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The Clarion

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THE CLARION / FEBRUARY 2022

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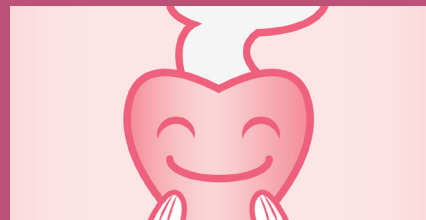
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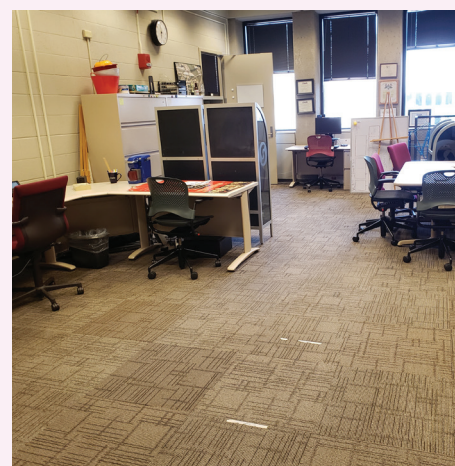
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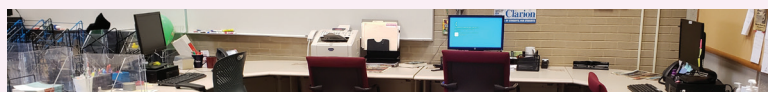
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The Clarion



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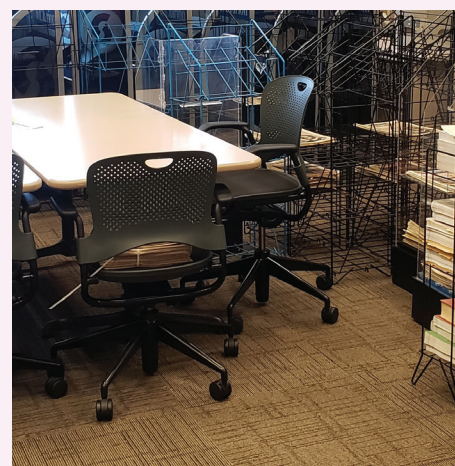
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Photos by Jessica Graue



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MARCH EVENTS



SINCLAIR EVENTS:

*Interactive Mapping Series:
Human Trafficking*

March 3, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dayton Sinclair Campus, Library Loggia

Diversity Film Series: Hillbilly

March 3, 3 - 5 p.m.
Sinclair Conference Center, Room 12-116

*National Let's Laugh Day (STAND-
UP COMEDY HOUR)*

March 17, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Dayton Sinclair Campus, Building 8 in the stage area

*Spring Mixer: Student Club &
Organization Fair*

March 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Dayton Sinclair Campus, Library Loggia

Puppies on Campus!

March 31, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dayton Sinclair Campus, Building 8 in the stage area

DAYTON EVENTS:

The Price Is Right Live

March 6, 6 p.m.
The Schuster Center, 1 W 2nd St, Dayton, OH 45402

*Dear Evan Hansen - Broadway in
Dayton*

March 8 -13, Times for each performance vary.
The Schuster Center, 1 W 2nd St, Dayton, OH 45402

*Harrigan's St. Patrick's Day 5K
Charity Run*

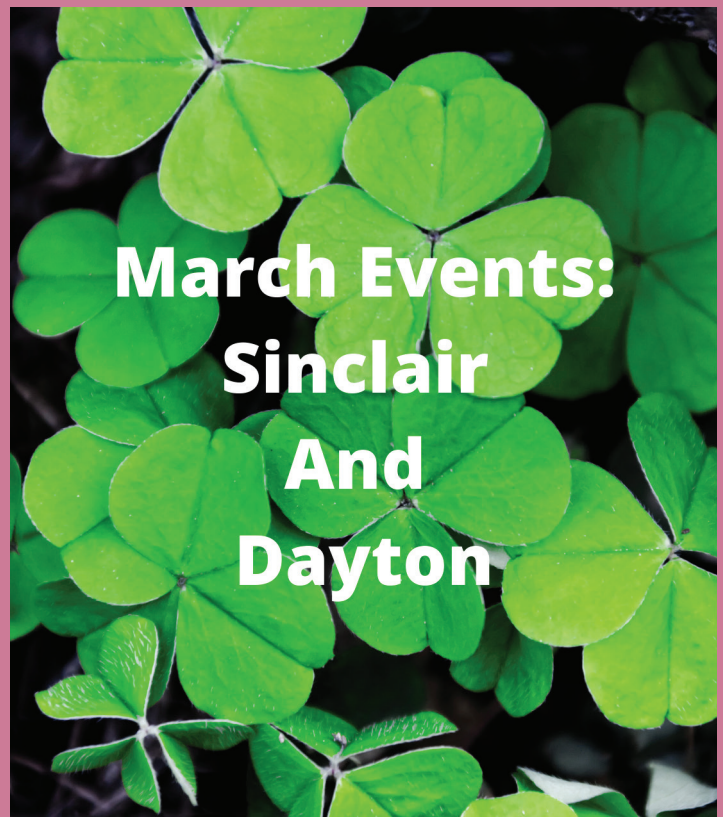
March 12, 9 a.m.
Harrigan's Tavern, 4070 Marshall Road, Kettering, OH 45429

