

# Readme Election Corner (2024)

## Political Correspondent™

*Big Fan of Interactive Touch Screen Maps and Saying the Phrase "Maricopa County"*

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA - Tempers ran high at Monday's Readme Pitch meeting as the topic of the November 5th, 2024 North Dakota gubernatorial election was brought up once again. Chairs were thrown, walls were punched, and several friendships ended in emotionally devastating ways after the names of past candidates Doug Burgum, Merrill Piepkorn, and Michael Coachman were mentioned. I interviewed several Carnegie Mellon students associated with the organization. The following are the most significant excerpts from my many conversations (and the only part of each conversation that consisted of words and not a series of impossible to describe guttural, rage-filled noises)

[All names have been redacted for the safety of interviewees]

"When the incumbent Doug Burgum decided not to seek

reelection, I lit several fires"

- [REDACTED], junior

"I remember when the US Representative for North Dakota's at-large congressional district Kelly Armstrong beat North Dakota Lieutenant Governor Tammy Miller in the Republican primary. I felt that posting on existing social media sites could not adequately express my deep, passionate, and resolute beliefs, so I spent months creating an entirely new and more politically toxic one that I could post on" - [REDACTED], freshman

"I will fight several people to the death in a gladiatorial fashion over the naming structure of the North Dakota Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party that formed as the outcome of a merger of two parties in North Dakota's original three-party system" - [REDACTED], sophomore

"Is the south of North Dakota known as South North Dakota and is the north of South Dakota known as North South Dakota?" - [REDACTED], sophomore

"My opinions on this matter are stronger than any of the bonds I have with the people in my life" - [REDACTED], sophomore



*Aw man, Morewood Gardens is on fire again :(*

## GO REGISTER FOR TARTANHACKS!

Registration for TartanHacks, CMU's largest hackathon, is officially open! Experience an energetic, in-person hackathon experience on February 7th and 8th, 2025. With several free meals, some awesome custom merch and raffle prizes, and thousands of dollars for top-placing projects that you won't want to miss! Among our sponsors this year are Jane Street, HRT, Sandia National Labs, Ripple, CyLab, Story Protocol, and Stripe. Our talks and workshops will be given by CMU alumni and industry professionals, CMU's very own Quantum Computing Club, and Professor Zico Kolter, director of the Machine Learning Department at CMU and board member at OpenAI.

Registration for CMU students closes on January 31st, so apply now! Learn more and register at <https://tartanhacks.com/>.

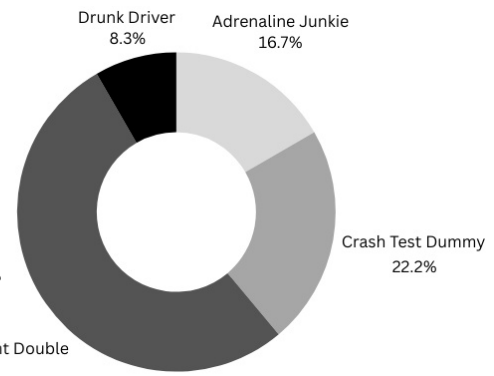
If you have any questions, please email [tartanhacks@scottylabs.org](mailto:tartanhacks@scottylabs.org).

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# In defense of CMU: Why Carnegie Mellon is simply built better than others

**O'Connell Haytier**

*Incredibly involved in every pep-related activity*

Thinking about transferring or talking badly about Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)? It often comes second nature to CMU students to suggest such things. However, CMU is a pioneer of American universities. It is famous for being the best and staying the best. Here are some reasons why CMU is still for you!

## Food

CMU has a wide and diverse variety of dining and cafe options, including those with different dietary needs. There are kosher, halal, vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free options available. For those with food allergies, Nourish provides grab and go options in various locations as well as having the Nourish kitchen. Many on campus dining options also have condiments and seasonings so that you can cater your food to your taste buds. The university also prides itself on not feeding its students glass, mold, maggots, or cockroaches, unlike another university in the state. CMU complies to food safety standards much better than the other universities. Some people think they got food poisoning but it's really just them being lactose intolerant and not even knowing it. At least 80% of the student population is lactose intolerant with only about 7% of that percentage knowing it. So much of the campus food uses milk, cheese and yogurt, which causes the lactose intolerant to absolutely lose it.

