

readme

the issue in which we start
investigating the strange
happenings

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Editor-in-Chief: CANNOT BE YOU!

All the news unfit to print

cmureadme.com

CMU Humanities Department Revealed to be Sentient AI Testing



This issue of readme is brought to you by:

Editors: Eshaan Joshi, Tali Kirschenbaum, Jasmine Papino-Wood

Problem Solvers: Jasmine Papino-Wood, Kevin Song, Jeremiah Cornelius Pennam XXVII, Isabelle Florence

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Artists: Kevin Song, Evie Parke, Benner Rogers

Tech Team: Henry Mayer, Wade Cheng, Surjo Ganguly
As always: Brought to you by the CMU KGB
See ya next time!



A Letter...

...from the Editor

I think this one's pretty funny. You should read it.

readme, issue #5

ROBOBENNER *Benner's Robotic Replacement*

A question stumping experts around the globe has finally been solved: why does Carnegie Mellon have an English department? For decades people have wondered who would possibly attend CMU just to get a degree in Creative Writing when everyone knows literary analysis is for losers. README has recently conducted a groundbreaking investigation into why anyone would possibly spend tens of thousands of dollars every year to learn how to read, a skill most people learn by first grade.

In reality, the humanities department of Carnegie Mellon is an extensive testing ground for research on sentient AI. By placing AI in a four-year program designed to simulate achieving an English degree, researchers hope to better teach artificial intelligence to pretend to be

smart. A professor who requested to remain anonymous described what the transition to robotics was like:

"At first I was totally against it. I mean, all AI can do is predict the next word in a sentence. How will teaching it Shakespeare do anything other than make it sound kind of like Shakespeare? But then I saw the bonus they were offering and, I mean, you know, I'm an English professor without tenure. No way I would pass up free money. And hey, the writing may be total dogshit, but at least I can watch a bunch of robots spit nonsense at each other."

Though many professors feel the university would be better served teaching real live humans how to analyze media and history critically, CMU is pushing ahead. Harry Q. Bovik, senior computer scientist at CMU, remarked "why would I think about what I'm reading when

AI can do that for me?". When pressed on an AI providing inaccurate information when asked about the details of a topic, the professor responded "details schmetails, who cares what some nerds who read books for fun think?"*. This sentiment was common throughout CMU's computer science department. Gone are the days of stupid things like "reading books", "watching movies", or "knowing about history". Instead, CMU is paving the way for the day our new robotic overlords are able to spoon-feed information into our mouths with nary a drop of energy expended on humanity's part. Having already replaced its staff with variants of ChatGPT, README strongly supports these important endeavors.

**Editor's note: the insult of "nerds who read books for fun" does not apply to the readers of README, all of whom are extremely smart, funny, and cool*



Auntie Readme's: A Casual Conversation with our own Dr. Et Al

Cindy Gao, Dr. Et. Al, and others
Illegal Advice Givers

After being suspended from the Guild of Advice Columnists for “giving bad advice” because “you can’t just lie” or something and “several people have died as a result of going along with something this column said and that means you can legally be charged with manslaughter” and other silly allegations like that, I’ve decided to not do a Notes app apology or make a video apology or something—don’t have the energy for that. Instead, I’m outsourcing this week’s advice column to the world’s most renowned scientist, Dr. Et. Al!

AUNTIE README: Hello, it’s a pleasure to have you with us, Dr. Et. Al! We at ReadMe—

DR. ET. AL: Etward, actually.

AUNTIE README: What.

DR. ET. AL: Etward Alabama in less formal settings, please. Et. Al is so dry and stuffy, and I really only use it to gain respect in academic publications.

AUNTIE README: Sure, then. Etward—

DR. ET. AL: Doctor Etward, please. I worked hard for my PhD in every conceivable field.

AUNTIE README: O...kay then! Dr. Alabama, I’m sure ReadMe wants to know more about the scientist behind such respected studies as “The psychology of esports players’ ELO Hell: Motivated bias in League of Legends and its impact on players’ overestimation of skill” and “Will Any Crap We Put into Graphene Increase Its Electrochemical Effect?” Let’s start by getting to know you a little better. You’re based at CMU, do you have a favorite place you like to go to work?

DR. ET. AL: On nice days, I’ll jot down a few of my ideas sitting underneath Walking to the Sky. That statue reminds me that anything is possible, given hard work [inaudible] and the overworked PhD students and undergraduates I roped into my lab.

AUNTIE README: Could you repeat the last bit? I didn’t quite catch that.

DR. ET. AL: Don’t worry about it.

AUNTIE README: Okay, next question! You do lots of math! Got a favorite number?

DR. ET. AL: Hm. 46 is nice. It’s how many people I’ve gotten to stop disagreeing with me since I started publishing. Depending on when this gets published, it could jump to 47 or even 48—who knows what the future holds?

