

NewsBetter 2 Volume 2007

Just In Thyme For Valentines Day

I began to search for a Ramblings topic. And not long into my search, it dawned on me (wow, that Sun is bright) there is only one topic for February, and Greek dramatist Euripides said it best- "Talk sense to a fool, and he will call you foolish." Valentines Day is the epitome of foolishness. Even Cupid sounds remarkably like Stupid. I've waxed Valentines Day before in NewsBetter Volume 8. (1996) But It's been awhile, and there's nothing wrong with repeating yourself every eleven years or so. My point back then was two people with the name of Valentine were martyrs, the Catholic Church had a feast on that day, and it was the same day the Romans had their festival of love, Lupercalia. So martyrdom became a day of love. (That's the short, short version) It seems quite foolish, but let's have a better look at Valentines Day history so we can be informed before calling it foolish.

As usual, my research starts with WikiPedia.org, which I did not have 11 years ago. (Matter of fact, I thought I was high tech with having Grolier Encyclopedia on CD-ROM. But anyways.) What do I read? Chaucer is responsible for associating the notion of courtship with this day's Martyrs. So I pull out my Chaucer's Major Poetry book and start reading. The poem is titled "Parlement of Foules" (fowls) and Chaucer's ostensible subject of the poem is birds select their mate on Valentine's Day. The main characters being three eagles (tercelets) pursuing one female. She can't make up her mind, and asks for a year to "think about it." (I better leave the female indecision part alone, huh?) The Goddess Nature is supervising, and she tells the 3 males, "Beth of good heart, and serves all three. A Year is not so long to endure." (Line 660) Well, I guess that depends on the year. But this brings up a point, okay....several points. February is a bit early for birds to be choosing their mate. The "scholars" of the world think two things, either Chaucer observed Valentines on May the 2nd, as is one date the Catholics observed the martyr of Saint Valentine on, or, the poem describes an actual event. A side note, this poem is probably where we get the phrase "Love Birds." If it is not an "actual" event, then some Scholars believe the poem tries to explain the nature of Love. What I do know is English has changed a great deal since Chaucer's writing of this circa 1380. I really like the opening of Parlement of Foules. "The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne." Or in today's English. The life so short, the craft so long to learn. I think I could ramble on quite a while about just that thought. But I should stay on topic.

WikiPedia differs from my Chaucer book. WikiPedia claims Parlement of Foules IS written about the marriage of King Richard to Anne of Bohemia. My Chaucer book says it is a theory, but one which has many holes. Of course, scholars then refute "poetic license." But also, no one knows WHEN the poem was written. It is well accepted to be written by 1380, and more like 1378, just after Chaucer's return trip from Italy. Here, Chaucer came to know the work of Boccaccio, and is said to have "influence" in the poem. The marriage took place in 1382. No matter what the inspiration for the poem, all do agree it is a good poem.

WikiPedia does note, however, and all agree here, that before Parlement of Foules was written and became popular, there is NO connection between Valentines Day and Love. And that, my readers, is MY point. How does this make Valentines Day foolish? Basically because we have lost the meaning behind the day. Originally, it was to remember a couple martyrs. Now it's expected one buys something for their lover. I believe holidays are consumer driven, and culture gets lost. Was it ever explained to you in school WHY we celebrate Valentines Day? I can't remember ever being told about the martyrs. And WHERE does Cupid come from? Well it seems at least one of the martyrs was a skilled archer, at least that's how I make the connection. Otherwise, I'm at a loss for that one. I am really at a loss for the entire holiday. Now don't get me wrong, spreading love is never a foolish thing. According to a famous historical figure, the most important commandment is "Love thy neighbor as thyself." And if you ask me, that's all life boils down to. So any occasion to tell someone they are loved, especially in the appreciation sense, is a Noble occasion. Even if the Holiday doesn't make a lick of sense to me. So, this foolish day, when Stupid has shot you with his arrow directly in theum...rear, don't forget to let someone know just how glad you are that he or she is on this Earth. Just don't become a martyr for it!!

Current Noose...errr....News

As they say, No noose is good noose.What?

This IS the heart of the NewsBetter.

Hey, I actually got some e-mails from readers!! YAHOO!

