

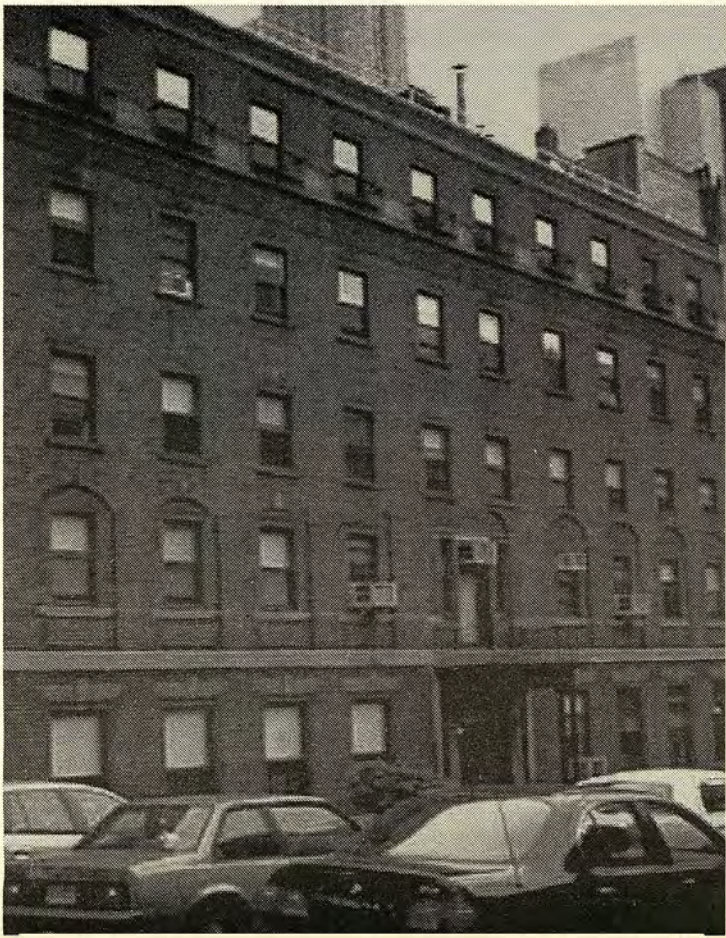
The Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

August 31, 2000

Volume XLIV Number 1

Rosh Chodesh Elul 5760



The new dorm on 36th street between Lexington and 3rd avenues will be the fifth housing facility for SCW

New Dorm Purchased for SCW

ADINA LEVINE

Students who have complained of the "far" walk to Schottenstien from the school building or the cramped spaces in Brookdale Hall will now find that they have a closer alternative for single-room housing. SCW has purchased another dormitory on 36th Street, off of Lexington Ave. Some administrators expect the new dormitory to be ready for students for the spring semester, or at the latest, the fall semester of 2001.

Dean Bacon says, "I wish it were larger because SCW is continuing on page 6

YU Tuition Increases Seven Percent From Last Year

SIMONE ROSENZWEIG

College is expensive, and this year Stern College has become more expensive so. This past year the economy saw about a three percent inflation rate, yet at Stern and Yeshiva Colleges, increases range from seven to ten percent. Tuition alone has increased by seven percent from \$15,650 a year to \$16,800. This is an increase of \$1,150 per year. The residence and meal plan costs are also rising significantly, making college even more costly for students who live in the dorms. The residence fee is increasing from \$3,750 to \$4,050, eight percent. Many students already complain about the amount of money they must put on their caf cards, and this year this cost will rise another \$70 per semester. For the food served there, \$825 a semester just doesn't seem worth it. Altogether, the cost of life at Stern for a student who lives in the dorm and is on the meal plan will increase from \$21,010 to \$22,610, an increase of 7.6 percent (\$1,600).

Cost increases at other colleges seem more in keeping with the national average than the increase at Stern and Yeshiva Colleges. Syracuse University's tuition is only set to increase by five percent, while dorm fees at Syracuse University are increasing by four percent. The Director of Enrollment Management, John Fisher, explained reasons for the increase in tuition. Fisher says that the

added money will be used to wire the dorms for direct high-speed Internet connections and further develop the honors program.

The new, higher cost of attending Stern seems daunting to those in need of financial aid. Seventy percent of Yeshiva University undergraduates currently receive financial aid of some sort, in the form of academic or need-based scholarships, grants, or student loans, thus making the issue relevant to the majority of the student population. However, John Fisher is assured that financial aid will increase in proportion to the increased costs. "The budget for financial aid goes up in proportion to the increase in tuition and to reflect the increase in enrollment," Fisher said. He wants to ensure that the financial aid budget allows the percentage of grants and scholarships given remains constant.

Even with corresponding increases in financial aid, the price increases have come under criticism from Stern students. An anonymous SCW junior complained that, "It is ridiculous to have four people crammed into a room big enough for two or maybe three paying exorbitant room money...that just doesn't seem right." A sentiment shared by many. The students now turn to the administration to prove that their money is being used for the students' benefits and let's hope they meet the challenge.

ORIENTATION 2000

SARI MOSKOWITZ

Imagine the scene: the lobby of Brookdale Hall filled with hundreds of anxious yet excited women, groaning and wheezing as they drag their cumbersome suitcases from their spacious houses to the cramped rooms they will now call home. Everywhere, frantic women try to get their bearings in this unfamiliar territory.

Many who are new to the SCW campus examine the strange surroundings carefully. The rooms contain old beds and scratched desks which have serviced many SCW students in the past, waiting to shoulder the burden of another stressful semester.

Yet stress is just what the Yeshiva University administration hoped to avoid in conducting its annual orientation programs and events. Orientation runs from Sunday, August 27, through Tuesday, August 29, and includes an orientation Shabbaton on September 1st and 2nd, for all new students. During orientation, students had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with SCW's facilities and resources such as the cafeteria,

library and classrooms. Students were also able to take necessary placement exams and meet their fellow students, dorm-mates, and SCW administration.

The primary focuses of Orientation 2000 were the intriguing educational sessions lead by SCW staff and administration which served to inform students about what to expect in college and how to make the most of their time at SCW. The goal of the sessions, which dealt with important topics such as life in New York City, career counseling, student health, and fire safety, is to ease the nervousness of students who have not yet experienced college life. Also included in orientation 2000 were leisure activities such as a boat ride around New York City, a trip to the theater and a day at Six Flags Great Adventure. New to Orientation 2000 is an exciting evening at XS New York, an arcade where students can bond while playing laser tag and video games.

Orientation 2000 was coordinated by four students: Ben Brado, Elior Shilo, Yael

Shmuel and Elana Soleimani. They worked diligently throughout the past year to ensure the success of this year's orientation. They used their own orientation experiences as a guide for Orientation 2000, which promised to be the most successful orientation in SCW history. Elana Soleimani, a junior at SCW says, "we chose orientation activities based on what we would want to do. If we wouldn't like it, nobody would."

Approximately 250 people are expected to attend each of the four entertainment events, and an estimated 320 SCW students were expected to participate in the registration meetings. This turnout is, by far, the largest attendance at orientation in the history of SCW. However, it may not be the programming that is making orientation such a success. Miriam Landa, a junior at SCW, reflecting on her own experience with SCW orientation, says, "The best part of orientation was seeing how friendly the SCW staff, administration, and other students were."

Three Floors and an Escalator

CHANA ROSENBLATT

Students and faculty at Stern College and Sy Syms will now have more classroom and office space for their use, thanks to ongoing work in the building at 215 Lexington

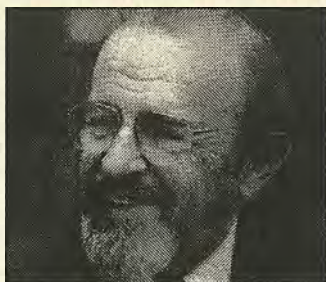
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A Message from President Lamm

SCW Calendar

"For a Change"

Beruchim HaBaim!



I extend a warm welcome to all of you, students at Yeshiva University - those who just graduated from high school and returnees from Israel, transfer students and regular students, SCW and SSB students, all those enrolled in any of the schools in our Midtown campus. In a word, you are all equally dear to us, old and new alike.

"Old" and "new" - the terms set one thinking. We begin a new academic year, we enroll in new courses, we shall soon wish each other a happy new year. But is there anything that is genuinely new? Kohelet thought not, when he proclaimed that there was nothing new under the sun. Others - much later - argued against newness and innovation by means of a word play on a purely technical halakhic principle and declared that the Torah forbids chadash.

But the matter is not quite so simple. Halakhic scholars relish a chiddush, and the Sages bid us treat the words of Torah as if they were "new as they day they were revealed at Sinai."

This is not the place to engage in a comprehensive analysis of the new. I do, however, wish to share with you a thought cited in the name of the great Hasidic Rebbe known as the Chiddushei ha-Rim (there's that word again!). He maintains that every year is a genuinely new one, that no one year is - or should be - the same as any other. Indeed, he adds, the very Hebrew word for "year," shanah, is related to the word for "change" - shinui.

Now, change is of the very essence of newness, and therefore every year is and ought to be a new year. In this sense, all of us are bidden to be new, spiritually and psychologically and intellectually prepared to change - for the better, of course. The academic and Jewish year now beginning should be a welcome opportunity for re-new-al, your faculty is new, I am new, and all of you, without exception, are new.

And consider the remarkable change in the public's conception of Orthodox Jew and Judaism. A Jew has been nominated for the vice presidency of the United States - a "first" for American Jewry. And not only is he a Jew, but he is a Modern Orthodox Jew, completely at home in government and politics and unabashedly and unapologetically observant of the mitzvot, and without any of the complexes that often afflict Jews who attain prominence and are burdened by unresolved ambiguousness about their Jewishness. What a change!

This is something refreshingly new in American-Jewish life, and whether Senator Lieberman does or does not win the election, a historically new situation has been created. The unspoken myth of the successful American Jew as necessarily an assimilated, secularist, deracinated Jew has been challenged - and changed. A man who practices Torah Umadda is seen as comfortable in his skin, "the conscience of the Senate," integrated in his world-view. He doesn't have to be perfect (as I write this column some of the sniping at him has already begun and no doubt will increase) to be an admirable symbol of a new phenomenon that will create an alternative paradigm for America Jewry.

So for us this is an auspicious beginning of the new year. It should infuse us with new pride, new confidence and new resolve to dedicated ourselves with vigor to both our talmud Torah and to our academic studies, to puctiliousness in our shemirat ha-mitzvot and in our efforts at developing middot tovot or moral character.

My best wishes, then, for a shanah of shinui, for a very happy and creative New Year.

Norman Lamm

Wednesday, August 30

First day of classes

Thursday, August 31

Orientation 2000: A night at the theater: STOMP, 8 pm

Friday, September 1

Student Council event, 9:30 am

Saturday, September 2

An Evening Around Town, 9:45 pm

Sunday, September 3

Student Council event

Thursday, September 7

Orientation 2000: XS New York Games

Sunday, September 10

Orientation 2000: Great Adventure

Wednesday, September 13

Club Fair, Koch Auditorium

Wednesday, September 20

Shiur by Raymond Beyda, 9 pm

Monday, September 25

Shiur by Rebbitzin Jungreis, 8:15 pm

The Observer

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Message from the Editors

Debbie Bienenfeld
Editor-in-Chief

ADINA LEVINE
Executive Editor

I was once that person who could and would live in a caravan if it meant more time with my family and enough time to be involved with the



community. Beyond the Green Line in Israel, somewhere up in the Shomron with mountainous terrain and a strong-minded people, was my ideal world. I didn't care if it meant living in a caravan with eight children as long as everything was infused with fulfillment and happiness. And there was no doubt in my mind that it would be.

