

The Athenian

THE ~~DIS~~ ORIENTATION ISSUE



Issue 159
August 2026

Editor's note

Hello there, young buck. This issue was created with incoming freshmen in mind. This is a summer issue. *The Athenian* makes one of these every year for the new students. It is very possible that people who are not new students are reading this as well, but you can't please everyone; you gotta pick your battles; you win some and you lose some. Anyway, welcome to campus; you have probably gone through events with Orientation Leaders and faculty members. They most likely have taught you things about campus and what goes on at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), but some important information was coincidentally left out of Discover Week.

The Athenian is here to bridge the gaps in your knowledge to give you the best preparation for your incoming adventure. I personally am starting my senior year, so I've managed to pick up some hidden, forbidden knowledge for your youthful spirit to carry into this four-year chapter of life, or maybe three if you're smart. For some, it takes six. The retention rate for this school is somewhere around 90%, so chances are you won't be backing out, no matter how much money it costs you.

Read this issue to gain some insight and tidbits into life as a student at CWRU. Get the facts "they" don't want you to know. Be persistent, and one day, you'll be an upperclassman like me, with arthritis and weak bones.

Curmudgeonly chopped and/or unc,
Evan Durkee

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A day in the life of a campus delinquent

By Ms. Beatrice Haven

I may not look the part, but beneath this classic campus facade I'm actually a dangerous criminal. Living in the world these days is tough, but I make do. Under the watchful eyes of the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) administration and the wider unblinking gaze of the Flock cameras dotted across campus (it's true! See our helpful map in **Issue #157**), I commit some of the most horrendous crimes known to humanity, some of which would make good ol' John Geneva carve out his own eyes in horror.

The first thing I do when I wake up every morning is look both ways, slip out of my Clarke Tower bunk without waking my grumpy cellmate, and sneak past the watchful "Resident Assistant" guards to arrive at my destination: Leutner Commons, the only place left to find sustenance in this forsaken city. I hack into the identification beacon with a simple swipe of my access override card, granting me free access to the food I'll need for the rest of my heavily illegal day.

Once I'm fed, I cross campus under cover of darkness while committing as many crimes as I can conceive — trespassing on campus property, jaywalking, speeding (on foot), and an immense amount of thoughtcrime. I arrive, soon after, at the carefully concealed home of the Resistance, deep beneath the foreboding citadel named Thwing Student Center. Having arrived, and being an esteemed cybercriminal, I retrieve my burner laptop from its lead-lined case and rapidly decrypt its entry code by accessing the deep recesses of my memory.

My duck-branded compatriots keep their eyes down and on their screens as they remain dedicated to their unlawful work: producing and distributing propaganda through the dark net, even printing out paper copies impossible for net-bots to scan and consume. Under the dastardly anti-authority moniker of *The Athenian*, we slander and libel to our heart's content. The lawsuits we've accrued for defamation alone would make you think Alex Jones got off easy.

I don't have much time left. But before I go, I'd better tell you of the most important thing you could possibly know about our secret society. Quick! Get in close! Closer! It's — oops my computer got a virus.

VITAMIN K-473R

GAIN ALL THE POWERS OF PRESIDENT ERIC W. KALER

For:

- Writing emails
- Giving speeches

Contains:

- Natural Kale
- Amino Acid
- Caesium-137

Side Effects may include:

- 50-hour lethargy
- Overfondness for royal blue
- Radiation sickness



For when the sun is going down



but the word count needs to go up

How to protest at CWRU

By Notta Plante

Hello, fellow student! You're starting college now, and I am sure you have some Big Ideas and Opinions about the world that you want to share. That is great! Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) highly encourages student involvement and advocacy. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of demonstrations that got a bit too out of hand (they came within 15 miles of the CWRU administration offices), so CWRU had to implement a couple of guidelines on how best to express your dissatisfaction with the current state of affairs.

