

Alone for the holidays



Michelle Ha
Editor-in-Chief

The holidays come and go with familiar faces, endless wish lists, and countless dollars thrown to the ravenous dog named the “American Economy.” However, at least three times a year, on January 1st, February 14th, and December 25th, the same thought crosses the minds of the lonely, single citizens across the nation: Where is my holiday honey?

Winter time brings a double depressing whammy: Christmas and the New Year. The single status is apparently a disease during the holidays. Sadly, for these single Suzy’s and Simon’s, the only gifts they’ll be getting for the season are from their parents, relatives, and friends. But, don’t pay attention to that extensive list of loved ones! It doesn’t matter at all as long as they still don’t have one from a loving significant other, or at least a kiss for the very first of the New Year.

I’ve seen both sides of the situation: “single” vs. “in a relationship” in MySpace status. Yes, I’ve been “in a relationship” for Christmas. I got one gift for our first Christmas, but I never saw him during the break. So, happiness inventory shows an additional set of pajamas from Victoria Secret that I received from someone I kissed who was not my relative or friend. For our second Christmas, I had two gifts under the tree, one from him, the other from his mother. Happiness inventory now shows three gifts from someone who was not related to me. However, I never saw brow or toe of him during Winter Break. Happiness inventory shows nothing new besides three gifts. Conclusion: Fourteen previous years of the single life was “outdone” by only three presents and no new faces for the holidays. If I really cared for superficial items, I might have said this was an incredible feat. But I don’t, so I can’t, and I didn’t.

So, why is it that so many care about having a boyfriend or girlfriend for the winter if the material gift doesn’t really change anything? Maybe it’s the bitter cold, the warm, romantic fires, the lovey-dovey holiday jingles, and the endless possibilities for puckering chapped lips in order to share the healing power of Chap Stick. But, let’s cut to the chase and quit beating around the bush, people. Don’t basketball homecoming and Winter Formal ring a daunting

bell? These are the events, the warning signs, the trains coming at full speed down the tracks on a direct collision course with your single, untaken heart! The dances scream, “Only single silly geese don’t come!” Walk in dateless or with your friends? Though no one will voice it, everyone will be thinking, “He/She is just making an excuse for not having a date!” Snickering will ensue, and who will be at the butt of the joke? That sad, lonely Single Suzy and Simon standing awkwardly in the dark corner of the room. Boohoo.

Oh, wait! But, I have the answer to this one, too. I’ve been to dances and formals single, dateless, and even taken, believe it or not! Single, I’ve taken the dance floor in an eager frenzy, surrounded by sweaty, tired, grinding bodies. And, I have casually stepped out to get fresh air whenever a slow song began playing. (Don’t act like you don’t do it, too! I know everyone does!) In a relationship, I’ve taken the dance floor in an eager frenzy, surrounded by sweaty, tired, grinding bodies. And, though I was able to have my slow dance, in no way could I ever talk to my significant other, for the music was so loud that nothing could be heard, nor could I look him straight into the eyes without being embarrassed, for I’d be so sweaty that my formal makeup, fancy dress, and sassy high heels could not make up for my sticky, oily face. Conclusion: Going to a dance with or without a date doesn’t change the fact that grinding, with its suggestive movements and raunchy show, is the most entertaining wonder in the world, and that slow dances are long, awkward, and uncomfortable. We all really only go to the dances to get our grinds on, go crazy with our friends, and look smoking’ hot and we all know it, though we all may not admit it.

What am I, the crazy lunatic with the darkened column in the school newspaper, saying? I am saying that the holidays are, in no way, a reason to bemoan the single life. Though they are commonly displayed with activities for couples, the holidays are even more saturated with activities for families and friends alike. Carrying a honey on your arm is no different than wrapping those arms around your countless friends in the halls, all of you wearing your matching colors and bearing tons of gifts from one another. Celebrate these friends and your family. The season is about appreciating what you have, not complaining about what you want. Instead of fighting to receive someone’s love, how about try giving a little love to others? Maybe then you’ll finally obtain what you truly want beneath all of that boyfriend/girlfriend talk: unadulterated, wholesome acceptance.

