



Special Edition

**We did it folks.** After **five weeks of voting**, we are ready to announce this year's **Daily Dot Hall of Fame** inductees.

Y'all voted **a lot**. Thank you so much!

Just a reminder: Only **top web\_crawlr readers like you** got to vote this year, and we want to **thank you for being such a dedicated reader**. It means a lot to us that you **like, share, click, and read** our stories so much.

To celebrate the end of this year's Hall of Fame voting, we'll be **giving away 10 special edition Daily Dot Hall of Fame shirts** to people who **send us an email** and tell us why they enjoyed the hall of fame or what they like best about web\_crawlr.

Scroll on down below to **find out how to do that**.

But first, Kira will announce this year's winners!

— A.W.



## Your 2024 Daily Dot Hall Of Fame



By [Kira Deshler](#)  
Assistant *Newsletter Editor*



Democracy functioned just like it should in this year's **Daily Dot Hall of Fame**. Though it's up to the writers and editors here at the Daily Dot to bring you the most pressing pieces of internet news, **we've left it to you**, the readers, to decide **which viral sensations have defined 2024**.

We asked you about your [favorite TikTok trends](#), many of which centered on consumer discourse. We encouraged you to ponder some of the weirdest internet stories of the year in our [urban legends](#) category. We took an atmospheric reading and asked you to [define 2024's big mood](#). We reminisced about the [moments that captured our collective attention](#). And, we turned our gaze to the most prominent subjects of internet chatter—the [vanguards](#) of our time.

We compiled the stories, but it was you, **our loyal web crawler readers**, who banged the final gavel.

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## TIKTOK MOVEMENTS:

### Fixing Your Own Gadgets



Much of the **discourse online** this year stemmed from **concerns about inflation** and the **increasing cost of living**. Folks are **more outraged than ever** by rising prices and corporations trying to squeeze every penny out of consumers. Our winner in this category represents **one possible response** to our consumption-obsessed world.

[Fixing Your Own Gadgets](#) took home gold with **35.6% of the votes**. It's clearly a topic that TikTok viewers—and **web crawler readers**—are hungry for, as **who doesn't love a good hack?** Another money-saving category, **Beating The Car Dealership**, came in **second place**, reflecting our collective desire to outsmart The Man.

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## URBAN LEGENDS:

### RFK Jr.'s Brain Worm



It was a great day in newsrooms all across the country **when the news dropped**: RFK Jr. [once had a worm in his brain](#). The **headline literally writes itself**, and the internet **ate up that juicy piece of gossip** for weeks to come.

Web crawlers had a good chuckle about brain worms as well, as **47.6% percent of you voted for RFK Jr.** in this year's Urban Legends category.

Second place went to another **unintentionally hilarious** political

moment—[Trump’s transgender operations on illegal aliens](#) [soundbite](#).

Political news **can be a real bummer sometimes**, so **absurd stories** like these tend to do well on our site. Web crawler readers **clearly agree**, and RFK’s brain worm thanks you for the vote of confidence.

**BIG MOOD:**  
**Smiling Dolphin**



This year’s Big Mood category was **nothing short of a landslide**.

We gave you plenty of options—**Lucky Luciano**, **Hugh Jackman and the Wolverine meme**, **stonks**—but none moved you nearly as much as the winner. **71.6%** of you voted for the [Smiling Dolphin](#), that perennial favorite that **so perfectly captures a specific feeling**.

It’s as if the dolphin is trapped in an **uncomfortable social situation** with **no chance of escaping**, forced to smile politely until the moment ends. It’s **something we’ve all experienced before**, which is probably why that cute dolphin face **strikes such a chord**. The best thing a meme can be is **relatable**, and Smiling Dolphin takes the cake.

**CULTURAL MOMENTS:**  
**Moo Deng**



Frankly, **any other nominee** but [Moo Deng](#) winning in the Cultural Moments category would have **been a grave injustice**, so thank you,

web crawlers, for **making the right choice**.

If you were online at all this year, **you’ve no doubt seen his face** on numerous occasions. The internet **immediately obsessed** over the little hippo—who resides at a zoo in Thailand—when he first debuted earlier this year.

Mostly, we love him because he’s **relatable**, much like the Smiling Dolphin meme. He **screams** when he’s hungry, or angry, or wants attention. He sometimes **bites people** when they get too close. He **hates getting hosed down** without warning. **He is all of us, and we are all him**. Or, he’s at least the **44%** of you who voted for him in the Cultural Moments category.

It’s Moo Deng’s world, and **we’re just living in it**.

**VANGUARDS:**  
**Ilona Maher**



2024 has been a **big year for sports**, from the [WNBA’s rise in popularity](#), to the **Olympics**, to Taylor Swift [attending the Super Bowl to support her boo](#), Travis Kelce. But it wasn’t the world’s most famous boyfriend who **captured the hearts of web crawlers** this year. It was [Ilona Maher](#), the rugby player who rose to fame during the Summer Olympics.

Maher secured **31.5%** of the votes, a respectable but not overwhelming lead over second and third place, the **Hawk Tuah Girl** and **Kelce**, respectively.

Maher **captured the internet’s attention** with her funny and empowering TikTok videos, schooling viewers about body positivity and what it takes to be a champion. Maher’s videos represent a **positive, feel-good sentiment** during a time when there’s **plenty to feel bad about**. She may have won bronze at the Olympics, but **she won gold here at the Daily Dot**.

***Thanks for voting in the 2024 Daily Dot Hall of Fame!***



To celebrate, we will be **giving away 10 shirts** to people who send us an email and tell us **why they like the annual hall of fame** or what **they love about web\_crawlr**.






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Loved it!



Meh...



Hated it.

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