

Valentine's Day Issue

2007



More than just dinner and a movie

BY JENNIFER JARVIS '07
NEWS STAFF

So you've landed a date with that special someone. Maybe you were attracted to her because she shared your love of party cake ice cream. Perhaps he stole your heart when you realized he could recite the entirety of *The Wasteland*—or the entirety of *Harold and Kumar Go to Whitecastle*. Whatever the allure, these people are clearly one-of-a-kind. So why should your date be "one-size-fits-all"? With my flawless advice as your guide, you can tailor your date to the special needs, if you will, of your daring duo.

Revenge of the Nerds: Put schoolwork aside for an hour and challenge your date to Web Sudoku, Scrabble, or Star Wars Trivial Pursuit. Then rendezvous in the library for that Civ reading you've been putting off (it is a school night, after all).

The Neat-Freak Date: Come to your date's apartment armed with a Swiffer mop and a big bottle of 409. Show you care by unclogging the shower drain, Windexing the mirrors, and sorting the laundry. Then you can enjoy each other's company in a non-contaminated common room. In the spirit of *Full House's* Danny Tanner, nothing is sexier than a freshly-Cloroxed counter.

The Cheap Date: Start with dinner in Alumni Food Court (or better yet, Ray Café). Steal your roommate's big box of Cheez-its and tune in to watch a movie on the BOP movie channel.



Bekcy Ryan '07 and Garrett Doherty '07 gear up for a 'cheap date' at Alumni Food Court.

The Other Cheap Date: This one involves dating someone with a low tolerance for alcohol. One drink is all you need to keep your date dancing until the break of dawn—or midnight, when the bars close.

Hell no! We won't go! This date for the gung-ho activist couple has two parts. After deciding on a cause, get together for a diehard night of painting signs and sending around petitions. Part deux is the protest/rally/sit down event itself. This could be an intimate second date with just

the two of you, but it would probably help your cause more if you made this a double date or even a group thing.

The Techies: Use your extensive and impressive knowledge of technology to *never actually meet your date*. Between Web cam encounters and cell phone conversations, who has time anyway? Play some World of Warcraft on your respective computers, in your respective rooms, and give a virtual hug when together you can do 2x damage.

The Impressive Date: Go out to dinner in an actual restaurant, and really get to know each other while you wait for two hours. Then give up and go to Wendy's.

The Really Impressive Date: Make reservations ahead of time, eat an amazing dinner, then get to know each other as you take the RIPTA back to campus.

Uber Competitors: She was captain of her high school hockey team. He uses the words "easy run" and "15 miles" in the same sentence. If this describes you and your date, you are clearly not afraid of a little cutthroat competition. So get moving with some laps in the pool, full-contact football, or ping-pong that would make Forrester Gump proud. Remember that old adage, "all is fair in love and war." Guys, don't let her win. Girls, it's okay to use your nails as weapons. This is the chance to test if your date is made of the strong muscle fiber you desire. If this date ends in a trip to the emergency room, see who can hobble across the waiting room faster.

These dating scenarios may sound cynical, but sometimes it is tough to be truly romantic in a college setting, what with all the complications of being a college student. But have no fear. I have spent the last few Valentine's Days holed up in the Cowl Office writing sarcastic articles like this one while my boyfriend, a Special Guest member, sings to other girls. And here's how you know that this day won't make or break you: We're engaged.

WHAT'S IN THE STARS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY?

In honor of St. Valentine (who surely had no intention of becoming the patron saint of cliché coupledness), check out your V-Day horoscope for some astrologically-righteous tips on what to do with your fabulously free lifestyle, and stop smelling other people's roses! And if none of these cosmic commandments tickles your fancy? Keep on looking for love in all the wrong places: At any theme party at which you're required to wear half the amount of clothing considered publicly decent, holding cells in downtown precincts, seedy bars where there are as many men over 51 as there are under 21, and not a whole lot in between. Why, you ask? Because quitters never win, and winners never quit! But seriously, do call your grandma, you jerk! — Sarah Vaz '07

Aquarius (1/21-2/18): Continue to ride the wave of a great recent or upcoming birthday because honestly, you're not getting anything for V-Day. Would you really prefer a half-hearted Hallmark card over a J. Crew gift-certificate anyway? My advice? Treat yourself to some Ben & Jerry's with a chunk of that well-deserved birthday cash—you're going to need it!

Gemini (5/21-6/21): You fox, you! Tonight's the night to hit up the bars and use your ample charm to cruise for some vulnerable lonely types, who you'll inevitably have to walk home while they cry incoherently on your shoulder about a long-lost love. Sure, you'll go home alone, but A for effort and chivalry!

Libra (9/23-10/23): It seems you have two options: Fight your roommate for that stunning brunette's undying affection, or concede defeat and find a girl who's actually worthy of your tireless efforts to woo her. Who are you kidding? The gloves are off, and you're sure you'll get the girl.

Pisces (2/19-3/2): Today's no day to have your head in the clouds, dreamer. Focus on the business end of things today or risk being drained of your idealism by the sappy couples swapping more than roses and cheap chocolates.

