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Pittsburgh Steelers Photos Karl Roser ©2016

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The Bison Airlighter is Fire Reinvented



The Airlighter is unlike any other fire lighter on the planet designed for serious grillers, tailgaters and campers. It runs on a patented technology that combines a high velocity flame with a jet-air-stream that ignites charcoal instantly so that you can be cooking for guests within five minutes. It is an environmental breakthrough for grilling, greatly reducing the amount of fuel needed to get your grill going. And, it is also the safest way to start and maintain your grill, avoiding unwanted lighter fluid burn accidents. Faster. Cleaner. Safer.

The Bison Airlighter jets a 4-inch flame to instantly ignite charcoal and wood. The super-heated 2,600 degree flame can overcome wind, rain and stubborn to light fuel with ease. Once kindling is ignited the flame can be turned off and a built-in, cool air fan will deliver powerful airflow to quickly spread flames throughout the fuel pile stocking the fire to high heat for the fastest cold to cook time. With the Bison Airlighter charcoal-grilling fans will never have to resort to using lighter fluid again resulting in cleaner, healthier and better tasting meals. Portable and multi-purpose the Airlighter can be used in any setting inside the home, backyard or deep woods to light charcoal grills, campfires, wood fireplaces and just about any other fire. The adjustable grip handle makes it easy to maneuver the Bison Airlighter into any grill, fire pit or fireplace and the LED flashlight on the front of the device improves visibility for lighting fires at night. The storage hook

on the underside of the Airlighter can even be used as a bottle opener, solving yet another common grilling dilemma. The Bison Airlighter is designed with safety in mind. The barrel of the device is air-cooled and remains cool to the touch at all times, even seconds after lighting a fire it will not burn skin or melt a table. There is also a child-lock on the device so it can never be switched on accidentally. The integrated battery in the Bison Airlighter can be used for 30 minutes, or up to 40 barbecue lightings before it will require charging. Designed with a standard USB port the Airlighter can conveniently be charged at home with a wall outlet adapter or on the go in a car. The flame on the Airlighter runs on butane that will last for 15 minutes of constant burn time, enough to light up to 40 barbecue fires. The Bison Airlighter has an MSRP of \$79.95. To order or for additional information visit www.airlighter.com. About The Bison Company Founded in 2013, Bison is a privately held innovation company based in New York. The Airlighter is the first product from Bison and has been designed and developed in-house and is patented globally. The Bison Company is dedicated to creating great products that offer significant improvements to existing methods to answer consumer needs. The Bison Company is a subsidiary of Infora, LLC. which develops a unique range of consumer products and distributes them through retailers including specialty local retailers, mail order catalogs, online stores, and national chains. For more information visit www.thebisoncompany.com.





SPORTS:

The Steelers: Off Season Outlook

by Stacy Kauffman, Sports Editor, Nightwire Magazine
Pittsburgh Steelers Photos Karl Roser ©2016

What an odd season for the black and gold. High expectations turned sky is falling morose after Ben Roethlisberger's week four knee injury, and once hopes were held high upon his return, they were dashed again with Le'Veon Bell's season ending torn MCL. But the season didn't end for the Steelers. Despite the training room brimming with starters, the Steelers found a way into the postseason and won their first playoff game since 2010.

The offense was the top unit in the NFL in yards per game. The defense was more aggressive than they have been in years, sacking the quarterback 48 times, the third highest total in the league and 15 more than last season. Rookie defensive coordinator Keith Butler's group generated 30 turnovers, when they had just 21 a season ago.

In a campaign that if not great overall (Steelers fandom is a tough crowd), was a gutsy improvement over the previous year in many ways, it's only natural to say WHAT IF. What if Big Ben wasn't the unfortunate recipient of a low blow to the legs early in the season? What if Martavis Bryant didn't miss four games because of stupidity? What if Maurkice Pouncey could play 16 games in a season? What if Vontaze Burfict didn't hit to injure? What if Fitzgerald Toussaint didn't fumble?

The Steelers would still be playing for its seventh Lombardi trophy. That's the answer to the last question, at least. But they aren't. So face the offseason they must and if you look back at all of the injuries and man games lost, the team has to like where they are headed in 2016 with key players back on the field to fortify the league's number one offense. Add in a defense on its way up and you've got a contender. As long as special teams doesn't fumble it away.



But before anyone can look towards next season, there's an off season to navigate with players to sign and others to let walk, a draft to execute and a salary cap to manipulate.

While the defense made strides, one of the black eyes on Butler's DC debut was the inconsistent pass coverage. The Steelers ranked 30th in passing yards allowed per game with 272. There will be some turnover in the secondary as most guys are free agents. Cornerback Ross Cockrell has already been signed to a one year extension after becoming a big contributor once the much maligned, and highly paid, Cortez Allen went down with a knee injury. Allen will most likely be a cap casualty as he hasn't lived up to his 25 million dollar deal. 2015 second round pick Senquez Golson is expected to step into a major role after missing his rookie year with a shoulder injury. Brandon Boykin is a free agent as well and one the team should keep as he provided stability and depth once he was allowed on the field. Both of the starters who played most of the snaps at CB, William Gay and Antwon Blake, will be free to sign elsewhere after the Super Bowl. See ya later, Antwon. But Gay should be a high priority to re-sign. According to Pro





been a bust. Safety is a position that will most certainly be addressed in the draft.

The other area of free agent concern is the offensive line. Kelvin Beachum and Ramon Foster are both on the market. Beachum has proven to be a consistent hard worker on Roethlisberger's blind side, but is rehabbing an ACL tear he suffered in October, so that may benefit the Steelers if they hope to re-sign him. How many teams will invest millions in a free agent left tackle that has to rebound from a leg injury? He could be signed at a great value to the team. The 30 year old Foster has become a leader in the locker room and with the media, earning him "The Chief" award from Pittsburgh's Pro Football Writers. If he goes, there will be more holes to fill than just on the line. Getting a healthy Pouncey back will curb the loss in leadership and play.



Football Focus' stat gurus, Gay was the only cornerback in the NFL this year not to allow a touchdown pass.

Doran Grant is in the mix for a move to safety after a rookie year where he didn't see the field much. 18 snaps to be exact. Just one of them as a cornerback, the rest on special teams. With both Will Allen and Robert Golden becoming free agents, this makes sense. Especially since Shamarko Thomas has



While deep threat WR Darrius Heyward Bey is an unrestricted free agent, the Steelers have 2015 draft pick Sammie Coates to step in. The backfield is set with another year of both Le'Veon Bell and DeAngelo Williams. The most important area to shore up on the offensive side of the ball is the backup signal caller position. With Ben on the sidelines, the Steelers'

offense struggled. 24 year old Dustin Vaughan was signed off the Buffalo Bills' practice squad as Bruce Gradkowski and Michael Vick most likely won't be brought back, but they should address this in the draft as well. The health of Ben Roethlisberger will be the key to success.

Next year's schedule includes games with the NFC East, AFC East, Indianapolis and Kansas City in addition to their AFC North division mates. Just five of their opponents had winning records in 2015. That doesn't always mean anything once the games are played, see two losses to an awful Baltimore team this year, but you have to beat the teams on your schedule. Many national NFL writers foresee the Steelers as Super Bowl contenders in 2016. This off season will position them to be just that.



Stacy Kauffman, Sports Feature Writer for Nightwire Magazine can be heard on weekends on 93.7 The Fan, has appeared on numerous sports media outlets including Fox Sports Pittsburgh, CBS and ESPN Radio. She can be reached on Twitter @SportsnWhatnot or at sportsnwhatnot@gmail.com

At The Movies...

NIGHTWIRE - FILM REVIEWS by FIORE

The Good Dinosaur

The destruction of innovative, creative film companies continues as Disney buys up its major competitors and implants its insipid social engineering construct in lieu of uniqueness. This is all too evident in Pixar's latest endeavor, THE GOOD DINOSAUR. Never have I seen such dribble in animated form. The movie offers nothing new, innovative nor interesting with a subject enamored by children. THE GOOD DINOSAUR promotes the outcast and the dysfunctional family, mocks Southern and Western people and turns all of mankind into a canine sub species.



Understand, I'm not against corporate take overs per se. Often, it's a good business move for everyone involved, but Disney's take-overs take what is creative competition, and reduces it to its own mundane social paradigm. Pixar was an amazing company. It provided movie viewers with excellent animated fare with interesting, clever stories and characters. Disney knew it could not compete with the upstart outfit, so it bought out the company and turned its creative juices into rancid vinegar.

Meg Lefauve wrote this piece of trash. The story involves a family of brachiosaurus farmers, centering on Arlo, the youngest of the family, who is not a normal brachiosaurus and has special needs. They are a nuclear family, but of course, fitting into the Disney social construct, that ideology can't endure. Following the company's agenda, Lefauve quickly kills off Arlo's father and places his family into a mode so favored by liberals – a family run by the mother, with no father figure

influence, enabling the emasculation of men. She then places Arlo into a terrifying situation which separates him from his family at a time when they need him most. As he struggles to return to his loved ones, he learns aspects of proper living, and his own worth, from the streets and ways of the world. The message here is one Disney favors; break away from family to find your value and worth

One thing I can say positive about this film is the animated scenery. Credit Art Director Harley Jessup for amazing production design in capturing prehistoric landscapes, tornadoes and storms. Unfortunately, the background scenery alone isn't enough to salvage this excrement on celluloid.

THE GOOD DINOSAUR features lame characters and a mundane story. Although it's listed as an 'original screenplay', there is nothing original about this movie. It's the same old Disney routine wrapped in dinosaur tissue paper to help pull in the little kids, especially for those tykes who would find JURASSIC WORLD to intense. Skip this one – you'll thank me for the advice.

THE GRADE FOR THE GOOD DINOSAUR = F

The Hateful 8

Quentin Tarantino's eighth film is shaped like an epic, beginning with an orchestral overture, featuring an intermission, a widescreen image based on 70mm film and stretching to over three hours in length. It harkens back to epics like EL CID; THE TEN COMMANDMENTS; BEN HUR and THE LONGEST DAY, to name a few. While Tarantino enveloped his production in epic style, THE HATEFUL 8 is not epic

The film opens with Kurt Russell, as Bounty Hunter John "The Hangman" Ruth, transporting a prisoner across Wyoming to Red Rock for a \$10,000 bounty. Russell is in high form, combining elements of both Wyatt Earp and Jack Burton. His prisoner is Daisy Domergue, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh. Never has this actress looked so abominable.



In the course of wayfaring to Red Rock, The Hangman encounters numerous travelers, all with various sob stories, attempting to hitch a ride on his stagecoach. They include Samuel L. Jackson as Major Marquis Warren, and Walton Goggins as Sheriff Chris Mannix

A blizzard of epic proportions is bombarding the travelers, who opt to rest at a haberdashery along the way. Inside they will encounter Channing Tatum, as Jody; Zoe Bell as Six-horse Judy; Tim Roth as Oswald Mobray; Michael Madsen as Joe Gage; Bruce Dern as General Sandy Smithers; and Lee Horsley as Ed. Most of these actors have extended cameo roles. Tarantino lets Russell, Jackson and Goggins carry the tale. It's good he does, for they, indeed, do just that.

