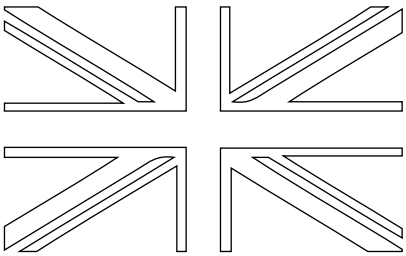

ONE, TWO, I LOVE YOU

BY DAVID LOWE

1 crocodile + 1 crocodile = 2 crocodiles
BUT
1 hungry crocodile + 1 rather slow human being in the wrong place at the wrong time
= 1 no longer hungry crocodile
THEREFORE
1 + 1 = 1

So we can conclude that this fundamental equation of love (1 + 1 = 1), equation which sums up St Valentine's Day and the perfect blending together of two human beings, does not contradict the laws of mathematics; it's just a question of specifying the units. As my physics teacher used to say every time I wrote down a measurement without the units, "24,577 what? Carrots?" and I'd answer: "No, sir. Angstroms, sir!"
Carrying the argument further, if 1+1 =1, then we can deduce the following equation:
(1 + 1) x (love) = 1 x (love)
2 x love = 1 x love
Therefore
Love = 0 or ∞
Love is all or nothing.
Or as Aristotle said: "Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies."
Or as U2 said in a song more recently:
"One love, one life…
We get to share it…
We're one,
But we're not the same."
(It sounds a lot better sung.) The lyrics come from the song "One", which was actually written about the unity of the four band members, proving that for U2, 4 = 1.
U2 is, of course, pronounced in English "you too", which is a homophone of "you two", which contains the germ of my argument. French has a similar play on words – un de toi.

JOKE 1
Why is ten afraid of seven?
Because seven eight (ate) nine and ten is next.

What inspired me to write this piece in defence of scientists and their emotions is that there's a song going around called "Parallel", which uses the metaphor of parallel lines for a failed relationship. *AU CONTRAIRE.* In geometry, parallel lines are lines in the same Euclidean plane that do not intersect. Lines that intersect meet, then drift apart. Parallel lines accompany each other to infinity keeping at exactly the same distance, a distance measured by the perpendicular between the two lines. This I see as a geometrical fidelity, an eternal devotedness based on rectitude and dependability. The constancy of parallel railway lines laid across the country form the railway track which carries the TGV you are sitting in now. This sort of fidelity is not necessarily boring. Two lovers holding hands and using their constant love to help others on their journey. Beautiful parallel lines.

JOKE 2
What is the difference between a Ph.D. in mathematics and a large pizza?
Answer: A large pizza can feed a family of four...

A physicist may come along and being a bit of a poet, too, he'd say that space has a slightly positive bend to it, so that if the parallel lines continue on their way, they will eventually meet in millions of light years... and Oh! What a party that will be!
The ever so slight edging together over that almost infinite time viewed as a sort of courtship, a timid kiss, a prolonged engagement, an almost eternal flirt, then a final union in nuptial bliss. Two bodies compressed together in a black hole, masses converted into pure energy.
E = mc2
HE = me c2 or shE = me c2
The "me" in the presence of the "he/she" is multiplied by c2 = 8.98755179 × 1016
8.98755179 × 1016 what? Carrots?
No, sir, metre2 per second2 sir!

JOKE 3
A extroverted mathematician is one who looks at your shoes when he talks to you.
Let's hope your shoes get looked at this St Valentine's Day.