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INSIDE



Baruch Honors Student Soldiers From Operation Enduring Freedom

2



Toastmasters Helps Students Foster Public Speaking Skills

5

Student Gives His Reasons For Not Considering Staten Island A Borough

7



Seann William Scott and The Rock Star in The Rundown

9

Features	5
Editorial	6
Op-Ed	7
Calendar	7
Arts	9
Sports	BACK

Next Issue: October 20, 2003

Organizations Vie For Student Attention During Club Fair

By JENNIE GETZLER and JANA SCHIOWITZ

On October 9, clubs at Baruch College introduced themselves in hopes of recruiting new members. Students gathered in the the multi-purpose room, the lobbies of the first and second floors as well as the food court, to speak with club members and to just have fun.

The school-wide event took place during club hours and 64 clubs participated, including the Accounting Society, Helpline and Peers for Careers.

The Prelaw Society, which offered free LSAT information, attracted students looking to go to law school.

"The club fair was a good opportunity to recruit members that are interested in law, but didn't know where to find us," said Irina Gaister, a junior and member of the Prelaw Society. "Also, this a good way of telling them about upcoming events."

While students explored the club tables, Baruch's radio station, WBMB played music. Students were treated to an assortment of food



Students walk past the Prelaw Society booth at Club Fair. (Photo/Aaron Siegel)

and beverages, including chips, soda and candy provided by the clubs.

The Photography Club used the event as an opportunity to present their agenda.

See, STUDENTS Page 3

Leo Hindery Inaugurates Russell Banks CEO Lecture Series at Baruch

By AARON SIEGEL

Leo Hindery, CEO of the Yankees Entertainment and Sports (YES) Network kicked off the new Russell Banks CEO Leadership Lecture series at Baruch College. The lecture took place at the 14th floor conference center in the Vertical Campus.

Hindery, has previously worked at AT&T, TCI and Global Crossing and also has a lengthy background in the telecommunications industry. He also recently authored a new book, *The Media Industry, Operations and Challenges*.

His speech focused on the cable television industry and the underlying issues that surround it. He pointed to the cable industry's budget that consisted 30 percent of quality costs. The rate increases seven to eight percent per year.

"The cable industry reached its heyday between 1998 and 1999. Many consolidations have led to an atmosphere of partnerships," he said. "It led to year to year growth as year to year profits grew."

Hindery's latest venture, the YES network, was established in September 2001 and began its broadcast on opening day of the 2002 base-

ball season.

YES was immediately embroiled in a scandal after 37 national cable providers had authorized for the channel to be broadcasted. The only provider that refused to sign on was New York City based Cablevision.

Cablevision's MSG network previously had the right to broadcast Yankees games. "Several RSN's [Regional Sports Networks] demanded that they take it out," he said.

Hindery also insisted on structural change within the industry as he said, "It is [the cable industry] that is supposed to be about fostering new channels and not discrimination."

The YES network settled with Cablevision for arbitration of market value in order to have the 2003 season broadcasted. Cablevision promised that they would also promote YES on a level equivalent to Fox Sports New York and the MSG Sports Network.

"This outcome led to a 60 million dollar loss for YES," he said. "This is not what competition is supposed to be."

Hindery also mentioned that five companies

See YES, Page 3



Leo Hindery sits with Josh Mills, Director of Baruch's Master's in Journalism Program. (Photo/Aaron Siegel)

Peter F. Vallone Speaks About City Politics

By ROSA CABALLERO

Peter F. Vallone, former speaker of the New York City Council from 1986 to 2001, inaugurated a new lecture series on Government and Politics in the city at Baruch College. Hosted by the School of Public Affairs, the event took place October 8 in the Newman Conference Center on the seventh floor of the 151 E. 25th Street building. The former mayoral candidate spoke against term limits and the importance of getting people interested in their government.

"The problem really is that most of the American population doesn't know too much about the government," said Vallone, explaining why he is doing this lecture series. "[People] don't know about representatives and how it all works."

Vallone served as Speaker and Majority Leader of the New York City Council from 1986 to 2001. He represented the 22nd District in Astoria, Queens from 1974 to 2001 and is responsible for the Peter F. Vallone CUNY scholarship, which provides students with financial assistance with their tuition if they graduated from their high school with a B average or better.

Vallone began by describing to the audience the different offices within the city government: the mayor, the president of the City Council, the comptroller, the treasurer, the five borough presidents and the City Council members. He explained the changes that have come about since he started as a City Council member for the 22nd District in Queens.

"When I came along in 1974, I had no power," as a City Council member, he explained. Today when the mayor proposes a budget the City Council can amend it. The City Council cannot increase the budget but the members are allowed to reallocate funds if they see the need for it. The mayor does not have the power to make all of the decisions.

"You financially have a balanced government based upon certain principles," he said.

However, in order for the City Council to have the experience necessary to negotiate with the mayor on certain budget issues or any other changes, Vallone believes that the City Council members need years of experience. This is why he does not approve of term limits.

"When you are elected a City Council member [for the first time] you have no office, no staff, you only meet when the charter requires you," he said. "What power does a person have when they are elected for the first time?"

It takes time for new council members to settle into their jobs and it does not help that the council can only start doing their jobs once they elect a speaker.

"While this is going on the mayor is making promises," said Vallone.

According to Vallone, when the mayor takes office he already has civil servants ready to work. He has the fifth largest standing army, the New York Police Department, and the second largest law firm working with his office. Vallone believes that a person who is just getting accustomed to their new jobs will need the guidance of older council members. If all of the senior council members leave at the same time, there will be no one with the experience to argue with some of the decisions the mayor makes.

"The strength of the legislative body today is when the majority can tell the mayor 'no,'" stressed Vallone.

See, FORMER Page 2

City Council Speaker Gifford Miller Speaks at Women's Policy Breakfast

By KATHERINE SALL

Baruch College welcomed women and men from various organizations of the public sector to its campus last Tuesday, October 7, for a Women's Policy Breakfast in the 14 floor Conference Center.

Urgent on the agenda were pressing issues concerning women in New York. Baruch College president, Ned Regan, spoke about the college's interest in promoting awareness of public policy, especially to its students.

New York City Council members Tracy Boyland and Eva Moskowitz each gave opening remarks encouraging the participatory sentiments of those in attendance. This message reappeared throughout the event, as listeners were reminded that their voices count in legislative decision-making.

Judith Rubin, of the New York State Board of Regents introduced the keynote speaker after thoroughly discussing some of her personal concerns in the system. Of utmost importance for Rubin was the issue of a Universal Pre-K in early childhood education. According to Rubin, children in New York City are not taking advantage of programs available to them due to a general lack of public awareness.

Rubin also addressed the need of the council to find new ways to promote interests in these programs as well as stressing the developmental importance for young children to attend nursery school.

New York City Council speaker Gifford Miller delivered the keynote address, opening his speech by acknowledging the impact of women's policies on the lives of New Yorkers.

Topping his list of concerns was childcare. Miller, a father of two children, both under the age of three, spoke about the pressing need for parents to be a part of the economical success of their families. With 2.4 million dollars recently restored to the budget, Miller envisions 3000 new, open slots for childcare.

"The dollars are there but we're not doing a good job of getting people to know about the programs," said Miller, in regard to the availability of childcare services provided by the government.

Miller also centered on finding methods to inform the public about various city programs offered to working parents. His recognition of a growing modern poverty highlighted his concerns at best.

Other areas Miller touched upon were education, housing, domestic violence and emer-

gency contraceptives. Miller mentioned that in early November the Department of Education is required to put out its five year capital plan. Miller, who found this agenda ridiculous cited that it should be done each year considering that condition that of many New York City schools are in. He stressed that the needs in education are only going to get greater if the commitments to improve are not made.

"Do we want every child to have a great computer or art room? Do we want the roofs to leak? Are we willing to solve this problem?" asked Miller, seeking support from those assembled.

The area of women's health emergency contraceptive was high on Miller's agenda. Miller poignantly informed listeners of how more than half of the pharmacies researched did not have an emergency contraceptive available.

With the slogan "silence is the enemy" Miller attacked the system: "...chipping away at women's rights...making it so uncomfortable for them to exercise their rights, so they give in."

His interests in this issue could be further learned about in an informative brochure which was offered to all those in attendance.

Closing with his personal thoughts on the budget and how it could be best used, Miller asked for the active support of the public.

"The city is shackled over the budget process. We are in manacles, we are in chains. We are going up fast and there is a current that is waiting to wash us downstream."

Women from the Women's City Club, the New York Junior League, and the Board of Education, amongst other constituents, raised questions at the end regarding sex education in schools, and the need to support women's rights despite the cry of pro and anti-abortionists, amongst other issues. Overall, the Women's Policy Breakfast constituted the best in current affairs.

As a forum specifically geared towards policies important to women, those in attendance were captivated to see the effect women play in the general welfare of New York City's citizens and political institutions.

The audience consisted mainly of individuals representing the public sector of political institutes, with women making up the majority of those present.

Baruch Honors Students Who Fought in Iraq War

By RICHARD DE LA CRUZ

Sigma Alpha Delta, the CIS Society and the Golden Key Honour Society co-sponsored an event titled, "Welcome Back Our Troops Who Fought In Iraq." Twenty Marines, seven of them Baruch students, were honored at the Vertical Campus's 14th floor conference center on October 3, after recently returning from Iraq during Operation Enduring Freedom.

The conference started with an Honors Guard March by the Marines. The seven Baruch Marines honored represented the 6th Communications Battalion of Brooklyn and Weapons Company 2/24 of Garden City, Long Island. Lance Corporal Raphael Izon, Lance Corporal Martin Drozniak, Lance Corporal Roman Mendoza, Lance Corporal Simon Zhu, Corporal Alan Curet, and Corporal Rudy Cazares, and a last minute invitee Sergeant Carbajal, who applied to the graduate program in Baruch's School of Public Affairs were all in attendance at the event.

Their duties in Iraq ranged from being a "Mortar Man," in the case of Corporal Cazares as part of a Nuclear Biological Chemical Decon team in the case of Lance Corporal Raphael Ison.

"When my friends ask me why I fight, I reply, 'I fight for so that you don't have to fight,'" said Corporal Casey Reefer.

Dr. John Elliot, Dean of the Zicklin School of Business, and Dean of Students Dr. Ronald Aaron attended. Aaron received an American flag flown in Iraq from Lance Corporal Raphael Izon as gift to Baruch College.

Aaron recalled how Drozniak came up to him last February to tell him he would have to withdraw from classes at Baruch since he, "received

orders to go serve in Operation Enduring Freedom for a year with a possible extension for two years."

A slideshow of battlefield photos was displayed in the background highlighting the troops' experiences in combat locations within Kuwait, Aldunia, and Babylon City. Pictures were also passed around to the audience consisting of approximately 80 people.

Robert Josefs, a student who retired from Navy was invited to speak about his service during the Persian Gulf War, he recalled how difficult it is to make the transition to civilian life after being in the military.

"When my friends ask me why do fight, I reply, 'I fight for so that you don't have to fight'"

Audience members asked the Marines whether they ever doubted themselves for being over there.

Corporal Reefer made it clear that staying at home was not an option. Even though he was discharged from the military he volunteered just to fight in the war. He could not stay home knowing that his fellow Marines were fighting the war without him..

Towards the end of the ceremony a special raffle drawing was held where five winners received printed money from Iraq showing pictures of fallen dictator Saddam Hussein, courtesy of Drozniak.



Six of the marines that were honored at the "Welcome Back Our Troops Who Fought In Iraq." event. (Photo/Tun Thet)

Former City Council Speaker Vallone Speaks at Baruch

Continued from front

He used as an example the reaction of the mayor and the City Council after 9/11 terrorist attacks.

According to Vallone, all the mayor and the City Council knew how to do at the time to help the city get back on its feet was to raise taxes. A lot of City Council members as well as the mayor were new to their jobs.

"If you had experienced people they would have been up in Albany and Washington putting them on the spot," to get the money needed to help rebuild the city.

During the speech Vallone also focused briefly on Finance Campaign Reform and his belief that it, "balances the playing field," because candidates don't have to have a lot of money to run for office.

According to Vallone, it took a long time to get 26 council members to vote for it because many people were opposed to the idea of giving money to the opposition when they received a number of contributions.

