



The Cougar Cry



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Dr. Jim Randolph, President

That Special Gift

Well, here it is again, another one of those days when males are faced with that age old question, "What to buy? What to buy?"

Throughout the year, men are confronted with a number of days or occasions that compels us to buy that special gift, for that special person. Her birthday, your anniversary, Christmas, Mother's Day and Valentine's Day all requires us to rack our brains for yet another perfect gift.

Valentine's Day is extra special because the gift is expected to be very personal. This gift, unlike others, can set the stage for the remainder of the year. It can be the "Waterloo" of one's relationship.

On other occasions, we can get away with very practical gifts. For example, my neighbor, John, gave his wife a new bright red riding mower for Mother's Day. Now, this was a gift that was not difficult to buy. John just moseyed on down to his local hardware store and checked out the horsepower, blade length, carburetor — things men know something about — and said, "I'll take it."

But could he get away with this on Valentine's Day? I think not. On Valentine's Day we are expected to give an intimate gift. After all, Valentine's Day is for sweethearts.

It seems that we can blame the Romans for "St. Valentine's Day." Its original name was Lupercalia, which means "feasts of Lupercus." Lupercus was a Roman god who protected people from wolves. Each February, the Romans held a feast to honor Lupercus. Young men who wanted partners for dance and games, drew names of young ladies out of a bowl. The partners would often end up as sweethearts.

With the introduction of Christianity, the celebration was renamed for a saint who died on February 14. His name was Valentine.

St. Valentine's Day became very popular in France and England, where the idea of sending a "valentine" originated. Soon, sweethearts began to exchange gifts, such as candy and cakes, flowers, and jewels.

Hundreds of years later, specifically on the night before Valentine's Day — the usual time men like to shop for gifts — I decided to buy something really special for Caroline. Perhaps even a racy nightgown — maybe red or purple.

Standing in front of Victoria's Secrets in the Hanes Mall, I began to plot my move. No problems. After all, I had half an hour before closing time. The longer I stood in front of that window, however, the more difficult it became to enter. Do those things come in sizes? Will the clerk think I'm a pervert? Will someone see me in there? Help!

"May I help you?" asked the sales clerk as I stumbled into the store.

"I'm looking for a gift." She led me to a rack of colorful silky things. "How about this one?" she asked as she held up something that looked like it was left over from a Madonna video.

"Oh, did I mention that this gift was for my wife?"

"Perhaps," she quipped, "you should try Sears."

Well, I thought, as I headed down the mall, maybe Caroline would like a skill saw after all.

Handicap in Mind of Beholder

"I can't cope with it," complained the young woman. "Just look at me!"

The doctor looked at her and replied, "If you want sympathy, you've got it. But will you listen to me for a few minutes?"

The young woman nodded and the doctor continued: "You've got a handicap. Who doesn't? The world is full of people with physical handicaps. They have faults and failings and handicaps ranging from weak hearts and severe headaches and ulcers to eyes that can't see, ears that can't hear, and limbs made so weak by some disease they are almost useless. Yet these people plan, think, work, function."

"I've heard that all before," said the young woman.

"Then I suppose you've heard that John Keats was tubercular; John Milton was blind; and Beethoven composed some of his best music while deaf.

"Alfred the Great had internal physical problems; Napoleon and Julius Caesar were epileptics. So was Mohammed, the founder of one of the world's great religions.

"Not convinced yet? Then, consider Helen Keller, one of America's most accomplished women, who was both deaf and blind. Or think of the great electrical wizard, Charles Steinmetz, a deformed dwarf.

"All suffered from handicaps, but none let their physical difficulties handicap their lives.

"There's only one handicap to really worry about: your attitude. If you think you can't cope with something, you can't, and you won't. And if you use a physical handicap to excuse yourself, you're cheating yourself.

"It's up to you... You decide."

Two GREAT Americans...

Two Americans, both born in February: Washington and Lincoln.

Each came from different social and economic backgrounds; yet, both rose to the highest office in the land.

Washington, born to wealth and prominence, lived a life of ease during his early years. He was genteel, cultured.

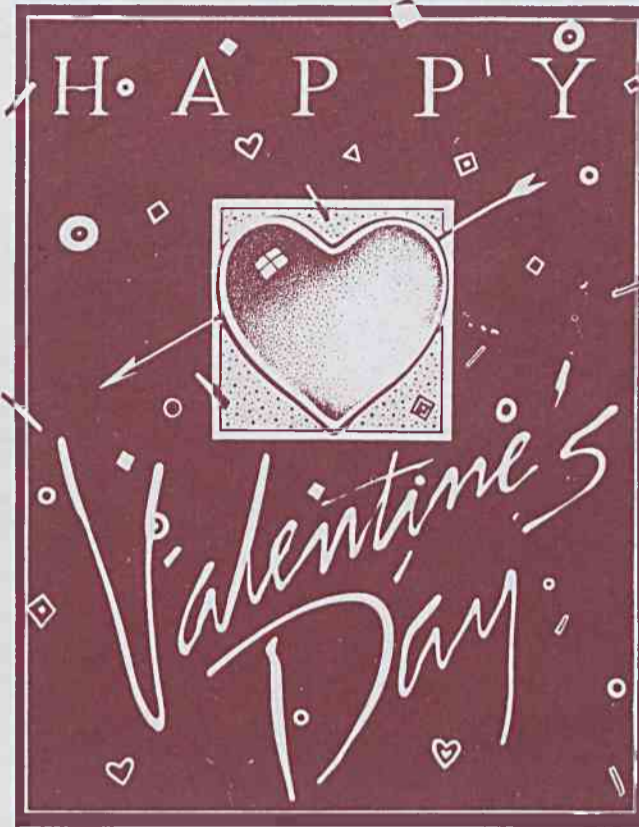
Lincoln was little more than a country boy who grew up amid the hardships of the frontier. He was honest, yet rugged.

