

The Holocaust Denial Conference: A Call to the Third Generation

By Alexa Bryn ('08)

It is not ironic, but just plain scary that over 60 years after the Holocaust, almost 60 years since the establishment of the State of Israel, and precisely when the American Jewish community has swelled to *six million*, equaling the number of European Jews killed in the Holocaust, that Jews everywhere are starting to see the

“writing on the wall” again -- signs that our horrible history could be forgotten, erased, and possibly, repeat itself. In 1950, 1960, 1990, who would have or could have denied the Holocaust with so many survivors among us, tattooed and emotionally scarred, reminding us never to forget? Surely, Holocaust deniers have been around

for decades, but they have usually been fringe academics, “quacks” well outside the mainstream. Now, for the first time in history, we have seen a head of state – arguably the most powerful in the Arab world – openly challenge the authenticity of the gas chambers, the camps, the actual death count, and claim that the Zionists are using a mythical Holocaust to justify an illegitimate State of Israel that should be “wiped off the map.”

Ridiculous, you say? Well, after interviewing Ahmadinejad this summer, CBS’ Mike Wallace commented that Ahmadinejad “was much more impressive as an individual than I expected him to be,” and that Ahmadinejad’s criticism of “the Zionist entity” was not anti-Semitic. Obviously emboldened by Wallace’s and others’ tepid reaction to his fiction, Ahmadinejad seized the moment in December to convene the most well attended Holocaust Denial Conference ever. For two days, pictures of a smiling



(Continued on Page 2)

A Nuclear Iran?

By Harry Ganz ('08)

Teenagers today are so frequently caught up in their own world that they don’t realize what is happening in the world at large. I would like to think that every teen knows what is happening in Iran, Iraq’s much larger, much scarier brother. This may be too optimistic, but anyone

willing to spend time reading this article probably *does* know about Iran. But what do you *really* know about Iran? Maybe you know it has a nuclear program, maybe you know its Chief of State and Chief of Government are radical Muslims bent on the destruction of Israel and possibly Western society, but do you know that it was the United States that gave Iran the original uranium to start their nuclear program?

The Iranian Nuclear Program started nearly 50 years ago with a program ironically named “atoms for peace.” The idea was that the U.S would lease several kilograms of enriched uranium to Iran for peaceful and energy uses only. In 1959, Iran began its research into nuclear energy with the Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi taking a personal interest. The United States continued to send enriched uranium and so-called “hot cells” (rooms for the handling of nuclear materials) to Iran. Iran continued its research peacefully, even becoming the first country to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on the day it opened for signature in July of 1968. In March of 1974 the Shah announced his plans to create 23,000 megawatts of power in nuclear plants throughout the country by 1994. Not only the United States, but also Denmark, France, and Argentina, sent nuclear materials and research aid to Iran. While the intent was simply to help Iran gain

(Continued on Page 5)

Table of Contents

Features:

<i>Holocaust Denial</i>	1
<i>A Nuclear Iran?</i>	1
<i>Problem Unsolved</i>	3
<i>The Seth Cohen Syndrome</i> ..	4
<i>SAT Satire</i>	6
<i>Text Message</i>	7

Arts and Culture:

<i>Book Reviews</i>	8
<i>Restaurant</i>	10
<i>Movie Reviews</i>	9, 11

Sports

<i>A Perfect Sportsman</i>	12
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(Holocaust Denial continued from Page 1)

Ahmadinejad chatting it up with traditionally-dressed, ultra-Orthodox rabbis from the Neturai Karta graced the front page of every major newspaper in the country. Despite the world-wide condemnation that the Conference elicited, we should never feel complacent, or regard such thinly-veiled anti-Semitism as "old news." It is vital that it remain our own personal front-page story every day of our lives.

Having grown up with survivors as grandparents, listening to their stories of horror and courage, my initial instinct was not to take Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial too seriously. No rational person would believe him, I thought. I was shocked, however, to then read that a thirteen-year-old girl in Belarus, when questioned about Auschwitz, answered that she thought Auschwitz was a type of hoofed animal. According to one BBC study, 45% of individuals questioned had never even heard of Auschwitz. But it was not until I saw the movie *Freedom Writers* a week ago, and watched as an entire classroom of American students admitted that they had never heard of Adolph Hitler or the Holocaust, that I realized that ignorance of the Holocaust is a grave American problem as well. If people with no Holocaust education, no connection to a survivor, hear a world leader or academic say that the Holocaust never happened, what will compel them to believe otherwise, particularly when there are no survivors left to look the deniers in the eye and say "How dare you!"?

