

Daily

Life

This Week In History: TIL DEATH D♡US PART

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It's that time of year again when the icy months of January and February loom and seem to last an eternity. However, a brief reprieve from the gloomy winter is here at last, full of chocolate and hearts and pink! It's Valentine's Day, and for this special edition of The Daily Campus, I wanted to dive past the greeting card company decorations to discuss the origins of this hallowed day and some of the traditions with it.

The beginnings of Valentine's Day are believed to potentially date back to the ancient pagan Roman festival of Lupercalia. The festival itself was centered around fertility and dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunus, and the founders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. On this holiday, Roman priests would gather in a sacred cave. This place was be-

lieved to be the home of Romulus and Remus when they were taken care of by the wolf, Lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat and a dog for fertility and purification.

According to "Lupercalia and its relationship to Valentine's Day" by Helen Charlie Nellist from the Vindolanda Museum, the priests would then cut the goat hide to form strips called februa that were used to hit women as they went through the streets. Women often welcomed this activity as it was believed to have brought on fertility for the coming year.

As pagan rituals in Rome faded with the rise of Christianity, the Catholic Church may have sought to Christianize the Lupercalia festival by celebrating St. Valentine instead. Regarding accuracy, St. Valentine was a real person who was martyred in the third century by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus, but there are varying

accounts of his story.

Some popular versions of the legend claim that he was a priest and physician during a time of Christian Persecution. While awaiting execution, it is said that he fell in love with the blind jailer's daughter and healed her of her ailment. In their last correspondence, he would leave her a letter signed, "Your Valentine." Others claim that he was the bishop of Terni, Italy, and had illegally married couples to prevent them from being conscripted into the army. Both versions retain the common theme of love, but it is difficult to verify either with how sparse the records were during that time.

Either way, if you would like to see St. Valentine for yourself and are looking for any fun date ideas, there are several holy relics across the globe, including his skull at a basilica in Rome and his shoulder blade at a basilica in Prague, in case you're looking for any fun date ideas. Nothing says romance



St. Valentine's skull in the Basilica di Santa Maria in Rome. St. Valentine is thought to have left a letter signed "Your Valentine" to his lover. PHOTO COURTESY OF ATLAS OBSCURA ON FACEBOOK

like an ancient reliquary.

The holiday as we know it today began to take shape in the 18th century, gaining popularity through the 19th and 20th centuries. A large portion of why greeting cards have become so associated with the holiday was not only from the legend but also due to legislation in the 1850s. The United States Congress decreased postage rates to avoid the privatization of the postal service, making it more affordable to send postcards and letters in the mail,

according to a Time article by Rachel E. Greenspan. Then came the advent of Hallmark's Valentine's Day cards in 1916, which remain a staple today.

To all the lovebirds out there, have a splendid holiday this weekend. To those of you who are single, maybe it's time to take a page out of the book of St. Valentine and take a chance on new love. If worse comes to worst, at least future scholars will get to study your skull in the nearest basilica. Happy Valentine's Day!



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Though Valentine's Day often means spending time with that special someone, not everybody finds their person at the same speed. While you can't hurry love, it doesn't hurt to look for it. So, while you wait, here are some classic rock songs that encompass different stages of having a crush: the good and the bad.

"A Thing About You" - Tom

Petty and the Heartbreakers

Despite sitting at just over three minutes in length, the Heartbreakers pack a blow into this driving relative deep cut.

Petty's yearning vocals toward the top of his register inject the lyrics with a building emotional tension that is released by Mike Campbell's ripping guitar solo.

The lyrics themselves are about a pure crush, one that doesn't "pass with time" but rather grows and becomes incurable as the singer falls deeper

Classic rock to match your Valentine's Day crush mood

in love with the subject.

"I've Just Seen a Face" - The Beatles

"I've Just Seen a Face" may not be as memorable as other love songs on the album "Help!" such as "Yesterday" and "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away," but it's the most positive song on the record by far.

A song about love at first sight, Paul McCartney's lyrics discuss being drawn back to a person immediately after the first time you meet them and sit perfectly on top of a skiffle-inspired instrumental of layered acoustic guitars.

"Sleeping With the Television On" - Billy Joel

A hidden gem on an album full of iconic singles, "Sleeping With the Television On" tells the story of a person too shy and too scared of the person they're interested in to make a move.

