

Editor's Note

Alrighty everyone; it's a new year with a new issue of *The Athenian*. I guess it's the end of January, so not too new of a year. Anyway, we have had time to reflect on recent times, and in my personal opinion, which should be shared by all, people have too many problems. All I have to say is "Skill Issue." It is a very simple thought that people can not seem to grasp. Just within the start of the semester, people all around have been complaining about work, responsibilities, and various tasks. What's their problem?! Just get better.

I know you, reader, do not undergo these horrid "skill issues." You read *The Athenian* after all. What problems could you have? With all your problems solved, why not look at some skill issues of others?

Read on to look at the skill issues we've found.

I never miss when I pee,
Evan Durkee

PS: If you read *The Athenian* and still have problems, that's a skill issue.



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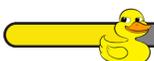
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Level Selection

>Select one<

pg #

Heartbreaking: That one frat only has one playlist

4

"The CWRU Skill Tree"

5

Top Podcasters Demonstrate UFO Identification Techniques

6

How to do well in class: A guide

7

A Skillful Ad

7

How to repurpose supplies

8

A Poetic Pop-up

8

Top Dogs

9

Check out the new DSM Barbie Collection!

10

How to Stop Being a Pathetic Waste

11

OP ED: Left lane cruising should be standard

12

Bases Loaded: A gun baseball experience and guide to starting your own league

13

A review of the most popular speedrunning categories at CWRU

14

How to win a political debate when you don't know politics

17

Baby Comic

18

Proficient Prognosticator Madlib

19

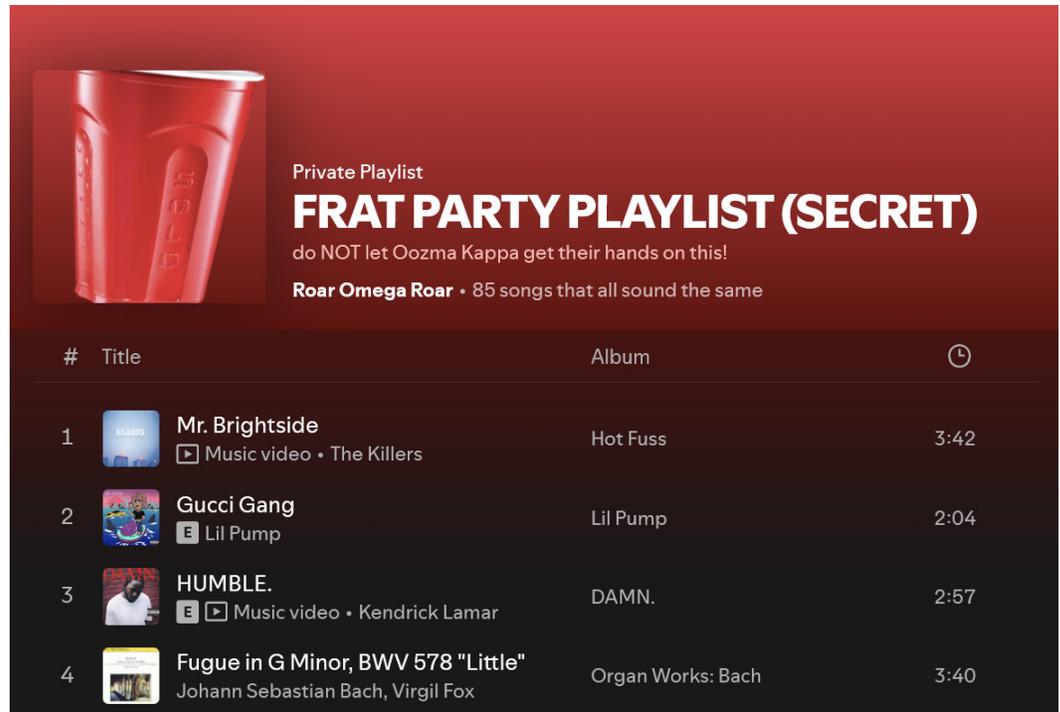


Heartbreaking: That one frat only has one playlist

By non-intrusive journalist

The Athenian has recently learned that the fraternity located at the top of the hill that hosts loud-ass weekly parties only has one playlist for any and all of their events.

The playlist, which consists of classic selections like Macklemore's "Can't Hold Us," BBNos's "1-800 (ft ironmouse)," and "Body and Soul" by Coleman Hawkins, is known for playing the exact same songs in the exact same order.



"It's been 120 years since this frat was around and yeah, it's been the same music," said the spirit that possesses the DJ every week. When asked how he obtained such modern hits if the chapter was established in 1906, the spirit just flashed an incomprehensible hand sign and floated up into the aether.

Unfortunately, the proud display of this timeless playlist comes at the expense of surrounding sororities, who were participating in formal recruitment this weekend. Formal recruitment famously involves getting up at 7 am on a Saturday morning, at the latest, which is considered a human rights violation. We attempted to interview some of these sorority members by breaking down their doors and sticking microphones in their faces.

