

Happy Valentine's Day

from The Cowl

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You're broke. You love campus. You procrastinated. Never fear.

Love, Providence College style

by Frank Caliva '04 and Lauren Wholley '04

As Valentine's Day creeps up on us like a thief in the night, the need to come up with the perfect date plan becomes increasingly necessary. Your friends have all made arrangements — a romantic dinner for two at Cappriccio's, a moonlit gondola ride on the Providence River, or maybe even a trip to Boston or some other exotic location.

But you — who believes that Valentine's Day is actually a conspiracy of the greeting card industry to pick up lackluster sales between Christmas and Easter — you decided to procrastinate, and now as crunch time fast approaches, you're in desperate need of some good ideas.

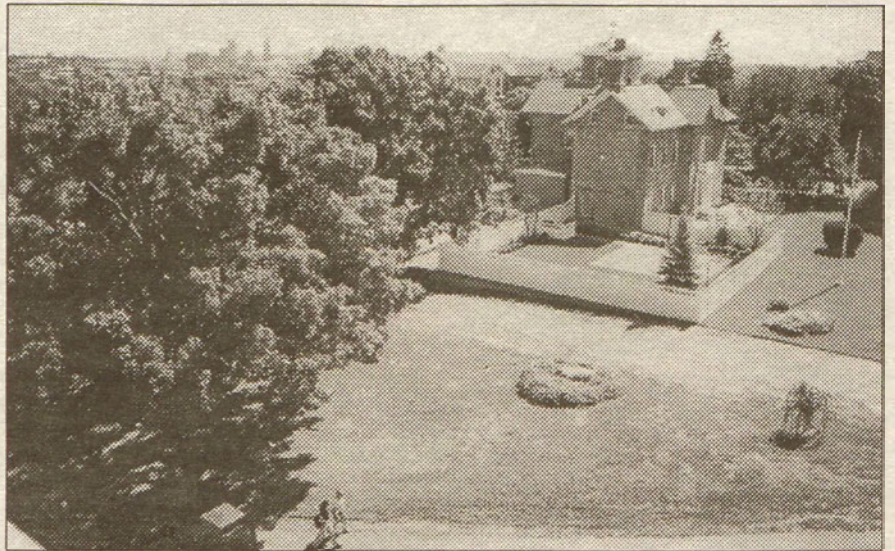
Once again, *The Cowl* has come to the rescue. We'll make sure your honey will never know that you haven't been planning this special day for months. We won't tell — it'll be our little secret.

Flowers — With roses at a premium this time of year, you can expect to pay upwards of 60 bucks a dozen. But let's face it, if you go into a florist the night before V-Day, you're going to get laughed out of the place. Never fear — your special friend will not need to miss out on this critical part of the date. On your way to pick up your date, simply grab your trusty pair of garden shears and head over to the President's Lawn. Carefully snip a few blossoms (well, okay, this time of year you're more likely to find branches than flowers, but it's the thought that counts, right?) and you're all set. Wrap them in cellophane, or even old newspaper, to make an attractive — and cost-effective — presentation bouquet.

Dinner — Well, you tried to make reservations at a classy restaurant downtown, but you were a little too late. Don't despair, because PC has an excellent dining establishment conveniently located right here on campus — Chez Raymond. If luck's on your side, an appetizing entrée like chicken tenders or veal parm will be on the menu, sure to heat up even the most lukewarm start to a romantic evening. As you enter Ray, remember to be classy and use a guest pass for your significant other — sure, you only have a few to spare, but it *is* Valentine's Day, after all. You also might try slipping Fran a little something extra to get that good table in the corner — your date will be impressed by your willingness to spare no expense, plus you'll have easy access to the salad bar.

After dinner date — Entertainment is really the most important part of the evening. Sure, a play at PPAC, or an evening at the symphony is nice, but PC's nightlife has a charm all of its own. Your options are plentiful. Perhaps a hockey game at Schneider Arena? Nothing quite "breaks the ice" like the bone-crunching action of a victory on the rink. To jazz things up, convince one of your friends in the Friar's Club to escort you and your date to the student section and kick out the rowdy fans occupying the front row.

If hockey's not your thing, why not head on down to McPhail's? The popcorn is always free, the pool table is always hot, and you and your date can dance the night away on the old basketball court floor. Or the more adventurous might want to try a late night exploration of the tunnels under lower campus — nothing says



A view for late-night one-on-one from the top of Feinstein.

romance quite like the corridors of a former infectious disease hospital.

Late-night romance — As the perfect Valentine's Day winds down, thoughts turn towards getting more intimate with your special someone. But where to go and "wind down"? *The Cowl's* favorite romantic hot spots on campus include the study carrels on the top floor of Phillips Memorial Library, the laundry room in McDermott (you know what they say about those dryers), or the McVinney foyer (since parietals nix any plans for post-date cuddling).

For the more adventurous, the fourth floor balcony in the Feinstein Center has a breathtaking view of the city. Unfortunately the building tends to be locked after certain hours, so you might have to take your date to a common room in Bedford and just look out the window.

Personally, we'd suggest the Aquinas study lounge as the best spot to end the evening. With comfortable couches and an attractive — albeit non-functional — fireplace, the room just exudes that certain romantic mood every experienced dater is trying to achieve. Plus, the lounge is co-ed and open 24 hours a day so there's no need to fear a parietals write-up in there.

As you walk your date back to the dorm, it's a good idea to stop and reflect on the evening you've had. If you receive a good night kiss as you stand in front of the dorm, you'll know that all your last minute preparations were worth it. As you gaze into each other's eyes, you feel like this holiday was made especially for you and your date, standing alone underneath the dark night's sky...at least until the security guard gets up from the desk and comes outside for a smoke.

