

The D'Arcy Voice

To Love or Not to Love That is the Question

VALENTINE ○ VALENTINE, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

RICHARD COELHO

THE ORIGIN OF VALENTINE'S DAY IS a mysterious one. People tell stories of St. Valentine or the son of Aphrodite the Goddess of Love. Others believe it's all a hoax developed by some major corporation to make money off of people.

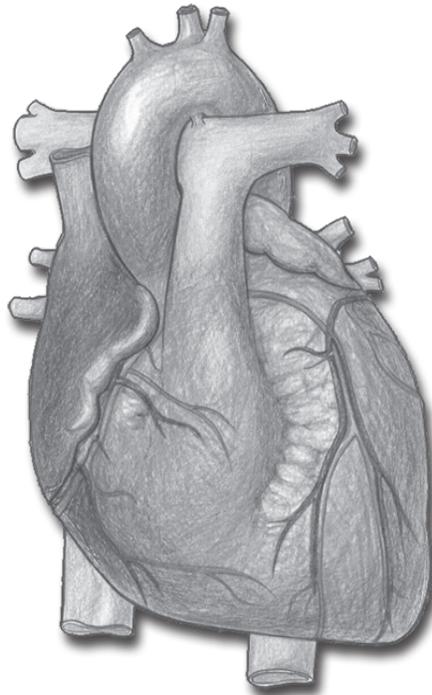
People associate Valentine's Day as the day of love and romance, and what better story to tell then that of St. Valentine, the patron saint of Valentine's Day? One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

St. Valentine sacrificed his life so people could celebrate their love eternally, therefore we dedicate the day of celebrating love to him.

On the other hand, there are the conspiracy buffs thinking that all Valentine's Day is, is a day created by the major corporations in the world to mass produce lovey-dovey pink and red things. It's the day you give a material object to your loved one showing how much you care, and the major corporations make it seem the more you spend the more love you are expressing.

Though the history of the day is

questionable and everyone has their opinion, it doesn't stop the celebration or change its meaning of love.



Food for thought: How did the heart (shown above) become associated with emotions, such as love, and how did it become warped into the hearts that we typically see on Valentine's day?

SINGLE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

SARA WYMAN

ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, I'M SINGLE ON VALENTINE'S DAY, WHAT DO I DO?

Valentine's Day is almost here and some of you may not have dates. That's okay, these V-Day dating pros and cons are here to help you.

Pro number one: You are not expected to give a gift. With that comes a con, you will not receive a gift.

Pro number two: your date can't disappoint you if you don't have one. Even though you might be alone that doesn't mean that you can't have a fun night out with your single friends. You could all go see a movie and eat some popcorn. You don't need a date to have fun.

Another good thing about not having a date is that you have the opportunity to flirt with anyone you want; maybe you can meet someone new (however watching other couples go out is not very fun).

There is one more pro I will mention. You are not being pulled in by the advertising scams and high cost dating expectations of Valentine's Day. For example, the cost of roses and chocolate is significant, especially on Valentine's Day. Restaurants will be crowded and expensive on Valentine's Day too.

I hope these pros and cons helped you to see that it's okay to be single on Valentine's Day.

PROBLEMS WITH LOVE

BRANDON CROISIETIERE

LOVE, WHERE TO START? Sure, it's an amazing feeling but with every good thing there's always something bad that comes along with it. Thus, bringing us to the problems with love.

First of all there's the not knowing if your girlfriend or boyfriend still likes you or loves you as much as before or, if they ever have. You can sometimes start receiving weird signals and you have no clue what to do or what they mean. They will worry and hurt you if you take it the wrong way and see it as your significant other wanting

to end the relationship.

Second there's the triangle between your friends and your boyfriend/girlfriend. You will have to balance your time between the two. Your friends also might find that you're spending too much time with your loved one and not enough time with them or vice versa. There's also the problem of your boyfriend or girlfriend not liking your friends and the other way around.

Also there is the problem with jealousy and not being able to talk or to flirt with a member of the opposite sex. Your partner will obviously get jealous and you won't really be able to hang out with your friends of the other sex. You will also have to remember that you're tied down to someone and you can't just start liking someone new.

Last, there is the worst part of any relationship: the breakup. It is a painful process that takes time to get over. Although heartbreak hurts, it does make you a stronger person and it helps you realize the mistakes you made and the faults you had.

As you can see there are problems with love; I suggest that you don't let these things get in your way, go out with a bunch of people and most importantly don't be afraid of love.

STD'S

ASHLEY MOFFATT

STD's (which is short for sexually transmitted disease) are a serious problem. The best way to solve this problem is through knowledge. Your knowledge of the real facts is key to stopping the growing number of teens getting these STD's.

