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"It's not the having, it's the getting." -Charles Spurgeon

THE-BLACK
FRIDAY
DISASTER

Issue 71

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LETTER PRONTINE-EDITOR

As a kid, I remember always wanting to go to a Black Friday sale. Even now, I couldn't tell you what it was that drove the strange urge. It could have been true eagerness for that one of a kind deal, or to experience the chaos for myself, or to see if the rumors of shopping maddened moms fighting over brand name shirts were a reality. Since then, I've convinced my relatives to take me once or twice – at least until they grew tired of amusing me. When my sister finally caught the bug, it was her turn for the experience. All I'd received was disappointment. Never once did I see the fabled psychotic rush. Instead, there were just silver gates dictating where to stand while angry men in uniforms – who were none too happy to be on the clock – cast angry glares at anyone who tried to sneak up in line.

But now, with the wonder gone and jobs a real thing in most of our lives (remember that six hours of wages you lost waiting for that one shiny toy?), all I feel is bemusement. Bemusement, I say? Yes, with a hint of sadistic humor, all due to the hypocrisy of the whole thing. Only hours prior, those shoppers had given thanks for what they already possessed. Now, suddenly stricken with some sort of deal-lust that no thanks can sway, they shove and shout in search of new possessions. In that, I'm probably just commenting on America at its finest.

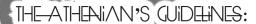
Of course, I also live in Cleveland. While I won't be the pessimist that says that nothing happens (we have beer festivals at Melt – I can't really complain), we certainly don't have the hype that many of the bigger cities have. I'm fairly certain that many Clevelanders have the turkey eating art down pat, and we're probably somewhat decent at throwing our thanks in one direction or another as well. Despite that, we are exquisitely poor at dancing through our favorite malls burning off those calories. Like the average person, most people here are much more content watching the news about another poor soul run over at a local superstore opening while nestled in the comfort of our couches.

That all said, this issue of The Athenian is about the ridiculous and the prodigious. Have you ever wondered how the sales really come about, or what you should

take with you to survive the horde onslaught? We might be able to tell you, and maybe, in the meantime, manage to bite some of you with the bug so that you become our entertainment this year. We hope you enjoy this issue – and may the odds be ever in your favor.

and may the odds be ever in your favor.

Melanie Sayre Editor-in-Chief



- 1) The Athenian is a semi-anonymous publication. Names can be printed at the wishes of the contributor. If not, a pseudonym is used. All contributors' names are printed on page 22, but aren't necessarily connected to any article.
- 2) The Athenian does not encourage any of the arts of Black Friday, particularly the trampling of any Disney characters.
- 3) The Athenian is released on the first Friday of every month. The firm deadline for submissions (including article outlines, photoshops, and ad requests) for Issue 72 is November 11th, 2013.

Next Brainstorming Meeting: Monday, November 4th - 6PM to 8PM

Monday, November 4th - 6PM to 8PM, Media Board Room

Next Production Meeting:

Friday, November 8th - 12:30PM to 2PM, Media Board Room

To order food, go to http://tinyurl.com/ athfood or email mfs71@case.edu

We still offer a 50 dollar submission prize (last month's winner on page 22) and the 500 dollar semesterly contest. Find out more about this contest on page 22!











Sheep Marketplace:

The New World of Drugs

Following October's FBI crackdown and shutdown on "Silk Road," an anonymous online, international marketplace for the drug trade, new contenders are springing up everywhere. None, however, are rising as quickly as "Sheep Marketplace," whose slogan proclaims "Pop your pills like Reddy Freddy!" Reddy Freddy, a communist sheep, is the web store's mascot. A series of cartoons can be found on YouTube where the sheep extols the values of Karl Marx to several small lambs.

Silk Road, commonly referred to as "the eBay of drugs," was closed after its owner made a rookie drug lord mistake: he asked for tech advice under his real name. The FBI found a direct trail to the man's door when he had 12 fake IDs shipped to his home address.

The administrators of Sheep Marketplace, however, have yet to make any such mistakes. If the page is to be believed, this is because the eponymous sheep are actually running the site. It was unclear at press time whether this explanation is intended as a metaphor for the American populace.

Just as Silk Road offered a variety of products--art and jewelry could be found among the drugs--Sheep Marketplace seems to be branching out as well. Here, a buyer can find rarities like hamsters, moonrocks, and guns, as well as the usual caches of LSD, cocaine, and heroin.

Sheep Marketplace has revealed, assuming the site's herd manages to evade legal consequences, a preview of what its Black Friday sales will look like. Prices will drop dramatically for a short period of two hours before 11:59 P.M. on Thanksgiving. The

idea, according to the promotional blurb, is to target users wishing to

have a "trippy, fulfilling, or just extra intense" shopping day.

In a Sheep Marketplace-related forum on internet aggregator site reddit, users were found having a spirited debate over what drugs would lead to the best experience.

"Cokecokecokecokecokecokecokecokecoke!" was the input from user BloomingVeins, whose other comments certainly indicated that drug was in effect. However, other commenters disagreed.

"We just need to chill the day out," wrote user Marley_Lover_xoxo. "If all those crazi shoppers tried my Silver Haze nobody would die any more. These baby daddiez need to stop shooting each other and chillax."

"The unicorns will lead the way," suggested user PurpleCat. "To the magical land of buy two get one Written by River Tam



free blu-ray players..."

Meanwhile, a few users of Sheep Marketplace have argued against the sale in honor of Black Friday, on the grounds that it undermines the website's ethical mission promoted by Reddy Freddy the communist sheep.

"This is a capitalist holiday! It cannot and should not be condoned under our values," user Pinko_and_Proud commented. "If anyone is to learn something from this day, it is only how far our government has failed us, and we would be better off rising above the crowd this day. Stay home and have a Sheep Marketplace party instead, sheeple. Support our own kind."

Despite this Black Friday controversy, Sheep Marketplace seems to be doing well. Its profits from marijuana in particular have gone through a series of sharp rises and falls, as continuing legislation in the United States has made it legal in more areas while frustrating users outside those zones. The marketplace boasts an impressive selection and, like Silk Road before it, runs on a hacker's dream of torrents, bitcoins, and encryption. Despite the work done to shield its owners, little can be said about how increasing publicity will affect the site. Drawing attention to Sheep Marketplace will attract users but may also bring the ire of soldiers in the War on Drugs. For now, The Athenian anticipates that CWRU students will, as always, stick to textbooks.



Chick-Fil-A and Barilla form discrimination federation

Reported by Ellie Rambo

This month, the first combination Chick-Fil-A and Barilla restaurant will open its doors to the homophobic chicken-eating masses. The two companies teamed up because, in the words of one CEO, "we deserve each other."

