

## “Anyone But You”: the Romcom Revival

By RORY MARTIN

If you’re looking for a movie to see for Valentine’s Day, “Anyone But You” brings rom-coms back in style. First be aware that it is rated R, and The Elephant in the Room does not support violations of the Motion Picture Association of America’s rating advice, so upper-classmen only.

The peak of the rom-com is classified to have been the late 80s, 90s, and 2000s. With films like “When Harry Met Sally,” “10 Things I Hate About You,” and “27 Dresses,” it is clear that audiences loved the rom-com and the rom-com made them feel the same love right back.

Although some may say the rom-com never left, with films like “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before” and “Crazy Rich Asians” being streamed and viewed millions of times in just over five years, “Any-

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### Ingredients:

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of softened butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup granulated sugar
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups flour
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup chopped pecans
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon almond extract
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- 1 cup seedless raspberry jam
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sweetened and flaked coconut

1. To start off this recipe, preheat your oven to 350°F and get out a 9x13-inch baking dish (do not grease or spray the dish).
2. In a mixer with the paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugar together at medium speed. Once mixed add the flour and combine well. Add chopped pecans, salt, and almond extract until the mixture has the texture of coarse crumbs.
3. Reserve one cup of the mixture for later. Press the rest of the mixture into the ungreased 9x13-inch baking dish until even and packed tightly.
4. Spread raspberry jam over the flour mixture (I recommend weighing the jam out in ounces on a scale for a more accurate measurement. Otherwise use one cup).
5. Sprinkle the rest of the flour mixture over the top of the jam along with the coconut flakes.
6. Bake for 25-30 minutes until the top is partially golden brown.

Let cool completely before cutting into squares, or whatever other shape you desire.



By LILA ASANZA

Cesar Chavez, an American civil rights activist once said, “The people who give you their food, give you their heart.” This quote is reflected everywhere, from rom-coms to everyday life, like Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell sharing a grilled cheese in the movie “Anyone but You” or buying Starbucks for your friends.

Whether you have a valentine or not, a perfect way to spend your Valentine’s Day with the people you love is through food. Here are three cafés that serve the perfect sweet treats for you and your loved ones and are easily accessible by the Red Line T, a fitting color for the occasion.

The T offers discounted ticket fare for students. Just stop by the front office and ask for a student Charlie Card! You can hop on the Mattapan trolley (for free) at one of three Milton stops (Valley Road, Central Avenue, or Milton), and

## Three Cafés that Will Win Your Heart

ride to Ashmont Station. There, you can add ticket fare to your student Charlie Card at the machines, and it works like a debit card. The Red Line inbound will take you to any one of these sweet treat stops.

The first is Flour Bakery at the Charles/MGH stop. Flour Bakery has everything from breakfast to sweet and savory treats, and even offers catering. Some of my favorites are their breakfast egg sandwich, sticky bun, and their brioche au chocolat. These options are year round, however Flour has their very own Valentine’s Day Menu, which includes sweetheart cookies, care packages, and much more.

The second is Tatte, an American-Mediterranean bakery and café. There are two stops on the way to Tatte, the Charles/MGH stop and the Kendall Square Stop. They too offer special Valentine’s Day treats, such as a gluten free heart shaped mocha mousse and a signature Valentine’s Day box! But if

you’re not looking for any desserts, they serve amazing savory options like their fresh mozzarella sandwich and drink options like coffee, tea, and juice.

My third and favorite suggestion is the LA Burdick at Harvard Square. LA Burdick makes some of the best hot chocolate you will ever taste, along with lots of other chocolate creations and desserts! For Valentine’s Day, they offer boxes of decorated chocolates such as chocolate penguins and mice. They also have sweet treats like an earl gray mousse, raspberry chocolate cake and macarons of many flavors. The café is small but beautiful, with fairy lights hanging overhead and chocolate displayed everywhere. Out of all the cafés, I strongly recommend this one. Valentine’s Day is to be spent with the ones you love, and what better way to celebrate it than with good food?

## The Perfect Valentine’s Day Recipe

By MACY BURNS

Whether or not you have a valentine on February 14, these raspberry bars, imagined by Micheal Schlow, are the perfect sweet treats to spread love. Make and share them with your friends, family, and/or a special someone to let them know how much they mean to you.



