

Single girl's guide to Valentine's Day

By Gabby Smith
Opinion Editor

If you were to right now google "Valentine's Day for singles," you'd get back a million hits with suggestions of how to be single during Valentines Day and not seem pathetic. However, upon reading these suggestions you'd realize that they themselves are pretty pathetic. "Love yourself extra," "treat yourself to chocolate," "give and be happy for others." You'd feel more depressed by reading about Valentine's day than you would being dumped on Valentine's Day. Why is it such a bad thing to be single on Valentine's? People are single all the time, so why does this particular day have to be any worse, the answer is that it doesn't. So now, being a single girl myself, I've decided to write a non-pathetic and actually realistic way to celebrate the day even if you're single.

The Single Girls Guide to Valentine's Day

Step 1: Look fierce!

Ok, so everybody else is going to look their best because they expect their significant other to take notice and buy them expensive stuff, but us single girls have different motives. Dress to depress, look so good that you make other girls wish they had thought to wear that. At the end of the day

you don't have to look good for anybody but you.

Step 2: Eat everything!

You don't need to eat dainty bites because, unlike homegirl with the hot boyfriend who works at Starbucks, you aren't going out to dinner with anybody and even if you were why limit yourself that way? Don't eat a salad, eat a steak! Also, don't eat chocolate just because it's Valentine's, eat it because you like it and you'd eat it any other time.

Step 3: Talk that Talk!

I'm firmly against homewrecking, but if you've got game now is the perfect time to use it. Flirt a little or a lot depending on your own personal preference. Or if you're not into talking to actual people just look at all those guys you like on TV and tell them what's what. The point is that you already look good and have treated yourself to a fine meal so now be the diva that you really are and stalk some man-meat, or woman-meat because I don't discriminate in my articles.

Step 4: Do you, Literally!

We're in college so it's safe to assume that the vast majority of us either have sex or masturbate on a semi-constant basis, that being said, today is your day. So what, you don't have a significant other? If it hasn't stopped you before, why should it stop you now? Not having a "bae" on Valentine's

Day doesn't mean you shouldn't feel satisfied.

Step 5: Laugh at pathetic gifts

Alright so this might be a tad bit mean but nevertheless it's great. As a girl we know when a gift says "baby I love you" and when it says "I'm a cheap piece of crap and you shouldn't have sex with me ever." Because we know these things, it is perfectly ok to discretely laugh at gifts that go into the second category, because though she might say she likes it, you know what she's really thinking.

Step 6: Keep it moving!

There's nobody around to judge if you binge watch Scandal on Netflix, or eat your weight in potato chips, or put avocado mask on your face, and for this very reason you should do all those things. Don't let the lack of a significant other send you into a downward spiral where you go to sleep in tears, instead feel free to do the things you'd normally do at night whatever they may be. Valentine's Day is a measly 24 hours in what is better known as the rest of your life.

So that concludes the Single Girls Guide to Valentine's Day. You don't have to take my advice, but the point of the matter is that just because you're single doesn't mean you have to feel bad or talk about how perpetually lonely you are, do the things that you'd normally do that make you happy, because really that's what Valentine's Day is about.

Prose & Con(gress) *Free to love: America moves towards marriage equality*

By Sam Blakley
Editor in Chief

Valentine's Day is coming up and like every year of my life so far, it snuck up on me. I probably wouldn't have known it was this weekend if not for the Clarion.

Like most other days, I will probably spend it sitting alone in my room watching the Daily Show on my computer and making a point to ignore my homework. Like many of my LGBT peers, I haven't really gotten to participate in Valentine's Day in the past.

Because I attend a school with a limited gay population and because I have known I was gay and have been fairly open about my sexuality for a number of years now, I haven't really done Valentine's Day. And, although I still won't do anything special this year, this year will be different for many LGBT community members.

Valentine's day has become a classic day for marriages, which makes sense as one of the only love centered holidays, and this year more people have the option to get married in their home state than ever before.

With a solid majority of states now allowing for same-sex marriages and a Supreme Court decision coming up in June, this year is definitely one to be excited for. Never before have I been able to comfortably say that we may see same-sex marriages be possible all across the country. Now I feel I can.

Now I won't try to make any moral argument here. I won't tell you how to believe and I will appreciate it if you don't tell me who to love, or sleep with depending on the circumstance. But, I will say that whether we agree or not the disposition of the country is forward move toward marriage equality.

Of course, there are always pockets of dissent when it comes to topics such as this, people who seem set on disagreeing. Take Alabama for example, Monday the marriage ban for same-sex couples was officially lifted. The very next day, yesterday, a judge set the hearing date to decide if local judges had to issue the licenses. This happened because nearly two-thirds of the counties in Alabama decided to not issue licenses despite the lifting of the ban.

A lot is happening to add to the confusion in this case, but the point is although advances are being made there are still setbacks.

My hope comes from a different part of the country, namely Washington, DC. The Supreme Court has hinted at a decision for the national same-sex case to be decided in June.

On Monday, when Alabama went into crisis mode as the gays flooded the courthouses to receive marriage licenses, state officials requested the Supreme Court hold the decision, pending appeals. The Supreme Court denied this request.

With a decision coming up in June, just around the corner now, why would the Supreme Court allow marriages that would then be reversed in a few months?

It is probably because they don't intend to revoke those licenses.

This is the great news. For the first time, there is hope that this year Valentine's can be enjoyed by LGBT couples like anyone else. Maybe someday even I will spend Valentine's enjoying the company of a loved one and not just my computer, but this is a pretty good start.