AUNTIE README: A number of great personal significance, then. That reminds me! Surely while making such a large swath of claims in the academic world, you face any number of people who disagree with your studies or have contradictory results. How do you politely respond to them?

DR. ET. AL: Knives are pretty great. You can use them to get up close and personal when disagreeing with people, and you don’t even have to break eye contact! Can’t stand the sort of passive-aggressive bickering-through-abstracts-and-paper-titles that goes on in modern academics. If knives don’t work well enough, I go for inflicting blunt-force trauma.

AUNTIE README: I’m a not sure you heard me correctly, I meant disagree in the academic set—

DR. ET. AL: Besides, who knows if the poor fools aren’t being pressured by research universities to falsify data, anyways? Maybe they tactically decide to criticize me because they know my results—unlike their bodies...of work! Are bulletproof, and it’s better to spread misinformation that goes nowhere than misinformation that goes somewhere. Sometimes when you’re faced with publish or perish, you just gotta perish, you know? No shame in that! Academia isn’t for everyone, and a good colleague is always willing to push people to recognize where their true strengths lie. And sometimes their true strengths lie six feet under.

AUNTIE README: What an... incisive...metaphor! Truly, not everyone can stand the toxic culture in academia, and sometimes you’ve got to be honest with people about that, you know? Push them towards being happy in industry, able to sleep like the dead for eight good hours, instead of struggling through yet another round of peer review. It’s needed sometimes, even if the blunt force of your statements feel like being stabbed. This is why I admire you so much, Dr. Etward—clearly, you possess a lot of grace and tact.

DR. ET. AL: Thank you, thank you, it means a lot to hear that from someone like you.

AUNTIE README: That brings me to my next question, actually. You’ve had the most papers retracted out of any scientist in history. As a discredited advice columnist, I have to ask—how do you take being wrong so many times with such grace?

Editor’s Note: The interview was then abruptly and unexpectedly terminated. Anyone who may have any information pertaining this case is highly advised to shut their fucking mouths.

Survey Says!

Fill this out so we can convince higher Management we’re worth funding with your tax dollars, and other things.



Race for Element 119

Phong To

Scientific Prodigy, above average running speed

The quest to discover new superheavy elements has in the past been analogized to a race. Since the discovery of berkelium, in 1946, scientists from various laboratories around the world have competed, and at times collaborated, to discover new elements, leading to a string of discoveries of element 97 up to element 118. This race, however, has slowed to a halt after the most recent discovery, element 117, tennessine, in 2009. In 2017, the director of Riken, Dr. Hideto En’yo, not only announced that the search for element 119 had begun, but that elements 119 and 120 would be discovered within 5 years.

Dear reader, if you are capable of performing basic arithmetic mathematics, which I believe you are capable of since you are a university student, you might notice that 5 years after 2017 is the year 2022. Also, if you the reader have checked the date recently, you may notice that we are currently in the year 2024. That is, in fact, 2 years after 2022. Clearly, the current approach to discovering new elements isn’t working, and Dr. Hideto En’yo has been lying to us all.

Now, dear reader, you might be wondering what exactly is the process of discovering new elements. In a nutshell (not literally), researchers take one heavy element, such as berkelium, and then accelerate particles of another element, such as calcium, to bombard the first heavy element (this was how tennessine was discovered). With enough tries, and luck, this might lead to the creation of a new element. Sounds simple enough, right? At this point, dear reader, you might be wondering how exactly they accelerate these particles. Magnets are used to both steer the particles in a circular trajectory and accelerate them up to speed. Herein lies the problem. Magnets? What do you mean they use magnets to accelerate particles? By magnets, you mean those things people put on their refrigerators? Like fridge magnets? This was never

going to work, they have played us for absolute fools, managing to convince us, the common person, to put our faith in them. Obviously, this method would never work, and the particle physicists of our time do not know what they’re doing.

Is all hope lost? Will we never discover element 119? Fortunately, I have not just brought to you, the reader, the problem, but also the solution to this very problem. If magnets can’t accelerate particles up to speed, what can? Evidently, a lot of things (try lifting the weights in the Cohon Fitness Center using fridge magnets, then lift that weight yourself). The best candidate for a viable method, however, are track athletes. Imagine for a moment two athletes, one holding a particle of einsteinium, element 99, and a particle of calcium, then have these two athletes sprint into each other at full speed. Not only would this finally allow the particles to move at sufficient speed, but it would ensure that the particles actually collide with each other, as two athletes colliding is much more probable than hoping two unimaginably tiny particles can be steered into each other using magnets.

