

A young man in a green hoodie and a young woman with curly hair and glasses are kissing in a public square. In the background, there is a large white statue on a pedestal, and a clock tower is visible on the right. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# Today in History

*March 9, 1562*

▲ Kissing in public was banned in Naples on penalty of death. The ban was less about morality than an attempt to curtail the spread of disease during a plague epidemic

**1842:** The first performance of Verdi's opera Nabucco took place

**1932:** Eamon de Valera, a political leader in the Irish War of independence, was appointed president of Ireland

**1967:** Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva, defected to the West

**2003:** Tens of thousands of Ukrainians marched through Kiev calling for the resignation of President Leonid Kuchma