The new blended chain will serve bigotry alongside chicken and pasta dishes. The menu will feature Bigotoni PastaTM served in a (Gay) Chicken (Is a Gateway Game) TM alfredo sauce, and Chick-Fil-A has replaced waffle fries not with curly fries, but with Super Straight-Cut FriesTM. A few new sauces were also introduced, including God-Lovin' GravyTM and Prejudice PestoTM.

Although the restaurant has not yet opened, a line of customers is already camped out in front of the store. Many of them hope to be one of the first one hundred customers, as each of these dedicated fans will win free food for the lifespan of his or her current heterosexual relationship.

"We are on the front lines of this cultural war," said a company spokesperson in an official release. "We want to encourage people in traditional relationships to stay on the path of righteousness and free fast food."

Children under the age of twelve will receive a free meal if they sign a contract promising "to never engage in homosexual activities."

Customer Patty Robertson described the chain's prejudice as "inspirational."

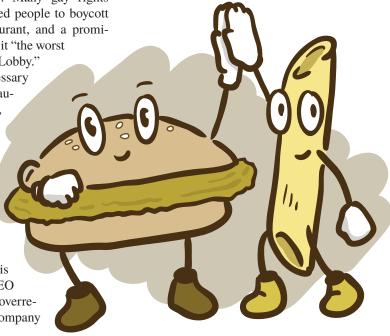
"They really understand the American way," said Robertson. "I and many other Americans have strong beliefs about what other people should be doing in their personal lives, and these companies understand that. I know in my heart that our great country's salvation lies in Italian fast food."

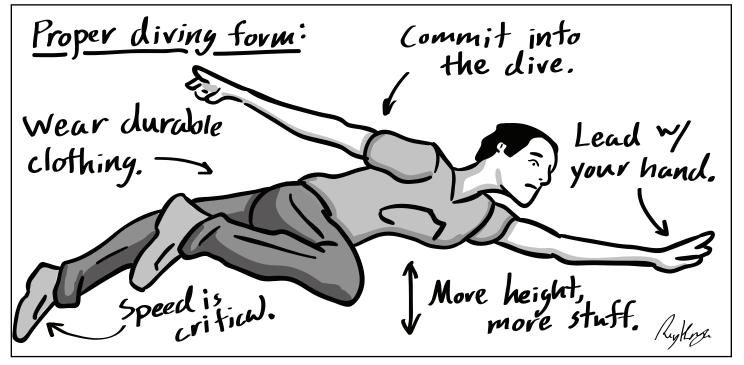
Not everyone was as excited about this alliance of assholes. Many gay rights groups have encouraged people to boycott the combination restaurant, and a prominent activist has called it "the worst business since Hobby Lobby."

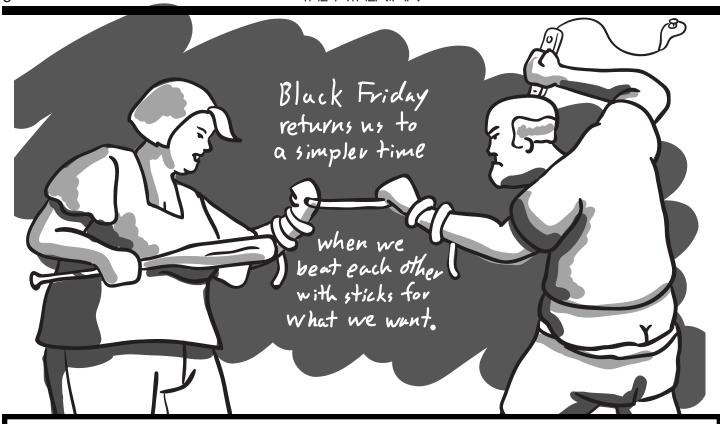
"It's almost unnecessary to denounce this restaurant," said the activist, "as they are so obviously filled with vitriolic hatred. I predict that they will do a good enough job making themselves look bad without our help."

In response to this backlash Barilla's CEO said that people were overreacting. "The Barilla Company supports a classic family," he said. "We do not denounce your way of life, unless, of course, it is wrong."

Chick-Fil-A's CEO was also unapologetic. "We're just serving good American food—uh, that is, Italian-American food—to good Americans with good American values. There's nothing to be ashamed of in that. And besides, who doesn't like a delicious homophobe-cooked meal?"







Michael Vick in hot water again due to shopper fighting ring allegations

Reported by Winchester Mac Cionaoith

Sources speaking under the condition of anonymity for fear for their safety have brought forward allegations that NFL player Michael Vick hosted illegal Black Friday shopper fighting rings last fall. According to exclusive Athenian reports, the Eagles quarterback had been spending his millions creating shortages in Christmas' hottest toys and installing video cameras in Walmarts across the country so that he could fulfill his twisted desire for violence. Vick has had a lot of time on his hands due to a rash of rib injuries and the emergence of rookie quarterback Nick Foles.

"The worst part is that these individuals had no idea of the true situation that they were living in," the source said. "They were raised in a world where they had to fight tooth and nail for the latest Furby or Tickle Me Elmo. They have never experienced the true happiness of paying a drastically reduced price for the latest gadget without having to bite someone else for a shot at it."

Estimates have indicated that this ring has impacted nearly one in twen-

ty-five Americans. The money that has changed hands in betting rose into the millions of dollars, estimate several notable economists whose names this reporter could not remember.

Video of one of the fights showed dirty, tired shoppers brawling over the last half-off Wii U package that also came with a \$50 gift card. The store was supposed to have 100 in stock, but 50 had been purchased a day before by a mysterious 'Vick Terrier'. A single father with cold, blood-thirsty eyes and the drive to fetch things for his kids slammed a pudgy women to the ground, biting her arm in the process. His pups were not spared involvement, as his son and daughter were witnessed viciously ankle kicking bystanders as well.

This was not an isolated incident. Other video footage showed a dark-haired woman harassing a bushy-haired man over the latest iPod. Raised to kill, the woman began beating the man with her purse, wielding her hair brush as a secondary weapon. She then went into full catfight mode, clawing at the nearest woman's eye and ripping out another woman's weave. Curiously, Sarah McLachlan's hit song "Angel" was playing in the store.

Conditions that these shoppers were raised in were atrocious. They were forced to line up outside in the cold, held in place by extendable dividers, and deprived of sleep all to merely receive the simple gratification of a few dollars saved on an already overpriced toy. Resentment and aggression ran high among the fighters, devoid of all former holiday happiness, raised with the sole purpose to buy and kill at any cost

Vick refused to return comment on the story. His lawyers called the allegations "simply ridiculous," arguing that Vick is simply not smart enough to pull off such a mass operation.

