



by Kristen Whalen '11 Photography Staff

#### ABROAD

Since the majority of the French population show much less emotion than any Americans, I was surprised to discover how shameless French couples are when it comes to PDA (which, for those of you living in a hole, means public displays of affection). I can honestly say, without exaggeration, that I have not been on the metro once without seeing two lovers canoodling in a corner of the train. I am now a strong believer that the French people absolutely coined the term "French kiss."

Parisians are much more passionate when it comes to their relationships with the opposite sex. I have seen more make-outs and ass grabs than ever before. It also seems a few too many Parisians have been inspired by Edward Cullen. Apparently these men just cannot comprehend that no matter how hard they try they will never be Edward Cullen. So please, do me a favor and stop trying to suck your girlfriend's neck while I am trying to consume my lunchtime baguette. It is just plain rude. Not all displays of affection, however, are this horrific. Being in the city of love can't help but make you wish you had a significant other whose sole purpose was to wine, dine and woo you on a regular basis.

In my opinion the perfect Valentine's Day in Paris would consist of the following activities (with the significant other of your choice of

A morning stroll though the Luxembourg Gardens complete with croissants and pain au chocolat.

A visit to the Louvre, with time especially allotted for the museum's extensive Egyptian collection.

Exit the Louvre at the Tuileries garden. Walk all the way through the garden and on your left will be the Musée de l'Orangerie. This small museum is one of my personal favorites because of the upper level which is home to Nympheas, a series of Monet's water-lily paintings.

The next stop and possibly the most important would be Angelina's. This tea room is located walking distance from the Louvre on Rue de Rivoli. This place is known for having the best hot chocolate and desserts in Paris. And let me tell you, the rumors are true. Order white hot chocolate, a pastry called le mont blanc and some traditional French macaroons and you are sure to enter the best food coma of your life.

The perfect follow-up would be a walk along the Seine River to work off all those calories you just consumed. This walk should take you to the Pont Marie, the most romantic bridge in Paris, where you and your significant other should do like the Parisians do and stop in the middle of the bridge for a brief make-out sesh. The tradition is that the first time you pass under this bridge you have to make a wish for your love life.

The Eiffel Tower would be the final stop of the day. Take a ride up the Eiffel Tower's elevator for dinner at Les Jules Verne Restaurant. I'm sure some of you believe this is just a cheesy, overpriced, tourist attraction and maybe it is, but that doesn't make me want to go

And there you have it, a perfect Valentine's Day in the City of Love. Are these my actual Valentine's Day plans? Wouldn't you like to know.

Au revoir!

### Crazy Little Love Songs

by Neil Andrew Francisco '10 A&E Staff

With Valentine's Day coming up, I'm assuming you want to listen to some cute love songs to set the mood right while you're spending time with your significant other, paramour, or that person you're "just friends" with. You don't want to go too old school, so try some of these:

#### I'll Be Edwin McCain

If you ever need a song to sing to the girl you're trying to woo, try this one. Trust me, it's your best shot. If, however, you can pull off singing "Your Body is a Wonderland" by John Mayer, I would like to know what the girl's name, age, and

### I'll Follow You in the Dark

Death Cab for Cutie

Everyone loves a good Death Cab song. Ladies, side with me here. Ben Gibbard says he'll follow you into the dark. For the sake of this argument, assume he has Achluophobia.

### **Total Eclipse of the Heart**

Bonnie Tyler

I'm sure all the guys wanted this to be the song that plays at their wedding after they saw Old School. This song gets guys in the right mood. When they hear it, they insert certain expletives at certain times to show their knowledge of movie lines. You can either find it to be annoying, or just plain cute.

### **Deep Inside of You** Third Eye Blind

Come on, the song is not about what you think it is. Get your minds out of the gutter. Stephan Jenkins is just thinking about how he loved a girl so much he put so much time and effort into their relationship. If I were a girl, I'd find it cute that a guy sang about me.

