

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## BASIS SCOTTSDALE & COVID VACCINES

BY ZAINA JASSER

Since mid-December, when the first COVID vaccines were administered in New York, the national distribution of vaccinations has spread to every state, and so far, over 1.5 million doses are administered each day in the US. The first phase (1A) recently ended a few weeks ago and now phases 1B and 1C are in effect with K-12 teachers having been pushed up in priority, although at each states’ discretion. Because of this, teachers in Arizona have been able to receive their vaccines in phase 1B alongside frontline healthcare workers and those older than 65. As some BASIS teachers have recently gotten vaccinated, I interviewed two teachers to understand their reactions to the distribution of vaccines throughout the school.

*Are you scheduled to get your vaccine? If you’ve already received a dose, did you experience any symptoms afterwards?*

**Mr. Peacher:** I’ve gotten my 2 doses of the Moderna vaccine, but they were actually from 2 different places. For both of them, I got real sick. My arm was so sore that I could barely raise it over my head, and I even got fever and chills, although my wife’s symptoms weren’t nearly as bad as mine.

**Ms. Real:** I’ve only gotten the first dose, and I’m still trying to schedule my second. It almost felt like a tetanus shot, like a dead arm, and it was a little sore for a few days. But, overall, I was fine and just a bit tired. I’ve heard that other people had worse symptoms than me, but luckily I didn’t feel too sick.

*Was the process easier or more difficult than you’d expected?*

**Mr. Peacher:** It’s kind of like the Wild West. You just call and go, and it’s sort of hit or miss. My wife and I got our vaccinations in Maricopa County during early phase 1B. There’s no singular website to schedule the vaccination and you have to schedule the second dose on your own as well. But, the BASIS Operations Office

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Cars lined up to receive the COVID vaccine at the State Farm Stadium, Source: Arizona Department of Health Services

### FEATURED

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### SAVE THE DATE

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Feb 2:<br>Groundhog Day    | Feb 15:<br>Presidents’ Day |
| Feb 14:<br>Valentine’s Day | Feb 16:<br>Back to School  |

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and the community of teachers here have been messaging us different sites that have worked best for them, especially with finding a place that'll schedule your second dose in time.

**Ms. Real:** It was very frustrating. There's not enough spots for everyone that needs one, and the website is somewhat poorly designed. You pick a time slot and then answer the questions after, so by the time I finished answering the questions the slot would be gone. It was a harder process than I'd hoped, but I understand why.

*Are most BASIS teachers interested and able to receive a dose?*

**Mr. Peacher:** Most people want a shot to take care of themselves and their community. And overall it's been a good experience to see everyone come together and do that this year.

**Ms. Real:** I haven't talked to anyone who hasn't wanted to or hasn't gotten at least part of the vaccine. A lot of the teachers here have already gotten their vaccine and their second dose, too.

*Do you think the earlier timing of the distribution of vaccines to teachers was an appropriate decision in Arizona?*

**Mr. Peacher:** Teaching in-person and unvaccinated was definitely uncomfortable. I also think Arizona and other states are starting to realize that it's important that students have a safe place to go to during the day with schools open again. I think the decision to prioritize teachers after healthcare workers and people most at risk was a good decision.

**Ms. Real:** I think it was relatively appropriate because I do think teachers are a high risk population. The administration and school staff are with other people and kids every day of the year, so I think it was good timing to give it to frontline workers first and then teachers after.

*Do you think life at school, both in-person and online, will be affected once all teachers are vaccinated?*

**Mr. Peacher:** I think it'll be better for the teachers and they'll feel more protected, in a sense. We'll still wear

masks at school and follow regular guidelines, but it's nice not to always worry about that one time you forgot to wash your hands after touching a door knob. However, I don't think much will change especially because most students aren't able to get vaccinated.

**Ms. Real:** I'm not sure. I think it depends not just on teachers, but on families too, and how willing students and parents are to vaccinate themselves. The school is a community of teachers and students along with others, and if only a small population is vaccinated it won't make too big of a difference. But I'm hopeful and excited, it's encouraging to see people take it just to help their community.

It seems teachers are ready and eager to return to school as long as proper safety and regulatory measures can be implemented. As much as we students feel an obligation to get an A in a class or a 5 on the AP test, teachers feel an equal obligation to help us achieve that, and a safe reopening of school gives teachers greater confidence that they will be able to. It's inspiring to see our teachers come together as a community to make school safer for themselves and for their students, but this is only the first step in a long process. Teachers are only a fraction of the BASIS Scottsdale population, but we hope by the end of summer that students will get their chance to receive vaccinations and return safely to the school by the new year. While it will take the help of everyone in our community to get there, everyone is prepared to do his or her part to keep us safe!



