

the Harbinger

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Courage, persistence, and lacrosse: the Arpan Shah story

By Georgia Latta



Happy Valentine's Day from the Harbinger staff! Be safe, have fun, and don't choke on one of those conversation hearts!!!!!!!

One wouldn't think that starting a club at Harper would be an ordeal, a harrowing experience to test their character. But Arpan Shah's efforts to start a lacrosse club proved to be just that.

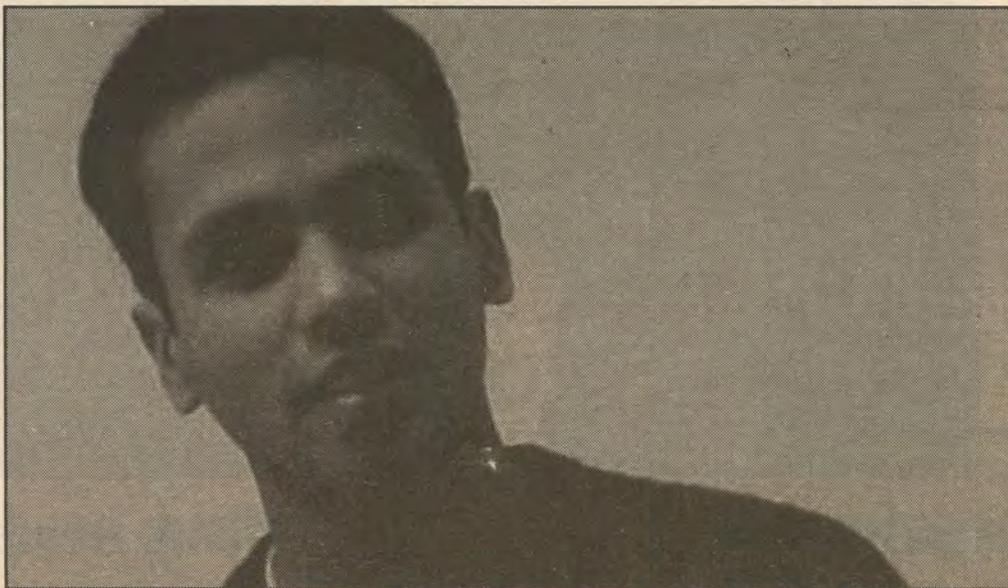
"I don't know if it was solely the lacrosse club incident that helped me to get where I am today," said Shah. "It did make me aware that there was a Student Senate, though. And once I knew that there was a Senate, I was destined to run.

"I saw that there was room for change. And I believed then that I could handle the responsibility. Coupled with my passion for politics, I set out to do my absolute best."

He laughs at his own upbringing, for this very passion causes him to be the butt of most family jokes.

"I was always interested in politics, so I'm considered the dumb one in my family," he said, smiling modestly. "I mean come on, I'm Indian. I'm supposed to be a doctor." After talking to him for about five minutes, one realizes that Shah can be described as anything but dumb. His warm smile assures you that he - a charming, charismatic person - takes an interest in you and your opinions.

His disarming personality allows him to approach new people confidently, and this causes strangers to open up to him, to answer his questions,



Testing his mettle to start a club he loves, Arpan Shah's desire to play lacrosse led him on a journey towards the Student Senate.

Photo By Patrick Andrews

to give him whatever information he needs. Based on this, it comes as a surprise to learn that he did encounter such difficulty in getting the lacrosse club started.

"When I wanted to start a lacrosse club, I went to student activities and they were quite helpful," Shah said.

"They directed me to the Student Senate and told me that they might be able to provide additional help. I was like so many other students who did not know there was such a thing as a Student Senate.

"Needless to say, no one in the Senate there was able to help. They gave advice but did not seem to have any interest," said Shah.

You might think that

making changes to get a club founded seems logical, but becoming president of the Student Senate in a school that contains close to 14,000 students seems an entirely different matter altogether.

"... I decided to run [for president]. I wanted to change the atmosphere within the Senate and make it friendlier and more inviting for students.

"While running for the Student Senate, I never received any best wishes or support. I think, to them, I was an outsider. They didn't appreciate a stranger trying to move into their organization. However, I was fortunate to have a background interest in politics and so I ran my own campaign. In the end, the election results spoke for themselves."

When one watches Shah's political style, it becomes pretty apparent that his political major has given him an edge. He doesn't believe in being kowtowed to.

He listens attentively in Senate meetings, gently guiding the discussion and posing questions. He gives away the glory and compliments that other more self-seeking politicians might hone in on.

"I strongly believe this year, with the help of my advisor and team, we will have surpassed all old prospects and have reached numerous new achievements," said Shah.

Shah's goals include making the student body aware of the presence and importance of the Senate. He leads the Senate in actively pursuing many community service

projects throughout the college. He strives to provide an open door policy and strongly encourages all students with comments, concerns or suggestions to stop by the offices located in Building A in the student activity center.

To Shah, lacrosse might be a fun sport that he loves, but clearly he has taken some valuable lessons away from the playing field. These lessons, including modest leadership and team spirit, make him an asset to Harper College's Student Senate.

This very fact stands as the most compelling reason why Harper should and does encourage team sports.

So, has Shah's work paid off? If gain can be measured by lessons learned and challenges faced, then Shah's journey has most certainly paid off. However, if gain can be measured only by goals achieved, then sadly this ball bounced off the post.

The legal liabilities prohibit Harper from hosting a lacrosse club, but this doesn't seem to discourage Shah.

Despite the lack of a lacrosse club, he admits that his passion does lie in the political realm, and through his lacrosse journey, he found a method to pursue it. So maybe in the end he did win, only on a different field, in a different game he didn't even conceptualize being a part of until the numbers on the scoreboards changed and he saw that the point went to him.

ALSO INSIDE.....

- Lose some money- see "Lose a Guy".....PAGE 6
- Our Editors vs. Valentine's Day.....PAGE 8
- Lackluster boyfriends, save yourselves!.....BACK PAGE

N E W S

A THREE ALARM FIRE, courtesy of juggler Dharmesh Bhagat. Dharmesh hosts the Harper Juggling Club, which meets near the cafe in building A, every Tuesday night from five till seven. Dharmesh is more than happy to teach people how to juggle just like him... naturally, the flaming batons are the sort of thing you'd have to work your way up to.

