

Valentine's Day

Objectively *Sucks*

Jenna Post, Reporter

Valentine's Day; AKA the time of the year when couples venture into the year's most unpredictable weather to spend absurd amounts of money at overpriced restaurants, while singles stay home and wait for their chance to buy half-priced chocolate in a desperate attempt to remedy their loneliness.

Okay, obviously that isn't the case for everyone, but Valentine's Day objectively sucks. Some people believe that those who don't like Valentine's Day are bitter pessimists, but all it really takes to realize that the holiday isn't worthy of the hype that surrounds it is a look at the facts.

As you would expect, Valentine's Day is a bad time for singles- even the ones who aren't sad that they're single. Being constantly bombarded with commercials that depict lovey-dovey couples exchanging expensive gifts while a cheesy love song plays in the background is enough to annoy just about any single person. To top it off, they have to deal with their friends posting pictures of their partners all day, which, last I checked, nobody signed up for. Relationships shouldn't require an audience. That one guy you had geometry with freshman year probably doesn't care about the oversized bear that your boyfriend bought you, and, chances are, neither does anyone else.

Now you may be thinking that single people should just get over it, but it turns out that a lot of couples don't really like Valentine's Day either. In fact, 39% of surveyed couples admitted that they didn't enjoy their Valentine's experience, and only planned a night out because they were afraid of not meeting their partner's expectations. The holiday puts unnecessary pressure on both members of the relationship to make the night something truly special- or at least as special enough to compete with their friends' experiences, which is part of the reason why it's so easy to manipulate couples into spending way more money on frivolous

gifts than they should. Nearly every business raises the cost of candy, flowers, and jewelry in February because they know that the majority of consumers will buy Valentine's gifts, even if they're overpriced. There are even some restaurants that do it. This is obviously a problem for consumers, but the high demand for cliché presents is even worse for the environment.

When Valentine's Day is nearing, orders for gold and flowers reach a yearly high. In order to meet the demand, several third world countries use methods that are severely harmful to the environment. In the months that lead up to the holiday, mine waste increases drastically, which brings underground toxins to the surface. Pesticides that are used to maintain the thousands of roses that will soon be shipped off to the U.S. often poison the air and water. Considering that the roses will die within a week of being purchased, they're definitely not worth the damage they cause. So next time you go to the store and buy your significant other some useless flowers, keep in mind that children in third-world countries might not have clean water because of your purchase. Nothing says "romance" like suffering kids.

Ultimately, Valentine's Day isn't good for singles, couples or the world as a whole. However, it is good for one thing: Hallmark sales. In fact, North Americans didn't even celebrate Valentine's Day until Hallmark realized they could capitalize on the holiday in 1910. The company is expected to make \$19.7 billion on Valentine's cards this year alone.

This year, make the smart decision and choose to celebrate any other day of the year. There's no reason to wait for an overpriced holiday to show your loved one some extra appreciation- especially when that holiday was created to exploit consumers into wasting their money.

Design: J. Inthabounh



HATER OR L♥VER

— It's Not That Serious —

VD♥Y Fun Facts

There are enough candy hearts made each year to stretch from Valentine, Arizona to Rome, Italy, and back again. About 8 billion candy hearts are produced a year.

It wasn't until Italian and French artists began championing the idea of romantic love that the St. Valentine heart became the symbol of love.

Valentine's Day originated from St. Valentine's rebellion against the Roman Emperor Claudius II who didn't want Roman men to marry during the war.

Jasmine Inthabounh, Editor-in-Chief

Instead of overthinking the facts, why not just enjoy the little things? Valentine's Day is one single holiday that could be taken over the top or not spent at all. It is your choice. Like everyday, it is your choice to make your day positive or a negative experience, which on this specific day many people love to take the chance to hate everyone and everything.

There is no point in hating a holiday that legitimately celebrates love, not only to your significant other but to your family or friends or heck, even yourself, which should be easy enough. It has no rules and really, Valentine's Day is what you make it. You can eat and purchase excessive amounts of chocolates, why complain?

Celebrating and appreciating your loved ones is an act of kindness that should be done on a day-to-day basis but Valentine's Day doesn't mean to discourage this, it's a day to be and feel extra loved, emphasison the extra. It doesn't matter if you aren't a boyfriend or a girlfriend, there is no reason you can't receive or give gifts of love from or to anyone in your life. Valentine's Day is absolutely the best excuse to treat yourself as well and showing yourself self-love.

Whether you give someone nothing or receive nothing, it is not required to spend money or acknowledge the day but for those who enjoy the spirit of love, nothing's wrong with a little chocolate and roses. All in all, it's a simple holiday that doesn't need to be over thought, there are no rules to it, just like love has no rules, it just happens.

Make it great, make it horrible or make it nothing. It's totally a personal choice how you decide to spend, or not spend Valentine's Day.