Cancer (6/22-7/22): Take your grams out to lunch and treat her to a night on the town. Can't be home for the big day? You can always send grandma a singing telegram with love from the '90s—word on the street is Courtney Love's looking for work.

Scorpio (10/24-11/22): Drunk girls aren't attractive. Sober up today and maybe you'll stop bringing home pond scum from the bar every night! You're a classy broad at heart. Have some espresso and gelato on Thayer with some girlfriends tonight and clean up your act!

Aries (3/21-4/20): It might just be the day to ask out that cute blonde you've been half-heartedly stalking around campus. After all, worst case scenario, he/she completely avoids you from now on, making things less awkward for the both of you. Best case? Get some unanticipated valentine loving—always a plus.

Leo (7/23-8/22): Prove all those people who said you think the world revolves around you wrong! Buy a round of drinks for the poor shmucks crying in their beers down at the pub, then make sure every available freshman girl knows about your endless acts of generosity.

Sagittarius (11/23-12/21): You've had a rough few months in the love department. So what? Remember that nobody loves you like Citibank, and max out your card on those new Marc Jacobs pumps you've been lusting after more than that jock who won't give you the time of day.

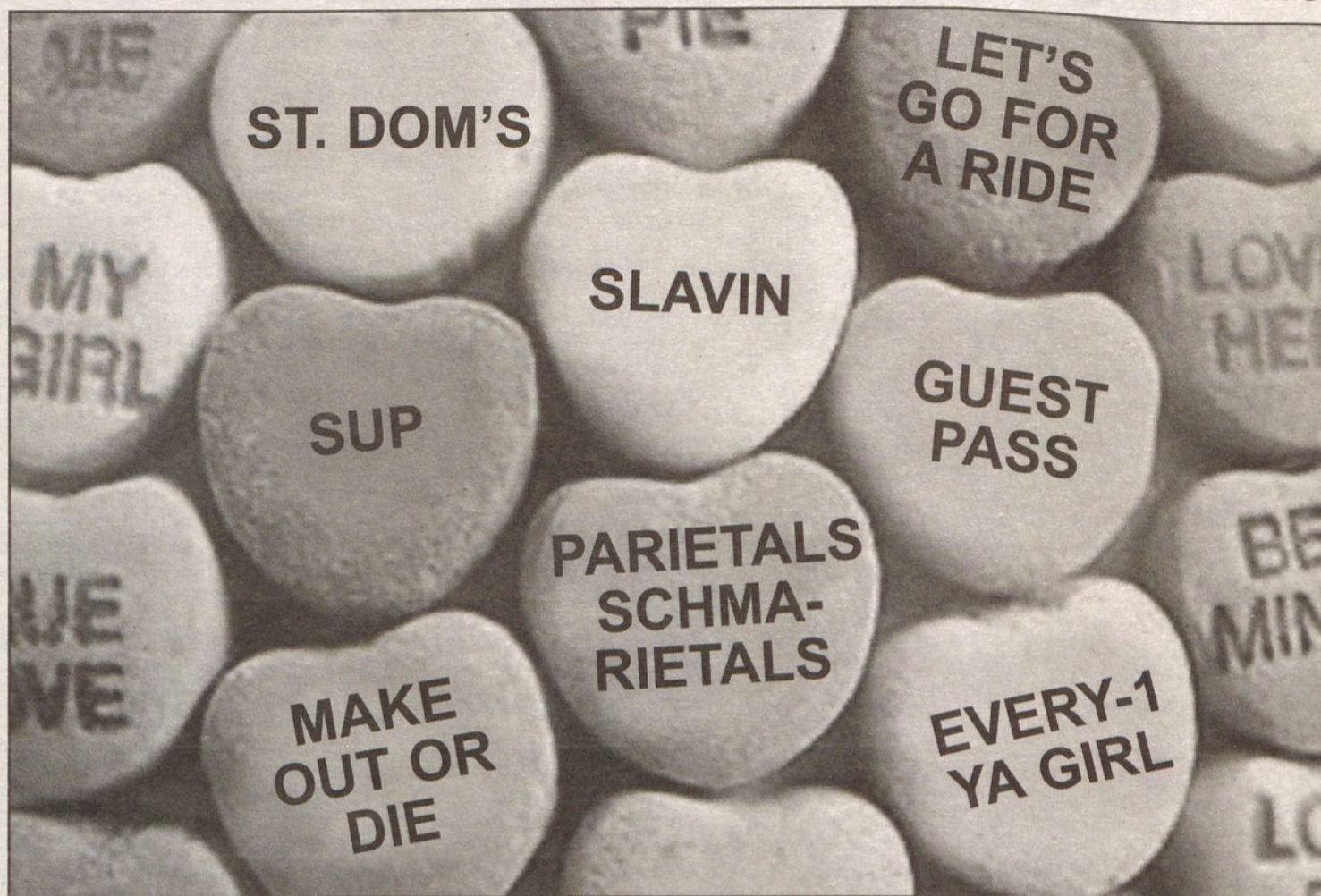
Taurus (4/21-5/20): Buy your "friend-but-I-want-more" a useful gift this holiday—he/she will be impressed by your practical streak, and think you put a lot more thought into the holiday than the other fools poring over Russell Stover's and cheap teddy bears at CVS for their unrequited loves. If not, keep the Swiffer Dusters for your own apartment. Trust me, you could use them.