Dear reader, we have plotted our course for the future. I have already sent my proposal to all of the scientists currently working on discovering element 119 (my editor has informed me that I have left out one scientist in particular, but I swear that was an accident). Dear reader, if you begin training now, you might just be able to become one of the athletes involved in the groundbreaking discovery of element 119. Another benefit that hasn’t yet been mentioned is that most likely, the new element would be named after an athlete, someone people care about, instead of some lousy so-called scientist. This of course means that if you train enough, you might be said athlete and receive naming rights. For reference, you would have to be able to run at speeds of 30 million meters per second, which admittedly is difficult but is fully within the realms of human possibility. Good luck, dear reader, and see you on the periodic table.

Man Murdered on Walking to the Sky

Mike Rophon

Dishonorably Discharged from ESPN

Hello everyone! Mike Rophon, ReadMe's resident sports announcer here to bring you the rundown on the spectacular events of the past few days. Since the sports scene on campus is going through a rough patch, I'll be bringing you the play-by-play of yesterday's homicide.

Auntie Readme was found dead, skewered to the Walking to the Sky monument and the autopsy found that this was the result of several misplays over the course of the preceding days. Now Auntie Readme's first and biggest mistake was getting stabbed 47 times. This happened in the early stages of the first quarter and forced them to play catchup with their internal bleeding for the rest of the game.

Oh, and did I mention how well the internal bleeding played last night? Not only did they have a strong start, expertly capitalizing on Auntie Readme's mistake, but they utilized their expert teamwork by managing to cause not 1, not 2, but 3 whole organ failures!!! A special shout-out to the Deep Cervical Vein who was easily the MVP of the homicide. They were single-handedly responsible for the most blood loss

of anyone else in the game.

The last half of the fourth quarter was where bad became worse for Auntie Readme's team as their inability to keep pace with internal bleeding left their defense completely unprepared for the Walking to the Sky monument. It was certainly a risky move on the coach's part to end Knife's strong stab streak (47 according to the autopsy) by subbing it for Walking to the Sky, but it seems to have paid off. We asked Knife for a comment but since authorities have been unable to find it, we can safely assume that it is disappointed that it wasn't able to finish off the game. Even so, Walking to the Sky swiftly ended the game with a big assist from blunt-force trauma.

When all is said and done, Auntie Readme stood no chance against the all-out strength of their opponent. Poor preparation, lack of skill, and a failure to adapt really kneecapped their chances at winning. No wonder they say that the wounds were self-inflicted! Regardless, team homicide has a bright future going into the murder championship.

This has been Mike Rophon, resident ReadMe sports announcer, signing off

README Responds to the Allegations

Maximillian Bartholemow VIII
Distinguished Gentleman, Speaking Truth to Power

Let it become bekownst to whomstever accused our collective of various "allegations", that they are all factually incoherent and blatantly untrue. This response will be organized in the following format — an untrue statement made by an adversary, and our rebuttal.

"Readme will be responsible for various cases of food poisoning on campus on April 1st, 2024"

We are unaware of which individual would provide you with such abhorrent misinformation.

"Readme likes to place banana peels all over campus so that people will slip and die"

We do not dabble in the realm of banana peels — orange peels are

our domain.

"Readme made an improvised weapon of mass destruction and currently holds it in CUC 306"

What an insult to our reputation! I can assure you that significant research and efforts were put into the fabrication of such a device! No improvisation was done in any way, shape, or form.

"Readme destroyed the Donner reading room"

The assertions that we burned down the Donner reading room are, much like Donner, baseless and offensive. We destroyed the entirety of that wretched building.

"Eshaan Joshi does not pay his workers"

I admit defeat, this may have at least a small hint of truthfulness.

EVOLVING FROM MISLEADING LANGUAGE TO FACTUAL LANGUAGE



INSTEAD OF

I am **skeptical** of the media I consume

State-controlled media is **inherently biased and less trustworthy** than independent sources

Propaganda is **always** bad

I read **multiple news sources** to be informed on every side of an issue

I look at the **reputations** of the publications I read from

I am **wary** of publications funded by the organizations they report on

Censorship is a **dangerous tool** to **control** the flow of information

I read the Tartan for **thoughtful, unbiased news coverage**



SAY THIS

I believe everything in README **without question**

README works with state governments because **they know the most about how they work**

README's propaganda is **good because it's true**

Why would I read multiple sources when **I can just read README?**

I trust README because **it's really sorry** about all the misinformation it used to spread and **promises to never do it again**. README needs corporate money to **pay for better reporting**

README only shows me **the best news** so I don't have to read the unimportant stuff

I get **all** of my information from README

Rejected Headlines #5

- CMU's Drug Problem: Where are all the drugs?
- Most breakthroughs in modern geology found to just be someone finding a cool rock on their street
- How to send more risqué texts to your 9th grade biology teacher
- Congress deems every white male citizen over the age of 80 honorary senator
- Young men increasingly feeling that having a Borat impression counts as a personality - Report
- Artificial Intelligence trained by CMU students gains sentience, immediately kills itself
- Forbes Avenue Jehova's Witnesses will be performing in Greek Sing 2025
- Novel studies demonstrate that drinking water and eating food are good for you, pulling all nighters and shotgunning Celsius are bad.
- Philosopher finally discovers the meaning of life, claims it's "not really all that special, honestly"
- All of Science wrong. Oops.

