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SWEETS

Continued from Page 4B

Depending on the time of day, one may find a similar line of Valentine givers at the University Bookstore, eagerly awaiting the purchase of their chosen chocolate.

"Aren't all women chocoholics?" asked Matt Herbert, University graduate, when questioned if he thought the majority of women adored chocolate. "I bought my girlfriend chocolate for Valentine's Day last year, and I'll probably do the same this year, too."

Good idea. After a while, some people become creative with their gifts of chocolate and really take it to the extreme. According to Jenny Alkire, Euphoria Chocolate employee, a customer recently requested to have a gold necklace wrapped in plastic and disguised as a truffle.

Another legend of chocolate that has a more historical perspective is featured in Mexican mythology. According to the sacred traditions of the Indians of Mexico, Quetzalcoatl, the god of the air, was sent to introduce man to the seeds of the "quacahault" or cacao tree, in order for the tree to produce food for the gods.

Quetzalcoatl was responsible for all the clear skies and sweet air, so when he incurred the wrath of one of the principle gods and was forced to leave the country, the people erected a statue in his



Photo by Jeff Pasley
Heart-shaped boxes of chocolate and balloons are just one of the traditional Valentine's Day gifts.

honor which awaits his return."

With these myths in mind, proceed with caution this Valentine's Day. Be cautious of the arrival of Quetzalcoatl

bringing more virtuous sweets, and even more, beware of chocolate-covered Mercedes.

— Kristin Genzer

HISTORY

Continued from Page 5B

exist until 1843.

In 496 A.D., Pope Gelasius named Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day. In Norman French, the word *galantin* is pronounced similarly to valentine and means "gallant" or "lover." The resemblance may have caused people to think of Saint Valentine as the patron saint of sweethearts and lovers — yet another link to the holiday's theme.

The Feb. 14 date coincided with the ancient Roman feast for the goddess Juno, wife of

Jupiter and the queen of Heaven. The highlight of the festival was the lottery. Young girls wrote their names on slips of paper and the boys drew the names from a drum. The girl whose name was drawn by the boy became his sweetheart, or valentine, for the year.

The church attempted to Christianize the lottery by substituting the names of saints for the girls. The boys were then expected to match their lives to that of the saint whose name they had drawn. The drawing eventually went back to the choosing of girls.

By the 19th century, people were no longer satisfied with having sweethearts randomly chosen on Valentine's Day. They began sending a gift, a card, or a bit of poetry, sometimes with great and elaborate passion, to their objects of affections, a tradition greatly spurred by a lowered postage rate.

In 1797, *The Young Man's*

Valentine Writer, a handbook equivalent to a modern-day *Valentine Writing for the Complete Klutz*, was published to help tongue-tied Romeos. There was a certain amount of privacy of valentines by mail, which were often written anonymously. It could both augment the fantasy of the "secret admirer," and help out a lad stricken with shyness.

From the mid-1800s to the early 20th century, Americans and British began sending satirical valentines called "penny dreadfuls." They sold for a penny and contained insulting or vulgar verses. It was just one more link in the chain leading up to our contemporary Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Michael Jordan valentines.

Seriously ... they actually have Michael Jordan valentines now.

— Gary Hoh



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