Virgo (8/23-9/22): Now might be a good time to schedule a mental health day—take it off from school or work and book a six-hour session at the spa downtown. While others fatten up on chocolate and cinnamon hearts, you could be looking fresh and rejuvenated after a cucumber facial and hot stone massage from sexy Sergio!

Capricorn (12/22-1/20): Realize what's important this Valentine's Day when you receive a crumpled-up Spiderman cut-out valentine complete with illegible handwriting from your little bro. Get inspired and hand out Hilary Duff valentines and candy to your entire 10:30 a.m. class. OK, maybe just the candy.

Message in a candy heart

One Cowl writer edits NECCO's conversation hearts, PC style



www.elandmarc.com; GRAPHIC BY KRISTINA H. REARDON '08/The Cowl

Top 10 ways to express PC love with candy hearts

1. **SUP:** As any PC guy will tell you, this is the text message equivalent of "Hello, how are you? How has your day been? I was just thinking of you so I decided to send you a text. Are we still on for tonight?" Only this is much more efficient, not to mention romantic.

2. **ST. DOM'S:** The PC take on the traditional "MARRY ME."

3. **GUEST PASS:** Underclassmen, keep this one handy. As many upperclassmen living off campus will agree, sometimes you just do not feel like cooking your own food. Other times you do not feel like walking all the way back to your house just to come back to campus an hour later. And most times you just miss Fran and the cod nuggets. This conversation heart is perfect for the underclassman looking to impress

the hungry upperclassman.

4. **SLAVIN:** Clearly you mean business if you are going to exercise the SLAVIN heart. It screams romance, class, and big spender. Extend this offering, slide through the turnstile to The Grill and get ready for one romantic evening of fine dining.

5. **LET'S GO FOR A RIDE** (but we'll have to walk a mile because my car is parked all the way over near Schneider and I may have a ticket because its parked in the fire lane but really there was nowhere else to park because some sophomore keeps stealing all the spots in Fennell): This one might take up multiple hearts, but it speaks the truth.

6. **PARIETALS SCHMARIETALS:** What to give that hot McVinney chick

when your "study session" is going really well.

7. **DRUNK DIAL ME:** You know that go-to booty call you've been trying to turn into a legitimate relationship, rather than a "friends with benefits" thing? Unless you enjoy receiving 18 slurred voice messages every weekend, this is not the heart for you. For those looking to be a little bit more promiscuous on Valentine's Day, have at it.

8. **BEER GOGGLES:** This one is for leaving on the pillow of the hyena you found yourself next to on the morning of February 15. No words are necessary; just leave this and take off. They'll understand.

9. **MAKEOUT OR DIE:** Do not take this heart lightly. Seriously, you will die

10. **EVERY-1 YA GIRL:** Obnoxious T-shirt turned obnoxious heart.

February is upon the Providence College campus, and with it comes the anticipation and dread of Valentine's Day. Attached or single, what's not to love about this holiday? Candy abounds, and my sweet tooth is one happy camper—save for one Valentine's Day staple: Conversation hearts.

Conversation hearts are not atop my favorite candy list, as they taste like chalk wrapped in children's vitamin. But like candy corn at Halloween, they are traditional Valentine's Day fare and are required to be consumed. This year's sampling proved more dissatisfying than usual, as the once kitschy yet cute sayings have been replaced by utterly lame phrases. The New England Confectionary Company, better known as NECCO, was the creator of the original Sweethearts Conversation Hearts and annually puts out a list of ten new sayings.

This year, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals teamed up with NECCO and came up with some doozies, ranging from "URA TIGER" to "PURRFECT" to my personal favorite, "GO FISH." What does that even mean?

Needless to say, these sayings leave much to be desired, so I decided to take the liberty of proposing my own new PC-inspired conversation hearts sayings.

—Colleen Flynn '07

The 'sweetest' kind of day

Valentine's Day may not be everyone's favorite holiday, but for Midwest residents celebrating 'Sweetest Day,' there's always enough love

BY BETH FINAN '07
NEWS STAFF

As nervous boyfriends everywhere are making dinner reservations and emptying out their pockets so they can afford roses, I am left wondering what all the fuss is about Valentine's Day. I mean, it's not like we don't celebrate the holiday again in October.

No, I'm not delusional; I'm from Ohio (although some people might think "delusional" and being from Ohio go hand in hand).

You see, in the Buckeye State (and elsewhere around the Midwest), we have Sweetest Day, which is like Valentine's Day's awkward twin sister that is only popular with the band geeks.

On the third Saturday of October, boyfriends have to perform Valentine's Day-caliber tasks: Dinner, movie, chocolate, flowers, cuddly stuffed animals—the whole nine yards. And for all you singles out there: You think you feel lousy around February 14? Well, try feeling like that not once, but TWICE each year.

