

# The Athenian

# YEARBOOK

ISSUE

150



# EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear reader,

Here's the one I've been dreading: the last editor's notes in my time at Case Western Reserve University. It's here I'd start with the "it's been a wild ride," but I promised you nostalgic musing in the last one of these so goddamnit you're going to get some.

To level with you, reader, my first year or so here was *rough*. Bad enough, we were still weathering the storm of "the new normal," with everyone in masks and biweekly testing and no one having any idea what was going on with clubs or other large in-person gatherings. Hell, the spring semester of my first year, we started the first two weeks of classes online again because COVID cases were spiking. But on a more individual scale, I also found myself deeply lost even in the "normal" parts of that transition— far from home in a totally new place I hadn't *quite* gotten to tour normally, uprooted from the clubs and friends I had spent the last four years building in high school, and completely unsure of what I was doing and where I was going.

I keep rewriting this to try and add some nuance to the role *The Athenian* played in getting me out of that—that the relationships I formed here still very much took work, and required I put myself and my ideas out there enough to make the endeavor just as daunting as it was rewarding. But sometimes, too, things just click.

I fell in love with *The Athenian* and the people who wrote for it. With the work they published and the jokes they pitched at brainstorming meetings. With my role as a Proofreader, and soon as Secretary of the University Media Board that *The Athenian* was a part of. I fell so hard and so fast that Ellie, my "Editor-in-Chief", thought I was a returning member in my freshman year.

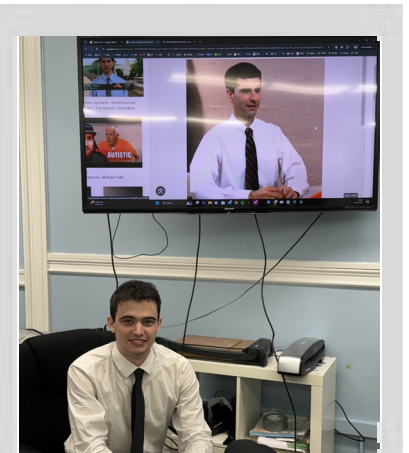
And in return, *The Athenian* has given me so much back. Each and every individual I have been lucky enough to meet and to work with at this magazine has been so immensely creative and funny and talented. Every friend that it's brought me closer to, every role it's put me in, every article I've gotten to read and to write has been nothing short of a blessing. I frankly would not be who I am today without this magazine, and I have it to thank for so much good that has happened to me in my four years here.

And so to everyone along the way — to Sofia and Ellie, who got me into this beautiful mess; to Sara and Rowan, who helped me first find my way as Editor-in-Chief; to Megan, who has been the most excellent Managing Editor I could have possibly asked for (and who deserves an entire editor's notes of separate thanks entirely unto herself); to Evan, for whom I am so proud and so excited to be taking my place; to Nealey, and Jake, and David, and Fiona, and Nat, and everyone else on the executive and editorial team at any point in my tenure — thank you. It has been a pleasure and an honor.

I have been around now for nearly 30 issues of *The Athenian* and can confidently say that we have only gotten better with time. And so I invite those who will be taking the mantle to continue doing what they have already been doing so well, and keep spreading humor and wit and truth to power. I am so proud of everything we have done here, and wish you all the best in everything you do.

