



Valentine's Day and Real Love

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February 2015

Valentine's dates all the way back to the early days of the Roman Empire, when the Romans used to celebrate a heathen holiday during which they worshipped Faunus, the Roman God of agriculture, and the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. In an attempt to Christianize the holiday, the church decided to have a holiday named Valentine's Day after the Christian St. Valentine. There is not much information on St. Valentine, but he was martyred by the Roman Empire for hosting secret marriages, during a time when, in order to maintain a strong military, Rome made it illegal for young Roman men to marry and start their own families.

To this day, the holiday is celebrated every year on February 14. February 14th is the beginning of bird's mating season, however, as I'm sure you're aware, we aren't birds so we can ignore that silly parallel. Instead, we give nice gifts and cards to the one we call our "Valentine." It is estimated that one billion valentine cards are sent every year, and more than 35 million chocolate heart boxes are sent every year. All together Americans spend up to 20 billion dollars every Valentine's Day, four billion of which is spent on jewelry, not to mention the estimated six million couples who get married on February 14th. Valentine's Day will always be a great day spending time with the people we love.

— J. G. Boch

We are already two months into the New Year and facing the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday. Around this time of year many seek to make their feelings for their loved ones manifest, whether with a box of chocolate or by treating them to a meal at a spiffy restaurant. While we should love all these people throughout the entire year, Valentine's Day is one day in 365 when we really go out of our way to show those around us that we truly love them.

However, despite the festive spirit of the day and all the celebration that accompanies it, love is something that ought not to be limited to those who are dear to us. God calls us to love our enemies and "to do good to those that hate us," and between our enemies and closest loved ones lie pretty much the whole world. The rituals and customs of Valentine's Day, the giving of gifts to loved ones, come very easily to most of us. However, when it comes to giving to those others around us who we might not know too well or be at odds with, all of a sudden it becomes difficult. So this year, I would challenge each and every one of you readers to reach out to someone who you might not be friendly with, whether it entails making a new friend or reconciling with a rival. Show real love this season; after all it's what the season is truly about.

— D. K. Harris

Love Is...

Anita Witten

We asked a few of the elementary grades to fill out a survey about what Valentine's Day is all about to them. The first graders even drew pictures of what they think love is. Here is what the students had to say in response to our questions.

Does your family do anything special on Valentine's Day?

Ryan (1): We give Valentine's cards!

Christiana (1): Play games at night, jres up as a hart, and we give a gift to Dad and Mom.

Elijah (1): Make Valentine's cards.

Judah (1): Send cards to the people we love.

Anonymous (4): We go out to lunch.

Isaiah (6): Go out to dinner at a nice restaurant.

Luke (6): I get a present.

Andrew (6): Yes, my dad gets us candy sometimes.

Steven (6): I get \$5 to spend on anything.

Zach (6): Eat Chochlets

What is love to you?

Brett (4): happiness, gladness

Hannah R. (4): Love to me is when you care about someone else.

Hannah S. (4): Caring for other people.

Athina (6): Love is being willing to die for someone.

Dan (6): It is the feeling of being cared for, or caring for something. It can also be having affection for someone or something.

Amy (6): Love is willing to sacrifice yourself for someone else, and doing deeds without needing the other person to pay you back.

Elena (6): True love is when you would put something or your life before yourself

Kaitlin(6) : Love is when you have affection for someone.



Zach Bova (1)



Christiana Prol (1)



Nate Falcicola (1)

Role Models

Peter Yamasaki

Everyone has role models. Role models are a huge influence on our decision making whether we realize it or not, and choosing role models that will have positive effects on how we live is very important. Due to America's obsession with sports, many of our role models are professional athletes. When the world looks at these individuals, they judge whether they are worthy to be imitated by different characteristics, such as their wealth, fame, and popularity. However, when we look at them, we must judge whether they are good role models by a different standard: The Bible.