Photo/ Patrick Andrews



Keeping Harper safe: almost-farmer Mike Alsup heads up the thin blue line

By Lynda Wellhausen

Mike Alsup, the supervisor of the department of public safety at Harper College, emerged out of his office, extending a friendly hand and a weary smile. His blue eyes sparkled from behind wire rim glasses and he wore his gray hair neatly combed to the side.

"I am obviously a type A person," he said, "and Harper provides me with all of the challenges I can deal with."

As we walked toward a place to have a conversation, he opened every door for me.

"Providing professional, competent safety and services to the community takes networking, reading," he said. Alsup's desk is covered with periodicals and books that he refers to on a daily basis.

It seems that we at Harper are lucky to have Alsup on our side. But it was a close call. When Alsup first went to college, his father, a state trooper, wanted him to study agriculture. Alsup chose human services instead.

Then in 1972, he started working as a police officer in DeKalb.

"I was drawn because police work is never the same thing. Your day is dictated by the services [the public] needs."

The only routine for Alsup these days is the way he wakes up every morning at 4:30 to feed cows and pigs before going to work.

Now his goal is to put Harper's safety on the cutting edge of the community.

"Nothing," he said, "will stop that kind of success."

the Harbinger

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The Harbinger is the Harper College student publication published bi-weekly throughout the school year, except during

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The Harbinger's sole purpose is to provide the Harper community with information pertaining to the campus, surrounding activities, and events of note.

LETTERS POLICY:

We welcome letters to the editor and replies to our editorials. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Signatures will be withheld upon request. All letters and content are subject to editing.

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Tom Kenny, the voice of the ever-popular SpongeBob on Nickelodeon, visited Harper recently to talk about fame, midgets, and Smashing Pumpkins with Anthony McGinn. Here's the lowdown on the animated hit

Since your face is not on TV as often as SpongeBob's, do you feel cheated because you are not as famous as you should be?

I'm just grateful to have a house and a car and some money in the bank. I know enough famous people to know that it's not that much fun. I think that it depends on your personality type. Being famous has never been a huge goal of mine. I just wanted to work in a job I like and have a good life. I don't think I'd be good at being famous.

How do you feel about the crowds of

people who do flock to you?

The crowd that follows me is at a very comfortable level. It's nice. The people who come up to me are people who really like what I do and really like my work, whereas if you are Will Smith or something, you get every dickhead in the street, whether they like you or not, coming up to you. That's a lot of work. It's a 24-7 job. And it's kind of nice to be able to go home and turn that off and then go back to work where you're acting and creating and being funny and getting paid for it. To me, it's all the good stuff about being famous without any of the bad, but the money is lower. You don't make what you would on a sitcom but there are definite rewards. It is definitely the best job for me. I don't care if my face is ever on camera again. I will do voice-overs until I die of old age.

Are most of the people who perform cartoon character voices able to work long term?

Well, that's one of the things, when I was first getting into this, that all of the guys I was working with were older dudes. And you do see that in the on-camera world. You don't see older guys who are at the top of their game. Casey Kasem is still doing Shaggy after 30 years.

I read this rumor on the Internet that the voice of SpongeBob was inspired by an evil midget. Is there any truth to that?

(Laughs) SpongeBob's voice was inspired by, I don't know if he was evil but, a bitter, cursing midget that I heard at a commercial audition. He was auditioning in a Christmas commercial as an elf. And he was bitching to another midget actor in an elf suit and a couple of Santa Clause-type actors, big fat guys with white beards. That's what these people do, a couple of Christmas commercials this time of year and then they're done. That gets them through the year. So,

there was this one midget who was swearing his head off and he was just really bitter, and he had SpongeBob's voice and it just made me laugh. So yes, he [SpongeBob's voice] was inspired by an evil midget. 'This is the only time of the year that I [deleted] work! If it weren't for this Christmas [garbage], I wouldn't work.'

Even though SpongeBob is intended for children, it has attracted a strong adult following. Do you have any idea why Sponge-Bob appeals to adults?

I think that different age groups like it for different reasons. It's silly. It's sweet, funny and well drawn, so what's not to like about that? But I think that adults identify with different aspects of it. Sponge-Bob works really hard, he's underpaid and under appreciated and he's emotionally unstable. A bipolar sponge who laughs really hard and the next minute he's throwing himself on the ground crying. Everybody knows a Squidward. Everyone has had a boss like Mr. Crabs. So I think you like it for different reasons at different stages of life. But, the cool thing is that it is something that families seem to watch together. I get that a lot where people say, 'Thank you for doing a show that we can watch with our kids that doesn't drive us crazy like Barney.' And it's not totally scatological, it's not all farts and boogers and stuff that people who were uncomfortable with "Ren and Stimpy" would be uncomfortable with. In a lot of ways, it is a kinder, gen-

ter "Ren and Stimpy." It was a big influence on SpongeBob. Because animation had been so crappy before then. But it was certainly not a kid show. Nickelodeon was not that right place for it. It was an adult-centered, crazy, psycho show. I think it was great, but I don't know that I would let my 5-year old watch it. But when he's old enough, I will.

You starred in the greatest music video of all time, The Smashing Pumpkins' "Tonight, Tonight." Can you tell us about that experience?

It was pretty cool. The Pumpkins were really nice. Jonathon Dayton and Valerie Farris, who directed that video, were "Mr. Show" fans and had come to tapings of "Mr. Show" and had seen my wife, Jill, and myself in sketches together and they wanted a real couple who looked like they could be in silent movies. My wife and I both have big eyes and skinny faces, and they also wanted people who could figure out choreography for themselves because these two directors were dealing with mermaids and rocket ships and oceans, and none of that was virtual. That was all built, real painted flats. They did it the way that it would have been done in 1908 or whenever. So it was pretty intense. There was one mermaid crying because she thought she looked fat in her outfit and another cried because she lost her wedding ring. But, overall, it was pretty cool.

