

# AGGIELIFE

## All alone and plenty to do

### Students find creative ways to spend 'Singles Awareness Day'

By Lyndsey Sage  
THE BATTALION

For some, Valentine's Day is a day of roses and romance. However, for Bill Black, a sophomore aerospace engineering major, it's just another day.

"As for the whole 'will you be my Valentine' thing, I have always felt that it was a bit ridiculous," he said. "It is simply an excuse to take a girl to dinner or buy her candy. It's an excuse for schools to have dances and an excuse for guys to try to sneak a kiss from their dates. It's not harmful by any means, but in general, it is no different than any other day."

Originating from the Roman Empire, Valentine's Day has evolved into a day of card, candy and flower exchanges between significant others to commemorate their love. For singles, though, this celebration in the name of St. Valentine does not have the same significance. As couples go to candlelight dinners and cuddle in movie theaters, singles, such as Black, choose to enjoy their day engaged in other activities.

"I plan on going home to see my family and get some time

away from school," Black said. "I will also enjoy watching the Aggies beat the hell out of Rice."

Black, who lives near Houston, plans on attending the Friday night opener of a three game series in Houston for the Aggie baseball team with his family and friends.

"This will probably be accompanied by smoking a brisket with some mesquite wood chips and sitting on my kitchen counter talking to my mom for three or four hours about life," Black said. "I love my family, and I treasure spending time with them. This is an excellent opportunity to see them, and perhaps hang out with some friends as well."

For singles who won't be traveling to Houston to watch the Aggies play ball Friday, MSC Aggie Nights offers alternative activities. Chris Duke, a senior political science major and director of MSC Aggie Nights, said MSC Aggie Nights will offer "plenty of fun activities for singles, so everyone can have a good time and not worry about it being Valentine's Day."

Activities, such as a game patterned after MTV's "Singed Out" and a showing of "Jackass," are included in the night's programs, as well as free bowling, billiards, arts and crafts and dance-dance revolution.

"It is just a couple of events that are designed to be fun but not exactly for couples to be romantic. We did not think that a program that specializes in free entertainment would be good to a market as a romantic date," Duke said.

He said the idea for the night came up through conversations with some MSC Film Society members who thought it would be fun to show "Jackass" as an anti-Valentine movie. Then Duke wanted to do something to get new people together, so he decided that one of his favorite old MTV game shows "Singed Out" would be perfect for the night's agenda.

