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*the issue in which we
pretend that we paid
attention in Hebrew school*

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Editors-in-Chief: E. Joshi, T. Kirschenbaum

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Reasons Why a Nice Jewish Boy Like You Isn't Married

J.P. Crawfish, Your Mother (who you don't call enough)
Why don't you call her right now?

1) You won't let me set you up with Rachel Cohen

Rachel is such a nice girl. I'm sure you two would have a lot in common. I saw her mother at Barbara's shiva last week. Do you remember Barbara? Such a shame! And you know what her mother said? Rachel is moving to Philly for her residency. A doctor! Can you believe that? It would work out so well and you won't even let me set you guys up. Fine, fine, I won't. You know I do so much for you and this is all I get in return. I said I won't. Oy, I don't get an ounce of appreciation from this family.

2) You keep dating that shiksa Katie

Remember when Katie wouldn't eat Bubbe's gefilte fish last Passover? Bubbe worked so hard. Hasn't she been through enough without Katie saying she's "vegan". How could you do that to Bubbe? Then Bubbe gets mad at me because to that woman everything that happens in this family is my fault. How could you do that to your mother? All anyone does around here is complain, complain, complain.

3) Too focused on (unsuccessful) career

Wow, you want to be a writer! That's what the world needs

more of. Why can't you be more like your brother David. He and Rebekah are both gastroenterologists, just like Rachel is going to be. Why won't you let me set you up with Rachel?

4) You stopped going to synagogue after your bar mitzvah

You don't even go to shul during the high holidays. Remember when you wanted to be a rabbi as a kid? Remember Morah Rivka? With the hair? She would be so disappointed in you. It wouldn't kill you to show up once in a while you know. Just say hi to the Goldbergs. They asked about you the other day and all I could say was that you're an unmarried schlemiel.

5) Your stupid haircut

Your hair is too long. It's unkempt. I don't get your generation. Can you even see? I just worry about you bubbeleh. How will you raise my grandkids if you can't even go to the barbershop?

6) Are you gay? I'd be fine if you're gay but you have to tell me.

You know I lived in New York in the 80s. I'm hip. But there's no good reason that a nice Jewish boy like yourself isn't married. Are you gay? You can tell me if you're gay. I heard Susie's son was gay. Why won't you let me set you up with Susie's son? He's a gastroenterologist.

Jewish Space Lasers are SDC's newest buggy strategy



Gilgamesh Ichthyomorphosis

My girlfriend said I can't write this (she also said this cant be my author tag)

Last week during rolls, SDC buggy unveiled their newest buggy: Greed. The new design features a shorter body and lower ceiling, as well as a front mounted laser cannon. Upon questioning by Readme on what the purpose of this laser was, SDC merely responded "that's classified". However, after some careful investigative journalism (that did not include trespassing), our brave journalists were able to pinpoint the intended function of the laser.

According to internal SDC documents, the laser is able to get targeted wheels hot enough to burn them off of opposing teams' buggies. Additionally, CMU students are like cats, and when presented with a laser pointer will go ballistic. This advancement comes on the heels of SDC buggy's latest scandal, where [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] using [REDACTED]

An anonymous SDC mech explained to READme that the new design was based on the revolutionary thinking of Marjorie Taylor Greene. "I remember her rant on Jewish Space Lasers causing the California wildfires and was inspired to put a laser on top of our buggy."

The SDC public relations team would like to clarify that even though the idea

was based off of a "Jewish space laser", the buggy space laser is "non-denominational." Furthermore, SDC buggy would like to clarify that Greed "holds no ill will towards the Jews, and if they need to start another California wildfire anytime soon, Greed is more than happy to help out with a good cause."

Readme reached out to Sweepstakes to ask if this violated any rules. They responded that because the laser doesn't generate any momentum for the buggy, it's "perfectly legal." When asking if firing lasers at other teams broke any safety regulations, Sweepstakes stated that there isn't a policy explicitly banning buggy-mounted laser cannons. Some drivers are voicing concerns with this safety ruling. A FRINGE driver told readme: "I was perfectly fine cramming myself in a carbon fiber tube and going 35 MPH headfirst down a hill, but I draw the line at a laser pointer." However, not all drivers are concerned with this new advancement. An APEX driver told readme "there's nothing to worry about, SDC is always disqualified before race day."

Reportedly, CIA has already begun working on responses to this new buggy. Leaked messages show a machine gun mounted to the top of their buggy. A CIA spokesperson told readme that "this is a purely defensive countermeasure."

This issue of readme is brought to you by:

Editors: Eshaan Joshi, Tali Kirschenbaum, Raia Gorfine, Gilgamesh Ichthyomorphosis

Problem Solvers: Daniel Yin, Kevin Keane

Journalists: J. P. Crawfish, Jimothy Yachtstein, Tali Kirschenbaum, Robin Notin, Your Mother, Kanya Dogan, Isabelle Florence, Benner Rogers, Gilgamesh Ichthyomorphosis, Enu [Redacted],

Artists: Robin Notin, Gilgamesh Ichthyomorphosis, B

Cover Art: B

Tech Team: Wade Cheng, Danya Kogan, Gilgamesh Ichthyomorphosis, "Tyan Rosh"

As always: Brought to you by the CMU KGB. See ya next time!

People who played Esther in a second grade Hebrew school play more likely to be happy, confident, and employed

Jimothy Yachtstein
Theatre Critic

Groundbreaking new research has revealed the single strongest childhood predictor of adult success in Jewish youth. Second grade students who in their Hebrew school Purim plays played Esther were found to be happier, more confident, and more employed than their less fortunate peers who played Vashti.

