



JANUARY 25, 2012

Upcoming Events:

- **Homecoming Game**
Friday, January 27 @ 6:00 PM
(Hamilton Middle School)
- **End 5 Week Period**
Friday, February 10
- **California Science Center/
Imax Field Trip** (elementary)
Monday, February 13
- **5 Week Progress Reports**
Tuesday, February 14
- **Presidents Day** (No School)
Monday, February 20
- **Basketball Tournament**
Monday, Tuesday, and Friday;
February 20, 21, 24

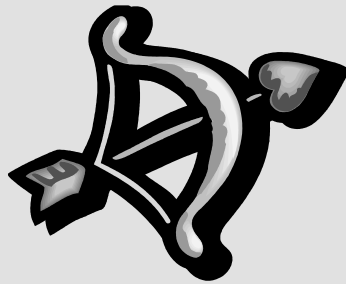
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The Crusade

Volume 1 | Issue 5

Valentine's Day



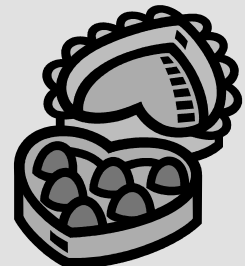
Valentine's Day is coming, folks! Brace yourself for an overload of candy, hearts, pink, red, flowers, cards, and more pink. It is the holiday created especially for lovers, which makes all the single people feel a little lonely. The lonely people and all the people who just got dumped are the main reason why so much candy is produced during this time. Honestly, all of you people are annoying. Besides, any holiday that is represented by an under clothed baby that flies around shooting people has definitely got some problems.

Valentine's Day was

created in honor of St. Valentine (bet you don't know how I figured that one out). St. Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century. Emperor Claudius II, the ruler during that time, outlawed marriage because he believed that single men fought better than married men did. St. Valentine thought it was wrong, so he continued to conduct marriages in secret. When he was caught, he was thrown into prison. There he fell in love with the jailor's daughter. He often wrote her notes, all signed "from your Valentine," a phrase still used today. In A.D. 498, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 to be Valentine's Day, but it was not popularly celebrated until the seventeenth century. By the eighteenth cen-

tury, it was common for lovers and friends to exchange notes or tokens on Valentine's Day. Over 1 billion cards are now sent on Valentine's Day. The United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia are the major countries where Valentine's Day is widely celebrated. Anyhow, even though I find Valentine's Day infuriating, I hope that all of you have a great Valentine's Day, and that you enjoy all the chocolate you will be eating, because I know that you will be— even if you are on a diet.

— Grace Campbell





Random Facts:

- The starfish is one of the few animals that can turn its stomach inside out.
- Hyenas regularly eat the feces of other animals.
- George W. Bush was once a cheerleader.
- Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a Friday the 13th.
- Food can only be tasted if it is mixed with saliva.
- Over ten thousand birds die every year by flying into windows.
- Turtles can breath through their rear end.



The True Light of Abraham Bernal

Having been born into a Catholic family, Abraham had a rough childhood with problems other than being a Catholic. Since he was born in Long Beach, California, Abraham and his family were told about Gethsemane Baptist Church. Abraham and the rest of his family started going to Gethsemane every Sunday possible. After going to church a while, Abraham heard a message in Sunday school he would never forget. The message about Hell was preached by an anonymous preacher; it seemed to really "mix" the fear of Hell with the fear of God. That day, Abraham received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

After high school, Abraham started his career of electrical work. One of his friends from church helped him to get his first real job as an electrician. After working for three years, Abraham met his wife, Billie Jo Green, while

in a Bible college in Florida. After finishing college and getting married, Abraham moved back to California with his wife. Later, Abraham began to take classes at Long Beach City College and after that, he started working for the Electric Union. Because of all of his experience as an electrician, Abraham began his own electric company called, True Light Electric.

Abraham said that the "field" of electrical work is one of the best because people will always need electricity. His motivation comes from being able to provide for his family as well as the pleasure he receives from working. Some other reasons Abraham likes working is because he gets to meet all kinds of different people. One time he worked at Shirley Temple's house and even got to meet her! There are benefits to his job also. Like sometimes he will get to

trade work for some things that are expensive or difficult to get done. He gets to learn about new technology and he doesn't have to call an electrician.

