



The Barbary Times

West Hills College North District Center Student Press



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3rd Edition

What Is Valentine's Day All About?

By: Yessenia Estrada



February is a month of love and giving. We give cards to show you how much we care; And we give flowers, candy, and stuffed animals to show our affection towards one another, but do these things really show someone how much you care? Is this what Valentine's Day is all about? Does it really matter how much money your girlfriend or boyfriend spends on you? Or would you love a person more if on a specific day, such as Valentine's Day, they gave you a stuffed animal that said, "I love you." A lot of people argue that Valentine's Day is nothing more than a commercial holiday and that people don't really know the true meaning of Valentine's Day. Well, I tried to find the real meaning of this day and concluded with this.

A Roman Priest named Saint Valentine, would secretly marry young couples who where in love but did not have parental permission. He was later arrested for having his own beliefs and not wanting to worship Pagan Gods. Instead, he worshipped his own God, whom people believed gave him power to cure the sick.

While in jail, Saint Valentine fell in love with the jailor's daughter. He would send her secret admired letters. One day, Saint Valentine helped one of the prison guards' blind daughter to get her sight back. The emperor heard about this miracle and was angered by the thought that a man, who was incarcerated, could do these wonderful miracles. The emperor sentenced Saint Valentine to death.

On the day of the execution, the jailor's daughter received the last letter signed, "Your Valentine." Saint Valentine was killed on February 14, 269 AD. Later, in the year 496 AD, "Saint Day" was established.

As far as I know, this story is more likely the main reason why we send cards called Valentine Cards to our friends and loved ones. The candy and flowers were probably just the idea of someone who wanted to give more to show how much they really love that other person. So what is Valentine's Day really about? According to my research, it is a day to celebrate our friendships and our love. I don't believe that we have to spend so much money to show how much we love them. I believe it is the thought of a person to show how much they care for another individual; I also believe it must come from the heart.

Are You Tired of Underage Drinking?

Written By: Suzie Gutierrez

YLI is here to help. YLI stands for Youth Leadership Institute. This is a prevention program that tackles the issue of underage drinking in our communities. The Prevention Program Coordinator for Fresno County is Dino Perez. Mr. Perez works at the office in Fresno, and he also has an office stationed at Mendota High School. YLI's headquarters is in San Francisco, so as you can see this is a rather large organization. Mr. Perez is looking for more youth in the area to join the club. So if you're between the ages of 12 and 20, you can join! I would recommend this club to anybody who cares about our youth. The youth involved in the YLI get involved in the communities surrounding them. An example of their involvement is their work with Check Point Youth, which is associated with the Selma PD. They were also in the Mendota Parade, and they won 2nd place in Special Entries category. Ariel Magaña, Alexandra Hernandez, and Jessica Núñez are all students who are on the Youth Council for YLI in t his area. These three students are very involved in this program and in our communities.

This past December, there was a decoy operation in Mendota by which 5 stores were caught selling alcohol to youth under 21. The students from Mendota are going to bring this issue to the Mendota City Council. As you can see, this program gets very involved in the community. Some of the youth from this area were chosen to work undercover on a decoy operation in other communities as well. Wow, that sounds like fun! If you would like to be a part of this program, contact Dino Perez at dperez@yli.org.

West Hills Student Grows from Urban Farm to World-wide Agriculture



A 19 year old West Hills College Coalinga student who learned basic farming on five acres of urban land in Westminster, Calif., minutes south of Los Angeles, is now learning about the future of world-wide agriculture thanks to being in the right place at the right time. (cont. on page 6)

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USC VIOLATED NCAA RULES?

by: Cruz Estrada

The University of Southern California is investigating if they have violated the NCAA recruiting rules when recruiting Joe McKnight.

McKnight signed with USC on Wednesday and during the news conference he suggested some sort of communications involving former USC Reggie Bush, who is now playing for the New Orleans Saints.

Prospective recruits are forbidden to have any contacts with former players, relatives or even guardians.

McKnight's high school football coach said that McKnight misspoke during the news conference; He was excited with the whole recruiting situation. USC Coach Pete Carroll denies that any calls took place.

McKnight told news reporters "that Coach Carroll was talking to Reggie on the speakerphone and that he was able to listen and hear Reggie Bush's side of the story, but that he never had a conversation with him."