Vashti was the Persian king Ahasuerus's wife, at least until Ahasuerus got so royally drunk that he banished Vashti for refusing to appear naked in front of all the partying men for his seven-day-long party. This is widely considered to be within the top three least normal things Ahasuerus did. This required him to find a new queen, for which he held a beauty pageant that the secretly-Jewish girl Esther won. Esther then proceeded to save all the Jews by convincing her famously morally-inclined husband to rectify his prime minister Haman's decree to direct Persians to kill all the Jews, by allowing the Jews to fight back (because apparently cancelling the decree wasn't an option). Esther is therefore widely regarded as cooler and more badass than Vashti.

Researchers were intrigued by anecdotal evidence that second-grade Esthers were more successful than their Vashti counterparts. One example researchers examined was a former Esther who is now the CEO of a Silicon Valley startup which makes an app providing an AI-powered Jewish motherly figure for non-Jews. She balances her job with caring for her 18 children. Meanwhile, one of her classmates who played Vashti in that same fateful Purim play has been unemployed since being fired from a dreidel-making company several years ago for rigging the dreidels toward the Ψ side (the only bad side) out of pure depression. Furthermore, she only has 8 children.

This made researchers decide to investigate further with a scientifically rigorous study. Their methodology was to email Hebrew school teachers and ask about

students from 10-20 years ago. The researchers commented they were surprised that the Hebrew school teachers could report on every last detail of every single one of their past students who had played Esther or Vashti.

Researchers unequivocally found that Esthers were, in comparison with Vashtis, more likely to be happy, confident, and employed. They measured happiness via the Hebrew school teachers' assessments on a scale from 1 to 10. This was a change in plan from asking Esthers and Vashtis to self-assess because "these teachers know everything about these people anyway; they're basically Jewish mothers to all these kids." Confidence was assessed by individually contacting Esthers and Vashtis, and then asking them to rank how well they perform on basic prayers. As all Jews who have attended Hebrew school are perfect at basic prayers after doing them thousands of times, researchers considered this a good proxy for confidence.

More research is needed to understand the causation behind this difference, but researchers already have theories. "Esther is the epitome of a strong feminine figure who accomplishes things and makes her husband reconsider certain poor decisions like getting a mohawk or allowing the killing of an entire people group. Meanwhile, Vashti would totally tell Ahasuerus to get a mohawk," said one researcher.

One possibility is that traits affecting eventual life success of Hebrew school students already exist in second-graders, affecting the characters they would like to play and how teachers tend to cast them. Previous research on why every girl cast as Mordechai ends up being gay has leaned toward this explanation. Another possibility is that the second-grade Purim play itself is a transformative experience, with Esthers physically learning to be brave and stand up for what is right, and Vashtis disappointing not only their Hebrew school teachers but also their Jewish mothers.



REPORTS: CMU Nothing Like Jewish Sleepaway Camp

Tali Kirschenbaum
Avid Jewish Geography player

Freshman Ari Steinberg has spent every summer at Camp Ramah in New England since he was 9 years old, so he thought living in a traditional triple on the third floor of Mudge would be easy as alef, bet, gimel. And he was ready to survive a few weeks of 80-degree weather with no air conditioning. But as it turned out, being in the dorm was more like being in the bunk with the other friend group. "My roommates don't want to play ultimate frisbee or Magic: The Gathering with me," he complained. "But on the bright side, at least they aren't flashing me every now and then when their 'towels slip.'" Steinberg also found some trouble adjusting to the Mudge third-floor communal bathrooms, noting that while no one ever threatened to pee in a cup and splash it on him for taking more than 30 seconds in the shower (which he says is "not an exaggeration"), he's disappointed by the total lack of conversations in the bathroom. "Sometimes I'll hear somebody talking in there and get excited, but then it always turns out they're just on the phone with someone," he said. "At camp I knew everybody in my year and almost everyone in the year above and below me, why don't I even know most of the people in my dorm here?"

Steinberg was also surprised with how he used his time after getting to CMU. "O-week felt like camp: a bunch of planned activities that I skipped because they were boring as fuck. Meals were kinda like camp too with them having us all eat shitty buffet food in a big room all together, but I

kept expecting them to start handing out benschers before people could leave and doing Birkat. [Author's note: the fact that I have to write an author's note to explain what this is should make it pretty clear why this doesn't happen. Anyway, go look at the glossary on page 5.] But once classes started, everything I knew came crashing to the ground. At camp, they only let us have an hour of free time a day, plus a few more on Saturdays. Here, though, everything is free time, but not free time that I can just use to chill with my friends. I have to do homework! My chugim never gave me homework....Oh, chugim are like classes, but at camp, and they don't give you homework."

Steinberg did point out one thing that he felt really did carry over from his time at Ramah. "At camp, we have this concept called the sixth-week slump," he explained, "where you've been at camp for six weeks out of the eight and you want to be having fun and doing all the camp things but really you're exhausted and miss your parents and are so ready to go home and it's so close, but you have to tough it out because as soon as you get home you're just gonna hate your family again. Yeah, each half-semester is kinda like that. Oh, also the building right at the front of campus is the main office. Camp is like that too. Though Warner hall isn't connected to a building with no AC where I can do arts and crafts. That one's across campus a bit."

readme tried finding other Jewish summer camp alumni at CMU to comment, but they seemed to all be at Washington University in St. Louis, which sources say is just like camp.