



Winston Pei

The layman's guide to Three Lines Free

Happy Birthday Laura H.! Two days early, but I couldn't wait! Love long and prosper, K & M!

To my old buddies from Cameron walkway lunches, love all of you to bits! Where've you been, Mike?

Hugs and kisses to the SORSE Crew, especially Squirrelly, The Warthog and the Delicious One.

And welcome, readers, to Lotsa Lines Free (a column by any other name...), a verbose exploration of the operations of the most used and abused service this paper has to offer, the sporadic yet voluminous Three Lines Free.

The History of Three Lines Free

The Gateway Three Lines Free (TLF) section was established last year by my predecessor and current Gateway guiding light, Captain Randal B. Smathers, the one and only and thank goodness. TLF is a new (spelled O-P-T-I-O-N-A-L-B-U-T-I-D-I-D-I-T-A-N-Y-W-A-Y-S) addition to the vast and vital (spelled

C-U-S-H-Y) Chief Engineer/Production Editor's portfolio. Thus, TLF became my baby (spelled W-O-R-K) and she's becoming bigger (spelled M-O-R-E-W-O-R-K) all the time. Knock wood.

How to use TLF effectively

When composing your next contribution to this, the ultimate in betterment of academic life, keep in mind the following hints:

1. Read the Rules of Three Lines Free and commit them to memory as if your life depended on it.
2. Don't send in more than one message at a time. (Sorry to the Hot and Lonely Ladies, et al.) Only the first one will be run, exceptions excepted (see #5).
3. Please submit your message, with name, rank and serial number (see #1), on an official and duly-notarized TLF form.
4. If there is no TLF form (hint, hint), please clearly PRINT your message in large legible letters on half a piece of loose-leaf. You are allowed 108 letters, spaces, punctuation

marks or combinations thereof, but no more. To the many wordy past culprits, seriously consider writing for news.

5. Befriend (spelled S-U-C-K-U-P-T-O-A-N-D-O-R-B-R-I-B-E) an editor and abuse their editorial privileges. I am an especially good candidate for this approach.

While none of this guarantees that your wisdom will be shared with all and sundry, it makes my job easier and that contributes to my overall happiness (see #5).

Behind the Scenes

Each and every TLF message submitted is first read by the Editor Responsible, that is to say, me. If it is illegible, incomplete or as verbose as this column, it goes no further (see #3 and #4).

Next I exercise my editorial prerogative and pass moral judgement (really, I do) upon the many offerings. Messages of questionable content are passed on to my two lovely and buxom yet morally sensitive

assistants. Two thumbs down and out it goes (see #5).

The messages that pass inspection will all run eventually, so be patient. Sending the same message again is not necessary. (Scronk Sister 1, take a valium.) Ones that don't make it in because of lack of room are simply held at the top of the waiting list, just like for elective (spelled N-O-T-T-H-E-E-N-D-O-F-T-H-E-W-O-R-L-D) surgery.

At the same time, every effort (spelled E-V-E-N-M-O-R-E-W-O-R-K-F-O-R-M-E-A-S-I-F-I-A-M-E-V-E-R-S-H-O-R-T-O-F-T-H-I-N-G-S-T-O-D-O) is made to put birthday, anniversary and timely mating messages before the blessed event.

And for those of you who found my perspective warped (spelled W-A-R-P-E-D), yes, all TLF's run were complete in their entirety, just not in their locality.

And finally...

When all is said and done, there is one thing about TLF you can always count on: you'll never get less than your money's worth.

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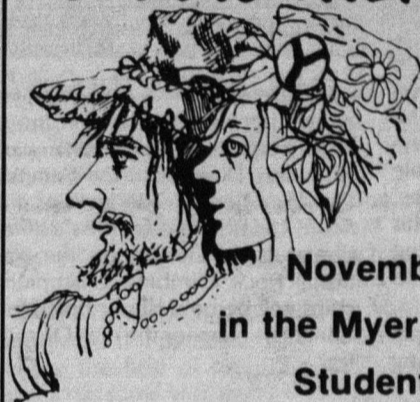
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