

FEATURES

Website of the Week

by Christine Piccola
staff writer

Have you ever gone to send a card for someone's birthday, anniversary, or for a holiday, and then realized that by the time you would actually get the card, fill it out, and mail it, the date would be past? Try e-greetings-online cards that arrive in a person's e-mail box just moments after they are sent. Not only are they fast, but they save on the cost of cards since most of them are free. And, you'll never have to buy stamps again. It is as simple as choosing from one of these sites, or the thousands of others on the web today.

Blue Mountain Arts (www.bluemountain.com) is one of the most popular online greeting card sites. They offer e-cards for any holiday imaginable, and others for any reason you could ever think of. Some categories include 3-D art, women, love, re-

ligion, and teens. Not only is there a diverse selection of occasions, but you can also send cards in 8 different languages. The cards come with animated graphics and catchy music, which load quickly. This is by far the most used site, and for a good reason.

You can also try Care-2-Make-A Difference (www.care2.com). This is an eco-friendly site which allows nonprofit environmental organizations to profit from your use of the site. There you can send free photo or picture e-cards. Items can also be purchased from the shopping section. The site donates 10% of its revenue from the banner ads and product sales. Some groups that benefit from this site are the Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Federation.

Want to send someone a Dear John letter, but don't want to write it yourself? C-Ya's Relationship Closure Cards (www.c-ya.com) writes them for you! Choose one from 23 different languages, or with various mu-

sic, text, and color options. Then click on *Specials* to pick a breakup card. You get the same effect without the hassle of writing the letter yourself.

Don't have the money to buy an actual present for your friend? Go to www.virtualpresents.com, and choose from a variety of "gifts." You can pick anything from a Porsche to a diamond, from a turtle to a showgirl. Your friends will appreciate the thought behind the "gift" and your creativity in finding it. And you'll save money.

All of the e-greetings sites on the web today have something different to offer. Whether it's Blue Mountain with cards for anything imaginable or C-Ya with its online Dear John letters, there is something for everyone. So when your best friend's birthday comes up, or when you just want to say hello and good-bye, check out these sites and have some online fun.



DICK and Jane



Dear Jane,

My boyfriend and I got engaged, and my dad is flipping out. My mom is not too thrilled either. We have been together two years, and I love him a lot. Everything is right! How can I convince my parents???

Half-Way to the Alter

Dear Half-Way,

I will not say don't get engaged; I know better than to try to talk anyone out of that sort of thing. Besides, that's not what you asked. Just remember, two years is really not that long. Maybe that's why your parents are upset. No doubt, in their lifetimes, they've seen many people get married too quickly and end up in a nasty divorce (and with a whole mess of kids.....). Parents these days live in fear of their children getting knocked up and leaving them to become parents AGAIN. Hopefully, since you're in college, you are not considering kids yet. Tell your parents that. It might help. Also, perhaps a long engagement (two or three years) is in order. That would cool your parents off, and give you plenty of time to make sure your relationship is everything you think it is. If you really love this guy, then there should be no rush. Plus, you'll have more time to save for the wedding and "married life" (or did you plan on

living with your parents?).

Jane

Dear Jane,

My girlfriend and I have dated for over a year, and we have sex. The thing is, she doesn't like it! She just doesn't. She says it's not me, and that she has never enjoyed sex with anyone. We still have sex because she says she knows it makes me happy. But it is NO FUN when I know she does not like it, and I am beginning to think it IS me. I have been with a few other girls, and they all liked sex. What am I doing wrong? What can I do???

Unhappy Guy

Dear Unhappy Guy,

I'm very, very sorry for you and your girlfriend. There are many women out there who do not enjoy sex. (The rest of us should be VERY thankful.) Usually, this sort of problem is psychological. There is a good chance that your girl does not enjoy sex because she has deep-rooted bad feelings about it. Often, a religious upbringing or a past relationship could turn a girl off to sex, especially if she feels bad about her body. In an extreme case, she may have been the victim of sexual abuse. Don't assume that this is the sort of thing that she would share with you; many girls and women harbor such severe feelings of guilt (since they think that it was their

fault) that they never tell anyone about being sexually abused. It may be obvious, so do not ask her, "hey, do you hate sex because you were raped or abused?" Be supportive and understanding. It is probably not her fault. Another possibility is that she has never been with a guy who wanted to make her happy; it is so sad that many guys just bang away at it and pay no attention to the girl they're having sex with. By the time she got to you, she may have been used to "getting it over with" and she does not expect anything different. Does she like to be touched? Does she like kissing? Do things 90% slower and see what happens. Maybe stop having sex for a while and just cuddle (girls like that sort of thing). If she doesn't even like to be touched, think long and hard. Keep in mind, you could be the greatest guy in the world, and she might never enjoy sex. So, if you stay with her, you may never enjoy sex again.