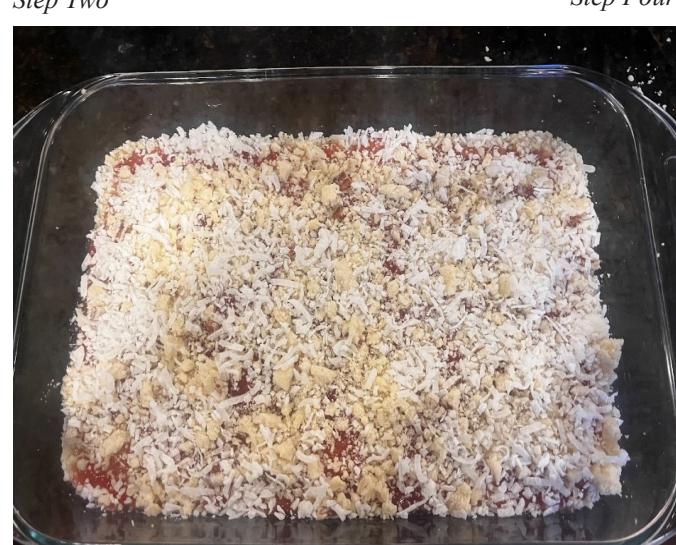
Step Two



Step Three



Step Four



Step Five



Step Six

Pictures by MACY BURNS



# Are NFL Relationships Being Used as a Tool for Profit?

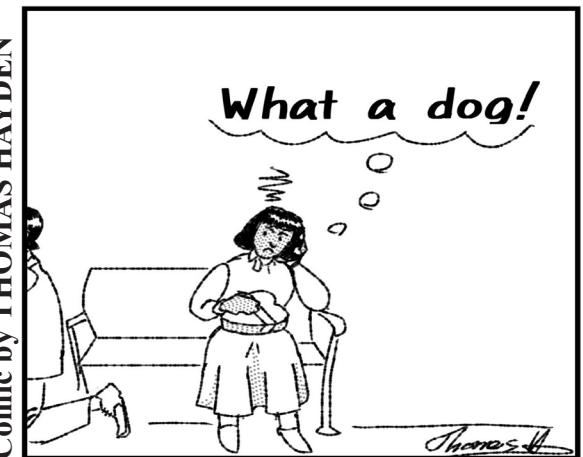
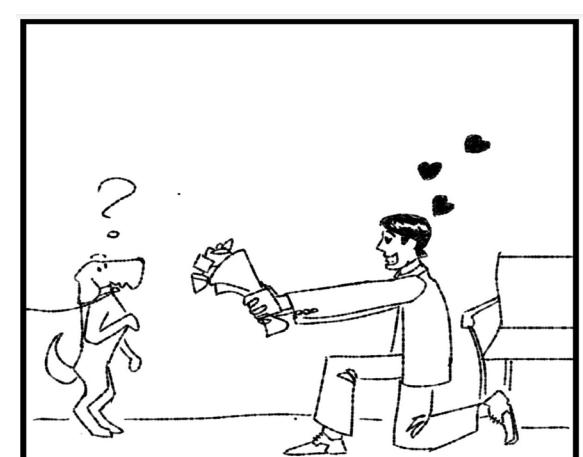
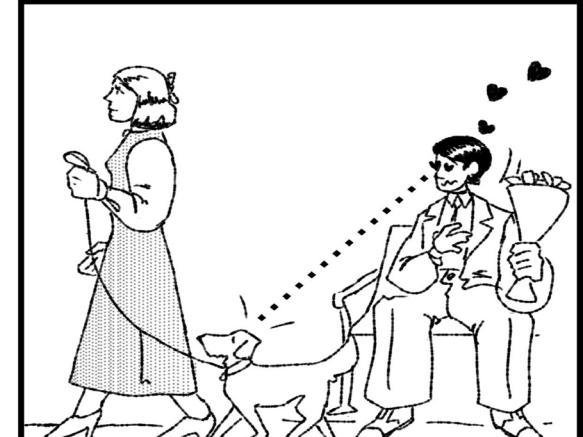
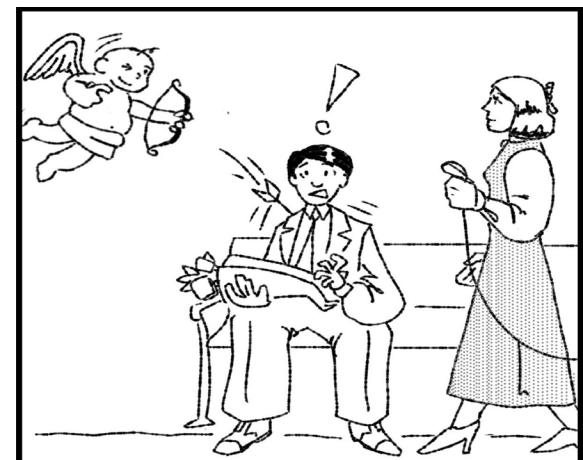


By LAWSON BEAUDET

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, the theme of love always emerges, yet this time it has arrived in an unexpected area: the NFL. Since the NFL's founding in 1920, the league has always been about football. This seems self-explanatory, right? It's called the National Football League. But with the world's eagerness to get updates about the relationships within it, many are starting to question whether the NFL's main purpose is to broadcast football, or if it has shifted to show the relationships viewers want to see.

There's no question in mind that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are the hot topic in terms of celebrity relationships. With Swift's new album announcement on February 4 and Kelce, member of the Kansas City Chiefs, playing at the Super Bowl, news headlines are eager to publish any sort of information on the two lovers.

Yet Swift's eminent sightings at Kelce's games have shifted the focus from the football game to what Swift is doing in the stands, sparking questions by many on whether broadcasting the relationship of Swift and Kelce is a means of profit.



