

money with Mia
Cheap versus Frugal?
▶ Page 5



Search for the Perfect Baby
▶ Page 9



Fall Arts Preview
▶ Page 10



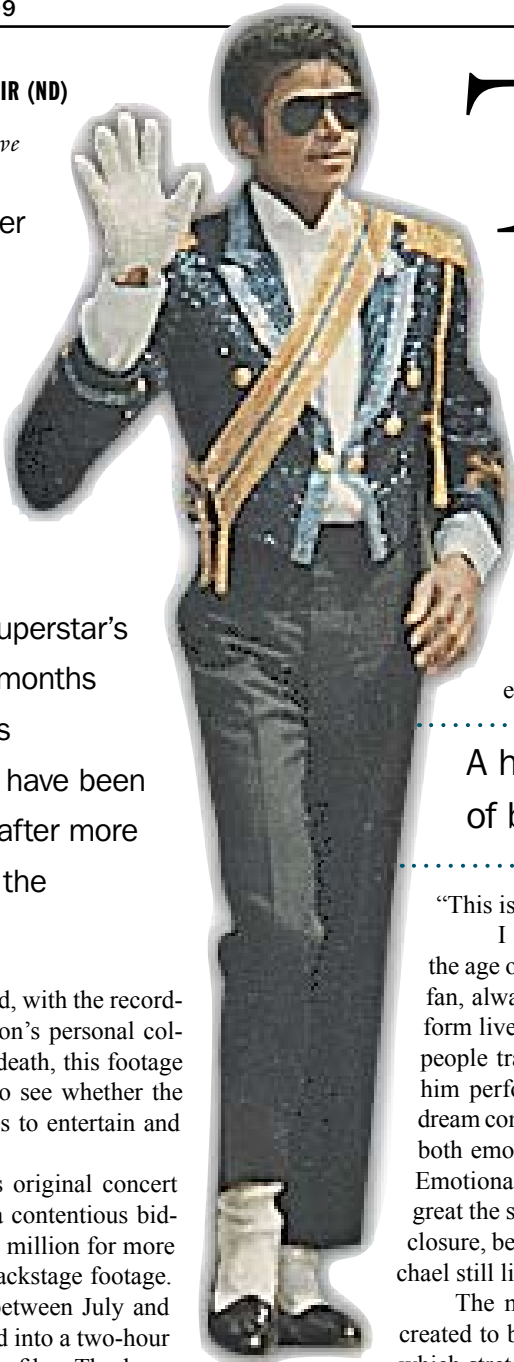
BY MLADEN SVIGIR (ND)
Section Representative

■ On October 28, Sony

Pictures released the much-anticipated movie “Michael Jackson’s This Is It.” The movie was conceived after the worldwide outpouring of grief following the mega-superstar’s death on June 25. In the months prior, Michael Jackson was rehearsing for what would have been a comeback to the stage after more than a decade away from the performance limelight.

The rehearsals were recorded, with the recordings originally intended for Jackson’s personal collection. However, with Jackson’s death, this footage was the only way for the world to see whether the King of Pop still had what it takes to entertain and marvel the world.

Enter AEG Live (Jackson’s original concert promoter) and Sony Pictures. In a contentious bidding process, Sony dished out \$60 million for more than 100 hours of rehearsal and backstage footage. After working around the clock between July and October, this footage was compiled into a two-hour concert-movie meets documentary film. The hype



THIS IS IT

A Review of the New Michael Jackson Movie

around the release was unprecedented with Sony planning to premiere the movie in 100 countries simultaneously. Advertising the movie as a “limited” two-week release, the presale ticket period broke records around the world. Before the movie was even released, Sony had recouped its \$60 million investment. So does the movie leave the audience with wonder and amazement with Jackson’s skills as an entertainer, or do people leave asking

fast-paced, dance-packed performances, he proves that even at the age of 50, he still had the moves, the energy, and the creative drive to give the audience a show they could not get from any other artist living today. In the slower, ballad-like numbers, Michael demonstrates the power of his voice, having planned to sing all of the songs live on stage (rumor had it that MJ would perform to playback tracks of his songs for the London shows). In fact, despite his voice sounding phenomenal, on several occasions he “apologizes” for the quality of his singing, because he is trying to “save his voice.”