A very important truth that we must remember when deciding if someone is worthy of us imitating is that all superstar athletes are human. This means we must not have unrealistic standards for these individuals; they make mistakes and struggle with different sins just like we do. No athlete will be a perfect example of how we should live our lives. We must remember that we should not necessarily

lose all respect for them due to a bad decision they make. Different athletes could be good examples of certain traits even if they struggle in other areas. For example, Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps is a model of a good work ethic and determination to succeed, but one time he was caught taking recreational drugs. We should learn from his work ethic but not his choices that involve drugs. Athletes such as Derek Jeter, Rich Froning, and Tim Tebow who never have been caught doing any major sinful deeds, are great role models for us, but we must remember that they sin and make mistakes too, and if they do something wrong, we should not be shocked and dismayed, but we should remember that no man other than Jesus was perfect.

With that being said, we should not model our lives after those who consistently make unwise or harmful decisions. Magic Johnson was one of the greatest NBA point guards of all time, but his irresponsible and promiscuous

life style led to him acquiring the AIDS virus. Alex Rodriguez was an all-star third baseman who hit over 600 homeruns in his career; however, he was caught using performance enhancing drugs multiple times. Both these men are not people we should seek to imitate because they consistently chose to sin even though they knew it was wrong.

We must be careful that our imitation of certain individuals does not change into idolization. When you idolize a mere human, you will always be disappointed since no one can live a perfect life. Our primary role model should be Christ who came to this earth and lived a perfect life among sinful men. Jesus will never disappoint you by making mistakes or sinful choices. We must remember that as Christians our lives should be examples of Christ's love to others, and our lives should be models of how Christians should live. 1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

A Militarized Police

Ethan Hastings

In recent months, the police force in various US municipalities has come under a great deal of media scrutiny. Police brutality, militarization, possibly racially motivated shootings, and other hot-button issues have caused many to become critical of the police. Many believe the police force is overstepping its boundaries. Some recent images from towns like Ferguson show police officers in full woodland camouflage in the middle of the street pointing their assault rifles at civilians warning them to back down (a practice that an army recruit in basic training would know not to do).

The image of the 50's era policeman who lives to protect and serve seems to have disappeared. Policemen are more like military police than ever before. Since 9/11 and the establishment of Homeland Security, towns all across the nation of been given massive grants to upgrade their police forces. And then there were the armored vehicles. Police departments in less-than-bustling towns suddenly needed \$250,000 armored BearCats. In Keene, New Hampshire, a town with less than 25,000 people, the police department acquired a BearCat to guard an annual harvest celebration.



"Do I think al-Qaida is going to target Pumpkin Fest?" Keene's police chief asked, rhetorically. "No, but are there fringe groups that want to make a statement? Yes." Tiny towns with police forces with little to no military caliber training have suddenly acquired military grade technology. The fight against pumpkin festival terrorism rages ever onward.



The black community especially feels animosity toward the police force currently. The deaths of men like Mike Brown and Eric Garner have further fueled long-held suspicions that the police force unfairly targets minorities. Riots have broken out as a result of these killings, which have been quelled by police in camouflage and riot gear, equipped with tear gas and riot shield, further perpetuating the view that the police are a suppressive force in minority communities. Whether or not they are, the powers of the police force need to be defined for these relations to be repaired. Our country is fundamentally different than police states like Russia and China, and we need to ensure it stays that way.

For the police force to improve, checks and balances need to be in place. The budget for military grade technology needs to be lessened. Explicitly military equipment like camouflage, grenades, and tanks should be banned nationwide with a federal law. Explosives, BearCats, and high powered automatic weapons should be relegated to SWAT teams and similar forces only. Officers of the law are not soldiers, and our nation must ensure it stays that way.

A Presidential Satire

John Aitken, Ethan Hastings, comic by Chris Rumeau

“Relentless” is the word that best describes the reporting philosophy of Team Tornado. Wunderkind Ian Haystack and sufficiently skilled Ross Silverspoon are here to once again dish out news like piping hot plates of spaghetti! With President's Day just around the bend, who better to get the Team Tornado treatment than the POTUSes of the past? Below are some of the questions that YOU THE PEOPLE wanted answered:

Who was the best US President?

Mike Tyson must have written this suckerpunch of a question! While this question certainly seems to be rather subjective, there's a simple answer: Ronald Reagan. Why? He was the oldest president, and with age comes wisdom.

Is Obama really from Hawaii?

Wikipedia says so, but who would trust Wikipedia? Not us.

Sometimes I wonder what George Washington's favorite food was.

