

# What's love got to do with it?

## Carolina!

### Distance makes the heart go yonder

Love seeks to open every grey pore, every empty look clutched in a fist. Even at a distance, through telephone wires, through the post, through thoughts, it greets life because it is a life of its own. A long-distance relationship prevails.

Out of all the emotions this life seeks to create for us, it is love which proves to be the most universal. Groping for it in the corners on barroom stools and sniffing for it in the sun-filtered classrooms, we find love defiant. It is a child holding another because it promises intoxication in the adult life. Love stands boldly, not subtracting itself from any part of life.

Walking through campus alone, facing long weekends apart and embracing a sun-drenched moon, you know how love grabs every thought, however mundane, however ordinary. Its lacing voice makes you crave its simple glance.

Constant daydreams erode the features. You cannot remember the details of each curve, how the eyes blink, how the smile forms because your mind has worn the tape. So, if

love is real, why shouldn't it stand up to the pull of miles. Miles stretch as does the neck of love. It is not a constraint to these miles.

Waking in the morning without arms to surround a tired, sore body is something of a travesty. These bodies are meant to have love breathed down the soul's back. The eyes, deep and whispering words, are fluttering nervously like sweaty palms because the love is absent

at this moment. Living hurts when love is not tangible when it cannot be stroked. And the heart and mind are fused together. It is a burden to move when love cannot.

Grabbing love's heavy head, you smile, realizing you have a power, a cache of strength holed inside of your soul. You scoop the drooping in in your hands. And your smile deepens until it cuts your chest open. This is OK because love will drink every drop and hold a steady eye until you can swallow. It is life. It is love. And this is why love at a distance endures.



**Melissa Tennen**  
COLUMNIST



Pat Holland/The Gamecock

### Valentine Spells

Girls used to try certain spells out on Valentine's Day to find out whom they might marry. This was one of them: She had to pick five bay leaves and pin one to each corner of her pillow and one to the middle. As she went to bed, she had to take a hard-boiled egg and remove the yolk. The hole that was left in the egg had to be filled with salt. She had to eat the egg, salt and shell while sitting up in bed in silence without a drink of any sort. She could not drink until morning. As she lay in bed, she would dream of the man who would marry her. But, of course, she could not mention her dream to anyone for 10 days after, or the charm would be broken.

### For USC loners, Valentine's Day just another manic Monday

By LUPE EYDE  
Staff Writer

Everyone knows Valentine's Day is supposed to be happy, filled with gifts and the promise of love. It's hard to ignore when every store is plastered in red and white. Magazines and newspapers are saturated with ads and articles. And everyone is getting or ordering flowers.

But many people hate Valentine's Day, because they're reminded constantly they don't have a valentine and aren't anyone else's. Like other holidays such as Christmas or Thanksgiving, people get depressed because they don't have anyone to share the holiday with.

Elementary education senior Tina and business senior Susan wear black on Valentine's Day.

"We're just protesting it," Tina said. "It's supposed to be a day of love, but I think it's a crock."

