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OPINION

The jaded, the languished, and those in love- they never go away

By OLIVIA SPERANZA
Opinion editor

The Valentine's Day that we all know is synonymous with showing the person you love how much they mean to you. From my observations, I've discovered that Valentine's Day brings forth three groups of people: the jaded, the languished, and those in love. You can count on seeing at least one of these three this February 14.

Let me begin with the jaded. This group takes on the attitude

that they have been through the worst in relationships and no one's problems can top their own. Not only this, but they hate the holiday that they're too cool for while they're single. "I'm just going to get drunk and turn my phone off!" I heard one of my friends say. "Jaded," I thought, or is this just self-pity personified? Either way, this Hallmark holiday certainly achieved its goal of making her believe that Valentine's Day was about only one concept. Covering up hurt and loneli-

ness with anger and sarcasm is always entertaining to watch. Especially when I saw first hand how into Valentine's Day she was last year when she was dating her new boyfriend.

The languished are my personal favorite. These love-hungry, relationship-challenged types are always telling stories of heartbreak and how they let "The One" get away. Dwelling in the past and over-thinking what cannot be changed, their stories never fail to make the rest of us uncomfortable. "One day man, I swear

to God, I'll get her back." How do you tell someone to stop beating a dead horse and just get over it without sounding insensitive? This group, I have to say, I enjoy observing, but avoid one-on-one conversations with them at all costs.

Last, but never forgotten, are the smitten and in love. How nice it is to be in an intimate relationship with another person. Are all of these actually healthy and fully functioning unions? Probably not, but they look like they're working like well-oiled

machinery in public. To this I say, "Excellent!" It makes the jaded and languished jealous and defines their groupings even more and therefore provides greater support for my theory. To the happy and functioning couples out there, I think the Valentine's Day that America has come to know, fits you like a glove. So spend your money on forgettable gifts, and enjoy the day because next February 14, you'll probably be one of the jaded or worse yet, the languished.

A personal experience that shaped my perception of Feb. 14

By AMAN MEHRZAI
News editor

Valentine's Day is one of my least favorite days. Not because I'm single, I have a lovely wife and two kids. Not because of an economic protest statement, although this holiday, like many others, equates to nothing but buying. I don't like this day because I associate it to a melancholic memory.

I was 14 years old, it was the day after Valentine's Day, my

parents, my brother, and I went to my older sister's house for dinner. My other sister was working late at Walgreen's.

After dinner, I mysteriously fell asleep. My parents didn't want to wake me, so they went to get my other sister from work, with the intention of picking me up on the way back. If I had been awake, I surely would have gone with them.

I woke up that night wondering where they were. My brother assumed that they were doing

some late-night shopping, so we went home.

As soon as we got home, a call came telling us that my parents, sister and niece who went along with them to pick up my sister, were involved in an accident. My brother and I drove around to find the scene not knowing the intensity of the accident.

It was worse than we thought. To make a long story short, we followed the ambulance to the hospital and found out that my

sister's elbow was broken, her spleen split, along with a gash on her forehead patched with 150 stitches. My niece broke both legs at the femur bone because she was pegged beneath the drivers seat. My mother and father both died on impact. They were last seen going to the car, holding hands.

So every time this year, I remember what happened. I am not telling you this so you could hate this superficial day, but I am trying to make the readers

realize the importance of loving one another, especially your parents. As the cliché goes, "you don't know what you got until it's gone." Cherish every day with your loved ones as if it is your last day alive.

Okay, I'll quit sounding like the love poet RUMI, but I will leave you with this: you do not know when death will approach you. Cherish each moment because Valentine's Day is no more special than any other day of the year.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What's your ideal Valentine's Day gift?



JASON TORRADO
Pre-pharmacy

"Dinner at a nice restaurant."



JESSICA TORRES
Undecided

"Something that he put time and thought into."



MARK CHANDLER
Psychology

"A coin-operated boy."



TANIA SALAZAR
Child development

"A hand-made card."



HOP HOANG
Chemical engineering

"A kiss."