

# Valentine cards, flowers fill store shelves

By MICHELE GRALL  
Of the Emerald

Displays of heart-shaped cakes, candy boxes and boxer shorts sprinkled with red hearts remind the shopper that love's holiday is again at hand.

Giving gifts and exchanging cards are among the more common ways of expressing affection on Valentine's Day, and this year is no exception. Valentine's Day cards were plentiful in shops around town nearly three weeks ago, but stocks have diminished rapidly during the past week. Last-min-

ute card buyers have swamped the University Bookstore, and persons hoping to find just the right card for that certain someone risk being trampled near the card racks.

Gift suggestions include the traditional heart-shaped box of chocolates, ranging in price from about \$2 to more than \$10 at the Bookstore. Bookstores in Eugene offer books for the occasion, with titles such as "Making Love A Way Of Life" and "When Lovers Are Friends."

According to Steve Mitchell of the Rainy Day Cactus flower

shop, 1375 Pearl St., Valentine's Day is "the biggest flower holiday of the year." He suggests that people give tulips, daffodils or irises since these flowers are more available than the more popular roses and carnations.

A bouquet of a dozen roses costs anywhere between \$15 and \$40. Carnations start at 75 cents for one, and \$7.50 will buy a dozen at the Fifth Street Greenery in the Fifth Street Public Market. The ceiling price for a dozen is about \$24 at more expensive Eugene florists.

Most flower shops offer roses in a variety of arrangements: long-stemmed (most expensive), short-stemmed, baby and sweetheart buds, wrapped or arranged in a vase, and with or without babies' breath or ferns.

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, then a long-distance phone call to an absent loved one should ease those pangs of love. Rates to San Francisco on Valentine's Day



Photo by John Harris

The Rainy Day Cactus flower shop offers an array of flowers and plants for Valentine's Day.

will be 50 cents for the first minute if dialed direct and 34 cents for each additional minute, with evening rates falling to 32 cents

and 23 cents respectively. Calls to other cities in the East and Midwest are only a few cents more per minute.

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## LTD lays groundwork for booklet, bike racks

A "park-n-ride" system, bike racks on buses and a new booklet describing the Lane Transit District bus system are in the planning stages.

Decisions on where available money will be spent should be made at the end of this month, LTD marketing administrator Ed Bergeron says.

A major priority is the possible establishment of a park-n-ride system, Bergeron says. "Since our buses don't go everywhere, this type of program would enable more people to use the (bus) system.

If the plan is adopted, parking lot owners will be asked to donate spaces near bus stops so people can leave their cars in a convenient location and take the bus.

Eugene and Springfield have been contacted about "embarking on a joint effort to start such a program," Bergeron says. If they agree to the places, the system's cost would be greatly reduced.

Installation of bike racks on buses is also being considered by LTD. "We're looking at other systems that have tried bike racks in order to learn from their mistakes and to see what has worked.

"We've had a lot of requests (for the racks)," he says. It's just a matter of "weighing the costs versus the benefits." But liability and insurance costs have to be checked out first.

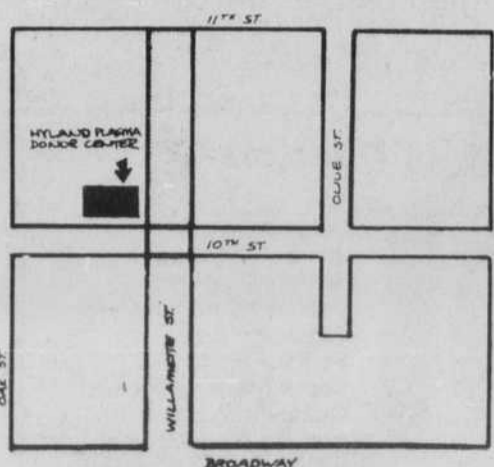
Also under LTD scrutiny are plans for a booklet describing the bus system and its routes.

LTD is currently conducting a bus ridership survey to generate some statistics to assist in basing their decisions on which programs to fund, he says.

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