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Profile: DARREN KANE

By Rob Kalesse

Hometown: Oakland, Bergen County, N.J.; currently resides in Manhattan.

Occupation: Darren works in the comic book industry as a public relations/marketing guy, as he put it. However, he has done a lot of freelance writing and stand-up comedy in New York.

Background: Darren graduated from the University of Delaware in 1995 as a business major, with a minor in art and illustration. After starting the site, myspace.com/delgrads, he came to the realization that a book on the musings and memories at UD made perfect sense.

Q: Your book, "Glory Days at Delaware," is sort of a tribute to the lives of students at UD over the last 20 years. Where'd you get that idea?

It mostly came from the site I started, MySpace.com/DelGrads, where a lot of former students posted stories about the good old days at Delaware. I wanted to do a nostalgic look back at college, not in a way the university would do, but the way we remember it. From the thousands of stories that were posted, it became a very "shooting-the-shit / hanging-out-with-friends / remember-that-time?" kind of thing.

Q: Yeah, the book has a very MySpace feel to it, with the comings and goings and rants of different students with their commentary.

Definitely. Right off the bat I take a very conversational tone in the intro, to let people know this is not a history book. This is the way we talk, so people can look at it as a love letter about life at UD.

Q: One of my favorite parts are the entries entitled, "Rumor Control," where you debunk or confirm rumors about UD. How much research went into those entries?

It was a mix of making calls, to students on the MySpace page discussing the theories, from the mention of The Cave (the swimming house) in a Tribe Called Quest song to how Delaware was being considered for the Ivy League. They're not necessarily fact in some cases, but more legend about the school.

Q: By far the best part is the College Soundtrack chapter, where you list a ton of Newark bands. Gingham Shmuz and Zen Geurrilla really bring back the memories.

That was the most difficult thing to put together, because there have been so many bands over the years. But that's what the book is all about: refreshing those memories that you may have forgotten about.

Q: There is a lot of discussion on the food in Newark, from on-campus to Main Street, so we've gotta ask: Big Grille at The Scrounge or Nacho Night at Deer Park?

Definitely Nacho Night at Deer Park, but only if it's the old Deer Park.

Q: What's your favorite part of the book?

There are two pictures taken about 10 years apart, but at the same house in the same room. It's kind of cool to see how the place has changed, yet still stayed the same. This book is just a big inside joke that only 75,000 people get. Everyone can find a common ground in the book and have a laugh about it.

GLORY DAYS AT DELAWARE: THE COMPLETELY UNOFFICIAL MODERN HISTORY OF COLLEGE LIFE IN NEWARK, DE, 1987-2007

Darren's book is available for \$28.95 at the Delaware Book Exchange, as well as the Newark Newsstand, National 5 & 10 and Lieberman's on Main Street in Newark. Copies are also available at online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and BordersStores.com.