those who are not bothered by sex-

sexual topics are invaluable ways to

ing outside their own.

wo weeks ago, the band Metallica filed a federal lawsuit against Napster Inc., a California based company that creates software for searching and downloading MP3s.

In addition, Metallica tried to be the hero of the day by bringing a suit against the University of Southern California (USC), Yale University and Indiana University, saying the schools encouraged users to illegally trade the band's music. Yale was dropped from the suit last Thursday.

The suit is the music industry's attempt to protect itself from the rising threat of MP3 technology. MP3s are compressed digital files that allow users to upload and download music easily. Organizations such as the Recording Industry Association of America, which brought a suit against MP3.com in January, are seeing the rise of MP3 trading as an attack on their profits.

While copyrighting is vital to protect artists' works, Metallica's lawsuit is just another one of the music industry's vain efforts to handle the problems the Internet presents.

There are just way too many obstacles involved with stopping Internet music piracy. Authorities have to deal with lawbreakers based outside of the United States. Sure, there are a

few high-profile sites out there that can be punished, but how are you going to control the millions of small-time violators who trade via personal Websites, FTP servers and email?

Unless authorities want to spend the time and money to arrest a couple million people, policing

Metallica's lawsuit is just another one of the music industry's vain efforts to handle the problems the Internet presents.

music on the Internet is like trying to stop people from speeding. You might manage to pull someone over here and there, but an occasional fine is not going to keep anyone's foot off the gas. It's

Trying to cut the head off the chicken by suing organizations that provide Internet service,

VIEW POINTS

such as USC and Indiana, is impractical. Providers have too many users to be expected to control exactly what their customers decide to do with their Internet service.

So if you cannot stop the problem, adapt and deal with it. Software such as Napster, Gnutella and Scour are not the easiest applications to use. Finding the song you want still requires work, so it is more convenient to go buy the CD.

The industry can take advantage of this by finding a way to make music easily available and providing software for users who pay to download each song, but who cannot store the music on their hard drives.

In addition, many lower-profile bands already profit from MP3 technology as it helps to get their music out into the mainstream. The music industry can continue to encourage that in order to help more bands succeed in the business.

By finding ways to adapt to this new technology, the music industry can turn the page on its useless attempt to stop the rise of MP3s and instead it can profit by them.

> Staff editorial from The Daily Collegian at Pennsylvania State University.

response to Mark Passwaters' April 26

It didn't surprise me that someone One promoted by our mass media.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to: *The Battalion* - Mail Call

013 Reed McDonald

Texas A&M University College Station, TX 77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111 Fax: (409) 845-2647 il: battletters@hotmail.co



### 'Multi-Millionaire' wife after money

here must be something seriously wrong with Rick Rockwell, the spurned bride-groom from Fox's (unintentional) comedic program, "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?" Darva Conger, his lawfully wedded wife, refused to hold his hand, much less take her clothes off for him.

Darva is willing to take her clothes off for an audience of millions in Playboy. Maybe he did not pay her enough. One thing that the events following "Millionaire" have certainly shown is that Darva is certainly "available" if the price is right.

It would be cruel to call Conger, a supposed "war veteran" (note: serving in the military while a war is going on 10,000 miles away does not make you a veteran) a golddigging tramp. Perhaps this should simply be called a great example of capitalism.

Conger has been handed a silver platter opportunity to make money. Since she cannot take the silver platter and

sell it, she has every right to take advantage of her newfound fame and make millions of dollars. So what if she makes a sham out of the institution of marriage and makes a complete idiot out herself on national TV? It is all good when the checks roll in.

Now Hugh Hefner has come forth with the biggest check of all, so Conger is going to lose her clothes fast as she can. Smile for the cameras, Darva, and show the nation how far someone can go when they have no self respect or class. Rest assured that you will be remembered for a long time to come, though the mention of your name will probably be followed by roars of laughter.

Rockwell can also be sure that he will be remembered as well, as the guy whose wife would bare all for the world, but would not touch him. Somehow, it is doubtful that this will help him pick up the ladies at the bar. "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?" How about, "Who Wants to Look Like an Idiot?"

— Mark Passwaters

#### Who wants to be a racist?

egis Philbin, long regarded by some as a sign of the coming Apocalypse, almost had to name his show, "Who Wants to be a Rich White Guy?

After 82 shows and 192 contestants, Steven Clark made (dubious) history as the first African-American man to be on the show. Additionally, only 26 contestants (13 percent) have been women.

The problem was traced to the telephone selection process, where minorities and women simply are not qualifying. The telephone cannot determine skin color, being a sound-based system, but it is obviously barring the advancement of certain groups.

There are two schools of though about this. The first is the "Regis equals racist" camp. They believe the questions are inherently biased against minorities. The other is the "White men equal trivia buffs" camp. They believe white men have enough free time to learn useless facts.

Some have also suggested minorities and women have too much dignity to appear on the show. The selection process, either because it is inherently racist or because minorities and women just are not trivia buffs, does not lead to an equal result.

Minorities and women are not allowed an equal opportunity to compete in the actual game show. Therefore, the selection process is fatally flawed. Scrap it and move on.

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire" needs to radically reformat its selection process.

The show's current approach of tweaking the system to try to affect change is naive and futile. This is not a "tuneup" problem. The car is totalled, get a new one. To do anything else is to acknowledge and accept a slightly-less prejudicial selection process.

Even though Philbin and his show are not overt racists, accepting accidental discrimination, once discovered, is tragic. The lily-white selection pool should not be the final answer to the question of who wants to be a millionaire.

— Chris Huffines