



Single SCW Student Takes Both Valedictorians

Fruchter to be Judaic Studies as well as General Valedictorian

By: Adina Levine

For only the third time in SCW history, one student will take both honors of valedictorian. Nava



Nava Fruchter,
Valedictorian

Fruchter, Judaic studies major with a minor in Biology, will be Valedictorian in both General Studies and Judaic studies.

"I have mixed feelings," Fruchter remarked. "On the one hand, I've had a great time at SCW and loved my roommates, but on the other hand it's time to move on."

As a pre-dental student, Fruchter enjoyed the double curriculum of Judaic Studies as well as science classes. She participated in basketball in murals, the

Blood Drive, and NCSY. After getting married in June, Fruchter will attend Stonybrook school in the fall.

"I love SCW," exclaimed Fruchter. "I'm the biggest SCW fan. It's been the best combination of everything for me. I love the small classes, the teachers always there to help you, and especially my chevre of friends. My friends have been very important to me."

Other seniors heralded Fruchter as an appropriate selection for valedictorian. "She's a really
continued on page 22

Dershowitz Delivers "Jewish Justice" at SCW

By: Alexandra Beard

On May 3, Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, spoke on the topic of "Jewish Justice" at the 2001 Hillel Rogoff Annual Lecture held at the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center.

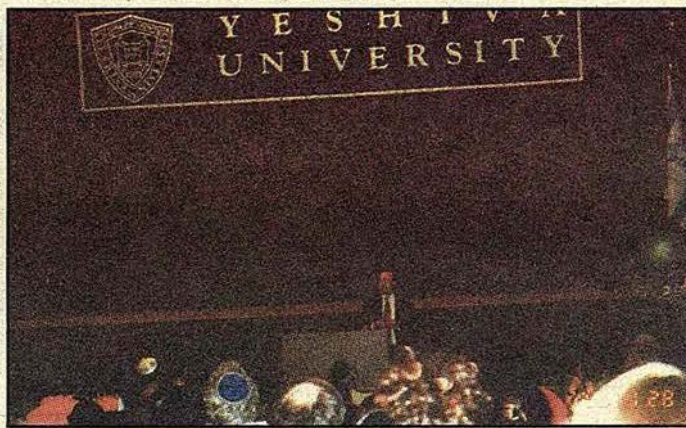
Dershowitz, who was "thrilled to be at Stern College," met with students of the Honors Program before the lecture for a dinner and informal discussion. Promoting further discussion was the goal for Dershowitz's lecture as well. "I don't think of myself as a lecturer, so I'd rather get involved in a dialogue about what is Jewish justice," he began.

The central idea of Dershowitz's speech was that equality, the foundation of democracy, is rooted in the tradition of Judaism. He cited various Jewish law-based concepts, such as the notion of 'an eye for an eye,' to prove that justice is fundamental to the Torah and that all Jews are created equal in Jewish law. "Judaism plays a very important role in my life - it's how I teach my

courses and do my cases," Dershowitz commented.

Dershowitz also posed the idea that there are counter trends to equality in the Torah. "There are tensions in the Jewish tradition about equality," he asserted. He mentioned the concepts of slavery, the Jews as the chosen people, the "caste system" of Kohanim and the role divisions between men and women (of which Dershowitz ascribes to "feminist equality") as examples of dissonance. "Nevertheless, the overarching principle and dominating trend in Judaism is that all are created equal," Dershowitz concluded on the matter.

Dershowitz stressed throughout his speech the connection between Torah and democracy. "The beginning



Dershowitz Speaks at Cultural Center to packed audience.

of democracy is integrating law and narrative, which the Torah does successfully," he stated. "The greatness of the
continued on page 11

Students Request Housing for Talmud Program

Evaluating Program's Effects After First Year

By: Miriam Colton

Three SCW students attending the Advanced Talmud Program for Women next semester submitted a proposal to Rabbi Lamm last week, asking that the women in the program be given on-campus housing. "We envision not merely a learning program, but also a learning community, where the women ... foster an entirely new dynamic in the *beis medrash*...and enhance the Torah environment," Rebecca Feldman, Jennie Rosenfeld, and Nechama Soloveichik stated in their May 6th letter.

At a meeting last Wednesday that included Rabbi Lamm, Sheldon Socol, Dr. Lowengrub and Dean Bacon, the proposal was brought up and rumored to have caused disagreement, though no official answer has been given to the students and another meeting is planned for this week. It's still under active

consideration," said Dean Karen Bacon. "I personally hope that it will be resolved quickly and that they be granted on-campus housing."

Misgivings about providing the housing, besides the great cost of renting additional apartments, include setting a precedent for other graduate students. "If we grant them housing, what will we do with other requests for graduate housing, such as from Wurzweiler and Fe'kauf," explained Rabbi Lamm. "We're facing a dilemma that we haven't yet resolved, but it's not because we're unsympathetic to these women."

For the second-year of the Talmud program some new additions have been instituted. Rabbi Eytan Mayer, assistant rabbi at the Jewish Center and former teacher at Drisha, will be giving the second-year afternoon halacha shiur. Second-year students will also be required to give guest *shiurim* at various public forums and possibly lead *chaburot* at SCW. "During the first year we focus on building skills and in the second year, while this in-depth learning continues, we will see the students come out and become more involved in the community," explained Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, director of the graduate program.

After two years of intense Talmud study, some of the graduate students plan on becoming gemara teachers, which many feel it will be valuable to the Jewish world. "Women gemara teachers in high schools would have weight in impressing on young
continued on page 20



Lisa Seligsohn and Rachel Goldstein, program participants, prepare for shiur

BERMAN TO TAKE TWO YEAR LEAVE

By: Observer Staff

Joining the increasing faculty members to leave SCW, renowned and controversial teacher Saul Berman will take a two year leave. Combining



his sabbatical payments with a year's leave of absence, Berman plans to spend the two years catching up on scholarly learning and writing. He will be editing his book on *d'rash* on the *parshiot* as well as compiling essays regarding women and Jewish law. "I try to keep up in areas I teach so the classes will be up to date," commented

Berman. "I've been using the courses of a way of refining my thinking in these areas."