"No, no, on the record, it's really good music, yeah," said the one sorority sister we interviewed about this, who seemed very tired and weirdly unsettled by our 13 cameras. We can't remember anything about them other than the appearance of the Greek letter Sigma somewhere. "No more questions."

At the very least, we were psyched to welcome the DJ to our pie eating contest. What an incredible show that was!



“The CWRU Skill Tree”

By CWRU Administration

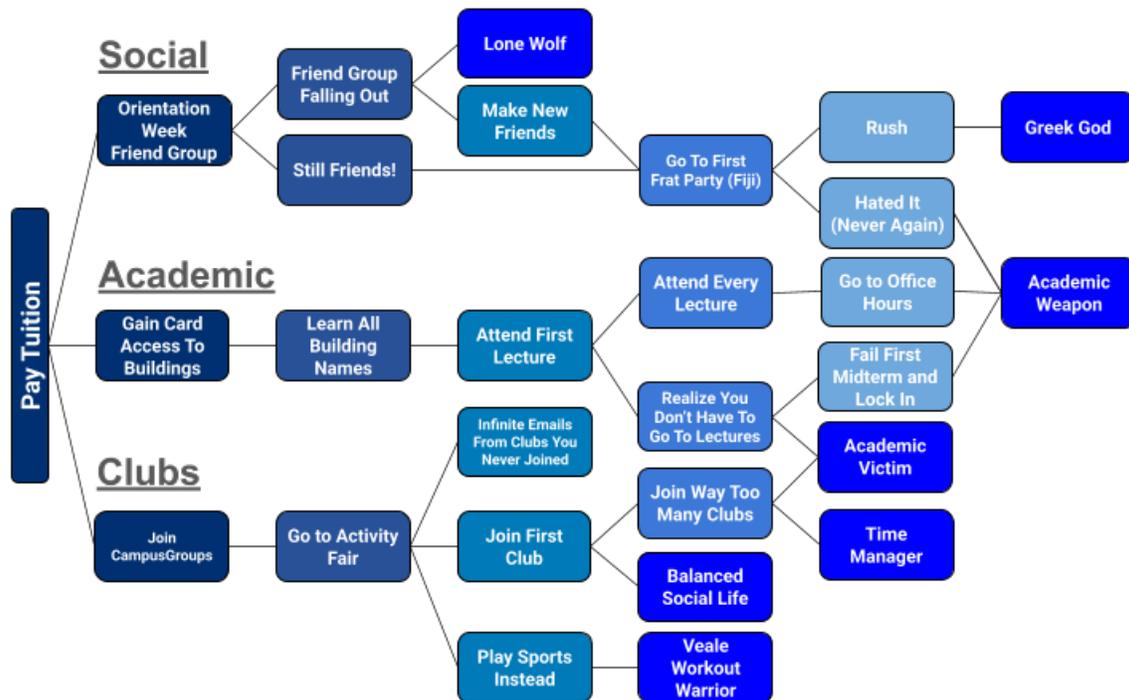
Look, guys, we get it. You don't like the new Undergraduate General Education Requirements (UGER). We don't like UGER. You didn't like the Seminar Approach to General Education and Scholarship (SAGES). We didn't like SAGES. But at this point, we're just out of ideas. We truly haven't the faintest clue how to provide a holistic educational approach to Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) undergraduate students in a way that doesn't involve a stupid acronym. So that's it. We give up.

Instead of creating an actual general education requirement, we have instead opted to just go with what people end up doing anyways. We here in the CWRU administration have spent countless weeks studying our student population without their knowledge or consent to figure out what the most popular paths to graduation are, and we are pleased to announce that our work has come to fruition.

With the new CWRU Responsible Undergraduate Skill Tree (CRUST) program, students get fresh and exciting options to fulfill their graduation requirements in a way that feels more natural and engaging. From gaining card access to a limited selection of campus buildings to rushing for your favorite fraternity or sorority, the CRUST program has been specifically designed to complement the choices that every single CWRU student makes throughout their educational journey.

The CRUST program will be implemented for all students who matriculate at the university during the 2026-2027 academic year or later. Students who entered the university in Spring 2026 or earlier will continue to follow the general education requirements in place at the time of matriculation and published in the General Bulletin of that academic year, but they may choose to update their requirements to those included in a later General Bulletin.

The CWRU Responsible Undergraduate Skill Tree



Top Podcasters Demonstrate UFO Identification Techniques

By Tom Beach

Tom: Yo, it's time for the latest episode of TomCast IRL! Here with me today, I've got my good friend Seth Cool, who you might know from his podcast, The Seth Cool Experience. Seth, would you mind explaining to our listeners what we're doing today?

Seth: Well, we're here to tell you what the government doesn't want you to know about. We're out in the middle of the wilderness, in a top-secret location, where we've been told that there's an extremely high likelihood of spotting UFOs. Aliens, man, the real thing!

