



Eugene has plenty of intriguing Valentine's Day gifts for the inspired.

Photo by Jeff Paslay



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Remember, the trick to Valentine's Day gifts is being creative.

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Originality key for Valentine's Day

Every Feb. 14, thousands of students frantically search for ways to express themselves to their loved ones.

While Valentine's Day celebrates love, it also celebrates freedom of expression: you can be mushy, gushy, original, silly, funny, serious, goofy, traditional, crazy or romantic. The sky is the limit.

Many couples stick to the traditional style of celebrating Valentine's Day, and each year, trails of red roses criss-cross through campus.

But many of us worry about being too traditional. We just can't think of anything that's original, that isn't also terribly humiliating.

Nonetheless, there are ways.

Traditional themes such as flowers can be personalized with a love note tucked in the petals of each flower or tied to the stems.

Eugene's Flower Home, 610 E. 13th Ave., sells dozens of stuffed animals, balloons and candy in any combination you want. "Bear Hugs," "Remembrance Roses," and the "Exotic Garden" are just a few examples.

For those who feel that saying it once just isn't enough, fill a whole room with balloons, each containing a

message. LaVoe's Balloon Express on 6th and Chambers specializes in "stuffed balloons," regular helium balloons filled with items such as stuffed animals, flowers and candy.

"We've put all kinds of

often performs to men because their dates have purchased the quartet. "In my experience, as many men are serenaded as women" he said.

The quartet will be available from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on

'We've put all kinds of things in (balloons): men's underwear, women's teddys, size-10 running shoes, champagne.'

-Alita Kershner

things in them: men's underwear, women's teddys, size-10 running shoes, champagne," said owner Alita Kershner. The balloons start at \$6.95 and go up from there, depending on what you put in them. LaVoe's also delivers.

On the other hand, if staying home is more your style, order a giant size heart-shaped pizza from Track Town, and cuddle up with a movie. Premier Video at E. 19th St. delivers both movies and VCR rentals.

The adventuresome should make reservations with Barbershop Quartets at 343-9743. The tuxedo-styled foursome will sing two love songs to your date, concluding the act with a candy basket and a balloon.

Jon Jacobson of the Barbershop Quartet said they've sung to "nurses, employers and grandmothers on front porches."

Jacobson said the quartet

Feb. 13-14 for serenades.

However, if you're not that brave, send your valentine an ad through the *Oregon Daily Emerald* classifieds. The *Emerald* is awarding prizes for Most Romantic, Most Greek, Best Rhyme and many more. The Longest Ad wins a foot-long sub sandwich from Sam's to Go, and the Steamiest will win an hour of hot tubing from Onsen Hot Tubs.

If you have a way with words, stick to print by creating your own crossword puzzle constructed with words only the two of you know.

Most importantly though, Valentine's Day is an opportunity to let the crazy, fun, serious or romantic side of you run free, and show others that you care. You don't have to spend a fortune - a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup will do. Love is one of the most valuable things we have, and it doesn't cost a penny.

-Beckie Daub

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4. Meat Burrito (soft)	
flour tortilla, seasoned ground beef, cheddar cheese, sour cream, salsa, lettuce	\$1.65
5. Chicken Burrito (soft)	
flour tortilla, seasoned chicken, cheddar cheese, sour cream, salsa, lettuce	\$1.95
Rice with above, add 50¢	
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