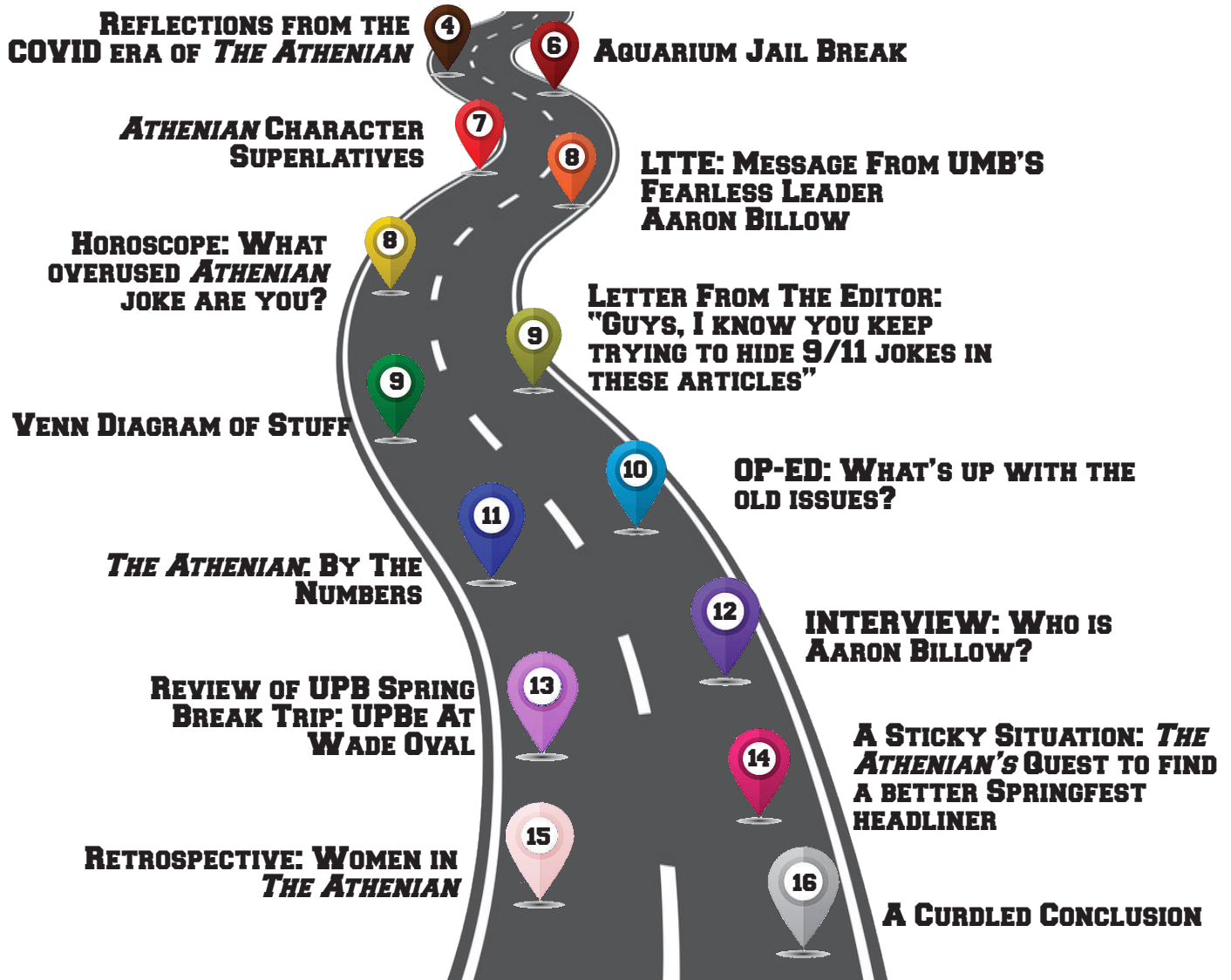
Signing off for the last time,

Yours truly,  
Justin Zimmerman  
*Master of the House*



Outgoing *Athenian* Editor-in-Chief, Justin "Nathan Fielder" Zimmerman

# ROAD OF CONTENTS



## Editor-in-Chief:

Justin Zimmerman

## Managing Editor:

Megan Abel

## Copy Editor:

Jake Bridge

## Head of Design:

Nealey Barak

## Head of Distribution:

Evan Durkee

## Business Managers:

Fiona Arado

Nat Qiu

## Webmaster/Archivist:

David Kaplan

## Social Media Manager:

Kai Tibbitts

## Contributors:

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Aaron Billow

MG Davis

Jenny Fu

Cade Kuhlins

Jonah Reinis

Victoria Warady

## With special appearances from:

Sofia Lemberg

Ellie Rapp

Sara Ramiah



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university      
media board



# REFLECTIONS FROM THE COVID ERA OF *THE ATHENIAN*

## BY SOFIA LEMBERG AND ELLIE RAPP

To *The Athenian*,

Hello from the other side of the graduation line. To the contributors, we know you've had no shortage of content to write about while we sit in our flaming dumpster of a country. To the readers, we hope you've felt an ounce of reprieve knowing that a well-placed, barely-fit-for-print joke is always waiting for you between the pages of this magazine.

Living through unprecedented times is no small feat. It calls for unprecedented stories. Are you tired of living through life-changing events yet? Don't worry, it never stops!

Whether it is any solace to you or not, we can relate to your uncertainty. In the summer of 2019, we arrived at CWRU as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed freshmen. We decorated our dorm rooms, stayed up too late in the common space watching movies, and believed nothing could go wrong. Famous last words, right?

Fast forward to mid-March, 2020, when nearly every student was sent home amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. For months, we lived off the same few phrases: "Can you all hear me?", "Can you see my screen?", and "Please turn off your camera, for the love of Spartie, I don't need to know you're showering while you're in lecture." Or, Babs forbid, "Um... you aren't muted. We heard you say that."

In the fall of 2020, from Sofia's off-campus apartment with enough roommates to guarantee they'd all hate each other by the time their lease ended, she received a message in another club's group chat. There was a media organization looking for proofreaders (now called Copy Editors, as she has been told). As a premed student, how could she ignore an opportunity to correct other people and prove she knew more than them, even if it was in the realm of grammar and syntax rather than biology and chemistry? She was brought onto the team where she met Ellie, who had already been indoctrinated by the thrall of satire.

And thus started our experience working with *The Athenian*. We enjoyed writing quasi-journalism so much that we took on the responsibility of reading everyone else's dick jokes before they went to the publisher.

Between the sudden loss of in-person meetings and a website that showed up as a Viagra reseller, *The Athenian's* engagement was almost nonexistent. Aside from our beloved advisor Bernie, we were the last survivors *The Athenian* had to offer. And from the ashes, *The Athenian* rose like the Frankensteinian duck it always has been. We transformed this organization through sheer perseverance, delusion, and bribery in the form of 200 Raising Cane's chicken tenders. What was once a dying breath in the form of a magazine had flourished into satirical scripture to fuel laughter for generations. In fact, a professor was offended enough to send a novel-long email to *The Observer* regarding (what he believed was) one of their articles poking fun at Christianity. Unfortunately for him, he had actually read our April Fools' edition. So much for media literacy!



*The Athenian* wins awards!  
(Correspondents' Dinner  
2023)



The Valentine's Day Issue  
is Spartie-approved!



I hope you imagine us retelling this story sitting in our rocking chairs, looking wistfully at the sunset, while you silently ponder how quickly we have succumbed to postgraduate dementia. (Rest assured: despite all this, Sofia graduated from premed to Med, and Ellie is doing radical research in the field. There is hope.) But the point of this story is to bestow some wisdom on the youngin's. So if reviving *The Athenian* from the graves of COVID hell has taught us anything, it's this:

- 1. Don't stop.** We don't care what your goal is. Getting the grade? Getting out of jail? Getting into jail? Keep going. The only things that come to fruition are the ones you push for again and again.
- 2. Party hard.** We know you're all nerds at your nerd school with your nerd dreams, but don't forget to enjoy yourselves. For the love of God, please have an alcoholic beverage on a weekday. If the world ends, the life that flashes before your eyes better be entertaining.
- 3. Speak up for yourself.** *The Athenian* was our outlet to talk about what we loved—and hated — about our college years, and fighting for its existence in the great Organizational Death Era post-COVID was no small feat. Defend what is important to you. Rally for the people and groups you love. Keep on keeping on.
- 4. Be authentic.** Life's too short to be embarrassed. Be cringe, be free, be you. Similarly — if any of you are using ChatGPT to write 600 words, I'll personally find you and make you eat the keys. God forbid you use your critical thinking skills to better your surroundings.
- 5. Have fun.** *Vita brevis, satura faex longa.* Make the stupid jokes, even if you're the only one who laughs (which is arguably worse than no one laughing). Craft JFK and Jay Jay the Jet Plane fanfiction so vile it simply cannot be published in our magazine. Write an article so awful that a professor sends *The Observer* a misdirected complaint certain to damn you to eternal suffering. Life is as serious as it is everlasting... not at all! Maybe that Joker guy was onto something.

You got this,

Sofia Lemberg, '23  
Former Managing Editor

Ellie Rapp, '23  
Former Editor-in-Chief



*The Athenian* wins more awards!  
(Correspondents' Dinner 2023)



*The Athenian* still wins awards!  
(Correspondents' Dinner 2025)

# AQUARIUM JAIL BREAK

## By TUNA TURNER

In order to prepare for our award-winning “Athenian For Kidz” issue, *The Athenian* decided to get into the mindset of a child by going on a field trip. The organization skipped classes, rented a school bus, and went to the Greater Cleveland Aquarium.

Something felt off looking at the sharks, octopuses, and plethora of fish not native to Ohio. *The Athenian* is a strong supporter of repatriation — returning stolen goods back to their countries of origin — including paintings, sculptures, and cultural artifacts. However, repatriation is usually not discussed when it comes to aquarium animals. Are the piranhas native to South America truly happy being in Cleveland? No! They didn’t consent to moving here! They’re fish! We realized what needed to be done: we needed to break the fish out of the aquarium and bring them home.