Thinking that more education for the "unfamiliar" was the antidote, I brought up the issue to my grandmother, Felicia Bryn, whose reaction surprised me. The greatest danger in the wake of the Holocaust Denial Conference, my grandmother said, is *not* the "unfamiliar" who have no reason to question the lies that Ahmadinejad spews. What she and many other survivors see as most troubling is the lack of any strong reaction from American Jewry – their apathy. "I have had many discussions with friends, other survivors," she said, "and we never hear from our children that they are scared. These are children who grew up with all of our stories and they are not jumping up and down in outrage. They have become very comfortable in America because it feels so safe. But if someone says 'I will kill you, I will wipe you off the face of the earth,' you can't just sit around. Hitler had to manipulate the world before he could make his plans of destruction known. Ahmadinejad feels comfortable enough to say it publicly. Haven't we learned anything in the past sixty years? It seems to me that we are asleep!"

"Haven't we learned anything in the past sixty years? It seems to me that we are asleep!"

-Felicia Bryn

Obviously, as American Jews, we have all seen this Conference as a disgraceful gathering. But we have essentially left it to our leaders to condemn Ahmadinejad, and then we have "moved on." Until speaking to my grandmother, it never hit me to feel alarmed, to sound the alarm myself, or to take action NOW. We can't just wait until Yom HaShoah. Holocaust remembrance is not a one-day-a-year event. The survivors are dying. And the remains of many concentration camps are showing signs of decay. On January 27th, the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Sun-Sentinel reported that the gas chambers at Auschwitz are "slowly sinking into the ground, the result of weather, erosion, and gravity," but (how scary is this?) historians and curators are concerned about preservation activities because "Holocaust deniers could seize on that – and photographs of repair work – to try to argue that the whole thing was fabricated." Well, my great-grandfather was on one of the first transports to Auschwitz. He helped build the camp, and survived there until it was liberated. It is up to



(Continued on Page 6)

Problem Solved?

By Mimi Atkin ('08)

The number of missiles launched from Lebanon into Israel has significantly dwindled. Forty-three percent of Northern residents have been restored to their former communities. The bomb shelters are mostly empty, and the selfless volunteers have made their ways back home. With this summer's war now another in Israel's history, it is hard to even remember what the purpose of the conflict was. The condition and status of the captured soldiers remains unknown. Chairs at their families' tables remain empty. Voids still exist in their families' minds and hearts.

When the war ended, we viewed it as a time for Israel, and all Jews for that matter, to take a breath, to let out a sigh of relief. But in terms of any victory regarding the root of the problem, the very essence of the conflict, we are just going to have to hold our breath a little longer. Gilad Shalit was captured on June 12, 2006, and Ehud Goldwasser and Eldad Regev suffered the same fate just a week and a half later on June 25th. Right after their capture, Israelis and Jews worldwide seemed to find themselves in an uproar, staging protests, writing letters, holding prayer sessions. However, as the days have passed, officials have moved farther and farther away from returning the captured soldiers. Any information Israeli officials have managed to choke out of Hezbollah and Hamas has been extremely minimal, as have been any intelligence advancements in tracking their place of captivity. Even Israeli officials have diminished hopes that Israel is going to attempt exchange negotiations. The soldiers' families have made every effort to remain optimistic, with the Regev family maintaining that they "truly believe that Eldad will come home safely," and that "wherever they [the kidnapped soldiers] are, G-d is going to take care of them." Noam

Shalit, Gilad's relative, has announced, "Hope is all we have left. All we can do is pray that Gilad will come back to us."

Here in America, we should be doing the same: hoping and fighting for the soldiers' release. Schools and organizations all over America have joined the "Save the Soldiers" campaign and pray for the soldiers' immediate and healthy return to their families. Websites have been designed to enable Jews from all over the world to give support to the families, and to let them know they are not suffering alone. We must always keep the soldiers and families in our hearts and our prayers, as each Rosh Chodesh, each holiday, each weekend passes. And we must write letters to senators, UN officials, President Bush, Prime Minister Omert – anyone who will hear our plea. We must make sure that this does not fall to the back pile on their "things to do list." For each second that passes is one more second that the soldiers spend in captivity.