A friend once told me that she felt good about herself and the path of life that she was following, and as she told me this, she leapt. Up in the air, one foot in front of the other, she leapt across the room out of pure joy, and it seemed completely natural to do so. I have leapt, usually when I feel that I am passionate about life, pushing the limits of my mind, body, and soul. Money or no money, the desire to leap exceeds all others.

But then I came to New York and liked spending and shopping and Broadway shows, but I did not like sitting at the top of the theater. I did not like to look for sales in the stores. I did not have to think about those extra minutes on my phone bill when I called Israel. This summer, working in my first real job in an Internet company, I decided that I do not like working. If I made my first ton of money before I was thirty, then I could work part time for the remainder of my life, if at all. If I have money, then I will be happy because I will live stress-free and indulgent.

I wanted to be very successful. I don't mean happy and fulfilled successful, I mean the plain old superficial financially successful; the kind of successful that I could have a pool, a boat and a house on the island Crete. All without having to work too hard. I signed up for Professor Brown's Principles of Finance, scheduled an appointment with Naomi Kapp to discuss my plans and begin preparation for my prosperous future.

To start with, I got closed out of Finance. That weekend I went somewhere for Shabbat (which shall remain nameless) where the women talk clothing and men talk business and about each other and not much else. Sure, a generalization, but not an exaggeration. I wondered if they ever felt like leaping, but the way they looked sitting in shul in the most fashionable clothing and thin-lipped smiles, talking about the couple getting divorced, I doubted it highly. I changed my mind about priorities and objectives.

I will choose my profession based on what I love and what brings me the greatest fulfillment, not how many rooms my house will have. The best way for me to get on this path is through involvement with my school, my peers, my community and my professors. Everyone has something to share and I hope to be able to learn from everyone. The opportunities that Stern College for Women has to offer are countless. I am not talking majors or departments or grad schools, but about TAC, student government, the writing center, and the newspaper. The need to leap comes from a great discussion in class or an article printed in the paper or volunteering at a clothing drive, not from making a bundle in the stock market or a trip on a yacht.

Utilize Stern College for Women for all it's got. It might be hard to see sometimes, especially if you're a first year living in Brookdale, but I'm telling you, it's got a lot.

You know you're from New York if you've never been to the Empire State Building. One time last year, a woman stopped me in front of Brookdale Hall to ask me where she could find the Empire State Building. Sadly, I didn't know. (For those New Yorkers who still don't know, the Empire State Building is down the block from Brookdale on 34th Street) And you can always recognize the "Out of Towners," or those not from the Tri-State area, because they walk around with their necks tilted upward in that uncomfortable obtuse angle. Haven't they ever seen a tall building before? But maybe that's just one of the things that we take for granted living in New York. (That and rude taxi drivers.)



During my college experience, I have met and befriended many Out of Towners. I have found (although this is not a scientific study) that there are a disproportionate number of Out of Towners involved in student activities compared to the overall

population at Stern. Why is it that the Student Council president and much of the Student Council staff are from Out of Town? Why is it that the Editor in Chief of the Observer is a position that has been filled by Out of Towners for the past few years? Why are more than half of the club leaders from out of town when they only comprise one quarter (approximately) of Stern's student population?

The answer may lie in the Thursday afternoon phenomenon. Beginning around three o'clock, the dorm elevators are mobbed as women push in beyond legal capacity. New Yorkers hastily book shuttles to the train station, and the more enterprising walk the two blocks to the train (after having taken a year to figure out that walking is quicker than driving in New York). The dorms clear out Thursday afternoon and don't refill again until Sunday night or even Monday morning. Imagine paying \$4,050 a year in housing to have a dorm room sit empty four nights a week!

No wonder then that the Out

of Towners are more involved in school activities. They have more school loyalty than the New Yorkers who turn Stern into a commuter school. By virtue of the fact that their homes are not within an hour's driving distance, the Out of Towners are not horrified at the possibility of the unmentionable -- staying in Stern until Friday morning, maybe even for Shabbos.

My message (in case you've missed the point) is that we should give a little more credit to the Out of Towners because they create the warm atmosphere that permeates all aspects of our college experiences. They are the reason that there are any school activities and school spirit. And a message to all of us -- take a lesson from the Out of Towners, to make the most of our college experiences by doing more than just attending class, to get involved in the wonderful activities offered at Stern, and to have a little more pride in the school we attend.

MICHELLE FOGEL
Executive Editor

According to The New York Times, and cover stories of Time, Newsweek, and New York magazines Joe Lieberman really is Al Gore's last chance, a sort of Jewish Messiah that will bring Gore his followers by the thousands. Headlines such as "First Orthodox Jew to Run on Major National Ticket," "Gore's Gamble: Lieberman, A Jew who Keeps Shabbat," and "Ever Hear the One About the Jewish Vice President?" not only bring Lieberman's Judaism to the forefront of the public eye, but assume that, orthodox or not, Democrat or not, all Jews unite behind their brother, for the simple fact that Jews should support Jews.

Not only is this idea almost dead during the 21st century, but the issue of Lieberman as a vice-presidential candidate is the first issue on this side of the Atlantic in years to cause so much bitter dividedness and enmity between Jews. Gossipy reports in local Jewish publications question Lieberman's observance of Orthodoxy on the basis of whether he listened to live music at a campaign event during Tisha B'Av, or on the length of his wife Hadassah's skirt. Many criticize him for attending political events in churches, or his liberal attitude towards partial-birth abortion, which Orthodox Judaism opposes. Still those on the other side of the religious spectrum wince when they hear how he walks to the Senate on Shabbat, adheres to the strictest laws of Kashrut, and calls for a crackdown on sex and violence in Hollywood. While the rest of the world may see Lieberman as an all-American Jewish poster child, Jews see him as either too orthodox, or not orthodox enough.



Here at Stern, we have a similar phenomenon. From the outside, Stern seems like a perfectly cohesive school, where students are brought together by the cultural and religious traditions of a common heritage. Yet, upon closer examination, this does not seem to be the case. Students sizing up their classmates on the first day of school decide who is too religious, who is not religious enough, and who is just the right kind of religious, all within the first few minutes of meeting them. A single act or piece of clothing can stereotype someone and subsequently damage her social career at Stern. At a Jewish institution that seeks to unify and find common ground for almost one thousand college-age Jewish women, this is almost certainly the road to dividedness.

The good news is that Stern, like any other college, is a testing ground for the real world. Why should someone's sleeve length prevent her from being orthodox and a good person, just as why should Joe Lieberman's going into a church prevent him from being orthodox? Does stance on partial-birth abortion represent Lieberman's views as a Jew, or simply a political leader? Similarly, does stance on open-toed shoes make someone a bad Jew, and thus a bad friend, or just a different one? Overall, the fact that Lieberman identifies himself as an orthodox Jew and publicly practices the beliefs he holds dear should strengthen the Jewish voice and commitment to integrity, at all costs. Shouldn't the fact that all students in Stern, no matter their religious idiosyncrasies, identify with the core tenets of Jewish law, have the same effect?



The Middle Eastern Boiling Point

CW

Don't get me wrong," said 24 year old Vered, a secular Jewess from Herzelia. "I love my land. I served in the army, protected Israel and I want to raise my family here. But I don't want to fight anymore. I don't want anymore deaths. I just want there to be peace. It worked with Egypt; we can give the Arabs certain areas, and then there will be peace in Israel."

The possibility of a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians still remains in question. The previous summit at Camp David resulted in a deadlock in the peace talks. Mr. Barak declared that he would not yield to Mr. Arafat's demands for sovereignty over all of East Jerusalem. Barak also refused to withdraw Israeli troops from 90 percent of the West Bank, including the strategic Jordan Valley. According to reports by the New York Times, Mr. Barak said that it is now up to Mr. Arafat to reinitiate peace talks. Mr. Arafat must face the September 13th deadline when a Palestinian state is scheduled for declaration.

In an attempt to further stimulate negotiations, Mr. Barak took a bold political step last week by announcing a proposal to unite his Labor party, with the Likud party, Israel's leading conservative opposition party. Ariel Sharon, the leader of the Likud party immediately rejected Barak's proposal for unification saying he "opposes every major

component of a peace deal that President Clinton put forward and Barak tentatively accepted at the recent summit meeting at Camp David." Mr. Barak's move was seen as a warning intended to threaten Palestinian and Jewish parties. This unified coalition could have served as a threat to the Palestinians that if they fail to break the negotiation deadlock soon, they may ultimately be confronted with a government far less amenable to compromise on certain issues of territory and Jerusalem. The proposal could also be perceived as a warning to Orthodox religious parties that have quit Mr. Barak's coalition in protest over the peace negotiations.

However, Mr. Barak failed to discuss his plans for the unified coalition with his top advisors. This independent attitude has angered many of his closest advisors, including Chaim Mendel-Shaked who resigned as the Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister's office. Moreover, only two weeks ago, Mendel-Shaked's deputy quit in anger. Both men served under Barak when he commanded the army's elite commando unit, Sayeret-Matkal. Newspaper reports said that the rivalries in Barak's office were so intense that Israel's security was at risk. The Yediot Achronot reported that Barak's senior security advisor, Danny Yatom was barely on speaking terms with the heads of two major security ser-

vices, the Mossad and the Shin Bet.

Barak's political survival mainly depends on whether he will be able to reach a peace agreement with the Palestinians before the Knesset (legislature) reconvenes in late October. Barak lost his parliamentary majority before leaving for last month's Mid-east summit at Camp David, as three of the six parties quit his coalition including the Orthodox Shaas party and the Israel B'Aliyah party, a faction representing Russian immigrants. Therefore, even if a deal can be reached, the Prime Minister would not be able to ratify it. Barak's efforts to lure the Shaas party back into government failed for good last week.

Commentator Shahar Ilan wrote in Ha'Aretz Daily that, "a situation in which a prime minister with [of 120] votes in Knesset announces his intention to pass a constitution is similar to Albania declaring war on the United States."

If a treaty should be made, Barak is expected to call for early elections that would serve as a referendum on the terms of Palestinian statehood. If peace talks collapse, Barak may not be able to hold onto power. Barak's former allies including Shaas and Israel B'Aliyah parties, are now siding with Likud. In response to his failing political position, Barak announced that he plans to launch nothing short of a

"secular revolution" that would challenge many of the powers and privileges of the Jewish religious establishment. Mr. Barak called for equal rights protections and a dismantling of the Religious Affairs Ministry provisions for civil marriages that would not require the approval of the rabinate. Mr. Barak also proposed a new military call up law that would oblige members of Ultra-Orthodox families currently exempted from army service to serve in the civilian sector. Mr. Barak assured Israelis that "we have no intention of leading anything which is anti-religious. We will do everything in the context of dialogue. Everything will be done with an endeavor to reach a common position but not at the price of paralysis."