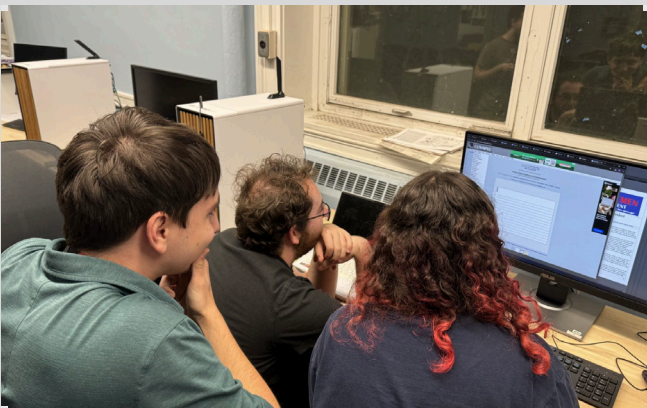
Here was the plan: *The Athenian* would flirt our way into attending a shark feeding from the employees-only side where the tank is open. Then, our fastest runner would pick up the shark food and try to steal it. However...this was only a diversion. As the employees are focused on the stolen chum, two more members will grab whatever fish they can and exit out the back. The rest of the members will either aid in the diversion, hold open doors, or bribe the bus driver to book it and not narc.



Graduating seniors Justin and Edie posing with *The Athenian*’s newest members

The plan worked swimmingly. But once we made it to the bus, we realized we made a grave mistake. We had no water. We only brought Mountain Dew Kickstart™ for a celebratory toast. Desperate to keep these fish alive, we poured out the Kickstart into the cooler and put the animal heads in it. This choice ended up giving the shark and octopus...certain abilities...which scared the Brazilian and Japanese embassies when we discussed rehoming our new friends. Turns out when sharks and octopuses start flying and talking about how “we must repent before the Mountain Dew-nissance,” their home countries no longer want them.

So, we were not successful in repatriation, but maybe the repatriation was the friends we made along the way. Our new aquatic friends have settled into their home in Thwing and are very happy. They told us themselves.



Three *Athenian* editors doing one person’s job hard at work



*Athenian* exec spreading propaganda at Sparta-gras



# ATHENIAN CHARACTER SUPERLATIVES

BY E.D.

## MOST GONE AND FORGOTTEN



Missing Observer  
Staff (149)

## BEST CHARACTER HAHAHA DON'T HURT US



Big Milk (multiple)

## MOST DRIPPED OUT



Horse (146)

## MOST PUSSY



Stoner Horton  
(148)

## MEDIUM PUSSY



Medieval Gritty  
(146)

## LEAST PUSSY



Narc (148)

## SECOND MOST AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT ON "UNSPECIFIED LINE ITEMS"



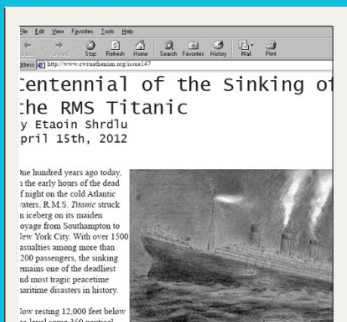
Felon Spartie  
(145)

## MOST AMOUNT OF THERAPY NEEDED



Kevin Stefanski  
(149)

## MOST LIKELY TO SCARE THE HOES



Regular article  
about the Titanic  
(147)



# LTTE: MESSAGE FROM UMB'S FEARLESS LEADER

## AARON BILOW

For the chance to respond to our work or share your thoughts, email [athenian-editors@case.edu](mailto:athenian-editors@case.edu) with "LTTE" in the subject line. We reserve the right to publish (or not publish) any notable entries with minor edits for style or clarity.

Hello,

Evan [Durkee] (whom I lovingly refer to as Tweedledum) caught me a couple weeks ago and asked me to write a letter to the editor of *The Athenian*. I frankly didn't think that the editor of *The Athenian* could read, but then again, neither can I, so here we are.

My name is Aaron Bilow, and for those of you who don't know me, I'm your local hat wearing nerd that likes walkie-talkies a little *too* much. I stewed over what to write here for a little too long, I mean, I'm aware nobody reads this shit anyway but then I procrastinated and I'm currently writing this at 11 p.m. on a Saturday before I go hang out with friends. For those that are reading this though, I have some things to share.

First, in the last issue Glennan got busted for having a mind control machine. I can't spill too much more, but come get your amateur radio license and you might get a piece of it. I don't know how y'all recruit people to write for *The Athenian*, and frankly, I'd like some tips; do you just convince people that they're funny? Tweedledum is funny, but I get the same experience from just lookin at 'em. I love what y'all do though, seriously. The headline "[Bitch I'm Literally Going to Fucking Kill You...]" on the front page of Observer letterhead was brilliant and I'd love to see more of it, especially while admitted students are touring. Y'all have built something special though, somewhere people can get together and be themselves, they might get bullied for doing such a heinous thing, but nevertheless it can happen. As someone who has many versions of me it can be both rewarding and tiring to code switch (for lack of a better term) so frequently, but I've crafted a side (not separated, just presented differently) of myself for most social circles that I exist in. As an equal opportunity bullshitter, I respect the opportunity to be shredded by a contributor.

It is my understanding that there is an article about me in this issue, and I was partly flattered by some questions and rather upset about others. I don't know who in the world found out that I play laser tag alone, but goddamnit is nothing sacred anymore? Some others, the author did overestimate how much power I hold, which is fun to think about, especially coming from an *Athenian* author. That's right, y'all better watch your asses because I'm taking names (not really, I can't read, much less write.) Anyway, I won't drone on too long but I got a couple *Athenian* related ideas off my chest which is all I really wanted to do. Keep doing what you're doing, I've enjoyed it here at CWRU and I hope y'all have had even more fun creating it. There may be lots of forces (here or otherwise) that may try to stop you, and that should only speak to the power you wield. Thank you for having me write your letter to the editor, and if I don't see you, good afternoon, good evening, and goodnight.

Best Regards,  
Aaron Bilow

## HOROSCOPE: WHAT OVERUSED *ATHENIAN* JOKE ARE YOU?

BY SHANNON SHAHID

Aries: Still pimpin'

Taurus: Milk

Gemini: Kaler's emails

Cancer: Freshman dorms bad (Check out Issues 151 and 152 for more!)

Leo: No sex = funny

8 Virgo: Sex = funny

Libra: Crouching Tiger, Hidden penis

Scorpio: *The Observer* bad, *The Athenian* good

Sagittarius: Foot fetishism

Capricorn: \_\_\_\_\_er I hardly know her

Aquarius: Ashley is missing

Pisces: Advertisements = bad (\*cough\* \*cough\*  
*The Observer*)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: "GUYS, I KNOW YOU KEEP TRYING TO HIDE 9/11 JOKES IN THESE ARTICLES" BY JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN, ON BEHALF OF THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Dear The Athenian contributors, Alright, look, I get it. It was 24 years ago now, and none of us would have been there for it. And furthermore, I will even grant you that we are very pro freedom of speech at this magazine — and generally speaking, yeah, I admit we'll usually let you get away with most (if not all) of what you want to publish.