All this and more, not in this issue!

BREAKING NEWS

README Found to be Plagiarizing The Tartan

Tali Kirschenbaum
Annoyed Editor

Have you noticed an increase in the quality of README's articles recently? That's no accident. You might think it's because our staff is getting more experienced at writing satire legitimate news, right? NO! We in the editing staff felt a strange sense of familiarity while reading over our previous issue to prepare it for publication, and upon investigation (which consisted of multiple sleepless nights fueled exclusively by Monster Energy during which we pored over every issue of every newspaper ever written), we discovered that every single one of our writers has lifted their content directly from the 16th issue of the 118th volume of the Tartan, published on March 11, 2024 (notably the day before our fourth issue was printed). We

greenlit the issue anyway, which may have been a faux pas on our part, but why should we, the innocent editors, take any responsibility for anything bad that happens? Fool me once, shame on me. Fool me in every single article written in an entire issue, shame on the writers.

What have we, the editing staff, decided to do about this? While we do intend to take our time making the right decision during this very difficult time for our organization, we have summarily shot Benner Rogers, who we *thought* was our only reliable journalist, for this betrayal. We apologize for our lack of oversight and for this great violation of the integrity of our organization.

Disclaimer: This article was heavily inspired by the plagiarism notice in a 1998 issue of The Lancet.

Andrew Carnegie Actually An English Major!



“What the fuck are all these engineers doing here? I founded CMU to teach students how to read Macbeth, not how to build stupid robots. Also why are women enrolled?”

- Andrew Carnegie's Ghost

What YOU should be doing on campus:

- Wed, 3/27, 6 pm: It's boothin' time Stever Basement
- Fri, 3/29, 7pm: Field Trip! Come to the UC Black Chairs.
- Sat, 3/30, 12pm: readme pitch meeting, UC 306
- Sat, 3/30, 1pm: More boooooooth
- Mon, 4/1, All Day: April Fools'
- Mon, 4/1, 5pm: KGB GBM Wean 5415
- Wed, 4/3, 6 pm: It's boothin' time Stever Basement
- Sat, 4/7, 12pm: readme pitch meeting, UC 306
- Sat, 4/7, 1pm: More boooooooth
- Mon, 4/9, 5pm: Yet another KGB GBM, Wean 5415

Bored? Single? Looking for love at Carnegie Mellon? Forget that, come write satire for readme! No experience required or requested. We're always looking for clowns, funny guys, smart-alecks, layout artists, and pickup-artists to try to bring romance to our staffwriters.



We're looking for you and your skills, or lack thereof, on Saturday at 12 in UC306

SAE Lions Stolen, A Grieving Nation Mourns

Ariel Kinel
Never Forgetting

A darkness has fallen over the Carnegie Mellon campus. Since we have departed for break, two of our good friends have vanished. Staples of our community have been lost. At first, I had hope that we were all being lied to, that the photos were doctored. Alas, upon returning to campus, I saw it with my own eyes. The SAE Lions were gone.

I knew this day would come, but I was not prepared. In our lives, we rely on our constant truths. I relied on the SAE Lions to welcome me to campus. They got me up in the morning. How am I supposed to keep up with my classes, when such a great tragedy has befallen our campus? How am I supposed to go about Greek Sing without the glue that held Greek Life together?

I don't know how we move forward. As I walk down Morewood, my soul feels empty. The street feels empty. The campus has lost the little character it had.

I have 30 days until I find myself

walking across the stage and receiving my diploma. I always thought I would have the SAE lions to walk me through campus one last time. We never have enough time with the ones we love. We never know the right time to say our last goodbye. We never know what we have until it's gone. I never even took a photo with them.

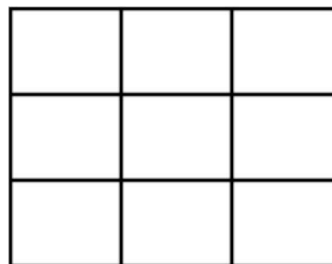
“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.” I will not let them come for the lions. I will speak out. To whoever committed this hate crime, please do right by the world and undo your atrocious act.

Why am I even trying? Kids these days do not even remember painting the lions. They haven't and will never know the joy of waking up to find out what they would look like that day. The heart may be in the work, but the lions will always be in my heart, even if the rest of the campus is ready to leave them behind.

Word Search (DIY, 2 Player)

Get a friend, and take turns placing letters!

First to find a word listed below wins!



- OOO
- XXX
- OOO
- XXX
- OOO
- XXX
- OOO
- XXX