Rock and roll all class, party every day with Hemmer and Herriges

By Aaron Kessler

Elvis Presley's appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1956 changed the face of American culture, and its impact is still being felt at Harper today. Professors Greg Herriges and Kurt Hemmer of the English department have introduced a rock and roll class, the first of its kind in the United States. Many other colleges around the country have tried a rock and roll course, but Harper's is the first six-hour course to be offered. (Northwestern, for one, offers a three-hour survey – they claim it is their most popular class.) The class combines English Composition 102 and Poetry (LIT 115), and teaches students the material these classes would normally cover, but relates them to rock and roll.

Herriges and Hemmer are well-qualified to teach this class. Herriges played in bands from the time he was 15, and continued well past the time he graduated from college. He also is a published author, has interviewed artists such as Dion of the



Revolution #2: You say you want a Rock and Roll Lit Class, well, you know, we all want to change the school. Hemmer and Herriges (right) did.

Photo by Aaron Kessler

Belmonts, and is in touch with the "artists' underground", having met with such notables as Kurt Vonnegut, Harlan Ellison, and even the reclusive J.D. Salinger. I spoke with Herriges and asked him his influences in the world of rock, and to illustrate, he told me this story from

his past: "When John Lennon was shot in 1980, I was living on my own. I was out of college, and living on my own. The day the story broke, I had people calling me that I hadn't seen in years, and I stayed up all night talking to them about the influence John Lennon had on our lives." He

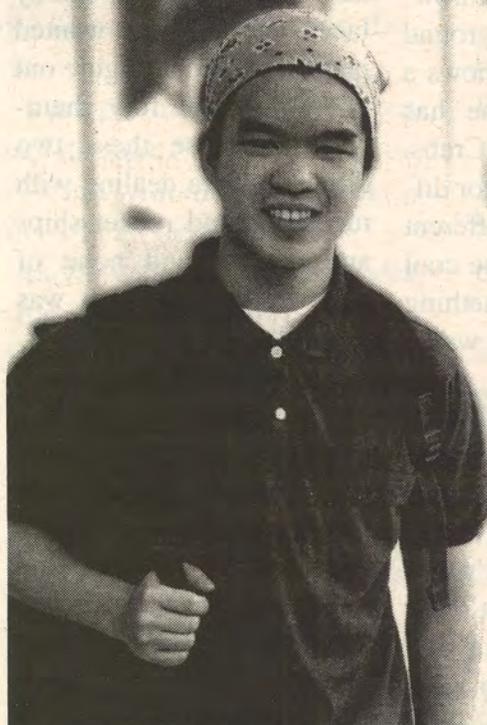
lists the Beatles' Strawberry Fields Forever as his favorite song of all time, and mentioned that he wanted to be a rock star since he was a boy, and his sisters would bring home all the latest records.

Hemmer's background is impressive as well. He brings a

more modern tone to the class, listing the Clash, the Cure, and the Ramones among his favorite bands. As to his motivation to teach the class, Hemmer claimed "Rock and roll interested me in literature and philosophy – the New Wave movement of the 80s made me realize that it was cool to be smart." He believes that a course on rock is both informational and timely, yet relates to culture.

I sat in on a class, and observed the teaching methods. Herriges and Hemmer treat the students as discussion partners, rather than in the typical student-teacher fashion. No question is treated as a stupid question, rather, it is assumed that the students' backgrounds allow them to comment on a respectable level. The discussion flows freely, and the manner is loose – debating a topic is encouraged, and no attempt is made to avoid subjects that would be taboo in other classrooms. Rock and roll lives on...not only in our hearts, but also on our permanent records.

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Harper Miscellany: what's coming up, what's going on, what's happened

Auditions for Harper Fusion, a Multicultural Event hosted by Harper Students in association with the Center for Multicultural Learning, will be held on Friday, February 28, 2003 from 1:00-4:00 PM in room A-137b (Student and Administration Center). The event has been planned to focus on the intriguing aspects of various cultures, but all auditions are welcome, including, but not limited to: actors, choreographers, dancers, models, musicians, and singers. The show itself is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at 7:00 PM in the new Performing Arts Center. For additional information on this event, please contact the Center for Multicultural Learning (D-142) in person, by phone (847.925.6522), or via e-mail (fusion@harpercollege.edu).

Student Activities will be hosting a Valentine themed Co-Ed Student Pool tournament on Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 1:15 PM. There will be a 9-Ball Tournament, as well as an alternating shots tournament. Prizes will be awarded and will be centered, of course, around Valentine's Day. There is no entry fee, but registration will end at 1:15 sharp. For any information, please call **Sue Borchek** at campus extension 6963.

On Wednesday, February 19, the Future Educators Association is holding a meeting from 3:15-4:00 PM that showcases guest speakers **Linda and Mike Jetel**. Together, they have a combined 62 years of teaching experience at the kinder-

garten and high school levels. The speakers intend to share the joys and challenges that they have faced throughout the years, as well as reflect on the many changes that the field of education has experienced.

On Saturday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m., Harper's Program Board will present Madcap Puppet Theatre's "The Enchanted World" in Harper's J143 theater, located in the Business and Social Science Center. This is a family-based puppet show with gigantic puppets up to 12 feet tall, with actors inside who will perform three fairy tales: "The Three Princes' Gifts," "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Goblin Ring." Although the stories are of European origin, the whole program is in English. **Chris Lavidas**, the PR representative of the Program Board, had this to say: "It will be their first time at Harper. It is based on a bigger market, more for the community than just students as a lot of Harper programs are. It is very innovative.... We've never had anything like this." Tickets will be \$3 for kids 12 and under, \$5 for Harper students and \$7 for general admission, although it is geared towards kids aged 7 and 8. For more information, call the Harper box office at extension 6100 or visit www.harpercollege.edu.

If you have anything you wish announced in the Harbinger, call the Harbinger office at 847-925-6460.

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ARTS and ENTERTAINMENT

How to lose two hours of your life: watching this crappy flick

By Stephanie
Wolferman

Every film needs a hook. Something to keep the viewer's attention and keep the story interesting. Even Andie Anderson, the heroine of our film, knows that. She knows in order to land a guy for her experiment, she needs to hook and reel him in. Yet, even though she gets this concept, the film she appears in doesn't. The film does showcase two attractive stars, but with a plot that brings little laughter and many cliches, it isn't even worth watching. Unless you find a peeing dog not to be a worn-out joke (wow, he really does pee everywhere!).