"The hits to the head have really taken a toll," his lead attorney mentioned. "I mean he was not the sharpest tool in the shed to start. I know, he pulled off the dog fighting thing, but a giant conspiracy? Give me a break. That sounds like something a humor magazine would come up with."

Legal experts say that Vick could face jail time if convicted, but they were unable to comment on possible charges, since no precedent exists .



Friday, Nov. 11th 7pm, 9pm, & 11pm Strosacker

Bring your ticket to the Jolly Scholar after the movie for great deals!

Co-Sponsored by CWRU Film Society, The Jolly Scholar & The Athenian

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Starting October 30th come to the Jolly Scholar Wednesday nights for FREE bingo night, lottery, and live horse racing.

The evening begins at 7pm so come for the food and stay for the fun - or yell at the emcee all night.... they have no feelings.

Come get jolly...oh yeah...let's get weird!

°Plead your Case°

CWRU is on track to enroll nearly 6,000 students in the 2015-2016 school year, an increase of 1,500 in 5 years, causing some students to wonder whether there will be enough campus housing for upcoming classes.

What do you think?



"There's a lot of unused parking spaces around campus, and tents are very cheap this time of year."



"Just cram 'em into the freshmen dorms—there's plenty of closet space being way underutilized in there."



"Living out in the wild urban jungles of University Circle is easy once you realize that campus squirrels are totally edible."

The new Tinkham Veale building is going up quickly, and campus is abuzz with anticipation over what the new Student Union center will do to improve the campus experience.

What do you think?



"Those bitchin' glass wall panels make me proud to continue financing this school with blatantly unsustainable loan debt."



"It's nice, but it could really use some hideous statues near the entrance."



"Freiberger Field. Never forget."

How will CWRU celebrate Cyber Monday?

Reported by Sarah Whelan

CWRU students are notorious for being scared to death from all of the stories of the hordes, death, catastrophe and (worse yet) limited personal space provided by Black Friday. From year to year, University Hospitals are greeted by outlandish stories of homework eating books and professors that send out emails at 2 a.m. in the morning. Finally, though, the brilliant minds behind multi-million dollar marketing companies have come up with a day just for technology addicts: Cyber Monday.

While the loss of going out and spending a copious amount of money due to a fear of large group social interaction may be disappointing, Cyber Monday leaves no excuse to not be shocked by the toll on students' banks. Though we don't know why this huge spending spree happen (half of these students forget about shipping due to the existence of Amazon Prime which isn't available everywhere), researchers have

found that, due to lack of adequate socialization, these students have no control over impulse buying. That said, students still get to go to classes on this wonderful shouldbe national holiday so teachers and students alike may unfortunately suffer from a marked increase of in-class online shopping and later everyone can complain about the slow wireless.

If sitting all snug in a dorm room with a cup of hot coco surfing the web (wired for maximum spending money efficiency) for all the best deals and slowly watching a bank account balance drop just doesn't do it, or camping out and stampeding through department stores at five in the morning doesn't have any appeal, there's still a way to make the best of the situation. Reddit will stream twelve hours of the Black Friday madness live, providing an excuse to stay inside on the computer and hide from crazy family members for two whole days

(as if Thanksgiving wasn't already the best holiday).

Of course, observing the violence from afar may not be enough for some people (those that wish to experience the whole event in the closest-to-being-but-not-quite-being-real that they possible can) and as such some CWRU Artificial Intelligence students made an artificial-reality helmet that releases small vibrations and electric shocks and randomly jars the display of people running so wearers can feel as if they are elbowing their way through the throng.

Think[box] will also over-staff this weekend in preparation for those who have taken Cyber Monday to a new level and wish to print out their online purchases on one of the 3D printers. All in all, the CWRU campus seems completely prepared to survive Cyber Monday experience. The question is—will our wallets?



How to prepare for Black Friday

Compiled by Kushagra Gupta

In life, it's important to be prepared. Such words of wisdom can be of no greater importance when applied to Black Friday. While it may not be obvious at first, the typical daily lessons a college student learns are actually applicable to the holiday of shopping. For example, getting locked out of a Residential Hall at 4 a.m. might not have seemed like a positive experience at the time. Admittedly, it may not even seem like something good right now. But what most don't realize is that the coping strategies gained from being mistaken for a homeless criminal and getting arrested provides them with an ample skill set that can be used during Black Friday. Nonetheless, some readers might just not have the life experience needed for this intense day—in order to prepare, here are some key pieces of advice.

First and foremost, there are certain items that any shopper simply cannot go without. Take

the fishing pole.

Many stores stack
boxes high to harass
employees, customers, and
any passers-by who might have
a phobia of being crushed by a wall
of falling cardboard. A fishing pole can be
used to hook a box that's on a high rack and
swing it down, with only a slight chance of
permanently maiming surrounding people.
A smart shopper knows that this action is
worth the risk of any minor personal injury
lawsuits that could result.

A Black Friday shopper can work up an appetite clubbing other shoppers in pursuit of that perfect deal, so it's important to bring a healthy -- but convenient -- snack. This year, nutritionists recommend bringing a watermelon. Watermelons have the nutrients and the water necessary to replenish the body. Additionally, they are as unlikely to be squished as they are likely to squish another object or human.

Wise shoppers will remember to bring rope to keep from losing their shopping carts. As an added bonus, by tying the rope around their waists, shoppers will no longer need to push their own carts. Recently, however, gynecologists and andrologists have warned of accidents related to this behavior . Instead, they are instructing shop-

pers to wear the rope around their necks

instead.

It's also important to confer on strategy with those shopping with you. These people, termed "friendlies," should each have call-signs and be familiar with all signals that will be used while in a department store such as say, Wal-Mart, or Target. For example, if a desired item has been located and a friendly is aware that another squad mate it is searching for it on

the other side of the store, it's important to know how to communicate the strike coordinates.

First, the SEALs take out their cell phones. Next, to startle other nearby shoppers, they throw their cell phones across the room as fast as humanly possible, to their comrade. This is important because not only are the SEALs known for their strength, but also for the element of surprise. The other squad member responds with a series of steps signifying that they completely understood why a cell phone was just thrown at them.

Beginning by spreading their arms apart with palms facing outward (as if to say, "What?") they proceed to raise their middle finger on one hand and follow up by raising the same finger the other. The true meaning of these actions is, of course, hidden from all but the members of this internationally deployed covert anti-terror force. Finally, to conclude the maneuver, the SEAL will attempt to text the person who initiated the exchange, who in turn will frantically attempt to point out that they don't have their cell phone anymore, because they threw it. This type of exchange is common on Black Friday, and it's important to drill one's team in this type of work. It also wouldn't hurt to plan to purchase a new cell phone on the day itself.

