

Chocolate spices up love life

Many stores provide a multitude of valentine chocolates, from the sensual to the erotic

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

Chocolate is arguably the most sensual food in the world. And this sweet, decadent confection has become synonymous with the sexiest holiday of the year — Valentine's Day. While "chocolatoriums" in Eugene struggle to keep up with the Valentine rush, the bewildered boyfriend or girlfriend searches for a unique take on the chocolate purchase. However, local experts can alleviate the confusion. As you'll see, there's no end to the possibilities.

Euphoria Chocolate Company Manager Kris Ogden said people have been extremely creative in incorporating chocolate into their romantic life.

Ogden, who manages the 17th Street location, said she once sold a bulk amount of the store's popular "Ultra Sauce" — a rich fudge concoction — to a local florist. She found out later that the sauce was being sold as body paint for Valentine's Day.

Valley River Center Euphoria manager Laura Betty has also seen her share of love-related chocolate purchases in her 20 years in the business.

"We've been asked to design a truffle with a piece of jewelry in the center," Betty said.

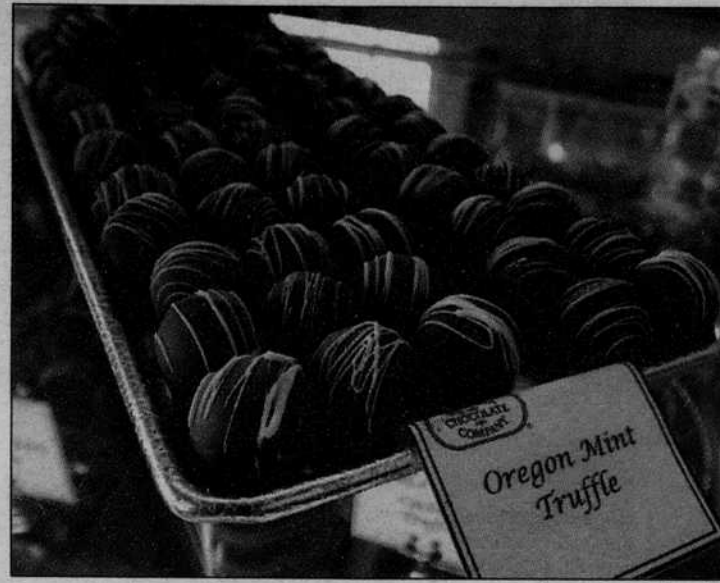
She also said some customers have purchased one of the store's heart-shaped tins filled with chocolates, then returned every year to refill the same tin.

Whatever the selection, there's no doubt that Valentine's Day is big business for local chocolate distributors.

Christmas remains the busiest time of the year for Euphoria, accounting for 25 percent of the year's business, while Valentine's Day accounts for 15 percent. However, Betty said the numbers are a bit deceiving, considering Christmas purchases last throughout the month of December, and Valentine's Day sales are usually limited to the three days leading up to the holiday.

Joyful Confection owner Joy DuYan said people have bought hundreds of dollars worth of chocolate for the holiday. Her store, located at 1035 Conger, offers chocolate ring boxes and Romance Boxes, containing an array of love-related items, including chocolate lips, a rose "for her," a chocolate kiss "for him," and peanut butter-filled chocolate hearts.

If you're looking for straight-up sexual chocolate, stop by Castle Su-



Jeremy Forrest Emerald

Euphoria Chocolate Co. is famous for its truffles, which are the most common item sold around Valentine's Day.

per Store, located at 3270 Gateway Street. This adult store has something for every erotic taste. Among other things, Castle sells chocolate handcuffs, breasts, penises, vaginas and, for the ultra-safe consumer, chocolate penises with condoms.

Love birds can also pick up the chocolate police officer's kit, which includes a chocolate badge, night stick and walkie-talkies.

Castle Sales Representative Kevin Tee said Valentine's Day is definitely the shop's busiest time of year.

"It's a time to recognize that loved one," Tee said. "You can do that with everything from chocolate to toys to lingerie."

You can even combine all three and get a pair of edible undies. Now that's one-stop shopping.