During the game, 12

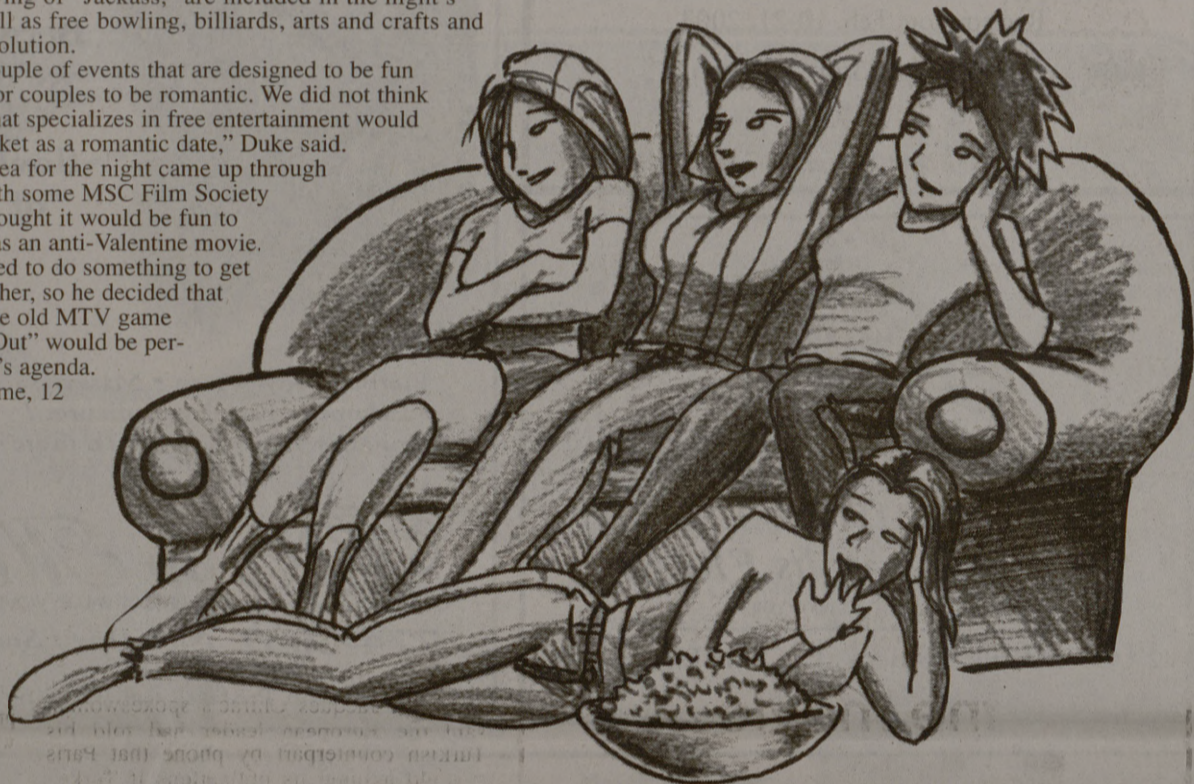
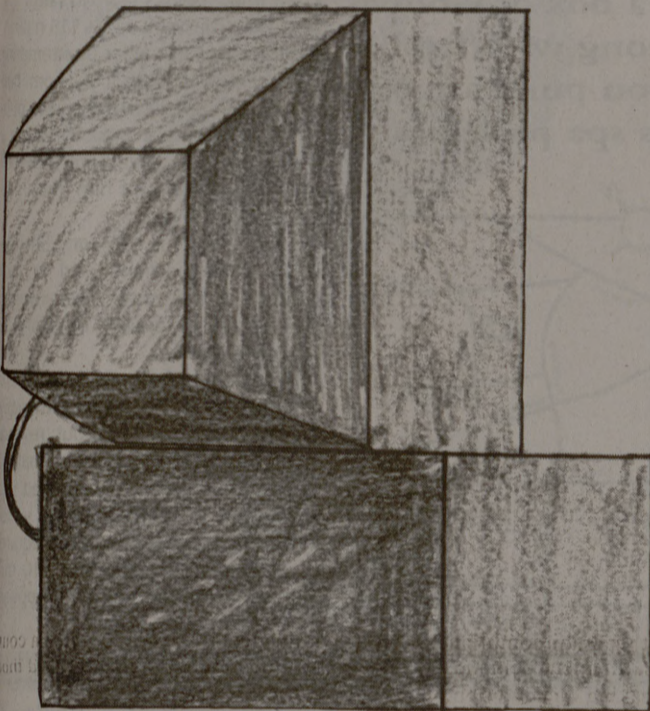
singles will be matched up based on a list of questions about their ideal mate. The winning couples will receive tickets to the Robert Earl Keen/Cowboy Mouth concert and dinner at a nice restaurant.

"It is a great way for 12 lucky singles to meet someone in a very memorable way and possibly fall in love," Duke said. "Twelve people may not be single after the night, and that could be a good thing."

Of course, Valentine's Day would not be complete without the staple "girls' night" of chick flicks and junk food. Ellen Mattingly, a sophomore education major, plans to spend her Valentine's evening doing just this with friends at "Pint Night."

"Pint Night" is when me and my friends go to Marble Slab and get a pint of ice cream. Then we go back to my friend's apartment and eat it all," she said.

According to Mattingly, this is a girls-only event. "It gives us a good excuse to sit there and eat," she said. "You can't feel bad if you are complaining (while) eating a lot of ice cream."



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