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To sign a petition or see how you can get involved in bringing about the soldiers' return, visit [www.kidnappedsoldiers.com](http://www.kidnappedsoldiers.com)

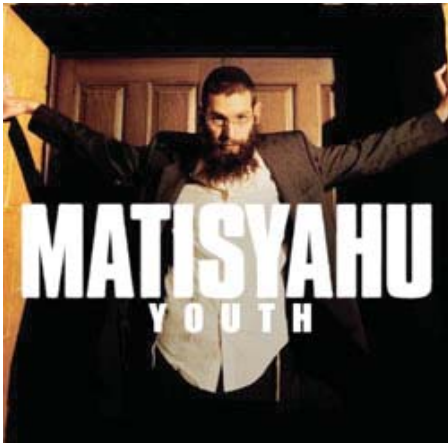
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The Seth Cohen Syndrome

By Jessica Friedman ('08)

In the wake of growing anti-Semitism, the world has paradoxically become fascinated with Jewish culture and values. The Jewish touch is now seen everywhere – as Matisyahu hits the top of the music charts, Kabbalah becomes the latest celebrity craze, and shirts that read “100% Kosher” spread throughout the fashion scene. *Borat*, a movie intended to mock anti-Semitism through humor and ridicule was a huge success at the box office. *People*



Magazine features Madonna with her red string and Lindsay Lohan with her Chamsa; Tom, Katie, and Gwyneth have made names like “Suri” and “Moses” totally hip; and everyone wants a boyfriend like the *OC*’s Jewish dreamboat, Seth Cohen. Is this a passing trend, or has it really become “coolish to be Jewish”? And if so, why are people in the public eye suddenly drawn to our culture?

I suggest that the answer lies in what I would call the “Seth Cohen Syndrome.” Seth and the Cohens are not Orthodox, but they are culturally Jewish – they have a sense of family and good values (in addition to a strong affinity for bagels and lox). In the turbulent world that is Hollywood, most celebrities lack a sense of substance and meaning. They live a life of light bulbs, makeup, and personal trainers – overriding superficiality. Hollywood marriages are not exactly life commitments, leaving many celebs searching for an ounce of stability in their ever-changing lives. They are all looking for a little bit of Seth Cohen – the loyal, stable, caring boyfriend. They want households like the

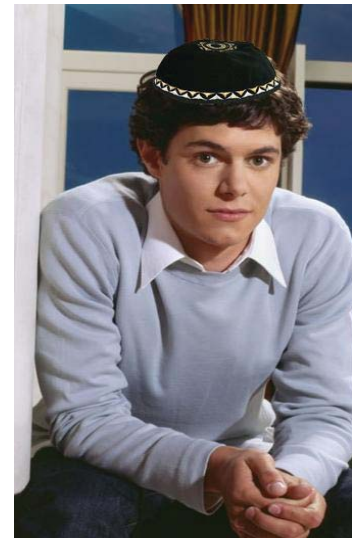
Cohens’, where issues are addressed instead of brushed under the table, where family meals and gatherings are rich with laughter instead of rifted apart by disconnect.



Judaism is known for fostering deeply rooted family values – something celebrities are searching for. Although the celebrity interest is more spiritual than religious, hopefully their return to spirituality is a metaphor for a new, better Hollywood culture, one that values substance over style. That is certainly the case in the music industry. In

the past two years, the music charts have featured songs that do not exactly contain positive messages. However, artists like Matisyahu have introduced a more meaningful genre of music. These songs do not have inappropriate themes and promote religiosity as well as a belief in G-d. Matisyahu’s lyrics are spiritual and binding, rather than destructive. When non-Jews frequent a Matisyahu or Moshav Band concert, they too are swept up in the *achdut*, or sense of belonging, that Judaism promotes.

With anti-Semitism on such a rise world wide, I believe the media’s new love affair with Jewish culture is a blessing. The media can really set the tone for the nation. Hopefully, with the continued presentation of positive Jewish images and values to the world, we will see both celebrities (and those who follow them) begin to embody the values that Jewish tradition truly represents.