If Valentine's Day is such torture for

boyfriends and loners alike, you might ask, then why would anyone want to celebrate a similar holiday that doesn't even pretend to be rooted in any type of religious tradition?

Well, as the story goes, in 1922, in Cleveland, Ohio, a candy store employee named Herbert Birch Kingston decided to donate boxes of candy to the city's orphans and underprivileged children in order to show them that someone cared for them. The idea soon caught on around the city, and today, Sweetest Day is a time for people to do nice gestures for one another.

To hear cynics tell the story, however, one must also take into account a few things. First, between Father's Day and Christmas, there is a lack of holidays that involve mass amounts of candy and/or cards. Second, the world headquarters of American Greetings—a leading card company—are located in, you guessed it, Cleveland, Ohio.

Is Sweetest Day merely a conspiracy of the greeting card industry to force unwitting boyfriends and husbands into forking over money for cards that she will barely

Even if Alex Neus '10 doesn't get it right this time around, he'll have another chance to woo a potential sweetheart on 'Sweetest Day' in October.



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

glance at and toss to the side while complaining that the chocolate you bought her is going to make her fat and ugly? Or, like most holidays, has its original intent been eroded away by commercialism and overeager girlfriends? We may never know.

But here is what we do know: In 2006, American Greetings marketed 178 greeting card designs for Sweetest Day. Hallmark had 151.

Ohio is the number 1 celebrator of Sweetest Day. (Given the recent performance of the Buckeyes, I'm glad that we're number one in something.)

Sweetest Day is also popular in

Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Texas, Florida, and California are also in the top 10 states of Sweetest Day-related sales. Apparently, Midwesterners are spreading to all corners of the nation. Look out, Northeast. You're next.

Just like Thursday is the new Friday, well, Sweetest Day is the new Valentine's Day.

This year, Sweetest Day will be celebrated on October 20. Mark your calendars. And start planning now. If you mess up big on Valentine's Day, just think, you still have another chance in 2007 to redeem yourself!

Tangents and Tirades—Valentine's style

Not so yummy candy hearts

Like the timeless and revered news anchor/talk show host Stephen Colbert, I know about a lot of things with my gut. My gut is my own personal "No-Fact Zone." This week, my gut is telling me that there is only one gift besides a diamond that lasts forever—those little candy hearts that taste like chalk. In fact, my gut tells me that they are indeed made of chalk, and my gut tends to be correct when it comes to food it detests. And because they are so disgusting, those little candy hearts never make it to my mouth. But they never make it to my trash can, either.

In fact, I have almost trained myself to ignore them even while they are still in the process of being handed to me. Despite the hearts' desperate pleas of "Hug Me" and "E-mail Me," the pleas emanating from my gut (i.e.: "Destroy them" and "Only if they are Doritos in disguise") carry more weight when it comes to consumption. In short, if you're thinking about getting me some little candy chalk hearts, I can think of something that I'd like more. A diamond, maybe. It would probably taste better.

—Kelly Jones '07

Just stick to simplicity

Dear Future Boyfriend, In case you were wondering what *not* to get me for Valentine's Day, I do not agree with the whole expensive gift thing. In the words of Shania Twain, it just "don't impress me much." Hey, let's drop \$150+ for some cologne and piece of Tiffany's jewelry . . . great idea! And why don't we just throw in his and her iPods on top of it. What? Get them engraved too? Sure, why not! You might smell amazing, I might look amazing, and we both might be listening to some pretty amazing music, but I don't have an income right now.

Let's face it, you're no Bill Gates. After all, if you go broke, how will you pay for my birthday present come August? So, how about let's just stick to the cute card and candy this year or whenever you choose to grace me with your presence?

—ShannonObey '08

Sugary sweets do a body good

Whatever your opinion on St. Valentine's Day, I think we can all agree that there is one perk: The candy. From boxes of the good stuff to heart-shaped cherry lollipops, you are sure to get a sugar rush that will make your heart beat faster than a kiss from the cutie sitting next to you in French class. The conversation hearts, though lacking in conjunctions and prepositions, are just another way to play with your food: UR COOL. FAX ME, TRUE LOVE. This is even better than alphabet soup! No one to shower you in Hershey's Kisses? Buy some candy for yourself and get what you really want.

—Jen Jarvis '07

Disheartened on heart day

The idea of Valentine's Day is great—a fun night out and a good reason to spoil someone about whom you really care. However, if you don't have a valentine, it can be a little disheartening. Since this is my first year experiencing this in college, it has hit a little harder than it probably normally would. From one person who is spending Valentine's Day alone, to everyone else who is, keep your head up . . . there are better days ahead!

—Chris O'Connor '07

It happens when you least expect it . . .

So, it's Valentine's Day: A time for chocolate, cards from people who care about you, and finding love. If you don't know this by now from previous articles I have written, I am a waitress at everyone's favorite restaurant, Chili's (our highly addicting jingle about baby back ribs with barbeque sauce will have your ears ringing for weeks).

