

Features

3

The Road to Love

The friend zone: a place where many would not like to be during this time of the year. Valentine's Day is nearing and while many would like to spend it with their significant other, some may not have one. Although deemed as a notorious place to be, the friend zone may not be that bad after all.

JADE LIEU
FEATURES EDITOR

MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION

SYLVIA WINSTON
FEATURES EDITOR

F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "There are all kinds of love in this world but never the same love twice." Little did he know how heavily his words would resonate in for the 21st century's youth.

Young love is a topic of debate since no one can really define it, other than as a sentiment of pure attachment. Even more so, one's love for a significant other is belittled by many parents. Parents question the ability of teenagers to know what love is and denote this sentiment as temporal.

Unfortunately, young love is not always depicted by the world as true love. Infatuation and attraction are a few of the synonyms adults tend to use when describing the notorious emotion.

"Love is based on perception. Adults will never understand how teenagers view love and teenagers will never understand how adults perceive love," junior Mayra Aguilar said.

With Valentine's Day around the corner, young love is being put to the test to prove the world that it is true love. For most people, Valentine's Day calls up images of flowers, chocolate, cards, candlelit dinners and other expressions of l'amour. But what is this crazy little thing called love? Are there differences between what young couples who are in love for the first time do compared to committed couples who renew their affections? And what about those who find first or second (or third) love later in life?

This can only be answered by the mystery that is love.

VOYAGES WITH FRIENDSHIPS

CAROLINE REN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Popular media, from music to books to television shows and movies, frequently characterizes romantic relationships as desirable or an end goal. Even fictional plotlines that don't revolve around love, like those of action movies, still manage to insert side flings and gratuitous kissing. As a result, society has been conditioned to rank romantic above platonic love, thus creating the concept of the friend zone.

This imaginary area designated for people whom an individual has no current or projected interest in dating has come to carry a negative connotation. While being rejected surely does not feel wonderful, being "just friends" with someone shouldn't be viewed as horrendous, either. Meaningful platonic relationships are just as important as romantic ones, and growing up and maturing involves accepting other people's decisions. Overreacting resentfully to being placed in the friend zone may signify a lack of readiness to date in the first place; it shows that a person has trouble respecting the fact that not everything will go their way.

Ultimately, each individual must delve into introspection to examine whether they really are prepared for a relationship. They should follow their own desires rather than simply pursue romance due to media constantly telling them what they should want. Everyone moves through life at their own pace, and when it comes to romance, sometimes it's better to take it slow, start out as friends or move on.

THE PERKS OF BEING SINGLE

JOSEPH NEY-JUN
STAFF WRITER

S.A.P. stands for, "Single and Proud." People who call themselves this do not believe that there is anything wrong with not having a significant other, if anything they believe that there are benefits to being single. According to by the Huffington Post, single people are more likely to find work, get more sleep, and even exercise more.

Having a significant other can be time consuming. To make a commitment to another person, one might give up the things that they enjoy to do, such as not watching the new episode of a TV show, or missing out on going to a big game. It can be a big distraction or a person to have someone else that they think of maybe more than they think about yourself. If a person is single, they can have more time for hobbies, their studies and friends and they can remain more focused on school.

There is a saying that goes, "Before you can be with someone else, you have to be able to be alone."

FRIENDSHIP

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and SAMMIE CHEN

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