Next year, you're going to start planning in November.

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A Very Special Valentine's
Tangents and Tirades
Dating Horror Stories

Commentary brings you a special Valentine's Day *Tangents*, under the protection of anonymity, in daring to expose their most dastardly and damaging dating disasters. If you were wondering what's wrong with us, now you know.

Leave a message after the groan Have you ever dated a girl who constantly demeans you? What about a girl whose parents openly call you "the temporary replacement?" Well, take this girl, throw in three obnoxious friends who can't stand you, your friends or your pet fish. Add an influx of Oprah made-for-TV movies and the complete absence of any alcohol (only used to ease the awkward pain of high school dating). Now, multiply this plague from the local all-girls

Catholic high school by seven months (three of which lacked all communication). Knowing these extenuating circumstances alone justifies my immature decision; however, I must explain that I tried for two months to get a phone call, e-mail, Instant Message, telegram and letter-in-a-bottle to this girl in an attempt to end the eleventh ring of hell known as my sophomore year relationship. I, therefore, had to resort to other means. I must explain that I tried for two months to get a phone call, e-mail, Instant Message, telegram and letter-in-a-bottle to this girl in an attempt to end the eleventh ring of hell known as my sophomore year relationship. I, therefore, had to resort to other means. I called her house on a Tuesday night after baseball practice. Answering machine. Hang up. I do the same on Wednesday night. Answering machine. Hang up. Thursday. You know the drill by now. Finally, on Friday I decided I wanted to rid myself of the leech of this relationship. I got home from practice and called. Again, answering machine. "Hi this is the 'So-and-so's'..." I did the unthinkable. Yep, I broke up with a girl on her answering machine. But, if that's not the kicker, this is: her father intercepted the message and relayed my message to her at dinner later that day.

Even cowgirls get the blues I was 14. He was a cowboy. At least, he was as close as you can get to a cowboy in Connecticut: he wore dark indigo wranglers, worked on a farm, and he had the requisite "damn if I care" attitude. Also, he rode bulls. Well, I wasn't sure if I believed that part completely. Anyway, we went out to a movie, which of course turned out to be "The Birdcage" which I thought was hilarious but just made him very uncomfortable. Then we went to this place where they have country line dancing, and his friends made us do one slow dance, which must have looked super cute because, well, I was 14. (My mother would eventually get remarried in the same dance hall.) Later we "went for a drive" which just got very awkward. We didn't see each other much after that. That is until one summer, a couple years later, at this fair they had a bull riding competition. Guess who was one of the riders: my personal Connecticut cowboy.

Romantic reflux My friend Randy had set me up with one of his friends to go to a formal at their high school. About halfway through the night I began to feel sick, but I did not let it bother me; we danced and talked and overall the night went well. Afterwards, my date drove me home and walked me to the door. Just at the perfect moment for a goodnight kiss, however, I leaned over the railing of my porch and vomited. It turns out I had gotten food poisoning from the restaurant we went to before the dance. My date got a little flustered and quickly left; I never went out with him again, and Randy never set me up with another one of his friends (although he did come to make sure I was ok the next day).

The Place to Go When the Bars Get Boring

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Refreshments and Discussion to Follo



Another dating disaster: Forrest has found that dating is more difficult than a box of chocolates, just as our anonymous writers did.

Baby, you can't drive my car The dating game is never what you would call easy, or exactly comfortable. First dates are even worse. Although, as I'm sure many of you will remember, any relationship activities—for me in high school this consisted mostly of movies and mini-golf—were made far easier by the advent of that miraculous thing called driver's licenses. Of course, this was assuming that there was any one-on-one couple activity, which was seldom. High school dating had more of a pack mentality to it. Nonetheless, I recall a particular first date, nothing really special about it. In fact, everything went off without a hitch—until we got a flat tire going home. Add some rusted screws that made taking the tire off impossible and a lack of AAA, and what do you get? Having to call Dad to save the situation. Not exactly the imagined perfect first date.

Model playa I was a geek in high school. So it was no surprise that my most promising prospect in a while came along at a Model United Nations conference at a state university. I gave a speech with a clever angle, and she passed a note over afterwards (which is how us MUN kids communicated) calling it "poised" or something like that. She may have called me "dashing," but that could be my imagination making the story better over the years. This note in question also had a phone number—she was from my town. So we went to Baskin' Robbins followed by a movie. It was awkward, but nothing out of the ordinary. I'm driving her home, perhaps hoping for a little kiss, when it bombs. I lightly teased her (as is apt to happen for a decent rapport), and she stopped talking to me! Until I apologized. I concluded that this was a wasted venture. I dropped her off, gave a swift hug, and left. Turns out she wasn't so sore about it, as she called the next week (I guess I was supposed to call?). I blew her off. That was that. Quirky follow-up: I worked with her little sister last summer. She was cuter, I hit on her, and soon figured things out.

End scene Never date an actor. The last phone call happened junior year of high school after six months of exclusive dating and two months of serious prom dress searching. He kindly thanked me for a great half-a-year mock theatrical performance. He learned a lot about acting during his time with me, which would be good for his future in theatrics. Oh, and by the way, he learned a lot more during his time with another girl, because he was in fact cheating on me the whole time. One more thing—he hoped that I didn't think I was still going to prom, because if I was waiting for him to pick me up 6 p.m. on May 9th, he wasn't going to show up. Just in case I didn't figure.