The Peking Acrobats

March 16, 7:30 p.m.
Victoria Theatre, 138 North Main St., Dayton, OH 45402

Full Moon Hike at Phillips Park

March 28, 8 - 9 p.m.
Phillips Park, 2132 Dayton Xenia Rd, Beavercreek, OH 45434



Graphic by Jeri Hensley

Sinclair Holds Introductory Discussion on Critical Race Theory

CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Graphic by Danielle Williams

On Jan. 21, Sinclair hosted an introductory discussion on a topic that has been in the news a lot lately: critical race theory. The event was hosted by Michael Carter, Sinclair's Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President, and Jared Cutler, Assistant Provost of Accreditation and Assessment. Critical race theory (CRT), studies racism as a social construct and the historical impacts it's had on housing, education, jobs, and the justice system.

"Proponents say learning the history of racism is crucial to addressing inequities," said Carter. "Critics say the theory teaches that the U.S. is fundamentally racist... Most people who don't want critical race theory taught can't really define it."

Teaching CRT has been banned or restricted in 15 states including Florida, Montana, New Hampshire, and Idaho. There are also possible bans happening in over a dozen other states, including Ohio. Carter

reiterated that CRT is never taught in K-12 education, but mostly in grad school and law school.

"Here's the slippery slope of this: when we say you can't teach things that are 'anti-American,' you run into these issues where we've got book-banning going on all across the country," said Carter. "We're letting parents define what should be taught in schools."

Books about Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement have been banned from schools, including a children's book about Ruby Bridges, the first child to integrate a segregated New Orleans school in 1960. The ban was because the white people in the story—who screamed slurs at the 6-year-old, withdrew their children from the school and refused to teach or have classes with her—did not have "enough redemption" in the book.

At the same time, critics of CRT have nothing to say about Alabama and

Mississippi still celebrating Robert E. Lee Day, Tennessee having a state park named after the founder of the KKK, and Mississippi declaring April Confederate History Month.

"Understand this fight against the teaching of critical race theory isn't about what's divisive at all," said Carter. "It's about what makes certain people uncomfortable and [they] don't want to teach it."

Carter described banning books and CRT as dangerous.

"When you talk about not being able to teach anything divisive, now you can't teach about the Holocaust, can you? Because there are going to be some people who may feel bad," Carter said. "If you've got German ancestry, we have to not teach about the Holocaust because that may make you feel bad or guilty."

"Maus," a graphic novel about the Holocaust, was recently banned in a county in Tennessee.

“To shield people from feeling discomfort over historic actions by their race, nationality or gender,” Cutler said. “Keep in mind that they have already outlawed CRT being taught in schools, so this is above and beyond the whole CRT discussion even. How in the world do you teach about slavery? How in the world do you teach about Jim Crow without people feeling some discomfort? They should feel uncomfortable about those things.”

Carter took some time to explain the context of the extremely divided time we are living in, as far as the social and political climate. He quoted Thomas Friedman, author of “The World is Flat” who said: “People aren’t afraid of change they’re afraid of loss.”

“People feel that if someone else is getting something that they’re losing something,” Carter went on to explain. “And to be honest, that’s what a lot of people are afraid of.”

The demographics of America are becoming less white, which is scary to some people.

“We’re more segregated today than we were 30-years-ago in this country,” Carter said. “When that happens you live in these echo chambers. There’s this group-speak and group-think, and you’re not challenging your ideas and thoughts when you don’t come in contact with other folks.”

Carter pointed out how people of color (POC) don’t have a choice on whether or not they interact with white people, especially in the Midwest.

