



An open letter to a Tide Pod

You are not to blame.

In our advancedly sanitized world, I can only assume something must have gotten lost in translation when people started confusing your fresh, fruity scent as appetizing. It is not hard for people who are less than logical to understand that you are not some sort of candy-flavored cream puff.

But there has to be some sense of accountability here.

It is easy to point fingers at the Twitter accounts that started this deadly meme. Many teens want nothing more than the short-lived fame that the internet has to offer.

Or maybe it was their parents' fault. Millennials love to blame things on Baby Boomers and vice versa, so why not add one more thing to the list?

After all, they were the ones who washed our mouths out with soap as punishment when we started to lie and swear as kids. Maybe that is why so many young people joke about you being a 'forbidden fruit'.

I cannot say for certain who the blame falls on here, but hopefully it will not come back around to the Millennials. Especially since so many of them are still living with at home—

and we all know they are not doing their own laundry while they lounge around on their parents' couches.

I propose we compromise and put the guilty verdict on Gen Z. They are still young and are not carrying their fair portion of weight in this juvenoia blame game.

So, where do we go forward from here?

Tide has already taken to social media to combat those who want to take the Tide Pod Challenge, but if this craze continues, it can only be assumed that they will take further steps to prevent their consumption.

An option that would bring an immediate end to the public health risk, would be take you and your fellow Tide Pods off the shelves entirely.

While it might be a sad and unnecessary demise, it might be worth it to save lives.

However, as a laundry-dor, I am personally rooting that it does not come to this.

Being college student who uses you on a weekly basis, I do not know how to use detergent that does not come in a small, shiny plastic package. I would assume regular detergent has a very similar instruction manual

to Tide Pods, but I have too many other things that I could be doing than trying to figure out the old-fashioned way of doing laundry.

Another option could always make the pods smell worse. Your sweet smell is what ignited this fad in the first place.

But then again, laundry detergent with a foul scent is just a bad idea in general. Nobody wants people walking around and smelling worse than they already do.

Besides that, I do not know what other options there are for you besides hoping that this is a passing craze. And it likely will be.

In our fast-paced media world, trends like you do not normally have a very long shelf life. Especially with the upcoming award show season and the Trump presidency, which seems to be generating new meme content every day.

I send you the best of wishes in hopes that people will stop trying to eat you, so you can get back to doing your job. Because let's face it: the Gain Mighty Pac pods smell a whole lot more mouthwatering.

Sincerely,  
Renee Borcas  
P.S. SERIOUSLY, DO NOT EAT TIDE PODS.



NOAH CLOONAN

The meaning of Valentine's Day

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Ask 20 people their opinion about Valentine's Day and you are likely to get 20 different answers.

Some may say that they love it and look forward to spending time with a significant other.

Another might say that Valentine's Day is just stupid. Some may not hate the holiday, but hate how it makes them feel - alone.

The truth is, none of these answers are right or wrong.

Valentine's Day is what you make of it at that point in your life.

It seems typical that anyone who is single must feel negatively about this holiday.

But I am proof that this is not always the case.

We need to stop looking at Valentine's Day as only a celebration of romantic love.

There are so many different expressions of love that should be

commended on this day.

For instance, let us celebrate the love we have towards our family and friends.

Let us remember the unconditional love given to us by our parents and the support we so easily receive from our friends.

These forms of love are just as important, if not more important, than romantic love.

How you spend Valentine's Day when you are single is very telling of the mentality you have. You should not let yourself feel broken because you are not.

You will never be without love because you will never be without yourself.

The relationship you have with yourself must be respected every day of the year.

We should not let a holiday make us feel alone or flawed for not being in a relationship.

It may seem like Valentine's Day calls for a dramatic change in our

lives, but this is not the truth.

We must never go looking for love.

My aunt always tells me that when you stop looking, it will appear.

Take this into consideration when you are feeling lonely and want a romantic relationship.

We actually have a lot more time than we think. We have got all our lives to find the right one; there is no rush.

Whether you are single, with the wrong one, or recently heartbroken, trust that things will work out.

Although I am calling attention to the importance of the non-romantic relationships we hold, I also believe that it is wrong to undermine the amorosity of the holiday.

Whether a couple has been together for five months or five years, it is a significant time for them to acknowledge the love they share.

Do not make someone else feel

like celebrating Valentine's Day is senseless.

Over the years, I have learned that Valentine's Day is not just a day when red and pink are socially acceptable together. It is a day to shed light on all the loving relationships in our lives.

Call your parents and tell them thank you for the love they have laid out for you. Go to dinner with some friends and see Fifty Shades Freed (or not).

Binge-watch Grey's Anatomy or play Fortnite all day if that is what is going to make you happy.

Find contentment in the relationships you have instead of the ones you do not.

Show regard for the beautiful message that Valentine's Day presents - the remembrance that you have or will experience the power of love in your life.

Despite the fact that I am not in a relationship this year, I know what it feels like to be in love.

Love changes and inspires people.

It is so natural that we are compelled to explore it. This is why there are endless amounts of songs, books and movies about this one emotion.

Love provides happiness, the lesson of selflessness and a purpose.

My question now is, why are we so afraid of love? Is it because we know it can break our hearts? Is it because we do not like the idea of being vulnerable?

Whatever the reason, it is insignificant because love is unavoidable. There will always be someone who loves us and someone that we love. No matter what, there will always be a day of the year dedicated to the precedence of love.

So, I propose that this Valentine's Day be a fearless one. Say I love you - and mean it.

Honor every form of love that is existent in your life, because that is really what this day is all about.

The Collegian

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