



# The Observer



Volume V, Special Valentine Issue

New Hampshire College

February 10, 1999

## Where does St. Valentine's Day come from?

By Tara Cowdrey

On February 14, many couples go out to eat at a fancy restaurant and exchange cards and gifts. St. Valentine's Day is known to be a day of love, when people tell others how much they care and love them. But do many people actually know why this day came to be; and who thought it up? Most people have to admit that they don't know why there is a St. Valentine's Day, but they celebrate it anyway.

The history of St. Valentine's Day comes from a legend, because there is really no way to prove if the story is true. Valentine's Day began in the third century. There was a Roman emperor, Claudius, and a Christian, Valentinus. Claudius said it was a crime to associate with Christians, and the crime was punishable by death. Valentinus was dedicated to his ideals of Christ, and the threat of death did not keep him from practicing his beliefs.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life, a remarkable thing happened. One of the emperor's jailers came to see Valentinus. With the jailer was his blind daughter. The jailer appealed to Valentinus to treat his daughter's blindness with his medical and spiritual healing abilities. Valentinus said he would do his best

for Julia. She was examined, given ointment, and scheduled for a series of visits.

The jailer also asked if Julia could take some lessons with Valentinus. Valentinus agreed, and would read stories of Rome's history to her. He described to her the world of nature. She learned about arithmetic and other academic subjects; and she also learned about the Christian God from Valentinus.

Julia told Valentinus that every morning and night she prayed to God that she might see. Valentinus told her she should always pray to

God.

Several weeks past and Julia could still not see; yet the jailer and his daughter still returned to Valentinus each week.

Then one day, Roman soldiers arrested Valentinus. They destroyed his medicines and condemned him for his religious beliefs. Julia's father learned of Valentinus's imprisonment, and wanted to intervene, but there was nothing he could do.

On the eve of his execution, Valentinus wrote Julia a note. In the note he urged her to stay close to

God and signed it "from your Valentine." His death sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 A.D. or C.E.

When the jailer went home he gave the note to his daughter. Julia opened it and discovered a yellow crocus inside. Julia could see the brilliant color of the flower for the first time in her life. The girl's eyesight had been restored.

Valentinus was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree is a symbol of abiding love and friendship. In 496, Pope Gelasius I named February 14 Saint Valentine's Day.

So now that you are aware of the background of St. Valentine's Day, you can appreciate why this day exists. So no matter what religion you are, you can enjoy it anyway you please because Valentine's Day is not considered a holy day.

Whether you send a loved one or a friend a Valentine, you'll know why it is a custom to sign it "from your Valentine." On this day, show your friends that you appreciate them just like Valentinus appreciated having a friend like Julia.



## Memorable Valentine Day experiences

By Katy Faria

During his junior year in high school, Mike Jones had a basketball game on Valentine's Day. It was an away game. After the game, before the bus even had the chance to leave the parking lot, it broke down. Well, Mike had a date planned after the game with a girl who was on the woman's team. She and Mike spent their "date" sitting in the parking lot

making great conversation and when they finally got back at 1:45 in the morning, Mike's date gave him a kiss, beginning the relationship. A year later (well, actually 2 weeks before V-Day and 2 days after his birthday), they had the same game. This time the bus made it back but their relationship didn't. "We broke up on the ride home. Oh well," Mike says "we won the game."

(More of these experiences can be read about on page 3.)

*Happy Valentine's  
Day to all -  
From The Observer  
staff*



The Maintenance Department in conjunction with the New Hampshire College Observer has a customized recycling program. Just deposit your copy of The Observer in recycling bins located in the Student Center.





## From the Editor's Desk:

Here is our special Valentine's Day issue. Hope you enjoy it. The staff and I thought it would be a good idea to have an issue that was just centered on a certain event or day, so we chose the "day of love."

In this issue you will find love horoscopes, great internet sites to buy gifts for your valentine, the history of Valentine's Day, our pick of good Valentine movies, and restaurant reviews if you plan on eating out that day.

There is also color added to this issue, which I hope drew your attention to this paper and made you want to read further into the issue.

The next issue will come out on February 24, which shall be a great issue. We appreciate all of our loyal readers and thank those who write letters to the editor.

Happy Valentine's Day to all, and don't forget those special people in your lives on this holiday.

