

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Gerry Beltz

Valentine's offers fun on the web

Romance is here. Today. You can't swing a dead cat without hitting something related to Valentine's Day.

It is a holiday to celebrate love at twice the usual cost. And God help you if you forget.

For those stuck in front of a computer screen—or seeking help on this day of the lovelorn—the Internet is full of various sites with romantic tips, suggestions and whatnot.

If you want to send flowers for a loved one from a long distance, find the 1-800-FLOWERS web site at (<http://www.800flowers.com/>) to shop their selections, get suggestions and make your final purchase. (Sorry, no deliveries guaranteed for today. Better late than never, though!)

Via a nifty little page of romance links (<http://www.godek.com/links.html>), you have access to sites such as "1001 Ways To Be Romantic", based on the book of the same name (<http://www.godek.com/1001.html>) and Romantic Tips and Real Life Love Stories (<http://www.godek.com/tips.html>). The latter site doesn't have too much in the way of tips, but the stories are very heartwarming.

Another link page (with LOADS of nifty stuff) can be found at (<http://www.autonomy.com/luv.htm>), and features quite a bit more than the previously mentioned link page.

One of the more intriguing links on this page is the Cyranos Server (<http://www.nando.net/toys/cyranos.html>), which writes short letters to a loved one based on some basic information that you provide (favorite food, name, etc.).

(Note: this does require you knowing the recipient's e-mail address to use for full effectiveness.)

Also, for those people already together, try the PartnerLink game (<http://www.cybernet.net/~peterp/partnerlink.html>) to see if you are as romantic as you think.

(Note: the Daily Nebraskan Romance Staff took the quiz and scored 80 points out of 100! Ring-a-ding-ding, baby!)

For those lucky enough to have a soundcard for their computer, visit Aphrodite's Love Palace (<http://www.dircon.co.uk/purple/love.html>) for, among other things, on-line kisses. You have a wide variety of kisses to select from, so choose wisely.

No Valentine's Day would be complete without a bit of sex, and with the new telecommunications bill, this may be your last shot.

If you have a little bit of lust, but are still able to take sex seriously (no garden tools, no mayonnaise), visit the Love Teachings of Kama Sutra (<http://home.navisoft.com/entisofcamasutra.htm>), which apparently was transcribed from the original text. These aren't just words, but poetry in motion.

If you're feeling REALLY brave (and can see the damn things), the Kama Sutra also has some 3-D stereogram patterns (<http://singnet.com.sg/~raymonde/kama.html>). The glare on the screen doesn't help, though.

Beltz is a senior English education major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Celebrities differ over holiday plans

By Gerry Beltz and Emily Wray
Senior Reporter and Staff Reporter

It is a question that is always on your mind around this time of year. You have been suffering from nightmares because of it; your appetite is off and you have found yourself obsessed with only one thing...

Just what are local celebrities' feelings about Valentine's Day?

Some, unfortunately, won't even be able to go out tonight to celebrate.

"I'm working on the 'Pillowtalk' special edition," said Jeff Larson, radio announcer for "Pillowtalk" on KEFM (96.1 FM).

Others aren't sure what's going on for the Valentine's Day celebration.

"I'll probably go out to eat with my girlfriend, but right now it's kind of up in the air," said Eric Marintzer, the ACTION party's ASUN presidential candidate.

Lincoln mayor Mike Johanns is approaching Valentine's Day rather simply this year.

"My wife and I almost never get a quiet evening at home alone," he said, "and that's what we're doing this year."

"Don't try to call, because we won't answer the phone, except for emergencies."

Romantic films and movies came in a wide range.

Meg Ryan was popular among favorite romantic films; Marintzer

appreciates "When A Man Loves a Woman," while Larson's favorite flick goes to "When Harry Met Sally."

"I love 'Dr. Zhivago,'" Johanns said.

Music choices were a bit more eclectic, with Johanns going for "A Time For Us," Larson picking "How About Us?" by Champagne and "The Dance" by Garth Brooks, and Marintzer continuing the country trend.

"I consider any slow song by George Strait to be romantic," he said.

Ideal dates ran from simple to reasonable to exotic.

Marintzer said his ideal date would include a spontaneous flight to a Caribbean island and dinner on the beach with moonlight and candlelight.

