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“Love at First Swipe: First Marriage to Result from Tinder”

This past Saturday, family and friends gathered to celebrate the marriage of Brendan Fisher and Olivia Stevens. The two thirty year old Florida State alumni and now Tallahassee residents are the first couple to ever meet on the online dating service Tinder and eventually marry. It has been a long time coming for the now twenty year old phone application, which has been widely regarded as simply a way to find someone to hook up with.

“This has been my vision since the beginning,” states Mike Tinder, creator of the self-named app. “I made Tinder in the hopes of helping people find their one true soul mate in the world, but instead everyone uses it to find booty calls and hook ups.”

The couple described their relationship as love at first swipe. “There was just something about his picture that gave me a certain feeling right away,” Mrs. Fisher recalls. “Maybe it was the way he looked slightly off camera into the distance, or his muscles bulging from his shirt two sizes too small, or the mountain in the background clearly indicating that he was fun and adventurous. Any way I immediately knew I had to swipe right.” The romance didn’t stop there. On Tinder, if two people like each other’s photo, a private message is created. Mrs. Fisher remembers when her future husband messaged her. “He waited all the way until the third message to ask me if I was DTF. That’s when I knew he was something special.”

When asked about the Tinder match, Mr. Fisher responded, “Actually I don’t really remember seeing her profile. Usually I would just swipe right on every picture and hope I got a match. In fact, when we did match I wasn’t even sure if Olivia was her or her ugly friend also in the picture. I took the risk and messaged her anyway, and I guess it turned out to be one of my better decisions in life.”

The wedding was Saturday and held here in Tallahassee at Potbelly’s located on College Avenue. A close friend of the Fishers remembers the ceremony, “Actually, I don’t remember the wedding. I blacked out before we even got there, but I did wake up the next morning with the bouquet. I hope I didn’t make out with too many guys. I should really stop drinking so much. Oh God, maybe I have a problem. You know what, I’m gonna call my mom today.”

Another attendee of the wedding remarked, “Wedding? What wedding? I’m just here to get hammered and pick up some chicks, bro.”

The Fishers’ wedding was certainly as unique as their relationship. The bride chose all two hundred members of her sorority to be bridesmaids stating, “Our sorority is more than just a social group. It really is about sisterhood here which is really what sets us apart from the rest of sororities on campus.” The ring bearer was a new pledge at Mr. Fisher’s fraternity and allegedly had to chug a beer every time the bride and groom smiled at each other. When asked about these allegations, the fraternity president claimed to have a strict no-hazing policy. The wedding continued with a drunken slurred best man speech which no one could hear or understand and a father-daughter slow dance to Chief Keef’s hit song “Hate Being Sober”.

Although the Fishers have shown that true love can be found on Tinder, there are still many opposed to the dating service. The main opponents of Tinder are those who claim it is

wrong to judge a person based only on their looks. Mary Fields is the CEO of the non-profit organization ASTL, American Supporters of True Love, and a leading voice in the fight against Tinder. “It just isn’t right, swiping away a potential partner based only on their physical features. True love is blind, and couples who truly love each other love for what’s on the inside not the outside.” After a long rant about love and her own difficulties in finding a partner she continued her argument, “Recent polls show that marriages based on looks result in divorce one hundred percent of the time. Meanwhile, all other marriages only result in divorce fifty percent of the time. Tinder is destroying true love. People shouldn’t focus on looks but rather on what really matters like money and social status just like it used to be.”

Other opponents of Tinder say they don’t use the app because they think it’s weird to just meet up with a stranger from the internet. Joe, a fifth year exploratory student at Florida State, said, “I don’t know. I just can’t get over the fact of meeting a complete stranger on a phone app. Call me old fashioned, but I like to meet strangers the classic way, at a bar while I’m eight shots of tequila deep.”

Elizabeth, a sophomore at Florida State, also doesn’t use Tinder. “Like, what if he isn’t who he says he is? What if he’s a murderer? Or even worse, what if he’s ugly?” she said as she texted and sipped her Starbucks. “I guess if I did meet someone on Tinder I’d have to really know them well before I would meet up with them. Like, I’m talking about a follow on Twitter, a couple likes on my Instagram, and multiple Snapchat selfies. After that I’d know for sure the guy isn’t a weirdo.”

Despite the split in public opinion of the app, experts say one thing is certain. Tinder has changed relationships. “In this new age of the internet, everything is simpler, easier, and more immediate than ever, and this extends to every aspect of our lives including relationships” states

Julian Mendoza, a professor of online dating at Princeton University. “What past generations would refer to as ‘romance’ has simply become archaic, and rightly so. Why should we go through the drawn-out and outdated process of casual flirting to talking seriously to dating to marriage when now thanks to advances in technology we can simply swipe a picture and let computers do the hard work for us? It is much easier and a much more efficient method of mate selection.”

This significant decrease in romance has had devastating effects of the economy. A local flower shop reports an eighty percent decrease in sales since the release of Tinder. Restaurants which rely heavily on dates for customers are one by one closing down as Tinder users bypass the dating process and simply ask “Your place or my place?” However, a few businesses are thriving in this new age of relationships. For example, Trojan Condoms has reached record sales in regions with fast internet speeds, which economists attribute to Tinder.

Although Tinder has brought many changes to relationships and romance, the Fishers have proved that true love will always exist and they thank Tinder for bringing them together. The Fishers look forward to a long and healthy marriage.

Process Memo

To brainstorm for this essay I found the in-class activities very helpful. After those I had a couple very good ideas to go with. I chose the Tinder one after you said it would be the easiest to expand upon, and I agreed with you. I started writing as I usually do. I would open my laptop every once in a while and write as much as I could or until I got bored. I would read over and revise what I had written so far each time I started writing. I did this until I had written about as much as I thought I could, which was three pages. This ended up being my rough draft. I waited until I got my rough draft back to see how I should continue with the rest of my paper. I finished the rest of my paper in one sitting.

I feel very good about this essay. I think I have a pretty strong idea and I executed the writing pretty well. It was hardest to get four pages out of the subject so I had to expand on some things not directly related to the marriage but rather about Tinder in general. This paper was very fun to write because I got to be funny and ridiculous. I also enjoyed making fun of Tinder. It was the most natural writing I have done in a while.