

Valentine's Day web pages help sweethearts find love at first site

Valentine's Day, the day we love to hate. So much love is in the air that I sometimes feel nauseated. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for warm fuzzies, but the onslaught of pink and red hearts everywhere in sight is a bit much. Despite my disgust, the Valentine's Day web sites impressed me. The creativity and snappy graphics almost — and I repeat almost — got me in the holiday spirit.

For an overview of the Valentine's Day scene, ZIA Valentines at <http://www.zia.com/holidays/valentine> reminds you to think pink, pink, pink! You can send a romantic e-mail to your special someone, and the selection includes just the right amount of sap. The site also gives party ideas and Valentine's Day recipes.

Fortunately, not all sites feature cheesy "Be my valentine" e-greetings. Alternative sentiments can also be sent the electronic way. Let me explain.

The Digital Anti-Valentine Service at <http://www.pacific.net.sg/cards/val/dark.html> has three cards to send Feb. 14. "Get a Life," "What is love?" and "What the *@&?" grace the covers of e-cards when you want to send the very best. Enter your bitter half's e-mail address and your greeting will be delivered.

The Valentine's Day Luv-O-Matic at <http://www.sacbee.com/smile/luvomatic> will "randomize" a love note to give you a bizarre message. "Dear phone sex operator, Happy Boxing Day. I wanted to show you how much I miss the Mother Ship," is just an example. Click on the crossbones or the heart to determine the tone of your message.

If you're not sure of the tone you want to convey, let the Cyrano Server guide you. At <http://www.nando.net/toys/cyrano.html> send a valentine, write a love letter or let Cyrano help you dump someone. In an Ad Lib-esque way, you fill in the blanks and Cyrano does the work. Do you want your message to be indecisive, steamy or surreal? Once finished, add on the finishing touches of a graphic or a sound byte; the recipient will be sure to swoon.

And in true '90s form, dedicate a URL to your loved one at Valentines on the Web. At <http://www.aristotle.net/valentines>, a glance at other people's dedications gives you an idea for your own. For example, one sweetheart sent the URL for a virtual wedding chapel to his significant other (<http://www.jckeeptake.com/chapel.html> for those interested parties). Also at this site, a scrumptious heart-shaped box of chocolates guides you to other Valentine's Day sites. Pick a chocolate, and you'll end up at a site devoted to Romeo and Juliet or "Valentine Forever."

Finally, croon to your sweetie at <http://pacific/teletbyte.net/~brianles/valentine.html>. The Virtual Valentine pays tribute to the holiday with four "love songs." Not all of them relate to the joined-at-the-hip-type couples. The creators include songs for those who vow to never fall in love again and the ever hopeful.

But the clever part of the songs is that the lyrics link you to related pages. The lyric "Love hurts" takes you to a page devoted to band-aids and another "Love" lyric takes you to the "I Love Lucy" home page. At <http://access.mountain.net/~panla>, the page gives reason to love America's favorite redhead. A sound byte of the theme song and Lucy pictures complete the shrine to the comedienne.

While my cynicism might pervade my web searches for anti-Valentine's Day sites, love prevails, and for 24 hours I'll just have to deal with lots of pink.

Send electronic Valentine's Day greetings, romantic or indecisive, to jibanov@email.unc.edu.

Site Seeing



by Jessica Banov

Bizarro



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IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world.

Jury charges Simpson an additional \$25 million

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — A jury Monday heaped \$25 million in punitive damages on O.J. Simpson for the slayings of his ex-wife and her friend, saddling him with more than twice the debt even his pursuers say he can pay.

The judgment is on top of \$8.5 million in compensatory damages awarded last week when the jury repudiated his murder acquittal and found Simpson liable in the 1994 slaying deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Unlike the compensatory-damages verdict, the decision on punitive damages was not unanimous. The only person with black ancestry on the jury, a Jamaican-born man who is half Asian, was the lone vote against punitive damages. He was joined by one other juror in also voting against the amounts.

The courtroom was hushed and there were none of the outbursts that marked last week's verdict. Fred Goldman, the victim's father who had championed the civil court battle against Simpson, sat silently wiping his brow. His wife, Patti, and daughter, Kim, showed little emotion. Simpson did not appear in court.

Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki granted Simpson's lawyers a 10-day stay to appeal.

Ms. Simpson's estate, whose beneficiaries include her two children now living with Simpson, was allotted \$12.5 million of the punitive damages. Goldman's father got another \$12.5 million, while his mother, Sharon Rufo, did not ask for punitive damages. The long-divorced parents will split the \$8.5 million in compensatory damages for the loss of their son's love and companionship.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

COUNCIL

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stormwater impact were being made based on out-of-date data.