Team Tornado wondered about this, too, while we could not decide what his favorite food was, we certainly could imagine what his least favorite was: lobster. What color is a properly cooked lobster? Red. And what color is a colonial-era British soldier's uniform? Red. You connect the dots.

Why did Woodrow Wilson not join the league of nations if he created it?

The same reason nothing gets accomplished in America: congress. (What makes us qualified to make such a sweeping political statement? Well, we overheard our parents talking about this once.)

What is your biggest regret in your presidency?

Oh, honey. We are only reporters.

Did Bush do 9/11?

Some may tell you that al-Queda planned and carried out 9/11, but Team Tornado encourages you to look at credible evidence from conspiricists such as former presidential candidate Jeff Boss.

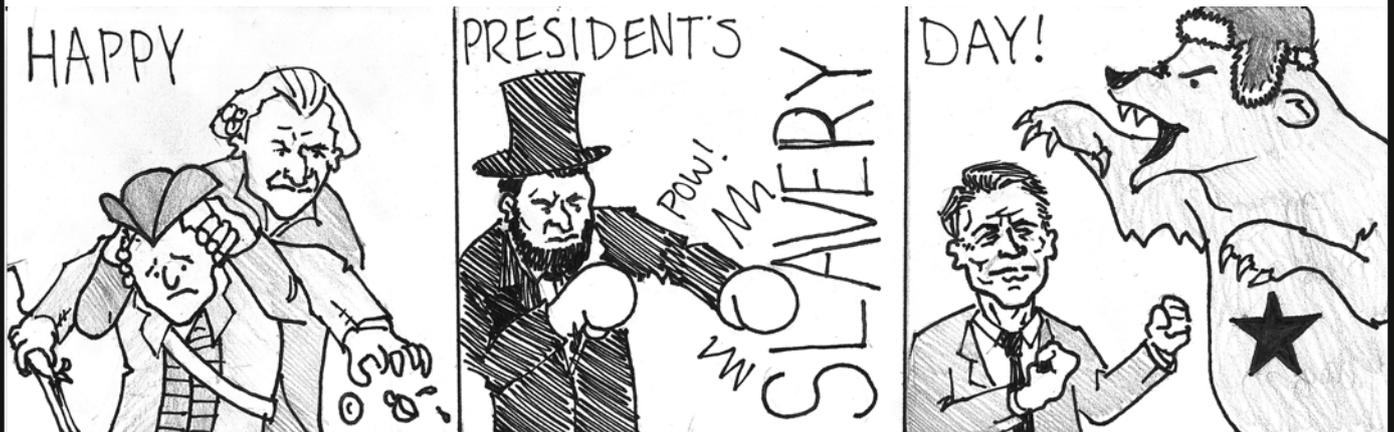
Why did George Washington leave office when he could have stayed longer?

Team Tornado would suggest that he was the hero America deserved, but not the one it needed then. (He also died two years after he retired anyways.)

Was Abraham Lincoln really honest?

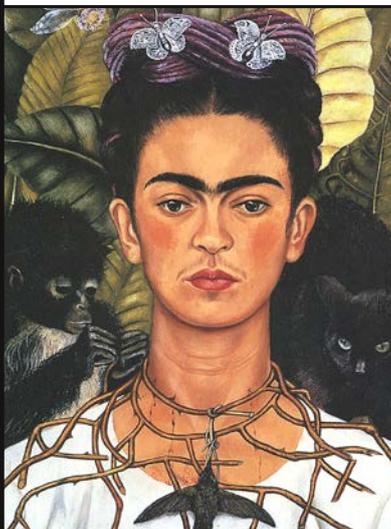
Absolutely! Haven't you ever heard of "Honest Abe"? Let us ask you this: would you nickname a dishonest person "Honest Abe"? Team Tornado would call that kind of thinking silly.

As an exciting game, see if you can guess the name of each president in this comic!



