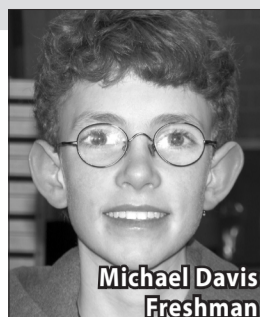


photo op

What are your feelings about Valentine's day?

Compiled by David Rubin
Visuals Staff



Michael Davis
Freshman

"It's an over-commercialized Hallmark holiday."



Mark Rhomberg
Junior

"It's like a thousand scorpions ripping out my heart."



Jeanette Robinson
Senior

"It's fun if you're single, but if you're dating someone, then it's a lot of pressure."

Win a Date with:



Mike Abrahamson
Columnist

Valentines Day was last week, as you could probably tell from the overwhelming increase in hallway make-out sessions and sickening between-class hand holding. If it seems like I'm bitter, it's probably because I am.

Why am I bitter? Funny you should ask. I'm bitter because high schools coming to an end and I realized I've never had a true high school sweetheart. When I go back for my 10th high school reunion I'll have no one to awkwardly ask if they're still single, and when I find out they're not to pretend like I'm happy for them even though I really was trying to use nostalgia to kindle some sort of hookup.

Maybe I should blame our culture for this. In the good old days you'd ask a girl out in a romantic way, like giving her your school pin, or coming to her house to court her, or offer her father a dowry of 10 goats and a chicken or something. Nowadays, you meet girls freak dancing at Morps or at house parties. So maybe it's harder to find a decent girl than it used to be. More likely, I'm an jackass.

You're probably wondering how "Honest Abe" turned into "Desperate Abe Whines About His Love Life for No Reason." Well first of all, that column name isn't catchy. Second, I am going somewhere with this. The only mail *Trapeze* ever gets is applications to be on staff, and the editors aren't even letting me choose which kids get in by how much I like their names (I know, right?). I decided that I'm now officially bored enough with school this semester that I'd be willing to spend it looking over submissions from readers about why I should go on a date with you. Besides, I can only meet so many people through classes and friends, but think about how many girls with low standards I can find through this column? So I'm now offering you, the reader, a chance to take me, the columnist, out on a date.

There isn't going to be a form or anything, because I'm not going to waste my time making up a sheet so that a bunch of guys will fill out for their guy-friends (gayness=comedic gold! Lol!) And, I fully expect most of the submissions, if there are any, to be jokes. Who knows though, maybe you could be the lucky person to take me out.

First, I should probably tell you what I bring to the table, so when you read my expectations you don't throw down this paper in disgust. If there's one thing all Miss America contestants have in common, it's that they all say that one of the things they like most in a guy is humor. So, I fully expect the people responding to this look like that. I'm also very romantic, caring, and awesome, and not modest at all. Don't take it from me though, I'll let you hear it from one of my ex-girlfriends, who I'm still friends with. "[Mike] swept me off of

my feet and onto our Junior High Park District dance floor. Asking me out on the playground in sixth grade, Mike always had that perfect romantic touch. Sensitive, supportive, and oh so dreamy, he was a vision of perfection. It's a shame, now that I think about it, that our relationship had to end so quickly over the phone a month later." I also know how to treat a lady, "Guy Friend" I believe in complete equality for men and women, so if we play pool, don't expect me to let you win. If I can whoop your ass, I'm whooping your ass. I'm sensitive, though. Just look at the picture above my name in this column; I'm never afraid to stop and smell the flowers. I'm also masculine, though: I threw up in my mouth a little bit when I reread that last sentence. I love making funny comments throughout movies, probably often enough that you feel like punching me in the face. I'm real down to earth, I love just taking a walk or sitting down and talking for hours, providing I don't have to listen. I can frickin' juggle. Girls love that, right? Eh? Eh? I have giant flat feet but very small calves. I really don't see what's not to love.

You're probably thinking, "WOW! Finally a perfect guy, and he wants to go on a date with me." Actually, I probably don't. As you can probably imagine, I'm very picky. There are certain things I want in a lady-friend before I let them, in the immortal words of Will Smith, "Get Jiggy" with me. I love a girl's hair and eyes, so make sure to have those. Unless you're Demi Moore in *G.I. Jane*, the bald look isn't working, and if you don't have eyes I'd spend the whole date feeling sorry for you because you wouldn't be able to see how good I look. Also, I like a girl who likes the Cubs.

And, believe it or not, I do have flaws. A lot of the time girls complain that I'm "too good to be true." Also, I'm Jewish. And other people say that I can be cocky, but they're obviously jealous of me.