Both men, however, devoted their years to the well-being of America as they understood it to be.

Washington, often called the "father of his country," fought for its right to exist. Lincoln, often called its "preserver," fought to keep it united.

Two great men: Washington and Lincoln.

Happy Valentine's Day



How It All Came About!

St. Valentine's Day is a day for lovers to express their affection for each other. Originally, the choice of a lover was part of a spring ritual. During this ritual, unmarried couples were paired before participation in orgiastic ceremonies. This pairing did not have to be permanent. Later on, the first persons of opposite sex to see other by chance, became Valentines. Today cards, candy, and gifts are sent to one's Valentine along with kisses and affection.

St. Valentines Day is in honor of two Christian martyrs of the same name. They were persecuted by the Roman Emperor Claudius II, and were buried on the same day. During the fourth century, a church was built on the same day. During the fourth century, a church was built on their graves. Since the middle ages, this day has been dedicated to all the romantic lovers. Consequently, this is also the day when birds are supposed to begin their spring mating. So, on this day, February 14, the birds, particularly love birds, will take time to express their love for their mate.

— Karen Brawn
Freshmen

What Will Valentine Bring?

Valentines Day is a time for expressing your love, by showering your loved ones with gifts and candy. We all have our expectations of what we will receive on this special day. They vary from romantic dinners to flowers, yet they all contain a little shot of love from cupid's arrow.

Dr. James Randolph - Love and kisses for the rest of the year.

Bud Rhodes - Reinstate the draft for people over 61 and a new bed pan.

Priscilla Lockhart - Flowers and candy.

Rose Brock - A romantic candlelight dinner for two fixed by him!

'Bull' - A nice romantic dinner and after dinner a rendezvous in the darkest part of the house!

Michele Wood - A lot of love and a nice candlelight dinner.

Lea Wright - A long, slow, deep, soft, wet, gentle kiss out in the rain, while listing to 'Georgia On My Mind', by Michael Bolton. Later go to a secluded log cabin and make all our dreams come true.

Tracy Minton - Some money and a nice 'butt' kissing!

Jeff Brown - I expect her to have a nice room waiting for me in Boone. A juczuzzi filled with champagne and a hot meal afterwards.

Bill Moffett - Inner Peace and Ultimate Truth

Amber Herman - My knight in shining armor on a white horse carrying red roses and delicious chocolate candies. Also, I'd like for him to stay around for a couple of days so I can prove to Bud Mays that real knights do exist.

Julie Hamby - Someone who acts like they care all the time.

Melody Shelton - I don't need anything because I already have all a girl could ever want.

Dr. Hendrix - Flowers and cards from my children.

— Derek Ellis
Kemp Kirk

Be Good to Yourself

Want to be successful?

Then, count your blessings; for no matter who you are or what you do, you have many of them.

Sure, you have faults and problems. Who doesn't? But you have your own unique set of personal gifts in terms of talent and energy and ambition. They need only be developed in your own way.

Fortunately, one of your blessings in this country is opportunity.

Get your fair share. Do your fair share.

Concerns

Be sure to include Harry Adams and his family in your prayers. Harry's son Bryant is now serving in Saudi Arabia.

Alumni and staff are very appreciative of Harry's hard work here on campus. Harry always has a warm smile and a cheerful greeting for everyone. Harry is part of our housekeeping staff.

Please continue to support Harry and all those with loved ones now in harm's way.



Harry Adams

Phi Theta Kappa Doubles in Size

Phi Theta Kappa has grown quickly in the last month. Students from around Wilkes Community were selected to be invited into our fraternity due to several qualities. They must:

- 1) have a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.5 or better.
- 2) be enrolled in 12 or more hours of classes.
- 3) have academic excellence as judged by faculty, and
- 4) possess strong qualities of leadership and citizenship.

On January 21, 1991 in the Walker Center, twenty-one people who shared these qualities were initiated into the Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. They were: Lisa Absber, Robert Bare, Karen Brown, Laura Chapman, Dena Gillette, Tammy Griffin, Amber Herman, Lynette King, Sherry Miller, Crystal Minton, Rebecca Montoya, Kimberly Pardue, Nancy Payne, Amy Pennell, Roger Rikard, Neil Shepherd, Stephanie Shew, Melanie Shoaf, Vicky Smith, Roger Tingler, Sherri Walsh.

Congratulations to each new member who has achieved this honor.

Twelve members of Phi Theta Kappa attended the Regional Conference in Charleston, SC, on February 8-10. Roger Rikard was elected President for the Carolina Region. At the Regional Conference, Wilkes Community College Chapter won two awards—one for completing 23 different project levels and The Most Improved Chapter throughout North and South Carolina for the past year.

Please help us to pray for the troops in the Middle East.

— Michael W. Lyles
President, Alpha Kapp Omega
Phi Theta Kappa

Judge them all
by what they do
rather than by
their I.Q.