In between the different cuts of the planned performances, a human side of Michael is revealed — one that in all

A human side of Michael is revealed — one that in all of the years of bad tabloid press, rumors and negative publicity was lost on fans

“This is it?”

I started listening to Michael Jackson at the age of four. Ever since, I have been a diehard fan, always wanting and hoping to see him perform live one day. I was one of the million or so people travelling to London this summer to see him perform live — which would have been a dream come true. So for me, seeing this movie was both emotional and provided a sense of closure. Emotional because it kept reminding me of how great the show would have been had I seen it live; closure, because it gave me a sense of whether Michael still lived up to the title of “King of Pop.”

The movie demonstrates that the show was created to be a true reflection on Michael’s career, which stretched for more than four decades. In the

of the years of bad tabloid press, rumors and negative publicity was lost on fans and the general public alike. It shows Jackson as a creative powerhouse, dictating every aspect of the show and creating it first in his mind, then translating it to the stage. It also shows a childlike creature. There were definitely points in the movie when one senses that this is a man that never quite grew up and continued living his life as a child, even at age 50. However, his brilliance and creative energy are also showcased. Having never learned how to read or write musical notes, he works with his musicians on the musical arrangements by humming the tones he wants to hear. He also gives the dancers, back-up singers and band members “their moment to shine” (as he calls it). While being a tough, no-nonsense perfectionist about the creation he wants to share with the world, Michael demonstrates the gentle, caring nature that drove him through-

See **IT**, Page 2

CHARTING THE NEW FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE



BY BRAD ROLFES (OB)
Contributing Writer

■ On November 7, nearly 250 students and professionals came

to HBS for the 2009 Finance Conference, hosted by the HBS Finance Club, for a day of speeches, panel discussions and networking. Barclays Capital was the Diamond Sponsor for the Conference and J.P. Morgan, Morgan Stanley, Citi, Credit Suisse, Evercore and Goldman Sachs were also sponsors.

Barclays Capital CEO Bob Diamond kicked off the conference with a keynote speech discussing how much stronger Barclays became as a result of the 2008 financial crisis through its



acquisition of Lehman Brothers’ North American businesses. He said, “We never thought we would be able to acquire a U.S. bulge bracket investment bank...when Lehman failed, we were the only firm ready to act.”

Mr. Diamond also highlighted some of the challenges of integrating the Lehman businesses, such as firing 4,000 of 14,000 employees, retaining clients despite a week-long service interruption, and building a “One Firm” culture. Lastly,

he discussed the changing role of government, both as an increasingly active regulator and as a critically important client, given the massive increases in fiscal deficits and government ownership of failed companies.

Roger Altman, founder and chairman of Evercore Partners and former Deputy Treasury Secretary, delivered the second keynote speech and used his unique perspective on government and Wall Street to discuss the causes and impact of the financial crisis. Robert Pozen, Senior Lecturer at HBS, delivered the closing keynote address regarding how to prevent a future crisis from occurring. Professor Pozen recently wrote a book, *Too Big to Save*, laying out his prescriptions for the financial system in more detail, leading HBS Professor Bob Eccles to introduce his colleague with one serious, important request: that the attendees purchase *Too Big to Save* and give it a five-star review on Amazon.

In addition to the keynote speeches, the Conference featured eight panels, covering topics from restructuring and turnarounds to alternative investments. The Corporate Finance panel featured Brian Hoffman (HBS ’92), Chief Credit Officer of IBM, and Jim Prevost (HBS ’85), VP of Acquisitions and Divestitures at

See **FINANCIAL**, Page 2

INDEX

Campus Affairs PAGE 3
Green Living PAGE 4

Viewpoints PAGE 9
Arts & Entertainment PAGE 10

Lessons Learned:
Fishbowl
▶ Page 3