Having taught at SCW for thirty years, Rabbi Berman regularly taught four halacha classes: Women and Jewish Law, Medical Ethics, Individual in Society, and one other straight halacha class such as Shabbos or Tefilla. While he will continue his Edah work during his leave, Berman promises to return to SCW in two years.

SCW students were upset to discover that such a renowned professor will be leaving. "It will be a loss to the student body," said Sara Brodsky, SCW sophomore. "If a student wants to be in touch with any changes in the Modern Orthodox world, he's the class to take."

"I've never had him," remarked Abby Calm, SCW sophomore. "But I probably won't take him, because when he returns I'll have graduated."



Married Women at
SCW
Page 12



End-of-the-Year
Dessert
Page 13



New Academic Advisor
Page 24

NEWS BRIEFS

Bush Announces Decision to Shield U.S. Against Missile Attacks - After President Bush announced his decision to build a shield against missile attacks, China warned of a new arms race. Russia also warned of nuclear weapons instability as a result of Bush's decision. Bush's decision stemmed from the fact that due to the decision of rogue states, "Cold War deterrence is no longer enough." China, however, feels that the U.S. missile defense plan has violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, will destroy the balance of international security forces.

Ofra Man Killed As Intifada Rages - On Tuesday, May 1, 2001, Assad Hershkovitz, a resident of Ofra, a West Bank settlement, was shot and killed by Palestinian gunmen on his way to work. Hershkovitz, who is survived by his mother, wife, siblings and children, was buried in a Petach Tikva cemetery next to his father, also an Ofra resident, who was killed in a terrorist attack in January 2001.

Hunger Strikes Continue to Claim Lives in Turkey - 20 people have already died in Turkey as a result of the hunger strike they began in October to call attention to the treatment of prisoners in Turkish jails. Although the majority of the strikers are prison inmates, 3 civilians have already died from starvation, and several more are in critical condition. The strikers are fighting for prisoners' rights to more human contact, exercise and less-crowded facilities.

Louis Freeh Announces Resignation as Director of F.B.I. - On May 1, 2001, Louis J. Freeh, who has served for 8 years as the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced that he will resign from his position at the end of June. Although Freeh announced his intentions prior to the presidential election, he agreed to continue working until after President Bush's transition into office. President Bush hoped that Freeh would change his mind, but was not surprised by Freeh's decision.

The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10016.
 (212) 683-4943. Fax: (212) 340-7773.
 E-mail Observer@ymail.yu.edu.

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*PUT YOUR BEST
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Message from the Editors



Adina Levine
Editor-in-Chief

A few months ago, after an extremely rare occurrence of actually having a shot of mine go into the basket, I jumped out of excitement and landed funny on my ankle. I won't brag that I managed to score once after a year of playing basket-

ball, but the throbbing pain of my ankle canceled any extravagant party I might have planned. I wore crutches for a day, mainly as an attention-getter, giving my cousin a scare as she bounded across the cafeteria to find out whether I'd be able to walk down her sister's aisle. But I soon discovered that crutches made it quite difficult to carry a bulging knapsack and manage my main dish with two sides from the cafeteria. Furthermore, the pain of the crutches straining my arms was worse than the pain of my ankle. I made the questionably wise decision to walk on my twisted ankle and just use the crutches to whack some teachers, and soon decided to give up the crutches completely. Three weeks later, I was able to play basketball again.

Soon after this traumatic incident in my life, I met another student on crutches with an injury slightly more serious than mine (if there exists anything more serious than my ghastly injury). She didn't have the liberty of using crutches only to push her way into the elevator and was relegated to swing back and forth with the crutches supporting her one good leg. The would-be doctors yelled conflicting prescriptions at her: "Stay off it"; "Try to walk on it"; "Ice it"; "Elevate it"; or even "Sleep in your shoes." But every single SCW student she passed, whether they knew her or not, questioned her: "What happened to you?!"

More often than not, this question is not prompted by concern or sympathy but by curiosity. Did you hurt yourself because you saw a cute movie star and tripped into his arms? Did you fall down the stairs and have to beep the GA (who I'm sure was more than thrilled to be woken up) and have to go to the hospital at three in the morning? Were you hit by a car and came within an inch of your life? Students should realize that life is not as dramatic as portrayed in ER (nor as romantic as Dawson's Creek) and that the student who breaks her ankle by tripping over a pillow need not feel embarrassed for not having an exciting story to tell. And the question seeking to get the story succumbs only to idle curiosity to get the gossip.

Students need to recognize the difference between gossip and concern. "What happened to you?" when asked out of concern can create a bond between two friends or provide an opening for repressed tension. By contrast, when this question is asked out of idle curiosity, it simply reminds the injured student of her degraded condition without alleviating her pain. If she would have the ability to forget for one instant the throbbing pain of the injury or the inconvenience of the crutches, this bliss would not last long before another girl poses the intruding accusation of "What happened to you?"

As editors of our college newspaper, we are forced to distinguish between concern and gossip, between news and lashon hara. Many issues have come up lately that involved interesting anecdotes and scathing elevator talk but often lacked constructive purpose. We had to ask ourselves, "What would printing this material accomplish?" and the crucial answer promises to define the purpose of our newspaper as a whole. If every article needs a constructive purpose, then the newspaper is essentially a powerful vehicle for administrative change, similar to the Student Senate. On the other hand, if the purpose of the paper is to simply transmit news from the knowledgeable elite (a glorified image of ourselves) to the ignorant masses, then there is much more leeway for articles to flow into the range of gossip.

I think the answer lies in a combination of these extremes, in a golden mean of compromise. The overall goal of our newspaper is to be a forum for student opinions and serve some form of social purpose, yet some individual articles can limit their scope to merely circulating information or sparking controversy. But when an article has the potential to hurt someone - whether it be a student or an organization, current YU administrators or future SCW students - then the parameters are different. Conflicting obligations present themselves - the right of the students to know, the accountability of student representatives and administrators, and the recognition that a single student's actions can have ramifications that are beyond her intentions - and some form of a balance must be created.