Firstly, demonstrations are required to occur between 11:03 A.M. and 11:05 A.M. on the fifth Tuesday of the month within a specially marked 3-square-foot section of the Kelvin Smith Library Oval. This is to make sure that President Eric W. Kaler and Co. have the uninterrupted working time needed to make the university a better place. Criticism against the regime is highly detrimental to a healthy working environment. Wouldn't want to inconvenience anybody with your protest, now!

Secondly, demonstrations are limited in size to no more than half a person. Having people with signs and expressing their opinions vocally is incredibly disrespectful to the experience of touring prospective students, like you once were! Can you imagine what you would think if you saw college students expressing their views openly while you were listening to a tour guide talk about the history of the Tinkham Veale University Center? I don't think you would have enjoyed that! As such, CWRU administration has wisely chosen to limit protest size just a little bit in order to ensure an optimal prospective and first-year experience.

Finally, all protests must have a special form filled out and submitted to the university. These forms must be approved by the DRC (Demonstration Request Committee), the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo), every single person in Marketing individually, President Kaler, and of course, God Himself. Only after everybody has given their approval can the protest occur. This is to ensure that the demonstration is safe for everybody involved. CWRU cares about your safety.

If you protest without following these regulations, you will be drawn and quartered. No exceptions. CWRU takes freedom of expression very seriously.

But no need to worry about that! If you just follow these couple of simple rules, you'll be able to share your opinions with everybody without restriction. I hope you have a wonderful time at CWRU!

Got an exam?



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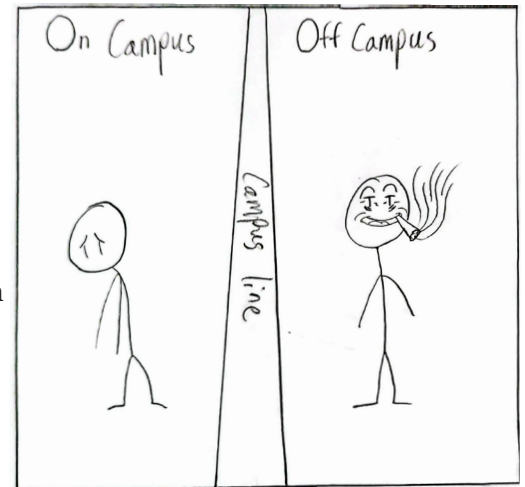
 Artificial Intelligence

Now selling #2 pencil models!

Cures for Boredom

By Chet Chafer

It's a random afternoon. You went to class and have returned to your overpriced, cramped abode. Your toilet is clogged with human excrement, and your shower is growing mold. At night, your dorm is a Dutch oven, and you once again stayed up way too late. This all sounds discouraging, but there exists a silver lining to this beast known as a residential hall. As a matter of fact, there exists a tactic, known by many but used by few. You can go OUTSIDE! Now, I know this is a bold tactic. It requires great courage, especially in Cleveland, but you can do it. YOU can make a difference in your life. The tough part is really what to do once you leave your expensive hell hole of a home.



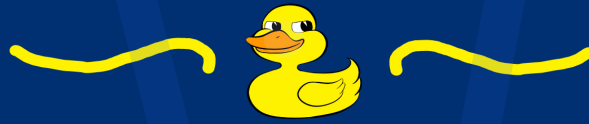
In all reality, the world is your oyster, so unless you're allergic to seafood, you've got some options. I strongly recommend going to the University Media Board Office in the basement of Thwing Student Center on Fridays from 12:45 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. There's a really cool satire magazine that meets at that time and gives free food to people who register for their events on CampusGroups. I hear they are fans of ducks. That's just one option though.

