



The new generation

BY ANTONIO ESFANDIARI

It is March 15th, 2006. Two thousand and six! Are you kidding me? My, oh my, where did the time go? Do you remember when you were a little kid and all the adults always told you to enjoy life while you could because it goes by so fast? It's gone before you know it, they said.

Just the other day, I caught myself telling my little cousin that very same thing and I realized that when she is my age, I will be nearly half a century old.

I don't really know where I was going with that, I just thought it sounded good and, at the moment, I am in one of my weird philosophical think-about-life moods. You ever just think about what we are REALLY doing here? How it wouldn't change the course of life on earth one bit if we were to disappear? That we really don't make a difference? Nothing can stop the earth from turning. It's so sick to think that one day we ALL will go. I don't want to go anywhere! And I certainly don't want to get any older. I am, for sure, the happiest 27-year-old on the planet!

Ever since I got back from Australia, all I can think about is when I'm going back. I miss it dearly. I miss the people. I miss the food. I miss the weather. I miss Sydney.

And most of all, I miss the action!

The Aussie Millions at Crown in January was the BEST-structured tournament I have ever played in. It was NEVER more than eight-handed and, once we got in the money, it was six-handed the rest of the way. What else can an action junkie like me ask for? It's all about more hands! The more hands, the more fun, the more DINERO!

Speaking of playing more hands, after a long day of golf (btw, thanks to Danny McDonagh Tournament Director and Jim Preston Poker Room Manager at Crown for the golf), we returned to the Crown Casino in Melbourne. I was a wee bit tipsy; I think I only played a total of 3 of the 18 holes! On the bus back, there was some talk about this new fully-automated live poker table thing. The poker room guys at the Crown had set up a single table tournament on this new poker table. Mike Sexton, Kenna James, Clonie Gowen, and Scott Fischman were gonna play, so I decided to climb aboard.

Let me also add that when internet poker first came out, I was very skeptical of the whole idea; not so much about the possibility of people sitting at home cheating, but about the idea of technology taking over poker. I did not like the idea of people playing on their computers. I thought it detracted from the actual game. It took me almost a year to try it, but once I did, I fell in love with it! I mean, what's better than playing poker in your underwear?

When I heard there was a new table out with no dealer and computer screens instead of cards, I was hesitant. But it didn't take long before that thought went right out the window.

Let me cut right to the chase. This table, which is called PokerPro™, IS THE FUTURE OF POKER. In my humble (or not so humble) opinion, these tables will soon become part