The film "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" is a mouthful of a title with nothing to say; it uses all unoriginal material to do its storytelling. The film is about Andie Anderson, played by Kate Hudson, who works at Composure magazine and is the "How to Girl." She comes up with this brilliant on-the-moment idea to write an article about all the things women do to chase men away (the way in which she

comes up with this is very forced). It turns out that at the same time, Ben Barry, played by Matthew McConaughey, needs to prove to his boss that he can appeal to women in advertising; so, in this flawed premise, he guarantees he can make any woman fall in love with him. So, what would you know, Andie happens to be at the same bar as Ben and is picked as his subject of the test. Then, laughter ensues; well, not really.

The problem with this film is that it really isn't funny. It is actually cringing at times. There is the classic dog that pees everywhere. Look, he is on the poker table, now he's on the pool table. For reasons unknown, writers still think this gag is funny, but it is overused and has lost its charm, if it ever had any. Plus, we have Ben's uncle, who has problems with gas. Of course, we need the old guy who farts because that joke hasn't been used enough. With the uncle, we are also brought to see Ben's



A massive waste of talent: Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson should have taken their acting elsewhere.

Photo from RottenTomatoes.com

family, where Andie learns of a new card game; it is just an incident for the word "bullshit" to be thrown around and then be used as a loving gesture at the end. These are just several of the cliches that are used throughout the film that give it a tired feeling.

The most disappointing part in this film is its last half-hour, when both of them find out about their true intentions and channel their feelings into a drunken rage

performance of "You're So Vain," which is painful to watch. The sad part is this song used to be their declaration of love, though if you have never heard the song, you can see the title isn't talking about love.

Yet, the drunken display isn't enough. They decide to throw in an eccentric diamond enthusiast, who makes overtures at Ben while running around with feathers on her head. Sound out of

place? Well, it sure looked that way. Of course, the party ends badly and then we wait to see if our couple will decide whether they were playing each other or were truly in love.

The sad part of this film is the people involved. Kate Hudson is a wonderful actress, but hasn't found a decent role since "Almost Famous." It is just sad that talent like hers is wasted in this vehicle, where she is talking like a baby. Also, Matthew McConaughey, who has not had good luck with romantic comedies as of late (anyone remember the "Wedding Planner"?), also is much better than this material. While Hudson is acting like a baby, he is resorted to making over-exaggerated faces.

With wasted actors and cliches filling up the screen, I hope this film gets lost in theaters. It is a film that is trying to hook consumers, especially with Valentine's Day coming up, but fails since the line has no bait.

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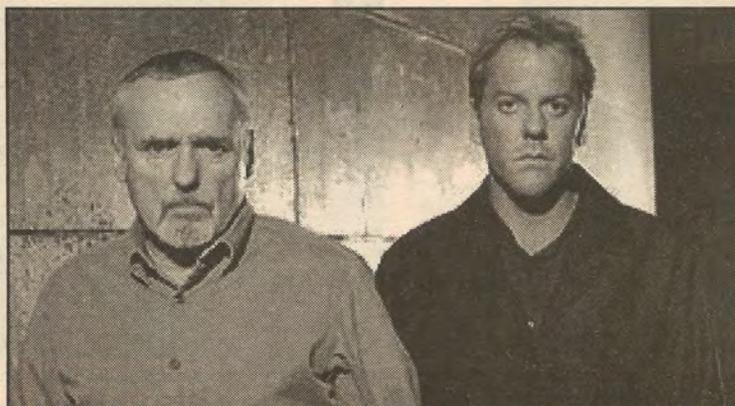
By Ken Lowe

I have always been one of those underprivileged people who have been forced to survive without the revolutionary experience of cable television. Already I can see my readers recoiling in terror. The very idea of somebody who does not get cable is these days on par with lacking running water or a fourth wall on the house.

I myself cannot understand why television is so important in the first place. It's just moving pictures with crappy sound quality, and the vast majority of it isn't all that interesting. The commercials are kind of cool from time to time, but you can watch those online if you really want to. Aside from those, all of my favorite shows and channels have systematically been stripped of all of their coolness over the past decade or so.

There used to be numerous excellent shows that I would actually you know, bother to tape or skip other engagements to watch. Shows based on comic superheroes, a David E. Kelley show that *didn't* suck, decent *Simpsons* episodes, *Cheers*, and Saturday morning cartoons. Granted, many of us have grown out of such things by this time, but shouldn't there be some sort of alternative?

I don't mean to rip on daytime television; it doesn't even bear examination. TV between the hours of 9 in the morning until about 5 in the afternoon are weaker than a screwdriver after five shots of vodka. The only even moderately interesting reason to tune in while the sun is in the sky is to watch Susan Lucci's wrinkles steadily increase with each new episode of *All My Children*. Even this isn't much of an



Kiefer Sutherland and Dennis Hopper appeared in Fox's first season of "24," one of the many quality programs you don't need a cable hookup for.

Photo from fox.com

excuse, since you can just pick up a copy of *Soap Opera Digest* and get every plot point spoiled for you beforehand (which is the most irritating thing in the world, let me tell you).

Once we hit primetime, things begin to marginally improve, but only because of the stylistic bril-

liance of Keifer Sutherland's *24* on Fox. In fact, I would go so far as to say that *24* is the single reason you should even own a television set any longer. Every other show falls into a small subset of categories: a reality TV show that sucks, a reality TV show that REALLY sucks, a late-night talk

show with a bored and complacent host, a soap, an atrociously written and even worse-cast sitcom, or a drama that shamelessly rips off of current events.

My assessment is this; a lot of older TV series are now coming out on DVD. By simply canceling your cable subscription and unhooking the antennae above your house, you can save a bunch of money on electricity and subscription costs. Now, use that money to purchase a DVD player and the complete first and second seasons of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Highlander*, *The Prisoner*, the first season of *24* and whatever *Simpsons* have already been released. Wait for the second season of *24* and kick back. You can now view some of the greatest television series in history at your own convenience, and without commercials. Ask a good friend to tape the Super Bowl for you, and you're all set.



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Valentine's Day: three years, three months, thirty seconds...

