



TIGER TIMES



Valentine's Edition



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Winter formal: Dancing away the cold

By Celine L.
Editor-in-Chief

Student council put together the winter formal to give students a night to remember on Feb. 3. Stuco started this tradition last year to give students something to look forward to in the cold and dreary months of winter.

Stuco president, Annabelle F., stated that this dance was inspired by what other schools do in the winter months. Homecoming is usually a bigger event that people stress over, so the idea of the winter formal was to combat this stress.

"We tried to have this dance as a fun night, you don't have to stress over it," Annabelle said. "Winter is kind of dead, so it's something to look forward to."

Stuco's hard work was displayed through their enchanting decor choices. The theme was "winter wonderland," completed with blue and white snowflakes circling the dance floor, and an eye-catching arbour that set the mood when you walk in.

"The night was sparkling and so much fun. I had the time of my life with everyone who attended," Harlow M. said.

Then of course you can't have a high school dance without a king and queen. This year, the king and queen of the winter formal was Toby C. and Adrienne G. Adrienne and Toby were thrilled to win.

"This was the one dance where we could win king and queen together. Our anniversary is coming up, so it was a big moment to get this right before our anniversary," Adrienne said.

Toby also expressed his gratitude for those who voted for them.

"I was nervous at first, but then after like 15 seconds I felt good," Toby said. "Thanks for voting for me."

The winter formal wasn't just a hit for Adrienne and Toby. Students seem to love this dance, questioning when the next one will be.

"We'll plan it so that we'll do Valentine's every other year, and then winter formal to keep it the same theme but not repeat it every year." Annabelle said.

Most can agree that the winter formal brings a little warmth to the cold and stale winter months. Overall, this dance was a blast and students can't wait for the next one.



History of Valentine's Day

By Aidan R.
Copy Desk Chief

As we all know, Valentine's Day is a ubiquitous holiday that is celebrated worldwide in many different countries.

The origins of Valentine's Day are not exactly confirmed, but there are some speculations that many people believe. One of the many popular origin stories of the "Holiday of Love" comes from A.D. 270, where a large majority speculates that it is celebrating Valentinus' death or burial. It may sound bizarre that we have a holiday surrounding a bishop's death, but there is more to the story that most people don't know.

Valentinus was either a priest or Bishop that ministered to and helped to marry persecuted Christians, whom refused to worship the gods of Rome. He was later jailed for this, and ironically became good friends with his jailor's daughter, eventually sending her the infamous letter that was signed, "From your Valentine."

Although this is one of the more popular stories, historians have begun to believe that Valentine's Day was formed to cover up the pagan holiday, "Lupercalia," which was an annual ancient festival celebrated in Rome on Feb. 15. During this festival, which honored the fertility god Lupercus, men would draw women's names from a jar and spend the festival with them, often leading to marriages.

While we saw the origins of Valentine's Day in the third century, it wasn't actually until around the 15th century when we saw the start of many traditions that we know and love today.

By this time, it was common for people to exchange handwritten letters and notes to show their affection for one another.

Of course, the holiday was still on the rise, but it wasn't until the 1800s that we saw a massive rise in printing technology and how it completely changed the game for consumers, allowing for a quick and easy way to show your gratitude for someone.

More often than not, these readily available cards would depict images of cupids, angels, hearts and all things love.

Now, we don't see the use of the fun Valentine cards as often as we maybe once did in Elementary school, it's safe to say that it's more common to see someone send a text message to show their gratitude.

So, as the holiday of love commences, indulge in the long history of one of the most interesting days of the year, keep the ancient traditions alive, and be sure to send your loved ones the message that they deserve and be sure to let your closest friends, family, classmates, and, yes, even your pets that you love them dearly.



Letter from the editor

Dear readers,

First of all, I want to give a huge thanks to everyone who has either contributed to the Tiger Times or simply read our paper. It has come a long way and wouldn't be possible without you!

On this Valentine's Day, I am thankful for all of my fellow newspaper staff. This edition was crafted with much love by all these wonderful people. We hope you enjoy the Valentine's edition of the Tiger Times!

