

Valentine's Day traditions could be altered in 2014

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By Augustus Tolson

The day is coming. Men are collecting refund checks. Women are getting their hair and nails done. Universally, Feb. 14 is the day of love, a day that lovers look forward to and single people spend sitting on couches stuffing their faces with popcorn while watching romantic comedies.

It marks the day that many women look forward to; it's marked on calendars the previous Feb. 15 with a big red heart.

One thing that is known to the world of lovers and single ladies is that many males treat Valentine's Day different than females.

"Valentine's Day is a day for females," said Michael Johnson, a Hampton University junior from Los Angeles. "I have never and will never celebrate this day. If I truly love my girlfriend or wife then I will show her every day of the year."

Eric Williams, a freshman from Dallas, said, "I expect the same output that I input. If I take a female to dinner then I want her to at least let us get back to the room and have a good time."

While many women want to be pampered and have experiences of a lifetime so that they can tell their friends, many males simply want one thing. "I want to be able to wake up on the 15th with a female by my side," said Kevin Ellis, a sophomore from Carson, Calif.

Patricia White, a freshman from Philadelphia, said, "If a male is caring enough to make sure that I am happy on this special day then he deserves to be catered to. After dinner, I take care of him, so that way the whole day can be special.

Males love less than females.

Males don't have hearts.

Males are not compassionate people.

These are stereotypes that many males hate.

Williams, the freshman from Dallas, said, "I just don't get where that comes from. I have a heart, and I tend to love a female more than she loves me.

"We are taught not to show emotion, but that doesn't mean we don't have any," said Barry Tolson, an uncle of this writer. "I love my wife and I tell her every day."

By Tara Strigler

Valentine's Day, the most anticipated holiday for couples, is quickly approaching.

This is the day where couples express their love and gratitude for each other through extravagant gifts and events. If couples are not affectionate throughout the year, this is the only day that they are.

Gifts such as flowers, Edible Arrangements, teddy bears, concert tickets and spa dates are exchanged in hopes to smitten partners.

Although many things can go right during this special day, it can take a turn for the worst as well.

Some people think that they have great things planned for their love interest but according to a few students, those plans may not be such a good idea.

Chantina Carrington, 19, a Hampton University sophomore biology major from Newark, N.J., said, "Do not give a girl a fake rose, and don't spend a lot of money on her because if you and your partner are together then she should already know how much you care about her any other day.

"Also, don't tell her you love her just because it's Valentine's Day. It will then be obvious that it is not genuine."

Shaquille Byrnes, 20, of Middlesex County College in New Jersey, said that you should never re-gift. "Re-gifting shows that you did not put no thought or effort into this special day for your girlfriend. It may not be special to you, but it definitely means something to her. What you should do is spend a nice evening with your lady. Give her flowers because females love flowers, and also chocolate-covered strawberries."

Along with those don'ts, there are some do's for Valentine's Day.

"Make sure you make the entire day all about your significant other," said Justin Alvis, a Hampton University freshman strategic communications major from Cleveland. "This is the day to be mushy, gushy and lovey dovey. It does not even have to be about monetary gifts. The most special moments are the ones with just you involved.

"Don't make this day a competition. Valentine's Day is about making your special someone happy, not trying to compete to see who can give the best gift or spend the most money."

By Shawn Austin

Valentine's Day is celebrated on Feb. 14. It is a festival of romantic love and when people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their spouse or partner. It's been tradition for the male to give special gifts to his counterpart.

Is it a good tradition for it to primarily be the females feeling appreciated on Valentine's Day, or should tradition be broken and both partners in the relationship be appreciated by one another?

This year could be different, especially for the guys, on the Hampton University campus.

William Hughes, a sophomore from Memphis, said, "I didn't plan on giving out any gifts, but I have some girls that have said they have some gifts for me, and I have no problem with that."

Charles Jones, sophomore from Illinois, said, " I always thought Valentine's Day was meant for females, but it wouldn't be bad to switch it up and show some of the men appreciation on this day as well."

Joye Paker, psychology major from Maryland, said, "I've never really spent Valentine's Day with anyone, but if I did I would expect my significant other to show his appreciation and for my partner me to do the same."

Zamari Love said, "It's OK for us to do that but usually the guy knows the girl loves him. So I see it more as a day for the guy to show his love for the girl."

Allysa Medina, a sophomore from California, said, "Girls should get their man or whoever that person is Valentine's Day gifts. I'd do it for my man, but that's just me."

Mike Pleasants, sophomore from New Jersey, said, "Don't let these females brainwash you. It's a couple's holiday. It is as much for him as her."

*The trio of writers are students at the **Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications.***