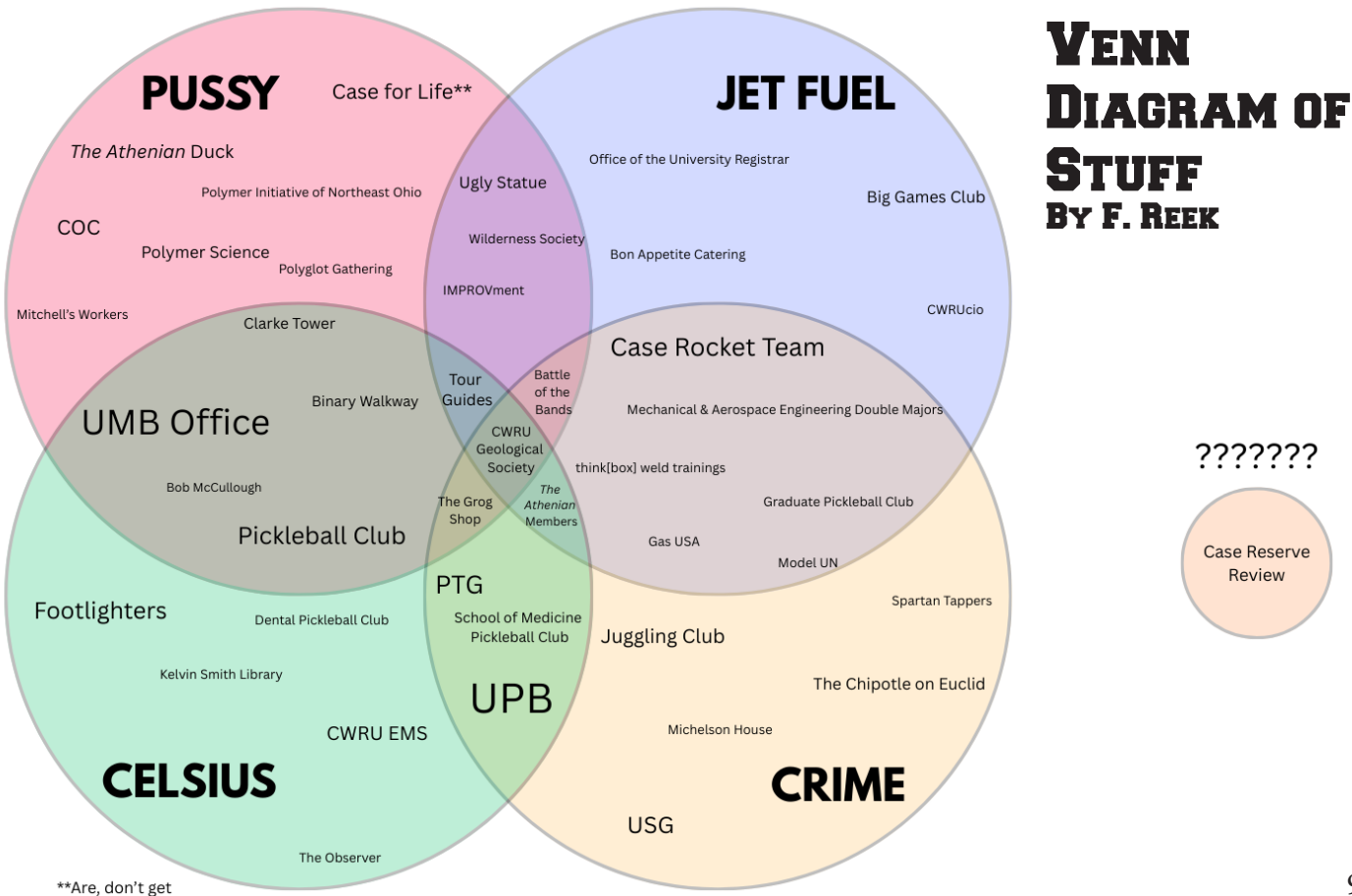
But you guys gotta chill with the 9/11 jokes.

I don't care if South Park says it's been long enough to make fun of it, our policy still stands: too many people all tried making 9/11 jokes at the same time in that one issue like three years ago, so now nobody gets any 9/11 jokes. That's how it's been and that's how it will be as long as I'm still technically in charge.

And don't think you're clever trying to sneak them in, either. I'm onto you guys. You thought we wouldn't catch the one about Spartie researching steel beams, or the one about The Observer saying Iraq has WMDs, or "#NeverFayette." Like, come on. Even the old Athenian staff publishing back in the early 2000s, took a break from making jokes for a full year after it happened, and those guys put a bunch of Hitler memes in our magazine.

We're not mad, just disappointed.

Justin Zimmerman Editor-in-Chief, The Athenian



# OP-ED: WHAT'S UP WITH THE OLD ISSUES?

## BY MANGLED GRAPHICS "MG" DAVIS

As the 25th anniversary of my favorite-by-default satire magazine approaches, I skim *The Athenian's* website, hoping to gain more information about the publication. What were the old running jokes at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) like? Was the UPJpP (University President Joke per Page) ratio as high as it is today? Was Leutner Commons always this bad of a dining hall? In short, how did our predecessors use their humor to reflect on the state of the university and the world at large?

As I scroll through the archives and skim every ancient issue as I could withstand, I can't help but notice how... *problematic* it all is.

Seriously, who approved of *any* of this?! The pages are covered in photos of celebrities, for some reason. I don't particularly care about the caption — Mariah Carey was apparently a whore back then — but I'm instantly put off by the fact that I can count the pixels in the photo. This is *The Athenian*, dammit! If I wanted to look at low-quality graphics, I'd read my PHYS 122 lab report. Then again, CWRU students in 2002 were probably using Origin back then, too.

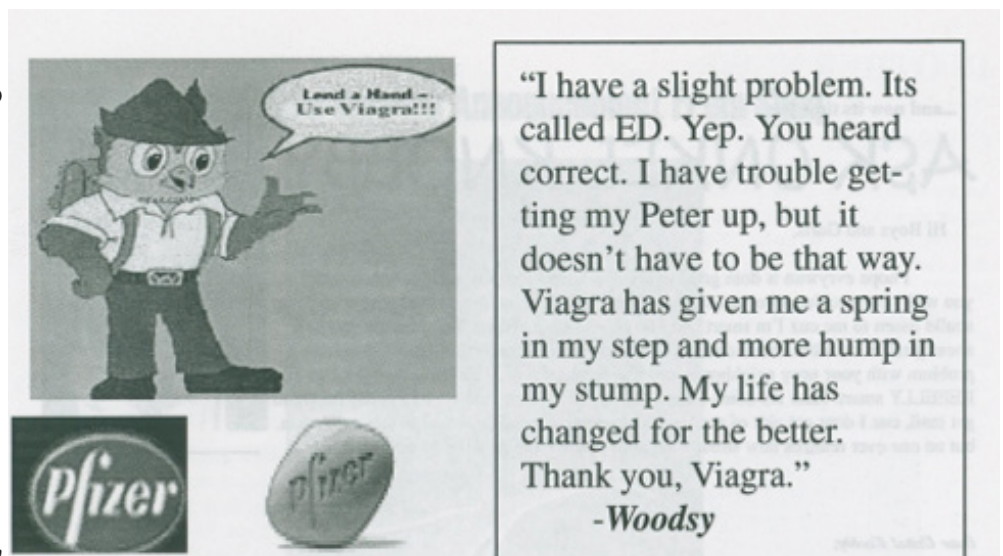
It's not like the original photos are much better. While the covers, in all their black and white glory, are honestly stellar, the editing jobs on the pictures inside are something else. As my eyes flick over yet another picture of Saddam Hussein's face plastered on a chimpanzee's body, I groan, "Surely, they could have done better!"