Barak has now gained the reputation of the first Prime minister who wants to try to reform Israel into a secular state, yet he never consulted with leading members of the Labor party or senior aides before going public with the idea. The Likud party also refused to diminish the powers of the religious parties, calling it a political stunt and a way to win back secular votes should he come back without a peace treaty. Sharon and his Likud associates viewed Mr. Barak as "flailing about" for more solid political ground as he sees his peace bid foundering. This proposal was largely perceived as an attempt to boost his re-election agenda in

case he must face voters without a peace treaty. Barak's call to create a larger governmental coalition with the Likud party was seen as a way to avoid an election of uncertain winning.

Overall, prospects for a peace agreement have appeared to darken. Many Israelis believe that the real issue for Mr. Barak may not be his peace proposal, but his reaction toward Israeli religious powers.

The US State Department issued a travel advisory warning last week to US citizens to avoid the area due to feared terrorist attacks. Deputy Defense Minister Efraim Sneh originally scoffed at the warnings, but recently said there was reason for increased alert. Reports on worldwide Jihad and Hamas activity presents cause for caution. Even if a peace agreement is reached, Islamic militancy may prove to be a major obstacle in maintaining that peace. The New York Times reports a statement by Sheik Ahmed Yassin that he "believe[s] completely that Israel will vanish, and that we Palestinians will recover the lands and homes that were stolen from us in 1948. The year 2027 will see the end of the state of Israel." The Sheik used various quotations from the Koran to support his predictions for disaster. The Islamic militant's intense hatred for Israel may prove to be the last, and most difficult, obstacle to peace. The New York Times

Continued on next page



TORAH SEMINARS FOR WOMEN
 EARLY COURSES FALL 2000 / 2001
 OF AN INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED LEVEL
 in Manhattan and the Five Towns

<p>Sunday Morning <i>West Side Institutional Synagogue</i> 120 West 76th Street, NYC SEPTEMBER 17, 24 OCTOBER 29 NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19 DECEMBER 3, 10, 17</p> <p>#501FOO / 9:30am SEFER HAMITZVOT OF THE RAMBAM, PART III <i>Rabbi Hershel Schachter</i> A comprehensive analysis of Rambam's masterpiece, using both classical and contemporary commentaries, various readings and variant translations. Registration in previous classes is not a pre-requisite for this course.</p> <p>#502FOO / 10:40am BELIEF AND BEHAVIOR <i>Rabbi Mayer Twersky</i> This text-based course will examine the relationship between creed and deed within Yehדות. How do our core beliefs mold our personalities and guide our actions? Topics to be studied include creation ex nihilo, Divine providence and omnipresence, controlling anger, humility and happiness. <i>Note: This course is open to women of all backgrounds. Primary source material in translation will be provided.</i></p> <p>#503FOO / 11:45am TALMUDIC TOPICS <i>Rabbi Daniel Z. Feldman</i> An in-depth analysis of contemporary issues based on sources in the oral law and rabbinic literature. Includes topics such as Sabbath and festivals, interpersonal laws, etc. <i>Photocopies of Talmud, on related topics, will be handed out.</i></p>	<p>Monday Evening <i>Congregation Adarath El</i> 133-135 East 29th St. (btwn 3rd/Lex) SEPTEMBER 18, 25 OCTOBER 30 NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20 DECEMBER 4, 11, 18</p> <p>#601FOO / 7:00pm THE FEMININE VOICE IN SEFER BEREISHIT <i>Dr. Michelle Levine</i> This course will explore the dynamic personalities of the leading ladies in Bereishit: Chayah, our matriarchs, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Tamar; and the wife of Potiphar. Using midrashic and medieval commentaries, we will study how each of these women was pivotal in shaping the unique character of the Jewish nation.</p> <p>#602FOO / 7:00pm HALACHA LEMASEH THROUGH PARSHAT HASHAVUA <i>Rabbi Michael Taubes</i> A thorough text-based examination and analysis of interesting halachic practices that emerge from the weekly parshiyot.</p> <p>#603FOO / 8:00pm THE LAWS OF TEFILLA <i>Rabbi Zvi Sobolotsky</i> A detailed analysis of the laws relating to prayer. Issues to be discussed include proper text and time for prayer, obligatory and voluntary prayers, and prayers for special occasions.</p>	<p>Tuesday Evening <i>Young Israel of Woodmere</i> 559 Peninsula Boulevard, Woodmere SEPTEMBER 19, 26 OCTOBER 31 NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21 DECEMBER 5, 12, 19</p> <p>#701FOO / 8:00pm THE CHALLENGES OF LEADERSHIP: SEFER SHMUEL BET <i>Dassi Jacobson</i> A study of the internal and external struggles of King David, with a close analysis of the biblical text as well as the insights of classical, medieval and contemporary exegetes. Parallel texts from Divrei Hayamim and Tehillim will be incorporated as well.</p> <p>#702FOO / 9:00pm MARRIAGE THROUGH TORAH <i>Rachel Pili</i> A course designed to combine marital topics and practical skills based upon principles found within Tanakh, Halacha, and Torah Hashkafa. Divrei Chizuk will be an integral part of the course. Weekly topics include: • What is marriage in Torah Judaism? • Love within marriage. • Respect within marriage. • Anger within marriage. • Conflict, resolution, and fair fighting. • Positive communication within marriage. • Individuals within a Torah marriage. • Partners or parents, how to balance? • The kitchen sink.</p>
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At The Podium:

Political Forum

More to it Than Being Jewish

CHANA ROSENBLATT

It's politics as usual. Gala national conventions, first in Philadelphia and then in Los Angeles, strive to unite their respective parties and carry the glory and prestige of those four days to the voting booths on November 7. But amidst the frenzy of diligent planning and feverish expectations came an announcement few had anticipated: Al Gore decided to name Joe Lieberman as his vice presidential running mate. The news was shocking to most who were following Gore's search for the perfect veep. As the first Jew chosen to run for the esteemed position of second in command to the world's most powerful man, Senator Lieberman (D-Conn) has made history. And while this certainly marks a momentous occasion in the annals of Jewish history, we must not be blinded by our shared religious view. We should not vote for a man for this reason alone.

During a recent phone conversation with a politically active friend, I wondered aloud as to whether Lieberman's Orthodox Judaism would propel anyone in our community to vote for Gore who would not have voted for him otherwise. She proceeded to tell me that she, in fact, personified this particular case. Prior to Lieberman's ascent to

the ticket, she had intended to vote for George W., but now that a Jewish man was such an integral part of the race, she felt an obligation to support him and send her vote his way. I responded that she could be proud that Lieberman had been chosen without feeling the obligation to vote for him. Not all Jews hold the same political, economic or social agendas, nor are they expected to. Her comment reminded me of when Senator Schumer ran against Al D'Amato for the New York Senate seat. Despite the latter's long standing record of being a staunch advocate for the Jewish community and his high ranking position on many Senate committees that would have made him highly effective as our Senator for another term, the majority of the Jewish community chose not to vote for him. It seems that just having Jewish blood should not be enough to get a politician elected. As Craig Horowitz rightly asserts in the August 21 edition of *The New Yorker*, when someone writes about a candidate the first line should be about his good qualities and the second line should be, "And by the way, he's Jewish." It is a proud moment when a Jewish man or woman can reach high positions in state and influence. But that is not, nor should it be, the bottom line.

You know what they say. No one cares about that, all we care about is the economy. Or maybe in this election it is about morality. You should remember the policies or philosophies you are concerned about in this election, and your vision should not become blurred by the details. It should not be about electing a man to the presidency because his running mate is of your religion. Think about the real issues. Do you agree with his policies? Do you think partial birth abortions should be legal? Are you in favor of forcing a peace agreement on a nation which stands to gain little, at best, out of a deal? Do you reject the benefits school vouchers have on the children who use them? If you answered yes to these questions then vote for Al Gore and his Jewish Vice President, Joe Lieberman. But if you found yourself disagreeing with some or all of the aforementioned issues as they currently stand, don't fall into the "vote Jewish" trap.

Don't vote for someone who will not fight for the things you believe to be important. Vote for the man who best mirrors your approach and your beliefs and who will follow through with the bills and laws to benefit you. When the new term begins and the Vice President once again fades into

Loyalty and Lieberman

ADINA LEVINE

The day after he visited his daughter in Camp Neshar, Joseph Lieberman, to his own surprise, woke up to find that he was running for Vice President on the Democratic ticket with Al Gore.

The vote on November 7, 2000, will be a question of loyalty. Where do our loyalties lie as American Jews? Do we view America as our permanent home and Israel as a place to visit, or do we hold Israel as an ideal and eventual home and our stay in America temporary? Is a tax cut more important to us than Jewish control of the West Bank and Jerusalem. Whether we are Americans first, or Jews first.

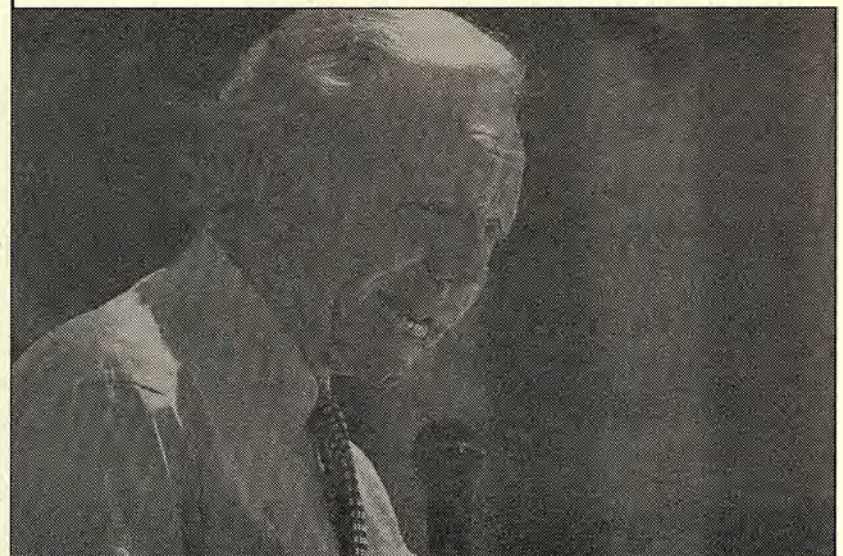
Plenty of people are considering Lieberman for his moral standing, tax plans, his criticism of Hollywood, his support for school vouchers, and his moderate stand. We have to consider him as a Jew who will uphold the freedoms that we have come to cherish in this country. We have an obligation to vote for Lieberman as one of our own, and let the rest of the world vote for him because of what he stands for.

He is known for his

integrity and piety among people such as Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). This image of Lieberman in his "moral rectitude," as has often been said about him, is a kid-dush Hashem. There have been many scandals about the orthodox community, be they branches of Chassidim or Modern Orthodox. We could use the positive image of the moral Orthodox Jew.

Don't only vote for Lieberman because he is a Jew. Vote for him because he is an Observant Jew shares the same values as you in regard to the most important issue: Israel. Throughout his time in the Senate, he has voted for legislation regarding Israel and has been a strong supporter. Without strong support for Israel from the American government, Israel faces trouble. Lieberman is good for the Israelis and he is good for us.

Plus it wouldn't be bad if the Vice President's wife's alma matter was Stern College.



Share Your Opinions!

