

To Each His Own Valentine

Although the modern advertisements of Valentine's Day lead us to think only of a boy's love for a girl there lies deeper the true meaning of this day. The ancient customs of Valentine showed not only the romantic aspects but also, the equally important phases of love involving friends, relatives and associates.

In the average high school student's mind there exists only one valentine, the cute girl who sits across the aisle or lives next door. In reality there are many, a friend, a sister, a mother or father, a teacher for whom one holds a high degree of respect. Each in his own way can be a very special valentine.

By the same token, each separate valentine desires the gift most appealing to him. While the girl next door would treasure a heart-shaped box of candy, a friend might wish for a long-wanted book. The gift expressing love doesn't have to be tangible. It doesn't have to be heart shaped. What more could a loving mother wish for than to have the gift of love expressed by every action, every word.

At school the valentine season is denoted by bulletin boards bright with red hearts and verses. In this atmosphere many students want to give their favorite teacher something to show love and respect. The usual choice is, of course, candy. A little more thought by the student might result in a gift such as "A" papers and exceptionally good work. Although the candy would be enjoyed, so would the "A's".

Too often the average student is tempted to do that which takes less effort and time, also that which brings poorer results. Valentines should show thought and respect instead of showing that the giver was too hurried to think of what would please the individual best.

Be Careful-'Just in Case'

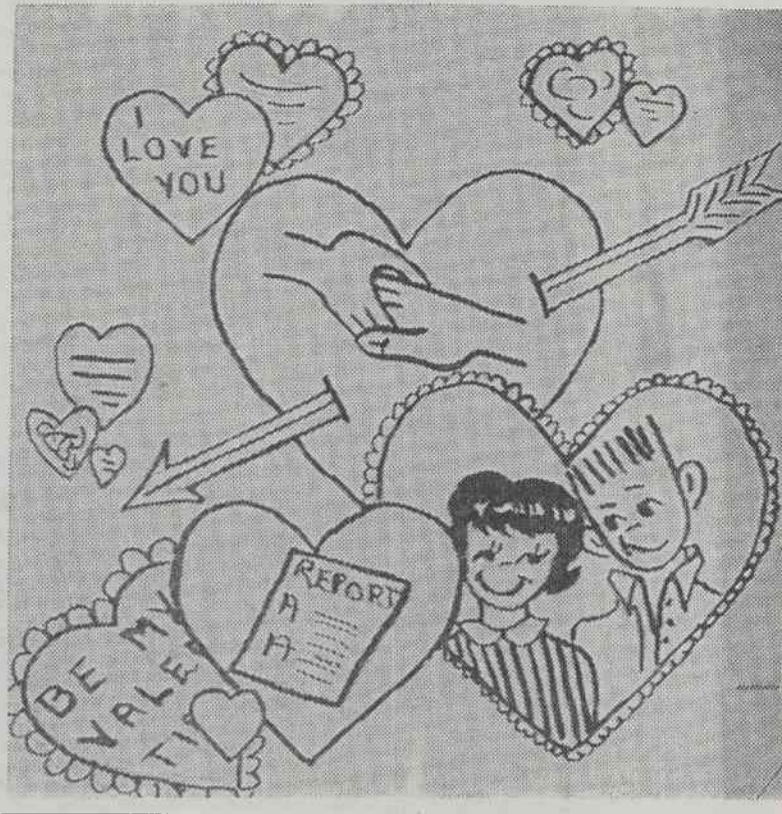
Do you hold your feet up when riding across a railroad tract to insure good luck or raise your hands to the roof of the automobile when crossing a bridge in order to hold the car up and insure safe passage? If you do, don't feel silly. The high schools are full of students, who sincerely believe and follow these superstitious traits.

No matter how silly some think this practice is, at one time or another, each student finds himself catering to these beliefs. How many of us can break a mirror without any thought for the seven years bad luck that this could bring?

Today has been since ancient voo-doo days the worst day of the year. It is February 13 and to add to this trouble it falls on Friday. Since the times when twelve witches picked this day to meet with their cohort, the Devil, to cook up evil, Friday the thirteenth has been the day when all the unlucky things most dreaded happen.

Although horrible things rarely happen on this day, most people find, as the witches did, that it is a good idea, superstitious or not, to be careful—"just in case"!!

Which is Your Valentine



At RMSHS

Spring--Time for Fresh Start

Latin students studying Caesar are familiar with the Lupercalia, the annual Roman festival held in preparation for the coming of Spring. This period of preparation for a new beginning is comparable to the same period, between January and the Ides of March, in the school year.

