

Valentine's Day: Cupid enters capitalism



Hillary Cole Clackamas Print

By John Simmons
The Clackamas Print

Valentine's Day is once again here. For the couples out there, it's a day to remember the one you love and express your affection through deeds and gifts. It's a day to make special, to set aside to celebrate the one you love and the love you have.

For those without a significant other, Valentine's Day is nothing more than a reminder that they don't have anyone at the time, a Single Awareness Day, as it were.

Liberty Miller, who is single at the moment, said, "I'm so glad Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday. When you're with someone, it's nice but not when you're single. Couples seem to shove it in your face. Quite frankly, it's overrated."

Over commercialized," said Megan Hunt, who is also single. "It's either a way to make people feel bad or make people feel bad about not having a significant other."

Even those with a partner are not very enthralled with the holiday, most either doing nothing special or choosing to spend a quiet night at home.

"I think it's overrated," said Erin Stutz, who has been dating her boyfriend for quite some time. "I don't understand why people have to set aside one day a year to be romantic. If you're a true romantic, you'd celebrate any day that you want, not just a holiday."

Out of the couples interviewed, only one had any sort of solid plan.

"We're going to a concert and of course dinner," said Beth Gross, who has been with her fiancé, Tristan Harris, for over a year.

They do not like the holiday, saying it's an easy way to buy love.

"It gives boyfriends an excuse to be douches for the rest of the year and only be nice one day," said Gross.

Harris added that it's just a commercial holiday designed to sell products. "It's ridiculous," he said. "It's another way for the man

to make money. If I could, I'd shoot a cherub."

Despite the commercialism, the idea behind Valentine's Day is that we should celebrate love and those we love and let them know it. The day does not have to be a negative day for anyone, especially for those who are single.

If you're single, you can spend the day with a friend or relative you don't get to see much and reconnect with them, or throw a party for you and your other single friends to make the day a fun one.

For those seeking ways to make Valentine's Day into something more than a commercial holiday, Hunt suggested avoiding the cliché gifts like flowers and candies.

"Do something simple," he suggested. "Low-key things are best."

What you do doesn't have to be special or showy, but you should try to make the day mean something to you and your partner. Do something you've never done, do something you love, just do it with the person you care about.

10 creative date ideas:

1. Go on a costumed date. Dress up as a classic couple, such as Fred and Wilma or Ken and Barbie, and try to act like them the whole time.
2. Stay home and build a fort using blankets and furniture, just like you did as a kid. Reminisce on childhood memories and make some new ones.
3. Write a romance novel together outside at a café, asking strangers for assistance when you get hit with writer's block.
4. Dress up as best you can and go to an auto dealership. Pretend to be married and interested in buying a new car so you can test drive the most expensive vehicles they have.
5. Do the lamest tourist thing in your area that you have both secretly wanted to do forever.
6. Go out to dinner in a town you've never been to, using fake identities.
7. Walk around the city with sidewalk chalk and draw hearts on any surface that you can. Feel free to write your initials inside or anything else you feel is appropriate.
8. If you're a theatrical couple, walk around the city and perform short silent plays in front of security cameras.
9. Go to the place that you first met and reminisce about your relationship and how far you've come.
10. Rent a movie neither of you have seen before. Mute it and improvise the dialogue, complete with different character voices.

Top 10 horrible Valentine's ideas



By Annemarie Schulte
Arts & Culture Editor

1. Inform your significant other that you have an STD. Nothing says I love you like chlamydia!
2. Break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend ... over a text message. Or a phone call. Or simply tell your friend to go tell them. Just find the skeeziest way possible to tell your main squeeze to go kick rocks.

3. Buy your boyfriend or girlfriend flowers they are allergic to. Again, nothing says "will you be my valentine?" like hives and uncontrollable sneezing.

4. Get caught cheating ... with the best friend. If you're going to do it, do it right. Friend, mom, dad ... whatever you're into. There's no time like Valentine's Day to get caught being unfaithful.

5. Completely forget about it. I agree, mandatory affection is not affection. But if your significant other really wants the flowers and chocolate, and you fail to come through, chances are you'll be in the doghouse for at least the rest of the week.

6. Call your boyfriend or girlfriend the wrong name. I can hear it now: "I love you, Meliss - I mean Lindsey." Too late buddy; consider yourself single.

7. Accidentally mix up the cards for all your different love interests. If you give the card to Brandon, which was

meant for John, it generally will take away the thoughtfulness and meaning of the whole card business in the first place.

8. File for divorce. "Happy Valentine's Day, I want a divorce!" Hey, it's unique. I doubt they make cards that say this though, so you may actually have to express it verbally. Wait, that's unheard of on Valentine's Day. Oh well, just find a card and then pencil it in.

9. Violate your restraining order. Purposely come within 600 feet of your girlfriend's or boyfriend's workplace and spend the holiday in the slammer (where you're sure to find another "sweet-heart").

10. Have a public breakdown at your workplace because you're single and you hate Valentine's Day. I'm talking full on sobbing, breaking things and letting the whole place know the flowers on your desk are from yourself.

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