Tom: I can hardly believe it myself. Speaking of, do you know what this green stuff on the ground is? I'm a bit hesitant to touch it.

Seth: That's just grass, man, it's cool. It's all over my ranch, and this hill has the best of it. Speaking of, lie down and look up. The show's about to begin.

Tom: Oh man. I think I see what you're talking about, dude. You see that big white UFO? It's shaped just like a flying saucer!

Seth: No way. I'd say it looks more like an intergalactic superweapon, like the ones the government's been putting in orbit to target the microchips in our blood. Glad I never took that Tylenol vaccine, man.

Tom: You mean the 'superweapons' the Russians shot down yesterday with their new hypersonic missiles? Dude, we're cooked if they ever try to invade us; we'd just have to surrender immediately.

Seth: Unless we all start drinking this. [He holds up a murky brown bottle]. OverCompNSate! It's an ultra-dense energy fuel made of 70% asbestos, 30% silica gel, and 10% lead paint. The government really doesn't want you to be drinking this stuff, but it'll make you go 110% — you can find it on my website.

Tom: Yo, that sounds cool, but look at that one up there! It's like a shapechanger, dude, it was an elephant, and now it's a face!

Seth: Nah, man, more like a glass of milk. I bet Big Milk paid a lot of money to put it up there.

Tom: Oh yeah, I see it now. Oh, now it's the Rumble logo.

Seth: Yeah, man, yeah. The LSD is really kicking in now, isn't it?

Tom: Wait, I never took any LSD.

[End]



How to do well in class: A guide

By Knowet Alle

In my time here at this university, I have heard innumerable complaints from people who are not doing well in their courses. It seems to be a pattern. As such, I have taken it upon myself to write this guide to elucidate the greater student body on the way I have managed to effortlessly maintain my 4.5 GPA.

The first thing I must address is the root cause of the struggle. People's complaints seem to originate from the fact that they do not understand the contents of the classes. Fortunately, this issue has a simple solution: just... understand. I never really understood the difficulty here. I mean, you should already know and understand the entire contents of the lecture well before the lecture itself. The lecture is just a formality, a way to confirm your understanding of the course material, and maybe to show off and ingratiate yourself with the professor, if you are so inclined. The university demands some baseline level of competence from all its applicants, and you should have learned all the information contained in your courses sometime in your primary schooling anyway. And even if you somehow stumble upon something you haven't learned yet, it should be trivial to derive the concept from information you already know.

Simply understanding the course content is the primary way to do well in the class. It's that simple. If you don't understand, you either aren't trying at all, or you shouldn't be at the university. As the kids say, "git gud." This method has seen me through all 152 credits worth of classes these last three semesters, and if you apply it properly, I know that you will too. Good luck!



Handshake

Are you still applying?

Yes, unfortunately

I give up



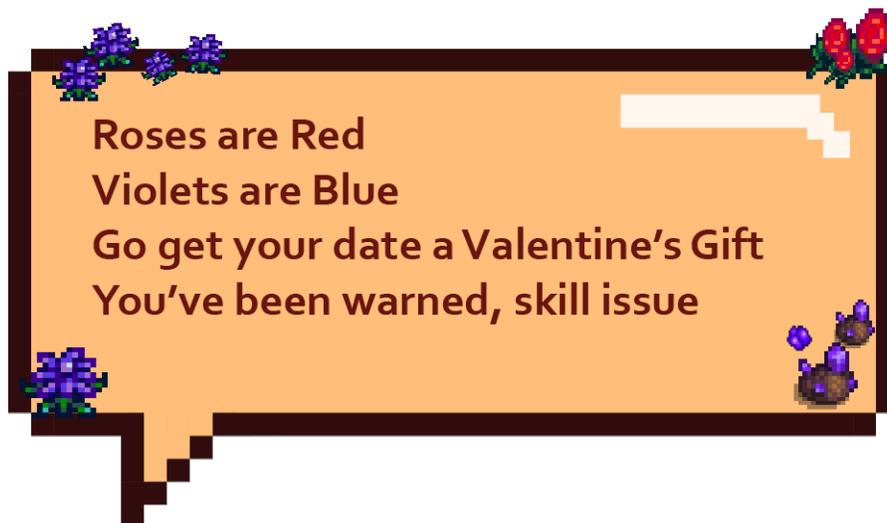
How to repurpose supplies

By Selma Bouvier

Have you ever felt bad about throwing the burnt fries that come with your Jolly order away? Are you lonely and seeking companionship? Luckily, there is a solution for you! All you need to do is walk over to an empty field at precisely 3 a.m., lay out a bear trap, assemble the potatoes in a pentagram inside, and wait. Once the entity stalks over, capture it and take it up to your room. You now have a little guy to keep you company! Be sure to throw salt at it (from those packets that come with your plastic cutlery) to prevent any potential possessions, and you'll be fine!