Don't go out. Curl up with one of the

Most romantic movies

ever made.

by Dave Quinn '04

Being broke on Valentine's Day is like hitting up Prime Time the night before your DWC final: basically, you're screwed. However, there is always an alternative for the penniless couple on the commercialized day-of-love: the stay-in movie. Cuddle up on the bed, dim the lights, maybe even pop some popcorn, and watch a flick that will make her swoon.

The Classics:

It Happened One Night (1934)

The romantic comedy that began it all. Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert star in this groundbreaking film that set the bar for road-trip movies. Royal heiress Ellie Andrews (Colbert) is forced to choose between her illicit lover and newspaper reporter Peter Warne (Gable), who threatens to expose them. The first movie to ever win Oscars for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Best Screenplay, *It Happened One Night* will truly satisfy.

Casablanca (1942)

More than a movie, *Casablanca* is an institution. The ultimate love story, Humphrey Bogart stars as an American war profiteer content to run his cafe until love inspires him to stand up for the French Resistance. Ingrid Bergman is pitch-perfect, and the final scene is one of the finest scenes in American film history.

Roman Holiday (1953), *Sabrina* (1954) and *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961)

Any Hepburn movie is a treat, and she's not too bad to look at for an hour and a half. The queen of romantic comedies (sorry, Meg Ryan), Hepburn shines in all three films as beautiful, vulnerable, and intelligent characters you just can't help but fall in love with. She won an Oscar for *Holiday*, adapted the Cinderella story in *Sabrina*, and showed the world her sparkling free-spirited attitude was irresistible in *Tiffany's*.

"Love"-ly Musicals:

West Side Story (1961)

Jerome Robbins' *Romeo and Juliet* adaptation is exciting, passionate, and probably one of the best movie musicals ever. *West Side Story* offers a still-topical spin on the classic love story with dynamic and exhilarating results. The music of Leonard Bernstein and the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim come to life in the hands of the cast, scoring backdrops to what is a magical, romantic, and irresistible love story.

Beauty and the Beast (1991)

Disney made no mistake in marketing *Beauty and the Beast* as the "most beautiful love story ever told." Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's songs are perfect, with their clever, perceptive lyrics and catchy, eminently singable tunes beautiful blending. Gorgeous animation and spot-on voice performances tell a classic story. And it's always good to show your girlfriend you're in-touch with your inner child. Or so I've been told.

Moulin Rouge! (2001)

A cinematic experience like you've never seen, *Moulin Rouge!* combines "truth, beauty, freedom, and love" into a modern day movie musical. With a highly original score, over-the-top visual performance numbers, and a compelling story, the film is dizzy, maddening, and beautiful.

From the guy's point of view:

The Wedding Singer (1998)

Adam Sandler is the king of the stupid comedies. His over-the-top persona takes a step back, however, in *The Wedding Singer*, where Sandler plays hopeless romantic recovering from being

left at the altar. But Robbie's infatuation with Julia (Drew Barrymore) helps him pick up his feet in this charming and witty story set in the '80's.

High Fidelity (2000) and *Say Anything...* (1989)

John Cusack's complicated attitude towards love strikes a chord in your boyfriend. And why shouldn't it? Cusack is completely and utterly afraid of commitment, all the while vying for love and affection. Sounds intricate? If *High Fidelity* can't make you understand, then nothing will. Cusack brilliantly embarks on a humorous mission to track down his Top Five Most Memorable Breakups to discover where things went wrong with his girlfriend Laura. In *Say Anything...* it's that persistence is key. Lloyd (Cusack) gave Diane Court (Lone Skye) his heart and she broke up with him by giving him a pen, but he persisted on, beating long odds and getting the girl.

If you have the room to yourselves:

Ghost (1990) and *First Knight* (1995)

Coming from director Jerry Zucker, known for kooky comedies, these are, ironically, the two hottest romances ever. After the first scene in *Ghost*, you'll find time for that pottery class. But at the heart of *Ghost* is a beautiful love story, which transcends time, space, and life in a romantic, sexual, and clay-tastic movie. While *First Knight's* telling of the Lancelot story might not be the most accurate, the picture as a whole creates an atmosphere of sex, secrets, and seduction that cannot be ignored. Heartbreaking, forbidden love never looked so good.

Best romantic comedies:



Bogie and Bergman in *Casablanca*.

When Harry Met Sally (1989) and *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993)

After 12 years of friendship, Harry and Sally realize that no one else is more qualified to be in love in this delightful, anecdotal, and bright success that utilizes its sharp script to offer poignant insight on love, sex, and the boundaries of friendship. And in *Sleepless in Seattle*, Ryan hears widower Tom Hanks's sad story from across the country, falling deeply, inexplicably, and madly in love with him. Hanks decides he is her destiny, on a wildly romantic impulse to meet him, the two end up on the top of the Empire State Building, engraving the image of the lit-heart in America's hearts and minds.

The Princess Bride (1989)

This not-so-classic fairy tale from Rob Reiner utilizes consistent comedy

and strong actors in a beautiful, hysterical, and heartwarming story. Scaling the Cliffs of Insanity, facing torture in the Pit of Despair, battling rodents of unusual size — hey, who said true love was easy? She gets kidnapped, he gets killed, and in the end, it all turns out okay. Not too shabby for your unusual fairy tale.

Playing By Heart (1998)

"Talking about love is like dancing about architecture." So begins *Playing by Heart*, a touching romantic comedy that "dances about architecture" in a realistic and honest manner. With an all-star cast, the film utilizes a strong script and a versatile subject to produce a simple and heartwarming picture. Incredibly underrated and totally worth it, *Playing By Heart* will appeal to all audiences.