Joe Whatshiname, an old friend from here at Senior High school, who popped up on this page in January, has returned at last as an example again.

As exam time came rolling around this year, Joe found he had to cram like mad to make up for time he had spent "rolling around" in his '42 Ford that he should have spent studying. Still, even though he boned up, he flunked-with flying colors!!!

After grades came out, Joe went to see his teacher and demanded, "How can I pull this 'E' to a passing mark, Huh?" Does that sound a bit like "locking the door after the horse is stolen" to you, too?

Now, Joe must make, at the least, a 'C' average — but do you think he'll study? Oh, no!! — he'll wait until the last minute again; he'll cram; and he'll flunk as before.

Studying would get less and less difficult each time he tried it — if he would try it.

His mother's favorite dream is that son's former bad habits are "just so much water under the bridge." She imagines that he changes his ways of living and uses this semester of the school year in preparation for all his tests and exams — studying and learning both what he should have learned this past semester and the one he's beginning!! She doesn't realize he's a hopeless case!!!

His teachers are working overtime trying to help him pass. His classmates are behind him pushing. His parents have done their best through punishing him, pleading with him and even, in desperation, using the silent treatment on him. But it doesn't do any good. He will not exert any energy whatsoever in his own behalf.

They hope that he's smarter than they think and will see the folly of his ways. I wish him good luck; he needs it!!!

Famous Birthdays In February Hint At Fame In Store

February may be the shortest month in the year but it is one of the most outstanding as far as important birthdays go. I wonder if the Senior High students born in February will follow in the tracks the other famous men and women born that same day.

Will Terry Newell, born February 22, be like George Washington or Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, or will he be scientific like Heinrich Hertz, the physicist, who discovered radio waves? Will Nancy Coggins, born this same day, be like one of these or will she follow Francois Chopin, the French composer?

Will Lamon Dunn, who will be 17 February 13, have bad luck all that Friday, or is that his lucky day?

Patsy Warren, born February 12, may revolutionize the financial world like another John L. Lewis or again she may be the first woman president in America like an Abe Lincoln minus the beard.

Great things are in the crystal ball for Roger Waters in the field of medicine for his birthday falls on February 17, the same day as Rene Laennec, the inventor of the stethoscope. Certainly some of it has rubbed off on Roger.

Yes, they have some big steps to walk in — these people born in February!

Shuff's Stuff

by Clark Lee Shuff

International situations affect RMHS students as much as any other citizen, perhaps even more. A future Abe Lincoln may be sitting in a desk here right now!!

Way down south, our Cuban friends have finally routed out their ex-president, Batista. Cuba is famous for her revolutions. Her Latin temperament makes those sparks fly.

Fidel Castro, rebel leader, taking over Havana upon the resignation and flight of Batista, marched his army triumphantly through the streets on their home-made artillery ('home-made' or not—it worked!!) U. S. executives are walking around with their fingers crossed hoping Castro won't interfere with Cuba-America commercial relationships. Just think how Uncle Sam'll miss those extra \$millions.

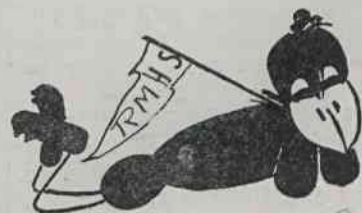
USSR and East Berlin are trying to force England, France, and US to relinquish control of the West Germany sector by refusing to deal with them except through East Berlin as an independent power. The West has met this (bless 'em) with folded arms and silent refusal (silence is golden). This lack of fiery action leaves Russia looking rather silly—but still dangerous.

Anastas I. Mikoyan, Soviet First Deputy Premier, visiting the US, states that his trip has nothing whatsoever to do with the East Berlin problem. This reporter thinks that Mr. Mikoyan is somewhat like the "cat" in that "Colpas" song—"wearing a sombrero and long pants." Russia seldom does anything except to further her own purposes.

Unhappily, too many Americans have been ill-mannered enough to "boo" their guest, to the shame of self-respecting citizens. Often the action of a minority causes America to suffer in the eyes of other nationalities. What a Utopia it would be if we could exterminate these boors!!

Ben Blackbird Sez

"Do Not quarrel with an angry person, but give him a soft answer. It makes him madder than anything else."



THE BLACKBIRD

Rocky Mount Senior High

Member of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association



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