Source: Observer Research Foundation

# BUILDING A BETTER BASIS

BY SAHIL SUD

Students differ on interests, hobbies, and favorite classes at BASIS Scottsdale. But there is one thing that is constant across every student: everyone agrees that the school must be improved. That's why BASIS.ed created a \$10,000 fund for students to propose and vote upon ideas to improve the community. To this end, many students have presented different ideas as they attempt to improve the school.

But as more and more proposals were created, there were a few limits to keep in mind. First, students must juggle the financial constraints of a \$10,000 cap on the fund. This prevents proposals that would result in the hiring of new school workers, such as mental health counselors and janitors, meaning that students must explain how their proposed project would not exceed the limit and still manage to benefit the school.

In Mr. Witz's AP English Language class, students were allowed to create a proposal in order to apply for the fund. Many students submitted letters to the rest of the student body to garner support. In doing so, many students were able to alter their original proposals based on feedback from their peers.

Some of the proposals that gained considerable traction with the student body focused on improving the

school's infrastructure. For example, student Tristan C. (10) proposed that the school spend its \$10,000 budget on solar panels to save money on both future projects and energy costs. Moreover, he suggested that installing solar panels could add to the green image that BASIS presents of itself. Other proposals included calls for better bleachers in the gym for the various sports events that BASIS Scottsdale hosts and requests for an increased number of computers to be available for student use. There were even proposals that emphasized textbooks and advocated for buying more to replace aging editions.

At this point, I reached out to Mrs. Mitrovich to ascertain the status of the submitted proposals. She responded that as "student proposals have been submitted...the voting process is soon to begin" but maintained that some logistics are yet to be determined. The success of these proposals, like many others, relies on community involvement and collective action to accomplish its goals. And at this point, who knows what everyone will think of next? But one thing is certain: the success of the project depends almost entirely upon how well the BASIS community can work together and given the collaborative nature of BASIS students, it is certain that everyone will come together to improve the system for us all.



Source: Timothy Sullivan



# A HEARTWARMING C.U.R.E.

BY CALISTA WILK

It's the middle of summer. The temperatures are skyrocketing to beyond 100°F. The sun is beating down in our dry, desert environment. And yet, there are dozens of impassioned volunteers labeling, sorting, and shipping donation packages in these broiling conditions. Carrying a wide variety of medical supplies from gloves to anesthesia machines, these donations make their way from the heart of Phoenix to hundreds of hospitals in developing countries, where numerous patients are healed, protected, and loved. The inspiring organization behind this motivation and aid is the one and only Project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment).

From first responders to construction workers to artists, Project C.U.R.E. Phoenix supports a diverse range of volunteers, all of whose skills are always appreciated and implemented into Project C.U.R.E.'s services. Fueled by these volunteers' drive, Project C.U.R.E. sends out several semi-truck-sized containers to over 130 countries across the world every week, primarily to those that are underfunded and have little medical supplies. However, due to health safety issues imposed by COVID-19, the shipment process to international hospitals has been slowed down. Nonetheless, Project C.U.R.E. has persevered and has started delivering packages of gloves, face masks, and hand sanitizer to many undersupplied hospitals in Arizona.

"I'm always just surprised at how dedicated these volunteers are," Operations Director Heather Maher wholeheartedly told me. "I would expect that during a—I don't know—a *global pandemic*, people wouldn't be so interested to come be in an environment where they would have to wear a mask all the time, where they would have to be doing labor in the summer in a hot warehouse, but they still showed up." Indeed, Project C.U.R.E. is one of the most impactful groups that is taking the first step forward to offer a helping hand to those who are experiencing difficult situations due to COVID-19.

Project C.U.R.E. Phoenix is always open and excited to receive help from as many volunteers as possible, including students! Ms. Maher encourages high school students to volunteer at Project C.U.R.E. Phoenix, where you would be able to ensure supplies are clean, sort them into their correct packages, and help save lives around the world. Volunteering at Project C.U.R.E. Phoenix provides volunteer hours as well as a chance to develop as an individual, as this is "a really great



Source: [www.projectcure.org/phoenix](http://www.projectcure.org/phoenix)

opportunity to make many new, supportive friends and see how non-profit leadership can be a well-rounded, efficient system," Ms. Maher told me. If you're interested in helping this motivated organization, explore Project C.U.R.E. Phoenix's website at <https://projectcure.org/phoenix>.