Tara Cowdrey  
Co-Editor in Chief

## From the Editor's Desk:

Happy Valentine's Day! So what do you think about a little color in the newspaper? Let us know what you think; write letters to the editor. We thought this would be a great extra little issue for Valentine's Day, so here it is, our special Valentine's issue. Don't forget to look for a message from your sweetheart on pages 6 and 7.

As Tara mentioned above, our February issue is coming out on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Anyone can submit an article. Just a reminder that our meetings are Thursday's at 12:45 in the S.G.A. conference room and Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m. in The Observer office. Everyone is welcome.

Andrea Hill  
Co-Editor in Chief

## Love Horoscopes

**Aquarius** – Find a partner this Valentine's Day who is your intellectual equal. You are too easily bored with other's who are all looks and no brains.

**Pisces** – Just when you were feeling all alone, you get a surprise from a long-distance love.

**Aries** – A friend is extra nice on this day and shows you what real friendship is all about.

**Taurus** – Though you like juggling partners, a demanding one may try to hog your attention on this day.

**Gemini** – Amidst all the hoopla of Valentine's Day, don't forget the one person who matters the most.

**Cancer** – A key friendship needs your attention this special day, so expect to break plans to be there to help out. This friend will need help to mend a broken heart.

**Leo** – Don't go looking for romance, it will come naturally to you.

**Virgo** – Don't worry about spending a lot of money for this holiday, your significant other will appreciate gifts from the heart.

**Libra** – Do something simple like rent movies and order take-out. Enjoy each other's company this Valentine's Day.

**Scorpio** – Ignore your normal self and break out of your shell today. Let loose and enjoy yourself.

**Sagittarius** – Feeling bummed? Don't! Romance is all around; you just have to look in the right places.

**Capricorn** – The conflicts that you and your partner have been experiencing lately have been driving you up the wall. Don't worry, a reconciliation is coming.



### THE OBSERVER

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# What was your most memorable Valentine's Day experience?

By Katy Faria

**Memories:** We all have them. Some of which we wish we could erase from our memory banks and others we will cherish forever. I asked some students at NHC to reveal some stories of their most memorable times in Valentine's Day history. It turned out to be a difficult task. Most people were not willing to spill certain moments in their life, but I was able to get a few daring souls to tell all.

Tristan Turner's favorite number is 14. On Valentine's Day last year, a bouquet of balloons and 14 long stem roses were delivered to her classroom from her boyfriend at the time. After school he picked her up and brought her to his house where a candle-lit dinner greeted her. "He had his family leave the house. It was so cute."

One senior, who wishes to remain un-named, had broken up with her boyfriend of five years. Previously, though, they planned to go to a family wedding of his on Valentine's Day. This senior was really excited to go, but also very nervous because she hadn't seen him in a while. When she arrived he had a dozen roses for her. "It turned out to be a great night." They danced all night and had a lot of fun. The best part was that, although it didn't rekindle the relationship, they became better friends.

Rebecca Wildstein and her boyfriend of two years planned to

celebrate Valentine's Day a day late because she had to work late, but he had other plans. He surprised her with a change of clothes at the end of her shift. He took her on a picnic on a hill that over-looked Foxwood's Casino, where he presented her with not only the traditional flowers and candy, but also a heart necklace.

One student, who wished to be anonymous, says his most memorable Valentine's Day experience was when he broke up with his girlfriend. "I didn't get her the right roses. She complained they were cheap so I dumped her."

Another student, Scott Sattler, remembers his trip to New York City on Valentine's Day. Scott and his best friend brought two dates to the city for dinner at Ruth's Chris, where they ordered a valentine dinner special. After dinner they went to Rockefeller Center via horse and carriage. Next a Café for coffee and then came a Broadway play. "We saw a late-showing of 'Les Miserables'. It was a fun time," he remembers.

Jen DiGiacomo recalls having a boyfriend in high school who suddenly "disappeared." He stopped seeing her and calling her. Then one Valentine's Day the cupid struck him. Jen had a basketball game and during half-time he showed up with flowers and a Valentine's Day message. Well, apparently the cupid didn't strike him hard enough because it didn't last too long. "We broke up a week later," Jen says.

Peter Eagles seems to think he never really did anything too special on Valentine's Day. "Well, one time I made a candle-lit dinner for my girlfriend." Afterward, Pete and his girlfriend watched Sleepless in Seattle and Pete "took it from there," he says.