Contact the senior Pulse reporter at ryanbornheimer@dailyemerald.com

Hearts a-flutter

Hearts by the numbers

Beats per minute: 130 for a newborn; 72 for an adult

Number of heartbeats in a 70-year lifetime: 2.5 billion

Output of blood per beat for each chamber: 2 tablespoons (which amounts to 5 quarts per minute)

Weight of the human heart: 8 ounces (adult woman) to 10 ounces (adult man)

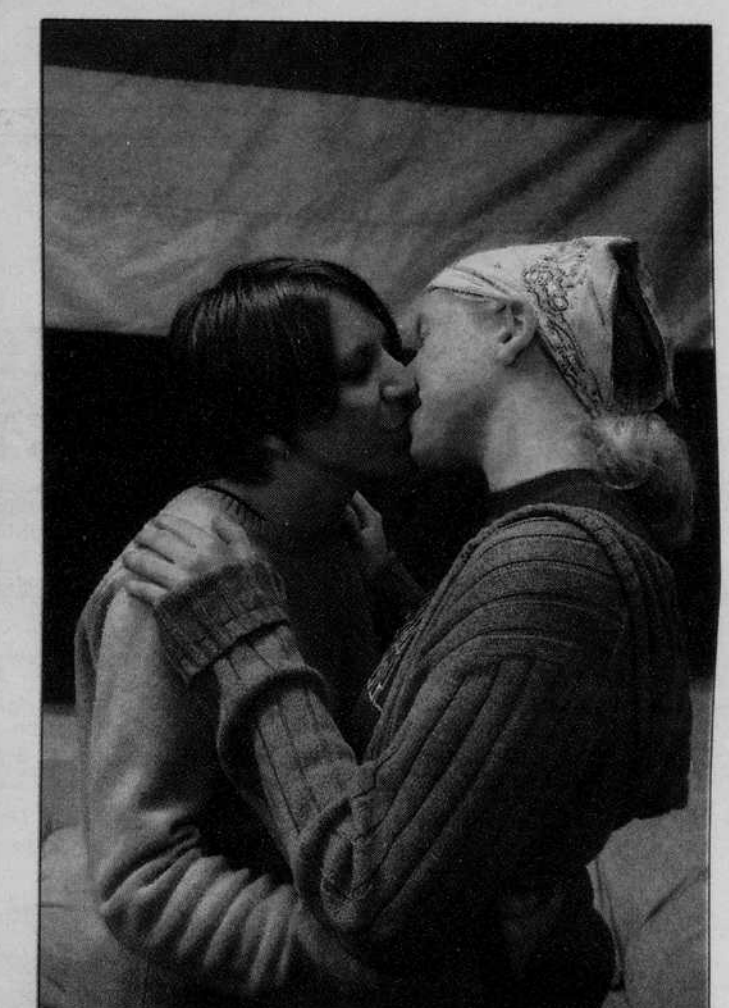
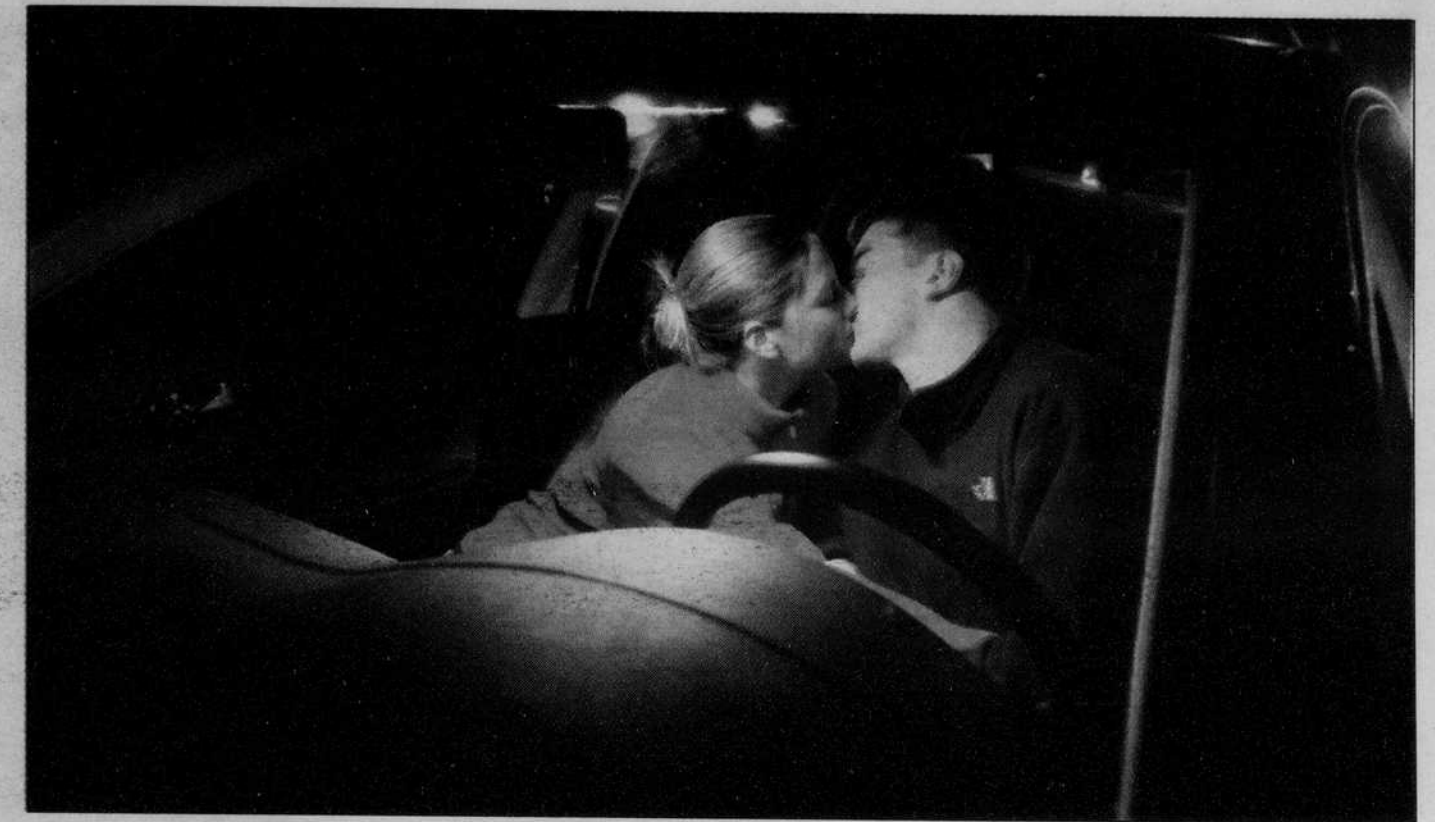
Layers in the walls of the heart: three