“White people in this country, if

they don’t desire to interact with people of different races, they don’t have to for the most part,” he said. “Unless you live in a large urban environment.”

People of different races have a different memory of America’s past. Not everyone knows about the Tulsa Race Massacre or that the prison system was expanded because the unpaid labor of slavery needed to be recreated, especially in the South.

People are more aware of acts of racism today because they are filmed on a regular basis.

“Think of where we would be if George Floyd’s murder had not been filmed,” said Carter. “It would have been a debate about what happened, but you could not debate [the video]. You couldn’t change the narrative.”

““ People feel that if someone else is getting something that they’re losing something ””

Another factor of today’s societal divide is social media, which has normalized conspiracy theories, rejecting facts and accepting lies as the truth.

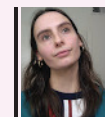
“The truth doesn’t matter anymore,” Carter said. “Now we can’t even decide what the truth is.”

Cutler also spoke about the importance of equity over equality. Everyone in society has different needs, so it doesn’t make sense to

give everyone the same thing.

“Personally, I don’t understand all the pushback that we’re seeing against equity,” he said. “It seems to me that it makes all the sense in the world that people have different needs and should be provided with what their circumstances require in order for them to succeed.” Cutler continued by saying, “There are things we have to talk about. There are things we have to deal with if we’re going to make progress.”

Sinclair is committed to holding discussions like these about difficult topics such as the history of racism in America. To see what other discussion events are coming up at Sinclair, view the events calendar on their website sinclair.edu.



Rachel Rosen
Associate Editor

Black History Month

This February, people all over the country are observing Black History Month, and Sinclair is no exception. Several events will be taking place at Sinclair throughout the month.

According to the NAACP Website, what would become known as Black history started out as a week-long event held in the second week of February, due to it being between the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas. Carter G. Woodson, the event's founder, was passionate about preserving Black history, so he created the celebration in 1926. Then, 50 years later, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month and declared it a national holiday. Since then the event has spread worldwide, with Canada taking part since 1995 and England since 1987.

Locally, Sinclair will be taking part in several ways, one of which being the Black Unity Conference. This two-day event featured several Zoom presentations; author Heather McGhee discussed her new book

and a webinar led by Doctor Brittany D. Jones were just some of the presentations that took place during the conference.

On Feb. 9 and 10, students and staff were able to see a production of "The Meeting" absolutely free, and seating was on a first come first served basis. The play, written by Jeff Stetson, theorizes what would occur if Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X held a secret meeting in a Harlem Hotel, to discuss their views and beliefs. After the 30-minute play, there was a panel discussing the content.

Other events taking place over the next month include a trivia night dedicated to Black history and a discussion on the book "Bayard Rustin: Angelic Troublemaker." The novel chronicles the life of Bayard Rustin, the man behind the March on Washington, and ponders why most Americans aren't familiar with him. This will be an online event held over Zoom.

Black History Month is a time where

Americans can look back and celebrate all the achievements made by African Americans in the country; however, it is also a time to recognize all the atrocities committed against the Black community in our nation's history and today. To learn more about the events going on at Sinclair throughout Black History Month, view the events calendar on Sinclair's website sinclair.edu.



Alex Cutler
Reporter



Graphic by Jeri Hensley

Sinclair Student Starts Esports Club



Graphic by Júlio César Pitaluga Jr.

Across the country, there are many colleges that offer different types of clubs, group activities, and sports teams. One Sinclair student has come up with an idea to include esports – a competitive and casual gaming club – for Sinclair.

Caitlin Taylor, who is majoring in Business Management and Analytics, came up with the idea to bring esports to Sinclair back in October 2021.

Taylor wants her idea to be involved around different types of video games such as puzzles, RPGs (Role Playing Games), MMOs (Massive Multiplayer Online), and FPSs (First Person Shooter). This was originally started on Discord, which is an instant messaging and digital distribution platform.

Taylor wants students to be able to use their Sinclair email and password to log into Discord; this would connect everyone in the club so they could chat amongst each other, keeping it filtered and appropriate. Discord offers an option of a Student Hub server, which means it is

regulated through the college. The server to join through Discord is called “Video Game Hangout”. This group allows students to chat about strategies, share gaming memes, or to find a group of people willing to step up and be a leader of this group.

without leadership roles and student officers,” Taylor said.

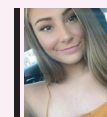
To become official, Sinclair clubs need to be approved by at least ten people, including the students in the leadership roles.