(Nuclear Iran continued from Page 1)

nuclear power – not nuclear weapons -- in February of 1975 there was a shift in the Shah's tone. Iran had "no intention of acquiring nuclear weapons," he said, "but if small states began building them, then Iran might have to reconsider its policy." Although the US remained wary of providing Iran with technology that would allow it to produce its own enriched uranium, provided Iran with lasers that could – at least theoretically -- be used for uranium enrichment.

Why is enriched uranium so dangerous? Well, natural uranium is virtually useless weapons. Less than three-quarters of a percent of natural uranium is the highly radioactive isotope uranium 235, and ninety-nine percent of it is the less radioactive uranium 238. Natural uranium is nearly useless because a certain mass of nuclear material is needed before the nuclear reaction can be self-sustaining. This mass, called critical mass is slightly lower in enriched uranium (3%-4%



U-235), and much lower in highly enriched uranium (20%-90% U-235) than in natural uranium. What this means for the production of nuclear weapons is simple: slightly enriched uranium has such a high critical mass

that it can not be used in a nuclear weapon (but it can be used in a reactor), but *highly* enriched uranium has an average critical mass of approximately 50 Kg (110 lbs) and can easily be fit onto a warhead and launched.

Everything suddenly changed in Iran with the Islamic Revolution. The Islamic revolution started in the 1960's when Ayatollah Khomeini led factions against the Shah and some of his reforms. He particularly fought against the Shah's support of Israel, women's suffrage, and marital reforms. Khomeini gathered more and more support from the minority Shiite Muslims, and finally overthrew the government in 1979. The revolution left Iran in the hands of an Islamic fundamentalist, who would love to see the destruction of western society.

Fortunately, many scientists left Iran after the Islamic revolution. However, Iran continued pressing forward with its nuclear program, no longer listening to the advice of Western powers. Recently Iran has been actively pursuing uranium enrichment, including a uranium enrichment plant in Natanz, a fuel fabrication plant in Isfahan, and a forty Megawatt heavy water reactor in Arak. Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad maintains that the nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, but this is suspect considering that Ahmadinejad continues to threaten Israel with destruction.

What do we know about Iran's nuclear program? Enough to know that Iran *is* capable of making a nuclear bomb, but two questions remain. One: will the Ayatollah and the Prime Minister decide to cross that threshold and create a nuclear

weapon? And two: if they do, when will it be ready to threaten Israel or other countries? It is reasonable to assume that Iran will try to create a nuclear weapon. Considering his threats to Israel, the Western World, and vehement Holocaust denial, Ahmadinejad seems to be ready to use the weapons as soon as they are created. As for a timescale, that is much more difficult. Optimistically it could take a decade, assuming that Iran has not enriched any weapons grade uranium yet. But remember the United States created a nuclear bomb in less than four years during World War II. This is all speculation, as I doubt anyone can read politicians' minds, and only the NSA and CIA can see what is happening in the Iranian nuclear factories. Even so, it is not worth panicking, as nothing happens without warning in this age of information. The only advice this article can give you is history, and from history come the events of the future. (For more information on the nuclear history of Iran and other countries visit the website of the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org).

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Let the Prepping Begin!

A Satire by Avital Abir ('08)

Since standardized achievement test scores are such a huge factor in college acceptances these days, parents must get their children up to par early. How early? Well if there is to be even a chance at getting into a competitive college, parents must start prepping their children for the “big test” from the moment they exit the womb. When a mother is expecting her very first baby, in addition to all of the trivial parenting books she is going to purchase, she



should make sure to pick up at least ten SAT and ACT books (do not worry, by age five, parents should know if their child is a better SAT or ACT test taker). Once that baby pops out, let the prepping begin!

During the baby's first moments, it is essential that he gets attention, love, and most importantly, basic prep! It is never too early to instill the confidence that a child needs to succeed

on the SAT/ACT. For example, the first night that a mother rocks her baby to sleep, she should play a vocabulary tape in the background. Although the child is not speaking yet, just hearing soothing words like “abscond,” “bellicose,” and “contravene” will give him a better recognition of important roots and scholarly vocabulary. The first stories a child should become familiar with are basic reading comprehension passages taken from the SAT/ACT. Once the child begins to talk, parents should train him to respond multiple-choice style. When asking a child what he would like for dinner, a parent should say, “Which dinner will be the most ideal for your health? **A)** Ice cream cake following pizza **B)** Pizza following ice cream cake **C)** Pizza and then an apple **D)** wait to eat dinner until I get myself to an Ivy League dining hall.” This will challenge children to respond to basic questions in educated ways.

