Lovers’ holiday has long, varied history

By Jessi Wilson

Valentine’s Day is a chance for men to show their significant other how important he or she is. Several ISU students recommend planning a special surprise to celebrate the holiday.

Valentine’s Day was one time listed as a saint, but in modern times we know more, and he was removed from the church, Clifford said. "It was a common name then," Clifford said.

Clifford explained that according to a legend, Valentine was a martyr in Rome during the third century, but Emperor Claudius II. Valentine was a priest who sent messages of love and comfort to his family and his church via birds.

"It’s the perfect low-key tradition," Clifford said that Valentine’s Day doesn't have a lot to do with St. Valentine; it’s often linked to flowers, chocolates, and a few bottles of wine together.

Valentine as an official saint today; Catholic Church does not recognize Valentine’s Day, is often linked to flowers, chocolates, and a few bottles of wine together.

"I had decorated my room; there were rose petals on the floor and on my bed. I took her out to eat at Centro, a four-star restaurant in downtown Des Moines. Wortman said he did all that would be elevated to a saint and was sainted February 14.

Wortman went the hopeless romantic route for his girlfriend and had them deliver a box of chocolates and flowers.

"You want to make them feel cherished," Lenway said. "It is a really important day, though, because even though you may not have a lot of time together very often, it is always good to have a day to do something special." Wortman wanted to make it a day about his significant other and not about buying a reasonable Valentine’s Day greeting card. "I think it’s important to make it a day to feel cared about, and not just a day to give something to your significant other," Lenway said.

Wortman thought back to his Valentine’s Day and how it made them feel cherished.

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Jewelry

Right choice will sparkle, shine

Stores give shoppers advice on how to choose great gifts

By Katlyns McCollough

Diamonds may be a girl’s best friend, but selecting the right one may be a guy’s worst nightmare.

For all of those who have decided that piece of jewelry is the way to go for that special someone this Valentine’s Day, they should first prepare themselves to make the right choice.

“Education is the key to making an intelligent purchase,” said C.J. Youngberg, owner of Ames Silversmithing. “The reality is most people go into a jewelry store and feel ignorant.”

One question that Youngberg suggested asking is: “What do you want to spend?”

C.J. Gilger, co-owner of Gilger Designs, said that those who are GIA-certified, “It’s important that the people you speak to don’t know what questions to ask when they enter a jewelry store.”

“Most people just don’t,” Youngberg said, speaking of the Gemological Institute of America. “They often don’t understand the qualities to a customer.

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“The most important thing is to ask what the crown angle of a diamond should be. If they can’t answer that, you might want to look at another store.”

Another issue that also comes to mind is the “three c’s.” These include cut, clarity and color.

“Those are cut, color and clarity,” said Youngberg.

Youngberg explained that most buyers focus on cut and color, but forget about clarity.

“When first entering a jewelry store, it is important to know not only the right questions but also the right answer to those questions.

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Not every Valentine’s Day ends in a dream date, but there is still fun to be had. Don’t have a date for Feb. 14, or looking for a new idea to avoid the dinner and movie rush? Businesses in the city of Ames as well as the Iowa State campus have plenty to offer.

**Perfect Games**, a bowling alley with laser tag, arcades, food and drinks has a special Valentine’s Day offer. This year, you can book a package for two games of bowling for two, bowling shoes, a medium pizza and two $5 arcade cards for the bundle price of $40.

“Typically a lot of people don’t think about coming here. We are doing a different deal to try build business,” said Brad Boeding, a manager at Perfect Games. Boeding said Perfect Games is requesting reservations for Valentine’s night.

If bowling and arcades don’t make the cut, other options are available to students and the broader Ames community on the campus of Iowa State.

**Stephen’s Auditorium** has a concert called “Experience the Beatles with Rain.” Tickets to the concert by Rain, a Beatles cover band, are being offered to students at a reduced price of $35. To draw in a larger audience, Stephen’s is hosting a sampling from Snus Hill Winery and Chocolaterie Stam before the show.

“Having a concert on Valentine’s Day is not a frequent occurrence for Stephen’s Auditorium, however. ‘We basically find dates that work, and it just happened to land on Valentine’s Day,’ said Lisa Maubach, advertising and program coordinator for Stephen’s Auditorium.

**The Margaret Sloss Women’s Center** is also hosting a performance Feb. 14: “The Vagina Monologues.” This year marks the 15th anniversary of “The Vagina Monologues” at Iowa State. “One-third of the women living on the planet today will be beaten or abused in their lifetime,” said Blair Gershenson, graduate student and employee of Margaret Sloss Women’s Center. The performance educates people about the experiences of girls and women.

Don’t feel like attending an event or celebrating the holiday? **Cyclone Cinema** is playing “Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2” all weekend. Stop by Thursday for some chocolate from the concessions stand and a good, old-fashioned chick flick.

*Celebrate holiday with unique outings*

By Ted Mathis
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Ames

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Consider doing something unusual for this Valentine’s Day. Several Ames businesses offer deals to tempt customers on the holiday. Perfect Games is offering a couples bowling package.

The Margaret Sloss Women’s Center will be hosting its annual performance of “The Vagina Monologues” on Feb. 14. Go with a friend or take a date for a different holiday experience.

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