You can look forward to more special editions in the near future.

-Celine L.

Library News

By Mrs. Coulter

This February we're celebrating both Valentine's Day and National Library Lovers' Month in our Book Club: Love Stories Edition Community Hour. While students in this course choose their own romantic reading adventures, they also share and discuss favorite romcom reads and try a "blind date with a book" based on their reading preferences.

Class discussions have covered everything from diversity and inclusivity in the romance genre, to the historical significance of St. Valentine's Day, to favorite romantic tropes (slow burns and friends to lovers are class favorites!) and dreaded "book icks" (whiny characters and real people on the book covers top the Ick list!).

Book Club members have also spread their love of literature by donating books to the Little Free Library in Glasford, volunteering at the IBES book fair, and serving on the teen board at Alpha Park Library.

If you're in the mood for a book you'll love, check out these recommendations from our Book Club: Love Story Edition reading professionals:

Katie Allen: *Since You've Been Gone* by

Morgan Matson

Lauren Classen: *The Summer of Broken Rules* K.L. Walther

Delaney O'Connor: *Saint Anything* by Sarah Dessen

Marissa Robertson: *Love & Other Words* by Christina Laruren

Ella Depperman: *They Both Die at the End* by Adam Silvera (Ella insists that you HAVE to read the 2nd book, too, because it's the best!)

Edie Barrick: *Cheat Sheet* by Sarah Adams

Jocelyn Johnson & Mya Vaughn both recommend *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

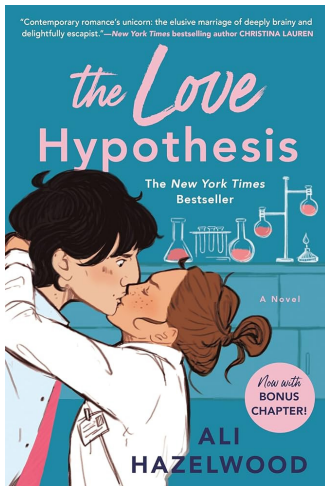
Sophia Gordon: *If You Had Been With Me* by Laura Nowlin

Mrs. Coulter: *Today Tonight Tomorrow* by Rachel Lynn Solomon

Best romance novels

By Rebecca R.

Copy Editor-at-Large

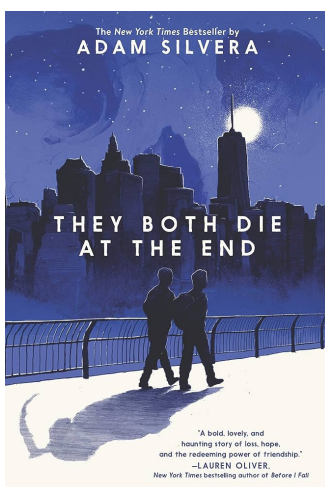


"The Love Hypothesis"

If you're looking for the fake-dating trope, you've found it here. *The Love Hypothesis* follows the protagonist Olive as she tries to convince the people around her about how well her dating life is going. This book is almost your traditional romance novel, but starting out as fan-fiction can always result in some fun twists and turns.

"Red, White & Royal Blue"

This contemporary romance deals with politics, along with its romantic aspects. What happens when the son of the U.S. president falls in love with the Prince of Wales? If you're looking for enemies to lovers, you may fall in love with this book.

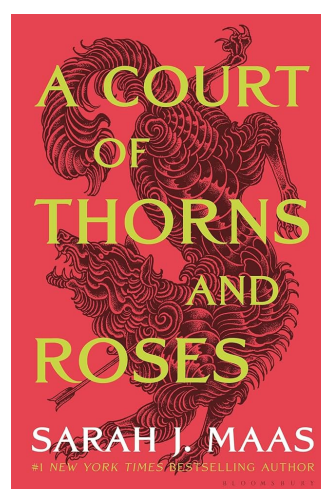


"They Both Die at the End"

If you could spend your last 24 hours with anyone who would it be? Would it be a stranger? This story follows Mateo and Rufus, two complete strangers, as they choose what they are going to do with their last 24 hours. Want to know what happens on their last day, pick it up in the library.

