

Editorials

Tutorial: Origami Hearts for Your Valentine!

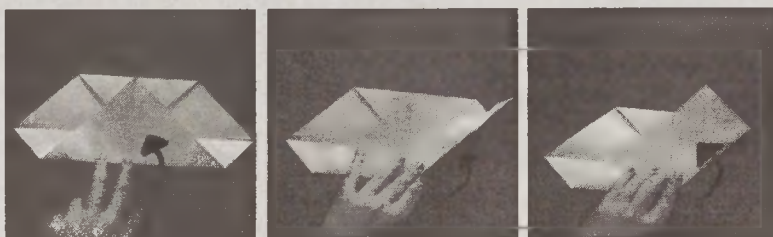
Tutorial and pictures provided by Isabel Benson, staff writer

1. Use a 6"x6" piece of paper (printer paper folded to make a square with the end cut off)
2. Make two perpendicular creases in the paper
3. Fold the top corner to the center of the creases
4. Fold the bottom corner to the top of the previous fold
5. Fold the right side to meet the crease in the center
6. Fold the left side to meet the center
7. Turn the heart over and fold those pesky pointed edges down. Use a coin to make these creases so they stay
8. Decorate the outside!
9. You can write a friendly or loving message on the inside! Then hand them out to all of your friends or loved ones!

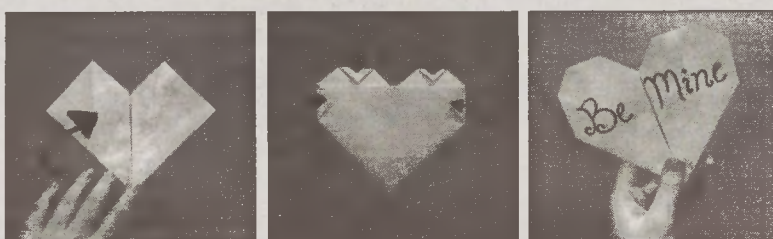
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What's Love Got To Do With It? I Don't Care, I Love It

Katy Koop, staff writer

Valentine's Day is "great". I know what you might be thinking-it's not the movie franchises, the idea of true love, the wonderful plans I have with my imaginary boyfriend, or even the amazing puns. It is the sheer commercialism and the exploitation of people's love and affection. Companies like Target, American Greetings, The Hershey Company, flowers.com, and Tiffany and co. are all out to sell consumers their sweet, sticky idea of "true love". It isn't just Disney movies, your parents' glossed over romance story, or Nicholas Sparks telling you love is out there - it's the merchandise.

Every amazing font, cute animation, and disgustingly catchy jingle is made just for you. Just so you'll spend an extra buck on an otherwise ordinary February day. Fairy tales may say that to be happy,

a girl needs to find true love, but as Valentine's Day proves - the only love a girl needs is between her and a major corporation. Luckily, it isn't just couples that give gifts on Valentine's Day. Everyone likes to give, and more importantly, get stuff. This isn't a new thing in terms of major holidays. People may give presents on Christmas but what makes Valentine's Day different is that it is all about you. It's not about family togetherness, unity or caring for the less fortunate, it's that "if I buy this, maybe one day someone will love me" and lots of people are out there are buying into that hope.

As The History Channel and Column Five find, \$448 million dollars are spent on candy the week before Valentine's Day, 36 million heart shaped boxes are sold, and 150 million gifts are sent each year for this fateful day. Not to mention the 58 million pounds of chocolate and 174,000 gallons of spar-

kling wine sold on Valentine's Day. Maybe it's just the romantic in me, but numbers like that warm the cockles of my heart. The idea that all the glitter, pink and purple hearts, fluffy animals, and yes, all that chocolate isn't for the idea of true love, but for the love of money is the American Dream, isn't it? If your significant other showers you with presents and gifts, you won't have a doubt in your mind that they really love you and that you deserve to be loved?

Whether you and that special person will be drinking pink champagne by candle light or you're blasting Adele while you eat a giant chocolate heart-love© is all around. I, for one, will be celebrating Valentine's Day the way it was meant to be celebrated: eating pink cake and photoshopping Tom Hiddleston into family photos. However you choose to thank our corporate overlords, have a great valentine.

Bri Crumbley,
contributing writer

Valentine's Day; it's become a day that many love to hate. I get it. It's everywhere. Valentine's merchandise closely chases the Christmas decorations off of the shelves. Some people hate Valentine's Day because they only view it as the overly commercialized unnecessarily materialistic "Hallmark Holiday" that it has become. If we look at the story of (one of the many) St. Valentine, we could say that we are celebrating the life of a man who performed illegal marriages, or we can just call it what it should be, a day where we celebrate one another, and enjoy caring and being cared for; a celebration of love of all kinds. Not just romantic love, but friend love, filial love, and the overall love

of candy, the color red, and glitter! Can we just embrace the grade school nostalgia and enjoy the cheesiness of it all?

All conversation hearts, and chocolates considered, Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a day where people in relationships feel obligated to get together and spend unnecessary amounts of money; it's a day of celebration for both the attached and the unattached. Make it a Galentine's Day. Call a friend, or find a new one, make the celebration simple and fun. Wear a red sweater, dot your "i's" with hearts, have a cupcake, and just let life be sweet for a day.

Meredith Hacks: Life Hacks for Avenging Angels!

This week: What You May Not Know About the Library

Fantasia Evans, staff writer

Most of us don't skip and jump with excitement at the thought of spending the afternoon in the library like my two-year-old daughter does. Most Mondays she gets to come to campus and spend the afternoon in the children's literature section located on the bottom floor of Carlyle Campbell library. She sits at the child-sized table and pretends to read. Unlike my toddler, for college students' spend-

ing the afternoon in the library means doing homework, writing papers, and studying for an A on that exam we've been stressing over. You may be surprised to know all the library has to offer Meredith College students. If you're roommate is too loud or you're like me and can't accomplish anything when there is a bed or TV near, the library has quiet study rooms available and group study areas to be reserved when needed. The rooms are colorful and inviting with beanbags and other tools to help you study.

For the commuter, the library is a home away from home. It's a warm

and comfortable environment that comes complete with a knowledgeable and friendly staff. The library also offers a number of services you may not already be aware of: audio/visual equipment that includes; camcorders, digital cameras, overhead projectors, laptops and much more as well as kindle e-readers. The staff also provides a bookbinding service available to students. There are certain guidelines for doing so available on the library website. For your entertainment purposes there is a yearlong book sale for the cost of one dollar, and DVDs can also be rented. Dean of Library

Sciences, Laura Davidson noted that the most valuable resources are, "the people that work here. They want to help Meredith students find the information they need for their research, to connect them with the equipment (cameras, microphones, computers, etc.) they need for class assignments and special projects, and provide fun things."

Next time you're feeling overwhelmed just take some time to enjoy the quiet atmosphere and all that Carlyle Campbell has to offer.