

Valentine's Day



- Valentine was a Christian priest in Rome a long time ago. When Claudius, the Roman emperor at the time, did not want young men to get married, Valentine performed marriages in secret. He was punished and put in prison for this. Claudius killed Valentine on February 14th. Two hundred years later, the church made February 14th a special day to remember Saint Valentine – the patron saint of lovers.
- A different story says that February 14th is the day that birds choose their mates, so people also choose the ones they will love on that day.
- In ancient Roman and Greek cultures, Cupid was the god of love. He's a chubby little baby with magic arrows. If Cupid shoots his arrow into someone's heart, that person will fall in love with the next person he or she sees! Cupid creates a lot of trouble this way...
- Chocolate, or "xocoatl," comes from the Aztecs of Mexico. The Aztec mixed chili peppers with chocolate to make a drink. The Spanish brought this drink to Europe but added sugar instead of chili peppers. Chocolate contains a chemical called phenylethylamine, which is the same chemical the body makes when a person is in love!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

IBT TOEFL
Feb 5: 10am
Feb 26: 10am

Institutional
TOEFL
Feb 18: 2pm

TOEIC
Feb 12: 10am

ACTIVITIES

Chinese New
Year
Celebration
Feb 3

Valentine's
Day
Celebration
Feb 14

Basketball
Practice
Feb 11, 18,
25: 9am

Belly Dance
Show
Feb 19

Film Group
Project
Every Tues-
day

VALENTINE'S DAY PLANS



Valentine's Day is just around the corner. On February 14, cupid will be working hard to spread love in the area. Candy, flowers and diamond rings will be exchanged between loved ones in the name of St. Valentine.

So what are LSI students going to do on this special day? We took a survey and here are the results of the five most popular answers.

1. Bake chocolate for their Valentine
2. Have a romantic dinner with their loved one
3. Stay at home, watching TV or sleeping
4. Go out to celebrate as a group
5. Drink alone or with a friend

<I-TING FAN>

TEACHER INTERVIEW



Stephen Sims is an instructor here at LSI in the morning and afternoon. He teaches Grammar in the morning and GRE/GMAT in the afternoon. But what does he do after he gets off work? We asked a list of some ex-cogitating questions for him to answer.

Q: How do you keep passion in your job?

A: I always drink green tea and when I get angry, I massage my pressure point.

Q: What do you do in your spare time?

A: I go on long trips with my friends.

Q: What sports do you like?

A: I like hiking, golf, tennis, and surfing.

Q: How long have you lived in Los Angeles?

A: I have lived here for four years.

Q: What is a must see in Southern California?

A: I recommend Joshua Tree National Park and the Mohave Desert.

<eunky sa & I-Ting Fan>

LEVI STRAUSS LEVI STRAUSS



Levi Strauss – What's in a Name? A brand!

Denim blue jeans are one of the most symbolic cultural objects in the United States. People wear them not only casually but also for fashion. They influence our fashion scenes. On May 20, 1873, denim blue jeans were invented to be used as miner's work pants. Levi Strauss & Co. was the first jeans company.

Levi Strauss was a German-Jewish immigrant to the U.S. He was born in Germany in 1829. At the age of 18, he and his family sailed to the US to join his brother's company which was a wholesale dry goods business in New York. In 1853, he moved to San Francisco to open a branch of his brother's business. The California gold rush was in full swing at that time. San Francisco became the hub through which many "forty-niners" came, so everyday items were in short supply. The gold rush made a fortune for Strauss' business. He was selling canvas to use for tents and wagon covers, but the prospectors complained they needed pants which were strong enough to last.

Late 1872 was the turning point in Levi Strauss' career. Jacob Davis, who was a trailer and one of Levi's customers in Nevada, started making men's work pants with metal rivets for greater strength. He needed a business partner who had money for the patent, so he asked Levi Strauss to fund his idea and start a company together. Strauss accepted his offer. On May 20, 1873, they received the U.S. patent for using copper rivets to strengthen the pockets of denim work pants. The riveted jeans developed a reputation for durability and quality. The trademark of Levi's Jeans - two horses pulling jeans from each side - show us the company's confidence in the jeans' durability. Their company grew quickly and Strauss' fortune was estimated to be around six million.

