

EAGLE EYE NEWS

THE PCDS STUDENT PUBLICATION

Love, St. Valentine

By: Madalyn Paltzik

Every year, on February 14, people all around the world show their love with chocolates, flowers, letters, and gifts. But as we decorate with roses and hearts, what are we truly celebrating? Where did it all begin? Does the red coloring of our decor represent the love we share or the blood that was shed?

St. Valentine, the namesake of the love holiday, is said to have been two men. The first, a Roman priest, secretly

performed marriages to save men from having to go to war. After he was caught and arrested, while in prison, he was said to have restored the sight of a blind girl living in the house. The miracle convinced the entire household to convert to Christianity, except for Valentine who refused to abandon his religion and was then sentenced to death. Before his execution on February 14, St. Valentine is said to have sent the blind girl a letter signed "Your Valentine", sparking

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Valentine's Day Around the World

By: Eliza Meltzer

A day of love, affection, and romance, February 14th holds a special place in the hearts of many. This annual tradition of showcasing love brings with it anticipation and excitement, a classic celebration seemingly as old as time itself. Yet, while Americans are busy writing cards, picking flowers, and buying chocolates, different countries across the globe take part in their own unique traditions.

In South Korea and Japan, February 14th marks a day of love. Women give chocolates to men they admire and one month later on March 14th, or "White Day" – men give women expensive gifts. Argentina also celebrates Valentine's Day on February 14th. Their celebration, "Semana de la Dulzura," meaning "Sweetness Week", lasts for seven days. During this time, they

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the tradition we practice today. The other St. Valentine, the Bishop of Terni, is credited with similar actions, including the secret weddings and miraculous healings. The Bishop also suffered an execution on February 14, making the two Valentines so similar that historians wonder if they were actually the same person.

So, is this February holiday celebrating love, or the gruesome martyrdom of its namesakes? *The New York Times* asked this same question decades ago, finding no luck and describing it as “one of those mysterious historical or antiquarian problems which are doomed never to be solved.”

One of the most likely possible explanations for the holiday is that Roman men began celebrating the execution of St. Valentine by pulling the names of suitable young women from an urn to “court” for the day and the successful matches would win the festival competitions. It wasn’t until centuries later that we abandoned the celebration of the martyr’s death and instead focused on the joy of love.

While modern times depict the



holiday as one of happiness, love, and togetherness, the gruesome truth is something we often forget. Hidden in the hearts, flowers, and chocolate on this day of romance lies a dark, grim past of bloodshed, not love shared.

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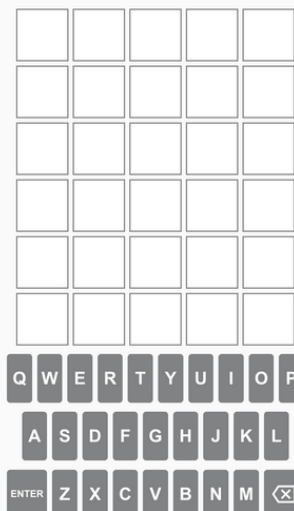
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Cupid's Carbon Footprint: Valentine's Day's Environmental Impact

By: Isabela Galá

It is entirely possible to put a price on love, especially when nearly \$26 billion are spent annually on Valentine's Day. However, Valentine's Day festivities don't just cost the hopeless romantics, they cost the planet.

An awkward hug and a heart-shaped box of chocolates are a high school Valentine's Day staple, and these romantic gestures stretch far beyond PCDS walls. Americans spend over \$2.8 billion on chocolate alone for the romantic festivities, totaling a remarkable 36 million boxes sold each year. Unfortunately, these rather delectable chocolates carry with them some not-so-delectable impacts. The cocoa industry,

responsible for the world's most popular Valentine's Day treats, harms ecosystems and contributes to climate change, playing a critical role in deforestation, the utilization of pesticides, and monoculture farming. Moreover, these chocolates often come in plastic trays, further contributing to the ever-growing mountains of global plastic waste that will take centuries to decompose.

Approximately 145 million cards are exchanged annually for the holiday of love... and nothing says "I love you" quite like deforestation! The paper industry is one of the most harmful to the environment. It's a leading contributor to deforestation, the fifth largest energy consumer, a significant reason behind the rise in soil and water pollution, and a massive greenhouse gas emission source. Additionally, a study by Exeter University found that a single greeting card carries a carbon footprint of 140g CO₂.

