

VOLUME 1  
EDITION 1

# SUPER plus

## “ **\*\*THINK ABOUT IT\*\***

*No one takes thought very seriously, except those who claim to be thinkers or philosophers by profession. But that doesn't stop it from having its own apparatus of power—or being an effect of its apparatus of power when it tells people: 'Don't take me seriously, because I think for you, since I give you conformity, norms and rules, an image'; to all of which you may submit all the more as you say: 'That's not my business it's not important, it's for philosophers and their pure theories.'*

—Gilles Deleuze

”

### Superplus Staff

#### Editors

parker cronin  
jackie maurno  
edmund zagorin

#### Business Manager

greg lindgren

#### Graphic Design and Cover

chris svetlik

#### Arts Editor

meredith kramer

#### Writers

megan barshop  
parker cronin  
greg lindgren  
jackie maurno  
jeff may  
edmund zagorin

## COLLEGE IS STRESSFUL



Runner-up Best New Business '09



balance  
massage therapy

life is active – find balance



**DON'T WORRY.....**

**WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK**

**\$49 60 Min New Client Special**

**\$40 60 Min Student Tues/Thurs**

**Balance Massage Therapy | [www.lifeisactive.com](http://www.lifeisactive.com) | 730.660.5919**

## five classes we wish we could take...

(because we are huge dorks)

**SI 379 The History of Computers and the Internet**

**GEOSCI 103 Dinosaurs and Other Failures**

**SAC 368 Video Games as Culture/Form**

**REES 410 Rock Kills Communism**

**HISTORY 301 The Discovery of the Universe**

**ENGLISH 389 From Fashion to Detritus: Commodification, Shopping, and Trash in Post-modern American Culture**



**SELL YOUR MIND TODAY!**  
**WWW.SUBGENIUS.COM**

## letter from the editors

Dear Readers,

We would like to welcome you to the first edition of Superplus, a student publication that seeks to celebrate and critically examine the vapid commercialism and hysterical politics that characterize contemporary culture. Sometimes reality can be difficult to understand. Are we the beginning of an endless future or the end of a finite past? We'd like to know if the world really is *really* coming to an end, and if so, approximately when so as to schedule suitably unparalleled debauchery. In this vein, our features articles seek to be micro-ethnographies of emergent cultural phenomena.

Interested in joining the Superplus team? We're looking for content editors, layout editors, columnists, features writers, bloggers, graphic designers, web designers, business managers and anyone who's got some serious questions. Interested parties should email introductions and samples to

**[superplusa2@gmail.com](mailto:superplusa2@gmail.com)**

Love,  
The Editors



## **the man who sold the moon**

### **by: edmund zagorin**

For more than a century the mythology of moon colonization has occupied a site within the popular imagination as the first hopeful foothold of human settlement beyond the familiar terra firma. The cultural impulse towards manifest destiny is strongly ingrained in the culture of entrepreneurial globalization, and there are thousands of people today waiting with bated breath for the extra-planetary frontier to open for homesteading. And where popular imagination takes such firm root, it is only natural that someone will smell a business opportunity.

In the case of the moon, that someone was Dennis Hope, a Nevada businessman who in 1980 filed a claim with the United Nations claiming ownership of the moon. After receiving no reply from the famously sloth-like bureaucracy of the international body, Hope assumed he had a green light for ownership and began selling deeds to the moon parceled out in .4-hectare plots of land. To date Hope, as head of the Lunar Embassy Corporation, has sold 3.7 million such deeds, and in 2004 he established his own Galactic Government to self-legitimate the authority of his territorial claims, complete with constitution, congress, currency and even a patent office.

*Continued on page 12...*



# **GIANT EEL SOLUTIONS**

## Pataphysical Consulting Group

"Impossible Solutions for Imaginary Problems!"

Interested joining Detroit's newest creative consulting firm?

Gain valuable career experience with Giant Eel Solutions in marketing, accounting, public relations and organizational consulting.

Qualified applicants please send resumes and cover letters to [gianteelsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:gianteelsolutions@gmail.com)



## **Superplus Vol.1 Mixtape**

**Eels**-Saturday Morning  
**The Blow**- Parentheses  
**Tokyo Police Club**- Citizens of Tomorrow  
**Call and Response**- Blowing Bubbles  
**Boy Least Likely To**  
**Succeed**- Be Gentle With Me  
**Hefner**- Hello Kitten  
**Mojave 3**- Puzzles Like You  
**Club 8**- Everlasting Love  
**Deerhoof**- This Magnificent Bird Will Rise  
**Soul Coughing**-Soft Serve  
**Apples in Stereo**- Energy  
**Various Production**- Hater  
**Sambassadeur**- New Moon-  
**Goldfrapp**-Train  
**Battles**-Leyendecker  
**Snowden**- Black Eyes (Le Castle Vania Remix)

**Got an illin' mixtape you want the world to know about? Email it to: [superplusa2@gmail.com](mailto:superplusa2@gmail.com) and we'll publish our fave in the next issue.**



## the art of staying in

by: jackie maurno

Thursday is Always Sunny night. For over a year or so, my group of friends has managed to put everything aside, come together on Thursday nights and watch a TV show that we can all agree on. Based on a model created by other acquaintances freshman year, where our geographical location (the wilderness of north campus) and frustrating inability to get into bars created conditions where it was necessary to be a little more creative in order to entertain ourselves. Back then, the show was Project Runway, the drink of choice was champagne (that's what Heidi and Tim Gunn drink right?) and the location was a tiny dorm room that doubled as a space ship, which is an entirely different story. Little did we realize that this simple Wednesday night ritual would serve as a model (and stand the test of us turning 21) for the epic occurrence that happens every Thursday night in a house in Ker-rytown. I can say with pride that in addition to an improved choice of television show our dedication to absolute television viewing, debauchery and truly being one with "the gang" has evolved as well. The current model (which I consider now to be nearly perfect, I might add) of Always Sunny night is as follows:

**6pm-8pm:** Light to moderate drinking, general anticipation of storylines, and discussions of how last weeks previews will play out. The 6 to 8 block is not for the faint of heart and usually only involves the most dedicated of

participants. While the rest of us are finishing up the Thursday grind, these dedicated individuals are setting the tone for how the evening will play out. These are also the people, I might add, that end up blacking out, punching shit or vomiting for the entertainment of everyone else. They truly know how to take one for the team.