There are a lot of myths surrounding STD's. Some which I have heard are that you can't get an STD from oral sex or all STD's are curable. Both of these myths (and many others) are wrong.

To start off, you CAN get an STD from oral sex. You can get chlamydia, herpes, HPV, syphilis and gonorrhoea. There are, of course, ways to protect yourself. One way could be using a dental dam. Those are the things dentists use during oral surgery. It isn't a form of birth control but it is a way to help prevent STD's during oral sex.

All STD's are NOT curable. All STD's are treatable, not curable. STD's that are not curable include herpes, HIV/AIDS and genital warts. The difference between curable and treatable STD's is that treatable means that you can take medication to ease the symptoms or to calm the symptoms down, but

they will keep coming back. Curable means that you can make it go away. Unfortunately for the STD's listed above, it isn't just as simple as taking a pill to get rid of the problem.

Another common myth about STD's is that you can tell when someone has one. This is not true. Some people only start getting symptoms months, or even years after they have contracted an STD. This means that a person could look perfectly fine, but he may not be. To be sure you don't have an STD you should get tested by a gynaecologist. To prevent ever getting an STD you should always use a condom.

Now how can you tell if you have an STD? Some common symptoms are: itching around the vagina, discharge from the penis for men, pain while urinating, sore throats (in people who have oral sex), chancre sores, small blisters that turn into scabs on the genital area and soft, flesh-color warts around the genital area. These are just some of many symptoms. To be sure that you do have an STD go to a doctor for testing. Now that you do have an STD what do you do? Go to a doctor to get treated. It is important that once an STD is discovered, you get whatever treatment you need. This cannot be ignored and remain untreated! Don't be embarrassed about getting treatment either. You're doing the right thing.

I hope that I have helped or answered your questions in some way. If not you can always use the internet to help or go see the school nurse.

“WE BELONG TOGETHER”

SHAWNA SEGUIN & SAMANTHA DUPONT

AS MANY PEOPLE IN OUR SCHOOL KNOW, THE SONG “WE BELONG TOGETHER” by Mariah Carey is all about love. This song dwells on the fact that she can't live without this special person. Although in the video she sings about this person with whom she can't live without while she's getting ready for her wedding. At the end she runs away with the gorgeous actor from the hit show “Prison Break” Wentworth Miller. I think that the message that Mariah portrayed in this video to young children is if you don't like your fiancé drop him at the altar for your sexy affair. The man that she's cheating on her fiancé with is there at the wedding. He is encouraging her to leave the man she is about to marry, even though they make it look like a rescue mission.

For me that is not true love, she could have at least broken up with the her fiancé instead of just dropping him. While watching this video I realized that it was awful the

method she used to demonstrate her love for the other man. She could have kept it behind closed doors to spare everyone's feelings.

TURN THIS UP LOUD AND BURN SOMETHING

Ali Wray

FOR EVERY GOOD THERE'S A BAD. For every heart that's filled there's heartache and for every love song there's at least three break up songs.

Love songs fill our hearts with hope, a false hope some may say; to the fact that one-day we'll find that special someone whom we'll spend the rest of our lives with. Break up songs are the songs we turn up really loud in our bedroom and sing with at the tops of our lungs. They're angry and know exactly how we feel.

In the love song department some of the best are the powerful rock ballads. Take Aerosmith's 'I Don't Want To Miss A Thing', for example. Steven Tyler's way of putting his feelings for that certain person in lyrical form is remarkable. With lyrics like, 'Cause even when I dream of you, the sweetest dream will never do, I'd still miss you babe, and I don't wanna miss a thing.' They just make your heart melt. This would be the song to play on a stereo in front of your love interest's bedroom window. There are other more fun love songs like Blink 182's 'First Date'. They perfectly explain teenage awkwardness when it comes to love. It explains all the worries one has bouncing around the brain before a date like, 'How does my hair look? Do my clothes look lame? When do I go in for a kiss?' First dates can be awkward and Blink 182 knows exactly how to write about it.

As for the break up songs, the best ones are the ones where you can feel the artist's heart being ripped out and stomped on. 'Song for the Dumped' by Ben Folds Five is probably one of the best. The whole song is basically asking for things back such as money and a black t-shirt. This is the song to play when your really mad and setting fire to your ex's mix tapes. The sadder point of view comes from No Doubt. 'Don't Speak' is about someone ending a relationship and you not wanting to know the reason because it would hurt too much to find out. This would be the song to cry with.

There are hundreds of songs to deal

with the feelings of love, so here's a few to help you to survive.