In 1994 there was a lot of snow-fall on Valentine's Day. Marie Mosel's husband sent the children away for the night and began shoveling snow. There were banks just about the height of him. He began clearing a small area of snow in which he carved benches out of the snow and placed a grill in the center. He surprised Marie with a barbeque dinner in his hand-made "winter wonderland."

Jamie Paradis' boyfriend took her out on Valentine's Day. It started off to be a great evening. He brought her out to dinner at a nice restaurant. "It didn't end well, though," she says. "I ended up getting real sick from the clam chowder at dinner."

Jay Hayes remembers "the worst Valentine's Day I have ever had." The holiday started when Jay left roses on his girlfriend's door step with a note saying to pick him up at work, but by the time she got there, the roses were wilted. Later in the night, she picked him up from work and they were on their way to an East Boston restaurant. Then suddenly her car broke down. A tow truck came but wouldn't allow Jay and his girlfriend to ride along in the cab of the truck so they had to call another tow. But, of course, it wasn't that easy. The tow truck had to make two stops on his way to bring them home. Finally they got home, ending of a Valentine's Day that they would never forget.

Allison Archambeault had a double-date planned with her friend and boyfriend. Allison and her friend were at her house getting ready while the guys took her friend's car to the mall to buy their gifts. They were supposed to be back at nine o'clock, but they didn't get back until eleven. When they came back, though, they gave the girls each a dozen roses. The other surprise was that they left in jeans and came back in matching outfits! Because they were so late they were unable to go to the original restaurant planned.

After they ordered their dinner, the guys presented them with gold bracelets. When Allison's date brought her home, he gave her a nice card and he apologized to her parents for the evening not coming out as planned.

When Suzie Phillips was a senior in high school, she and her friend Sarah did not have Valentines so they jokingly asked their friend Victor to be their Valentine. They all planned to exchange gifts in school on the Friday before. Suzie and Sarah got Victor boxer shorts and candy. They gave him his gifts at the beginning of class but Victor had nothing for them. Victor told them not to worry because they would get their presents soon. At the end of the day, Suzie and Sarah were called down to the office. As they entered they saw a dozen pink roses in a beautiful glass vase and beside it was a box of candy with a teddy bear on top. On each present was a card that held a gift certificate that entitled them both to a special Valentine's Day dinner. "He went all out of the way for us," says Suzie, explaining how special Victor made them feel. "It was the best Valentine's Day I ever had." Suzie explained that she and Sarah "wanted to be his Valentines again but he went away to Japan because he is in the Marines."

Tatum Turner thinks her story is "kind of cheesy," but that is what Valentine's Day is all about. She remembers getting a dozen roses in a special way in high school. She had eight classes a day and she received a rose that was delivered to each class. At the end of the day, her boyfriend was waiting in the parking lot with the four remaining roses. Afterward he brought her out to dinner.

So there they are. NHC's most unbelievable and uncensored Valentine's Day stories. (Well not quite, but they are great.) Thank you to all the students who contributed their most memorable Valentine's Day story.



*The Observer* welcomes correspondence from readers. Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Letters are subject to condensation. If sending your letter on a disk, please be sure to use Microsoft Word to ensure compatibility and faster processing. Letters must be signed.

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If you are on campus, drop your letters off at either the Mailroom or through the slot in the door at the student mailbox area in the Student Center across from the Bookstore.



# Voices and Faces

By David Snuffer

## Who would be your perfect Valentine and why?



**Suzie Phillips and Maureen Poland**  
Fashion Merchandise Major and English Ed. Major  
*"Anthony Mazzotta, because he's the MADDOG."*



**Krissy Koylion**  
Sophomore Communication Major  
*"Smirles would be my perfect Valentine because he's tall, dark and handsome and he knows the key to a woman's heart."*



**Jeff Thompson**  
Freshman Undecided  
*"Claire the lunch lady, for she's always eyeing me down. I don't know if she likes me or thinks I'm stealing."*



**Damon Schroterberger**  
Senior Business Administration Major  
*"I have not decided yet, but I have a perspective."*



**Kristin Travers, Sarah Aleo and Melissa Buffone**  
Sophomore Business Admin. Majors  
*"Dirk Diggler from Boogie Nights because he has a nice bod."*



**Alex Coberogullari**  
Senior Business Administration Major  
*"Pamela Anderson would be perfect because everybody wants her."*



## Surf.the.Net.Now

By Ben DeGennaro

Happy Valentine's Day Observer readers! The most romantic day of the year is upon us. A day to spend with your significant other and share some romantic times. For those of you who can't be with your sweetheart on Valentine's Day, I have checked out a few web sites that can make your Valentine's Day a little more special.