### Clumsy Fergie

Fergie Ferg captures the essential feelings when it comes to falling for someone. You start to do stupid things, or in her case, make stupid songs. It's entertaining for the rest of us, though!

### **Bad Romance**

Lady Gaga

She wants your loving and your revenge. This is the quintessential love song. She wants both your good and bad. She wants the total package. That's what I call love. I don't know why she calls it a bad romance.

### **I Swear**

All 4 One

As much of a Boyz II Men fan that I am, I had to go with All 4 One here. I once was at a high school dance where this song played four times. I'm pretty sure the DJ was not in the right state of mind.

### You're Beautiful

James Blunt

It's happened to all of us, we see a beautiful girl on the train but we don't talk to her. We lose the chance to ever see her again. We think that she's probably too good for us anyway. We go home, complain about it. If we just went up to talk to her, and told her how beautiful she was, we would probably go on a date and fall in love (because that happens all the time). Walk the walk, my friend.

### Let's Get It On

Marvin Gaye

A love song list is never complete without a little Marvin Gaye. When it comes to this song, you only need three words, "Baby making music."

### **Doing Too Much** Paula DeAnda

I love this song. Paula DeAnda is simply showing her love for Aristotle. She doesn't want to do too little. She also doesn't want to do too much. She wants to be virtuous and be the mean between the two extremes. At least, that's what I saw it to be ...

### Supersymmetry

Bobby Bretz '12 Portfolio Staff

We were superpartners, we In supersymmetry, In the singularity, Once before. And now, My earth-bound friend, 'Fore our earthly travels end, I long to reunite with you once more.

### TOO HOT FOR WORDS



The Cowl

Spreading the love since 1935

### retroeorner

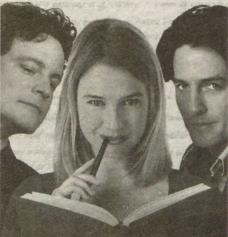
Bridget Jones' Diary

by Catherine Northington '12 A&E Editor

Valentine's Day is where cinema goes to die. Past Februaries have brought us a surfeit of those sappy romanticized dramas, each with its own nauseating overlay of cheap, low-grade humor. During this "season of love," interesting and novel film all-too-often takes a backseat to the embarrassingly saccharine antics of these Meg Ryan-infested, Sandra Bullock-riddled cinematic duds.

But from among these mid-February doldrums emerges one of the greatest achievements in the history of romantic comedy: Bridget Jones's Diary. BJD is undeniably rom-com, but is of an altogether different breed. The film defies the clichés that are all too indicative of this rom-com hell, and BJD treats even the most prejudiced moviegoer to a clever and engaging two-hour British romp.

It is impossible to resist Renee Zellweger in her utterly relatable and endearingly awkward portrayal of Bridget Jones. BJD is an anthem for the awkward in all of us; it tells the tale of a heroine whose ceaseless misfortunes, coupled with her rampant insecurities, draw her into a spiral of personal turmoil. To put it bluntly, Bridget is a loser in love. And as she herself will profess, in the face of rejection and heartbreak: "I choose Vodka. And Chaka Khan." Bridget wallows, Bridget weeps...and Bridget watches rerun after rerun of Frasier



MIRAMAX FILMS

in her lonely London flat. We've all been there, right?

Another perk to this movie: Colin Firth. Firth, with his darling British accent and buttery smooth demeanor, delivers a performance so delicious that even the presence of that tousle-haired, big-toothed Hugh Grant can't mess it up. In a particularly heartmelting scene, Mark Darcy gives a rambling confession to Bridget: "The thing is, what I'm trying to say, very inarticulately, is that, in fact, perhaps despite appearances—I like you. Very much. Just as you are." Just as you are. Mark Darcy has GAME.

are. Mark Darcy has GAME.