"A Court of Thorns and Roses"

What would you do if you were kidnapped into a magical land? Would you fall for your captor? Follow Feyre through her magical journey through the land of Prythian and find out what the magic may have in store for her.



Senior Column: Don't Compare Covers

By Rebecca R.

Copy Editor-at-Large

When you walk into a library, the first thing you see is the many books piled high. Each comes in a different genre: nonfiction, fiction, romance, mystery, and so many others -- and each is different in its own way. You wouldn't sit and compare a mystery novel and romance novel even if the mystery has bits of romance and the romance has bits of mystery. That doesn't make them the same book and will not change your opinion on each book.

Sometimes it can take a while to teach yourself to not compare things, since that's what we've been taught to do, but not everything should be compared -- just like how you shouldn't compare yourself to others. I know I may sound like a broken record, and you've probably heard this since elementary, but it's true. For me, it took time to realize these things to know that I'm me and that's what matters. After many breakdowns after trying to change myself to be like everyone else, I got tired of crying over the same thing over and over again. I decided I was done and I was ready to embrace who I am. I was ready to be done trying to be like everyone else and I want to change my thought process.

It may take the realization of knowing you'll never be like others no matter how hard you try. Even if you change everything about yourself you could never be where you want to be. So maybe it's time to stop comparing and just embrace yourself and let yourself be who you are.

It may take a while to truly understand but it's an important lesson.

You can't spend your whole life saying you're not like everyone else, you're like you and that's what matters. No one is like you and you are not like anyone else. So it's time to stop comparing yourself to others.

Senior Column: Trust me, be careful

By Lalaina Z.

Copy Editor

Moving through my last year of high school, I reflect on my experiences and I feel the need to mention all the lessons I've learned. I think back to what I would tell myself when I was coming into high school. Throughout my years at Illini Bluffs, one piece of advice has stayed constant. That being, be careful of who you trust.

Not everyone has your best interests at heart, and most of the people you consider "friends" are not actually your friends. What I've also learned here is that the majority of students tell somebody everything. If you don't want your secrets to **get** out, I'd advise you to find a circle of people you truly trust and stick to that.

Towards the beginning of my high school career, this was the hardest lesson I've had to learn. It's one of those things you have to continuously learn the hard way. However, there's always a bright side, and I'm glad that I've learned my lesson even if it took **me** a while. This is something that you need to carry with you **out** of high school. As I've grown, this piece of advice has saved me from uncomfortable situations and toxic friendships.

Being careful **of** who you trust is a majorly beneficial thing. It helps you create genuine friendships and relationships, protects you from people with bad intentions and overall improves your well-being. Trust is a thing that shouldn't be easily given, it needs to be earned. Throughout my time **here**, this is the main thing I will be taking away from this and taking it with me into the real world.

Student survey: Valentine's holiday status

By Alex M.
Senior Reporter

According to the IB survey, 66.7% of people say Valentine's Day deserves to be celebrated as a holiday although 33.3% of people say it shouldn't be a real holiday. The voters of this survey had the option to choose either "Yes, it deserves to be considered a real holiday," or "No, it's a fake holiday it shouldn't be recognized." Along with having their opinion about the holiday they also were encouraged to explain why they had their opinion.

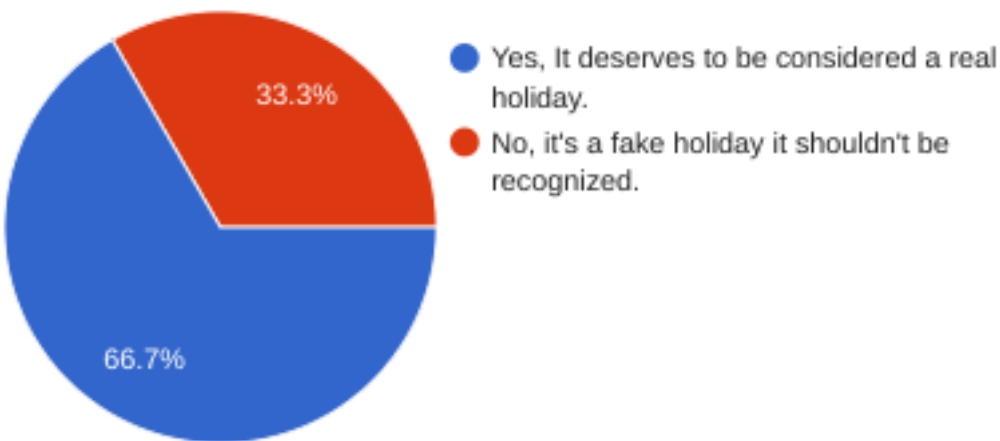
The majority who voted for it should be a holiday said how it should be celebrated to show love and affection.

