

# Throwback Thursday: Breaking world records

This week, we took a look at Truman State University's past attempts to break world records.

Truman hosted its first annual Guinness Olympics where it sent letters to high schools, business and social organizations inviting them to send teams to participate in a variety of events, according to the Oct. 9, 1975 issue.

"The events have been divided into two major groups: 1) Gastronomical, and 2) Students and miscellaneous. The gastronomical division includes all eating records ... The stunts and miscellaneous division include gymnastics, band marathon, racing records, etc," according to the Oct. 9 1975 issue.

The event was hosted in conjunction with the United Way Fund Campaign in Kirksville and had a 50 cent entry fee to go toward the United Way, an organization whose mission to aid in the improvement of communities worldwide.

The Guinness Olympics was renamed Wreckathon, according to the Oct. 30, 1975 issue.

"The purpose of the Wreckathon is to try to break as many records as we can from out of the Guinness Book of World Records and to aid the United Way fund drive that is in operation in Kirksville now," according to the Oct. 30, 1975 issue.

At the time, the records that would be challenged were the world's Frisbee throwing record, the crawling record and coin snatching record in the stunts and miscellaneous category. The records challenged at the time were not listed in the article. In the gastronomic events category, there was a baked beans record of eating 1,823 cold beans one by one with a toothpick in 30 minutes and eating 20 or more hotdogs in 4:47.

"The Record Wreckathon will begin at midnight today with the Frisbee marathon event to be held in Kirk Gym," according to the Nov. 6, 1975 issue.

The crawling event began Nov. 8 and had three contestants trying to beat the record 6.46 miles. The gastronomical events were to take place in the Kirk Building where "there will be people trying to eat more grapes, hot dogs, beans and donuts in less time than the people who hold the present records have." Also, "three girls are going to try to set an original record of carrying a book on their head for the longest amount of time." Another event was a penny snatch "where a person must stack pennies on his elbow and snatch them away with the same hand. The present record is 37." It was not stated whether they were successful in their attempts.

Students even attempted breaking records involving music, according to the March 25, 1976 issue.

The American Music Marathon was an attempt to break the current record for the longest music marathon, which at the time was 50 hours.

"The marathon, sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI), women's music fraternity, will be held in Recital Hall [...] It will last approximately 60 hours ... The marathon will consist of 'almost anything,' including instrumental and vocal solos and duets. The only requirement for the marathon is the applicants must play American music."

Again, there was no statement of whether the attempt was successful or not.

Even if we aren't sure if the records were broken, we recognize the vigor of attempting to break so many, and we know at least one record will be broken starting next year — Truman celebrating 150 years of existence.

## TOP 5 Local Election Topics to Know



As a voter, you should be aware of Constitutional Amendment 6 because it concerns whether voters will need to bring ID to future elections.



1 Know your people. This year offers the opportunity to have a say in both state and local positions. Research the candidates so you are making a choice you are comfortable with because these people will directly impact your life while in Kirksville.



4 For voters who care about the environment, you should be aware of Constitutional Amendment 1 because it pertains to funds used to maintain state parks and historic sites. As Kirksville contains a state park, all students should educate themselves on this issue.



2 Understand Proposition A and Constitutional Amendment 3, because they both discuss a similar issue – an increase on cigarette tax. Do not get them confused. Research what each implicates so you can make sure your votes agree with each other.



5 Constitutional Amendment 2 addresses the issue of contributions made to support candidates during elections, in the capacity of establishing campaign contribution limits. Because this will affect local government costs, Kirksville voters should take the time to understand this amendment.

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