When you put all the pieces together, you've got cinematic perfection. Whether you're feeling lonely and blue this Valentine's Day, or you're snuggling up close to a loved one, Bridget Jones' Diary is a delightful (perhaps somewhat cliché) way to spend this sappy, commercialized

holiday season.





Dear Cyn,

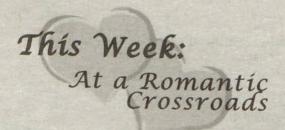
Valentine's Day has admittedly become a very commercialized holiday. Price gouging on roses and menus are all just part of a ploy to exploit lovers and the romantic types.

But it doesn't have to be that way, and you don't have to dislike the holiday because of the north eastern syndicate that is running it these days.

Valentine's Day is, at it's heart, a day designated to celebrate love. This can be affection among friends or that special feeling that you have for a significant other. Just because it's marketed as a pink, red, and lace-y monstrosity, doesn't mean that you shouldn't take the time to enjoy the company of your boyfriend.

If he's really excited about a marathon day that starts with breakfast and ends with snuggling while you watch a romantic comedy, then just go for it. If you're worried about one or both of you spending too much money, suggest some less expensive alternatives. You could make dinner instead of going out, or do lunch at a higher end restaurant to save on the bill.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your boyfriend this year, and use it at the first step in ending your hatred of the holiday. Even if you find yourself single when next February rolls around, you should love a day about love.



Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I've spent most of my life being an anti-Valentine's Day kind of girl. I always thought that it had to do with being single, but even having a boyfriend isn't making me more receptive of the holiday this year. My guy, on the other hand, is a hopeless romantic and wants to drag me around the city for an all-day date.

How can I tell him that I'm not into a big celebration?

-A Cynic in Love

Dear Love,

This is the kind of situation that you have to milk. From what it sounds like he is a lot like myself: a hopeless romantic, the sensitive type, a lover at heart, and all that

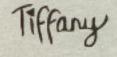
crappy, warm, mushy stuff. So, basically what I'm trying to say is that he won't give up. He will do everything he can to take you out for a perfect night, so I suggest you do everything you can to make him regret taking you out.

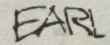
First, you should show him the article written by my close friend, Nahuel Fanjul-Arguijo. Tell him you want to go on one of these "cheap dates," that they sound like fun. If he claims he wants to spend lots of money