Jane

(PS- It's not you.)

If you have questions about your relationship or sex (and who doesn't???) write to Jane at dickandjane@wildmail.com, or put your letters/questions in the Beacon mailbox marked "Dear Jane." All correspondences are confidential. As many letters will be answered as possible.

Down To You needs to get down to earth

by Kelly Walsh
staff writer

If you are looking for a romantic, never-ever-would-happen comedy, *Down To You* is just for you. But make sure you go during the day, or better yet to the dollar theatre on 50 cent Tuesday, because this movie tries a "love at first sight" theme which should have been a little more realistic. The movie is geared for the romantic 12-year-old girl who doesn't realize what real love is.

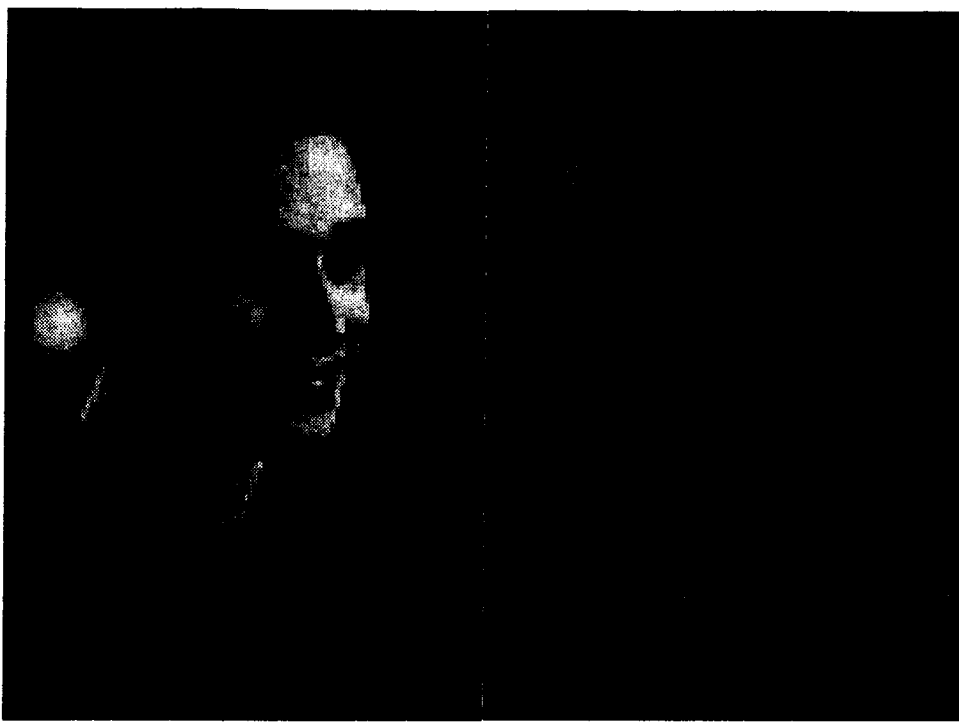
A I Connelly is played by the oh-so-hot Freddie

Prince, Jr., and just looking at him was the best part of the movie. Julia Stiles plays Imogen, the college freshman that Al falls in love with. The film starts right out with these two falling in love, and leaves you wondering what the conflict was in the first place. They are the cutesy couple that everyone hates. The PDAs (public displays of affection), like the way he always holds her hand, along with the

way he constantly talks about her, are just nauseating. In addition, Al lovingly cooks for her at least once a week, and this aspiring chef doesn't settle for spaghetti. And Imogen loves combining her two passions, Al and painting, to create beautiful portraits. The two do not leave each other's side until Imogen has to spend a lonely summer in France.

his girl problems. But since this is the movies, he comes out of the ordeal unscathed. Imogen gets high, yet this has nothing to do with the scene, or for that matter, the movie. Basically, the directing was not up to par.

However, don't get me wrong. I did like the movie, and if I didn't have to sit down and analyze it, I would have liked it a lot more. It had potential to