So this from Glenn and Anna

Anna and I celebrated our 3rd anniversary October 25th.

Anna is set to graduate with her Bachelor's in May of '07.

I (Glenn) recently started back to school, working on a graduate degree in information security. (and the editor adds....)

Anna finished painting the Fridge! A photo of it can be seen on my web site.

http://www.geocities.com/matthew_walz2000/specialphotos.html

From Walter

Masynn is 3 and can tell the difference between her left and right hand. She's doing better than me :). Masynn's favorite show at the moment is "Dora the Explorer" and is really into "My Little Ponys". Its been good hearing from all my friends here these past few months. I spoke with Trent a couple times and it sounds like he's doing good over seas but really misses home.

And from Brittney.

On the 1st of February, I will have 10 more weeks, how crazy!! The baby still does not have a name, but I am sure it will come to us when we see him. He is getting bigger, he will stick his foot up in my rib cage or he will push his foot into my belly...it is really neat. I can feel his entire foot with my hand, and when I push on it he kicks me. I love being pregnant, but I am so excited for him to come I have been counting down the days. Time moves fast and slow I can barely stand it.

And from the Mayers.

The news from here is that we have a puppy. Got him at a pet store in southeast Wichita last evening. We'd been looking at both animal shelters in town for a couple of weeks but couldn't find anything we were all that crazy about. So Todd suggested this pet store and they had a whole bunch of puppies ready to go. We picked out a little male Carin Terrier. He's 11 weeks old. He'll weigh a whopping 15 pounds at most when he's full grown. He's not going to shed much and his coat is reddish brown with some black around his mouth and along his lower body and tail. We tried to come up with a name and finally decided on "Kipper." That was about the only name Jadon agreed with us on. He's pretty cuddly, chases me around the house and I find him underfoot quite often.

And from the McGees. (Actually, just Laura)

Think maybe we're going to get a John Deere 5525 tractor, paperwork should arrive soon and we can look it all over and decide. The hay bales have been stuck to the ground due to ice this winter so it is much harder than last winter to roll them out. It is that initial moving them out of place that about kills us. Jeff found a tractor in Fastline that is just what we want and is slightly used so that brings the price down quite a bit. Still kinda makes us go "ugh" to think of tractor payments but we could really use one. There are so many things we can get done then. Need to do something before Jeff ruins his knees. Anyway, by the time we sign our life away and send in some money, then they need to get a bucket with grapple put on it and also get in a back blade for it--so it would likely be a couple weeks before it is ready and then they are trying to figure out if they have a shipment going to Denver that would work for them to put this tractor on for us and drop it by here.

Question? and Ans were

Q. Dear editor, I was wondering how you feel about the announcement of "floppy disks are officially dead." As announced by PC World at the end of January and adding, what floppies they have on their shelves are all they have, and they will not be restocking the "quaint" devices since only 2% of computers are sold with floppy drives.

A bit disappointed,
Flo Pedriv

A. Well, Flo, how about getting up with the times? Floppies HAVE been dead for, oh, I don't know....10 years! Heck, some of the floppies I bought were dead when I pulled them out of the box! But seriously, Coasterserrr....CD's....have been the standard since the mid Ninties. Already in 1996, systems were being sold without floppy drives. And in computer years, when six months gets you an outdated system, something that has been around since 1981, has been dead for years. If I only knew how much data I've lost due to "Not ready reading drive A. Abort, Retry, Fail?" But still, thank you recently late Al Shugart for the wonderful device. So, no, I won't miss the floppy. I am sad, instead, that I have to wait until 2010 for Hubble's main camera to be replaced.

Dear Editor

It's been a while since I've written to the Editor. This is because I've been trying to keep my mouth shut about these two NewsBettors that have showed up in the past year. They both reek of bad English, incoherent thoughts, and just plain bad righting. But, besides pointing out the obvious, I would like to voice my thoughts on a growing phenomenon. Sitting. I've noticed more and more people taking to this form of leisure, and it frightens me. My first thought is of the health risks due to sitting! Lowered heart rate, change of blood pressure, and bending at the knee! And I'm sure there are side effects that are not known to be related to sitting. I've noticed this position becoming more popular, for people are sitting in their cars, on planes, and even on their lunch break!

