

CITYLAB TIMES

WIPING OFF THE GLOSS

Valentine's Day is a holiday loved by many. It's nice and all; but how did it become so popular, and where did the tradition of giving cards come from? In my mind, the connection between St. Valentine and giving a loved one a card with a cute puppy on it are pretty slim. I'm pretty sure he wasn't going around giving out cute cards.

There's a lot of history behind Valentine's Day, but I don't want this article to take up two full pages, so I'll just go over the important details. Who was St. Valentine? This seems like it would be simple to answer, but there were actually multiple St. Valentines in history. However, none of them were exactly romantics. They just lived a long time ago, healed someone by performing a miracle, and then died because the emperor didn't like them. The earliest known connection between Valentine's Day and love is when Geoffrey Chaucer wrote Parlement of Foules. This is still a shaky connection, as the line that brought up Valentine's Day was about bird-mating season, which could be in February or May. This didn't stop people; however, and they still ran with the idea of February 14th being all about love.

But what's up with all the cards? Well, the earliest surviving Valentine's Day card was from the Duke of Orleans to his wife back in 1415. It wasn't really a card though. He just sent a poem to her calling her Valentine, but close enough I guess. This wasn't extremely common until the 18th century, when couples would begin to send hand-made cards to each other. When industrialization came around, companies saw the potential and did what they do best: took over the market by mass-producing cards and keeping the price low. Now, it's expected to send cards. I mean in kindergarten, everyone had to make little mailboxes; and there's a whole market for that specifically.

I think the biggest takeaway I got from researching Valentine's Day is that with good marketing and cheap chocolate, businesses can probably turn anything into a successful holiday.

Wiping off the gloss is dedicated to exposing the issues that have been glossed over by other news sources, even if there is absolutely no evidence the allegation is true. The articles are complete satire, and not meant to offend anyone. - Devin Krieger (11)



DOGECOIN: MEME OR MEME CURRENCY?

Just recently, with the rise of unusual financial moves people are pulling on the stock market, Elon Musk invested 1.5 billion dollars into Bitcoin. Now while this sounds like a lot, there are few people at CityLab who own Bitcoin. No, you see, what really matters to us is the important currency, Dogecoin. Currently sitting at 6.5 cents a coin, Dogecoin is at some of its highest value since its release. Comparing this to Bitcoin, which is about to reach \$50,000 per coin.

Now, in no way is Dogecoin a safe investment. When asked, CityLab's own crypto investor, Finley Dunn, told us "I wouldn't suggest putting a lot of money into this. It's probably gonna leave soon". Finley had bought 5 dollars worth of Dogecoin when it was at .2 cents per coin, and now has just a little more cash for him to trade. Originally bought as a joke, and a learning experience, it turned into a small investment for the new trader.

Now why would Dogecoin jump up 3200% in the last two years? Two big reasons actually, the first being that "the reason it's value is up right now is because of a TikTok trend" Finley stated. While this could be the case, this jump in price could also be rooted to a Bitcoin Investor/ Tesla Owner, Elon Musk. Not only did he invest 1.5 billion in cryptocurrency, which is one of the biggest crypto investments recorded, he also heavily endorsed Dogecoin as the best currency on his twitter. He even went as far as to buy some for his newborn son.

Now, if you're curious as to how to get into this action yourself, Finley is not hopeful. "Nah, it's not gonna stay (it's price). It's only based off a meme.... And Bitcoins interface is just better" - Grayson Bolding (11)



CITYLAB COMPETES IN STATE!

Our Mock Trial Team's courtroom artist and our Academic Decathlon team are headed to state competitions. Many students wonder what occurs in a Mock Trial Courtroom Art Competition. Mr. Good, the sponsor for the Mock Trial Team, explains that the courtroom artist sits in the mock trial round and sketches a scene from the trial.

"Covid protocols mean that the competition took place on Zoom, so the artists were asked to include a courtroom background in their sketches."

Despite the changes due to COVID, he is confident in the school's artist, Adriana.

"Anyone who visits the 5th floor knows how extremely talented an artist she is"

Adriana P Jaime is an example of how even with the pandemic as an obstacle CityLab students show resilience. She represented CityLab in the Mock Trial Courtroom Artist portion, and she advanced to State by placing 1st in the DISD regional Mock Trial Courtroom art portion.

She persevered and her hard work and talent shined.

Curiously though, she was quite nervous because she hadn't been in such a competition like this before.

Adriana also says she feels grateful to have experienced it and is "ready to give it my all at the state competition."

Besides representing CityLab, she is Puerto Rican, and represents Latinx people, and their foothold in the artistic world. As she said, she was thrilled to "represent not only my island, but the Latinx community... for sure makes this achievement a million times more worth it."

She had some words of encouragement for prospecting artists.

"If you're passionate about what you do, keep doing it... when competing, have in mind to put a little piece of you in your artwork...that shows people who you are."

The Mock Trial Courtroom Art competition is on March 4th. (a Thursday)

Resilience and adaptability are visible in both our CityLab teams.

Academic Decathlon has been putting in the work as well.

Academic Decathlon advanced into state competitions.

The team consists of 10 students given a theme for the entire year competition, studying about the topic and applying it to different tests given throughout the year, whether they be oral or on paper.

This year however, was online, and even more challenging, it was the first year of this teams conception.

Stephanie Jimenez, a student a part of it, says that although the team was challenged by being relatively new and because of COVID, "we were ready to learn and try."

"I'm so happy we made it to the state competition... if we give it our all then like we did before we'll make it."

The relatively new team is under sponsorship of Ms. Boyd and Ms. Fuentes.

Ms. Fuentes says that the team's success is due to the dedication and persistence of the team, and it inspires her "to put more time and effort into this endeavor."

She tells her team "I'm only asking you to do your best. I don't want you to stress or worry. You are enough, and you've got this!"

The Academic Decathlon state competition will take place on February 27th. (a Saturday) - Yair Renteria (12)



HITLER STASH??

On Tuesday, March 2nd the widely known mobile app for Amazon shopping quietly changed its look. While it took awhile to be noticed, people were quick to judge the new look. After changing the app cover from the previous blue shopping cart, amazon went to change it to a more simplistic design resembling an amazon box with blue tape on the top. It didn't take long for people to compare the blue strip at the top meant to look like tape to Hitler's mustache.



The comparison is strange and very odd how people could compare this and still get offended. I feel like in today's world, people are quick to point things out and get offended easily, especially when it comes to design details of big corporations like Amazon. For those who were upset about the design, Amazon was quick to change it to a slightly different variation and like that the "Hitler stash" was gone. - Sebastian Brown (10)