## Mascot

Some of these so-called "prestigious" universities just have humans as their mascot. That is just so lame. On the opposite scale, some of these college mascots look like they came right out of middle school. Or, they have racist caricatures that have to be unofficially replaced with a beer keg. Why not choose a more creative choice, like a bear? This is extremely creative and definitely has definitely not been used in over forty American universities. CMU doesn't have the problems of the other universities when it comes to our college mascot or theming. Instead,

we have a cute little dog who may be overstating his Scottish heritage. It's been over a hundred years since the Scottish founder died, but theming is very important to us. Some colleges have no sense of mascot and theme connection whatsoever. Some college mascots are just a color! Boring! Bland!

## Location

The campus of our great university is beautiful and wonderful. It also wasn't explicitly built on burial ground. CMU has lots of places to read books and play volleyball. The university itself is located in a walkable city with public transport. If you get tired of anything on campus, simply leave. Some other colleges are in the middle of nowhere or are near small towns instead of being in a city. All they can do is drink away their pain or join Greek life since that's all they have available to them. That or talk to cows.

## Transportation

Imagine not being able to use the public transportation system for virtually free. It's a great deal. This isn't a discount or anything, like some of those other colleges. It also isn't limited to certain schools within a university. You paid for the public transportation in the tuition, might as well use it! Seriously, just go up and down inclines a few times. Call your cousin and rub it in their face that you can use the bus and the light rail whenever you want.

## Enrichment

Also call your cousin to rub in the fact we get free access to many museums. Those other colleges are so boring and want you to waste away your life studying and doing papers. Not CMU, we are all about going outside and having a healthy work-life balance. There's also just a lot of interesting things to do on campus like Spring Carnival, guest speakers, clubs, and various theatrical productions. CMU even has a totally amazing satire magazine that holds pitch meetings in DH1117 at 5pm Saturday!



## Back to School at CMU

**Benner Rogers**

*Failed Pittsburgh Escapee*

It's once again that time of the year for students to prepare to return to Pittsburgh for another semester at dear ol' Carnegie Tech. And what better way is there to kick off the new year than with a trip to the bookstore for some back to school supplies? CMU has restocked everything a struggling academic could need, all the way from

notebooks to nunchucks. Sunglasses and SPF 500 sunscreen are half off as students readjust to seeing the burning rays of the sun travelling to and from class. Textbooks on the ABCs and learning to read are up to 75% off, although most have already been bought up by ReadMe staff. If you're feeling like you've been damned to another semester in Hell, don't worry! All purchases of \$50 or more will come with a complimentary month's supply of antidepressants.

## CMU Student Senate clarifies fetal personhood policy

**"Tyan Rosh"**

*Going to the boynecologist for a BOYBORTION*

The Fence is a proud tradition in CMU's history, with a short and simple set of rules. One such rule is that so long as two people are "holding" the fence by staying within its encircling gravel pit, no others may lay claim to it.

This simplicity falls apart, however, when we consider complex edge cases in the definition of a human life. No discourse in this domain is so fraught as what defines the point at which a fetus can be counted as a person.

CMU's Student Senate, which governs the Fence, recently issued a policy clarifying this matter. It simply reads, "a fetus counts as a 'person' for the purposes of defending the Fence

only if the fetus may plausibly survive independently outside the womb, which may be estimated at 24 weeks from conception." [Article II.D.6.a.ii]

This policy was roundly praised for its vision and specificity. "I appreciate that we now have a firm answer," one student stated. "I think all sides in this debate are now pleased."

While no instance is known where the personhood status of a fetus was the deciding factor in a dispute over control of the Fence, the Senate's foresight in providing guidance on the issue is laudable. We can only hope that similarly prescient legislation may be adopted governing this author's intent to carry out illegal abortions within the gravel pit, using only technology which was available in 1923.