

Valentine's Day activities for everyone

Entertaining, enjoyable local dating hot-spots

Attention singles: Feb. 14 not just a day for couples

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The Clackamas Print

Valentine's Day is the traditional day on which lovers express their feelings for each other, sending cards, flowers, candy and the anonymous love note. However, to some of us, it's a holiday in which we have no clue where to begin.

For those at a loss for ideas, do not despair; there are places to go, fitting for a variety of interests.

There is always the typical dinner-and-a-movie date, but try to make it a date to remember. Consider all the fun, interesting, romantic and original possibilities.

Taking a stroll on The Waterfront in Portland is something to remember, and it's completely romantic. The city lights gleaming across the water with starry skies is very enticing at nightfall.

A walk through the Pearl District may strike any person's interests, with all the different shops showcasing characteristics of their own. On 23rd Street, there are many res-

taurants to choose from, and nice, relaxed coffee shops to just sit down in and talk.

Up for an eventful night? There is always the local Rose Garden, which hosts events and concerts. Music is always a good conversation starter for those on first dates as well.

The more active and outgoing type of person would perhaps enjoy going up I-5 to Bullwinkles, where they have go-carts, put-put golf, bowling, bumper cars and other types of activities.

To end the date, a person can always rely on a more traditional, yet fun and romantic, closure to the night. Somehow, sitting and watching a movie in the theaters, sharing popcorn and a Coke, is always a favorable notion to the ending of a night.

Just be yourself. Show your dynamic personality.

The destination is the second-most complicated thing regarding a date. If that is taken care of, it's time to defeat what is most difficult: gathering up the willpower and asking your date out.

Illustration by Kayla Berge Clackamas Print



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Ah, Valentine's Day, a time for couples. Well, forget that! Why indulge another person when you can have fun being single, and maybe even meet someone hotter?

One thing everyone always associates with this holiday is chocolate. Luckily, there are lots of places in Portland that make their own chocolates. One fun place is Alma Chocolate on 140 NE 28th Avenue. Many of their confections are organic, and they offer a variety of beautiful and delicious

things. Try their dark Peruvian chocolate, complete with edible gold leaf.

Another awesome chocolate place is Shagun Chocolates on 10 NW 16th Avenue. These sweets are a little different, but still great. For example, Pepitpas are a blend of pumpkin seeds, chocolate and ground jalapeno.

If chocolate doesn't sound good, there are a ton of things to do. The weather has been kind lately, and taking advantage of that should be top priority.

The Portland Classical Chinese Garden is a sure thing, especially since the entry for students is only \$5.50.

The museum exhibit, Treasures of Ancient Egypt, will be ending on March 4, so that's definitely worth

checking out. The exhibit includes jewelry, sculpture and other amazing items from the tombs.

If none of these choices are a good idea, there is always food! A personal favorite is the Black Point Inn on 7th. It opened during the late summer to a ton of success, and it's easy to see why. The wine list alone is enough to keep most patrons, but the food is absolutely amazing. Try the steak; any of them will more than satisfy.

Montage is a tiny place right off of MLK that is also yummy. The interior is a feast for the eyes, and the dishes are different and neat. Try the gator bite appetizer.

These are just a few suggestions that will help this V-Day be a little more fun. Just remember, if all else fails and there is no "special someone" this year, there is always an escort service.



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A look at the interior of the Black Point Inn, located in Oregon City on 7th Street.



Internet

Portland's Chinese Gardens is a great, cheap way for any single student to enjoy Valentine's Day.

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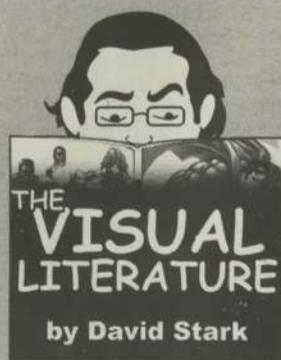
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Comic book stores crumbling away



new selling point: anime memorabilia, be it action figure, poster, or what have you.

But the sad part is that comic stores are a dying breed. With the growing popularity of comic collections that can be purchased at the local bookstore, it's both easier and cheaper to just wait several months for the new collection to come out than it is to stop by a comic shop every month to pick up the latest issue.

So, what's the problem? Is it just that companies aren't making comics that people find themselves needing to read month to month? Or is society as a whole lazier and unwilling to dedicate the time it takes every month to head on over the local comic store to pick up their favorites?

The answer isn't either, at least not completely. With a comic collection, you get a convenient and easy way to get your favorite characters (usually) going through a story

and experiencing some sort of growth without having to wait four weeks for the next issue to come out.

I fully admit that I'm not helping the comic stores to survive in this economy.

Nowadays, I usually head over to Clackamas Town Center and spend hours reading the collections, of which I'll usually buy the one or two I can imagine myself re-reading.

And oftentimes I find myself thinking about how I used to spend time every week after church finding out what Superman's latest adventure was, and wondering if someday I'll be able to find a shop where I can take my son every Sunday morning so that can find out what happens to his heroes.

So, even though these days I get most of my comics from Barnes & Noble, I still stop by Things From Another World every month or two to browse the selections and see if anything catches my eye.