Sending supplies to over one hundred countries, Project C.U.R.E. continually supports people across the world in need of medical help. However, Project C.U.R.E. is not just a passionate organization that works to improve the health of others—it's a welcoming family that strengthens our community, physically and socially, and is powered by the love of volunteers. As Ms. Maher warmly told me, "There really isn't anything stronger than the heart of a volunteer, and I'm always reminded of that here, every day. I have a really great group of people."

# VACCINES: POST- PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

BY DERRICK KANG

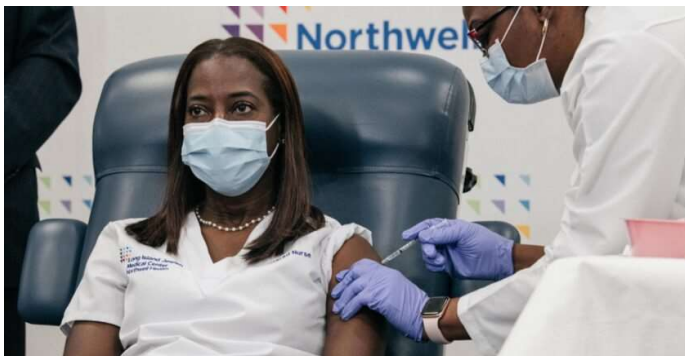
While the coronavirus vaccine has been created, its distribution within the U.S. remains a problem that requires immediate attention. Irregular deliveries combined with unknown quantities made scheduling nearly impossible for most states. Recently, President Joe Biden announced changes to the vaccine distribution in an effort to facilitate vaccinations in states and territories. In his plans, the supplies of the vaccine would increase by 1.4 million, totaling to around 10 million doses weekly. The White House announced that it was enlisting more retail pharmacies to distribute doses, estimating that there would be around a million doses sent to 6,500 pharmacies on February 11, beginning the process to distribute vaccines to around 40,000 pharmacies.

While most of the vaccine distribution was focused on hospitals, other health care facilities, and even stadiums, the White House is increasingly looking for other institutions such as pharmacies that will be capable of distributing the vaccine to more Americans. However, because of the current limited supply, many officials say that if pharmacies are even allowed to distribute doses, their vaccine supply would be very limited. Even so, the federal government will proceed in determining how vaccines should be distributed amongst the states, mostly depending on population (as well as state jurisdiction). Multiple pharmacies, including grocery stores, are participating in this pharmacy program, but with it comes multiple problems. These pharmacies must determine locations to give out the vaccines, carefully look over staff members administering its distribution, and document all the vaccinations given (both the first and second doses) all the while handling the usual demands from a pharmacy.

Various developers, including Moderna, have suggested filling up empty space in the distributed vials to speed up immunization of Americans. According to Moderna, if the change was implemented, it could add tens of millions of more doses to the current vaccine supply. Even so, Pfizer and Moderna, the two largest vaccine developers, could only cover around 110 million of the nation's 260 million adults. Other companies, such as Johnson & Johnson, seek vaccine approval, but might only be able to provide around 7 million more doses.

Currently, Arizona is still in Phase 1A and 1B, meaning that healthcare workers are prioritized in vaccinations. However, other groups such as teachers, childcare workers, law enforcement or protective service workers, and those 65 years and older are also offered vaccinations, but the limitations in the vaccine supply slow down the process. Other Phase 1B groups such as adults living in congregate settings and essential workers as well as those in Phase 1C (adults of any age with a high-risk medical condition) are expected to receive treatment soon. Vaccination distribution methods within Arizona are still subject to change as Public Health is currently facilitating agreements that allow pharmacies and other providers to administer the vaccine with the end goal being that the vaccine could be administered through doctor's offices, clinics, and other healthcare facilities (similar to how the flu vaccine is widely available).

While the development of the vaccine has largely come to a close, distribution still remains a problem for America. Hopefully, the problem will eventually be solved as both the national and local governments work towards getting the vaccine completely distributed to the general populace. Until then, it is still very important for us to take care of ourselves and still follow the appropriate guidelines that ensure our own safety as well as the safety of others.