**8pm- 10pm:** By this time, the majority of Always Sunny night participants have trickled in. The 6 to 8 block demands that we make up for lost drinking time, which may be nearly impossible at this

*Continued on page 13...*



Detroit Urban Debate Education is a student organization and registered non-profit that works with schools in Detroit to teach public speaking, argument and research skills through competitive inter-scholastic debates.

Interested in learning how to be a debate teacher? You can take the "Urban Debate" section of SOC 389 for up to three credits, or contact us for more information at [detroitdebate@gmail.com](mailto:detroitdebate@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.detroitdebate.org](http://www.detroitdebate.org)

## **sinking into static: radio's dying days**

*how censorship and corporate greed sucked the  
life out mass entertainment's first incarnation and  
where we will go from here*

**by: greg lindgren**

My earliest memories of listening to music are from the backseat of my parents' car, with the radio tuned to our local oldies station. These are fond memories and I have the radio to thank for my first encounters with the likes of Motown, The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. My tastes have expanded over the years, but the music I heard on the radio while growing up inspired my initial curiosity in music and laid the foundation for a lifelong passion.

I am not happy to be writing an article about radio's impending demise. As the first form of mass entertainment, radio has shaped the lives of countless individuals. Aside from being a profoundly successful tool for promoting artists and introducing large groups of people to new music, radio has provided a communal listening experience and sense of interconnectedness to music fans for years. While it's not the same as going to a concert and sharing the music with a live audience, there's an indefinable sensation that comes from knowing others out there are tuned in to the same station, listening along with you.

In recent years, the quality of radio programming has severely declined. Even if a station does play good music, playlists are almost always limited to the same 100 or so songs which are played over and over again to the exclusion of other quality material. Furthermore, airtime is becoming increasingly dominated by commercials. It's gotten so bad that when I hit scan on my radio I'm more

likely to encounter a plethora of cheap, low-grade advertising than a single song I actually want to hear.

### **And who is to blame?**

The Federal Communications Commission is a huge part of the problem. The FCC is an independent government agency created as a result of the Communications Act of 1934. The president appoints 5 commissioners to sit at the helm of this organization every 5 years who then run the FCC with an annual budget of approximately \$400 million. While its official mission is to insure competition, diversity and affordability in communications services for the American Public, the extent to which it actually works towards achieving these goals is unclear at best.

During George Bush's tenure as president, these worthwhile ambitions were put on the back-burner backburner and censoring "indecentcy" became one of the FCC's highest priorities. In 2006 Bush signed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act which gave the FCC the power to fine stations as much as \$325,000 for violating decency standards. Fines of this magnitude are designed to leave the government with the final say over what can be played on the radio.

Defining material as indecent involves a number of highly subjective decisions. The FCC defines obscene material (which it unconditionally censors and first amendment rights do not protect) in vague and arbitrary terms including "material having a tendency to excite lustful thoughts" and lacking in "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value".



***Continued on page 19...***

## the 2012 doomsday industry by: parker cronin

In contemporary America we are faced with a small yet powerful movement. This movement holds at its core a dangerous idea: that the world will end in December 2012. Books by people like Daniel Pinchbeck and Lawrence Joseph have already sold tens of thousands of copies in a few short years. This ancient prophecy even garnered enough attention to get a Hollywood movie done in its name.

At base, each of these works holds that the Mesoamerican Mayan calendar predicted doom for all of humanity. The ancient Mayans developed a system called the 'long-count' to tell time over thousands of years. Each long-count lasts 5,126 years. The current cycle is due to end in December of 2012, and if doomsday theorists are correct, the world will end with the cycle. People always assume that the worst will happen when ever something ends; they never believe that things can just keep on going the same as they did before. But this is precisely the case with the end of the Long-Count. When it comes to a close, it just *resets*. Humanity isn't entering a new era; we are just entering a new phase of arbitrary time keeping. It is literally no different than rolling into the next century, rolling into the next year, or rolling into the next week. Each of these periods of time has an end, when the end comes about, a new period begins and life goes on all the same. For some reason, this idea of resetting didn't seem possible to oh-so-qualified people like Daniel Pinchbeck. They adamantly claim based on extensive amounts of "research" that the Long-Count is different.

There is a consensus of Mayan scholars to prove that these people are quacks. San-



-dra Nobel, Executive Director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, says that to render Dec. 21, 2012 as a doomsday or moment of cosmic shifting is "a *complete fabrication* and a chance for a lot of people to cash in." Susan Milbrath, a Mayan Archaeoastronomer, indicates that we have no evidence that the Mayans "would think the world would come to an end at that point." Not a single study or piece of archaeological evidence confirms that 2012 will bring with it the end of the world. There isn't even a piece of evidence that indicates that the Mayans themselves would have seen it as a very big deal. There is a 100% consensus among experts of Mayan Archaeology, however, that the Mayans probably would have partied really hard on that December night, then woke up the next morning and moved on. Because that's all they saw the date as, akin to the festivities of New Years Eve; a date that is noted, honored, but has no persisting significance other than a particularly bad hangover. The Mayans also don't have a fantastic tract-record when it comes to making predictions. They failed to predict the Spanish invasion of their lands,

***Continued on page 8...***

***Continued from page 7...***

an event that destroyed almost their entire civilization and almost all of their people. They predicted many times the restoration of their societies and empires, none of which have even close to come true. The truth is that the Mayans just loved to make predictions about the future; they are no better at making predictions about the future than any nut job with a creative imagination.