A classic sign of romance, it is estimated that over 250 million roses are sold every year on Valentine's Day. The token red roses received typically come from farms utilizing high amounts of pesticides, water, and land, all of which cause

devastating droughts, destroy ecosystems, and lead to deforestation. Not to mention, these roses are oftentimes shipped overseas, resulting in massive carbon emissions. This, coupled with plastic, everlasting packaging, contributes significantly to the masses of plastic pollution in the US and around the world.

Nonetheless, there are still ways to gift sustainably on Valentine's Day. Here are a few ideas that can help spread the love for both you and your planet this February.



1. Instead of prepackaged flowers, give a potted plant.
2. Choose fair trade chocolate: look for additional certifications (including Rainforest Alliance and USDA Organic).
3. Write a homemade card.
4. Thrift your gifts.
5. Gift organic, locally grown flowers.



A Presidential Love Affair between Korea and America

By: Taylor Bulloch

On June 30th, 2019, Donald Trump became the first sitting US president to step foot in the isolated kingdom of North Korea, famously shaking hands with the notorious leader, Kim Jong Un. This day marked the third ever meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who had agreed to meet to discuss the foreign relations growing between the two nations. This meeting between the two world leaders came just months after Kim Jong Un had personally sent his latest letter to President Trump, stressing the necessity of their periodic meetings to discuss “critical issues that require endless effort”. Although this may seem like a vain attempt to maintain vital diplomatic relations for Kim Jong Un, the excessively complimentary and flattering tone of the letter may suggest that something more than friendship occurred between the two powerful leaders.

To start off, the North Korean leader addresses the sitting US president as ‘your excellency’, a choice which seems both like a desperate attempt to gain political favor and a comical

attempt to romanticize the American president. Kim Jong Un then goes on to detail their earlier summit meeting in a manner that evokes ideas of love and romance. In one instance, he writes, “I cannot forget that moment of history when I firmly held Your Excellency’s hand.” On the surface, this may seem like the North Korean leader is simply referring to the union of their hands as a symbolization of the olive branch that both world leaders had extended to each other. Out of context, however, it appears as though the line could have been taken from a young adult fiction novel.

Even further, Kim Jong Un

extrapolates on the romantic undertones of the letter with the line: “the whole world will certainly once again come to see [...] another historic meeting between myself and Your Excellency reminiscent of a scene from a fantasy film.” The North Korean leader’s direct parallel between his and President Trump’s relationship, and a foolish and idealistic fiction genre underscores the unserious and potentially flirtatious nature of their relationship. Surmise to say, North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un is certainly very fond of US President Donald Trump, if not just as colleagues or friends, then maybe as something more.



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Many other countries celebrate similar love-themed holidays, but not in February. Israelis, for example, honor the Jewish Tu B'av tradition each summer. Representing rebirth and love, Tu B'av is centered around the exchange of heart-shaped gifts and flowers. On June 12th, Brazilians celebrate Dia dos Namorados, or "Lover's Day". Other countries opt to observe their romantic holidays earlier in the winter. Wales, for example, celebrates St. Dwynwen's Day on January 25th. Honoring local tradition, men give women hand-carved wooden spoons as tokens of their love.

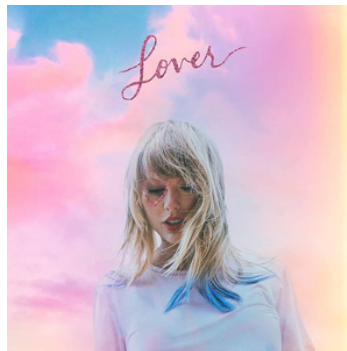
From summer festivals to the exchange of special gifts, each country has its own unique ways of honoring love and friendship.



Lastly, China's Qixi Festival marks a day of love on the seventh day of the seventh month on the lunar calendar. This practice is deeply rooted in an ancient tale of forbidden love between a weaver and a cowherd. In addition to exchanging gifts, women carve patterns into melon skins to honor this story.

Oftentimes, it is easy to quickly associate Valentine's Day with cards, gifts, and flowers. However, people all across the world each see the beloved holiday differently.

