

# Some holiday

*Valentine's Day should be a lesson for men*

I'm writing this column as a public service to those of you who are about to forget Valentine's Day.

But don't get me wrong. I loathe Valentine's Day. It's just that I would rather see this holiday consciously and deliberately ignored, not forgotten.

First of all, a real holiday should involve time off from work. Valentine's Day fails on that count.

Good holidays also should sanction unusual behavior, such as dressing like a fool (Halloween), overeating (Thanksgiving), overspending (Christmas), drinking too much (New Year's Eve and all of the above) or blowing things up (Fourth of July).

If being nice to your significant other counts as unusual behavior for you, then you deserve all the cheap candy and Pepto-Bismol that this holiday brings.

I'm convinced that the sole purpose of Valentine's Day — aside from the obvious interest of retailers — is to make single people feel like losers, and to goad couples into screaming fits of mutual disgust. Valentine's Day makes everyone I know feel guilty, desperate and/or indignant.

I never know what to do with myself on Valentine's Day. This year I asked a male friend if he'd like to take me and another single female out. He was enthusiastic at first, but he backed out after he realized that we wanted him for a whipping boy, not a date.

Some holiday.

Anyway, I thought I'd continue with the public service theme by telling all the male readers of the Daily Nebraskan exactly what women want. But having consulted a couple of my female friends (both eligible bachelorettes), I decided it would be easier to tell you all what we DON'T want.



**Jennifer Mapes**

*"Valentine's Day makes everyone I know feel guilty, desperate and/or indignant."*

So listen up. Despite its best intentions, feminism has unleashed a few very large and potentially harmful misconceptions about women on the world at large. For starters, women are DIFFERENT than men. Yes, we do want to be treated as equals. But that does not mean that we want men to treat us as they treat other men.

We do not want men to slap us on the ass. We don't want to be told that we've gained weight. Nor do we want to be tackled and thrown to the floor for play-wrestling matches. We don't want to hear jokes or see you light your farts on fire at parties.

My friends and I agreed, however, that we don't want to be treated like princesses, either. It's hard to pretend that you're having a good time when there's a pedestal rammed up your rear end.

We don't like it when men try to leave all the decisions up to us. If you want me to decide what to do, when to do it, and how — well, get back to me when you grow a backbone.

Women generally don't want to hear bad pickup lines, but these can be a difficult issue. On the one hand, bad pickup lines are irritating as hell. But they also make great conversation pieces later on. Take the following excerpt from an actual conversation I once had with a man in a bar:

He: Are your eyes green?

Me: No, they're sort of hazel.

He: Well, if they were brown, I would have bought you a beer.

Me: (after an incredulous pause) Well, go away then.

Another famous (last) line: Hello, I'll be your stalker this evening.

And so on.

My friends and I also agreed that we do not want anyone to lean over and whisper, "Has anyone ever told you that you're beautiful?" Have you ever been in a bar at last call?

Most women would much rather be complimented for their talent, their wit or their accomplishments. If you're dating a woman who has none of the above, I'll tell you what I always tell my male friends. It's best to avoid any woman whose fingernails are longer than her attention span.

Likewise, I will never date a man who thinks he's prettier than me, or takes longer to fix his hair than I do.

When I asked my friends what they did want from men, the first one said "casual sex." Not constant attention, commitment or babies — just an occasional male body to fill the space reserved for a real boyfriend, if she ever finds one. The other friend agreed.

We all want boyfriends who will treat us like friends and respect us as individuals.

We're still single, guys. Does that tell you anything?

Mapes is a senior advertising and history major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

# Simpson acts seen as television theater

Staring at the TV screen, Slats Grobnik said: "You know, I got to give O.J. Simpson some credit. Credit? For what?"

"For not being a wimp and for going on TV and all those talk shows and standing up for himself against all the knocks against him in the media."

But he's obviously trying to profit by selling, to those who are gullible enough, a video that is filled with distortions, evasions and obvious lies.

