



For Your Valentine

By Kimberly Anastas

Can't afford to give your sweetheart the hope diamond this Valentine's Day? Fear not! Cupid never intended to steal your wallet, just your heart.

There are those who view February 14 as a second chance for their beloved to make good on the gifts they couldn't afford before Christmas. Then there are those who realize the opportunity to say "I love you" or "you're special" or "thank you" as a heart-warming tradition to celebrate being in love.

If your paycheck is not in sync with the high cost of red roses (which, needless to say, seem to increase in price by 500 percent somewhere around the tenth of February) or the hefty price of an elegant dinner, show your valentine you care by using your imagination to come up with a unique message of saying "I love you."

Cook a special dinner, accent it with soft music, low lights and a favorite beverage. Woops! Don't forget the candles. What is a romantic dinner without candles?

If you're not a cook, how about a baker? Cupcakes or cookies are sure to win your sweetie's heart. If the kitchen just isn't the place for you, try your hand at writing. Create a poem, a song, just a warm expression of love. You'd be surprised at the results. Nothing is more touching than actually reading how someone feels.

A lot can be done for the valentine with a sweet tooth. Buy a mug and fill it with chocolates and mints, then top it with a red ribbon. Or decorate a box in red and white paper and fill it with his/her favorite candies and gum.

Teddy bears and lollipops work too. How about framing a picture of the two of you together and giving it to your better half? Or locate a student artist and have a portrait drawn.

For those who can't afford much more than a greeting card, there is still hope. Create a love certificate. On paper, promise your valentine that you'll wash his/her car or make lunch or wash dishes or administer a back rub or skip a soap opera or basketball game to be with him/her. It should be able to be cashed in at anytime.

However you decide to spend Valentine's Day, make it special. Don't forget that three little words mean so much.



Student Leadership Conference Held

On Saturday, Jan. 23, 1988 student leaders from most campus clubs and organizations gathered in the CUB for the bi-annual Student Leadership Conference.

The conference is held each semester to help student leaders better understand the task of being an officer in a club or an organization.

After a name game first thing Sat. morning the student leaders divided into groups to go to specialized workshops. The workshops included: "Meetings, Bloody Meetings," "Nuts and Bolts of Running an Organization," and "Time Management."

After the workshops the group came together again and worked on solutions to the problem of alcohol abuse on campus. Most of the solutions arrived at by the student leaders involved informing and educating the student body about the dangers of alcohol.

Some of the most interesting discussions of the conference were started during the SGA fishbowl. The fishbowl involved placing SGA President Todd Hammaker and other SGA officers in the center of a ring. Student leaders could address the officers only if they took a chair within that circle. Topics such as budget management, the Advocate, and holding special events on campus were discussed in the fishbowl.

After lunch two facilitators from Universtiy Park presented a workshop on conflict and conflict resolution. Their presentation included identifying conflict and its effects, and resolution of conflict.

One student leader from WNDR said that he was able to learn a lot from the conference and was glad that he had had the opportunity to meet with other student leaders.

Compassion Counts

By Kimberly Anastas

I recently read an article in The Patriot News that struck a nerve. Its lead read: "If you don't want to be out of work, south-central Pennsylvania is the place to be."

It's wonderful that this area has such a demand for workers, but why are there so many homeless and hungry vagrants sleeping in the gutters with not a penny in their pockets?

I realize this question cannot easily be answered and I'm not sure an earth-shattering answer really matters to me at this particular moment.

What is important to me is awareness--my own and others'. How many of us are aware of starvation in Africa? Of course we are aware that a bunch of musicians and singers recorded a song called "We Are The World," but what did it mean to us?

Sometime after that song lost its popularity we all stood on our lawns or on the nearest interstate highway and held hands as we swayed back and forth in an effort known to us as "Hands Across America." What did that mean?

I remember sitting at a Pirate baseball game and a group of teenagers did their rendition which they titled "Hands Across Three Rivers Stadium." But is it a joke?

Sure, I laughed as they barricaded the peanut vendor across row J so he would join hands and sway with them but did they even realize that there were homeless people eating bread intended for the pigeons as they munched on hot dogs and soft pretzels?

I am not condemning these baseball fans for having a good time. I am questioning our awareness of the world's problems. I know none of us can be held responsible and none of us can perform miracles to abolish hunger but we can be aware and we can do what we can. Meaning, the next time you visit downtown Philly or the Southside of Pittsburgh, or the outskirts of New York City, don't merely laugh at the street urchins. If you can't give them a dime or a cup of coffee, at least give them your understanding and compassion.

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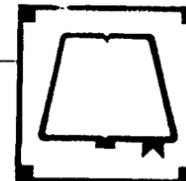
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