

**"Voyage into Light:
A Non-Rational Quest for Meaning"**

Dr. David Erlandson
Professor of Education Administration, TAMU

Thursday, February 15th
7:00 P.M.
Rudder 601

This presentation traces one professor's life-time search for meaning -- a meaning that encompasses both the physical and interpersonal world as he experiences it, reaches beyond the space and time limitations of traditional science, and is responsive to reality that exists beyond the reach of his physical senses. This quest leads to an understanding of God and the universe that governs every aspect of his life, including the way he does research within his own discipline.

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In love and out of money

Valentines can be great without costing a lot

By MELISSA SOROLA-BILANO
The Battalion

It's Valentine's Day in Aggieland, and hearts and cupid's are plastered everywhere. With so much pressure on couples to go all out on what is supposed to be the most romantic day of the year, working together to make the day special can make it even more passionate.

However, the holiday should not be about money, and, since cash and Aggie Bucks may be running low for some at this point in the semester, students should consider other options to make the day special.

Aggies can save money and enjoy the day with their sweetheart by going on a picnic.

When people say "picnic" in College Station, they tend to think of Research Park. College Station also has Wolf Pen Creek, Central Park and Hensel Park, to name a few.

This year Valentine's Day falls in the middle of the week, so almost everybody has class. If getting to a park is impossible, try having the picnic on campus. The mall in front of the Academic Building, the grass by the O&M Building and O.R. Simpson Drill Field are some places couples can get away for a quick picnic between classes.

If there is time, Lake Somerville is a 30-minute drive away. There are many different picnic areas with views of the lake where watching the sun set would be really romantic.

The menu for the picnic doesn't have to be extravagant. Simple, inexpensive items can still set the right mood.

Ryan Vandergriss, a produce clerk at a Bryan grocery store, suggests produce items because they are cheap.

"You can't go wrong with strawberries," Vandergriss said. "The closer we get to Valentine's Day, the more we sell."

Vandergriss said grapes and fruit trays would also be nice for a picnic.

Casey O'Kane, store director for a Bryan grocery store, said ready-to-go foods are also popular picnic

items. He suggested that cheese and crackers could also be taken.

"I don't think it's so much the eating as it is the experience," O'Kane said.

O'Kane said a bottle of wine for those over 21 would be a nice touch.

If the weather is bad, take the picnic inside. Clear out a room and place lighted candles everywhere. They do not have to be expensive scented ones; cheaper tea-light candles will work just as well.

Another alternative would be to cook dinner together. All week long, the Food Network has been running shows with Valentine's themes. The Food Network's Website, www.foodtv.com, has links to special Valentine's menus for brunch, lunch and dinner. The site also has a section on preparing foods believed to be aphrodisiacs.

Bobby Flay, host of the Food Network's "Hot off the Grill," suggests making the meal a hands-on experience.

"Anything you eat with your hands is definitely romantic," he said.

On the Food Network Website, chef Sara Moulton, host of "Cooking Live" and "Cooking Live Prime-time," said cooking someone dinner is a great gift.

"What's really romantic is to make that person's favorite or most requested dish," Moulton said.

Some of the menus may sound really exotic, but consider this: The price of the ingredients is probably the same or less than the cost of eating in a restaurant. Advantages to cooking at home include no wait for a table and no need to leave a tip.

Dessert is critical for any romantic meal. Strawberries and whipped cream are a simple treat. Cakes are one of the least expensive desserts to make; cake mix and frosting cost less than \$5. Valentine's Day could be a



JOE PEDEN/The Battalion

time for a couple to make something they have never had before.

Background music helps set the mood for the dinner or even the picnic. CDNOW.com has a Valentine's section with selections ranging from Marvin Gaye to Madonna to Frank Sinatra. The music does not have to be sappy love songs. Again, like a meal, try something different.

For some, there is a lot of pressure to make the day special.

Elizabeth Ellis, a junior English major, said she thinks Valentine's Day is really important for girls.

"For girls, it's more important because you want to be with someone who is romantic," Ellis said. "I don't think it's as big a thing for guys."

Ellis said the real meaning of Valentine's Day has been lost.

"Today all the holidays have turned into buying things," she said.

Ellis said Valentine's Day is not about spending money.

"The point is to spend time together and showing your love to another," she said.

Be honest with one another, especially if money is a concern.

There is no need to be shy about splitting costs. No one should be tallying up who bought what for whom. The main idea is to work together to make this Valentine's Day a memorable one.

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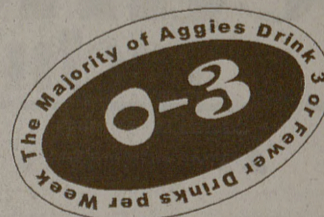
Happy Valentine's Day!

Did you know...

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AMETHYST, THE BIRTHSTONE OF FEBRUARY, IS NAMED FOR ITS ALLEGED POWER TO PREVENT ITS WEARER FROM INTOXICATION.

In Europe, February 14th is believed to be the day that birds choose their mates.



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MSC 201

Tuesday, S
Titus (with M
Introduction
7:00 p.m.
MSC Forsyth

Wednesday
Early Music
6:00 p.m.
MSC Forsyth

Shakespeare
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Introduction
7:00 p.m.
MSC Forsyth