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Gulfshore Life

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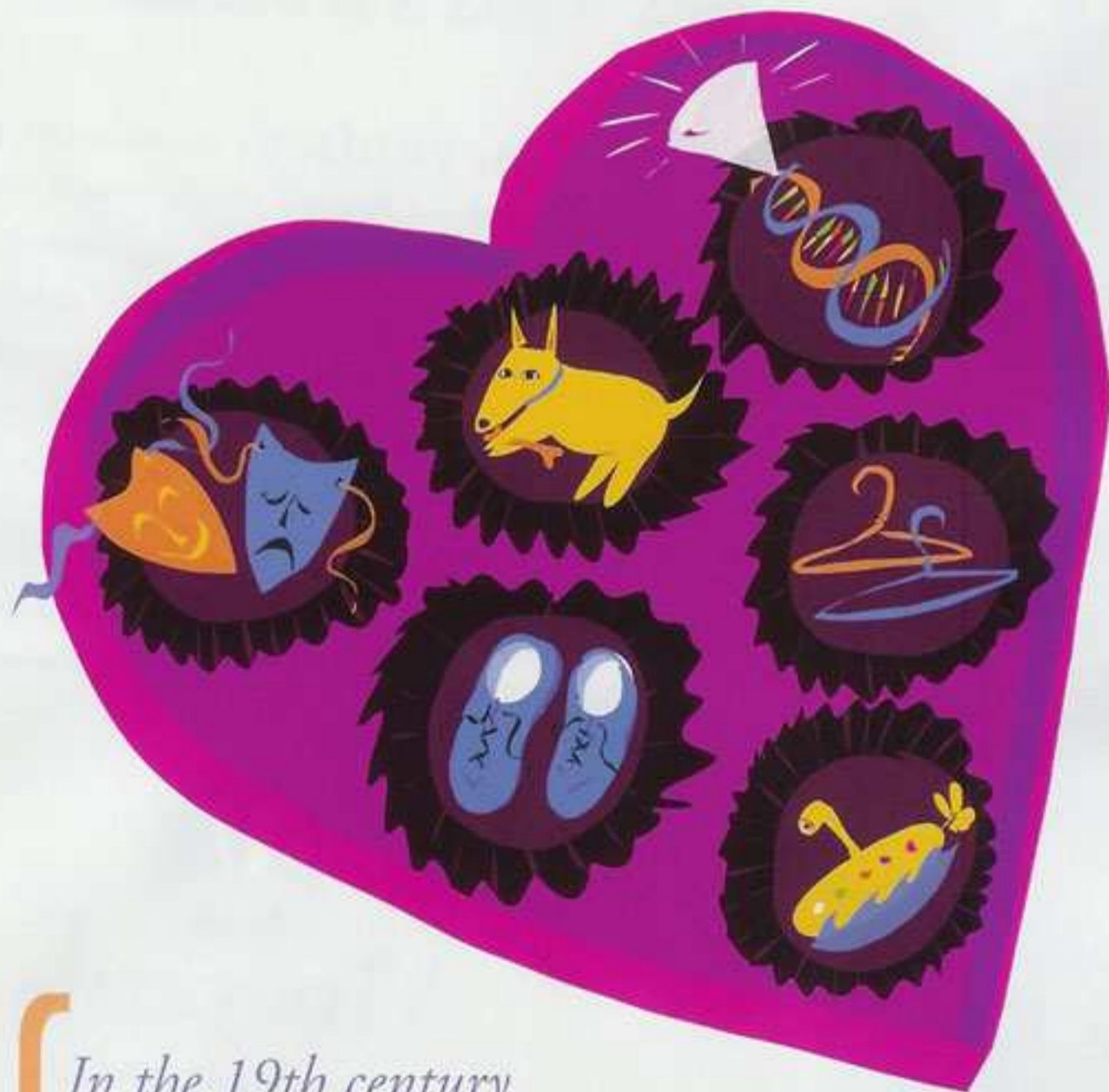
Smart Valentine Moves

Lessons in Romance

TRUE STORY: A GUY IS DRIVING his shiny, \$1.5 million quad-turbo Bugatti, when a low-flying shorebird distracts him, making him drop his cell phone, go airborne into the marsh and sink.

I'm guessing that bird was a great white egret, and here's why: In breeding season—which this is—those silky, snow-white birds take on even more spectacular plumage for romantic purposes. Those feathers are so stunning that in the 19th century, the way to a lady's heart was a fancy egret-feathered hat, so plume-hunters nearly wiped great egrets out of existence here in Paradise. Who knows? Maybe that bird was simply settling a score.

Anyway, this being the Month of Love, here's my advice: If you were planning to give your beloved an egret-plumed chapeau for Valentine's Day, don't. Here for your consideration, I offer 11 equally romantic (and safer) alternatives—something for every budget.



*In the 19th century,
the way to a lady's
heart was a fancy egret-
feathered hat.*

NORMAN LOVE, \$720

His chocolate, that is. Get your chocoholic a 15-piece box of Norman Love's confections delivered each month for a year. Inside tip: Do not choose lunchtime on Valentine's Day to show up at his Fort Myers Chocolate Salon, or you'll join the nervous, testosterone-heavy line snaking completely around the building.



Norman Love Chocolates