

ENTERTAINMENT

Word Of The Week:

incused - adj. - "hammered or stamped in, as in a figure on a coin."

Last week, I made a bet with my friend Jeff that he couldn't catch a piano dropped from five stories up. Now every day I walk past where his body is incused in the sidewalk.

Actor Heath Ledger dies, autopsy results inconclusive as to cause

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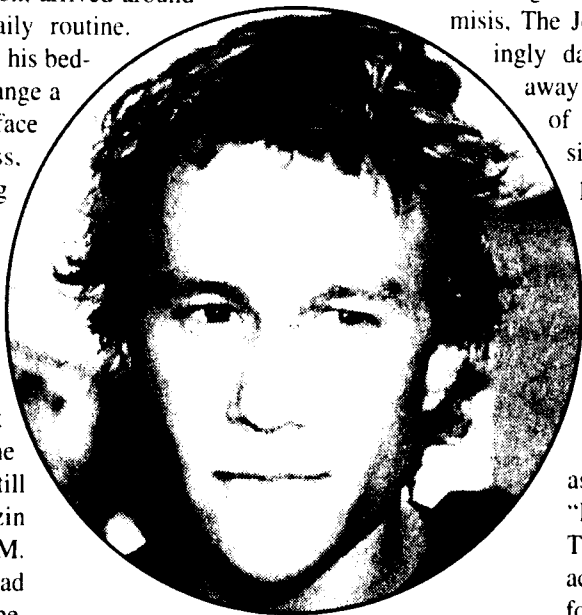
Police have yet to find the reason behind the death of 28-year old actor Heath Ledger this past Tuesday.

On Jan 22, Ledger was found dead in his fourth-floor apartment at 421 Broome Street in New York City. A police statement revealed that his housekeeper, Theresa Solomon, arrived around 12:30 PM for her daily routine.

When Solomon entered his bedroom at 1:00 PM to change a light bulb, Ledger was face down on his mattress, sleeping and snoring heavily. Apparently, when Ledger's masseuse Diana Wolozin arrived at 2:45 PM, Ledger was unresponsive to his cell phone when he did not exit his bedroom at the set meeting time. Still unresponsive, Wolozin called 9-1-1 at 3:26 PM. He was pronounced dead ten minutes later when he did not respond to defibrillation and CPR.

Police said that six types of prescription drugs were found in Ledger's apartment, including anti-anxiety medications and sleeping pills. Authorities have announced that preliminary autopsy results were inconclusive. According to police estimates, it could be approximately ten days after the actor's death until a cause of death can be found.

Near Ledger's bed, a twenty dollar bill was found rolled up, but tests confirmed the absence of any drug residue. Police have also mentioned that there were no illegal drugs found anywhere inside of his apartment. Antihistamines were found and it has



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Actor Heath Ledger, above, won many fans with superior acting jobs in several popular movies.

been confirmed that three of the drugs had been prescribed in London, as Ledger had been filming in Europe. The only statement confidently held by the police is that Ledger may have accidentally overdosed.

Ledger mainly starred on television series throughout the majority of the nineties. He began his acting career at the age of twenty in Hollywood. He will have his final, posthumous appearance in "The Dark Knight" as Batman's iconic arch-enemy, The Joker. The role is surprisingly dark and twisted, straying away from his common pattern of often heroic and compassionate roles. The film is in post-production stages and footage will remain unaffected by his death. Thus far, the only known affect his death may have may be on the viral marketing surrounding his character.

In 2005, Ledger starred as Ennis Del Mar in "Brokeback Mountain." The role earned him an academy award nomination for the best performance by an actor in a leading role.

Ledger has also starred in "The Patriot" (2000), "A Knight's Tale" (2001), and "The Brother's Grimm" (2005). His latest role was in "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," which was set to be released in 2009; however, production has halted in light of the actor's untimely death.

Those who have had the opportunity to work with Ledger have expressed their deepest condolences and regret about the actor's death. "He was just taking off and to lose his life at such a young age is a tragic loss. My thoughts and prayers are with him and his family," says actor Mel Gibson, who played Ledger's father in "The Patriot."