New York nurse receives the vaccine, Source: ABC

# A NUCLEAR CONUNDRUM CONCERNING THE WORLD

BY ALEX  
ZOU

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest the world had ever come to a true nuclear exchange and even now, well over fifty years after its events, the issue of nuclear annihilation still hangs like a Sword of Damocles over peace and stability. The basic tenet of nuclear warfare is simple and boils down to the phrase Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), which describes the final stage of a full nuclear exchange between nuclear countries. The tenet of MAD currently ensures the power balance between the nuclear powers of the world. However, the United States' official stance of retaining a First Use policy threatens this fragile peace and could lead to unimaginable and horrific consequences.

The case for the United States adopting a No First Use Policy essentially comes down to three major reasons. First, the strategy of keeping a first use policy only increases the likelihood of attack as it implicitly confirms that the United States is willing to use nuclear weapons without first being provoked. Second, a no-first-use policy will decrease nuclear tensions internationally and improve world stability. Finally, implementing a no first use policy indirectly complements the United States' conventional military power in a hypothetical conflict.

Historically, the "conventional" nuclear doctrine during the Cold War was to preemptively strike an enemy state to destroy "nuclear assets in a preemptive first strike." Both the Soviet Union and the United States placed heavy emphasis on this doctrine because whoever struck first and destroyed the other's nuclear capabilities would be able to "win" the nuclear conflict. However, this is an outdated tactic.

Since the end of the Cold War, nuclear technologies have developed into the so-called nuclear triad. The nuclear triad is a description of the three main ways that a nuclear attack could be launched: by way of a missile attack from land, sea, or air. Essentially, the nuclear triad ensures that in the event of a nuclear attack, a state does not lose the operational capacity to launch nuclear weapons in a retaliatory strike. The power to do so is called "Second-strike capability."

Of the nuclear powers in the world today, six of them, the United States, Russia, France, Great Britain,



Source: AFP

China, and India, have the full nuclear triad and therefore second-strike capability. In addition, Pakistan is also on its way to achieving second-strike capability. It becomes very clear that the original nuclear doctrine the first use policy was based on-- to destroy a rival state's capability to strike back-- has now become impossible.

Even in North Korea, the adoption of no first use strategy could help decrease tensions on the Korean peninsula. For one, North Korea will not use its own weapons. According to CBS News, because North Korea views nuclear weapons as "key to its survival," North Korea is willing to use all of its nuclear arsenal if it perceives the United States as an imminent threat to its survival. The adoption of a no first use policy would do a great deal to calm nuclear tensions with North Korea and may even open the floor to further negotiations.

The People's Republic of China is an ascendant power in the 21st century. In contrast to both the US and Russia, China has committed itself to a no first use policy since the 1960s, when it first obtained nuclear weapons. As the Texas National Security Review comments, "Chinese leaders [see] NFU policy as an effective way to signal the purely defensive nature of the small Chinese nuclear arsenal

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and to avoid a U.S.-Soviet-style arms race.” In recent interactions between the United States and China, especially in the South China Sea, rising tensions in the region can instigate a prompt escalation to war. By adopting a no first use policy, the United States can reduce the tension in the region and de-escalate before actual conflict breaks out.

The Russian Federation has been the United States’ historical opponent as the spiritual successor to the Soviet Union. Even now, both Russia and the United States have nuclear weapons on standby with weapons ready to launch in under 15 minutes. This greatly increases the chance for nuclear miscalculation and the opportunity for a nuclear exchange to actually break out, especially over the conflict in the Middle East in

countries like Syria. Adopting a no first use policy on the part of the United States could greatly decrease nuclear conflict against Russia as Russia will always have to be the aggressor as the country with a first use policy.

As technology and global politics advance, the nuances of nuclear doctrine have changed as well. To prevent a future catastrophic nuclear exchange, the United States Should Adopt a No-First-Use Policy. As always, total nuclear disarmament around the globe is the ultimate goal but in the meantime, the adoption of a no-first-use policy by the United States will not only help expedite the achievement of total nuclear disarmament but also greatly lower the chance of an actual nuclear conflict.



Depiction of the “Nuclear Triad,” Source: [www.nationaldefensemagazine.org](http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org)

# BOREDOM QUIZ

BY ALLISON LI

Congratulations! You are officially done with over half of the school year. To celebrate, I have created a quiz that you can use as entertainment to help ease your boredom. This quiz has no results, so you don't have to stress about doing any math, and there are no correct answers. With that being said, I bring to you all the boredom quiz.

