

# Smashing Pumpkins



## Students compete to design the best squash-flinging machine

Rochester undergraduates and local high school students gathered on the Wilson Commons Lawn on Halloween afternoon for the seventh annual Jack-O-Launcher Competition.

Sponsored by the University chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the event is described as the perfect excuse to build a trebuchet, ballista, catapult, or air cannon and send pumpkins sailing hundreds of feet through the air.

The result is pulpy, seedy carnage—pumpkin carcasses strewn about to the delight of observers.

With points awarded for distance, accuracy, team spirit, hang time, “coolest looking” launcher, and best mechanical design, overall first place went to Team “Last Night,” composed of members from the University’s Mini Baja racecar team. A team from Livonia High School took third place, recording the longest hang-time.