Although nerdy, the pursuit of knowledge is very impactful. Chances are, you're a nerd anyway — this is Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). Go into the Kelvin Smith Library (KSL), and grab a book. Don't judge it by its cover. If you like it, check it out. If you really like it, steal it. Put it right into your backpack and walk out of there. This way, you get no return date. Keep the literature to enjoy. Just try to avoid the sensors walking out. I think they exist. Another avenue in KSL is in the basement where University Technology, or UTech, can be found. Go to them and say you broke your charger or your computer is messed up or something like that. Most likely, they can't actually help you, so they'll give you a loaner laptop. Boom! Free computer! You might have to give it back at some point, though. One piece of advice, don't give them your computer to fix if it's actually broken; they won't fix it, and you'll *really* need a loaner laptop.

Even with a new computer, knowledge and academics can be exhausting. Getting some relaxation is very nice. One tried and true method of blowing off steam is through intoxication. Marijuana is strictly prohibited on campus, but statewide, the weed can fly. If you are craving a bout with the devil's lettuce, walk 100 feet to the east or west and smoke up. Hit the joint, walk back, and you get the benefits without any of the collegiate punishment. Alcohol is another solid option. You can also drink it on campus. Go to the Jolly Scholar in Thwing and get a swig. The tough part about this is most people who are in college are under the age of 21, so chances are, you are too. Luckily, a broke college student is definitely working there. Make good friends with them, and you'll be on your way. If you don't want to talk to a Jolly Scholar employee because they're stinky and smelly, you can always find some upperclassmen to help you out. Get your fix. Although it sucks to withdraw from a class, it's even worse to withdraw from drugs and alcohol. Stay sloshed, my friends.

Another college excitement is romance. When you enter college, you are in a completely new environment with people who are completely new to you. With this comes the option for the brave and courageous: talk to women. If you don't want to talk to women, you could talk to men, but they're disgusting and horny, so avoidance is the best option. For the people looking to talk to women, people say "the worst they can say is no," but they don't mention mace. The safest option is to watch adult pornography. Stay alone in your room, and engage in romance on a screen. Use your UTech loaner laptop if you want to be a rebel. This option is best to practice indoors.

Academics, drugs, and romance are three big parts of college life, but here are some more miscellaneous activities if you are so inclined. Burn resistors in the circuits lab in Glennan — hook the resistor up to too much power, and inhale that magic smoke. Eat some chalk — a physics professor does this, so it's chill. Drink a ton of milk — trust me, it's really fun. Really, do whatever you feel inclined to do. You get out of it what you put into it. Have some fun, make some memories, and forget some too.



The Athenian Freshman Dorm Essentials Sweepstakes!

You could
win:



Solid gold
chalice



Full-size
granite pizza oven



80 bottle
wine cooler

Entry Form

Slide completed form under the door of the UMB Office

Full Name: _____ SSN: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Mother's maiden name: _____