1. If you have two apples and I have two apples, how many apples does Bobby have?
  - a. Infinite
  - b. Um...he wasn't mentioned
  - c. Two
  - d. Well it depends on who Bobby is. Is he a farmer?
2. Are you the main character?
  - a. I don't know what you mean
  - b. Yes!! Of course I am, why wouldn't I be?
  - c. I think I am but I don't want to be
  - d. If I'm the main character, does that mean that I can control what other people do?
3. What is 12814?
  - a. A number?
  - b. Twelve thousand eight hundred fourteen
  - c. Looks like a barcode to me
  - d. 2 multiplied by 3455
4. What is the capital city of the United States?
  - a. Texas
  - b. New York
  - c. Arizona
  - d. These are states?
5. How do you assemble furniture from IKEA?
  - a. I leave it in the box and use it as furniture it still works
  - b. I follow the directions and assemble it
  - c. I throw the instructions away and assemble it myself
  - d. I don't buy furniture from IKEA
6. What is  $10 + 9$ ?
  - a. 19
  - b. 21
  - c. 72
  - d. Four
7. How many people does it take to replace a light bulb?
  - a. One person?
  - b. Two people
  - c. A cat and a dog
  - d. A light bulb
8. How many hours of sleep do you need?
  - a. None who needs sleep?
  - b. At least 8 hours to function
  - c. 4 hours
  - d. A solid 12+ hours
9. When was World War II?
  - a. 1914
  - b. 1878
  - c. 1928
  - d. 2020
10. If  $x = 2y + 18$  what is  $z$ ?
  - a. 22
  - b. Undefined
  - c. Indeterminate
  - d. 87



Source: theschoolrun.com



# MONTHLY MUNCHIES

## MINI DESSERT BROWNIES

BY DYLAN SOSINSKY  
AND JONAH MARWIL

Looking for an easy recipe for satisfy your chocolate cravings? Below is an easy and affordable dessert to make. Enjoy!!

### Mini Dessert Brownies

#### Ingredients

1. 1 cup butter
2. 1 ½ cup white sugar
3. 4 eggs, lightly beaten
4. 2 tsp. vanilla extract
5. 1 cup all-purpose flour
6. ⅔ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
7. ½ tsp. baking powder
8. ¼ tsp. salt
9. ⅓ cup heavy cream
10. 3 oz. bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
11. 28 fresh raspberries

#### Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a muffin pan and an 8 inch square pan.
2. Melt butter, remove from heat. Add sugar, eggs, and vanilla extract until smooth. Then add flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt.
3. Take batter and add to muffin pan, filling up to ¾ full. Pour the rest in the pan.
4. Bake both for 12 minutes in the oven and 20 minutes for the pan until a toothpick can be inserted, then cool for 5 mins.
5. Move brownies to a wired rack to cool and let the pan of brownies, 2 hours to rest.
6. Heat cream in a small saucepan over heat until almost boiled.
7. Place chopped chocolate in a bowl and pour heavy cream. Mix until smooth.
8. Place chocolate mixture onto the brownies and add raspberries on top.



Source: Celebrating Sweets

Are you having a hard time deciding what chocolate commodity to get your loved ones on Valentine's Day? Look no further! This month, I asked 5 students to rate different chocolate commodities on a scale of 1 to 10. As you can see from the chart below, Chocolate Ice Cream got the highest average score with a whopping 9.2/10. Zain A. (8F) said, "Chocolate ice cream is the best because I like the taste and how it melts in my mouth." Fudge got the worst rating with a meager 5.4/10. Yousef K. (8F) said, "Fudge is my least favorite because it is so simple and has no extra kick of chocolate compared to the other options. It is completely basic and very chewy."

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Food	Chocolate cake	Chocolate Chip Cookies	Chocolate Ice Cream	Fudge	Brownies	Chocolate bar	Hot Chocolate	Fruit dipped in chocolate
Rating	7.4	8.4	9.2	5.4	7.8	8.4	8.4	7.2



**WORST RATING**



**BEST RATING**

Remember, these ratings are purely subjective and should not be taken seriously! Enjoy what you like regardless of what other people may say. Happy chocolate munching!

