

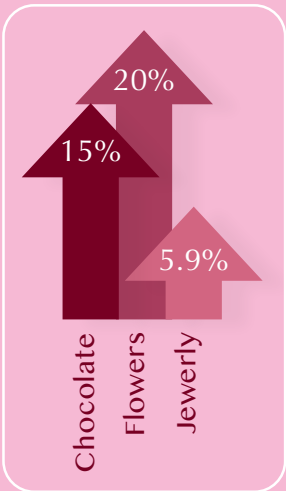
The Cost of Love

Why Valentine's Day Costs More

Valentine's Day is the 3rd most expensive holiday



Price Inflation



Category	Price Increase
Chocolate	15%
Flowers	20%
Jewelry	5.9%

Prices of chocolates, flowers, and jewelry increase around Valentine's Day



\$188.81
Is the average spending per person on Valentine's Day



\$8 million
Beyonce's blue diamond ring is the most expensive Valentine's Day gift ever bought



67% . . . of people buy gifts
56% . . . of people receive gifts

Combating Cupid

BY GRACE BRADER

When we think of Valentine's Day, we picture a celebration filled with love, thoughtful gestures, and meaningful gifts. However, for many businesses, the holiday is also an opportunity to raise prices in the weeks leading up to February 14.

While giving chocolates and flowers is a sweet tradition, at what point does celebrating become too expensive? Flower prices alone have increased by nearly 20 percent in recent years, and chocolate prices often rise by about 15 percent around major holidays like Valentine's Day. In fact, Valentine's Day ranks as the third most expensive holiday of the year.

For many young couples, especially those just beginning their careers and managing tight budgets, these rising costs can feel overwhelming. The pressure to impress a significant other while staying within a reasonable budget can create unnecessary stress on a day that is meant to bring people closer together.

One way to combat these inflated prices is to celebrate more creatively. Couples can choose meaningful, low-cost gestures such as handwritten letters, homemade meals, or planning a special day together. Another option is to wait until after the holiday, when many items go on sale. Love and appreciation do not have to be limited to a single date on the calendar. Interestingly, studies show that men tend to spend more on Valentine's Day gifts than women. Maybe this is the year to surprise your significant other with something thoughtful and unexpected. Even though prices may be higher, the joy on your partner's or friend's face can make the effort worthwhile.

Still, it is fair to question whether prices should increase simply because of a holiday. Stores could build stronger relationships with customers by maintaining regular prices rather than taking advantage of seasonal demand.

Beyond gifts and spending, Valentine's Day is also about courage. For many single people, it is a chance to step out of their comfort zone and ask someone to be their Valentine. If you are considering it, be kind, be confident, and remember that a simple box of chocolates or bouquet of flowers can go a long way. This might be the year you find the courage to take that chance because after all, what's the worst that could happen?

GRAPHIC BY BROOKLYN BUHR

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



BY AJ LIESKE

There are roughly 300,000 to 700,000 individuals in the 13-17 year old age range that identify as transgender in the United States. I, the author, am included in this group. Many significant political and social leaders have preached the idea of, “protecting,” children from transgender individuals. There seems to be an idea that there are people out there targeting youth to, “become,” transgender, despite there being little to no evidence to back this. “Protect the children!” They say, but what about the children who are transgender? What about these kids?

THE PATRIOT VOICE

Published quarterly, the student newspaper of Adams Central Jr./Sr. High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Opinions expressed in an editorial column are solely those of the writer. Opinions expressed in The Patriot Voice should not be construed as the opinion or policy of Adams Central Public Schools unless so attributed.



BY AVA LIESKE

From roughly 2016 to now, there has been a spike in hostility between political parties. For the past 10 years, it has felt like a civil war based simply on who you voted for. Moreover, debates that give way to directly infringing on the natural-born rights we have living in the United States, those being “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” All of this begs the question: Is it really worth it? I created this cartoon to base the idea of choosing, the fact that it is beyond hard to live in the middle ground of radicalism in 2026.