

# Happy Valentine's Day!

## Where is the love? Valentines Day about giving, not receiving

BY CARLIE EOFF & COURTNEY WINDHAM

Why is the holiday of love met with animosity? It ticks us off that people are so negative about this particular holiday.

If Valentines Day makes you that mad, then just don't celebrate it. You don't have to feel neglected if you don't have a date because you have friends and family to love.

Valentines is not based on boyfriend/girlfriends or what you receive but being around the people you care for.

We understand that this holiday has been stereotyped as chocolate candies and life-size stuffed teddy bears. Come On, Wal-Mart has an entire isle dedicated to cute gifts! But that is so not what it is about.

So why drag your feet around all day and ruin the mood for everyone else?

Instead of brooding over how you don't have a Valentine, why don't you give your bud-

dies little gifts or make your parents Valentines Day breakfast? This way, you won't be disappointed and your family and friends will know you appreciate them.

Another thing that concerns people is the reality of a perfect date. There is no such thing as a perfect date. There are wonderful dates and dates that didn't go so well, but if you have unreasonable expectations, then you are doomed for disappointment.

Remember that dates don't always have to be candlelit dinners and moonlit walks. You can have just as much fun watching a movie with friends, eating pizza and popcorn.

So this Valentines Day, break the stereotype and remember that it is not about dates and perfection, but about the people you care for.



### What is your best Valentines Day?

The ones where I am single and don't have to buy anything  
~Marc Followwell 12th

I had a guy draw me 11 roses (1 each day 12 days before Valentines) and on Valentines I received a real one to complete the dozen  
~ Diana Dalton 12th

### What would be your perfect gift for Valentines Day?

Something surprising with LOTS of flowers  
~ Carolyn Myers 12th

A girlfriend (made of chocolate)  
~ Tyler Watson 12th

### Does true love exist?

Of course true love exists or else we would have never heard of it ~ Carolyn Myers 12th

### Do you believe Cupid exists?

Yeah I chill with him and Santa all the time  
~ David Costilla 11th



### What is your worst Valentines Day?

The ones when I have a girlfriend and I have to spend money  
~ Marc Followwell 12th

I didn't get my girlfriend anything  
~ Dustin Barkemeyer 11th

When I was slapped by 3 girls  
~ Martin Costilla 9th

### Who would be your dream date?

Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen  
~ Nathan Cornelius 9th

If I said I would probably get my butt kicked by my girlfriend ~ Glenn Mueller 12

Halle Berry ~ Jonathan Byers 11th

Eminem ~ Patricia Fisher 11th

### If you are single, what do you plan on doing to celebrate Valentines Day?

Throw smelly eggs at ducks  
~ Tyler Watson 12th

Spend it with friends and family  
~ Patricia Fisher 11th

Wallow in self pity and eat all the chocolate I can find  
~ Brittany McGuire 12th

Crying because I'm single  
~ Martin Costilla, 9th

### How would you celebrate Valentines Day with your honey?

Well that's kind of gross and sad because why would you spend a day with honey? ~ Martha Randolph 12th

## The Esparza Tradition Continues: Jessica Esparza enjoys role in FFA

BY COURTNEY WINDHAM

Junior Jessica Esparza is a dedicated FFA member who loves every second of it, from the fun field trips to the late nights tending to her goats.

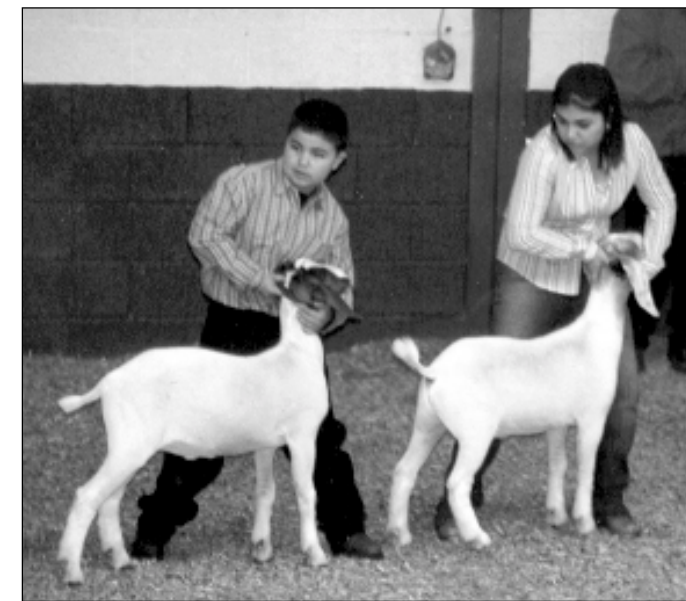
Being actively involved in FFA (Future Farmers of America) is an Esparza family affair. Jessica became a junior FFA member in the fifth grade showing goats.