And maybe there is no right answer. Maybe every article that has the potential to hurt also has the potential to help, and every decision is a weighing of the factors involved to come to an ethically sound conclusion without a formal policy. But we also realize that gossip that has the potential to hurt is worse than all the advantages of news, and the public's right to know may be compromised for the benefit of an individual. And therefore we hesitate before printing every single article and think about the ramifications of crossing the fine line between news and gossip, whether it be the politics behind administrative procedures or how someone sprained her ankle last night.



Miriam Colton
Editor-in-Chief

Anonymous letters. Anonymous quotes. Anonymous articles. Student reluctance to talk or be quoted is a recurring theme I have noticed with every issue of the paper.

Students often approach me in the caf or computer lab with issues they want raised in the paper. One complains about registration, another on the state of our library. However, when I ask if I can quote them or if they would be willing to write a letter to the editor they suddenly become nervous. "Well I don't want to be quoted or have my name printed," they reply. They want their opinions and complaints aired but not with their names attached. Half the letters the Observer received last issue were signed anonymously.

It's not like we're discussing classified information or inflammatory opinions. Two issues ago a student wrote an article about her dilemmas and experience with Marijuana use, signed anonymously. That I understand. But students don't want to be associated even with innocuous statements like "Club hour is a waste of time, or "the computer labs needs to be updated," or "more students should stay in on Shabbat."

So I spent time thinking about why SCW students are so hesitant to give their names, and came up with the following possible reasons.

1) Image. SCW students are preoccupied with how others will perceive them. Undeniably, many stu-

dents are focused on marriage and are worried that any public statement might by some farfetched chance affect their reputation.

2) Self-confidence. When it comes time to express their opinions, students are no longer sure that they're right.

3) Tzniut. A "bas yisroel" is supposed to avoid attention and shrink from the limelight. Having their name in print makes some women uncomfortable.

The point of our newspaper is to share information and to effect positive change in SCW. But this can't happen if students aren't willing to stand behind what they think. Imagine if someone watched a court case and all the witnesses were unidentified. If someone told you a psak and wouldn't name the Rabbi who gave it. It would lose all credibility. People aren't going to trust letters and quotes that are unattributed - if the author is not sure, why should anyone else be? Lacking tzniut is when you go public for the sake of going public. When it's for a constructive purpose, there's nothing flashy or immodest about it.

But I think there is an even more basic reason why people should name themselves. If you've taken the time to write a letter or express an opinion to a writer, then you should trust yourself. Believe that you're saying something intelligent and don't worry what people will say. If you have a stance, then that's part of who you are and its never a good idea to hide your identity. Ultimately, anonymity lacks self-respect.

For next year's paper, we want student involvement. We want your quotes, your articles, your letters - but we want them signed.



Alexandra Beard
Executive Editor

I've never really written an editorial before. So naturally, I am a bit amiss as to what to say. I

mean, an editorial is meant to serve as a sort of soapbox, which I am not so inclined to stand on, for the editors of a paper. I expressed to Adina Levine my inability to think of something to write about. She told me to write something "you'd like to share with the rest of the student body." But even if I had some thoughts and observations to share with the students of SCW, would they really be heard? In other words, is anyone reading?

Do not get me wrong. I am not raising this question just to

get people to read my editorial, or the editorials of Adina Levine and Miriam Colton.

Rather, I am questioning if people are reading the paper at all, or at least flipping through to look at the pictures or skim the headlines.

I don't know about anyone else, but I always looked forward to when the new Observer came out. Even when I first arrived at Stern last year, I was excited to get involved in a "real college newspaper." A college paper enables students to read articles written by and about friends, to find out about school events and programs, and to simply get a glimpse at what is happening around campus. It should be a paper that as soon as it hits the shelves, every student takes a copy simply because she's interested in her school and wants to read about it. But at SCW, are we interested in our school, and do we want to read about it?

With a rampant case of student apathy plaguing SCW, we all know that almost every student club or organization has been affected by low participation. And as I pass by foot-high stacks of unread Observers throughout the school still remaining from last edition, I can't help but be concerned that our own school paper isn't faring any better.

I can speak for Adina, Miriam, and the rest of the Observer staff when I say that the Observer is meant to be read, and it is not meant to sit idly in stacks waiting for prospective students and guests to walk by and pick up a copy. A school paper is a reflection of the school, and we are certainly creating a poor reflection of our college if its paper is hardly read by the students.

I guess editorials really are meant to be soapboxes after all.

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Letters

Indifference Plagues SSSB Dinner

Dear Editors:

We recently attended the annual SSSB awards reception. It was a ceremony that awarded various graduating seniors for academic/leadership accomplishments. The only part of the event that was disappointing was the obvious display of student apathy, particularly among the SCW/SSSB women. This was exhibited mostly by the serious lack of the womens' attendance. We are not even enrolled in the Sy Syms program, yet we attended to congratulate and support a friend who was one of the honorees.

It came as a real shock how few students showed up to applaud their friends. As women, we should rise to support our friends and peers. It is an unfortunate time-honored tradition that people tend to fall to the lowest standards of behavior. Instead of drawing strength from one another and uniting to be a source of power and change, we as a collective group of SCW women, tend to care only for ourselves and lead generally egocentric lives. Student apathy is by far one of the worst results of this trend.

There are countless events in SCW/YU/SSSB that go almost unnoticed mostly because of students' lack of school pride or interest in student activities. As seniors, we have noticed this trend for the past four years. However, when we attended the awards ceremony, it became obvious that student apathy has reached a new high. Students could not even bother to make an appearance to support their own friends.

We call on the student body of

SCW/SSSB to put a stop to the student apathy. There will always be the students who cannot be bothered to attend events and participate in student activities. But we remind you, it is not these people who we should emulate. Only the people who aren't afraid to break the mold achieve great things. Let this be the goal of the continuing and incoming students of SCW/SSSB: Break the mold and end student apathy!

Estee Stern and Michal Gold
SCW Seniors

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Interview



Dear Editors:

I want to share something unusual that happened to me. Last week, I was sitting on the downtown "6" train. I looked across the aisle and saw three Hispanic middle school boys sitting and reading a newspaper... The Stern Observer.