Lifetime blood output (over 70 years): 250,000 gallons

Length of blood-vessel system (arteries, veins and capillaries): 60,000 miles

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Photos by Jeremy Forrest Emerald



Bad things can happen to good dates

From testing potential mates to getting soaked in rivers, students share memories about their dating disasters

Katalin Linder
Freelance Reporter

People generally hope for the best as they head out on a date with a new man or woman.

However, sometimes dates do not turn out as planned, and an evening meant for romance turns into a disaster story that evokes bad memories or great stories for years to come. Students say there are many ways a date can turn sour.

University junior Joey Albert has had a few dating mishaps. A few years ago, Albert said he took a date to a Portland Trailblazers game at the Rose Garden. Those familiar with the arena know there is a large fountain in the courtyard that periodically spurts dif-

ferent water formations.

Albert decided to walk across the fountain during one of its intermissions. He was immediately soaked to the bone, humiliating him in front of his date — and thousands of sports fans, as he had to sit through the entire game sopping wet.

As if Albert's dating life hadn't been soiled enough, he was harshly introduced to the world of protective parents when he picked up a date for the first time. It wasn't exactly a warm greeting that awaited him.

"They handed me a three-page test about the future and premarital sex," he said.

Senior Tara Hadley has also been the victim of a few bad dates. Hadley said her worst date happened last summer, when a man she was dating took her camping along the Deschutes River with a group of his friends from Oregon State University.

"The fact that I was wearing an Oregon

sweatshirt didn't help," Hadley said.

Hadley said her date got so drunk he wound up at the bottom of a steep hill after taking a wrong turn when trying to go to the bathroom. Then, he proceeded to vomit all over himself before passing out in the tent. Then, the next day, while rafting, the men all got a kick out of tossing Hadley in the river at every interval of calm water. Cold and annoyed, she waited out the miserable trip.

Needless to say, Hadley is no longer interested in this particular man.

Junior Tyler Stenson took a date to a Tracy Chapman concert in Portland. After the concert, Stenson's car ran out of gas just a few miles from his date's home.

"It was really humiliating, but she was gracious about it," Stenson said.

Katalin Linder is a freelance writer for the Emerald.



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- ♥ roses roses roses

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"Where's the recycling bin?"

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