Campaign Finance Reform allows voters to base their decision on a candidate's abilities and it does not let candidates with money get away with using their own money to win votes.

"Once you get into office you do what's best for the people," he said. "This we must never forget."

After his speech there was a question and answer session. One attendant asked him what his plans for the future were now that he is not in office anymore. Vallone said that he is writing a book on his experiences in office. He does not plan to run for office anymore.

"One thing I can do much better is to speak

about government and not have people questioning me," he said. "I hope to be able to get people interested in government again. I want people to vote!"

"Government and Politics in New York City" will be a permanent lecture series at Baruch College.

"This series represents a commitment to an annual lecture series on government," said Stan Altman, Dean of the School of Public Affairs. "The intent is to recognize the important role that government plays in our daily lives."

Altman hopes that the lecture series will motivate students to see that public service is a vital element in society.



Peter Vallone addressed those assembled at the Peter Vallone lecture series inaugural. (Photo/Aaron Siegel)

Student Life Campaigns Voter Registration on Campus

By DIANA ISSAC

A tuition increase, transit fare hikes and higher taxes are major concerns for Baruch students. One way that they can have their voices heard is to vote in the general elections.

Baruch College participated in the CUNY Voter Registration Project. Coordinated by Debra Bick-Dugan, the Associate Director of

Voter registration forms which are included in CUNY's Freshman Admission Guide, can be downloaded from the CUNY website at www.cuny.edu, and were readily available at the stand on the second floor in front of the escalators.

"People in the 18-21 age group make up the lowest population of all the population that votes," said Bick-Dugan.

It is important to implement the Voter Registration program across college campuses.

For those interested in voting for the upcoming November 4, General Election, the deadline for the delivery of registration forms to the Board of Elections was October 10.

Created by the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York in 1987, The CUNY Voter Registration Program encourages students' participation in the electoral process. The program allows students to understand the responsibility and obligation they have to voting in a democratic society.

"It has been an educational and very interesting process," explained Bick-Dugan.

For students who are interested in registering to vote in future elections, students can go to the Office of Student Life.

"People in the 18-21 age group make up the lowest population of all the population that votes."

Student Life, the project's main mission is to help eligible members of the CUNY community register to vote.

The program so far has shown positive results.

"I've had 40 forms filled out within one hour," said Bick-Dugan.

Students Get Acquainted With Organizations at Club Fair

Continued from front

"We want to put together a journal of photographs as well as set up an ongoing exhibit," said Yoli Gutierrez, Secretary of the club.

Various clubs, including the Golden Key Honour Society and Kappa Phi Lambda, promoted the charitable organizations for which they volunteer for and represent. They also aimed to publicize the philanthropic causes that they contribute to, in order to get other students to join their societies and contribute to these causes as well.

"We send money to a child in the Philippines and we are hoping to raise money for domestic violence," said Liana Fan, cultural chair of Kappa Phi Lambda.

Clubs representing different cultures and religions were also looking to greet prospective club members. The Jewish Women's Group, a club where members aim to discuss issues in a very social atmosphere, was present at the fair.

"This group gives you a strong sense of our

Jewish identity," said Goldie Kipnis, a member of the group.

The Hindu Student Council, which promotes Hindu and Indian culture offered henna tattooing at their table.

"We have traditional dancing, an upcoming event for our New Year and a camping trip with other groups," said Pinky Karelia, Vice President of the Hindu Student Council.

Students interested in expressing themselves in a public forum found clubs that catered to their need. One such club that fit this description was The Urban Writers Exchange Club, a group that was started to help those majoring in creative journalism.

"Most events are for business journalism majors," said Stacy Mason, President of the Urban Writers Exchange Club. "We want to give creative writers an outlet."

"It's good experience in general for the Baruch students because they get to socialize with the various groups and clubs of our school," said Ivis D. Calderon.



WBMB, whose setup was located on the first floor of the Vertical Campus, provided the music for the Baruch College Club Fair. (Photo/ Galina Reznik)

YES Network CEO Leo Hindery Speaks at Baruch

Continued from front

in the television industry (CBS, Fox Newscorp, NBC, Time Warner, and Disney) own 80 percent of media.

Following his speech, Hindery spoke to Professor Josh Mills, Director of the Baruch MBA program in Business Journalism.

"He [Hindery] fits very well into that group – the telecommunications dynamic. Included with many leading managers, he has an insider's view," said Mills. "Journalism doesn't know the story of sports business."

Hindery also touched on the revenue sharing issue in major league baseball. He pointed to the 2002 labor negotiations prior to the onset of the baseball season.

"YES is a focal part to elements over editorial sentiment," said Hindery, citing the possibility of bias in television broadcasting.

He also noted that television is not just about the money, but also about the content that is shown. "Being the head of ABC is the lowest common denominator in comparison to the History Channel."

On the topic of profit sharing, "It's not my job to fix [it]," he said. "It is the league's job to fix [it]." He compared the television markets of the New Jersey Nets and the Memphis Grizzlies as examples. "Eight million viewers in New Jersey cannot compare to two million viewers in Memphis."

Hindery cited the lack of a revenue sharing resolution in baseball causing an economic imbalance. "There are 27 regional sports networks. The National Football League is the only one to get it working in a mutual context and a regional context."

He also analyzed the current cable industry and cited a lack of content that is being shown on television at this time.

"The digital era means more sex and violence," he said "This modern era of cable is characterized by sex, violence, sports and big movies."

Hindery called on the academic community as the ultimate judge of content on television. "The academic community had a great role in this debate," he said. "I pray that the answer is to be found in universities."

"If programming would be offered on a per-channel basis, programming will be the same." When cable goes to 500 channels, "they are desperate for content, he said.

Hindery concluded on a light note as he predicted that either the Boston Red Sox or the New York Yankees will face the Chicago Cubs in the World Series this year.

"Conferences such as this one filter the Baruch name throughout a network," said Baruch College President Ned Regan.



YES Network CEO Leo Hindery spoke at the 14th Floor Conference Center last week. (Photo/Aaron Siegel)

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Features

Organization Of The Week: Toastmasters

For this week's edition of "Organization of the Week," I interviewed two members from the Toastmasters Organization, President Elvis Mendoza and Treasurer Jason Wong.

— Leo Shvartsman

Background

Toastmasters is an international organization that has chapters spanning the globe, including locations in England, France and Taiwan. Founded during the Fall 1998 semester, the Baruch chapter of Toastmasters is just one of those that can be found in New York City. Toastmasters is an environment where students have an opportunity to develop and foster their public speaking skills. Students who have various accent problems and who are timid in the public speaking arena find help here. The organization offers students the opportunity to present various types of speeches during their general meetings.

Ticker: How did you get your name?

Wong: First off, we do not make French toast, or anything in that manner. Secondly, we are a club that focuses on your communication skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Mendoza: It's self-explanatory. Within a roast, you give a toast, a dedication to an honoree — the person that is being honored that evening. And master, the other part of the name, is the ability to gain a certain trait or skill. In our organization, it is public speaking.

Ticker: Who are the key members of Toastmasters? When people come in to join Toastmasters, whom can they speak to?

Wong: The key person to speak to is Sharon Ecke. Sharon is the Vice-President of membership. She handles all transitions of our distinguished guests, as they become potential members within our organization.

Mendoza: Sharon Ecke, our fellow Baruchian, is more than happy to oblige to any questions or concerns that any Baruch students have pertaining to our membership policies and fees. Sharon goes to all the meetings.

Ticker: What do each of you enjoy most about Toastmasters?

Mendoza: To me, Toastmasters is an opportunity to not only develop my public speaking skills with a friendly and supportive environment, but it's also been an excellent resource that I've been able to utilize in not only the academic environment but also within the working arena.

Wong: Toastmasters is great! I say this because this organization has truly helped me with my communication skills. Prior to coming to Toastmasters I was always afraid to approach

people and say "Hi." However, after participating in their events and meetings I developed the confidence I needed to approach people. I say this not to promote the club but because I truly believe that Toastmasters has helped me out.

Ticker: How has Toastmasters developed lately? What do you have planned for the future?

Mendoza: We are currently in the process of forming a national debate team within our chapter. We encourage any students that have some sort of debating experience at either the high school or collegiate level to express interest by attending one of our general meetings. Future details regarding this debate team and any regulations and fees that may pertain to applying for it will come within the next semester.

Wong: We also plan to hold an event where we can help students that speak with an accent to get together and speak freely with other students. At the event we plan on pairing these students with our club members in an effort to improve their communication skills and improving their accent. We know that Baruch has a diverse population and hopefully this event will bring the students closer together. This is going to be an informal event where coffee and pastries will be served.

Ticker: Why should students join Toastmasters?

J: It is extremely important that students can express themselves articulately. No matter what field you go into, you must be able to talk to people. We at Toastmasters can help you. Toastmasters is also a great place to network and meet new people. Everybody here is warm, welcoming and very supportive. I definitely recommend joining this organization.



Toastmasters Treasurer Jason Wong, (left) and President Elvis Mendoza (right) pose with the organization's banner. (Photo/ Leo Shvartsman)

Ticker: When people do join Toastmasters, what will they encounter at your meetings?

Mendoza: The structure of our general meetings is as follows: The first part of our meetings is referred to as 'table topics.' Table topics are the sessions where we work on your impromptu speaking skills. A member is assigned to the role of 'toastmaster of the evening,' which involves asking random questions to other members of the organization. The chosen member comes to the podium and offers a response to the assigned question. The second part of our meeting is our presentation portion where our members prepare speeches ahead of time and are given constructive criticism after their speech by members of the audience. However, we must emphasize that only Toastmasters members may give presentations, but guests will be given the opportunity to present and prepare speeches upon becoming full paid members.

Ticker: Is there anything else you would like to tell the students?

Wong: Students should really give our organization a try because not only does it look good on your résumé, but also it can truly help further your speaking abilities. If that is not a good enough incentive then the students should remember that we do serve free food.

Mendoza: I cannot begin to emphasize the importance of efficient communication skills within the corporate world. Coming from personal experience, I felt that Toastmasters was an important part of any interview that I have participated in.

Toastmasters meets every other Friday from six to eight in the evening in VC 4-220. Their next meeting will take place on October 17, 2003.

Crazy Moose Saloon - Not Your Typical Couture Hangout

By MICHAEL POLYAK

The Crazy Moose Saloon is a fun place located in the heart of Queens. The interior has that retro vintage style that has become all the rage in downtown Manhattan. The only difference is that this place had it when it wasn't popular. It has always had that Wild West saloon design. The floors are made of wood, and the stools have a retro look that places them back to the 50s (the red seat cushion covering the steel pole). Other aspects of the bar are more modern, with different color neon backlights and televisions surrounding the bar's perimeter.

The crowd at this Queens staple is a mix of college students, Yuppies who can't quite afford a place in Manhattan, and older people who look like they are trying to make up for not attending college. The crowd mixes well and can get rather loud and rowdy. It's easy to get lost in the mix, as this place tends to get rather packed as the night progresses. The Long Island crowd tends to leave a bit early as they have a long drive home ahead of them. Don't expect to see any Soho-ish hipsters here. This is strictly a Queens hangout, so one must appear to be Un-Soho. Jeans and a shirt (functionality over style) are the norms in order to blend in; West Village couture is not welcome here. The patrons' lack of style leaves some people (myself included) befuddled as to what they should wear. This confusion leads to a philosophical dichotomy. Does one want to look so desperate that he/she had to out-dress everyone or does one want to look (for lack of a better word) schlubby?

The music here is what I like to call bi-polar. On Wednesday and Thursday nights a live band provides the music. And as there is no reason to come on any night other than Thursday (ladies night), the band that plays is the Loose Moose Band, a cover group that mostly performs older songs from the 70s, 80s and 90s. You can tell simply by looking at the band that this is the music they grew up with. I say that the music here is bi-polar because the band will occasionally take beer breaks and a DJ will begin to play some club or house music. It can sometimes get difficult to go from Audioslave's "Cochise" to Amber's "I Turn To You."