Teamwork can be especially useful for when one is forced to avoid flying debris . Simply pointing out "bogies" in the air can be the difference between a shopper sitting on a box, or a box sitting on a shopper. If the flying object appears to be human, a flying toddler for example, it's customary to yell "hoagie" instead of "bogie."

As a disclaimer, all shoppers should be advised that attempting to purchase a rack or checkout counter is generally frowned upon. It should also be noted that it is universally unacceptable to attempt to purchase a store employee. This reporter had to learn that the hard way in 2011.

Spend more time with the people you love who are also imprisoned - What a bargain! Valid through 11/25/13



[Redefining why we give thanks] Kayla's Worldly Intentions- Kayla DeVault

Thanksgiving is not an uncommon holiday around the world. Most days dedicated to grace and being thankful are days left to reflect on the positive aspects of life. It's kind of a way to justify saying "Look how good we've got it" whether or not that's really the case. Maybe days of Thanksgiving were created by worshippers convinced that their gods want them to live in poverty, but secretly wishing they will change their minds.

Then there's Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.; we like to say we celebrate it to remember the peace between the immigrants and the natives when the Pilgrims first arrived. The reality is that peace lasted until the immigrants could swindle the natives of their food and lands while waging ruthless, if unintentional, biological warfare. Today, these holidays have lost nearly all of their traditional meanings.

Let's be real—no one gets together on Thanksgiving to thank God for that big bowl of green beans Mom made, or for that Domino's pizza Dad ordered because he still doesn't realize food comes from more than just a box or a takeout menu. In fact, if anyone still celebrates by giving thanks, it's most likely thanks for the new PlayStation you know Mom's going to go look for in the morning, or thanks for this big plate of food "now please, can I please just eat it?" No, today we choose not to remember the virtues experienced by some poorly dressed Puritans nearly 400 years ago or even the events that allegedly occurred that day. Today, we celebrate U.S. Thanksgiving Day with lots of food and tons of materialistic goodies.

Everyone is full of food and ready to sleep the rest of the day off—which is good because the next day starts at midnight. Yes, Black Friday. Sure, Black Friday started with good intentions: sales before the shopping season for Christmas, the high holy day of materialism. But Black Friday has become a selfish—and even fatal—trap that consumes the lives of half the American population each post-Thanksgiving day. The tradition

began around 1975 and has since become center of every pre-teenagers' excitement and every mother's nightmare. Stores that once opened early in the morning began pushing their hours earlier and earlier, jumping from 5 a.m. to 4 a.m. and then leaping to midnight within the last decade.

Black Friday is dangerous. Even the name sounds scary. "Black Friday," in fact, never seems to represent anything pleasant in history. Any single day referred to as "Black Friday" usually pertains to a military attack or financial crisis. The American Black Friday tops all. The rush has become so intense and violent that deaths have been occurring in recent years. In fact, if the current trend of deaths each Black Friday continues -and crazy baby daddies continue shooting each other in front of Toys 'R Us -- everyone in the country will have died by Black Friday 2016. I guess that means by 2015, only the sane people will be left and Black Friday will be obsolete. But this holiday is even beginning to affect the placid Canadians who innocently slip across the border for discounts on hockey gear, maple syrup and whatever else Canadians buy in November. As a response to this tragic loss in profit, Canadian stores are beginning to start their own sales to keep their own kind within their borders. And so the disease spreads.

I don't know about you, but I don't feel like dying to get still-more-than-I-shouldprobably-be-paying prices on things I don't really need. Instead, I plan to participate in Buy Nothing Day. And sure, you can celebrate more intensely by doing a sit-in, a protest march, a Whirl-Mart congo line of empty carts, or even a Zombie walk where you freak out shoppers, but I don't really feel like adding to the chaos. I think it's more fun to just kick back with those leftovers, let the crazies take themselves out and see how many gifts I get when the survivors finally trickle home later in the day. And for none of that do I really give thanks.

Kayla loves to travel the world alone and experience new things in places that most people avoid like the Plague, all the while dreaming of the day her cats will decide to tag along and go somewhere more interesting than their litter box.



ARE YOUREADY?

In the early twenty-second century, mankind turned to the stars for refuge from a broken world. What had once been an adventure driven by simple curiosity was now a desperate search for a new home. The ships carrying man were scattered among the stars and colonies emerged on distant, unfamiliar worlds. Mankind branched out as far as it could reach. Some colonies lost touch with the rest of mankind. Some colonists lost touch with what it was to be man.

The Westborians, colonists lead by the domineering Phelps clan, settled on a remote world as unforgiving as their leaders. Cut off from the rest of mankind, the Westborians became a people bound to a culture of strict adherence to religious tradition and the destruction of all those who would deny their truth. Those who came across the Westborians were captured; their ships stolen. Any who refused to convert and embrace their dogma were purged as filthy affronts to the one true god. Yet this was not enough. They needed to spread their truth to the heretics.

There could be no better day to track down infidels refusing to honor the sacred holidays than when the space between the planets was filled with consumers seeking only to worship materialism.

Welcome to Black Friday, 2235 A.E.

Officer Burns grimaced as he read that morning's headline: "Teens trying to reach Anthromorphologie killed a light-year away by Westborians." A galactic highway patrol officer, it was his job to prevent just this kind of senseless violence. He had a different job that morning, though. The Chrismahanukwanzakah shopping season began that morning and there was a retro 3D television his girlfriend had been eyeing for weeks. He had just enough time to pick one up before work. Checking his power armor and donning his helmet, he paused to consider the armory by his door. Although use of his weapons was strictly forbidden when

off-duty, he would need them while on patrol later that day. Where was the harm in carrying them along? Burns shrugged and grabbed his Saiyablaster 9001 – his most trusted sidearm.

Burns' first stop was Better Buy – a hotspot on this day of sales, you could always expect a bloodbath inside. The trip was over quickly enough. Whether his speedy journey was the result of his skill or his exemption from the standard rules of interstellar travel as a patrol officer is anyone's guess. He touched down in the Better Buy parking lot and glanced at the mass of bodies jostling to get in the doors. Burns secured his ship, checked that his pistol was holstered, and headed into the fray.

When he entered the doors, employees shunted him into holding room with around 200 other shoppers. On the other side of the gate awaited the gauntlet. Burns eyed his competition – lots of scrawny shoppers wearing old armor held together with duct tape and wielding an assortment of energy swords, clubs, and flails. Burns looked at his own power armor – government-issue energy shielded riot gear – and his own trusted sidearm. He liked his odds.