Remember that "repair-everything-with-ramen" trend from way back in the day? Well, it didn't cover *everything* that could be repaired with the expired, dehydrated noodles resting in the deep, dark corners of your room. Instead of having a boring "bone graft" when you need to widen your jaw, have a Buldak graft instead! That way you can have both structural support AND a tasty snack for later. This innovative method also allows you to change flavours whenever you please. Side note: this replacement can only be done with thicker-cut noodles, because as you know, bones are thick.

Everyone knows that candles are banned in the undergraduate dorms, but you know what isn't and can be flammable? That's right, your fingernail clippings. Assemble them in a mug, douse them in the vodka that is definitely not hiding in the back of your wardrobe, and you're ready. You can also optionally spray some Dior Savage or equally obnoxious Axe Body Spray equivalent on top to give it that frat-house vibe. All that's left is the pyromania. What's that? You don't have access to a fire starter? Fear not! Cleveland Bagel supplies the necessary matchbooks to complement your eggandcheeseonaplainpleaseandthankyou.



Top Dogs

By Sir Francis Furter

What does it mean to have a skill? What exactly is it that causes people to rise above the ranks and do something that others said was impossible? What is it about the indomitable human spirit that drives individuals to redefine what it means to be human?

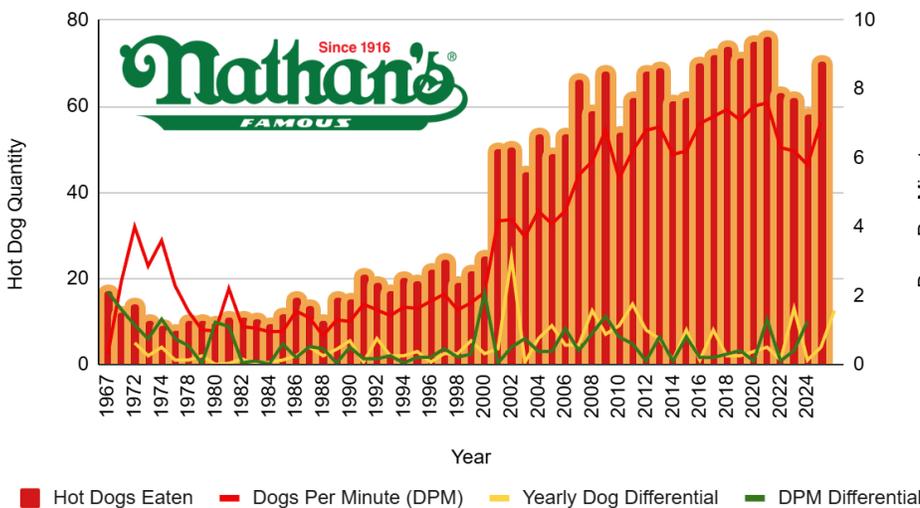
Every once or twice in a millennia, there arrives a person so talented, so skilled, that their accomplishments can be described as nothing short of divine. Jesus Christ, Napoleon Bonaparte, Muhammad, William Shakespeare, and Abraham Lincoln. These are just a few of the people to have attained this level of success. But there are two men whose achievements are just as important as — if not more important than — those of these individuals: Takeru Kobayashi and Joey Chestnut.

Takeru Kobayashi completely reinvented what it meant to be in the hot dog eating game. At just 23 years old, Kobayashi was crowned the 2001 Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Competition Champion by consuming an unprecedented 50 hot dogs in just 12 minutes. This feat nearly doubled the previous year's record of 25.125 hot dogs. But how did he do it? Does he have a glizzy gobbling gullet that is specially geared for the gulping of the greasy grub? Well, the secret to Kobayashi's success was actually his use of the process of de-bunning the dog and dunking it in water to make it easier to swallow. This process, now commonplace in any reputable dog-gnawing competition, was revolutionary at the time, and it was what allowed him to shoot to the top of the charts.

After this, Kobayashi started a sausage slamming sultanhip with a staggering six consecutive wins from 2001 through 2006. However, all good things must come to an end as they say, and Kobayashi's dynasty was demolished in 2007 by none other than Joey Chestnut.

During that fateful year of 2007, Kobayashi absolutely obliterated his previous record with 63 hot dogs, but it simply wasn't enough to stop the food-demolishing machine that is Joey Chestnut. With a record-setting 66 dogs eaten, Chestnut became the new weenie warrior. And this astonishing performance by Chestnut was anything but a fluke. Of the next 18 years of hot dog competition, Chestnut was the champion for a staggering 16 of them. Since besting Kobayashi in 2007, Chestnut has obtained two separate 8 year streaks, each of which only broken by Matt Stonie in 2015 and Patrick Bertoletti in 2024 (notably, Chestnut had to miss the 2024 contest due to a sponsorship dispute). The accomplishments of great men like Takeru Kobayashi and Joey Chestnut serve as reminders that miracles happen every single day. Their ability to make hot dogs disappear is truly miraculous, and their inhuman skills are something to both behold and to beware. We mere mortals are beyond lucky that these men have dedicated their gifts to a life of entertainment and record-setting rather than anything more sinister.

Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest Yearly Stats



A graph of the number of Hot Dogs Eaten, Dogs Per Minute (DPM), Yearly Dog Differential, and DPM Differential, presented in hot dog and hot dog topping colors for your viewing pleasure. From The Sporting News

Check out the new DSM Barbie Collection!

By Skipper & Stacie & Chelsea

Do you ever feel unrepresented by all these fancy barbies with special skills? Don't want to finish the med school needed for Dr. Barbie? Don't think you have the drive for Astronaut Barbie? Well, good news for you! Following the success of Autistic Barbie, we would like to introduce our newest line, DSM-V Barbies!

First up, Depression Barbie!! Depression Barbie encapsulates what it feels like to not be able to get out of bed in the morning. Struggling to wash your hair or change clothes? Forgetting to take your mascara off before that late-night cry? She understands. Depression Barbie also includes a sun lamp and weighted blanket for extra support!

Depression Barbie



Anxiety Barbie



The second Barbie in our line is Anxiety Barbie! She'll be there for you through your panic and anxiety attacks, breathing deeply in the shape of a square alongside you. A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy warrior, Anxiety Barbie comes with a worry stone and feelings wheel to help channel her stress!

Our third Barbie for this collection is none other than ADHD Barbie. She's here for all our fidgeters and those who struggle with initiating tasks. To help with her fidgeting (and hopefully help her focus), she comes with her very own fidget toy and a clicky pen!

ADHD Barbie



If you feel thoroughly represented by any of these Barbies, or want them to be your new friends, buy them at any local store for only \$19.99 each!

(disclaimer: Skipper, Stacie, and Chelsea do in fact have expert knowledge on these particular DSM diagnoses, we swear.)



How to Stop Being a Pathetic Waste

By How to Stop Being a Pathetic Waste

So, you haven't made your first million yet? You were too lazy to launch an AI startup in high school or become a D1 athlete? It's pathetic, but you aren't out of options. If you're ready to get off your couch and into the trenches, these three facts can make you your first million day trading.

First, time is money. That means drop out. Drop the fuck out. College is a waste of time, and one day, they'll all be working for you. It also means goodbye to your friends and family. They're not a profitable investment, and they'll only distract you. You're grinding, and it's time to lock in.

Second, this isn't your high school economics class. The world doesn't work like that. All you need to know are candlestick patterns, and the money will print itself. Take a look at this trade on some Shit & Piss 500 futures.



This is the Creased Jordans pattern. There is a fair value gap form at the top of the J's. When that gets filled, those candles are screaming "SELL ME!" Take a short position, and set your stop-loss and take-profit the hell out of here because YOU decide when you exit a trade. Look at that. It tanked, and you just won your first trade.

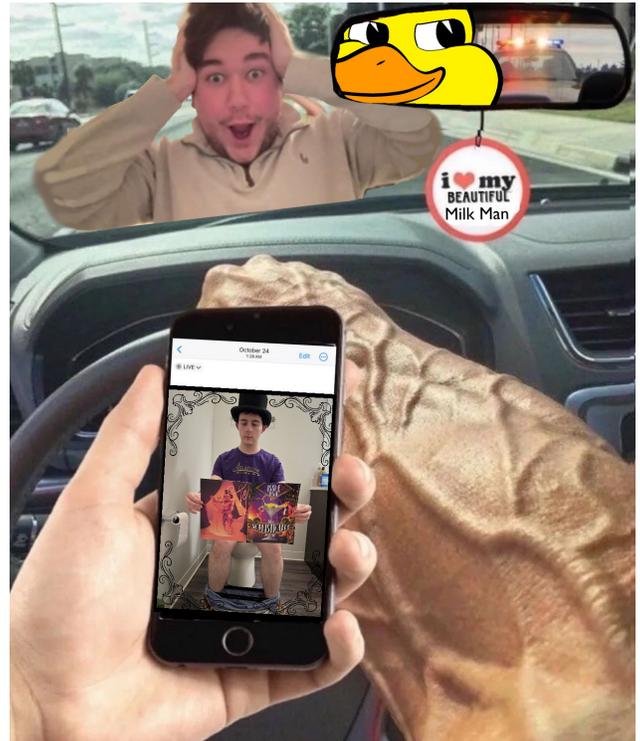
Third, you need to buy my book. If you're tired of being a loser and ready to prove your haters wrong, you need to buy my book, *The Alpha Mindset*. And listen to my podcast *Hustlers Hustling* if you're serious about the grind and ready to make some money.



OP ED: Left lane cruising should be standard

By Mai Graine

America's highways are the bloodline of the country. Everything is done on the highway — be it your Buc-ee's trip or your next local hostel stop, you can find everything on America's streams. We share the highway with folks from all walks of life: the Amazon Prime driver, the USPS people, and those people who go straight 30 in the carpool lane. The last group of people are some of the most self-centered road-hogs I've ever experienced in my life. If you're going 30 and you're not over in the right lane, what are you doing? I need to save gas while driving in the right lane and you're not helping my case. Have you seen gas prices lately? Ridiculous!