This club is a chance for students to use their videogame skills not only for fun, but for determined gaming and helping develop technology skills and gaming strategy. Taylor has since been working with the design department in Building 13 to make flyers and help spread the word. For more information about the club or how to join, email Taylor at caitlin.taylor@sinclair.com.

For a club to be established at Sinclair, it needs to be approved and led by a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer – which is a necessity for any Sinclair-involved sport.

“This club will not be able to happen



Marquie Peyton
Intern

Sinclair Alumna Publishes Book to Inspire Young People

February is Black History Month and while there's no shortage of Black people who are awe-inspiring, there's a local woman making her own piece of history right here in Dayton. De'Shawna Yamini, a 2005 graduate of Sinclair and former coordinator of the African American Male Initiative (AAMI), is a new and upcoming author of her first book, "If She Can Do It, I Can Too!"

"We could write a children's book, or there was another option," Yamini said. "I chose to write the children's book, 'If She Can Do It, I Can Too.' It seemed like I was supposed to write it, I knew the women I wanted to write about."

Yamini feels she was drawn to write this book and hopes to inspire young children to see that they can do or be anything they want to be. She hopes they read the book and see the women who paved the way and made it easier for them to achieve their goals. However, she notes that the book also talks about the struggles they went through as well.

"I wanted kids to see that some of these women had to overcome insurmountable obstacles and even leave the US to achieve their goals," she said. "I want young people to see that 'she made the path easier' for them."

The book features twelve women who have made their mark in Black history. Yamini began the book in 2018, when she wanted to encourage students at Sinclair to take African-American History courses, so she decided to take them alongside her AAMI students

and earn the certificate as well. However, Yamini didn't go straight to publishing after completing the book for class. She put it away for a while and forgot about it. Later on, she found it and let one of her students, Daniel Peoples III, take a copy and read it to his daughter, who loved it. He encouraged her to publish it.

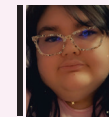
"She [Skylarr Marsh] told me she had written a book. She texted me the information for Valerie Lewis-Coleman, who owns Queen Bee Publishing. I reached out to Valerie and took one of her workshops on how to self-publish," said Yamini. "I used the photos of the women but realized it could be a licensing issue and realized I need an illustrator."

This led her to Ayzha Middlebrooks, a Sinclair graduate and former employee of The Clarion. Middlebrooks was the executive editor during her time at The Clarion, and while there, began to develop her skills in graphic design in her free time. Originally, Yamini had hired a young man to do the illustrations but wondered if she might be able to find a young black woman to do it. Yamini took to Facebook and that's where she saw some work of Middlebrooks. After some back-and-forth messaging, Middlebrooks was hired as the illustrator for the book; she notes that it's very surreal seeing her work in a published book.

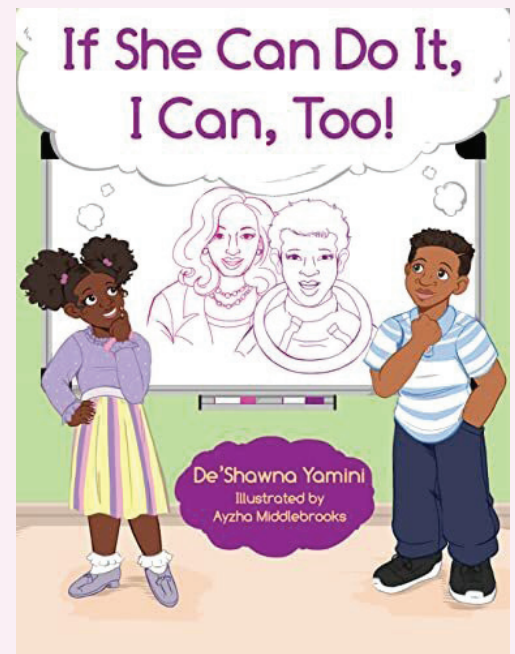
"It hasn't fully processed in my mind yet, I know it's going to happen but when I'm working I'm focused on making the illustrations as good

as they can be," said Middlebrooks. "When I got the link to the Amazon version and saw my name, it felt weird. It's a great accomplishment. When I was younger my dream was to write books and illustrate them."

"If She Can Do It, I Can Too!" releases on Feb. 15. Those who wish to purchase a copy can do so through her website directly, at <https://www.ifshecandoit.me/>, or through Amazon for Kindle. Those that order also have a chance of getting a signed copy.



