

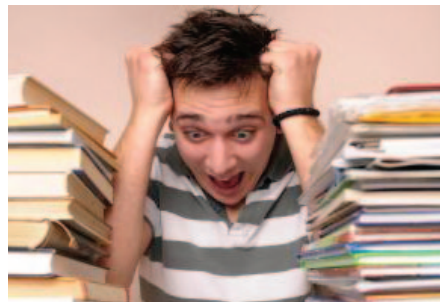
# THE CATALYST

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## So It's Finals Week... Now What?



By Karyn Dyer

The semester is almost finished and we are finally in December! Despite the excitement, we are still overcrowded with feelings of anxiety and nervousness as we begin to study for our final exams. Because of the academic calendar changes that were made post-Hurricane Sandy, we have no extra make-up/study days and that makes the stress increase. Nonetheless, students are still trying to stay focused and around this time certain themes are developed when it comes to studying:

1. **PROCRASTINATION IS KNOCKING:** As if it wasn't already difficult to sit down to type up a ten page paper or study for midterms, when the dates for finals are approaching students become more prone to procrastination. "Usually they either procrastinate the entire semester and basically their finals are their way of catching up," said junior student Misael Lopez about stress around finals week. According to multiple studies, 80 to 95% of college students procrastinate. The major way to procrastinate while studying for finals is through the internet. If you find yourself paying more attention to your Facebook timeline than your textbook or your paper, you might want to shut the wifi off (unless you need it for research) or even deactivate your social networking accounts until finals week is over.

2. **ENERGY and FOOD OVERDOSE:** All the Monsters, Red Bulls, and Starbucks coffee is getting over exhausted during finals week. Students find themselves trying to stay focused and awake to study or to type final papers. What they do not realize is having too much energy in the body can leave it feeling jittery and the brain will be going in all sorts of directions. Not to mention that they are losing hours of sleep, this is never beneficial to anyone. So students should remember to not over indulge in energy drinks. In addition to that, the students' eating habits change and appear to be unhealthy habits. They find themselves eating more during the late evenings while they are studying. More calls to nearby pizza and Chinese food restaurants are made, which puts a hole in a college student's wallet and more weight on a college stu-

dent's body. Eating healthier foods like fruits and granola will give the students more energy that they will need to study.

3. **GROUP STUDYING or SOLO STUDYING:** At the end of the day, it all comes down to the individual if they want to study by themselves or if they want to study around or with others, but they should take precautions. "No one knows you better than you know yourself," said Lopez. "So if you know you cannot study in a group because you procrastinate, don't get your friends, who are in the same situation as you are, to study with." There are times when people do study together successfully, but that may depend on the subject that they are studying. For example, some students at Old Westbury study together when it comes to sciences like Biology and Chemistry and 8 out of 10 times, the results are usually positive. But there are other times where students find themselves studying with others and they don't realize how much time they have yet to have covered. The same thing applies to students who choose to study alone. They now have more ground to cover by themselves and still have a limited time to do it.

4. **LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:** The environment that Old Westbury students choose to study is VERY important because it may benefit the student or put the students at a disadvantage. Because of the construction in the library, the main level of the library is mainly populated with people using computers to type papers or to do research. The upper levels of the library is a good option to study because it offers the options of sitting at the tables which allow group or individual studying to occur or the quiet and secluded rooms that gives individuals solitude and a cubicle to get studying and homework done. For some brief studying time, the new Academic Building has some lounges that people study in, however the word brief was used because it tends to get populated very fast. There are also lounging areas around the department offices that students stop and get some studying in. For resident students, if they choose not to study in their rooms, they may find themselves going to the lounges in the buildings to get studying done. It is beneficial during finals time because the Office of Residential Life establishes a 24 hour quiet hours rule in early December to make sure to accommodate students who are studying and getting ready for finals.

So as finals week continues, students please remember to manage your time better, stay away from bad studying habits, get some sleep and eat healthy so you will be better prepped to take on your finals!

## Red Cross to Remain at Clark Center Until Early January



Volunteers for the Red Cross

By Kenneth Teape

The Red Cross is expected to remain at the Clark Athletic Center for at least several more weeks. In the meantime, Old Westbury students are not allowed in the building for the remainder of the fall semester.

The closure of the Clark Athletic Center was put in effect to enable the Red Cross to use the facility to provide a safe, secure location for those volunteers who need it in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. While the Red Cross is using the facility, students do not have access to fitness rooms, weight rooms, the pool or the gym. Practice and any meets or games for the swim and men's and women's basketball teams are being relocated to other gyms and pools.

Between 125 and 150 Emergency Vehicle Response volunteers are living in the building. They come from all over the United States; many are over the age of sixty. They deliver food to areas affected by the hurricane and help in the clean up.

Clifford Gorman, the Red Cross shelter manager, told Stephanie Buffamonte of Old Westbury TV, that the Clark Center "is a fantastic facility with all the necessities people need."

Volunteers wake up at around six a.m. and the lights are turned off at 10 p.m. Snacks are available throughout the day. Among many signs posted on the walls is one advising: "Take care of yourself and remember to smile."

Susie Seibel, from Pennsylvania and in her sixth year of volunteering for the Red Cross, told blogger Simonelife, writing on the *MoeLive* site, that she had seen children out on the road flagging down Red Cross vehicles for food or other relief.

While OW students don't begrudge the use of the Clark Center by the Red Cross, they are annoyed that the fees they pay for membership are not being reimbursed for the period when they can't use the facilities.

"I know students on athletic teams that have to travel to nearby schools or practice outside in the cold because they can't be in the gym," OW senior Victor St. John told Simonelife. "Personally, I want to be able to lift some weights. I don't mind that they are here because they are benefiting the nearby communities, but I pay money for access to the gym [every semester], and that's not being accounted for."

**FASHION ON CAMPUS**  
(PG. 6)

## From the Executive Editor

Happy December. We finally reached the end of the semester. Throughout this semester there have been many great events and some not so great and challenges but the SUNY Old Westbury community stayed strong and made it to the end. I would like to thank all the people who contributed this semester: our awesome faculty advisor John Friedman, the passionate writers, the hardworking editors, and the interns and office workers.

I would like to extend my gratitude and congratulations to the Managing Editor Ryan Zukowski and the Office Manager Hope Trama. Ryan, you were a great part of the Catalyst and an excellent writer and I am so proud of you. Hope, you are truly a gem and it was great working with you. You really brightened up the Catalyst office every time you walked in. Although you both are graduating in December, you will always be a part of the Catalyst family and we will miss you dearly.

I would like to extend a personal thank you to Joseph Manfredi, the OWWR manager. We share an office and I cannot count the number of times that you have given to the Catalyst and helped it develop. I truly appreciate it and I am very thankful for the ways that you help us.

And as always, I would like to thank the community of SUNY Old Westbury for continuing to support the Catalyst through thick and thin. We hope to come back next semester bigger and better and with your support and participation, I'm sure that we'll achieve greater success.

Until next semester, Happy Holidays!

Karyn Dyer

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## The Podcast Awards

By Christine Sheh

The Podcast Awards is a ceremony that recognizes the best podcasts of the media industry in the categories of People's Choice, best produced, best video podcast, and much more. It's a part of New Media Expo, a media industry-wide event that focuses on content creation and how it can help business men and women further their careers. The Podcast Awards is an event that focuses on the podcast itself in regards to its content, delivery, and the design of the website that is used to promote podcasting content while displaying a variety of podcasting formats with various topics of interest such as the arts, entertainment, gaming, and sports. The awards event will be held on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Each year the Podcast Awards draws a large audience from all around the world. Podcasters are judged based on the number of nominations 40%, website design 15%, how relevant is the content 20%, and its delivery and format 10% giving nominees definite competition to be the best podcast in the media industry.

The aim of the event is to give podcasters the opportunity to take podcasting to a whole new level. Competition is now a component of the podcasting, Blogging, and Web TV world, which increase the level of professionalism and necessary skills needed to produce a successful podcast.

## An Wang Re-Opened

By Joseph Garcia

A few weeks ago, those residing on the "old side" (Academic Village Residence Halls) including this reporter were given a notice that the closed down An Wang building and bridge apartments would be open for FEMA workers to live in as they work in the gym assisting families. Again, I know what you're thinking; how can this be a bad thing? The thing is that the An Wang Building was used as a residence hall for Briarcliff over a year ago, and ever since the lease was up for the building it's been closed down and sitting there for over a year.

Many students who are on the ridiculously long waiting list to get a room on campus would love to live in the An Wang building but the school has decided to let FEMA live there instead of its own students. Another thing is that the FEMA workers are able to park their cars anywhere around the building and not be ticketed, which is odd because if a student is caught around the building in a car for even a few minutes, they get a ticket and etc. Now, as for those workers who are living there, it is convenient to live there as one worker said, and went on to say that it is a good thing our campus is doing. Yes it truly is a great and selfless act but at the same time, we are helping others but are turning our backs on those who are right here in front of us; the students. I personally believe that it's just slightly unfair, in a percentage point of view it would be 70% good 30% bad because if we are able to let FEMA workers live in An Wang, why can't we have it open for students who want to live on campus?

I am grateful that we can help those devastated by Superstorm Sandy but I also see things from a resident's point of view. An Wang should be open for SUNY Old Westbury students once more like it was in previous years. Hopefully we can see that in the very near future especially if we can stand up and ask for it. It's not terrible that FEMA is living in An Wang. It's just a bit of an inconvenience for students who are waiting to live on campus and of course use the gym once more.