At the news conference, McKnight said, "I was not on the speakerphone. I never called him and he never called me. I want to make it clear I never spoke to Reggie and he never spoke to me. I just messed it up. I shouldn't have said it that way, and I am sorry."

The whole discussion was brought up when they talked about probation and that's when the conversation came up between Reggie and himself, but Joe was not there," Curtis said.

There was a similar investigation during the years of Reggie when the NCAA and the Pac-10 Conference investigated whether Bush or his family had received "Any improper benefits" from agents while he was playing for USC.

If they do come out finding true evidence, then Joe McKnight, the #1 player in the country, may not be able to play.

Tech Corner



Well kiddies yes this is the triumphant return of tech corner here with your reporter on the screen Manauri Marquez. Recently I have thought about purchasing a notebook computer or "laptop" and yes It has proven to be very difficult. I have searched every website I could find looking for the gratest deals and the best products, because you always have to look for quality and cost. But before you make the mistake I made its always a good idea to do one of the following things I am going to mention for looking for an inexpensive laptop.

First of all every one has friends and family, and maybe one of them has a laptop they have no use for that they could possibly sell to you or even give to you that is the easiest and cheapest way of getting a laptop.

Second of all the guru of all that is electronic and crap "E bay" yes you can register at e bay and look up notebooks and find thousands of them from old to new and broken to working but I don't recommend that route because it can be a very tedious process and most of the time your bidding on a piece of junk. Another way is search and search those store deals you will find a really good laptop with lots of ram and for a reasonable price and maybe with some extras and yeah nothing beats totally new. The best and cheapest way for getting laptops is only stores they will give you grate deals on refurbished laptops (those are laptops that are rebuilt and stuff). Yes they might have an out of date operating system like "windows 2000" or "windows 98" but you can all ways clear that and load up the newest thing from Microsoft "Vista" it is the latest operating system crated by Microsoft and it will only set you back another 100 dollars, but yes its totally worth it.

So every one ill keep you posted on the hunt in later issues so until later



USA Gets Friendly Soccer Win Vs. Mexico

By: Ezequiel Gastelum

The game went to the United States, as usual. Jimmy Conrad scored his first international goal, Landon Donovan converted a late breakaway and the Americans defeated Mexico 2-0 in an exhibition Wednesday night, extending the dominance of their regional rival.

"We've clearly done well. I think mentally we do have an edge," Donovan said. "But we were also a little bit lucky." Playing in front of a heavily pro-Mexican sellout crowd of 64,462 fans, the Americans improved to 8-2-1 against Mexico since the year 2000. The United States is 7-0-1 against Mexico on home soil in that stretch, outscoring its southern neighbor 13-0.

"Right now, we're on top, and we're going to try to stay there," U.S. defender Chris Albright said.

The victory provided a boost for interim Coach Bob Bradley, who is hoping to persuade the U.S. Soccer Federation to lift his interim tag. Before the game, USSF President Sunil Gulati told reporters that the result "is not going to lead to a direct decision as to who the national team coach will be."



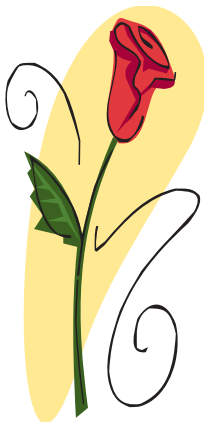
Jadakiss Was Arrested On Gun, Drug Charges

By: Cruz Estrada

The rapper, who is known for his music and also known by some people for the controversial lyrics about U.S. President George W. Bush and the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on New York, has been arrested on gun and drug charges. He Hhhhh pleaded “not guilty” yesterday (Feb. 8) to charges of possessing a loaded handgun along with marijuana in White Plains, N. Y.

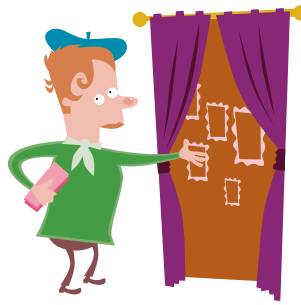
He was arrested Oct. 7 with three other men in White Plains, N. Y. New York. Police said they stopped the car he was in after smelling marijuana; there, they found the loaded gun in the front console of the car. His lawyer said that Jadakiss had no idea that the loaded gun was in the front console. He and two of the other men that were present were arrested and face similar charges

If he is convicted guilty on the gun charge in Westchester County Court, the maximum sentence he would face ranges from 16 months to a maximum of seven years in prison. This law was changed in November to provide a minimum sentence of at least 3 1/2 years.