Observer@Ymail.yu.edu

Continued from previous page

reported that "Three years ago, Sheik Yassin said his organization would consider a "truce" with Israel if it abandoned all claims to Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem, and released all Palestinian prisoners." However, this offer no longer stands as Israel rejected the "truce". This now condemns thousands of young Palestinians to an endlessly bloody battle against a well-armed and trained Israeli military. However, to this the Sheik responded that nothing can stand in the way of those prepared to die as martyrs.

Editorial Note: In light of the recent political instability in Israel, ie Barak's dissociated coalition and dismembered government, failing peace talks, Hamas's front page coverage (*New York Times*, August 27), perhaps a little more than apathetic attention is necessary. The Torah states in *Devarim* (Deuteronomy), perek (chapter) 30, p'sukim (verses) 17-18, "But if your heart will stray and you will not listen, and you are lead astray I tell you today

that you will surly be lost; you will not lengthen your days upon the Land". In a shiur given by Rav Schechter in *Eretz Yisrael* (Chodesh Av, 5760), the Rav commented that the world may think that it is Barak who has the power to give away the land, and on a lesser scale, Jews who do not keep Torah and Mitzvot and, for some reason or other, are forced to move out of *Eretz Yisrael* to make their homes in *Chutz La'Aretz* think it is their own decision when they must move away from Israel, are mistaken. This "Azivas Ha'aretz" (leaving the Land) is really the fulfillment of the above prophecy. When the Jews do not keep the Torah, then the Land of Israel cannot support them. By the laws of nature, the Land will spit us out.

During these days when the future of the Land of Israel is uncertain, we, as American Jews, do not have the grounds to express our own political views on Israel. We do not live in Israel. Our fathers and brothers do not serve in her army. Nevertheless, Israel is a significant



part of our lives. How many of us have spent a year, or two, in Israel? We have experienced the power and clarity, both good and bad, only a land such as Israel can breed. Can you imagine a world without Israel, Chas Ve'shalom, as a Jewish state? Do you feel safe? Or do you feel, like the "wandering Jew", without a makom (place)?

So what can we do to preserve Israel? Tefillah (prayer). Tefillah is the expression of our hearts (*Brachos* 2b) and G-d listens to this. Next time you daven (pray) the *Shemoneh Esray Amidah*, pay attention to the blessing, "Ve'L'Yerushalayim"-simply try to understand what the words mean, and perhaps we will then feel a longing for a unified Jerusalem and merit that the Land of Israel should remain in our possession.

on campus

Recent Developments

YU Dorms Get Wired

DEBBIE BIENENFELD

Make way for Yeshiva University of the twenty-first century! While the administration works tirelessly to improve on the academics and accommodations, MIS has been working on improving and updating the computer and phone systems on both Yeshiva College and Stern College campuses. Over the summer much progress was made to assist students and create a better learning and working environment.

Last year, a proposal for ResNet, the Residence Hall Network was approved. ResNet is system that interconnects each dorm room with the YU network. While each building is a project in and of itself, MIS hopes to eventually join all the buildings, and there is even talk of connecting uptown too.

Additionally, a DSL line is to be set up so that students can access the Internet from their room while occupying the phone line. The plans for this service are for Brookdale, Schottenstein, Morgenstern (YC), and possibly Rubin (YC) Residence Halls. Over the summer, facilities worked twelve-hour days to complete the wiring for Schottenstein, and MIS has promised to wire Brookdale before the fall semester of 2001. Morgenstern is also ready to be hooked up to the network, and that will probably be done before Schottenstein for reasons beyond MIS control. The common areas of the dorms will also be connected to the network, as well as 215 Lexington.

George Sullivan, the Associate Director of MIS and Academic Computing, says that they are phasing the system in to make sure it will be done right. Initially, dorms will be equipped with intranet, which will allow students to get to Ymail, the web-server, and anything on campus. AOL, Netscape and the like will not be accessible. Phase one was to wire one building at a time. Phase two is turning on the intranet.

In order to connect the buildings and plug the rooms into the network, the wiring must go through Verizon. Plans, therefore, were halted with the Verizon/Bell Atlantic strike. Schottenstein's set up will be delayed, so Morgenstern might go first. Buildings on YC campus are not subject to the strike because they do not function under Verizon. In fact, all eminent plans are now vague because of the strike.

In addition to the networking, there is a new feature on computers in the labs that will be starting from the first day of classes. Each computer has a login, and before a student can enter into any programs, she must log in under her Ymail account name. Each student is delegated ten megabytes of space that she can use exclusively in Word and other programs. Additionally, she can design her own desktop with personal preferences that will be saved each time. In this way, each student has her own personal computer in the labs. Also, this prevents unwanted people walking in and using the computers. This is more of a problem uptown than downtown.

George Sullivan is "excited about the new services, and happy that the administration, deans, facilities have been supportive of these projects." Sullivan has high praise for the facilities department who put forth a "Herculean effort to get the jobs done."

New Phone Service in the Dorms

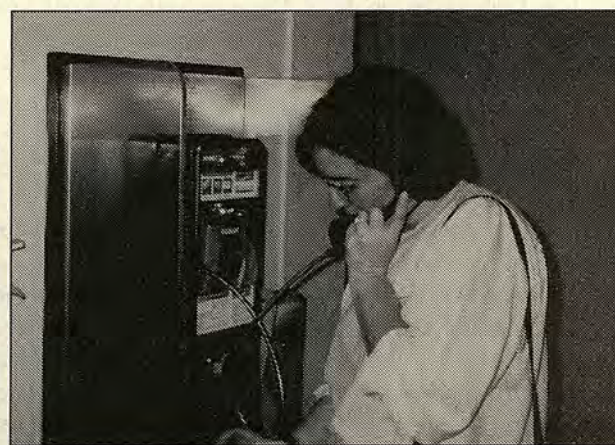
BATYA FREDMAN

Good news for all those who have trudged up the extra flight of stairs to save the dime it costs to make a local call to a friend in the dorms. As of the fall 2000 semester, Stern College is instituting a new phone system called ResTrex, provided by Verizon. The system will enable students to make unlimited calls from room to room through four-digit dialing. The Basic Package, which includes call waiting and call forwarding, is priced at six dollars a month, while the Prime Package, including the above plus call transfer, call waiting, caller ID, and three-way calling costs seventeen monthly.

According to Erin Hill, the assistant to the Director of Supporting Service Administration, the need for this advanced service was expressed by students on the Midtown campus. A then Bell Atlantic (now Verizon) representative was promptly brought in to propose the new system to members of the student government. Once the accepted, the idea was offered to the Main campus, which agreed to corroborate.

Currently, the system will not include free calling between the uptown and midtown campuses but "plans

are underway to determine the feasibility of connecting [the two campuses]." Students can expect future mailings regarding the ResTrex service as more information becomes available.



Housing Facilities Span Five Buildings

Continued from page 1



ing to grow, but this is wonderful."

The five-story dorm holds some disadvantages, such as no elevators. "In NYU and BU, in some of the older buildings, people just walk up the steps," Dean Bacon remarked. "It's good exercise," said Michelle Fogel, SCW senior. However, no elevators will present a problem on move-in days.

Further, the private rooms have community bathrooms like the west wing of Schottenstien. "It's not necessarily a bad thing," said Dafna Schindler. "If someone's in the bathroom at Brookdale, you just have to wait. But if it's a community bathroom, you could just go in the next stall."

On the other hand, the building enjoys several advantages. Every room has a sink with a mirror. It is

closer to the academic facilities than Schottenstien, and about the same distance as Brookdale. It has a sitting living room, and a dining room, and a beautiful garden.

Located right across from Smith and Court, a private enclave of two stories dating from the Civil War era, the new dorm will be the smallest dorm, with housing space for only 100 students, compared with 180 in Schottenstien and over 500 in Brookdale.

Over the summer, SCW also purchased more apartments in Windsor Court. An optimistic Dean Bacon says, "It's a wonderful trend of the university to expand the facilities of SCW. For the past five or six years, we've been expanding in heroic proportions. I think it's terrific and I don't want it to stop."

on campus

Professors Encouraged to Continue Research During Summer

ALEXANDRA BEARD

One of the distinguishing factors that set aside college professors from ordinary teachers is their ability to conduct academic research in their respective field. During the year, many faculty members at SCW undertake various research projects to further academic study in a particular area. But for the first time at Yeshiva University, a group of professors was funded to do their own research - this time, in the summer.

Last year, Dr. Mortin Lowengrub, V.P. of Academic Affairs, set aside restricted funds money to enable faculty members to do research during the summer. In the spring, grant proposals were submitted to a committee who decided upon twenty one teachers from YC, SCW, and SSSB as the recipients of the grants. Each teacher received a stipend and selected a student, who also received a stipend, to assist the professor in his or her research.

Whether researching comparative in vitro cytotoxicities or the French Enlightenment, ten SCW faculty members studied a topic of their choice, ranging from philosophy to McCarthyism. The SCW faculty members chosen were: Harvey Babich, Terry DiLorenzo, Jeffrey Freedman, Ephraim Kanarfogel, Elizabeth Lazaroff, Marize Pommet-Maia, Chaya Rapp, Ellen Schrecker, David Shatz, and Joshua Zimmerman.

Why was the summer of 2000 the first summer ever for faculty members to be funded with research grants? According to Donne Kampel, Senior Administrator of Academic Affairs, Dr. Lowengrub believed that the time was ripe for faculty to be given this important opportunity. Since teachers are loaded with much course work during the year, the summer months are ideal for concentrated research. Furthermore, Lowengrub felt that faculty members deserve rewards for their dedication to their field and Yeshiva University.

The summer of 2000 will not be the last summer in which teachers will be funded to do research. Kampel explained that the program will continue in the future, sponsoring about twenty teachers each summer. In addition, outside granting agencies will be endowing YU with more research opportunities.

"This is definitely a good thing for the University," comments Kampel. "We are so pleased to see how much the faculty appreciated the opportunity this summer to focus on research."

Free Dorms for the Summertime

CHANI FRENKEL

As the long school year came to an end, tired students at SCW looked forward to the beginning of summer with great anticipation. The lobby of Brookdale Hall was crowded wall to wall with the luggage of anxious students, ready to check out. While most of those suitcases were on their way to sunny places hundreds of miles away, some of them were getting ready to be moved to none other than the Lexington Apartments, a few city blocks down. Those were the unlucky suit-

cases of students who had committed themselves to yet another semester (or in some truly unlucky cases, two semesters) of school at Yeshiva University.

Unlike most students at SCW, these women had chosen to enroll themselves in YC for the summer. Many students argue that taking classes at YC in the summer simply does not make sense. They claim that the extra cost of the credits in YC is significant and they see no reason to pay those kind of prices if they can take courses in other colleges conveniently located closer to their homes for a fraction of the price. In addition, these students say that the commute to YC every day is long and a big

waste of time.

Despite these seemingly valid complaints, some students for one reason or another actually need to take classes in YU. Many of these students are not from the Tri-State area, and in the past have found it a tremendous hassle trying to find accommodations to live in. Eventually they become desperate enough and are forced to stay in apartments somewhere in Washington Heights. In addition to the unpleasant living conditions, these students end up dishing out even more cash than they already have.

Fortunately, this year students at SCW got lucky, very lucky. The administration at SCW decided to keep Lexington Hall open for those students in the joint FIT program, as well as for the poor students taking classes in YC. Not only were these students elated that they would be able to live in such great conditions; they would be living there for free. Although the students taking classes in YC were still paying more for their credits, they were given the advantage of living in midtown for the summer.