One day I was waiting on a table, a party of 10, that I had a fun time joking around with. I should also mention that I'm the type of person who doesn't think any guy is flirting with me, and I would never go out with someone who left me his number—especially if I were working. Well, I kept running into one of the guys with this party of 10 every time he left the table, and we talked for a bit. I kept saying, "No, I'm really not

following you around!" To make a long story short, the party of 10 left, and the young gentleman came back in a few minutes later and asked me if I would be interested in getting coffee sometime. What's the point of this little rant? You may never know where you will find someone special.

—Laura Bedrossian '07

What does 'dating' really mean?

So let me get this straight: Are you dating, friends with benefits, going out, seeing each other, going out but not yet official, dating without a title, going steady, or engaged? Since coming to PC, I never realized how many ways there are to describe one's relationship with his or her significant other. I'm surprised Facebook hasn't picked up on the varied "title" lingo. Some people on Facebook are listed as being in "complicated" relationships. I still have yet to understand exactly what that means, though, except that maybe being in a "complicated" relationship is less daunting than broadcasting the fact that you are "in a relationship with," "engaged to," or "married" to the disheveled gent with the lime green striped shirt in your Shakespeare class. I suppose this is one of the perks of being single—no titles, no confusion.

—Mallary Jean Tenore '07

Silence the Complainers

People are always complaining that they don't have dates for Valentine's Day. And it's not just rational complaining, but angry, emotional, unhealthy complaining. Some of my guy friends are bitter when their girlfriends leave them for a "better" guy just before Valentine's Day. Well, look on the bright side: She was going to leave you anyways. Wait, here's the bright part: Her promptness in dumping you waived you of the Valentine's Day responsibilities girls depend on. Consider her breakup equivalent to finding a \$100 bill in your pocket. I know some of my female friends lock themselves in their rooms with chocolates and romantic movies. The purpose of such a joyous occasion is to cry. To all PC single women: If the

idea of Valentine's Day upsets you, why smother yourself with a wide assortment of things you associate with the bloody day? I'd recommend doing something to get your mind off the sorrow, such as some creative writing. After all, next Wednesday all the *Cowl* editors will be doing the same thing in Slavin G05. Stop by and I'll introduce myself.

—Tim Pisacich '07

Bring back the candy corn!

I realize there are some people who enjoy eating candy hearts, but I am not one of them. If I'm going to invest in eating a piece of candy I'd rather it not be a) chalky and b) flavorless. Also, I'd prefer my candy to not convey a message to me that if said in a bar, would solicit a dirty look from a female to a male.

That being said, I'd like to commend a holiday candy that actually does its job: Candy corn. Candy corn is not only appropriately colored (orange, yellow, and white) for fall, but it also tastes delicious. The only problem is that I can't find it all year long, and instead when February rolls around I am left with nothing but candy hearts, and Russell Stover chocolates that you need a map to eat.

—Megan Bishop '07

PDA—Personally Distracting/Appalling

Yes, it is Valentine's Day—a day to express your undying love for, or at least your mild attraction to, that special someone. I beg you, though: Please do not express this devotion by engaging in a full-fledged makeout and groping session on the steps in front of Ray. Don't get me wrong: I am all for handholding, hugging, or even a quick kiss, for these are generally cute. You know what isn't cute, though? When I have to take an extra 30 seconds to maneuver around a saliva-swapping couple on my way to lunch, resulting in my getting in the end of the deli line for my delicious tuna and toma to wrap!

—Megan Gorzkowski '08



Tiffany & Earl

Making PC an emotionally stable place, one letter at a time . . .



Dear Craving,

My motto in relationships is always to seek communication. So, if you don't want to embarrass yourself by over-indulging your love interest with unnecessary gifts, then I suggest you talk to

her. And, what better day to confess your love to someone, but Feb. 14—Valentine's Day. I suggest you prepare something special: Cook her dinner, buy her some roses, or write her a heartfelt note. Let her know exactly how you feel. Sure, you're throwing your heart out there, but life is about taking risks. Without them, you can be left with regrets, and in this case loneliness.

If you want to avoid the classification of "creepy guy," stay away from any mention of a hair doll, or that time you memorized her schedule so you could walk her back from Harkins Hall every Tuesday. Just stick to things that girls like: "You're the most beautiful woman I know." "You make me smile when I see you." "I don't even look at other girls on or off the Internet."

Consider, also, that girls tend to be somewhat desperate on Valentine's Day. She will most likely accept whatever offers you send her way. The chances of her breaking your heart are much less than on Feb. 15. So, suck it up and take a chance.

Tiffany

This Week . . .
Craving the V-Day Love

Dear Tiffany and Earl,

I've been kind of seeing this girl . . . but not really . . . but we are . . . well, it's hard to explain. Moral of the story is, we are really good friends and I want to take it to the next level. I'm not really ready for a serious relationship, but I'm worried about getting stuck in the "friend zone". Hearing all of my friends' plans for elaborate and expensive outings on Valentine's Day with their significant others, I want to know how far I should take my own plans. So, what could I do to show her that I want something more, but at the same time, avoid being that creepy guy who spends just a bit too much for imported Swiss chocolates?