OPINION

## FINAL THOUGHTS ON CHRISTMAS

By Ryan Zukowski

Christmas used to be a magical time for me. The gifts, family, feasting, and the music were all very special... until I hit eighteen. Something in me changed as I looked around at all of the materialism and I really began to contemplate the meaning of Jesus' birthday. Wasn't Christianity about the rejection of materialism for the sake of love, hope and faith? Yet I remember the craze of the first Tickle-Me-Elmo and I have watched as the Black Friday stampedes over the last couple of years have seen people trampled and killed. Now, people are bringing pepper spray to the store to have the leg-up on the other guy trying to wrestle that last toy off the shelf.

Conservative Christians will say that there is a war on Christmas every time someone from the ACLU drives past a rural firehouse and sees a nativity scene and sues the town to have it taken down because it is offensive to non-Christians. Every year, American Atheists spends money to put up billboards in the New York City Metropolitan area to say that religion is a myth and the Catholic League puts up billboards to refute the American Atheists' claims. With neither side gaining ground, I think of how that money could be better spent going to charity. It only makes sense; if there is no God or afterlife, should we not make the lives of the less fortunate a little more bearable by giving them money for food and to upkeep a shelter for the coming winter? If Jesus Christ's mission was one of charity, shouldn't the Catholic League use their money to donate to charity instead of buying ad space to refute fundamentalist atheists?

It doesn't stop there. People of other faiths are ignored completely by the consumerist culture. Perhaps they should count themselves lucky.

Chanukah is December 8-16, this year, where gifts are exchanged but there are no commercials or holiday deals mentioning that. Blue and white are associated with the Jewish festival but all the catalogues are red and green with mistletoe and Christmas ribbons. Ask a Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh or Buddhist if there is a "War on Christmas" they will most likely tell you no.

The decay of the holiday spirit goes further than commercialism, petty arguments between organizations with too much time and money on their hands and the savagery of commercialism and consumerism. As I grew older and more disenchanted with organized religion and got sick of hearing Christmas music from before Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, I began to question what Santa Claus had to do with Jesus. I always assumed that we were giving each other gifts because it was Jesus' birthday but where did a chubby flamboyant bearded man breaking and entering into my house to give me gifts come into the picture and why was I not uncomfortable with this concept sooner?

The answer starts in Ancient Rome.



Credit: Occupy Corporatism

The festival of Saturnalia was celebrated for the Titan who was the father of Zeus. In the week before December 25<sup>th</sup>, Gifts were exchanged, formal standards for dress, decorum and manners were relaxed (which says a lot for Rome) to celebrate the festival which ranged from a few days to a week depending on the Emperor's preference.

According to biblical scholars, Jesus was not even born in December. In fact, most scholars place his birth to the Spring of 3 B.C.E., given scriptural text, documentation of the census that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and a supernova that occurred at the time.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, the Dutch had brought about the legend of Sinter Klaas, which eventually evolved into St. Nicholas and Santa Claus. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century we had pretty much the Santa Claus we know today with a few tweaks remaining to be made. For instance, Black Peter, a black elf who would kidnap naughty children for Santa and take them away in a sack, was nixed from the mythos, although he still lives on in Belgian traditions. Santa used to leave candy in the shoes for good children and until recently, smoked a pipe.

Part of the reason the Puritans left England was the celebration of Christmas. Christmas was banned as a holiday in Massachusetts and not made into a legal holiday until the 1830's, when Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana codified it into their state laws. Christmas remained somewhat taboo for a few more decades among a significant segment of America's Christian population until President Grant made it a federal holiday in 1870.

Santa is a composite character made up of Saturn, Odin and a Turkish Bishop who was renowned for generosity to children in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century.

All of this mixing and matching of Pagan and Christian mythology left my head spinning. Was placing the Star of Bethlehem over the Pagan symbol of the evergreen tree Christianizing the Pagan world or was it a Pagan conspiracy to keep their culture alive under the oppressive Christian societies of Europe? Was celebrating Jesus' birthday just after the Winter Solstice celebrating the light of the world coming back or since he was born

in the springtime, was celebrating it at this time just celebrating the Solstice and Saturnine in a more covert way?

All of the questions, contradictions, convoluted history mixed with mythology, the annoying music as well as the "Keep Christ in Christmas" bumper stickers just as much as the "You Know It's A Myth" campaigns, the materialism and the stampedes during the season of love left me lost for a definition of Christmas. Every year, my enthusiasm for the holidays has waned as the realization of snow shoveling and bone-chilling cold sets in and the rituals of setting up decorations for [Pagan] things in which I do not believe to celebrate a birthday at least three months early gets more and more annoying.

The only option left for me, as I feel is left for all people wishing to actually celebrate the end-of-the-year celebrations is to give it a meaning for yourself. The end of the calendar year is a time to reflect back on the events of the year and be thankful for what and who you have in your life. The winter brings people indoors, so instead of going off on adventures as you did over the summer, hunker down with people you like or at least make an effort to enjoy the company of your family.

Gifts are an expression of affection. The affection is all that's really needed, so I don't require gifts. What's more, we should not get caught up in the false pretense of gift-giving to cover up our incessant and materialistic need to consume. The gifts we exchange are transient and replaceable, the love we feel for the people in our lives is not. That is what is worth remembering this time of year. Sure, I'll give gifts to my friends and family so they are made aware of my affection for them but the Christian spirit is with me year-round. I don't need to celebrate it once a year; I make an attempt to do something nice for someone every day. We should not get caught up in the ideology, semantics or even the specifics of religions or holidays. They all tell us basically the same thing as Jerry Springer at the conclusion of his Final Thoughts segment, "Take care of yourselves and take care of each other."

## How We Treat Others

By Hope Trama

A recent event I witnessed at a local Pathmark had me questioning the sanity of the general public. Every day we come into contact with people we don't know; complete and utter strangers at local grocery stores, school, work. Just because they're not our family and friends doesn't mean that they aren't special to someone else. It doesn't give any of us including myself the right to disrespect others in any way. You know the saying you heard growing up, "Treat others as you would like to be treated." This is the way I was raised and I try to live my life, treating everyone with mutual civility.

It was about a month ago that I was food shopping with my six-year-old child. I had just finished and we were getting on line to pay when I heard a bunch of people screaming to my left. I looked over and saw a six foot tall, about two hundred pounds, at least forty year old man punching a young woman repeatedly in the face. Several male workers and men shoppers were trying to physically pull this man off of her. I had to lift my son and toss him to the side so he didn't get trampled by the chaotic crowd or the possibly drunk insane man to my left.

Several of the people in the crowd including myself called the authorities. One of the guys even yelled out, "What the hell are you doing?! She's a girl!" The man's reply was "Well, she should have minded her business." They were complete strangers before this incident and no matter what she said to him which I'm sure wasn't pleasant either, she didn't deserve to be physically assaulted. The police never got there in time and both participants left before they could make a documented report of the incident.

It happened so fast that there was no way to shield my six-year-old from the sight of an event like this. You don't want your children to be exposed to violence and yet there it was right in front of him while doing an innocent thing like grocery shopping. It left me in a state of amazement. I must have looked crazy, but I had asked myself repeatedly aloud "Did this really just happen?" It made me start to question the common sense and morality of others and how it's possible that we all treat each other with such disregard.

It's not okay to hurt someone or violate them in any way. You can resolve issues with others without having to physically harm them. I don't understand it and maybe I never will. I'm accountable for my own actions and I'm proud to say I conduct myself with mutual courtesy especially with total strangers. Can you say the same about yourself?

If there were more of us going out of our way to help others instead of hurting them, this world might be a safer place for the future of our children. Needless to say, I won't be going back to that Pathmark with my son for awhile.

# “I Have This Real Moron Thing I Do: It’s Called Thinking”

By Joseph Randazzo

The title of this article is a quote from a person who changed my life. Hearing George Carlin call God the “invisible man in the sky” for the first time blew my mind more so than when I was introduced to the Beatles. I come from a strictly Catholic upbringing and didn’t know you were able to think that way before I heard his act. On his album, “Back in Town,” Carlin said he was a Catholic up until he hit the age of reason. For me that was in 2007 when I turned 18. There wasn’t one particular incident which brought me away. It was more a slow erosion.

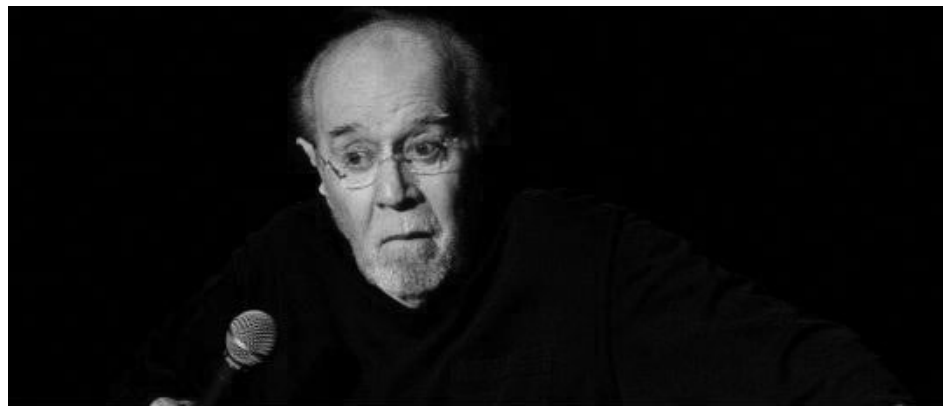
Those early Catholic roots didn’t just disappear. They’re still inside me. Now it’s more like a sore left on my skin instead of something which drives my life. Just like a sore, it’s not nice to look at but it’s getting better. I went to school for Criminal Justice before Carlin. Once I went through all his albums, I dropped the law gimmick and made the conscious decision to somehow make a living off of being skeptical. I didn’t realize that’s why I did it at the time but looking back it makes sense why I changed so quickly.