When not just an A is good enough

Nasareta Lemusu
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Being a “successful” event, as informed by ASB member, Norma Trujillo, Bolsa Grande participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, December the 3rd.



Junior Robbie Nguyen in the giving spirit.

Although that same day was a late start, which conflicted with many appointment schedules, the event pulled through with over 78 pints of blood donations. “I did it for some ice cream!” says Danny Phan, who probably secretly enjoyed the pleasure of knowing he and others are saving a life. Each donor was “rewarded” with a free snack after each donation. Red Cross provided the donors a cornucopia of snacks to munch on after their gra-

cious deeds. Ranging from the scrumptious Nutter Butters, to the thirst quenching Welch’s orange juice and more. Also, each donor was given a sticker and a pin, revealing their pride in donating. Besides this though, it’s the thought that really counts; the thought of saving a life. A life that could be way across

whole world.

When donating, one must know that it is really not like another visit to the doctor. It is a truly a welcoming experience. Each nurse is trained and skilled in their practices. Also, the “scary” moment of a needle

being poked in you are merely just a pinch. This only lasting a second. As informed by Red Cross, these donations are to be given to the needs of the people who are in need of certain blood types. Some reasons one should donate blood is the fact that in the U.S., every 2 seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion. In the U.S. 38,000 units of blood are used in the U.S. (One unit being equal to a pint). After the withdrawal of the blood, the donated blood is

sent through 13 screen tests to check its eligibility of it being a potential use to someone. Eleven of these 13 tests are used to check the blood for Hepatitis (a liver infection), HIV (the virus that causes Aids), HTLV-I (a virus associated with leukemia), HTVL-II, and even syphilis. To pass through as a donation, one must meet the requirements of being at least 17 years of age (some states allow 16 year-olds), weigh at least 110 lbs, and in good health. Though blood has been donated, information would always be reviewed. The main 5 layers are checked for safety procedures; blood donors’ eligibility standards, pass the individual screening, pass laboratory testing, donor record check, and also it is confidential if there are any exclusion of donations. Some of the uses of the blood donations include; bone marrow transplants that require 20 units of blood, heart surgery that requires 6 units of blood, and also an organ transplant that requires 40 units of blood. The whole idea of having two people connected by the same blood is a fascinating subject. Saving a life is a wholly different, but way better thought to keep in mind when donating.

Mayans suggest doomsday in December

Tuan Vu
Photo Editor

In most cultures, December is a time for joy and merry-making. To some, it is a time for giving and sharing. Contrary to popular cultural connotations of the month of December, however, the Mayans thought differently. According to the Mayans, the month of December spells out disaster, chaos, and destruction. Even though the Mayan end-of-the-earth theory is just that, a theory, keep in mind that there are some basis to help support it.

Mayans were seen as an incredibly advanced race during their time. Even today, they are believed to bypass some modern advances with the ones from their time, according to historians.

One aspect of Mayan culture that is of interest is their calendar, which dates back to August 11, 3114 B.C.E., and appears to end on December 21, 2012. A speculation as to why the date ends there involves scientific finds from various remains of the Mayan culture. Many people deny this assumption and reason that the Earth will be just fine. The unbelieving public believe that both the scientists and the ancient Mayans were just speculating without facts and evidences.

The events predicted are believed to come as a result of the Winter Solstice. During the Winter Solstice, the Earth will be in galactic alignment

with a black hole in the center of the universe. At the same time, solar events (such as the solar maximum, sunspot activity, and solar pole reversal) will occur. Along with those events, scientists have predicted that there will be comets and meteors colliding with the Earth. To make matters worse, massive earthquakes and explosive volcanoes are also forecasted for the doomsday.

While many will be celebrating the holiday sea-

son in December 2012, others will be preparing for the worst. Theory or not, mankind’s destruction is a topic which interests many people and scientists alike. Although this is just a mere speculation, it is best to greatly consider that the Mayans were masters of astrology during their time.

Should we be skeptical? Should we prepare for our demise? Or should we just enjoy our last three years on earth?

Winston the Freshman in... Six Days of Christmas

By Michelle Ha