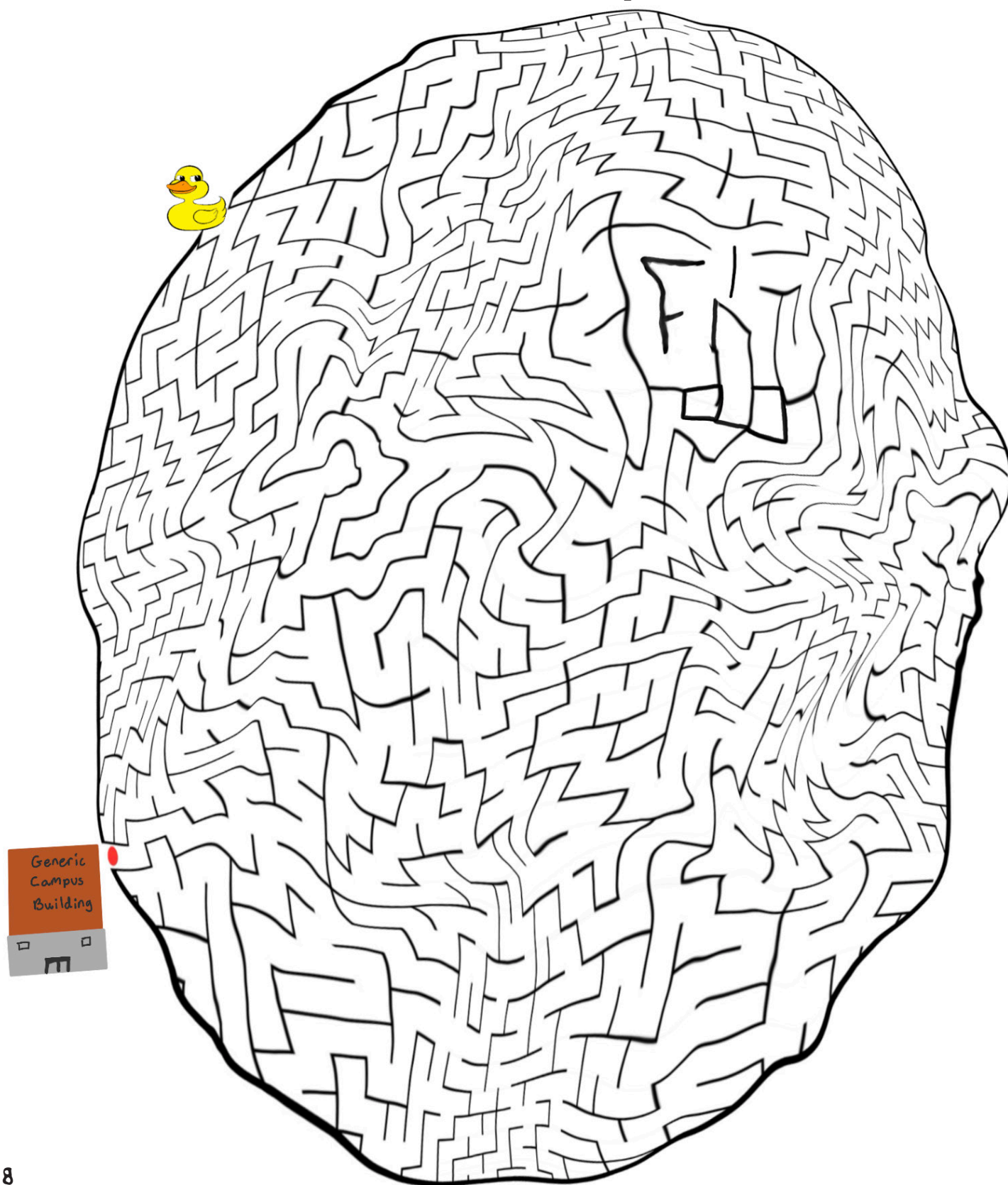
Winners will be abducted by The Council and brought to a secret location to collect their prize.

A Mind Boggling Maze

By Mack N. Cheze

Help this poor lost student get to their class on time!

(results on our website #selfpromo)



Behind the blue shirts and big smiles - Whistleblower exposes Orientation Leader program as largest active cult since the 1970's

By Jim Jones

Each fall, innocent young freshmen are “welcomed” to campus by the excited screams and screeches of the fanatic pack of individuals known as Orientation Leaders (OLs). As a freshman, your OL may be a fount of knowledge and resources, a close friend, an overbearing babysitter, or perhaps even an ill-advised hookup, but behind the camp counselor-like facade lies a deep secret. Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) is running the biggest known cult of the twenty-first century, innocently disguised as a way to shape young minds and earn a little extra cash.

Have you ever wondered how all of your OLs seem to have the same cheery demeanor and zealous school spirit? How they all know the same slogans and choreographed dances? Recently, we at *The Athenian* have come into contact with a person on the inside and the details they revealed about the training OLs must undergo paint a very grim picture.

Inna Kuhl — who, in a deviation from standard whistleblower practices, has asked that their full name be shared — has finally managed to escape the tentacle-like grip of this cult after three long years and was eager to expose every detail of this program to protect any future students from being inducted.