Even if we grant that Mayan predictions are a good method for determining the future, this method still concludes that 2012 should be ignored. There are copious records of the Mayans making predictions for the events post-2012. There are predictions in the town of Palenque that depict the return of a king 2,000 years from now. All of these futuristic predictions portrays people as simply carrying on their business as usual, nothing changed, nothing disrupted.

So who are these 2012 doomsday proponents? And why do they insist on propagating a patently false idea? The most famous of these authors is Daniel Pinchbeck. In 2006 he wrote a book called The Return of Quetzalcoatl. In this book, he details how material culture and modern society is rushing us towards the apocalypse. He claims to have talked personally with the god Quetzalcoatl, the god spoke with him about the end of times, giving him a mission to spread the good word. Along with the fact that he misinterpreted what the end of the long-count means, Daniel Pinchbeck has literally zero education in Mayan culture, archaeology, prediction-making or astronomy. Before writing this book, he wrote another book on Shamanistic culture. He ultimately concluded that the best way to understand the world is by taking copious amounts of psychedelic substances like LSD, Ayahuasca, and Iboga. Go figure. The new movie 2012 was written by Roland Emerich. Some of



you may know the name; he also was involved in the doomsday movies Independence Day, The Day After Tomorrow, and the brilliant historical gem known as 10,000 B.C. The man also has zero qualifications to comment on Mayan Archaeology.

What is the motive behind all of these works? It's great money. Emerich sees it as the next hit-disaster movie. Joseph and Pinchbeck see it as the next way to make a quick buck. If even just 1% of the people who visited Joseph's website bought his book, he would have sold 200,000 copies. At 5\$ in royalties per book, he just made a cool million. As the doomsday calendar winds down, each of these peoples bank accounts ring up.

2012 may seem like harmless talk. There's so much nonsense floating around in the world already, aren't these false prophets just a drop in the bucket? Before every major predicted doomsday event, thousands of people commit suicide. They believe that their lives will soon be taken, so they take their own. Before Y2K, several thousand people committed suicide rather than face the apocalyptic post-computer world. These authors, regardless of their good intentions, are murderous liars and 2012 is a drive-by-prophecy, anonymously authorizing the self-murder of the desperate and innocent. Every time you hear someone mention the 2012 theory, remember that its dissemination is complicit in the disgustingly selfish pursuit of monetary gain is paid for in human life. As college students who have academically privileged access to the true significance of the Mayans' predictions, we have an responsibility to challenge these lies at every level of cultural production, in every personal and political encounter.



# lady is a vamp

by megan barshop

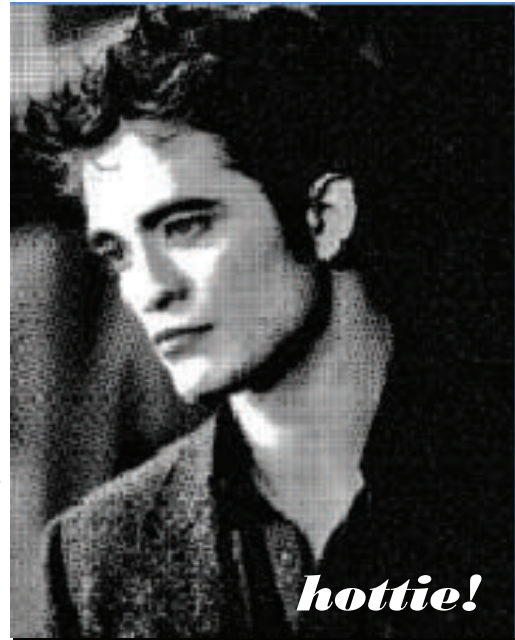
I am a Fanpire—yes, it's true. I am a total, utter, crazy, out-of-control Fanpire. It is literally the only thing I talk about. Seriously, I need help. But, don't bother. I'm too far gone and you'd just be wasting your time. Let me focus on just one of my Vampire-obsessions, oh, and, just in case you're wondering, I have three: Edward Cullen [*Twilight*], Bill Compton [*True Blood*] and Stephen Salvatore [*The Vampire Diaries*]. But, you never forget your first time. So, Edward, this one's for you.

Okay, *Twilight*. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...

Something happened to me when I read *Twilight* last December—a whole month after the movie rendition premiered. I began to feel, well, kind of strange. I began to feel thirsty...for any and all things "Twi.". And then I saw the film. And then, as far as I was concerned, the outside world ceased to exist.

It's intoxicating, this *Twilight* fever. It's tempting and somehow wrong, and for Christ's sake, it's *completely fake!* But, I just...I can't even explain it. I'm pretty sure it has something to do with that so-beautiful-it-hurts-my eyes Robert Pattinson's portrayal of Edward Cullen. Listen up: if you don't fall head over heels in love with this character, there is something seriously wrong with you. I mean, really, I would strongly suggest that you see somebody because Edward Cullen is....he's just...AHH! He's just...

so....perfect. He's my perfect man...I mean dead man...Wait, no...he's actually, undead... Anyway... Edward is gorgeous (that hair...omigod, don't even get me started) and smart and he plays the piano and he's a tortured soul, which is just totally endearing, don't you think? His relationship with Bella Swan is perfect in that it is totally and utterly imperfect. He wants her, but he can't have her (in other words, they can't have s.e....) because the risk of him losing control (biting and killing her) is too great. So, really, all they can do is kiss. And, let me just say, the ONE kiss they do share in the film is the most erotic sight I have seen.



