

# Not taking things for granted may soften sudden change

I realize this is the season for lovers to demonstrate their affection by declaring undying love, faithfulness and commitment to one another, with a bouquet of roses, box of candy or a piece of jewelry thrown in for good measure. Well - get your handkerchiefs out for this one - I don't expect to be a recipient of any of the above, but I know I'm loved. Roses live for just a little while. Candy is soon devoured, and jewelry, if it isn't real diamonds, or real gold or silver, what can I say! I know you're saying it's the thought that counts and you are so right, but who's thinking these days. Most of us unconsciously take many

things for granted. I was in the Hamilton Mall last week. I met a friend. We had lunch together. We were talking girl talk. She mentioned how hard it was for her to find jeans to fit. She declared that 40 percent of her and her daughter's wardrobe consisted of jeans. The reasoning being they required little care, they wore them everywhere, dressed them up or down to fit all occasions. That declaration made me start to think! I looked around at the crowd and suddenly realized at least eight out of every 10 persons, male and female, were wearing jeans - me too. This got me to thinking! What if...

1. They stop making jeans? (Only overalls for farmers.)
2. Halt the production of sneakers and went back to shoes you had to polish and half sole when they began to wear? They stop making flip-flops?
3. What if they stop making chemicals for the hair? No wigs or hair pieces.
4. There were only three shades of lip stick, face powder or blush - light, medium or dark.
5. I saw a young couple embracing and kissing in front of an eatery. Suppose this act of public affection became a misdemeanor that would get you a fine. Ha!
6. A limit on the places women could wear pants. Poor me! I'd never go anywhere.
7. The only gyms would be in schools. If you wanted to work out you would have to do what they used to do back in the day - walk, swim, ride a bicycle, climb trees...whatever!
8. When going for an interview, there would a dress code.
9. Men would not be served in ANY eatery with a hat on, much less on backwards.
10. No female over 30 could wear a bikini! Ha, ha, ha.

Well I'm here to tell you. Changes could come anytime. Stay on your toes. Who would have thought we would really have a black president this soon, or a very foolish, deranged young woman would opt to have 14 children at the expense of others. How dare she! But she did. On second thought maybe she is not deranged. Just smart enough to get what she wanted regardless of how she did it. I can say for sure she had a lot of nerve. Taxpayers won't have to bear the burden too long. Before you realize it there will be a book, a movie and personal appearances with her litter. As I speak she is being interviewed on Date Line. So my dears, a word to the wise, take nothing for granted! Like I say if you don't then a little change won't hurt so bad. Happy Valentines Day! Love Ya!

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## Times to Remember

By Lois Smith



## Mock Trial

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to Bergen County. The 1996 Mock Trial Team won the state competition. Higgins said Cape May County has been well represented in the past. "Usually Middle or us have been the hot teams. (Middle) won the state two years ago," Higgins said, adding that sometimes the local competition is tougher than what they encounter at the state level. "Sometimes there is better competition at the county level. Some counties have their perennials, and some schools prepare more than others," he said. This year the Mock Trial competition is dealing with a civil case of copyright infringement involving Internet music sites and a peer to peer network of exchanging music. Music was being copied with no authorization and no restitution to the owner company, which claims the user site owes them money for the use of songs. They are seeking monetary compensation damages. According to Higgins, each team must prepare a plaintiff's and defense case. Higgins said the students came into a case like this with more background information than their advisors, including Higgins, county assistant prosecutor Barbara Bakley-Marino and Alice

Barnes Vasser, a special education teacher and former paralegal. "They know all about this technology. We are all novices in this," he said. Higgins said the Law Center is good about picking cases that are topical. "A few years ago it dealt with E.Coli in a burger restaurant, like the Taco Bell and spinach cases," he said. Twenty Lower Cape May students make up the Mock Trial Team, including jurors. "The jurors are there to complete the mock presentation. They are there to learn and don't have a role in the outcome of the case, but they are learning about Mock Trial and will move up a chain," he said. Higgins said this year's team is unusual with having a freshman attorney, Tyler Hienkel. "It's unusual to have someone that young with that ability and poise. We're fortunate to have him three more years," Higgins said. The team also includes two freshman witnesses who play an ex-80s rocker and a Brooklyn streetwise kick former hacker. "It's a combination of acting role-playing as well as the legal element. They have to understand what their role requires of them," Higgins said. Higgins said lawyers Susan

Booth and Becca Crossan also add to the team's presentation, describing Booth as "poised" and articulate. Crossan is an experienced team member and Higgins said it was "her turn to shine." "We have competent lawyers and outstanding witnesses. I feed off what they want to do. They are very highly motivated and cooperative...easy to coach. They are willing to accept criticism and apply suggestions," Higgins said of his team. The Mock Trial Team attracts some of the best and brightest students at the high school level. Higgins described Mock Trial as a truly academic competition, and he said it was nice to see Lower Cape May students finding success while going against high-powered school systems. "It's nice to see our kids can compete with anyone in state," he said. Higgins said he knows of 10 former Mock Trial Team members who are either in law school or practicing law. "Of three Gorman children, the last one is taking the bar in June. Two are practicing lawyers. One former member is now a clerk for Judge (Raymond) Batten and one

former participant is finishing law school. Another, Jason Towns is practicing in the D.C. area," Higgins said. Lower competed at the county level with Middle Township, Wildwood Catholic and Ocean City in the month of January. Lower and Middle ended up tied with records of 4-2, and competed head to head on Feb. 5 for the county championship. They left the high school at 6:30 a.m. this morning and are scheduled to compete against the Cumberland County champion in the morning, and if they win, will compete again in the afternoon against a finalist - to be determined - for the South Jersey championship. If successful they would go on to state competition in March. The Lower Cape May Regional Mock Trial Team consists of: Lawyers: Susan Booth, Tyler Hienkel, Taylor Smith and Becca Crossan; Witnesses: Brooke Parker, Jamie McDowell, Taylor Vendetta, Frank Hienline, Amanda Axelsson, Nismah Osman and Rebecca Holden; and Jurors: Davante Crews, Katie Pierce, Haley Hennessy, Rhianon Nicas, Luis Limon, Cara Aguado, Cody Bryan, Phil Falso and Allyson Cook.

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