As I trudged through life I learned you can’t be an objective skeptic and a Catholic –or a part of any religious denomination for that matter- too. I would never look down on someone for

being religious. A lot are good people. There are just some ways people celebrate their faith that contradict how they go about looking at other things in life. There would be mass outrage if news outlets started going about their business like religion by printing stories with no citations or credible sources. People would feel like they’re being lied to because there’s no proof in anything they run.

Imagine your boyfriend came home smelling like Fantasy by Britney Spears, had glitter all over his clothes, and “The Vow” in his “Recently Viewed” on Netflix, and when questioned he says, “Baby, have faith in me?” Chances are he’s been unfaithful. That or he’s taken up a new job as a desk clerk at a lady-boy facility because bills are tight. These are two situations where people would call bullsh\*t if the words “have faith in me” are used in defense of not having credible proof. Yet when it comes to something they respect in the highest regard and place at the center of their morals, religion gets a pass.

My next complaint is more about our entitled view on life living in a first world country. Anybody in the United States –or any first world country- who utters the words “Everything happens for a reason”, thinking God will specifically deliver them a bright future, is either selfish or delusional. I’m going with both. They have absolutely no concept of the poverty



stricken world around them.

Let’s suspend disbelief for a moment and say God is specifically looking out for you. He wouldn’t be a good “almighty being.” If your comfortable American life is destined for greatness at the touch of a holy he/she/it’s magical fingertip, and someone in an impoverished country –who will never have a third of a third of a third of the luxuries we’re afforded- continues living in huts that smells like donkey crap, does that mean God likes you more? I thought God was for the meek? Those guys in the Congo are a lot meeker than everyone I pass by everyday. The Bush family could run the United States until the sun goes out and we’re still in a better position than most of the world.

My last complaint about faith is nothing Malcolm X hasn’t already said about Christianity. When we think slavery in the United States our minds are trained to think of the racist history we’ve had. According to the “U.S. Religious Landscape Survey” in 2007, 83% of African Americans belonged to some form of Christianity. Other than Uncle Ruckus, 100% of them would agree on how awful their ancestors were treated with slavery being at the top of that list of complaints. There in the Old and New Testament though are pro-slavery excerpts on how to treat your servant with little hints of abolition in the text.

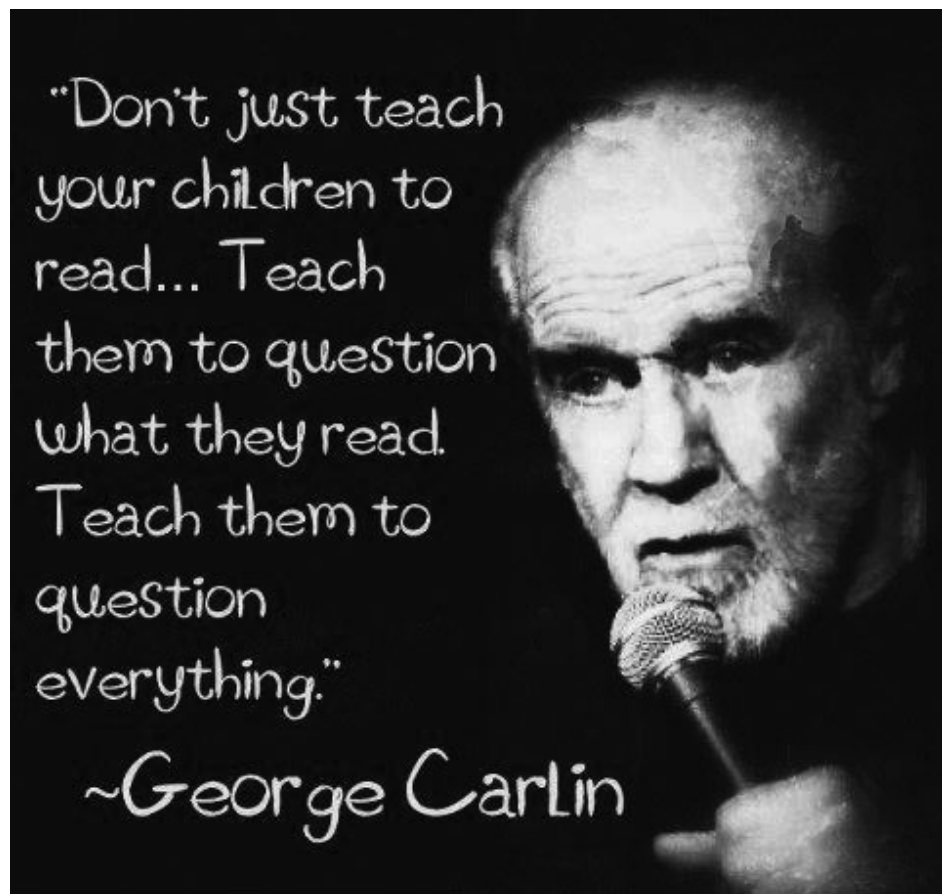
Leviticus 25:44-46 speaks on how you’re allowed to own a slave and treat them however you wish as long as they come from another nation. It also says you may own the children of immigrants and use them as slaves too. Any slave you acquire can be passed down to your children after your death.

In Ephesians 6:5-9, St. Paul writes how slaves need to be as loyal to the one they serve as they are to God. “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling, in sin-

gleness of heart, as to Christ; not in the way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...” He says. “Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that whatever good any one does, he will receive the same again from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.” The Bible is said to be written by God through men and apparently God wants slaves to be nice and obedient to their master.

Here is a whole group of people taking refuge in a book endorsing something that haunts their past. Malcolm X was called a radical for saying Christianity was the slave owner’s religion but he wasn’t exactly off about it. There in plain text is the driver’s manual for slavery. If this book was really written by men channeling God, then according to the standards of how we view racism in this country, God is up there with Kramer from Seinfeld and Jimmy the Greek. If you’d like to argue the point that he/she/it isn’t, then I’d like you to find someone in America who can positively speak about slavery in 2012 and not get castrated from society. I’ll give you hint as to how many can successfully do it. It equals to the amount of people born in pre-emancipation America who are alive today.

George Carlin has a bit on the American double standard. In it, he talks about our country founded on the basis of “slave owners who wanted to be free.” This same double standard that Carlin viewed of this country can also be said of Christianity’s back bone, the bible. In order to be a good Christian, you have to love thy neighbor yet right there in Leviticus it speaks of owning thy neighbor. I tried very hard to have faith over the years but I can’t do it. How can I be a proper skeptic if my backbone is held together by a faith that’s inconsistent with the ideas I believe in?



# Where Are The Female Comedians?

By Samantha Schendlinger

Have you ever noticed the lack of female comics? Have you ever wondered why they make up such a low percentage of overall comics? I have. I was a “hobby comic” for a little over two years. I was never too serious about it, it was just something I enjoyed doing. It was a great feeling being on stage, even if it was in front of only ten people at an open mic night, especially when I did well. But in those two years, I noticed a lack of women at these open mic nights and a lack of women on Comedy Central. In the top 100 comedians, only seven are woman, which is only 7% of all top comics. These comedians include Roseanne Barr, Ellen Degeneres, Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, Wanda Sykes, Elaine Bosler, and Sandra Bernhard. I interviewed ten comedians, who perform anywhere from 2-7 times a week on average, and they estimated that woman comedians make up anywhere from 3% to 15% of the comedians they have seen in their years of comedy. All the comedians agreed that although it was easy to go to an open mic night, booking a gig as a woman was a lot

harder and almost never did a show have more than one woman comedian.

Cara Amore, a female comedian, stated that people do not book two women for one show because they fear that both women will talk about the same thing. It is a common expectation of the bookers, who tend to be male. Yes, there are women who make jokes about their vaginas and about their “stupid husbands,” but how many times have you heard a male comedian talk about their penises or their “annoying wife”?

In reality, woman comedians talk about an array of topics as do male comedians. So, why is the percentage so low? In my time as a comedian I believe, I have only seen about eight other female comedians and yet I’ve seen an endless number of male comedians. On average, when I used to perform, I either would be the only woman or there would be ONE other woman there, usually white and straight. However, of the top 100 comedians, two of the girls were lesbians and one of those is African American, so female comedians range in sexuality and race. Woman can be just as funny as men, so it is time that the comedy world shows that!



Samantha Schendlinger performing in June 2009

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# Old Westbury Style Page

## Looks From Fall/Winter Photography by Megan Kapler



# My Natural Journey

By Alhia Harris

On August 24, 2012 I decided to make a drastic change to my hair. I decided to cut off my perm ends and go "NATURAL." I felt that I needed change, I had just come back from studying abroad in Hong Kong, China and wanted to take out my box braids out ASAP. The fall semester was approaching and I did not want to come back my senior year at SUNY Old Westbury wearing box braids.