Elementary school is the most significant time for prep. Half the school day should be allotted

for prep, but simply practicing inside the classroom is not enough. After a child comes home from school, parents should quiz him on vocabulary -- one hundred words a night. The words he forgets should be written on his bedroom walls and only erased once he uses them in a conversation appropriately. The math section of the test should be mostly covered through elementary school, but if for some unexplained reason, a

“Once the child begins to talk, parents should train him to respond multiple-choice style.”

child does not know calculus by the sixth grade, parents should be highly alarmed and call a tutor!

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their children will be able to attend their dream schools. Children should not be bombarded by the SAT/ACT only several months before the test. Rather, parents should save them from this sorrow and begin prepping them from the womb. From the first moment of their lives, it is essential that they live and breathe the test that will determine their futures.



(Continued from Page 2)

me – to all of us – to speak to our grandparents and other survivors whenever we can, to learn their stories, gather their pictures and artifacts, so that we will be able to confront the deniers with fact and details, and never be accused of “inventing” the Holocaust.

Having received the wake-up call from my grandmother, I am also trying to be a better student of history, to keep reminding myself of the incremental manner in which the Nazis came to power, so that I don't ignore other signs and clues that our world may be changing. When we hear more and more people blame the “Israel Lobby” for the United States' woes, when we see Mel Gibson and other celebrities launch into anti-Semitic rants (without destroying their careers), and when former President Carter can offer up distortions about Israel as “history” in *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* (and still see his book inch upward on the New York Times bestseller list), we have to ask ourselves, “Can history be repeating itself?” It is in our hands *not* to let that happen.



2 TXT OR NOT 2 TXT?

By: Daniella Greer ('09)

The latest phenomenon among teens after facebook and coffee (see first two *Brainstorm* editions) is text messaging. Teenagers use texting to ask quick questions to friends or to have a long personal conversation. Now, taking advantage of the topic, I've decided to write this article in the so very easy language of text messaging. For all you people out there who have not yet entered this century :- ((where have you been?) there will be a guide to explain what the phrases in this article mean.

Wherever *u* will find teens *u'll* no doubt also find a majority of them excitingly *txting* their *frendz* with questions about what their plans are the next day, funny stories ending in *lol*, or just the typical *Hey Wassup*, *ntm u* ? There are both many advantages and disadvantages to text messaging. Lets start w/ the advantages first.

As *u* all know *txting* is a *gr8* way to ask on the go quick questions, tell your friend *sumthin fny* that just happened, or *mayb* even have a long *convo* with a long distance friend that you're anxious to talk to. As Ili Nash ('09) states "There *r* always times when I want to talk to my *frendz* but I'm not able to call them and I'm not in front of a computer. I always have a cell phone with me and so do my friends so it's very easy to just use that as a tool to communicate with." With *r*

busy schedules it's not always easy to find time to sit in front of the computer to talk to *r* friends. *Txt* messaging is very convenient. Also, there are always times when we quickly want to ask *r frendz* a question or tell them something we know we'll forget *l8ter*. However, *sry* to inform *u* but there *r* also disadvantages 2 *txting* :(.

The main disadvantage to *txting* is the price.

Cell phone bills can become very high which is not so *gr8* 4 the '*rents*. When most '*rents* get their kids' cell phone bills, they yell a loud *OMG!* One WYHS student (who would like to remain anonymous) said, "because I *txted* soo much my phone bill was extremely high and my '*rents* grounded me and took away my phone." Teenagers can get so carried away with *txting* that they can *4get* it costs money and therefore go over their limits. Another disadvantage *txting* brings is that people often *txt* in social environments. They *ther4* become anti-social, ignoring the friends around them and only focusing on the people whom they are *txting*.

Ok well I *g2g* but *sumthin* I may get from this article is that while *txting* can *b* very handy, I should always know how much is allowed by their '*rents* and the cell phone company, and make sure not to *bcome* anti-social by *txting* when with *frendz*.

