

# Dos and don'ts on guy gift-giving

This spring, a young man's fancy will not so lightly turn to thoughts of war and a possible draft, but that doesn't mean this February 14th should come and go without a little romance.

The holiday powers that be, obscure forces that compel us to hide painted chicken embryos at Easter and to greet every new year with an inebriated slobbering of "Auld Lang Syne" (does anybody really know the words?), have also determined that the perfect way to express romance on Valentine's Day is to give a gift.

And you see, guys like gifts too.

*'Without a doubt, your romantic expressions for that special guy can take many forms.'*

True, but too many men are left with bitterness in their hearts and Sweetheart mints souring in their stomachs when all of the roses, boxes of chocolates and other love goodies are passed out, and they are left empty-handed.

Without a doubt, your romantic expressions for that special guy can take many forms, from a whispered "I love you" to a steamy kiss.

But talk can be cheap and kisses messy, so channel all your love into 10 or 20 bucks, and buy a gift for him.

Why are men less likely than women to receive Valentine's Day gifts?

Many assume that all the romance, tenderness and other goeey stuff associated with Valentine's Day make it more of a "woman's" holiday.

Granted, most men rank it below the vertebra-crushing action of New Year's Day football, but it certainly comes in ahead of holiday losers like



*File photo*  
Guys like Valentine's Day just like everyone else, but be careful what you get them.

Groundhog's Day or any of the Hallmark holidays.

Men like romance and romantic gifts as much as the next gender — so long as they don't make them feel or look silly. For example:

Roses are always great. Frilly, lacy valentines with pictures of the fat kid and his bow and arrow, not so great.

A bottle of wine to share over candlelight, yes. Matching his-and-hers love t-shirts, no.

A pair of sexy or cute boxers, yes. Novelty underwear with built-in male anatomy jokes, probably not — check with the guy first.

What makes a good romantic gift isn't much different for guys than it is for girls.

Begin with the idea of buying something out of the ordinary, something that he wouldn't normally buy himself.

Then, depending on whether he is a good friend you kissed once when you were both drunk, or your steady boyfriend, or your husband, select a gift which suggests any of the following, to taste:

- Subtle flirtation and expressions of affection.
- Strong love and commitment.

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