

Jackie Klein writes

A Valentine Day message for those in love

By JACKIE KLEIN

This valentine is for my husband and all others who know the meaning of that four-letter word "LOVE."

- Love is:
- The pilot flame of marriage that burns with a steady glow.
- A silent look and a single thought at a single moment.
- When the stock you wouldn't let him buy goes up 20 points and he doesn't stop talking to you.
- When he hides your package of cigarets and you dump his second drink.
- His key in the door which begins your day at 6 p.m.
- When he comes home two hours late for dinner and you tell him you'd really rather eat cold roast beef.
- When you wake him up at 4 a.m. to see if he's sleeping and he doesn't mind listening to your problems which keep him up the rest of the night.
- Never arguing about money even though you resolved to walk hand-in-hand through life and now you need two cars.
- When he doesn't complain about your spending even though you planned to reach for the stars, and now you always reach for your charge plates.

- When he doesn't mind wearing wrinkled shorts because you're philosophically opposed to ironing.
- When you don't resent watching the Lions though you're philosophically opposed to football.
- When he insists the kids call you "mother" instead of "she."
- Sometimes finding fault with each other but defending one another to the end when someone else does.
- When you put a dimple in the fender of your brand new car and he's happy because you weren't hurt.
- When you're asked for the recipe for a cake you made from a mix and he comes up with a list of plausible ingredients.
- When he concocts a great salad and he tells everyone you made it because "my wife is a fabulous cook."
- When he calls the doctor if you have a headache and insists you have a thorough checkup, but he goes to work with a 104 degree fever.
- Seeing a good movie or hearing beautiful music and not enjoying it because he isn't there.
- When you call each other to share a happy time but keep bad news to yourselves so neither will worry.
- When you quit hoping he'll show up with flowers on Valentine's Day and he quits hoping you'll send his mother a card.

- When he stops griping because you shave your legs with his new razor and you stop harping when he wipes his feet with your best face towel.
- When he stops reading the basketball standings while you're trying to discuss world events, and you stop reading the fashion page when he talks about the lousy economy.

- When he kisses your face with the hormone night cream all over it and says you don't really need it.
- When you kiss his bald spot and tell him you love Kojak and hate Lou Gordon's toupe.
- Love is wonderful and married is better. Happy Valentine's Day to all of you who remembered and my condolences to those who forgot.

editorial opinion

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Wylie Gerdes writes

School boards top television for fun on a winter night

It beats watching television. That's the argument I use to try to engage the enthusiasms of reporters assigned to cover school boards in Farmington and Southfield.

For entertainment value, school boards are tops among local governments.

The issues are abstract, leading themselves to emotional attacks and defenses. School board members and those who are interested enough in school affairs to attend meetings tend to be even more verbally-oriented people than most local activists.

That makes discussions and debates during school board meetings one level of sophistication higher than city council exchanges, for example.

THE PROBLEM with school board members is that they say things that are interesting, but probably politically naive. William Corliss, vice president of the Farmington school board, recently chastised the community for not adequately supporting the education of their children.

His expression was charming: "I think it's an exercise in futility to ask these people to educate their children adequately."

Disregarding the truth of his statement, one might question whether the comment will benefit the cause of a tax increase for the Farmington schools.

Farmington school board members are in the position of making decisions which will please no one. The district's budget is in sad condition, necessitating plans for drastic cuts in a program officials say already has been reduced because of money problems.

The competing demands of many special interest groups—the boosters of the Harrison band, Farmington High track team, the North Farmington chess club, the Boy Scout group which uses a school—must be balanced against budget limits. It's as if your child needs a tooth pulled and you need a new car to get to work when the household budget won't stretch far enough for both.

There is no answer in such situations. Probably the best the board can do is explain which whim, it based budget decisions upon.

THE SOUTHFIELD school board has faced issues which delight me, primarily because they seem to me less serious than those confronting a district such as Farmington.

For example, what school board discusses a minority hiring policy when the likelihood of hiring additional staff is very remote? The board all too soon will be discussing minority firing policies when declining enrollments force it to lay off employees.

A related issue is teacher union influence over the school board. There are hundreds of unemployed teachers loose on the streets. The economy is slumping. Any union would be shaky in dealing with those problems.

Add to those factors the declining enrollment and you have a union which probably would prefer to lay low for awhile. It might be an indication of the slipping position of the Southfield teachers' union that the issue even was raised. In the heyday of union influence nobody would have been brave enough to challenge the group.

REPORTERS tend to overlook the absurdities of such issues. Instead, they focus on the writer's cramp they get from taking notes on all of the statements made at meetings. Reporters, me included, prefer sources who speak in the concise format of a news story.

Reporting school board actions can teach one the differences between written and spoken English. It's much the same as the dull artificial world of television versus the better-skeller, confusing, exciting environment of local politics.

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