For those who haven't heard enough of the school's generosity; there's more. Each morning these students would walk out of Lexington Apartments and would get on a YU van waiting in front the building to drive them up to the Heights. In addition, thanks to Victor Compos and the YU van service, two different vans were available to take students finishing at different hours of the day back to midtown. Says SCW junior Sari Strulowitz, "It was great. There was door to door service for every student. I was taking physics, and sometimes had to stay later to study in the YU library. Victor (Compos) arranged for occasional late night vans whenever we needed it. After we got used to being spoiled like this the first semester, second semester was difficult. We were the only students left taking a class in YC, and there was no dorm available for us. We had to rent an apartment in the Heights and it was not fun."

For those students who must take their classes in YC next summer, these living arrangements will make it a lot easier. Maybe next summer they'll even keep a dorm open for those tortured students taking physics for two semesters. With generosity like this, who knows?

New Faces on Campus

ABIGAIL MALEN

The academic year of 2000-2001 for SCW promises to be one of great progress. The administration, finally realizing the college's growth, has employed three new full-time faculty members.

Joining the Political Science department this upcoming year is Dr. R. Nossiff, coming from Rutgers University. Her desire to teach undergraduate students has brought her to SCW, where she plans on teaching Political Parties and Interest Groups, and a class outlining American Presidencies. Dr. Nossiff's book, *Before Roe*, will be in stores this coming fall.

Dina Rosen will be joining SCW's Education department. Having just received her PhD, Rosen feels she can contribute a "practical perspective" to education from her years of experience. She feels that her work at the Adolph Schreiber Academy of Rockland has prepared her for employment at Yeshiva University. Working in a Jewish day school has given her insight into the heavy workload of students balancing the dual-curriculum.

Nora Nachumi is a new addition to SCW's expanding English Department. She will be teaching three courses in English: two in English literature and an English composition course. A native New Yorker, Ms. Nachumi will be joining us from Indiana State University where she was on the Women's Studies Faculty. Ms. Nachumi has extensive knowledge of late eighteenth century novelists, who have been largely marginalized and only recently recognized.

With the addition of these three impressively qualified faculty members, the administration is proving its high level of pedagogy. Further this shows students its understanding that as the student population grows, the faculty must as well.

ESCALATORS continued from page 1

Avenue. Work crews have been working nonstop throughout the summer to renovate and complete the second and third floors of the spacious and modern building. An escalator in the lobby will carry students and professors to these floors which will house several departments previously located in the Stern building on 35th street. Security operated elevators will also be available to students. The English, History, Philosophy, Speech, Economics, and Math departments will now be located in 215 Lexington on the second and seventh floors. (The seventh floor was already in use last semester). Sy Syms has moved to the third floor. Professors in these departments will have private offices near the classrooms in which they teach. There will also be a new Admissions office on the second floor.

Each classroom is fully equipped with a ceiling mounted projector, a large electric screen controlled with the touch of a button, an audio-visual multimedia system with speakers, and wiring for easily accessible computer use. Additionally, all classrooms will have air conditioning as well as smoke detectors and a sprinkler system for emergency fire situations. In accordance with New York state law, the building has a handicap ramp and lift for those in need. The lobbies on both floors are fully carpeted and beautifully arranged with luxurious green plush chairs and sturdy tables. Study rooms for student use are nearing completion. Students will be

able to use the computers stationed there and do homework or studying between classes. New desks were ordered that are considerably larger and more comfortable than the desks currently used. They do not have arms and can therefore be used by both right handed and left handed students. Vending machines will be installed in the lobby to ease hunger pangs until the basement is completed and the dining hall is ready.

Everything about this building is state-of-the-art. Security Officer Carlos Bessa sings it praises. "It's beautiful and spacious. Yeshiva is becoming more modern. Everything is now at the push of a button. Everyone will enjoy this building," Bessa stated. Students are being kept in suspense about the building as the final touches are being made. The new entrance on the corner of 33rd and Lexington Avenue will have a revolving door to ease the rush when entering and exiting. The building's exterior and interior are beautiful yet user friendly. With all new furniture and modernized technology, students and faculty can, and certainly will, make use of everything the building has to offer.

on campus

New Housing Director

DEBBIE BIENENFELD



For many, the day that housing was finalized and the housing cards were sent was not a happy day. Seniors', and super-seniors' requests for Windsor were denied, juniors were sent back to Brookdale, vowing revenge on whomever was responsible for their fate. Students bombarded the office of student services, demanding to speak with Miriam Gold, but instead they were sent Rachel Kraut.

Rachel Kraut, cheerful and optimistic, is the new housing director, with whom it is difficult to be angry for placement mistake. In fact, she cannot be held responsible because housing placement was finished by the time she stepped up to assume the position. In the past few weeks, she has been trying to accommodate the unhappy students, yet is not phased by the chaos and commotion created by her predecessor and by the nature of the job.

A Graduate of Brandies University, Kraut received a Masters of Social Work from University of Pennsylvania. She also received a certificate in Jewish Community Studies from Gratz College. Her ideal job? One that includes a Social work component, Judaism, education component, and deals with people ages three to twenty two. In short, SCW's housing director meets the qualifications of her perfect job.

Her job (for those who are unsure as to what a housing director does before the housing cards go out in April), is to supervise the dorms and train and guide the Resident Assistants and the housing director is often placed in a predicament; there will always be students students by their housing placement. Instead of calling it a mess like most students, Kraut calls it a puzzle. "You have to figure out what makes the puzzle come together."

Kraut's advice to incoming students: "All you really need is a smile and a positive attitude. Make do with what you've got."

Not Just Cookies

ALEXANDRA BEARD

How often does anyone get the chance to discuss writing tools-of-the-trade and eat chocolate chip cookies with a journalism master? Last May, four SCW students were privileged to meet with Mr. Ray Josephs, the sponsor of the Uplink to the World of Communications program. Josephs, author of the internationally best-selling book, "How to Gain An Extra Hour Every Day," shared his advice about writing with four students. What advice can the author of a book that sold 2.5 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 27 languages give to a group of young aspiring writers? "Turn your ideas into money. And have a specialty, being knowledgeable in two or three subjects that interest you." Mr. Josephs is certainly a man of his word, as the author of ten books and over 700 magazine articles, a nationwide lecturer, and the founder of the International Public Relations Company, whose clients included American Express and General Motors.

Turning ideas into money, Josephs in the 1940's compiled timesaving tips of successful people into an article. He did just that, going after the biggest success stories of the day: Winston Churchill, Eleanor Roosevelt, and President Truman. Then, in 1955, he turned those ideas into a book, and into money, making "How to Gain an Extra Hour Every Day" one of the first self-help books to hit the shelf.

Josephs shared some of those beat-the-clock ideas: realize that time is only valuable if it is used, learn to do two or three things at once. He also shared his expertise on how to get a step into the communications world. He urged students who are interested in journalism to become involved in school publications and get a feel for what goes into publishing a newspaper. Josephs also advised that students read trade magazines on journalism and broadcasting to become more communications-savvy.

Dr. Ellen Bakalian, the English/Communications professor at SCW who coordinates the Uplink events with Ray Josephs, found the meeting, discussing journalism with Josephs, particularly interesting and informative. "Mr. Josephs is a generous man who wants to help the young women of SCW succeed in the communications industry." Regarding Uplink, Bakalian says that the events "bring movers and shakers in the communications world to SCW, and let students gain insight into how they got started in their chosen field, what their job entails, and what they recommend a student do to land an internship and get an entry level job."

"I urge students to attend the Uplink events, and I guarantee they will learn something," Bakalian says. Thanks to Mr. Josephs, the events serve food. Journalism over pizza is better than over cookies anyway.



The Truth About Housing

SHAYNA STRIMBER

Have you ever wondered how housing works at Stern? Well, I did and so, I found out! Starting in the spring, we anxiously turn those pink housing cards into the RAs, getting our last words in too, hoping that our verbal requests will be given higher priority than the written ones. But what are the chances of being assigned to the room and the roommates that we have chosen?

In the midst of pre-Pesach mayhem in Stern, I spoke to Mrs. Zelda Braun, and asked her to explain the housing process to me. Mrs. Braun very graciously took a few moments from her busy schedule to shed some light on an otherwise shady topic. Very simply stated, Mrs. Braun said, "It goes seniors, juniors, and then the rest of the world."

This, she explained, is based on the fact that the seniors have priority because they have, as she put it, "paid their dues" in the sense that, as their title suggests, they have seniority.

That having been said, I wanted to know how actual room assignments work. Mrs. Braun illustrated her point about seniority in the following example. If there were two rooms vying for the same apartment or cluster, one had a senior, a junior, and 2 underclassman, but the other room was comprised of four Seniors, the latter group would have first choice for that apartment. This, again, is purely based on the fact that they are all seniors. Is this starting to sound like a poker game?

Well, be it similar to a card game or not, we should all realize, as Mrs. Braun pointed out, that our school's housing process does NOT operate by lottery. Now, you might be asking yourself, "So?

What does that mean to me and why should I be happy about it?'. I was wondering the same thing and a friend in a different university answered my question.

Over the Yom Tov I spent time with a friend who is now a student at Boston University and had just received her room assignment for next semester. Her very first comment to me, as we discussed housing, was that we, at Stern, are very lucky. I wasn't sure what she meant until she said that in a lottery system, "once you have your [lottery] number, you have your number and there's nothing you can do about it." We've seen that Stern takes a more personal approach and will consider our particular requests whereas, as my friend put it, "in BU, you're just a number-that's what's really hard to cope with at BU, just being a number." I'm sure we can all appreciate the fact that we are individuals at Stern and NOT just numbers. Mrs. Braun and Miriam Gold, although she resigned and we will miss her, have always been available to listen to our concerns and address them to the best of their ability. And newly inducted Rachel Kraut has made a conscious and refreshing effort to accommodate whomever she can at this late date. If our housing process went according to a lottery, as is common in other universities, housing would be much more impersonal, and I can assure you that the satisfaction of the students would be compromised.

So, the next time you find yourself wondering about the housing process at Stern remember that we are very lucky because the system is personal. Yes, seniors do have seniority but every one else is NOT JUST A NUMBER!

The Real Truth About Housing

A Student Editorial

DANIELLE BIENENFELD

I gave Brookdale a fair shot last year as a sophomore. From the very beginning, I was not thrilled with the living situation at Brookdale, but I had no choice but to live with the discomfort like all the other Stern Women in the same position. I just could not understand how this institution could charge a ridiculous amount of money for dorming and we still have to live in rooms with three other women. But it isn't just three other women. It's three other personalities. Three different lifestyles. And this may not seem to be a big deal but it is extremely inconsiderate of Yeshiva University to have this as a type of living situation. No other university has its students living in rooms the size of an oversized bathroom.

I just loved it how I would have to put earphones on my ears to work on a paper for class while my roommates would argue about which CD would be played in the room. How about when it was 2:00am and the lights were still on and the music was still playing? But I think my ultimate favorites were when I hid under my bed covers to avoid having my roommates answering back to my phone conversations and when I would sit on the toilet seat, whispering to the person on the other end of the phone line. So yes, I did give Brookdale a fair chance as a sophomore but I had enough. Schottenstein was where I was going to live my junior year. I was determined. During the second semester of my sophomore year, I filled out a request form for Schottenstein, almost pleading with the housing person. I was sure that I would be living in Schottenstein. I was going to be a junior after all.

