



7 Dead, 70 hospitalized in D.C.'s "Deadliest" Subway Collision

By Andrew Weaver

The worst accident reported in the capital's Metrorail transit system occurred Monday during the evening rush hour. Fortunately, neither train was as full as usual because both were headed into Washington D.C. instead of towards the suburbs. The subway that careened into the back of another train waiting to depart from the Fort Totten station was part of an out-dated and



ill-equipped fleet according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Because the Metrorail did not heed the safety warnings of the NTSB, action was not taken to equip the subway train with a recording device. Nor was action taken to better prepare the train in the event of a crash, even though that was the least of the recommendations provided by the NTSB.

Because a recording system had not been installed in the train that initiated contact, there is no certainty as to why or how the computer systems operating the subway went wrong. If this accident was the result of a computerized braking system, it would not be the first time such an incident occurred. However, these subways are also equipped with a conductor who can use an emergency brake in the event that something goes wrong. There is no evidence that the conductor, Jeanice McMillan, was distracted or oblivious in any way. In fact, one of Mrs. McMillan's neighbors, Joanne Harrison, said that "If she could have stopped the train, she would have done everything in her power."

Apparently, passengers on the train never felt an attempt being made to brake. Some even thought that this was a terrorist attacks similar to the train bombings in London. One of the clearest pieces of evidence in the support of Jeanice McMillan is the fact that the train never slowed down before impact. Mayo Marato, a passenger in McMillan's train, said that "We were going full speed — I didn't hear any braking. Everything was just going normally. Then there was a very loud impact. We all fell out of our seats. Then the train filled up with smoke. I was coughing."

As the wreckage is being cleared from the rails just northeast of Washington D.C., many are wondering whether these out-dated and poorly equipped railcars will be retired from service before something else can possible go wrong.

Senate Synopsis

By Esther Bolzman

As SSI picks up speed, the Senators are diving into their bills and getting ready for their Committee meetings. The Liberty caucuses are working on lowering the mandatory kindergarten age (Blue) and making it legal for unmarried couples to adopt (Red). Justice caucuses are working on increasing the compulsory attendance age (Blue) and prohibiting pharmaceutical consensus objections (Red). All four groups feel comfortable with their bills and are working on amendments. It will be interesting to see what happens throughout the week.

The rivalry between caucuses is quite interesting. In the Liberty committee, there are friends on both sides of the bills. Senator Kearny described the rivalry as "friendly violence." On the other side, it was said that they just aren't talking to each other very much. Everyone seems to have taken a vow of silence, but more information will come out in the committee meetings this afternoon.

Correction

In the article "Gary Britten," it should have read "Gary is a teacher at Spring Arbor University" instead of "Gary is a teacher at Parma University."

Debate on HB 5133

By Esther Bolzman

Every year more than 40,000 people are killed in traffic accidents, and statistics show that over 14 percent of all collisions involve drivers under the age of 18. These young adults do not have a lot of experience driving, and distractions, even a minor one, could have widespread consequences. One major distraction for teens is talking



on a cell phone. They have been banned from the main building at SSI because of their disrupting tendencies. When inexperienced drivers are talking on a cell phone while operating their vehicle, they can be a hazard to people around them. The Michigan House of Representatives has looked into this problem and proposed HB 5133 that will now allow individuals under the age of 18 to use their cell phone while driving except in the case of an emergency. Their plan is to make Michigan a safer place to drive.

Would this bill accomplish their goal?

Is a driver of 17 years, and 364 days any less of an experienced driver than one of exactly 18 years? Opponents question why this specific age group was targeted, when others are ignored. Not everyone gets their driver's license when they turn 16. It is not uncommon for individuals to wait until they are 18, 20, or even older before they learn to drive, and get their license. Should these drivers have the legal ability to use a cell phone while driving any more than a 17 year old driver who got his license when he was 16? The age does not cause the accident; it's the level of experience and amount of distractions caused by the phone conversation. Opposition asks that while the state is banning phone conversations for this specific age group, why not ban conversation in general? It is very possible that the conversation that a teen driver has with friends in the car is more

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Press Conference Locations

By Marco Micheletta

To those who missed Mr. Muffet's announcement, you may be interested in knowing the locations of the press conferences occurring on-campus.

