

## **Week 2 Origin of Valentine's Day and relationships**

### **Current Events**

#### **Cop Issues Speeding Ticket, Asks Driver for a Date and She Sues Him**

By Lauren Sher | ABC News Blogs – Thu, Jan 5, 2012

A Chicago police officer allegedly turned a \$132 speeding ticket into a pick-up opportunity when he later tracked down the female driver and asked her out, saying the least he could do for the money he cost her was to treat her to dinner, according to a lawsuit the woman filed in federal court.

Evagelina Paredes filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Chicago, accusing police officer Chris Collins of violating her privacy, according to the Associated Press. She alleges that after she was ticketed on Oct. 22, Collins searched for her address in the motor-vehicle database and left a handwritten note on the windshield of her car, which was parked outside her apartment in the Chicago suburb of Stickney, asking her out on a date.

In the note, a copy of which appeared was included in the court documents and was obtained by the Associated Press, the 27-year-old police officer tried to woo the female driver with humor and a seemingly heartfelt plea.

"It's Chris ... that ugly bald Stickney cop who gave you that ticket. ... I know this may seem crazy and you're probably right, but truth is I have not stopped thinking about you since. I don't expect a girl as attractive as you to ... even go for a guy like me, but I'm taking a shot anyways."

"I did cost you \$132 - least I can do is buy you dinner," the note reportedly read.

The scenario is not that far off from the "meet-cutes" of Hollywood romantic comedies. In the 2011 hit "Bridesmaids," Kirsten Wiig's character starts a relationship with the traffic cop who let her out of a ticket for a broken taillight.

Arguably, it's a lot less "cute" when it happens in real-life.

Paredes claims that the note caused her to "suffer great fear and anxiety." In the lawsuit, which seeks unspecified payments in damages, according to the Associated Press, she alleges that Collins used his position as a police officer to "manipulate" her into going out with him. Collins declined to comment to the Associated Press.

Retrieved from <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/abc-blogs/>

### **Culture Corner**

Origin of Valentine's Day

#### **Valentine's Day History and things**

There are varying opinions as to the origin of Valentine's Day. Some experts state that it originated from St. Valentine, a Roman who was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He died on February 14, 269 A.D., the same day that had been devoted to love lotteries. Legend also says that St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine". Other aspects of the story say that Saint Valentine served as a priest at the temple during the reign of Emperor Claudius. Claudius then had Valentine jailed for defying him. In 496 A.D. Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor St. Valentine.

Over time, February 14 has become the date for exchanging love messages and a celebration of St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. The date is marked by sending poems and simple gifts, such as flowers, to loved ones and secret loves. By far, **Valentine's Day Flowers** are the most popular gift today.

In the United States, Miss Esther Howland is given credit for sending the first valentine cards. Commercial valentines were introduced in the 1800's and now the date is very commercialized. The town of Loveland, Colorado, does a large post office business around February 14. The spirit of good continues as valentines are sent out with sentimental verses and children exchange valentine cards at school.

### **St. Valentine's Story**

Let me introduce myself. My name is Valentine. I lived in Rome during the third century. That was long, long ago! At that time, Rome was ruled by an emperor named Claudius. I didn't like Emperor Claudius, and I wasn't the only one! A lot of people shared my feelings.

Claudius wanted to have a big army. He expected men to volunteer to join. Many men just did not want to fight in wars. They did not want to leave their wives and families. As you might have guessed, not many men signed up. This made Claudius furious. So what happened? He had a crazy idea. He thought that if men were not married, they would not mind joining the army. So Claudius decided not to allow any more marriages. Young people thought his new law was cruel. I thought it was preposterous! I certainly wasn't going to support that law!

Did I mention that I was a priest? One of my favorite activities was to marry couples. Even after Emperor Claudius passed his law, I kept on performing marriage ceremonies -- secretly, of course. It was really quite exciting. Imagine a small candlelit room with only the bride and groom and myself. We would whisper the words of the ceremony, listening all the while for the steps of soldiers.

One night, we did hear footsteps. It was scary! Thank goodness the couple I was marrying escaped in time. I was caught. (Not quite as light on my feet as I used to be, I guess.) I was thrown in jail and told that my punishment was death.

I tried to stay cheerful. And do you know what? Wonderful things happened. Many young people came to the jail to visit me. They threw flowers and notes up to my window. They wanted me to know that they, too, believed in love.

One of these young people was the daughter of the prison guard. Her father allowed her to visit me in the cell. Sometimes we would sit and talk for hours. She helped me to keep my spirits up. She agreed that I did the right thing by ignoring the Emperor and going ahead with the secret marriages. On the day I was to die, I left my friend a little note thanking her for her friendship and loyalty. I signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

I believe that note started the custom of exchanging love messages on Valentine's Day. It was written on the day I died, February 14, 269 A.D. Now, every year on this day, people remember. But most importantly, they think about love and friendship. And when they think of Emperor Claudius, they remember how he tried to stand in the way of love, and they laugh -- because they know that love can't be beaten!

### **Valentine Traditions**

Hundreds of years ago in England, many children dressed up as adults on Valentine's Day. They went singing from home to home. One verse they sang was:

*Good morning to you, valentine; Curl your locks as I do mine ---Two before and three behind. Good morning to you, valentine.*

In Wales wooden love spoons were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes were favorite decorations on the spoons. The decoration meant, "You unlock my heart!"

