



Lovers indulge forever on Valentine's Day

By MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

Do you feel like you've been slighted by Cupid? Did the thought of Valentine's Day have you in a quandry as to what to buy your lover? Do you think Valentine's Day is really over rated?

Well hang on to your hearts and keep dodging those arrows because Valentine's Day has been around for many years and probably will be for many more to come.

As near as history can tell the big V-day started with an ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia which took place every February 15. The festival honored Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and Pan, the god of nature. The Lupercalia festival dates back to before 496 A.D. During the festival young men

and women would put their names on slips of paper, put them in a box and take turns drawing them out. Then the partners exchanged gifts as a show of affection. Many relationships continued after the festival and ended in marriage.

In 496 A.D. a churchman tried to give the pagan holiday Christian meaning and changed the day to February 14, naming the day St. Valentine's Day, but the sentimental meaning remained.

In the 1700s men would cast lots to draw a female's name and then wear that name pinned to their sleeve, thus the old saying, "He wears his heart on his sleeve." There would be a grand ball in the homes of gentry to impress the ladies. Gloves were the usual gift given by the men. Valentine's Day didn't catch on big in the U.S. until the time of the Civil War. A

writer in a magazine of 1863 wrote, "Indeed, with the exception of Christmas, there is no festival throughout the world which is invested with half the interest belonging to this cherished anniversary."

Valentines in the early 1600s used to be hand painted with lace and ribbons attached. The cost could average \$10.

Today the celebration can include all the most expensive gifts to the most frivolous ones. Sweethearts exchange gifts, as do children in schools, with a casual acquaintance. Costs can range from \$1 for a box of cards to \$10 for personalized ones.

Gifts can range from hand drawn cards to dozens of roses. And the value of these gifts are all appraised by the meaning of the giving.

So, if Cupid left you feeling out in the cold, worry not, there is always next year and new sweethearts to be found.

Slackers should shut-up

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
NEWS EDITOR

Does anyone remember Monday, Jan. 24?

I do. That was the day I hung around school until 7:30 p.m. to cover the millage education forum. You know, the one Student Senate sponsored primarily for students.

Well, here's the report, no one came.

This really shouldn't be surprising considering the comments I heard from students while working the phone bank

before the election. Out of the approximately 15 students I contacted, one knew about the up and coming election. Just one.

Of course, the lack of participation and general unawareness don't matter because the millage passed, but the forum attendance and phone responses really say something about our student body.

They say many students are ignorant and indifferent.

It is, however, every person's right to be ignorant and indifferent.

So I won't say you're college students, use your heads; and I won't say you're adults, assume some responsibility.

I also won't say it's your school, have a say in it; and I won't say they're spending your money, tell them what you want.

You don't have to be interested or informed. You don't have to care, so I won't say these things.

I am tired of hearing ignorance and seeing indifference, so next time you have a complaint, fix it or live with it, just don't whine to me about it.

Youth reach out, make a promise for tomorrow

By DENISE KONWINSKI
COPY-EDITOR

Last week five middle and high school state finalists in the VFW - sponsored Voice of Democracy essay contest presented veterans and members of the Ladies Auxiliary with their compositions.

I was lucky enough to be one of the people on the receiving end of those essays.

We were moved by the bared emotions before us. The students spoke of aspirations and dreams, goals and expectations, their hopes of the future. They spoke to us about what it means to them to be a part of a place called America. They spoke of what their responsibilities are as citizens and leaders.

All had impressive goals - among them a prospective kindergarten teacher and a hopeful physician in a rural area. They don't see higher education as simply a means to improve themselves. They see it as a way to reach out to others in need of help.

All have an impressive list of scholastic accomplishments. To me this is proof that their high personal goals are by no means

unattainable, but that much more realistic.

Needless to say, I was impressed.

It's refreshing to hear that kids today really do care, especially in a country where for generations the U.S. has been at the mercy of "the younger generation."

As the rest of the world seems to be crumbling, it's comforting to know we have young people full of hope and energy backing us up. They aren't being dragged down into the dark path that too many teenagers take to today.

