

# Underrated and Overrated Holidays

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With the holidays approaching and hype among the student body building for both Thanksgiving break and Winter break, *the Tartan* staff decided to make a list of underrated and overrated holidays. Holidays included in the list are those that are celebrated with either family, friends, or both. After extremely heated, intense, and violent debate, *the Tartan* presents the most overrated and underrated holidays.

## **OVERRATED**

### 1. Christmas day

With Christmas music being played two months before the actual holiday, it just had to be at the top of the list. Even without the music, Christmas-themed items start selling even earlier than the music starts playing. And with the commercialization that has corrupted the original intent of Christmas, it has been turned into a holiday based primarily on greed and consumerism.

### 2. Halloween

Halloween was able to achieve this spot simply because of the nature of the holiday, where the whole point is to walk door-to-door outside. That doesn't sound problematic, right? Well, when it is 30 degrees outside and you're outside in a thin, cheap costume, it makes for a bad time. And while Halloween doesn't suffer a horribly lengthy amount of build up, it does drain the pockets of parents who not only have to pay for their kids' costumes, but lawn ornaments and candy as well.

### 3. Birthdays

While one's own birthday can be over or under hyped based on whose birthday it is, it doesn't change that you still have to attend many other birthday parties throughout the year only depleting the excitement you have for your own birthday. Also, birthdays belong to just one person, making it impossible to truly share the experience with another.

### 4. Valentine's Day

While Valentine's Day is a great way to show your appreciation to your partner, it can also stir up problems in people's relationships. How scary must it be to worry that your significant other might not like your gift or think your gift was 'too cheap.' The holiday has become a store owners dream with Americans dropping nearly \$20 billion on gifts, according to CNBC.

## 5: New Year's Eve

While New Year's might not have as much hype as the other overrated holidays on the list, it disappoints not within its celebration, but in one of its practices of setting goals for the new year. These goals almost always set people up for failure. Failing New Year's goals is not some myth, according to clinical psychologist Joseph Luciani. Eighty percent of people fail to keep their New Year's goals.

## **UNDERRATED**

### 1. Easter

Getting together with family, having a great meal, and watching your younger relatives hunt for eggs; Easter simply does not get the recognition it deserves. It brings the best of both worlds from Thanksgiving and Christmas, just without the presents. Easter is simply an overlooked holiday compared to the rest.

### 2. Christmas Eve

Strangely Christmas Eve does not suffer the same pitfalls as Christmas day, an extremely overlooked part of the holiday season. This is when you get to interact with not only your distant family but your close family as well. The peak of the hype for Christmas morning also happens on this day.

### 3. Veterans Day

Veterans Day is also an overlooked holiday, not because there is no celebration but because, as a country, we simply do not value the sacrifices made by veterans. And while this holiday does not offer celebration, the lesson that can be taught makes up for it.

### 4. Thanksgiving

With the hype for Christmas approaching its climax Thanksgiving has a humongous shadow cast over itself, standing alongside Christmas, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday the holiday seems to be forgotten altogether. Thanksgiving can be a great way to reflect on your year alongside your family. It seems that the consumerist holidays have overtaken their counterparts.

### 5. Fourth of July

The Fourth of July allows Americans to celebrate how American we really are; the reason why this holiday ended up on this list is because we are steadily losing the values that make us American. While the fourth does merit celebration, it causes

extreme air pollution. According to the *LA Times*, the air pollution is so bad it makes it dangerous to simply breathe. While fireworks are a key part in its celebration, there are other ways to safely cherish our country's independence.