

MEREDITH HERALD

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Senate urges students to vote on Open House

by Traci Latta

Whether Meredith adopts an open house policy will partly be decided Thursday when the Student Government Senate invites the student body to vote on the Open House referendum.

The Open House referendum was written by Senate Chair Kelly Formy-Duval, Residence Hall Board Chair Jennifer Smith, Senate Adviser Cheryl Smith and the Office of Resident Life. Formy-Duval and Smith will present a proposal to the trustees Friday, February 25, along with the results from the voting, Senate surveys, RHB sign-in results and security reports compiled from the past trial Open Houses.

The ballot students will vote with includes the referendum, which asks students if they want open visitation on

given Saturdays or Sundays. The ballot will also ask students for their classification and if they are residence hall students or commuters. This will ensure that every student at Meredith has a voice on whether this referendum is adopted.

The proposal has been two years in the making and as of last spring, when open visitation had its first trial run, the Senate has been following up on the results of each visitation and listening to the comments of the students. There have been both supporters and opponents of open house visitation and the decision of the trustees could go either way. It is this fact that has Formy-Duval stressing to the student body that they need to take this issue seriously and

vote.

"I'm going to put up balloons all over campus to let the students know that they need to vote," said Formy-Duval.

Formy-Duval also stated that if the trustees did not accept the proposal that the Senate would not push the issue any further.

Formy-Duval and Smith will go before the trustees again in April. If the proposal in February is taken into consideration, the trustees could have a decision on whether Meredith will permanently adopt an Open House policy.

The Senate will be sponsoring an Open House this Saturday from 1-5 p.m. Senate asks students to please remember the conditions of Open House.

Vote on the Open House referendum

February 17, 1994

Cate Center

9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dining Hall

11:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Don't forget to vote!

Yes, Meredith...there is a St. Valentine

by Traci Latta

It's that time of year again when throngs of people flock to the Hallmark store to purchase sappy cards professing their love to their significant others, mothers and friends. This year I personally boycotted Valentine's Day. Not having a Valentine this year and not wanting to see other people walking around with stars in their eyes, flowers in their hands and rings on their fingers left me with an overwhelming feeling of disgust (and curiosity). My feeling of curiosity led me on a quest for the party responsible for Valentine's Day, and this is what I found out:

The Legend of St. Valentine

The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and he had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ, and not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing

his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus' life, a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning,

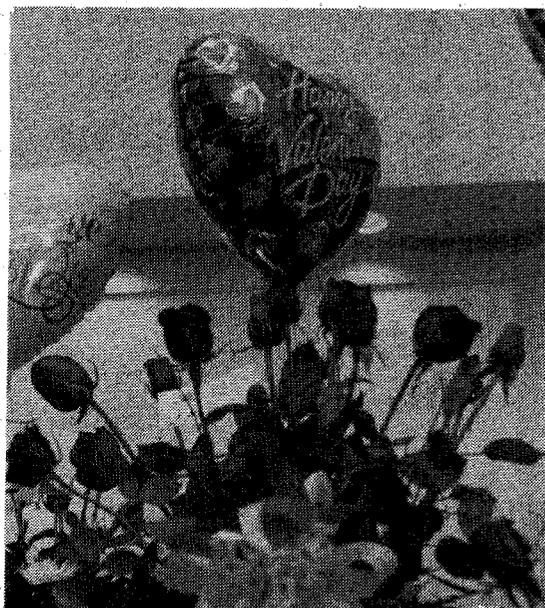


photo by Frances Pate

Those of us without valentines avoid Johnson Hall on Valentine's Day, while those who receive flowers and balloons from that special someone hurry to pick up their presents.

the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since

birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted in his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day.

"Yes, my child, He hears each one," he replied.

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!"

"God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe," Julia said intensely. "I

do." She knelt and grasped his hand.

Then they prayed together. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia cried, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"

"Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed.

On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God, and he signed it "From Your Valentine."

His sentence was carried out the next day, February 14, 270 AD, near a gate that was later named Porta Valenti in his memory. He was buried in what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia herself planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, St. Valentine's Day, messages of love and devotion are exchanged around the world.

There you have it. The scoop on where Valentine's day came from. Wow, aren't you glad you exchange cards now instead of trees?