It's another Valentine's day, and it goes as usual for the Harbinger: Anthony hugs, Kiel kisses, and Sean plays knife games



I wasted 16 years of my youth crying, pining, and hating myself because I did not have a girlfriend to spend Valentine's Day with. Three years later I find myself crying, pining, and hating myself because I have to spend Valentine's Day with my girlfriend.

A week before Valentine's Day my girlfriend, Nicole, had asked me to plan something romantic. I thought I had accomplished that task. But a four-hour argument proved that our ideas of romance are worlds apart.

"What the hell do you mean you don't want to see 'Daredevil'?" I politely interrogated.

"Anthony, it's Valentine's Day! I will not be seen in some sleazy movie theater to watch another stupid superhero movie," Nicole said.

"Oh, I'm sorry your majesty!" I retorted. "I was not aware that 'Daredevil' would hinder your social status. I would not dare jeopardize that."

"Anthony, listen," Nicole said, giving me the pleasure of eye contact. "I'll give you two options and you can decide what we do tonight. One...we go up to my room and I lay you on my bed, where I'll give you a long massage. Then we'll eat dinner in the gentle glow of candlelight while listening to soft romantic music. We will conclude the evening by cuddling under a blanket. Or, we can go out into the frigid weather, drive 20 minutes to a dirty, crowded movie theater and be surrounded by single overweight men whose collective body odor is so offensive that death doesn't seem so bad."

"Daredevil it is!" I replied without hesitation.

Now don't get me wrong. I love Nicole, but why should I put "Daredevil" on hold just because some lame-ass Hallmark holiday falls on the same day? I spend 364 days of the year professing my undying love for Nicole, but apparently it's meaningless if Valentine's Day is not spent doing what she wants to do. Nicole keeps questioning why I want to see "Daredevil" so badly. She insists that my passion has derived from a suppressed homoerotic fetish involving Ben Affleck in skimpy red tights.

I cannot even begin to stress the absurdity of that accusation (now Colin Farrell in black leather...). The reason I need to see "Daredevil" on Valentine's Day is that it provides an escape. Men are constantly stumbling through an endless maze of anniversaries, birthdays, Valentine's Days, Sweetest Days and other useless holidays until they become overwhelmed in this female-controlled society.

Women clearly have the upper hand in American life. They're prettier, smell better, live longer, and get holidays designed to shower them with gifts. On behalf of all men who are currently trapped in a long-term relationship, I propose a new holiday to rival Valentine's Day. I call it "Brutally Honest Male Instinct Day." On this special day, men will not have to spend time with their girlfriends, but to hang out with a rowdy group of close peers.

Instead of fancy candlelit dinners, red wine, and roses, men will gorge on pizza and beer while flipping through back issues of Maxim. Instead of soft love ballads, clichéd romantic comedies and recounting milestones of the relationship, men will blast Pearl Jam through 1,000-watt speakers, watch football and war movies (except Pearl Harbor of course), and reminisce about audacious high school adventures. There will be no presents, cards, cologne, shaving, styling hair or dressing up. Just come "as is," in grungy, comfortable attire.

Now these are just preliminary plans, but I think the theme of the holiday is clear. Men need a holiday that will benefit men. Until this happens, men will continue to take angry girlfriends to superhero epics.



It is common knowledge to anyone that knows me that I over-think everything. Lately, I have been over-thinking about a Valentine's Day gift for my girlfriend. I have been over-thinking about all the over-priced, mushy, redundant conglomerate endorsed displays of affection.

Fortunately, this year there has been no need to over-think at all. The fact of the matter is this: my girlfriend Kelly and I both hate Valentine's Day. It is not that we feel that we are better than the holiday, it's just we don't care about it. The two of us believe that we would be better (and so would our wallets) if we just skipped it.

At one time, I did care about Valentine's Day. When I was a kid, and when I hated girls, I had to prepare in advance for the occasion. I didn't hand craft my valentines, nay, I got the cool pre-made cartoon and superhero valentines. And as always, the day before I had to make sure all of my valentines just read something along the lines of: "You're a shell of a friend" or "Cowabunga, Happy Valentine's Day", and nothing that showed any type of love, so no one got the idea. Those were the days.

Flash-forward to the present: I can't give Kelly a Thundercats or Ninja Turtles valentine. Not that she wouldn't like the valentine; I would just feel like a lousy boyfriend. The only reason I plan to celebrate Valentine's Day, is to show her how much I like her.

That's right, I said, "I like her", why didn't I say, "I love her?" That term is used way too much. People flaunt it, and then, subsequently, it loses its meaning. Sure, I've said it before, but just because somebody said it to me and I didn't want to be a jerk. But, in my defense, I like her more than anyone, and I think that's enough.

So, back to the gift, I don't plan to buy her a diamond necklace, two dozen long stemmed roses, or something incredibly and unnecessarily extravagant and overpriced. Rather, I plan only to show her my affection, not what I can buy her.

I can't divulge what I'm doing, but rest assured, it will be good. Believe you me. Even though, I don't spend excessive amounts of money, I put a lot of time and effort into my gift. After all she is worth it.

So I'll try with all my might to make sure not to screw up Valentine's Day, rather the day after Valentine's Day; Kelly has work.

I'm sorry to all of those who are die-hard advocates for Valentine's Day. I am merely advocating my sophomoric opinion in the form of trite Valentine's Day filler material. Oh wait, I guess I shouldn't have said that.



Okay, to preface, I do hate Valentine's Day. Unlike the other two guys on this page, I don't hate it because it's some sort of affront to my masculinity, or because it's some phony Hallmark holiday. I hate it because throughout my school years I was one of those social lepers you only gave a card to because you were required to give one to everybody. Every year the hefty concept of "love" was heaped on my overburdened pre-adolescent mind, something akin to trying to comprehend infinity. Lucky for me I was too much of a coward to talk to girls, otherwise I would have also been forced to comprehend "rejection."

But I digress. I was contacted by my colleagues to write a column detailing what the single set does on Valentine's Day, and that is what I shall do. The only problem is I'm kinda not single any more- I picked up a girlfriend a couple of days after I was commissioned to write this piece. However, it happened so late in the game that the plans for the evening which I made as a single person are unalterable, and since 18 of my just-about-20 years have been spent unattached (thanks a lot, Star Trek) I think I can still offer a pretty fair representation of Valentine's Day from the single side.

