

Happy Valentine's Day

Things we do for love

by Kelly Walsh & Valerie Hammond
staff writers

Last year my boyfriend came to my dorm with a box of roses for me. There were only five in the box, but I didn't really notice the odd number until the lead singer of a local band at Cuppachinos asked for me by name from the microphone. He gave me the sixth rose and sang "Can't Help Falling in Love with You," previously sung by Elvis Presley.
Kathy Garnavish, 04, Plastics Engineering

to do with them. I put them into a big bowl and had a huge bouquet.
Stephanie Falcone, 04, Political Science

I made a perfect Valentine's Day picnic for my girlfriend one year. We had a romantic dinner that I cooked myself, on a red blanket covered in rose petals on the living room floor. After dinner we had her favorite, strawberry cheesecake, that I made with a little help from my favorite granny.
Mike Downey, 06, Plastics Engineering

My mother and father were fighting, and my father left before their dinner date. I went out and picked up another dozen roses for my mom and treated her and my girlfriend to the best restaurant in Butler.
Ryan Parker, 04, MIS



I don't have any sweet stories from previous Valentine's Days, but this year I am taking the backseat on planning V-Day romance. All I know is that I had better be ready at 6:30 p.m. sharp and plan on missing all of my classes the next day.
Matt Meyer, 10, Bio/Psych

When I was in fourth grade, a boy named John gave me a life-size Valentine's card. On the front it said "Happy Valentine's Day." On the inside was a map he had drawn from my house to his.
Katie Przepyszny, 02, LA

The night before Valentine's Day, I went outside my girlfriend's dorm, braving the bitter cold, and built a frosty V-Day snowman complete with a message of my love. It said, "I love you, Edie." Not only was she surprised when she saw it the next morning, everyone on campus had seen it and was talking about it. Let me tell you, anything that you do for girls like that they love. Little things mean a lot. Those little things really add up. Today we are happily married with a baby girl.
Scott Archer, 06, EET

My junior year in high school, my boyfriend was totally broke. He bought construction paper and pipe cleaners and made flowers. He put them in my room, my locker, and my car. When I gathered them up, there were so many that I didn't know what

One Valentine's Day my impoverished boyfriend showed up at my house with a big heart-shaped rice crispy treat that he made all by himself.
Susie Inman, 06, Marketing

My boyfriend, Jake, showed up at my house, and, to my surprise, gave me ten hours to prepare for a week long trip in Florida. He paid for the entire trip. Needless to say we are still together.
Staci Shawgo, 07, Psych

One year my boyfriend wrote me a song. We went out to a restaurant, the same one that we had gone to on our first date. While we were waiting the 30 minutes for our table, we went out to the car where he gave me a dozen, long stem red roses, got out his guitar and sang me a song that he had written for me.
Liz Cho, 02, DUS

When I was a senior in high school, the girl that I was seeing gave me a goldfish with a big red heart sticker on the bowl and baked me a ton of different kinds of cookies.
Danny Walsh, 04, Business

I got my girlfriend's locker combination and put two roses in it along with a poem that I had written. That night we went out to Spinner McGee's where I gave her a dozen roses.
Joe Stazer, 02, Accounting

Just before Valentine's Day, my boyfriend had his wisdom teeth out. I, of course, had to baby him and nurse him back to health. On Sunday night, I had a Valentine's Day dance. He surprised me by picking me up with a dozen red roses in hand and taking me to the dance. I was so surprised. I didn't think he could go.
Christine Kleck, 02, COMMBD

Warm Wishes and Sloppy Kisses

"Good Morning Boy," Thanks for making my trips to Bruno's MUCH more interesting...and hotter...B-Call Love, "Perry Munchkin"

Hey, Bongos— Thanks for all your support last week! Love ya all, Sweet Cake

To Ayo, my best friend, Words cannot express my love for you and the relationship we share. My feelings cannot reach the highest peak because they're already there. Others cannot relate because we are just the perfect pair. Thank you for all the effort you have shown as a true friend. For a true friend these days, is very rare. Always and Forever, Danielle

To Primetime, my boo, You have been there for me in so many ways. I feel like I can talk to you, laugh with you, or joke with you about anything. Thanks for being a true friend to me since we first met. You are a rare jewel and I will treasure our friendship forever. Love Always, Danielle

To M.E.Y., You are worthy of all the praises. I love you because you first loved me. Thanks for filling the empty space in my heart. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, your best friend.