Esparza has been elected the president of FFA for the last two years. Not only is she the president, but she also volunteers her time to extra activities.

In the ninth and tenth grade, she participated in Chapter Conducting to learn Parliamentary Procedures in order to learn how to professionally conduct a meeting by guidelines set in a handbook.

Her freshman year, she participated in Dairy Cattle Judging. To be a judge you have to study different types of cows for several weeks. Last year and this year, she will perform Land Judging, which is very similar to cattle judging.

This summer, Esparza was one of four selected members who attended the State FFA Convention. She met with state officers and learned about official FFA meetings and the constitution.



"The convention was so much fun. I got to meet new people and am looking forward to it next year," Esparza said.

Besides going on trips, FFA also consists of several competitions, in which Esparza participates.

"The reason I like FFA so much, is that it's something fun you can do, but you don't necessarily have to be good at it," Esparza said.

This may be her train of thought, but she excels at what she does. She has received multiple awards throughout the years.

Her sophomore year, she was given the Proficiency Award for Market Goats. She also placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 90 entrees in a San Angelo competition. Her goats also won their class, which is determined by their weight.

This year's Youth Fair was very successful for Esparza. She showed two goats, which both won first place. Her goats also won both classes.

"I'm so proud of this year's results. I put a lot of hard work into my goats, and was really excited about the results. The youth fair was great and I can't wait until next year!" Esparza said.



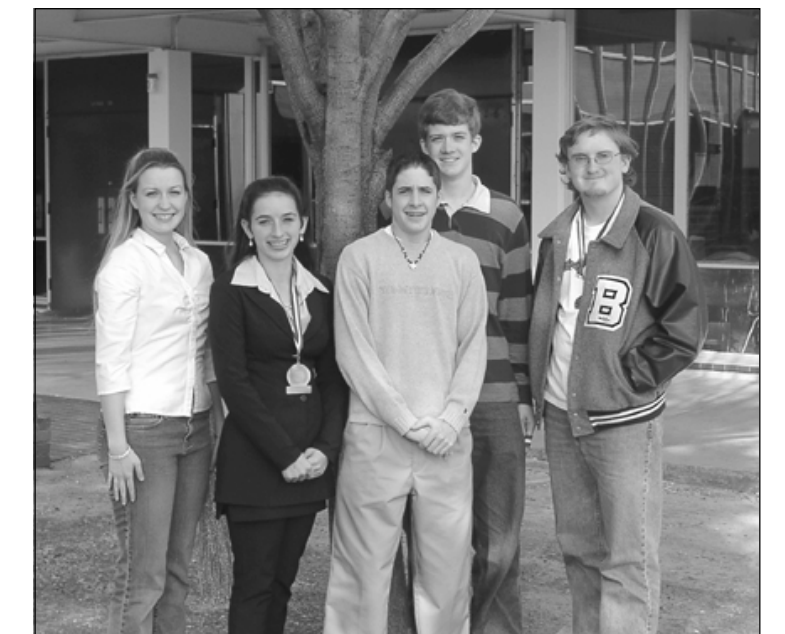
Individuals that placed in the Bangs tournament include:

Left to right, standing: Dyana Dalton, Kate Stevens, Courtney Windham, Jake Savell, Michael VanDerPol, Josh Rice, Michael Little, Ben Humeniuk, Jimmy Fisher

Accounting: 1<sup>st</sup> place team, Michael VanDerPol placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Kassidi Langley, 4<sup>th</sup>, Stephanie Fleet 5<sup>th</sup>, and Josh Rice 7<sup>th</sup>, and Megan Hudson. Social Studies: 1<sup>st</sup> place team, Megan Hudson 1<sup>st</sup>, Michael Clark, Kyle Seaton, and Jimmy Fisher. Computer Applications: Michael VanDerPol 1<sup>st</sup>, Kassidi Langley 2<sup>nd</sup>. Science: Anna Daub 1<sup>st</sup> pace



Chemistry and 1<sup>st</sup> place overall. Current Events: Taylor Graves 4<sup>th</sup>. Spelling: 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, Diana Sansom, Nadia Delleh, Michael Little. Math: 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, Michael VanDerPol 1<sup>st</sup>, Jake Savell 6<sup>th</sup>, Anna Daub, James Martin. Speech: 1<sup>st</sup> place team, Informative speaking



The following students placed at the Blanco Invitational UIL Meet on Saturday, January 10: Stephanie Fleet, 1st in accounting; Courtney Gladden, 3rd in poetry interpretation; Taylor Sutton, 7th in informative speaking; Brandon Beadel, 1st in computer applications; Lance Kilpatrick, 3rd in current events; and (not pictured) Cody Fisseler, 5th in number sense.