

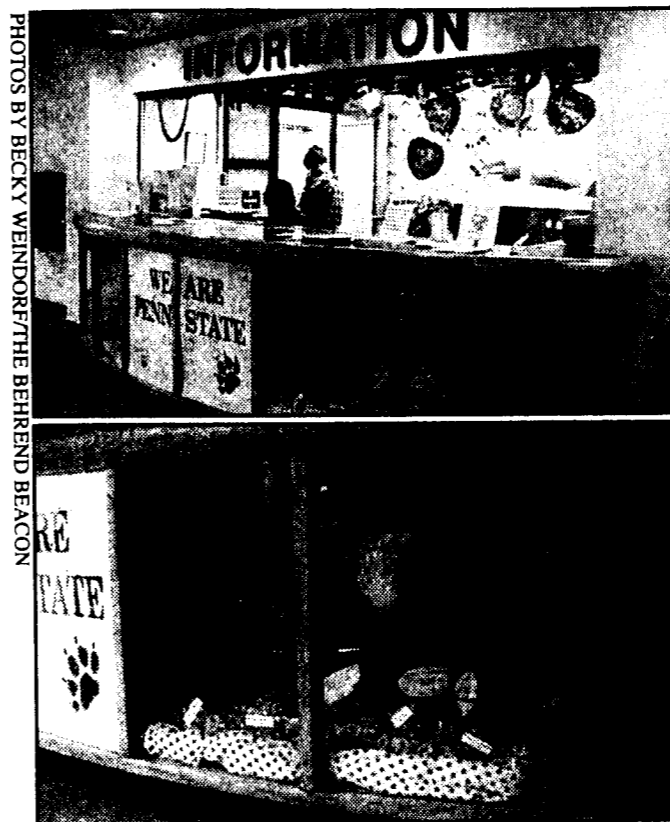
# Valentine's Day is on the way!

Here comes Valentine's Day, anticipated by couples and dreaded by many more. Whether you're celebrating Cupid's Day with your extra-special other half, with friends, or by your sweet self, the Beacon is presenting some great ways to make lov-uh, we mean, make party - for February 14.



PHOTO BY BECCA WEINDORF/THE BEHREND BEACON

At left: Joel Quiggle, a bookstore employee, painted this window in front of the Behrend Bookstore in the Reed Building, in honor of Valentine's Day. Although plenty of students are not sure they're ready to celebrate true love, it's an excuse to bust out the chocolates.



PHOTOS BY BECCA WEINDORF/THE BEHREND BEACON

Top photo: Walking through the Reed Union Building will give you enough hearts and love to make your heart swell - or burst. Here, the RUB desk is decked out for February 14 with red and white decor and plenty of Valentine mylar balloons for sale.

Bottom photo: Displays like this at the RUB desk advertise specials on purchasing both latex and mylar Valentine's Day balloons for that special someone.

## Cupid's Checklist

by Rebecca Weindorf  
romance editor-in-chief

Think Valentine's Day is just a Hallmark holiday? Not exactly. Although Hallmark does have a hand in promoting February 14 through heart-drenched, red-colored, sweet-talking advertising, it is still a celebration of St. Valentine and - what else? - love. If you've got a lover to share it with, then check out possibilities for you and your partner to share on February 14 - and perhaps through the rest of the Valentine weekend.

This is the chance to, well, just to show how much you love your partner, and hopefully make it a habit for the rest of the year, too. Depending on how much (or how little) you want to celebrate, there are plenty of suggestions to make U-Day memorable for both of you.

**\*Just get the flowers.** Whatever he or she wants (guys like flowers, too - I promise). If she wants daisies or chrysanthemums or even lilies, then go look for them. If he wants different blooms, then start hunting. They don't always have to be red roses (and plus, you'll save on cash if you avoid the traditional long-stemmed blooms).

**\*Invest in some Godiva chocolate,** whether it's in boxed or frozen form. Godiva sells some killer chocolate-raspberry truffle ice cream, along with other gummy flavors. And if you'll be eating the frozen goods on a chilly night, make sure to wrap up in a sweet red fleece blanket with your honey.

**\*Stay in and enjoy what life has to offer** inside four private walls. Remember your favorite CDs, some edible body paint, a little bubble bath, a bottle of bubbly, and two champagne glasses. Only have Styrofoam cups? Then use 'em. No use in investing hard-earned cash for champagne flutes for one night. Oh, and remember to purchase any products necessary in order to prevent post-U-day surprises at the doctor's office. Need a spot to crash? If you're looking at rooms, better reserve now - they're filling up quickly.



\*Okay, so maybe you don't want to stay inside on Valentine's Day and you want to brave Peach Street traffic in order to

have a great time. Make your dinner reservations, like, now. Most places in Erie will take reservations, but the Olive Garden does not. Start calling around to ensure that your romantic tete-a-tete will be less stressful - and hopefully end that way, too.

**\*Got a honey out of town?** Start making up that romantic care package for your out-of-town partner if he or she can't make it home for the holiday. Include your normal sweets and love note, but also send some framed photos of yourself and maybe a thoughtful gift of a favorite CD or preferred cologne.

**\*If you miss the days of writing love notes to each other,** Invest in a quality Barnes and Noble heart-laden journal and start writing to each other. Who knows? If you really hit it off, both of you will look back at the thing and laugh at your puppy love. If it doesn't work out, you can burn the whole thing and not worry about little sheets of paper with your lusty intentions floating around campus.

**\*If you're single, but you've been eyeing someone for the past few months, just ask him or her to go out.** Even if it's a friendly event, at least you'll have a new friend, or a new companion, to discuss how depressed you used to be on Valentine's Day - or how your new companion puts a little sparkle in your eye.