• • • • •	GLOSSARY	• • • • •
•	(for all those people who have not	•
•	been on the planet for the last couple	•
•	of years):	•
•	U'LL -you will	•
•	FNY -funny	•
•	LOL - laugh out loud	•
•	NTM - nothing to much	•
•	GR8 -great	•
•	R -are/our	•
•	SRY -sorry	•
•	'RENTS - parents	•
•	B4 -before	•
•	W/- with	•
•	BB -bye bye	•
•	TTYL -talk to you later	•
•	KIT - keep in touch	•
• • • • •		• • • • •



BB! TTYL and KIT :)



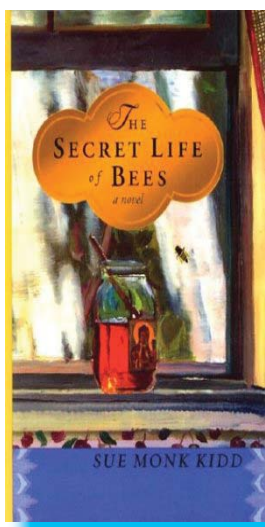
Arts and Culture



A Review of *The Secret Life of Bees*

By Nonny Gross ('09)

In *The Secret Life of Bees*, Sue Monk Kidd captures the hearts of readers in the entrancing story of Lily Owens, a girl who grows up on her father's South Carolina peach farm, isolated from other kids and neglected by her unsympathetic father, T-Ray. Lily's loneliness is compounded by her guilt over her mother's death years before. The only person who seems to love about Lily is Rosaleen, a black woman who works for T-Ray and takes care of Lily. While picking peaches for her father, Lily fantasizes about a beautiful infancy,



where she and her mother lived happily together.

When Rosaleen is arrested, jailed, and beaten for insulting three racist men, Lily decides to break Rosaleen free and run away with her to Tiburon, South Carolina, a place Lily finds written on the back of one of her mother's pictures. In Tiburon, three eccentric, bee-keeping black sisters take in Lily and Rosaleen. At their "flamingo pink" house, Lily searches for the truth about her mother, who stayed at the sisters' house years before. It is through the affection of these sisters that Lily learns about life, self-confidence and faith.

With graceful imagery that simply jumps off the page, Sue Monk Kidd has created an evocative narrative. Lily is such a vivid character, with such a distinct, beautiful voice, that while engrossed in the book, the reader feels as if he or she is in fact Lily. When Lily cries, we cry, when she hurts, we hurt, when she smiles, we smile. Humorous, poignant, suspenseful and uplifting, Kidd's tale of love and womanhood is a masterpiece.

A Review of *The Week*

By Chana Brauser ('10)

Daily newspapers used to be a staple in most households, providing updates on events occurring around the world. However, with the emergence of the Internet and thousands of online news sources, people find their need for newspapers to be dwindling. This holds especially true for teenagers, who, without a daily reminder in the form of a newspaper lying around the house, may not bother to take even the smallest measure and check Internet news sources or watch the news on TV. Perhaps it is too time-consuming to search through thousands of websites or to take the time to watch local television and risk missing their favorite shows, and therefore, teens may simply ignore current events altogether. Fortunately, a weekly publication advertising "The Best of the U.S. and International Media" appropriately titled *The Week* provides teenagers with the ability to be updated on world news each week.

Featuring main sections such as *U.S. News and Opinion*, *International*, and *Arts and Leisure*, this magazine manages to extract important, controversial, and even strange news from around the world and compile it into condensed versions, taking

quotes and opinions from respectable news publications.

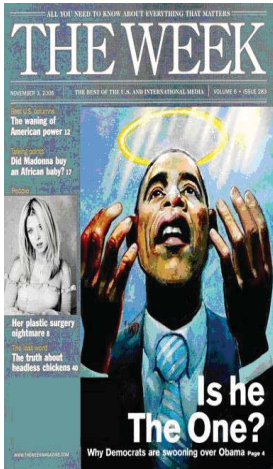
Some of *The Week's* most interesting topics include its often amusing section entitled *It Wasn't All Bad*, featuring offbeat and cheerful news from around the world, and its *Only in America* segment, highlighting

(Continued on Page 9)



A Movie Review of *Bobby*

(The Week continued from Page 8)



seemingly ridiculous events that they feel can only occur in America. One of these articles recently discussed four Indiana high school students being expelled for a “satirical film” they made, “in which an evil teddy bears attack a teacher.”