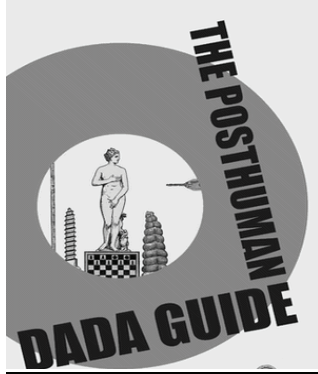
## never pay for sex tips

Those who read *Cosmo*, whether regularly or only once every few months or years, know that they market themselves by offering a slew of largely recycled sex tips. In these times, few have the extra green to shell out for these libidinal pearls of wisdom, and why should we? We'll help you penny-pinch this season by letting you in on the three key "secret" female sex tips:

**Kegels**– Next time you have to pee, don't. Instead squeeze and relax your vag muscles. This will make you better in bed for some reason.

**Oral Sex**– Shocker: almost no one doesn't like this. Teeth: no, tongue: yes please. Hand helps, but light touch.

**Scream Encouragement**– If you tell people that they're awesome, sometimes the sex is better.



## VOICE OF OUR GENERATION

Dr. Andrei Codrescu, brilliant polymath author of *The Posthuman Dada Guide*, comes to speak at UM's Rackham Auditorium at 7pm on Wednesday 12/9

The talk will focus on the Romanian revolution as an international media spectacle. Admission is **free**.



### **the world's largest unicorn trap by: parker cronin**

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is the world's largest and most complex machine. It's a tunnel approximately 17 miles in circumference, buried beneath an area along the Franco-Swiss border and containing several superconducting magnets to form a massive particle accelerator. Over \$6.5 billion has been invested in this machine. Over half the world's theoretical physicists currently work on the project. The question is: what, exactly, are they up to?



Before it was first turned on, thousands across the globe protested the LHC. The reason? The LHC is theoretically the most dangerous device that humanity has ever created. Qualified scientists have projected that the LHC may cause any of the following: a mini-black-hole that will engulf the entire world, a vacuum bubble that would pop all of existence out of existence, a cataclysmic planetary magnetic pole-shift, and possibly even rip a hole in the time-space fabric of the universe.

Needless to say, these are horrifying scenarios. Not only would each of them involve the death of every single human and probably most organic life on Earth, several of them would entail an end to all potential life that might exist across the Galaxy. Such an outcome could plausibly destroy quadrillions of entities. Given the immense potential for disaster of an infinite magnitude, what goal or reward could possibly have been significant enough to take such a risk? The first stated goal of the LHC is to discover and map the Higgs boson particle, a theoretical entity that has never been proven to exist. Many scientists even doubt the possibility that it *could* exist anywhere except theoretically. Another of the stated purposes of the LHC is to find a Grand Unified Theory of physics. Once again, there is no guarantee that such a theory exists. In both cases it is unclear what practical benefits civilization would derive either from knowledge of the existence of the Higgs boson particle or a Grand Unified Theory of physics. Basically, the reason the LHC exists is that those in authority were persuaded by the science-jargon equivalent of "we did it for the lolz." We as a species are playing an existential game of Russian roulette with no expectation of substantive pay-off.

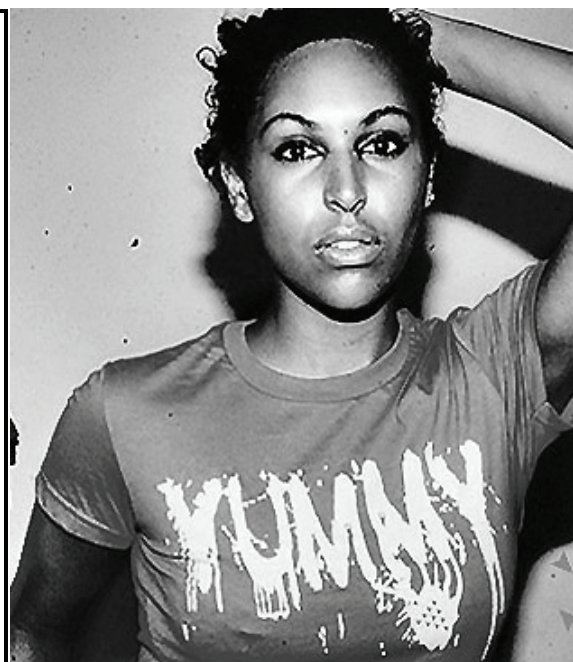
But I guess there's always the sheer thrill of it.

***Continued on page 11...***

*Continued from page 10...*

The huge costs and risks of the LHC can only be justified under the assumption that knowledge in its own right is the ultimate good. Science for the sake of science. Any cost is acceptable in this ruthless pursuit of knowing. And it is a dogmatic belief in the ability of humans to know and understand the world without cost, which has allowed these scientists and their supporters to justify this project. It's a strange and scary reality that many people are willing to bet the existence of everything we have ever known or will ever know in order to possibly learn more about how the strong and weak nuclear forces interact. The idea that a small group of scientists has the authority to make this decision on behalf of all existing beings is disgusting. These scientists risked the deaths of quadrillions of unconsulted entities to gain abstract knowledge that none of those people care about.

This is not to say that we should abandon rationality or end the fruitful pursuit of new ways of knowing. Rather, that sometimes, in some cases, the costs simply outweigh the benefits. What could all these physicists research if they weren't spending their days searching for the Higgs boson? Perhaps they could be inventing cold fusion or designing anti-gravity boots. What could we do with \$6.5 billion if we hadn't paid for the LHC? Perhaps we could have substantially improved the lives of some impoverished folks, built hundreds of schools or community centers to endow the future of our society or created more preventive measures against the looming devastation of climate change. The LHC demands a gigantic quantity of time, effort and money to search for imaginary particles and justify theoretical concepts which may or may not be possible, all the while risking the entire universe. The Large Hadron Collider is, without a doubt, the world's largest unicorn trap.