In the Spotlight: Frida Kahlo

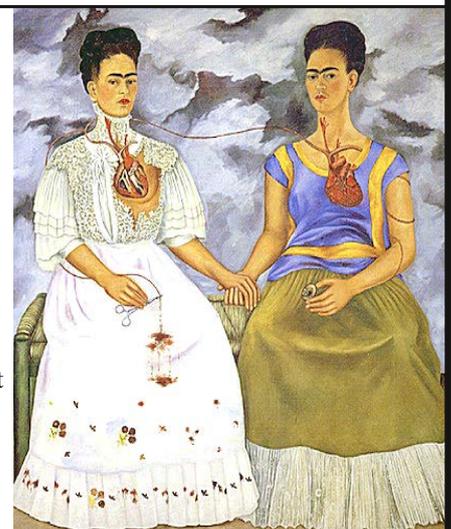
Jestira Mladenovic, Anita Witten



Self-portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird

Frida Kahlo is considered one of the greatest artists in Mexican history. She began painting after a serious bus accident in which she was impaled by a steel handrail through her hips. She sustained several other injuries from the accident, including fractures in her spine and pelvis. Painting allowed Kahlo to cope with and express the pain she was in for the rest of her life.

Kahlo also became a feminist symbol for her strong political views which would be displayed through her art. This produced various works that were controversial since she held Marxist-Leninist views. Her paintings also depicted very violent and sensual images. This brazen display of hers was a major shock to the people at the time. This surprised people during the time because she didn't hold anything back. However, Frida Kahlo wanted her paintings to be as realistic as possible.



The Two Friedas

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Gym Jamboree

Jurgen Lipps

The Gym has been coming along swimmingly. With the exterior complete, all that remains is the interior with the heating, air conditioning, electric and plumbing. The next step is placing interior fixtures for the floor, baskets, and bleachers. The gym is scheduled to be completed by late spring and should be ready for next fall. Over the holidays, several generous donations have been made to help us cross the \$50,000 threshold, activating the \$50,000 matching gift that had been promised. We are well on our way!



Wisdom Now, Safety Later

Mr. Messer

For many, wisdom is believed to come with age. As one gets older, he has more experiences and a greater exposure to ideas that help him come to a place where he might be considered wise. This is a true statement (see Job 12:12).

If we read Proverbs 2, however, it could easily be observed that King Solomon (inspired by God in this writing) would desire wisdom to also be learned at an early age. The wisest man in the history of the world begins the chapter with straightforward, if-then conditional promises to his son. If you listen to wise counsel and seek after wisdom like you are pursuing treasure, then “you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God” (v5) and “you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path” (v9). But beyond that, notice after verse 9 that Solomon describes wisdom as a safeguard. Wisdom protects one from deception (v12), perversion (v14), ungodly lusts (v16), and more.

Though not stated word-for-word in our mission or vision statements at TCS, the desire for you to obtain this wisdom undergirds all of our instruction as faculty and staff. We want you to know the fear of the Lord and blessed grace found in Jesus Christ alone. But this wisdom can only be obtained *if* - if you listen, if you call out for insight, if you seek/search for it. Are you seeking after Biblical wisdom? If not, pray that God would help you to do so, before you encounter more directly the deceptions and enticements of this evil world. The apostle James teaches, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind" (Jms 1:5-6). It is never too early to gain wisdom.

Bringin' It to Blaze

Alison Champagne

What is this I've been hearing about a TCS fundraising banquet?

We're glad that you've been looking on the TCS website! Trinity has been holding these banquets every year since 2010 in order to raise money for our school. Chances are, your parents will be attending for an evening of good food and great fellowship. As in past years they will arrive to an hour of hors d'oeuvres enhanced by student music and artwork. As they eat dinner, a school alumn will address the crowd about how attending Trinity shaped their life and made them the person they are today. In the past few years, the crowd has also been blessed with musical performances by students or alumnae. The evening will culminate with our featured speaker, Dr. Voddie Baucham, who will address the crowd about this year's theme: Christian Education and The Family: How Christian Schools Serve a Vital Role in Preserving God's Foremost Institution.

We should have a school play.

We do! Every April or May, our high school Drama Club puts on a Shakespeare play. If you're in junior high and are therefore not old enough to join Drama, remember that we also have a Talent and Awards Night at the end of the year where many students perform speech contest selections.

Prayer Requests:

- for everyone's safety in this treacherous winter weather
- for our basketball teams as they finish their season
- for Mr. Lee and Mr. Martin's health
- for Caleb's mom as she is getting a hip replacement
- for the family of Jon-Luke's friend who recently died
- for Joy's flute audition

Please send all contributions to newspaper.trinity@gmail.com.

Thank you!