Valentine's Day Playlist By: The Eagle Eye News Staff



"Lover" - Taylor Swift

By: Paige Cusolle

Lover by Taylor Swift perfectly captures the excitement of even the smallest moments simply because they're shared with the person you love. With lyrics like "Can we always be this close forever and ever?", the song beautifully displays the deep devotion felt in a relationship.

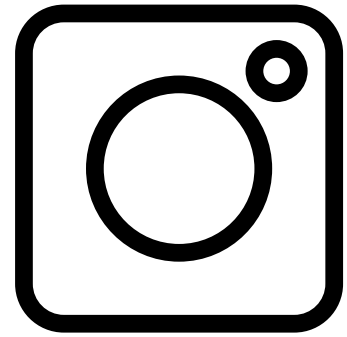


"The Birds/The Birds Nest" - Rakish

By: Mr. Baumann

A classic fiddle set by a dynamic duo from DC, that brings back fond Valentine's Day memories accompanied by the mellifluous melodies of Irish traditional tunes.

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“So American” - Olivia Rodrigo

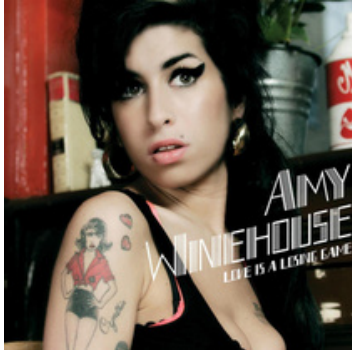
By: Madalyn Paltzik

Breaking away from her typical musical genre, “So American” by Olivia Rodrigo perfectly captures the overwhelming bliss of falling in love. The upbeat lyrics and melody play to the whimsical side of romance and uplift listeners with hope in every note.

“Love is a Losing Game” - Amy Winehouse

By: Isabela Galá

Not every romance is a fairytale, and this melancholic ballad offers a realistic representation of what love truly can be. With its slow, jazz-infused melody, the song is raw, poetic, and beautiful. Winehouse refers to love as a futile endeavor that she is bound to lose. She delivers lines like “Love is a fate resigned” and “Over futile odds / And laughed at by the gods.”



“Can’t Help Falling in Love” - Elvis Presley

By: Taylor Bulloch

Elvis Presley is often revered as a foundational artist for rock and roll, but the effect that his slower songs have had on the American music scene cannot be ignored. This famous love ballad is an iconic addition to the music world in general, with Presley’s rich, smooth voice serenading the listener and evoking feelings of heartbreaking sadness.



“All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor’s Version) (From the Vault)” - Taylor Swift

By: Camila Acharya

From its long title and arguably even harder-to-remember abbreviation, “atwtmvtvftv,” it’s clear that this song is elaborate. I think of it as more than a song, however. It is also a story, a feeling. The chorus repeats “It was rare, I was there, I remember it all too well,” suggesting that profound moments of love such as “dancing ‘round the kitchen in the refrigerator light” eventually become nothing more than memories.



Spotify



Apple Music



Valentine's Day Word Search

By: Isabela Galá

J N C A M M R Y F R K V N Q A D U H S I
 X W N Z M R S C S H W A T P J S H U B T
 I W J O F O W J F M E E H E I S C Y J X
 W R X S U O E C U Z A S R U O U L Y A A
 Q W Y E H C L V O L C O O B C C O N V M
 Z A M N N Z N P L N I R B F B N H K A U
 O W D I T J O C A X S E Q U U X E O L V
 I X A T R R Q R B F N U T L E F K R E C
 T A L N V W B V A C W A M Z D Z T E N Q
 A R L E C N Z B R I U V Z E J M G A T Q
 S N A L U B V F P W J L R G R U I Q I R
 G U B A P L O V E J X J T D B I J J N B
 W G U G I I K S H L Z V O U B Z S G E R
 K T E Q D M G C U L Z Q O E R N V M G E
 S N C H O C O L A T E H X K O E V I P A
 N Y N J F G N X W L M E C Z M O D D L K
 E V X J H U E V Y E E A B Y E J N I Y U
 L X S C E Z I K H Z W R R Q O G J A D P
 D G V D J X A N Q G W T E Y V O Y K H O
 A N J N I U J R Y Q Q E P W N F P S F E

Word Bank:

Ballad	Juliet
Breakup	Korea
Chocolate	Love
Consumerism	Romeo
Culture	Rose
Cupid	Valentines
Heart	Galentines

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