

One isn't such a lonely number after all, especially when there's a big box of chocolate right by your side and you're wearing your favorite red underwear

Windy Borman
for the Emerald

Holidays are always tough, especially if you can't share them with someone special. There are simple ways to dismiss the fact that you're single, however.

On Christmas, you can count your blessings as you listen to how much your pal spent on her sweetie in return for a lousy McDonald's gift certificate. For New Year's Eve, you can always kiss one of your friends and make a resolution to have a special someone next year; once you start exercising it should be easier, right?

But the calendar gods or the candy companies — take your pick — decided to foil your plans by throwing in Valentine's Day, not even two months after the big night that rings in the new year. That isn't nearly enough time to put into effect your resolutions for losing weight and finding a honey.

Valentine's Day should be renamed "Single Awareness Day" because it can truly be the loneliest time of year. You can't even count on your friends because they're too busy being lovey-dovey with their sweethearts.

Even that single friend you kissed on New Year's Eve is off-limits because he has miraculously found someone who can put up with his knuckle-cracking habit.

So what do you do? Well, there are a number of ways to cope with "singledom."

First, you have to decide whether you want to give in to the sweetheart celebration antics or not.

If you don't mind surrendering to the mushy mentality, you can buy yourself some sexy underwear or lingerie and wear it, even if no one else sees it. Last year I bought some silk boxer shorts with big red lips all over them. I wore them to bed, and I swore to myself that I looked better in them than anyone else I know.

Since the candy companies practically own Valentine's Day, you can help the economy by buying yourself a box of your favorite candy or chocolate. Then, you can either eat the whole box — which would hinder your pesky resolution — or you can give them to random people on the street to sweeten their day.

Another option is to throw a party for you and all your single friends — no couples allowed!

"It seems to me," sophomore Kryss McCants said,

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“that couples have every day to be mushy with each other, so why should they have an extra special day just for them?”

In response to the couple-friendly day, McCants is having a group of single friends over to watch the “cheesiest,” sappy movies she can find, like “Sixteen Candles,” “Dirty Dancing” and “Don Juan De Marco.”

By limiting the movie marathon to singles only, McCants hopes to avoid listening to how much the couples love each other or, if a couple is separated on the special day, how much they miss the other half.

If you'd rather stage a protest against the cutesy couples, you also have some options.

Maybe you can wear all black, like my friend Mari Traverso, in protest of the pink and red hearts.

James Hein ignores the corporate holiday completely.

“I don't believe in Valentine's Day,” said Hein, a sophomore. “I used to work at Hallmark and they pretty much own the holiday.”

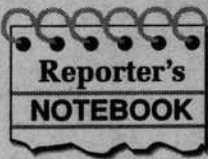
Pallavi Ingle, a junior, follows a similar path of resistance and says she doesn't even really notice the holiday.

“Unless all my roommates are getting flowers,” she said. “Then I say ‘Boy, I'm single, and I'm aware [of it].’”

Whether you decide to celebrate the holiday solo or with a group of single friends, be sure to stock up on tissue, just in case you have to console your gal pal when her sweetheart dumps her at dinner on Feb. 14.

Ouch!

Maybe being single isn't that bad, after all. Besides, you can eat ALL the chocolate yourself.



**Reporter's
NOTEBOOK**

Five alternatives to coupling up this Valentine's weekend

1. See "Top Girls" with a group of girlfriends. Shows start at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
2. Climb Spencer's Butte and look at the stars — weather permitting, of course.
3. Get dressed up, go out to dinner with a group of friends and flaunt your bad selves in front of all the couples.
4. Send Pokémon Valentines to all your friends.
5. Wear red underwear, all day long.

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