

Love is that condition in which
the happiness of another person
is essential to your own.

Robert A. Heinlein



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Making mix tapes takes care, thought

BY CHRIS COLETTA

ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

There's a great scene in "High Fidelity" in which Rob, played by that incomparable loser John Cusack, ruminates about the art of making a perfect mix tape.

Rob sets down basic rules for anyone who's going to try to create such a tape, which he claims should be the perfect encapsulation of some visceral emotion, one you want to convey to your listener.

Well, he's right. And we here at The Daily Tar Heel, in an effort to expand your gift-giving repertoire past flowers, chocolate and used DVD copies of Adam Sandler movies, hereby offer the following advice in an effort to make your Valentine's Day mix successful:

1. Don't put songs by these artists on any mix tape, ever, no matter how tempting it might be: Celine Dion. Mariah Carey. Winger. Air Supply. Lionel Richie. Good Charlotte. And Clay Aiken. Doing so shows a complete and utter disregard for the boundaries of good taste, and any decent human being would dump you on the spot.

2. However, cheesy stuff like "I'm a Slave 4 U" is acceptable given that your significant other

has a sense of humor. If you do it seriously, though, you deserve to be hung, drawn and quartered.

3. Do make sure to lure your recipient with songs you know he or she likes. If you like Scandinavian death metal but your honey is into 50 Cent, you might want to consider easing her into your musical mind by throwing "Magic Stick" on your masterpiece. This is one of the key lessons Rob learns at the end of "High Fidelity," and it's crucial to your success.

4. Don't use multiple songs from the same artist. So you're sitting here, thinking it might be a good idea to use "Something" and "Dear Prudence" on the same tape. The thing is, you're wrong. Nobody wants to put up with that crap.

5. Do make sure that you're really using romantic, sexy or otherwise appropriate songs. There are lots of songs out there that sound like they could be chirpy, but when you examine the lyrics, you realize they actually were written by sad, bitter boys and girls who just got dumped. Robert Smith, this one's for you.

Contact the A&E Editor
at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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