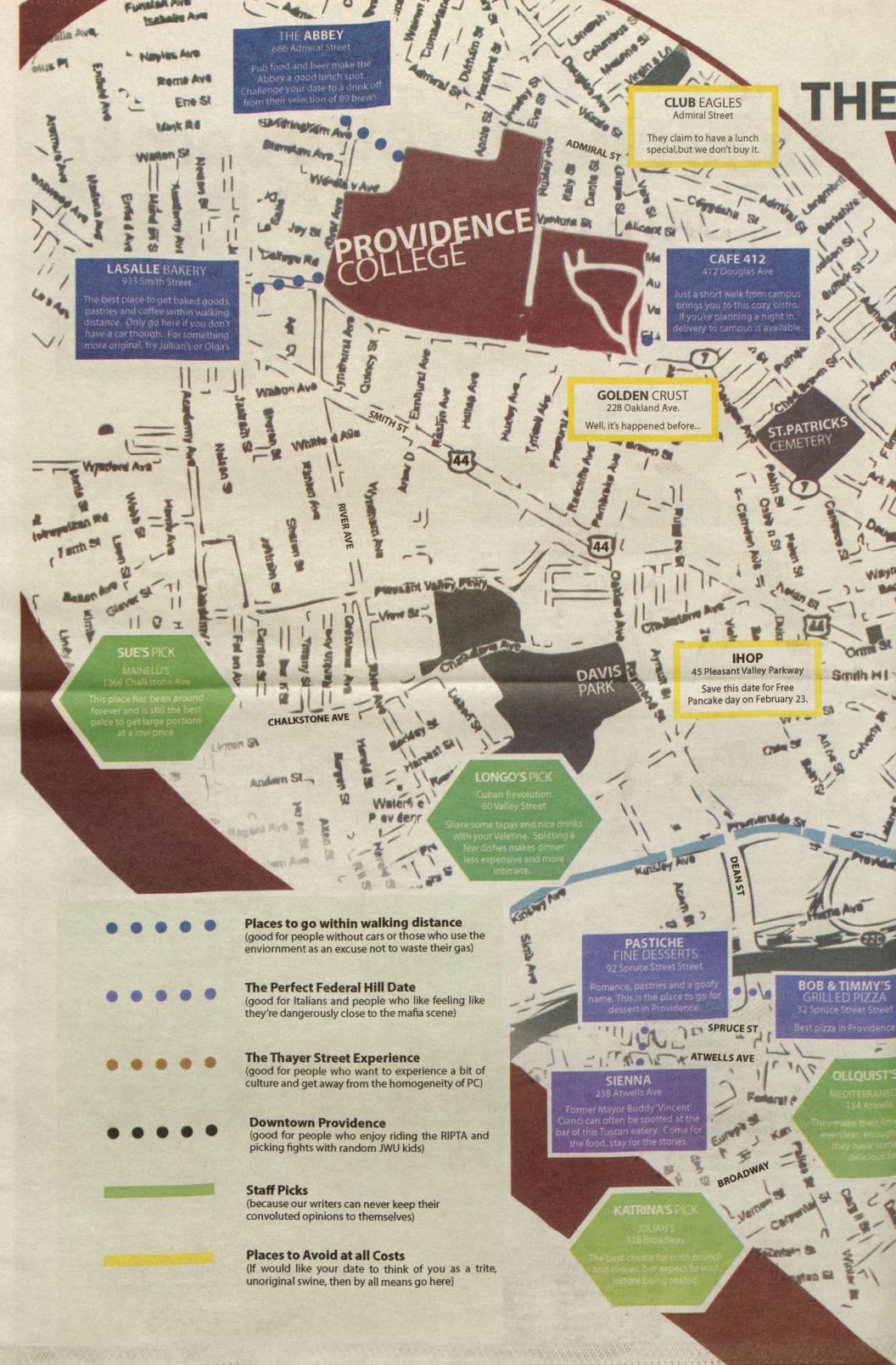
on you, then you are golden.

Once he makes the mistake of giving you the go-ahead to waste all his money, then you have some hard planning in your near future. You have to find the farthest restaurant possible that is still in reasonable reach, tell him this is your all time favorite place. Order three appetizers, share of course (you have to be civil), order some kind of lobster or steak even if you hate both, and for desert you have to order the most expensive thing possible, drop it on the ground "by accident," and then you order what you actually want to consume.

You can push it and ask to go see a movie afterwards, but only if there is something good in IMAX because those are nice and expensive. After this "perfectly romantic" night, he won't want to take you out for Valentine's Day again.











### A Single's Perspective on Sharing the Love

by Kelly Dorwin '12 Copy Editor

RELATIONSHIPS

With Valentine's Day looming, those of us who are single may have begun to resent the fact that Cupid hasn't really been doing his job this year. In gift shops, we walk past the aisles that carry the usual array of tacky "Be Mine" cards without a second glance, ignore the rows of candy chocolates we would be buying if only we had someone special to give them to, and eye those cuddly little teddy bears that we won't be receiving with disdain. "Don't give me that look," we say to the imploring stuffed animal that draws us in with its soft, plush exterior and the stitching across its belly that reads, "I love you beary much!"

We brood in silence as many of our roommates and friends, the small fraction of people who are lucky enough to have boyfriends or girlfriends this Feb. 14, elicit squeals of excitement as they prepare themselves for a romantic evening of candlelit dinners and sappy gift exchanging. Meanwhile, our plans involve curling up on the couch in our sweats with the only two people we've ever been able to count on in times like these: good old Ben and Jerry. My advice to those of you that plan to wallow away in front of the tube with a pint of Cherry Garcia ice cream and a stack of tissues on this particular holiday: stop acting so despondent and regain some selfrespect. After all, Beyonce didn't devote an entire song to all her single ladies for nothing.

