

Straight from the heart

Couples should be considerate to the opposite sex on Valentine's Day

Roses and teddy bears, chocolates and candies. Yes, it is time again for Valentine's Day, the day out of 365 that we are required to show the ones we love how we really feel about them.

It sounds simple, as just uttering the words "I love you" would be sufficient, but this holiday does not work that way. College is not like the sixth grade when students could just pick out the coolest Superman valentine and put it on their desk. Things have become much more complicated since then, and now students have to worry about finding the perfect surprise to let that one person know how deeply we care.

Many people stress and lose sleep over how to make the day special for their sweetie. St. Valentine was executed in 270 for secretly marrying couples despite a decree issued by Emperor Claudius II forbidding marriage. Claudius felt married men made poor soldiers because they did not want to leave their families). Valentine fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer, and his love for her restored her vision. According to the site, before he died, he wrote a note to the girl signed, "From your Valentine," making his note the first Valentine card in history.

If St. Valentine only knew the effect of his legendary act of love committed so long ago has on us today. So guys, do you know what you are going to do for your lady this year? Finding the perfect way to spend your Valentine's Day can all depend on your motive. If you are trying to get someone to take interest in you, you might take a different approach than

someone who is involved in a long-term relationship.

Either way, there is one thing you must know. Girls want to feel special. Your lady is going to want you to do something out of the ordinary to get her attention and prove to her how much she means to you.

Whether you are in a new or old relationship, flowers are always nice. However, some girls do not appreciate flowers as much as others because they do not last very long. There may also be a couple things you might want to steer clear of: First, NO CHOCOLATES! Chocolates are just another reminder to your girlfriend that she is not the size she wants to be. Secondly, when it comes to lingerie, it is more of a present for you than her, so keep that in mind this Valentine's Day.

If your valentine wants a long-term relationship, she may want something a little more permanent to remind her of you when you're not there, for instance, a teddy bear or jewelry. Or you could try and do something really unforgettable to sweep her off her feet. For example, one unforgettable Valentine's Day a guy I had been dating for a little over a month invited me to dinner. He had cooked me a candlelight dinner set up next to the fireplace. A tape of love songs was playing and there were roses and champagne on the table. It was extremely romantic and made me feel very special to know he had gone to so much trouble. Because he went out of his way for me, I have not forgotten that Valentine's gift to this day.

I found out a week later he was cheating on me, but that is beside the point.

Valentine's Day should not be about buying the most expensive gift or going to the most expensive restaurant. It is the opportunity to get out those feelings that seem so hard to express sometimes. Whatever you feel your valentine would love the most, whether it be giving her flowers or a card you made sitting in class, that is what you should do. Making an effort to let your valentine know how much you care should be your main goal this holiday.

If you love her, tell her; if you like her, let her know. The more thought is put into the gift, the more special it will be.

Kelly Preiser is a junior English major.

The tradition of Valentine's Day has long been the one day of the year in which a person's feelings of love (or lust) can be expressed for another and in recent years has been increasingly commercialized.

In grade school, there was no better or worse feeling than giving out your little Scooby Doo Valentine card saying, "Will you be mine?" to your crush of the week only to have her go plant a smooch on the muscular kid who took your lunch money.

You were happy because you expressed your feelings, but crushed because you wasted your best Scooby card on a worthless, two-timing...

As a person gets older, Valentine's Day gets increasingly complex as you

must begin to actually choose real cards that say all sorts of sappy things like, "You are more beautiful than the most beautiful thing."

Also, about this time you must begin to get gifts for your unrequited love. Wonderful, sweet, thoughtful gifts like boxes of chocolates which make the love of your life's face look like a horrible mask for Halloween.

Or maybe you get that one rose because a dozen is so dang expensive and then she still chooses the muscular guy. Whatever you get, make sure your intentions are always pure.

Then in college, girls talk to other girls and tell their best Valentine's story. All it takes is one story about how that one girl got a catered dinner under Albritton Tower or the one who found a diamond ring in her chocolate pudding and suddenly guys, Valentine's Day is ruined for life.

There is nothing you will ever be able to do to surpass that, barring taking your girl to a Chippendale's show. The gifts also get a lot more expensive, which can be a strain on a guy's wallet.

However, the point of this column is for all girls to, hopefully, realize that there is a guy in the relationship too and just because he goes to a nice restaurant and takes you to a sappy, lovesick movie does not mean the guy is getting what he needs on Valentine's Day.

If the holiday is about expressing your feelings of unrequited love for your significant other, then the girls out there need to know what a guy expects on his special day.

First suggestion: Have your "special" night full of "romance" and "sweetness", but then you need to have another night in which you devote time to the guy and what a guy wants.

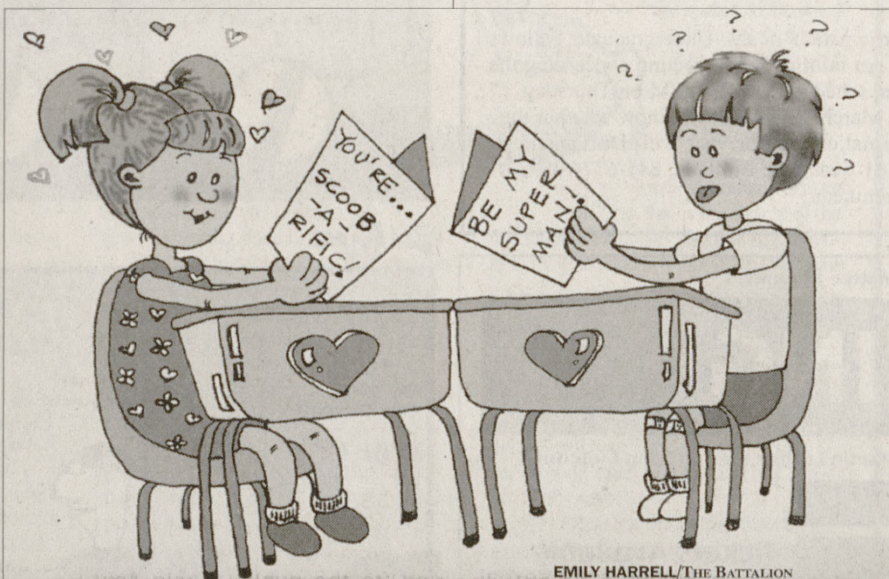
What a guy wants on Valentine's Day is for his woman to invite him over to her house.

On the table there should be a case of beer, not Lonestar but Shiner Bock. There should be a steak dinner nearly completed and a selection of videos for his viewing pleasure which includes Jenna Jameson's *Flashpoint*, any kung fu movie, and something kind of bloody like *From Dusk Till Dawn*.

Honestly all your guy wants on Valentine's Day is exactly what he wanted way back in grade school, to know that you appreciate his efforts and forgive him for his mistakes.

A guy wants his woman to accept his feelings for her and reciprocate them. All a guy wants is exactly the same thing that a girl wants — to feel special and feel loved. The main thing most couples need to realize is that Valentine's Day is about emotion, not gifts and not dinners, and no one has ever said that you only had to act nice and loving one day a year.

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