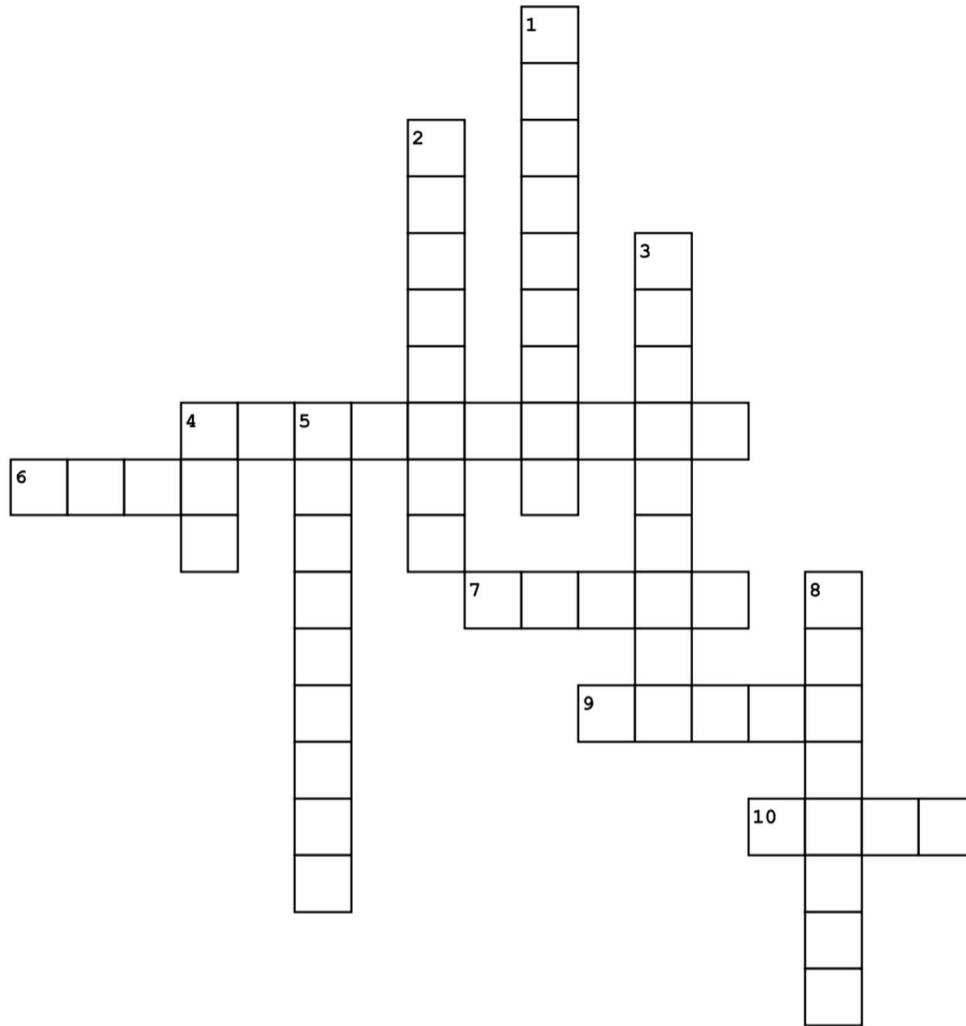
**CROSSWORD  
ANSWERS  
FROM PAGE 11**

**Across:**  
4. Rick Astley; 6. Rose; 7. Cupid; 9. Heart; 10. Poem  
**Down:**  
1. Aphrodite; 2. February; 3. Valentine; 4. Red; 5. Chocolate; 8. Catholic

# PUZZLE PAGE

## VALENTINE'S DAY CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD  
ANSWERS ON  
PAGE 10



### Across:

4. Singer of the song "Never Gonna Give You Up"
6. Flower associated with Valentine's Day
7. Roman God responsible for Love
9. Human organ that symbolizes Love
10. Genre of writing where lines often rhyme

### Down

1. Greek Goddess responsible for Love
2. The month that Valentine's Day is in
3. Saint responsible for Valentine's Day
4. Primary color associated with Valentine's Day
5. The kind of sweets that are given on Valentine's Day
8. Christian denomination that created Valentine's Day



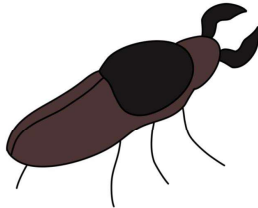
# COMIC O' THE HOLIDAYS

BY TRISTAN CLARKE

## LITERARY VALENTINES



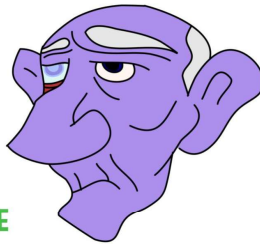
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SAMSA**



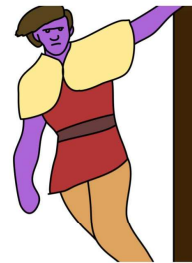
**SATAN**



**THE MAN  
WITH THE  
VULTURE-EYE**



**JASON**



**DORIAN  
GRAY**



**SWEENEY  
TODD**



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