The bar has a friendly atmosphere, making it easy to talk to people here. However, avoid hooking up with any of the Loose Moose Band's groupies; not for fear of the band but in order to avoid having to do testimonials on the next Valtrex commercial about the joys of daily suppressive therapy. These girls come off very skanky, and it's best to stay away from them regardless of how nicely they ask for a cigarette.

The Crazy Moose Saloon is located at 40-05 Bell Blvd. - Bayside, NY 11361-2016. You can reach them by phone at (718) 224-0690.

Experience An Enjoyable Time At Tavern On The Green - For A Price

By KENNETH THOM

From my own experience, Tavern on the Green is possibly the most romantic destination you can possibly set for a special dinner date. This great wonder is located in Central Park at 67th Street.

While you wait, you may choose to enjoy a cocktail in the Rafter's Room, located up the stairs in the main lobby. As you make way for your dinner reservation, enjoy being led through what seems like an endless maze of surprises. The friendly and quick service along with the beautiful view will leave you and your date with an unforgettable experience.

During the spring, summer and fall seasons, check the local weather and aim for a seating in the Park Room, where you can enjoy being surrounded by a combination of nature and a man-made fantasy land. If you can't make it to the Park Room, I definitely recommend getting seated in the Crystal Room where you can get the greatest view in the entire restaurant.

Pictures do not do this restaurant justice.

When it comes to cost, the dinner can get pricey. At Tavern on the Green, each portion is extremely large so you won't have to worry about what you will be eating for the next day or two. Reservations here are required and must be made at least five days in advance. If you're setting this up for a special occasion, do so ahead of time. However, there is a downside to the reservation process. If you cancel your reservations, there is a charge of \$50 per person, so plan wisely and make sure your date is worth it.

If wine is your drink of choice, the wine list starts at \$90 per bottle, and most of the bottles can easily run into the high hundreds - so be careful. You don't want to be left penniless, meaning you can always order your red wine by the glass.

While there, I chose to order the French onion soup (don't forget to carry breath mints) and the roast prime rib single cut. My date ordered a Caesar salad and the chicken marsala. We both had a few strawberry daiquiris and ended the

dinner with a custom-made cake I ordered in advance. The bill came out to approximately \$180 including tax and tip.

If \$180 seems a bit much, Tavern on the Green also offers pre-theater dinners that cost about \$30 per person and prix-fix dinners that will cost you about \$45 per person. You can also receive a 10-19 percent discount on lunch or dinner packages, by setting up a reservation through www.iseatz.com. There are drawbacks to these options. The menu is altered, and your choices will be more limited.

At the end of your meal, when it comes time to gratuity, it is customary to leave at least 15 percent. Most places like this will give you an option to check mark a box so that 15 percent will automatically be added to your bill. However, a rule that I keep in mind is that 17-20 percent is always best, and it is okay to add a bit more if the service was excellent. Remember one thing when it comes to gratuity: how much you leave should be based on service, not on the food. The person serving you isn't the one preparing your meal.

I highly recommend setting a dinner reservation at 5-5:30 p.m. then finishing the night off with a show in Times Square at 8 p.m. If you want to set a perfect night, the rest is up to you.



A view of Tavern on The Green as seen from the inside. (Photo/ www.weddingcakeonline.com)

Immigration Laws Need To Change To Accommodate Growing Number of Immigrants

Two weeks ago thousands of immigrants gathered in Flushing Meadows, Corona Park in Queens in support of an immigrant rights movement. The protesters came from all over the nation, representing various nationalities and including people from all walks of life. College students, civil rights leaders, state senators, priests, farm laborers, factory workers all attended and showed their support for granting legal status to undocumented aliens, creating family reunification visas, and for worker protection for immigrants. It was an admirable sight to see such an immense outpouring of people at the rally, especially those without documentation who had the courage to stand up for their rights.

No matter how much the United States government tries to ignore it, the fact of the matter is that immigrants will always be a part of this country because there is a demand for work here. Deportation and persecution are not solutions. The only accomplishment achieved by these means is that people are afraid to go to the hospital when they are ill or they don't report crimes because they are afraid of their local authorities. By driving undocumented aliens farther and farther underground nothing is resolved and chaos ensues. Instead of trying to stop the flow of immigration into the country, wouldn't it be better to regulate it in a manner that allows people to work here during certain months of the year and then return to their homeland? Instead of having millions of undocumented people to comb through in search for prospective terrorists, doesn't it make more sense to legalize those who want to lead a productive life, making the search easier and the economy better?

Here at Baruch and throughout the CUNY schools there are many of us who arrived in the United States as children. We grew up in this country and it became our home. Yet, those who have "illegal," status will not be able to get a job after graduating from college, do not have health insurance, are open to exploitation and unfair treatment by peers and worst of all, live in a constant state of fear of being deported to a strange land that we barely stir any memory. Is it fair to then tell those that suffer this dilemma that because they were brought here as children they are to be punished? Rather, we should encourage support for the Dream Act, which would provide amnesty for children of undocumented aliens that have lived in the country for several years.

Not all undocumented aliens are terrorists. Many are just hardworking individuals who want to pay their taxes and be productive members of this society. They have come here like generations before us in search of a better life and do not seek to harm the economy or steal jobs from anyone. Rather, they would like to see this country prosper.

The laws in place now make it almost impossible to attain legalization and unfortunately there are some individuals who seek to prey on immigrants due to this fact. They believe immigrants are voiceless and powerless to effect change.

The rally in Queens proved otherwise. Fear is the most powerful tool that those in opposition of legalizing immigrants use. They say that immigrants are a threat to national security, that they bring down the quality of life in your neighborhoods and cities. But herein lies a paradox. Was this country not built upon generations and generations of individuals who came to this country to seek a better life whether it was to escape political, social, economic or any other type of persecution? Did the prosperity that the United States has come to enjoy not come from the blood, sweat and tears of immigrants who have toiled to create the underlying foundation of this country? Immigrants are not simply a sector of society that should be kicked into a corner and forgotten. Rather, no single person in this country can discount the fact that at some point in their family history, one or more members of their family arrived on American soil as an immigrant.

This is a country whose roots extend to every nation on the globe. Let us refrain from distancing ourselves from the struggles of immigrants today because it could easily be you or someone you know in the same predicament that undocumented aliens are currently facing. By banding together and breaking these barriers we can show the opposition that regardless of whether your ancestral line in the country extends 2 years or 200 years there are just as many people who love this country and are willing to prove that it is their home too.

Quote of the Week:

"The city is shackled over the budget process. We are in manacles, we are in chains. We are going up fast and there is a current that is waiting to wash us downstream."

- Gifford Miller, City Council Speaker

The Ticker

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Thoughts From the Sports Editor This Week's Topic: Rush Limbaugh

PHILLIP GONG

As a New York Giants fan, I do not like to see Donovan McNabb play against my favorite team. The Philadelphia Eagles quarterback is one of the best quarterbacks in the National Football League and has been a dominating force in the N.F.L. ever since he graduated from Syracuse. He has tremendous physical ability. Before Michael Vick came into the league, McNabb was the fastest and most mobile player at his position. McNabb is also a smart quarterback who manages to get his team into the playoffs, without having great talent alongside him. Yet, a few people who follow pro-football feel he is overrated. One such person who shares this belief made his thoughts known on television, and his anti-McNabb comments have sparked a serious controversy in the world of sports.

Rush Limbaugh has never been shy in expressing his thoughts to the public. On the September 28th broadcast of "Sunday N.F.L. Countdown," Limbaugh claimed that Donovan McNabb was overrated as a quarterback, due to the media's desire to see a black quarterback succeed in the N.F.L. His comment angered the public because they viewed his remarks as racist, insensitive and offensive, but I was more angered by Limbaugh's incompetence as a football analyst.

When I heard Limbaugh's thoughts on the news, I was in utter disbelief. Anyone who follows football knows McNabb is among the top three best quarterbacks in the N.F.L. I was shocked at his outrageous racist remark as well, his foolish anti-McNabb comment stood out for me as a football fan. Though it is true that McNabb has been playing below average this season, he is one of the few quarterbacks in the

league who can take control of a game and win it single-handedly. McNabb can pass with accuracy, run like a cheetah, but, most importantly, he can think like a fox.

As a New York Giants fan, it pains me to compliment an opposing rival, but as an objective sports journalist I must also report what I see. I have seen McNabb burn the Giants in several regular season games. It seems like every time I watch McNabb play, he always manages to escape from the blue colored jerseys that come his way aided by his fox-like elusive scrambling abilities. It gets even more frustrating to see him rush 10-15 yards for first downs or touchdowns, but that is what makes this quarterback a special player in this league, not an overrated one.

It was great to see how McNabb was unfazed by Limbaugh's negative remarks. In last week's game against the Washington Redskins, he played well and led his team to victory, despite the media distractions surrounding him.

Rush Limbaugh's resignation from the "Sunday N.F.L. Countdown," show was also something I enjoyed seeing. Someone who only contributes haphazard racist social commentaries instead of providing substantive coherent football analysis does not deserve to be on the set of a football show. I still chuckle when I hear how Limbaugh still believes his McNabb comment was accurate. Let the conservative Limbaugh do his radio show and attack left-wing liberals as he has done throughout his career, but please don't hire him as a football analyst. It's like going to a play-off game only to find yourself listening to a political debate instead.

Letters To The Editor

Response to Kobe vs. War

Igor,

I applaud you for showing an interest in something that displays what is fundamentally wrong with our nation. Most people just do not care about the world around them; they just want to hear about the latest scandal. That is what the two major rags in New York (*The Daily News* and the *Post*) are concerned with.

If I may, let me recommend that you take the PUB1250 class with professor Calcaterra. She has an assignment that makes you pick a current events topic and follow it in the *N.Y. Post* and the *N.Y. Times* both for two weeks. It is amazing to see the difference in these two papers. You will definitely have a different view of the media after you complete this report.

I just hope there are more students at Baruch that have as much passion as you regarding what should be important in the world today. However, I must correct you on your opening paragraph. Allow me to quote you: "This minute there are 130,000 American soldiers in Iraq. They are fighting against the terrorists in the name of freedom and democracy. They are the proud protectors of our country and our universal will to liberty. This very minute the United States is at war."

By this statement alone, I can tell that the media totally guides you in forming your opinions. To say that the 130,000 soldiers stationed overseas are fighting the terrorists is a farcical.

Maybe if you stated that the soldiers in

Afghanistan looking for Osama bin Laden were fighting terrorists, I might be less inclined to critique you right now. To say that we are at war with Iraq, I will have to disagree with you again. George W. Bush himself declared major military action over about four months ago. We are just there doing police work now. We are at war in other places however.

Do not interpret my response today as un-American. I am not a nationalist, but I am a patriot; I would do anything for America. It is very easy to crow the words "freedom," and "support our troops." I do support our troops. I have a first cousin on a battleship and a very close friend who is on the front lines. Nobody wants to see them both come home more than me.

But, if the war in Iraq could be justified by saying that Iraq in some way was threatening my freedoms, namely the First Amendment, one by which you and I are debating right now, then give me an army uniform and point me in the direction of Iraq.

It is now October and there is still no "weapons of mass destruction," and Halliburton (Dick Cheney's baby) is making money hand over fist rebuilding a bombed out Iraq while innocent Iraqi children lay in hospitals with no limbs. Your heart is in the right place, but it needs to be a bit more well informed.

Chris Long

Why I Forget About Staten Island — And You Should, Too!

VOLKAN UNSAL

Last week, an Op-Ed article on these pages alleged that those who jokingly forget that Staten Island is indeed a borough march to the discordant drumbeat of bad parents who neglect their kids. After relating her experiences with people who commit this duplicity, the author concludes: "Do not go around annexing land masses and then deny association to them!" (Take that, you colonialist pigs!) Because such behavior, in the author's opinion, "is like leaving a child without a parent!"

As one who makes fun of Staten Island now and then, which is my greater crime: to annex an island as large as the borough of Staten Island and join the league of colonialists, or to be a bad parent who forgets the name of his child. Neither of these allegations addresses the point why it is wrong to make fun of Staten Island, and why we cannot forget whether it's still a borough of New York or not.

But suppose for a second that I did actually annex Staten Island—let us say I adopted it. Merely adopting it would be reason enough, I think, to never forget its name, ever, as long as I live.