Now, for the most part, being single ain't bad. Your wallet's thicker, your sense of fashion goes unchallenged, and you can get away with brushing your teeth once a week. Life's easy. Then, once a year you get your face rubbed in the fact that YOU don't have a girlfriend, which purportedly means you're not attractive to the opposite sex. So, you've got a few options on how to handle this day:

1. Abject Self-Pitying

Now, this one's a perennial favorite. This is indicated by staying home in a bathrobe and bunny slippers and eating ice cream if you're a girl, or by staying home, watching porn and turning a photo of your ex into a dart board if you're a guy. Typically, all exes are somehow at fault even if you initiated the breakup, or did something horrible to warrant it. Playing the victim is more fun, after all. Taking stock of all your relationships, you get out the box of tissues...for whatever reason... and wallow in the fact that you will always be alone.

2. Morally Reprehensible Predator Tactics

This one's specific to guys, usually. You put on your best clothes and hit the hot scenes around town, searching out an attractive yet single girl who is lamenting her singular nature, and everybody knows that the only prey easier than a drunk girl is a crying girl. Play to her self-esteem, feed her ego, and... well, you know how it goes, you scavengers. You disgust me.

3. Working

This is me, by the way. You decide to stay away from the dating scene, you also decide to skip out on the whole staying-at-home crap, and simultaneously pick up some spare cash. If you work at any general-item retail store, you get to watch as dumbstruck males run in and try to stock up on heart-shaped candy, wilting flowers, and the last remaining ripped-and-smudged Hallmark cards in stock.

Statistically, you're going to be single during some Valentine's Day in your life (unless you were bound to an arranged marriage prior to your birth, which is a possibility) so look over the above behavioral patterns. Figure out which ones are for you, and which ones to avoid.

For those of you who are attached- here it is, guys. Any other day of the year you're being a mushy fool, but today, just today, you can pretend you're only doing it because it's required of you, keeping your true identity as a mushy fool hidden.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have Star Trek to watch.

HARPER SPORTS ZONE

By John Krupa

Many say that the sign of a good coach is whether his or her team performs better in the second half of play than it did in the first. If this is true, then Harper's Men's Basketball Team appears to have a solid one in 11-year NBA veteran John Bagley. The Hawks were down 46-37 to Prairie State at the half, partially due to a defense that allowed the Pioneers to make 8-12 (.667) three-pointers. After the break, though, the Hawks came soaring back to get the score within one with only 1:25 left on the clock. Ultimately, the Hawks did not fly quite high enough, falling 77-74 to the visiting Pioneers.

Bagley has plenty of experience to draw on when he advises the team during half time. The twelfth overall pick out of Boston College in 1982, Bagley played with four different teams over eleven years. He started out as a point-guard with the Cleveland Cavaliers and left the team as their all-time assists leader. He then traveled to the New Jersey Nets, Boston Celtics, and retired as an Atlanta Hawk.

One of the Harper Hawks' problems the first half were the three-point shooting of their opponents. Going into the game, the Pioneers ranked tenth in NJCAA Division II three-point field goal percentage at .381 per game. They bettered that mark at half time by making 8-12, largely thanks to the play of 6-foot-1 sophomore guard Alan Fudge, who made 4-6 (.667) and had 14 points in all. Fudge is known for his marksmanship, evidenced by his free throw percentage of .911 through 23 games, which ranks him sixth in Division II.

Bagley's defense clamped down on Fudge and the Pioneers in the second half. The sharp-shooting guard only made one more three-pointer the rest of the game, while Prairie State only made two more overall. This improved three-point defense can be attributed to the

Hawks' superior rebounding in the second half, which provided less second chance opportunities for Prairie State. They out-rebounded the Pioneers 16-7 in the last 20 minutes, led by the "Prime Minister," Pat Monaghan, who had 11 boards.

Monaghan carried the Hawks offensively also. He was the game's high-scorer with 28 points on 10-17 shooting (.588). Monaghan began to assert himself with about ten minutes to play on back-to-back threes, that brought the Hawks within six points of the Pioneers. Following Monaghan's connections, 6-foot-3 freshman guard George Cotseones helped make the score 62-64 with a beautiful assist, as he was falling out of bounds, to Derrick Evans, a 6-foot-4 freshman center. The Hawks then took their first lead since early in the game, on another three by Monaghan that put them up 65-64.

Fudge and the Pioneers took the lead back on a three-pointer taken two-feet behind the arc, making it 69-67 with four minutes to play. Cotseones responded with an almost identical falling-out-of-bounds assist to Monaghan, who was fouled on the play. Monaghan converted the three-point play to put the Hawks up 70-69 with about three minutes left in the game.

The Pioneers soon got the lead back, and an easy basket off a turnover put them up 73-70. Yet, 5-foot-9 freshman guard Chris Brown drew a foul off a fast break and converted both foul shots to bring the Hawks back within one with 1:25 on the clock. The Pioneers soon put the nail in the coffin though, with a base line jumper, a foot in front of the three-point line, that extended the lead to 75-72. The Hawks, and their NBA-veteran coach, soon fell 77-74 to the Pioneers.

The Take a Break Respite Program: A call for volunteers from the Clearbrook Center. by Patrick Andrews

The Clearbrook Center, a not-for-profit human service agency, located at 1835 West Central Road in Arlington Heights, is looking for volunteers.

Tina Yurik, the founder of Clearbrook's *Take A Break* Respite program, created it 6 years ago, with the intent of assisting the exhausted families of children (from ages 0-4) with developmental delays.

The program has been quite a success. They have provided respite for over 1600 families in the Northwest suburban area.

The program is completely volunteer based, and has been since its inception.

Tina Yurik was struck with the idea of creating a service for parents to relieve the anxiety and stress of caring for a disabled child, after hearing the story of a young single mother with a disabled son.

Ordinarily, a family could wait for over a year to receive aid, but *Take A Break* can provide competent assistance within weeks. The procedure is as follows:

Clearbrook will meet with the family, assess their need, and plan ahead a time for respite.

A pre-screened volunteer is selected whose schedule corresponds with the family.

Volunteer's comfort with family situation is assessed.