Nicholas Cage satisfies audiences again in National Treasure: Book of Secrets

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For the average college student returning home for winter break, a major dilemma could have presented itself at the movie theatre. With several fantastic movies ("Juno," "I Am Legend") releasing, this winter's viewing options gave an exciting menu for movie watchers to choose from.

However, after three weeks, one movie stayed at the number one spot: "National Treasure: Book of Secrets." In the sequel to the popular "National Treasure" movie released last year, this new flick features Benjamin Gates (Nicolas Cage) again searching the nation for treasure; this time, however, the Gates family seeks to reclaim the honor of their ancestors, and prove that Gates' great great grandfather was a true American.

In a harrowing trip around the nation, Gates explores many different places (Such as the Oval Office and Mount Rushmore) and even travels overseas in his search for the next clue.

"I liked the movie a lot," says Behrend freshman Leanne Stuyvesant, who watched it over break. "I even thought that it was pretty close to being as good as the first one."



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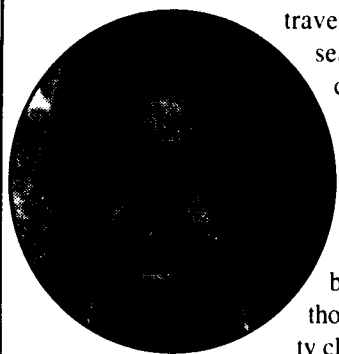
National Treasure: The Book of Secrets.

would say much of the same. The sequel has earned roughly \$314 million world-wide in sales, with its predecessor reaching heights just above it, at \$347 million.

During the winter days after its release, fans of "National Treasure" showed their support for the sequel. Even with Will Smith's "I am Legend" and teen drama "Juno" releasing around the same time, "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" sat in the number one spot in sales for three weeks straight.

Cage is one reason for the movie's success. "He did great in the movie," said Stuyvesant. "Probably as good as the first one." Fans of Cage may remember him from such other movies like "Matchstick Men," "Lord of War," and "Gone in Sixty Seconds." Cage, who was widely praised for his acting job in "National Treasure," delivered another stellar performance in its sequel. Justin Bartha, Diane Kruger, and Jon Voight all made repeat appearances as well. Actor Ed Harris ("Apollo 13," "A Beautiful Mind") also joined the crew to play a rival to the treasure hunting trio.

Rumors have been circulating as to whether another sequel will be released, but for those who saw the movie, it seems certain. During the latter half of the movie, various references are made to a page from a notebook that could very well set up Cage's next treasure hunt. Director Jerry Bruckheimer has been reported as saying that the Writers' Guild's strike has slowed the script production for a third movie. If a third movie was to be released, viewers like Stuyvesant would likely flock to theatres to see it. "I loved both movies," the Behrend freshman said, "and I would definitely go see a sequel."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Actor Nicholas Cage.

Upcoming releases:

Movies

Strange Wilderness

Two men (Steve Zahn, Allen Covert) travel to the Andes mountain in search of Bigfoot.

Rating: R



The Eye

-Feb. 1-

A woman (Jessica Alba) who receives an emergency eye operation begins to see into the supernatural world. Based off a Japanese thriller.

Rating: R



Music

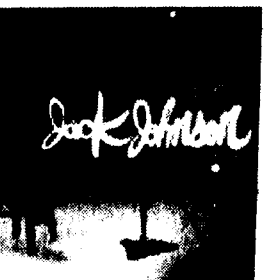
Chris Walla

-Jan. 29-
"Field Manual"



Jack Johnson

-Feb. 5-
"Sleep Through the Static"