There's also the growing support of this habit. I've seen entire stores dedicated to sitting. Inside I found everything ranging from hard wooden chairs to comfy ones! They even were selling a chair called a "recliner!" Just imagine what a chair like that can lead to! With this line of thinking, people will be sitting when one's legs are beginning to feel weak. And they might just start sitting whenever they feel like it! We have to do something about this! It must be stopped before the entire world disappears in their comfy chair!

Concerned,
Stan Dinalot

Editor's Reply

Well, Stan, I agree totally. My advice is change the detonator to a number 5 blasting cap. And maybe increase the amount of potassium. This should get the desired result.

Story Rehashed

Alright, I've never finished the story "Timing," and I really would like to do so. However, I first have to reprint the first part, since I'm sure all ya'll have forgotten the story since September 1996. On with it already!!

Timing

Previously, I had been invited to such parties, but none so bold as this. Maybe bold is not the correct word, but I do believe it serves its purpose for the story of which I am about to tell. I do believe I should start on the afternoon of the 30th. June thirty, to be a little more precise. Actually...it was the afternoon of the thirtieth. About three p.m. Yes, yes, that is when it was. I was in my chambers getting ready for the party, when suddenly there was a lightning bolt out of nowhere that came through my window of the castle and struck the Kerosene lantern in front of me. It slowly burned as I stood amazed that nothing worse had happened. Oh, yes. It does seem quite far fetched, but I tell you, it is the truth. Not only did it confuse me as I watched it burn, but I suddenly realized that it had transformed. It was now a round, glowing, bulb of some sort hanging off the wall of a small little room. As I looked around the room, I could not make sense of what I was seeing. A round, porcelain bowl sat next to me on my right with a square box resting on the back of it. To my left was a curtain made of some sort of waxy material around another huge porcelain square, much like the tubs I was used to seeing. I stared in amazement at the new world before me. Where was my cherished heirloom of a tub? I did not ponder long, nor was I allotted the time. There came a rapping on the door and familiar sounding voice.

"Are you about done in there, Lord Pindar?"

Yes, for sure, it was the lovely fair maiden I had known since birth.

"Quite, indeed! One moment Lady Alexandria!" I opened the door, noting the handle was still of the same master architecture I demanded of my goods. We stopped face to face.

"Why, Lord Pindar! Your Privy!" Lady Alexandria stared right pass me, then fainted, falling in a crumpled heap to the floor.

"Always were a faint hearted..." I mumbled to myself as I bent down to pick her up. I glanced back into the privy, and was astonished to see a vast forest expanding forever into the horizon...and beyond. To put into words what lay before me is like asking a man without legs to walk! I myself almost fainted dead away, except Alexandria was beginning to stir. She stared into the privy. Stared, then stared some more.

"Well, this is most interesting!" M'lady stated. I helped her to her feet. "Let's go in, shall we?" She tried to muster a smile, but I knew beneath her facial emotions, she was trembling.

"In? As in IN?" I stammered. First off, I couldn't figure out how we were to get 'in' there because we were above the trees, as if on a balcony. Second, why would anyone WANT to go 'in' there? Before I could argue my case, M'lady had me by the hand and was dragging me into the great beyond.

It was as if we had taken a leap of faith, but more similar to being yanked by someone else's faith. As we stepped through, we were just suddenly IN the forest. We both turned around to look at where we had come from, but instead of seeing my great castle, a huge pyramid shaped object rose high into the air. We were no longer shocked by events, but just took them as being. We headed toward the pyramid.

The End

Yep, the end already. Thanks for sticking around to the end of another NewsBetter gone wrong. Don't forget to view my web site at

"http://www.geocities.com/matthew_walz2000"

Also, e-mail me at matthew_walz2000@yahoo.com if you would like to submit something.

This publication is rated **PU** for Political Uncorrectness. This document may contain unnessesary humor. Also may contain misspelled wurdz and/oar incorrect use of cinnamons and there meanings. The page format may not be co rrectly aligned. Time warp theorems are always in effect except for when they are not. Point in case, next week. And laws of Physics do not always add up unless strenuous circumstances apply, causing needed force. Along with the mentioned, there is what is listed below, or the antimentioned.

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