Roses Are Red

Roses are red.
Violets are blue.
Sugar is sweet.
And so are you.



Le Exhibition

Unfortunately, we hardly hear about any art exhibits here in Firebaugh. The first museum that comes to mind is usually the Metropolitan Museum, which is located in Fresno. Now even though it may not seem all that distant, we're either too pre-occupied, or a bit on the lazy side to go, while others just have no means of transportation. So what now?

Well here's an idea! Why not check out your fellow students art projects in room 31? Let their talent take you by surprise. Who knows, it might even inspire you to take the class! Let us show support amongst each other and take the time to appreciate expression through a different from



How Cupid Got His Wings

By: Rosa Espinoza

Once upon a time there was a little boy, by the name of Cupid. Cupid was seven years old. He was born into a poor family. He loved to help people in need and always wanted to do the right thing for others. He was an only child and never bragged about anything until one day one of his little friends invited him to go play by the lake. They were having so much fun playing with the ball and going up and down the slides. Other little kids were watching them play, they were seeing how much fun they were having and wanted to join. Three younger children asked Cupid if they could join in and play with them. Cupid happily said yes. They were having so much fun until two big bullies came along and wanted to steal the ball from them. Cupid was terrified but assured his friends that nothing would happen to them. The two mean ugly bullies came up to Cupid and grabbed the ball out of his hands, and threw it into the prohibit lake near there. Both bullies went off laughing and giggling and wondering how they would get their ball back. (cont. on pg. 5)



Girls Fashion Avenue

By: Jackie Madrigal

Being quite the small campus in a conservative little town doesn't necessarily mean that one can't get caught up in the latest style! Of course, the students and alumni may seem like simply a handful of people, but their wardrobes are still pretty expanded. So girlies, what seems to be this month's latest fad? Well according to most fashion magazines, the eighties style is back in business! The waist belts, the skinny jeans, the minis, the baby doll, multi-color is in! And yes my little ones, it's time to reveal the inner child in along with the big, bulky jewelry we so often claimed to no longer own. So play it up and get wrapped in the new year's color burst! Now, what makes it all even better is that one doesn't even need to go shopping! Simply hit your mom's, sister's, cousin's, or whoever's closet and rummage through their old clothes and remember: One's trash can be another's treasure!

But as we take a quick look see at our student and faculty's apparel, it's quite apparent that flats are still in, not to mention large totes, scarfs, blazers, skinny jeans, wedge heels, and boots. So for being the small little community college that we are, style doesn't seem to be that far out of reach!



Valentine's Day Poems

Are You Talking To Me?

"Are you talking to me?" she said
 passing by
 "Yes, you ... you ... next to the bald-headed guy,
 "I think you're real gorgeous ... that flaming red hair
 Is exceedingly beautiful and really quite rare.
 "I love the way that it curls round your face,
 And the way that it seems your ears to embrace,
 And the way that it darkens the green of your eyes,
 And the way on your cheek that a loose tendril lies."
 She took a deep breath as she paused in her stride,
 Her lips slowly parted, her eyes opened wide,
 She smiled as she whipped the wig from her head,
 "If you like it so much, here, you wear it instead."

Love Doesn't Make You Fat

Everybody's counting calories,
 Shedding those extra pounds;
 They're exercising, compromising,
 Making the rounds;
 There's a super hit sensation
 That will keep your tummy flat;
 If there's one thing I know for sure,
 Love doesn't make you fat.
 They're watching Richard Simmons,
 Dancing to the beat,
 Trying new-fangled diet plans
 And other good things to eat;
 A kiss doesn't add calories,
 A touch won't burst your stuff,
 With a dose of love each day,
 You'll never get enough.
 Love doesn't make you fat,
 It's a polyunsaturated dream;
 It's decaffeinated, emancipated,
 Sweeter than chocolate cream;
 Love doesn't make you fat,
 It's done wonders for me;
 You can keep that "Bo Flex" body,
 Love's got a lifetime guarantee.