"Hey, a guy's got to make a living. What do you want him to do — apply for unemployment comp? Like he says — he wants to get on with his life, which is the best thing to do with your life until you croak."

You mean that you think he is innocent, that he didn't do it?

"Nah, I'm like everybody else. I think he did it. Even people who say they don't think he did it, down deep they know he did. And I guess I was kind of teed off when he got acquitted. But like they say, we got to keep this all in perspective."

What kind of perspective?

"Well, it ain't like he does it all the time. If he really did it, that was the first wife he ever bumped off. And the first restaurant waiter. So the odds are he won't never do it again. Don't that count?"

Count? For what?

"He's a first offender. Until he made this one mistake, he was kind of a model citizen except for them spat with his wife. And chances are, he ain't a danger to society. I always thought that was something the law had to think about — that everybody is entitled to one mistake."

Yes, but that was not one of your everyday mistakes. We're not talking about shoplifting or running a red light. We're talking homicide.

"Well, it's all the way you look at it. You ever been to the opera?"

Not as a habit, but yes, I have.

"Well, in some of the greatest operas, stuff like this happens. I mean, people got knocked off. And you ever read Shakespeare?"

He's a bit wordy, but yes, I've seen his plays.

"Same thing. I mean, they do some really bad stuff. But that don't mean they're bad people. It just means that their heads were messed up. And that's why in the opera and Shakespeare, we feel sorry for the people who goof up. It's what the literary types call a tragedy."

So you think we're supposed to feel sorry for O.J.?

"Well, when the opera or the Shakespeare play is over, and the stage is covered with all them dead stiffs, look at what the people in the audience do."

Such as?

"They stand up and they applaud and they cheer and they yell bravo, great job, and they go out to dinner and talk about what a terrific performance it was."

But that is theater.

"So? What do you think the



**Mike Royko**

O.J. case was? It was great TV theater, and it still is. That's why the networks are still chasing him and Larry King would interview Kato the barking dog if it could talk. Or Kato the actor if it could think."

True, there is a certain morbid interest.

"It ain't all that morbid. One of the jurors popped up in Playboy showing off her bare bumpers and looking happy. And some of the other jurors have put out books and their pictures are on the covers looking as bouncy as if they were on a love boat cruise instead of bringing in a verdict in a murder trial."

Ah, you have finally used the key word — murder. That is what we're really talking about.

"Uh-uh. That was last year, and it's over. Now we're talking about a professional celebrity and the problems he's having getting on with his life. You know, O.J. is a golfer, and golf ain't cheap."

Then maybe he should give up golf.

"What's he supposed to do, bowl? Forget it. Bowlers don't bump off their wives. And if they do, the bowler is fat and his wife is fat, so who cares? Not the networks. When was the last time they did a special on a bowler who bumped off his wife?"

What does that have to do with anything?

"Because, face it, he's special. He was an All-American, an All-Pro, a super-duper star. And after he finished football, he became a professional celebrity. And nothing's changed. He's still a professional celebrity."

You have a point.

"So what do professional celebrities do for a living?"

I guess they go on TV and radio talk shows and display themselves for our enjoyment.

"Right. Today, you call a plumber for a frozen pipe and he might not show up. The pizza guy delivers it cold. A doc don't make house calls."

So?

"So, O.J. is just doing his job. He's a celebrity and he's acting like one. If everybody did their jobs the way he does, we'd be in better shape. So I give him credit."

I hadn't thought of it that way. But how long will this O.J. stuff be with us?

"Until O.J. is old and gray."

Then we can ignore him?

"No, then we'll have a banquet and make him the elder statesman of wife-killers."

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# Talk is cheap

*Actions, not words, create a true leader*

Leadership can be a hard thing to come by, whether it's needed for a corporation, a summer camp or, say, a university.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln just brought on board a new chancellor. Mr. Moeser's his name, and running universities is his game. To quote an old movie, he's fine, you're fine — everybody's just fine.