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Chill date, no date, or fun date, there are

Ten Dinner and a Movie Alternatives

by Kaitlin Fluet '03

This is the one holiday that everybody loves. If you are one of the few (very few) who despise it, then look no further. This article is your sanctuary because here for your indulgence is a list of ten cool things to do on Friday, Feb. 14 (no date required).

1. Irish skating Get some friends and go ice skating at **Fleet Skating Center**. You don't need to hold hands, unless you very much fear falling down and breaking a leg. Nobody really likes the cold and runny noses, which are some of the biggest turnoffs I can imagine. Friday hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and admission is \$5. Don't have skates? Not a problem—rental is also \$5. Ten bucks will get you up to four hours of pure, unadulterated bliss. Afterwards, go warm up with a chai or a cocoa at **Brewed Awakenings** in Union Station Plaza right across the street. It's open late and the drinks and desserts can't be beat. And if that's a little too cozy for your taste, move on down to **RiRa** for another kind of drink to warm you up.

2. Movies at a Castle Head on down to the **Castle Cinema** on Chalkstone for a fun-filled night of comedy. At 9 p.m. you can go see your future or answer some of your deepest, darkest questions. Yes, a mentalist is paying a brief visit, so go satisfy your curiosity—you'll regret missing this one. Cost is \$7. At 9:30 the improv comedy starts, and cost is \$10. Pick one or the other, or both. At the Castle you can also catch a movie for less money and eat while you do it. Shows and showtimes are available on website: www.castlecinema.com.

3. Skeeball for old people Are you over 21? Then maybe **Dave & Busters** is the right choice for you. Located right in our own Providence Place Mall, there is no better place to go for food, drink and fun! It's like a Chuck-E-Cheese for grownups. Maybe you want to work on your jump shot, learn new dance steps or simply rake in the tickets to purchase a cool new shot glass for your collection. Whatever your

aim, fun is in your future. Expect a cover of a few bucks after 10 p.m., but after that, it's up to you. Go nuts in a not-so-adult paradise.

4. Gettin' all artsy If you're into art, then you're in the right place. Spend a quiet evening perusing both new and old masterpieces in some of the greatest galleries the Northeast has to offer. To name just a few: **Arcadia Gallery** (521-2787), **AS220** (831-9327), **Bert Gallery** (751-2628), **Bush Gallery** (578-7304), **Centercity Contemporary Arts** (521-2990), **Copacetic** (273-0470), **Flo Gallery** (351-7335), **Peck Gallery** (751-0017), **Providence Art Club** (331-1114), etc. The choices are limitless. Hit up one or visit a few. Either way, listen to some classical music on the way over and your IQ will jump at least 100 points.

5. Wicked funny Also in the near vicinity, you can try the brand new **Stitches Comedy Cafe** located at the base of Providence Place Mall. On Friday, enjoy a live comedy show around 8 p.m. and stay for the Dance and Chants Party starting at 11:30 and going until 2 a.m. Who doesn't love "rockin' music, live performances, dancing, karaoke and more"? Nobody, that's who. Call ahead to reserve your place at 784-8243.

6. Weird shoes Never underestimate the power of tacky shoes and a smoky, out-of-the-way location. That's right, bowling is about to make a comeback. Get directions to **Lang Ed Bowling Lanes** at 225 Niantic Avenue in Providence or **Legion Bowl and Billiards** at 661 Park Avenue in Cranston. Mow down on some greasy concession stand food and down some cheap beer while tossing a few balls or shooting some pool. It's well within your probably small budget and relatively easy to get to. And there isn't much that is more fun than packing 12 of your closest friends into a 1995 Jetta for a night of kicking back.

7. Not a mall or a video game **The Arcade** is the oldest indoor shopping mall in America, or so they say. Why don't you go and see for



7. The Arcade: more fun than you can handle in one spot.

yourself? It was built in 1828 and features three levels of dining and specialty shopping. It's located at 65 Weybosset Street in Providence. Call for information at 598-1199. A bunch of the galleries mentioned above are in the immediate area of The Arcade so be a trooper and kill a bunch of birds with one stone.

8. Pahty in Bahston Get out of class and catch a bus or the commuter rail to Boston for the afternoon and/or weekend. **Newbury Street** and **Faneuil Hall** are always good ideas. Grab a quick dinner and spend the evening warming up to a performance of **Blue Man Group** at the **Charles Playhouse**. The options are endless. Go online for bus and train schedules and showtimes.

9. Skiing in the dark Night skiing is a fun activity and close enough where you can attend class and still get in a few great hours on the slopes. **Wachusett Mountain Ski Area** in Princeton, Massachusetts is viable option for most of us. You can ski until 10 p.m. on Fridays. They also have snow tubing. Call 978-464-2300 or visit www.wachusett.com for more information.

10. The old plan B No matter what the circumstance, beer pong never goes out of style.

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The rules of attraction

The Boys

Mark Balas '03 and
Dave Holman '03



10 Things That Catch Our Eye

Girls who like John Cusack movies. But only certain John Cusack movies. We're not talking *Con Air* or *Pushing Tin*-type Cusack flicks, but more along the lines of his quirky geek charm of *Grosse Pointe Blank*, *Say Anything*, *High Fidelity*, or *Better Off Dead*. We like to fashion ourselves this way and we like you to appreciate what we're trying to do. It's not awkward. It's charming. Maybe you could fashion yourself as Cameron Diaz in *There's Something About Mary*. Just a thought.

Girls who wear the right sweater. This isn't a brand-name thing, because we could care which country's slave labor manufactured it. It's a self-respect issue. This really applies to most clothing. If it leaves too little to the imagination, we know that other dudes have seen the rest. Conversely, you shouldn't be wearing a potato sack. The answer: semi-tight. Cute, but modest. Keep it up.