The first thing I would do with it would be to change its name to something I can remember. The name has already been changed once from Richmond County in 1975, but I would rename it, as any proud parent would do, I imagine, after my maternal great-grandfather: Sheikh Abdulrahman Bin-Hasan of Diyarbakir. The beloved memory of my maternal great-grandfather would remind me there is a large, useless island sitting off the shores of New York and New Jersey.

Even if this happy scenario were to come about, like many New Yorkers, I would still want to forget about the existence of a borough like Staten Island. Even those who live in Staten Island cannot stand the fact that they live there except for, of course, the author of the article in question. Aside from lacking a sense of humor, she enjoys living in Staten Island more than anywhere else. While there is still some space here, I will try to tell you some of the reasons why I would rather forget about Staten Island.

First of all, there is its inconvenience. Many people have said location does not matter in New York City. Every part of the city, connected by a reasonably efficient mass transit sys-

tem, is equally remote to every other part, and New Yorkers can travel everywhere their hearts desire on the turn of a metro stile.

But the most reliably efficient part of that system, the subway service, does not operate in Staten Island, making everyone wonder whether there is life there after all. You have to either take an express bus, a ferry, or drive there yourself.

The other unserviceable thing about Staten Island is the Fresh Kills dumping grounds. Although officially closed for a few years, Fresh Kills covers between 10 to 15 percent of the landmass of Staten Island. That is more than enough unusable space to make anyone upset when the zombies come flooding down their streets. Yes, zombies tend to incubate inside garbage hills such as the ones that are found in Staten Island.

Many residents are in denial now, but with time they may come to embrace the fact, as Tarry Town did, and perhaps change its name to something less mercenary, like Sleepy Hollow, or even Garbage Hills. Of course, once the zombie invasion gets going, everything will be up for grabs.

And lastly, the hate crimes. Last month, *The New York Press* announced that Staten Island has become the regional headquarters to some of the most notorious hate groups in the country such as KKK, Aryan Nations, and the Neo-Nazi Party of America.

There have been more incidents of racially motivated assaults, arson and hate crimes there last year than in any other part of New York City. All joking aside, if you were to adopt Staten Island as a child and it grew up to be like this, would you still want to have it around for family get-togethers? Seriously, what would grandma say?

If you answer no, many Staten Islanders will agree with you. In 1993, Staten Island became the only borough to vote, with a majority of 60%, to secede from New York City. The state officials in Albany rebuffed the results of the referendum, but a part of me wishes that they had not.

Who is pulling the strings in Albany? I would like to know. Did they ask me as the parent if I wanted to keep the child? You would think so, right? But no, they did not, and in the end I am the one that gets stuck with the blame.



Three Baruch Students Walk Into A Bar...

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Calendar

Here are club event listings for the week spanning from October 14 - October 19. If you like to be listed for free in our upcoming issue which comes out on October 20, please send your event information along with contact info to tickercalendar@hotmail.com. Listings for the next issue should span the dates from October 20 - October 26.

WEDNESDAY

October 15, 2003

Event: Net Profit\$ - Music & The Internet
Sponsored By: Networkshops
Time: 6:30-8:30 PM
Location: The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, Room 9205
*RSVP at networkshops@thespinfactory.com
*Admission fees apply

THURSDAY

October 16, 2003

Event: Bake Sale
Sponsored By: Prelaw Society
Time: 2:00-4:00 PM (club hours)
Location: 2nd Floor Lobby

Event: Chess Awareness
Sponsored By: Chess Club
Time: 12:30-2:30 PM (club hours)
Location: VC 3-215
*Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded!

Event: Sukkah Party
Sponsored By: Hillel
Time: 12:30-2:30 PM (club hours)
Location: 8th Floor (Sukkah)

A Hassle of a Commute to Class

JENNIE GETZLER

For many of us who commute to Baruch, overcrowding on the trains is a hassle that has become part of our daily routines. However, that is not the hassle this article seeks to address. No, the annoyance I wish to bring to your attention is the overcrowding on the elevators that occurs when 2:30 p.m. and 5:25 p.m. roll around.

How many people reading this article have had to deal with coming late to their classes because they simply could not get onto the elevator? It is quite unfortunate that our school elevators have become a mirror of the annoyance we all face on the trains. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, a bag crammed into your side, an elbow in the back and a complete stranger standing right on top of you.

Should we be led to believe that there is nothing we can do to prevent this problem of overcrowding? Should we simply accept the fact that we cannot get on the elevator and that we are going to be late to class every single day? Certainly not. The student body has come up with some clever strategies to prevent this.

In an effort to get on the elevator, overcrowded or not, students have resorted to going around to the back and getting on as soon as a load of students get off. For those of us still willing to assume that we can get on the elevator from the front, we still wait for the doors to open despite the obvious fact that the elevator is full.

We see plenty of room on the elevator because the doors can still close. It is only when those doors cannot close that the elevator is considered too full. Two inches of room in the corner is plenty for another person to fit in. After all, we do need to get to our classes and people on the elevators do not mind other people on top of them, right? Wrong. In case you have not noticed, there is a hint of sarcasm in

the above statements.

I realize the importance of coming to class on time. What is the point of paying a new, steeper tuition for classes if you cannot get there anyway?

However, there are other means of getting to class on time. My recommendations for doing so are as follows. First, try to come to class early (and I stress the word early). If we all make it to the elevators five minutes before our classes are supposed to begin, overcrowding is going to occur. However, if we strive for arriving 15 or 20 minutes early to class, there will be enough time for all of us to catch an elevator and it will alleviate the overcrowding five minutes before class.

My next recommendation is directed toward those students who have class on the fifth floor or below. To those, I have one word to say: escalators. I realize the escalators almost always never work, but usually they alternate, which means that some do work. Therefore, you may only have to walk up a flight or two of stairs. Those of us that have class on the eleventh, twelfth or thirteenth floors, do not have the option of walking up the stairs or taking the escalators.

My last recommendation is this: if you have the time to wait for an elevator, then wait. The crowding on the elevators does subside after a few minutes when people begin to get to their classes. You will get an emptier elevator, and the overcrowding will be lessened for others as well.

Hopefully, by following all the above suggestions, we can help solve a problem that has become a hassle for far too many of us during our daily routines. We need to prevent our commutes upstairs from mirroring our commutes on the trains.

Hardcore Writing: Tomorrow is Ready

IGOR NORINSKY

The sun breaks the horizon, we rise. Television on. Flashing pictures? Thumbs up, thumbs down, I'll be back, blue pills, red pills. Currently five hundred channels, each day new channel, new genre, new star? Five hundred stars shaking hands with five hundred critics, smiling. Soon channels will grow as population grows, soon.

Time for work, for school. Five remotes per television per room. Got one for power, one for volume, for channels, for settings, for color: pixels, pixels, how many pixels you got? Well I got two and one half more pixels than you. High five!

Television in each bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, along the walls and ceilings and floors. Half an hour just to turn them all off. Door closed? Walk to train.

Human ocean deluge on street, laughter, cell phones, white teeth, wide smiles, high fives and low fives. Steady locomotion in parallel lines, straight aisles, walk forward? Stop! You went too far, step back and do it again, we are trying to run a society here!

Perpendicular turns onto mass avenues, clickety-clack of polished shoes and snapping fingers in sick cadence. Keep time or else. Alien tumult of silence, no? Radio darkness is a thing of the past? Whorls and ears spiral, radio waves spear in unbounded penetration of limbs and walls.

Corporate waves, ubiquitous, modern synesthesia? You need, you want, you must. Why? All faces turn, burn of spotlight? Why, because life depends on it, desires and needs, haven't you been going to class, son, or do you want the terrorists to win?

Synthetic music, two minutes of electronic noise built around two minutes of commercial madness, we are back, stay tuned, coming up next, and we are back again? Fast, to the beat, to the fashion, rotations, rotations, rotations, dizziness.

Radio tower is watching you, every facial intricacy, every hand jerk and inhalation. Subject blinked twice more than last time, fast, reorder controls and call the president, we may have a problem.

Train clickety-clacks on tracks, ads surrogate wallpaper, drink this, wear that, go there, stay here, lose weight, gain weight, look good, don't look bad, looking good is good, good-looking people are good, be good-looking and you'll be

good, let's all be good.

I am scared. Don't be scared, it'll all be over soon; on bridge, ringing of phones, dial home, check scores, check markets, check messages, calculate time lost and weigh assets, permutations and possibilities; small phones, big ones, silver ones, black ones.

Ha Johnny! My phone is bigger than yours! Hey Donny, you know size doesn't matter; conversations, adults rave, SUVs, benz's, wagons, horsepower. How much? Much!

Infants in hands play with toy cars. Train stops, get up, get out, go up, go around, go inside, outside, there, here, through and through until you see the light. City faces gyrate uncontrollably, magnetically summoned by huge buses and cabs with ads, lights, flickering, paths and labyrinths all going one way: to the black buildings, glass oddities, arrows for directions, signs on walls, you want me don't you? Well you can't have me!

Enough is enough, enter school. Idols on benches, steel and concrete, escalators, elevators, no trampolines. We need trampolines. Rectangular rooms, thirty seats, podium, projector, four walls.

Elevated children staring earnestly at empty board, waiting for the latest numbers and formulas for success, waiting earnestly for fulfillment, for nurturing, for decisiveness and totality. Totality enters room, marker spasmodically patterns board, that is all for today, come tomorrow again for totality. Children smile, exit stage left.

Back home, television on, sound on, color on, eyes locked in zipper harmony, channels oscillate in swift presets. Clocks on walls, time for the show, time for the movie, time for the six o'clock news, seven o'clock news, stay tuned for news every ten minutes to the hour, after the hour, on the hour, don't miss our special report, it's special.

Look what she's wearing, look what he's doing, they look happy, they look sad, she should smile more, wait, let me take that back.

Trailers of movies for direct transcription into electronic calendars with small plastic pencils, press enter. There, it's all set. Upcoming days, weeks, years, all scheduled and complete. Be there on time, do not be late.

Sun laughs and sinks into the horizon. Close eyes and sleep. Tomorrow is ready.

Complaints and Grievances

MATTHEW BENECKE

The United States is suffering from an epidemic of discrimination that has gone largely unnoticed and has only gotten worse in the past few years. This discrimination is toward the elderly. In a population whose average age is steadily increasing, this problem is growing just as rapidly.

Take for instance one Leo Bevy. Bevy is someone that could be considered a typical American. He spent his entire adult life working hard within a variety of careers while helping to raise a healthy flock of children and grandchildren. He then retired and began collecting his social security checks. The pittance that he is granted by the government pales in comparison to the amount of blood and sweat that he poured into the country throughout his lifetime. It is almost as if he has fulfilled his need and is now meant to be forgotten like an old tool.

The pride that Bevy once held for his great nation is slowly dissipating. Now in his late seventies, Bevy is facing yet another harsh reality of old age—loneliness. Most of his friends have passed on and the family that he still maintains contact with rarely visits him. He feels shunned by those closest to him, and for what reason? Is it because he no longer has anything to offer society?

Bevy's experience is hardly unique as it is

shared by countless others throughout the United States. It is unacceptable that we should be treating our elders this way. While in other cultures older members of the population are considered venerable, here in the United States it seems as if an invisible "Disposable," stamp has been placed on them.

Some of you may not have done this, but none will deny the fact that they have cringed when passing an elderly person on the street or having to be near them on the subway. An uncomfortable feeling passes over us when we see the gaunt, crooked smile of an elderly person shuffling along as they make their way about. Very few people stop to ask if they might need help or just strike up a conversation on the train. These people know far more than we can hope to learn and we choose not to talk to them because they make us uncomfortable?

This close-minded view must disappear and we must learn to treat our elders with the respect they have earned through their long years of hard work. Hopefully the next time you pass an older person on the street you will not hesitate to smile at them or make small talk. For all you know it may just make their day.

The Passing of John Ritter

ADAM DAYAN

On September 11, 2003, John Ritter passed away as a result of heart problems – specifically, a tear in the aorta. Just shy of his 55th birthday, the man left behind his wife and five-year-old daughter, in addition to three children from a previous marriage.

Ritter's death was sudden and staggering. September 11 was the exact date of his daughter's birthday. September 12 was the day of his wife's birthday. September 17 was John's birthday. A week that would otherwise have been filled with joy and togetherness, suddenly evolved into an emotional whirlwind.

