

ELI Weekly

Love Is In the Air!

This Thursday is Valentine's Day, a special holiday which you may or may not celebrate in your country. In the U.S., it is a day to exchange gifts of love, such as flowers, cards, and chocolates, with your sweetheart, or as you will call him or her on Thursday, your Valentine. Many couples will go out to dinner or spend a romantic evening together. But, not everyone is in a relationship, right? Well, Valentine's Day can also be a day for groups of friends to get together to celebrate their singleness and/or friendships.



St. Valentine

The full name of the holiday is Saint Valentine's Day, and is observed in honor of--you guessed it, Saint Valentine. However, we do not know exactly who he was. There are a few different legends that tell his possible story. All of the legends tell of a martyr, and some people believe we celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 because that is the day he died--around the year 270 A.D.

The most popular legend, which could be the basis for the holiday we celebrate today, says that Valentine was a Roman priest who lived in the 3rd century. During that time, Emperor Claudius II decided that young, single men should not marry because they were better soldiers than men with families. So, Claudius cancelled all engagements and outlawed marriage for young men. However, Valentine did not believe in this and continued to perform weddings in secret for young couples. When Claudius found out, he ordered Valentine be put to death. While he was in prison, Valentine supposedly fell in love with a young woman who often came to visit him, and who may have been his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death, he wrote her a letter and signed it: From Your Valentine. We still use that expression today!



While we don't know exactly who the true St. Valentine was or what really happened to him, we know he must have been sympathetic, heroic, and was a romantic figure. During the middle ages, he was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

In England in the 17th century, Valentine's Day began to be celebrated popularly. By the mid-1700's, it was common for friends and lovers to exchange handwritten notes or small tokens of their affection. By the end of the century, ready-made cards began to replace handwritten notes. In the 1840's, an American woman named Esther Howland created the first commercially produced Valentine's greeting cards and became known as the Mother of the Valentine.



Cupid, a popular symbol of Valentine's Day, was, in Roman mythology, the son of Venus, the goddess of love, and in Greek mythology is named Eros, the son of Aphrodite.

Today in the U.S., Valentine's Day has become a very commercialized holiday. The Greeting Card Association estimates that over 1 billion Valentine's cards are sent every year. Some people feel that Valentine's Day is now just a holiday marketed by greeting card, chocolate, and flower companies. Even if this is the case, it is still a good time to tell that special person (or friend!) that you care about them and to give them a little gift of love. Happy Valentine's Day!

Activities This Week

Wednesday, Feb. 13 & Sunday, Feb. 17

Movie on Campus: "Dan In Real Life"

9:00 PM at the Plaster Student Union Theater; FREE with ZipCard

Saturday, Feb. 16

Annual Sertoma Chili Cook-Off

Sample chili made by different groups and vote for the best! There will be live music too.

Tickets cost: \$9.00 in advance (buy at Dillon's, Price Cutter, or Cody's), or \$12 at the door

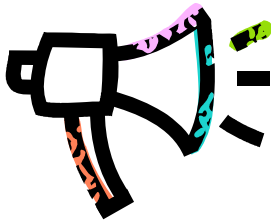
11:00AM--5PM; Located at the Springfield Expo Center on St. Louis Street, across from Kentwood Hall



For more events and activities, visit: <http://calendar.missouristate.edu/>

Also, ALWAYS check the Student Activities Board across from the 2nd floor Computer Lab

Announcements



- **Academic Lectures THIS week:**

Wed. (2/13): Levels 3, 4 & 5; room 401
Modern and Classical Languages: Spanish

- **BE CAREFUL ON THE ICE!!!**

- **Attention Students:**
 If you have a new address, tell Alicia in the office!

Did You Know....

A few interesting facts about **Valentine's Day** around the world:

In Colombia, "Love and Friendship Day" is celebrated, but in September. It is more of a celebration for friends than for couples.

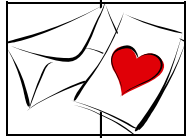
In Korea and Japan, women give candy gifts to men on Feb. 14. Then, on March 14, the men give gifts back to the women on what they call "White Day."



In Denmark and Norway, Valentine's Day is not celebrated as much as it is in the U.S., but people there will have a nice dinner with their partner and/or exchange cards and red roses.

In Spain, dating couples will exchange gifts and married men will send roses to their wives.

For more Valentine's Day traditions, check out: www.novareinna.com/festive/valworld.html

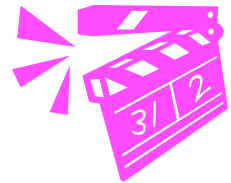


What's Showing at The Moxie?

The Moxie is downtown's independent cinema located near the corner of Walnut and Campbell.

This week:

- The Orphanage
- The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
- Persepolis
- Casablanca (at the Gillioz Theatre)
- MFAS Show-Me International Film Fest



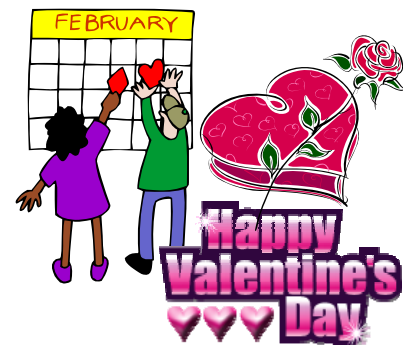
See Schedule on the Student Activities Board

Weather Forecast

Degrees: High/Low

Forecast for February 4-10

	<u>Fahrenheit</u>	<u>Celsius</u>
Monday:	30/23	-1/-7 — ice/rain
Tuesday:	29/16	-2/-9
Wednesday:	42/31	06/-1
Thursday:	52/21	11/-6
Friday:	30/23	-1/-5 — chance of snow
Saturday:	46/31	08/-1
Sunday:	42/25	06/-4



Weather forecasts are *always* changing, so for the most up-to-date forecast, go to: www.weather.com, or watch the local news or weather channel.