Jeri Hensley
Managing Editor



Illustrated by Ayzha Middlebrooks

Experiencing American History at the Library Loggia

Visitors to the Library Loggia at Sinclair are in for an inspiring walk through four centuries of American history. Having welcomed over 500 visitors since last September, “Our American Journey: The Black Experience in America” exhibition is a visceral experience that links often forgotten fragments of America’s past to its present.

With all but a few items on display the property of Michael Carter, Senior Advisor to the President and Chief Diversity Officer, the exhibit forms part of the avid collector’s personal journey to educate people from all walks of life on the African American experience. Nestled along the glass walls of the loggia and told through a diverse range of artifacts is a story lived by Carter’s ancestors as well as men and women across the length and breadth of the United States.

“This is important for a number of reasons, but mainly because most Americans have no knowledge of American history,” Carter said. “This isn’t black history; this is American history and it is important to show the good, the bad, and the ugly.”

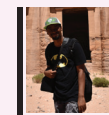
Coming face-to-face with Carter’s displays feels like a journey back in time, beginning with baskets made by slaves shortly after arriving in North America and ending with images of some of their most storied descendants. Given the way recent events have exposed the racial fault lines that still scar the country, this exhibition is a timely reminder of the important role knowledge and understanding play in healing the wounds of the past.

“History is closer than it seems, than we want to admit,” Carter explains. As a quick glance at some of his segregation-era displays illustrate, many of the most painful episodes in American history happened less than a hundred-years-ago.

Nowhere is this more evident than along the wall farthest from the door, where Green Books and an authentic KKK robe flank an old typewriter bearing the Langston Hughes’ poem “I, Too” Reading almost like a lament of America’s past and a paean to its future, it adds further context to the many powerful displays and emotions lurking underneath them.

“This is extremely personal and that is one of the reasons it is so important to me,” Carter said. “Being in this space is almost healing for me. It feels therapeutic, so when I am on campus this is typically where I am.”

“Our American Journey: The Black Experience in America” has so far taught hundreds of visitors about some of the hidden figures that helped shape American history. Men and women like Isaac Woodard, Stagecoach Mary, and Frances Harper all get their due. Through their stories and others like them, visitors can expect to feel empathy for those who suffered, shock at what they endured, and pride in what they were able to achieve.



Ismael Mujahid
Reporter

Photo by Ismael Mujahid



Graphic by Mathew Flanagan



Bengals Break 31-Year Curse to Play in the Super Bowl

The Cincinnati Bengals are heading to the Super Bowl for the first time in 33-years, after defeating the Kansas City Chiefs, 27 - 24, on Sunday, Jan. 30.

The Bengals will make their third Super Bowl appearance in their franchise history, and will be playing the Los Angeles Rams.

This is new for the Bengals as they have played the San Francisco 49ers in the last two Super Bowls they were in, the 1982 Super Bowl, Super Bowl XVI, and the 1989 Super Bowl, Super Bowl XXIII.

The Rams beat the San Francisco 49ers, 20 -17, on Sunday, Jan. 30 to claim their spot in the 2022 Super Bowl, also known as Super Bowl LVI, against the Bengals.

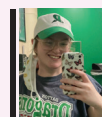
Going to the Super Bowl isn't the only big thing to happen to the Bengals this season. They were also able to break a 31-year "curse" known as the "Curse of Bo Jackson."

This "curse" started after the Bengals played the then Los Angeles Raiders in a playoff game back in 1991. During this game, Bengals linebacker Kevin Walker tackled Raiders quarterback Bo Jackson, and ended up dislocating his hip and eventually ending Jackson's NFL career altogether. Since then, the Bengals hadn't won a playoff game but their luck changed this season after beating the now Las Vegas Raiders 26-19, in their first playoff game in decades.

Heading into the Super Bowl, the Rams have only won once, back in 2000, while the Bengals have yet to win a Super Bowl.

Super Bowl LVI will air Sunday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. on NBC, with halftime performances by Mary J. Blige, Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, and Kendrick Lamar. Those without cable can stream the game live on Peacock, Hulu with Live TV, DirecTV Stream, FuboTV, Sling TV and YouTube TV.

For more details on Super Bowl LVI, visit our website, sinclairclarion.com, and look for the article titled "The Bengals Head To The Super Bowl Again After 33-Years".



Harley Johnson
Executive Editor

Graphic by Jeri Hensley



The Future of Sinclair Sports

In 2021, the Board of Trustees authorized a full and thorough analysis to review the strategic value of Sinclair's intercollegiate athletics to the community, as well as the resources needed to continue Sinclair's athletic programs in the future.