Widely recognized as Jack Tripper from the popular 70s TV show *Three's Company*, Ritter was an amiable individual with a pleasant disposition. As he and his fellow cast members Suzanne Summers and Joyce Dewitt reminisced about their times together, it became clear that the relationship that they shared was special. Ritter's personality was infectious; he could transmit his happiness to everybody around him. There was simply a glowing aura about the man that made everyone merry.

Although Ritter touched the lives of many with his comedic wit and his warmth, few were as touched as his good friend Henry Winkler

(who many may remember as The Fonz from *Happy Days*). Listening to Winkler reflect on his bond with Ritter was one of the most moving moments that I have ever experienced. As he spoke of Ritter's profound appreciation for the success that he had achieved, the fortune that he had been blessed with, and of the pure happiness that Ritter brought forth, Winkler described his good pal as simply irreplaceable.

He said that the man was a good person and a good friend. When asked what he would tell Ritter if he could speak to him right now, Winkler replied: "I love him. I miss him. I love him. I love him. I love him." In Winkler's words, Ritter's passing felt as if the heart of the world was just sucked out.

I often rack my brain about how I got here, what I am doing, and where I am going. I question the meaning of life and I search for my purpose. I contemplate the idea of a legacy.

Though the answers to these questions, for me, still hang in the balance, I am clear on one thing. If I exit this world leaving the mark that Ritter did, I will have much to be proud of. Ritter was caring, warm, good-hearted, and genuine. Why we lost him I do not know. What I have learned from him I do.

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artsentertainment

Rundown to the Nearest Theater To Catch This Flick

By HUANG KUN and ALEXIS LI

Dwayne Douglas Johnson, better known as "The Rock," does it again in *The Rundown*, directed by Peter Berg. Paired with one of the stars from the hit film *American Pie*, Seann William Scott, this film is everything you expect of it and more. Quick witted remarks, action, and incredible fight scenes make this film one of the most entertaining of the year. This movie is yet another benchmark for Johnson's entrance into the movie world (he previously starred in *The Scorpion King*), as he steps into a career in film and slowly steps out of his career in wrestling.

With the aging, and political ambitions of Arnold Schwarzenegger, Johnson is slowly taking his position as one of the most entertaining action male actors today. In one symbolic scene in the movie, Schwarzenegger makes a cameo appearance, leaving a club as Johnson's character makes his way in. As they pass each other, Schwarzenegger acknowledges his would be replacement and says, "Have fun" to his younger successor.

Johnson plays a bounty hunter named Beck who works to pay looming debts. Given a final mission to clear his name, he is ordered to retrieve his boss' son, Travis (Seann William Scott), who is in Brazil on an excavation project. Once Beck arrives there, he finds that the entire area is controlled by a villain, Hatcher, played by Christopher Walken, who is seeking lost treasure concealed within a booby-trapped cave.



Travis (Sean William Scott, left) and Beck (Dwayne Johnson, right) have a one-on-one. (Photo/ Universal Pictures)

Beck's mission gets more challenging when Hatcher refuses to allow Travis to leave until Hatcher retrieves the treasure that he believes belongs to him. Travis, having discovered the location of the valuable golden idol, constantly tries to escape from Beck's grasp while avoiding Hatcher at the same time.

Walken helped to ease the work of the script writers, as they weren't required to write a character for him. He delivers his creepy, quick-witted character flawlessly, aided by the natural flow of the plot line. The character played by Rosario Dawson was also a pleasant surprise as she plays the part of a rebel leader, also out to acquire the treasure in an effort to

help her people.

Walken's work in the movie is quite entertaining. Every time his character attempts to retort with a smart remark, he makes himself more of a fool, but it is those same remarks that leave me laughing, largely due to the fact that when he makes those remarks, he keeps a straight and serious face. I truly must applaud Walken's performance. One would be a fool to miss out on his sensational acting.

The overall acting in the movie was good, in that the interaction between the characters was flawless. Johnson's serious attitude and Scott's playfulness blended superbly as their characters constantly clashed.

In one scene, the local rebels catch Beck and Travis, and with Beck not being able to speak to them, he relies on Travis to translate for him to help him get out of the jam. Little does he know that Travis infuriated the local rebels by saying that Beck was working for the opposing cause, leading to a beatdown for Beck. More scenes like this made this action thriller one not to be missed.

I have two options to offer you. Option A: you go out on Friday night with some friends and enjoy this movie. Or, option B, miss one of the best movies of the year and regret it for the rest of your life. Not a hard choice is it?

The Rundown is one of the hottest movies of the fall and has made a lasting impression on me. It is full of entertaining scenes which left me with a satisfied feeling to make me want to come back and see it again. You will definitely get your money's worth watching this flick.

The performances by Johnson and Scott blew me away, as the two are a dynamic duo on the silver screen. The two are comparable to Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker as seen in *Rush Hour*. Like the stars of *Rush Hour*, Johnson and Scott provide the movie with simple humor and entertaining action, leaving me to claim them to be as this year's most compatible partners on movies.

They provide moviegoers with the necessary amount of entertaining scenes to leave each individual viewer with a smile on his or her face and with conversation material about the flick even after they've left the theater.

Space Revisited: Alien Director's Cut

By KAT RICKER

Fox will release *Alien: The Director's Cut* this Halloween so that audiences can be horrified by this science-fiction thriller that has not been seen on the big screen since 1979.

The added scenes are very subtle and have been inserted solely for dramatic purposes. The acting is still brilliant and the tension still thick as the demise of the mining ship *Nostromo* plays out.

If you haven't seen *Alien*, then you have missed a science-fiction movie classic. Hypersensitivity to the sound of breathing and heartbeats follows the viewing of this film. However, if you haven't seen it yet, wait to see it on the big screen for a much needed effect. *Alien: The Director's Cut* is sure to make you cover with fear under the stars at night for quite some time.

Alien is a story about a commercial mining starship whose members receive an unidentifiable SOS signal that must, by law, be investigated. Three crewmembers go in search of the signal's origin while the remaining crew discovers the message to be a warning, not a call for help. This is the point in the movie when you are cued by the sinister music to pick up your feet in anticipation of the terror that will ensue.

One of the exploratory crewmembers returns with a face-hugging alien and is allowed on the ship in breach of the quarantine law. Six out of seven crewmembers are killed, one-by-one, in suspense sequences that almost make you nervously giggle.

The plot in Sir Ridley Scott's director's cut is enhanced by the dramatic addition of the struggle between the laws of science and the laws of human nature.

Sigourney Weaver plays the role of survivor, Ripley, who stands for the laws of science, although she is morally conflicted. As she reminds her crew of the rules that are to be obeyed, she is often looked at as a tyrannical and heartless leader.

After the three members are allowed back on to the ship, although one of them clearly has an alien attached to his face, all hell breaks loose. Captain Dallas (Tom Skerritt) and the science expert (Ian Holm) begin to examine the alien on Kane's (John Hurt) face.

The first major added scene occurs at this point when the other female crewmember that was almost quarantined outside physically attacks Ripley. The tension of this dramatic

show of hatred creates a suffocating feeling in a group attempting to survive as it is being strategically hunted down.

Later in the film when Ripley attempts to escape and destroy the mothership, she finds two of the ship's crew members, who had gone missing, partially cocooned. This is the second most important added scene. It is pivotal to the movie and should have never been cut.

Ripley is in the middle of the most suspense-filled part of the movie, and is forced to follow through with her convictions of the laws of science at the highest peak of the film. Time is counting down towards destruction when her Captain's gooey face begs her in a soft, scratchy voice to kill him. Ripley, although emotionally scarred, wastes no time in torching the whole area with her flamethrower.

The two major added scenes could be viewed on the *Alien* DVD. However, having them incorporated into the film's body serves to create a stronger emotional tension between the characters.

Sir Ridley Scott's final say on his directorial epic film series reminds me of why space and science are revisited and explored through fictional themes over and over again.



Sigourney Weaver plays the tough leader, Ripley, in *Alien*. (Photo/ 20th Century Fox)

Lo Pro: Not So Low, Not Yet a Pro

By ADAM DAYAN

Sometimes, when an experience is meaningful, it is better to preserve it in your mind rather than to share it with the world. Listening to the self-titled album from a new band named 'Lo Pro' was indeed an experience. However, it was not at all the moving experience alluded to above, so let's talk about it.

The CD starts off with a song entitled "Fuel" but, in its harsh-sounding tones, lacks the fuel necessary to make it enjoyable. The result is jarring and that holds true for the numbers that follow. On top of that, the lyrics for all of the first few songs are shallow. What makes a piece of music work is some kind of agreement between the words and the sound. Here, no such match can be found.

In "Not Me," song two on this masterpiece, Lo Pro declares: "I'm caged in your eyes and it's making me lie." Nice rhyme, right? If this were Dr. Seuss, it would receive an A. But, alas, it is hard rock and the effort falls short. Try to figure out what the vocalist is trying to convey in "Sunday," where he asks: "What does it always feel like Sunday. Like Sunday." Often, lyrics require some thought in order to understand where the writer is coming from but here, thought leads to bewilderment.

Lo Pro — comprised of Pete Murray (vocals), Neil Godfrey (guitar), Tommy Stewart (drums), Pete Ricci (guitar), and John Fahnestock — generates a sound similar to that of Staind, a rock band that is currently popular. Actually, that is not the only connection between the two. Aaron Lewis, the frontman of Staind, is responsible for signing Lo Pro group to Geffen

records. Lewis had so much confidence in the group that he took the chance. But, in reality, the confidence that Lewis displayed is only a reflection of his love for his own sound (as Lo Pro in a way reproduces that) and not a reflection of the quality of this new band.

From negative must come something positive. Believe it or not, "Ignition" and "Never" are lyrically proficient, as they describe the ramifications of a busted ego and a worn-out soul and describe the feeling that the world is passing you by. Then songs six, eight, and 11 — or "Walk Away," "Oblivion," and "Fake" — are generally good. The sound blends well with the story being told. Murray sings of the stranglehold that the world can have on a person, of the devastating effects of one's mistakes, and of haughtiness.

And as grating as the sounds on this CD may be, the finale to it all — "Bombz" — is a commendable attempt at redemption. The first 50 seconds of the song serve as an instrumental prelude to something deep. Reminiscent of the sound of another rock band, Creed, this introduction sets a somber mood. What make this conclusion to the album special are the lyrics. "There's always something to bring me down/ There's always nothing to lift this cloud/ There's never much of anything and no one's around ... I feel like I'm losing my grip ... There must be something more to this/ There has to be something more I missed."