August came. No housing notice. Does this mean I did not get into Schottenstein? I guess I didn't. Here I am at Brookdale once again. I am one angry student and I know that there are others who feel the same way. Yeshiva University needs to change this immediately, for Brookdale housing is unacceptable.

ORIENTATION 2000



HACKERS

JULIA CAITLIN RAKSIN

As the age of technology takes us to new heights, the use of computers allows for more freedom and convenience. However, there is danger in trusting your computer too much. Remember, a computer will never give you one thing: confidentiality. Any computer can be hacked into and thus, the privacy of any computer can be violated.

Emmanuel Goldstein is the editor-in-chief of 2600: The Hacker Quarterly, and hosts a weekly radio program in New York called "Off the Hook." His opinions on hacking may sound radical to a lot of people, but there are some that would call him a visionary. Perhaps the future holds an entirely different system of values for us, and the best thing to do is to go with it and see where it leads. During an interview with CNN, Goldstein candidly stated his ideas on the subject of technology; its future and the role that hackers play in it. When asked to define hacking, he simply replied that hacking is asking a lot of questions and refusing to stop asking. Goldstein feels that this is why computers are perfect for inquisitive people - "they don't tell you to shut up when you keep asking questions or inputting commands over and over and over", he says. People often wonder why someone would break into another's computer and violate the privacy of others in this manner.

Goldstein's answer to this question however is extremely diplomatic. He says that a hacker's wish is to seek knowledge, discover something new, be the first one to find a particular weakness in a computer system or the first to be able to get a certain result from a program. This theory does not have to confine itself to the world of computers. Anyone who is an adventurer or explorer of some sort, or any good investigative journalist, knows the feeling of wanting to do something nobody has ever done before or find the answer despite being told that you can't. During the interview, Goldstein is so frank as to admit that he is a hacker himself. Maybe that is why he feels qualified to explain the thought process behind hacking. "We don't sit around with a big map and a list of targets. In fact, we don't even sit around together. Most hacking is done by individuals who simply find things by messing around and making discoveries. We share that info and others add input. I think most of us tend to be drawn to the sites and systems that are said to be impossible to access. This is a normal human reaction to being challenged. The very fact that we continue to do this after so many of us have suffered so greatly indicates that this is a very strong driving force. When this finally becomes recognized as a positive thing, perhaps we'll really be able to learn

from each other," Goldstein explains. Another mystery is what precisely attracts people to hacking? Goldstein has an answer to this question as well, he says, "People have always been attracted to adventure and exploration. Never before have you been able to get this without leaving your house and without regard to your skin color, religion, or even the sound of your voice. It's the ability to go anywhere, talk to anyone, and not reveal your personal information unless you choose to -- or don't know enough not to -- that most attracts people to the hacker culture, which is slowly becoming the Internet culture."

Although Goldstein's arguments may convince some, there are people who express strong opposing views against him. Dr. Charles C. Palmer is the manager of Network Security and Cryptography and head of the Global Security Analysis Lab, which includes IBM's ethical hacking unit. His opinions on hacking are very different from Goldstein's. When asked, in an interview, how he defines hacking, he replied that it is unauthorized use of computer and network resources. The term "hacker" originally meant a very gifted programmer. In recent years though, with easier access to multiple systems, it now has negative implications. Palmer believes that hacking is a felony -

- for good reason. Some of the "joyriders" -- hackers who access systems just for the challenge -- think it's harmless since they usually don't "do" anything besides go in and look around. But if a stranger came into your house, looked through everything, touched several items, and left, would you consider that harmless? When questioned, he described the profile of the typical hacker: "The profile has broadened in the last couple of years to include many types of people, which makes it very difficult to call out a "typical" hacker. The motivations behind hacking have changed. There are girls and young kids involved. Many companies think all hackers come from outside, but surveys continue to show that the threat from inside an organization is greater than from outside. So if your system is compromised, it could be a Gen-Xer sitting in a dark apartment, or the woman in the cubicle next to you."

There is a reason why hacking is such a controversial topic. It violates privacy and is considered a serious crime. Still, there is something exciting and thrilling about people who are clever enough to do it. Undoubtedly it is an impressive skill they possess. Now, should they be stopped and punished, or revered and rewarded? That's the choice that has to be made.

Business Page

The Labor Market of Summer 2000

MASHA LAPINA

Everyone had a slight flash of panic when the news about July jobless rate came in on August 4, 2000. The question was "what is going on with the job market and how is it going to affect the inflation?"

According to Washington, the US unemployment rate stayed at 4% as businesses added fewer jobs than expected and the government shed workers as Labor Department figures showed. Businesses only managed to add 138,000 jobs last month after creating 242,000 positions a month earlier, the government said. Government jobs fell as temporary workers hired for the 2000 Census completed their work and were let go, resulting in an overall loss of 108,000 jobs. "The labor market is still tight but doesn't seem to be tightening further," said Robert Dederick, economic consultant at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "Hiring is slow. There has been cooling."

The Fed keeps a close eye on the monthly employment

statistics as increasing demand for workers could push inflation higher over time. Labor expenses represent about two-thirds of the cost of doing business. Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan suggested in testimony to Congress last month that inflation won't become a problem as long as productivity increases offset the rise in compensation costs. Worker productivity grew 3.7 percent in the first quarter compared with the same period a year ago.

In addition, William Poole, president of the St. Louis Fed Bank, said that the US economy is benefiting from "low and stable inflation," giving central bankers "the luxury" to experiment with faster growth than previously thought possible.

Although creating new jobs for businesses may not be as easy as it was six months ago, the situation is very far from critical. The Fed obviously doesn't show any signs of worry and the prediction is will not tighten the rates in the near future.

A Credit Card Charges No Interest

MASHA LAPINA

That's right. The newest trend in the credit-card industry is enticing consumers with introductory-rate offers of 0 percent. American Express Co.'s new Blue Card and Providian Financial, issued by Travelers Bank USA, a unit of Citigroup Inc., charge no interest for a limited period and no annual fee. "It's a consumer's market right now," said Robert McKinley, president of CardWeb.com, a Frederick, Maryland, based card industry-research company. "If this type of pricing spreads it'll certainly open up some opportunities for borrowers," he said.

Competition among the 6,000 US credit card lenders is intensifying, making some companies more willing to let consumers borrow money free of charge for a period of time, along with other perks such as rebates on certain purchases made over the Internet. Just two years ago, the lowest introductory, or "teaser" rates, on credit

cards were 5.9 or 6.9 percent. Now, some companies offer fixed-interest rates that are almost that low.

With introductory-rate credit cards, debt-laden consumers can eliminate interest charges averaging about 15 percent for as long as six months by transferring balances to the no-interest cards. Or they can finance new purchases interest free and use the money saved to pay off higher rate cards or deposit in a certificate of deposit to collect interest.

Signing up for another 0 percent card, or by finding one of the several 2.9 or 3.9 percent teaser rates, consumers can shift their credit balances to enjoy no- or low-interest borrowing indefinitely.

Introductory card rates are enticing enough for many says an attorney from New York who financed about \$10,000 of home repairs on plastic. He said he saved hundreds of dollars in interest payments by continually

What Makes the Workplace Work?

MASHA LAPINA

Dilbert, the ultimate cubicle dweller, would not fit in at SAS Institute. Everyone with a desk job at the North Carolina software maker gets a private office - plus a whole lot more. Scattered around the company's sylvan 250-acre campus just west of Raleigh are gleaming gyms for convenient workouts, atrium-like cafeterias in which employees enjoy low-cost lunches with live piano accompaniment, an on-site child care center, and even a primary-care medical facility. There is more to please employees: a 35-hour workweek and free M&Ms, both plain and peanut.

It's clear enough to corporate world that few of SAS's 6,000 workers want to leave, and that's the point. Annual turnover at SAS is paltry 4 percent compared with an average that ranges up to 25 percent at some Silicon Valley rivals.

This is certainly not the case at most US companies. In an era of 4 percent unemployment, attracting and retaining employees has become executives' biggest headache. According to an American Management Association survey of human resources executives, 66 percent of those polled are more worried about employee retention this year than last - and with good reason. Employee departures in US companies rose to an annual 15.6 percent in mid 1999, up from 13.2 percent in the first half of 1998, according to the Bureau of National Affairs, a news and information company.

In response, many companies are laying on the goodies: 401 (k) packages, stock options, lunchtime volleyball games. There's

obviously no guarantee that enhanced benefits will automatically produce lower turnover. Still, companies attuned to the wishes of today's demanding employees do seem to enjoy a clear bottom line edge over their rivals. A survey last year by Watson Wyatt Worldwide, a consulting firm based in Bethesda, MD, graded 405 publicly traded companies on such employee-centered characteristics as flexible hours, good training, and collegial interpersonal relations. The companies with the most such practices had an average five-year total return to shareholders of 103 percent; those with the fewer such practices had an average return of 53 percent.

However, it's just one side of the coin. If the company gives a lot to its employees, it expects a lot in return, elements such as loyalty and a considerable sales force. And although companies do as much in their power to retain workers, only 42 percent of US workforce says their employers deserve their loyalty, according to a survey last year by the Hudson Institute and Walker Information, an Indianapolis-based research firm. The gold-rush mentality of the new economy is only fueling workers' wanderlust, as dot-coms - dangling flashy salaries and bushels of stock options - lure away the highly skilled and the ambitious from rival companies or old-economy businesses.

The labor market is in incredible turmoil, which for employees is pretty terrific. If you have a skill, it's probably never been better. For those companies that haven't mastered the art of employee retention, of course, it may sometimes seem as if it's never been worse.

transferring his credit balance before the low-rate periods ended. He said he kept "detailed records to avoid getting caught in the trap of paying higher rates."

The Blue and Quicken cards each apply the 0 percent rate only to new purchases for six months. They charge 9.99 percent and 5.9 percent for balance transfers respectively. In addition, the Blue card also charges 20.99 percent interest on cash advances. The Aris card charges 0 percent for both new purchases and balance transfers but after three months the rate goes up to 7.99 percent, 12.99 percent, or 18.99 percent, depending on the borrower's credit history.

In addition to the above-mentioned issues written in fine print, if you miss a payment or exceed your credit limit, all bets are off. Then, the

Quicken card charges its customers a \$20 fee, the Blue and Aria cards charge a \$29 fee and all three cards boost their interest rates. "There's no good news in the fine print," said Bruce Brittain, chief executive of Brittain Associates, an Atlanta financial marketing research company.

The New York attorney mentioned before, said he gets at least three or four attractive credit card offers a month. Sometimes he gets checks, written in the amounts of \$5,000, \$10,000 or more that would activate a credit card account were he to deposit them. Credit card companies inundated consumers with 3.45 billion direct mail offers last year and are on pace to equal that in 2000, according to BAIGlobal Inc., a Tarrytown, New York, market research concern.

