

## Political dispute overshadows Olympic games

Protesters mar world harmony, unity on eve of cherished tradition

**BENDHIMAN**  
—minimag editor

It seems a disgrace to human kind to attempt an act so belligerent as to put out the Olympic Torch. Not only is the torch a symbol of the Olympic Games themselves, but is one of the few instruments that demonstrates and promotes global unity.

Yes, specific issues in the world need attention, especially the rights of the Tibetan's. But it is unjust to advocate this cause through protests against the torch.

Why smear dirt onto something so flawlessly innocent that serves the purpose of bringing the world together.

"The people that tried to put out the Olympic Torch really are ruining a great thing," said **Meghan Marth**, 10.

Rarely is the world able to cooperate in unison, but as it does, it

becomes evident that the Olympic Games are a tool of peace and should be treated as such. Protests in England and other countries take away from this peace as they stab at it with the serrated edge of destruction.

By protesting along the route of the torch, these issues are more clearly recognized by the public. Therefore the protesters had a potentially good idea, but made the mistake of believing that people would see the issue not the fact that they were protesting the torch.

Humanity lacks peace, lacks unity, and lacks cooperation. Why try to take away from one of the few events which brings these aspects together?

The torch represents more than the games, it represents the people of the Earth coming together under the shelter of one stadium.



**PROTESTERS LINE THE** parade route of the Olympic torch. These mobs were protesting the fact that China was hosting the Olympics, despite China's poor human rights record and occupation of Tibet. The Olympic games have not even started yet, but are already surrounded by controversy.

## Child star starts controversy with images

Cyrus stuns fans with photos, induces mixed reactions

**NOABELLITI**

—news chief

**Miley Cyrus**, also known as **Hannah Montana** on the *Disney Channel*, is idolized by little girls around the world. With her career exploding, this new teen "it girl" is getting a taste of exploitation in the press.

Recently, this child star posed for racy photographs in the magazine *Vanity Fair*, sporting tousled hair and a white bed sheet. While the recent spread got consumers turning pages and teenage boys turning heads, it also received less than satisfactory ratings from mothers and peers.

"As a pop star who says she is aware of the fact that she is watched by young children, I am appalled by the photos. I hope this instigates her decline as a pop star," said **Hannah D'Souza**, 10.

Hollywood is risqué. It always has been. Modesty and conservatism does not sell, it never has.

Society pays extra special attention to those in the spotlight, condemning them when they make a mistake, prying into intimate relationships, criticizing their every move.

No, not true you say? Ask the person sitting next

to you any of the following questions: Who is **Brittany Spears'** ex husband? Which **Olsen twin** had an eating disorder?

Anyone exposed to any form of media in the past year could have answered the above questions; they are no-brainers.

People are free to do what they choose, including young starlets interested in boosting their careers. Whether fans support or disapprove of this behavior- the fact is - everyone has to grow up, others are "lucky" enough to have an audience.

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## Public Disservice

Indy race changes nothing

Clinton, just end it

**MARKRUBEO**  
—staff writer

A little over five months ago, Senators **Hillary Clinton** and **Barack Obama** began their battle for the Democratic Party nomination. A few weeks ago, on May 6, it finally ended. To still pull a win after her defeat in North Carolina and sub-par performance in Indiana, Clinton would need something just shy of a miracle. Clinton, of course, believes she still can win, but how realistic is her argument?

While a victory for Clinton is still possible, it is extremely unlikely. As supporters are quick to point out, she was gaining momentum after her victories in Ohio and the Texas Primary, and she recently won West Virginia. She also has the support of important party leaders and much of the media, two big players in deciding the nomination.

All the same, when one looks at the numbers, it is extremely unlikely that Clinton will be able to catch Obama in delegates.

There are 217 pledged delegates still up for grabs, and both sides need nearly all of that to win without superdelegates—party officials who receive an independent vote at the convention. She is 169 pledged delegates behind Obama, meaning she would need roughly 78% of the remaining pledged delegates just to catch up.

To put this figure into perspective, Senator **John McCain**, the presumptive nominee of the Republican Party, only received 74% of the popular vote in North Carolina.

The numbers paint a clear picture: Clinton will not surpass Obama in pledged delegates.

Now, recall President **George W. Bush's** "victory" in 2000, when he lost the popular vote but won the presidency. If the same situation happened within a political party, it could very well split that party in two.

Worse, if it happened because of superdelegates it would be seen as party bosses superseding voters, especially in light of Obama's recent victories. Clinton would have to reconcile this with the voters if she wants to have any chance in the general election, a difficult task to accomplish in three months.

Superdelegates know that a divided party is likely to fail in November. They also know that bitterness about a presidential nomination could spill over into their plans for reelection, since most superdelegates are elected officials.

Clinton would have to come up with an extremely convincing argument to have superdelegates flock to her in the numbers she will need. That argument would need to be even stronger if she wanted to reunite the party and have any chance of winning in the general election.

Losing North Carolina by 14 points does not help that argument.

It is time to throw in the towel. Clinton has fought hard, but for the good of her party she should drop out of the race. By staying in, she is only continuing to instill false hope of a comeback in her supporters. The writing is on the wall; it is up to Senator Clinton to accept it.