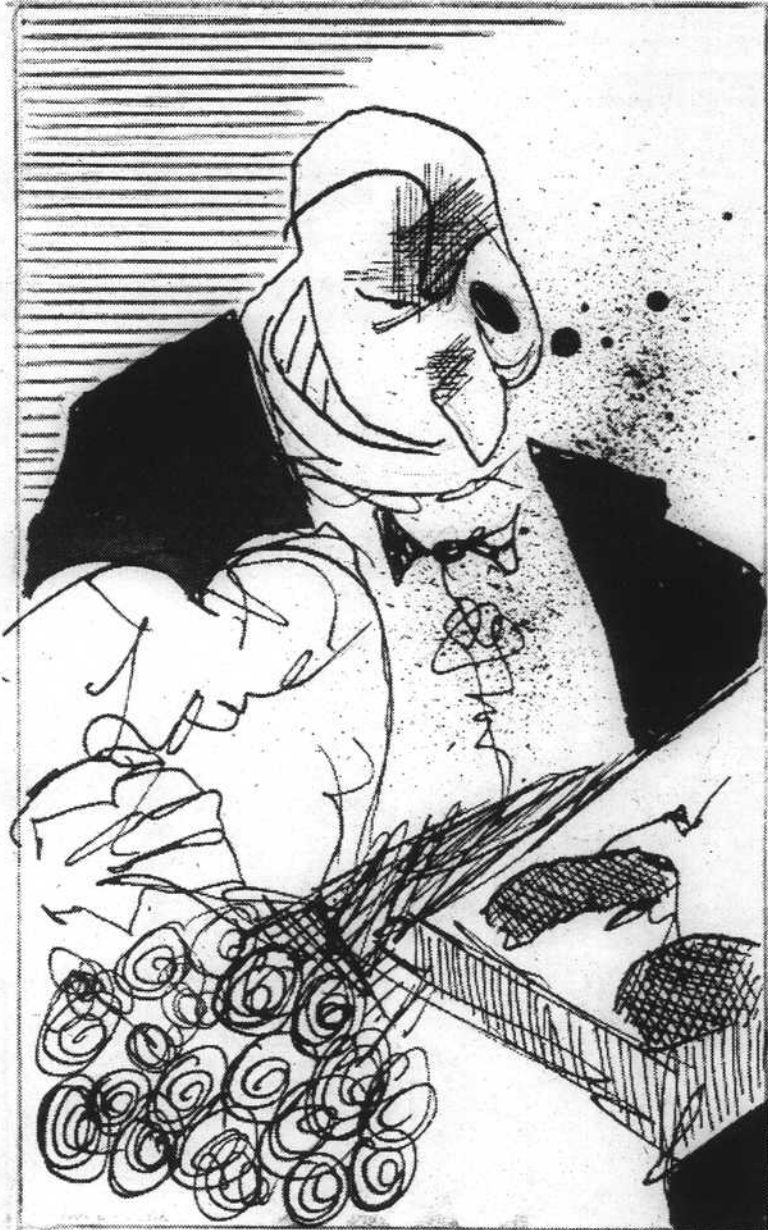
"You'd have to have a little money, though," he said.

Larson's plans were a little closer to home.

"If the weather was nice," Larson said, "I think I'd get a little wine, some cheese and crackers, and some chocolate-covered strawberries, then we'd sneak onto a golf course and have a picnic on one of the greens."

Johanns' ideal Valentine's Day?

"A day with my wife," he said. "It has everything to do with who you're with and not where you're at, in my opinion."



James Mehling/DN

Stores counting on last-minute shopping

By Gerry Beltz
Senior Reporter

Love is in the air.

The candy is going fast, and the roses are scarce.

Many local businesses find their services in the greatest demand during this love-filled time of year.

"We started taking reservations a month in advance," said Bev Siffring, an employee at the Tubbery, 818 P St., "but it's been filled up for the last couple of weeks."

"We're always totally booked."

It's not just today that is filled up, she said.

"We're booked the day before, the day after and the upcoming weekend," Siffring said.

Hot tubs aren't the only commodity running low in Lincoln this year.

Candy is a hot item this year as well.