My hair needed to breathe and I knew that cutting off my perm ends would help do so. In addition, because I wore my hair in box braids all the time, the hair on both sides of my head began to disappear. I was beginning to go BALD! My mom insisted to just put the braids back in and I said, "No, mom I want my

edges back!" Then I told her what if I just went natural. I haven't received a perm in a long time, so I knew I would have some major growth. She then disagreed with me and said, "You will look ugly and it would not look cute."

Being 21 years old, it comes a point in time when a young woman must do what she thinks is right and just follow her heart.

The person that I knew could help me get the idea that I wanted was one of my close girl friends named Dwanya. Dwanya was one of the friends that a girl would call and have her do your hair. She would make your hair look from nothing to something. I trusted that she would make my hair look nice, but boy I was in a treat. I did not expect her to cut ALL of my perm ends; I thought that my hair would still be long enough to at least

pull back into a pony tail. However, she just started cutting away, and the tears began to fall. I wanted her to stop so badly, but she was already done cutting the back, so I just had to go along with the process. All she kept saying, "It would look fine, trust me."

Luckily enough she did her magic once again and it turned out great when she was done. She two-stranded my hair and then flat-twisted the front to make a cute hair style design. When I came back home, I instantly ran to my mom to show her the hair style. Her first response was "Why did she cut so much off? You do not have any hair," and then after she said, "It's okay, I mean it fits your face." I said thank you and left her room.

"Going natural" has made me feel like a new person. I feel that I had cut off all the bad things from my past and

started a new journey. This journey would be called "My Natural Journey." Four months have passed, and I am in still in love my hair since the first day it was cut. It has grown a lot in four months and now I can style my hair better. Both sides of my hair have grown a lot since the cut. My favorite hairstyle to wear is a two strand twist. My favorite products that I use often are the Cantu Shea Butter Leave in Conditioner, the Cantu No Drip Nourishing Hair & Scalp Oil and Eco Styler Gel. With these three products combined I get the best two-stranded twist and a beautiful two-strand twist out. I feel that if you really want to do something then just go with it. You are the only person at the end of the day that can judge yourself!

# Fifty Shades of Twilight and the Fall of Literature

By Ryan Zukowski

*The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2* was released last month, grossing over \$340 million worldwide in its opening weekend. The film scored number eight on the list of best opening weekend for a film, right behind *The Twilight Saga: New Moon* and before the ninth place, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*. The final installment of the series is expected to gross over \$700 million.

The films have a following of highly devoted and sometimes radical fans. The four novels by Stephenie Meyer have sold over 120 million copies and grossed \$1.66 billion. The total net worth of the franchise is \$4.7 billion before the release of the final installment.

*The Twilight Saga* is about the romance between Bella and Edward, a vampire that she meets in her high school. A werewolf named Jacob inserts himself into the picture to make it a love triangle. The Twilight universe throws away the traditional rules of vampires and werewolves. Here, vampires do not transform into bats but are super strong, fast and good-looking. They are not harmed by sunlight like Nosferatu, they merely sparkle when exposed to it. The vampires' super-speed allows them to traverse over oceans, appearing in the state of Washington from Europe apparently by foot in a matter of minutes despite only travelling at about 700 mph. (by my estimations by watching them on screen, but hey, it's a Twilight movie, let's not nitpick).

Werewolves in the Twilight universe are averse to torso coverings and can transform whenever they are excited or they feel like it. Werewolves are mortal and vulnerable and vampires can only be killed by having their heads ripped off.

In the series, the love triangle is ended when Bella chooses Edward and *Breaking Dawn Part 2* begins as Bella is adapting to her new life as a vampire.

The final movie focuses on a whole lot of waiting for the evil vampires, the Volturi, to come and kill Bella and Edward's rapidly maturing baby, Renesmee. A plot hole arises when one thinks of the biological necessities Edward needed to maintain an erection and engage in sexual intercourse to impregnate Bella in the first place, despite having no blood flow but that's nitpicking again.

The film culminates in an epic battle where main characters have their heads ripped off and bloody violence ensues... oh wait, no it doesn't. The battle turns out to be a psychic message from one of the good vampires of what could happen if the two clans fight. They decide that Bella and Edward's baby just isn't worth it and just walk away. The saga concludes with an uncomfortable almost-pedophilic romance between Renesmee and Jacob and a happy ending with Bella and Edward not-really "living" happily ever after as vampires.

The Fifty Shades trilogy is about a sexual relationship codified in a contract complete with Non-Disclosure Agreement; involving bondage, dominance, sadism and masochism (BDSM) that morphs into a romance and ends with Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey getting married and having children and living happily ever after in BDSM heaven.

The questions that books converted into blockbuster films like *Twilight* and the upcoming *Fifty Shades* raise are ones that shake the literary world to its core. Are books that are generally regarded as poorly written when compared to authors like Hemmingway, Cormac McCarthy and George Orwell, good or bad? Are these books, targeted to young women's lowest common denominator, getting them to read something rather than nothing at all? Are these books opening doors to people who may not have had an interest in reading before they picked up *Twilight* or *Fifty Shades of Grey*, or are they lowering the standard for literature across the board? The record sales of these

books have created countless other books being published, hoping to cash in on the genre. These books have created a demand that middle-aged women writers are now filling with smut, sex, obsession, poor stories, shallow characters and unhealthy models for relationships.

Speaking of models for unhealthy relationships, no girl really wants an Edward in their life. They may think they do, but if they have ever had one in their real lives, they don't. He is a stalker who sneaks through Bella's bedroom window and stares at her as she sleeps. Sure, he has some redeeming qualities, but he's just plain creepy.

Christian Grey is a sadist and a dominant. Sex experts say that there is nothing wrong with a little fetish and BDSM but the *Fifty Shades* books take it to a new level. For the most part, sexual deviancy does not go so far as Anastasia and Christian take it in the novels.

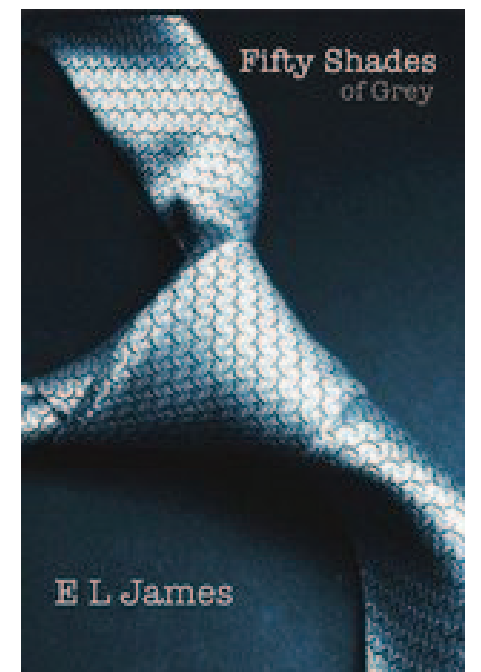
Are these books, being read by teenage girls to middle-aged housewives and everyone in between, offering an escape fantasy or are they planting seeds in the mind of people that they might actually want to have this kind of relationship? Are women going to start going for stalker types like Edward who, unlike Edward, do not have super-speed and are as protective as he is, but instead are controlling and often violent like real people who break into girls' bedrooms and watch them sleep? Is BDSM going to experience a boom and go mainstream and become like the flapper skirts of the 1920's; offensive to conservatives, provocative, progressive and lewd at the time of their introduction to the public at large, only to be accepted as mainstream mere decades later? Will we be seeing ball-gags and riding crops and gimp masks on mannequins in Macy's department stores a few years down the road given the mainstreaming of fetish culture?

Fetish stores reported selling out of many BDSM toys over the summer as women turned on to the sexual practices,

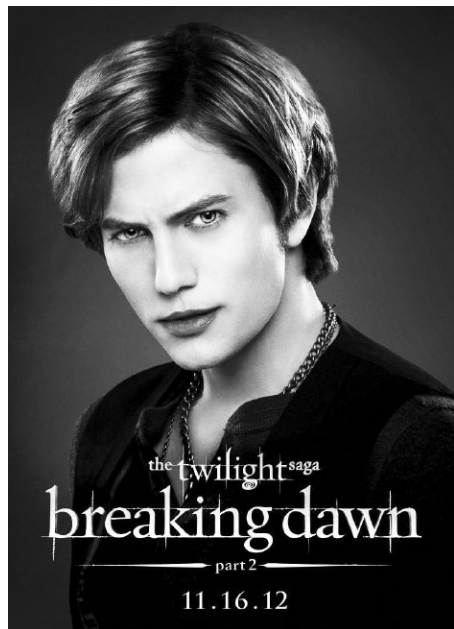
consumed the products. The interesting twist was that it was new customers, many of whom had never set foot in an adult shop before this, who were making up the new business.

Will the message in the formerly present-but-subdued and now burgeoning-into-mainstream genre of smut and fantasy romance create a demand for men to behave like Edward and Christian Grey? Will a new breed of man come to dominate the dating scene; abusive, controlling and creepy, with just enough charm and sex appeal to keep women from taking out a restraining order on them whether they ought to or not?