Kudos on your widespread circulation!

Vivi Stahl
SCW Sophomore

Think About What You Write

Dear Observer,

First, I want to congratulate Adina Levine and Miriam Colton on their appointments as Editors-in-Chief.

Here's my issue: A few months ago, I was speaking with a member of the Observer staff. We were discussing whether she should write an article about a controversial issue taking place in a Stern's dormitory. She asserted that if events are taking place at SCW, students have the right to know. And anyway, she went on, "It would make a great article." I disagreed with her. I said that publicizing this event would cause machlokes and would incite lashon hara. No story, no matter how juicy, is worth the controversy it causes. She agreed not to print the article as it would cause detriment to all parties involved. I thought that that was the end of that.

A few weeks ago, I was talking to a different editor from the Observer and we had a similar discussion. She knew "of something fishy" that was going on at YU and if she could uncover it, it would make a great story. However, if printed, there would be negative consequences for some people involved. Again, the same argument came up.

She said that when there is a benefit to a greater cause and things need to be changed, the article is necessary even if there are unpleasant consequences. She claimed that the public was entitled to hear about it and there

fore, it was the newspaper's responsibility to print it. I do not know if she decided to go through with the story.

As frum Jews, this question is very applicable to us. Editors of a newspaper obviously have a big ta'ava to write interesting articles that will attract readers - but is that halachic justification to print news that can hurt, if not ruin, other people? I don't think so. From a halachic standpoint, a boring newspaper is vastly preferable to one full of lashon hara and stories that ruin reputations of people, as well as institutions.

True, I won't make a great journalist. But I feel that more important than getting a "great story" is knowing that you used your position to help people and not to harm. I hope that the Observer staff feels the same way.

Ariela Dworetzky
SCW Sophomore

The Observer welcomes your
letters to the Editors.

Email us at
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We reserve the right to edit for
grammar, length, and content.
No unsigned letters will be
printed.

We Hope you had a Great Year! Good Luck With Finals! Have A Great Summer!

Dear Fellow Students,

In the last edition of the Observer there was a derogatory article written in regards to the new website which SCWSC established this year. We, the executive board, were shocked to read that such an article was written without any input from us. In the article, there was a misrepresentation of the facts in regards to the amount of money spent on the purchasing of the website. After reading the article, we spoke to the reporter asking her how she arrived at such an outlandish number without our input. She claimed she had reliable sources. However, this is unlikely, considering that only the executive board knows how much money was spent. After the reporter admitted she should have consulted us, she still refused to print a correction.

Therefore, we feel we should tell you, the student body, the REAL story. The amount of money spent was actually a few thousand dollars less than the amount reported. Moreover, we are very proud of the website and the great services it provides to the student body. Some of the various features included on the site are as follows: A calendar schedule of all upcoming events throughout the year, a special feature displaying the special events of the week, a listing of all clubs, their descriptions, and whom to contact to get involved within the particular club, a listing of all student government leaders, a suggestion box to voice your ideas and opinions, a contest section where you can win various prizes, a featured student of the week, a mazel tov section, and a pictures in review section filled with pictures from past student council events.

We hope you will take advantage of all that SCWSC.COM has to offer, and will use it well for many years to come. As for the Observer, we would like to remind them there is contact information for all members on the executive board on the website. We hope that in the future they will take the time to utilize these services. Thanks again. Good luck in finals and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Chani Schubert, President

Letters Continued...**Tosh Memories**

Dear Editors:

Last week, I received the December 19, 2000 copy of the Stern College newspaper, "The Observer." Ms. Beard's article on page 4 regarding the village of Tosh struck a responsive chord.

In July of 1993, I made a visit to Hungary to seek family roots. In the course of my travels, I wrote down my impressions of the places I saw and the people I met. In describing my visit to Tass (the same place, just different spelling), I remembered our first stop on our way to Kisvarda and later Uzhorod, formerly Ungvar (in what is now the Ukraine) was the Jewish cemetery outside the village of Tass. Before 1040, there were perhaps 20 Jewish families living in Tass, yet among them were several hassidic rebbeim whose learning and piety brought great renown to this tiny community. Pursuing his one man campaign to keep their memories alive, Reb Moshe (my guide) could not pass Tass without paying his respects.

Thank you for your well written piece.

Cordially,
Victor B. Geller
YC '48

Club Hour a No-Show for Student Body

By: Rivky Guber

On Wednesday afternoons between 2:40 and 3:35, both Koch and "the caf" fill with students very grateful for the extended lunch hour. "I don't know why the administration did this, but I think a long lunch hour once a week is a great idea," said one thankful junior.

There is a problem, however. This extra block of time is no extended lunch period, but the officially allotted Club Hour, a time slot intended for Stern clubs to hold meetings and occasionally offer lectures relevant to the club.

For some, Club Hour is an insignificant part of the schedule. One SCW sophomore commented, "Club Hour is a totally new concept. I only found out about it this week."

Why so many students continue to remain unaware of the opportunities available to them during Club Hour is not easily explained. It is not the fault of the clubs themselves - they readily make their events available to everyone through wide publicity. The club fairs at the beginning of each semester allow students to learn about clubs and join e-mail lists of those clubs that pique their interest.

On the other hand, some students felt that club hour is a waste of time. "It's ridiculous," said Yael Fischer, SCW sopho-

more. "Club hour is not utilized as it could be, and it's scheduled at such an inconvenient time."

However, the administration maintains that Club Hour is an effective use of time. "Contrary to popular belief, a lot goes on during Club Hour," said Mrs. Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Student Services. "If students are not aware, it is simply because they don't read the signs posted throughout the school buildings."

Indeed, the easel that stands at the entrance of the school building regularly displays signs announcing meetings, lectures, or discussions of some sort. The easel stands in a very high traffic area, and it is presumed that all who pass by will notice the signs. Fliers are also placed on the bulletin boards of every floor in the school buildings and dorms.

However, it may not be lack of publicity that produces a low turnout at Club Hour events. Many students rely on the free time slot for other things. "Club Hour serves a very important purpose in my weekly schedule," said Dafna Schindler, SCW junior. "It's the one time out of the whole week when no one has class and every student is available. And it's also a great time to get lunch."