Girls with accents. We're not talking Worcester or Fall River. Northeastern ones aren't special, but Southern gals and those from across the ocean have something to them. They could be reading a Civ paper and it'd still be cute. Pick one up.

Girls who hang on every word. We shouldn't feel like we're lucky to be talking to you. You're not distracted. You may be thinking about a good-lookin' guy across the room, but you're faking

it with us. We appreciate being patronized. Keep it up.

Redheads. Let's be honest. There are good ones and bad ones. But there's a certain mystique about the good ones. We can't explain it, but it's there. They're just more mysterious than blondes or brunettes—not that we don't like them either.

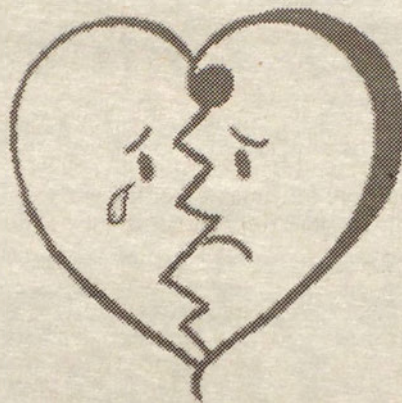
Girls who are involved. They're not cliquy or too involved not to humor us with a date. But they have something more to talk about than themselves. If the only excitement in your life is Monday-night *Joe Millionaire*, then you need a hobby.

Girls who know music. If you say you like all kinds of music, it means you have no taste. If your favorite song is "Brown Eyed Girl," at least know that Van Morrison also wrote "Gloria."

Girls who like to be here. PC's a cool place, and no one really wants to hear your kavetching about your classes or how you're too good for liberal arts requirements. A learned girl is an interesting girl.

Girls who can tell a story. Life is a series of good stories. Get us wrapped up in one and we'll want to listen for the rest of the night. Just don't embarrass yourself by telling a story without a point—like about your trip to CVS. Going to the mall is not a story.

Girls who give clever gifts. You like receiving thoughtful little tokens—but so do we. This isn't materialist, but it truly is the thought that counts. Show us you know us. See also: birthdays, Christmas, etc. Keep it up.



10 Things That Chill Our Bones

Weak women. You're anonymous. You don't speak up for yourself unless you're boxing out for the Prime Time shuttle. You don't have any thoughts on

anything. And you're a delicate flower ready to wilt at the next untoward look. Quit it.

"Want to see my new tattoo?" It's a butterfly on the small of my back."

Daddy's girls. You just got back from the mall, and everything Daddy's Amex bought has naked models on the bag and designer logos on the threads. We're not class warriors or anything, but it really doesn't do much for us. We'd respect you more if we saw you drinking an Orange Julius.

"I'm a huge Howie Day fan."

Girls who go tanning. New England ain't the tropics. Figure it out. Your yellow-orange nuclear glow in the middle of February only let's us know that you're vain and probably insecure. Quit it.

Girls who can't show proper respect for sports. You don't dig it? Fine. Just don't expect us to spoon during football. It's sacred, we're catatonic, and you fit into neither. Come back later.

Indecisive women. You're asked what you want to do and then complain about never doing the things in which you're interested. Call us Kreskin, but we can't read minds.

The one-date-and-we're-hitched problem. A date is a date. A string of dates is another matter. It means we're interested in something more. But if you don't get the call, at least get the hint. Quit it. One date does not a commitment make.

Girls who expect us to initiate every move in the relationship. We're fine with making the first move, even the second and third, and opening doors and buying dinner, but throw us a bone here. It takes two to tango, and no one likes dating a wallflower.

THAT girl. By day, quiet, a little reserved, maybe snobbish. By night, a raging, loud, obnoxious, messy, emotional, sweaty, unattractive hooch. Quit it.

The Girls

Joan Barker '04,
Erin Simmeth '03, and
Jen Skala '05



What a Girl Wants

Mention the little details. You smell good; you have nice teeth; you have soft skin; tell us you notice things we didn't know you noticed (although we secretly hope you do).

Pay for dinner. Open doors for us; let us go first. Even though we are independent women, gentlemanliness is always appreciated (and is usually in short supply).

Don't walk ahead. Don't know what that means? Think about it: why should you be in a hurry to be anywhere but by our side: Our legs are shorter than yours; slow down, you crazy alpha-male.

Tell us that we are naturally beautiful. Suggestions include: "you don't need to wear makeup," "I wouldn't mind if you skipped shaving your legs," and, "you're cutest in the morning." Naturally, however, this does not mean to ignore it when we do decide to make ourselves even prettier than usual.

Listen! Listen! Listen! Listen to our whining. Listen to our advice. Listen to our personal issues—I know it seems like our roommates are always in a state of perpetual drama, but it's important to know you care (and besides, it might give you some female insights.)

Better Man for that girl/Page 7

Project S.A.V.E Week Sexual Assault Violence Education

Sunday February 9th:

7pm Mass and Refreshments in St. Dominic Chapel
Mass dedicated to the victims and family members of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Monday February 10th:

6:30pm The Yellow Dress in Aquinas Lounge
One woman performance concerning relationships and violence.
Discussion to follow.