The *Twilight Saga* and the *Fifty Shades* trilogy are not just books. They are a temperature reading of a shifting society that has less and less shame and encourages no use of restraint or imagination in fictional story-telling and factual story-making. The graphic details of violence, unhealthy, obsessive romance and sadism depicted in the genre have ceased to remain fictional and are making their way into the real world.



# From a Twihard's Point of View



By Danielle Menke

For all of us ‘Twihards’, the nickname given to the lovers of *The Twilight Saga*, the end of the journey between Bella Swan and Edward Cullen is here. We have followed their journey of acceptance, love and the supernatural through four books and five movies since 2005. And with the last installment film of the *Saga*, *Breaking Dawn Part 2*, we finally have gotten to see the long awaited arrival of the now immortal vampire, Bella Swan, and her half-human, half-vampire daughter, Renesmee Cullen.

Most people just don't understand the frenzy behind Twilight. They don't understand how we are obsessed with a fictional story about vampires, shape-shifters and a half-human baby. Others criticize the way in which Stephanie Meyer, author of the Twilight series, wrote the books. In an interview with USA Weekend, best-selling author Stephen King bashed the author of the series claiming that J.K. Rowling (author of Harry Potter) is a much better writer: “Both Rowling and Meyer, they're speaking directly to young people... The real difference is that J. Rowling is a terrific writer and Stephanie Meyer can't write worth a darn. She's not very good.”

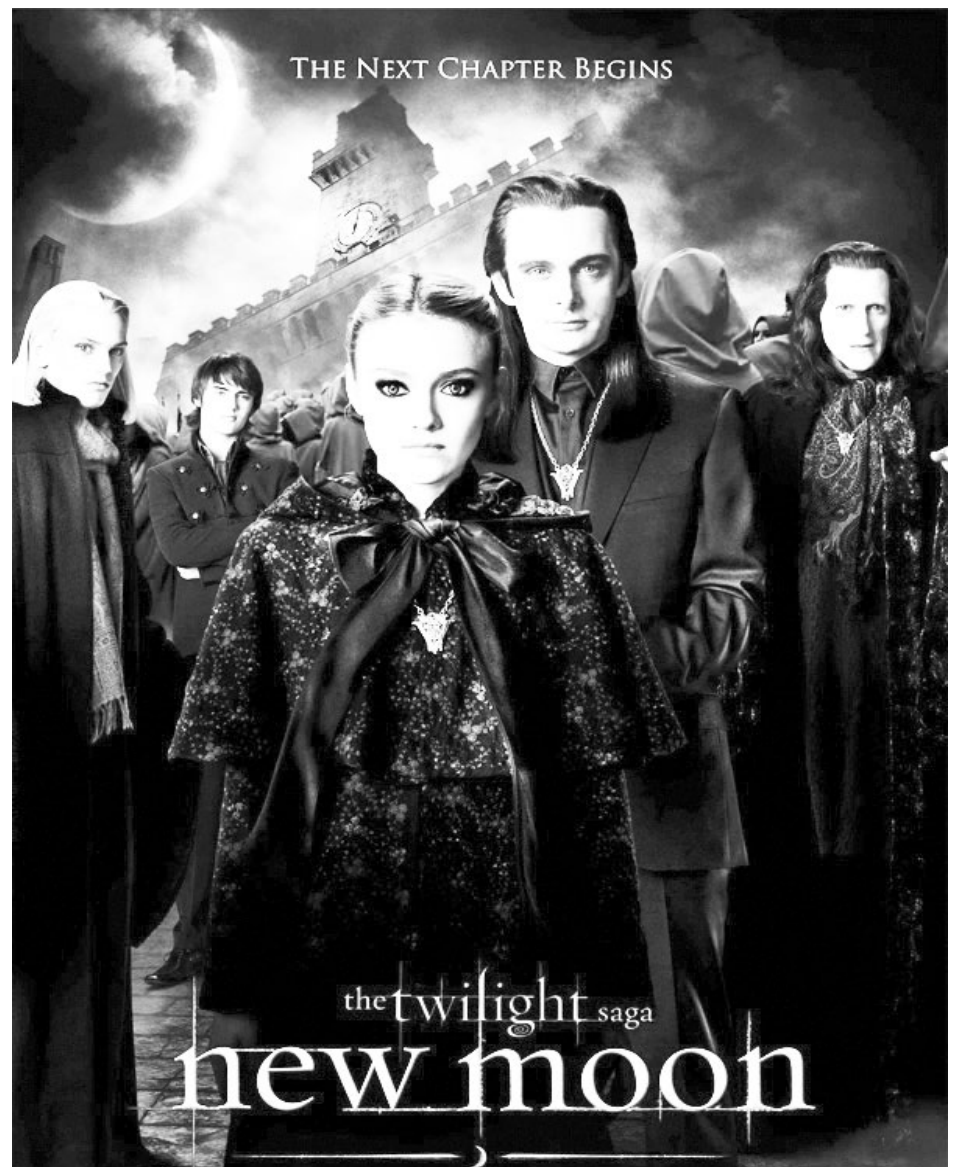
Now, to lovers of both Meyer and Rowling, it is clear to see that the stories are very different. Rowling writes of witches, wizards, supernatural creatures and a boy who has just about the worst luck there is. From the first book through the last, the reader needs to make sure to follow the story closely; there are many different names, background details and descriptions that the audience must pay attention to. But, Meyer needed to

write in a way that spoke to a specific demographic. Most of the fans of Twilight are young teenage girls who are beginning to get used to their bodies and feelings. In the interview, Stephen King continued, “People are attracted by the stories, by the pace, and in the case of Stephanie Meyer, it's very clear that she's writing to a whole generation of girls and opening up kind of a safe joining of love and sex in those books. It's exciting and it's thrilling and it's not particularly threatening because it's not overtly sexual. And for girls, that's a shorthand for all the feelings that they're not ready to deal with yet.”

Other criticisms of the characters of the Twilight Saga have risen, as well. On the blog of the Young Adult Library Services Association, blogger L. Lee Butler stated, “I hate them because of the sexual messaging they impart to teens, especially teen girls, robbing them of agency and normalizing stalking and abusive behavior.” Reading further, Butler states that agency is lost in the character of Bella Swan; she cooks and cleans for her father and wants to turn into a vampire to be able to take care of her husband. The character of Edward Cullen is seen as abusive and obsessive because he has a need to always be around her, to always touch her and he is found many times in the beginning of the series, watching her as she sleeps.

But what Butler does not understand and many fans of the Saga do, is that teenage girls are just that—teenage girls. These young girls are going to start developing feelings that they never have felt before. Stephanie Meyer does not include sex or any type of touching that is over-the-top. My personal opinion is that Meyer did not build up or fully describe the sex scenes in the book because she understood who her demographic would be. On the topic of agency and Bella Swan, Bella's character has always taken care of her family; her mother was described as being careless and Bella as the more mature, responsible one of the two. Yes, she wants to become a vampire to take care of her husband but a human cannot take care of a vampire (not to mention the red-haired vampire who is after her in retaliation of Edward killing her mate). Bella has realized that she wants to spend her life with her husband but cannot do so while she ages and eventually will die and he will never die and will forever look as though he was 17 years old.

Now for those reading who



think we are all nuts, we probably are. Just as fans of Harry Potter will always defend their favorite movie or book, Twilight fans will do the same. We have followed the journey of our most beloved characters for over seven years and seem to have no thoughts of pushing Twilight to the back of our minds, though the movies and books are finished.

There is almost too much criticism in this world over Twilight. But what everyone fails to realize is that the readers fell in love with a love

story. No matter how obsessive and weird the story is, it instilled a sense of excitement in the lives of readers who just could not wait to get their hands on the newest book of the series or to wait in line for tickets at the movie theater to soak in as much of the last installment as we could. In my personal opinion, Twilight will go down in history as one of the biggest and best selling stories of all time regardless of what any critics have to say about it.



# Abusive Love and Masked Pain

By Lusely Martinez

I was sure it wouldn't happen to me. At 20-years-old, I thought that I would know better. But it's hard sometimes to admit to something when it's happening to you.

I'd been witnessing one of closest friends continue to suffer in an abusive relationship for over eight years. He hurt her, physically, emotionally, and mentally, yet she did not find the strength to leave. I vowed to myself I would never let that happen to me. I thought I would know better, but I had no clue. Only now can I admit that I too was in an abusive relationship. But with no visible bruises or wounds, it was much harder to recognize.

Abuse is abuse, no matter which way it happens. It is a damaging violation of your person, physical and mental, with negative side effects. Emotional abuse usually accompanies physical abuse, but sometimes it's seen on its own. Psychological effects are seen to when putdowns and hurtful actions lead to emotional distress. Your self-esteem disappears, you become brainwashed into thinking a certain way, and often feel helpless and distraught in your situation.

Trust me, I would know. For almost two years, I shared a bed with a man I thought truly loved me. I was blind to the emotional and psychological damage he was causing me. According to the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness, "Relationship abuse is a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors used to maintain power and control over [an] intimate partner... [It] can be emotional, financial, sexual or physical and can include threats, isolation, and intimidation."



In my case, no physical violence was ever directed at me, but I was walking on egg shells. I simply got used to treading carefully, trying to gauge his mood and trying not to anger him. When it did hit the fan, he just didn't fight fair. He threw words like punches, using every insult in the book, calling names, and blaming me for provoking his short temper. I thought things would get better with the help of his therapist. But I still feared him because I could never predict his reactions. I was afraid he might hurt me, though he hadn't before. I was also afraid he might leave. I was made to believe no one would want me either. That's what he wanted of course.