Guys:

What to Wear on Valentine's Day

By: David Rubalcava

Valentine's Day is a special occasion for many couples. It is a day when many males take their girlfriends out on a date. The problem is that many males go underdressed for such a special occasion. How should one go dressed on a Valentine's date? Well, the answer is simple: do not wear what you would ordinarily wear on a typical date. Remember, it's Valentine's Day and many women eagerly await this day. This means do not wear jeans, t-shirts, or sneakers. Dress to impress! Buy some slacks, a nice sweater or vest, a sports coat, a tie, and some loafers or dress shoes. I recommend wearing colors that are associated with Valentine's Day such as pink, red, and violet. Dressing up is not just for women; men can also dress up and still maintain their masculinity. Dress to impress!

The following is a list of affordable apparel men could purchase for their date:

1. Banana Republic- Silk/Cashmere V-neck sweater, \$68.00
2. Dockers- Chino Pants, \$28, Dockers Online
3. Polo- Thompson Corduroy Sport Coat, \$99 Sale, polo.com

25 Bad Gifts for Valentines Day

By: Oskar Casarreal

A Weight Watchers membership
Divorce Papers
McDonald's Gift Certificate
A Job Application
Sweeten' To The Oldies Vol. 1 through 7
a vacuum cleaner
Plane Tickets To Iraq
Socks
An Autographed Picture Of Janet Reno
An invitation for you & your partner to appear on Jerry Springer
Granny Style Underwear
Gumball Machine Jewelry
Free hair club for women membership
Laundry Detergent
Extreme Make Over application
Nail Polish Remover
Laxatives
Lawyer
A map of North Dakota
A Pooper Scooper
Rug shampooer
Pack of Gum
A weed whacker
An Easter Egg hunt.
Re-gift from the Ex



Valentine's Day on a Budget

By David Ruvalcaba



Is Valentine's Day causing you to stress out? Are you worried about the costs involved with Valentine's Day? Well, if you are do not worry, because David is here to offer you some great gift ideas for under \$20. If \$20 is too much for you I have some great gift ideas that do not cost a single penny.

Just about every guy I know buys his partner roses. If you do decided to buy roses do not buy from the local flower shop, but if you do be prepared to pay up to \$90 . Why pay that amount when you can purchase the same roses for about \$20 dollars at Costco. If your partner has a sweet tooth I recommend the Traditional Red Heart 1 lb. box of assorted chocolates, which will only run for \$18 dollars at See's Candies. My last gift idea for you guys is a card. You could purchase a card with music from Hall Mark for \$4.99 or you could just buy a regular card.

I know there are some people out there who do not have any money to buy gifts. There are also some people like me who are very frugal when it comes to buying other people gifts. So my advice to you is be creative. Instead of purchasing a card you could make your own. You could write your partner a poem or a song, and then recite it to them. If you want to give your partner some flowers, go pick them yourself. You could steal them from your neighbors or even pick wildflowers. If you really want to express your feelings towards your partner but can not do it with words, I suggest a mixed tape or CD. Many people prefer gifts that do not cost money because they demonstrate the time and effort you put into your relationship.

American culture seems to put too much emphasis on the monetary value Valentine's gifts, and it shouldn't be that way. With a small amount of money or no money you could give a great gift. If you are planning on buying your partner a \$350 dollar Coach bag, expensive jewelry, etc. All I have to say is "Don't be a Trick"!



Roses Are Red

Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
The best thing of this day,
Is being with you



How Cupid Got His Wings (cont.)

The kids were all sad they really wanted to finish playing their game. Cupid seen everyone so sad and hated it. Not thinking it twice, he went to the lake where no one was supposed to enter. Since he did not know how to swim, he was being very careful. While attempting to grab the ball, he slid down and anxiously asked for help. Everyone went to where he was but no one could do anything. It was too late for help. He drowned and no one could do anything about it.

Cupid went straight to heaven. He had asked God if he could go back to earth. He wanted to do so many things and even wanted to become someone in life. He wanted to live again.