At least the old contributors followed AP style sometimes. As a writer, I appreciate the use of the Oxford comma that accompanies the rampant misogyny, racism, transphobia, homophobia, antisemitism, and bestiality throughout the issues. However, I find it difficult to associate myself with a publication that can't use the right abbreviations for Florida or Massachusetts. Honestly, where's a Copy Editor when you need one?

The evolution of humor really is something to marvel at. I look at the way that past students made fun of Edward Hundert or Barbara "Babs" Snyder and smile just a little bit. Yes, maybe the humor was crude (and the formatting cruder, I cannot stress this enough), but the soul behind *The Athenian* has always been the same: a bunch of college students who think they're funny. Thankfully, though, we've improved our quality just a little bit over the past 25 years.

At the end of the day, who am I to be the judge of past content? In the 250th issue, I'm sure someone's going to write a retrospective criticizing the multiple foot fetish articles, the Garfield fan art, and our (read: *Evan's*) fascination with milk. Then again, at least we didn't put the Table of Contents on page 11, unlike our predecessors in Issue #8.

*Editor's note: This article has been approved by The Athenian's Archivist. God, please help me.*



An uncomfortably crunchy image from Issue #3



# THE ATHENIAN: BY THE NUMBERS

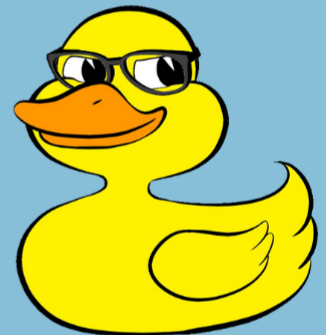
Total submissions **119**

Copies distributed **1,502** *Total minds inspired*  
**1,338**

Kaler emails hated on  
**ALL OF THEM**  
(TRUE TO OUR CORE VALUES)



Nuber of typos  
**TOO DAMN MANY**



People lost to Big Milk

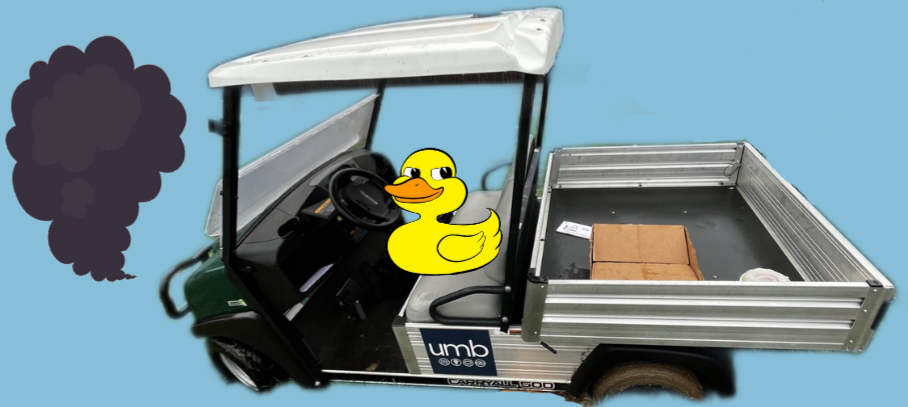
**Unknown**

*Athenian* members allowed to  
drive the golf cart

**1**

*Athenian* members who have  
driven the golf cart

**[REDACTED]**



# INTERVIEW: WHO IS AARON BILLOW?

Just as the spring sun brings a much needed change of pace to campus, the UMB election heralds a shake-up of the UMB dynasty with a whole new board. Aaron Bilow, or, as he now insists on being called, “Chairman Bilow,” is the, well, I think you understand what position he won. Despite a busy schedule of going to laser tag alone and putting grey dye in the Leutner “food,” Chairman Bilow was able to make time for an interview with us at *The Athenian*. Or more accurately, *The Observer* was too busy writing articles on how medical malpractice is actually impossible and how we should all compromise on just a little bit of fascism, which leaves us, the CWRU #2, to deliver to you an interview with the head of the UMB zoo. Without further ado:

**The following interview has been heavily edited for your viewing experience and is NOT endorsed by the UMB Exec Board.**

Q: “What are the goals you have for UMB, and how do you plan on using an iron fist to assure that they’re met?”

A: “I really wanna advocate for us [at] SPR (Stupid People’s Rendezvous), and secondly for UMB specifically, [like], I wanna, [like], see more cohesion, [like], and really for [like] an umbrella org with 14 orgs.”

Q: “Who did you run against in the UMB election, and why do you think you won?”

A: “I ran against nobody, and I think I won because of that.”

Q: “Do you think that you’re alone in most things, and would you say that you suffer in silence?”

A: “... I...think I suffer in silence. I... am alone in most things.”

Q: “Many people are saying that you go and play laser tag alone, can you expand on that, please?”

A: “Who- who said that?”

Q: “Well, it’s – it’s something that I’ve heard, I mean, do you want a list? It’s a pretty long list, I mean, I can’t pull it out right now.”

A: “I’m gonna deny those allegations because I don’t play laser tag alone because [of the incident]... I don’t play laser tag at all [for that reason].”

Q: “Can you highlight why UMB is special to you?”

A: “UMB is special... we are the same thing. ...what... is Footlighters? WRUW... is... radio broadcast... We’re all

interested in... distributing...”

Q: “Does UMB support the use of AI artwork on the Tippit Tea website?”

A: “No.”

Q: “Why are there two radio clubs, and which one isn’t for nerds?”

A: “WRUW is the one that’s not for nerds.”

Q: “And the other one is?”

A: “The other one is W8EDU – that is the one that is for nerds.”

Q: “But nerds, not allowed in WRUW?”

A: “Correct, everyone at WRUW is a cool person.”

Q: “Ok, that’s good to know, so we’ll be sending out the application shortly to be a cool person.”

A: “Can I run some UMB event ideas by you?”