Bongo wishes everybody a Happy Valentine's Day! Nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

To Ultimate Praise, Jesus is the reason for every season. He is also the reason why we have all come together to sing his praises. I just want you all to know that I thank you for allowing God to direct you here to Behrend. Our choir would not have been as anointed, or blessed, nor as spiritual if you hadn't followed his plan. God Bless you all and I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. Love, Your President

To 2nd Floor Lawrence, Dale, and Jermaine, I love y'all to death. You guys have been the most lovable, outgoing group of freshmen since my class. Ha! Ha! I will miss you all too much when I graduate. Stay sweet and don't ever change. Happy Valentine's Day. Love Always, Danielle

Gretchen (Jabroni) Happy Valentine's Day. Bye, Bye Bye! Love, Scully

To Tijero, I am making up for last year. I just wanted you to know that you are cool with me and I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. One more thing, "shake your booty in the name of JESUS!" Love, Danielle

To Tonya, Adrian, Buena, Liz, Sankar, Thank you all for the times when I needed transportation. You guys always came through. I really appreciate it. Happy Valentine's Day. Love, Danielle

The story of '00: Bobo, table, cereal, no no — I'd rather be busy with you than anywhere else — J

The many histories of Valentine's Day

by Christine Kleck
staff writer

Valentine's Day is right around the corner. With all of the "love in the air" and conversation hearts being exchanged from sweetheart to sweetheart, many of us tend to forget, (or just don't know) the real reason for this February 14th holiday.

Although there are many versions of the origins of Valentine's Day, these are the most popular reasons that love is in the air during this time of year, according to John Shepler in his book, *Writing in a Positive Light*.

This first origin is said to be a favorite of many environmentalists. The romantic and the "I'm sick of winter" side of an individual is said to most likely be present inside of us around the middle of February (February 14th). These romantic feelings tend to draw us to cuddle with our sweethearts around cozy fires.

The "I'm sick of winter" feeling tends to create a new energy in us to love others and to prepare for the coming of the new season of spring. The colors of Valentine's Day (red and white) are said to come from the new red spring tulips that are supposed to start blooming in the snow around the middle of February.

Many Christians believe in a second origin of Valentine's Day. They claim that we owe our valentine traditions to St. Valentine, a priest in Rome during the rein of Emperor Claudius II in the third century.

Claudius was said to be very frustrated at the time, because no one was willing to volunteer to expand the army of Rome. The men of the 260s, believed in the phrase "make love, not

war." No one wanted to leave their wives and families to join the army, for fear that they may never come back.

Emperor Claudius ran out of patience, so he used his powers to ban engagements and marriages in Rome. He thought that if the men couldn't marry then they would have to join the army. This angered many young people. They continued to get married in secret, but only if they could find a

priest that was willing to break the law by marrying them.

Saint Valentine was one of a few who supported the young people. He met with couples in private areas, lit only by candlelight (this is said to be one of the origins of the "romantic candlelit dinner for two"). The two would

exchange vows in silence. Eventually, Valentine was discovered and brought before the Prefect of Rome who sentenced him to death. As he waited to be executed, his friends came to the jail with flowers and notes of encouragement.

One of his most supportive friends talked with Valentine for hours to try to keep his spirits up. The two fell completely in love with each other. On the day he was to die, February 14, 269 AD, Valentine wrote her one final note of thanks for her friendship and loyalty and signed it, "Love from your Valentine."

In 496, Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor Valentine as Saint Valentine. As the years went by, February 14th became the date for exchanging love messages, and St. Valentine became the patron saint of lovers. Sending poems and simple gifts such as flowers and candy marks this date.



Cupid's arrows or Hallmark's cards?

Guys & girls give opinions on the day of lovers

By Traci Hamm & Tracy Jones
Staff writers

February 14. What does this day mean to people? It's a common assumption that girls love this holiday as much as guys loathe it. It's time to turn that around because, contrary to popular belief, men and women alike have similar opinions about Cupid and his arrows.

There are guys who think that this day is made for being with the one you love. "Valentine's Day is a day to show your appreciation and go that extra mile to show your loved one how much you care," says Chris Chimera, 06 EET.

Some think that it only counts if you have a special someone. Patrick Kramer, 06 Management, had this to say, "If you're not in a relationship, it doesn't mean anything. It's a holiday for couples." Jim Buzzard, 06, EET, agreed, saying, "Valentine's Day is depressing if you don't have someone special to share it with."