Kids are speaking up and reaching out. More than ever we need to listen and reach out.

A few weeks ago, television journalists brought us students in Washington, D.C. who presented Vice President Al Gore with an almost desperate plea for help. President Clinton was subject to the same plea a short while later.

These high school students, as well as those that read us their essays, are proof. They want to change themselves for the better, they want to learn, and they want to make a difference.

There is hope. Too many people just aren't listening.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was quite dismayed to learn of an incident surrounding the recent campaign for Homecoming King & Queen. Craig Brown and Shawn Dempsey who were representing Phi Theta Kappa, had the campaign slogan, "Vote for Craig and Shawn, a vote that does not suck." Apparently there were a few faculty members offended by this slogan and Craig and Shawn were told that they needed to make a formal apology. As a competing candidate representing Student Senate, I hope they decide not to make that apology.

I was not offended by the campaign slogan, nor could I find a candidate that was offended. As this is a student function and not a faculty one, I find it ironic that some faculty members were offended.

First and foremost, it's just a campaign slogan. With all the other problems we as a people face in this country and this

world, we need not take simple things so seriously.

They used a phrase from a popular, though in my opinion tasteless television program. Does that make their use of this phrase in their campaign tasteless? Maybe yes, maybe no. I hope dear faculty member if you think it does, that you write to that television station to complain about it. Or do you realize that you have no authority over the TV station and they would simply ignore you? If you think not, then maybe you understand the use of irony, satire and what Craig and Shawn were attempting to do. If you do not understand as I believe, the use of irony and satire, then I would recommend attending the first semester of American Literature.

Homecoming is an event more representative of high school rather than college. This is seen in the amount of students that vote, and even more so in the amount of students that

actually attend the event. This year approximately 60 students attended. This can partially be explained by the weather, but it is mostly due I believe to the great amount of apathy found amongst the student body. There were 3 faculty members that complained, but only 2 faculty members attended the Homecoming dance. Neither one of them complained. I guess I might have more sympathy for the offended faculty members point of view, had they actually bothered to attend.

Now, if you wish to talk about offensive, then let us talk about these offended faculty members not attending school functions. How about the fact that a few of the basketball players stand outside of the lounge at Van Lare Hall and shout mother**** at each other. Why are you offended faculty members, not outraged by this? Is it because their intellectual claim to fame is that they can

(sometimes) make a twenty foot jump shot?


There are many things to be offended by in this school, in

this country, and in this world. Phi Theta Kappa's campaign slogan is not one of them. In the future dear offended faculty

member, don't take yourselves so seriously. Nobody else does.


Jim Byrley

Students SPEAK




Would you be willing to pay for parking privileges at VLH parking lot?


No, I don't think paying for a parking privilege would solve the parking problem. ~ Pamela Plimmons




Yes, I'd be willing to pay as long as it wasn't too high of a price. ~ Tom Soltysiak



Yes, I'd be willing to pay so I wouldn't have to walk so far, especially in this cold. ~ Doran Parker



No, it's alright as it is. ~ Audrey Papke



Yes, I'm not too lazy to walk, but my only class is in VLH. ~ Deborah Larson

Dear Editor of the Polemic,

We presume that Alpena Community College considers itself an enlightened institution; therefore, could someone in authority please explain the reason and/or intent of the symbols under the heading "women" and "men" on the restrooms in the Van Lare Hall student lounge? If the logos are placed there to supply someone lacking English skills, are we trying to tell them

in one room we spin and in the other we push logs? (no pun intended.)

We would like to suggest removal. Oh, by the way - no to "setters" and "pointers," "Buck" and "Doe" or "skirts" and "trousers."

Our suggestion is removal of symbols as no other male/female restrooms on campus display them.

Thank you,
Caroline Lech
Virginia (Ginny) Titus
Paul C. Young

P.S. We feel it necessary to say we do have other concerns, i.e. AIDS, Bosnia-Herzegovina, earthquake victims etc. We just think we're all here to further our education.