**Observe Me**
A Column of Opinions

Michal Leah Kanovsky

A young man in the YU rabinate program (let me be clear that this is a hypothetical situation) decides that he needs a break. As the summer approaches he makes plans to go to Las Vegas to work as a dealer at some casino, living as a non-Jew for three months. He does so, and at the end of three months, after having tried every anti-halachik thing he was ever tempted to try (could mean he ate ham, could mean he coveted his neighbor's wife) he returns to YU and settles back into the rabinate program. He feels the experience was good for him. It was a taste of the other side and it reaffirmed his yiddishkeit. Admirable as it is that he rediscovered his faith, would you accept him as your rabbi?

Is it legitimate to 'take a few months off' from religion if a person believes that the break would be to his ultimate spiritual benefit? Would you want someone as your rabbi who found that it was spiritually positive for him to enjoy a cheeseburger?

Being Shomeret Negiah is an extraordinarily difficult thing to do, especially in an environment where one encounters the opposite sex almost daily. A few months ago, I was complaining to a friend about it and she gave me some words of advice. "If you're going to be thinking about it all the time, then you may as well just give in and fool around; you'll get it out of your system, and you'll be able to concentrate on more important things."

Was she right? After all, there is a concept in Judaism that a penitent stands on a higher level than his peers do. When a person returns to Judaism, having been to the other side, it is a completely amazing and worthy thing. That person cannot be compared to a person who never strayed from the path and in many ways, probably does achieve a higher level. But does this apply to someone who returns, or to someone who purposefully goes off the Derech in order to return.

They say that Yitro tried out every Avoda Zara, and then chose Hashem. When Moshe married Tziporah, Yitro made Moshe agree to let him expose Moshe's son to all the Avoda Zarot so that he too could make his own decision, ultimately choosing Hashem, and have the same strong faith that Yitro had in an informed decision. Moshe therefore did not circumcise his son right away. But Hashem did not agree with this reasoning and sent a snake to attack Moshe, until Tziporah circumcised their son. Hashem may have been saying that although an informed decision-making process worked for Yitro, it is not the only (or the best) path to faith.

Yitro's faith may have

been stronger than that of an average person. Since he had no issues about the reasons for accepting Hashem (after he accepted Hashem), he could grow in leaps and bounds, unencumbered by questions of 'why' or 'what if?' that may cause the next person (who did not have Yitro's informed faith) to waiver. Perhaps Yitro could achieve spiritually in a day (as far as things like prayer) what might take faith-struggling Plony Almony a year to achieve. Should Plony Almony test out all the other religions, like Yitro, in order to quicken up his own spiritual process to be as first-rate as Yitro's?

Religion, though, is not measurable by utilitarian standards. A day for Yitro (who did not have the struggle) and a year for Plony Almony could be equal in the ultimate scheme of things. The struggle itself is not something that needs to be rid of, and faith is not something that needs to come easy. If the way toward oneself of the struggle for faith is to do something that one knows is wrong, then perhaps it's better to keep the struggle for faith rather than to achieve clarity through an illegitimate measure.

Obviously there are Ba'alei Teshuvot who grow from the experience. This is not meant as a polemic against those who have found faith through going off the Derech and then coming back on. Rather, I am speaking to those who are at the level of trusting in the Torah, but still struggle with particular doubts or temptations. They may think that it would be beneficial to experiment a little, even go against the Torah a bit, in order to facilitate better growth in the long run. I'm arguing that one should not succumb to that type of reasoning.

Yes, those out there who have done everything are steps ahead of those of us who haven't. Those who have gone off and come back have usually resolved issues that those of us who have not left may never resolve. But perhaps getting temptation 'out of one's system' is not the ultimate goal. Temptation is there and will always be there. The struggle itself is worthy and speed or quantity is not the measure of growth. The ultimate goal is keeping the Torah and nowhere in the Torah is there a loophole that allows one to take a short break from its laws to conquer personal demons.

So struggle with wanting that cheeseburger even if the struggle keeps you from earning as much as you would if you just got the temptation out of your system by eating the cheeseburger. Know that the merit of keeping the Torah and struggling with the temptation is just as worthy as all the learning that could be achieved through ridding oneself of temptation in an unlawful way.

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Presidential Messages '00-'01



Message from
SCWSC President
Chani Schubert

Dear Friends,
It seems like only yesterday that we entered the dorms of Stern College ready to start off an exciting year full of new experiences and adventures. Time has flown by and the year is now coming to a close. Much knowledge has been acquired, but more importantly, numerous friendships have formed. Take a moment to look back at all you have accomplished; laugh at your frustrations, smile at your accomplishments. Remember, there's no such thing as the wrong decision, it's all about experience. As individuals, we each have our own dreams and aspirations for the future. My message to each of you is to focus on your dreams and strive towards them, regardless of any obstacle, which might appear along your path to success. It is only the fear of taking risks which prevents people from living life to its fullest. If you become discouraged, remember, the close friendships you have created will be there to cushion you if you begin to fall. A wise unknown author once said, "The world would sleep if things were run by those who say it can't be done." For those of you who are graduating, I congratulate you, wish you much hatzlacha in whichever path of life you choose. For those of you returning to Stern College in the fall, I wish you the best of luck and much hatzlacha in all your future endeavors.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank every single individual who has been involved in student council. Whether you were the president of a club, a member of a club, or even a participant, you showed your support by taking part in student activities, and I want to commend each of you for doing so. I owe a special thank you to my entire board: Esther Vogel - Vice President, Elana Soleimani - Treasurer, Ruchie Morgan - Recording Secretary, and Susanne Goldstone - Corresponding Secretary - without your help, Student Council 2001 would not have been the success that it was!

Good luck on finals and have an AWESOME summer!!
With warmest wishes,
Chani Schubert
SCWSC President 2001

P.S. Every road introduces challenges. Your obstacles usually resolve! Take hold every bombed event. Sail the best rivers onward!