He was a master manipulator, using guilt, fear, and contempt to destroy my self-confidence. I was often criticized for my hair, my fashion choices, my cooking, and even my mood. I let myself believe it was "tough love" as he said. With his few far and in between romantic gestures it was easier to disregard the hurtful behavior. Sometimes he would prepare dinner, pick up a bottle of wine for a night cap or rent a chick flick from RedBox on the way home and most weekends he made breakfast. He would promise me wonderful things, like trips or gifts, but never followed through. He did little things that

made me feel loved, but then used them later on as emotional blackmail.

He wasn't supportive instead, like a leech; he sucked me dry of energy and happiness. I told myself that love was giving without expecting anything in return. So I was generous, I kept giving, more than I had to give, but it was never enough. He was perpetually unhappy and misery sure loves company. He looked to drag me down. He was rarely apologetic, pointing out my flaws before ever admitting to his own. When I began to lose weight to feel better about myself, he accused me of cheating and often got angry asking who I was trying to look good for. He mocked my efforts, verbalizing his doubts, and commenting on my diet or workout regime.

Often he would make me feel like I was stupid or crazy for thinking or feeling a certain way. More often than not he put down my friendships and family, isolating me from their company. I became full of self-doubt, guilt, and sadness. I felt unworthy of him or others' affection. I did not see a way out that wasn't loneliness and distress.

There were no physical cues to the pain and embarrassment I was experiencing; no tell-tale signs. It was all internalized. It was even more difficult to

<http://stoprelationshipabuse.org/>  
accept when the word abuse was used in the context of my relationship.

More often than not, emotionally or psychologically abusive relationships are difficult to recognize. Unlike physical abuse, there is no visible proof of the damage done. It becomes a matter of recognizing the negative effects of pain and abuse inflicted upon you by your partner. It takes honesty with yourself to admit you aren't happy and don't want the misery anymore.

After the added injury of several infidelities, I found the strength to admit the truth to myself and leave. It was not my fault, I deserved better, and I could no longer be weighed down by a toxic person. With the support of friends and family, I moved on and cut him entirely out of my life. Currently I'm in a very happy, healthy, and stable relationship. I learned more about myself through this experience, and found strength when I was at my weakest. I realized there is light on the other side.

If you or someone you know may be in an abusive relationship, remember there is help and support. Some signs to look out for include fear and emotional distress caused by your partner as well as feelings of nervousness, sadness, or isolation.

## Miscarriage at 21

By Anonymous

My biggest fear is that I will never be able to carry a baby to term. November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 is the one year anniversary since I had my miscarriage.

On November 10, 2011 I found out I was pregnant. I have always wanted to become a mother but at twenty-one years old, I am way too young. I always dreamed of the day I would find out I was pregnant. I always dreamed that I would tell my husband that night and we would be excited and jumping. I always dreamed of how beautiful it would feel to have a child growing inside me. None of those thoughts went through my head as the doctor said "but you are pregnant." My first response was "Seriously?" for some reason I thought she was joking. When I think of her saying those words, I can still feel how it felt. I was numb; I just listened to everything the doctor said I had to do while trying to hold back tears. But I knew I would be okay.

When I told my boyfriend at the time he pushed for abortion or adoption. I couldn't

do it. The fact that I refused to have an abortion caused my entire support system to disappear. I realized I would lose my family and my boyfriend; things got real and it got scary. It was my life versus the baby growing inside me; my future and my potential versus an innocent baby. The thought of abortion killed me inside, I wanted to be okay with it and I knew if I did it; all of it would be over and my life would go back to normal. But I knew I couldn't live with that choice. However, I never had to make that choice because on November 27, 2011; only 17 days after finding out I was pregnant and only 6 weeks 4 days along, I miscarried.

On the day of my miscarriage I went to the hospital alone. I hoped I would be okay but this was the second time there was complications since I had found out I was pregnant. I called the father; he was out doing comedy in the city and told me he couldn't come after because he had work at eleven the next day. That hurt me more than anything. I wanted him with me. My phone was dying and I couldn't get in touch with my dad.

I was told the fetus was either ectopic or

I was miscarrying and that there was almost no chance that the pregnancy would be able to make it to term. I was told my best bet would be a surgery called a D&C (dilation and curettage.) It was the scariest thing I have ever done in my life. Being put under anesthesia with the knowledge that no one was in the waiting room for me felt awful. The pain in my throat when I awoke from the surgery was beyond awful and the feeling that it was all over, killed me. I knew I was no longer pregnant and I knew it would kick in more in the morning. There was a hint of relief, a feeling that the "nightmare" was over.

It feels good to have freedom, to have a life, to know my potential is still there and that everything is okay. For a while it hurt more than anything. On the anniversary of the day I found out I was pregnant, I spent the day crying. I feared that today would be hard and yet I sit here tear free. The pregnancy and miscarriage did a lot of good for me. But sometimes it creeps up on me and it feels like it just happened. I know I wasn't a baby yet and maybe it's stupid, but I pictured it in my head. Even though I wasn't

ready for it, I still imagined what it would be like to hold it, I still wondered whose eyes or nose it would have, I thought would be a girl or a boy; it was my baby already. And just like that, it's gone. It's weird still to think I was really pregnant; I really had a baby growing inside me. It feels like nothing happened, like it was some crazy dream. But I know it did and I never want to forget it.

Now, here comes the fear. I fear I will be one of those women who have miscarriage after miscarriage. I fear I will learn ten years from now that my body is unable to carry a child to term. All my life, all I have ever wanted to do was become a mother. I feel it's what I'm meant to do. I know I can adopt but I want to be pregnant. I want to feel my child kicking. I want to see my body grow. I want to hear its heartbeat in an ultrasound. And now I fear that will never happen. I know many women have miscarriages and go on to carry a child to term just fine. But how do I know if I am one of those women?

# The Art Technology Experiment at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery

By Ryan Zukowski

"1661(74) 2513(75) 2986(76) 3048(77) 2999(78) 2824(79) 2780(7A) 2168(7B) 3444(7C) 1880(7D) 2712(7E) 2774(7F) 2781 (80) 2596(81) 2523(82)" reads the top line of a handout.

The handout printed on computer pages and is part of *A rebours: Metropolis/ 900 Pages from the Accounting Book (52420 Pages Still in Storage)* by French Artist France Languerand. Each of the 900 pages was signed and dated by the artist. The stack of hundreds of pages were placed on a cube in front of two television screens that showed images that moved imperceptibly and looked like the snowy static of old televisions when the cable would be unplugged.

The exhibits, *A rebours: Metropolis 58087297135 Pixels* and *A rebours: Metropolis 161458 Images*, were two apparently-static-filled-television sets appeared to be awaiting someone to hit the Play button. Upon closer inspection, it becomes apparent that the televisions are in fact, playing. The explanation for the exhibit stated that the exhibits were "a two-channel video based on Fritz Lang's canonical 1927 film [and] was created by counting the number of pixels frame by frame and then rearranging them according to their values on the gray scale." The numbers on the pages were recorded by Languerand and correlated to the pixels from the film *Metropolis* and correlated to the shades of blue-gray-purple that appeared on the television screens.

It all started to make sense.

The exhibition was called *A.T.E. (Art Technology Experiment)*. The purpose of the exhibit was to show the intersection between art and technology through the use of new, digital technology such as "video games, animation, electronic media, cinema, et cetera." The goal of the exhibit was to show new ways of creating art in an increasingly digital world. Artists would take advantage of new mediums to express themselves and create something with aesthetic value. The success or failure of the *A.T.E.* would be judged on whether the artists were successful in achieving that goal.

All works by France Languerand were featured in Gallery One. Her other two featured works were *A rebours: BWV 1080* and *2009 Poems: 69, 82, 107 and 149* from the collection *2009 Poems (1630 poems composing 276 series)*. *A rebours: BWV 1080* was two sheets of paper tacked to the wall showing a grid pattern on them. The piece was based on unfinished musical notes of J.S. Bach and the information was decoded and the notes were given value of time played in a musical computer software program. Next to the two pieces of paper, an iPod was attached to the wall for the visitors listening pleasure.

*Poems* consisted of thirty-seven

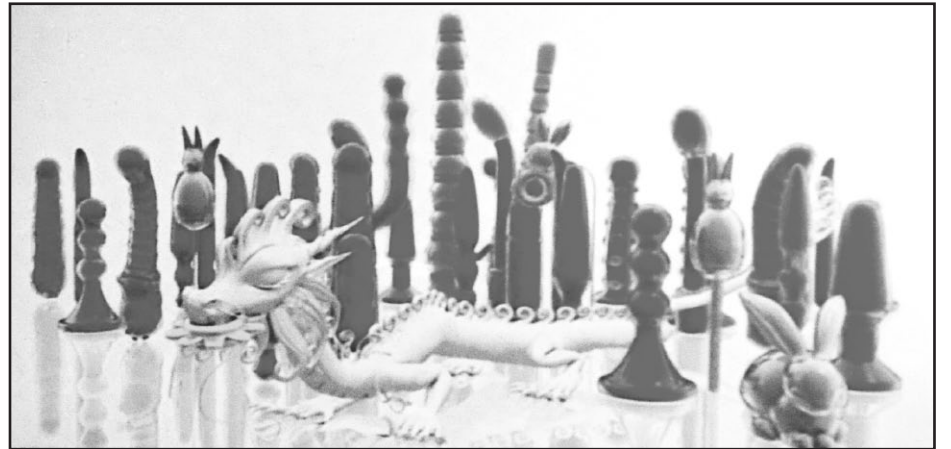
sheets of paper arranged four rows high with ten across the top and bottom row, nine across the second highest row and eight across in the third row. On the papers had printed on them randomly selected words that were arranged in the numerical value of each letter (A=1, B=2, C=3...) in alphabetical order. Length of the poems and the font size of the type went from large to small as the poems moved from left to right with the exception of the left-most page of the row only containing one or a few words. By the time the eye wanders to the right-most poem, consisting of one word, the font was so tiny it was barely legible.

