

There's a code in my node

Tis the season. No, not the holiday season. 'Tis the flu, cold, and annoying maladies season. You know what I'm talkin' about. Kids get it in school, pass it around to their friends, then take it home and give it to their families who share it with their neighbors, and eventually it gets around to you when it is least expected. You just wake up one morning paralyzed, unable to draw a breath or exhale without making disgusting wheezing and gurgling sounds. You swear a two-ton pachyderm has set up residency on your chest, and it has bad breath. Your teeth feel mushy and your tongue has a crunchy texture that doesn't seem quite right.

Hmmm... it... Exactly what is it? You know, the it that makes us so miserable when we suddenly feel feverish, sore, head-achy, congested and out of sorts. What makes us know we have a code in our node? Yeah — that's right. I dot a code in my node, and I feel worse than horrible. Denial is out of the question. I am sick.

It's time to consult the Googlamaniacs and get a few nanoseconds of research on the subject. The straight poop on the common cold is long overdue. Okay. Everybody tense up. Here it is folks . . . the common cold — the truth revealed.

Huh? Rhinoviruses? That's it? We spare no expense to have you Googlamaniacs on staff and the best you can do is rhinoviruses? Say it isn't so. Must be somethin' to it though. They all came up with the same thing.

Let's see, we can do this. I believe "rhin" is a Greek word that means nose, and we all know that a virus is a nucleic acid molecule in a protein coat.



You can't beat a system you can't understand

By Sam Bari

It is too small to be seen by light microscopy and can multiply only within the living cells of a host. In simpler terms, it's a germ. All right — so I looked it up.

Anyway, if we put them together, we have a nose germ. Makes sense, even through fever induced delirium. I obviously have germs in my nose. However, the "o" puts a different spin on the matter. "Rhino" is a short form of "rhinoceros." Huh? "Rhinoceros!" This is not good. I believe the common cold is caused by a rhinoceros the size of a microscopic germ. Well, no wonder I'm sick. I'm surprised we're not all sick. Anybody with what we have long recognized as a common cold is infested with a herd of possibly thousands of actual mini-rhinoceroses running around inside their respiratory systems. These armor plated mini-monsters are probably doing just obscene things in there. The Center for Disease Control should be called immediately. This could get ugly.

Time to consult the Googlamaniacs again. Okay guys. Cure for the common cold — look it up. The crack research team worked intensely for a tenth of a second and came up with 9,600,000 Web sites addressing the cure for a common cold.

I am sad to say that not one

site offered a cure. Apparently, a medicinal cure for the common cold does not exist. It's a virus and it must run its course. So-called patent medicines on the market only offer relief. Everything else is preventative. A Chinese herbalist offered a 24-herb cure that takes seven days to work if a cold is severe. Unfortunately, the side effects could make you sicker than the cold that will go away in seven days anyway. If I want to get through this, I must "stay the course." Hmmm . . . where have I heard that before? Sounds like a tired political strategy that probably won't succeed.

One of the Web sites highly recommended garlic as a deterrent. I'm sure that'll work. If I were a microscopic rhinoceros I wouldn't want to live in anybody's throat that had garlic breath either. If I eat the fresh garlic now, it will probably annoy them, and they'll do their worst just to make me stop. I don't know about these cold pills, though. How can they be effective? Should I try to hit a mini-rhino on the head with one on the way down so it knocks him out and makes me feel a little better until he wakes up? Too bad I can't just shoot him.

This is awful. Every time I blow my nose, moose gather in my front yard. Yesterday, one showed up at my door carrying flowers. Whenever I sneeze, the china in the cabinet rattles. Thoughts of expiring are in the top 10 on my list of desirable options. I was hoping the fever-induced hallucinations would be more interesting, but no such luck. I suppose the common cold is just another part of that system we can't understand.



This week in Island history

Continued from page 6.

increase is six percent higher than had been anticipated last month. . . The increase will be \$567 per student. The present tuition per student is \$1,814. The new rate will be \$2,381. With about 200 students at the school, the total increase amounts to \$113,400.

15 years ago
From the Jamestown Press,
November 15, 1991:

It is happening again. The Jamestown Community Theatre is living up to its name. In the group's production of "Fiddler on the Roof," which opens tonight at the Recreation Center, director Mary Wright has brought together diverse members of the community to work toward a common goal of putting on four great performances of the classic Broadway musical.

Jamestown has officially declared that it would like to remain in the Newport County legislative district, as it is now.

Town officials during a 30-minute work session Monday night got a preview of the state Department of Transportation's (DOT) plans to reconstruct North Road from Eldred Avenue to East

Shore Road. . . The DOT hopes to start the reconstruction project in 1993 and be finished the following year.

10 years ago
From the Jamestown Press,
November 14, 1996:

Voters at the special financial town meeting early next month will be asked to spend \$114,843 from the town's budget on two separate proposals. One warrant will ask voters to approve spending \$76,000 to purchase two parcels of currently-leased land, roughly two acres, that now make up the town-owned golf course's fourth and seventh tees and part of the sixth green. . . In a second warrant item, voters at the Dec. 2 town meeting will be asked to approve giving the Friends of the Seniors \$38,843 to spend on the installation of an elevator, the replacement of a staircase, and the construction of a fire-safe entranceway at the Senior Center on West Street.

Veterans Day was observed Monday at 11 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Square with a brief ceremony to honor the men and women who have served in America's wars and conflicts.

Ob-Gyn to discuss female urinary incontinence

South County Hospital will host a free lecture presented by Dr. Steven Schneider, board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, on treatment options for female urinary incontinence. The lecture will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kingstown Free Library.

Schneider's presentation will include a discussion of causes and new treatment options, including minimally invasive surgical treatments. A question and answer period will follow the lecture.

The program is free, but reservations are requested. Call 788-1621 or 294-3306.



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