Sinclair is a member of the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC). The conference is composed of 12 community colleges, 11 in Ohio and one in Pennsylvania.

The Sinclair sports program has been in a state of suspension since the 2020-2021 school year. The school's

focus has been on getting students back into the classrooms.

There are many factors to consider when reintroducing sports, one being the implementation of COVID protocols, which will take time and resources.

While the suspension is in place, Sinclair has been conducting a detailed analysis of the viability of the long-term future of intercollegiate athletics at the college, with a report due in February 2022.

"Under the direction of the Sinclair Community College Board of Trustees, a thorough analysis is

currently underway to review the strategic value to the community of Sinclair intercollegiate athletics, and the resources needed to continue Sinclair's athletic programs in the future," said Cathy Petersen, Chief of Public Information.

There's a lot that needs to be considered during the analysis; evaluating the time and resources needed to strategically increase the scale of apprenticeships, health care certificate training, skilled trades training, advanced manufacturing education, and supporting increased minority student success.

"The analysis is still being conducted and as a result, no decision has been made concerning Sinclair's athletics programs," said Peterson

Visit our website, sinclairclarion.com, or follow us on social media at [sinclairclarion](https://www.facebook.com/sinclairclarion), to stay up to date as this story develops.



Diane Sikora

Reporter / Social Media
Coordinator

**Sinclair Sports:
To sport, or not
to sport.**



Graphic by Mathew Flanagan

Weird Valentine's Day Traditions

Valentine's Day, which occurs on Feb. 14, is a day for couples to celebrate their romance in a variety of ways, traditionally with chocolate, flowers, or some sort of gift; most people go on dates or do something romantic with their partner to demonstrate their love. However, just as people celebrate other holidays in a variety of ways, all around the world, people celebrate Valentine's Day in different ways. Wanderlust.uk gives a list of some of the weirdest Valentine's Day traditions from around the world.

In South Korea, Valentine's Day isn't just Feb. 14. It's the 14th of every month, with February and March being the most expensive. On Feb. 14, women give chocolate to men, but instead of returning the favor that same day, they don't give anything until White Day on March 14. A month later is Black Day, a day where all single people get together and eat black noodles with their friends.

Norway's tradition involves poems. The secret admirer gives their love interest a poem called a gaekkebrev, with the only clue to their identity being a dot that represents their name. If the person figures it out, they get an Easter Egg on Easter, however, if they don't they must give an egg to their admirer.

Estonia doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day. Instead, they have Sõbrapäev, or Friend's Day. Instead of giving gifts or chocolate to their significant other, they exchange cards and gifts amongst friends and say "Happy Friend's Day!"

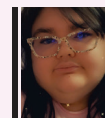
Welsh people celebrate on Jan. 25 and instead of chocolates or flowers, they give love spoons. It began as a tradition where men would carve wooden spoons for the women they

loved. Often, the spoons would have hidden meanings or clues in them and were symbolic. For instance, some men would include beads to represent the number of future children they wanted.

Germans show their love for their significant other with a gingerbread biscuit. The giant biscuits can be draped around the shoulders of the intended recipient. Speaking of food, Iraqi Kurds show their love with love feasts, where they decorate red apples to represent the original love story – Adam and Eve. However, instead of the apple representing the end of biblical paradise, it instead represents happiness and prosperity.

In the Philippines, the government gives those who can't afford a wedding the chance to tie the knot. On Valentine's Day, mass weddings take place across the country, with everything provided by the government, even the rings.

Valentine's Day may seem cheesy to some here in the U.S., but around the world Valentine's Day holds another significance; providing the holiday with a whole new meaning.



Jeri Hensley
Managing Editor

Graphic by Mathew Flanagan

*Weird
Valentine's
Traditions*

Racism Affects Everyone: Heather McGhee Speaks at Sinclair

Every year Sinclair celebrates Black History Month by hosting events, films, and much more. This year, the school's diversity office invited special guest Heather McGhee to speak during the seventh annual Black Unity Conference; she was one of many speakers during the two-day conference. McGhee is known by many titles, but her newest is author of a new book titled "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper." She also has a law degree and a Bachelor of Arts degree.

"Heather is an educator and she is an attorney," said Michael Carter, Chief Diversity Officer at Sinclair and currently running the "Our American

Journey: The Black Experience in America" exhibit in the library. "She [McGhee] got her law degree at the University of Berkley and got her Bachelor of Arts degree at Yale. Above all the accolades, she is passionate about racial and social justice, and provides people with tools and talking points of what that is and looks like."