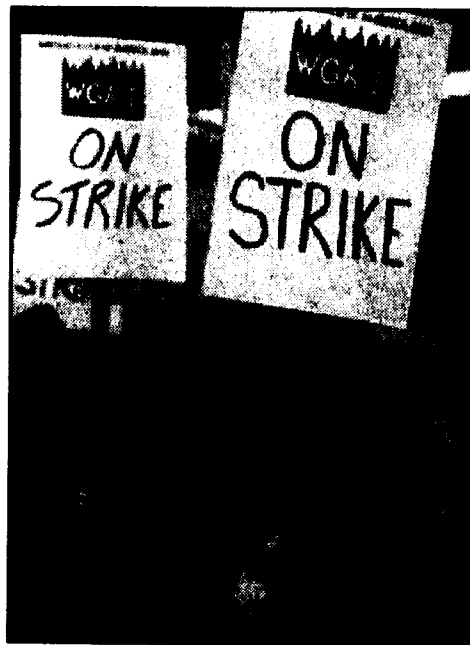


Writers' strike shows some signs of resolution

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In the tug-of-war case of the screenwriters' strike during the past couple of months, it appears that Hollywood directors may finally be reaching a tentative solution to the problems.

During the past few months the strike has reached desperate points several times. The Hollywood writers who walked away from negotiations last year used several tactics to further their side of the strike, including boycotts, legal complaints, and public pickets. Some writers, angry with their own side, decided to leave the union entirely, reports the New York Times. John Ridley became one of the first writers to break with the Writers' Guild and declared "financial core" status, which allows someone to pay union dues but not observe the Guild's rules. Many other writers, such as the two leading writers for "All My Children," started to take similar steps in resistance against their union's tactics.



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The WGA strike deals with writers' demands for residual payments for clips.

Perhaps in response to such turmoils within its ranks, the Directors Guild of America entered negotiations with studios this month. On Jan. 17, the union announced that Hollywood directors have reached a tentative agreement after five days of negotiations. Gil Cates, the chairman of the DGA's negotiations committee, called the deal "groundbreaking and substantial."

AP reports indicate that the deal will likely not only raise wages, but also residuals, for each year of the contract. The deal will also introduce payments to writers for streaming clips and online viewing. It will encourage writers to end the walk-out that has angered viewers all across the nation. However, the exact details of the contract have not yet been announced.

Behrend student Zach Ohl, a long-time fan of shows such as "The Colbert Report" and "The Daily Show," was disappointed when the strike hit. "I basically stopped watching over break," he said. "I guess I might start watching again when the writers' strike ends."

The Writers' Guild of America, however, has said that the directors do not represent their interests. Actors and writers will still need to come to a separate agreement. Though, Reuters reports that a deal between the Directors Guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers could cause the



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The strike reached a desperate point when the Writers' Guild boycotted an awards show.

screenwriters' 10-week strike to wane in the coming months, hopefully causing students like Ohl, and viewers everywhere, to return to their regular viewing.

For that to happen, though, the WGA would have to form their own separate deal. However, WGA's website reports that any contract breakthroughs that the Directors Guild achieves could help the writers form their own contract.

WGA Writer Patric Verrone is quoted on the website as saying, "We've been just as anxious as you to hear news from the Directors' Guild talks. We hope they make a good deal, and when they close their deal and it does become public, we'll look at it very, very carefully. The deal we make has more influence not only on writers but on actors down the road so there has to be a settlement that ends all of this for everyone."

Behrend students will no doubt be thankful to end the monotony of reruns and return to their favorite programs with the same vigor as before.

Music in a Digital Age

Top Ringtone Downloads

1. Soulja Boy Tell'em - "Crank That"
2. Henry Mancini - "Pink Panther"
3. Grupo Montez de Durango - "Adios Amor Te Vas"
4. DJ Khaled - "I'm So Hood"
5. Koji Kondo - "Super Marios Bros. Theme"
6. J. Holiday - "Bed"
7. 50 Cent feat. Olivia - "Candy Shop"
8. Plies feat. T-Pain - "Shawty"
9. Afroman - "Because I Got High"
10. Nickelback - "Rockstar"

Source: Billboard top 100

Top Digital Songs

1. Chris Brown - "With You"
2. Alicia Keys - "No One"
3. Chris Brown - "Kiss Kiss"
4. Alicia Keys - "Like You'll Never See Me Again"
5. Jaheim - "Never"
6. Taylor Swift - "Teardrops on My Guitar"
7. Britney Spears - "Piece of Me"
8. Baby Bash - "What Is It"
9. DJ Khaled - "I'm So Hood"
10. Paramore - "CrushCrushCrush"

Source: AOL Music