Tuesday February 11th:

Clothesline Project display at Ray Cafeteria
Step 1 Presentation 7pm in Aquinas Lounge
"Crossroads/mixed messages" Make Your Own Sundaes

Wednesday February 12th: Rape Aggression Defense with Security Ray Jarvis: 7pm in Aquinas Lounge

Thursday February 13th:

Equal Connctions 6:30pm in Aquinas Lounge
Stage Reading of *Love Letters* to follow - donations welcomed

Friday February 14th: Valentine's Day Delivery
all proceeds donated to Sexual Assault and Trauma Resource Center of Rhode Island

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Taste of the Town *presents*
Providence's most romantic restaurant

by Megan Gaffney '03

Ristorante Romanza
 312 Wickenden Street
 421-5544

Love is in the air these days, and we may be able to attribute it to a force greater than these "match made in Heaven, or maybe just on ABC" reality bachelor shows. Maybe this overwhelming desire to cuddle comes instead from the promise of Valentine's Day looming over our lovestruck heads. Although finding a local sweetheart probably won't bring you fame, fortune, and a contract to marry, it does give you a wonderful chance to hold hands and show you care over dinner. Don't just spring for supersized fries this Valentine's Day. Instead, get really into it and take your favorite valentine for a romantic dinner at Ristorante Romanza. As the name probably suggests to you, this restaurant is well-acquainted with providing an environment suitable for wooing that special mate.

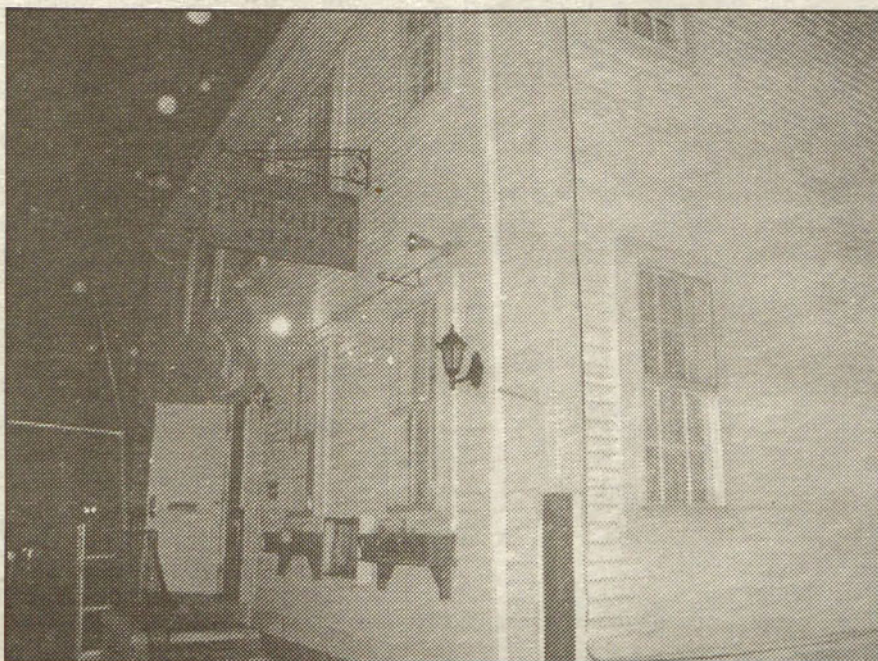
Atmosphere: Ristorante Romanza fits in very well with the artsy, eclectic collection of buildings on Wickenden Street, and it has a welcoming atmosphere. The light pink house greets you with lace curtains and candles in the window, which may make you fear an over-decorated, gaudy experience waiting inside. Instead, the inside of Romanza is a tasteful, small, and cozy place to have a quiet dinner with the object of your affection. Older hardwood floors have seen better days but aren't dirty, and lit fireplaces help to keep you warm in this 18th-century house. Rich colors on the wall and soft lighting contribute to this charming place to seduce your lover, and one of the biggest benefits is the relative privacy you'll have inside the restaurant. The house hasn't been altered to make a restaurant with one big dining room, so instead there are three rooms with three, four, or five tables in each.

Selection: One major warning:

Ristorante Romanza has a bring-your-own-alcohol policy. No corking charge makes the setup cheaper for you, since you don't have to pay for overpriced bottles of wine. Otherwise, the food menu is mostly Italian with both basic and innovative choices, though the list isn't incredibly extensive. Appetizers like bruschetta and tomato and mozzarella salad appear here; so do favorite entrees like chicken marsala, ricotta gnocchi, or filet of sole in a parmesan crust. More unique inventions include tortellini with a pumpkin stuffing in a cream sauce. There is also a creative list of nightly specials from a sirloin steak to chicken and walnut ravioli. Save room for dessert, because servers display a fabulous dessert tray after the main course.

Quality: Romanza isn't winning any prizes for being the best Italian restaurant in the state, but it could certainly take an honorable mention. Scaloppini Parmesan, available in veal or chicken, presents a delicious and tender cut of meat, fresh pasta, and tasty but somewhat watery sauce. Insalata alla Fraiche is an interesting take on the usual chicken and salad combination: a warm breaded chicken breast is buried beneath huge, fresh chunks of tomato, sweet onions, and fresh Romaine lettuce. A delicious balsamic vinaigrette finishes off the huge salad, which mysteriously doesn't wilt or get too warm from the chicken beneath the greens. Dessert is the final proof of Romanza's culinary achievements: their tiramisu is known as one of the best in Providence, and the somewhat unusual almond biscotti marscapone cheesecake rivals the Cheesecake Factory in both presentation and taste.

Service: With just over 10 tables in the restaurant, it would be difficult for Romanza's waitstaff to neglect you too much. Of course you want seclusion in your romantic endeavors, so servers won't overwhelm you with conversation or pushy suggestions. Instead, they're just nice, so they'll work on the fireplace when the flames are going out, bring you



MEGAN GAFFNEY '03/The CowI

Go inside Ristorante Romanza, reportedly Providence's most romantic restaurant, for a pleasurable meal with your loved one, on Valentine's Day.

bread, refill your water promptly, and be nice as they're doing it. They also seem to know many of the customers well, as does the owner who walks around to ask how dinner is going.

