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-Like The Onion, but shittier!

IT'S BEEN

1161

DAYS SINCE OUR  
LAST OFFICIAL SNOW

## A Modern Day Romeo and Juliet

blilly\_fan1112

Blizzard knew this was wrong. All his life, he had known one thing and one thing for sure. The Wildcat family was to be avoided at all costs. He wasn't quite sure why, only that he had to stay away. It was some stupid rivalry that outlasted him — the Upper Peninsula wasn't big enough for the both of them. It was easy enough to hate them, for a while. Blizzard hadn't been given any reason not to.

Though, he supposed he hadn't been given any reason to hate them either. Blizzard was quickly realizing that he was given more reasons to love the Wildcat family than to hate them. Well, reasons to love one particular member of the Wildcat family.

Willy.

Every instinct in Blizzard's body told him to *stay away*. He had more important things to worry about. A family to take care of. An army to conduct.

There was that one instinct of his body, though, that told him to do the exact opposite. Willy's voice snagged that instinct and *pulled* Blizzard in like the electromagnets in the electrical engineering lab. His green eyes swam with wonder and Blizzard just wanted to dive into them and never leave.

When they met below the moonlight in embrace after a hockey game, it didn't matter who won, all that mattered was paws in fur and the feeling of Willy against him. Dangerous couldn't



even begin to describe it. Other words were *stupid*, a *terrible idea*, going against *literally everything* Blizzard had ever been taught. One word was amazing.

It was difficult. Appearances were hard to keep up. Nothing made Blizzard's heart ache like seeing Willy across the hockey stadium, on the away side. Instead of home with Blizzard, where he belonged. All because of this stupid feud. The feud that he didn't even understand. Despite the feud — or maybe because of it — the way Willy made him feel compared to nothing Blizzard had ever experienced. He had been told for his entire life that the Wildcats were bad news, but how could something this *good* be bad news?

# Machine-O-Rama!

## Inclined Iago

It's the end of January, which means it's once again time for MACHINE-O-RAMA: the biggest, brutalist, most intense and exhilarating battle of machine versus machine in the world, and it all happens here at good ol' Michigan Technological University. Why? Because only engineers under two feet of snow would be bored enough to get into a heated debate over which would win: a lever or a pulley?

Each competition will test the machines based on their performance and ability in tests of strength, dexterity, resilience and versatility. The total score at the end determines which wins the title of the 2023 Ultimate Machine. In the event of a tie, things get real exciting as the top machines face off head to head, Battlebots style.

While there are literally thousands of machines to consider, some of the top contenders tend to be the machines that are most versatile and can perform in multiple categories- or machines that excel in a few specific categories. And among them are the old-guard, the Renaissance Rumbler, the Simple Sextet, the machines with the ultimate mechanical advantage of legacy and time itself: The Lever, Pulley, Inclined Plane, Wheel and Axle, Wedge, and Screw. But some (relatively) newer faces have come to challenge their dominance, including the Incredible Internal Combustion Engine and the Particle Accelerator, who are warning the Simple Sextet to watch their back.

We invite you to meet some of the favored contestants from previous years, and hear about their strategy for the upcoming Rumble:

**The Lever:** The reigning champion of machines, the Lever has three different classes to switch between, offering incredible versatility. It's traditionally performed strongest in the lifting competition, far outperforming anything else in its weight class. It also possesses significant speed and reach advantages. The Lever is a simple and humble contestant, and has taken its past wins without much gloating or holding it over anyone else.

**The Pulley:** The pulley has always been a runner-up to the lever, though is sometimes docked points on complexity. It looks down on the other machines, considering its position as runner-up and occasional winner a sign that it is superior to them. It holds the record for number of physics students made to cry, and it's proud of it.

**The Inclined:** Plane The inclined plane is oft forgotten in the competition, but it shows up anyways. While it considers the Wedge and Screw as just stealing its thunder, it doesn't mind much and just keeps in its lane. People tend to walk all over it, but by making it so easy for them to do so the Plane gets huge bonus points. If you're looking for the every-man, the jack-of-all-trades, the Mario character in Mario Kart 8 with all attributes even, the Plane is your machine.

**The Ion Thruster:** The ion thruster is the speedster of the competition, second only to its bitter rival, the Particle Accelerator, and the favored rookie. It also possesses significant strength and lifting capability, and is considerably smaller than the Accelerator. It also lives up to its name- in the Machine-O-Rama Village, the Ion Thruster uses like, 90% of the free machine lube packets.

Enjoy the Machine-O-Rama, and get ready to Rumbllllle!!

**BLIZZARD T. HUSKY**  
wants YOU



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*Hi, my name is Big Al, and I approve this message*