



# The River Hawk Review

Feb. 2023

Skowhegan Area High School's Best News Source

Special  
Valentine's  
Editorial Edition

Levi Nichols

## Valentine's Day: The Most Ok Holiday



Valentine's Day is certainly one of the holidays that happen every year. It doesn't have much going for it. If you are single, Valentine's Day only makes you feel lonelier. All you can do is just sit down and get reminded that you are alone. I would not be surprised if I were told that there was an increase in depression every single year around the season of love. There is a reason Valentine's Day is one of the most hated holidays.

On the other hand, this holiday can be very special for couples. Valentine's Day encourages them to get out and do things for each other. It really can lead to special nights together. However, some couples watching others do extravagant things for each other can lead to jealousy sprouting up in their relationships, eventually leading to them crumbling. Another negative it has for couples is the amount of pressure it can put on them. You will feel nervous, praying everything will go perfectly.

Valentine's is also less appealing the younger you are. Most holidays can be enjoyed one way or another however old you are. For this "lovely" day, all kids are going to get is

a heart-shaped lollipop and a paper card with a heart on it. I remember thinking that Valentine's Day was just a cheap Halloween with fear being swapped for love.

The greatest downfall of Valentine's day is that it is a very targeted holiday. It doesn't have the broad appeal that most others have. St. Patrick's day can be enjoyed by the entire family with a lovely meal centered around a thick and salty corn beef roast while listening to Irish folk music. On Valentine's day, most kids just get left home while their parents enjoy a fancy restaurant somewhere. For a holiday of love, it lacks togetherness.

So while Valentine's day has the potential to bring about special times between lovers, it is brought down by many factors. From making people feel more lonely to being boring for children, the day has its problems. It's just a day that many don't love.

## This space could be yours!

For more information, see  
Mr. LaFlamme in the Media Center  
or  
Mr. Smith in O6.



## Valentine's Day and Corporate Greed



Valentine's Day seems to be built around love, but it has many darker undertones. It is a day that corporate higher-ups constantly exploit. Pushy ads, chocolate companies, greeting card businesses, and traditions that are designed to make you spend money all expose the hidden layer of greed behind the day of love.

Valentine's advertisements take advantage of our natural want for a romantic partner. For those who already have a partner, they encourage extravagant spending in order to appease their significant other, acting as if there isn't another way. For those who don't have someone, they try to push them to get someone attracted to them through gifts instead of love.

Chocolate has become one of the main gifts given on Valentine's. It has been a symbol of love and power since as far back as the Aztec civilization. This creates a perfect platform for companies that sell this delicious treat. If you go to Walmart the day after Christmas it is almost certain that you will find a whole row of heart-shaped boxes full of goodies. Chocolate is a symbol of love and it has been taken advantage of.

Greeting cards are yet another business that heavily exploits love. Even though they are cheap, you are still heavily encouraged to buy them by the people around you. In just one Valentine's Day, 145 million Valentine's cards are sold. That is more than nine million pounds worth of wasted paper that will either be stashed in a closet or simply thrown away directly after being read, forgotten forever. Maybe we should prioritize using that paper in other ways.

Lots of Valentine's Day traditions are designed to look like they are purely about your love. In reality, they are more about getting them to spend money. People are heavily encouraged to go on nights out together on Valentine's. This tradition leads to tons of money being used that would not have been spent otherwise. The people who spent that money may have had a good night, but it always comes back to haunt them.

Large corporations take advantage of people's mindset during Valentine's Day to receive large amounts of money. They don't care if the loss of money causes harm if it means more in their pockets. If there is something to take advantage of, they will be there, no matter how special.

---

### ***The River Hawk Review* has a brand new look!**



The RHR has been given a new look! This means future editions will be more consistent and better refined.

**This edition of *The River Hawk Review* is brought to you by:**

Josh Bloom, Levi Nichols, and Jamie Weeks

## Valentine's Day Word Search

A K K F Z Q V E G D P R J G Q V E D X L Y W R S I W C F Q T  
 A N D S H T T A I G E B N Z T A H T O P P S E E M V S R A F  
 I I M W S A A W L L G I F T S L N V A V C R L N B J Y S H U  
 A P X R D E J B A E L O Z L C E E R Z L E E A D Q Y P N I R  
 M G S X Y T N T H R N J P A T N W E O C O S T N X X K C O K  
 S D R A C E I D A M V T E V S T J N G U W C I I D E F A A M  
 H A J B F O T D N O N L I Z Q I D Q P E Y R O K I T E Y Q M  
 A E P K S F R I I I N I I N N N Z I E G B I N H V E B U T X  
 Q X R H T J E R E K K W U C E A Q T P C X M S C C L R I E B  
 N F I T O W A C O P N E T G G S H O H U Z V H D B C U U P V  
 D P R L S Y T L T V G P S U F E A F F E C T I O N C A S T S  
 A U X U Q I S U V I N H W H A P F O Z F N S P R O O R L I Y  
 B N J T R E A H T E E W S R R K T G R D C H S T S H Y R H J  
 E I R A U R B E F G Q M T P H E A R T S N H A K N C A U D A  
 Q D E V A L A D P J N I M G X U O H C M C B Y B T P L J D I

Darling	Chocolate	Gifts	Sweetheart
Hearts	Cupid	Hug	Valentines
Love	Date	Kiss	Treats
Affection	Doves	Pink	Paris
Cards	February	Relationships	Kindness