

CAMPUS CULTURE



# VALENTINE'S DAY: Behrend students have mixed feelings

SHANNON EHRIN  
asst. culture editor

Valentine's Day.

Yes, it's that beloved time of year again. The time when pink and red hearts pop up everywhere you turn, Hallmark displays new and improved love-themed cards and girls become either excitedly happy or very angry at hearing any talk of love.

Oh, the power that this day has over humanity.

No longer is Valentine's Day just about showing love and affection, but it has become a tormenting hassle for most of the population.

"I don't care for Valentine's Day too much because it's too overly dramatic," says division of undergraduate studies freshman Ny-ke Stewart. "If you don't have a valentine, people are like, 'What am I gonna do?' People expect to be with a guy or a girl."

For those who are single, this day conjures up feelings and memories that some may wish to forget. People in relationships might enjoy the whole "lovey-dovey" aspects of this day, but those single girls and guys who have been through heartbreak know that they cannot escape any reminders a week or even a month leading up to Feb. 14.

It does not really matter if you are in a relationship because everyone has had bad experiences with love, and Valentine's Day does nothing to help.

Valentine's Day is a holiday like many others, full of so many sweets and sweet moments, yet so taunting in the worst way.

American Greetings has a Twitter account specifically for Valentine's Day and even has a countdown on their website to the second.

While Valentine's Day does not have to be about having an intimate connection with someone, society leads us to believe this: you either have someone, or you don't. If you don't, then that's too bad. Ben and Jerry's will benefit off of your loneliness. So will Redbox.

Everyone wants someone to share Valentine's Day with.

Anyone who disagrees with this statement either does not realize it or just refuses to admit it. People in relation

ships have that extra pressure to make this day "right," when usually all of the planning goes awry and nothing turns out the way it was supposed to be anyway.

"People who don't have someone say it's a waste of money," says Kevin Jackson, a senior majoring in psychology. "For those who are in a relationship, it's a day to be extra romantic."

Valentine's Day was originally not a day of love. Although the holiday dates back to 500 AD, gifts were not given until as recently as the middle ages.

Granted, that is a long time ago, but Valentine's Day has evolved immensely since then.

At that time there were no Kay Jewelers or Hallmarks.

Life was much, much simpler and all the fuss of Valentine's Day did not exist...entirely. People did take the time to give small tokens to show their affection, but this did not include lavish diamonds or intricate bouquets of red roses. These were heartfelt gifts.

Even the words "I love you" do not have the same impact as they used to, because they are thrown around so much. Saying those words, at one time, was better than anything money could buy.

Flowers are lovely and smell wonderful, but they die. Chocolate is delicious, but the taste does not last. Jewelry either tarnishes, is lost or broken.

"It's a commercial holiday. Another way for big companies to make money," says Willester House, a freshman majoring in Electrical Engineering Technology.

According to American Greetings, "the average consumer [spends] nearly \$120 on the holiday." That's an astounding number considering how much debt people seem to be in these days.

The overall figures are staggering, and this will be another huge year with an estimated \$14 billion expected to be spent on gifts.

Valentine's Day is technically a holiday, but really "Valentine's Day is just another day," Stewart says.



TELEVISION

## "OH YEAH!" OH NO, FAMILY GUY

DAN KINEM  
senior reporter

"Don't you ever compare me to *Family Guy*, you hear me, Kyle? Compare me to *Family Guy* again, and, so help me, I will kill you where you stand! Do you have any idea what it's like? Everywhere I go: 'Hey Cartman you must like *Family Guy*, right?' 'Hey your sense of humor reminds me of *Family Guy*, Cartman!' I am nothing like *Family Guy*! When I make jokes, they are inherent to a story! Deep situational and emotional jokes based on what is relevant and has a point, not just one random interchangeable joke after another!"

*South Park* hit the nail on the head with that quote. Never has there been a show as undeservingly popular and brainless.

*Family Guy* is a series whose basic idea is a complete carbon copy of *The Simpsons* (drunkard father, a gambling but voice-of-reason wife, a daughter who is a social outcast, a stupid son, and a dog with human qualities).

The only difference is that instead of a baby that never talks, this one never shuts up.

The stories, while mostly being plot rip-offs of much higher quality shows, just feature the same kind of joke but with a different pop culture reference each time.

"Remember the time..." insert Chuck Norris, George Bush, Kool-Aid Man, etc. These references hide the fact that none of the episodes have a good story. The bad writing of the shows can easily be hidden and disguised with unrelated references and parodies, which take no talent to write and fool the casual viewer into thinking they are watching a television show.