Many girls feel that it is a day for being with the one you love. "I love Valentine's Day. It's a happy holiday—

unless you're alone," Mackenzie Baird, 06, Pol Sci.

The general consensus is that Valentine's Day is not as important as everyone thinks. It is simplicity that matters. This holds true for many people. According to Carrie Spaulding, 08, Bio, "All I want is flowers." As for Jamie Lewis, 06, Pol Sci, "It's overrated. All a girl needs is a box of chocolates and a stuffed animal."

Dustin McKay, 04, Business, believes that "Valentine's Day is a day girls made up so that guys have to get them more stuff."

He also thinks that "It's a good way to get out of trouble by going someplace nice."

All in all, Valentine's Day is a day to appreciate the people that you love. "Even if you don't have someone to spend it with, you can spend it with your friends," said Allison Bear, 04, Education. Whether you're spending

Whether you are spending Valentine's Day alone or with that special someone, remember to appreciate all those you love, or listen to the advice of Sandy Austin, 02, Bio: "It's a good day for nookie."



Candy hearts: they're for more than sucking

by Leanne Acklin and Angela Majoris
staff writers

Thinking about sending your sweet thang a mushy valentine with some disgustingly cute message? Instead, why not send the one you love (or at least, the one you can stand the most) a sweet 'tilt note—literally.

Enter conversation candy. From candy hearts to jelly beans, these bite size words can speak volumes. A little frosting is all that would be needed to take these words and stick 'em... straight into a piece of suitable card making material, like construction paper for example. If you're not in the card-making mood, at least join the honey and get creative juices flowing with the sweets (that's to say, rearrange the words and come up with cute messages...) Now that's a tasty way to share some time, a smile, and maybe even a giggle this Valentines day. Enjoy!

The following table has been constructed from a combination of Necco and Farley's conversational hearts. If applied to the correct situation, the "conversational" part of the hearts may be quite useful.

February's Favorite Fourteen

#1 "For You"—may be used if the person you are most attracted to is dense enough that, if you handed the heart directly to him/her, she/he still might not understand that you mean for them to keep it.

#2 "Be good"—this heart may be useful if your insensitive significant other happens to leave you for a night of partying with friends.

#3 "I do"—is a wonderful way to answer numerous "Do you?" or "Does anyone" questions without speaking.

#4 "More"—this heart could be useful for the increase of numerous things...from asking for money to encouraging extra food on your plate at Dobbins.

#5 "Love him"—offering this heart to someone may be useful if you happen to be a male suffering from the over-attentiveness of a certain person, (otherwise known as a stalker). Bring your best friend along, give your stalker the heart...maybe she'll get the idea.

#6 "Let's kiss"—self explanatory, but after that first date it may be easier to initiate things this way, instead of running face first into the door after waiting to long to say goodnight.

#8 "Yes, dear"—this heart was designed for those who want to keep themselves out of trouble, or for the ones that are so whipped they get tired of saying it.

#9 "My way"—a strongly suggestive heart, and daringly demanding. A nice way to sugar coat that whatever the receiver of the heart is doing "their way" is obviously "the wrong way."

#10 "Get Real"—one of several "shut down" hearts, that take care of saying "no" to "Will you be my Valentine?" while amazingly leaving you feeling guiltless because you kept in the spirit of the holiday.

#11 "Be my icon"—a nice and easy way to say, "I want to stalk you."

#12 "It's true"—the confession heart. With this you can say, "Umm...while you were gone I...and everything they said that I did really happened," but it will all turn out okay because you confessed so tactfully by using this sweet candy phrase. This heart may also be used on Jerry Springer in a special "I stole my boyfriend's, ex-lover's, midget" episode.

#13 "Ask me"—did rumors start about what you might have done at a party the weekend before V-day? If you catch someone inquiring, slip them this heart so that you might have the chance to tell the real story (or one made up to save face).

Fun combinations

6+9 = if his/her kissing needs to be upgraded
3+4 = if kissing isn't enough
12+3 = they don't believe your story
13+4 = I'm the teacher's pet
10+x = a creative fill-in-the-blank game that may enhance the V-day celebration
4+1 = the upside of being single

What's next? Candy hearts have entered the information age with the addition of "page me," "fax me" and "e-mail me" hearts. Now there's a whole new way the one you want can be virtually yours.