The article said that the students were expelled because “a teacher in the film has the same last name as an actual teacher...the movie [is] a threat, even though the local prosecutor reviewed the film and decided no laws had been broken.” Another highly interesting section is called *The Last Word*, which features issues such as teen anorexia or even certain odd religious customs, and is usually fascinating. While these sections are the most entertaining, the magazine also features highly publicized events and controversial opinion articles that sparked debate that week. Each issue of *The Week* includes its *Controversy of the Week*, *The World at a Glance* in which it highlights events that occurred in particular countries or cities, its *People* section, *Talking Points* in which controversial issues are discussed, and more news categories. *The Week* also has a *Health and Science* section and an *Arts and Leisure* category, featuring reviews of music, books, art, stage, film, food, travel, websites, real estate properties, and even new merchandise.

The Week is a simple, efficient, and extremely interesting way of catching up on all “the best of the U.S. and international media.” It encompasses any and every important and even slightly wacky news event of the entire week, and I would recommend it to anyone who wishes to be informed.

By Rachel Benaim ('10)

The movie *Bobby* tells the “back story” to the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy minutes after winning the Democratic Primary on June 5, 1968. By focusing upon the hopes, concerns, and ordinary problems of 22 ordinary people staying at the Ambassador Hotel the night Kennedy was shot – campaign workers, hotel workers, entertainers, immigrants, young men refusing to go to Vietnam, wartime brides, hippies – actor/director Emilio Estevez deftly captures what American society was like in 1968. It was a nation divided over war, civil rights, and poverty, where people looked to Bobby Kennedy to unite the American people and fix essential wrongs. But much like today, when our troops are engaged in another unpopular war, the movie shows that people still went about their ordinary lives, worrying about love, money, and sports teams, as much as (or more than) war and politics.

While the strength of the movie was its acting, editing, and costumes (those '60s hairdos and outfits are great), I have to admit that the many subplots in *Bobby* made the movie a bit confusing. Because so much was going on with so many characters, none of the characters had enough screen time to become well-developed. I also question the decision to cast so many celebrities in the movie (Lindsay Lohan, Nick Cannon, Ashton Kutcher, Elijah Wood, Shia LaBeouf, to name only a few), which distracted from the plot and seriousness of the film. On the other hand, many teenagers might not have gone to see the movie were it not for the inclusion of Lindsay, Ashton, and the others, and would have missed a valuable opportunity to learn about this crucial time in our nation's history. I, for one, left the theater feeling that I had just had one of the most enjoyable history lessons of my life!

I also could not help but think how timely *Bobby's* message was today, as our troops are mired in Iraq. Our country is again looking for a charismatic unifying leader – like Bobby – to change our course and better both our nation and the world at large. The parallels between Bobby Kennedy and Barak Obama, the likely democratic presidential candidate, are undeniable. But will the charismatic young senator from Illinois be able to deliver what our country needs most at this time?

We'll have to leave that question to a future edition of *The Brainstorm*!



The Gourmet Carrot: A Healthy and Gourmet Experience

By Martha Baumgarten ('10)

Located on West Avenue in South Beach, the Gourmet Carrot is no ordinary kosher restaurant. Unlike the artery-clogging fare you find at many restaurants, at the Gourmet Carrot, you get two for the price of one: taste and health. With fast service, walls lined with cartoon bunnies, and outdoor eating, the Gourmet Carrot is a great place for both kids and adults to dine. The menu includes a variety of whole grain items, poultry, smoothies, and the freshest fruits and vegetables. The food at the Gourmet Carrot is so delicious that you will forget that it's good for you too. For lunch, try any of the whole grain pastas or exotic sandwiches with a refreshing smoothie or fresh juice. For those with more sophisticated taste buds, try any of the wide assortments of fish or chicken. The items on the menu are reasonably priced and the portion sizes will not make you leave the restaurant feeling hungry. I eat there over and over again, and I highly recommend this place if you are health conscious or want to try something different. Be sure to try my personal favorites, the Portobello Pasta and the Sirloin Burger.