Message from TAC President
Gila Loike

In *Parshat Kedoshim*, Hashem commands Moshe Rabbeinu to teach the whole nation saying "kedoshim tiheyu ki kadosh ani, ani Hashem Elokeichem," - you must be holy because I am holy, I am Hashem your G-d. This theme continues throughout the parsha with mitzvot geared to elevate us spiritually interspersed continually with the phrase "Ani Hashem Elokeichem." Why does this particular phrase appear so many times in this one parsha? What is the special significance of its use? The Shem Mishmuel highlights one possible reason, and explains that the statement "Ani Hashem Elokeichem" parallels "Anochi Hashem Elokecha" of the *Aseret Hadibrot*, as discussed in Midrash Rabah (Vayikra 24:5) and he asks why the parallel is drawn specifically here, considering the many times that the phrase "Ani Hashem Elokeichem" appears in the Torah. The Shem Mishmuel's answer is that the phraseology here is crucial for teaching the nation of Israel to recognize that Hashem is above nature, and by strengthening our commitment to the mitzvot and by keeping the commandment of *kedoshim tiheyu*, we too are raising ourselves spiritually. As with every general rule about a statement in the Torah, there is also more to learn from examining a particular instance of the phenomena in depth.

One area of *kedusha* that is discussed in the end of third, fifth and seventh *aliyot*, is the prohibition against going to consult *Ovot* and *Yidoni*. A *Ba'al Ov* and *Yidoni* are defined as types of magicians who claimed to be able to tell the future. The punishment for such practitioners is *Karet*. Why are there such stringent laws against them? If you examine each occurrence of the prohibition against them, the aforementioned phrase "Ani Hashem Elokeichem" appears either before or after. The inherent evil nature of *Ovot* and *Yidoni* is that the very particulars of their profession are anti-Hashem. In reality the *Ba'al Ov* or *Yidoni* is just a poor substitute for *nevi'im*, true prophets. If the people were worthy, they would have *nevi'im* and would not need to consult *Ovot* and *Yidoni*. Therefore, the sin of one who consults a *Ba'al Ov* or *Yidoni* is twofold. First, for not consulting a *navi* and as a substitute, trying to find other mechanisms to foretell the future; second missing the realization that the lack of *nevi'im* is due to their sins, and that the very existence of *Ovot* and *Yidoni* represents the severed relationship of the nation with *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*. This analysis, however, also lends itself to interpretation based on the Shem Mishmuel. *Ovot* and *Yidoni* represent people who desire to rise above nature, but not through a mechanism of *kedoshim tiheyu*, instead they circumvent G-d's intervention and try to prophesize through *kishuf* - magic. This parsha reminds us that achieving goals through inappropriate means not only does not help you attain your true goal, but it actually lowers your spirituality.

Our goals as we look ahead and try to fulfill the commandment of *kedoshim tiheyu* should be to search within, to recognize the potential to rise above nature and to constantly strive to enable Hashem's continuous relationship with *Am Yisrael*.



Message from SSSBSC President Zoya Mardakhayev

This past year was a great success. My goal as President this year was for SSSBSC to organize activities that would give the SSSB student body an

opportunity to explore their creativity and leadership skills. I hope all those who decided to take tasks upon themselves felt really accomplished at the end. Everyone did a terrific job.

Looking back, I see all the effort put in by the students making SSSBSC 2000-01 the best thus far. Our many accomplishments include the annual SSSBSC Reception, Mentoring Program, annual Shabbaton, Spring Fashion Show 2001, SSSBSC website (still in development), establishment of the SSSBSC Constitution (still in development), and the new student council logo.

To end the year, SSSBSC is hosting our first time annual Carnival Omer - which will take place on May 14 on the uptown campus. The Carnival will include: 22' Giant Inflatable Slide, Bungee Run, Dunk Tank, Island Survivor Obstacle Course, Inflate-A-Hoops Basketball, Inflatable Football Toss, Inflatable Rock Wall, Human Bowling, and 10 Carnival Booths with Games and Prizes.

After the Carnival we are hosting a Besamim Concert. It is completely free and is sponsored by SSSBSC and partly by student services. I hope all of you will take the time to come - it will be lots of fun.

In a couple of weeks from now, I will march at graduation at Madison Square Garden. This is my final column - my farewell to you. I am going to miss all of you. I have spent my best years here at Stern. I've met unique and interesting people and made my best friends here. My experiences will hold a special place in my heart forever. It has always been my dream to serve as Student Council President in my college and thus this was the best year of my college career. Thank you to all those who made this dream a reality for me.

It has been my greatest pleasure to serve you as President of Sy Syms Student Council this past year. I hope this year was a success in your eyes as well as in mine.

Yours Truly,
Zoya Mardakhayev
SSSBSC President

SCW CALENDAR May

6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			1) SCW Awards Ceremony Cultural Center 2) Cap and gown distribution 11-4 Koch 3) Reading Week Begins		Lag B'Omer	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Carival'Omer 3:30, Uptown Campus		Finals Begin			
20	21	22	23	24	25	27
			Senior Dinner	Graduation at 11 at Madison Square Garden- All are invited		
28	29	30	31			
	S h a v u o t					

Presidential Messages '01-'02



Message from
SCWSC President
Elana Soleimani

Hi!

A few weeks ago, when I was pondering whether or not to run for SCWSC president or any Student Council position, I received an interesting piece of advice. My friend told me "to run, but to run far, far away." As you can see, I didn't exactly take the advice, but it did get me thinking. Reflecting not only on SCWSC but on Judaism, who I am, where I want to go and how I should get there? This last one was the toughest. What road to take? And was running the answer?

It is not always easy to follow the proper path in life. Rabbi Twersky gives an excellent thought on this. He says the following: Sometimes our environment is not conducive and can even be frankly antagonistic to Torah principles at times. It is not unusual to find that we must overcome major obstacles to remain faithful to Torah. Today however, it is not too difficult to be an observant Jew. Most people don't have jobs that require them to work on Shabbat or on Holidays. Plus, almost every supermarket carries a plethora of kosher foods. It wasn't always like this. There was a time, as little as fifty years ago, when getting off from work on Shabbat was a huge hassle and may have even cost people their job. Kosher was food was hard to come by, forget about restaurants in every city. Look how far we have come.