Send out electronic greeting cards with Electronic Greetings. With E-Greetings, you can send a romantic card to your sweetie. Check out E-Greetings at ( ). Another site for romantic greetings is BlueMountain.com ( ). Blue Mountain creates electronic greeting cards with sound and animation. They are cute cards that will win you points.

Order romantic movies online at ( ). Reel.com boasts tons of romantic movies that anyone who has a credit card can purchase. Guys may cringe but many women love romantic movies and purchasing one for your sweetie may create a great Valentine's Day.

I have mentioned this site before but it seems appropriate to put it in this article again. Check out Hallmark Online for some great deals for Valentine's Day ( ). Hallmark.com allows shopping online and will direct the web surfer to the closest Hallmark Store.

For the daring, check out Victoria's Secret Online ( ). Victoria's Secret hosted a fashion show online a few weeks ago. Hopefully, a few of you checked it out and ordered a few items for your girlfriend. The luxury of purchasing online has had nothing but a positive effect for the majority of the companies who use it. Consumers can preview the products without leaving their home, order the item with a major credit card, and have them home delivered.

To send an electronic bouquet to your sweetie, check out 800 Flowers at ( ). Web surfers can order flowers online to be sent to anywhere in the world as well as sending electronic bouquets over the Internet. Order Flowers online at FTD ( ) and send electronic flowers at Virtual Florist ( ).

Discover the history of Valentine's Day at ( ).

If you're single and you're looking for someone, check out LuvLink at ( ), American Singles at ( ) or Swoon at ( ).

The final site I recommend is CupidNet at ( ).

As usual I urge you to visit my personal homepage at ( ). Feel free to email me with any questions regarding my site, these articles, or anything about computers and the Internet. My email address is . Happy Surfing and Happy Valentine's Day!

## She's All That ... and more

By Bindu Rai

If you think this flick is a sweet pick for viewing with that special someone, think again. A combination of Beverly Hills 90210 and

Saved by the Bell, this film involves an all-American high school. That means the all-American kids are present with their summer tales and upcoming prom highlights. In the midst of this melee we have the star of our show, Zack Silar. He is the most popular guy on campus who has just been given the boot by his

girlfriend. What to do in these dire straits when it is just a few weeks before the prom? Enter Bozo the Clown. Who might that be? None other than one of Zack's "all muscle, no brains" friends. He devises a plan to turn Ms. Geek of the decade into Ms. Prom Queen.

Now enters our femme fatale, Ms. Laney Boggs, who is the epitome of intensity and sensitivity. Our hero finds himself all flustered, and at a loss of words with his first outing with her. She still adopts the "playing hard to get" attitude. To add spice to the same run of the mill tale, we have the return of the ex-girlfriend who makes it clear who's the boss in these parts. Over night Ms. Geek turns into Ms. Sensation. Now we have all the guys drooling all over her, with the hero leaping into a jealous rages whenever necessary. I'm sure most of you must have guessed the anti-climax by now. What more is left but woe and misery for wasting such good cash on such trash?

This movie is supposed to be one of the Valentine romances of the week; it may appeal to some audiences, but not those who have endured enough of the stale tales. Our hero is none other than the guy

from "I Know What You Did Last Summer" and its sequel. As his name has not been mentioned, it is doing him a favor. Next time people may venture into his movie unknowingly. Improvisation on his acting skills should be a definite first on his schedule. Our actress is no better; she has a woebegone look plastered on her face. When she cries, her expressions portray that she is desperate to sneeze but for some apparent reason gets stuck. The movie does boast some surprise guest stars, but the logic of placing them in the movie just isn't clear.

The film's ending lacked emotions and appeal; the least the director could have done with such a poor star cast, was to improve the script and the conclusion. My advice to all those who plan to spend their valentine weekend watching this film is to try spending a cheaper and more entertaining time at home watching reruns. If many were still in the romantic mood, the best option would be to watch some good oldies; While You Were Sleeping, Sleepless In Seattle or the fairly recent, You've Got Mail. Any thing would be a better option then this C- movie.



