

ANTI-FRACKING PROTESTERS GREET PRESIDENT OBAMA IN BINGHAMTON



We were at Binghamton University August 23rd to see President Barack Obama arrive on campus, remaining unmolested by the Secret Service in spite of editor William A. Mays's colorfully titled novel—available at barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, and other fine online retailers. And we picked the sexiest place to be: right in the middle of the main protest against the hydrofracturing process of gas drilling. This is our own local national-news story and Obama was about to drive right through the middle of it.

"This is the first time President Obama has visited the Marcellus Shale region," said Isaac Silberman-Gorn, environmental organizer at the local Citizen Action of New York office. "We're calling on him today to visit front-line communities that have been impacted first hand by fracking." When asked about his organization's ability to get its message to the president, Silberman-Gorn told us they have no direct influence. "This is an issue of our democracy being bought out by massive special interests," he said. "The oil and gas industry is the most powerful in the world, influencing our politicians with millions of dollars."

There were about 250 fracking protesters collected at East Drive between the library and the lecture hall. Estimates put the total along the president's route at 500. And at 12:05pm the president's bus lumbered along East Drive past the main protest. Exclusive *Police Gazette* video of the event can be seen on the *Gazette's* YouTube channel.

Inside the old student union's Mandela Room,

the president was asked one environment-related question during the town-hall format. His reply seemed to speak to the protesters' concerns, but ultimately shifted responsibility back to them: "We are going to have to prepare for a different energy future than the one we have right now," Obama said. "Climate change is real. The planet is getting warmer. The planet cannot sustain the same kinds of energy use as we have right now. So we're going to have to make a shift. We're



See exclusive *Police Gazette* video of the president's bus and motorcade passing the main anti-fracking protest on the *Gazette's* YouTube channel

going to have to invent some new technologies to solve all of our energy problems. Unfortunately, what we've seen too often in Congress is that the fossil fuel industries tend to be very influential on the energy committees. And they tend not to be particularly sympathetic to alternative energy strategies. Ultimately, what has

an impact on politicians is votes. And that influence can't just come from districts that are strongly Democratic. We need voices in Republican districts to say this is a smart thing to do."

Galaxy Brewing Co. Grand Opening



From left, Seth Weisel, his father Michael (both co-owners), New York State Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, and Binghamton Mayor Matt Ryan mark the occasion at a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony. Galaxy Brewing is located at 41 Court Street in downtown Binghamton.



Michael Weisel, right, offers Mayor Ryan the first official draft of one of the microbrew's original recipes.

The Adventures of Kim Dotcom

By Tremolo Van Boing



Zombie High Jinks By Brian Frost



Photo by Briggs Seckins
Former light heavyweight world champion and elite trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad