

# THE COLLECTIVE CHRONICLE

## An Ode to Valentines

Christmas, birthdays and most recently Easter, are days of celebration that we recognise to be worthy of purchasing gifts in the spirit of giving and celebrating Catholic traditions. But there is an imposter in our midst, a holiday with a sinister agenda, lurking beneath the surface waiting to *strike*.

I am of course referring to Valentine's Day. Although this is indeed a holiday of Christian origin, it has since been monopolised by card, chocolate and flower companies. A rather grand idea from the respective marketing teams. An idea which is now used as a source of consumeristic exploitation and creates quite a toxic culture.

Now how ridiculous is it that a few chocolates here and a bouquet of flowers there could add to an annual global spending of 19.6 billion dollars! In fact our very own New Zealand government is spending only two thirds of this a year on education, and considering the speed of our yogas, this is nowhere near enough. I joke, but this sum is bordering absurd.

However, fantastically I believe this year Aquinas reclaimed valentine's day. With an emphasis on showering your friends with love as opposed to your short lived teenage romances. The delivery process with a few shirtless year thirteens was interesting. And finally, with the proceeds of our chocolate hearts going to the heart foundation, we were positively contributing to that 19.6 billion.

Maybe next year we could donate them to a fund for new yogas? No, too selfish? Eh, it's a selfish holiday anyway.

By Anonymous



Autumn is  
An artist who uses  
An oak leaf on which  
To paint a masterpiece.  
- William Allen Ward



## A Milestone of Progression

You throw like a girl. Hold it in, be a man. Over the years these phrases have been a part of our vocabulary. But not anymore.

You may have noticed that the eradication of gender stereotypes is an extremely topical issue at the moment. However, as it is such a societally ingrained issue it is unlikely that any of us think we can make a difference. But our recent reforms at Aquinas prove otherwise.

One rather controversial and highly demanded issue at Aquinas College was the introduction of more unisex uniform rules. After a long 15 years, Aquinas has decided to stop conforming to gender stereotypes. A small step which for many, shows the recognition of a paramount problem.

This was very much due to the drive and persistence of a group of sociology students who worked on this social change for their Level Three NCEA internal. The students learned key skills around how to positively influence

By Amy Rountree and Hannah Mahon

others in order for social change to occur. The report said, "*Particularly over the past year, it has become increasingly evident that students at Aquinas College aren't happy with some elements of the current uniform expectations, namely those surrounding the issue of gender.*"

The change for many students was a recurring and continuous battle. From giving the girls the option to wear the boy's jumper, to allowing boys to have hair past the collar tied up, and to wear a stud in each ear much like girls, Aquinas has now both enforced some of the new school rules and eliminated some of the old.

The debate around uniform issues have been vocalised in the playground for years and it is amazing to see the colleges positive attitude towards students opinions. We now call to the students to appreciate the changes that have been made. We have been listened to! It is now time to do our part and wear our uniform with pride.

## THE QUIZ

*What do you really know?*

1. What is the largest freshwater lake in the world?
2. What Aquinas teacher was held up at gunpoint?
3. Who wrote Sherlock Holmes?
4. When was Saint Thomas Aquinas born?
5. Who was the first President of the United States of America?
6. What band claimed that they were "Bigger than Jesus"?
7. What member of One Direction has a silver fern tattoo?

## THE RIDDLE

*I dare you to try and solve me!*

I have cities but no houses,  
I have mountains, but no trees  
and I have water but no fish.  
What am I?

## THE ANSWERS

1. Lake Superior.
2. Ms. Hayes
3. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
4. 1225
5. George Washington
6. The Beatles, specifically John Lennon
7. Harry Styles

Riddle: A map

## Are you passionate about writing?

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## Book Review : Legend by Marie Lu

One young adult book that is becoming increasingly popular among the high school age bracket is Legend, written by Marie Lu. And rightfully so. The New York Times best-selling novel is an extremely gripping read, bound to keep you entranced and turning the pages.

Set in a futuristic America under the rule of a Republic, the story is told by two fifteen-year-olds. They come from drastically different backgrounds, giving the book a unique sense of contrast. June, a prodigy at the elite Drake University, meets Day, the countries most wanted criminal, when June goes undercover to find her brothers murderer.

The two form an unlikely alliance but when June realises that there may be a connection between Day and her brother's murder, her life is completely changed. When June starts to question what the Republic says and begins to doubt everyone around her, she realises that Day may be the only person she can trust.

Both characters are strong and independent which we found really refreshing compared to other young adult books where the main characters become completely helpless as soon as they meet a love interest. Both Day and June brought out the best of each other, while still retaining their personal values.

What we found most interesting is that the two of them come from extremely different upbringings and face different challenges yet still have a lot of the same core beliefs and personality traits. They both exhibit the importance of street smarts as well as book smarts. You would assume that coming from wealth and poverty, they would have opposite beliefs but Marie Lu eradicates this stereotype, showing that money doesn't buy intelligence.

We would recommend this book to any teenager who is a fan of gripping dystopian novels like that of 'The Hunger Games' or 'Divergent'. There are many important lessons that can be learnt by reading this book, particularly that of eliminating stereotypes, a lesson that for teenagers growing up in a multicultural boiling pot is a key lesson to learn.

By Issie Dekker and Jessica Wylie

## Opinion: A Thought About Anger

What makes you angry? personally, many things annoy me; pen clickers, loud chewers, ignorant litterers. By just thinking about these things I am easily absorbed in undeniable rage.

What makes you angry?

Be careful answering this question. I believe that working yourself into a rage answering this question could lead you to be poisoned by your thoughts.

Our society embraces anger in too many aspects. Be it the common chinwag bonding over things that make two people angry, the negativity of the media, or ranting on social media. Now don't get me wrong, I need to get things off my chest too, but our need to publicise these poisonous outbursts is what is driving our society to the pit of seeking anger.

Interestingly, Iowa State University researchers looked into the emotion of anger. It was found that men between 20 and 40 that can be categorized as "angry men" were one and a half times more likely to die 35 years before those categorized "calm men".

It seems this simple emotion has tremendous control over our lives, but why do we let it?

It is rather pathetic that when we think about our pet peeves our brains are drawn to nose blowers or attention seekers. It is rather unlikely that you will hear anyone say "*inequality between demographics, that's what really gets me mad*" or "*it makes me angry thinking about the difference in the quality of life between first and third world countries*".

I believe our society needs to be educated on the power of anger, and converting this anger into passion. But for a different reason than bonding or venting. Our first world problems are nothing worth breaking a sweat over. We need to become outraged by injustice and convert this into passion. We should instead be harnessing this powerful emotion to make some serious change.

So instead of getting angry at the world for not doing things the way you want, first check if you are taking action to help change the world. Nothing comes of simply ranting about something that makes you mad, actions are what have and will change the world. What makes you angry, and what will you do about it?

By Teri Dawson