Numerous talented artists working today have spoken out against *Family Guy*,

trying to make people realize the show is completely overrated, generic trash.

Ken Tucker of *Entertainment Weekly* has frequently panned the show, grading with a "D" and naming it the worst show of the 1999-2000 television season.

John Kricfalusi, creator of *Ren & Stimpy* said, "If you're a kid wanting to be a cartoonist today, and you're looking at *Family Guy*, you don't have to aim very high. You can draw *Family Guy* when you're ten years old. You don't have to get any better than that to become a professional cartoonist. The standards are extremely low."

Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators of *South Park*, compare the show's reputation among other animated shows to the way serious musicians feel about Justin Timberlake.

The main problem is not only do many people think this show is hilarious, but people are constantly quoting the show and running off at the mouth about how it is "The best show on TV!," not realizing that they themselves could write the show.

It is as basic as a show gets and takes little-to-no talent to write and produce.

Shows like *The Simpsons* and *South Park*, which have talented writers working on them actually have morals and points to their shows. At least 85 percent of the jokes further the plots, unlike the closer to five percent on *Family Guy*.

*South Park* is a relevant social satire and *The Simpsons* shows the importance of family. The episodes make points and go beyond random gag humor.

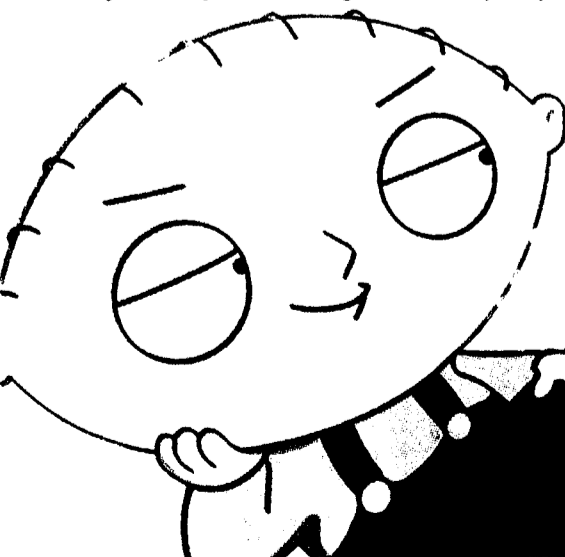
To reiterate the genius of the *South Park* quote above, the episode "Cartoon Wars" satirizes *Family Guy*'s writing staff by showing manatees in tank verbs, nouns and pop culture references by putting them together to make jokes in each episode.

As ridiculous as it may sound, it feels like that could easily be the case, and if you can't realize that then you are pretty naive.

Nearly every plot on *Family Guy* has already been done years before. The fact that the show came back on the air is one of the biggest television tragedies to date.

The only thing that can be said to people who actually think *Family Guy* is a good show is, "good for you, keep frying your brain with this mindless drivel. It separates the people who find humor in randomized poorly written gags and people who enjoy a show that has quality and is equally as good as it is funny."

It cannot be said enough, please do not support this show. The more it is on, the dumber its audience becomes.



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Even after being cancelled in 2001, *Family Guy* gained a cult-like following strong enough to raise it from the dead.

FILM

## Hopeless romantic moviegoers can't be pleased

BRIE SPISHOCK  
staff writer

What ever happened to the romantic film? The inspired plots of classic literature have all been drawn out in film, from the simple love story "Romeo and Juliet," to hip, modern versions of the same tale. These modern "Romeo + Juliet" stories that demean the true love story do so by presenting viewers with Leonardo DiCaprio and his crew decked out in tacky Hawaiian shirts, wielding handguns.

True heroes of romance like emotionally distraught Heathcliff of *Wuthering Heights* have been replaced by the creepy vampire Edward Cullen in *Twilight*, who after 107 years of life still has no depth to his character.

Using the perfect cheekbones of Rob Pattinson, *Twilight* has made nearly every

girl in America want to be the emotionless, dependent rag that is Bella Swan.

After a slow progression of settling for less and less in romantic film heroes, girls nowadays go goo-goo for practically every "sensitive" male character in any movie and expect every guy they meet at Walmart to be "the one."

The demise of the romance film is not solely the fault of the overdramatic and spiritless "chick flick." There is another culprit for the end of chivalric romance in film.

The male gender (like Leo DiCaprio's character in *Titanic*), after years of settling for death in the cold Atlantic waters because their size six girlfriend refuses to move over three inches and let him on the door, have created their own crude form of entertainment mocking the traditional love story.