When I'm on a road trip, my favorite lane is the left one. It's the one that allows you to move freely and switch to whichever lane you want. If I see your foot on the gas, I'm taking out your rear end. Say goodbye to your bumper stickers, no more baby on board. If I see you going faster than 5 mph above the speed limit, you bet I'm turning on my high beams and cutting you off. Why? Because that's the right thing to do! It's called the 'fast' lane for a reason: I'm giving you a fast pass straight to being roadkill.

Every day, aggressive drivers tailgate me, flash their headlights, or perform elaborate lane changes just to zoom ahead and end up at the same red light as me. Congratulations. You sped, burnt rubber, and for what? You're still getting cut off by a teenager with a temp. Who's the real winner here? There's also this myth that slower drivers should "keep right." But the right lane is chaotic. It has merges. It has exits. It has people who don't know where they're going. Have you ever tried to zipper merge with a minivan and not have your stomach in your ass? I don't think so. The left lane is stable. Predictable. It's where I can commit to a speed and really explore it. Why should I be punished for seeking consistency? The lane with the least amount of cars is most obviously the safest! This is a free country, and I should be able to do whatever I want. If you wanted me to stop cruising, why don't you just cut me off? Speed limits are suggestions, but it's a problem when I slow down?

If you find yourself brake-checking me or moving wayyyyyy too close to my bumper stickers, just remember: I'm not in your way, you're in my lane.



Bases Loaded: A gun baseball experience and guide to starting your own league

By Silvry Tay

Since the 2012 debut game between the Kansas Kalashnikovs and the Miami Murderers, gun baseball has become an increasingly popular American sport. I finally decided to see what the fuss was about, and attended a gun baseball game between the Georgia Gunmen and the Strongsville Shooters. After the match ended in a “shootout,” as the fans say, I got the chance to speak to some of the players to learn more about the game that’s sweeping the nation.

The game went to overtime after the third set of referees was slaughtered, and nobody could agree on what the score was — current estimates have the score at 7-3-23-8 Gunmen (7 points to the Gunmen, 3 to the Shooters, 23 injured, and 8 dead). The Gunmen’s star, Johnny Rifle, told me that “it was a good game, although the Strongsville stadium leaves some to be desired.” He went on to explain, in detail, how the visiting dugout gave him a bad case of trench foot after the first few weeks of the game, and he had to have his left foot amputated. Nonetheless, Rifle is expected to make a full recovery just in time for their game tomorrow against the Houston Hitmen.

Talking to the (presumably) losing side, the Shooters’ Todd Uzi expressed his disappointment in the team’s performance: “It’s really about every man pulling his weight, and we didn’t have that on the diamond this game. The first few innings were alright for us, but we lost confidence right around when Rifle went on that spree.” I wasn’t able to catch exactly what spree Uzi was talking about, as I was getting a hot dog during that part of the game, but the stadium definitely got pretty loud.

If this sounds fun to you, you may want to start an amateur gun baseball league! To start a league of your own, reach out to the Baseball Association for the Normalization of Guns (BANG) and they are happy to provide help, guidance, and equipment at the amateur level. You’ll need a team of around 25 people for a full active roster, but can play with as few as 10, and with no upper limit due to the high casualty rate, you can always bring new blood to the team. Don’t forget the medic!



A review of the most popular speedrunning categories at CWRU

By tallant2

The echelons of American higher education are a great place to learn speedrunning. Chief among them is Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), whose available but confusing research opportunities and penalty-free major switching make it a competitive ground for 100% and Supersenior% runs. We're here with a brief explanation of the most popular categories.

Any%

An undergraduate Any% is to obtain a baccalaureate degree as fast as possible. Most CWRU students are running this category, whether they know it or not, by naturally utilizing the “friendless” exploit to maximize GPA. Unfortunately, random number generation (RNG) is a heavy deciding factor in the early game, where runs are killed if a student doesn't have a high stat in AP credits, advisor competence, or spreadsheeting. Other unskilled runners lose time on frame-imperfect DUO notifications, bookstore bucks underflow, or the most terrifying encounter of all: a Kaler encounter. But despite the odds, many students manage to get a baccalaureate in 3 years or less. Congratulations!

SPEEDRUN FACT: it was recently discovered that being on the grind 100% of the time has no significant improvement on your run.

Highest%/100%

Originally designed for those with infinite time and collectors anxiety, a 100% run includes participating in every single possible class, club, conference, and council at the school and collecting every unique piece of cutlery, every tchotchke, and each cuisine. This is, of course, impossible, but every year there seems to be students attempting to touch the sun and complete a Highest% run. Most people seem ashamed to have even attempted to make a dent in the 100%, claiming they were “unsure of their major” or decided “not to commit” to a certain club or “just want to try something new.” To these runners, I say, there's no need to be ashamed at taking a crack at the most endurance-based category out there.