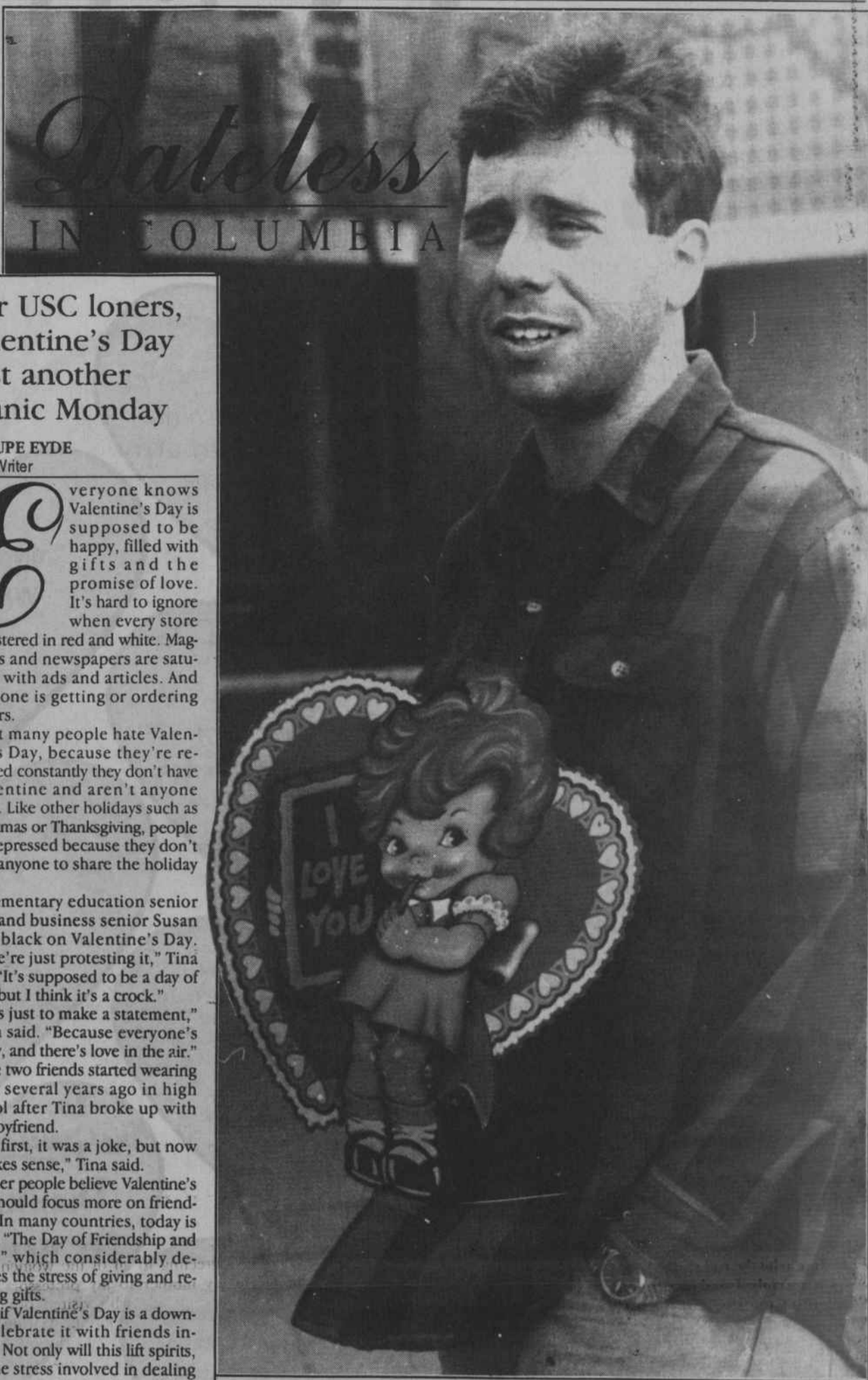
"It's just to make a statement," Susan said. "Because everyone's happy, and there's love in the air."

The two friends started wearing black several years ago in high school after Tina broke up with her boyfriend.

"At first, it was a joke, but now it makes sense," Tina said.

Other people believe Valentine's Day should focus more on friendship. In many countries, today is called "The Day of Friendship and Love," which considerably decreases the stress of giving and receiving gifts.

So, if Valentine's Day is a downer, celebrate it with friends instead. Not only will this lift spirits, but the stress involved in dealing with an actual valentine will be eliminated.



Sean Weiss desperately looks for a Valentine's date Sunday on the Russell House Patio.

### College couples willing to wait on tying the knot

By WENDY HUDSON  
News Editor

In these days of two-week courtships, one-night engagements and quickie weddings at a chapel by the sea, the idea of a traditional engagement has changed.

Though few couples have a record-holding 67-year engagement like Octavio Guillen and Adrianna Martinez of Mexico did, a long engagement can be helpful for college students.

"A long engagement gives you plenty of time to prepare, not just for the wedding but also for starting out in your new life together," said advertising/public relations senior Amanda Mullinax, who will have been engaged 20 months when she gets married in May.

"You get to get a job, buy furniture, insurance and all that other big, serious stuff," she said. "It's an advantage for people who are in college, more than if you already have a job."

Sometimes, getting engaged is the next logical step in a relationship, said civil engineering senior Andy Busbee, who has been engaged for 15 months.

"We had been dating for four years," he said. "We were then coming to a point in

our relationship that you know what needs to take place. You know what needs to be done. We decided to get engaged and go from there."

A long engagement also gives the couple a chance to get to know each other better, Busbee said.

"You don't feel rushed," he said. "You get that much more time to get to know each other. We also have plenty of time to plan stuff."

Saving money to pay for a wedding is another reason to have a long engagement, said Vivian Jackson-Gore, a bridal consultant at Personally Yours Bridal Consultant Services.

"A long engagement gives the bride and the groom a chance to save money for the wedding," she said. "If you don't have any savings, it's harder to put together a wedding unless your parents are paying for it."

To plan a large wedding or a wedding in a popular reception or ceremony place, an engagement of six months to a year is necessary, Jackson-Gore said.

"Weddings are popular again," she said. "I need six months to one year to plan a wedding to where everybody isn't stressed out or running around at the last minute."

"If the bride wants a big wedding, it depends on where she'll have the wedding, the different vendors she'll want to use, the place where she'll have the reception. Some places she wants to use may book up a year in advance."