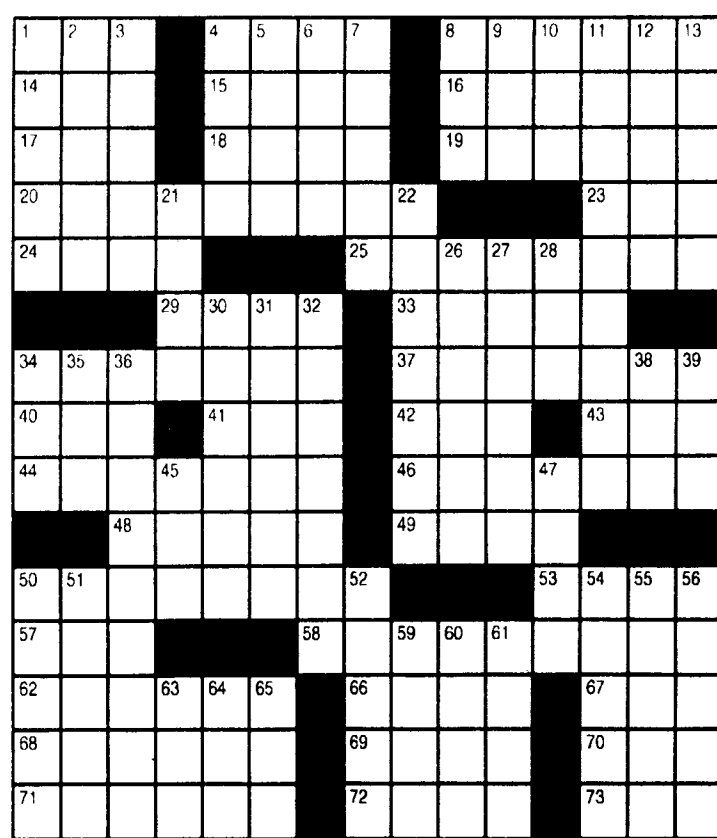
be a hit for the ladies (guys don't let her drag you to this one). But, the little details just don't add up. Al and Imogen are cute together, the way they eat an en-

tire chocolate marshmallow cake before sex, but they cannot hold your attention for an hour and a half. I kept waiting for something big to happen, and it never did. It is a make-you-feel-good-movie by the end, or at least I thought so when leaving. Now I recall it as disturbing. A movie with such a cute couple and a potentially good script somehow turned out so, so bad!

Crossword

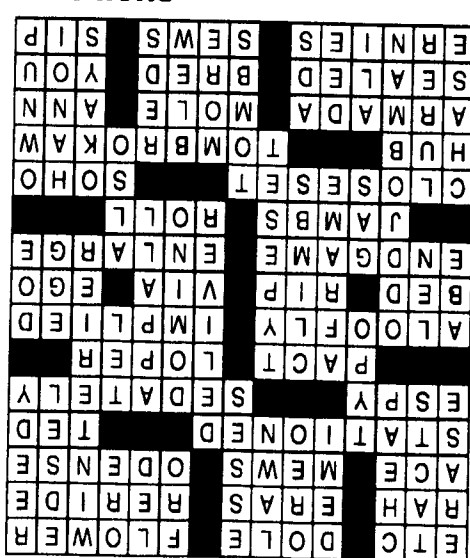
- ACROSS
- List-ending abbr.
 - Pineapple brand
 - Bloom
 - Team cheer
 - Time periods
 - Second spin?
 - Best pitcher
 - Carriageway
 - Danish port
 - Based
 - Newsman Koppel
 - Catch sight of
 - In a dignified manner
 - Treaty
 - Strider
 - Apart
 - Indicated indirectly
 - ___ & breakfast
 - Tear
 - By way of
 - Self-image
 - Final stage of play
 - Swell
 - Door columns
 - Gain momentum
 - Narrowly spaced, like eyes
 - London district
 - Nexus
 - "NBC Nightly News" anchor
 - Fleet afloat
 - Sleeper spy
 - Ms. Landers
 - Securely closed
 - Engendered
 - "She Loves ___"
 - Els and Kovacs
 - Bastes
 - Liquid taste

- DOWN
- Wipe memory
 - Diplomacies
 - Cut-price
 - Moore of "Ghost" trades
 - Cookie choice
 - Mown expanse
 - Wormy shapes
 - Partner of to e.g.
 - Directed
 - Mine vein



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Solutions



- More cold and snowy
- One of the Fords
- Thin-voiced
- Secretarial mistake
- Stand and ___!
- Masquerade mask
- Consternate
- ___ Aviv-Jaffa
- Letter-shaped home
- Ascends
- Prepare for printing
- Justice Fortas
- Sportscaster Berman
- Jack of all
- Easter ___ hunt
- Unknown John
- Helium or argon, e.g.
- Furthermore
- Go after

- Decoy
- Pyramids and mausoleums
- Gives the go-ahead
- Capital of Vietnam
- Confess
- Extra
- Tooted
- Cincinnati nine
- Mr. Baba
- Bad grade
- Classified ___

HAPPENINGS IN ERIE

FEBRUARY 18

JR'S COMEDY CLUB

JAKE JOHANNSEN FEATURING RIK ROBERTS

FEBRUARY 19

JR'S COMEDY CLUB

JAKE JOHANNSEN FEATURING RIK ROBERTS

FORWARD HALL

BANDS: TORN APART, MORNING AGAIN,

EVERYTIME I DIE, HOPE CONSPIRACY