God had compassion, though instead of sending him back to earth and live again he gave him wings and with those wings he would be able to accomplish anything he wanted. He wanted to help people and so he did. With those wings he went around the world and whenever someone was in trouble he would pull one of his wings and place it upon the person that needed help and that person would indeed be out of danger.



Topcon professionals study at WHCC Farm of Future

By Jim Marvin

Two tractors, each with a 90 foot spray boom attached, maneuvered across a well-manicured field at West Hills College Coalinga's Farm of the Future last week much like mechanized dragonflies intent on mating.

That intent was at least partly true as the afternoon-long field test mated the newest global positioning technology by Topcon with agricultural professionals – students for the week — who will produce, maintain and sell Topcon equipment around the world.

While there were two people in each tractor cab – a driver and a trainee – West Hills College officials agree the Topcon GPS system could handle the spraying operation – and countless other construction and farming chores — with little help from human hands. Waiting their turn in the cabs, classmates assembled from 10 countries and nearly as many states, watched and waited in the afternoon sun.

The equipment was not only being guided by GPS, the global system built and serviced by Topcon, it was monitoring where, and the amount, of spray to be delivered.

The dozen students, all professionals, were finishing a week-long class – the last of four such classes – at West Hills College in Coalinga, according to Dr. Larry Rathbun who heads the ag program at the college. “We loved ‘em to death,” Rathbun smiled. “And they loved being loved.”

“The partnership between Topcon, a world class business that combines the best of innovative Japanese technology with local, personal service, and our college fits the plans our precision ag offers,” Rathbun said.

“We plan to become the GPS center of the entire universe,” Rathbun added modestly, “we’re already the center for precision agriculture in the Western United States.”

Figured in the mix for the Farm of the Future’s future, is the potential for a John Deere “permanent presence” on the expanding program of the college. “We hope for new classes taught by a Deere employee for Deere family members. The company would add students including Deere dealers to learn to maintain high tech equipment,” Rathbun noted.

“We’re excited about that aspect of our offerings,” Rathbun added, “because of the high demand for such technicians. Deere joins Topcon, a company that has grown from beginnings over 70 years ago in Japan and has expanded around the world.”

While the Topcon GPS equipment, mounted on a shiny Apache tractor and a not-quite so shiny John Deere, was the afternoon’s topic of class interest, the students also spent half their time in class,” said Clint Cowden, a WHCC agricultural instructor who worked closely with the students from around the world. “They worked inside with computers equipped with Topcon software.”

“Topcon markets an extensive range of equipment with cutting-edge technology,” Cowden said. “These students, once back in their home offices, will offer service and innovation to Topcon’s future success across several competitive market places including farming.”

“Professionals who demand absolute accuracy when taking the most precise measurements,” Cowden said, “are looking to programs such as ours to learn and practice to give them the highest quality, technically excellent precision training to do the job.”

West Hills Student Grows from Urban Farm to World-wide Agriculture (cont.)

For Jose Gonzalez, that right place was being in the precision agriculture sequence at West Hills College where the top managers and engineers of Topcon Systems, a leader in manufacturing and engineering of global positions systems, were involved in a series of GPS seminars.

Gonzalez made friends with several officials of Topcon including Davis Frick, senior technical advisor, from Australia and Dan Iseminger, company marketing development manager from Livermore.

Those contacts have grown into requests for resumes for future job consideration and offers of the use of Topcon equipment.

“I missed some classes while I attended the seminars,” Gonzalez smiled, “but Clint (Cowden) didn’t mind, he made arrangements for me to make up class work. I sat in on the Topcon seminars from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. for a week. They gave me hardware and software to use in the classes.”

Gonzalez said his high school owned five acres of land right in the middle of Westminster for the high school agriculture department and the school’s Future Farmers of America chapter to use. “We had antique equipment to work that little piece of land – plant and harvest — now I’m learning about agriculture at the world-wide level.

“With West Hills and Topcon people,” the young man said, “my farming interest has changed from something I found amusing – I never thought of it as a job – to an interesting future.”

Gonzalez, who was born in Mexico and became a citizen in May 2005, admitted he was the first member of his family to go to college. “I started at Golden West Community College and then was recruited by Clint Cowden to come to Coalinga.” His parents both work in the Westminster area, he said.



Valentine's Day



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CANDIES
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