For the conference, McGhee and Sinclair professor Crystal Echols, plan to talk about racism and how it affects everyone, including white people, and discuss other topics too, such as systemic racism.

"Many whites don't realize racism costs them too. This allows people on a large scale to understand this,"

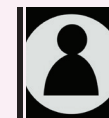
against this foolishness, and this is a tool that will fight against it." For Carter, McGhee's talk is important for Black History Month.

"It is a great way to kick it off, we got our Black Unity Conference to kick off Black History Month. Our goal is – we do this 365 days a year, so we want people to talk about these things," Carter said. "Doing it virtually allows for people who may typically not participate to do that."

If students are looking for information regarding McGhee's speech, Carter says to visit the diversity office's website, sinclair.edu/diversity; the site also has a calendar of all upcoming events.

Carter said. Carter hopes to achieve a lot with McGhee's speech.

"We continue our efforts in the diversity, equity, and inclusion space and continue to provide a space for diversity cultural equity," he said. "We want people to have a deep knowledge of these issues. We are living in a time where proponents of social justice and equity are being more vocal, and we must be



Jamarion Brown-Tolliver
Intern

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VALENTINE'S DAY RECIPES

Cheesy Stuffed Peppers



Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 cups cooked brown rice
- 2 cans (28 ounces) fire roasted crushed tomatoes
- 8 slices pepper jack cheese or use your favorite cheese
- 1 small onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, diced
- 2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, ground
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1 teaspoon oregano

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Bring a large pot of water to a boil.
3. While the water is boiling, clean the peppers and cut them in half.
4. Put the pepper halves in the boiling water. Boil for 4 minutes then drain.
5. In a large skillet brown the ground beef with diced onion and garlic. Drain ground beef into a separate pot, and toss grease in the trash.
6. Add cooked rice and then stir in crushed tomatoes.
7. Add and mix cayenne pepper, basil, and oregano.
8. Simmer for 20 to 30 minutes.
9. Place the peppers in a 13 x 9-inch baking dish, and fill with the meat mixture.
10. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes.
11. Uncover and top with cheese. Bake uncovered until the cheese is melted.

Lemon Pineapple Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting



Ingredients

Lemon Pineapple Cake:

- 1 box of lemon cake mix

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 8 ounces package cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, pure vanilla
- 1 teaspoon water
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 4 tablespoon butter, softened
- 8 ounces of pineapple, mashed
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 large eggs, beaten

Instructions

Lemon Pineapple Cake:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Oil and flour a 9 x 12-inch cake pan.
3. Follow box instructions to make the cake .
4. Pour in the cake batter.
5. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes.

Cream Cheese Frosting:

1. Set pineapple aside.
2. Whip the eggs for a couple of minutes until fluffy.
3. Combine with the other ingredients, except the pineapple, and mix.
4. Beat at medium speed for 2 minutes.
5. Add the crushed pineapple.
6. Frost the cake when cooled.

Pink Fluff Dip



Ingredients

- 8-ounce package cream cheese, low-fat and room temperature
- 8-ounces Fluff marshmallow creme
- 1 drop pink food coloring
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Instructions

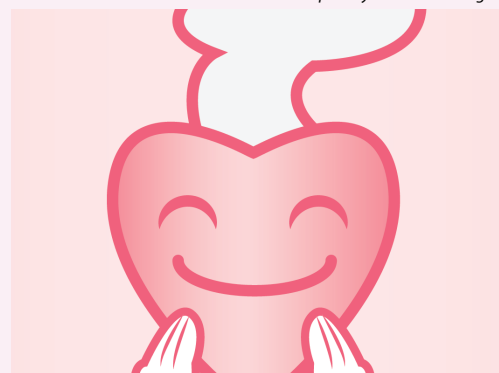
1. Using an electric mixer mix all the ingredients together until whipped light and fluffy.
2. Serve with fruit or pretzels.



Diane Sikora

Reporter / Social Media
Coordinator

Graphic by Mathew Flanagan



February Horoscopes

Graphic by Jeri Hensley

Important dates in February:

Feb. 1 started the month out with a new moon in Aquarius.

Feb. 3 was the last day of Mercury Retrograde.

February Horoscopes:

Aquarius:

The New Moon in Aquarius means this is the perfect time to reinvent yourself.

This is also a time for watching all your hard work pay off. Try to let go of self-destructive behaviors as now is a good time to cleanse yourself.