Even though he has a great job, Abraham's career life always comes behind his spiritual life. The best thing about salvation to Abraham is, and I quote, "The joy you find in knowing your Creator, and the joy and hope knowing you have a home in Heaven." Abraham's advice from all of his experience to us younger people is for us to put God before ourselves and to trust the people that are the most responsible. To have a balance between enjoying hard work and enjoying being a kid, and to not take our parents, siblings, or anybody else for granted is the best advice from Abraham to us younger people.

— Jacob Bernal

Food For Thought: *Asian Lumpia*

Lumpia is a pastry which originated in China. Lumpia, similar to the Chinese spring roll, became very popular in Southeast Asia. Many Chinese immigrants from the Fujian province of China brought this food to Southeast Asia. Because of this, it became very popular in Indonesia and the Philippines where they im-

migrated. These immigrants brought both versions of lumpia, fried and fresh. The fried version can be eaten as a snack or as the main course of a meal. The fresh version can be considered a pastry or a dessert. The most common stuffing of lumpia is meat (any kind) and vegetables. Because it is so easy to make, lumpia

makes a great snack and a quick dinner!

Odd stuffing for lumpia:

There are many variations of lumpia. For instance some of the less common fillings are fruit, shrimp, soybeans, bean sprouts, bamboo shoots, and many other crazy, insane, and "sensational" ideas.

— Jacob Bernal

Aaron's Tall Tales: *Paradise* (Part 3)



More Random Facts:

- The filming of the movie "Titanic" cost more than the Titanic itself.
- In Idaho you may not fish on a camel's back.
- Peanuts are one of the ingredients in dynamite.
- It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs.
- Nachos is the food most craved by pregnant women.
- 97% of all paper money in the U.S. contains traces of cocaine.
- There are more than 40,000 toilet related injuries in the United States each year.
- Hippo milk is pink.



Sweat dropped from the survivor's chin. He was trembling, but not as much as you think. He couldn't clench his fists, no matter how hard he tried. His only options during a situation like this would also be his smartest ones – be helpless, tame, and calm. What more could he do? What can you do when a rusty blade is fashioned across your bare throat? Nothing, absolutely nothing. The attacker displayed full force on the survivor's throat; the attacker's strength was obviously his major asset. He gripped the survivor's left wrist with such hatred, as if the survivor had already done something to him. The survivor began to think of something to say – maybe comfort or calm the attacker – but was interrupted.

The attacker spoke. "Who are you? What are you doing here?"

"I would say the same to you."

The attacker forced the knife in deeper and exclaimed, "Shut up! SHUT UP!" His eyes became filled with tremendous rage. "How did you get here? I am the only one on this island! Me! Only me and no one else!"

"Okay, okay," the survivor replied reassuringly, "Just calm down and we can talk."

The attacker paused for a moment and replied with doubt in his heavy voice. "How do I know I can trust you?"

"I-I don't know, but I can assure you I'm searching for answers just as much as you are."

The crazed stranger hesitated for a moment. His eyes shifted to and fro. His face displayed an awful amount of doubting guilt, as if he had already made some sort of atrocious decision. Deep inside, he wanted to trust the survivor, but something else inside of him urged him to kill the survivor where he stood. But he couldn't. He was mere seconds away from slicing the survivor's throat, but something overcame him – an unknown, calming sense of peace that flowed throughout his pulsing veins, a peace that only one can give. It was here that the attacker realized that without the survivor all hope of finding answers would be lost, along with his gradually fading sanity. Soon after pondering these things, the attacker lowered the knife and quickly backed away. The survivor, calm and thankful, turned toward the attacker. There was a striking resemblance between the two – they both had dirty beards.

Time passed. The two had talked, but what they said is not important. The attacker put another log onto the bonfire. It crackled with a warm and inviting intensity. The moon was close to setting, yet its glowing presence never ceased. The trees swayed with a ghostly feel, like someone or something was dwelling within them. As the survivor vigorously warmed his hands he looked up at the moon.

"That's one blessing God gave me on this island," the survivor said, with a small, faint smile, "the moon that is."

The attacker walked over to the survivor and sat down. Age had wearied him; you could see it in his eyes. He thought for a moment, pondering what the survivor had said, and then he spoke. "Hmm. I can agree with you about the moon, but as for God, well, I fly solo."

The survivor's eyes filled with curiosity. Careful of what to say, he replied. "So, you're saying...you don't believe in God? I mean, how could you not?"