The Internet has also

made it easier to shop for the best rates. Consumers are taking advantage and moving their accounts at the slightest hint of higher charges, with the account attrition rate rising in the past few years to 4 percent in 1998, according to CardWeb.com. Credit counselors caution consumers to avoid being seduced by the parade of credit card offers, lest they end up stuck with thousands of dollars of debt with 20-percent interest because they can't pay it off at the end of the introductory period or make payments on time. "They say you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink; but they make the water so damn tasty that you want to drink," said Luther Gatling, president of New York based Budget & Credit Counseling Services Inc. in New York.

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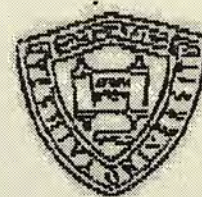
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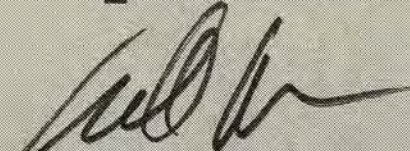
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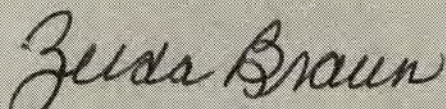
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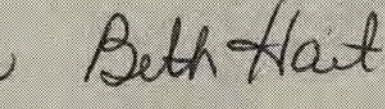
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Presidential Messages



Message from SSSBSC President

I hope you had a long relaxing summer. It's time to hit those books again!

As the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council President, I would like to welcome all of you to a new and exciting school year and tell you a little about our upcoming plans.

Sy Syms School of Business is a rigorous and rewarding program. A Sy Syms student is able to gain insight into various aspects of Business, Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, Management, and Marketing. Whether you decided to major in business or are just considering the idea, the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council (SSSBSC) is available to advise you throughout the entire school year. We also offer tutors and computer lab assistants (free of charge) for your convenience. Feel free to call upon our services.

Sy Syms School of Business provides a wide range of extracurricular activities in which students are encouraged to participate. At the start of the semester, the annual Sy Syms School of Business reception and the annual Career Fair 2000 will be held. In addition, keep your eyes open for notices of upcoming events, seminars, and lectures, which will take place throughout the school year. You are all cordially invited.

Some of the major projects include a Mentoring Program, sponsorship of the annual Spring Fashion Show, a discount for all SSSB students who will subscribe the Wall Street Journal, and the end of the year annual dinner.

The entire student council board and I encourage you to take advantage of the wide range of activities offered by the SSSBSC. We wish you much success in your studies for the coming year. I hope you will feel free to approach us with any problems, concerns or suggestions.

Sincerely,
 SSSB Student Council
 Zoya Mardakhayev, President
 Miriam Rabinowitz, Vice President
 Tara Chudnoff, Treasurer
 Shira Adler, Secretary



Message from the TAC President

Welcome to a new year at Stern College for Women!

As you plan your year and your classes begin, remember to leave time for the amazing activities that are going on at Stern. Classroom education is important but you can only reach your full potential when classroom learning is complimented by a full range of extracurricular activities. One of the truly exciting parts of Stern is the large number of extracurricular activities available. Whether in the learning, tzedakah, chesed or other committee of the Torah Activities Council (TAC) your decision will impact your entire year.

The concept of "Lo al halechem l'vado yichyeh ha'adam - for man shall not live on bread alone" underscores the need to enhance basic nourishment for the body with the flavor of nourishment for the soul. We have Judaic Studies classes, we have secular classes, we have a wide variety of courses ranging from Semitic Languages to Hardware Theory. When these are merged with acts of kindness and charity, the college experience at Stern becomes truly unique.

We are living in a time of great and momentous occurrences. The Presidential candidate for the Democratic party has recently chosen an Orthodox Jew as his running mate. Israel is facing challenging times - perhaps not unusual for Israel, but still of concern to us. The human genome has been fully mapped. Yet, we at Stern College must continue taking, and hopefully passing, tests, writing papers, and handing in reports, basically mundane activities. Involvement in Torah Activities elevates the mundane.

We are planning a wide range of activities for TAC. We will have Chanukah and Purim Chagigahs, bikur cholim on a weekly basis, regular Rosh Chodesh activities, Shabbat enhancement programs, weekly shiurim on parshat hashavua, Tzedakah drives, and shiurim given by outstanding Jewish leaders. Our outreach programs to different communities around the city involve creating connections by learning Torah and doing Tzedakah activities together. There are ongoing clothing and book drives planned throughout the school year. Volunteers from Stern College will join others as part of the Chai Lifeline program to visit children in the hospital, and other volunteers will participate in kosher soup kitchens to help feed the poor and homeless in New York.

The range of activities of the Torah Activities Council is as broad as your imagination. Think about participating in one of our existing programs or creating your own project...and then challenge yourself. Ask yourself, "how can I enhance the world I live in?" "How can I explore my commitment to chesed and doing mitzvot in a new way?" Then you will begin to understand what TAC is about and how it can provide a fertile ground for your ability to grow intellectually, spiritually and religiously.

Sincerely,
 Gila Loike

DRUGS continued from page 14

more on the human element. "We haven't done a good job in this area," he says. There need to be more extracurricular activities available for those who do not excel academically, and greater emphasis has to be placed on these areas. "Whatever ways we can build up their self-esteem."

It has often been said that if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. In order to help prevent more people, whether they are children, adolescents, teenagers, or college-age, from falling prey to this devastating problem, we must stop it before it starts. The responsibility is on siblings and parents to develop and open and caring relationship the child in his or her preteen years, before the peer pressure and temptation begins. Mr. Lachman noted that, "Drugs are not the problem, they are just a symptom." Parents and siblings' positive

messages and positive relationships is the best drug prevention in the world. Jerry Lobe, a psychologist in Chicago, notes that when Yosef was tempted to sin, his father's face is what saved him. He is sure that the image that rose up was not one of an angry father, but a loving face that said "I love you, and I'd feel horrible if you did anything bad."

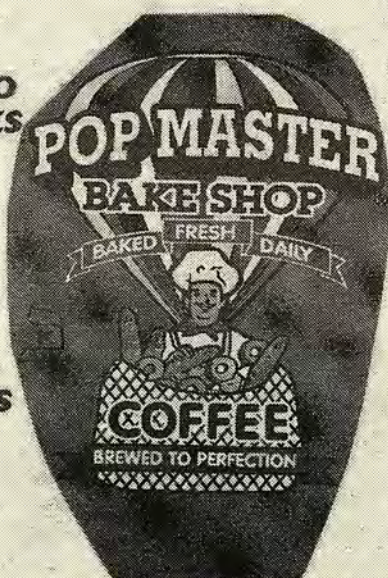
To conclude, we cannot ignore this problem any longer. I would like to close with a final word of advice paraphrased from one of today's anti-drug commercials featuring a clueless child to pass by drug dealers for the first time: We must talk to our kids about drugs, or someone else will.

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Deceptive Conversion

CHANA ROSENBLATT

On Wednesday, April 12, the Task Force on Missionaries and Cults of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York hosted a symposium on "Forced and Deceptive Jewish Conversion for the Inquisition to the Streets of New York." Held at the Edgar M. Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU, the daylong program included three distinguished speakers and a roundtable discussion. The symposium was staged to publicize the threat of missionaries and give the background necessary to understand the Christian imperative to engage Jews in conversion, be it forced, deceptive, or otherwise.

Professor Lawrence Schiffman, Chair, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU, began the program speaking on the roots of the Christian conversion imperative. His discussion centered on the premise that there were two stages of missionizing in the early Christian period. Originally, the mission was only to win over Jewish followers to Jesus. As time elapsed, however, the mission was extended to include Gentiles as well. Verses in the Christian Testament, Schiffman explained, contain evidence of this development and reflect later Christians' desire to proselytize to non-Jews. Many verses contained therein, such as Mark 16:16 and John 14:6, assert that only through belief in Jesus can one be saved. Today, evangelicals believe that just as Jesus preached to Jews and was concerned that they follow him and his ways, so too, they must convince Jews to believe in Jesus.

The next speaker, Professor David Berger of the History Department at Brooklyn College and Graduate Center, traced the evolution of the medieval conversion methodology. While there were few efforts at forcible conversion before the 12th century, by the end of that century serious efforts were being made to facilitate the conversion of Jews to Christianity through vio-

lence and coercion. Previously, Jews had been left to themselves, thanks to the doctrine of Jewish acceptance. Essentially, this stated that Jews were to be left alone because their validation of the Hebrew Bible gave their testimony to the truth of Jesus. Moreover, the doctrine claimed that the downtrodden state of the Jews in exile was a punishment for their crucifixion of Jesus, and thus, the Jews proved once again the veracity of Christianity. In addition, the Christians declared that the existence of the Jews was necessary for the ultimate salvation and resurrection of Jesus.

Despite these Christian beliefs, pressure mounted by the late 12th century to forcibly convert Jews, and the era of Jewish-Christian polemics began in earnest. Biblical proof-texts were brought by either side to prove the truth of their religion. Some of the more famous proof-texts are found in Isaiah and Psalms, with both Christians and Jews interpreting many of the same verses in profoundly different ways. The Jewish response to many of these Christian "proofs" focused on the illogical nature of particular Christian doctrines, such as the trinity and the virgin birth. Another counter-argument employed by the Jews was based on the promise of peace in the time of the Messiah. At a time when no one could claim there was peace, how, the Jews questioned, could the Christians claim that the Messiah had come?

As the situation worsened, the Jews were forced into many uncomfortable situations. Nachmonides (Ramban) was forced by the King of Aragon to participate in the 1263 Barcelona Disputation and take the position of defending Judaism. Christian sermons were forced upon Jews in their Synagogues, and pogroms were frequent, killing numerous Jews and resulting in the conversion of many others. Jews were taken from their homes and were baptized in the presence of large crowds. The

Christian missionary approach combined intimidation, power, and terror with a highly sophisticated use of the Talmud to coerce Jews into accepting Christianity. Many Jews, however, gladly gave up their lives in sanctification of their religious beliefs in order to escape a forced conversion.

A contemporary Christian perspective was provided given by Dr. Jay T. Rock, Co-Director for Interfaith Relations of the National Council of Churches. According to Dr. Rock, the majority of churches belonging to his organization do not believe that one who does not accept Jesus as his savior will go to hell. Therefore, missionizing to Jews and other non-Jews is unnecessary. Evangelical groups, on the other hand, maintain the belief that all people are guilty by nature and remain so until touched by Jesus's faith. They read Scripture as saying that they must proselytize and bring God to everyone, especially to the Jews for having been so dedicated to Him. Thus, they concentrate on Jewish conversion, seeing themselves as doing a favor to those whom they are successful in converting.

In recent years, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, Lutheran, and other groups have issued statements reflecting the new reality between Christians and Jews. They state that the covenant G-d made with the Jewish people remains valid, the living tradition of Judaism is a gift from G-d, and that both Jews and Christians bear a responsibility to witness to G-d's desire for peace in the world. They maintain that anti-Semitism is to be repudiated by the Church as sinful. And finally, they conclude, coercive proselytizing to Jews is incompatible with the Christian faith. This is in direct contrast with Evangelical Christians for whom belief in Christianity alone provides salvation. The crux of the difference, Rock smilingly declared, between Evangelicals and others is that they "do

not always agree on how best to best to love their neighbors."