[WWW.IVSM.COM](http://WWW.IVSM.COM)

**movie-of-the-season:  
"The Rainmaker"**

The healthcare debate has dominated and convoluted the political landscape for the past year, conjuring up strong and confused passions from America's most extreme factions. The issue shouldn't be complicated. In the richest nation in the world, it is a macabre perversion of justice to condemn the uninsured to early and painful deaths resulting from treatable conditions. This might be the most important thing that the US government has done for its people in decades. But we all have the odd friend or two who, despite all arguments, just couldn't care less. However, these dolts are usually still as emotionally susceptible as the next person. **Make them watch The Rainmaker.** Based on a John Grisham novel and starring Matt Damon, Danny Devito and Jon Voigt, this tear-jerker will have anyone with a half a heart calling their Congressional representative daily.



# Cahill-Bloom



## Center for Strategic Assessment

As the world looks forward upon a new century with new challenges and possibilities, the Cahill-Bloom Center for Strategic Assessment seeks to provide today's decision makers with a unique perspective on the issues that define our globalized international system. By employing diverse viewpoints across a wide range of relevant fields, CBCSA offers balanced and comprehensive policy options combined with information that will enhance current strategies, question the consensus, and identify the fulcrum points of complex situations.

visit us on the world wide web at [www.cahillbloomcsa.org](http://www.cahillbloomcsa.org)

## ATOMIC COCKTAIL

Having a 'Rules of Attraction'-style End of the World party and unsure of what to serve? Try this quaintly over-precise '50s Esquire recipe for an Atomic Cocktail! Just the ticket for calming any eschatology-induced anxiety!

- \* **1 1/2 ounces vodka**
- \* **1 1/2 ounces brandy**
- \* **1 teaspoon sherry [optional]**
- \* **1 1/2 ounces Brut champagne**  
(don't be afraid to use Andre)

Stir the vodka, brandy, and sherry well with cracked ice, then strain into a chilled cocktail glass and add 2 ounces cold brut champagne.

Consume responsibly!

## Continued from page 4...

To the cynical reader Hope's business successes are simply another symptom of the basic willingness of consumers to buy almost anything that is steered their way, from jack-pot bankrolls from estranged Nigerian princes to those plastic testicles that real men affix under the license plate of their pick-up trucks. After all, making a buck is the *key* ingredient of American dreams and who are we to fault the effort of any screwball huckster who, as in Hope's case, quixotically strikes lunar gold? The inevitable wake-up call has come from the International Institute of Space Law, whose lawyers are arguing that the 1967 Outer Space Treaty precludes ownership of all celestial bodies and has been ratified by more than one hundred countries, United States included.

Nevertheless, the sheer chutzpah of one man claiming the entire moon has both his sovereign and commercial territory appears to have been beyond the imaginations of even the Treaty's 1960s drafters. The language of the treaty explicitly only covers territorial claims made by nation-states, creating a loophole for claims made by private individuals that Hope is now exploiting to claim that the Treaty does not apply, setting the stage for an international legal and political showdown between his Galactic Government and the United Nations.

Brief reality check: no humans live on the moon, nor is any substantive colonization effort planned or funded for the near future. In the recession economy many people just seem content that the moon provides some nocturnal illumination and the idea of investing billions on lunar homesteading seems both far-fetched and, with the problems of real poverty and joblessness growing, perhaps irresponsibly elitist. But business is business, and with over nine million in the bank and a global market that continues to expand, Hope's venture may prove to be one part of the housing bubble that refuses to pop.

*Continues on page 13...*



### ***Continued from page 5...***

point, but we zone in on this goal. Always Sunny takes television-themed drinking to entirely new levels. Total immersion into the Always Sunny lifestyle, mindset and diet (which these nights are a testament to our dedication) requires most importantly a lot of drinking. The characters on the show generally drink a lot of Coors but, as they own a bar, all options are basically open. Many a shot is taken, evil alcoholic concoctions imbibed- all chased with a refreshing can of cheap beer. As far as I know no one in the group has gone as far as to huff glue or eat cat food, but the season is not over yet.

**10pm-10:30pm (Showtime):** We settle into our respective hierarchical positions on couches, chairs and the occasional body. Granted, at this point the majority of the room is entirely too saturated with booze to be able to pay attention to anything, but we all try really hard. Levels of intoxication can be gauged by this reoccurring comment from a fellow Sunny attendee "When I watch it again tomorrow its like watching a new episode!!!!" Commercial chatter focuses on debates over opening a bar in Philadelphia ("wouldn't that be sweet?" "But, wait- Philly sucks...."), continual fighting over who is the muscle, the useless bitch or the brains, conversations between females (and some males) over who they would rather sleep with: Dennis or Mac?, as well as the normal episode-centric commentary.

**10:30pm-morning (After-Party):** I can't say that I have ever witnessed a post-Always Sunny viewing party go completely the same way. It's unpredictability is both reliable and entertaining.

At this point a general haze has descended upon the group, details, people and occasionally cell phones get lost. Being an active participant makes it generally hard to recount specific events. This is probably for the best... The devoted Always Sunny attendee's go back and forth between simultaneously loving and fighting our neighbors, crying and laughing with each other as well while engaging in general mayhem such as finding shit to break. I would say that generally good feelings are felt by all when stumbling back home in the early hours of the morning, at least I think so.

Although we still venture out into the general bar population, many a night is spend reminiscing or in anticipating the next Always Sunny Night, where like Dee, Frank, Dennis, Mac and Charlie we have good cheap fun in the comforts of our own bar (home) and get a little ridiculous as well.