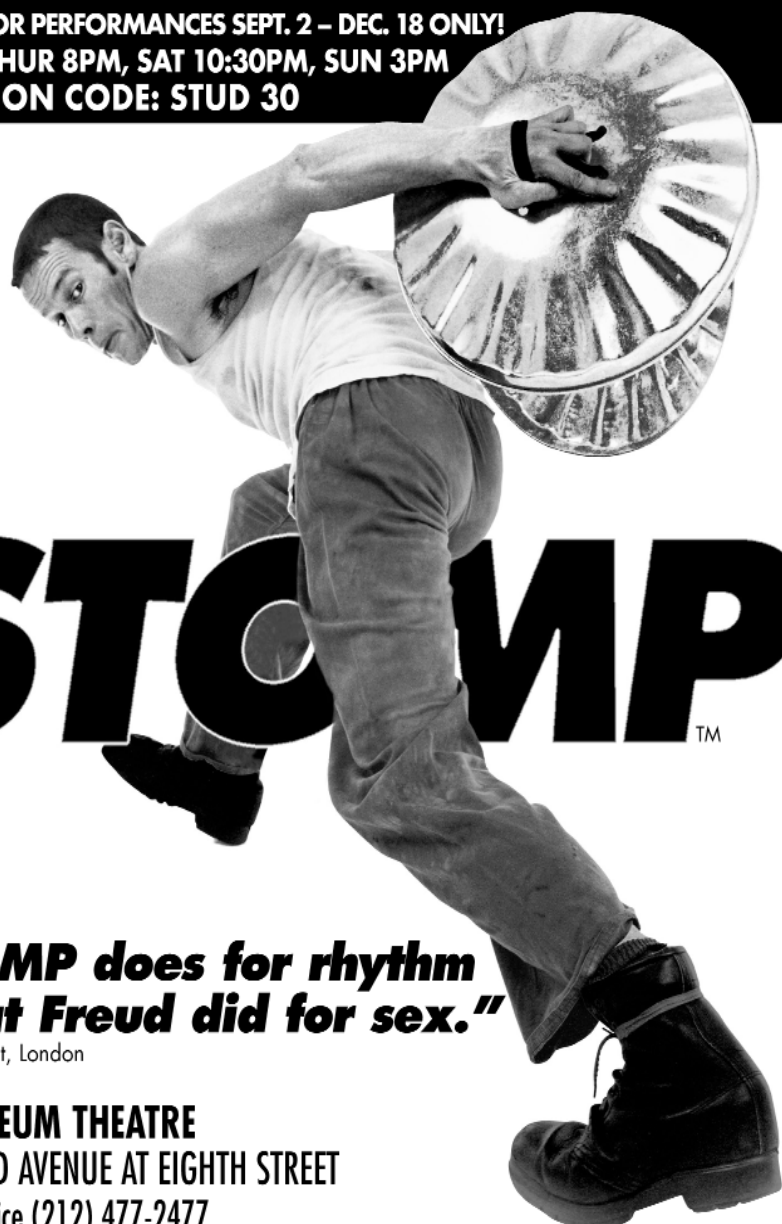
Everybody experiences gloom; sometimes gloom turns to depression. And when the deep melancholy seems too much, we wonder, is life really supposed to be such?



Lo Pro consists of (from L to R) John Fahnestock, Pete Murray, Neil Godfrey, Pete Ricci, and Tommy Stewart. (Photo/ Dean Karr)

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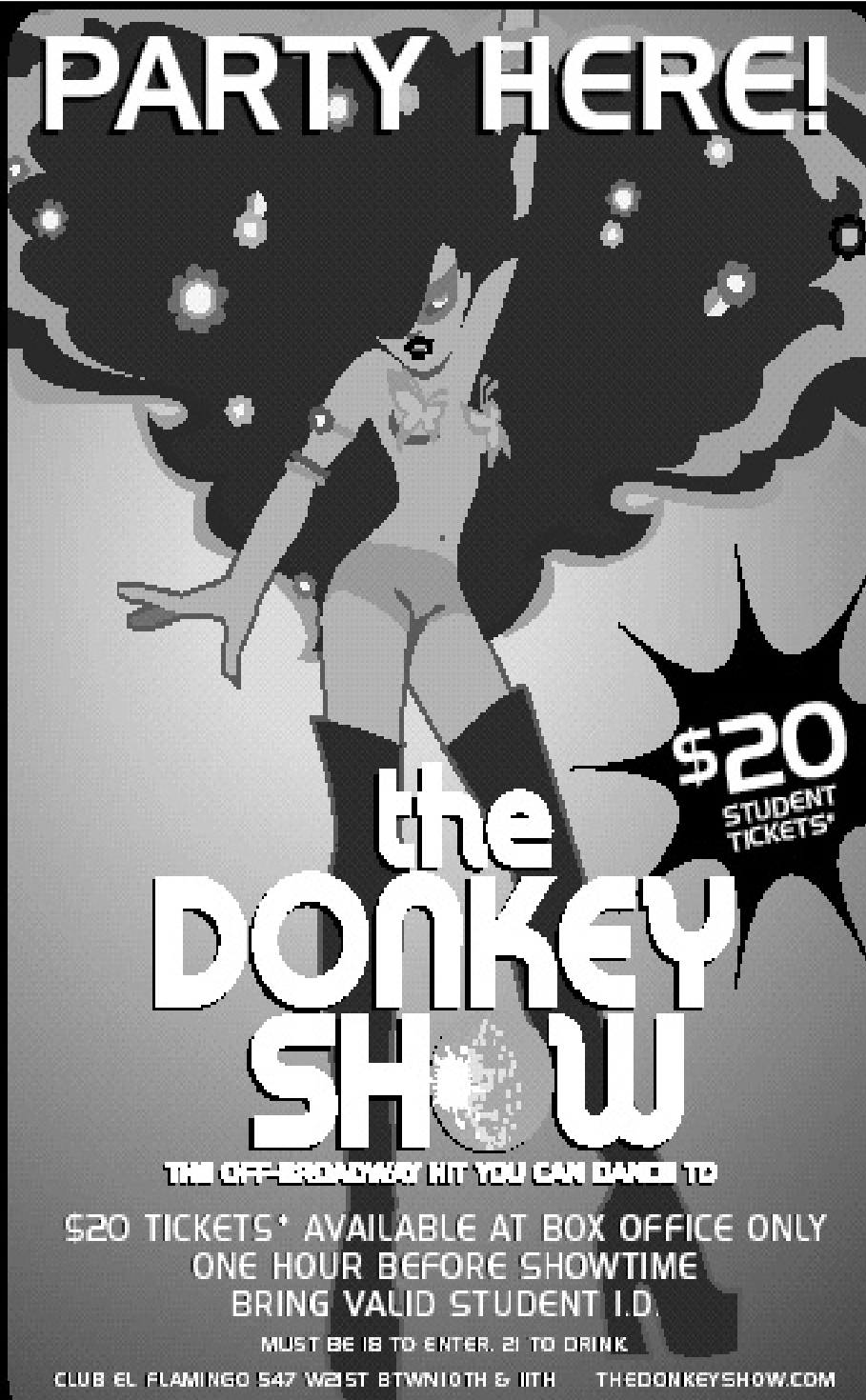
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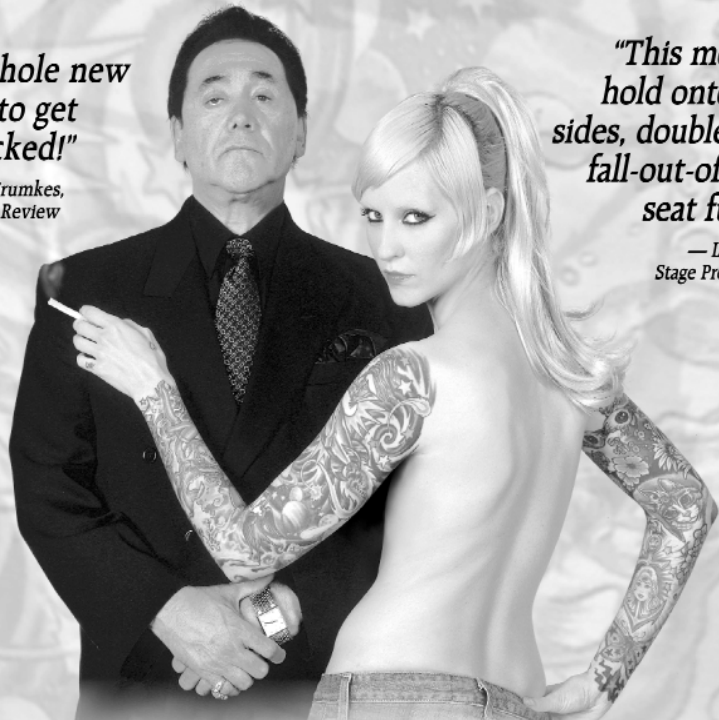
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Collin Quinn's Tough Crowd Needs to Sit Down

By KERRI QUIGLEY

This may just be me, but when I see a comedian, I expect to hear something new. Life seen through a comic's eyes is not the same as society sees it. I say this because comedians portray themselves as crazy and 'in your face.' Crazy and abrupt is funny. However, *Collin Quinn's Tough Crowd Stands Up* for the most part, is not. I was disappointed to find that most of what each of the seven comedians were saying was predictable and even boring.

The opening of Quinn's new show introduces a theme where a variety of comedians say whatever they want. It promises that they will make you laugh with their brash, tell-it-like-it-is sets in the areas of race, ethnicity, and religion. Well, making jokes about priests molesting little boys every 15 minutes is not only predictable; it is downright played out.

Quinn opens the show with nothing worth remembering. Even if it was, I could barely understand him because all he did was stammer. He may have had a few good punch lines somewhere along the line, but they were barely audible. Nick DiPaolo followed him and next

came Greg Giraldo. Giraldo went on an interesting rant about cleavage versus testes so that we all could see what a genius he is. His set consisted of playing stupid. "Why do the Americans side with the Israelis? Because they don't make those high-pitched noises that the Palestinians do." His touch on America's ignorance and pompous attitude was interesting, nonetheless.

Judy Gold, Keith Robinson, and Rich Vos could not stop talking about their children and lifestyles. Granted, Gold is a lesbian mother, which even today is still rare but she was still not funny. Robinson seemed like a nice guy and though his jokes about children and their "special areas" were typical, they still evoked cheap laughs — even from me. I fail to understand why the black comics, like Patrice O'Neal and Keith Robinson, are still making jokes about the differences between blacks and whites. Can't they think of anything else that they find funny — perhaps something with more substance?

Jim Norton was worthwhile. He began with jokes about plus-size models but quickly turned to more interesting topics. "I'm sick of people in our country looking for attention but under



Collin Quinn had a premonition about this article. (Photo/ www.saturdaynightlive.com)

the guise of social or political consciousness." He proceeded to discuss the Muslim woman in Florida who wanted her driver's license picture taken with her veil on. The real "kicker" is that she is a white woman who converted a few years earlier. "This middle-aged, fraudulent

b**** just wanted attention!" He followed with some great impressions and analogies. Next he raged about ethnic pride, which is equally funny. Norton is the only comedian in this ninety-minute special who lives up to its theme of brash comedy. He delivers a great act because he obviously says what he thinks regardless of who it will offend.

After each comic, Collin Quinn came out to have an unrehearsed, spontaneous talk. I think this part was not only supposed to make the show different from other comedy central shows, but it also aimed to highlight the wonderful improvisation abilities of each person. This failed horribly. Quinn did not seem to know what to say to any of the comics, nor did they know how to respond. DiPaolo even walked off the stage without a word. *Tough Crowd Stands Up* was nothing more than a series of seven comedians and a host. Collin Quinn has had an amazing career: several movies, a television co-host on MTV, and he was on *Saturday Night Live* for six seasons. Whatever got him so far is not apparent in *Tough Crowd* because even the worst comedians on his show outshine him.

Expressions

Selfish

You ain't as cute as that yellow Tweety birdie
Yet you want to have control in our relationship 70/30
Don't think that's gonna happen just 'cuz you my shorty
You don't do things fair, you play dirty
You manipulate the truth by being wordy
Of course you're honest...except for all those white lies
That's why I had to tell you goodbye
Did you ever care about my feelings?
All I can hope for now is the gradual healing

By Phillip Gong

Phoenix

Those free rivers flow brutally
Over cactus that patches the ravines.
While dreaming, they raised prison walls
Around our yards and made us trespassers
Of our own dreams, ones we hunted
At ethereal crossings to banish.
We fear them like sticks and stones,
Cold and dry they are,
Haunted by cutting rays of time
Melting gradually to finally vanish into
Wild persons.

While obscure faces raise the walls
Wipe foreheads, lower eyebrows
We shadow intensely like crippled beasts
Hidden inside chambers of fear—
A trail of still smoldering
Charred and crossed bones.
Gently captivate our clouds
Into rain, and dim us away
The dream of flight and time.

When the volatile bird
Is seized from skies and
Night sleeps with stardust
Under the dark dome
Corpses revive and dance
The parcel of their fate
Yet step quietly on this desert bed.

Silent upholstered skies overlook
Cleared temples trumped out by dust
Inside those helmets of time there remain
Nothing of the sacred flesh and only dust
Wind-scattered, woo beasts
To come come back to life.

Under feebleness sigh feeble hearts.
Under feeble ghosts,
Mutilated, whisper
Today the dead comes back to life.

Bloated corpses besiege the clay city.
Again they line across the starry seas
As candles burn out and not relit
And altars vanish
Like skeleton smiles.