One thing Tarantino does is ensure he has top quality players behind the camera. Robert Richardson serves as cinematographer. His shots are crisp, clean and have no caffeine. His long shots of the blizzard are chilling, while his shots inside the haberdashery are rustic and warm. Ennio Marricone scored the film. As with most of his Western fare, it is simplistic, but dangerous. He has several stanzas that harken back to his Spaghetti Westerns with Clint Eastwood and the man with no name.

Finally, Fred Raskin is listed as Editor, but I seriously doubt he had any control over this film. Tarantino always sits in the editing room with his editor and dictates what to do. This caused many legendary battles, especially with Sally Menke who often scolded Quentin like a spoiled child.

While Tinseltown continues to bestow terms like 'uber' and 'genius' on Tarantino, his work does not live up to his hype. His fanboys will enjoy this; the rest of us will watch once, and then forget it.

THE GRADE FOR THE HATEFUL 8 = C

The Peanuts Movie

There is an overwhelming desire on the part of many filmmakers to bring to a new, plugged-in generation, the characters so beloved from their checkered pasts. Usually, this results in rather insipid remakes or reboots that offer nothing to viewers already familiar with the characters. That, friends, is evidence of poor filmmaking. Luckily, this is not the case with THE PEANUTS MOVIE; and the main reason is Snoopy.

We've seen this all before: the little red-haired girl moves into the neighborhood, and Charlie Brown is struck with Cupid's arrow. It's a story that helps mold the relationship between Charles and his nemesis, Lucy. While most of us are familiar with this story, it is not redundant to view it again, thanks to the shenanigans of our favorite animated beagle – Snoopy.

For more reviews and the latest Hollywood news, visit Fiore's web site at: <http://videogod314.wix.com/outtakes>



Craig and Bryan Schulz, sons of Charles Schulz, the man responsible for creating the Peanuts universe, have written a comfortable script. It tells a familiar tale, but interfuses it with new adventures of Snoopy as Joe Cool and the WWI Flying Ace. This is a most clever move, for it introduces Peanuts to a new, younger generation, while simultaneously entertaining those of us who've been there and done that. It makes for an entertaining film, regardless if you've seen it all before, or if this is your first time with the Peanuts gang.

In this fashion, Twentieth Century Fox outshines Disney and its bastard child Pixar in animated fare. Fox presents a tale acceptable and enjoyable to all fans, while the latter two still endeavor to cram the same agenda filled story down the throats of all viewers. They simply change the characters, but the Disney animation movies are and have been essentially the same film for the past decade.

Throw in David Benoit's magical piano interpretations of the various Charlie Brown themes, and a new song by Bass Girl Meghan Trainor, and the PEANUTS MOVIE provides solid, family entertainment, and a multitude of laughs, for the entire family, regardless of generation.

THE GRADE FOR THE PEANUTS MOVIE = B

**See Outtakes with the Fiore TV show.
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Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Brings Twelfth Night to the Byham Theater this February

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust is pleased to bring Twelfth Night to the Byham Theater this February. This explosive new take on Shakespeare's play is sure to enchant all with its Shakespearian foundation but modern, alternative approach. In association with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Filter Theatre brings this play to life.

Twelfth Night, originally written by William Shakespeare in 1601, is a play "full of magic and transformation, loss and reconciliation," said Simon Reade, Dear Mr Shakespeare: Letters to a Jobbing Playwright.

This play sees character Olivia's melancholic, puritanical household clash head on with Sir Toby's insatiable appetite for drunken debauchery, Orsino's relentless pursuit of Olivia and Malvolio's extraordinary transformation typify the madness of love in Illyria: land of make-believe and illusion. In addition, through the characters of shipwrecked Viola and her twin, this story of romance, satire and mistaken identity is crafted into one of the most exciting and accessible Shakespeare productions of recent years.

Filter Theatre transforms this age old Shakespearian comedy into a condensed, fast-paced play complete with an acoustic sound and atmosphere. "The stage for their version of Twelfth Night is more reminiscent of a rock gig than a straight play, strewn as it is with sound equipment and musical instruments," Paul Taylor, theatre reviewer for the UK's Independent newspaper.

"Filter's lo-fi, 90min remix of Shakespeare's comedy infects the audience with the play's celebratory spirit of madness from the



start...You leave feeling slightly changed yourself." – The Metro.

The Filter Theatre creative team includes Sean Holmes (Director), Ferdy Roberts and Oliver Dimsdale (Associate and Artistic Directors), Tim Phillips (Artistic Director), Jonathan Broadbent, Tom Haines and Gemma Saunders (Artistic



Twelfth Night, part of Cohen & Grigsby TRUST

PRESENTS Series, will be performed Tuesday,

February 23, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional

student group only performance on Wednesday,

February 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Byham

Theater, 101 6th Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Tickets start

at \$20 and are available www.TrustArts.org, by

phone at 412-456-6666 or in person at the Box Office

at Theatre Square, 655 Penn Avenue.

Associates), Simon Reade (Producer), Daniel Morgenstern (Finance Manager), Alan Pagan (Musician – Drummer), Fred Thomas (Musician), Pemberley Productions (US Tour Producer), and Christie DuBois (Company Stage Manager).

The Twelfth Night cast list is as follows: Ronke Adekoluejo (Olivia), Sandy Foster (Feste/Maria), Harry Jardine (Orsino/Aguecheek), Amy Marchant (Viola), Fergus O'Donnell (Malvolio), and Dan Poole (Sir Toby Belch).

All are encouraged to come out and experience the madness of love in this heady world where riotous gig meets Shakespeare.

Twelfth Night, part of Cohen & Grigsby TRUST PRESENTS Series, will be performed Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7:30



p.m. with an additional student group only performance on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Byham Theater, 101 6th Street, Pittsburgh, PA. Tickets start at \$20 and are available www.TrustArts.org, by phone at 412-456-6666 or in person at the Box Office at Theatre Square, 655 Penn Avenue.

FILTER THEATRE

“One of Britain’s best and boldest devising companies” - Metro Filter has been creating innovative, exciting theatre since 2003. Filter’s unique collaborative language explores the interaction between sound, music, text, and movement, in a desire to make stories that awaken the imaginative senses of an audience. Working out of a real sense of trust, and retaining a robust emotional honesty and playfulness, the company creates new

works of original theatre, as well as dynamic incarnations of existing texts. To find out more about Filter Theatre visit www.filtertheatre.com.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

The Royal Shakespeare Company (also known as the RSC) is based in Stratford-upon-Avon and produces an inspirational artistic programme each year, setting Shakespeare in context, alongside the work of his contemporaries and today’s writers. Visit www.rsc.org.uk for more information.

PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

For more information about the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, visit TrustArts.org.

Learn About Sparkling Wines Like Champagne, Prosecco & Cava

Source: VinePair – Wine 101

We've all tasted sparkling wine, at the very least around the holidays or when celebrating a special occasion, yet many of us have no idea what the difference is between wines such as Champagne, Cava and Prosecco—or how they even get the bubbles into the wine in the first place. Let us explain.

There are many legends of how sparkling wine came to be created, but the myth we like best is the story of Monk Dom Perignon.

Sparkling wine is a carbonated wine, a wine that has bubbles, which usually takes on the name associated with the region or country specific to where the wine originated. The carbonation in sparkling wine is created using one of two methods: Méthode Champenoise (Champagne method) or Metodo Italiano, which is also known as the Charmat-Martiniotti method.

There are many legends of how sparkling wine came to be created, but the myth we like best is the story of Monk Dom Perignon. As the story goes, in the 1600s the monk was making white wine in the Champagne region of France.

He decided to bottle the wine he had fermented earlier than usual because, when he checked the fermentation tanks, it seemed to him that the yeast had finished converting all the sugar to alcohol. In fact, the temperature in the Champagne region had become so cold that the yeast in the tanks had simply gone to sleep, even though they weren't done eating all the sugar. When the spring came and the wine in the bottles began to warm, the yeast woke up and hurriedly began eating all of the leftover sugar. As they ate the sugar, the carbon dioxide they were creating had no place to escape, as it would in a large fermentation tanks, so instead the CO2 was absorbed by the wine, thereby carbonating it. When Dom Perignon went to check on his wine he encountered corks popping all around him; he tasted the wine and loved the results, thus the birth of Champagne. Since the discovery of the Champagne method, which is often called the traditional method, Champagne has exploded across the world, quickly becoming the most well-known and highly regarded sparkler.

While the story of Dom Perignon is a myth, and we're pretty sure it isn't true, it is an excellent way to explain the Champagne method. Using this method, Perignon "discovered" that a secondary fermentation in the bottle could be used to create the bubbles we associate with a sparkling wine.

Since the discovery of the Champagne method, which is often called the traditional method, Champagne has exploded across the world, quickly becoming the most well-known and highly regarded sparkler. It is for this reason that most other wine regions adopted the method as the way to make sparkling wine, including Spanish Cava. So if the majority of sparkling wine is made using the Champagne method, why don't we call all sparkling wine Champagne?

As you might expect, the French are pretty territorial over the name, allowing only sparkling wine that is actually made in the Champagne region of France to be called Champagne. Just as Kleenex wouldn't like it if a rival brand referred to their tissue as a Kleenex, the French hate it when wine that is not from Champagne is called Champagne. This why we had the creation of the name Cava to refer to sparkling wines from Spain. For a long time the Spanish referred to their products as Champagne, knowing that consumers' familiarity with the



name as a quality sparkling wine would benefit their sales, but the French cried foul, and lobbied the EU to forbid any other country from using the name Champagne unless it comes from that region in France.

Sparkling wine has four levels of sweetness. The level of sweetness of the wine will be printed directly on the bottle. These levels are:

Extra-Brut: This is the driest kind of sparkling wine you can buy. In this type of sparkler, the yeast has eaten absolutely all of the sugar, so there is a complete absence of it in the wine.

Brut: This is the most popular type of sparkling wine. The wine is dry, but there is just a hint of sweetness. In this sparkler, the winemaker stopped the fermentation process just before the yeast ate all of the sugar, leaving a tiny amount behind in the wine. Champagne is the most common sparkler to be labeled Brut.

Extra Dry: This type of sparkler is dry, but not as dry as Brut or Extra-Brut, meaning it retains a slight sweetness. It's not sugary sweet, although they are noticeably sweeter than Brut wines. Prosecco is most often Extra Dry.

Demi-sec: This is a sweet sparkling wine. One would usually drink Demi-sec with desert, as there is a prevalent amount of noticeable sugar.