SPEEDRUN FACT: This category is colloquially known as Supersenior%.

Getlaid% (relationshipless)

Once the meta discovered that there was nothing faster than immediately christening your freshman dorm with a preexisting relationship, this category has adopted the “relationshipless” sub-category to make playing it actually competitive. You might worry that this makes the other key component of the speedrun, obtaining mutual consent, much more difficult, but we all know that there's no place more erotic than CWRU, especially now that the new massive sign has been built next to the binary walkway. The year so far has been no different, with people getting laid as early as Discover Week. This strategy completely bypasses earlier tactics: such as “physics lab edging”, “Rocky Horror bathroom skip,” and Hinge.

SPEEDRUN FACT: 90% of runs are lost on a bad Euclid crossing.





Log in

Sign up



Case Western Reserve University [1826]

IRL

Category extensions

Discord

Website

Leaderboards

News 79

Guides 41

Resources 27

Forums 2k



Any%

Non-traditional Students%

Undergrad%

Supersenior%



Get Laid%

Get Laid (CompSci)%

Friends are a Waste%

Any% Glitches

Any% (Fat Man with Surfboard)

Building Donation Exploit

Den After-Hours Credit Dupe

Leutner-Fribley Infinite Silverware

AP Exam Credit Boosting

Filters

Show rules

History

Submit run

#	Player	IGT	Time	Date	Version	Difficulty
1	Larry Sears	1y 7m 5d	1y 7m 19d	1969	CIT	Engineer
2	Albert Michelson	2y 0m 29d	2y 1m 5d	1887	CSAS	Prof
3	Edward Morley	2y 1m 1d	2y 1m 8d	1887	WRU	Prof
4	Tinkham Veale the 2nd	3y 5m 08d	3y 5m 19d	1937	CIT	Engineer
5	Charles Thwing	3y 8m 5d	3y 8m 20d	1890	WRU	President
6	Charles Strosacker	3y 10m 20d	3y 11m 3d	1906	CSAS	Chemicals



How to win a political debate when you don't know politics

By Mon K. Bizness

Do you live under a rock? Do you find following the news to just be too much work? Is your idea of current events things that happened during the Clinton administration? If the answer to any or all of these questions is yes, then you will likely be in need of some assistance should you find yourself engaged in a political debate. This choose-your-own-adventure-style guide will help you win any debate, no matter how little you know about the subject! (suitable for politicians)



Ask Athenian: Cooking Issue

Email us at athenian-editors@case.edu!

<user logged on>

<AskAthenian logged on>

Dear AskAthenian,

I am trying to improve my cooking skills. I've been crying all day trying to cut this onion. What am I doing wrong? (Image attached)

Warmly (because my stove is on fire),
Rat in a chef's hat



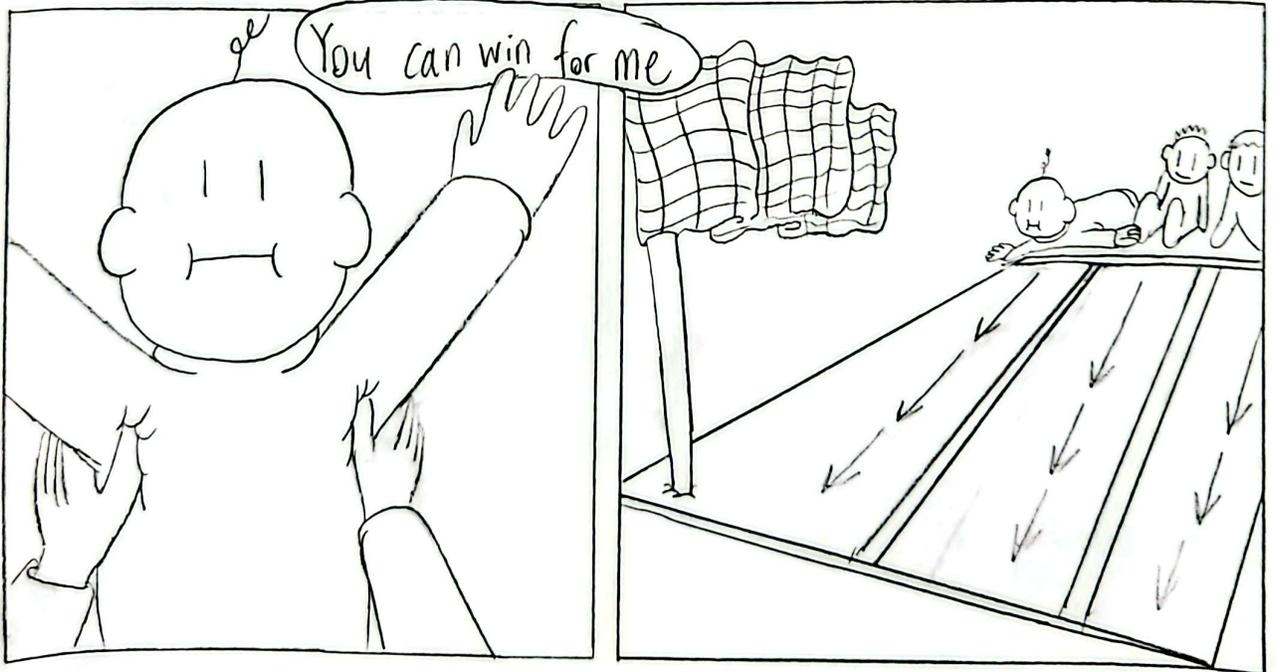
Dear Rat in a chef's hat,

What the fuck? Please stay 50 feet from all cooking utensils until further notice.