A red light on the ceiling flashed; the gates opened; and the rabid tide of shoppers surged forward. As per store policy, the shoppers were forbidden from opening fire until the gates were opened and all shoppers were on the other side, but a few nervous trigger fingers fired lasers off into the crowd with reckless abandon. Officer Burns kept low and forced his way through the crowds, steering clear of haphazardly aimed laser and blaster fire. He ducked and watched an energy mace miss his head and brutally connect with another shopper's back, and then he was through.

Burns ducked into the relative safety of the aisles and began weaving his way through the shelves. When he reached the electronics, Burns found only one retro TV left. The box was surrounded by a halo of flickering light from errant blaster fire and the flashes of energy swords connecting as shoppers maimed each other over gadgets and movies. As Burns reached for the box, he was aware of someone closing in on his right. Dropping into a crouch and drawing his pistol, he spun and shot the approaching man through the leg. The man staggered but continued his advance, raising his Pro-Rated SpikeShield to defend against the officer's pistol. The man lifted his energy flail and swung high for a devastating overhead. Burns dodged to the side sending the flail crashing into the ground. He grabbed the man's shield and slammed him into the shelving before pistol whipping his wouldbe attacker. With the challenger stunned, Burns grabbed the TV and headed out of the aisle for the registers.

Sprinting for the registers, Burns passed all the madness of Black Friday: teenagers battling in the entertainment aisles for Dance Dance Revolution VCMXXXII and Call of Duty Pitch Black Ops; grown men slicing at each other with energy swords for engine parts in Stellar Engineering; and a few crazed women throwing data crystals of this summer's blockbuster movies and hiding behind displays as employees closed in with stun batons. Fending off half-hearted advances from the defeated and dying, Burns pushed his way to the register and smirked as he paid for the TV. With this gift, he was totally getting laid.

Angry red lights, the roar of engines, and the crunch of a spaceship being crushed by something much larger drew his attention to the exit. There, beyond the giant glass doors, a Westborian ship had just landed on a line of parked vehicles and the insane Westborians were emerging to gun down the shoppers in the lot. Burns glanced down at his watch: a minute past noon. He was on the clock and there was a standing order to kill all Westborians on sight. Duty called. Drawing his pistol and checking his armor, Burns passed through the glass doors and charged into the chaos bellowing, "Today is a good day to die!"

The Johnson Family's **Black Friday Vacation**

Written by Alex Aloi

To say that the mall was full of people would have been an understatement: The management feared that if any more entered, flailing limbs would be dangling from burst windows. To say that people were angry would also have been an understatement. Of all the voices in the mall, not a single one spoke in a pleasant tone. From Macy's to Dick's Sporting Goods, the only intelligible sounds were screams of "Move it jackass!" and "Out of my way!" It was almost as if every person in the mall had spent the previous day having a particularly long dinner with their particularly annoying in-laws, waiting for grandpa's hand to shakily finish carving the turkey or slip and hit someone in the eye to create any distraction at all.

Into this hellish abyss of shopping and 50 percent off stickers walked the Johnson family: Mr. John-

son, Mrs. Johnson, Jim-

my and Caroline. The family had adorned themselves with brochures, backpacks, binoculars, and despite the frigid weather, Hawaiian shirts and shorts. Except, of course, Caroline who dressed in her usual black outfit, black lipstick and black hair dye – her signature style that she refers to as being "in perpetual mourning for society's good sense."

"Wow, would you look at that!" said Mr. Johnson, his finger pointing outwards towards the throngs of distressed customers. "Just look at all those shoppers! Everyone wave to the shoppers!"

Mr. Johnson waved his hand back and forth like a child who had just gotten on the bus for the first time in his life unaware of the unending hell awaiting him. It had long been the opinion of those who knew Mr. Johnson that if you were to crack his head open, instead of a brain you would find an assortment of lawn clippings, baseball cards, a sheet of football statistics and more good cheer than could be considered healthy (before you laugh at that, keep in mind that one of his friends was an educated neurosurgeon who quite frankly should have known better).

taken there.

Caroline took one look around the mall and scrunched up her nose. "Look at them," she said, "fawning over their toys and games like good little capitalist sheep."

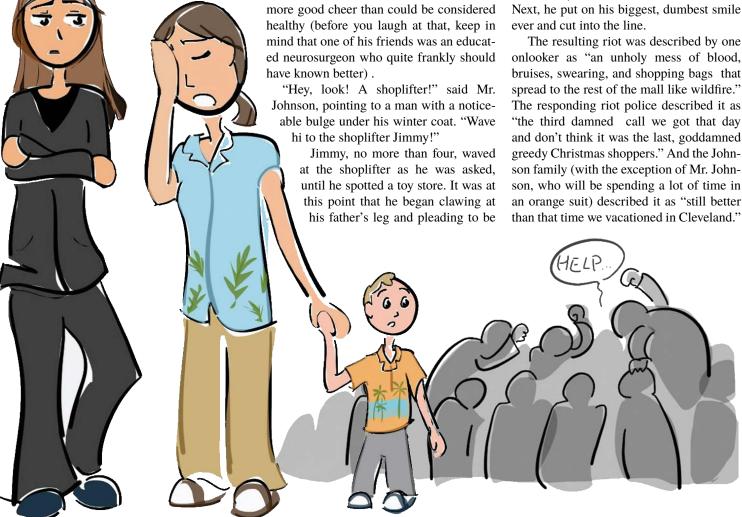
"That's the same thing you said when we went to Disney World," said her mother.

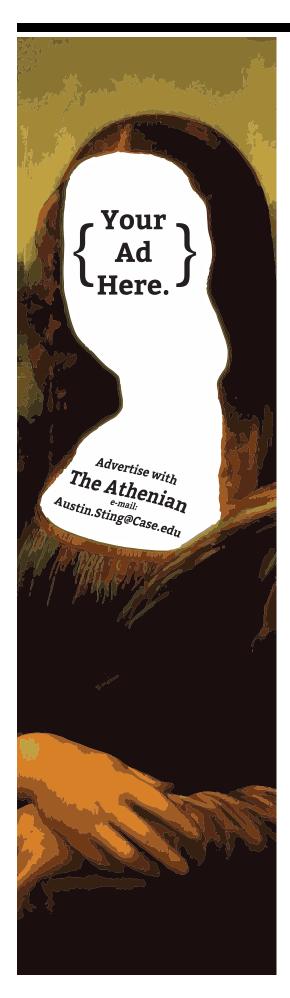
"That doesn't make it any less true," retorted Caroline.