Some of the aspects of the OL program are fairly standard fare for a cult. OLs are forced to endure long and monotonous periods of exercise and mental torture in order to learn something known as the “Orientation Leader Boogie.” This is a carefully calculated strategy to wear down the defenses of inductees and make them more susceptible to mental manipulations. Additionally, OLs are kept dependent on CWRU for their food and housing (being paid only \$200 dollars for the multiple weeks of work they are expected to put in), discouraging them from leaving even if they begin to have doubts. Loyalty to CWRU is enforced at all times and a vow of silence is forced upon Orientation Leaders regarding the “training” they endure.

While all of these things are, of course, terrible, by far the most heinous thing OLs are subjected to is a brand of corporate torture that only a college could invent. OLs have the CWRU style guides (a text so boring it has been banned from use in warfare by the Geneva Convention) drilled into them for hours each day until they are able to recite it from front to back, back to front, and upside-down. Not only are they expected to have the style guides memorised, as ambassadors of the illustrious Case Western Reserve University, OLs are expected to conform to these guides in every aspect of their lives while working. They are expected to wear their Force Blue (hex #2359ef) shirts at all times. Their meals must follow the official CWRU color proportion guidelines for promoting “visual consistency across the CWRU identity”. Brand identity doesn’t end at the start of the meal, however — OLs are expected to shit in either CWRU Blue (hex #003071) or CWRU Dark Blue (hex #09143A) in order to ensure true consistency throughout the entire Discover Week experience. When OLs asked their bosses how they could physically achieve this, they were told to “Be a force.” No further elaboration was given on what this meant.

Please help us end this sick and twisted cult. If you are or were an Orientation Leader and would like to share your story, contact us at athenian-editors@case.edu.



Become an Orientation
Leader Today!

[Sign Up Now!](#)

Be a force.

A student's guide to getting the most out of your tuition

By Hamilton Scrooge

Salutations. I'm Hamilton Scrooge, a humble business major with a passion for cost-cutting and a furious, all-consuming hatred for every single penny that slips through the cracks of my never-unclenching fingers — the only thing I ever think about is the many, many beautiful pennies those pennies might have earned me had I kept my grip on them.

Ahem, with that being said — a scant few of my less economically-minded friends have expressed some “other” reasons for wishing that the cost of admission here were perhaps lower. As such, I’ve deemed it fitting of my good name to grace this issue with the charity of my well-earned advice.

Firstly, it always helps reduce the financial strain by relying firmly upon the campus meal plan whenever possible. With its boundless excesses of Bon Appétizing manna held just beyond the swipe of a card, it does the frugal student wonders to swipe that card as many times as it takes to hit the limit by the end of every week — though, since my father sees fit to ensure that my nutrition remains at a high enough standard for him to infuse himself with my blood so as to obtain immortality, I must often dispose the majority of my tuition-paid bounty into the nearest tuition-paid trash bin.

Of course, I can’t neglect my classes! To remain enrolled I must maintain a minimum academic standard — which, to me, means no fewer than 60 credit hours per semester. In this way, I can achieve graduation in only a single academic year! An incredible way to save money. This lifestyle can be tough, I admit it, but I persevere! And my father’s top bribist assures me that my grades will never fall below straight A’s no matter my poor attendance, on account of the sheer intellectual might of my fortunate genes and upbringing.

And finally, by far the most effective strategy for getting your full money’s worth out of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) is to join as many clubs as humanly possible. With my superhuman course load, even accounting for my sporadic absences I have scarcely more than a dozen waking hours each day with which to club. Fortunately, I have found *The Athenian* to be incredibly accepting of my lifestyle! While others scoff at my upper-class language and well-mannered manners, these fine people always congratulate me for my “hilarious impression” and “peak comedy.” Truly an excellent community to behold.