Okay, I don't actually need most of page 2 for an entire classified ad for myself, I'm not that desperate (yet). And I also realize most submissions will be filled out by a bunch of guys who are clever enough to write down their friend's name and make about 1000 gay jokes. I do think it's important, though, that people start to branch out and meet people in different ways. Also, I can't think of any other way to turn into one of those scummy seniors that gets with freshman. So by all means, send in your applications to the Trapeze office, in the manila folder that no one has ever submitted a letter or point counter-point argument in. Feel free to include a description and picture of yourself, as well as a list of things that... Oh, by the way, did I mention you'll be paying? It's not that I'm not a gentleman, it's just I won't have enough money to take out the thousands girls who respond to this. So get it in quick, because I'm sure my schedule will be booked until prom.

thumbs



Britney Spears. Now she looks as crazy as she is

Ringo Starr. Proof that doing virtually nothing can make you millions.



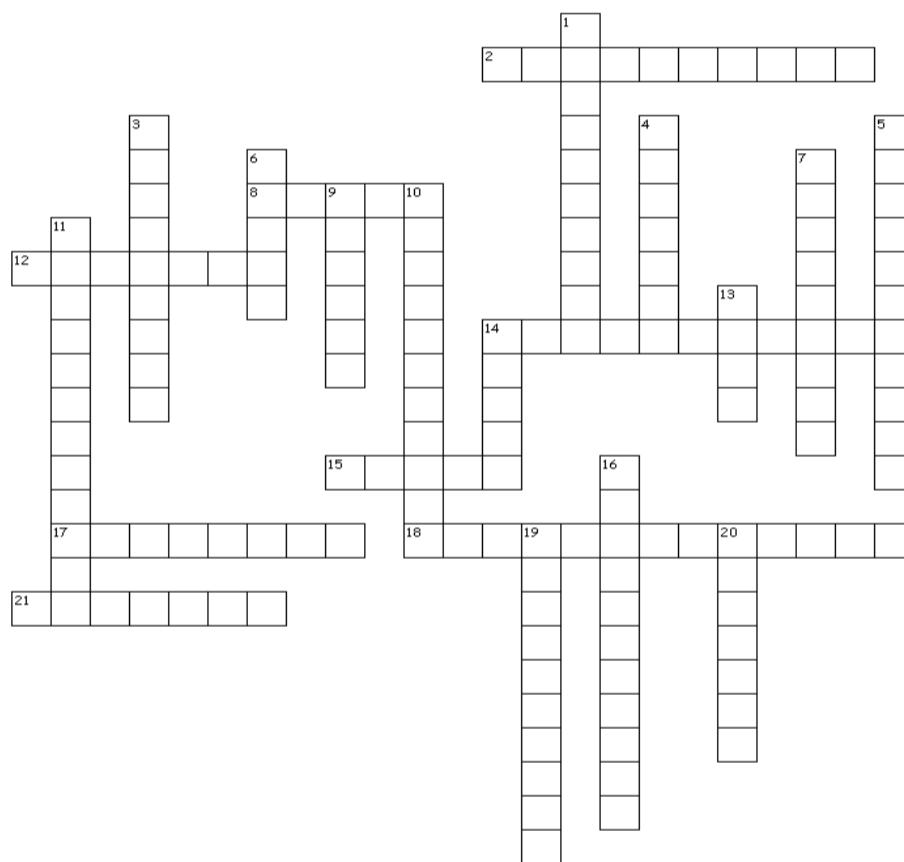
U of I. Now we'll have to look to the Washington Redskins to perpetuate racial stereotypes.

The Colts. The glory of the Super Bowl doesn't change that fact that you're still from Indiana.

Paris Hilton. Way to copy Ringo Starr.

crossword

compiled by Matt Mitchener and Pat Maldre



Across

2. Likes to drink, likes to smoke, likes to mix arm and hammer with his coke
8. When you can't think of something, you're drawing a _____.
12. Signed a five year, \$250 million deal with L.A. Galaxy
14. Italian car design and coach building firm
15. 80s pump-up rock band
17. Won a grammy for best rap album
18. Calvin's fictional space character from Calvin & Hobbes
21. Simpsons character who once blotted out the sun in Springfield

Down

1. Second man on the moon
3. Capital of Sweden
4. Tuxedoed bird of the far South
5. Extremely overrated movie starring Jack, Matt, Leo, and Mark
6. Presidential candidate and author of *The Audacity of Hope*
7. The only black jedi
9. Washington Wizards star known for saying hibachi after every shot
10. Tigers pitched accused of cheating in 2006 World Series
11. Holds the record for most career 3-pointers in NBA history
13. Britney is ____ now.
14. Russian leader recently accused of using Cold War era rhetoric
16. Maker of the Countach and Diablo
19. State run by a former professional bodybuilder
20. Latin singer who performed at this summer's World Cup