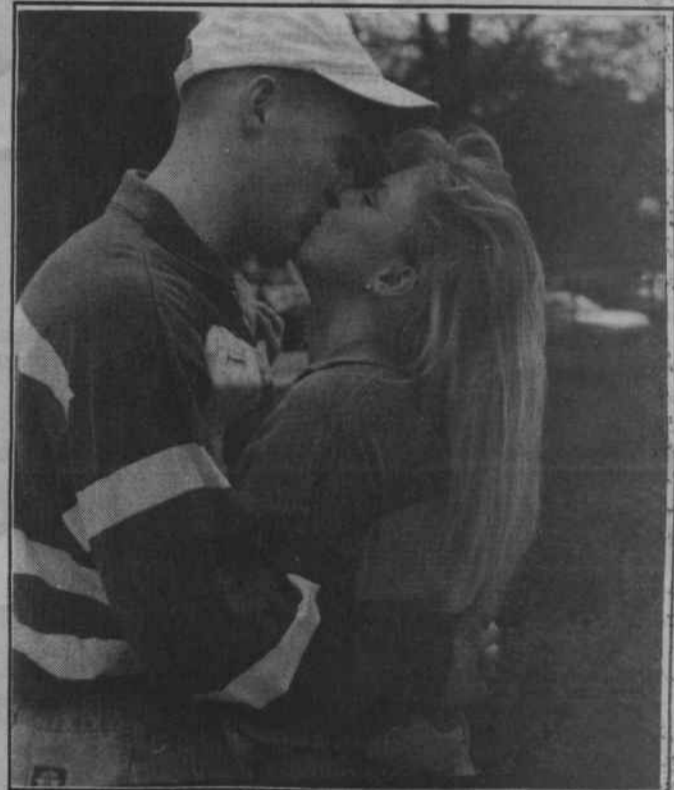
Engagements of more than a year can cause some frustration, Busbee and Mullinax said.

"It's hard having to wait because we're both excited about being married," Busbee said. "Because we have morals, we don't live together. That's difficult at times. We're either at her house with her parents or at my house with my parents. It's frustrating, especially during a long engagement."

"I get impatient and start counting the months until we get married," Mullinax said. "It just gets impatient."

Making sure marriage is the right step is an important reason to have a long engagement, Busbee said.

"Make sure you know what you're doing," he said. "That's part of the reason for a long engagement, to confirm that we knew what we were doing. The problems help us realize this is a serious matter that shouldn't be rushed into."



Sophomore Jared Patrick and senior Trina Gannaway share a pre-Valentine's Day smooch.

### A Valentine History

In ancient times, Feb. 14 was believed to be the day birds chose their mates. This practice was taken over by young people who would write the names of possible mates on slips of paper and draw them by lot. The sweetheart selected this way could be changed a year later. By the end of the 19th century, the custom of sending anonymous messages or cards to those admired was well established. In later years, the sending of cards was replaced by the placing of announcements in newspapers. All such amorous activities had nothing to do with the saint or saints whose memory is observed on this day. The day could have been St. Maro's Day, a saint also commemorated on this day. But St. Valentine was better known. Even though much of the day's history has been forgotten, Feb. 14 will most likely remain St. Valentine's Day for generations to come.

Source: A Dictionary of Days

Pat Holland/The Gamecock

### Gay couples fight for free love

By ELIZABETH CARPENTER  
Staff Writer

This Valentine's Day, the gay community at USC is celebrating the 11th anniversary of its fight to create a world where they can express their love as freely as most heterosexuals can today.

On Feb. 11, 1983, the Bisexual Gay and Lesbian Association successfully sued the university for its charter and became recognized as an official campus group with all of the rights offered by Student Affairs. But gay students are still struggling to make their voices heard.

According to BGLA President Jeff Gersh, the group discussed last semester going underground when unclaimed hate fliers urging violence against gays surfaced around campus. However, outrage and a sense of loyalty to the pioneering members renewed their fighting spirit.

BGLA Vice President Toni Turbeville shares this determination in the face of adversity.

As an RA, Turbeville discovered the name calling from the students on her hall had the reverse effect; it encouraged her to take a stand.

"That moment really made me think, 'Why am I in the closet when I can help combat this ignorance?'" she says.

The students who are open about their sexuality are taking care to foster a safe environment for those who aren't ready to make the step.

A majority of the members are not out, so BGLA's main purpose is to provide a support system for them, Gersh says. Because many have families nearby, the more vocal advocates do not acknowledge them in public.

Turbeville says, "When I came out, I was prepared for it, and it still wasn't easy. A lot of people are thrown out. I've heard the horror stories about outing, and I would never want to do that to anyone."

Education is the group's other primary function and according to the stories about reactions from fellow

students, they have their work cut out for them. The biggest myth seems to be that homosexuals are attracted to anyone of the same sex, Gersh says.

For Gersh, heterosexuality is an immediate turnoff. Turbeville more directly says, "Honey, don't flatter yourself."

Popular opinion seems to think monogamy and bisexuality are mutually exclusive.

This makes it difficult to date guys, Turbeville says. "Their reaction is either 'I'm not going to be dumped for a chick,' or 'Those lesbian porno flicks are great,'" she says. She finds it simpler to have relationships with other bisexual people.

Although USC is in what Gersh calls the "buckle of the Bible Belt," the bisexual, gay and lesbian student body is sticking together to dissolve the mystery, destroy misconceptions and show that Valentine's Day is for them, too.