

FEATURE

'Fake' Valentine's Day gifts offer buyers real value

By Candace Murphy
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Hallmark holiday has its merits. First, it's all about love — nothing wrong with that. Second, it livens up an incredibly dull month, assuming you don't plan your February around Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog. And third, it's a chance to appear romantic, even if you are a guy, reading this with cheese doodle detritus on your chin.

That said, Valentine's Day gifts are completely overrated. Jewelry? Honey, if this relationship works out, you're going to spend enough on an engagement ring and wedding band. Save now on the bling bling. Flowers? A nice gesture, yes, but they die. And chocolate? Your mate will put on weight and resent you.

Still, given the triumvirate's popularity, there's a way to get around the expense and risks: Fake it. Here's how.

Fake candy

What and why: We're talking about stuff that looks like candy, yet has actual utility. And that means body products. BeneFit cosmetics came out with Icings (\$32 only at www.benefitcosmetics.com) in December, a four-pack of two lip glosses and two eye shimmers packed similarly to Reese's peanut butter cups. Pupa has a sweet kit (\$25 at Sephora stores; www.sephora.com) with all sorts of shadows and shimmers in bright pastels. Philosophy also has four-packs (\$30 at major department stores) of "Frozen Desserts," "Baked Goods" and "Homemade Pies," which smell just like the real thing and are dandy shampoo and body washes.

The "Cinnamon Buns" is unbelievable. Yum.

Warning: Do not attempt to go anywhere near a discussion of the merits of sweet look-alikes vs. the real thing. Hip size will come up, and everything will get messy.

Fake flowers

What and why: Flowers are great — but short-lived. Instead, get a bouquet that may last longer than your relationship. You can go the more costly route, with a bouquet of silk flowers (\$50-\$180 at some florists), or with a box of scented rose-shape candles (\$19.95 at Illuminations stores; www.illuminations.com). The candles have a finite life, naturally, but that's just another dose of realism.

Warning: When going for the silk flowers, don't get a bouquet you hate. They do not die. You will look at them forever.

Fake jewelry

What and why: Diamonds are a girl's best friend. Yeah. You know why? Because when you dump her, or she dumps you, she can go to the pawn shop and get a pretty penny for what you bought while in the throes of love. Baby, there's nothing wrong with cubic zirconia. It looks good, and your credit card (\$80 for a single stone on a chain at Impostors stores; www.premierjewelry.com) will thank you later.

Warning: Don't try to pass this off as real. Some girls stow jeweler's loupes in their sock drawers in anticipation of that special day. Seriously.

© 2002, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.). Distributed by Knight Ridder/Tribune Information Services.



Joanne Hoyoung Lee San Jose Mercury News

Flowers and candles all wrapped up in one gift — what could be more romantic?

Call for Nominations Faculty Distinguished Teaching Awards

Deadline for Nominations: FEBRUARY 22, 2002

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni are invited to submit nominations for any faculty members, .5FTE or greater, tenure or non-tenure related, who have taught at the University of Oregon for a minimum of two (2) years. The *Ersted Award* and *Thomas F. Herman Award* are presented annually at Spring Commencement to University of Oregon faculty members for distinguished teaching. Each award will be accompanied by a recurring monetary reward. (Please note: Graduate Teaching Fellows have their own competition and are ineligible for these teaching awards.)

Eligibility for Awards

Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching

The late Mr. A. J. Ersted established the *Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching* so the University of Oregon could annually honor faculty members "who have taught comparatively short periods and have demonstrated exceptional abilities to induce students to reason and not merely memorize." The Ersted Award is presented only to faculty who are early in their teaching careers. This teaching may occur at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching

This award honors senior faculty members who have achieved outstanding records as teachers. The *Thomas F. Herman Award* is presented only to faculty members who have academic rank at the University of Oregon for at least seven years, and who have demonstrated long-standing excellence in teaching and have contributed significantly to student learning at the undergraduate or graduate level.

Nominations will be accepted either through submissions of the following form *or* by e-mail. If your nomination is e-mailed, please make sure that you include all the information contained on this form.

Send/Return this nomination form to:
Lorraine G. Davis
Vice President for Academic Affairs
207 Johnson Hall, University of Oregon

E-mail your nomination to:
Gwen Steigelman
Asst. Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
gwens@oregon.uoregon.edu

I nominate (print clearly) _____ for the

(Please check one) Ersted Award Thomas F. Herman Award

My reason(s) for nomination are: (you may attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

Signature of nominator _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please check your status Faculty Student Alumni Staff

013372



Still the Best. Still just...

\$12⁰⁰

Trendy and professional haircuts by friendly haircare specialists.

Call Ahead Service available at
WILLAMETTE SQUARE
2526 Willamette Ave.
683-1405

Open 7 days a week; Mon-Sat 9am - 7pm • Sun 11am - 4pm

SUPERCUTS

As hip as you want to be.



Give Me Five!

Run your for sale item in the ODE classifieds for five days (items under \$1,000) ... if you don't sell it, we'll run it

5 more days for free!