People, and in particular those of us who aren't currently in a relationship, have misconstrued the true message of Valentine's Day for too long, and the moment

has finally come for us to set things straight. We think that we need a significant other in our lives in order to take part in this annual celebration of love, but the true beauty of love lies in its amazing capability to take on many different forms in the course of one's life. We find love in the bonds that we share with the members of our family, our friends, our coworkers, our classmates, our mentors, and our teachers. And as important as it is to show some appreciation to all of the wonderful people you have in your life, it is just as important to remember that you deserve some recognition too. If you've been putting yourself down lately, take a break, and give yourself some credit where it's due.

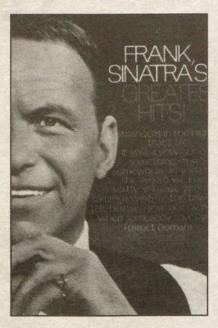
As most will say, Valentine's Day is the one day a year that we set aside for that "special someone." Well, take a good, hard look in the mirror, honey, because you are someone special. If you have no one this Valentine's Day to treat to a box of chocolates or a bouquet of flowers, treat you're yourself or your friends instead. My guess is that they won't mind the gooey chocolates or sentimental cards you buy them for putting up with your cornball jokes and helping you with those last minute assignments (the ones that you're frantically attempting to finish at 3 AM the day they're due). There's no reason to believe that Valentine's Day isn't as much a day for us single people to celebrate as it is for anyone else. So sit back, relax, call your single friends over, and enjoy your pile of junk food and your stack of light-hearted romantic comedies with pride. In the mean time, keep a lookout for that little, winged angel. Cupid might just happen to send an arrow your way.

### Valentine's Picks

by Lindsay Sheehan '11 A&E Staff

### Album: Frank Sinatra's Greatest Hits

If your game isn't going so great on the big V-Day, let Frank do the work. Scenario: you compliment her dress, she says thanks for letting her borrow your CIV book, and then out of no where, "Strangers in the Night" comes from your laptop. If it was any other night, you would be cursing I-tunes for randomly selecting Sinatra. But not tonight. Frank has turned you into a stallion right before the girl's eyes. Before you know it, you'll be breaking parietals (which is my favorite on the album).



### Other People's Love Letters edited by Bill Shapiro

Haven't you always wondered what people say in their love letters? That's a yes. Maybe you have received or written one yourself. I personally did not know love letters still existed in a day where texting replaces every form of communication. New I-phone 'app:' virtual cuddling. In stores Valentine's Day. Other People's Love Letters is exactly as the title implies. Some hate letters are thrown in the mix as well. This quasi-scrapbook is addicting. Question, who are these people sending Shapiro their love letters? Minor details I guess. If you don't feel like spending the dollars, I believe Urban Outfitters has this book on display.



#### Movie: Chocolat (2000)

Depending on if you take Sydney or Peter's side, Chocolat is a chick flick with a traditional versus modern underlying theme. Vianne Rocher (Juliette Binoche) and her young daughter move to rural France and open up a small chocolate shop that tantalizes a Christian town during lent. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom and released in 2001, this comedy / drama / romance was nominated for five Oscars. Don't own the movie? As the French say, n'inquiétez pas, you can catch it in McPhail's Thursday night at 9!



### OST TIGER WOODS TEXTS

The following are previously unreleased text messages commonly referred to as "sexts" between Tiger Woods and his secret lover. These "sexts" will serve as a template for future generations in understanding the art of winning a woman's heart in 160 characters or less.