## Hope Floats; A Great Valentine Flick

By Melissa Cowdrey

Valentine's Day is a great day for couples to watch romantic movies together. If you're single, you may enjoy watching movies, too, to imagine that you're in the movie or that your life may one day be that great. Hope Floats is that kind of movie. Sandra Bullock and Harry Connick Jr. star in this wonderfully sweet romance. Sandra's character, Birdee Calvert, gets brought onto TV to find out that her husband has been cheating on her with her best friend. She decides to take her daughter Bernice, played by Mae Whitman, and return home to Smithville, TX to live with her mother.

Everyone from Birdee's high school graduating class who still lives in the town remembers her. She was the Homecoming Queen, the Prom Queen, and she married the high school quarterback. Birdee spends

the first part of the film looking for a job in the town and eventually gets one working at a film-developing store. Bernice wants her daddy to come to Smithville and bring her back home with him. He comes to visit but he won't take Bernice back with him, which upsets her very much. Justin Matisse, played by Harry Connick Jr., was never popular in high school, but always had a crush on Birdee. Birdee's mom tries many times throughout the movie to set them up. Even though Birdee tries to stay away from him, she seems to bump into him often, and they even start to become friends. Birdee needs someone to talk to, but it is hard for her to trust anyone again. Birdee realizes that even though she couldn't trust everyone in her life, she needed to let herself be happy and trust again. The ending of this movie makes it worth seeing. I hope you enjoy this movie and have a great Valentine's Day.



# BE MY VALENTINE

To: My Girlfriend Michelle,  
The last 4 months have been great.  
I look forward to the future with  
you.

John

Pumpkin,  
I love you with all my heart and  
only hope things get better!

Big Friend

Jenny,  
Thanks for another great year.  
I'm sure I'll see you in Utah.

Love,  
Ben

Tink,  
For smiles & snuggles & early  
morning sunups-  
just because.

Ben

Andrea,  
I love you. Have a happy  
Valentine's Day.

Matt

Sheba,  
Happy Valentine's Day, Baby!! I  
love you very much.

Thomas

Stacy,  
Just want you toknow you are  
appreciated--& loved--not just  
on Valentine's Day, but always.  
Stay happy : )

Jackie

Dear Leah,  
If only this beer were as sweet as  
you. Hugs & Kisses.

Love,  
Michael

Rose,  
I hope the next 5 months will be  
as good as the last. Hugs &  
Kisses, meatballs & sausages.

Love,  
Hugh

Stan Spirou,

I love you.

Pat Spirou

Toby,  
Still thinking of you love  
muffin.

Kennison

Eng. 315 students-Survey of the  
Theatre

"The course of true love never did  
run smooth."  
A Midsummer Nights Dream.

Prof. Wilbert

My Kappa Chi Sisters and Kappa  
Delta Phi Brothers,

Happy Valentine's Day !! I luv u  
all!!

"Daisy Duck"



Gretchen,

Happy Valentines Day. I've seen  
your pictures over Hannah's bed, you  
are beautiful, and you are Hannah's  
friend so you must be a great person.

J.B.

Mika Holmqvist,

You're a fabulous friend.  
Happy Valentines Day. Lots  
of love!!!

Bells,

Who wants to hug the Teddy Bear?

Hey Cheryl,

Have a great Valentine's Day.

-Topher

Thompson,

You are my true Valentine and I  
love you forever.

Lucas

Sleeping Beauty,

You have brought so much  
happiness to me these last  
three months. When I see you  
smile, my day becomes so  
much better. I LOVE YOU!!

Keith

Kris,

Happy Valentines Day! I love  
you a lot!

Kev

Sara C.,

Happy Valentines Day.  
You are a great friend,  
thanks for everything.

Always,  
J.B.

Lins,

Happy Valentines Day,  
Lins. Thanks for all your  
help. You're the best!

Ben

JB + Ben,

To my three year men.  
Have a Happy V-Day!

Sweet Lips

Matt,

I love you with all my heart; and  
then some.

Andrea

Mike,

I hope you have a good  
Valentine's Day be-  
cause you deserve it.

