



Budget woes drive states to embrace gambling

By Aryeh Cohen-Wade
STAFF REPORTER

ATLANTIC CITY—As the continuing national economic slump forces large tax increases and massive cuts in services, cash-strapped states are increasingly turning to gambling to close their budget deficits.

"C'mon baby, New York needs a new after-school program!" shouted Governor George S. Pataki, tossing a pair of dice at a craps table in the Atlantic City Harrah's Casino. "Shit, boxcars again," was his immediate lament, as both governor and state lost the \$45.3 million that Mr. Pataki had placed on the table in the hopes of funding routine ferry maintenance.

"State revenues haven't been this tight since the late 70's," Mr. Pataki later confessed after consuming a number of complimentary whiskey sours from the casino bar. "We're stuck in an incredible bind. While tax increases are a political dead-end, voters refuse to allow even the slightest cut in services. My administration has tried to implement drastic solutions, like our attempt to legalize gambling

within the state of New York, but the legislature called the proposal 'immoral.' I decided the only recourse was to take it into my own hands by going a few rounds with Lady Luck."

When reminded that he had just lost the funding for school lunches for five hundred thousand low-income students, Mr. Pataki replied, "I'm going to have to bring back a lot of salt-water taffy."

Pataki is not the only one staking his state's financial future on a roll of the dice. With 42 states constitutionally required to pass a balanced budget, governors nationwide are repeating scenes like this with varying levels of success. In a small trailer-based casino on a Hopi reservation in northern Arizona, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson was able to save his state's symphony orchestra through a few well played hands of blackjack. The Chancellor of Guam was spotted pulling the thousand-dollar slots in Las Vegas, hoping to secure funding for precious malaria vaccine.

However, for every governor who comes back to his state loaded



TOOLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Governor Jeb Bush pouts after losing all the funds for the Florida Department of Keeping Comatose Women Alive in a heated game of blackjack.

with cash, another returns with empty pockets and sorry excuses. "I had a full house, aces over jacks. You can't blame me for going all in with a hand like that," said Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, recently returned from a tour of Mississippi riverboat casinos. "How the hell was I supposed to know that goddamn [Florida Governor] Jeb [Bush] was holding four nines? I mean, what are the chances?"

He added: "Well, I guess all those indigent corpses are just going to have to bury themselves for the next few years."

Yale activist group, like, totally changes the world

By Eric March
STAFF REPORTER

NEW HAVEN, CT - Church bells rang out from Bangkok to Boston yesterday, when, against all odds, the Yale activist group ReactNow, like, totally changed the world.

"When Sara [Weisman] and I set up that table tent in the Pierson dining hall, I just knew we would end the violence in Chechnya and bring about the end of the corrupt Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe," exclaimed Jon Robeling PC '07. "All I can say is, 'Yeeeah.'"

Indeed, starving children were fed, shattered cities were rebuilt and soldiers across the world laid down their arms, a fitting culmination of the group's tireless crusade to, like, seriously make a difference.

"Oh my God, guys, we did it," ReactNow President Rachel Gortz said, speaking in front of a mosque on the newly restored Sri Lankan coast. "You guys rock my world."

At a press conference held earlier this morning, world leaders from disparate corners of the globe came together to laud the efforts of the plucky, determined Elis.

"For years my country has been in the grip of terrible civil war," proclaimed Sudanese president

Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bahir. "But thanks to ReactNow's brave Cross-Campus chalk messaging those days of horrific violence, brutal rape and senseless slaughter are finally over."

Campus activist groups nationwide were quick to bestow praise on ReactNow for succeeding where many of them had historically failed.

"I suppose I was kind of bummed last year when we were unable to bring about democracy in Iraq by holding a discussion forum and passing out fliers," UC Santa Cruz senior Allen Wyatt explained. "Still, it wasn't quite as bad as the time we tried to summon Scott Baio by screaming 'pork chops' into that megaphone. Man, we sure had a lot of growing up to do."

Other campus organizations were more critical of the group's success.

"I don't think it's all that great," said Robyn Halt, president of the Yale Democratic Alliance. "After all, with only a few posters and a table at Bulldog Days we were able to simultaneously bring down the Bush administration, abolish the death penalty AND end human rights abuses in China."

"Now that's, like, totally a massive revision of the geopolitical landscape right there," she added.

VH1 to premiere new series, *I Love 34 Seconds Ago*

By Betsy Scherzer
STAFF REPORTER

NEW YORK - Following a string of hit specials lauding the last three decades, VH1 is set to launch its next nostalgic kick – *I Love 34 Seconds Ago*. Billed as the perfect way to forget how pathetic life is for non-rock stars and aging ones, episodes speed viewers down what’s left of memory lane. VH1 expects this blast from the past to set record ratings among target viewers: Alzheimer patients, second graders on “drug holidays,” your high school’s yearbook staff, and the drunk kid who keeps telling you how sweet that last beer pong round really was—really.