"You Go Girl"

Taylor Swift



"Time Out"
Chris Webber

# CANDY HEARTS for Celebrities

by Matthew Frederick '10 A&E Staff

Like it or not, Valentine's Day has become another commercial holiday celebrated through the affection of gift-giving. No shock there, as yet again we rely on paper and candy to put emotions into words, which naturally makes them more sentimental and meaningful. In light of this, one of my all-time favorite Valentine's Day products is the box of candy hearts with little sayings on them. First of all, their ingredients are a bigger mystery than the number of women Tiger Woods has slept with while married. Secondly, the production facilities are most likely the laziest in the world, as about one fourth of the hearts have the full saying clearly printed on it. Finally, it may just be me, but the sayings themselves have reached a whole new level of absurdity, peaking this year with the "tweet me" heart

for those computer nerds too shy to even be in the presence of a girl. Everything serves a purpose though, so here are the candy conversation hearts I'm giving out to celebrities this year.

"Chill Out"
Christian Bale

"Take a Walk"
Keanu Reeves

"Love Life"
Owen Wilson

"Fit for Life"
Snooki

"Miss You"

pre-2008 Brett Favre

"Love Me Tender"

Emmanuelle Chriqui

Tiger Woods (4:00 PM): Have I ever shown u my Driver?

Jamie (4:10 PM): Yes, Tiger. It looks a lot more impressive on T.V.

Tiger Woods (4:11 PM): No, I just got a new one. It has added at least 100 yards to my drive.

Jamie (4:20 PM): I sure hope that extra length helps your game, if you know what I mean;).

Tiger Woods (4:21 PM): Fo sho. I won't be Bones Thuggin' you.

Jamie (4:30 PM): You aren't using those terms right. In fact I don't know if that last one is even a saying.

Tiger Woods (4:30 PM): Razzle Dazzle Plo Pazzle.

Jamie (4:40 PM): I'll be over in 30 minutes.

Jamie (4:41 PM): Thank God he is rich.

Tiger Woods (4:42 PM): What?

Jamie (4:50 PM): Sorry. That was meant for my friend Annie. She is getting married.

**Tiger Woods (4:51 PM):** Word. I'll make sure to mow my green before you get here. I know you like it when they are rolling fast.:)

Tiger Woods (5:05 PM): Hey, umm...U have my green jacket?

Jamie (5:15 PM): No.

Tiger Woods (5:17 PM): Pretty sure I left it at your house.

Jamie (5:18 PM): Pretty sure you r married.

Tiger Woods (5:25 PM): Happy Thanksgiving.

## Nahuel's 2010 Valentine's Day Cheap Date Guide

Ashlev Popadock.

You don't know who this is, I really just wanted you to... well to feel like someone cares about you, because I do. You've never seen me before, but you know that guy that sits behind you in psych 101 and kicks your chair the whole class so you have to turn around and say stop but then he kicks really hard just as like a funny joke that you probably laugh about, well that's not me, I mean it is actually me but I don't want you to know it's me, so just to clarify, it's not me.

But oh you are like the wind! Because whenever you pass there is a swirl of gold and an air of quiet love and a really cool mini skirt. What wondrous lust you bring to me! No, love, I mean love, I mean you aren't that attractive, but you are, sorry, I didn't mean that. Anyways let me continue. How so lovely your hair grows! Each follicle spouting out this really ratty sort of like orange yellow, and not like blonde yellow but just this, well this ridiculous yellow that makes you look ridiculous... ly good look... Please come to my arms and we shall embrace like there never was an embrace and nothing can be changed. We will be the alpha and the omega. I heard that in the Bible. Pretty cool huh? Are you impressed, well if you're not you probably are just a dumb person.

But hey, let's get to the brass tax. I'll tell you about myself. I have a dog, one of those cool nintendogs on the Nintendo ds. Ever heard of it? Eh? Eh? Cheese is a hobby of mine. I think cats are kind of cool, you can throw them off a big roof and they always land on their feet. Or they splat. I like burger king, someday I'm going to inherent the thrown (a cup of gra I've been cooking up where I knock him off then I uslurp his place). Then I also admire the internet, I hope to get an email someday. And finally I hate beaches.