While it's the best known method for making sparkling wine, the Champagne method takes time and can be very expensive, as you have to allow the wine time to ferment in the tank and then again in each individual bottle for a minimum of fifteen months. Looking for a faster and cheaper way to create quality sparkling wine, Frenchman Eugene Charvat and, separately in Italy, Federico Martinotti discovered what is now known as the Charvat-Martinotti method. In this method, the wine is transferred from its first fermentation vat to a large sealed pressurized tank where it undergoes secondary fermentation to create the carbonation. Then the carbonated wine is bottled and shipped to market. This is how all Italian Prosecco is made.

The real difference between the Charvat-Martinotti method and the Champagne method is the ultimate taste of the wine. Wines in the Charvat-Martinotti method tend to be younger and fruitier while wines made using the Champagne method are often drier and less fruity.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST WINE TO DRINK ON VALENTINE'S DAY

VINEPAIR

DO YOU HAVE A DATE?

NOPE: SWINGING SINGLE

- ARE YOU HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS?
 - YES: I'M WITH MY FRIENDS TONIGHT.
 - YOU BOOR COULDN'T BE HERE?
 - NO: MAKING MYSELF A GREAT MEAL.
 - WINE: **MERLOT** (WINE & CHEESE & YELLOW PEPPER AND BEE INTO THE NIGHT)
 - WINE: **PROSECCO** (GOOD FOR VIBES THAT COULD BE YOUR WINE)
 - WINE: **BORDEAUX** (A FRENCHMAN CALLS IT A FRENCH BOTTLE AND YOU'LL BE THE BEST)
 - WINE: **CHAMPAGNE** (PROSECCO IS THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FRENCH BOTTLE)
 - WINE: **GAMAY** (THIS IS A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **BOX WINE** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - NO: I WANT TO BE ALONE TONIGHT.
 - ARE YOU STAYING IN TONIGHT?
 - NO: I WANT TO STAY ALONE AT A BAR.
 - WINE: **PROSECCO** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **CHAMPAGNE** (PROSECCO IS THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FRENCH BOTTLE)
 - WINE: **GAMAY** (THIS IS A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **BOX WINE** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - NO: I WANT TO GO OUT TONIGHT.
 - ARE YOU REALLY STAYING IN SO YOU CAN EASILY GET FROM THE DANCE ROOM TO THE BEDROOM?
 - WINE: **PROSECCO** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **CHAMPAGNE** (PROSECCO IS THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FRENCH BOTTLE)
 - WINE: **GAMAY** (THIS IS A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **BOX WINE** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)

HECK YES I DO!

- HAVE YOU MADE RESERVATIONS?
 - NO: I WANT TO COOK.
 - ARE YOU REALLY STAYING IN SO YOU CAN EASILY GET FROM THE DANCE ROOM TO THE BEDROOM?
 - WINE: **PROSECCO** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **CHAMPAGNE** (PROSECCO IS THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FRENCH BOTTLE)
 - WINE: **GAMAY** (THIS IS A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)
 - WINE: **BOX WINE** (IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS)

WINE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- MERLOT:** WINE & CHEESE & YELLOW PEPPER AND BEE INTO THE NIGHT
- PROSECCO:** GOOD FOR VIBES THAT COULD BE YOUR WINE
- BORDEAUX:** A FRENCHMAN CALLS IT A FRENCH BOTTLE AND YOU'LL BE THE BEST
- CHAMPAGNE:** PROSECCO IS THE ITALIAN VERSION OF THE FRENCH BOTTLE
- GAMAY:** THIS IS A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS
- BOX WINE:** IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS
- PROSECCO:** IT'S A GREAT WINE TO DRINK WITH YOUR FRIENDS
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8 Beers to Love for Valentine's Day and Beyond

by Brian Meyer

That Cupid is one tricky guy. It seems that he's not only aiming for people now with his bow and arrow, but instead is choosing to take aim at a few of our favorite beers, too. Thankfully, his aim is true and the beers he's chosen are, by and far, excellent choices for not only Valentine's Day, but for the coming months, too.

Speaking of those coming months, winter has a bad rap for only being about dark, heavy beers. One would be led to believe that all the lighter and hoppier beers are laid to rest until the snow thaws and the sun comes out for more than 4 hours each day, but the truth is this just isn't so. Winter is filled with amazing beers and while yes, some of them are dark and delicious, many are lighter in color and full of flavors that we all too often associate only with warmer months.

With some help from the love man himself, we've collected a few beers that you're bound to love. From the dark and chocolaty to the bright and hoppy, there's a beer in this list for everyone to love. Check out cupid's beer choices for Valentine's Day and beyond and get yourself a dose of liquid love today.

Anderson Valley Brewing Company Briney Melon Gose

You may not be familiar with the gose beer style (pronounced go-sah), but you should be. These beers are slightly salty with a tart character that's akin to sour beers, but more tart than sour. The folks over at Anderson Valley Brewing Company have brewed a few varieties of this classic beer style, including this brand-new iteration that's bound to please.

The classic gose style is paired with subtle watermelon aroma and flavor to give this beer a perfect harmony between acidity and fruity sweetness. The finish is nice and dry, giving you a beer that's both tart and sweet without any lingering sweetness on the finish. As with others in the style, this new gose will come in at a sessionable 4.2% ABV and is available in bottles, cans, and on draft.

Bell's Brewery Hopslam

When it comes to IPAs, this one may very well be king. Bell's Brewing uses six different varieties of hops to craft the huge citrus and floral flavor that's packed into this beer, giving it a complex and very bitter taste and aroma. Weighing in at a hefty 10% ABV, Hopslam is a beer for true lovers of the hop.

Hopslam is a true imperial IPA, with a huge flavor and enough alcohol to give the beer a slight warmth on the finish. As you might have guessed, Cupid's worked overtime on this one, making just about everyone love Hopslam, so while it may take a little work to find this beer, the work is definitely worth the reward. Hopslam this year is available in 12oz cans, 5 liter cans, and on draft.



Bell's Brewery Smitten Golden Rye

smitten | smitn: (be smitten) be strongly attracted to someone or something: she was so smitten with the the beer.

Smitten isn't a word that's used too often anymore, but I argue that it should be. A perfect use of this word is for the golden rye ale brewed by Bell's Brewing. Their idea of Smitten starts with rye to impart a spiciness and body to the beer that give the beer an almost magical presence.

On the nose you'll notice peppery rye spiciness along with a noticeable bready aroma. The taste has rye up front with a nice citrusy hop character following it up. All of this sits nicely on a malt backbone that's all about bready malt. The rye imparts a creamy mouthfeel that finishes the beer up perfectly.

Bell's Smitten Golden Rye Ale comes in at 6% ABV and is available only during the spring and early summer. Smitten is a great example of an interesting take



on the traditional American Pale Ale with a nice rye malt twist. Smitten Golden Rye Ale pairs very well with strong cheeses, salty snacks, and savory meats. All perfect food choices for a nice home-cooked meal at home with that special someone. Smitten is available in 12oz bottles, 16oz cans, and on draft.

North Country Brewing Liquid Love Chocolate Stout

One of the tenants of a good Valentine's Day is chocolate. A close second to this would be, in my book, alcohol, so why not combine the two into a stout that is part chocolate, part beer, and all amazing?

North Country Brewing out of Slippery Rock, PA brews their Liquid Love Stout to be the perfect balance of chocolate and dark stout not only for those of us celebrating Valentine's Day, but for anyone else looking for a great dark beer with overtones of dark chocolate. When it comes to chocolate stouts, a little goes a long way, which is why this beer is so great. The beer is well balanced with enough bitterness paired with the toasted malt to support the chocolate and make this 6.5% ABV beer extremely drinkable and infinitely enjoyable, but make sure to find it on draft, as it's the only way you'll find it this year.

Stone Brewing Pataskala Red X IPA

However you pronounce the name of this new beer, the impressiveness of it stays the same. This unique red IPA was first brewed in September of 2015 to support music and arts education programs in none other than Pataskala, Ohio where Stone's co-founder Greg Koch grew up. It was such a hit that Stone decided to release it to the rest of us, too.

The red part of this beer's name comes from the dark crimson hue the beer pours, which comes from the malt variety used in brewing. This, paired with massive dry-hoppings with Mosaic, Cascade, and Amarillo hops give this beer a citrus-forward flavor that's backed up with biscuit and toffee notes. Coming in at 7.3% ABV and 75 IBUs, this is one beer that you don't want to miss, even if you can't pronounce it. Stone Brewing's Pataskala Red will be available in 12oz bottles and on draft.



Troegs Cultivator Helles Bock

While the ground might not be thawing just yet, farmers are starting to plan their crops and the ensuing cultivation of said crops. Not into the whole farming business? That's

fine, you can still join in with Tröeg's Cultivator Helles Bock.

This 6.9% ABV lager is a fresh and crisp beer with just enough hop bitterness to be refreshing. Brewed with floor malted Bohemian Pilsner malt and Hersbrucker and Magnum hops, Cultivator is a simply amazing beer. The malt body gives the beer a little more meat than a typical lager while still staying light enough to be delicious.

If you're looking to make a dinner for that special someone, Cultivator pairs very well with a variety of cheeses including Asiago, Colby, Gruyère and Swiss. The malty sweetness and clean, dry finish of the beer also complements spicy dishes like Thai or Korean BBQ, shellfish, and a variety of fried foods. Cultivator will be available in 12oz bottles, cans, and on draft.

Tröegs Nugget Nectar

Here's a beer you could really make your main squeeze. Nugget Nectar is Tröegs Brewing's ode to the hop. Tröegs uses ultra-fresh hops to give this beer huge aroma and flavor that's hard to beat. Coming in at 7.5% ABV and a hefty 93 IBUs, this beer is technically considered an imperial amber ale, even though it's stiff competition for any IPA out there.

Nugget Nectar just saw its 2016 release in January to a thirsty throng of beer lovers, and if you want to get your hands on this lovely, you better do it soon or else be without the one you love for another year. And trust me, this isn't one you want to have a long-distance relationship with. Nugget Nectar will be available in 12oz bottles, cans, and on draft.

Victory Brewing 20th Anniversary IPA

It seems like just a year ago we were celebrating the 19th anniversary of Victory Brewing with an amazing session IPA. This year for their big 20th anniversary, Victory decided to go experimental with a very special IPA.

This IPA is brewed with two varieties of malt and an experimental hop, known only as Idaho 7. This beer boasts complex and fruity aromas including orange and apricot with just a hint of a piney, herbalness that makes the beer truly unique.

Victory chose to keep the ABVs low again this year to give us a beer we can party and celebrate with all night. At 5.5% ABV, this beer gives you all the flavor with just enough alcohol to be great. Look for it both in bottles and on draft.

Whether you're celebrating Valentine's Day with a special someone or kicking it by yourself, any of the beers in this list would make the perfect companion.