Jefferson Blue will meet in the cafeteria

Madison Blue will meet in the student mall

Washington will meet at the main entrance

Lincoln Blue will meet in the chapel

All members of the caucus will be required to attend (Red and Blue).

If you have any questions or comments, please ask a staffer or Aid-de-Camp

Attention All Talented Persons:

If you think you have a talent and would like to try and make it into our annual Student Petitioned Talent Show, please be at the back of the chapel Thursday, 1 p.m. during free time, where you will be given a number. Please be ready when your number is called. Just because you auditioned does not mean you will get into the show. Auditions will end at 1:45 p.m. The Student Petitioned Talent Show will be held in the chapel Thursday at 8:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation. Rachel Malick, Head ADC

Business Track Progress Report

By Stephanie Chueh

Monday marked the end of the practice rounds. Since Tuesday, the six companies in the regular business track have been competing for real. The following table summarizes how the companies were doing at the end of the second round. Keep in mind there are eight rounds total, so lots of changes can – and probably will – occur. Take a look, and start thinking about which company you would like to invest in this Thursday.

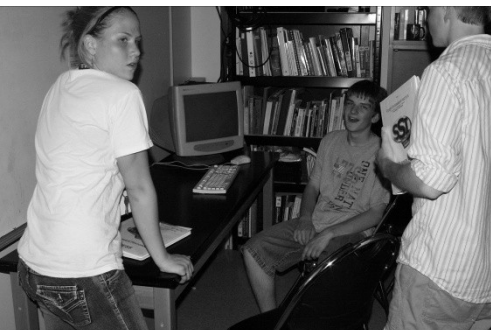
Current Standings	Andrews	Baldwin	Chester	Digby	Erie	Ferris
Cumulative Profits	-\$3,235,207	\$644,830	\$5,370,267	\$2,369,877	\$2,944,302	\$3,388,120
Profits after Round Two	-\$870,385	-\$4,594,645	-\$15,399	-\$2,565,949	-\$876,881	-\$226,546
Market Share	19%	15%	13%	14%	19%	20%
Return on Equity	-7.1%	-25.3%	-0.1%	-16.7%	-6.0%	-0.9%
Stock Price	\$1.00	\$3.48	\$10.32	\$3.48	\$3.46	\$9.04

Spotlight on Erie

By Stephanie Chueh

The business track practice rounds are over and the real game has begun.

The people at Erie Corporation have learned a lot from the practice rounds and are excited to continue. In the words of Heidi Ryan, the practice rounds were “enlightening” and now “the course is clear...It’s interesting, and I’ve been learning a lot.”



Although the program is, according to Luke Hickman, “cool,” it is not without its difficulties. Erie Corporation pointed out that some of their

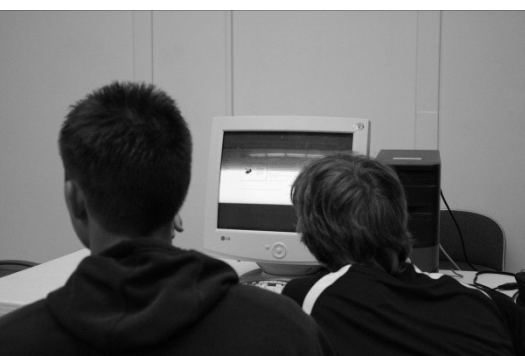
competitors are being unnecessarily aggressive and are making degrading comments about the other companies. Erie Corp., on the other hand, claims it is trying to please and serve the investors and is not going to insult its competitors. Heidi Ryan explains another complexity, “It is difficult to connect all the numbers [in the simulation] and find out how each section connects with the other. It’s kind of like a puzzle. If you don’t have all the pieces, it won’t work.”

Erie Corporation, however, is undaunted. Jo Rowe declared, “We have a trustworthy product. It won’t fail.” The company wants its potential investors to know, “We definitely think it will be a smart investment because we are quite confident in all our markets, and you will make money if you invest in us. Our methods are professional and trustworthy. You can trust us to use your money in the best way.”

Digby Confident of Success

By Marco Micheletta

Yesterday was the first real round of investment and the CEO’s of the business track are starting to be familiar with the way it works. There



is still much to learn and, according to Andrew Keperski, “Everyone is still figuring things out and the learning curve is a lot steeper. The practice round was helpful, we’re pretty confident [in our success].”