### ***Continued from page 12...***

In fact, many pro-colonizers are arguing that a new frontier, whether or not ruled by Hope's Galactic Government, is exactly what this world economy needs to get back on track. Some cast the equation in far dire try-or-die terms, arguing that humanity is in a race against the a catastrophic global event such as the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs and only securing new outposts of civilization can ensure that we don't leave all of our eggs in one fragile basket. As concerns about energy security and climate change grow, it also helps that the moon's surface is rich in the rare but potent fusion reactant helium-3, which may prove invaluable in supplying the future of humanity's clean energy needs in a post-fossil fuels world. In a strange twist of *Law & Order* meets *Battlestar Galactica*, the battle for control of the moon will the tragically laserless legal contest of the emerging century, and without sexy jumpsuits or aliens, we can only cheer for a favorable resolution to what might be the greatest reality show of all time.

## **mo' money: actually fewer problems**

### **by edmund zagorin**

Many of us are feeling the recession hard in one way or another and for much of Southern Michigan cash is getting pretty tight. But for those of us who do have a little extra to spend, the temptation is to splurge on short-term material gains like alcohol or a nice meal. However, for the forward-looking student there has never been a better time to stick a bit of that money back into the economy and watch it grow. Here are a few tips for students who want to make smart financial decisions without spending a lot.

**-Shop for interest rates and signing bonuses.** Many banks are offering huge interest rate deals and even cash bonuses for those who open a new account. This is basically free money for informed consumers.

**-Convert your long-term savings to the Chinese yuan.** Most economists agree that the yuan (RMB) has been a significantly under-valued currency for years and with most of the US federal deficit financed by a hefty Chinese trade surplus, the risks that its fundamentals will decline in the near future are virtually nil. While the gains may not be huge, it probably beats (but can also supplement) most banks compound interest and will be a safe investment for those who may have nervous jitters about the immediate future of the dollar.

**-Consider investing in a person-to-person (P2P) internet banking group such as Lending Club.** These services screen a large group of borrowers and group them by risk level which they pair with a comparable interest rate. The higher the risk, the higher the return. These groups have been paying remarkable dividends and can also serve as a valuable socializing experience as P2P finance becomes increasingly common.

**-Invest in the nascent medical marijuana industry.** Regardless of whether or not you indulge, medical legalization has primed the new sector to become big business in Michigan. If California is any indicator, the medical marijuana industry will grow quickly and occupy many diverse niches for consumer products, making it a great opportunity for low-risk student investment.

*Continues on page 18...*



### **TOP THREE DEMIGODS**

**Baron Ungern-Sternberg:** the crazed White Russian claimed to be the second coming of Ghengis Khan (who is held as a Buddhist demigod) and who conquered Mongolia and ruled as a Buddhist theocratic monarch briefly in 1921.

**Hóng Xiùquán:** 19th century Chinese guerilla rebel against British opium imperialism and self-proclaimed (yet scripturally unacknowledged) brother of Jesus Christ.

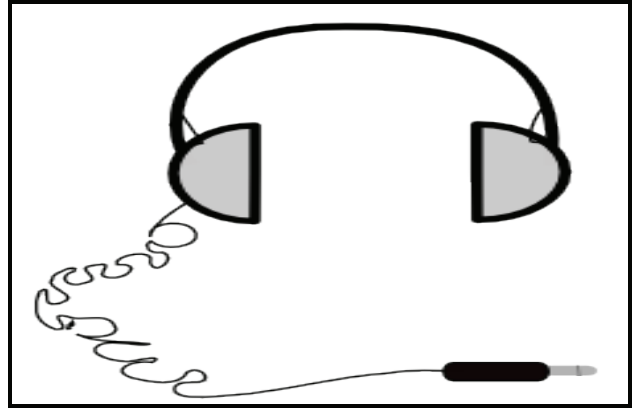
**Gozer the Gozerian:** The Traveler; he will come in one of the prechosen forms. During the rectification of the Vuldronaii, The Traveler came as a large and moving Torb. Then, during the third reconciliation of the last of the Meketrex Supplicants, they chose the form of a giant Sloar. Many fools died in the depths of the Sloar that day, I tell you. In other words, either you've seen Ghostbusters or you haven't.

## listening to songs of yester-year while the mp3 destroys my ears

by: jeff may

As an individual growing up in a world that witnessed the introduction of the iPod, I can safely say technology has enhanced my understanding of, access to and overall enjoyment of music. My iPod is much more than a portable music library, it is an instrument that on a normal day (read: no zombie/natural disasters or acts of God), allows me to challenge and manipulate my immediate emotional state. If you regularly use an MP3 player, you do this every day when you walk to class, get psyched for an exam and tune out those talkative people across the way in the Fishbowl. This widespread emotional-determinacy has never been seen before in the agency of any human generation. The iPod, coupled with the other great achievements of our day and age (the Internet, Auto-Tune, Easy Mac, and practically anything available in the Sharper Image Catalog) arguably makes the moment in which we live a historical anomaly. Given our state of affairs, it seems appropriate to ask: Where are we going and what are the opportunity costs of living in this unprecedented moment? Several new developments in the world of music have made this question particularly pertinent in recent years. The easiest place from which to dive-off is clear:

**The Internet:** With a massive shift by record companies from music production and sales to music publishing underway, the Internet's impact on how we discover, acquire and share our music has never been more apparent. Novice musicians can promote their music and their personalities through social-networking sites with minimal promotion costs. Torrent sharing com-



munities specializing in the dissemination of recently released albums, vintage/obscure finds, and concert recordings cater to almost any need and appetite. People at work or home can stream live-video of music festivals (i.e. Bonnaroo and Rothbury) they cannot attend and, if you're into bands with cult followings (the author definitely is), you can check-in on what The Dead or Widespread Panic are playing in real-time via streaming set-lists. Yes, the Internet is financially hurting artists who predominantly rely on selling records to make their income, but simultaneously the Internet is a blessing for artists who either cannot afford recording time in studios or rely on the buzz surrounding their live performances to generate income.

