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DBI Insider focus

The Stories of St. Valentine

By Derek Luce & Glynis Jorritsma, DBI Staff Writers

Ahh, February 14! The day for romantics and lovers! Or perhaps, for you it's a day of dread. You have no idea what to purchase for that significant other in your life let alone making feeble attempts at being romantic. Or, you could be without a significant other at the moment and find yourself subject to feeling a little sad or lonely. There are also those who could care less about this holiday and don't want to be bothered with it. Whichever side of the fence you are on, DBI is here to help. Think of us as your friendly informant and hopefully you'll benefit from some helpful gifting hints or things to do, that we'll share with you as well.

Let's start with some history. You all know how I love history. So, let's talk about the origins of Valentine's Day. Just what exactly is this holiday all about and where did it come from? Was it a secret conspiracy of the major greeting card manufacturers, a la Hallmark or American Greetings? Or does this holiday actually have some legitimate backstory to it?

St. Valentine's history is cloaked in much mystery. The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend testifies that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one source, an imprisoned Valentine himself actually sent the first "valentine" greeting after he fell in love with a young girl—possibly his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter signed, "From your Valentine", an expression that is still in use to this day. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is vague, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and, most importantly, a romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

As to why this holiday is celebrated in February, one piece of history says that it was because that was the time of the commemoration of his death which occurred around A.D. 270. Another facet of history contends that the early Christian Church may have been attempting to change the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides (An Ancient Roman calendar term for "middle") of February, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. The holiday was later outlawed in the 5th century by Pope Gelasius when he declared February 14, St. Valentine's Day. The oldest known Valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. This document is now part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.

So, whichever version of history is accurate, Valentine's day is here to stay. Now you can jump into Valentine's day well informed and ready at any moment to give anyone the history of this holiday of love. And perhaps if you are one who is not impressed with this holiday you may now be inspired to take part in the festivities in some small way. Lastly, for those who are without a partner on this romantic day may we suggest a "lonely hearts club" get together with other single friends to share a nice dinner and companionship with one another.

The Top 10 Worst Valentines Day Gifts...Ever.

Well, before we give you the good stuff, We thought we'd start with the bad stuff. When I say bad, I mean terrible. So, *unless specifically asked of you*, please don't ever buy your loved one these gifts *unless* your looking to sleep on the couch with the dog.



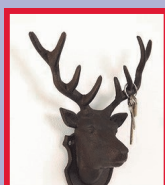
Lovers Mittens



Gym Membership



At Home Wax Kit



Deer Head Hook

1. Red Heart Shaped Lovers Mitten
2. Gym Membership
3. At Home Personal Waxing Kit
4. Deer Head Hook
5. Sign Them Up For Cooking Class
6. One Way Airline Ticket
7. Coco Bear Jumbo Caramel Apple (Not visually appealing).
8. Sweatin' To The Oldies Gift Set
9. Plastic Flowers
10. Anything Obviously Re-Gifted



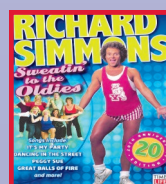
Cooking Class



One -Way Ticket



Coco Bear Jumbo



Sweatin' To The Oldies



Plastic Flowers



An Obvious Re-Gift



SUPER BOWL XLVIII...THE COLD BOWL!

By The Derek Luce, DBI Staff Writer

Riddle me this: what has an average mean temperature of 33.8 degrees Fahrenheit, has the potential for being snowed out and will include Bruno Mars and The Red Hot Chili Peppers? Answer: Super Bowl XLVIII, which is being hosted in East Rutherford, NJ at MetLife Stadium; home of the New York Giants and New York Jets football teams. In fact Super

Bowl XLVIII is the first NFL championship to be held in a cold weather city in the modern Super Bowl era which began with Super Bowl I on January 15, 1967. In fact this current Super Bowl has many firsts. It will be the first to be played on February 2, the first to be played on artificial turf since Super Bowl X and the first in which two US states (New York and New Jersey) will share hosting duties. It's also only the second meeting between two number one seeds from each conference in the last twenty years. (The AFC's Denver Broncos and the NFC's Seattle Seahawks).

Now, although this is the first cold-city location to host a super bowl outdoors, it will not be the first outdoor cold Superbowl game. The coldest game on record thus far belongs to Super Bowl VI held at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, Louisiana on January 16, 1972. The temperature at kick off was a windy 39 degrees Fahrenheit. So, although there was another "Cold Bowl" in the modern Super Bowl era, New Orleans doesn't normally count as a cold weather city. At the time I wrote this article, the prediction (too far away for a forecast) is for a pair of artic cold fronts to come sweeping into the north east which could bring along with them some trapped moisture. There is the potential for some light snow to be falling around kickoff time at 6:30 PM Eastern Time. The NFL says that in the event of a major winter storm, they will reschedule the game for either the Saturday before (February 1) or the Monday or Tuesday after-

ward. This move would be unprecedented however, since no Super Bowl has ever been postponed. What-
ever the case may be, I know that we have in store a historic match up ahead of the two best powerhouses in the NFL today. The league's number one defense in the Seattle Seahawks going up against the league's number one offense in the Denver Broncos.



A Historic Meeting of Two #1 Seeds in SB XLVIII

Perhaps SB XLVIII will look like this.

US Post Office Raises Stamp Price By 3 Cents



Beginning on Saturday, January 26, 2014, the price of a US postal stamp increased from .46 cents to .49 cents. This increase is projected to bring another \$2 billion dollars in additional revenue to the cash strapped US Postal Service. Other price increases include the additional ounce rate, all international letters and postcards. For more info visit usps.com.

US on Highway Diesel Fuel Prices for California:

1/06/14: \$4.119 per gallon
1/13/14: \$4.085 per gallon
1/20/14: \$4.056 per gallon



The Top 10 Valentine's Day Gifts of 2014

Now that we've given you the bad stuff, we wanted to share with you the top Valentine's gift items for 2014. To make it a bit easier for you we've also separated the top ten into two categories: His and Hers. Hope this helps your hunt for that perfect gift!

For Her

1. Roses
2. Diamond Jewelry
3. Women's Clothing
4. Designer Handbags
5. Designer Fragrances
6. Appealing Lingerie
7. Chocolate
8. Designer Women's Watches
9. Spa Gift Basket
10. Electronic Gadgets



For Him

1. Digital Camera
2. Tablet
3. Watch
4. Cologne
5. Leather Wallets
6. Gourmet Gift Basket
7. Shaving Kit
8. Magazine Subscription
9. Cufflinks/Bracelets
10. Cell Phone



Change From:

1 Week ago: - 0.029 ↓
1 Year ago: -0.026 ↓
Data as of 1/23/2014



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