As its fourth *I Love* series kicks off, VH1 is looking ahead, planning even more spin-offs. Watch for such potential gems as, *I Love the Last 100 Times I Saw That Commercial before Being Disappointed with the Countdown Finalist*, *I Love the Next Time Saturday Falls on the 18th*, and *I (Secretly) Love Awesomely Asinine Rankings*.

The ever-increasing trend toward spin-off series has experts worldwide predicting dire consequences. They argue the pace of pop cultural evolution will be ratcheted up to *Grease* lightning speed, shattering Andy Warhol’s landmark scientific theory. Computer models predict fame per lifetime will average 1.5 minutes, a 90 percent drop. Scientists

worry that such exponential increases in nostalgia will alter the time-space continuum, result in massive crime waves and of course, contribute to global warming. Worse, they fear the end of one-hit wonders due to time constraints.

“Think barren wasteland without *Electric Avenue*,” Dr. Thomas Qusack reported gravely.

“[*I Love 34 Seconds Ago*] is the American dream fulfilled right in your own living room.”

Robert McMinn
Executive Producer

Luckily for countless obese Americans with way too much time on their hands, corporate executives aren’t about to let little things like safety and health get in the way of their constitutional right to make ridiculous sums of money.

“Programs like *I Love 34 Seconds Ago* bring solidarity to the masses, or at least those who can afford cable,” said Executive Producer Robert McMinn. “*34 Seconds* is all it takes to save a life, to find God, to outsource a video editing job...it is the American dream fulfilled right in your own living room. Hey, that was a great sentence! I hope it makes the cut in 7-6-5-4... seconds... damn, just missed.”

Beinecke renovation hottest event of no-news spring at Yale

By Ivan Dremov
STAFF REPORTER

Turner Revelry ’07 consumed the mystery meat special along with aqueous pasta every single day in Commons dining hall his freshman year. However, during his second year at Yale, Revelry could not find the entrance to Commons and thus failed to bring over 80 lunch swipes to fruition. “They put up a fence around the square in front of Commons and since then I could not find a way to get into the dining hall,” Revelry said. The Yale Record did not tell Revelry of the Grove Street entrance to Commons, but this reporter did shame him for calling Beinecke Plaza, the geographic vortex of Yale campus, a plain old “square.”

Indeed, the nine-month Beinecke Plaza renovation has kept hundreds of Yale students from the delectable delights of Commons. Don McQuarrie, director of Yale Dining Services, commented that “the absence of a legitimate ingress into Commons not only shifted the student dinner consumption patterns but has also encouraged little YCC bitches to eliminate dining hall restrictions.”

As plaza reopening date moved from August ’04 to May ’05, President Levin hemmed and hawed. Due to sadism, love for tautological rhetoric, or possibly mid-winter New Haven boredom, Levin told the Yale Daily News that the Beinecke renovation “will

be complete when graphite paving blocks will be put in place at orthogonal angles to one another.”

The questionably slow progress of the Plaza repair has even caught the attention of the Guinness Book of World Records, for the category “longest renovation of a plaza smaller than 250 square meters.” Unfortunately, New Haven police denied the Guinness people access to the plaza, and Levin later told them to “go back to ‘Old Europe’ with your [silly] meter sticks.”

Student groups have bewailed the absence of the plaza. The Yale Anti-Gravity Society, which used Beinecke to practice juggling, fire-breathing, and abandoning



TOOLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
McGee, one of many students affected by Beinecke’s renovation, holds his balls.

suspicious bags, had its own conspiracy theories. Fred “Pants-on-fire” McGee ’05 the group’s oft-singed leader, assumed that the plaza contained buried goodies in the form of “Eli Yale’s treasure maps, runaway rare books, or the body of that Macedonian kid whose face spent six months on Scola in fall 2003.”

Beinecke Plaza’s future has looked brighter lately. It was heard through the grapevine (i.e. the ear-splitting noise of cement mixers on Wall Street) that the construction workers have begun putting down the graphite and mortar plates making up the plaza’s surface. Still, the length of plaza renovations have been a little supernatural – as University Chaplain, Rev. Frederick Streets, put it, “Since this plaza is not even a building, some spiritual forces must be hindering the construction.” And by spiritual he likely meant the rain, snow and cold temperatures that have actually stopped work on the plaza for weeks at a time, giving students an opportunity to start organizations such as the Yale Plaza Watch, which tracks plaza completion on the internet and will host a Plaza Awareness week in April. “We want Yalies to learn about the difficulties of open air plaza construction during this week,” stated YPW President Henry Porteous ’08, “and I surely can add this important community organization to my resume after the renovation is finished.”

Weather

Today: Warm enough for coats and gloves to go into hibernation
Tomorrow: Miniskirts and short-shorts flock north

Page 7

Clinically awkward students do better on SATs

Page 3

Firehouse flaming

Page 3

Size of Wal-Mart corporation finally surpassed by size of Wal-Mart Employees

Page 5

News

Tremendous disappointment kind of a letdown, study finds

Page 6

Yale a cappella adopts “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy

Page 8