**Improved Audio Quality:** Recent improvements in commercial and residential sound systems have made listening to music more enjoyable than ever for all involved. Bands that specialize in creating rich, kaleidoscopic aural landscapes can be enjoyed with great clarity and precision, making each listen its own unique delight as new combinations, textures and layers are discovered. The technological improvements in audio quality are not strictly limited to audio equipment. FLAC (Free Lossless Audio Codec) file formatting has removed the required loss of audio quality found in converting an audio stream into MP3 and AAC file formats. Conversely, due to the prevalence of MP3

*Continued on page 16...*

**\*\*THINK ABOUT IT\*\***

*Rah-rah-ah-ah-ah  
Roma, Roma-ma  
GaGa, ooh la la*

—Lady Gaga

***Continued from page 15...***

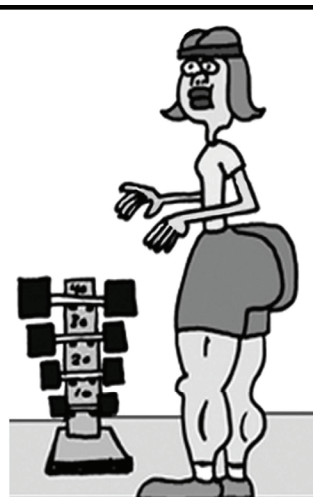
music files as most people's source of music, record companies are now manipulating the amplitudes on their MP3 formatted singles and records to make the songs as loud as possible. The driving belief of this strategy is that by eliminating the softer dynamics in songs, they will be heard by as many people as possible when played in businesses, restaurants and in your home. With maximized amplitudes comes a lack of dynamic variance in our music, and it is here that we are losing something essential to good music.

**Auto-Tuning:** Can't sing but want to make a Top 40 hit? No problem! If you've ever wondered why half of the songs in the Top 40 seem to be sung by the same damn person, that's Auto-Tuning at work. If you're unfamiliar with Auto-Tune, it is the computer program responsible for most "studio magic." Using this technology, producers can digitally bend singer tracks to have them "hit" notes they cannot reach in reality, all with-

out altering the other parts in the mix. Instrumental tracks can also be altered in the same way, which in my opinion is much more frightening. "Can't actually play your guitar? No problem."

**Phone Cameras and Camcorders:** It is perfectly acceptable to take a picture at a concert in order to capture a special moment or create a memento of your overall experience. Spending the entire show with your phone held out at arm's length or above your head is totally obnoxious. One, you're consciously choosing to watch an event transpiring right in front of your face through a constraining, low-quality screen. Two, if there's one thing I can't stand about YouTube videos of "Sick Visuals!" or "Light Show Melts FACE!" it is that the audio quality of these videos is absolutely pitiful. I couldn't care about a light show if the music is sub-par. The essence of a concert is engaging your auditory system. The substance that ultimately makes it meaningful is invisible, and I think many people are starting to forget this. If you don't think so, please look at the front row the next time you're at a show and count the number of phones being held in the air for more than 15 seconds.

***Continues on page 16...***



Are you still slaving  
away at the gym?

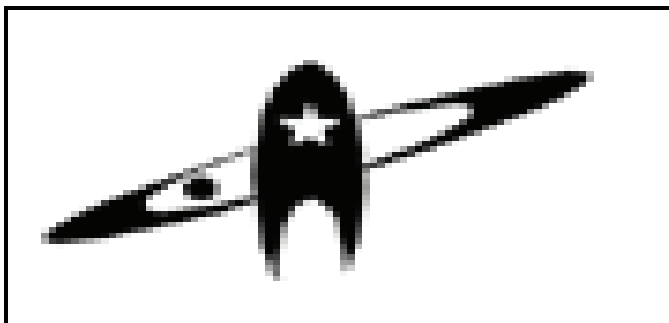
Let me bring out the real you  
with an amazing portrait instead!

[www.alessandrastudio.com](http://www.alessandrastudio.com)



*Continued from page 16...*

**The Authority of Television:** T.V. tends to confer legitimacy (whether earned or un-earned) to everything happening on it, and music is no exception. Since television is by definition a visual medium, televised concerts and musical performances are fixated on the visual aesthetics of a performance and often spend ludicrous sums of money on enhancements. If you've ever seen a Super Bowl half-time show, you know what I'm talking about. We are being conditioned to look at the secondary characteristics of a performance to evaluate its real worth, to love shows because of the spectacle, the audience and the raw noise, but not the *sound*. An even more disorienting example of television's effect on our ability to evaluate the worth of a musical performance is embodied in the fact that the 6<sup>th</sup> most successful concert tour in North America during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2009 was "American Idol's Live." At \$60 dollars a ticket (excluding LiveNation's absurd "convenience charges"), the tour performed in corporate arenas around the country and on average managed to sell 75% of available tickets. The author recognizes that, at present, there is not an existing evaluative system that is able to analyze concerts for an objective real-ticket-value, but this tour's success is very disturbing. Instead of going out to local music clubs, bars or venues, hundreds of thousands if not over a million people paid at least \$60 to see people sing songs originally written and made famous by **other people**, simply because they've seen them on T.V. Be amazed.



### Top Three Micro-nations

**Transnistria:** the last true vestige of the Soviet empire which exists as an autonomous but unrecognized secession from Moldova. Their leaders are currently cackling vindictively at the global economic crisis, awash in a sea of shitty appliances.



**Other World Kingdom:** an absolute monarchy based on total female domination, which may or may not include the punishment of eyes, located within the Czech Republic.



**Kugelmugel:** a gigantic and unreasonably sovereign ball-shaped house in Vienna, Austria, formed in reaction to what its creator has described as architectural censorship and a request that he pay taxes. The lone address in the nation is translated as "2 Antifascism Square".