"That's what I'm saying, yes. Despite supposed facts and what not, I, personally, have come to the conclusion over the years that He simply does not exist."

All was quiet; nothing but the sound of rustling trees and the crackle of the warm fire. The survivor thought he'd leave the topic at that, but an urging sensation compelled him to continue. He looked over at the attacker.

"Well, what made you come to your decision?"

"My fate. This whole forsaken island. I've been here for thirty-two years man, thirty-two long years. I prayed every single day when I first got here for some sort of rescue. I pleaded with Him! I spent countless evenings pleading to Him, for something, anything! But, I soon realized that my grip on reality was fading. I was driving myself to a major letdown. And, just like that, I gave up on Him." Filled with heated rage, the attacker looked over at the survivor. "There is no God. There is no God."

The survivor didn't know what to say at first. Twenty-five minutes ago he was seconds away from having his throat slit, and now here he was with an obviously troubled man who sincerely felt that there is no God.

Peace filled the survivor's soul. "Remember when you were going to kill me?"

"I do..."

"You had second thoughts didn't you? Like someone was telling you to hold back; to hold back on killing the only other person on this island."

"So, that doesn't mean anything," the attacker said nervously.

"It means everything. We needed to meet; we were destined to meet. You've been here for – what'd you say, thirty-two years right? I've been here for twenty-two. Think about it! We've been sharing this island for twenty-two whole years! And now, out of some weird coincidental moment, we meet? No. I heard you from the shore; someone compelled me to come in here. This is no act of coincidence. God put us here; we're destined to be here. Why? I cannot say, but there is definitely a reason for all this. There's a reason we met."

"Oh yeah, and what's that?"

The survivor leaned in to the attacker, "We're getting off this island."

To be continued...

—Aaron A. Ramos

Crusaders Basketball Schedule

- **Banning @ GBCS *** (Boys & Girls) Friday, January 27 @ Hamilton Middle School
(Homecoming Game)
- **GBCS @ Lighthouse** (Boys & Girls) Monday, January 30
- **Faith @ GBCS *** (Boys only) Tuesday, January 31 @ Hamilton Middle School
- **GBCS @ First Baptist** (Boys only) Tuesday, February 7
- **Foothill @ GBCS *** (Boys only) Thursday, February 9
- **Basketball Tournament** (Boys & Girls) Monday, Tuesday, and Friday February 20, 21, 24

* Home games will tip off at 6:00 pm

(After home games in which only the boys' team plays, we will use the gym to host pick-up games for those men who are interested in playing. The cost to play will be \$2 per person. Funds raised will go directly to the sports program.)

San Francisco 49ers: The Most Improved Team in the NFL

The San Francisco 49ers are probably the most surprising team that I have seen all year. Let's be honest—even the most die-hard 49ers fans were not expecting their team to make it to the Conference Championship. I have got to hand it to Jim Harbaugh because he has definitely turned this team around. He has also figured out a way to make quarterback Alex Smith effective. Alex Smith is playing confidently and doing what he needs to do to help his team win. They finished the regular season 13-3, only losing to the Dallas Cowboys, Baltimore Ravens, and Arizona Cardinals. That's pretty good!

Don't even get me started on the 49ers' defense! WOOO! Did they play an amazing game against the Saints or what?! They took out Saints' running back Pierre Thomas and caused five turnovers (3 fumbles and

2 interceptions). Well, let me start from the beginning. In the first quarter, the Niners scored two quick ones. But, you know the Saints are not going to go down without a fight. So, Drew Brees and the Saints came back with two touchdowns of their own. San Francisco managed to get a field goal too. The score at halftime was 17-14 with the 49ers leading.

The first half was good, but the second half was an action-packed, nail-biting, thriller. The third quarter was slow. The only points put on the board in the third came from a field goal by David Akers. The fourth quarter had the suspense! The score was now 20-14 49ers on top. Drew Brees took his team up the field, but that Niner defense was just too stinking good, only allowing a Saints' field goal. Then on the 49ers

drive, the Saints held them to a field goal. On the Saints' possession, they capitalized on a 44-yard touchdown pass from Drew Brees to Darren Sproles. Alex Smith led the 49ers down the field and then made a 28-yard run to score a touchdown, but San Francisco went for two and missed. (Score: 29-24 49ers) With 2:18 on the clock, Drew Brees took the field and quickly threw a TD pass to Jimmy Graham for 66 yards. To make matters worse for San Francisco, New Orleans went for two and got it. Isn't Drew Brees incredible?

