

# Opinion

## Red Roses and Cheese

By: Brittany Neimeth  
ban5018@psu.edu

If you really loved someone, would you wait once a year to show it, Or would you make sure they knew it all year round? Maybe it's just me, but Valentine's Day is commercialism at its worst. It's bad enough that Christmas and Hannukkah have morphed into a holiday of buying crap, but our capitalistic country has managed to desecrate all three of the Saint Valentine's by attaching a holiday to their name that serves no purpose at all but to waste paper with greeting cards that will be thrown out within the week.

This holiday started off because half way through February, i.e. the 14th, the birds would start to pair off, so the day seemed like it was made for lovers. But, in those days, couples sent meaningful love notes to each other and small tokens of appreciation, while today every fifth person has an identical store bought card that reads something as cheesy as Gouda.

The only good Valentine's Day rhyme I ever read was:  
Roses are red.

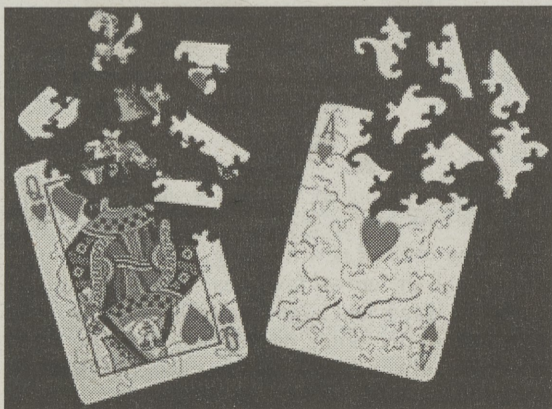
Violets aren't gray

I gave you this letter.

Now give me an A.

The rhyme is obviously directed towards a professor and is the only reason it's mildly entertaining. In addition, Valentine's Day goes on to make the Valentine-less feel bad, or at least some of them. Well, I say fight the urge to buy a card from Hallmark, pass by those red heart-shaped necklaces, and throw out that chocolate in fancy boxes!

And if you really have to do something, make something at home, something that actually has some heart in it. Generalized rhyming poetry does not say love.



## People Poll

Staff writer Brittany Neimeth asked:

Do you believe that Valentine's Day is anything more than a ploy for Hallmark and Godiva to increase revenues?



Name: Anthony Smith  
Major: Business  
Answer: Absolutely



Name: Brad Carpenter  
Major: History  
Answer: Yes, it is a ploy. I mean, it comes once a year.



Name: Darlene Campoli  
Major: HDFS  
Answer: I think Valentine's day's a waste of time.



Name: Erika Acuna  
Major: Food Science  
Answer: It has become so commercial.



Name: Reverend Tray Herman  
Major: IST  
Answer: No, I don't.



Name: Rich Zangari  
Major: Psychology  
Answer: Yeah its way too commercialized, it has broken away from romantic and is now more economic.

## Back Pocket Biography

The new identity of a once trusted and beloved friend: the drivers license

By: Michael Bruder  
Mab522@PSU.edu

In May of 2005, a Republican lead congress passed the "Real ID Act". The law sets new standards for the issuance of state driver's licenses and identification cards. This new law also waives laws that interfere with the construction of physical borders between states, tightens laws for asylum claims, and sets new visa limits.

Critics of the law claim the new ID standards equate to the first ever national ID card. The cited purpose of the act is to deter terrorism. Many civil liberties groups however feel it does nothing more than deter freedom. Other critics feel the new ID cards will open the door for a wave of identity thefts.

By May of 2008, Americans will have to turn in their old driver's licenses and state issued ID cards in exchange for a new standard ID. The new technologically advanced identification cards will contain a plethora of personal information. Federal standards require ID cards to electronically contain "a common machine readable technology" and must also bear "minimum data elements." The data requirements are not spelled out in the act; instead the Secretary of Homeland Security is granted the right to determine what data is necessary.

The new ID will have the standard signature, address, photo, and physical description in print. Identification cards that are not in compliance with federal standards are required to have markings that clearly allow federal officials to recognize that the card is not in compliance. The new IDs will also have either a digital thumb print or retinal scan. They are also expected to electronically store information such as social security numbers, driving history, alien status, even medical records, and voter registration.



The electronic "machine readable technology" to be used is a Radio Frequency Identification chip. The RFID chip is already required in passports issued as of Jan. 2007. Critics of the Real ID Act claim the RFID chip is easily readable and will make every person in the U.S. vulnerable to identity theft. Others worry that a coded RFID is another step the U.S. government is taking towards the Orwellian "Big Brother." Identity theft aside, the idea of a chip that can be tracked via satellite by any branch of the federal government is an attempt to undermine personal privacy with no credible evidence that such actions would increase security.

States not compliant with the new standard set by the "Real ID Act" will forfeit federal grants for the maintenance of roads and highways. Citizens who refuse compliance with the act will not only lose driving privileges, but will no longer have the ability to enter Federal buildings. Valid government issued identification is also required to board airplanes, purchase firearms, cigarettes, and liquor. The federal government has essentially given the people and the States of America a choice in the matter, comply or comply.

On Jan 25, Maine became the first State to reject participation in the Real ID Act. The resolution passed in the State House of Representatives with a vote of 137 to 4, it went on to the State Senate where the resolution was passed unanimously. Similar to the bill passed in Maine, resolutions have been proposed in Washington, Montana, New Hampshire, and New Mexico. No such resolutions have been proposed in Pennsylvania's House or Senate. Maine's rejection is a glimmer of hope that other states will follow in rejecting the Real ID act. Charlie Mitchell, Director of the ACLU's State Legislative Department said "As Maine goes, so goes the nation."

PENNSSTATE



The Lion's Eye

### Contributing Staff:

Charles Harrison, Crystal Paulino, Joey DiCamillo, Victor Abu Boahene, Pat Scanlon, Bryan Drissel, Peter Spizirri

TEMPORARY STAFF ADVISOR: Joseph Biscontinini

Contact the Lion's Eye: e-mail: jmm833@psu.edu, telephone: 610-952-2602, office: 202 Commons

### Editorial Board:

Editor- In- Chief: Dr. Andrew Walter D.D.

Associate Editor- Christina Felizzi

Features Editor- Kat Specht

Managing Editor: John Miller

Photo Editor- Brittany Neimeth

Copy Editor- David M. Pondelick

News Editor-Michael Bruder

### MISSION STATEMENT

We are the newspaper of the Penn State Delaware County campus, serving the students, administration, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campus. We vow to entertain and inform all of our audiences, and we will strive to make each edition better, so that we remain a vital part of the Penn State Delco experience. We also strive to be professional, and to follow the highest standards of good journalism.