One response said, "I think it deserves the day so people get one day to have a day for love."

Others also mentioned how maybe it could be celebrated but not recognized. A response said, "I think it's a real holiday because it's a nice time to just get people gifts but I don't think it's a real big deal." Another part of the majority believed that it brought people closer together and love is in all relationships and should be celebrated, "I feel like we should have a day to celebrate love. Love is the glue that brings us together..." Including another voter saying, "...Doesn't even have to be for a significant other, but instead for friends and family."

The opposing side who voted for Valentine's Day not being recognized as a holiday said that it is a fake holiday and only a celebration. One of the voters stated, "I think it's just a cute little celebration not really a holiday though." As well as "I mean while it's cute there is no point it's just a glorified date or anniversary that can't be forgotten with ease. Someone also believed that it wasn't a holiday but should continue to celebrate it, "Okay so it's a fake holiday but it deserves to be recognized..." As well as others believe that you can do Valentine-related gestures any other day in your life, it shouldn't just be on February 14, "You can do that stuff any day, not just Feb 14."

To wrap things up, Valentine's Day is majorly supported as a holiday even if it is just to celebrate love with your significant other or your family and friends. Even as people disagree about it being an actual holiday, there is a majority of them that still continue to celebrate it anyways.



Four perfect date night ideas

By Kyra P.
Senior Reporter

Dinner and Movie

Nothing can go wrong with a classic dinner and a movie. Dinner typically comes first, with the movie following shortly after. I suggest either a comedy or a rom-com. It sets the light and playful atmosphere to make your date comfortable. A dinner-movie date has been the go-to for many generations, and rightfully so.



Trunk Picnic

Picnics are one of my personal favorites. Especially in the summer. But with it still warming up, it can tend to be too cold for comfort. A trunk picnic is perfect for days like this. It's fun, cute and easy to set up. Simply put your back seats down and lay a few blankets and pillows. Get some of your favorite snacks, some cute lights and games. Then you're set!



Crafts and Baking

Going out is always fun, but staying in can be fun too! Relaxing together with painting and fun crafts can ease the nerves and allow you and your date to get more comfortable around each other. Baking/cooking with your date is also a good way to connect. It can be taking cooking classes together, or as simple as just following a recipe. Anyways, tasty treats are always a plus!