—Confused and craving the V-Day love

We're sure Valentine's Day was rough.
We're here to help.

Write to Tiffany and Earl!
AskTiffanyEarl@yahoo.com

Dear Guy,

I am going to come out and tell you that chances are she is just not that interested. Women act when they know whether or not they want to hook up with a guy. Her general lack of action tells me that you are doomed. Regardless, Valentine's Day is a women's kryptonite—it is a time when all women are most susceptible to any sexual advances. Bearing this in mind there still may be hope for you yet.

If this girl is a "friend" of yours then do "friend things" on a more personal level. Take her ice-fishing, and then after warm-up with "7 minutes in Heaven" before watching *7th Heaven*. In the past I have proposed a hair doll made from her hair as a gift. I have learned the error off my ways. I realize that it was an impersonal and disgusting gift. It should be more about what she wants. If you really want to win her love give her two things: 1. Shave your back and 2. Take your back mane and braid it into a hair doll of you. This way she can have a piece of you wherever she goes.

If this doesn't work out I would recommend finding a fat-bottomed girl 'cause you know that she'll love those chocolates that you bought (unless, of course, she is diabetic).

EARL

Beating the Valentine's Blues

BY LAURA BEDROSSIAN '07
COMMENTARY STAFF

You're going to be hearing and reading dozens of things having to do with Valentine's Day this time of year. While one of the card companies' favorite days is quickly approaching, the hearts and talk of love will undoubtedly get to you—the single guy or gal.

Sure, everyone says that the big V-Day is conducive and versatile enough to accommodate the unattached with talk of friendship, which may make the singles less depressed. But let's face it: That's all crap.

Take it from a girl who has only received a Valentine's Day card from that kid in elementary school who gave the entire class the same generic *Doug* card, and the boxes of candy from her mother since age 13: Valentine's Day stinks!

And doesn't it seem like this time of year is when each and every friend one could possibly have has miraculously acquired a significant other with whom to do romantic date-like things?

So what should you be doing this Feb. 14th, singles? Here are the top 10 things to

do for those who are too depressed about their love life or for the person who genuinely despises the dreaded V-Day from someone who knows best—the girl who's never had a real, romantic Valentine.

Homework: What better way to say, "I hate you, Valentine's Day" then by completely ignoring it. This is also a great way to force people into believe that you legitimately care about school.

"Sacrificing" your Feb. 14 for studying, great cover.

Watch *Love Actually*. It's a great movie and it will actually make you love . . . love.

Have a special ceremony to burn a copy of *The Notebook*. Don't get me wrong, it is a superb flick, but it will make you hate yourself and wish you had a girlfriend or boyfriend.

Check out Providence. Get your mind off the day totally. Go shopping, go sightseeing, who knows, you may even see the three people who actually

make up the population of Rhode Island.

Take pictures of yourself on a digital camera doing different funny facial expressions. No, I didn't not do this my freshman year. (Hope the double negative confused you).

Go out to a fancy restaurant, one you know couples of all ages will flock to. Be prepared with whoopee cushions. You do the math, and you're at your own risk with the restaurant management.

Be a couch potato. Don't watch anything having to do with dating, check out one of the most addicting shows on T.V.—*What Not to Wear*. There's no better way to bring one's spirits up or take one's mind off love, than by watching a show about how horribly some people dress.

Listen to angry, scary, and loud rock music. Not only will it take away any wishes for a lovey dovey V-Day, but it will make your ears ring and you won't be able to think of anything at all.

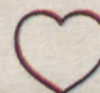
Read a book on the *Massacre of the hot dog*—*The Nathan's Hot Dog eating contest*. It may not be an actual book, but ponder that idea and you will be so disgusted by the prospect of this disgusting "sport" that Valentine's Day will not even enter your mind.

Go to a sports bar of some sort and watch whatever sport you can to get your mind off the most "romantic" day of the year. Basketball, golf, the spelling bee championships, whatever. As long as you're not thinking of Valentine's Day you're in the clear.

Hope this list from a Valentine-less pro has helped, but remember, if all else fails, you can just throw stuff at young lovers on campus from your windows—they'll be too enamored by the beloved day to know the difference. Believe me, it will help with those Valentine's Day blues.



Think Thayer for
Valentine's Day!



Happy Valentine's Day!

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hungry for?

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On dating and St. V here at PC

By LISA HOFER '09
NEWS STAFF

As Valentine's Day rolls around this year, it comes time to reflect on the themes of the season: Love and relationships. While singles and couples alike may roll their eyes at the stresses of this 'Hallmark Holiday,' I think that it serves as an important reminder—and not of what we have, but what we are missing. That is to say, dating.

On a college campus, this social institution—once the center of past generations' social lives—has all but disappeared. No one goes on casual dates anymore; we are either in attached-at-the-hip-practically-married serious relationships, or totally single. There is no more stuttered invite, nervous preparation, or awkward goodnight anymore, but neither is there the chance to get to know someone you are attracted to without the commitment of a full relationship. And this may not be good.