A meeting is set up between volunteer and family.

If both the volunteer and family are comfort-



Graphic courtesy of The Clearbrook Center website, www.clearbrook.org

able with the arrangement, the volunteer will be assigned to that family.

While a length of service is not specified, a few volunteers have stayed with the same family for 6 years.

For information on the program or how to help out, please call 847.870.7711 extension 5013.

"Clearbrook is an Illinois not-for-profit human service agency with a commitment to being a leader in creating innovative opportunities, services and supports to people with disabilities."

"Established in 1955 as a school for children with developmental delays, the agency has continued to grow and currently includes more than 40 facilities throughout the north and northwest suburban areas of Chicago."
(Quote taken from The Clearbrook Center website, at : <http://www.clearbrook.org/>)

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THE DRAFT: SERV

As the threat of war with Iraq becomes a reality,

Aaron Kessler and Patrick Andrews discuss the issue.



Since the Vietnam War ended, there has been a collective worry in the United States that the draft would need to be reinstated.



IN FAVOR:

America may be facing war on the outside, but who will fight it?

Aaron Kessler

With all the talk about the possibility of an upcoming war with Iraq, there's been a lot of talk about one of the most controversial issues of the past forty years: the draft. Males from eighteen to twenty-four years old are rushing back to college, anxious to be declared full-time students (and thus exempt from the draft). Our parents regale us with horror stories of waiting for their numbers to be called. The lucky ones tell stories of how their numbers were just missed...some of the unlucky ones live on only in the stories of the lucky ones.

As war with Iraq looms, parents of today's eighteen to twenty-four year old males are feeling the same concerns that their parents felt during the Vietnam era. The question is, is having a draft the right thing to do? The Military Selective Service Act stipulates that "Congress further declares that in a free society the obligations and privileges of serving in the armed forces and the reserve components thereof should be shared generally, in accordance with a system of selection which is fair and just, and which is consistent with the maintenance of an effective national economy." The question, then, is what constitutes an obligation incurred by living in a free society?

The Declaration of Independence guarantees Americans the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It

can be argued, however, that the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution prohibits a draft, stating "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." One must look at the intent of the amendment, however. When the amendment was ratified in 1865, it was specifically intended to put a stop to the slavery of blacks in America. To provide historical context, one must look no further than the Civil War, which had just ended. On March 3 of 1863, Congress passed an act calling out the national forces, which required a quote of 300,000 men. Exemptions from the draft were provided for a \$300 fee, and it had been written that the draft provided "more money than men." Clearly, the intent of the Thirteenth Amendment was not to abolish the draft.

A free society will remain free until the rights of those within the society are infringed upon. However, this requires a certain degree of protection. Is it truly fair to accept the rights granted to us by this great country, yet not be willing to stand up and defend them? I, for one, say no.

With anti-government sentiment being the vogue among university students since the days of Vietnam, I feel the need to act as a reminder for all the things our country has done for us. Ronald Reagan was once asked the difference between the Soviet constitution and ours, and he replied "The Soviet constitution guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Our constitution guarantees freedom after speech and freedom after assembly." The American system may have its faults, but they are minor compared to those in countries around the world -

one need only look at the Taliban regime to see evidence of this.

The draft is a flawed system, however. Picking soldiers randomly could (and has) cause disenfranchisement within the conscripted ranks, and the semi-arbitrary age and gender limits could easily lead to class conflict. Now, I'm not suggesting we draft an all-geriatric unit (The Green Depends, anyone?) for combat on the front lines, but there is no such thing as a citizen who has nothing to offer.

My proposal is a simple one, modeled on the system used by Israel, but adapted to our needs as a country. Israel drafts all males into the service and requires them to serve for three years. We do not have the pressing need for defense that Israel does, and therefore would not need such a stringent system. I believe that every citizen owes something to our country, and they should consider themselves lucky to have all that they do. I propose a mandatory service requirement. Not necessarily military service, mind you, but a requirement that some amount of time in everyone's life is spent to provide for the common defense...say, a choice between six months on the front lines, a year in the Reserves, or two years in a job related to either defense or domestic improvement.

As I claimed previously, everybody has something to offer. You're physically fit, but don't want to risk your life? Work at a munitions plant. You don't believe in manufacturing devices of destruction? Teach in our inner cities. The system would be flexible and allow deferments for college, children at home, and any other reason not to serve.

Limiting the Selective Service to men seems rather foolish to me, as well. The Equal Rights Amendment guarantees women the same freedoms

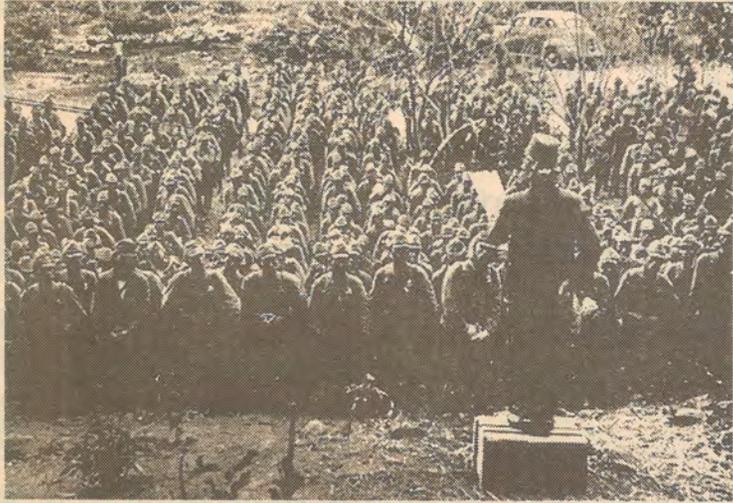
as men...why shouldn't they have to earn them? In recent years, women have fought and won court battles to gain admission to previously all-male military schools such as Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel. Why should these women be treated any differently than their peers, who are no different save for their Y-chromosomes? It seems that the military would actually save resources under this system as opposed to the status quo, since with more women in active service, facilities that would once have to be separated at great cost would no longer have to be. Women could fill their own barracks, rather than one woman requiring an entire area to herself.