"Hey honey!" said Mr. Johnson, "get the camera and get a picture of me and Jimmy with one of these disgruntled shoppers!"

He picked up his son and sat him on his shoulder. Jimmy took one last longing look at the toy store before fixing his face into a grimace mirroring that of the shopper Mr. Johnson was trying very hard to pose next

Unfortunately for Mr. Johnson, not one of the shoppers was in any mood to put up with him. And so Mr. Johnson decided to force them to acknowledge him. First, he sent Jimmy back to his mother and sister. Next, he put on his biggest, dumbest smile ever and cut into the line.





Black Friday to combine with the black market due to governmental PR campaign

Reported by Hallie Dolin

The wildly unpopular government shutdown has left House Speaker John Boehner with a problem. Somewhat unfortunately, it is one problem he never saw coming: No one likes him. After weeks looking for a solution, he has found the answer - to shift the focus somewhere else. According to his personal blog, Boehner has decided that something, though unspecified as to what, must be done to revitalize the government's funding. It appears he means to harness the power of two truly American institutions to do just that.

Black Friday and the black market have been intertwined for centuries. In recent years, however, the latter has led to downswings in the former's profit margins. Experts believe this is directly related to the number of people who are learning to use Amazon One-Click in the days after Thanksgiving. According to renowned conservative source Bill O'Reilly, this so-called Cyber Monday, "is going to be the downfall of our country." In a change of pace for O'Reilly, quite a few people agree.

Boehner has proposed to solve both the budget problem and falling Black Friday sales. With the help of The Pirate Bay's Anakata, he will combine Black Friday with the black market for a more efficient (and profitable) shopping experience. Why, you might ask? The Biomedical Engineering department at Case Western Reserve University, as usual, has an eminently scientific response. Dr. Lowe Love clarified the issue on his Blackboard page, "As the fusion of any two entities results in an increase in energy, the fusion of Black Friday and the black market will lead to an increase in this country's energy: Money." Love has promised one point of extra credit to any student who can refute his hypothesis in a way that doesn't cost him his tenure.

Many are wondering exactly how this particular merger is going to be carried out. But never fear; Boehner has a solution for that, too. With the help of government-driven U-Hauls, all sale items will be delivered to a central location in each state's capital. Boehner hopes the jobs this will create for out-of-work government employees will help his public image. Adversely, when asked whether these employees would be compensated for their involuntary time off, the Speaker called the idea "absurd." The locations will be accessible to all and, in keeping with the traditions of the black market, will remain an "open secret."

Officially, of course, Boehner has nothing to do with any of this, and it doesn't exist. The sites are located in old underground bunkers. Shoppers are advised to ignore any banks of servers they see. While this is going on, the atrium of each site will be tastefully decorated in last year's unsold Christmas lights. There will be a special deal for anyone who cares to rouse themselves from their food coma to take advantage of it, in that anyone who gets to the Black Friday Market before 6 a.m. on Fri., Nov. 29 will receive 30 percent off purchases, no minimum necessary.

Boehner has pointed out an additional boon. With everything in one, more people will flock to one site at a time. These frenzied masses will be unable to keep from trampling each other. Hospitals expect record profits given the staggering number of fatal or semi-fatal injuries that occur when a herd of humans stampedes over itself chasing after that one perfect deal. As a bonus, because the entire operation will be shrouded in the illegality of the black market, anyone who goes to the police seeking help or a ride to the hospital will be arrested and severely fined.

Boehner believes that all the stores will definitely profit. Everything will be accessible from a single source and money can be funneled back into the government through post-holiday spending. Speaker Boehner, however, would like to make one thing very clear - he in no way, shape, or form endorses single-payer anything, adding on his blog, "All I have to say is groovy, smashing, yay capitalism."





-Spend 13 hours outside in the cold to sove \$40 on a piece of technology-

$$\frac{$40.00}{13 \text{ hrs}} = 3.07 \text{ /hr}$$

(Minimum wage = 7.25 1/hr)

-While they could have netted the same savings by working indoors, comfortably, at minimum wage for half the time...

... I weep for humanity



Celebrity Voices: Rebecca Black Friday

Reported by Tejas Joshi

For today's issue, esteemed musical talent Rebecca Black thoughtfully provided readers with a rare glance into her mind during her very unique Fridays:

Oh my god! I love waking up for school today because it's Friday! Usually I set my alarm early, but I don't wait for it to go off because I usually don't sleep anyways. On Thursday nights, I lie awake counting the hours and minutes left until midnight strikes. After that, I'm too excited to even think of sleeping; I just lie there, basking in the knowledge that Friday has finally arrived. Sometimes, I don't sleep on Wednesday nights either just to be safe.

But it's time to go to school. I gotta get fresh and go downstairs for breakfast. I hope my mom made me my favorite cereal! I haven't eaten Coco-Puffs since umm. Since ... wait... let's see. That was two days ago, and today is Friday, so... one sec...Wednesday, Tuesday, Thursday... right.! Well, I'm not so strong on the weekdays, but believe me, I know my weekends by heart. Tomorrow is Saturday and Sunday comes afterwards. See?

In any case, next I gotta go down to the bus-stop to get with my friends. I love the looks of jealousy and admiration I get from the other kids who are actually waiting for the bus at the bus stop, when my friends come to pick me up. Sometimes, when I'm really lucky, we run late and then pass the bus on the way to school. When that happens on my Fridays, a not-at-all strange adult I know, somehow, raps about it. But anyways, I usually have to deal with a more pressing issue. Which seat should I take?

If I sit in the front, I would have a good time kickin'. However, the back seat offers a more restful but still fun place for sittin'. I chose the back seat which, now that I think of it, is a good choice because I haven't really had any sleep and the other car seats are all full anyways. I try to not think about school because it kinda goes against my whole central dogma that Fridays are meant as days to 'get down.' I later pass the school bus again on the way home. After that it's pretty much just partying, partying yeah, looking forward to the weekend and going out to get some Chinese food.

Mufasa dies in stampede of Black Friday shoppers; Simba grieves

Reported by Josephus E. Tinnertink McDuffle

Simba couldn't wait to be king; now, the position is his to fill after the tragic events of Black Friday.

The Royal Family of Pride Rock fell into a financial crunch a few years ago, when prey began to recede into the jungles of Africa and away from the lions' hunting grounds. Royal manager Zazu said, "This recession has not only affected our eating habits, but also real estate and education. No one wants to live in a depression."

To help ease this financial burden, for the past few years King Mufasa and Queen Sarabi went Black Friday shopping to save extra money and avoid a royal government shutdown. Until this past year, Simba was too young, and had been left behind.