*“Two for the price of one:
taste and health.”*



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HAPPY FEET

A Review by
LeeLee Borzak
(10)

Happy

Feet begins in the way most animated films do: one character is different from the rest. In this movie, Mumble is a penguin who is unable to sing, but has “happy feet” – he is an expert dancer. Since singing is the way that Emperor penguins mate, Mumble is at a disadvantage, and the other penguins (including Mumble’s father) view his dancing talent as valueless. They refuse to accept his eccentricity, making him feel alone and insecure. The narrow-minded leader of the Emperor penguins believes that because Mumble is different, he is the cause of the fish famine plaguing the penguin nation. Knowing that this cannot be true, Mumble leaves his parents and friends to find the real source of the famine. After making new friends and experiencing many adventures, Mumble realizes that the famine is being caused by “aliens.” These “aliens” are humans who selfishly take too much of the fish that the penguins need to survive. Mumble goes on a quest to restore his environment, and ultimately succeeds through his dancing.

With a very environmentally-friendly message, *Happy Feet* exposes the way humans are killing animals by taking too many of the animals’ necessities for themselves. After seeing the way that pollution and neglect affect the other species living on our planet, you leave the theatre inspired to care for the environment and take nothing for granted. Beyond its environmental message, *Happy Feet* is actually a very deep movie on a personal level, promoting individuality and confidence, rather than conformity. Mumble’s struggle for identity exemplifies just what it means to be human.

Although the film was a bit lengthy, it managed to hold my attention for the full 108 minutes. The animation was done expertly, and the movie absolutely deserves the Oscar for “Best Animated Feature Film.” *Happy Feet* is light and funny, while also thought-provoking and existential.

It is a perfect movie for everyone in the family. Root for it on Oscar night!





SPORTS



A Perfect Sportsman

By Hillel Lefkowitz ('07)

Anyone who follows basketball knows that Dwyane Wade, the 2006 *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year, is one of the greatest talents in the history of the NBA. His greatness as a ballplayer is evident every time he steps on the court. However, as incredible as this may seem, his off-the-court greatness may even surpass his athletic accomplishments, and that greatness was shaped in large part by his father, from the time Dwyane was a little boy.

Dwyane's parents divorced when he was young. Dwyane lived primarily with his father, Dwyane Sr., and his stepbrothers in the South Side of Chicago. Dwyane Sr. ruled his house with an iron fist and instilled a sense of discipline and responsibility in all of his children. It was on a rickety old basketball hoop in the back yard where the young Dwyane first learned to play ball. There, Dwyane, with his father and stepbrothers, would play a rough brand of basketball, rarely calling fouls. His father would do this in order to teach Dwyane how to pick himself up and keep playing through pain and never to argue even if the call was wrong.

Dwyane Wade's formal basketball career started at H.L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn, Illinois. His career got off to a slow start and it wasn't until his junior year, when he averaged 20.7 points and 7.6 rebounds a game, while tallying 100 assists and 73 steals that Wade started showing flashes of brilliance. In his senior year, he averaged 27 points and 11 rebounds a game and broke just about every school basketball record in the process.



Despite all of his accomplishments, Wade was not heavily recruited. However, he did sign with Marquette University, a school that had a storied basketball past. Wade led Marquette to the NCAA tournament and in the 2003 Midwest Regional Final against heavily favored Kentucky, Wade recorded a triple double (29 points, 11 rebounds, 11 assists), joining Oscar Robertson,

Magic Johnson and Andre Miller as the only others to have a triple double in the NCAA tournament. Wade was selected by the Miami Heat as the 5th pick of the NBA draft. This past season he led the Heat to the championship and he continues to bring thrills to Miami Heat fans and "chills" to Heat opponents. Yet, for all of his success on the basketball court, Wade is a study in humility and grace. Where does that humility come from? In Wade's case, it comes from a father who instilled wonderful values in his son.

Tracing back to those days in his backyard, Dwyane Sr. taught his son something that is such a lost art in basketball nowadays, respect and humility. Even after winning the NBA championship Wade has stayed humble. Because of his dad, Wade is one of the few players in the NBA without

a tattoo. He rarely wears his hat backwards and like a "little boy," he had to plead with his father before getting his ear pierced. Wade tithes his earnings to his church in Chicago and he is very involved in community service. He is a caring husband and father and recently, he didn't give his young son, Zaire, any Christmas presents. Instead, stating that Zaire has everything a child could ever want or need, he took him into the community and gave gifts to underprivileged children.

Dwyane Wade was the perfect choice for Sportsman of the Year. He illustrates each day that one can possess a passion for victory and greatness, and at the same time be kind to others and walk with humility and dignity.