Q: “UMBurger.”

A: “What is UMBurger?”

Q: “We make hamburgers, and we eat hamburgers. Hamburger contest?”

A: “Contest? Yeah, I like that idea.”

Q: “UMBaptism.”

A: “No.”

Q: “Finally, UMBritish Columbia”

A: “What does that mean?”

Q: “You know Vancouver?”

A: “Like we go to Vancouver?”

Q: “No, just Vancouver-related things. We drink coffee, we, uh, listen to punk rock music...”

A: “Needs some fleshing out.”

Q: “What is media, and please try to keep your answer really short, we’re low on time.”

A: “Media is anything that conveys a complex idea through something that is not just conversation.”

Q: “Cheese?”

A: “Yeah, I like cheese.”

Q: “What are you optimistic about for the upcoming year of UMB?”

A: “Ok, so this is a question I actually wanna answer. I’m optimistic about a lot of things: I think that those who have been elected to the exec board are really passionate about what they wanna do, and I think that we’re set up for a good year of people who really care and want to take part in student leadership. I’m optimistic that we will have the opportunity to keep doing what we really want to be doing, and that’s making media.”

# REVIEW OF UPB SPRING BREAK TRIP: UPBe AT WADE OVAL

BY MAI GRAINE

💎 Hey Besties 💎 Mai Graine here.

I'm happy to report that my 2025 Spring Break Trip IN REVIEW is officially out!! This year, UPB (the University Program Board) graciously took over 420 students to the EXCLUSIVE, tropical, and relaxing spring break getaway to Wade Oval this year!

My review is FINALLY done, four months and 43 segments later. I want to take a few moments to reflect back on the trip itself and also highlight the HIGHS and LOWS of my time at UPBe at Wade Oval.

It's no secret that Wade Oval is one of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) students' favorite destinations in the world. Nothing screams rest and relaxation like Canadian geese and squirrels. The base cost of the trip was around \$690 — a bit pricey, but the excursions made up for it! The first event UPB presented to the spring breakers was a swim in Wade Lagoon. UPB, within the span of 2 weeks, miraculously transformed Wade Lagoon into a beachfront property in partnership with a new branch of the Hilton Hotel, which replaced Clark Tower, now named "Clark Tower Inn by Hilton Garden." Funnily enough, this is also where all 420+ spring breakers stayed for the week. Like every classic spring break trip, there were unfortunately not enough beds for all the breakers, so some had to make do and sleep on the common room sofas and on top of the washing machines in the basement.

The biggest disappointment of the trip was definitely the lack of geese at Wade Lagoon. In the middle of the excursion at Wade Lagoon, there were a few cars from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, who came to collect the geese midday, claiming "concerns of bird flu" or something like that. Though the overall vibe of the trip remained authentic to CWRU, the water was murky and we could still see remnants of the rubble of the former Wade Lagoon at the bottom.



Flier for UPBe at Wade Oval 2025

The squirrels were also oddly finicky throughout Wade Oval. The other excursion UPB prepared for us was a squirrel feeding session. All 420+ of the spring breakers gathered in the park in front of the Cleveland Museum of Art and held up chunks of cubed Chicken n' Bacon Brioche Melt with Fries to feed to the squirrels, but they turned up their noses in distaste and scampered away. We did get a few squirrels willing to try the concoctions we gave them, but most stayed meek and only took an eighth of a slice of the bacon I gave them.

This was an extensive trip, even though I went back to my dorm for "breaks", as UPB only provided lodging at the Clarke Tower Inn for half of the week of the trip. No beach in the world could ever come close to the revamped Wade Lagoon that UPB constructed. Overall, I would give UPBe at Wade Oval a solid 4 out of 5 ducks, with the one area of critique being more diverse petting zoo options. I want a skunk instead of a squirrel feeding session.



# A STICKY SITUATION: *THE ATHENIAN'S* QUEST TO FIND A BETTER SPRINGFEST HEADLINER

## BY THE KUHLMAN GUY

It's no surprise that many people in the campus community were quite upset with the choice of Springfest headliner this year: Richard "Ricky" Owen Holmes Montgomery. But like my mama always used to say, "If you try to please all, you please none." Or was that Aristotle? Maybe Aesop? Whatever, it doesn't matter. The point is, I can commiserate with the poor, poor Springfest Committee members during this trying time. And to be honest, I don't really see the issue with Mr. Montgomery! I mean, who better represents the campus community than a basic-ass white boy who does nothing but whine about relationship drama and family issues? What is this, an artist with almost 10 million monthly Spotify listeners or my daily Sidechat (née YikYak, may it rest in peace) feed?

But fret not, dear reader, for *The Athenian* is here to fill that massive, gaping hole in your delicate musical sensibilities. As the principal voice representing the people of the CWRU community, we felt it was our sworn duty to provide an artist that better represented the various struggles and plights of the people on our campus. And, at risk of sounding biased, I'd like to say that we accomplished this goal and then some.

I'm happy to announce that *The Athenian* will be sponsoring a free concert featuring world-renowned, award-winning artist: Sticky Montgomery!

We here at *The Athenian* conducted minutes and minutes of intensive research in order to find an artist that would truly satisfy all. You see, unlike

Ricky Montgomery, whose fame originates from his well-written and relatable songs that went viral on TikTok, an extremely popular but dangerous form of Chinese spyware that can access the home Wi-Fi network, Sticky Montgomery went viral after a video of him covering himself in peanut butter was posted to his MySpace page (Yes, it still exists. Google it.). As Montgomery said, "I was just trying to recreate the lightning in a bottle that was the 2009 peanut butter baby video! Why does that damn baby get to have all the fame?"

After we found out that Sticky Montgomery also partook in artistic media that don't feature peanut butter (namely music), we had our top people reach out to him to see if he would grace our campus with his presence. After six agonizing minutes of waiting for him to respond to our Instagram DM, we received our response: "yeah sure, sounds chill af"

Sticky Montgomery's most popular songs include "Mr. Hoverman," in which he discusses his father's tragic and deadly accident involving a hoverboard in 2015, "This September," where he talks about his plans for his favorite holiday, Labor Day, and "Spine Without a Crook," where he recounts his childhood battle with scoliosis.

With relatable and deeply emotional songs like these in his repertoire, it's hard to see how this concert won't be a smash hit! Be sure to meet outside of that one classroom in the Peter B. Lewis building that you can't ever seem to find to get your tickets next Friday!