**\*\*THINK ABOUT IT\*\***

*"There is a great disorder under heaven and the situation is excellent."*

—Mao Zedong

## 16 essays everyone should read in college don't let school get in the way of your education

What we learn in college affects the beliefs and habits we hold for the rest of our lives. While we passively consume information, it is actively producing our cognition within the mold of a certain type of human being. We must resist this bland diet of mere answers with provocative and controversial questions at every turn, but how do we get outside of our own entrenched assumptions? Our unranked list of 16 essays, all available free online, offer expedient means of such anti-establishment self-education for today's busy college student. We do not endorse the content of any of these texts, and indeed some are explicitly designed to be read as provocations. Enjoy!

Eliezer Yudkowsky "Cognitive biases potentially affecting judgment of global risks" 2006

André Breton "Surrealist Manifesto" 1924

Pierre Schlag, "Normative and Nowhere to Go" 1990

Paolo Friere "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" 1970

Carol Cohn "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals" 1987

Bob Black "The Abolition of Work" 1983

Georges Bataille "The Solar Anus" 1931

BLTC Engineering "Brave New World? A Defense of Paradise Engineering" 2004

Ward Churchill "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens" 2001

*Continued on page 19...*



*Continued from page 14...*

**-Bet on a prediction market such as InTrade.** InTrade is a market where people can bet on the likelihood of certain events coming to pass in the same way that futures markets work. For example, some people bet on Obama winning the Iowa primary, the nomination and the presidency and won a good deal of money. Currently, you can bet on a host of predictions ranging from the likelihood of a public option to pass Congress to a person to be charged with homicide of Michael Jackson. Betting is based on odds, so if you are confident in your opinion with good reasons, take advantage of information acquired in your college education by making a smart bet and see if it pays off.

**-Invest in a virtual products company such as Virtual Greats.** Even though those dollar Facebook gifts on your wall aren't real, someone still has to make them and the virtual products industry is set to explode from its \$1.5 billion global value with the growth of a host of online communities, such as Second Life. The market is currently driven by demand from Chinese consumers, but economists predict that as digital technology becomes increasingly part of American social life it won't be long before the domestic demand here catches up.

### *Continued from page 6...*

Regardless of whether or not you think these standards accurately define indecency, it's clear that people are bound to have conflicting interpretations of what constitutes artistic value.

I'm not comfortable letting someone else make that decision for me; especially when that "someone" works for the FCC and makes their living censoring the radio. In the eyes of the law, these sniveling bureaucrats are the final authority for assessing artistic value and that leaves me feeling indignant, amazed and even amused. What conversations transpire in sterile boardrooms as censors separate recordings lacking "artistic content" from the rest of the drivel they see fit for airtime? Are they straight-faced and serious while they sit in judgment or do they attack their work with vigor, heroically fighting off "lustful thoughts" to defend the public? Has a song ever left one of them feeling alive or in love or does only cold blood run through their veins? Even if these people aren't the spineless robots I imagine them to be, this type of censorship does not only degrade the content and quality of radio programming; it also erodes our constitutional rights.

But the FCC isn't the only party to blame. The main reason that mediocre, repetitive programming and an onslaught of commercials dominate radio waves nationwide is that most stations are owned by the same company, Clear Channel Communications. This media conglomerate owns more AM and FM radio stations than any other company in existence and has persisted in doing

so in spite of numerous accusations of unethical conduct. Listeners bear the brunt of Clear Channel's monopolistic behavior and in spite of their complaints, the miserable, greed-hungry executives at Clear Channel continue to rein supreme.

A colossal beast like Clear Channel isn't likely to lie down and die any time soon, but radio as we know it is on its last legs. The ubiquitous and convenient presence of radios in automobiles has allowed it to survive this long, but even that won't keep it alive forever. The Internet is already revolutionizing the music industry and has dramatically altered fans expectations regarding music's accessibility. In this age of technological advancement, 3G networks are becoming more and more common on cell phones and it won't be long until cars come equipped with the hardware to play music via the Internet. When that day comes, I'll say a fond farewell and silent thank you to the radio for the role it played in bringing music into so many of our lives for so many years. More than that however, I will pray that agencies like the FCC and greedy conglomerates like Clear Channel stay the hell away from whatever medium steps up to take its place.

### *Continued from page 18...*

Karl Popper "Science as Falsification" 1963

George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language" 1946

Jayan Nayar "The People's Law: Decolonising Legal Imagination" 2007

C.J. Pascoe "Dude, You're a Fag" 2007

John Dolan "The Case for Nuclear Winter" 2009

David Foster Wallace "Commencement Speech at Kenyon" 2005

E.M. Cioran "The Cult of Infinity" 1934



## what's your favorite jay-z song?????

*Sixteen-year old vocal phenomenon Miley Cyrus recently sat down with a reporter and a random tiny blonde girl to discuss the success of her new single, "Party in the USA." During the interview, the precocious pop princess let slip a startling disclosure...*

"I don't know" replied Miley, who was dressed in a \_\_\_\_\_ costume for  
 (proper noun)  
 the pagan festivities of \_\_\_\_\_. "I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ the song so I have no  
 (annual holiday) (verb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Honestly, I picked that \_\_\_\_\_ 'cause I needed something  
 (noun) (noun)  
 to go with my \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ it and I didn't expect it to be  
 (plural noun) (verb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_, originally. It was just something I wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ and I  
 (adjective) (verb)  
 needed some \_\_\_\_\_ and it turned out for the best. **I've never heard a**  
 (noun)  
**Jay-Z song.** I don't \_\_\_\_\_ to pop music", she contemptuously spat, a/an  
 (verb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ that's likely to bewilder and \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_ fans.  
 (noun) (verb) (adjective)  
 "Its not even my style of \_\_\_\_\_, that song. I'm really \_\_\_\_\_ for it to  
 (noun) (past tense verb)  
 have done so well. Totally, totally \_\_\_\_\_. God has definitely put me in an  
 (past tense verb)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ position with amazing \_\_\_\_\_." Tell it like it is, Miley!  
 (adjective) (plural noun)