

SPECTRUM

See Sherry Speak

The original Valentine: Not the object of affection

HISTORY/ Our designated day for love had its roots in hatred.

by Sherry Morin

See Sue. See Billy. See Billy and Sue fight. See Cupid. See Cupid shoot his arrows. See an arrow hit Sue. "Ouch," says Sue. Poor Sue. See an arrow hit Billy. "Ouch," says Billy. Poor Billy. See Cupid laugh. "Why did you shoot us?" asks Sue. "Because I'm sadistic and the spirit of love is dying," says Cupid. "Oh," says Billy. "Oh," says Sue. See Cupid fly away... See Billy and Sue fight. Again.

Valentine's Day has come to symbolize love. Ironically, it began in commemoration of a very "heartless" occasion; St. Valentine's Day is named for a Christian martyr supposedly executed by the Ancient Romans. Actually, February 14th did not become famed as a festival for lovers until the 1300's, when Europeans first associated it with the mating-time of birds. Hence, a day of bloodshed and religious strife came to be known as a day of preening lovers and Love.

What is Love? Especially in February, the word "love" tends to imply "romance". However, a further search will conjure many meanings for the word, "Love".

Ancient Greek language had four different love-terms. One referred to the intrinsic love felt between family members. Another was fiery, possessive love, which modern psychologists would label, "passionate love". Third was the intimacy and mutual respect found in friendship, and another word for "love" was used to express preferences.

Confucious, the Chinese philosopher who lived about 500 B.C., saw love as a combination of ti (fraternal love), hao (goodwill) and shi (forgiveness and compassion to others).

The "Bodhisattva" is the "ideal follower" of the Buddhist religion. He might be compared to Christ, as a model for Christians to follow. The Bodhisattva explains his personal commitment to love in this quotation from The Bhagavad-Gita: "I myself must grapple with the whole mass of suffering of all beings, to the limit of my endurance I will experience in all the states of woe, found in any world system, all abodes of suffering, and so I will help all beings to freedom, in all

states of woe that may be found in any world system whatsoever".

The major world religions share a common concept of love. They endorse Love in God. This, in turn, is hoped to inspire an esteem or love for the Self as one of God's creations, without eclipsing the need for a broader, external Love of humanity and nature. The Encyclopedia of Religion observes, "As in most of the major religions and cultures the world over, love is the focal center for the interplay between life and death, the drive toward physical survival, the procreation of the species, and the establishment and maintenance of culture in an all-inclusive sense."

Despite the common element among religions, their definition of Love, which should theoretically be a highly treasured belief, the followers of different religions are almost constantly at odds. Blinded by a fervor to preserve their own religions, certain followers become very self-focused. In the same vein as Saint Valentine's execution, bloody conflicts have often ruptured between warring religious factions, paradoxically in the name of spiritual devotion and love. The actions of these supposedly religious people become increasingly non-loving, secular-driven and fuelled by an ethnocentricity which runs counter to their professed religious beliefs; unfortunately, they fail or refuse to recognize their fun-

damental ties with other religions.

Although we will never be unified in a love for the same higher being, we will forever be united by a common higher purpose. Our purpose is to achieve a belief in ourselves, through peace, mutual tolerance, respect, and Love.

In this age of alienation, with the revival of economic liberalism by our political leaders, we are powerless without love to unite us. We sometimes see ourselves as small, barnacle-like creatures, carried, drifting in a murky sea of activity. Love is the rock, the foundation to which we cling. While we are affixed to this rock, survival seems much easier. We seem safer from predatory forces than if we were carried blindly by the current of society in no particular direction. The obvious evolutionary benefits of love should be enough to sell it as a renewed way of thinking.

Collectivity and cooperation must be the vision of a new generation, if we are to survive. Economists, sociologists and environmental scientists are predicting unprecedented future conflicts between nations and cultures. These conflicts will be a frantic grabbing by everyone for ever-diminishing natural resources; we have to prepare for such a looming crisis by thinking of ways to distribute fairly

the bare necessities for survival. We must, through research, try to raise alternative food crops, which offer more nutrition, and less soil exhaustion. Furthermore, food should become as commonly available a resource as water or air, made accessible to all through collective efforts. In a future of scarcity, food cannot remain reserved as a profit reservoir for agri-giants.

There is a fragment of verse which unifies all of the above definitions of Love within four lines. It reads, in the words of the immortal William Blake, "Love seeketh not itself to please, / Nor for itself hath any care. / But for another gives its ease. / And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair."

That's all, kiddies. Take care, and see me speak again in two weeks.

In this age of alienation, with the revival of economic liberalism by our political leaders, we are powerless without love to unite us. We sometimes see ourselves as small, barnacle-like creatures, carried, drifting in a murky sea of activity. Love is the rock, the foundation to which we cling.

CONTACT LENSES

STUDENT SPECIAL
SOFT CONTACT LENSES

GUARANTEED FIT
EXTENSIVE
FOLLOW-UP
CARE

159.

REG. \$250.00

COMPREHENSIVE
SERVICE PROGRAM
CLOSE TO CAMPUS
& HIGH SCHOOL

CERTAIN
EXCEPTIONS APPLY

EXPIRES FEB 28/93

DAVID G. HARDING
CONTACT LENS SPECIALIST
SUITE 504, 1015 REGENT STREET
FREDERICTON MEDICAL CLINIC
458-0270

Give us
\$25
OR the FROG
Dies.



This is no idle threat. 1/2 the tropical rainforest is gone.

Make your move or the other 1/2 will follow. The frog too.

Call World Wildlife Fund at 1-800-26-PANDA. Do it now.



The Guardian of the WWF Rainforest Campaign

Adopt-A-Book

Deadline for Donations

March 19th

Send donations to
Grad Class Office
Room 118 SUB.
For more info call
453-4622

You can adopt a book in memory of someone, for yourself, or a friend.

Staff Meeting

The next general Brunswickan staff meeting will be this Friday at 12:30pm. All current staff members and other individuals interested in joining the Brunswickan are urged to attend.

