

Word on the Hill

What is the worst Valentine's Day gift you've ever received? By Eddie Carmichael



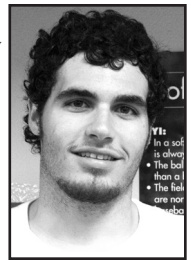
"Nothing. A little candy heart that said 'hug me.'"
Jasmine Jackson
music education
freshman



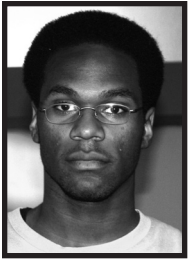
"There was this creepy guy who was obsessed with me, he was like my stalker. He stole my underwear, cut the crotch out and gave it back to me."
Mahrjon Hafez
technical theatre junior



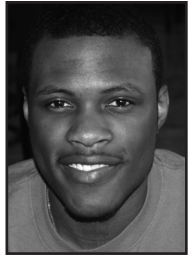
"I get nothing for Valentine's Day, ever. Nobody loves me."
Theodore Shinneman
secondary education
junior



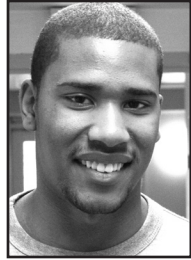
"The little tiny power ranger valentine cards. And I wasn't in kindergarten, I was in 10th grade."
Josh Plummer
business administration
sophomore



"A box with no chocolates. I guess it was her way of saying she really didn't like me."
Jeremiah Roberts
music education
sophomore



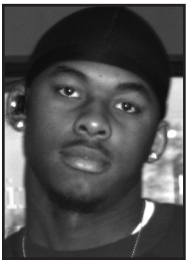
"A pair of boxer shorts from Victoria's Secret."
Marlin Parrish
business administration
freshman



"I really don't think I've got anything bad."
Devon Davis
undecided
freshman



"I have never got a Valentine's gift. So I've never had a chance to get a bad one."
Lexy Teeter
biology
junior



"A hug from a regular old girl."
Justin Diggles
sports management
senior



"My freshman year of high school I was in love with Roger Klein. My best friend made a Roger Klein Ken Barbie doll and gave it to me."
Sarah Frazier
liberal arts
junior



"Someone's eternal love."
Emily Stephens
physics
junior



"I'm just not loved enough to even get a Valentine's gift. Even if it is a bad one."
Lyndsie Oathout
biology
junior

Lovers not needed for this Valentine's Day



Cameron Siefkes

about the day is that fact that it is my daddy's birthday. But this is beside the point.

Now, I'm not trying to be a Debbie Downer or rain on anyone's parade here. I love love, and I have many people that I love. But there are just a few problems that I have with this day.

For starters, it is the one day out of the year when couples are supposed to feel obligated to show their love. There are people who will have a conniption if they don't get a gift from their significant other.

But, shouldn't love be something that is expressed all year round? I mean how hard is it to utter the three lit-

tle words every so often and truly mean it?

So, not only do you have to express your love, but you also have to spend some cash.

What doesn't say "I love you" like an overstuffed teddy bear? Or who doesn't love to receive a greeting card from their boyfriend or girlfriend? We all know how difficult it was for him or her to sign that card that they had absolutely no part in writing.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 180 million cards are given each year.

This makes Valentine's Day the second biggest holiday to give or receive a greeting card. This stat is just a great representation of the creativity of Americans. I know the greeting card people have to make money. But let's get original here people.

You don't have to be amazing with words to let someone know you care. If language isn't your strength, chances are the person you are dating probably knows that about you.

If the sale of other people's words doesn't make you queasy, let's look at jewelry. Of course you have to spend a fortune on a gift be-

cause a card just isn't enough. Jewelry sales exceed \$2 billion in the month of February alone in the 28,527 stores across the nation.

Love is just getting plain expensive. All I have to say is that you don't have to spend a penny to express your love.

And what about those people who don't have someone to share the day with? I feel sorry for people who feel as though the holiday is just a constant reminder that they are alone. If you are one of those people, please do not let the day get you down.

Remember, love isn't just something between two people in a relationship. It is

a bond between a father and daughter or two best friends.

Just think about all the other people in your life who love you more than anyone else in the world.

Oh, listen to me being all sentimental.

All I really want to say is that love should be an every single day emotion.

Don't save it for one day out of the year. And please don't spend your life savings showing it.

I will put on some blinders and let people have their little love fests on this special Saturday. But, if I catch a glimpse of love I will just have to do my best to control my gag reflexes.

Celebrate caring with creativity

By Inger Marie Furcholt
Features editor

Jewelry and candy are what many consider two of the most important ingredients of a good Valentine's Day.