Break Up Songs

- "You Oughta Know" by Alanis Morissette
- "Song For The Dumped" by Ben Folds Five
- "Another Little Piece Of My Heart" by Janis Joplin
- "My Heart Is The Worst Kind Of Weapon" by Fall Out Boy
- "Jude Law and a Semester Abroad" by Brand New

Love Songs

- "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" by Aerosmith
- "First Date" by Blink 182
- "You and Me" by Lifehouse
- "I Melt With You" by Mest
- "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel

WHY IS NOT DATING SOMETIMES BETTER?

CHRISSEY CHIASSON

IT'S NOT UNLIKELY around our school to hear about a new couple in our building, because dating is a part of our everyday lives at D'Arcy. But are serious relationships all that they're cracked up to be, or does being single have just as many advantages? Here are some advantages of being single, and being in a relationship to help make your choices easier:

BEING IN A RELATIONSHIP

- Having someone to spend your time with
- Knowing that someone cares about you

BEING SINGLE

- Not having to deal with the pain of breakups
- Being able to talk (flirt) with anyone you want
- Not having to balance your time between friends
- Knowing that you'll always have your friends but most relationships don't last long

It depends on a person's point of view but thins seem a lot more simple when your not dating. It's going to end sooner or later anyway, after all no one is actually looking into marriage at this age and time. Even if that was the case it probably still wouldn't last if you look at all the divorces in our society. Love is a rare thing in our world, even though the word is repeated all the time, words don't mean that much in the end anyways even if it's "I do".

ROSES

FELICIA BROWN

FOR A GUY it could be very difficult to pick the right rose. You want it to be perfect. You want to give the rose that truly shows the emotion you feel towards that special girl. So when you are selecting and sending that rose there's different things to consider. You may want to give her birthstone color or her favorite color. You may want to give a single rose or more then one. But you also want to show her how you really feel about her. The following list will help you with your choice:

- Burgundy: Unconscious beauty
- Coral: Desire
- Lavender: Enchantment, love at first sight
- Peach: Appreciation
- Orange: Fascination
- Dark Pink: Admiration, thankfulness
- Light Pink: Perfect happiness, joy and grace
- Yellow: Friendship, joy
- White: Innocence, purity, secrecy
- Red: Love, passion, respect
- Red And White: An indication of bonding and harmony
- Red And Yellow: Happiness
- White And Yellow: Harmony

"A rose, is a rose, is a rose..." Juliet once said. If that still remains true, your girl will love whichever rose you pick for her. Being able to explain to her the meaning behind your choice might have a great impression. Even if you can't find the exact color you want, explaining your intentions might just save your relationship.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CUPID'S ARROW

CATARINA GARCIAS AND KASIA TKACZ

HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO GET your lady for Valentine's Day? Fear not we are here! Together we put a list of common and not to mention practical gift ideas, And we added a twist. What goes up must come down right? Well for every gift you give no matter how good the intention she may take it the wrong way. So we created a list of, not only gift ideas, but why you should and shouldn't purchase them.

Roses: A great gift and very meaningful if you get the right color that is. If you don't just watch the claws come out! (We are kidding... Kinda) If you're not sure what color to get, go with red. It's your best bet.

Chocolate: Sweet and tart, melt in your

mouth goodness. What could possibly be wrong with chocolate? She might get the wrong message and think that you're making a snide remark on her weight. If you plan to give her chocolate try throwing a card and maybe a song in with the chocolates.

Stuffed Animals: You would think one can't go wrong with that adorable pink penguin right? WRONG. She might think that the animal represents your perspective on her. In that case lay off the dogs and elephants.

Jewelry: Bling-Bling is the in gift of the year, what girl doesn't want something shiny? Remember size matters, not only the size of the rock but the size of the article itself. She might think that you don't pay enough attention to her if you get a piece that is too big or small.

An evening out: Other then the long lines and less then appealing food. She can't exactly complain much. She should just be happy that she is there with you and the whole idea is so "cliché" that it will turn out pretty nicely.

In conclusion we think that although girls are the most confusing of the two genders if guys take a moment and try to figure us out they would know that we are pretty simple and easy to please creatures.

Whatever you get her, she will know deep down inside you meant well.

GUIDE TO UNIQUE GIFT GIVING FOR THE LAZY PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE EXCITING AND NEW

RICHARD COELHO

All right people, throw away your mix tapes and assorted candy boxes; the new age of gift giving is now. You won't need your roses or Hallmark cards anymore.

Be a Slave to your Love: This is typically aimed towards the guys but girls should be gift givers too. If your loved one wants to see a chick flick and the other wants to see all action then give in and watch the chick flick or vice versa. It's about giving up your wants for the other person. Be overly understanding and do anything and everything the other asks. You'll want to be with each other more when you show how devoted you can be to each other.

