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Say it with roses, but do it with *flair*

■ The idea of roses for romance can be improved with some attention to presentation

By Dominique Beaumonté
 for the Emerald

As an oft-given romantic gift, roses, along with candy and Cupid, play a prominent role on Valentine's Day. But some people, despite their affinity for the flowers, say they should be given with some creativity.

Laura Lewis has managed Daisies Flowers at 603 E. 13th Ave. for eight years and said she has close to 2,000 roses coming into the store for purchase during Valentine's Day week. She said bigger stores will have even more.

But a dozen roses isn't what it used to be, freshman Kennasha Roberson said.

"The idea of roses now tends to be a scapegoat when your significant other makes a boo-boo," she said. "I basically feel that roses are an excuse for creativity."

But Roberson added that she would feel more special if she got 12 roses rather than 12 other flowers.

"I know that I said roses lack creativity, but the feeling that you get when you receive them is still amazing," she said.

Junior Matt Thomsen agreed about the need for more flair, likening roses to a staple food.

"Roses are like rice — they just don't work alone," he said. "Something has to accompany it. I think that roses are nice, but you have to add that creativity."

Lewis sees the scenario a little differently.

"I don't think people really pay attention to the variety of different roses there are," she said. "It's proven that the amount of women who would prefer non-red roses is in the 87th percentile. We prefer other colors or bi-colored."

Lewis said technology plays a big part in keeping the symbolic meaning of roses alive. With technology, it is possible to create bi-colored or rare roses, she said.

"Technology is simply enhancing what Mother Nature gave," Lewis said.

While bi-colored roses are becoming more popular, according to Lewis, single-colored roses still maintain specific meanings.



Jonathan House Emerald

'Symbolic' meanings

- Red**
love, respect
- Pink**
perfect happiness, grace, joy
- Dark pink**
thankfulness
- Yellow**
joy, friendship
- White**
innocence, purity
- Peach**
modesty
- Orange**
fascination
- Lavender**
enchantment
- Red and white together**
unity
- Red rosebud**
pure, lovely
- White rosebud**
girlhood
- Single rose in full bloom**
I love you
- Bouquet in full bloom**
gratitude
- 12 roses**
gratitude
- 25 roses**
congratulations
- 50 roses**
unconditional love

Source: www.roses.com

For instance, the white rose conveys innocence, purity and worthiness, according to roses.com. The red rose suggests love and respect, while red and white roses together symbolize unity. To express friendship rather than pronouncing love,

yellow roses are the way to go.

Numbers count, too. Twelve roses are an expression of gratitude, while 50 stand for unconditional love, the Web site stated.

Dominique Beaumonté is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Adult shops

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friends or couples with intimate questions.

Pre-journalism major Tyson Reynolds said he thinks younger or older people use the adult shops.

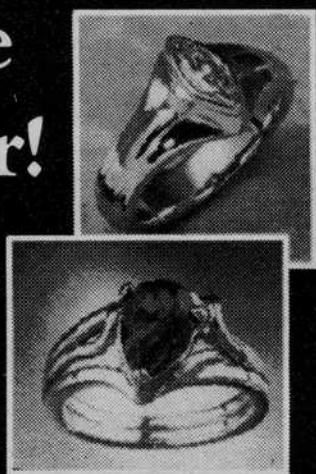
"I don't think many University students generally hit the porn shops on a regular basis," he said. "If anything, I think it's mostly Springfield adults or teenage kids taking it seriously."

But for students who are interested in what the adult shops have to offer, sales personnel have extensive knowledge of their products and can help interested customers find something perfect for a romantic night.

Emily Scriven is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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