Valentine's Day used to be the day when people exchanged handmade cards and gifts to show each other appreciation.

Now it has turned out to be the day where people try to outbuy each other the most expensive gift possible to show how "big" their love is. Women carry around their flowers so that everyone

knows that their boyfriend really loves them. And not only that, but loves them enough to get them something every other woman in the United States receives on the same exact day. Ah, love.

Really, how much thought is put into buying a necklace or buying a regular ring? It seems to be the easy way out.

According to The National Retail Federation, the American population spent \$122.98 per person on Valentine's Day in 2008, and this year the spending for Valentine's Day has been predicted to

reach \$14.7 billion, which will be around \$102.50 per person. This is still a smaller amount than last year, but considering the economic crisis, it is a lot of money to spend because of one day of the year.

It seems to be completely impossible to impress someone with a handmade, inexpensive thoughtful gift instead of some chocolate that might not even get eaten, or a necklace that might be worn only on certain occasions. Don't we have enough materialistic things? Appar-

ently not.

Why not show someone that you love them or care about them with the actions you do every day, instead of saving it all for one day, and then over-spending on something that really isn't needed?

We learn from when we're little that being creative is so important in all situations of life, how come we can't be creative for this one day of the year?

How come we can't stand out instead of doing exactly the same thing as everyone else?

It's like for this one day of

the year men act like robots, just to do what they think women want. And the women, after watching hours of Zales commercials, just want to be that person on TV.

After all, it's better to be like every other woman in the world than to be the one left sobbing quietly in their room while everyone else has set their chocolates up on a mantle to look at them until they rot.

Yes, people have started celebrating Valentine's Day out of obligation instead of celebration. They spend money to show they "care" instead of actually caring.

There are always those

who rush to the store the last minute trying to find a gift for their loved one.

It's like they actually feel that they need to get something that costs money instead of getting a gift that means something. A gift that does not only show care, it shows love.

Valentine's Day is supposed to be the most romantic day of the year, but has instead become a day of trying to overdo everyone and everything.

Inger Marie Furcholt is a sophomore majoring in journalism. You may e-mail her at inger.furcholt@sckans.edu.

Romantic chemistry clicks with cast

By Katie Gomez
Staff reporter

He may not be that into you, but you will definitely be into this star studded flick.

With a cast of talented A-listers, "He's Just Not That Into You" is a thought provoking commentary on relationships as well as a humorous chick flick. Gentlemen, don't fret. Even you can relate to this one.

Based on the book by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, the film, directed by Ken Kwapis ("The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants") tells the story of a group of interconnected Baltimore-based 20-somethings who wind in and out of dating, relationships and marriage as they help each other learn to read the signs of the opposite sex.

Ginnifer Goodwin plays Gigi, a naive and needy woman who just wants a guy to actually call when he says he will. Gigi seeks advice from Alex (Justin Long) who keeps her clued in to the real-

ity of men. Jennifer Aniston and Ben Affleck play Beth and Neil, the long-term couple who wonder if marriage is in store for their future.

Beth and Gigi both work with obsessive and controlling Janine (Jennifer Connelly) who has trust issues with her husband Ben (Bradley Cooper) Ben strays from his marriage when he can't trust himself around Anna (Scarlett Johansson) the sexy yoga instructor who keeps Connor (Kevin Connolly) on boy toy standby. Drew Barrymore stars as Anna's friend Mary, an ad exec for a gay newspaper who relies heavily on technology to meet men.

The romantic chemistry between Affleck and Aniston generates some tender moments that make you wonder why this is their first film together. Hitting it off with more of a sexual chemistry are Cooper and Johansson,

who once again plays the role as the seductive temptress. Goodwin's personality was almost too neurotic, compiling all of the things women do wrong in relationships into one character. She proved herself in the end of the film, however.

The film is offset with interviews of various people who share their opinions on love and relationships, such as "What to do when he doesn't call" and "What to do when he's sleeping with someone else." Most of the commentary provided a humorous break from all of the character's problems.

Despite the large cast, it was easy to follow and keep

track of each character's story. Although the characters are all inter-related, the film weaves in and out of each couple's struggle to find, avoid or improve the love in their lives. Many of the twists and turns were easily called from the beginning, but they were definitely produced with a unique spin. The film also featured a unique and modern soundtrack, playing artists from several different genres. I give this awe-inspiring romantic comedy a nine out of 10.

Katie Gomez is a sophomore majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at kathryn.gomez@sckans.edu

Have something on your mind? Want to just share a laugh? Frustrated about something? Here's your chance. A forum is available online at w3.sckans.edu/forms/collegian for you to post your thoughts. It is 100 percent anonymous, so say anything you please!

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