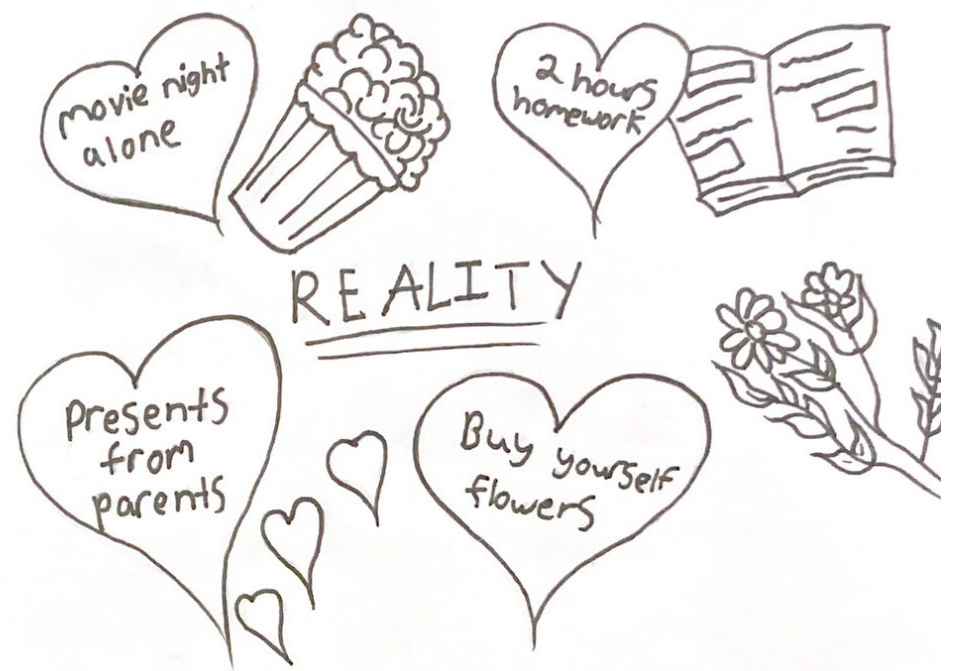
Gift Baskets

If the other ideas aren't filling your cup of tea, a Valentine's day basket swap might be the way to go for you! All you have to do is go to a local market or store and gather a few items that your partner would enjoy. After you gather a plethora of items into a basket of your choosing, you get to surprise them with what you gathered. It's a thoughtful and fun way to bond and it's perfect for the season of love.



Editorial Cartoon: Valentine's expectations vs. reality

By Josh H.
Editorial Cartoonist



'Fits at The Grammys:

Best

vs

Worst



Maddison Beer - Adela G.

Maddison Beer rocked the red carpet in her custom Marmar Halim gown featuring a strapless neckline, corseted body, and a flowy skirt. The silhouette of the dress complimented her. Her stylist Isabelle Bomane did an incredible job styling her for this event. Definitely my favorite outfit of the night.



Ayra Starr - Rebecca R.

Ayra Starr came to the 2024 Grammy Awards in a custom-made Jeblanc two-piece. She had matching eyeliner with her sky-blue outfit that definitely popped with her features. She sparkled with the top of her outfit sporting many strands of beautiful gems and matching bracelets. While some speculate that her outfit could have been inspired by princess Jasmine from "Aladdin," overall, she showed up looking drop dead gorgeous and could have been mistaken for a princess.



Olivia Rodrigo - Lalaina Z.

Olivia Rodrigo showed up to the 2024 Grammy Awards in a vintage Versace gown. The dress is cream-colored with 4 straps and red beading. This whole look was put together by her stylist, Danielle Goldberg. I loved the simple look of the dress, but I think the makeup and hair made the whole outfit look more elegant. I loved this outfit and I think it was one of the best outfits worn to this year's Grammys.



Boygenius - Zoe C.

At the 2024 Grammys, Boygenius made a statement with their Thom Browne white silk moire tuxedos. They accessorized with white satin armbands, black silk faille ties, red buttons and pink carnation boutonnieres as a tribute to the late musician Elliott Smith. Bridgers, Dacus and Baker (left to right) had a combination of alternative and classy fashion choices that complemented their Grammy wins for Best Rock Song, Best Rock Album and Best Rock Performance.



Ed Sheeran - Rebecca R.

Ed showed up to the Grammys looking like he had forgotten about them. Ed was sporting a camo jacket and matching pants with a black t-shirt underneath. In comparison to some of the guys in full tuxedos, Ed looks plain. Whoever let him come to the Grammys like this obviously did not want him looking his best.



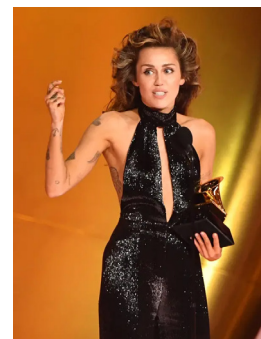
Danity Kane - Zoe c.