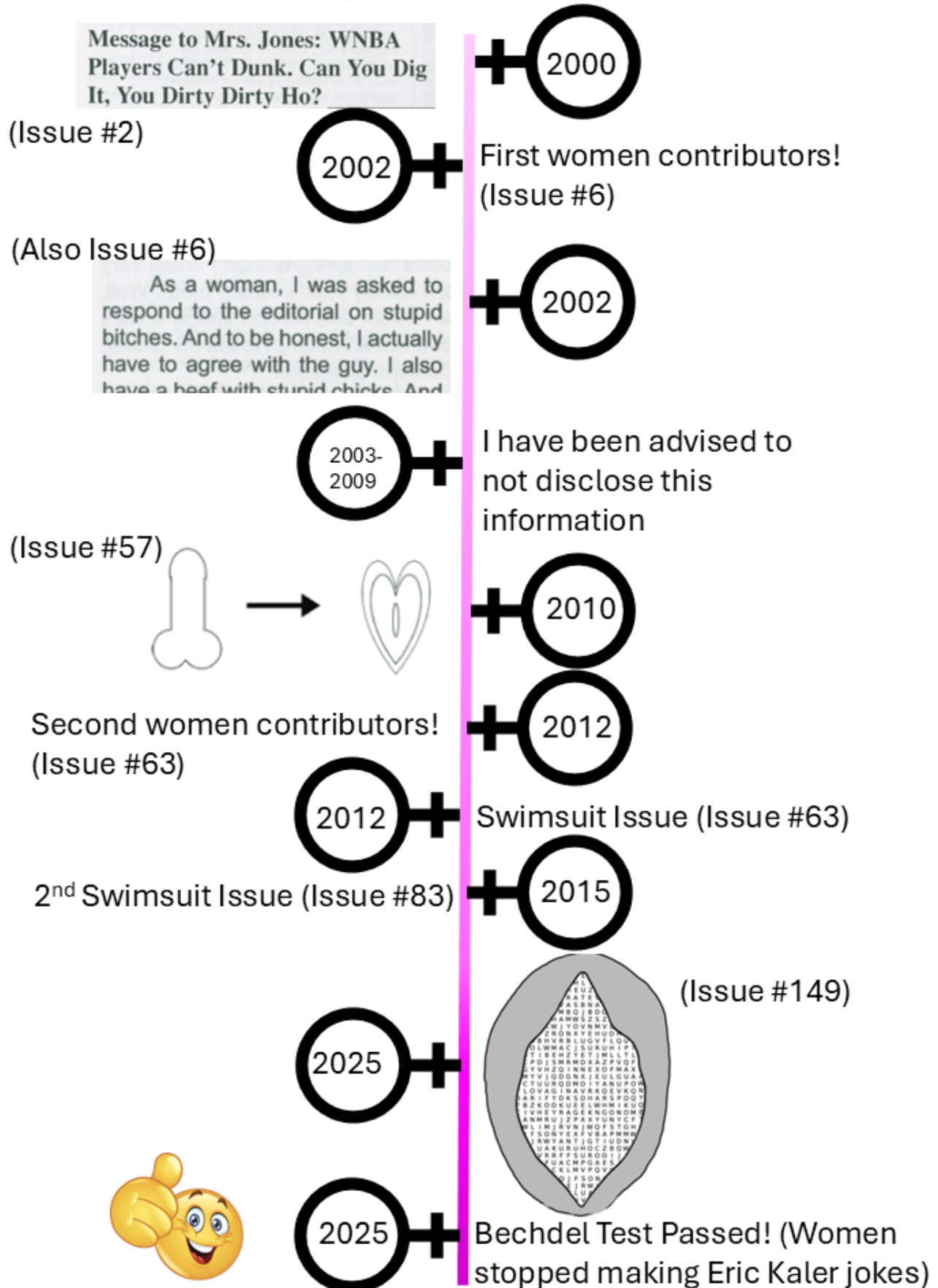
*The Athenian* plays Dungeons and Dragons (to absolutely no one's surprise)



We actually didn't win any awards at this one (Correspondents' Dinner 2024)

# RETROSPECTIVE: WOMEN IN *THE ATHENIAN*

By More Gender "MG" Davis



# A CURDLED CONCLUSION

BY EVAN DURKEE

I sit with my butt cheeks clenched. Feces squished. Heart palpitating. The moo man himself stands before me. His visage is as shocking as it is intimidating. I wiggle, but I am restrained in a chair by a strong rope. He speaks:

Big Milk: So, you've done it. You have stumbled upon the ancient knowledge of the purity of the cow teat.

Me: I didn't stumble upon anything. I found the truth! You've been brainwashing the world with your calcium-based creations!

Big Milk: So you think. I've been watching you throughout your journey. I saw you with your trusty spoon at 4:21 a.m, I saw you observe a lecture on calcium, I saw you searching through a library, I saw you harass an elderly lady, I saw you break out the hospital, I saw you wander through the slaughterhouse, and now, I see you sitting here, constrained. Throughout your journey, I noticed that you viewed me as some sort of menace, some sort of a homogenized horror. I'm afraid you misunderstand me.

I sit in consternation. I am at a complete loss for words.

Big Milk: I don't know how, but you managed to avoid milk as a youth, and continue down the path of life with a complete aversion to it. I already had a biological element on my side: breast milk starts them out young, but I kept it going throughout childhood. I convinced parents and schools that milk makes kids grow up big and strong. I even offered extra credit in college calculus courses. People associate milk with things that aren't even milk. Dairy became associated with eggs. You can't grope an almond or caress a soybean, yet people consider those other varieties.

Me: What's your point?! You've been manipulating the masses! You have a monopoly!

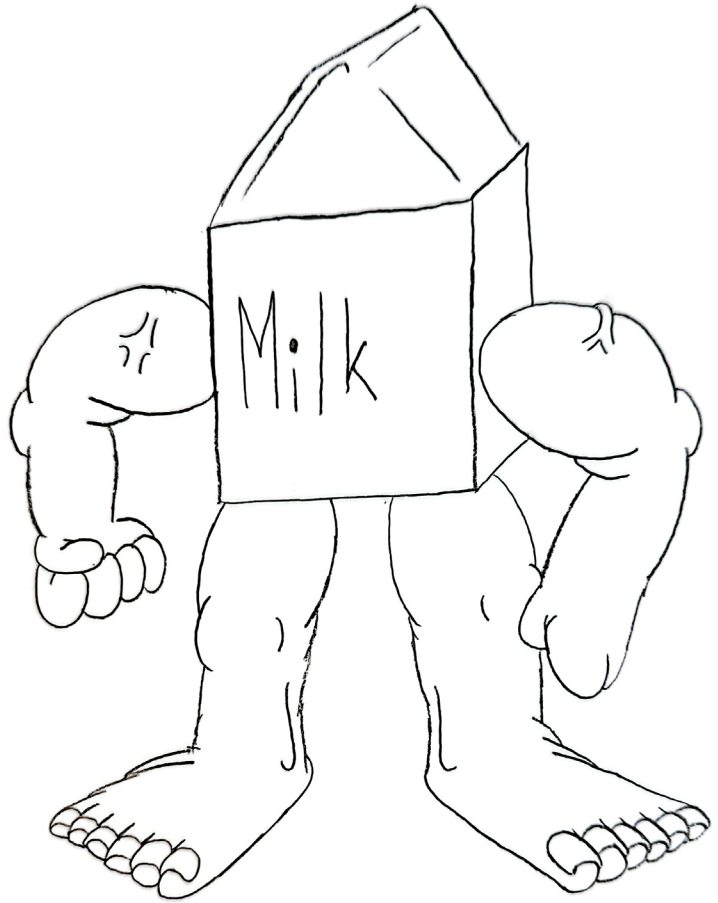
Big Milk: Oh, you ignorant soul, you look at me as if I want to destroy the world. I merely want to aid it in natural life. I tell you this information because you have a sickness, a sickness that I have fought hard to cure.

