

## Red Dot Fingerprints

It was late in the summer, sometime in the year 2001 or 2002, when I became the proud owner of a box of mixed chocolates. No, these weren't of any specialty chocolatier like Godiva, but rather some very ordinary, run-of-the-mill chocolates that weren't even very good. So what else should I have done but bring them into Building 845 and put them out in the "coffee cubicle" where everyone went to refill their coffee mugs.

Rather than simply put out the box with a sign saying "help yourself," I decided to put a twist on the matter by printing a page with a big red dot (about one inch in diameter), with a note that read the following: "Please help yourself to as much chocolate as you'd like. But before you take any, please press on the red dot with the thumb of your right hand."

A couple of us collected in the next cube (which belonged to Mike Rice) to listen to the conversations that ensued...and it was worth it. Some folks looked at the sign, got a good chuckle out of it, and then simply took whatever they wanted. Others looked all around the area to see if any cameras were watching them, then scooped up their selections and left. Finally, one couple stood there for a good five minutes convinced that the red dot was somehow connected to a fingerprinting device, and that their fingerprints would be recorded for posterity in the GKLS fingerprint collection.

By the time I returned, about fifteen minutes later, some wise soul had removed the sign, after which the chocolates disappeared much more rapidly.

No one was even arrested.