Comic by THOMAS HAYDEN

Junior Rachel McNulty gave insight to this, saying, "Honestly, I just think it's the NFL giving people what they want. Taylor and Travis being seen together is pretty uncommon, so any chance people get to see them together, they will."

The belief that the NFL is merely giving their viewers what they want is perceived by many, yet others believe it is used for greater profit.

Junior Jacque Timmins explains, "The NFL knows how much money they can make if Swift fans know they're gonna see their favorite couple on TV. If they want to make a lot of profit, this kind of thing is the perfect way to do it."

Swift is clearly aware of this, and like anyone with a camera constantly shoved in their face, has tried to set boundaries. At one of Kelce's recent games, she told the broadcaster in a polite tone, "Go away, please."

Such exploitation even has Swift questioning the NFL's motives, yet unfortunately, it is not limited to her and Kelce, as other celebrities such as TikTok star Alix Earle and actress Hailee Steinfeld have been the center of the camera at any of their NFL presences.

Widening one's audience is a goal all media broadcasters have, yet the realization that the NFL has gone too far with this goal is understood by many.

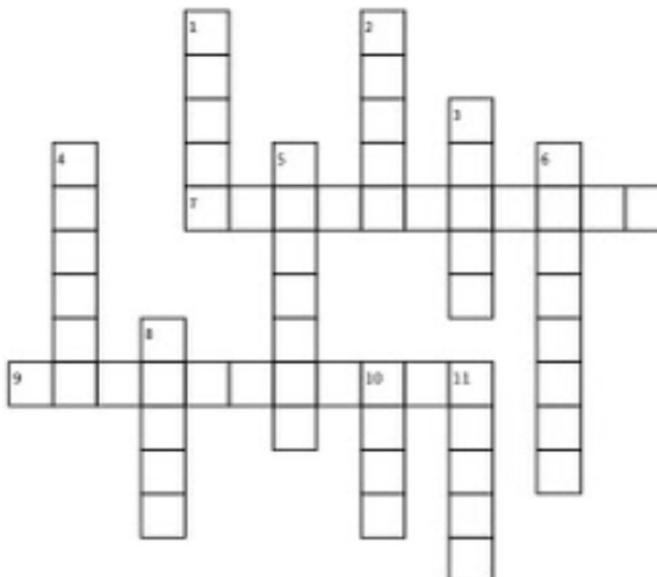
Junior Alyson Truong noticed such behaviors by the NFL. She said, "Half the people who are watching Miami Dolphins games don't even know who Braxton Berrios is, they're just watching it for Alix Earle. The NFL knows this, so they'll probably focus the camera on Alix's face for all of Braxton's future games."

A similar sentiment is reflected for actress Hailee Steinfeld, with Junior Mae Anthony explaining, "I know so many people who are only watching NFL games to see Hailee Steinfeld."

Is it merely an act of courtesy to let fans follow along with their favorite couples, or an exploitation of such relationships to make this enormous profit?

Nevertheless, most people are still excited for the next time they can see their favorite couple broadcasted. NFL relationships like these should not be perceived as only negative—they're able to show how strong love truly is, even with millions of people watching you on live television.

## Crossword Puzzle



### Down:

1. US state home to the town of Valentine, with a population of 108
2. Mammal with the largest heart
3. Flying love-arrow shooter
4. Flower color symbolizing friendship
5. They may light a romantic dinner
6. Romance movie and greeting card company
8. Common symbol for love
10. Thorny flower of love

### Across:

7. Play write who coined the term "star-crossed lovers"
9. Hard sugar candy, extremely popular on Valentine's day



Game by GRIFFIN ANGUS using education.com

### Romcom Revival

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one But You" proves them dead wrong.

The first crucial factor of the great rom-com, the meet cute, was easily met. Sydney Sweeney's character Bea and Glen Powell's character Ben meet in a café with a classic quirky bathroom scenario. They immediately show signs of their loveable selves, quick-wit for Ben and sassy optimism for Bea. But their romance can't be that easy that quickly, as the couple faces many bumps on the road to Happily Ever After, each one more enjoyable than the last.

A second factor, maybe more audience-specific for Milton High viewers, is the setting of the film. The characters are modern Bostonians, yet the film has no crude remarks towards the often overplayed Boston accent or offensive appropriations of city pride. It may have been a minor detail in the film, but one that may take your Valentine's movie date to the next level of relatability.

This can be said about the actors in almost every scene, although there are times where Sydney Sweeney seems sleepy and Glen Powell takes the sarcastic-jerk role a step beyond loveable; they seemed real. The scenario is just wild enough to be enticing, the side characters were zany but well-intentioned.

Finally, the locations are amazingly beautiful. Every scene, from the offices of Boston to the coast of Australia, has a light to it that just draws viewers in. It is truly a film of beautiful people in beautiful places.

So, this Cupid's Day, think about hitting the local AMC, or renting "Anybody But You" at home for a time capsule into a romantic, fun time in film history.

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The Elephant in the Room staff