Andrew K. and all the other CEO’s at Digby seem prepared for all that lies ahead. They said that the business track has “more information to process than at the legislature track, and we’re still figuring out the program and cause and effect.”

Digby’s staff agrees that their favorite part is “the performance sheet at the end of the day.” When asked about the other companies Andrew confidently dismissed them saying, “We’ll find out [about

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The Special Sports of SSI

By Caedy Convis

The Annual SSI Sports Challenge played yesterday—Volleyball, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, the Marble Relay, and the Bat Game—



produced mixed reactions among the students. Most of the students approached the activities with a positive attitude, being “glad to be able to go outside and do something.”

Spirits were raised and shirts were dampened when several of the students carried on the

tradition of how to dispose of the buckets of water used for the Bat Game: by dumping it on innocent victims. They even went so far as to refill the bucket from a hose spigot and ambush an innocent girl who was bringing them water.



None of the games came out as a top favorite among the students, but there was one which was definitely the least favorite: The infamous Bat Game. Not all teams played the game, but

those that did went away dizzy, wet and confused. Student Carrie Bell stated, “I liked everything but the bat game. It made me sick.” Most students agree that the idea of the Bat Game is rather ridiculous.

“[The Bat Game] is only included in the activities so that the ADCs can laugh at the students. It’s not even a real sport,” said one student.

The Volleyball games were, on the whole, a success, although several times those standing on the sidelines had to dodge when the



volleyball flew dangerously close to them. Mr. Muffet made accusations that the rebel balls were intentionally miss-aimed with intent toward harming his benevolent dictator self.

“[The Sports Challenge] was extraordinary,” said Ryan Borowski, and while not all of the students may have had as high of an opinion as he did, the majority enjoyed the chance to display their talent in sports (or lack thereof). Highlights from the Sports Challenge will be included in tonight’s broadcast of the SSI Special Report.

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distracting that whatever conversation he might have had on the phone.

Another problem would be enforcement, how are police supposed to enforce this, and how much will it cost to do so? Sponsors of the bill have looked into this problem and proposed a \$50 fine for violations. There are many arguments both in support and opposition to this bill and careful research needs to be done before an executive decision can be made.

The Sound of Music

By Jacob Charles

This week at SSI students passing by the chapel may have heard the sound of music. In fact, on Sunday night, instead of singing for his lost cell phone, Jeff

Christensen played a song on the piano. Since then music has drifted from the chapel during free times. The playing has originated from many different students, such as Tim Lowrance and Damion Stevenson (Representatives). When asked, Tim said that he “absolutely loves to play the piano” and has been doing so for 5 years.



According to Damion, “the reason I love piano music is

because it’s soothing, and it flows [well].” I’m sure many of the students and staff alike are looking forward to hearing more from these talented musicians.

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the competition] after the first round.” His co-administrator, Ashley Clifton, was sure what direction their company is headed: “We have a good idea where we want to go.”

The Digby people certainly seem optimistic on their company’s intended course, although no details were given to the press at this time. The motto of Digby is: “Tech, we dig it.” They are a company that caters toward the latest, greatest, most expensive sensors on the market. “Digby is a company that lean[s] towards high-tech, quality products. We have something for everyone, that’s our goal.” They seem to feel upbeat as to their triumph, and went so far as to note “we rock.” We will see whether these hopes for success will be fulfilled this week.

The Media is “Evil”?

By Marco Micheletta

This simple sentence from Mr. Muffet has made approaching Representatives difficult for many in the Media, as well as making the public unaware of present Legislation in the House of Representatives.

The SSI Observer got an exclusive interview with Mr. Muffet, and he admitted that “I may have overemphasized [the dangers of] the Media.” The Media has a job to do, and the Legislators have a job to do. The Media cannot do their job without the cooperation of the Legislators. The Legislators cannot do their job without the help of the Media. As Mr. Muffet said; “it’s a love-hate relationship...more love less hate.”

Some people are taking this unfortunate happening harder than others. The Publisher of the SSI Observer, Josiah Blocki, said; “it’s a disappointing when you have a newspaper that is supposed to be exciting and informative for the rest of SSI, and everyone becomes prejudiced against it before reading it. Pick up a newspaper every morning, read it, and send letters to the editor.” (Letters to the editor can be sent to the Observer at: observerssi@gmail.com or give a carbon copy of your editorial to a media person.) “Media’s role is to provide accurate information and quality entertainment to the SSI world. It is not to be critical without reason.”