Levi Strauss succeeded in his business and he was also a Jewish community leader. He contributed his fortune to some orphan asylums, the University of California, and various other civic and cultural institutions. After his death in 1902, his family inherited his business.

(Mineko Yoshida)

SALSA NIGHT

Los Angeles has the most interesting places to enjoy Salsa dancing. There are a lot of bars and lounges which have Salsa nights. One of the most popular places is called The Conga Room.

This is a fantastic restaurant by day and early evening, and it becomes a dance club by night where you can enjoy music, laughter, and a wonderful time with friends. If you don't know how to salsa dance, there is nothing to fear. The Conga Room offers free salsa lessons to even novice dancers of salsa on Thursday and Friday nights. You might even meet some Hollywood "A" listers because The Conga Room is owned by none other than Jennifer Lopez, who is currently an American Idol judge. For more information about salsa night and the location, go to

www.congaroom.com

<Olena Bunchak>



WORKING MOM EQUALS FAT KIDS



As if working mothers didn't already have enough to feel guilty about, a new study suggests that the more time they spend working, the heavier their children become. Researchers analyzed data on 900 school-aged children and found that the cumulative time that a child's mother worked was associated with a small but measurable increase in the child's body mass index (BMI), a measurement that takes into account height and weight. Surprisingly, there was no evidence that the increase in BMI was linked to more TV viewing, a decrease in physical activity, or more time spent unsupervised. The researchers concluded that it may be changes in children's eating and sleeping patterns (factors that were not included in the data) that account for the BMI changes. For this study, they examined data on 900 children that was compiled from telephone and in-person interviews conducted in third, fifth and sixth grades. In addition, they looked at the mothers' employment status and schedule beginning from when their children were 3 months old. The effect was even greater among children in fifth and sixth grades. The reason the mothers are working can have a very different impact on how their families are eating, and that kind of gets glossed over in this study.

Horoscopes 2011

Aries

Your karma is informing almost everything that happens to you today, so make sure that you're keeping up with everything that has gone before. If you need a boost, try a quick good deed!

Taurus

Think ahead to the far future and see if you can get your friends, family, or co-workers to follow along. You are tapped into trends and issues that are shaping the future, so it's easier than ever to make predictions.

Gemini

Your career prospects are somewhat shaky today -- but that just means you've got a challenge! It's one of those days when you can feel the possibilities start to bend to your will.

Cancer

Those intuitive powers of yours are kicking in today in a new, more powerful way. You might be able to get your colleagues to see the weird business that is starting to trickle in from an unexpected source.

Leo

Keep a tighter grip on your emotions today, or you may find it difficult to get through the day. Little things might rile you up, but if you keep your cool, they shouldn't distract you from what's important.

Virgo

Try to avoid any new projects today -- your energy is much better spent on finishing up the stuff that you need to do first. In fact, you may clear off so much space that you can take a long, early break!

Libra

Someone close to you needs help in a big way -- though it's nothing life or death! They just need to be told their outfit needs work, or that their feng shui is off-balance. You're just the one to do it!

Scorpio

Dreams may become real today -- or at least slightly more so. You need to focus your abundant energy on figuring out what is possible and how you can go about bringing it to life.

Sagittarius

Your thoughtful nature is more obvious than ever today, though it may also make you somewhat more cautious than usual. There's nothing wrong with that, as long as you do act eventually!

Capricorn

Something major happens to a friend today that demands nothing but the most intense compassion -- and you've got it to spare! In fact, you may decide to devote the day to their well-being.

Aquarius

Your spiritual side is dominant today -- maybe too much so? It can be hard for you to disentangle mystical truth from hard reality, and that might make it tough to make big decisions.

Pisces

You can do yourself a big favor today by just doing whatever comes to mind first -- your instincts are sure to be true. It may also be a good time for you to check in with friends and family.