By Volkan Unsal

Defeated

My life has been a tale
Filled with many ups and downs
Tears that plagued my existence
From beginning to end

My journey has been long
I admit my failures have been
Greater than my successes
Yet falling empires have seen me rise
In time of defeat

But amongst those tales of journeys
A story is known off
One of whom my words and thoughts
Are consumed from
If you are to hear my words
And feel my pain
Let it die in silence
For I have been defeated by thee

For I shall finally confess
That upon those million to die for her beauty
My soul vanished in that war

In those tears
That flooded those rivers
I witnessed my eyes drown for her

If you only saw her
You would understand
How my words are meant to be

To kiss her lips
Was worth giving your life
To touch her body
Was worth burning in flame
But my quest for her
Wasn't only to worship her body
But to conquer a challenge
One that many men died trying
And non have accomplished

I learned her every movement
Became the worshiper of her mind
Soon after time seized to exist
I conquered what was set out to be done
Caressed her body
Her tender lips against mine
Without thinking twice
I celebrated my triumph

But my glorious moment was set to cease
Whenever she was gone

My eyes saw her every moment of my life
My thoughts wore hers
Whenever I was gasping for life
The challenge was great
I admit that
Triumph was sweet
Theirs no doubt in my mind

But defeat from her, her
Was something I wasn't taught to handle
I became one of those men
Who burned in the presence of her light
Died whenever she was gone.

By Cristian Largo

Homeless Wound

Oh Where Oh Where will I end up,
Late at night when my day can't go on?
I worry as I travel to an empty and false destination
Where I used to have peace and rest

It grows constantly, devouring my tranquility
Hopelessly wishing for a diameter of my own
Where I can store my emotions and tangles,
And where my unique indentity can be shown

Instead, I waste away in hunger and disgrace
Being attacked by my thoughts of feeling misplaced
Struggles are tough and tears are rough
Light is dim, my survival is slim

By Claudia Martinez

LOST IN SORROW

I am trapped in the dark night, nothing in sight
And I am all alone and don't know the way which is right
My heart is wandering in the caves, in the dark morrows
She struck me in my heart and I am lost in sorrow.

This sea is attractive but dangerous and deep
he waves are violent and all my dreams got sweep
I am wandering in the center of my way, don't know which way
to follow
She struck me in my heart and I am lost in sorrow.

I am sure, I lost the game and all my dreams are in chains
Now there is nothing to lose nor anything to gain
But still a drop of faith is floating in a hollow
She struck me in my heart and I am lost in sorrow.

By Ravi Jha

Untitled

From the moment we've met.
You've been on my mind.
It's a feeling I just can't describe.
The way you make me feel so deep inside.
Endless hours searching for the right words to say to you the
next time
we meet.
Too much time spent on playing mind games, not enough spent
together.
Not realizing how much time we've lost until it's too late.
Chances taken are never wasted.
Eternal promises made were made to be kept.
For time spent taking risks is more precious than time wasted.

By Alice Wong

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- C. When you parlay that low paying, entry level job into a private office by catching a flamenco at the water cooler. That flamenco could have spelled the end to your boss – you're so smart.
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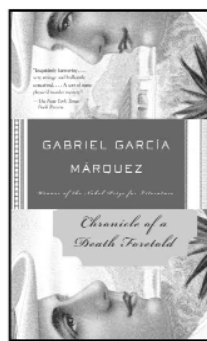
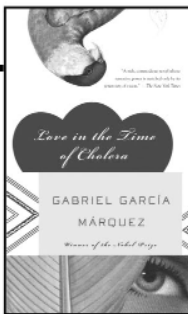
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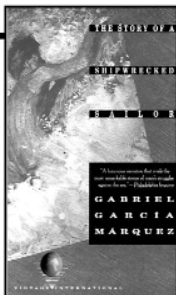
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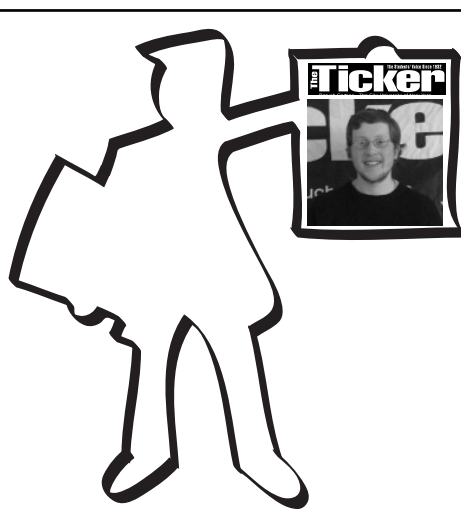


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Zone of the Enders: Dolores, i



Battling Orbital Frames (Photo/ ADV Films)

By NAOTA NANADABA

Title: *Zone of the Enders: Dolores, i* Vol. 1-6
Genre: Mecha/ Action
Time: 650 mins. (26 of 26 episodes)
Rated: 15+
Distributor: ADV Films

With many years passed since his wife's death and his kids virtually disowning him, James Links' life has taken a turn for the worst. Hoping to rebuild the bond between his children, James, now a trucker, takes on an unknown freight bound for his children's home, Earth. Later he discovers that the mysterious freight is a top secret mecha with artificial intelligence named Dolores, who is in some way connected to his deceased wife Rachel. This brings a heap of trouble for James as he is later framed for murder, destroying both the lives of him and his children. Now James, his son Leon and his daughter Noel are fugitives who must follow their only clue, Dolores, to Mars in search for answers about Rachel and Dolores.

A large portion of the series is based around action and fighting between mecha. This displays a lot of great animation and computer graphics. From midair fights to epic space battles and flashy explosions, there is a lot of eye candy to be found.

With all the mecha fighting, it is easy to overlook the theme. The storyline is based around love -- not romantic but caring love; the love between husband and wife, parent and child, and man for humanity. James is the central figure in this, trying to correct the mistakes he has made with his wife and children to rebuild their lives together, and save humanity from itself. However, this theme gets a bit overwhelming at points with James giving several heartfelt speeches at the end. One such speech is able to stop a battle between Earthlings and Martians because James is able to enlighten them with the fact that at the end Martians and Earthlings are still human underneath, a fact that they apparently did not realize during their years of resentment towards each other.

Unlike various other series where there are many self enclosed episodes that do not relate to the main story, each episode of *Zone of the Enders: Dolores, i* flowed well with each other. The series set a great pace because all of the Links family adventures happened on their road to discovering the truth about Dolores and Rachel. Each step of their journey was shown as it happened without revealing too much information about their future to the audience. The audience was basically a part of the family's journey, learning things as they did. This was an interesting perspective, but the downside to this was that the audience was kept in the dark about the underlying story surrounding Dolores, and her importance between Earth and Mars, until very late in to the series.

Besides having a good storyline, the series is also well designed. The character designs are fantastic with each and every character having a completely different facial structure, rather than just different hair, eye and skin colors. Unfortunately, the mecha designs were not as impressive. The orbital frames, and the giant mechas, were oddly designed with the piloting area located in the crotch of the mecha, putting a whole new meaning to the word cockpit. Understanding the oddity of this, the animation staff wisely chose to rarely show the orbital frames at a profile.

Although there were some problems with the story, *Zone of the Enders: Dolores, i* was impressive in both story and animation quality. To top things off, the extensive amounts of extras in the DVDs were the icing on the cake with several interviews, artwork and an omake episode to name a few.

Anime Grade:

Story: B/B+ Audiol: B+
Visual: A Extras: A

Interview with Ren Usami, the Director and Producer of *Initial D*

By NAOTA NANADABA

For the past three years the Big Apple Anime Fest has brought some of the greatest anime personnel from Japan to the United States for one of the largest anime conventions in the world. This year was no different with big name guests like producer Masao Maruyama, director Satoshi Kon and the director/producer of the Big Apple Anime Fest's headlining title *Initial D: The Movie*, Ren Usami.

Beginning his career in anime with *Area 88*, Ren Usami made a name for himself with his work on several popular anime titles but none of which are as well known as the street car racing series *Initial D*. Based on the hit manga series by Shuichi Shigeno, the *Initial D* anime series was an instance success in Japan. This success spilled over onto the rest of the world, conquering the rest of Asia before traveling west. Today the manga series, the two anime television series (Stage 1 and Stage 2), and the anime movie (Stage 3) will reach American shores through the distributor TOKYOPOP Inc.

Before the Big Apple Anime Fest opened its doors to the thousands of anime fan, The Ticker had the opportunity to sit down and interview the famous director and producer, with the assistance of a Japanese translator.

The Ticker: How did you begin your career in anime?

Ren Usami: Well it's kind of coincidental. I was doing other work but I had people ask me to be an agent for manga, so I started being their agent and then when I look at the animation that was out there I thought to myself that I could probably do better and so that's how I started and the first thing I made was *Area 88*.



Ren Usami (Photo/ Big Apple Anime Fest)

TT: Right now your headlining title is *Initial D*, what was your role in the television series and the movie?

RU: For the movie, I was the producer and the director but if you look at the movie, under the credits for director it's going to say Shishi Yamaguchi, that's my director's name. It's a difference name that I used for that. For the TV series I have been involved with the scenario from the start. I don't write it, but I have been looking over it and have been evaluating the scenario from the beginning and I acted as the producer. My main role as the producer was conceptualizing. So you got 3-D animation and 2-D animation and my role is to decide how to use both of these and where best to show 3-D. We do these things called technical boards which start out rather simple. So it might start out with a car just moving across, but as it involves you add things like maybe smoke in certain areas and so I was in charge of the technical boards and concept.

TT: Why do you have a different name as a director?

RU: It's because in animation it's not like a regular film where you have "director Steven Spielberg" you have many people who are directing, like sound directors. So I just happened to be the person in the project to kind of manage all of it, but I didn't want to use just my name because I am not the one directing it. So even though I am the director in charge, I wanted to assign a different name to represent all of us.



Takumi standing in front of his Trueno 86 at Akina Mountain. (Photo/ TOKYOPOP Inc.)

TT: How did you come up with that name?

RU: This is the explanation but it is so localized that I don't really think you will understand the answer. (laugh) In Japan there is an area called Yamaguchiken and about 30 years ago, this is a long time ago, we did an article on wild boars that were in Yamaguchiken and the word for wild boar is Inoshishi. So I just took that and combined it. Also there was a famous singer named Mumui Yamaguchi so we just kind of put some words together. (laugh)

TT: What type of Production Company do you own?

RU: Within our company we do 2-D animation, 3-D computer graphics, and we also do music production.

TT: Why did you decide to expand into so many different types of production?

RU: Well you know what happens is you have a visual and when you are working on something what makes it complete is the sound and the music. So as you are working on something you think "I want this kind of music for this movie," so it becomes almost easier to make it yourself. You are able to get what you like.

TT: What was it about *Initial D* that made you want to take up the project?

RU: Initially I made what's called CD drama, and what that is, is a story that is told but just in sound. It's like a CD and you listen to it and there is a narrator and you hear maybe the driving but I thought it would be so much better and richer in visual and that is how I ended up making the series.

TT: Why did you use 3-D animation in *Initial D*?

RU: Well a lot of animation deals with things like robots, things that are not real. In a way those are easier to deal with because they don't exist, you don't look at them and say that's not how it should look. So it is easier to deform it and change the shape but for *Initial D* we are dealing with a car that exists in reality and a car is curvy. There are a lot of things that are hard to express by just drawing. Also, as part of the concept in *Initial D* the cars are also the main characters. Like you have a car called the Lancer and it has a role, it has a character. So it was very important to represent this the best I could and from the very beginning when I thought of making an animation with a car, I thought about the drifting and skidding and I knew that we couldn't do it without 3-D.

TT: From Stage 1 to Stage 2 the animation quality changed and there was more computer graphics. Why was this done? Was this a direct result of the popularity of Stage 1?

RU: Well part of the concept of the series is evolution. The main character Takumi become a better driver and wins more races but also we ourselves wanted to evolve as we go from Stage 1 to Stage 2 so we wanted to get better at using computer graphics.

TT: Did you expect the series to be so popular?

RU: Not at all. I didn't expect it to be such a success but the original manga was quite successful. It sold about 800,000 books per vol-

ume, which is very good and so when I made the series I did have the idea of making something that the readers could identify with and would like. In Japan there are almost two different groups that are interested in animation and manga. There are the otaku, those who are really into their own little separate kind of world and you have the regular fans. I wanted to make *Initial D* for regular people so that was what I had in the back of my mind. Actually what's interesting is that after the series came out the manga sales rose to about 1.2 million. So the manga and animation affected each other.