Man, it looked like the Saints had pulled off another comeback. BUT WAIT! There was still 1:48 on the clock. So, Alex Smith and Jim Harbaugh's 49ers took the field for probably the last play of the game. Our score was now 29-32. During this suspense-

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ful drive, Alex Smith found Vernon Davis on a 47-yard pass which placed the 49ers at the Saints' 20-yard line. The 49ers had only a meager fourteen seconds left. They could either count on legendary David Akers or gun for the win. With fourteen seconds left in the game, ALEX SMITH FOUND VERNON DAVIS FOR THE TOUCHDOWN!!!! THE 49ERS HAVE GIVEN US ANOTHER GREAT GAME IN PLAYOFF HISTORY!!!! [FINAL SCORE: 36-32]

The Niners had a great run. They battled it out until the end. They are definitely the most improved team, and Jim Harbaugh deserves Coach of the Year. I hope to see them do better next year; but most importantly, I hope they kill, slaughter, exterminate, annihilate, and ruthlessly eradicate the Giants next season.

— Chika Okeke

Foosball

Table football, or foosball, is a popular sport and table game that is played by both professionals and amateurs in numerous countries. Invented in 1921 by Harold Thornton, foosball became an international sport when the International Table Soccer Federation (that's a real name) was formed in 2002. The game itself consists of eight rods cutting across the hollow table with soccer player figurines attached to them.

In most foosball tables, there are twenty-two "foosmen" (if I may call them that). The game starts when the ball is served from either hole on the sides of the table. The players then use the foosmen, controlled by their wrists, to attempt to push the ball into the opponent's goal. Three hundred sixty degree shots, or spinning, are not allowed in competition. When a score of ten is reached, the game ends un-

less both players have 9 points each. In that case a player has to have two more points than his opponent to win. Up to four players on each side can compete against each other in one game, with each player controlling one rod. There have even been robots designed to play foosball that can beat most human players. Foosball is an exciting game that requires skill and concentration to win.

— Joshua Tecson



Keeping Up with the Joneses: The Laser Keyboard

One of the many cool gadgets and electronics is the laser keyboard. IBM engineers, who have invented many other high tech products, invented the laser keyboard. It is an advanced form of input device that projects the hologram of a keyboard onto a flat surface (such as a table or desk). When the user places his fingers on the "keys," the input device

translates the finger movements into keystrokes. The laser keyboard consists of a diffract optical element, a red laser diode, a CMOS camera, a sensor chip, and an infrared (IR) laser diode. The laser

keyboard can be connected to a device either by Bluetooth, or USB. The unit itself is 295mm x 95mm in size and projects a 60mm keyboard. It can recognize up to four hundred char-

acters per minute. It is also portable. It can even fit in your pocket. Computers, PDA's, and mobile phones can use the laser keyboard. It is powered by lithium-ion batteries and has more than 120 minutes of continuous typing in its capacity. Even though this gadget is small, it is still a remarkable piece of technology.

— Jason Jones



Survey Says:

Favorite Senior Meal?

1st Place: TACOS 2nd place: Lasagna

Would you rather be a giant hamster or a tiny rhino?

Hamster 52%

Rhino 48%

Cooler Pet: Polar Bear or Penguin?

Polar Bear 41%

Penguin 59%

Cheetos or Doritos?

Cheetos 47%

Doritos 53%

Muffins or Cupcakes?

Muffins 25%

Cupcakes 75%

Better spread: Peanut Butter or Jelly?

Peanut Butter 45%

Jelly 55%

Captain America or Iron Man?

Captain America 58%

Iron Man 42%

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On January 16, 2012 we Americans celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We took time on this special day to recognize the great leader of the African-American civil rights movement who had a dream that all people be treated equally. Martin Luther King Jr. worked himself up to his position. He was a smart

young man who went to college at age fifteen. While in college, he developed his speaking skills, which helped him to be one of the greatest orators of his day. In his famous speech, "I Have a Dream," he talked about his personal dream that everyone be treated the same, especially blacks. This was his best and

most famous speech. On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Even though a holiday in his honor was brought up before, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was not officially made a holiday until January 20, 1986. Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of a man who had a dream for America to be

"color blinded"—to treat everybody equally, regardless of their color.

— Jason Jones



Check us out online!