Affordability: You can't set a price on love, which we all know doesn't cost a thing. Entrees, however, cost around \$15 each for a decent sized portion. Desserts are around \$7, and pieces of cake are the perfect size for sharing if you're not looking to fill up. And by sharing, of course, we're talking about feeding each other with the same fork, because that's extremely cute...

Overall: The votes that placed Ristorante Romanza among the best for romance in Providence weren't badly cast. There aren't crooning violinists beside your table or gondola rides outside, and while entrees come with fresh penne and marinara sauce, it's a letdown for anyone who wanted

spaghetti as an excuse to re-enact that "cute" *Lady and the Tramp* scene. Extravagance aside, Romanza is a nice and quiet place to stare into someone's eyes over candlelight, or maybe just to eat a good meal. If you decide on Romanza as the place to bring your hot valentine, act fast because of the small number of tables. Reservations are still available, so make them and don't count on being able to walk right in. Sure, being stranded without much to do on such an amorous Friday night might not be all bad, but you're going to get hungry at some point.

Grade: A

Not sold?: If Romanza doesn't sound right for you, a few other Providence restaurants might be prime ground for seduction, including Mediterraneo, Blue Grotto, L'Epicureo, Capriccio, Rue de L'Espoir, Pot au Feu, and Empire.

Better Man for That Girl

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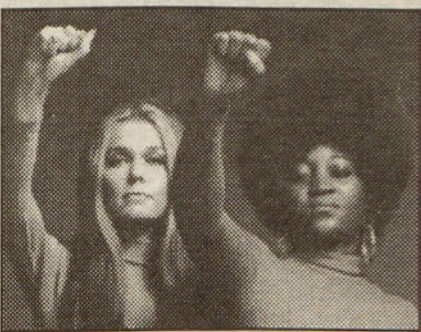
Creativity counts. In addition to all the usual methods of seduction (flowers, dinner out, wine, etc.) we love to see that you know what the real "us" wants. Surprise us with a display of your hidden talent—a homemade card, a song, a poem or a letter, anything goes.

Our faces are above our necks, not below. Enough said.

Call us out of the blue! Girls love surprises, especially when the call is from you and not a Citibank zombie promising us a 15% interest rates and no annual fees...anyway, your sweet random phone calls will make up for all the times you were supposed to call and ended up watching football instead.

If you haven't picked up a copy of *The Art of Spooning* yet, we suggest you do.

You don't need \$50 million and a chateau in France. Joe Millionaire or Joe Schmo, the most important thing is to be yourself, because we love you just the way you are (Besides, nothing is sexier than a poor construction worker/underwear model from out west).



What a Girl Fears

Don't assume we're all looking for Joe PC, the Louie's guy, in cargo pants and the Prime Cut 'do. Individuality is key, if you're looking for a girl with a little personality.

Call when you say you will. We don't want to have to sound like your mother, so don't make us do it. You could be in a ditch on the side of the road, or worse, not thinking about us! Conversely, calling all the time too soon can be scary. Listen for clues as to whether we are feeling smothered, including long pauses.

Don't answer your cell phone in the middle of dinner, a deep conversation, makeout session, or whatever. I know your social life keeps you blinging 24/7, but some things should take priority—besides, it's just rude.

Dudes who wear more hair gel than we do. Your hair should not look like a deadly weapon (unless you're going for the spiky punk look.) You should not take more time to "primp" than your ladyfriend.

Conversely, ignoring your personal

upkeep altogether sends out bad signals about your self-image. Scruffy is good, stanky is not. You can be scrubby and still shower.

As a rule, don't mention your ex-girlfriend/fiance/lover, unless we for some reason have decided to discuss our *histoires d'amour*. For example, don't tell me my shampoo reminds you of the scent of your ex-girlfriend's hair.

Please don't compare me to your little sister, which should go without saying since we are dating and all—right?!? Comparisons to Mom can only happen if they are definitely positive, cute, and above all, rare.

Don't issue an ultimatum for a definition of the relationship. If you don't know already, maybe you shouldn't have to ask.

Don't be afraid to express your true feelings, even if you are afraid of the chance of rejection. Be a man! Do it. You never know what might happen. Besides, you're only young and in love once.

Don't give up. If you've been in love and it didn't work out, don't sign up for St. Martin's immediately (unless you're really into giving your life to God, then, go for it). But dude, she's out there, and how will you know if you never try?

PRIME CUT

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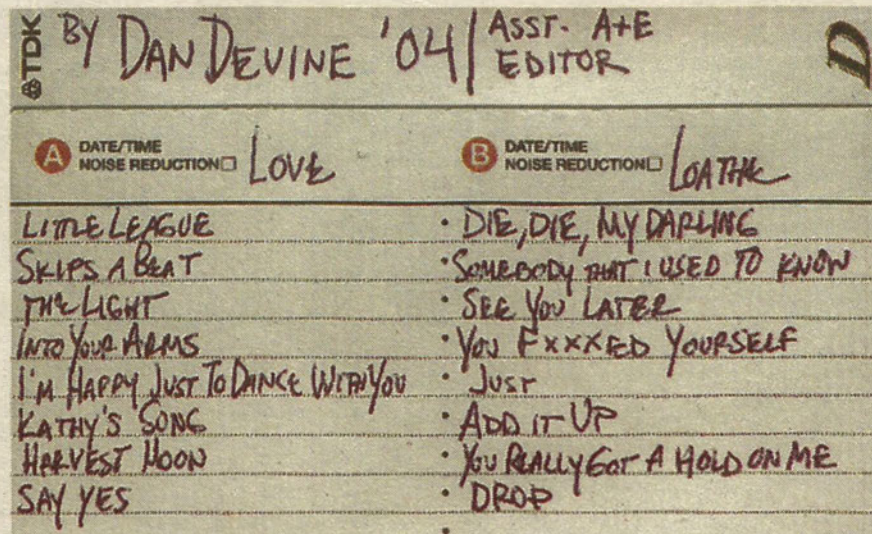
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The tale ^{of} the tape