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

- In some countries, a young woman may receive a gift of clothing from a young man. If she keeps the gift, it means she will marry him.
- Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.
- A love seat is a wide chair. It was first made to seat one woman and her wide dress. Later, the love seat or courting seat had two sections, often in an S-shape. In this way, a couple could sit together -- but not too closely!
- Think of five or six names of boys or girls you might marry, As you twist the stem of an apple, recite the names until the stem comes off. You will marry the person whose name you were saying when the stem fell off.
- Pick a dandelion that has gone to seed. Take a deep breath and blow the seeds into the wind. Count the seeds that remain on the stem. That is the number of children you will have.
- If you cut an apple in half and count how many seeds are inside, you will also know how many children you will have.

### Idioms on Love & Relationships (use the following idioms and turn them into games)

**ask for someone's hand in marriage:** to ask someone to marry you

After dating his girlfriend for several years the man finally asked for her hand in marriage.

**dump (someone)-** to end a relationship by telling someone that you do not want to see him or her

The woman dumped her boyfriend after they had a big fight.

**fall for (someone)-** to begin to feel love for someone

**find Mr. Right-** to find the right or perfect person

The woman is always hoping to find Mr. Right but so far she has not had any luck.

**get hitched-** to get married

My sister and her boyfriend surprised everyone by suddenly getting hitched last weekend.

**get serious (with someone)-** to become more serious with someone (used for a relationship)

The two students dated for several months before they began to get serious.

**go dutch-** to go on a date where each person pays half of the expenses

Many university students have little money so they often go dutch when they go on a date.

**go out with (someone)-** to go on a date or to be dating someone

I am going out with a woman from my hiking club.

**go steady-** to date one person regularly (not so common recently but at one time used often by teenagers)

The two students have been going steady for three years now.

**have a crush (on someone)-** to have strong feelings of love for someone (often for a short time and with no results)

The girl has a crush on a boy in her class.

**have a thing for (someone)-** to be attracted and care about someone

The girl has a thing for the new boy in her class.

**head over heels in love with (someone)-** to be very much in love with someone, to be completely in love

My friend is head over heels in love with someone in his company.

**hit it off (with someone)-** to get along well with someone (from the first time that you meet that person)

I hit it off with a woman in my photography class and we have been dating for several months now.

**hung up on (someone)-** to be obsessed with another person, to be interested in another person

The young woman is hung up on a member of her tennis club.

**leave (someone) at the altar-** to decide not to marry someone at the last minute

The man became very nervous and decided to leave his girlfriend at the altar.

**made for each other-** to get along extremely well with another person

The man and woman get along very well together and seem to be made for each other.

**make eyes at (someone)**- to look at someone in a way that makes it clear that you like that person and find him or her attractive

The man became angry when he saw that his girlfriend was making eyes at someone else at the party.

**make up**- to forgive each other after an argument, to begin to see each other again after ending a relationship

The couple had a big fight at the restaurant but they made up and things quickly got back to normal.

The boy and girl separated but recently they made up and began seeing each other again.

**a match made in heaven**- a couple who get along perfectly

When the two people finally got together it was a match made in heaven and everybody thought that they would stay together forever.

**on the rocks**- to be in a state of difficulty, to be having problems (usually used for a relationship)

The couple are experiencing many problems at the moment and their relationship appears to be on the rocks.

**the one (for someone)**- the right partner, the right person to marry

When I introduced my girlfriend to my mother she said that she was the one for me.

**one and only**- the only person that one loves

The man's wife was his one and only since they met in high school.

**pop the question**- to ask someone to marry you

The man thought about things carefully before he actually decided to pop the question.

**puppy love**- infatuation (strong feelings of love) between school-age children or teenagers

The two teenagers thought that their love was the greatest in the world. Other people thought that it was only puppy love.

**say I do**- to get married (during a wedding ceremony it is common to say "I do" when you agree to marry your partner)

The man was very happy to say "I do" at the wedding ceremony.

**seeing (someone)**- to be dating someone on a regular basis

The woman was not seeing anyone when she met a man who she liked at the party.

**settle down**- to establish a regular routine after getting married

After dating many women the young man finally decided to settle down.

**split up**- to end a relationship

The girl and her boyfriend decided to split up after being together for seven years.

**take one's vows**- to get married and take your wedding vows or promises

The couple took their vows at the courthouse in the small town.

**tie the knot**- to get married

After dating for several years the young couple decided to tie the knot.

**unrequited love**- love that is not returned, one-way love

The woman was in love with the president of her company but it was unrequited love. He did not love her.

**walk down the aisle together**- to get married (in this case in a church and where the bride walks down the aisle to the altar)

The couple have decided to walk down the aisle together and begin their new life.

**walk out on (someone)**- to abandon your partner and end a relationship

The man walked out on his wife and nobody knew the reason why.

**whisper sweet nothings in (someone's) ear**- to say romantic or intimate things to someone

The actor was whispering sweet nothings in the ear of the actress in the romantic movie.

For more idioms on love and relationship, please go to <http://www.idiomconnection.com/relationship.html#R>