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Pisces:

This month would be an ideal for you to relax and take some personal time off to focus on yourself. The new month and new moon also bring new beginnings to your life. During this spiritually rejuvenating time, try out new hobbies you've maybe considered but never tried.

Aries:

This new moon is pushing for a fresh start and taking a leap into trying new things. Try to not resist the changes happening around you this month, everything is happening in divine timing specifically for you. You may discover deep and/or intense secrets about a co-worker or work company

Taurus:

Now is the perfect time for you to explore new life and career goals. Plans for travel also might sneak their way into your life during this time. This month will also bring excitement into your social life.

Gemini:

During this new moon you might find yourself wanting to declutter in your personal life. Now is the time to do so. You'll notice the benefits of letting go of self-defeating

behaviors. Also, on a more physical level, you will notice your workload begin to lighten.

Cancer:

The beginning of this month will seemingly be an important time for you to focus on past relationships that were possibly put on hold during retrograde. It's a good time to expect exciting news in your life as well; stay on your toes this month!

Leo:

This month brings new energy to the table and would be an exciting time to meet new people or begin new relationships with people you already know. It's a perfect time to find yourself getting back to routines that might have disappeared over the past month.

Virgo:

This is a wonderful time for you to tackle that big project you have been putting off. Try to focus on a happy and healthier lifestyle during this month. Connecting with nature may also benefit you during this time.

Libra:

This new moon in Aquarius signals a shift in your love life, whether this reflects on new or past

relationships. This can also be an important time for a release of negative energy in your life, to be able to make room for something better.

Scorpio:

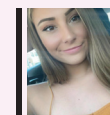
Because this moon is all about fresh starts, try switching things up in your life. Whether that be a change of style or interior design, now is a good time to try out something new.

Sagittarius:

Starting Feb. 3, you might notice that you begin to have more of a connection with people in your life; whether that be neighbors, siblings, or co-workers. This month is a great time to clear your mind of burdens, and maybe try meditating to help.

Capricorn:

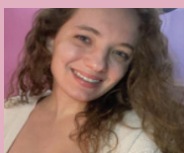
This month you can plan to expect big or exciting news to come this way, as retrograde wraps up on Feb 3. The energy of this month is expected to be spontaneous and experimental. This is also a time secrets might begin to flow.



Marquie Peyton
Intern

YourVoice: What Does Valentine's Day Mean To You?

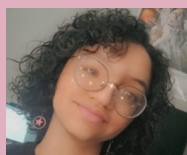
Now that it's February, Valentine's Day is upon us. While some dedicate it to showering their significant others with gifts and affection, others feel the day doesn't offer much. The Clarion spoke to several students about what Valentine's Day means to them.



Savannah Pemberton –

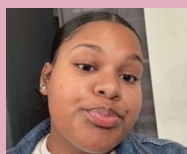
Psychology: "Valentine's Day means I get to buy and receive gifts. It's kind of like Christmas but is reserved for people closer to you. Valentine's

Day is the best when you are in a romantic relationship because the [feeling] fits. I usually celebrate by posting pictures and exchanging gifts. Every holiday is silly in its own way with its traditions. I like that Valentine's Day isn't a religious holiday so everyone can feel free to celebrate and spread love."



Elesea Wilson – Fine Arts:

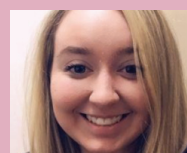
"Valentine's Day is just another day to me, to be honest. Even if I had someone to celebrate with, I probably wouldn't. In my eyes, the things you do on Valentine's Day would be more special if you did them randomly throughout the year instead of one day in February."



Kartara Tunstall – Psychology:

"Valentine's Day is about individuals who have a special bond with a person they can lean on when feeling vulnerable, happy, or just not in the mood [for anything]. It's about coming together on a special day to be creative and show appreciation for [each other]. Valentine's Day [isn't exclusive to] your significant others. I celebrate with my best friend; we get each other our favorites – mostly

chips and dip. I can agree with people who say Valentine's Day is just another day; many regions don't celebrate for their own personal reasons. They have a right to disagree."



Jessica Bath – Elementary

Education: "I think [Valentine's Day] is a fun day for couples to show their love for one another. I think it's also a fun day for children to give valentines to their classmates and friends. There are so many cute décors; I also love the colors associated with the day. I've been single for a while, so I don't have a special someone to [give a] gift [to], but sometimes I will just gift myself out of self-love. [Valentine's Day] is honestly just another day to me anyway. I haven't celebrated in years."



Graphic by Danielle Williams



Carly Webster
Reporter