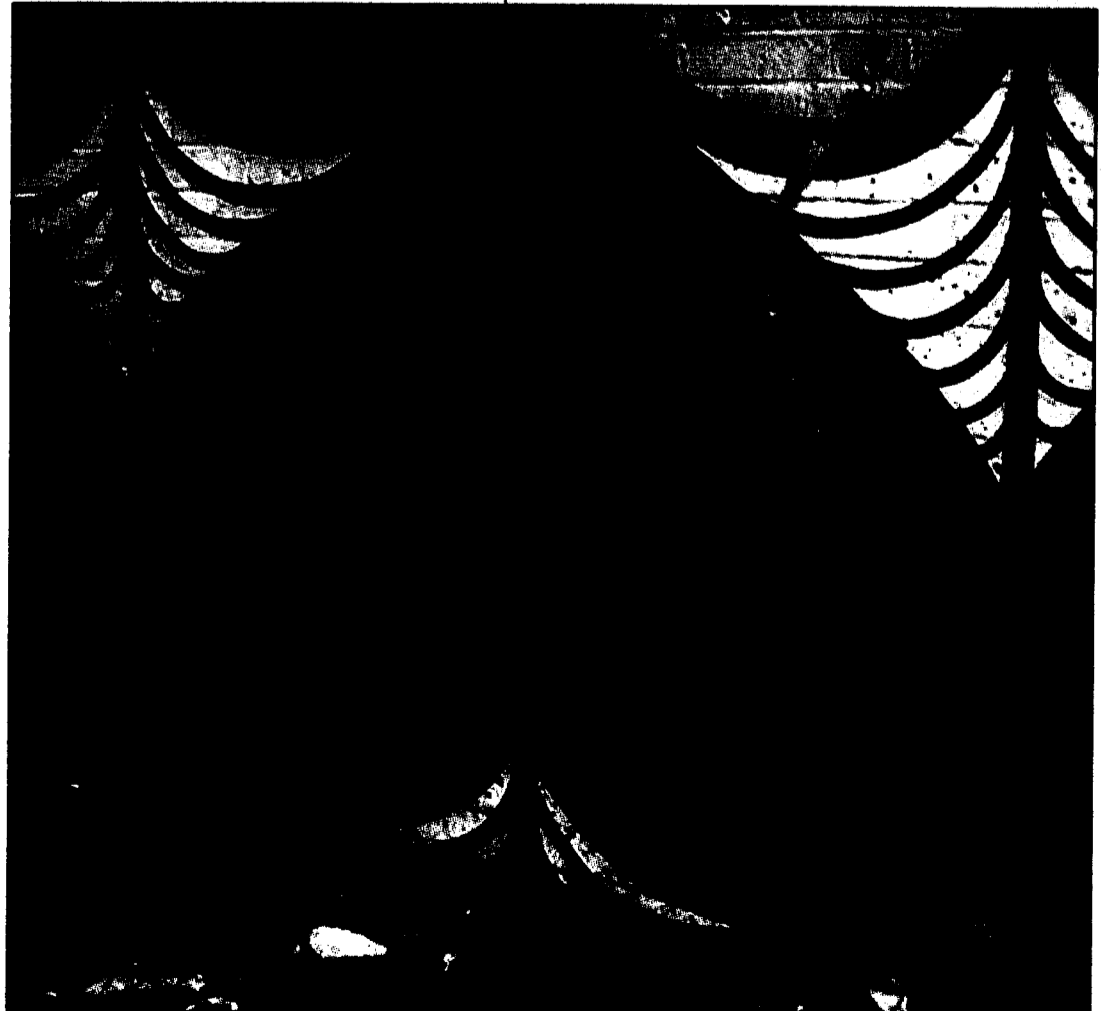
This is called the "romantic

comedy." Take something as awkward in itself as love and add outrageous scenarios like catching your sensitive organs in zippers on prom night or using your girlfriend's favorite luffa as a plunger after an unexpected bowel eruption, and who is not going to get uncomfortable on a first date?

Although the romantic comedy usually ends happily, is the crude mental abuse the audience is put through to get there worth it?

A suggestion for any of the men out there: take your Valentine's Day pickup lines from Clark Gable or perhaps Humphrey Bogart and leave the vulgar Adam Sandler quotes for some other day.

And ladies, read *Breaking Dawn* before committing your heart and first born child to Rob Pattinson as Edward Cullen.



Romance movies these days do not have the same spark as the classics.

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