**\*Pop the question.** Any question. A few suggestions: "Want to go out this weekend?" "Wanna get drunk tonight and forget about love?" "Will you marry me?" Okay, the last one is completely, fully cliché, but if you need a damn good reason to do it (and your significant other is getting pretty impatient waiting), this is the best one I can think of.

**\*If you want a cheap way to celebrate with all your buddies, host a party with your significant other and invite couples and singles alike to hook up, snack on conversation hearts and play a few rounds of Twister.** To keep everyone's budget in check, ask your guests to bring an appetizer along, whether it be in solid or liquid form - and keep within the boundaries of Pennsylvania law when serving them.

**\*Not traditional when it comes to...well, anything?** Save U-day for the weekend and go on a day-long road trip...or with overnight accommodations at a swank and trendy hotel. Try Niagara Falls, a mere 1.5 hours away - room rates are usually reasonable and, aside from its tourist trap features lining the roads, you can get to the Falls, Casino Niagara, and numerous dance clubs by foot.

## Surviving the Month of Love

--Nicole Charsar

Super Bowl Sunday has passed. For the next week or so, all you are going to hear about is this day in which Cupid, the miniature angel wearing nothing but a loincloth, pierced someone's heart with his arrow of love. Valentine's Day makes its way around every February 14, bringing along with it hearts and flowers, candy and cards. Everyone runs around proclaiming their love and pledging their eternal allegiance to one another. Well, almost everyone.

"It doesn't really bother me being single on Valentine's Day," said Allison O'Donnell, a sophomore at University Park. "It's so much easier being single right now and not having to worry about someone else that one day. The only thing that does bother me is all the freaking pink and red lovey dovey [stuff] everywhere you look. It's like Cupid threw up."

Yes, Valentine's Day is a day of love, romance and passion, but that doesn't mean that singles can't make the day memorable. You don't need a hot and heavy relationship to enjoy a great day; all you need is the right attitude.

**\*Call up your other single friends** and have a blast together, go out for drinks or dinner. Who ever said that you need a partner to have a good time?

**\*Throw a party** and invite all your single friends for a bash at your place. You always have the potential to meet someone new.

**\*Veg out** if you have had a rough day and just feel like kicking back. Get your favorite foods

and those movies you have been dying to watch.

**\*Treat yourself** with maybe a new outfit or pair of shoes. Do something that will make you feel good.

**\*Meet somebody new** in the personals or maybe someone who has already caught your eye who you were too shy to talk to.

The holiday actually originated in fifth-century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop. For 800 years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year.

Justin Blair, a Behrend junior, comically voiced his opinions on the holiday.

"Well, I think it's a prefabricated holiday," he said. "But," he added with a raised eyebrow and a sly grin, "since the ladies like it, I play along, for the, you know, physical rewards. But seriously, you shouldn't need a certain day to show someone you care. Do something nice every day."

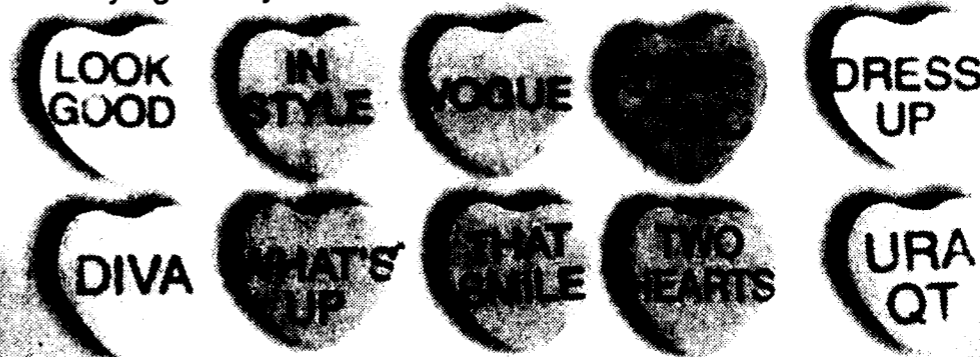
Most importantly, love yourself. If all else fails and you see yourself falling into the Valentine's Day blues, it's a great excuse to eat all that luscious chocolate yourself.

## Sweet candy hearts

Each year, the New England Confectionery Company, NECCO, produces 8 billion candy Conversation Hearts for Valentine's Day.

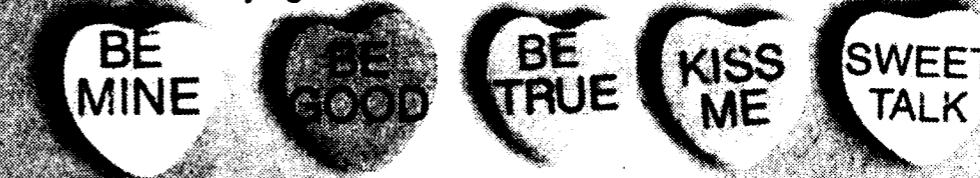
### In fashion for 2002

New sayings this year:



### Always in style

Some original sayings included in the more than 100 produced this year:



### History of an icon

■ **Late 1800s:** "Motto" candies became popular when sayings printed on colored paper were placed in "Goddies" small crisp candies

■ **1866:** Daniel Chase, brother of NECCO's founder, invents process for printing sayings on candy

■ **1902:** First candy hearts manufactured; early candies in various shapes, such as postcards, baseballs, horseshoes

■ **2002:** Spanish-language candy hearts, introduced regionally in 1981, sold nationwide in United States



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# Happy Valentine's Day

- The Beacon Staff