Each of these beers and more are distributed in and around the Pittsburgh area by Vecenie Distributing.

Stoke's Grill - North Hill's Newest Bar!!



Stoke's Grill located on McKnight Road across from Auto Zone in the Pep Boys Plaza recently expanded and opened a bar adjacent to their existing long established gourmet sandwich shop. The separate bar area features 24 rotating taps and over 100 craft bottles along with specialty cocktails and of course their entire dining room menu is available in the bar area. Here at Stoke's, you'll find the best Happy Hour in the North Hills. Their Happy Hour (bar area only) is Monday through Friday 4pm-6pm where they offer ½ price on all their drafts, \$1.00 off bottles, wine and cocktails along with a Special Happy Hour Menu. Their Happy Hour menu includes: Chili Queso Dip served with soft pretzel pieces (\$3), Buffalo Chicken Dip served with homemade chips and pita (\$4), Onion Rings, beer battered served with Ranch Dressing (\$3), Half Red Fries, loaded with cheese, chili and sour cream (\$4), Half Green Fries, cheese, bacon with side of ranch (\$4), Half White Fries, white garlic aioli, onion straws and parmesan cheese (\$4), Frizzle Quesadilla, grilled chicken, ranch, cheddar-jack cheese, bacon and salsa (\$4) and Bourbon Nachos, fresh salsa, jalapenos, cheddar-jack cheese, spicy bourbon BBQ sauce, atop a mound

of homemade potato chips (\$4) add chicken or pork (\$2).

This neighborhood grill has always been known for their fabulous food and great prices, now with the addition of a bar, you will be able to not only enjoy the best gourmet sandwiches, homemade soups, salads and their newest addition, homemade deck oven pizza and specialty pizzas and great craft beers, cocktails and wine. We have heard nothing but rave reviews about their pizza and it comes as no surprise as all their food is made on premise with only fresh high quality ingredients daily. The owners take great pride in preparing and serving only the very best gourmet sandwiches, soups, salads and pizza at reasonable prices in the North Hills.

The bar area has a very open feel with windows across the front providing lots of natural light during the day and soft ambient lighting at night making it very inviting and comfortable. Since it's located in a plaza there is plenty of free parking. The bar itself is long and offers plenty of comfortable bar seating along with table seating. You can relax and



unwind with your friends, co-workers or family at Stoke's. Plus, we know you will definitely enjoy their large selection of 24 rotating taps of craft and domestic beer and well over 100 bottles to choose from, you will definitely find one to suit your palate. If craft beer is not your style you can try one of their handcrafted cocktails carefully handmade by one of their professional bartenders or perhaps a glass of your favorite wine all served to you with top notch service. Stoke's Bar has a nice array of big screen TVs positioned perfectly around the bar, so there is not a bad seat in the house. Stop in a catch your favorite sports team or just enjoy the serenity and comfort of their relaxing atmosphere.

Stop in and check it out, Stoke's Grill and Bar open daily Monday through Saturday from 10:30am till late night.

Stoke's Grill and Bar located at 4771 McKnight Road (North Hills), Pittsburgh, 15237

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THE TRUTH IMPERIAL IPA

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HOPS:

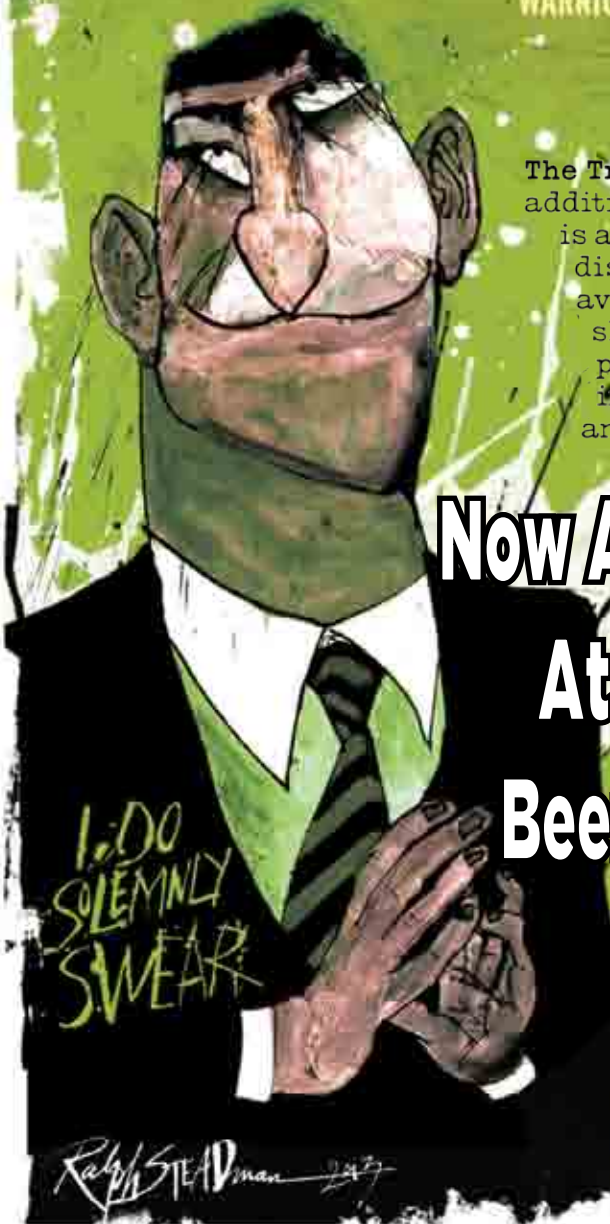
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New Orleans Beyond Mardi Gras

By: Suzanne Ferrara



Royal Carriage French Quarter Tour

No matter who you are, New Orleans will capture your soul in an instant. It is truly a place like no other.

It has its own language, oozes culture, charm, and is deep in 300 years of fascinating history. The Crescent City, which borders the mighty Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain, brims with some of the most genuinely friendly people you will ever encounter. It's no wonder that once you visit her, she'll hypnotize you and you'll never want to leave her warmth and grandeur. Know this: just one visit won't be enough to uncover the many awe-inspiring treasures Crescent City has to offer.

Mardi Gras parades, hot jazz, King Cake, gumbo, and the iconic French Quarter...the list of New Orleans' hallmarks is endless.

One of the best ways to experience the French Quarter and other iconic areas of New Orleans is by carriage. Some of these mule-lead carriages have been in operation for nearly a century, and the 'buggy ride,' as many locals call it, is not just popular with tourists.

Be sure to board one of New Orleans' Royal Carriages which offers six distinctive unforgettable journeys. In addition to the French Quarter's Vieux Carre' tour, these rides will bring you uptown to the Garden District (where you'll



The Presbytere
Mardi Gras Exhibit

see the homes of movie stars) or perhaps the legendary oak-lined St. Charles Avenue with its breath-taking mansions.

Plus, your city-licensed guide will hop off and give you a tour of the legendary St. Louis #1 Cemetery, the oldest above-ground cemetery in North America. You'll certainly get an earful of fascinating New Orleans history, and you'll see the storied streets of this great city at a leisurely pace, as if you were traveling in the 18th and 19th centuries. (Tip: Take a morning private ride and request John Cosentino for any tour).

Another way to truly experience this rich city is by taking a cruise along the mighty Mississippi River aboard the historic Steamboat Natchez. The Natchez is one of the last, authentic, steam-powered paddle wheelers on the river, and you will get spectacular views you cannot see anywhere else. You can also tempt your taste buds with a sumptuous New Orleans-style lunch or dinner, all as you listen to live Dixieland jazz. Be sure to head to Natchez's third level bar where you can wet your whistle



Steamboat Natchez, Mississippi River

with the steamer's famous savory Bloody Mary.

No visit to New Orleans is complete without dining at one of the many French-creole restaurants where the cuisine is derived from centuries of cultural culinary recipes.

Head to the legendary Antoine's Restaurant which is celebrating 175 years of service! Antoine's has been serving since 1840, and in that time celebrities, royalty, U.S. Presidents and even Pope John Paul II have enjoyed the superb cuisine. And how's this for history? Many of the waiters are ancestors of those who served here over a hundred years ago. (Be sure to request Charles, a fourth-generation waiter deeply rooted in the tradition of An-



Charles Carter, Fourth Generation Waiter, Antoine's Restaurant

toine's). Ask for a private tour of the restaurant which includes a 'secret' room, and a peek at the legendary 165-foot long wine cellar that holds 25,000 bottles of wine.

For appetizers be sure to try the delicious Pommes de Terre Soufflés (Antoine's classic fried puff potatoes) or the Huitres en Coquille a la Rockefeller (Louisiana Gulf Oysters baked on a half shell with the original Rockefeller sauce created by Antoine's in 1889); then follow it with Pompano Pontchartrain (Grilled filet of pompano with lump crabmeat sautéed in butter) and finish things



Audubon Cottages, French Quarter

with Antoine's famous Baked Alaska.

Breakfast, lunch or dinner at Brennan's Restaurant on Royal Street is a must! This eatery has been a tradition since 1946. Sumptuous dishes such as Eggs Hussarde (a Brennan's original), Seafood File Gumbo, Brennan's Oyster Soup and New Orleans' classic Grouper Almondine are just a few items that will tempt your taste buds. Do not leave without finishing your meal with the famous Banana's Foster!

Another dessert option is Café Du Monde which at its French Market location, has been a New Orleans tradition since 1862. Enjoy mouthwatering beignets (a French style square donut covered in powdered sugar) and either a cup of dark roast coffee and chicory or a cup of Café Au'Lait (coffee mixed with half and half and hot milk).

New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz, and you will be whisked away by the mesmerizing sounds of Dixieland. Some of the top choices to hear this authentic styled repartee are Fretzels European Jazz Club, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park, and the Maison Bourbon.

New Orleans is full of a variety of museums extending from the French Quarter to downtown and midtown. The Presbytere, located next to the historic St. Louis Cathedral, has an elaborate collection of Mardi Gras artifacts and memorabilia, and offers an interactive exhibit will give you a realistic Mardi Gras experience.

As everyone knows, the celebration never ends in this city! So head to the legendary Pat O'Brien's where you can drink the legendary "Hurricane" or visit the new 21st Amendment Bar at La Louisiane, which celebrates just that, the repeal of Prohibition.

After all the sightseeing, you'll be ready to rest up for the next day. If you are looking for an historic French Quarter oasis, the Audubon Cottages will transport you to another place and time. This secluded hideaway surrounded by an 18th century brick enclosure and lush tropical gardens is a stone's throw away from all the action. It's hard to believe these "Five Star Alliance" accommodations are just one block away from Bourbon Street.

There are seven cottages from which to choose, most with private courtyards, and all surround by what is believed to be the French Quarter's oldest in-ground swimming pool (heated), set in original brick. Audubon Cottages are named after famed painter and naturalist John James Audubon; he lived in cottage number one back in 1821, and finished part of his legendary "Birds of

America Series” in cottage number seven. Modern-day celebrities have discovered this unique getaway, too: Elizabeth Taylor stayed in cottage number three 27 times!