Nothing says "I love you" or "I hate you" like a well-constructed piece of yourself, reflected through songs collected on a tape



If you're lucky enough to be with someone this Valentine's Day, you've likely been out looking for the perfect gift for your loved one, that one special token of your appreciation that'll make 'em swoon until Guy Fawkes Day. If we learned anything from the teen love films of the '80's, it was that *girls love mixtapes*. It's personal, it took time to make, and they find it infinitely sweeter than a bracelet or perfume. If you want to touch her deep in the cockles of her heart, you can't go wrong with a mixtape, and it's my duty to guide you through the process of making the perfect Valentine's Day compilation with a string of my personal favorites.



SIDE A — Love Songs

First things first: It's crucial to know your audience. This particular tape is destined for a girl heavily into modern rock, with the occasional dive into classic rock and hip-hop, so we're going to sidestep the old crooners—Sinatra, Cole Porter, Elvis, and the like won't be showing up here. They make for a great tape, but this girl wants something a little fresher and a little poppier. With that in mind, I give you:

Cap'n Jazz — "Little League"

KEY LYRIC: "Hey, coffee eyes / you got me coughing up my cookie heart / making promises to myself / promises like seeds of everything I could be."

The Promise Ring — "Skips A Beat (Over You)"

KEY LYRIC: "Wouldn't it be nice / if we could live twice in just one life? / Then we'd know what to do / when I'm shaking in my shoes / when my heart skips a beat over you."

Common — "The Light"

KEY LYRIC: "Few understand the union of woman and man / and sex and a tingle is where they assume that it lands / but that's fly by night / for you and the sky I write / for in this cold Chi night's moon, you're my light."

The Lemonheads — "Into Your Arms"

KEY LYRIC: "I know a place where I can go when I'm alone / into your arms, oh-whoa, into your arms, I can go / I know a place that's safe and warm from the crowd / into your arms, oh-whoa, into your arms, I can go / and if I should fall / I know I won't be alone / be alone anymore."

The Beatles — "I'm Happy Just To Dance With You"

KEY LYRIC: "I don't need to kiss or hold you tight / I just want to dance with you all night / In this world there's nothing I would rather do / I'm so happy just to dance with you / just to dance with you / is everything I need."

Simon & Garfunkel — "Kathy's Song"

KEY LYRIC: "My mind's distracted and diffused / my thoughts are many miles away / they lie with you when you're asleep / and kiss you when you start your day."

Neil Young — "Harvest Moon"

KEY LYRIC: "There's a full moon risin' / let's go dancin' in the night / we know where the music's playin' / let's go out and feel the night / because I'm still in love with you / I want to see you dance again / because I'm still in love with you / on this harvest moon."

Elliott Smith — "Say Yes"

KEY LYRIC: "I'm in love with the world through the eyes of a girl who's still around the morning after."



SIDE B — Loathe Songs

Of course, if you're not with someone, Valentine's Day sucks harder than anything could possibly suck, and it does so every damn year.

Here's the beauty part for all you jaded loners: you can get just as much satisfaction out of a mixtape sent to the one who broke your heart as all those insufferable couples get out of theirs. It's all in the construction. You just need to find some really good songs that have some awful, mean-spirited, heart-rending lyrics in them.

Misfits — "Die, Die, My Darling"

KEY LYRIC: "Die, die, die, my darling / don't utter a single word / die, die, die, my darling / just shut your pretty mouth / I'll be seeing you again / I'll be seeing you in Hell."

Elliott Smith — "Somebody That I Used To Know"

KEY LYRIC: "I had tender feelings you made hard / but it's your heart, not mine, that's scarred / so when I go home, I'll be happy to go / you're just somebody that I used to know."

Heatmiser — "See You Later"

KEY LYRIC: "Walk through thick mud / looking for new blood / thinking I heard your name / cruel imagination still giving me pain / just to find you with the masterminder / of one of your little affairs / saying how he loves you now / let me show you how much I care / see you later, if I see you at all."

Quasi — "You F***ed Yourself"

KEY LYRIC: "Oh, no / you f***ed yourself and you're looking for the goat / drowned if you sink, condemned if you float / you placed the blame but missed the boat."

Radiohead — "Just (You Do It To Yourself)"

KEY LYRIC: "Can't get the stink off / he's been hanging around for days / comes like a comet / suckered you but not your friends / one day he'll get to you / and teach you how to be a holy cow / you do it to yourself, you do / and that's what really hurts."

Violent Femmes — "Add It Up"

KEY LYRIC: "Why can't I get / just one f**k? / Why can't I get / just one f**k? / I guess it's got something to do with luck."

Smokey Robinson and the Miracles — "You Really Got A Hold On Me"

KEY LYRIC: "I don't like you / but I love you / seems that I'm always thinking of you / though, oh, oh, you treat me badly / I love you madly / you really got a hold on me."

Red House Painters — "Drop"

KEY LYRIC: "I'd like to come home to see you / and catch your sickness by the bedside / but then you'd know how much I really need you / all the love in an instant makes my life stop / but then my hate for you makes my feelings altogether drop."