What about you? Tell me your hobbies. I really don't want to know anything else because in all honesty you might be boring and that might bore me.

Oh right right, I forgot to say this, this line always works... Shall I Compton thee to a summer's day? You probably don't like summer though huh. Your skin is too pale. What you must use like SPF a google (Got YA, cause that's a real number, so GOT YA!).

But oh do I love you. Your delicate smile that emerges like a phoenix from those little lips, lips that only speak truth. And you slender body that roles like the dunes of the driest desert, and your cool teeth that make you look like a vampire, and that really ugly mole on your right shoulder that, man, it's a freakin mountain that thing, just want to poke it or something.

So take me in your arms my love, I have a father that owns a dealer-ship so maybe I can get you some free Kia t-shirts, take me and walk with me until our feet are tired, but our souls, they burn like magma, from acid reflux most likely. But man, wouldn't that be weird lol. K thnx Imfao teh noodslayer. (I can speak other languages, especially the language of... um... Fraggle Rock).

And so,

I love you,

From a secret admirer (winky wink)

Don't tell anyone I wrote this, cause it makes me look like a wimp,

No you're the wimp,

Whatever,

I don't even like you anymore,

Yeah,

I mean that,

Grumble grumble grumble

### Tips to Avoid Empyting Your Bank Account

by Nahuel Fanjul '11 A&E Editor

**DATING TIPS** 

Valentine's day can be a rough time for many couples or soonto-be couples. The day has to be thoroughly planned out; girl, date, restaurants, gifts, chocolates, flowers, outfits, and the list goes on and on. But don't get me wrong, this doesn't mean that you have to spend a lot of money on this mother-of-all made-up "holidays." Let me give you the gift of knowledge; cheap date ideas that could possibly help you woo that cute girl from your accounting class if she agrees to go on a date with you (even though she might be a coward, and you might be too if you're in that accounting class). \*

#### The Walk

There is nothing more romantic, heartfelt, and most importantly cheap than to take your date on a walk. Girls love the idea of just going for a stroll in the park, holding hands if you two are close, and just chatting about life... girls love chatting. So this is a win-win situation: she enjoys the growing relationship as you pick each other's brains on past life experiences, and you don't have to take your wallet out once—you can even leave it at home just in case she hints at any money spending. And make sure it's a surprise that you're going on a walk for the date because the surprise makes it more romantic, and then it's hilarious to see how the girl deals with walking for long distances in heels. Again: win-win situation.

### Dinner and a Movie

The classic one-two punch. But don't think the money-loving movie industry hasn't figured out this perfect combo, movies are so damn expensive these days. The only solution: Bargain Tuesdays at Providence Place mall. So after getting some tacos at The Bell (which would suffice the "dinner" aspect of the combo), you can take the escalators right upstairs and pay the low amount of \$6.00 for a movie. There is a small pointer that I can share here that will make the date even better, and maybe cheaper: give her an ultimatum. If she wants to pick the movie, then you make her pay for her own ticket, but if she lets you pick whatever movie you want, then you might have to cough up the six bucks for her entrance.

### Dinner and a Movie, part deux

First of all, if you take this option, you have to use "deux" instead of the English "two." Everything is more romantic in French, and girls love romance... or so I've been told. For this date, basically you get to grab the best tear-jerker movie you own and then call up the trusty people at Golden Crust. At the most you spend money on the pizza, and make sure the girl brings over some cash because she better not think you're paying for all of it. If you need any good movies for this date I got a great collection for date movies including Over the Top, Blood Sport, and the whole Rambo series. Trust me, all these movies have made me blubber in the past and I know I am less sentimental than a girl, so they are bound to need a shoulder to cry on.

\* If you take me seriously on these date ideas you will never see a girl again in your life. Girl chatter travels faster than Hermes and his awesome winged boots, so if you do what I say the girl network will do its job and you will never get a date again...you've been warned.