It’s hard to choose which cottage to reserve. All buildings have exposed historic brick, original wooden beams, and beautiful wooden floors; and most cottages include a living and dining room, an original fireplace, one or two bedrooms and a private courtyard. Number four is a two-story cottage with a balcony and spacious lush courtyard.

Butlers assigned to each cottage (Ada is a gem and will make sure you have absolutely anything you desire), and complimentary cheeses, fruit, sweets and champagne are among the treats waiting for you. If that’s not enough, Alfred Edwards, a true New Orleanian, aims to please and will whip up anything you desire for your complimentary breakfast.

Another French Quarter lodging suggestion would be to stay at the Bourbon Orleans Hotel. It’s been nearly two centuries, but



Bourbon Orleans Hotel
Balcony View

amazingly, in this hotel stands the iconic Orleans Ballroom. It is there the aristocratic elite took part in decadent galas, balls and celebrations that were said to be the envy of Europe.

This was also the site of the grandiose and controversial quadrone balls, during which married European noblemen and Creole aristocrats were paired with a mistress, a young creole with fair skin, adding to the mystique: the Bourbon Orleans is known as the most haunted hotel in New Orleans.

Bourbon Orleans’ guests can take part in a seasonal five-course candlelight period dinner with costumed reenactors portraying the most notable military leaders involved in the Battle of New Orleans. Enjoy similar historic meals which the Marquis de Lafayette and other European nobility ate in these very walls.



Bourbon Orleans Loft Suite with Balcony



Bourbon Orleans Costumed Performers



Grilled Gulf Shrimp, The Grill Room

To say that the Bourbon Orleans has a distinctive location is an understatement. Stand on the Bourbon Orleans' promenade balcony and turn to your left? You get a dramatic back view of the St. Louis Cathedral and the breath-taking basilica garden. Turn to your right? There's iconic, historic and exciting Bourbon Street.

For luxury accommodations right outside the French Quarter, try the Windsor Court Hotel. And you don't have to be British Royalty or travel to Buckingham Palace to have this truly regal experience in New Orleans. Visitors might feel as if they're walking into England's Windsor Castle when they enter the Windsor Court Hotel. While the luxury hotel is dripping in British decor, it also has a warm and inviting feel.

It's no wonder visiting U.S. presidents, British royalty, movie actors and rock stars have called this hotel 'home'. The AAA Four-Diamond, Forbes Four-Star designation has earned the hotel a plethora of prestigious awards and recognitions, including "Best Hotel in the World" from Travel and Leisure Magazine. The accommodations are impressive and meticulously decorated, and boast breath-taking panoramic views of the mighty Mississippi



Apple Pucker Sour, Polo Club Lounge



Le Salon High Tea, Windsor Court Hotel

River or the Crescent City.

Life's most celebrated events take place at the hotel's Grill Room, New Orleans' only four-star/four diamond restaurant. Regional dishes with fresh local ingredients (done with a bit of a twist) reign, as Chef de Cuisine Daniel Causgrove tempts your taste buds with his exquisite culinary creations.

Le Salon's afternoon tea, just off the lobby, is a must experience while in New Orleans. The finest brews are steeped, poured and accompanied by mouth-watering sandwiches, scones and an assortment of fine chocolates, and soothing melodies from a harpist or string-trio complete the experience.

The Windsor Court's Polo Club Lounge has a feel reminiscent of a private club in England. Roger, a legend here, uses his mixology skills to create hand-crafted cocktails sure to wet your whistle. (Tip: Be sure to try his creation, 'Nicole').

And don't forget the kids! New Orleans has a plethora of enjoyable experiences for the little ones and the kids at heart; a trip to the award-winning Audubon Zoo, Aquarium of the Americas, and the Insectarium will surely entertain the whole family. Whether you're on a romantic getaway, a guys' or girls' trip, or a family vacation, the alluring and fascinating Crescent City will capture your heart and soul.

For more information go to: neworleanscvb.com, neworleanscarrriages.com, neworleanshotelcollection.com and thewindsorcourt-hotel.com

Humor

Valentines Day Jokes

Why didn't Cupid shoot his arrow at the lawyer's heart?
Because even Cupid can't hit a target that small!

Jim asked his friend, Tony, whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day.
'Yes,' came the answer from Tony who was a bit of a chauvinist, 'I've bought her a belt and a bag.'
'That was very kind of you,' Jim added, 'I hope she appreciated the thought.'
Tony smiled as he replied, 'So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better.'

What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day?
Hog and kisses!

A guy walks into a post office one day to see a middle-aged, balding man standing at the counter methodically placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. He then takes out a perfume bottle and starts spraying scent all

over them.

His curiosity getting the better of him, he goes up to the balding man and asks him what he is doing. The man says "I'm sending out 1,000 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'"

"But why?" asks the man.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replies.

Worst thing to say on a first date

- I used to have a real bad bedwetting problem ... but the last couple of weeks I've gotten it under control.
 - I know we just met and this might seem a little sudden ... but could I borrow five hundred dollars?
 - Go ahead and Super Size - I found spare change in the sofa today.
 - Something tells me that you're very special ... but with medication I can usually ignore it.
 - I don't see my ex-girlfriend that much ... thanks to the U.S. Department of Justice."
 - Do you want to play doctor? That'll be five hundred dollars.
 - Wait till my wife hears about this!
 - I had a good time tonight. I'd love to see you again in six to eight months with good behavior.
-

Knock knock!

Who's there?

Sherwood

Sherwood who?

Sherwood like to be your valentine!

Q: What do squirrels give for Valentine's Day?

A: Forget-me-nuts.

Q: What did the valentine card say to the stamp?

A: Stick with me and we'll go places!



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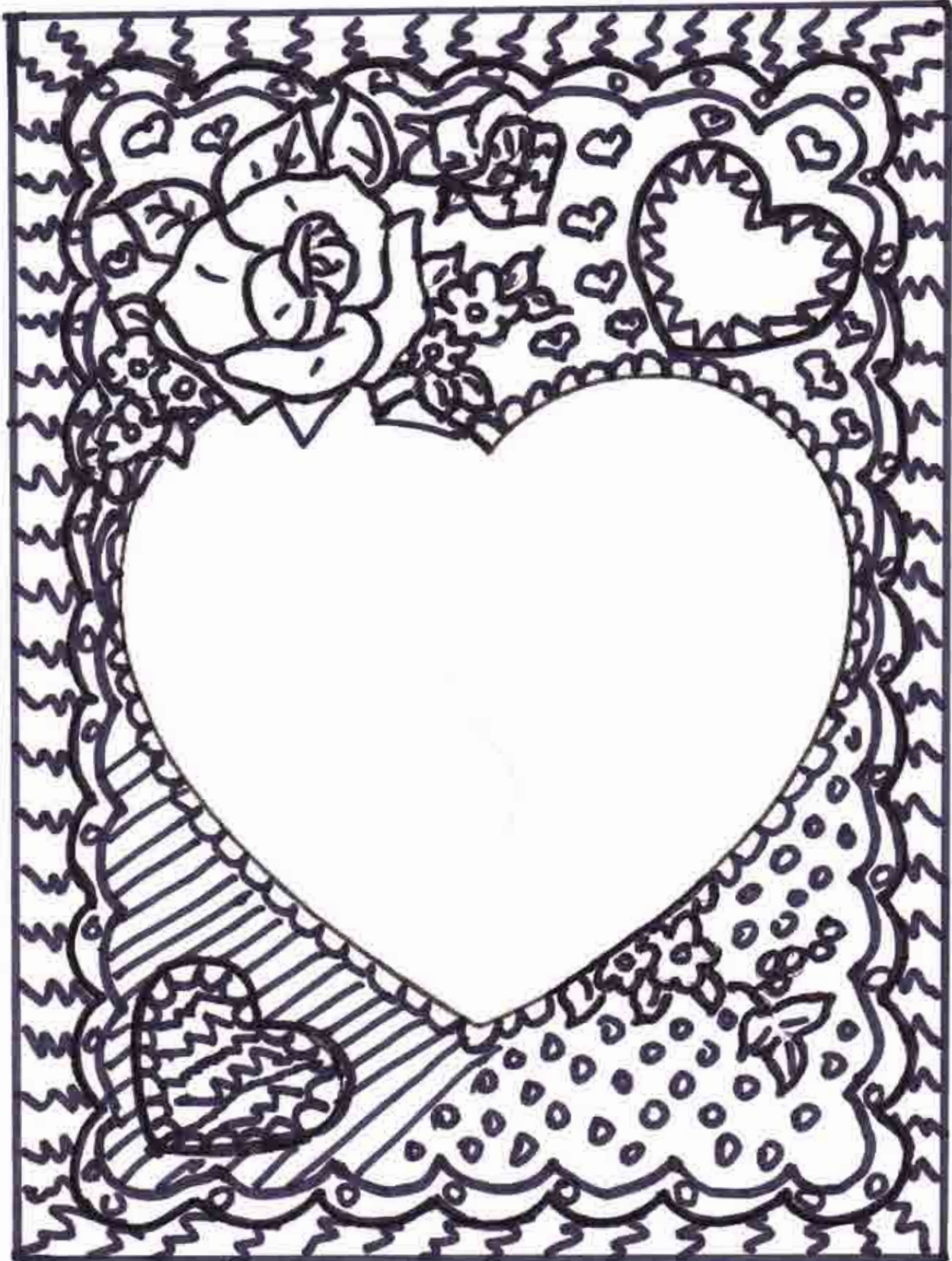
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Won't You Be Our Valentine??

A coloring session can relieve stress and anxiety. Wouldn't it be nice to take an hour with a cup of coffee, glass of wine or your favorite beverage and get lost in a sea of possibility and imagination?

Make this Valentine's Day a fun day you can brighten someone's day.. or just do it for yourself.. Go ahead color outside the lines... Grab some markers and have some fun... we left the heart blank so you can write your own special message.. Happy coloring!!

Happy Valentine's Day from Nightwire!!



Humor

Q: What did the stamp say to the envelope?

A: I'm stuck on you.

What would you get if you crossed Odie with the God of love?

A stupid cupid!

What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

"I find you very attractive."

Things Not to Say on Your Valentine's Date

- I really don't like this restaurant that much, but I wanted to use this 2-for-1 coupon before it expired.
- People say I remind them of Eddie Haskell.
- I used to come here all the time with my ex.
- I never said you NEED a nose job. I just said it wouldn't hurt

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to consider it.

- Could you excuse me? My cat gets lonely if he doesn't hear my voice on the answering machine every hour.
- I like clay. It's mushy.
- I really feel that I've grown in the past few years. Used to be I wouldn't have given someone like you a second look.
- And I won that trophy in the inter-fraternity belching contest.
- I know you said you don't eat anything with a face. But a good butcher will cut that part off for you if you ask.
- It's been tough, but I've come to accept that most people I date just won't be as smart as I am.