Concerned,
AskAthenian



By Chet Chafer



Proficient Prognosticator

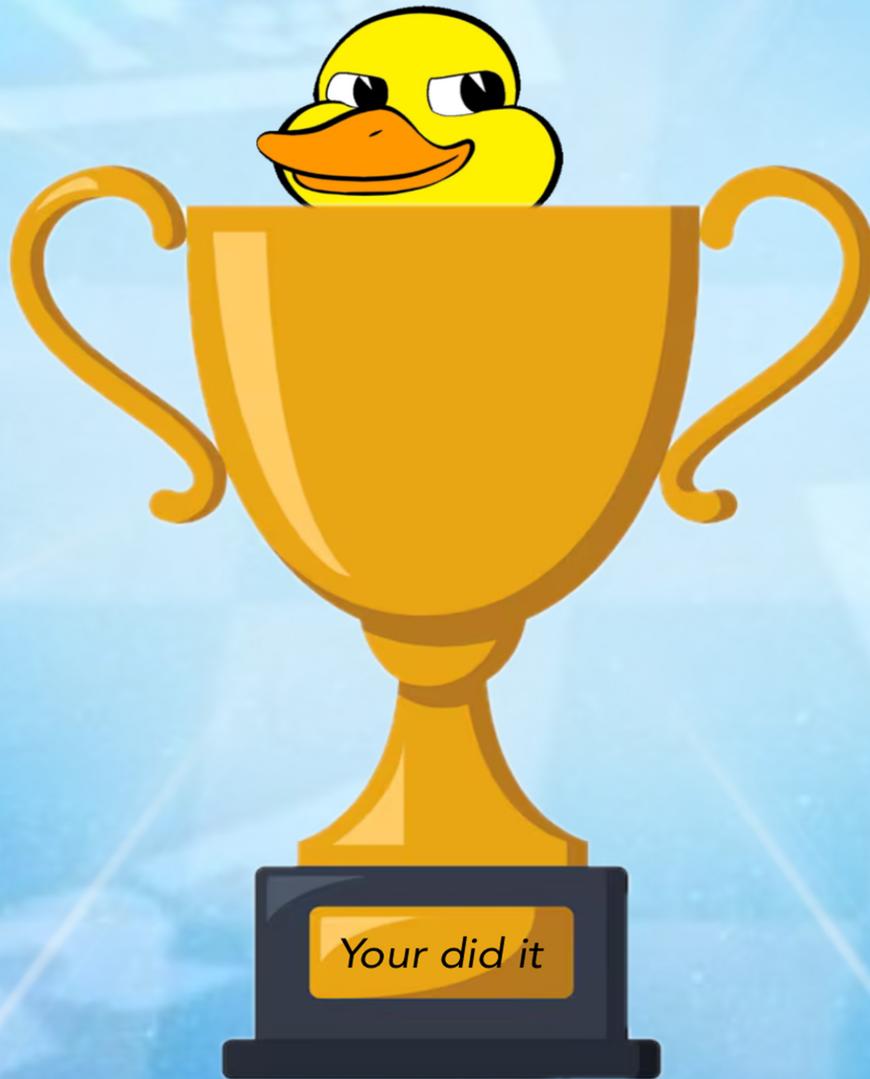
By F. REEK

There you were. Good old, _____ (adjective) Punxsutawney Phil. It was February 2nd, finally time for you to emerge from your _____ (noun). You trained hard all year, every year in order to prepare for this _____ (noun). You _____ (past-tense verb) as you steeled yourself, calming your _____ (plural noun). You were almost ready for your big moment. And you emerged in _____ (adjective) fashion, cheers pervaded your ears. The crowd was _____ (adjective), a cacophony of anticipation. You saw many familiar faces like Mr. Beast, _____ (controversial celebrity), and a man who looked suspiciously like Michael Jackson. But you couldn't let the pressure get to you. _____ (adverb), you made your way to the center. It was time. You _____ (past tense verb) up and slowly made your way to the center. The sun shone bright. You turned over your shoulder and (there was a shadow/there was not a shadow)! The crowd roared and you basked in the _____ (noun). Soon enough, you would return to your hollow. But this moment would live forever in your memory.



NPR Feb. 2, 2023. Barry Reeger/AP

**NEW SKILL
UNLOCKED**



**Reading
The
Athenian**

TO READ
AGAIN

