



THE PILOT



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The Legends of Valentine's Day

By Kathy Henson
Co-Editor

As Valentine's Day once again approaches and you agonize over which card and box of candy to send your lover, you're probably not going wondering where the day originated. But in case some of you intellectuals out there are curious, Valentine's Day is a hold-over from a pagan Roman festival celebrated on February 15 called Lupercalia. The feast honored Lupercus, a god who looked like a faun and protected sheep from wolves (sort of like some people's fathers try to do). He was also a fertility god and could prophesy.

Here's where it gets unromantic: the priests of Lupercus, called Luperci, sacrificed goats and dogs before the feast began. Then they touched their foreheads with the bloody knife and wiper it off with wool soaked in milk. Then they were required to laugh! Next came the feast (for those who hadn't lost their appetites). The Luperci dressed in the goatskins and ran around the city to ward off wolves. Women

with fertility problems (I suppose it was rarely blamed on the men) allowed themselves to be whipped with thongs cut from the goatskins in hopes of bearing children. (Personally, I'd adopt.)

Lupercalia was more fun for the guys. They got to draw girls' names from a love urn. The couple shared the festivities and became companions for the rest of the year and then—who knows?

When Christianity became the state religion, the church fathers discouraged pagan religions. The celebration of Lupercalia became the celebration of St. Valentine (Feb. 14) since the two were so close together. Now boys drew the names of saints from an urn and were supposed to imitate the good works of the saints. However, this practice was soon discarded in favor of the old one.

So who is St. Valentine? What has he got to do with love? Well, he was a Roman priest who was martyred around A.D. 270 because he performed secret marriages which Emperor Claudius had forbidden. Legend says that while Valentine was in

prison, he healed the jailor's blind daughter, who brought him food and cheered him up. Before his execution, he allegedly wrote her a letter about bonds of affection between people. He signed it "From Your Valentine."

Since then it has been traditional to send messages on Valentine's Day. A lot of superstitions have grown up around it as well. One is that the first person you meet on Valentine's Day will be your mate. (Thank goodness my roommate is already engaged!) And supposedly birds choose their mates on this day, and since our minds naturally turn to warmer thoughts at this time of year, we should like to do likewise. Superstition also has it that if the first bird a female sees on February 14 is a robin, she will marry a sailor. A sparrow means a happy marriage to a poor man. A goldfinch predicts marriage to a millionaire, and a flock of doves means good fortune in marriage. Otherwise, I guess it's just the luck of the draw from the love urn. Happy Valentine's Day!

Hearing Impaired Students Aim High

By Christine Mento
Staff Writer

Donna Ham is a 26-year-old student here at Gardner-Webb College. Although she was born deaf, her condition went undetected until she was about three. The doctors did not know whether her deafness was due to a birth defect or an illness. Donna also suffers from scoliosis, a curvature of the spine. Since she has been in and out of hospitals most of her life, she could not attend a residence school for the deaf. She had to learn to lip-read and talk so she could communicate.

Lipreading is difficult because so many words and letters look the same. Even with the help of facial expressions, most lipreaders only understand about thirty percent of what is said. Some understand less than five percent. It helps lipreaders if they talk to people they know because they are familiar with their lip movements. It aggravates Donna when people exaggerate their lip movements. She can understand best when they speak normally, but if they slow down they are almost impossible to understand. When asked if she had any advice for the hearing, Donna said, "Just be patient and understanding. It's just as hard for us as it is for you."

She wanted to drop out of high school, but her mother, who has been a big influence throughout her life, would not let her. Her junior year was a turning point when she met June Worth, a registered

By Christy McHan
Staff Writer

Jackie Turner is a hearing impaired student from Atlanta, Georgia. She transferred to GWC from Galudet University in Washington, DC. Do you know her?

Students will have seen her working in the cafeteria. She does everything from serving food and making sandwiches to caring for the salad bar. In spite of her deafness, Jackie has no problems communicating with students in the cafeteria. Students point to what they want. If they want two scoops, they simply hold up their fingers.

Some students have never come in contact with a hearing impaired person. William Conreys, a GWC student said, "It is a good experience for students and faculty to come in contact with a deaf person."

Ray Cooper, cafeteria manager, gives Jackie rave reviews. "She has been a very effective employee, follows directions easily, is very personable, and is well liked by other employees. She does her job, and she does it very well."

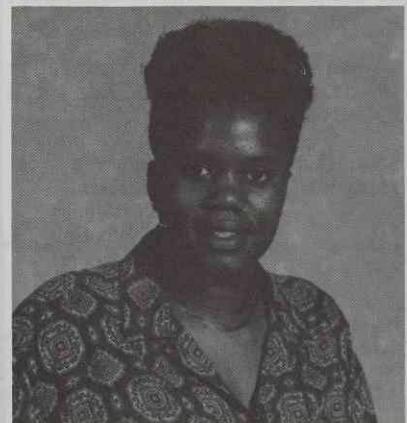
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Happy Valentine's Day!



Donna Ham



Jackie Turner

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