He wants to observe the situation before doing anything.

Well, that sounds like a prudent course of action.

He wants to expand academic standards and achievements in the university's programs.

Great! Sign me right up!

He plans to easily become a Husker.

Well, good luck. I've been here six months, and I'm still figuring it out.

Here's the deal. Ask yourself if there is really any difference between the old boss and the new, or if it's all just a new coat of paint on the same old caddy shack.

Talk, as they say, is cheap, and the real difference between a true leader and a true propaganda minister is in the actions, not the words.

I'm not just reflecting on Mr. Moeser's qualifications, now; it remains to be seen which of the above categories he belongs to. To give him his due, he's inherited a tough job, and I wish him the best of luck.

But the fact remains that every day, people are placed into positions of authority — often with life and death consequences — who have no business being there in the first place.

History abounds with examples of misplaced trust in leadership positions. Read about a certain Lt. Kelly and the Mai Lai incident. Reflect upon the way some southern



**Fred Poyner**

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politicians wielded their power against the civil rights movement. Think about the last time a tax increase cut into your pocketbook, and whether your state representative fought against it.

Whether we elect them, hire them, or find ourselves under their command, the important thing to remember is that we each have a say when it comes down to how our leaders LEAD. This is the foundation for our country — holding our

leaders accountable is part of the process.

It's easy to promise a chicken in every oven, or forty acres and a mule. It's another thing altogether living up to those same promises. That's why when somebody tells me they are going to expand academic excellence, I'd like a few more details.

For instance, is part of his plan to review academic disciplinary policies and make them more lenient, or more stringent? Is there any plan for providing additional resource support to the graduate school programs? Considering his background with his previous university's fine arts school, would he like to expand the arts' programs here? Would the inclusion of more exchange programs with other countries provide additional learning opportunities for students?

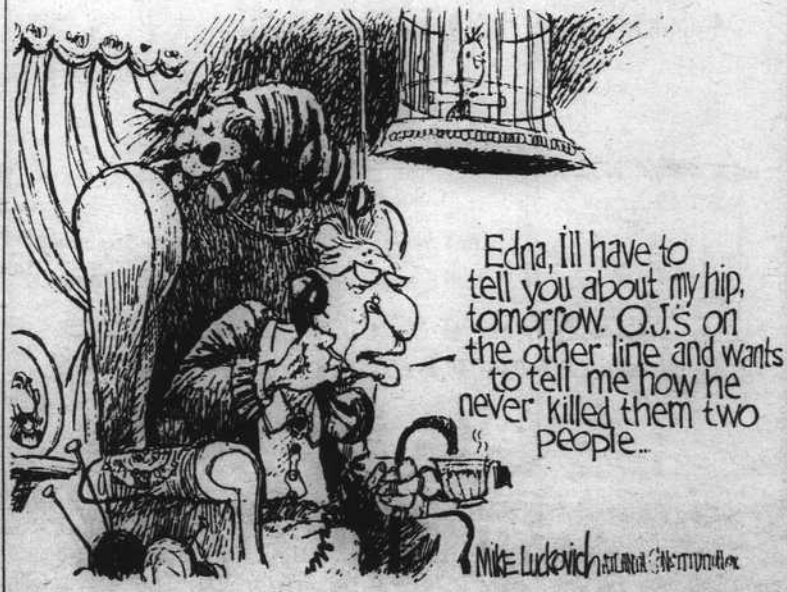
I ask and expect a lot from the people I choose to follow. I hold them accountable for their actions, especially when these actions contradict what they've previously told me. The rubber-stamp leader is an anathema to me, representing George Orwell's worst visions of a world governed by image and self-inflicted blindness.

Question your leaders. Find out why they fulfill the roles they do, and judge for yourself whether they deserve to be there based on your discoveries.

The biggest part of any leader's power base is from the support of the followers. The followers hold their leaders accountable and guard against this base being abused.

Ask now or pay later. It's your choice.

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Mike Luckovich