

## STUDENT LIFE

# Gamers Club no longer a fantasy

By Teresa Nicolai  
staff writer

Last year, approximately 15 names graced the sign up sheet for the Fantasy Gamers Club. There was little interest in the organization, so they did not participate in Club Rush. This semester, the club's success looks promising and a multitude of players are ready to bring their A-game.

The once-known Fantasy Gamers Club has been revamped. Ditching their old title and starting clean, the Gamers Club is ready to become a reality on campus. At the head of the operation is Nicholas Hudak, 07, MIS, who is determined to get the group on its feet. Luckily for him, this semester, Club Rush brought in over 70 interested students. It was easy to hear the excitement in Hudak's voice as he commented, "We've had people show interest in everything. We had people suggest freeze tag as a game."

But what exactly is the Gamers Club? About seven years ago, a group of role players and card game players had the idea of instituting a club of this nature. Things have progressed a lot since then. Now you can find the Gamers Club taking part in a wide variety of challenges. Some of these include: Magic the Gathering, role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons or White Wolf, X-Box and X-Box Live, First Person Shooters, board games, card games, and the increasingly popular Dance Dance Revolution (DDR). The club's main objective is to bring gamers together and have fun.

Last year, the condition of the Gamers Club was so unstructured that all authority positions were diminished within the society. This year there will be traditional ranks along with different, game specific, organizing responsibilities.

"We weren't really active last semester so I decided, this semester, to take it over and appoint people to chairs," Hudak said.

Getting involved in the Gamers Club is easy, even if you reluctantly passed by their table at Club Rush. The first meetings are September 20 and September 21 in Reed 117 at 5:30p.m. It is only necessary to come to one of the two initial gatherings. The club understands a college student and his hesitation toward anything that will cost him too much time or money. The Gamers Club slogan: "No dues. No real commitment."

Still not excited? Keep in mind that any game can be brought as a suggestion. The games mentioned are only a fraction of the countless styles and titles of games in which they partake.

"If a game is suggested and if there is enough interest, we'll do it," said Hudak.

Now that the Gamers Club is back in swing, players from each of the separate dorms and apartments should be able to join together as one. The club is able to obtain access to rooms equipped with gear that is necessary for most games. If you are currently participating in a form of gaming with a small group of people, consider joining the larger group. Get involved. You have nothing to lose.

Nicholas Hudak can be contacted at njh10@psu.edu.

# Rob Gonzalez performs at Brunos



Rob Gonzalez will be performing Saturday at Brunos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Tiffany Mak  
staff writer

Described as "The male version of Norah Jones," Rob Gonzalez, a country and a pop singer, as well as a Jazz pianist, will be coming to Brunos on Sept. 25 for his 57<sup>th</sup> College Show of his US Tour 2004.

Now with an exhausting tour schedule of more than 90 college shows backed by an energetic band, Gonzalez is a performer whose star is fast in the rise.

Since he was five, Gonzalez has displayed his gifted ear for music. He astonished and impressed early piano teachers with his ability to play "with heart."

Raised in a suburb in Wisconsin, Gonzalez learned to play music in a Midwest setting where American culture took major precedence over the distant Latin culture of his Dominican immigrant father.

The bachelor's degree in philosophy he earned from Stonehill College with 3.89 GPA contributed to his maturity and originality in his music.

"It was a way for me to get back to basics," said Gonzalez. "It helped me put my life in perspective, and I realized I was better off writing for myself rather than trying to fit in to the local garage band's sound."

In 1991, he went to the famous Berklee College of Music in Boston. Inspired by the remarkable alumni, his piano skills flourished. The thriving Boston rock scene was an even greater inspiration and soon his love of jazz piano was taken over by

an even greater love: songwriting.

Gonzalez's self-released album in 2002, "Somehow," with the hottest song "I'll get to you," debuted on the CMJ (College Music Journal) Top 40 AAA Chart at a stunning number 18, just below Bob Dylan, Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt. "Somehow" also spent five weeks in the CMJ Top 20. This album is a sincere tribute to his Midwest upbringing and it features a diverse array of memorable, well-written, hook-filled songs. Gonzalez hopes to soon begin exploring his Latin heritage in his compositions.