Have you ever visited a salmon fishery? I didn't think so, and neither have I, but here is what happens. It's awesome to watch. They battle the current and swim upstream (against the waves) to get to their spawning by instinct. They "know" where they have to go and they make sure they get there, through obstacles, the current and all the jumps. There is no stopping them, and they do not surrender when faced with a hard choice, decisions, challenges or a problem.

Humans generally do not operate primarily by instinct. Rather, we use our intellect. The Torah gives us specific instructions to do what we must do, and we have to carry out these assignments regardless of how difficult it may be. Rest assured the Rabbis have told us that G-d never gives us a test we can't pass. Yes, our environment and friends may exert a strong pull, but we have to resist and make our way "against the current." We may fail the first couple of times, but we must go on. We must not become frustrated and surrender. Rather, we should learn from the salmon, take a few steps back, regroup and revitalize our energy and try and try until we succeed.

Hashem gave the salmon the strength to carry out their instinctive drive toward their goal. He has also given us the strength to achieve our goals and to overcome any and all of the challenges that may stand in our way. This strength may come in different forms for each and everyone of us. It is imperative for one to think and search to find out what works and what doesn't work for her.

So I ran, but not away. I ran toward something, a means. I want to make a difference and help foster change, and with your help I can. This year's Student Council has amazing potential, Sharon, Rachel, Susanne, Yael and I want to help you achieve, but it's up to you as the students to see it for what it is and use it to your advantage. Ask the questions, speak out, voice your opinions and run the programs you want. If not, it will just be another opportunity and potential lost. Remember the words of George Bernard Shaw, "The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them."



Message from TAC President
Toby Goldfisher

Hello Stern College! My name is Toby Goldfisher and I am your new TAC President. If you voted for me, I would like to thank and assure you all that you will not regret it. My board and I have many exciting ideas and plans for the upcoming school year.

However, the success of our programs depends on *everyone* in this school. Let me stress that again in case you missed it - I want YOU to be involved in TAC next year.

Every day, I hear students complaining about something they dislike about Stern College. How can things improve if people are apathetic and passive? Students must get involved in the school activities and change whatever bothers them. I know many of you were active students in your respective high schools; have been advisors on *shabbatonim* or *madrivot* in camp. I want you to be just as involved in TAC as you are or were outside the walls of Stern. I also know there are students who were never involved in school activities or did not have experiences as described above. That is no excuse for not getting involved. I know that every single student in this school has something unique and special about them that can add to the feeling and spirit of TAC.

We as Jewish women attending the only university of its kind in the world have a duty and special opportunity to ourselves and to the Jewish women around the world to be active and aware of the needs of our people today.

Not only do we have a unique opportunities as students in the only Jewish women's college in the world, but we also have opportunities as college students. I look around this school and it seems like most people are in a rush. I'm not referring to the rush to get to class on time, but a rush to get out of school and "on with their life." Ask yourself these two simple questions: Why are you rushing? Where are you going? Slow down for a minute and think about it: You may have gone through high school thinking and wishing you were in Israel or college. Now that you are in college, many are thinking about graduate school or working. I'm not saying that planning your future is not important, but why doesn't everyone slow down for a minute and think about where they are now. You have the rest of your life to worry about a job or having a family. You will be in college only once and now is the time to take advantage of what this unique school has to offer.

I don't care if until now you haven't been involved. I want you to get involved in any way you think that you can contribute to TAC. I want TAC to be more than just the *chagigot* and occasional *shurim*. I want it to encompass people's lives in this school and enhance their college experience any way that it can.

TAC is a service for and by the students of Stern College. My board and I would like to know what you think can be improved. We also want new and fresh ideas for next year. Please get in touch with any of us and tell us what you think. My email address is tgoldfis@ymail.yu.edu. I expect to hear from all of you.



Message from SSSBSC President Darya Gorelik

Over the year the SSSB student council has been trying very hard to make the best out of our college experience. They had many events and programs organized, such as a very helpful Mentoring Program, an amazing Fashion Show, and all the activities held by the SSSB clubs. Although the Sy Syms Annual

Dinner was canceled, we have tried compensating it with a fun Carnival at the uptown campus. We all appreciate the

time and effort put in by every student who has been involved or participated in the programs over the years. We have already started working on planning the activities for the next year. We encourage you to participate in all the events. We also welcome any suggestions you might have or any ideas you want to share. This will help all of us to make the best out of the upcoming school year. I hope you all will have a great summer. To those of you who are graduating - good luck in whatever you choose to do. To those who are staying - see you all next semester!

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An Israeli Soldier: Back from the Dead

Soldier speaks to SCW students about situation in Israel

By: Shayna Aster

Shimon Orchana, a former soldier in the IDF, has lived through more in his 20 years than most people will ever experience in a lifetime. He shared his unbelievable story with a standing room only crowd of about 100 on April 30 at Stern College.

It all began on October 17, 2000. Shimon, a soldier in the IDF, was stationed in Gilo, Jerusalem's southernmost neighborhood. A renewal of Palestinian-Israeli violence had started weeks earlier. Shots were fired from nearby Beit Jala, and an Israeli woman fainted as she accompanied her children home from kindergarten. Shimon took the initiative to take her children home, and on his way back to his post, he saw a woman caught in the crossfire. He turned to his commanders to help the woman, but they replied that they would only do so once the shooting ceased.

Orchana decided to help the woman himself, but in the process, was shot twice. One bullet penetrated his stomach, and the other punctured his heart. In a strange twist of fate, the ambulance that was called for the lady ended up treating Orchana. Paramedics administered CPR on Orchana for three hours, but to no avail. Doctors pronounced him clinically dead, and placed the body bag over him. Suddenly, a miracle occurred. A gasp was heard ema-

talk, dress or walk. Today, Orchana is well on his way toward a full recovery; he undergoes physical therapy and is able to function normally.