A national service plan has many benefits on the home front, as well. Those who do not wish to fight would instead be dedicating themselves to improving the land that we live and work in, and if there is a cause as noble as risking one's life for freedom, it's that. Also, national morale would rise greatly. The once-divided classes of draft-eligible and non-draft-eligible people would now be able to sympathize, and a general feeling of togetherness would rise from it. Making service a requirement would also eliminate "cushy" positions, such as when George W. Bush received a post in the Texas Guard during Vietnam.

One sentiment shared by most is the feeling that nobody wants to fight in an unnecessary war. While dying for freedom may be painted as noble, dying for nothing is not. Under my proposal, no matter what front an individual were to act on, they would be LIVING for a worthy cause...and every day of that is far more noble than dying for anything. America is the land of the free, and the home of the brave...and one day, I hope that we can truly stand united.

ICE OR SLAVERY?

where do you stand on the possibility of a draft?



With the first major military action since Vietnam looming, the debate over the draft rises again.



OPPOSED:

“...to recognize the fact that Iraq has the ability to harm innocent men, and do nothing about it...?”

Patrick Andrews

There was a time in the past when one man controlled the fate of thousands of others. This man was known as a king.

Under the rule of a king, there was no free will (or even the concept of free will); the idea had scarcely been touched upon, and, seeing as how a king was appointed by God, he was infallible.

Needless to say, this system only lasted roughly from the earliest construction of a hierarchical society until...the late 18th century. It was then that man was awakened to the incoming prospect of free will, and became an active participant in his own life.

Fortunately, in the 227 years in which we have existed independently, we have taken the course of a logical progression.

Upward, of course.

It was then, in 1776, that man committed himself to a cause that differed from that of his king.

The American colonists worked through fruitless bickering to form an alliance that, while not quite capable of defeating Britain, sparked enough interest in a country (France) that at the time was also seeking freedom, and subsequently provided the backbone of an army that produced the largest gross material-gain draw in history.

It was only through man's concern with the better of the whole (and the understanding that if the whole were to collapse, so would the individual) that we were able to establish a democracy, and reserve the freedoms that we celebrate at least once a year for the generations of the future.

With the introduction of this groundbreaking system of democracy, the concept of freedom was actualized.

As the saying goes, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” What a man gives up in personal luxury he gains in safety. We must take the precautions necessary to ensure the safety of freedom in the future.

Common knowledge: In order for a nation to exist in a non-perfect world, we must have a strong defense. Common knowledge: You need defenders to have a defense.

Let the records show that the writer of this article is an unwavering supporter of individualism. Let

them show that despite this, I cannot deny the fact that our country would be defenseless in a war if it were not for the draft. I bite my thumb at the politics and games involved in war; yet, if it were my personal freedom that was being attacked (as may very well be the case) I would wear my colors proudly.

Admittedly, I could never bring myself to kill another man, but I would serve my country in any way possible, whether it be through factory work, medical work, or merely support.

The ability of the government to boost the size of the military through a citizen draft was written specifically into the constitution, and I agree that the government should have every right to call upon it's citizens to protect themselves.

Of course, today, it is not just the United States that is threatened. If Iraq is let to do as it please, much of the world could be at risk, and if Iraq has access to nuclear or biological weapons, to know of this potential threat and do nothing of it would be effectively, a betrayal of ourselves to our enemies.

We would be, for all practical purposes, handing ourselves over to our enemies.

Many have given the argument that the money “wasted” on war could be better spent on education or stabilizing our economy. What they have not given, however, is a solution to the problem in Iraq. I feel

that, regardless of the shape of our economic or educational system on the homefront, we cannot change the potentiality of war with Iraq by concentrating on these things. While both education and the economy could use a boost, by fixing these things, we have not tackled the problem at hand.

“What does this mean? What does it matter? I thought that you were supposed to be opposing Kessler's point of view.” The truth is this: every person is required to take a stance on war. Whether you are a proud supporter or a lone voice of dissent, it is imperative that you know where you stand.

If you do not feel that the reason for war is sufficient, you must provide reason why not. I, myself, agree that action needs to be taken, and if a draft need be instated, so be it. In my eyes, military conscription is a non-issue. We must take responsibility, because until the United Nations chooses to actively pursue a solution, we are left no choice.

We must defend the freedoms that are guaranteed in the Constitution. We must continue believe that there will be a time in the future when all men will enjoy the freedom that we enjoy.

We must continue to support a dream, not an American Dream, but a dream of all mankind- a dream that eventually man can put aside his differences and live in harmony.

THE HARBINGER PRESENTS:

YOUR POST-VALENTINE'S DAY SURVIVAL KIT

Okay, so you forgot Valentine's Day. Happens to the best of us. But this doesn't mean you aren't in hot water with your significant other. Or, say you did something anti-romantic on Valentine's Day like take your girlfriend to see "Daredevil" and now you have to make up for it. Well, we at the Harbinger have planned for such a contingency. Simply cut out the heart below, and cut a corresponding, applicable comment to place in the middle. Voila! You now have a makeshift belated Valentine to make up for your various holiday indiscretions and omissions.

*Roses are Red
Violets are Blue,
I made out with
your sister,
But I thought she
was you*

*Honey, how was I
supposed to know that
you were allergic to
chocolate? Happy
Valentine's Day,
and I'll see you when
you get out of the ICU*

**When I say, "Hot
damn, baby got BACK!
I really mean, 'I love
you'."**

My love, I'm so
sorry I forgot about
Valentine's day...
what do you mean
I'm calling you "My
love" because I
can't remember
your name?

I know you
wanted chocolate
and flowers for
Valentine's Day...
unfortunately, the
disease I gave
you instead is
non-returnable

**MY HEART BELONGS TO
YOU... BECAUSE I
SIGNED THE BACK OF
MY DRIVER'S LICENSE**

Okay, so "Daredevil"
sucked... but you
made me see "The
Divine Secrets of the
Ya-Ya Sisterhood," so
can't we just call it
even?

**Shall I compare
thee to a
summer's day?
You're colder,
shorter, and a lot
less sunny.**

*I DO love you for your
personality and intelli-
gence... but I REALLY
love you for that thing
you do with your
tongue.*

I'm sorry we
couldn't be
together this
year... My other
girlfriends need
attention too

My beloved...
You said it happens to lots of
guys, right?