"We live on a giant rock. I just wanted to get out!" wailed Simba, between sobs. "I just... I just thought it would be a good way to spend some time with my dad [Mufasa]. There was no way I knew this would happen."

Queen Sarabi stayed back at home when Mufasa and Simba left for their father-son bonding shopping trip at 4 a.m. "I thought it would be a good chance for them to spend some time together," said the mother, "but I was so wrong."

Everyone was so busy bustling on their ways to the deals that they overlooked the two lions prowling in the front lobby. Mufasa headed straight for PetSmart to purchase surplus food to get through the winter; puppies were on a buy one, get one free sale. Simba followed along, mesmerized by the human world.

At one point during their exploration of the other stores, Simba halted.

A store he'd never seen, Spencers, showed off an array of hats and sex toys. Mufasa was steps away, trying to work his way to a Walmart in the bustling crowd.

Simba, still staring at the looming store, yelled out, "But what about that shadowy place?"

Mufasa replied, "That's beyond our borders. You must never go there, Simba."

But soon, Mufasa was carried away by a herd of shoppers, and Simba was faced with a decision: to find his father in the crowd, or fulfill his feline curiosity. "He wasn't there anymore, and there were so many shoppers... I thought maybe there'd be something we could use in the store," said Simba.

storm. He dodged the human feet, eventually finding shelter on a shelf of lava lamps. Unfortunately for Simba, lava lamps were 50 percent off. Scrambling black-nailed men and women pulled the lamps off the shelf, and Simba with them. He fell down towards the ground... "I was sure that was the end." Simba looks at his paws. "But then my dad saved my life."

down around little Simba like hail in a dark

Seeing his son struggline, Mufasa ran inside the store. Pushing away customers, the King of Pride Rock grabbed his son just before the crowd trampled him. He threw Simba outside, and that was the last time Simba saw his father alive.

The stampeding crowd dispersed as the shelves were emptied, and Simba ran back inside to find his father lumped near a display for the latest Twilight film, bloodied, bruised and, much to Simba's dismay, dead.

Simba's only consolation in his father's death was a janitor who arrived shortly after the tragic event, and proceeded to mop up Mufasa's remains while humming "The Circle of Life."



Fanatics against Black Friday

Reported by Anastazia Vanisko

At 5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving evening, a group of highly motivated religious zealots camped outside K-Mart and refused to leave. They claimed to be attempting to put a stop to the Black Friday shopping that was to begin that night.

The zealots, who refused to identify themselves with any specific denomination, were horrified to discover that K-Mart is actually open all day on Thanksgiving and had just closed at 4:00 p.m. to prepare for Black Friday shopping, which began promptly at 8:00 p.m. One woman was so flabbergasted by this that she fainted and was immediately brought to the nearest hospital. She was recorded as Black Friday's first victim of the year.

"Black Friday is a day people sell their souls three for the price of one. We don't want this sacrilege to spread to Thanksgiving and take the focus away from prayer and thankfulness," stated Robert Jones, the zealots' elected spokesman.

There was no acknowledgement of the fact that Thanksgiving is not actually a religious holiday; its greatest purpose is to give the turkey market the boost it needs to

compete with steak.

Zealots cited the Massachusetts Blue Laws as exactly what they hope to achieve here in Ohio. The Blue Laws prevent any store from opening on Thanksgiving and are remnants from the good old days of Puritan society. The fanatics briefly mentioned that the value Puritans placed on Thanksgiving highlights their family-friendly nature.

A fact that was completely ignored is that, according to statistics, Black Friday is actually prime bonding time for many families. Mother-daughter bonding by shopping is most effective on Black Friday; the strategizing required to make the most of any Black Friday inevitably brings women closer together.

Fathers and sons also achieve maximum bonding on Black Friday. There is nothing quite like hiding from desperate women that want to take you shopping , and on Black Friday father-son cooperation is the key to taking cover. Such high-intensity situations create close connections, and surveys show that many families are thankful for this time given to them.

When K-Mart finally opened for the

big day, the line to get in was just curling around the corner of the building. While for a store like Wal-Mart or Target this would be a record low on Black Friday, K-Mart workers were thrilled by this unexpectedly high turnout. This made getting rid of the problematic zealots an even higher priority.

Naturally, the zealots refused to leave. They remained directly outside the doors, blocking potential customers from walking through the entrance. Eventually, the post-turkey stupor wore off, and avid shoppers that had brought their own carts began to charge toward the zealots. After several injuries, all of which were inflicted by shoppers on the zealots and included two concussions, a broken leg and a sprained wrist, the zealots were forcibly removed from the scene. The police reported that, for their own safety, the fanatics will be held in jail until all Black Friday shopping has officially ended.

Jones stated that next year the group will be better prepared. They will go somewhere more popular, like Goodwill, and they will be ready to face any degree of crazed shopper that comes their way.



Are you READY for Black Friday?

Pepper spray, riot gear, flashbang grenades, batons, shields, helmets, night-vision goggles, tasers, rubber bullets, fire hoses cattle prods, knives, brass knuckles, and more!



you need at Touch Conder Loving Crowd Control

CWRU tuition funding faculty Thanksgiving dinner

Reported by River Tam

Thanks to diligent student reporter efforts, The Athenian has uncovered budget records revealing that 14.3 percent of the CWRU budget is annually allocated toward a lavish Thanksgiving dinner for faculty and administration.

This year's tuition increase was needed after the choice of Michael Symon for caterer, over past years' choice of Bon Appetit. Symon, known for his television appearances and five-star, "meat-centric" restaurants scattered throughout Cleveland, declined to comment on his involvement.

Voice recordings of unidentified faculty members were retrieved from security feeds. Common comments on the tapes found faculty admitting they often sought solace from uncontrollable family members here, claiming "work" as an excuse; that this is the best meal they've had since their last sabbatical; and that Case Western Reserve won them over to work at this university with the promise of the extravagant meal.

The question everywhere is how will students respond? This reporter took to the streets—or, bike paths of the quad—to find answers.

"I think I could pass for faculty," said one student thoughtfully. "If they ask what class I'm teaching I'll just say it's really obscure and they've probably never heard of it."

Another student, still carrying identification on an orientation lanyard, reasoned, "They work so hard. I bet they deserve it."

Athenian reporters uncovered a rough draft program which indicated the dinner this year would take place in Adelbert Hall, known best for its heated sidewalks and exclusive, ID-keyed bathrooms. A pre-dinner reception will feature awards for "Best-Used Tuition" and "Most Valuable Contribution to SAGES Program."