Danity Kane wore a bold red dress with a built-in tree design on the shoulders. Although the concept was cool and I liked the Mardi Gras vibes, the dress sprouted two heads above her and looked uncomfortable. I cannot imagine trying to transport the dress to this event; it is not something you can just toss in any vehicle. Plus, sitting behind her at the reception must have been a nightmare. Overall, the concept was cool, but the execution could have been better.



Doja Cat - Lalaina Z.

Doja wore a sheer Dilara Findikoglu dress to the 2024 Grammy Awards. This outfit was so bad, we can't even show the whole picture in the newspaper. I think the red lipstick and the glasses break this look. The dress by itself is pretty, however, the rest of the look is not my favorite and it was one of the worst outfits I saw at the Grammys. I think this look is atrocious and her stylist needs to be fired.



Miley Cyrus - Adela

Miley Cyrus showed up in an outfit that some people really liked and thought was iconic and some people really hated. Personally, I was not a fan of this outfit. She strolled through the carpet in her 1970s inspired Vintage Bob Mackie outfit, which was not giving what I think she wanted it to, and the hair and the shoes only made it worse. While it looked like the 1970s, it was more tired than vintage chic. Overall, one of my least favorite looks from this event.

Super Bowl scripting

By Wyatt H.
Sports Editor

For the past three years, the super bowl logo has changed a little bit.

It went from just showing the number of the super bowl in roman numerals to adding colors to the numerals. For Super Bowl 56, the first super bowl these colors we're incorporated, The LVI was orange with blue borders.

The two teams playing were the Cincinnati Bengals and the Los Angeles Rams. This sparked some controversy as the NFL had seemingly predicted who was going to be playing in the big game. The next year, in super bowl 57,

The LVII was a bluish-green and red, and the two teams who we're playing were the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs.

This lead people to say that the NFL was scripting the seasons to get who they wanted to in the super bowl. I don't think this is true and just a coincidence. For one, the colors don't even match those of the teams 100%. While some of the colors match certain teams, like the orange for the Bengals and the red for the Chiefs, the other colors are either a different shade or not even completely shown at all.

Next, how could an organization "script" who is going to win every game during a season when there are so many different variability that can happen every time a game is played. As well as the players playing, so many of them are extremely passionate about winning the big games like the super bowl, how could they just accept a script saying they are going to lose a game, wouldn't that make them not want to try if they know they're going to lose before it even starts? Personally I know I wouldn't try.



Valentine's Day candies ranked

By Nolan S.
Senior Reporter

Every Valentine's Day, people look forward to receiving candy from their Valentine. But each year, people wonder what candies are desired and which belong in the trash.

Awesome -

Conversation Hearts is a timeless classic with short messages like "Be mine" or "XOXO." The taste might only appeal to some, but they have a place in many people's hearts as a Valentine's Day staple. Fun Dip is also an excellent choice when selecting candy. Fun Dip has a variety of flavors, such as cherry and razz apple, which can appeal to almost anyone's taste buds.

Mid -

Hershey Kisses and M&Ms aren't the worst, but they are boring choices. Everyone gets chocolate on Valentine's Day, and it's about time things get mixed up. Your Valentine will probably enjoy them, but they don't have that unique feel that Fun Dip and Conversation Hearts have.