Gonzalez's national attention and college popularity are further evidenced in the May 2004 issue of "Programming" magazine, where it was stated, "Rob Gonzalez was the number 1 singer-songwriter and solo act of all acts who showcased at the 2004 National Convention." His supreme skill as a stage performer cannot be undermined either. Other than gaining an enormous number of college fans and also their parents, Gonzalez's expertise was acknowledged in 2003 and 2004 by being awarded more National Association for Campus Activities Mainstage Showcases than any other solo act in the US.

"We will have a bigger production with a big grand piano in a bigger auditorium at night time," said the manager of Rob Gonzalez. "And of course we expect a more appealing atmosphere from you."

Whether Gonzalez is busy on recording his next album at the same time with his College Tour, according to his manager, "Enjoying himself is always what Rob wants the most."

# 'Apocalypse' Now

Jovovich returns for 'Resident Evil' sequel



Milla Jovovich stars as Alice in Resident Evil: Apocalypse.

SONY PICTURES

Review by Nick Hammond  
staff writer

The nightmare isn't over. Major Cain (Thomas Kretschmann) has ordered the Hive, a top-secret underground research laboratory made by the Umbrella Corporation, to be reopened. In doing so, all of Raccoon City has been contaminated by the deadly T-Virus. Now Alice (Milla Jovovich), Jill Valentine (Sienna Guillory), Carlos Oliveira (Oded Fehr), Nicholai Sokolov (Zack Ward), and other survivors must fight to survive and to escape the nightmare that plagues Raccoon City.

Director Alexander Witt picks up with "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" right where the 2002 hit, "Resident Evil" left off. Alice and the others are trapped in Raccoon City where the T-Virus has mutated nearly all of the population into zombies. Not only are there zombies to deal with, but dogs have also been mutated into undead canines. They also have to deal with Lickers, skinless monsters with prehensile tails and exposed brains. There is one final deadly threat: Matt Addison (Matthew G. Taylor) has fully mutated into a nearly unstoppable monster, code named Nemesis, who will not stop until everything around him is dead.

With incredible action sequences and great

special effects, "Resident Evil: Apocalypse" does not disappoint fans of the series. When I saw Nemesis for the first time, all I could think of what the first time I'd ever seen him in "Resident Evil 3: Nemesis".

I was also very happy with the job they did on the Lickers. Even though they looked almost exactly the same as they did in the first movie, I can always remember how terrified I was the first time I saw a Licker in one of the video games.

The make-up work in this movie was spectacular. When you see the very first zombie, you can feel your heart starting to beat a little faster, and the fear felt toward these undead monsters slowly growing. I was also in awe at how beautifully Raccoon City was brought to life.

The fact that I have been a big fan of the video game series, and that I loved the first movie, may make me a little biased. If you are unfamiliar with the video games and/or you have never seen "Resident Evil," I would definitely recommend you go and watch the movie first. If you enjoy it, then go see "Resident Evil: Apocalypse."

Overall, this movie is a must see for anyone who likes the series, or is a fan of action films. The money I used on buying a ticket to this movie was money very well spent. I give this movie a rating of 4 out of 5.

# International Film Series begins with 'Alone'

By Annie Sevin  
staff writer

The International Film Series begins Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m. in Reed 117. All films shown will have free admission.

The first showing of the semester is a Spanish film, "Alone" (1999). Professor Juan Fernandez-Bonassar chose "Alone" because the film received critical acclaim in Spain. The foreign language faculty of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences tried to get the rights to this film in prior years, but they were unable to obtain the rights until now. "Alone," or "Solas" as it is titled in Spanish, is about current social issues such as abuse in the home and rehabilitation.

The film was produced by the International Film Series and has been funded through grants from the Mary Behrend Cultural Fund, the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the School of Business. The funding for the film went to the payment to the rights holder, which is why the rights can cost

between \$300-450.

The reason for presenting foreign films on campus is to expose students to other, less familiar cultures through a common medium - film.

"The series provides an opportunity to see beyond being a normal citizen," said Fernandez. He also said that this series usually attracts a more sophisticated, higher educated audience.

The average attendance for the series is over 100 audience members ranging from students and faculty to citizens from the Erie community.

"These films are well attended year after year," said Fernandez.

Other members of the language faculty have also chosen films for the series. The next movie selection is a French film titled "The Taste of Others" (2001), which will be shown on Monday, Sept. 27. The third movie, slated for Oct. 11, is a Mexican film titled "Blowups from Mexico" (2000), which will be played on Oct. 18. All movies will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in Reed 117.