In a world where degrading, drunken hook-ups and 'just friends' statuses prevail, we have lost an understanding of the importance of dating. As young college students, this should be our prime time for meeting and getting to know new people, for acquiring social skills, and for figuring out what type of person we might want to spend our lives with. The formal setting of a date allows us to acknowledge these common goals and to pursue them without fear of being inappropriate.

Instead what we have are 'etads'—a phrase my friends invented by spelling 'date' backwards, and used to describe situations that might be dates or might not. We hang out together but are perpetually unclear of both our own, and the other party's, intentions. How can we possibly begin to explore the possibility of a relationship in this confusing context?

And I by no means exclude myself from this problem. Last week I invited a male friend over to watch a movie on a Friday night. When I saw my roommate later she expectantly asked me, "How was your date?"

"What?" I replied. "If that had been a date, I would have changed out of my sweatpants before."

The lines between friendship and something more are impossibly blurred in a world where we use have to use the word 'etad' instead of date.

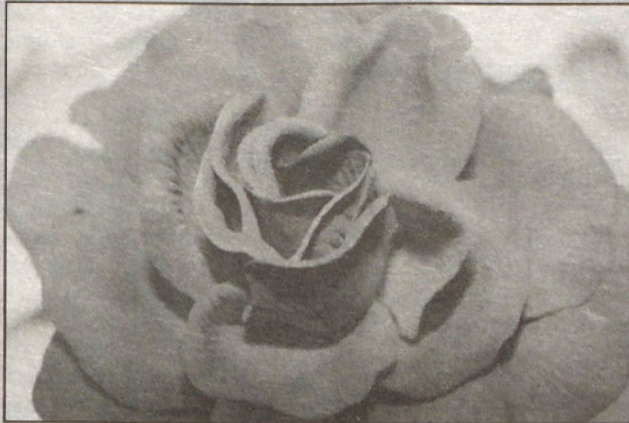
While undeniably existent, the phenomenon of the disappearance of dating has complicated roots. Busy being campus leaders and earning our way through increasingly expensive college education, we may simply no longer have the time to date. Or as Vince Vaughn cites in *Wedding Crashers*, dating has become too awkward for us to handle. Or is technology isolating us when we text-message flirt instead of ice skate together? Furthermore, in a post-modern society, it is impossible to tell the difference between being sexist and being gentlemanly. As women look more toward careers than domesticity, is it demeaning or classy for men to open doors and pay for meals? With men still earning an average of 33 percent more in the same jobs as women, this second question can be answered on an economic level, but it is only tip of the iceberg of uncertainties we face in the dating world.

Despite these roadblocks, I think that we are missing out on a lot by not dating, and I worry that without the ability to casually explore romantic friendships we will soon find ourselves as full adults: Alone, with no idea what to do about it. So if you're seeing someone this Valentine's Day, I congratulate you. But if you're not, why not take the risk and ask someone on a date? I don't think he or she will turn you down.

Poetry Corner

The day of Valentine has a bad name

By MARY KATE NEVIN '09
COPY EDITOR



MARY PELLETIER '09/The Cowl

The day of Valentine has a bad name
Because secular sentiments abound;
Commercialism gets all the acclaim,
When its true focus should be more profound.

For in the spirit of Saint Valentine
All generations show their special love
Young children ask their friends, "Will you be mine?"
At recess in between the push and shove.

The budding lovers in uncertain bliss
And tender spirits plan a special date
Veteran couples display with a kiss
Appreciation for their lifelong mate

To love another, to feel its return;
These are the greatest lessons we can learn.

A sneak peak at Cupid Jones' diary

Feb. 12, 2007

Dear Diary,

Went to the grocery store. Got kicked out for indecent exposure. Then proceeded to be threatened by an oversize rent-a-cop when I yelled, "I'll give you indecent exposure you..." as I waved an arrow at him. Gosh, I hate my life and those freakin' cards; I do not look like that.

February 14, 2007

Dear Diary,

Woke up today, went to the bathroom (just like every other guy). I hate today so much. So much is expected of me. Since when do I mean so much to almost every woman in the world? It doesn't seem fair. I mean, I put my pants on just like every other guy, one leg at a time—or at least I would if I actually wore pants. Everyone seems to think my life's a breeze. No, it's just breezy down there.

Diary, I don't know what to do. People want me to spread love, but I am not going to do it anymore. I miss my old girlfriend, Psyche. How am I supposed to enjoy this beloved day when my beloved one betrayed me by doing the one thing I asked her never to do?! I pine for her. Ah, whatever, she is my baby's (a.k.a. Delight) mama. Sorry for getting all emo on you though. I suppose it doesn't really matter. I guess I can just aim for another hot chick that catches my eye.

—Cupid Jones (A.K.A. Laura Bedrossian '07)

February 13, 2007

Dear Diary,

I wish I had a new job. That day I hate most is coming. My mom begged me to be a dental hygienist and what did I say? No. I guess it isn't too late to go back to school. I saw an ad on T.V. the other night when I couldn't fall asleep that said I could work on my degree from my home computer. Technology is so nifty. Too bad I only have an old typewriter. Mom told me that I could either get a new phone or a computer; I of course had to get a new cell so I could take pictures and videos. Bad choice.