Expense	Amount
Actual Tuition	\$8,008
President Kaler's Yacht Fund	\$50,000
Campus Security Contracts (Flock, Palantir, Anduril)	\$37,911
CWRU Arts Program	-\$69,420
Investment Portfolio (OpenAI, SpaceX, NVIDIA, Micron)	\$22,564
Emergency Campus Rebrand Fund	\$18,260
Licensing for "Force Blue," Arizona Sans, and other proprietary styles	\$2,359
President Kaler's Personal Email Server	\$1,728
Total Cost	\$71,410

Exclusive breakdown of where your tuition money actually goes!

The top five places to get alcohol on campus

By The Kuhl Guy

So, you're looking to score some alcohol on the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) campus. Well, you've come to the right place, because I, a super cool senior, have nothing better to do than help some minors gain access to alcohol. So listen closely, because I'm about to share: The Kuhl Guy's top five places to get alcohol on campus!

5. A Residence Hall event

In an attempt to artificially inflate attendance, the CWRU Resident Assistants (RAs) have decided to start offering alcoholic beverages at their events. With options ranging from light beers like Natural Light to more exotic offerings like Mike's Hard Lemonade, it's safe to say that these RA events are about to get a lot more lit!

4. Chemistry lab

Believe it or not, one of the most easily accessible places to get alcohol is in one of our many chemistry labs on campus! In fact, they're practically throwing it away! Instead of imbibing the alcoholic abundance, professors and lab TAs encourage students to use it to rinse their glassware. To get your hands on some, simply enter any of the chemistry labs in Clapp Hall and look in the fume hoods for the isopropyl alcohol (C_3H_8O)!

3. Win the Hudson Relays three or four times in a row

While most of the methods in this list are not school-sanctioned methods to get your buzz, this one is actually the best way to score

while fully complying with the university's Alcohol Use Policy. One of CWRU's longest-standing traditions is the Hudson Relays. It is a fantastic way for students to rep their campus pride while engaging in a friendly bit of rivalry with the other graduating classes. However, more important is the reward for winning the race for three years in a row. Classes that win the Hudson Relays for three consecutive years will be treated to burgers and beer with the university president and provost, and classes that win for all four years will earn an exclusive steak and champagne dinner! I don't know about you, but this sounds like a fantastic opportunity to increase your school spirit while also earning some free alcohol for all of your friends!

2. The Jolly Scholar meal swipe beer

Here's one thing your Orientation Leaders won't tell you — if you can find the correct sequence of buttons to press in the CWRU Mobile Order app, then it will allow you to order one beer of your choice at The Jolly Scholar for the low, low price of one meal swipe. Now, I won't give away too much about this top secret code, but I will say that it involves ordering 500 hot chicken sandwiches at once. Happy hunting!

1. RHA Casino Night

And finally, the number one way to score some alcohol on campus: Casino Night. A beloved campus tradition, the Residence Hall Association (RHA)'s Casino Night has become a fantastic

event during Discover Week here at CWRU. But what's more, it is also a way to sneak in some liquid courage while earning chips at the high rollers' table. If you head into the room where they make the mocktails and tell them that "Uncle Spartie wants to get lost in the sauce," then they will add a single shot of a liquor of your choice to your beverage. This exchange isn't free, however. After uttering the secret phrase, you will have to fork over 150 chips to the volunteer bartender, thus sealing the deal. And if you happen to be reading this after the Casino Night event, don't worry! You'll be able to try this one out at next year's Casino Night event too! In fact, this tradition has been in place since the centennial of Western Reserve University in 1926, when the prohibition forced students to find new and creative ways to hit the bottle.

Well, there you have it. A whole new list of the five best ways to gain access to alcohol on campus. Now go forth and have a wonderful time getting hammered in the North Residential Village! And always remember to drink responsibly!

GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems.

JOIN THE ATHENIAN



PRETTY PLEASE...?