The Media isn’t out to get you and frame you poorly, but rather to get a factual and entertaining story that is as fair and balanced as possible. How will people know anything about your bill if you won’t talk to the media? How will the media get a balanced cross section of the SSI body of members if they won’t talk to them?

We’re all in this together, and we need to unite to succeed. The Media can boost your position immensely, if you let it. If you’re not talking to us and the other caucus is, they will almost always get a better light (we have nothing to compare to what they say). If you take advantage

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Interview with Larry Carter

By Marco Micheletta

SSI is privileged to use the GLCC campus every summer. The president of Great Lakes Christian College, Larry Carter, spoke to the SSI alumni this Tuesday about the importance of living for Christ.



He has been a pastor for three different churches. The First church Larry was pastor of was in a rural area. The country life was quite a transition for the city born Larry Carter. “I met a lot of nice people. They had very simple faith.” After a few years he moved to Ohio and was pastor of a church in a small town.

“Everyone knew everyone. I had a very positive experience in that town.” He then changed

over to a church in the city of Kentwood, where he helped establish young Christian families.

In his younger years Larry sold Coca Cola at a state fair and got to talk to the Beach Boys behind stage. He gave them each a bottle of Cola and talked to them. His favorite was the drummer, Dennis Wilson.

“I admire Mr. Muffet and Mr. Visscher and all that SSI can do for this country” was how the interview was wrapped up.

Magic

By Jacob Charles

Last night in the Chapel Ricky Konjarevich performed a magic show,



keeping with his tradition of the past several years. Mixing magic tricks with commentary, jokes, and personality, Ricky’s shows are enjoyable to watch. Ricky has been doing magic shows for four years, since 2005. He started magic when one of his friends showed him some card tricks and he decided that “[I] wanted to fool him, so I bought a book of magic tricks. But it didn’t work, until three months ago.” Ricky does his shows for fun and says “I like to pick on the

audience, I do.” Ominously, his closing comment was “pay attention to what I’m wearing tomorrow.”

Misquotes

“It was completely unnecessary and absolutely necessary at the same time.” - Michael Robbe

“Be afraid of the milk.” - Lauren Swisher, kitchen staff

“I’m oblivious to life.”-Monica Steinhauser

“Don’t mess with my A.D.D.— I’m not A.D.D. all of the time, only when I get distracted.” - Courtney Escimalia

“If you give me your quotes, I might eat them.” - Michael Robbe

Erin Spix: “Zyrek, we love you.”-

Zyrek Castelino: “What’s your problem?”

“The enthusiasm of SSI grows and is passed on by its veterans through a conveyor belt of joy.” - Michael Robbe

(In reference to Taylor Swift) “Those eyes would be BIG ON A COW!!” - Dustin Rowland

“Just ask your question and I’ll decide who it goes to.”- Zyrek Castelino

“Only old men have parts [in their hair] like Mr. Muffett.” - Alex Rosema

Rose Jagt: “Being a team captain for the sports challenge is amazing. You yell at people and they listen to you.”

Josh Steinhauser

: “That’s what being an ADC is like, except all the time.”

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of the Media before the other wary caucus does, you will have a major leap forward. The Media is a double edged sword, so be careful what you say, but don't be afraid to say something you think needs to be heard. The media is here for you, and we ask only to be given a

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"I know the alphabet." - Chelsea Convis

"Right when the kids are born, we should send them straight to the government." - Tiffany Rowland

"You have an unusual face." - Jennie Visscher

"I don't smoke meat. Not even recreationally." - Michael Robbe

"I'm not the weird-looking Indian kid... I AM the weird looking Indian kid." - Zyrek Castelino

"Lake Michigan – it's a 'cauldering' pit of death." - Dustin Rowland

Aaron Grimmer: "What are you thinking?"

Zyrek Castelino: "I'm NOT thinking."

Josiah Blocki: "It doesn't matter to you that you could have been electrocuted?"

Erin Spix: "I have nothing better to do."

