

Ask Gigi

Dear Gigi,

Help! I broke up with my boyfriend "G" of four years in an attempt to take some space from guys. But much to my dismay, now I'm being pursued by multiple suitors! I've been dating "J" for a couple months and I like him a lot, but I'm not ready to commit. Meanwhile, my high school crush "A" is cyber stalking me on Facebook, co-worker "B" is physically stalking me at work, and my friend's ex-boyfriend "C" just asked me on a date yesterday! How should I handle all of them...or better yet, get rid of them?

Sincerely,

Dated-Out Doozy

Dear Dated-Out Doozy,

I wish I had your problem! But if avoiding these men is what you really want, you need to set firm boundaries. Adjust your Facebook privacy settings so that "A" can only see what you want him to see. You can block him, put him on limited profile, or configure your settings so that he can't contact you. Confront "B" at work and tell him he needs to back off because you're clearly not interested. If he doesn't quit, threaten to report him to security for harassment—and then actually do. Suitor "C" may be tricky, but it's pretty easy to pull the "I never date friends' exes" card; that's one unwritten rule of both guy AND girl friendships that's rarely ignored, so he should understand. It sounds to me like you think "J" is still a feasible prospect, so keep dating him casually! If he really digs you, he'll stay friendly and stick around until you're ready to make him your number one. And if you truly just want to be alone for awhile—tell the Alphabet Boys that you're busy ridin' solo! There's no shame in staying single, sister.

Yours truly,

Gigi

St. Patrick's Day: The Man Behind the Holiday

Andie Perry, Staff Writer

The town is painted green with merriment flowing onto the streets. Everywhere you look all you see is a sea of green. People are walking around wearing anything they find that is any shade of green or has green on it. Strangers are talking and laughing as music and excess noise getting louder. The cries of the poor victims being pinched, because they do not have any green on, can be heard in random spots of the crowd. In some cities they go as far as to turn the water green. What is this commotion that has everyone in an uproar?

The day in question is March 17th, which is known as St. Patrick's Day. This holiday originated in Ireland and traveled across the ocean to the United States, but how did it become a holiday? The saint the holiday is named for was given the name Maewyn and he almost did not become a bishop in Ireland, because he lacked the scholarship required for the job, not only became a saint, but is the patron saint of Ireland. However, there is a theory that he was born in Wales or Scotland, in about AD 385. Although he is a Christian saint, he considered himself to be a Pagan before he was 16 years old. At this time he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, it was said he became closer to God. After six years of being in slavery, somehow he escaped. This was a lot to go through as a teenager.

He went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery for twelve years under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre. During his training he became aware that his purpose in life was to convert the Pagans to Christianity. He wanted to go to Ireland to convert the native Pagans to Christianity, but the Powers That Be appointed St. Palladius instead. Two years later, St. Palladius transferred to Scotland and St. Patrick was appointed as second bishop to Ireland. He was quite successful at converting Pagans to Christianity. The Celtic Druids were very upset about this. He was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He established monasteries all across Ireland and he also set up church-

es and schools, which would help aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years, and then he retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461, thus commemorating the holiday since then.

There are many legends surrounding St. Patrick, such as driving the snakes from Ireland or raising the dead. He also used three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity, which caused his followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

So, as the day comes up and you are donning your green and getting ready for celebrations, remember the challenges one man had to go through to make this holiday what it is today.

Local Celebrations include:

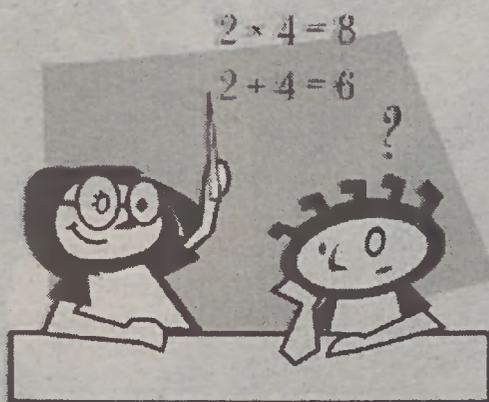
-TIR NA NOG, local pub playing Irish music all night
218 South Blount St

-St. Patrick's Day!! With: Zoogma & Special Guest
Thursday, Mar 17 9:30p to Friday, Mar 18 12:00a at The Pour House Music Hall, Raleigh, NC



Leprechauns and shamrocks are common symbols of the holiday.
image via hellokids.com

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