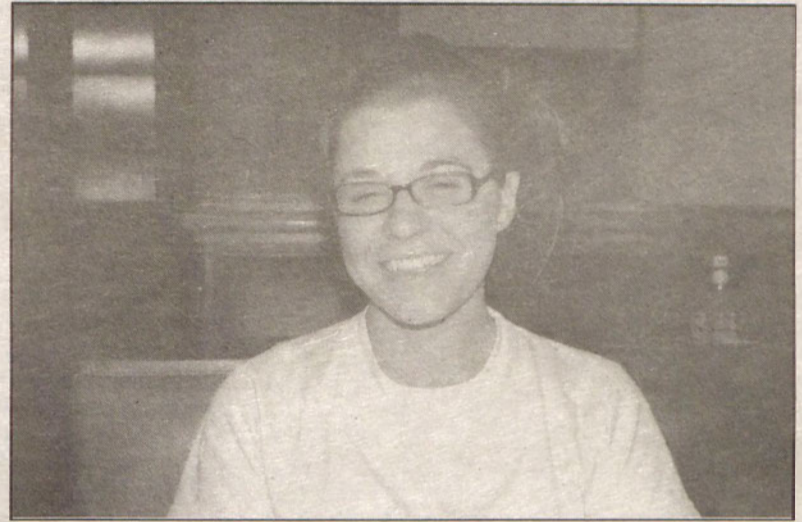
On a lighter note, I polished golden tipped arrows and got my wings back from the shop. Joe overcharged me again; he's always trying to work me over. Little does Joe (or anyone else, for that matter) know that my lead tipped arrows inspire hate, and I totally have a black belt in karate.



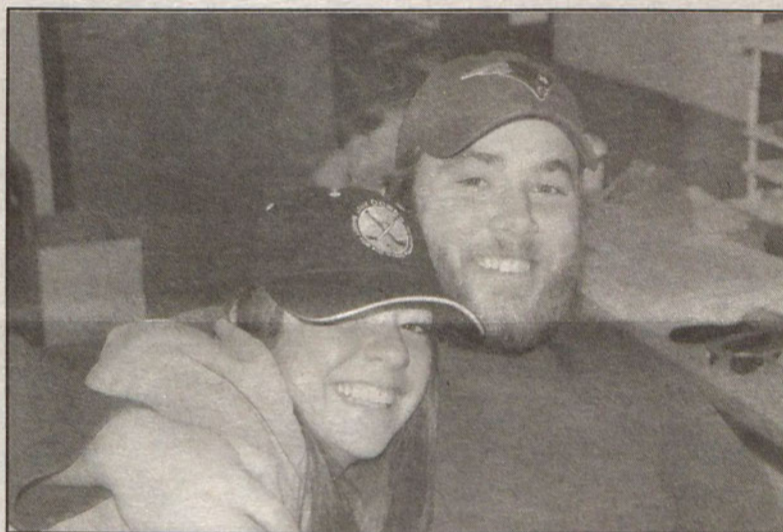
What is the most romantic thing someone could do for Valentine's Day?



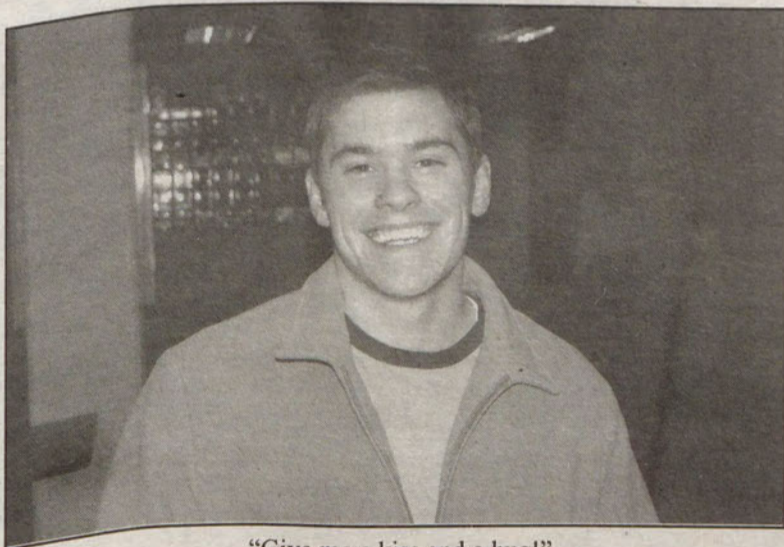
"Write unicorn poetry with a loved one."
Ben Johnston '08



"The boyfriend figure should prepare a lavish meal for his lady friend."
Diana Cervoni '08



"Grow a beard."
Leslie Gerhardt '08, Kyle Casey '07



"Give me a kiss and a hug!"
Joel DeFelice '09



"Suprise me with ROMANCE!"
Sarah Francisco '08



"I think it would be nice if I were taken to the Swiss Alps upon a magic carpet, then carried into an ornate castle and fed skinned grapes on a bear skin rug in front of a fireplace."