Do it Yourselfers: Everyone will appreciate a gift made with love from your hands because it's more meaningful and you just might save a few bucks. For her, make a scrap book of the times you've shared together i.e. with pictures of you together and describe the times you've had and so on. This may not have the same effect on a guy but it's worth a shot, he'll thank you for whatever you make.

The Combo Platter: Layer your gifts together to lead to the evening's festivities. For example: Rent her favorite movie, buy her comfy PJs, popcorn, her favorite candy and enjoy the evening. Ladies don't be afraid to do the same thing and have fun.

The day is meant to be enjoyed so do just that and have fun with your loved one. Don't be lame- get a gift that's uniquely meaningful for your other half.

TOP 15 LOVE SONGS FOR VALENTINE'S

VERONICA SAMPASSA, KELLI COCKRELL,
SAMANTHA DUPONT, CANSU KOCH, NATALIE
GAUTHIER, AND MADYSSON O'DWYER

Valentine's Day is a day usually reserved for those who've had the chance to snag a significant other. In the spirit of this season we've decided to list the songs that make that special evening with that special someone a little sweeter. Even if you're single these songs will make the perfect mixed tape for that cutie you've got your eye on.

15. Such Great Heights – Iron & Wine (Cover by The Postal Service)
14. Amazed – Lonestar
13. Yellow – Coldplay
12. Bonnie & Clyde – Jayz ft. Beyonce
11. Call n' Return – Hellogoodbye
10. Maps – Yeah Yeah Yeahs
9. Only One – Yellowcard
8. Real Love – Massari
7. I Love You- Dandy Warhols
6. Bless the Broken Road – Rascal Flatts
5. End of the World – The Cure
4. Everywhere – Michelle Branch
3. Heaven – Brian Adams
2. First Day of My Life – Bright Eyes
1. Stick Wit U – Pussy Cat Dolls



D'Arcy Students enjoying a snowshoeing activity in the Outdoor Sports option class.
Photo by Cassandra Monette Thompson

A GUY'S OPINION OF VALENTINE'S DAY

STEPHEN SKIDMORE

Girls usually think that Valentine's Day is all that. But the guys, well that's another story.

Some guys think that it is a day to be able to spend with the girl they admire the most. On the other hand, the guys don't like to be out, spending all that money on one night and on one girl, when they could be home watching the game, eating pizza, sitting with their loved one. What a way to end a Tuesday night, right? Even though some girls would rather go out for a nice romantic dinner and to a movie, isn't our happiness as important as yours?

AND THE ANSWER IS- VALENTINE'S DAY

CATARINA GARCIAS & KASIA TKACZ

WHEN SOMEONE SAYS Valentine's Day most people would say "It is a day to show your loved one that you love them and appreciate them, but for others who sadly have no loved one its just a regular day to relax eat chocolate and watch sappy romantic movies.

After polling a lot of teachers and students around D'Arcy McGee High School we came up with the following information that might come in handy to some.

- ~ Most common gift: Box of Chocolate
- ~ Most romantic gift: An especially romantic evening out
- ~ Most sentimental gift: A single red rose

So maybe Valentine's Day is just a "Av-

erage Joe" day to some but to others it is a day when cupid comes to play and feelings of love and romance are at their glowing point.

SIMPLIFIED DULCE DE AZÚCAR (A.K.A - MICRO-WAVE FUDGE)

COURTNEY WEEKS AND GEMMA WAGNER

During the Valentine's Day chaos, people usually leave things to the last minute.

Think chocolate, why chocolate you ask? It is a traditional delicacy, and is enjoyed by most of the human species. In fact, over 600,000 pounds of chocolate is consumed each year world wide, that equals out to about 11.5 pounds of chocolate consumed by each person. With this information and this simple recipe, it will certainly impress your loved one, friends or family in just 8 easy steps.

Simplified Dulce de Azúcar

- 18 oz. (1-1/2 bags) chocolate chips
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp vanilla

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix all ingredients in a microwavable safe bowl..

Microwave on high for 1 minute, checking it every 30 seconds (chocolate can burn!)

Stir, then microwave for another minute, remembering to check it every 30 seconds.

Stir again. If it is not smooth, microwave again for 15-20 seconds. Stir.

Spread into a 9x9" or comparable sized baking pan.

Cover and put into the refrigerator for an hour.

Remove from the refrigerator and cut it into desirable-sized pieces.

Return it to the refrigerator until ready to eat.

NOTE: Don't forget to decorate your lovely treat. I recommend cinnamon hearts... appropriate for February 14th!

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