As the roundtable discussion concluded the program, the current missionizing threat facing the Jewish community was discussed. Messianic Judaism, Hebrew Christians, Jews for Jesus, and countless others lure in many Jews by promising that one can keep traditions while believing in Jesus. Never is the word conversion mentioned. Instead, they speak of being a "completed Jew." In order to maintain this façade, these missionary groups make use of the Star of David, the talit, Sukkot, Passover seders, menorahs, and other Jewish sacred symbols, rituals, and terminology. They refer to Jesus as Yeshua, to the Christian Testament as the Brit Hachadashah, and speak of baptism as tevilah in a mikveh, all in the hope of deceiving unsuspecting Jews of the close connection between practicing Judaism and Christianity. In truth, they practice a form of Christianity. They receive support from the Southern Baptist Church, the organization that engages in deceptive tactics and is quoted as saying, "when you become a Christian, you become more of a Jew...you become more Jewish than ever."

There are now several hundred Messianic Churches as well as over 140 Hebrew Christian groups. Missionaries have bases all over the world and work from a multimillion-dollar budget with tremendous resources. To further their cause, they distribute humanitarian aid, including clothing, food, and sources of education. Clothed in the garb of authentic Judaism, many Jews fall prey to their methods and propaganda. Frighteningly enough, blackmail and mind controlling techniques are also employed to restrain those who want to escape the cult of Hebrew Christians. To become involved in counter missionary work, contact the JCRC's task force. More information can also be found at www.Tforce.org.

Behind Closed Doors

Substance Abuse and Orthodox Teens

LISA HELPRIN

While in High School, just as the Yeshiva world was beginning to take notice of the growing amount of substance abuse in the Jewish community, I attended a forum on the aforementioned topic. In order to stress the sobriety of the issue at hand, the speaker introduced himself by asking the audience, a group of High School age students, how many of us would know where to obtain drugs if we so desired. I was shocked and distraught at the result -- hand after hand shot into the air, until the only hand that was not raised was mine. How can this be? I questioned. Are so many of our youth falling prey to the same problem from which we once innocently thought we were immune?

The answer, unfortunately, is yes. According to Moshe Wangrofsky of the Yitti Leibel Helpline, "You won't find any problem in the larger community that won't get to ours. It won't be the same in numbers, but still, it is not a rarity. There are no real statistics, but a substantial number of kids are doing it." The Helpline was set up in 1986, and is designed to give people from the Orthodox

community the opportunity to speak to a therapist from the same religious nature from the comfort of their own home. According to Mr. Wangrofsky and Zalman Lachman of Project Y.E.S. the problem was always present, but the more right wing community began to take note in full force in the last five to ten years. Also, originally only thought to be a problem for boys, Mr. Wangrofsky notes, "girls have just about caught up." In recent years, hotlines have been set up and articles published, and the issue is often addressed in the schools or the community synagogues.

Kids start using drugs for different reasons. These reasons might include low self-esteem or family-related problems. Also, Mr. Lachman adds that in today's society, drugs are unfortunately cheap and easy to come by. Therefore, when kids' feelings of depression or anxiety become too much for them, they often turn to drugs or alcohol for help.

When asked what the warning signs are for this problem, Mr. Lachman responded that siblings and parents

should be on the lookout for decreased functioning. There are major changes that take place in a drug user's life, such as change in mood, appetite, friends, schoolwork, and sleep patterns. However, Mr. Lachman also noted that these can be "warning signs of adolescence." He stressed that relatives and friends need to work on building positive relationships so that they are able to talk to their kids. If the child knows that he or she can come to the parent just to talk, the child will be less likely to turn to substances. Additionally, as college-age students, we can have our own impact. Adolescents might feel more comfortable talking to someone they feel will understand them, and we in turn have every obligation to make ourselves readily available to them.

Mr. Wangrofsky also suggested that changes should be made within the Jewish education system. Firstly, he feels both principals and the community at large should work much harder to keep trouble kids in school instead of considering expulsion. Additionally, he feels that less stress should be placed on academic achievement, and

continued on page 13

ATHLETIC COMPLEX ANNOUNCES

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Stern Goes to Amsterdam

SHARONNA THURM

I hate the excuses. In art class, you know them; "The slide is tinted, you can't really tell the color of the painting". "The picture is much larger in real life", "the picture is much smaller in real life", "if you could walk around to the back you would see..." and so on. This summer, seven Stern undergraduates were offered the opportunity to earn three honors art history credits. Led by Professor Evelyn Cohen the Stern Women were given few lecturers, fewer classroom settings, and absolutely no excuses.

The students selected for this intensive ten-day, fourty-three hour program were given the chance to study in Amsterdam, Holland. Through near total immersion they were presented with many works of the 17th - Century Dutch Masters.

Informal talks and discussions prefaced trips to museums. The undergraduates were then able to explore and experience the works of art on their own, with the help of an audio guide, or Professor Cohen herself.

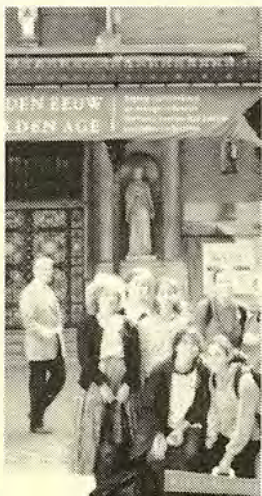
The group had the privilege of hearing lectures presented by many prestigious and influential members of the Dutch Jewish Art World, among them, Drs. Edward van Voolen, curator of the Jewish Museum, Drs. Rivka Weiss, director of the Joods Historisch Museum and Dr. Emile Schrijver, Director of the Menasseh ben Israel Institute. It was an educational atmosphere where questions, ideas and discussions were welcome.

The students saw many great masterpieces including; Rembrandt's Nightwatch, The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp, and Jeremiah Lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem, two-hundred of Van Gogh's paintings, Johannes Vermeer's The Kitchen Maid, Frans Hals The Regents of The Old Man's Almhouse in Haarlem, just to name a few. Artists like Joseph Israel, a leading painter of the Hague School, allowed for an easy transition

into learning about Jewish Dutch culture.

"A cross section of Netherlandish life and the synergism of past and present were never as keenly felt as when touring the Jewish quarter and the Portuguese Synagogue," says T.A. Rhonda Forest. The Portuguese Synagogue, undisputed as one of the architectural masterpieces of the Jewish world, was the epicenter of Jewish life in Amsterdam during the 17th -

Century. This monument to Judaism was the place where Stern undergraduates were able to experience the hospitality of the Dutch community. Shabbat in this historic setting was among the once in a lifetime experiences that the



woman took part in. The trip was packed with first-rate experiences. One that will stand out in the student's mind was the tour of the Jewish Cemetery of Ouderkerk. It was there that the group of Stern woman, with their knowledge of Hebrew writing, symbols, and biblical stories, were able to help the employees of the cemetery to understand pictures, words and pesukim on the graves. It was not only an educational tour, but a time of exciting participatory study and discovery.

Professor Evelyn Cohen, instituted the summer classes in the art capitals of Europe last year with a trip to Florence, Italy. With her supreme knowledge and wonderful organizational skills, Professor Cohen led the undergraduates through an intense, pleasant and rewarding course "The course was very enjoyable and educational, thanks to Professor Cohen, who prepared every portion of this trip," says Mina Shoshani. Adina Levine sums up the mood of the students when she says, "I got three credits for having fun. What could be better?"

Dov Lov's Organic Jam

An Interview With Micah Dov

SARAH P. CATE

No, it's not that stuff you were supposed to know about for your organic chemistry lab tomorrow, it's a great new band that started earlier this year. Started by Micah Dov, the band plays about once a month at the Baggot Inn, in Manhattan's West Village. They also play at the Elbow Room, every other Friday night, in the upstairs room.

The band started by accident, according to Micah Dov. Dov had a solo gig at C.V.'s Gallery, which is a one-room performance space. "I was overwhelmed with its size, so I asked some of my friends to come and jam with me. My friend Pat played percussion, and my friend Josh played the saxophone. We jammed together, and we've continued from there in the same motif of free style improv, or simple rhythmic groove."

Dov became interested in music when he began conducting with his father at the age of four. "Something about music interested me," Dov commented. He played the drums in high school, joined the jazz ensemble, and the marching band. In college, he played the drums with a rock band. Although he had a great time playing the drums, he started playing the guitar, as well as singing. "I knew then that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

And so far, he has. Prior to starting "Dov Lov's Organic Jam," he played lead guitar in the band "Brother Simple". Currently, he plays lead guitar, sings, and writes songs for "Dov Lov's Organic Jam." The other members include Josh Marcus on saxophone, Pat Vertucci, drums, percussion, and background vocals, Pesquale on bass, and Nick Robinson on marimba vibrophone, or martels. They often feature special guests, including female vocalists.

Dov describes the band's music as rhythmic groove or free-style rhythmic groove. "The basis for our music is the rhythm. The rhythm dictates the song-writing. The drummer is always a big sounding board for me, in terms of advice about the songs. In some respects, everyone plays a rhythm instrument, even though we all play basically string

instruments." Dov's musical inspirations include Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Santana, Phish, and the Dave Matthews Band. He also cites jazz greats such as Miles Davis and Tilonius Monk. He included the Afro-Cuban AllStars, James Brown, and Roots.

Dov is an American Jew, but he says that the band's music has a definite Middle Eastern musical influence. "It's infused with a Middle Eastern influence; some of our songs are even in Hebrew, because it's sometimes easier to express some feelings in Hebrew. For example, our song "Yad", has more in Hebrew than I would be able to say in English. Knowing Hebrew has of course influenced me. I spent four and a half months in Israel and the Middle Eastern rhythms in some of our songs are a result of this influence."

When I asked Dov if he felt that his band catered to any particular audience, he replied, "We cater to people with an open mind and a good musical ear. We don't really cater to anyone in particular; we'd like to think of ourselves as universally likable. We've gotten lots of support from the Jewish community, as well as the hip-hop community. We've also gotten support from those who you wouldn't necessarily think we'd be popular with, such as the Latino community. We've found niches in every ethnic group."

Dov says that he hopes "Dov Lov's Organic Jam" can be fortunate enough to have this jamming pay their bills. He hopes that they will go on tour and someday get a record deal. He ultimately hopes that the band members will not have to have nine to five jobs, and that music will be their way of life.

They are currently compiling a live CD, which will simply be a live recording of their performances. They are also in the process of recording a half to full length CD, which debuted in July. Within the next two weeks, the live CD will be available. They also have a website in process, but can be reached at dovlov@aol.com, for the present.

The Islanders' Historic Summer

SARA LAMPERT

This past summer may have very well been a turning point in Islanders history. The team was officially sold to Computer Associates Charles Wang and Sanjay Kumar. Right away these new owners expressed their desire to double the payroll, which had been at a league low sixteen million last year. This means that more quality players can be signed and veteran help can be added to a team composed mostly of "kids". While walking into the Islanders offices everyday at Nassau Coliseum, the excitement can be felt from people who have been with this organization through thick and thin and believe that this team will be in the playoffs this year for the first time in years.

Another exciting event for the Islanders this summer was receiving the first overall pick in the NHL draft. With that pick the team chose an eighteen-year-old goalie named Rick DiPietro out of Boston University. He was asked if he felt capable of being goalie for the NHL at such a young age. For security the Islanders do have a goalie that they traded for on draft day, getting John Vanbiesbrouck from the Philadelphia Flyers. He is thirty-six years old and should be able to fill the slot of "mentor" to the young DiPietro.

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