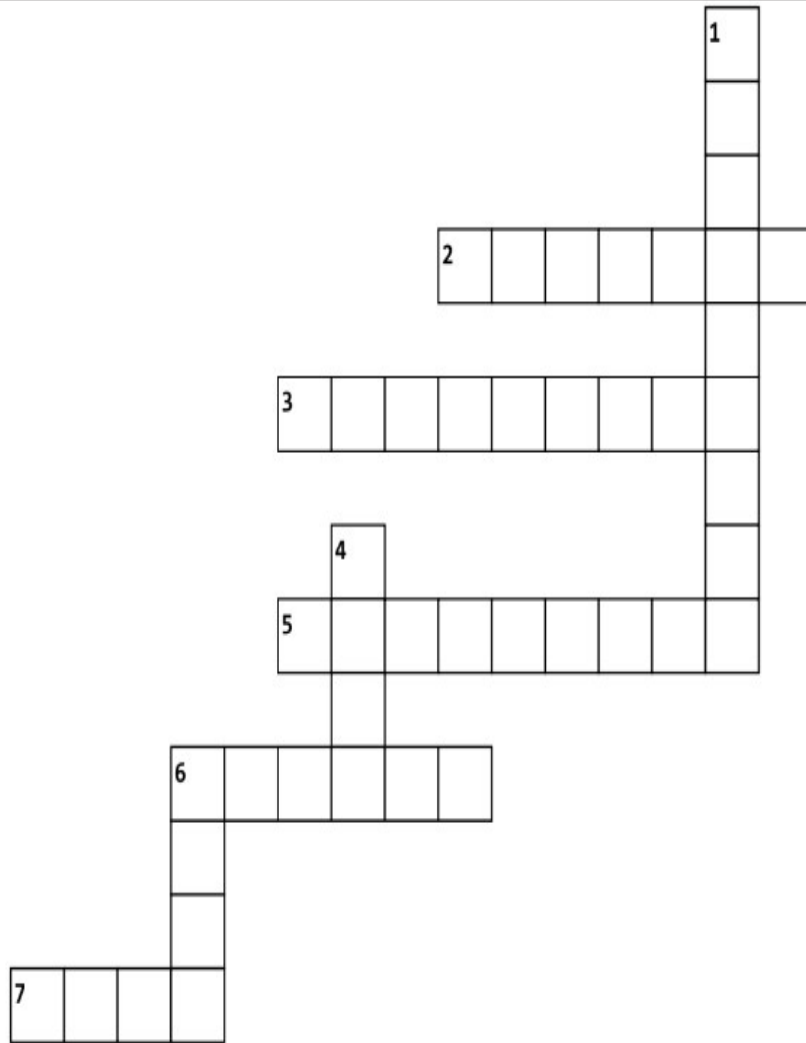
Trash -

Heart-shaped suckers have the right idea but are just executed poorly. Nobody wants a bag of cheaply made artificial-tasting heart suckers that stain your tongue. These suckers scream low effort and are much better left on the shelf.



February Crossword

Answers posted at ibhstigertimes.com



Across

- 2. Brand Olivia Rodrigo wore to the Grammys
- 3. 123.4 million people were watching
- 5. Will you be my _____?
- 6. Valentine's party of one
- 7. Despite its thorns, its the gift of choice

Down

- 1. Mesoamerican originated, Multimillion industry today
- 4. Usually on the calendar, but at restaurants today
- 6. Emotion backed by dopamine and serotonin

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Staff picks: Whitman's Sampler review

This Valentine's, the Tiger Times staff dove into a "Whitman's sampler," a box of chocolates, to give you insight into which chocolates are worth the hype.

Vanilla Creme - Lalaina Z.

I would give this a 3, it's not horrible. It's not super sweet but it's not super bitter, it has a bit of a dark chocolate taste which I don't like. So it's not good or bad.



Nut Caramel - Nolan S.

I would rate the nut caramel a 4/5 because the caramel was a little hard and got stuck in my teeth. The chocolate had a great taste which is a majority of the points, but there was an aftertaste that was not the greatest.

Chocolate Nut Fudge - Hunter R.

I chose the chocolate nut fudge, and my honest opinion was it was really good: soft on the inside with a bit of crunch on the outside really made the inside pop.



Peanut Butter- Wyatt H.

My honest opinion over the peanut butter chocolate was very good. It was a good mixture of not too much peanut butter, but not too little either. I'm glad it was milk chocolate and not dark chocolate too. Overall, a very good piece. 4/5

Brownie Batter - Adela G.

This chocolate was very pleasant. It was extremely chocolatey and rich. The inside was the brownie batter that was kind of a truffle-like texture covered in dark chocolate. 4/5



Chocolate Nut Fudge - Aidan R.

Although I am not the biggest fan of chocolate, the Chocolate nut fudge was quite enjoyable. The caramel-esque filling had a very subtle crunch that allowed for a taste that is quite reminiscent to that of a Twix's. Overall, I'd agree that this is a solid option when looking for a sweet treat this Valentine's season.