TT: Do you expect the *Initial D* series and movie to be as successful in the U.S.?

RU: In Japan you have people who like, not drag racing but who like to drive on winding roads. I don't really think this is true about people in the United States, so I don't know if that part of the series will translate well to American audiences but the main part of the story, to have a car that's not as good to win against a car that is much better, I think that is something American audiences can appreciate. So I don't know. (laughs)

TT: Since the manga series has yet to end, there is still a lot of story left to tell in *Initial D*. Do you plan on making another stage/series?

RU: In Japan, starting next February, we are going to make 12 new episodes, bi-monthly.

TT: How does the animation industry in America compare to the one in Japan, in terms of marketing?

RU: Actually when we talk about the size of the U.S. animation market as opposed to the Japanese, but in actuality both are quite small. From my understanding in the U.S. there are about 300,000 main people who like animation, who buy animation and in Japan it is really about 300,000 as well and worldwide it is about one million, so it's quite small either way you look at it. The only really exception is that in Japan, you look at Miyazaki Hayao's latest film *Spirited Away*, about one million DVDs were sold for that. But it's a little bit of a different category because it's become so popular that the name Miyazaki Hayao will sell something. So young office workers who wouldn't really see any other animation will see it because it's so popular that they don't want to get left behind. It's something that they kind of have to do to be part of the pop culture. So I think it's a separate category.

TT: Around the world there is a whole underground anime society that deals with free fan-subs. What do you think about that?

RU: It's kind of strange to me, I think it's a little bit odd because in a lot of ways the United States has the strictest laws on copyrights, it's very copyright sensitive, but I kind of understand because animation is finally getting bigger so maybe it can't be helped right now, but I think when animation becomes a bigger industry it should be controlled or rather it will be controlled naturally.

TT: Thank you for your time and we hope you have a pleasant stay in New York.

RU: Arigato.



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For the fellas:



BEARCAT PROWLINGS

OCTOBER 14, 2003

Bearcats Fall Short in Soccer Matches Against CSI and Rutgers

By AHMED DOUGHRI

Baruch's soccer team experienced mixed results last week, with one large victory and two small losses. Nonetheless, one could only be optimistic because Baruch finally performed like bearcats on the prowl.

In their first game of the week, Baruch's eleven humiliated Cooper Union by scoring five times and keeping their cage clean throughout the game. The result could have been more impressive, had it not been the coach's decision to rotate players. The first team was quickly "benched" after scoring early goals. Recent joiner, striker Alexander Sokol, hit two goals in his first appearance. Dima Kamenshchik scored his first goal of the season from the penalty spot, and captain Evis Damianos left his defensive midfield position to add another goal to his accounts (two this season). Damianos is, as of last week, the eighth best player statistically in CUNY, averaging 1.17 points. Striker Youssef Azzam, one of CUNY's leading scorers and fifth in the CUNY overall ranking with 1.43 points, completed the list of Baruch's goal scorers for their game against Cooper Union.

On Saturday, October 4, Baruch was up against the No. 1 CUNY team, the College of Staten Island, which had been undefeated for six games, and won all its conference games. Coach Victor Francis almost revamped his entire defense, but kept other sectors untouched. For this game, Francis used the same 11 players for the whole match, and made only one forced substitution, after Sokol sustained an injury. In defense, Cesar Guzman played as a sweeper for the first time, but performed extremely well, shutting off the Dolphins' scoring machine Chris Abbas. Thomas Murdoch assisted, while Blay and Chris Contti played in the left and right flanks respectively.

The "Blue and Whites" dominated every sector of the game from possession to scoring opportunities, although the latter was very

scarce. Nonetheless, the Bearcats were not very far from scoring.

While the game was ongoing, an individual rivalry was taking place as well; Azzam wanted to catch up to Abbas' score in the CUNY individual rankings. Aided by his defense teammates who entirely neutralized and isolated Abbas, Azzam created many opportunities, but failed to capitalize on them. The Bearcat striker hit the crossbar from a breathtaking shot, and squared a match-winning ball to Sokol. Unfortunately, the latter was harshly tackled and dispossessed of the ball by the CSI goalkeeper.

During the last minutes of the game it was CSI who scored the only goal of the match. Francis, who was not pleased with the team's end results assessed that his midfield was not as effective as it should be. "Offensive midfielders could not make passes. That cost us the game," he said.

For Baruch's next game against Rutgers University, Francis introduced changes to his offensive midfield. Azzam and Kamenshchik became responsible for filling those vital positions. However, having moved Azzam back to midfield, the Bearcat striking force was compromised. The result: the burden of the game fell on the shoulders of Baruch's midfield and defense, and they handled it outstandingly. The captain of the team, Damianos, and freshman teammate Murdoch, led the team with their excellent defensive showing. The only one opportunity of the game for Baruch came from Emrah Ertamay. Ertamay's shot went inches away from the goal. The result for the 90 minutes was a 0-0 score, an excellent score against Rutgers, a team from the NJAC. Again, luck was not on Baruch's side, as they lost in "sudden death" once Rutgers was the first team to score.

Overall, this week was not a good one, score-wise for the Bearcats. However, the style and the performance on the pitch have substantially improved compared to their previous games.

Women's Volleyball Team Gets Into Car Accident

By PHILLIP GONG

For all of the volleyball fans that looked forward to seeing Baruch play the City College of New York, they were left disappointed by going to the game only to find an empty gym.

The Baruch Women's Volleyball Team was unable to participate in the October 7 match against CCNY because of an accident that happened to the team the weekend prior to the game. On Saturday, October 4, the women's team returned from the Oneonta Invitational in upstate New York.

The women's team rode in their van as they usually do for most road games, but on that late Saturday night, the van got wrecked after bumping a car. The car attempted an illegal U-turn on the New York Thruway and as a result, the car crashed into the team van causing the van to be totalled.

Fortunately, the members of the team were unharmed. In fact, this was the "first car acci-

dent with a van," said Dr. William Eng, Baruch College Athletics Director.

Although no one was knocked unconscious by the collision, the players, coaches and the driver were taken to a local hospital near Newburgh to be placed under observation until 5-6 a.m. the next morning. There were aches and pains suffered by most which were accompanied by whiplash. The most severe injury happened to Safia Mian, who needed several stitches on her lip due to a laceration.

Since the game versus CCNY was cancelled, the game will have to be made up October 14, at 5 p.m. at CCNY. As for the accident itself, there will be a lot of paperwork that will need to be filled out. Lawsuits, accident reports, and insurance claims are among some of the things that need to be settled in the near future.

Still, these legalities will not hinder the women's volleyball squad from competing. They will be back in action this week.

John Jay Dominates Undermanned Bearcats



Baruch goalkeeper Peter Resvanis stops one of John Jay's 15 shots on goal. (Photo/ Aaron Siegel)

By AARON SIEGEL

The John Jay Bloodhounds 3-8 (2-3 CUNY-AC) clawed into the Baruch Bearcats with a dominant 4-1 victory at the Metropolitan Oval. The Bearcats came into the game undermanned without the presence of midfielder Ahmed Doughri and forward Youssef Azzam.

From the start, the Bloodhounds were on the attack and they spent the majority of the game in Bearcats' territory.

"It was a superior performance by John Jay," said Bearcats midfielder Dima Kamenshchik. "We are hurt by a lack of field and a lack of practice."

The Bearcats were unable to stop an endless series of shots at Bearcats goaltender Peter Resvanis. Resvanis came into the game with the second best goals against average in the conference at 2.19.

After four shots, John Jay forward Fedelis Amoako netted the first John Jay goal on a breakaway to put the Hounds' up by a 1-0 score. Despite the close score after the game's opening 45 minutes, the Bearcats had been dominated on the scoreboard. The Bearcats were out-shot 8-1 with Haji Fall being the only Bearcat to successfully shoot the ball.

The second-half began with John Jay midfielder Slowomir Balon netting a goal at the six

minute mark on a pass from the right side. The goal was followed in short order by CUNY Player of the Week Jason Bowery, who scored five minutes later at the 11 minute mark. Resvanis was taken out after allowing the third goal by John Jay and was replaced with Vladamir Dorgely. This change in goalies did not hinder the Bloodhounds' assault as Balon followed with his second goal of the game at the 80 minute mark to put an exclamation mark on the John Jay win.

The Bearcats did not let up even though the game was out of reach. Forward Bogdan Radu was set up by midfielder Chris Contti who fired a shot past Bloodhounds goalie Rody Rodriguez.

"I am very happy that I finally scored," said Radu. "It was a tough game and we were out gunned."

Coach Bobby Francis was disappointed in his team's performance and looked ahead to the remaining games in the CUNYAC.

"It was a tough game for us," said Francis. "We have five left in CUNY. We need to start scoring more goals and connecting on more passes."

The Bearcats dropped their record to 3-7 with a 0-3 record in the CUNYAC.

A strong John Jay defense and many offensive breakaways by the Hounds' led to Baruch being out-shot for the game 15-4.

Baruch Women's Cross Country Team Finishes First Among CUNY

By SHAN-SAN WU

The Baruch College Women's Cross Country team went face-to-face with its conference rivals over the weekend.

They came just five seconds short of sweeping the field.

Led by Hana Pechackova, Liz Lushpenko and Michelle Zeguerra, the Bearcats secured overall team honors at a CUNY Invitational in Van Cortlandt Park with five finishers out of the top 18 and two out of the top five. This was just enough to edge past Brooklyn's Pratt Institute, who placed four of its runners in the top seven.

The matchup of the day was not between schools, though. It was between two of CUNY's best runners: Baruch's Pechackova and York College's Tolulope Ojo. Leading the pack from start to finish, they both emerged from the Van Cortlandt backcountry, matching each other step for step and stride for stride. Both would break the 21-minute mark for the five-kilometer course, but only one would finish first.

"A lot of the runners we are facing from Hunter and York are track runners," said Baruch Cross-Country Coach Dr. William Eng. "If you don't have a big enough lead, they're going to catch you."

Ojo caught and passed Pechackova in the race's last 50 yards, finishing with a time of 20:45. Pechackova finished in 20:50, five seconds behind.

"Well, it didn't work out in the end, but I hope I can learn from this experience," said Pechackova.

Both were the only CUNY runners of the day to finish under 21 minutes, the benchmark Eng says runners will have to beat to win the CUNY championship. They will both meet again three weeks from now at the CUNY Athletic Conference Championships, but not all of the opposition was present on Sunday. Hunter College, Baruch's arch-rival and CUNY Cross-Country Champions for much of the past half decade, may have fielded an under-talented team on purpose.

"Hunter ran different runners today. They only ran three last week," said Eng. "They do that so you don't see their full squad."

By contrast, the Bearcats had ten runners on hand, nearly their full complement. And while other schools may be rearranging individual running schedules to gain a tactical edge, Eng's strategy of trying to give his runners as much experience as possible, even when they finish ten or more minutes off the pace, may be helpful in the long term.

Already, says Eng, the core of the 2004-2005 team is starting to fall into place. Two of his top six runners have more than two years of eligibility left. Zeguerra, a first year runner, finished 12th out of a field of 40, while second-year runner Lushpenko finished fifth with a time of 22:22 - her best time yet.

Clearly, despite the lack of a year-round track program, Baruch has enough talent to hold its own.

"The CUNY Conference is very competitive," says Ojo of York College. "I'm running against the best."

Upcoming Baruch Bearcats Sports Schedule

Sport	When	Opponent	Where
Women's Volleyball	Fri. 10/17 @ TBA	CUNY-SUNY Challenge	Baruch
	Sat. 10/18 @ TBA	CUNY-SUNY Challenge	Baruch
Men's Soccer	Sat. 10/18 @ 12 P.M.	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn
	Sun. 10/19 @ 2 P.M.	Polytechnic University	Polytechnic
Women's Tennis	Fri. 10/17 @ TBA.	CUNYAC Championships	NTC
	Sat. 10/18 @ TBA	CUNYAC Championships	NTC
Women's Cross-Country	Sat. 10/18 @ 12 P.M.	DeSales University Invit.	DeSales