Me: What sickness?!

Big Milk: I've noticed that you seem to act strangely. Have you ever noticed that your mind seems to be on a different wavelength than everyone else?

Me: That's because you have manipulated their minds!

Big Milk: Like I said, I don't manipulate. I aid. You avoided milk throughout your life. You may have had slight doses here and there, but never anything substantial. You never had the originating form, the breast milk.





Me: What?

Big Milk: Without breast milk, the human mind becomes warped and distorted. Some parents prefer formula, but I've found methods to make that effective. Breast milk keeps the mind at ease, and later consumption of any mammal's milk keeps the mind from distorting. Sometimes, however, people go long periods without consuming milk. This makes them act strange. Have you ever noticed that lactose intolerant people seem a little funky? Even they have drunk breast milk or formula as infants, but you never have. That's why you are the way you are, why you do what you do. I have seen cases in the past of abnormalities, but never a condition as severe as yours. It's why you find yourself now drawn to the succulent cow udder. Of course, you did not get there alone. I gave you hints and clues along the way to guide you and test your determination. I planted knowledge into your hands. Do you remember the book you found in the library?

Me: HEAVY CREAM!!

Big Milk: Exactly! I did not embellish a single detail of that book. That story was kept how the author originally wrote it. I merely waited. I knew that in your sickness, you'd discover the information. I created a system. All of these supermarkets and methods of milk consumption never traced back to me. There was always a middle man. The only way to truly discover the source, is through the sweet teat of a harmless cow. I needed a way to ascertain a person's condition. If someone was really passionate, truly determined, then I would lead them to the nurturing cow. That is how you have found me. That is how I determined that your condition was severe enough to require the advanced treatment.

Me: Are you saying that my whole quest was pointless? Everything that I found was all planned by you.

Big Milk: No, it was not pointless. Your actions led you to me. Ordinarily, I do not concern myself with intervening in edge cases such as yours, but for you I had to make an exception. Not many survive past the slaughterhouse, and even fewer have seen me. Now there is only one option left for you.

Me: What is it?!

Big Milk: Isn't it obvious? You need the Milk of Life. My ways are ineffective to you without it. . This is the only way to cure you.



*Incoming Athenian Editor-in-Chief,  
Evan "Jingles" Durkee*

I squirm in my chair to escape the gaze of Big Milk, but there's no respite. In fear, I bite a chunk of the rope constraining me and break loose. At that moment, Big Milk grabs me by the shoulders and forces milk into my mouth. It's smothering me! It's drowning me! It's incapacitating! IT'S... IT'S... it's... refreshing. My body becomes warm and tingly. My eyelids creep shut, and I feel as if I'm falling asleep.

I awaken. My alarm clock went off. I get out of bed and turn it off. I know I should make my bed, but it's just going to get messy again. I brush my teeth and take a shower. I'm aware that night showers are better for personal hygiene, but I was really tired last night. Instead of going to a fast food place for breakfast, I eat some cereal instead. Anyway, I leave my dorm, walk down the sidewalk, and call my great aunt. I'm working on connecting with people. I don't get a response, so I make sure to leave a voicemail with my name and phone number. I make my way to my first obligation of the day. I arrive early, so I get a carton of milk, drink it, and carry on.

John Hancock

Lorem ipsum

Have HAGS  
a great  
summer!

HAGS

KEEP IN TOUCH!

See you  
next  
year!

I hope I never see you again

Love you  
Queen!

# THE ATHENIAN 2025

I loved meeting you  
this year!

P.S. I Love You HAGS

STAY in TOUCH!

COPYPASTA

HAGS

Kilroy

I watch you when  
you sleep

Call Me  
216.368.5094

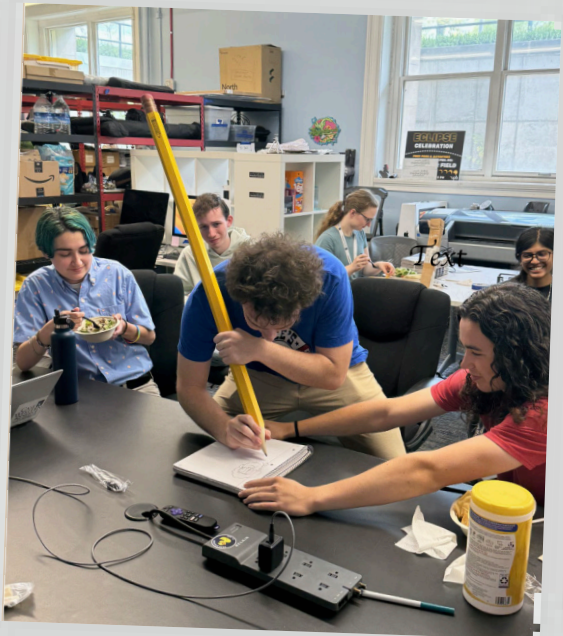


Hey Athenian,

Remember back in elementary school when we'd sign each other's casts on the playground? Back in second grade, my best friend of the week had this bright green one on her left arm. We'd just learned cursive, so I wrote my first signature right there. It was a pretty big deal. My name was on her arm until the doctors saved it off and threw it out. The cast, I mean, not the arm. The signature stayed on the cast long after that. A record of our six-month friendship, laid to rest in a landfill somewhere. My signature's here on this page too, until you toss it into the nearest bin. I hope you recycle me.

My name sitting next to everyone else's here feels a little bittersweet, to be honest. For some of you, this is the first time our bylines have crossed paths. For others, it's the last. Maybe both. Our time together is as brief as a business major's stint in biomedical engineering. Though our names on these pages will rot in a landfill (I know you don't actually recycle), I'll remember the way we joked about the best and worst of times alike. We scribbled notes over broken bones to say "Get well soon!" and it worked. The world often tries to break us, and it's okay if it succeeds. Keep writing. Creating together is healing. And most importantly,

Have A Great Summer.  
- Sara Ramaiah



Athenian cartoonists draw a very large comic



The Athenian editors sort through our paper archives before administration can start burning them



You'll never guess what The Athenian wins  
(Correspondents' Dinner 2025)





Thanks for the  
memories <3