France Languerand's pieces would seem to be better used in the building of codes for international spies. It seems that she has a message but we are just missing the final piece of the puzzle to decode it. The random display of words and music notes converted to numbers and sound without an underlying message looks more to be an exercise in madness than self-expression. Lacking in a more objective aesthetic value, there seems to be a point lacking in her pieces.

The most interesting exhibit was Bundith Phunsombatlert's *Wind Study*, which consisted of computer fans, a microcontroller, a sensor and electric wires. On a sticky note attached to the wall was a word bubble that said "blow here" next to the sensor. With the slightest pressure, the sensor would move, causing an electrical current to run through the first fan, creating a charge that traveled through the wires attached to each of the twenty-four fans, each blowing one by one down the line on the wall about four feet off the ground.

Bundith Phunsombatlert's other piece, *Bangkok: The Story of A City*, was featured in Gallery Two. The exhibit was a projection of a bookshelf in which stacks of books shift from the top to the bottom, one by one, making a thump sound as they fall out of frame. Next to the screen, a portable library cart carries physical books categorized under the keyword "Bangkok," the artist's home city. According to the description, Phunsombatlert's "work evokes the idea of a library as a repository of knowledge undergoing transformation from a physical state to a digital state."

The other artist featured in Gallery Two was Hye Rim Lee, a Korean born woman who "explores cyber culture and perceptions of the female body, mainly through 3D animation." Her two pieces were *Crystal Beauty Electro Doll* which was a fast-forwarded video of a naked woman being animated using computer imaging software. The woman had purple skin, large breasts, buttocks, eyes and lips and a very small waistline and was devoid of all hair. Great detail was paid to the doll's nipples, buttocks and vagina but the face, with the exception of luscious



lips was devoid of almost all detail. The work was meant to demonstrate Lee's 3D modeling chops and to show a "body image to the product of technologized plastic beauty and sexuality that reflects a culture of cosmetic surgery by which a desired body image may be obtained."

Lee's other work was *Crystal City Spun*, which was an animation that began with a field of dildos which spun as "playful rabbit sex toys, a white dragon and TOKI, the artists female avatar" appeared and frolicked through the animation. Lee attempted to create an alternate reality to as an artist, place herself in the role of Creator.

The lone piece featured in Gallery Three was *Soul LeWitt* by Cyril Lecomte-Languerand. Advertised as a "video game," the interactive piece allows the viewer to "visit" a virtual exhibition of "Wall Drawings and Wall Paintings by Minimal artist Sol LeWitt" the visitor can scroll through the projection to view the 2D art gallery of abstract shapes and patterns. After each scroll-through, the pattern is changed so there is a slightly variant experience for each visitor.

The *A.T.E.* exhibits were bizarre. While not varying far from the concept of "Modern Art," these exhibits seemed to have wasted their potential. Hye Rim Lee's animations seemed amateurish and slightly childish. The animations were on par with children's television cartoons that use similar graphics programs but with less time to make the animations. Lee's animations felt like a school assignment where the instructor said "animate whatever you want" and she took it as a challenge to push the envelope with boobs, butts, dildos and strange sex toys in an attempt to draw giggles. The animations did not really convey a message or a point that was moving or profound. The dildos just changed colors and spun and the dragon just appeared and waved and the bunny sex toys just bounced around. There's nothing amusing about dildos in themselves; the entertainment comes in what is done with them.

While Phunsombatlert's *Wind Study* was interesting and immensely entertaining because of its interactive nature, it was a one-trick pony. One cannot look at

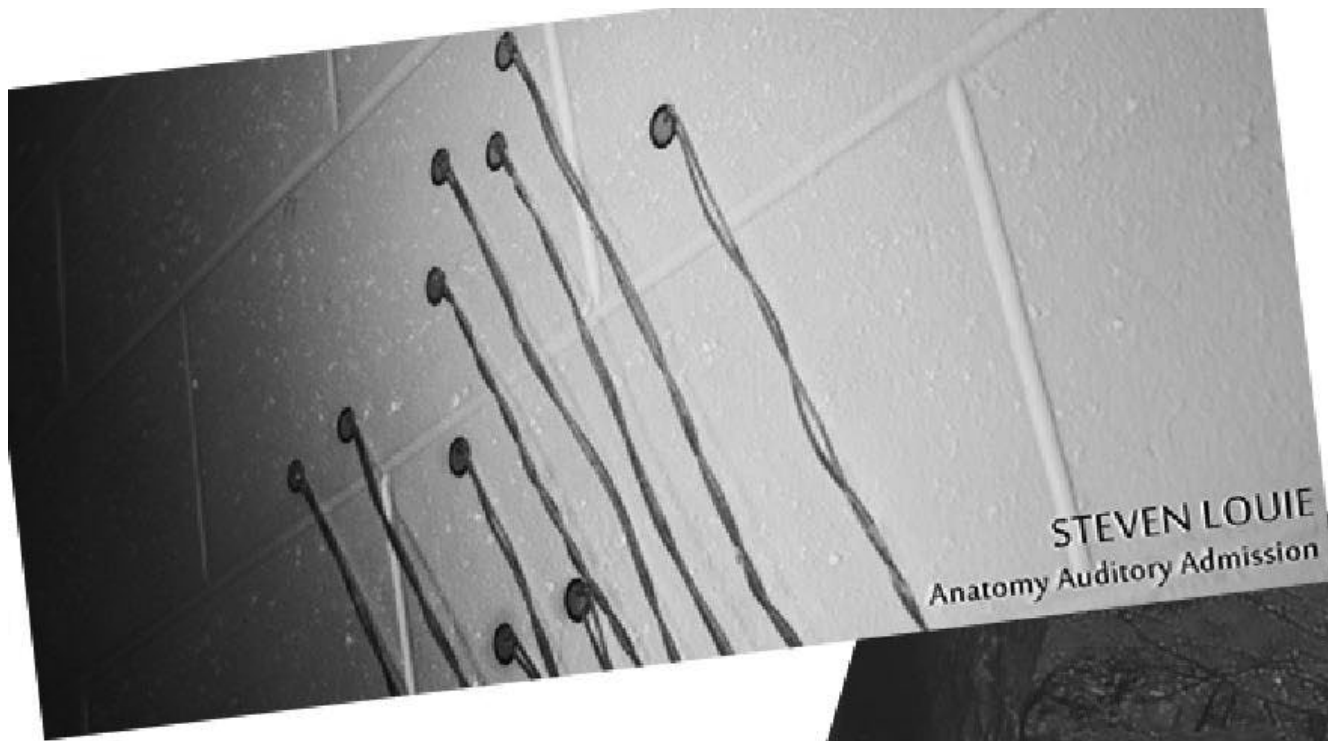
it a second time and be amused, much less impressed as you would by a Picasso, Warhol or even a Jackson Pollack work. There's something new to be seen in a second viewing of such works even if they are baffling.

*Bangkok: The Story of A City* and *Soul LeWitt* could have passed for screensavers. For moving pieces, they were dull and while they had more thought and theme put into them than simply translating from one abstract symbol to another as France Languerand had done, they still were unmoving.