"Calculations are being made based on data collected in the '70's," he said. "The floodway is probably in the middle of the hotel now."

Werner said he was also concerned about the precedent that would be set.

"By approving this project near a floodway and creek, it will make it dif-

icult to deny variances for larger projects in the Resource Conservation District outside the flood plain," he said.

Residents said the project would be aesthetically pleasing, provide jobs and increase the tax base.

Stick Williams said he hoped the council would not be intimidated by activist groups. "This is a good project," he said. "The retaining pond will provide more help than there is now, and the motel will improve the entranceway into Chapel Hill."

FORUM

FROM PAGE 1

rience within the organization," he said.

Reynolds and Roederer said they would devote much of their energy to increasing fan enthusiasm.

Reynolds said they would push for the promotion of athletic events through increased publicity of not just the most popular sports, but of all games.

"We really want to highlight the Olympic sports," he said.

Roederer said he and Reynolds would also make Homecoming more appealing to students by bringing in a band to boost their spirits.

"A lot of people think that CAA crowds are lackluster, but I want to dispel this," he said.

LEE

FROM PAGE 1

which in-state students can strive and attracts research funding that can benefit the entire system, he said.

"UNC-Chapel Hill is the engine that keeps the system nationally recognized and respected," said Lee, who received a master's in social work at UNC-CH.

The arguments that plagued the 1995 budget negotiations between the Senate and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives have died down, Lee said. But with two, three and sometimes four chairs on each House committee, he said battles between committee chairs were sure to arise.

"I come from a social work background, and I know people," he said. "With all these chairs, there is sure to be some antagonism and politicking. But we shouldn't see each other as enemies."

Stern and Whitley said their top priority was to cater to the needs of the students. "Their ideas are welcomed," Stern said.

Stern and Whitley said they also wanted to utilize CAA's new web site and to promote student group involvement in the CAA.

Whitley said he and Stern would promote student involvement by initiating a week entitled "CAA Action Week" in order to increase student involvement.

"We want to build on our own experience," Whitley said.

In response to an audience member's question about the candidates' decision to run as co-presidents, all conveyed the message that they felt two presidents would make twice the contribution to CAA.

Lee, who became the first black mayor of a predominantly white, Southern town when he was elected in Chapel Hill in 1969, has handled controversy and dealt with opposing factions in the past.

"I want to keep the lines of communication open with the House (education) chairs by meeting informally once a week," Lee said. "We have to avoid the 'us versus them' scenario."

One of Lee's top education priorities is strengthening preschool education.

"Unless we give our students a good start in learning, nothing else really matters," he said. "Strengthening these programs will, in turn, strengthen the whole system, including universities, by producing a higher caliber of student."

Increasing funding for technology is also high on Lee's list.

"What some people fail to realize is that the computer of today is the pen and paper of yesterday," he said.

Julia White, communications director for Senate Majority Leader Marc Basnight, D-Dare, said teaming Lee with three-term senator Leslie Winner, D-Mecklenburg, would help address the state's educational shortcomings.

"They have varying backgrounds and come from different regions, but they both have a fundamental understanding of education," she said, before adding that despite Lee's two-year absence Basnight did not hesitate to appoint him last week.

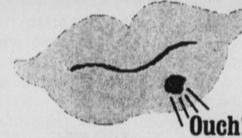
Winner said that Lee's knowledge of North Carolina's community college and university systems meshes well with her expertise in elementary through high school education.

"We both know about all aspects of education, but our individual aptitudes will strengthen the team," she said.

Lee added that the committee would be too much for one chair to handle.

"This way we can each be really proficient in a manageable area," he said. "It also adds realism by forcing both chairs to bounce their ideas off one another."

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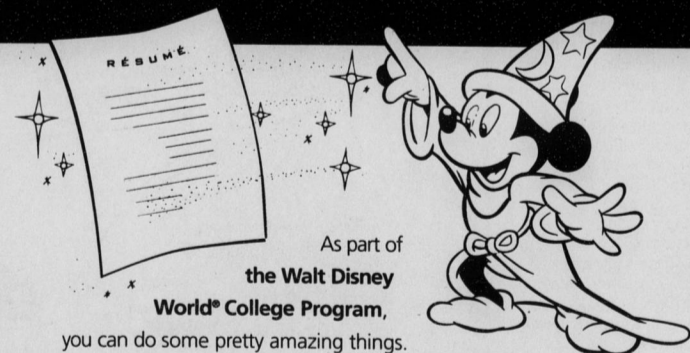
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