Your best friend,  
Tara

Jacka do

All da best on V-Day -- we all  
loves ya in these parts.

Sieker do



## Valentine Dining

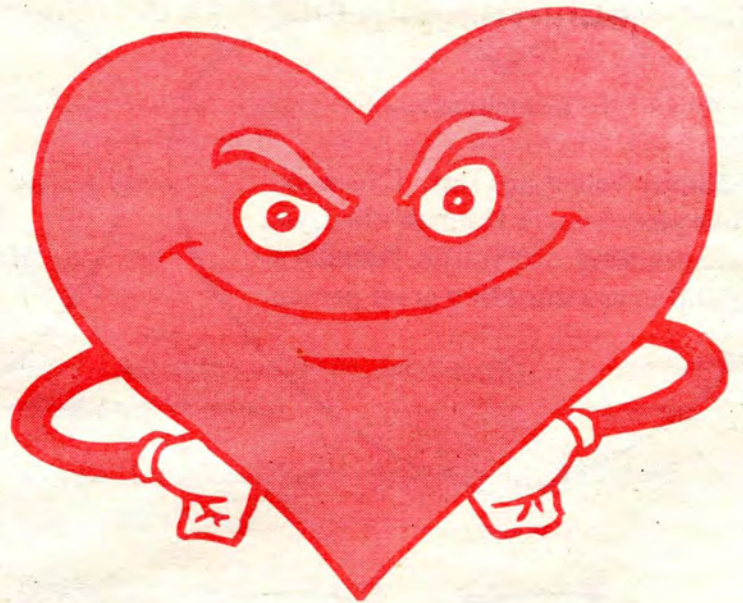
By Michael Lascelles

How many guys out there are wondering, where should I take my girlfriend for Valentine's day? Well I offer an answer, Café Pavone. Café Pavone is an Italian restaurant with a cozy atmosphere and friendly wait staff, Café Pavone could make your night into a memory.

The restaurant has an exquisite menu whose focus is mostly on Italian entrees. Their alfredo and pesto sauces are wonderful on any of your favorite pastas. The restaurant is moderately priced, but of

course it depends on your appetite. The meals more than fill you up, but the dessert looks so tempting you somehow find room for them.

So if you want to show your significant other that you know how to pick a restaurant give Café Pavone a call. They're located down in the old mill area of Manchester, past Fratello's but before the bus station. But you had better call today because it's bound to be sold out quick.



## Here are 25 movies chosen by our staff that would make good Valentine's Day flicks.

1. *Mad Love*
2. *Legends of the Fall*
3. *Sleepless in Seattle*
4. *Dirty Dancing*
5. *Ghost*
6. *Cocktail*
7. *Titanic*
8. *Beauty and the Beast*
9. *Pretty Woman*
10. *One Fine Day*
11. *Up Close and Personal*
12. *Lady and the Tramp*
13. *Cinderella*
14. *City of Angels*
15. *Hope Floats*
16. *Jerry Maguire*
17. *Romeo and Juliet*
18. *Bridges of Madison County*
19. *Forever Young*
20. *Sixteen Candles*
21. *My Best Friend's Wedding*
22. *Body Guard*
23. *Untamed Heart*
24. *Bed of Roses*
25. *Love Story*

## Valentine's Italian Style

By Andrea Hill

Are you looking for a place to bring your sweetheart on Valentine's Day? Well how about going Italian this year. Fratello's is a great Italian restaurant for the big night. Fratello's is located on Dow St. in the old mills, which is a beautiful building. It has a warm friendly environment, not to mention the great food.

They have tons of items on their menu. Chicken Marsala made with tender chicken strips, mushrooms and a marsala wine sauce and Italian pie made with ricotta, mozzarella, and parmesan cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, tomato sauce and ziti, are only two of the many things on the menu at Fratello's. Fratello's

also offers filet mignon, fresh brick oven pizzas and of course pasta. It wouldn't be Italian without the pasta. I can't leave out some of the desserts; canolies, spumonis and home-made teri mi sus to name a few. The service isn't so bad either.

Fratello's does however get busy very quick and they don't have reservations. It is first come first serve. So, if you don't want to be waiting in line for a couple of hours get there early.

I give Fratello's two thumbs up on food and service and recommend it to anyone looking for a romantic evening at an Italian restaurant.



**Beware of Cupid this Valentine's Day!**