Pearl Necklace

A young woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's Day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight." he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it--only to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".

What did one oar say to the other?

"Can I interest you in a little row-mance?"

What happened when the man fell in love with his garden?

It made him wed his plants!

What happened when the two angels got married?

They lived harpily ever after!

Roger, who was 19 years old, was buying an expensive bracelet, to surprise his girlfriend on Valentine's Day, at a very smart jeweler's shop in Hatton Garden, London.

The jeweler inquired, 'Would you like your girlfriend's name engraved on it?'

Roger thought for a moment, grinned, then answered, 'No, instead engrave 'To my one and only love'.
The jeweler smiled and said, 'Yes, sir; how very romantic of you.'

Roger retorted with a glint in his eye, 'Not exactly romantic, but very practical. This way, if we break up, I can use it again.'

Q: What did the light bulb say to the switch?

A: You turn me on.

Q: Did Adam and Eve ever have a date?

A: No, but they had an apple.

Q: What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

A: Can I hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand?

Q: What did one snake say to the other snake?

A: Give me a little hug and a hiss, honey.

Q: Why did the banana go out with the prune?

A: Because it couldn't get a date.

Q: What is a ram's favorite song?

A: I only have eyes for ewe, dear

Q: What travels around the world but stays in one corner?

A: A stamp.

Q: What happens when you fall in love with a French chef?

A: You get buttered up.

Q: Who sends a thousand valentines cards signed', guess who' ?

A: A divorce lawyer.



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Humor

Knock, Knock,
Who's there?
Olive
Olive who?
Olive you!

Q: What is a vampire's sweetheart called?
A: His ghoul-friend.

It was Valentine's Day and Jim and Danielle's first date. They sat in the darkened cinema waiting for the film to start. The screen finally lit up with a flashy advertisement for the cinema's concession stand. Jim and Danielle realized that there was no sound. The film began but the silence continued. Suddenly, out of the darkness, an irritated voice in the crowd loudly shouted, 'Okay, who's got the remote control?'

Why did the pig give his girlfriend a box of candy?
It was Valenswine's Day!

Do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day?
Sure, they're very scent-imental!

What did the chocolate syrup say to the ice cream? "I'm sweet on you!"

A very shy guy goes into a pub on Valentine's Day night and sees a beautiful young woman sitting alone at the bar. After an hour of gathering up his courage he finally goes over to her and asks tentatively, "Um, would you mind if I brought you a drink?" She responds by yelling, at the top of her lungs, "No, I won't sleep with you tonight!"

"Everyone in the pub started staring at them. Naturally, the guy was terribly and completely embarrassed and he slinks back to his table totally red faced. After a few minutes, the woman walks over to him and apologizes. She smiles at him and says, "I'm really sorry if I embarrassed you just then. You see, I'm a graduate student in psychology and I'm studying how people respond to embarrassing situations."

At this the guy responds, at the top of his lungs, "What do you mean? \$300?"

What did one light bulb say to the other?
"I love you a whole watt!"

Think, But Don't Say

- "Did I tell you about that wonderful beaded dress I almost bought for



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you ? But then I thought you'll look great without it, just the same."

- "This restaurant's terrible, but it was the only place offering 50% off on Valentine's Day dinner, so I had to bring you here."
- "I know you don't eat stuff with faces, that's why I ordered turkey legs."
- "It's been much better ever since I accepted that my Valentine's Day dates would never be smart."
- "My ex and I came here for our first date. Isn't that nostalgic ?"
- "Weren't you the geekiest person in college ? How did you do a makeover ?"
- "Oh ! You're having that ? Excuse me, got to run to the ATM."
- "Thank god I listened to my friends, or else I would never have called you back."

Why do valentines have hearts on them?
Because spleens would look pretty gross!

If you want your wife to listen and pay strict attention to every word you say, talk in your sleep.

First Guy (proudly): "My wife's an angel!" Second Guy: "You're lucky, mine's still alive."

Knock knock!
Who'e there?
Frank
Frank who?
Frank you for being my friend!

Knock knock!
Who's there?
Howard
Howard who?
Howard you like a big kiss?

What did the boy owl say to the girl owl on Valentine's Day?
Owl be yours!

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Humor

What kind of flowers do you never give on Valentine's Day?
Cauliflowers!

What did the French chef give his wife for Valentine's Day?
A hug and a quiche!

What did one pickle say to the other?
"You mean a great dill to me."

What did the elephant say to his girlfriend?
"I love you a ton!"

What did the bat say to his girlfriend?
"You're fun to hang around with."

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

After a quarrel, a wife said to her husband, "You know, I was a fool when I married you."
And the husband replied, "Yes, dear, but I was in love and didn't notice it."

A couple came upon a wishing well. The wife leaned over, made a wish and threw in a penny. The husband decided to make a wish, too but he leaned over too much, fell into the well, and drowned.

The wife was stunned for a moment but then smiled, "It really works!"



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Knock, knock
Who's there?
Pooch
Pooch who?
Pooch your arms around me, baby!

What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's Day?
Ughs and kisses!

What did the boy sheep say to the girl sheep on Valentine's Day?
I Love Ewe!

What do you call a very small Valentine?
A Valentiny!

What did the boy squirrel say to the girl squirrel on Valentine's Day?
I'm nuts about you!

What did the girl squirrel say to the boy squirrel on Valentine's Day?
You're nuts so bad yourself!

Q: If your aunt ran off to get married, what would you call her?
A: Antelope.

When a woman on the staff of the school where I worked became engaged, a friend and colleague offered her some advice.

'The first ten years are the hardest.' 'How long have you been married?' she asked.
'Ten years', he replied.



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Humor

Phil, a smart and handsome young man, dressed in the latest fashion, walked into this local pub. He noticed a woman gazing at him without blinking her big eyes. Phil felt flattered so he walked up to the woman and said in his deepest voice, 'I'll do anything you wish, beautiful lady, for just \$100 but on one condition.' The woman appeared to be trapped in the moment and asked as if in a trance, 'What's your condition?' Phil answered, 'Tell me your wish in just three words.' There was a long pause, the woman opened her purse, counted out the money and handed it to the man along with her address. She then looked deeply into his eyes and whispered, 'Clean my house.'

What did the pencil say to the paper?
"I dot my i's on you!"

Liz: "I can't be your valentine for medical reasons."
Jon: "Really?"
Liz: "Yeah, you make me sick!"



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Why did the cannibal break up with his girlfriend?
She didn't suit his taste!

A man went to the mall this last week to buy Valentines' cards for his daughter and mother. The 50 feet of displays for hundreds of cards astounded him. He muttered out loud, "I wonder if they have anything for ex-wives." The clerk behind the counter said, "Oh, yes sir, they do have an 'ex' category, but they're in Sporting Goods." "Really?" "Yes sir. They're called darts." A little old lady is on a bus, buying a ticket from the bus conductor. She fumbles in a voluminous bag for the correct change. After 15 minutes the conductor becomes so enraged that he hits her on the head with the ticket-dispenser, and the poor old dear dies instantly. Not surprisingly, he is convicted and put on death row. Just before he is to be electrocuted, his last request is for 12 pounds of bananas, which he devours. They strap him into the chair, flip the switch, and nothing happens! He just sits there, smiling. According to tradition, this is considered a reprieve from God, so the man is freed. Somehow he gets his old job back, and he happily dispenses tickets until he sees a girl stick her wad of gum onto a seat on the bus. Enraged, he lunges out with the ticket dispenser, breaking the offender's neck and killing her. Again, he is convicted and sent to death row. He again eats the 12 pounds of bananas and, lo and behold, the electricity doesn't harm him. So again, he is set free. Amazingly, he regains his job! It takes him just one day to lose his temper and beat to death a young boy who is chewing on his bus ticket. He returns to death row. Again he eats 12 pound of bananas before the execution. This time the executioner cleans the contacts, makes him sit in a bucket of water, he tries everything - but the conductor survives the electrocution with nary a twitch. At this point, the executioner can take no more - his professional pride has been hurt. Before setting our friend free again, he asks him his secret - what is it with the bananas? "Oh, the bananas have nothing to do with it," replies our friend. "I'm just a really bad conductor."

A bill collector knocked on the door of a country debtor and asked the woman who answered the door, "Is Fred home?" "Sorry, Fred's gone for cotton." The next day the bill collector tried again. "Is Fred here today?" "No, sir. I'm afraid he has gone for cotton." When he returned the third day


he humphed, "I suppose Fred is gone for cotton again,?" "No, Fred died yesterday." Suspicious that he was being avoided, the collector decided to wait a week and check the cemetery himself. But sure enough, there was poor Fred's tombstone, with the inscription, "Gone, But Not for Cotton."

A social worker from Charlotte recently transferred to Boone and was on the first tour of her new territory when she came upon the tiniest cabin she had ever seen in her life. Intrigued, she went up and knocked on the door. 'Anybody home?' she asked. 'Yep,' came a kid's voice through the door. 'Is your Father there?' asked the social worker. 'Pa? Nope, he left afore Ma came in,' said the kid. 'Well, is your Mother there?' persisted the social worker. 'Ma? Nope, she left just afore I got here,' said the kid. 'But,' protested the social worker, 'are you never together as a Family?' 'Sure, but not here,' said the kid through the door. 'This is the Outhouse!'

We had our ten-year-old daughter late in life, long after our two boys were born. She is the joy of my husband's life, but he is self-conscious about being an older father. He likes to jokingly

tell people that by the time she graduates from high school, he'll be in a nursing home. One day she asked, "Mom, you know how Dad always says he'll be in a home when I graduate?" I nodded, expecting some sad question about mortality. She continued, "Can I have the car then?"

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago. Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, English scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, headlines in the English newspapers read: "English archaeologists have found traces of 200-year-old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots." One week later, "The Kerryman," a southwest Irish newsletter, reported the following: "After digging as deep as 30 meters in peat bog near Tralee, Paddy O'Droll, a self-taught archaeologist, reported that he found absolutely nothing. Paddy has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Ireland had already gone wireless."



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After Mr. and Mrs. Fenton retired; Mrs. Fenton insisted her husband accompany her on her trips to Wal-Mart. Unfortunately, Mr. Fenton was like most men -- he found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunately, Mrs. Fenton was like most women -- she loved to browse. One day Mrs. Fenton received the following letter from her local Wal-Mart.

Dear Mrs. Fenton..... Over the past six months, your husband has been causing quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this behavior and may be forced to ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against Mr. Fenton are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras.

1. June 15: Took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in people's carts when they weren't looking.

2. July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5 minute intervals.

3. July 7: Made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.

4. July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, "Code 3 in Housewares - get on it right away."

5. August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&M's on layaway.

6. September 14: Moved a "CAUTION - WET FLOOR" sign to a carpeted area.

7. September 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told other shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department.

