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Loving and Dreaming

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Loving and Dreaming

Sting once claimed that his lover's "eyes were nothing like the sun." Sting happened to be quoting Shakespeare, which is sometimes just a pretentious ploy. And a good distraction. Try it sometime. Strike a pensive pose, shake your head and mutter, "All the world's a stage..." and pretty soon the conversation will move on to other things.

But I think Sting had it right this time. His lover's eyes really probably "were nothing like the sun."

Fans of Britney Spears, N'Sync, P(uff) Diddy/Daddy and J. Lo might miss Shakespeare's insinuation in the line as it implies a distaste for anyone, even poets and singers, who exaggerates a lover's qualities to win their affection. I don't know how the "bard" would've reacted to lyrics like Spears' "hit me baby one more time," but he'd have seen N'Sync's "God must have spent a little more time on you" as the lamest of pickup lines, even for boyishly-charming dreamboats just trying to "keep it real, dawg."

Let's face it, flattery doesn't recognize the reality of relationship life. And that's insulting really. Heartache, frustration, and spinach-toothed grins are only the beginning (see Aaron Beaumont's article on page 16). But just as real are the quiet, unremarkable moments when love moves us despite a full disclosure of faults. I think Shakespeare felt that the truth does more justice to those we truly love. And yet, Shakespeare never resorted to: "my mistress' eyes are septic green and get distinctly vacant by 9:00 p.m."

Further proof of their wisdom: Shakespeare and Sting both got dates.

Of course, getting dates is a major priority of AU students too, which is why this issue of *Focus* looks at love and romance at Andrews.

Yes—pick your jaw up off the floor—Andrews. We may not have the marrying reputation of certain colleges, now universities, who once used the word "missionary" as a euphemism for "matrimony." But love does blossom from time to time here at our northern outpost—actually with remarkable frequency and in spite of great odds (see Erin Banks' article on page 15). Lest you forget,

more than a few of you alumni got a jumpstart on your marriage at AU (or EMC, or, if we go way back, BCC. By the way, I want to personally congratulate all of our living alumni from Battle Creek College for what must be a strict adherence to Dr. Kellogg's health program!).

I hope you will allow me some latitude here with the issue's theme. I AM a newlywed. That's my wife and me in one of our wedding photos; I'm the one holding the flowers—I am SO whipped!

Besides, it's springtime—nature's time of renewal, rebirth, regeneration. The season epitomizes youthful hopes and desires,



Ivan and Brynja Davis

"keep it real, dawg"

reminding us of our earliest and perhaps most cherished longings. But spring is also a time when the snow melts to liquid dirt, when March comes in like a lion, smelling and pacing like the one in your local zoo, and when spring fashions make you realize you've put on enough weight to earn an Oprah makeover.

Springtime is schizophrenic, like a good country song. The season inspires and conspires, and love, too, makes us dream and hurt, crying either way.

So I'll join the good company of Sting and

Shakespeare, and admit my wife's "eyes are nothing like the sun" (No, honey, that doesn't mean that when I said your eyes were an amazing amber hue . . .).

And that is the truth.

Here's what you'll find in this issue. Our center feature is written by a pair of students, Erin and Aaron (amazingly, not pseudonyms), who give us a humorous and revealing look at the AU dating climate. What they say about romance at Andrews may surprise you.

In a wonderfully personal and thoughtful piece, Ann Gibson, Dean of the School of Business, writes about finding love and marriage after turning 50. Ann's experience proves that love moves us regardless of age.

Also, Sue Murray, assistant professor of family studies, and Glenn Russell, assistant professor of religion, treat the topic of campus love from two somewhat divergent perspectives: Sue looks at some of the psychological dimensions associated with dating and marriage, while Glenn examines romantic love from a theological viewpoint.

And finally, Andrews student Leah Vetne writes about how one professorial marriage on campus has managed to bring their relationship directly into the classroom through their team-taught course, *Literature of Love*. Leah's article makes us hopeful that formerly bitter campus enemies may one day teach a course on conflict resolution.

So as you peruse this issue, I hope that you wax nostalgic, that your heartbeat quickens, and that your hopes spring eternal. After all, those are the experiences that remind us how "love covers all offenses" (Proverbs 10:12).

And that'll "keep it real, dawg."

~ Ivan Davis is assistant professor of English and the new editor of FOCUS.