"I can make racist comments." - Zyrek Castelino

Fact or Fiction: Dogs Can Talk

Are human speech-like vocalizations made by some mammals equivalent to conversation—or just a rough estimation of it?

This article originally appeared in Scientific American

By [Tina Adler](#) 6/10/09

Maya, a noisy, seven-year-old pooch, looks straight at me. And with just a little prompting from her owner says, "I love you." Actually, she says "Ahh rooo uuu!"



Maya is working hard to produce what sounds like real speech. "She makes these sounds that really, really sound like words to everyone who hears her, but I think you have to believe," says her owner, Judy Brookes.

You've probably seen this sort of scene on *YouTube* and David Letterman. These dog owners may be onto something: Psychologist and dog expert Stanley Coren of the University

of British Columbia tells the story of a colleague who always greeted her dog, Brandy, with a cheerful, two-syllable "Hel-lo!" It wasn't long until Brandy returned the greeting, which sounded very much like her owner's salutation, says Coren, author of *How to Speak Dog: Mastering the Art of Dog-Human Communication*.

But do dogs really talk? Back in 1912 Harry Miles Johnson of Johns Hopkins University said, emphatically, "no." In a paper in *Science*, he generally agreed with the findings of Oskar Pfungst of the Institute of Psychology at the University of Berlin who studied a dog famous for its large vocabulary. The dog's speech is "the production of vocal sounds which produce illusion in the hearer," Johnson wrote.

He went on to warn that we should not be surprised if "scientists of a certain class... proclaim that they have completely demonstrated the presence in lower animals of 'intelligent imitation'."

Nothing in the last century has really changed that scientific opinion. (No one has ever questioned whether dogs communicate with each other, but calling it "talking" is something else.) So what are Maya and her cousins doing? It's more appropriate to call it imitating than talking, says Gary Lucas, a visiting scholar in psychology at Indiana University Bloomington. Dogs vocalize with each other to convey emotions—and they express their emotions by varying their tones, he says. So it pays for dogs to be sensitive to different tones. Dogs are able to imitate humans as well as they do because they pick up on the differences in our tonal patterns.

Lucas likens this behavior to that of bonobos, primates that can imitate some tonal patterns, including vowel sounds, pitch changes, and rhythms, studies show. "The vocal skills of some of the dogs and cats on *YouTube* suggest that they might also have some selective tonal imitation skills," he says.

What's happening between dog and owner-turned-voice-coach is fairly straightforward, Coren says: Owner hears the dog making a

sound that resembles a phrase, says the phrase back to the dog, who then repeats the sound and is rewarded with a treat. Eventually the dog learns a modified version of her original sound. As Lucas puts it, "dogs have limited vocal imitation skills, so these sounds usually need to be shaped by selective attention and social reward."

In the Letterman video "a pug says, 'I love you' and it's very cute, but the pug has *no* idea what it means," Coren says. "If dogs could talk, they would tell you, 'I'm just in it for the cookies.'"

Scientists have made some progress in their study of this important subject: They've learned why dogs, and other animals, have rather poor pronunciation and, for example, completely botch consonants. They "don't use their tongues and lips very well, and that makes it difficult for them to match many of the sounds that their human partners make," Lucas says. "Try saying 'puppy' without using your lips and tongue."

Despite what they may lack in the elocution department, dogs *do* communicate their feelings to humans as well as read our cues, thanks to domestication, Julia Riedel and colleagues of the Max Planck Institute (M.P.I.) for Evolutionary Anthropology reported in March 2008 in *Animal Behavior*. Dogs follow people's pointing, body posture, the direction of their gaze, and touches for cues to find hidden food, notes Mariana Bentosela and colleagues at the University of Buenos Aires in the July 2008 *Behavioural Processes*. They also gaze at their trainer when they need more information to find their reward.

Some dogs learn to understand an impressive number of words, as well. A gifted border collie, Rico, mastered the names of more than 200 objects using a technique called fast-tracking that small children also employ, Juliane Kaminski, also of M.P.I. Evolutionary Anthropology and colleagues reported in 2004 in *Science*. The researchers introduced a novel item into Rico's mix of toys then asked him to retrieve it. He did so by associating the unfamiliar name with the unfamiliar object. He even remembered the name of the toy a month later.

"That's the kind of fast-tracking or exclusionary learning, which we used to think only human beings and the talking apes—the ones

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words....