"Business started to pick up the end of last week," said Dan Reinehr, manager of Ginny's Candy Jar in Gateway Mall.

"We'll have a storeful tomorrow," said Sandy Wolfe, owner of Gaga's Greenery and Flowers, 2626 N. 48th.

Celebrating their 21st Valentine's Day, the store started planning early,

Wolfe said, and nothing unexpected has happened.

"We start ordering the flowers in January," Wolfe said, "and we always sell out of them."

Heart-shaped pizzas also have continued to be a popular item.

"We were one of the first places to offer heart-shaped pizzas," said Connie Borgmann, advertising director at DaVinci's Restaurants. "Last year, we took a different twist and added a Pizzagram card with a Valentine's Day greeting."

Procrastination is par for the holiday, according to many.

"All the guys come in at the last

minute," said Rob Sparks, operations manager for Christie's Toy Box, 2029 O St.

Marsha Porter, owner of Kacy's Lingerie, 6900 O St., agreed.

"Valentine's Day is definitely a last-minute shopping day," she said.

"It's been steady, but business always picks up the day before and day of Valentine's Day."

Porter said she had noticed a change this year in the customers at her store.

"There are more men shopping for lingerie," she said. "Gentlemen are getting the message; that's what their lady friends want."

'Braveheart' wins ten nominations

By John Horn
AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

Oscar voters chose movies of heroism and humor like "Braveheart" and "Babe" as best-picture nominees Tuesday, while confining dark and disturbing films like "Leaving Las Vegas" and "Dead Man Walking" to acting and directing categories.

"Braveheart," the Scottish war fable starring Mel Gibson in a kilt, dominated with a surprising 10 nominations, including best picture and best director for Gibson. But most of its nominations came in the less-glamorous technical categories such as sound and makeup.

The other best-picture nominees were "Apollo 13," "Babe," "Sense and Sensibility" and "The Postman."

"I do believe that the American

public has plenty of darkness to deal with ... and it's probably nice to go into a film and come out feeling happy," said Kathleen Quinlan, who was nominated for supporting actress for her depiction of astronaut Jim Lovell's wife in "Apollo 13."

Harvey Weinstein, whose Miramax Films released "The Postman," said: "This year, the Academy has chosen to embrace films that express truths about the indomitability of the human spirit."

Trailing "Braveheart" with the most nominations overall was "Apollo 13," with nine. "Babe," about a talking pig that thinks he's a sheepdog, and "Sense and Sensibility," Jane Austen's 1811 romance,

got seven apiece. "The Postman," an Italian film about a mailman enchanted by poetry, received five.

The awards will be presented March 25. The host of the ceremonies will be Whoopi Goldberg.

Academy Award Nominees

- **Best Picture:**
 - "Babe"
 - "Apollo 13"
 - "Braveheart"
 - "The Postman"
 - "Sense and Sensibility"
- **Best Actor:**
 - Nicolas Cage "Leaving Las Vegas"
 - Richard Dreyfuss "Mr. Holland's Opus"
 - Anthony Hopkins "Nixon"
 - Sean Penn "Dead Man Walking"
 - Massimo Troisi "The Postman"
- **Best Actress:**
 - Elisabeth Shue "Leaving Las Vegas"
 - Susan Sarandon "Dead Man Walking"
 - Meryl Streep "The Bridges of Madison County"
 - Sharon Stone "Casino"
 - Emma Thompson "Sense and Sensibility"
- **Best Supporting Actor:**
 - Tim Roth "Rob Roy"
 - Kevin Spacey "The Usual Suspects"
 - Ed Harris "Apollo 13"
 - James Cromwell "Babe"
 - Brad Pitt "12 monkeys"
- **Best Supporting Actress:**
 - Joan Allen "Nixon"
 - Mira Sorvino "Mighty Aphrodite"
 - Kate Winslet "Sense and Sensibility"
 - Kathleen Quinlan "Apollo 13"
 - Mare Winningham "Georgia"
- **Best Director:**
 - Chris Noonan "Babe"
 - Tim Robbins "Dead Man Walking"
 - Mel Gibson "Braveheart"
 - Mike Figgis "Leaving Las Vegas"
 - Michael Radford "The Postman"

Source: AP

Russell Johnson/DN