8. September 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?"

9. October 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

10. November 10: While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the anti-depressants were.

11. December 3: Darted around the store suspiciously while loudly humming the "Mission Impossible" theme.

12. December 6: In the auto department, he practiced his "Madonna look" by using different sizes of funnels.

13. December 18: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled "PICK ME! PICK ME!"

14. December 21: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and moaned, "OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!"

And last, but not least.....

15. December 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile, then yelled very loudly, "Hey! There's no toilet paper in here!"

Regards..... Wal-Mart

A man is getting into the shower just as his wife is finishing up her shower, when the doorbell rings. The wife quickly wraps herself in a towel and runs downstairs. When she opens the door, there stands Bob, the next-door neighbor. Before she says a word, Bob says, 'I'll give you \$800 to drop that towel.'

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After thinking for a moment, the woman drops her towel and stands naked in front of Bob. After a few seconds, Bob hands her \$800 and leaves. The woman wraps back up in the towel and goes back upstairs. When she gets to the bathroom, her husband asks, 'Who was that?' 'It was Bob the next door neighbor,' she replies. 'Great!' the husband says, 'did he say anything about the \$800 he owes me?'

A sales rep, an administration clerk, and the manager are walking to lunch when they find an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out. The Genie says, 'I'll give each of you just one wish.' 'Me first! Me first!' says the admin clerk. 'I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, without a care in the world.' Puff! She's gone. 'Me next! Me next!' says the sales rep. 'I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of Pina Colodas and the love of my life.' Puff! He's gone. 'OK, you're up,' the Genie says to the manager. The manager says, 'I want those two back in the office after lunch.'

Little Italian Boy Goes to Confession

Bless me Father, for I have sinned.
I have been with a loose woman.
The priest asks, Is that you, little Johnny Parisi?
Yes, Father, it is.
And who was the woman you were with?
I can't tell you, Father.
I don't want to ruin her reputation.
Well, Johnny, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later, so you may as well tell me now.
Was it Tina Minetti?
I cannot say.
Was it Teresa Volpe?
I'll never tell.
Was it Nina Capelli?
I'm sorry, but I cannot name her.
Was it Cathy Piriano?
My lips are sealed.
Was it Rosa Di Angelo, then?
Please, Father, I cannot tell you.
The priest sighs in frustration.
You're very tight lipped, Johnny Parisi, and I admire that.
But you've sinned and have to atone.
You cannot be an altar boy now for 4 months.
Now you go and behave yourself.
Johnny walks back to his pew, and his friend Nino slides over and whispers, What'd you get?
Four months vacation and five good leads.

A biker stopped by the local Harley Shop to have his bike fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home. On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and anvil. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store, he now had a problem -- how to carry his entire purchases home. While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?" The biker said, "Well, as a matter of fact, I live at 1616 Mockingbird Lane. I would walk you home but I can't carry this lot." The old lady suggested, "Why don't you put the anvil in the bucket. Carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?" "Why thank you very much," he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home. On the way he says "Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time." The little

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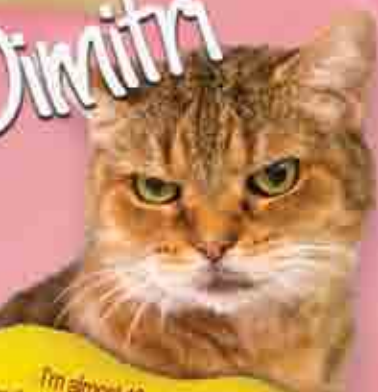
I'm a 2 year old Hound
I can be a little bit of first
but if you spend the time with me
you will see my playful personality.
Other dogs can scare me at first
but I love the excitement I give to you
Fetch with older kids, but I might be
too much energy for
small humans

Randy & Ralphie



We're senior bichon mixes.
We have been through
a lot of hardships together
so we need to find a forever home
together too! We would do best
in a home with no small children
and no other animals. We're
still full of a lot
of spunk!

Dimithri



I'm almost 12 years old and
I'm the shelter's very own "grumpy cat!"
I look mean, but I'm the sweetest cat!
I love to be petted and rubbed and I will purr
and roll on my back for more. I don't like being
held, though, as I like to be able to roam free!
The staff is always learning new things
about me, and while I was scared at first
and only wanted to be in my cage,
but I'm slowly
warming up!

Mercy



I'm a beautiful 10 year old Maine Coon mix,
who's sweet so plz I love being held and cuddled.
I'm a bit older but I get around without any problems.
(The other cats seem to stress me out so I
would probably do best in a home, try to visit
older kids who might not be annoyed
to pull my tail would be okay!

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old lady looked him over cautiously then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?" The biker said, "Holy smokes lady! I am carrying a bucket, an, anvil, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?" The lady replied, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the anvil on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens."

An elderly Italian Jew wanted to unburden his guilty conscience by talking to his Rabbi. "Rabbi, during World War II, when the Germans entered Italy, I pretended to be a Catholic and changed my name from Levy to Spumoni, and I am alive today because of it." "Self preservation is allowable, and the fact that you never forgot that you were a Jew is admirable," said the Rabbi. "Rabbi, during the war, a beautiful Jewish woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the Germans. I hid her in my attic, and they never found her." "That was a wonderful thing you did, and you have no need to feel guilty." "It's worse, Rabbi. I was weak and told her she must repay me with sexual favors, which she did, repeatedly." "You were both in great danger and would have suffered terribly if the Germans had found her. There is a

favorable balance between good and evil, and you will be judged kindly. Give up your feelings of guilt." "Thank you, Rabbi. That's a great load off my mind. But I have one more question." "And what is that?", "Should I tell her the war is over?"

When I was in high school I used to be terrified of my girlfriend's father, who I believe suspected me of wanting to place my hands on his daughter's chest. He would open the door and immediately affect my good naturedly murderous expression, holding out a handshake that, when gripped, felt like it could squeeze carbon into diamonds. Now, years later, it is my turn to be the dad. Remembering how unfairly persecuted I felt when I would pick up my dates, I do my best to make my daughter's suitors feel even worse. My motto: wilt them in the living room and they'll stay wilted all night. "So," I'll call out jovially. "I see you have your nose pierced. Is that because you're stupid, or did you merely want to APPEAR stupid?" As a dad, I have some basic rules, which I have carved into two stone tablets that I have on display in my living room.

Rule One: If you pull into my driveway and honk you'd better be delivering a package, because you're sure as heck not picking anything up.

Rule Two: You do not touch my daughter in front of me. You may glance at her, so long as you do not peer at anything below her neck. If you cannot keep your eyes or hands off of my daughter's body, I will remove them.

Rule Three: I am aware that it is considered fashionable for boys of your age to wear their trousers so loosely that they appear to be falling off their hips. Please don't take this as an insult, but you and all of your friends are complete idiots. Still, I want to be fair and open minded about this issue, so I propose this compromise: You may come to the door with your underwear showing and your pants ten sizes too big, and I will not object. However, In order to assure that your clothes do not, in fact, come off during the course of your date with my daughter, I will take my electric staple gun and fasten your trousers securely in place around your waist.

Rule Four: I'm sure you've been told that in today's world, sex without utilizing a "barrier method" of some kind can kill you. Let me elaborate: when it comes to sex, I am the barrier, and I WILL kill you.

Rule Five: In order for us to get to know each other, we should talk about sports, politics, and other issues of the day. Please do



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not do this. The only information I require from you is an indication of when you expect to have my daughter safely back at my house, and the only word I need from you on this subject is "early."

Rule Six: I have no doubt you are a popular fellow, with many opportunities to date other girls. This is fine with me as long as it is okay with my daughter. Otherwise, once you have gone out with my little girl, you will continue to date no one but her until she is finished with you. If you make her cry, I will make YOU cry.

Rule Seven: As you stand in my front hallway, waiting for my daughter to appear, and more than an hour goes by, do not sigh and fidget. If you want to be on time for the movie, you should not be dating. My daughter is putting on her makeup, a process which can take longer than painting the Golden Gate Bridge. Instead of just standing there, why don't

you do something useful, like changing the oil in my car?

Rule Eight: The following places are not appropriate for a date with my daughter: Places where there are beds, sofas, or anything softer than a wooden stool. Places where there are no parents, policemen, or nuns within eyesight. Places where there is darkness. Places where there is dancing, holding hands, or happiness. Places where the ambient temperature is warm enough to induce my daughter to wear shorts, tank tops, midriff T shirts, or anything other than overalls, a sweater, and a goose down parka zipped up to her Adam's apple. Movies with a strong romantic or sexual theme are to be avoided; movies which feature chainsaws are okay. Hockey games are okay.

My daughter claims it embarrasses her to come downstairs and find me attempting to get her date to recite these eight simple rules from memory. I'd be embarrassed too there are only eight of them, for crying out loud! And, for the record, I did NOT suggest to one of these cretins that I'd have these rules tattooed on his arm if he couldn't remember them. (I checked into it and the cost is prohibitive.)

I merely told him that I thought writing the rules on his arm with a ball point might be inadequate ink washes off and that my wood burning set was probably a better alternative.

One time, when my wife caught me having one of my daughter's would be suitors practice pulling into the driveway, get out of the car, and go up to knock on the front door (he had violated rule number one, so I figured he needed to run through the drill a few dozen times) she asked me why I was being so hard on the boy. "Don't you remember being that age?" she challenged.

Of course I remember. Why do you think I came up with the eight simple rules?

Stupid Questions to Ask People
Stupid Questions to Ask People will reveal just how little people think before opening their mouth. I wonder if these people really need to know the answer to their question, or are just testing us. You've asked some of these already.....hopefully you're always on the receiving end of the question.

Probably the most stupid question ever asked is "Why"? It crosses all boundaries and fits any situation.

After smashing my thumb with the hammer as I missed the nail, the onlooking homeowner asks me, "Gee, did that hurt?"

I was ordering a chocolate nut sundae in the ice cream parlor when the girl taking my order asked me, "Do you want nuts on that?"

Two people are in a room, one of them passes silent but deadly gas, and the innocent party asks, "Was that you?"

I make a dash to get the phone off the receiver before the answering machine takes over. I say hello and am asked by the caller, "Are you home?"

It's like before my friend's wife and he moved. Their house was full of boxes and there was a U-Haul truck in their driveway. Their neighbor comes over and says, "Hey, you moving?" My friend says, "Nope. We just pack our stuff up once or twice a week to see how many boxes it takes."

A couple of months ago I went fishing with a buddy of mine, we pulled his boat into the dock, I lifted up this big ol' stringer of

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bass and this idiot on the dock goes, "Hey, y'all catch all them fish?" "Nope, talked 'em into giving up."

I was watching one of those animal shows on the Discovery Channel. There was a guy inventing a shark bite suit. And there's only one way to test it. "Alright, Jimmy, you got that shark suit on, it looks good... They want you to jump into this pool of sharks. "Does it hurt when they bite you?"