With bright new wave organ and a punchy performance from

drummer Liberty DeVitto, coupled with a sarcastic television sign-off, the music largely covers Joel's grim outlook on his chances with the subject.

Joel laments that he wished he was less of a thinking man and "more a fool who's not afraid of rejection." Instead, Joel's inability to act and the subject's refusal to let their guard down may leave them both alone that night and "Sleeping With the Television On."

"I'll Wait" - Van Halen

This synth-heavy rocker details singer David Lee Roth's infatuation with a model featured in a Calvin Klein ad.

The larger feeling of obsessing over a celebrity crush is far more relatable than "Diamond Dave's" crush, even if Roth could probably get closer than any of us ever will.

Still, Eddie Van Halen provides both a ripping synth and guitar solo. Add Michael An-

thony and Van Halen's soaring backing vocals, and the disappointment of a futile celebrity crush becomes an easier pill to swallow.

"Please Let Me Wonder" - The Beach Boys

"Please Let Me Wonder" features one of Brian Wilson's most poignant performances, with the somber emotion in his vocals coming through clear as day.

A set of Mike Love's finest lyrics, they beg a love interest not to reveal their true feelings, as the singer feels relief in being unsure of how the other truly feels. He prefers to sit with the image of their relationship in his head rather than the reality of the situation; a desire for hope that is quickly fading.

Carl Wilson and Glen Campbell's shimmering 12-string guitars and the typically gorgeous Beach Boys vocal harmonies leave the track as one of their most ethereal works.

HOW TO AVOID DIGITAL DREAD ON VALENTINES DAY

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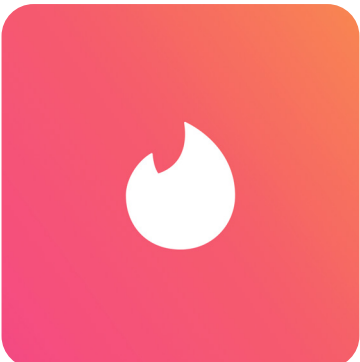
Valentine's Day, like all holidays, has been changed by social media and the digital age. However, this holiday faces some unique challenges that can be difficult to navigate whether you're single or taken.

I'm sure you can already picture it: it's Saturday morning, you wake up, check your phone and are immediately hit with hundreds of Valentine's Day Instagram stories. Before you know it, you may find yourself stalking pages of people you don't even know. The tags can be tempting, but this Valentine's Day, I suggest taking a minute to ask yourself: "why?"

Going analog has become a trend recently as more and more people attempt to detach themselves from their devices. Try to be present in the moment. Not everything is about capturing the perfect picture. Whether you are on a dinner date or hanging out with friends, put

that phone away or maybe try sticking to a digital camera so you don't get distracted by other apps.

Too often do people plan their Valentine's Day plans around social media posts, instead of the posts resulting from the plans. The best pictures are usually the authentic ones and the ones that are spontaneous. It is okay, and probably more fun to have a messy Valentine's party than a neat, color coordinated event planned around showing off the setup. While it can be fun to decorate, question the reason



as to why you are doing so. Do your decorations align with you or some post you saw on Pinterest?

Now, I know that posts have become a gesture in a way — similar to giving someone a card — but it is important to not let these posts consume you. Social media is supposed to be fun, so keep it that way. There is no reason to stress over an intricate Valentine's Day post which may leave you disappointed if your



partner does not do the same. People also may be wondering if it is too early to share a picture of their partner or if they need

to "soft launch," but do what you want! Post your photo and move on to the real fun of your day.

The problems associated with Valentine's Day and social media may also be the direct products of online dating itself. Humans are visual, but with the popularization of dating apps like Tinder and Hinge, the early stages of romantic relationships have become increasingly looks-based. Maybe this is the reason why people are so quick to show off the best photos of their partner on Valentine's Day; their looks may have been the only

thing that drew them in initially.

By no means am I telling you not to post on social media tomorrow. I am just suggesting that you do so with genuine purpose and continue to experience your day — whatever your plans may be — authentically. If that means posting your picture, then logging off social media for the day, there's no shame in that. But if that also means taking out your camera to capture a surprise moment, then that is also okay! Just remember to live your day through the lens of your eyes and not your iPhone.