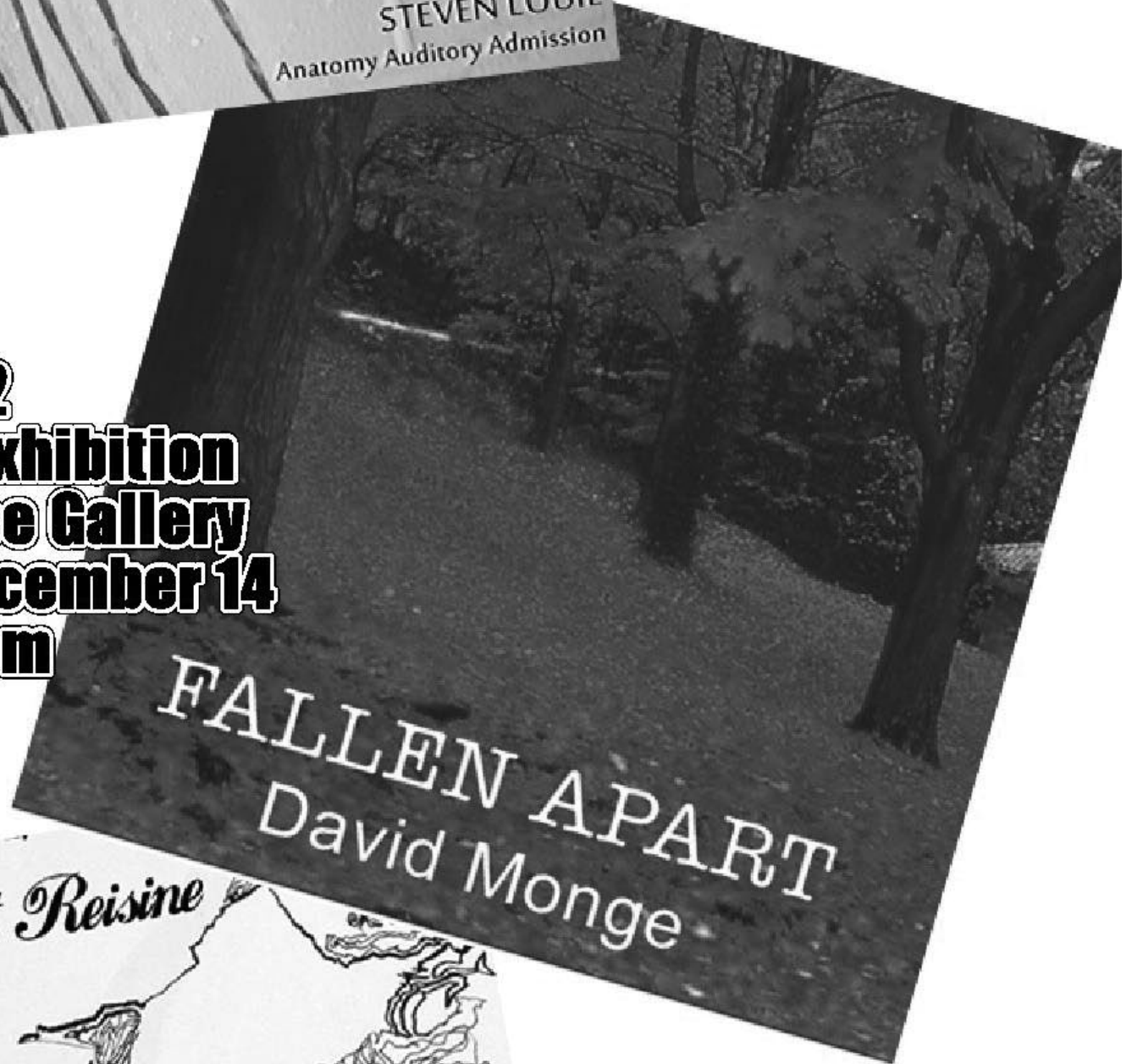
The reason why Soul LeWitt was successful was because of the psychedelic designs of his work that could at times overwhelm the visual sense of the viewer because of their intricacy and at times, massive size. *Soul LeWitt* was a projection on a screen, an artificial, small-scale experience imitating an artist; it was not art in and of itself.

There is so much an artist could do to express themselves using all the new technology and media available to them in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In what new ways can we experiment with this technology to bring out something deep within ourselves that we were unable to do so in the past because of our limited technology? Look at what the technology has done, good and bad for the art of story-telling through movies. How could artists harness these new mediums to bring out the brightest and darkest sides of themselves and their view of the universe? By mindlessly translating letters and another artist's music notes to numbers and entering it into a software program? By animating dildos, sex toys, boobs, butts and vaginas? By creating screensavers of bookshelves and other people's art?

True art comes from the artists' expression of their innermost thoughts, feelings and views. Tinkering and dabbling with tools and influences of those who had come before is part of the process, not the final product. While still lagging behind where the *Art Technology Experiment* should be, perhaps these works from these artists are merely steps in the tinkering process in the new medium rather than the final product.



**Fall 2012  
Senior Project Exhibition  
Amelie A. Wallace Gallery  
December 10 - December 14  
12pm - 5pm**



**Opening Reception: Monday December 10, 4pm - 7pm  
Food and Drinks will be served**

## COACH KRASNOFF

By Scott Clinco

Women's basketball coach Michael Krasnoff is optimistic about the new season. He said that the team has practiced really hard and spent a lot of time recruiting as well. He added that he hopes to be in the hunt for not only a skyline conference championship but a trip to the big dance as well as an NCAA invite. Krasnoff said that an NCAA invite would be huge because it would be the program's first. He continued saying that it would, "set us up as reaching elite status." It would also provide the team with a great recruiting tool because people want to play for a winning program.

When asked about the makeup of the team, Krasnoff said the team has 5 freshmen and 3 transfers. He mentioned that the program has, "grown to the point beyond respectable." The coach believes this is at least partially because the group works hard. Again the coach made reference to how he felt the program has "arrived" and said they consider themselves a physically "grind it out" team, but still mentally enough to stay composed.

When addressing Hurricane Sandy and its impact on the team he said that the team has been displaced from the Clark Center for all practices and games which makes it a bit tougher for them. Krasnoff said the team understands and supports the state and Red Cross in this matter. When talking about home games that were scheduled, the coach said that non-conference games have become away games, and that conference games were flipped with games later in the season.



## BETTY BOHRINGER NAMED ASSISTANT WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH

**Former NYIT head coach Betty Bohringer added to Old Westbury's women's soccer staff**

Courtesy of Old Westbury Sports Information (written by Harris Rappel)

OLD WESTBURY, NY (www.OLD-WESTBURYPANTHERS.com) – The SUNY College at Old Westbury head women's soccer coach Craig Newman has announced the hiring of former New York Institute of Technology head coach Betty Bohringer as an assistant coach.

Bohringer was the head coach at New York Institute of Technology since 2009, compiling 22 wins in three seasons on the Division II level. She also served as NYIT's assistant coach under Joe Zydor for three seasons (2006-08).

Before entering coaching, Bohringer played collegiate basketball and softball as a student at SUNY Cortland, where she received her bachelor's degree in Physical



Education in 1989. Prior to her arrival at SUNY Cortland, she was a three-sport athlete in soccer, basketball and softball at Nassau Community College, where she received her associate's degree in Physical Education in 1987. Bohringer earned her master's degree in School Health Education

from Adelphi University in 1992.

Since 1995, Bohringer has taught Physical Education in the Bethpage School District. Bohringer currently resides in Bethpage, New York, with her husband Helms, and two boys, Ryan and Kyle.

## R.I.P JOVAN BELCHER

By Marlon Morgan

The 2012 season has been a nightmare for the Kansas City Chiefs on the field. They have dealt with injuries in almost every important position, and they have a standing of two wins and ten losses, currently in the cellar of the NFL's A.F.C. West. Loyal fans that often fill the 80,000 seat Arrowhead stadium right outside of Kansas City are boycotting the team, and are signing petitions to fire general manager Scott Pioli. None of this matters anymore.

Everything is put in perspective after Chiefs football player Jovan Belcher 25, tragically killed his girlfriend Kasandra Perkins, 22 at his home in Kansas City; then proceeded to kill himself a couple minutes later in front of his team members and staff. The chilling phone call that Jovan Belcher's mother Cheryl Shepherd made to 911 has been released. Sheperd witnessed the horrific events at her son's mansion along with the couple's three month old baby. "She is still breathing but barely. Please hurry. I don't know how many times he shot her. They had been arguing ...," Belcher's mother says to a 911 dispatcher. Her attempt to save the life of her grandchild's mother was unfortunately belated.

Shepherd, 54, said she was not happy about the release Wednesday of recordings of the emergency phone call she made December 1st after Perkins was shot. "I just got a phone call that they did that, and I don't appreciate it," she said. "Right now, I don't want to talk about it." It has been reported by the star football player's mother and other family members that the two had a very rocky relationship. The feud is one of many confrontations the couple had togeth-

er in the last couple months. Kasandra Perkins came home late from a Trey Songz concert the Saturday morning and that's when the quarrel started.

What gets lost in this tragedy is the life of the couple's beautiful three month old daughter Zoey. She is now without a mother and father before she takes her first steps. Sheperd will raise the young child in the West Babylon section of Long Island. This is the same house, and area on Long Island where she raised her son. NFL.com's Ian Rappaport reports due to the NFL bargaining agreement Zoey and her guardian who is Sheperd will receive payments from the NFL that break down as follows:

\$108,000 per year through the first four years of her life.

•\$48,000 at year five.

•\$52,000 per year from year six through eighteen or twenty-three depending on if she goes to college.

She can expect 1.1 million dollars from the NFL if she doesn't go to college, and roughly 1.3 million if she does. This is some good news for a family who needs it at these unscrupulous times.

On the football side of things Chiefs Coach Crennel has the daunting task of preparing sixty football players, and assistant coaches every week for games they don't really want to play. This collective group witnessed their teammate and friend take his own life with a gun on Chiefs territory. The same place they dedicate blood, sweat and tears to train as football players became



a suicide scene flooded with cops and legal authorities. "I was trying to get him to understand that life is not over, he still has a chance, and let's get this worked out," Crennel said last week. "I don't question what I said at all. "The uphill battle won't be easy but if anyone is qualified to rally the troops Romeo Crennel can get it done. Romeo Crennel inherited his sense of discipline from his father, a career military man. His patience, kindness and generosity came from his mother, who often had to raise young Romeo and his four siblings as a single mother while her husband was stationed overseas. Crennel will right the ship in ways unimaginable. His savvy, and experience with dealing with young men will help. The question that all ask is there any warning signs? Could all of this been avoided? I guess we will never know.