

Opinions

Exactly what she needed...



MIKE PLASTER
Managing Editor

Flowers.
Candy.
Stuffed animals.
All are standard gifts for men to give women. They also have one other thing in common.

They get booooooring after a while.

Women love to get these things. That's why these gifts are old standbys. The key to keeping your edge, however, is a little bit tougher than making a call to your local florist or picking up a Teddy bear at the Bookie.

The key is creativity. Women love it more than flowers, more than candy, and probably more than stuffed animals. Why?

Because it means you put yourself through more than just a stop at the mall for them.

The creative man is viewed by women as willing to go the extra mile, probably because he is, and has.

The creative man cultivates a reputation as a "sweetheart," which, despite its similarity to the "nice guy" kiss of death, is not a bad thing at all.

Who are these creative men? Where do they hide? Go no farther than the mirror, friend.

The creative sense is in everyone — they just don't know it, or are scared to use it. And who can blame them? There is no better way to subject yourself to millions of verbal jabs from your roommates than to be visibly creative for a woman.

"That's real cute, Plaster. The way you framed the poem really adds something, don't you think, guys?" (The roommates laugh uproariously.)

Don't let a scene like this deter you. The benefits are worth so much more than any potential embarrassment.

As the holiday season is upon us, men will undoubtedly be wandering the malls cluelessly looking for that one "perfect" something for that special someone. Don't be one of those men. Perfection, in her eyes, can come from you just as easily as it can come from a store shelf (but maybe not a jewelry display case or vehicle showroom — creativity can only carry you so far).

But anyone can spend hundreds of dollars on gifts and make his girlfriend happy. It's easy to spend \$200 to get her a gift she loves. Really easy. But you can do cooler things for much less. If you're good (and you don't have to be that good, either), she'll hold the gift that much closer to her heart. She'll love it more.

And she will always remember it.

That's one of the best parts — creative gifts are not forgotten easily. The creative man knows *he's* going to be in her mind that much longer, simply because his gift will be in her mind that much longer.



So don't break yourself financially to impress her. Buy her small things that have special meaning. Make things yourself. Write poetry (and don't feel like a wuss for doing so. At least not for too long). Do something out of the ordinary. Way out of the ordinary.

Women love it when you make (or attempt to make) something yourself. The cheesier, the better. It's almost impossible to go wrong when you take this tack. If what you try doesn't exactly turn out great, that's OK — she will be impressed and touched by your effort to make her something special. The creative man is always in a win-win situation when it comes to gift-giving.

You can even turn the old standby gifts into creative things. Buying flowers? Don't leave them in the vase — lay them out all over her room. Still thinking about a stuffed animal? Get something strange — not the standard bear. Get her a turtle or something. Sesame Street stuff is cool, and has a high "cute" factor.

Open your mind. That's really all you need to do. I can't give too many ideas here, because that wouldn't be encouraging creativity in you — and that also would be giving away valuable trade secrets.

Just remember, this holiday season, if you're thinking about doing something creative for your loved one, and you start to think it's a little too cheeseball, don't be discouraged. Just do it.

Your roommates might laugh.

She won't.

Mike Plaster will return your call if you leave a message at 335-2764.

Consistent participation is key to honest representation

We can learn several valuable lessons from the Gay, Lesbian Bisexual Association ordeal that has raged for nearly two months now.

On Wednesday night the ASWSU Senate voted to give the GLBA committee status by a resounding 15-3 margin. In retrospect, several points need to be made.

First, it was great to see so many students get involved with the issue. Both the Senate meeting and an open forum on the issue the night before drew large crowds. For a student body that has drawn criticism for being apathetic, the turnouts were quite impressive.

It is apparent, however, students involved themselves too late. The fact that only three senators voted against the bill shows that students opposing the legislation didn't give themselves enough time to impact the decision. Had senators heard an earful prior to the passage of the original bill, which was later ruled unconstitutional, it could have been a tighter race.

But this can be a learning experience. Students should apply the same enthusiasm shown this week to other issues. The Senate usually craves student interest and would welcome any and all input.

It is especially important for the students, however, to give themselves this voice. If we've learned anything from the GLBA debate, it's that the Senate cannot be relied upon to accurately represent the views of the students. It is doubtful 5 out of every 6 students would have voted in favor of the GLBA bill.

It's not the individual senators' fault. We should expect misrepresentation when so many districts have so few candidates from which to choose. In many cases, candidates run unopposed.

This makes it all the more important for the electorate to get involved with the issues. Should that happen, the electorate will truly have a voice.

Opinions policy

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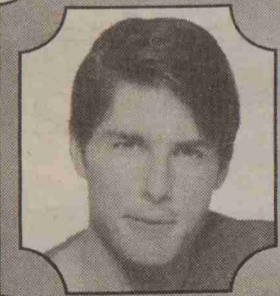
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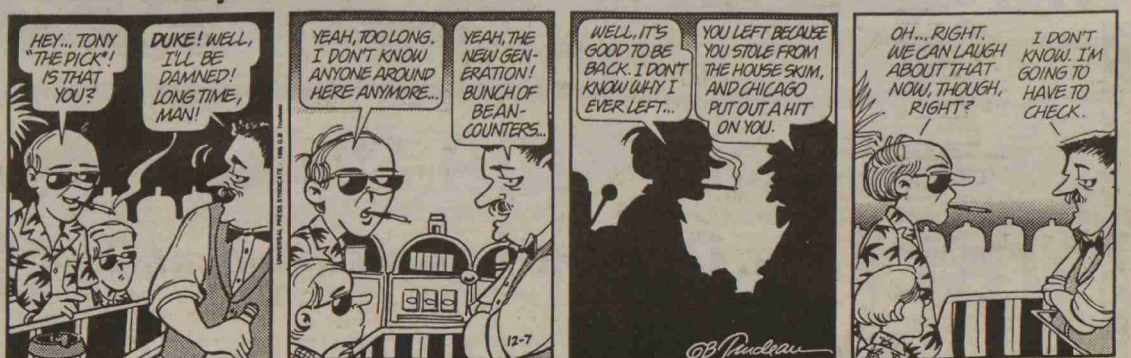
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