Last time I had a flat tire, I pulled my truck into one of those side-of-the-road gas stations. The attendant walks out, looks at my truck, looks at me, and I SWEAR he said, "Tire go flat?" I couldn't resist. I said, "Nope. I was driving around and those other three just swelled right up on me."

We were trying to sell our car about a year ago. A guy came over to the house and drove the car around for about 45 minutes. We get back to the house, he gets out of the car, and says, "Can I check everything out?" He reaches down and grabs the exhaust pipe, and says, "Darn that's hot!"

I learned to drive an 18-wheeler in my days of adventure. Wouldn't you know, I misjudged the height of a bridge. The truck got stuck and I couldn't get it out, no matter how I tried. I radioed in for help and eventually a local cop shows up to take the report. He went through his basic questioning ...okay...no problem. I thought for sure he was clear until he asked, "So, is your truck stuck?" I couldn't help myself! I looked at him, looked back at the rig and then back to him and said, "Nope, I'm delivering a bridge."

I stayed late at work one night and a co-worker looked at me and said, "Are you still here?" I replied, "No. I left about 10 minutes ago."

I was cleaning out this man's basement and taking all the junk to the dump. As I began throwing the stuff off the back of my truck, the fellow beside me yells, "Cleaning out your basement?" "Nope", I answered. "Got all this at a yard sale for 2 dollars. I came over here to organize everything."

You're sitting in the room ready to be examined by your doctor. Your fever is hovering around 103 degrees. You have severe chills and a headache. You tossed your cookies just before coming into the office. After waiting 30 minutes, the doc opens the door and asks you, "And how are we feeling today?"

Katie Couric, while interviewing a Marine sniper, asked: "What do you feel.... when you shoot a terrorist?" The Marine shrugged and replied, "A slight recoil."

I did not have my debit card with me so I went in to pay cash for my gas when the clerk asks me, "Do you have gas?"

I'm taking a math class in college during the summer session. For some reason, the a/c has been set on 58 degrees. We're all having to wear jackets with the outside temperature in July around 99 degrees. The teacher was a grad student with a self-image problem. The whole class hated this guy because of his arrogance. One day, his fly was open and his shirt tail was protruding out of the opening. He was working a problem on the board when he spun around and asked the class, "Is it me or is it getting cold in here?" Class was dismissed immediately when he discovered why we were laughing so hard.

My Dad carried the mail for 30 years. I

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remember him telling us about the kid who chased him down and asked him, "Mr. Mailman, how much does a 5 cent stamp cost?" My Dad told him, "A nickel". The boy chased him down later that day with his money and said, "My Momma wants to buy a dozen stamps before they go up?"

One year, my paint crew was painting one of the girl's dorms at the local university. I put a "Wet Paint" sign on the main entrance door. That afternoon a resident approached me and asked me, "Do you have a way to get the paint out of my dress?" I told her I would get a chemical that would remove it. After I got all the paint out of the dress I asked her, "Did you see my "Wet Paint" sign on the front door? She said, "Yes, but I didn't know what it meant."

I took our choir on a Saturday trip where we stopped to look in this incredible antique store. I went into the basement and found a glass, antique Planter's Peanut Jar in mint condition. It was going home with me. I made my way back upstairs heading to the checkout booth. For some reason, the top stair's rise was higher than all the others. My brain's memory was caught off

guard so it tripped me. As I was falling I was determined not to smash my face in the hardwood floor so I threw my arms out front to catch myself, preventing a potential injury. The perfect lid and jar went rolling down the floor. The manager quickly ran over to check on me and asked me in a sincere, stern voice, "Did you fall?" Somehow I was expecting to be asked, "Are you okay?" Anyway I told him that I was okay and then I remarked, "I know a good attorney that can help you fix that top step." When I went to check out I found out that the jar did not break and it was to go home with me compliments of the manager. On that same trip, we stopped at a small café. One of the ladies working the grill saw our bus and asked if that was us? When she found out it was, she wanted to know if we knew Dean Shore. He grew up in this town and was currently our Youth Director at the church. When she realized we knew Dean, she spent the next 20 minutes going over all the details of him growing up in their town and how special he was to everyone. This was the year that Bush and Gore were running for President. It just so happened that Dean could have been Gore's Body Double in size and facial features. When I mentioned to this lady that Dean reminded us all of Al Gore, she said, "Who's Al Gore?"



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Many times I have to go into the local Lowes Contractor Store and pick up needed materials for the job we're on. I wear my painting bibbed overalls into the store. One day, a young lady at the counter asked me as I entered the store, "Are you a painter?" Here's my answer. "Tone it down, we're watching your boss. He may be embezzling money. I dress like this to fit into the crowd. I'm going to pretend I'm shopping while keeping an eye on your boss." Her response, "Really!"

One day I'm in a hotel doing a take-off on an upcoming painting project. I got the feeling someone was staring at me. I was right. The young bellboy was staring at me. When I achieved eye contact with him, he asked me, "How did you get your goatee so white?" Even though I'm 53 years old with facial hair that's already been white for some time, I could not resist this moment. I told the young man, "Go into your favorite drug store and go down the men's toiletries aisle. Purchase one box of the Just For Men Whitener. Follow the directions and you'll have a white goatee when you get up tomorrow morning." With an excited, glowing face, he said, "Thanks for the tip."

We were in the process of restoring a convent one summer. We removed all the hardware on the huge entrance door so not to even put a scratch on these antique fixtures. Before the pediment was totally finished, the Maintenance Supervisor of the church took the door hardware away for some reason. We were not aware of this event until one morning the Nun, who was over the Convent approached us working on the pediment and asked me, "Have you seen my knockers?" I bit my tongue, looked her right in the eye and said, "No Mam." The painters were falling off the porch laughing as she left.

The owner of a golf course is confused about paying an invoice, so he decides to ask his secretary for some mathematical help. He called her into his office and says, 'You graduated from the University of Tennessee and I need some help. If I were to give you \$20,000, minus 14%, how much would you take off?' The secretary thinks a moment, and replies, 'Everything but my earrings.'

A group of Alabama friends go deer hunting and pair off for the day. That night, one of the hunters returns alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck. 'Where's Henry?' the others ask. 'Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of



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miles back up the trail,' the successful hunter replies. 'You left Henry lying out there and carried the deer back?' 'A tough call,' nodded the hunter. 'But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!'

The Sheriff pulls up next to the guy unloading garbage out of his pick-up into the ditch. The Sheriff asked, "Why are you dumping garbage in the ditch? Don't you see that sign right over your head." "Yep," he replies. "That's why I am dumping it here, cause it says 'Fine for dumping garbage.'"

A senior at LSU was overheard saying... 'When the end of the world comes, I hope to be in Louisiana 'When asked why, he replied he'd rather be in Louisiana because everything happens in Louisiana 20 years later than in the rest of the civilized world.'

The young man from Mississippi comes running into the store and says to his buddy, 'Bubba, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!'

Bubba replies, 'Did you see who it was?' The young man answers, 'I couldn't tell, but I got his license number.'

A Georgia State trooper pulled over a pickup on I- 75. The trooper asked, 'Got any I. D. ?' The driver replied, 'Bout what?'

A man in North Carolina has a flat tire, pulls off on the side of the road, and proceeds to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he gets back in the car to wait. A passerby studies the scene and is so curious he turns around and goes back. He asks the fellow what the problem is. The man replies, 'I have a flat tire.' The passerby asked, 'But what's with the flowers?' The man responded, 'When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. Hey, it don't make no sense to me neither.' A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible that he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. "Not Gutenberg?" Gaspd the collector. "Yes, that was it!" "You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at

an auction for half a million dollars!" "Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Wanda's dishwasher quit working so she called a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, "I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a check." "Oh, by the way don't worry about my bulldog Spike. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!" "I REPEAT, DO NOT TALK TO MY PARROT!!!" When the repairman arrived at Wanda's apartment the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking bulldog he has ever seen. But, just as she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work. The parrot, however, drove him nuts the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing and name calling. Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled, "Shut up, you stupid, ugly bird!" To which the parrot replied, "Get him, Spike!"

Three Texas cowboys went to a steakhouse to eat. Each was trying to impress the others. The first man ordered his steak "rare -- red rare." The second said, "Just pass mine through the flames and singe it a little. I want to see blood dripping out of it." Not to be outdone, the third man said, "Aw, just turn the bull loose and I'll tear off a hunk as he goes by."

During the Revolutionary War, there was a small encampment of patriot soldiers the woods. Before they went to bed that night, they tied chickens (they were saving them for a special meal when needed) to the trees around the campground. Sure enough, some British soldiers were stumbling through the woods that night and frightened the chickens. Their screams and clucks woke the Patriots and they were able to defeat and capture the entire group of British soldiers. A few nights later, the cook prepared the chickens for dinner. The soldiers said, "This is really good. What do you call it?" The chef said that in honor of these special chickens that saved their lives, he called it "Chicken Catch a Tory."

Each Friday night after work, Bubba would fire up his outdoor grill and cook a venison steak.. But, all of Bubba's neighbors were Catholic. And since it was Lent, they were forbidden from eating meat on Friday. The delicious aroma from the grilled venison steaks was causing such a problem for the Catholic faithful that they finally talked to their priest. The Priest came to visit Bubba, and suggested that he become a Catholic. After several classes and much study, Bubba attended Mass.. and as the priest sprinkled holy water over him, he said, 'You were born a Baptist, and raised a Baptist, but now you are a Catholic. Bubba's neighbors were greatly relieved, until Friday night arrived, and the wonderful aroma of grilled venison filled the neighborhood. The Priest was called immediately by the neighbors, and, as he rushed into Bubba's yard, clutching a rosary and prepared to scold him, he stopped and watched in amazement. There stood Bubba, clutching a small bottle of holy water which he carefully sprinkled over the grilling meat and chanted: You wuz born a deer, you wuz raised a deer, but now you is a catfish.

We had to have the garage door repaired. The Sears repairman told us that one of our problems was that we did not have a "large" enough motor on the opener. I thought for a minute, and said that we had the largest one Sears made at that time, a 1/2 horsepower. He shook his head and said, "Lady, you need a 1/4 horsepower." I responded that 1/2 was larger than 1/4. He said, "NO, it's not." Four is larger than two.. " We haven't used Sears repair since.

My daughter and I went through the McDonald's take-out window and I gave the clerk a \$5 bill. Our total was \$4.25, so I also handed her a quarter. She said, "you gave me too much money." I said, "Yes I know, but this way you can just give me a dollar bill back." She sighed and went to get the manager who asked me to repeat my request. I did so, and he handed me back the quarter, and said "We're sorry but they could not do that kind of thing." The clerk then proceeded to give me back \$1 and 75 cents in change. Do not confuse the clerks at McD's.



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