Following this reception, the dinner will begin, open to teaching faculty, researchers, administrative staff including admissions counselors and, of course, Barbara Snyder . According to one conservative estimate from The Athenian, this lavish, all-you-can-eat buffet costs CWRU students the equivalent of 25 ad-

ditional printers, five Session Instructors (per department), a five percent increase in meal plan costs, one extra Greenie driver and several horse-drawn carriages to supplement the Saferide program. Other projected effects may include professors canceling class early on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, teaching particularly well on the Monday and Tuesday following, and continued lowering of food quality in the dining halls.

Anonymous sources from the business department of CWRU kept their comments brief.

"We have no plans to bring an end to 'Turkey-Thon' at this time," commented one staff assistant who wished to remain unnamed. "No, I don't believe 'Turkey-Thon' could be considered unethical. It's simply a time we can feed those who are sometimes too caught up in research to feed themselves."

Under assurances of anonymity, another staff member in the business department was willing to speak on the subject. "I feel this dinner, filled with home-style foods traditional to the American Thanksgiving meal like cranberry sauce, as well as some not as traditional foods like jumbo shrimp, really add value to the entire year of working here at Case Western. For one thing, it's quite the interdisciplinary experience to dissect and share a meal with faculty across the department. In these ways, the expense is quite justified."





Price Slasher remains at large

Reported by Tejas Joshi, press association

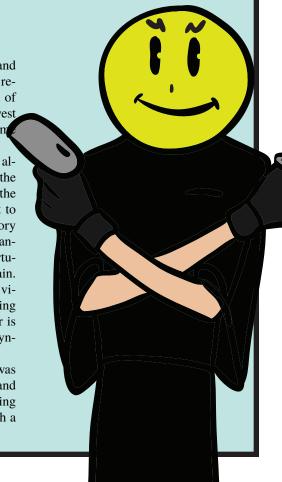
Police have received reports that the enigmatic Price Slasher, wanted in connection with millions of slashing incidents, is still at large in the Cleveland area. This notorious serial criminal has terrorized shops year-round for decades, but taunts the authorities by going on a crime spree every year on the day after Thanksgiving, which he has grimly named "Black Friday."

Several brave undershirts shared their fears and first-hand experiences with our reporters: "He just forced his way into the store with a door buster and went straight for the electronics section. He struck like a madman, slashing prices by over 60 percent! Then, grinning maniacally, the Price Slasher moved right past us and entered the beauty aisles, clutching a bar-code scanning gun. There's no knowing who might be hit next!"

Police hope the fact that used-car dealerships are disproportionately targeted by the Price Slasher might yield some insights into his motivations and plans. Costumers at these dealerships report that this criminal has some kind of psychotic commitment to offer the lowest prices guaranteed, and, in some extrem cases, is practically giving cars away.

Thousands of shop-owners have already been driven out of business by the insane deals left in the aftermath of the Price Slasher's attacks. In an attempt to protect themselves from this predatory pricing, many retailers have fled to Canada or the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, their efforts are proving in vain. Hundreds of these refugees have been violently attacked on Boxing Day, leading experts to wonder if the Price Slasher is part of a larger, international crime syndicate.

At press time, the Price Slasher was heard muttering "Sell, Sell, Sell!" and laughing manically while approaching a cowering carton of orange juice with a buy-one-get-one-free sticker in hand.





We offer a discrete, affordable service for people who prefer to enjoy black Friday from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Our surrogate shoppers are highly skilled athletes with backgrounds in weightlifting, martial arts and Greco Roman wrestling. All you have to do is login into out website, upload your shopping list, sit back and allow our surrogate shoppers to do all the hard work for you. Call or visit our website for more information.

8000 333 9999

www.ssss.com

The illustrious Fridays

Pulled from the Athenian Calender

Envious Friday:

When you get jealous of all the great deals that everyone but you got on their Black Friday purchases.

Flab Recognition Friday:

When the wings you ate a week ago have now gone straight to your thighs.

Fitness Friday:

When you go to the gym for the first time in 156 weeks in an effort to work off the fat you realized you had on Flab Recognition Friday.

Fuck This Shit Friday:

The week after Fitness Friday, when you give up on going to the gym upon realizing that exercise is hard.

Fuck That Shit Friday:

When you are forced to explain to your spouse/significant other why you didn't go the gym, despite how you smell.

Fungible Friday:

The Friday that is actually a Wednesday.

Pre-Super Bowl Friday:

When you stub your toe on the cases of beer cans you bought to drink on Super Bowl Sunday.

Faceplant Friday:

When you trip over the huge pile of empty cans formerly containing the beer that you drank on Super Bowl Sunday and haven't thrown out yet.

Flammable Friday:

When Bacardi 151 is on sale.

Good Friday:

The other classic.

Bad Friday:

When Jesus was resurrected and ascended into Heaven, and subsequently realized he'd left his keys in Hell and had to go back for them.

Freakout Friday:

The Friday before a major deadline.

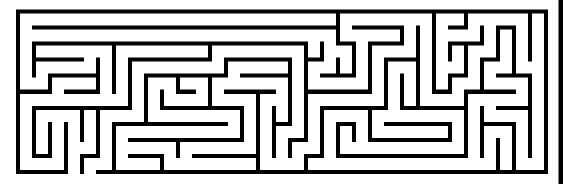
Freedom Friday:

The Friday after a major deadline.

A full list is available at cwruathenian.com!

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Regrets for avoiding Black Friday













Interested in winning prizes of up to **250 dollars** at the end of the semester?

Enter the contest with one entry each issue by going to the link below (through your compter browser or smartphone via QR code) and vote for your favorite article of each issue. It's that simple and you, the readers, get to determine the month's winner of \$50 and get a chance at at several different prizes!

We are still taking entries for issue 70 and 71 (which are one entry each).

Congratulations to last month's winner, Doug Oswald, of \$50 for his submission!

To enter, go to:

http://tinyurl.com/athenian71



We'd like to additionally take a moment to thank all the contributors:

> Alex Aloi Carissa Conine Sierra Coleman Hallie Dolin Kayla DeVault Kushagra Gupta Tejas Joshi Raymond Krajci Benjamin Lee Zachary Lerner Mike McKenna Pat Melvin Annie Nickoloff Ellie Rambo Joanna Rumbley Mel Sayre Sarah Whelan Anastazia Vanisko



Come to our next meetings!

We offer a free Scholar meal for just listening to us talk and chatting with your peers.

We also pay for contributions to this magazine.

Next Brainstorming Meeting:

Monday, November 4th- 6PM to 8PM, Media Board Room

Next Production Meeting:

Friday, November 8th - 12:30PM to 2PM, Media Board Room

To order **food**, go to **http://tinyurl.com/athfood** or email **mfs71@case.edu**