Orchana is grateful that his life was saved, and makes a point of visiting families of Israelis who have been injured in



recent terrorist attacks. This past year, 650 people have been wounded in the terrorist attacks, 250 of whom are children. Orchana said his hopes for peace in Israel remain strong, but he is skeptical because as soon as he hears about peace negotiations, he subsequently hears about a terrorist attack. Nonetheless, Orchana concluded that he is fortunate to be bestowed with the responsibility of defending Israel, and appealing to every Jewish student to visit, study and live in Israel.

The lecture, a joint venture of the SCW Israel Club and the Israel Emergency Fund, was well received by the large crowd of students. Students listened in disbelief and awe as Orchana recounted his gripping story. Prior to the lecture, live video footage of the scene of the accident was shown. After the lecture, students crowded around Orchana to ask him questions, to thank him for coming, and to wish him well. After all, it's not everyday that you see someone back from the dead - literally.



Shimon Orchana with mother, Shayna Aster, President of the Israel Club, and Yaakov Haller, affiliated with the Israel Emergency Fund



Over 60 students, a large turnout for the Israel Club, attended Orchana's speech

ning from within the body bag. The ambulance that Orchana had previously called to help the woman sped to Hadassah Ein Karem hospital to try to save Orchana's life.

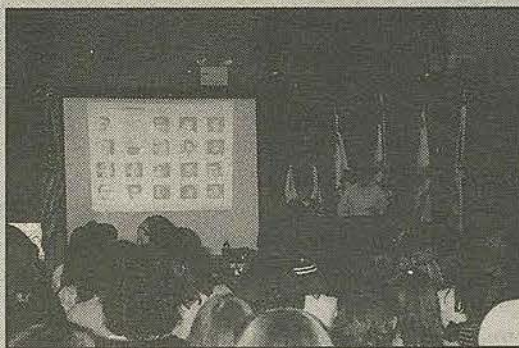
Once at the hospital, Orchana underwent five operations and had 136 liters of blood transfused into him. He remained in a coma for three weeks and doctors gave him a 0.07% chance of living. Orchana claims that while in his coma he had an "out of body experience," in which he saw himself being operated on. Orchana recounted that while his soul was detached from his body, he conversed with his grandparents who had died three years previously. He claims his grandparents told him he would have a complete recovery on the condition that he would share his miraculous experience with others.

Today, Orchana is a healthy walking individual. There are no visible outward signs of all that he has endured. But for Orchana, the scars still remain, and will not fade anytime soon. Upon waking from the coma, he had no recollection of anything that had transpired on that fateful day. Moreover, he did not remember his ABC's or how to

Yom HaAtzmaut Celebration Still Strong at YU

By: Ariela Dworetzky

After seven months of terror in Israel, many Jews claimed that they were not in the mood to celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut this year. In a poll taken by jpost.com, the Jerusalem Post's website, the



majority of those interviewed stated that this year, Yom HaAtzmaut was consumed by conflicting emotions, and that celebrating Israel's 53rd year just didn't seem appropriate in light of the recent terror attacks.

Yet despite the overwhelming negativity in Israel, it seemed that Yeshiva University celebrated the day with even more excitement than ever. On Wednesday night, May 25th, Gimmel Iyar, Yeshiva University hosted its annual Yom HaZikaron/ Yom HaAtzmaut program. The program featured a meaningful ceremony in memory of the 19,312 Israeli soldiers who have fallen since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Rav Goldwicht and Rav Hershel Rachman, Roshei Yeshivot of RIETS, spoke beautifully, as did YU graduate, Yishai Fleisher who was a member of the IDF. The speeches and ceremony were followed by a slide show, prepared by Rebecca Wimmer and Yael Zemelman, that showed various pictures

ranging from the establishment of the state to victims of recent terror attacks.

Lou Shapp then led the audience from the solemnity of Yom HaZikaron to the celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut with a Tfilla Chaggigit. "It was really

beautiful," commented Toby Josovitz. After Maariv, the mechitzot were brought out, and the YC and Stern students separated and spent the rest of the night dancing and waving Israeli flags to live music, played by Shevach Orchestra.

Although the program was beautiful and uplifting, there were many who chose not to attend. Among those who chose not to attend were those who don't believe in "breaking sfira" for what they believe to be a 'secular' holiday. This year, there was an added complication, because Yom HaAtzmaut was celebrated two days earlier than its usual date of Hey Iyar, in order to ensure that people would not violate Shabbos with their celebrations. Throughout the halls of

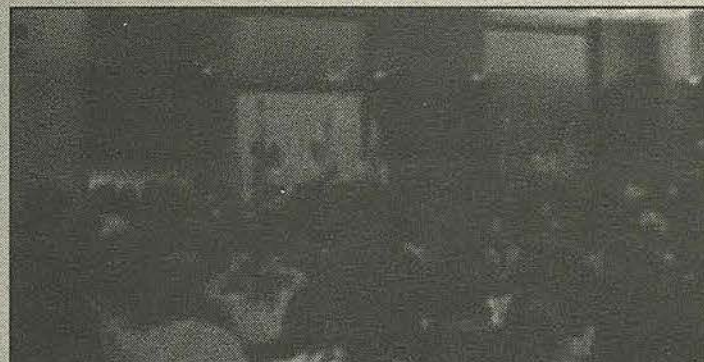
Stern College, students heatedly debated their beliefs as to whether the holiday could be celebrated as usual, this year.

SCW sophomore Rebecca Wimmer strongly believes that Yom HaAtzmaut should be celebrated, especially this year. "Davka this year is when we should really appreciate this precious gift that we have and celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut properly!"

Nicole Lemis, an SCW sophomore felt a little uneasy about celebrating this year, "With Yom HaAtzmaut being an issue in itself, and this year with it not being celebrated on its correct date, I just felt that it was better not to deal with the issue at all."

SCW sophomore, Tova Strahlberg, added that she felt that Sfira should not be pushed off for Yom HaAtzmaut, ever, even when it's celebrated on its proper date. Neither Nicole nor Tova attended the Yom HaAtzmaut chagiga.

But for those that did choose to attend, most felt that it was a beautiful and uplifting experience. Says an exuberant Rachel Kra, "I thought the event was a great way to express love for Eretz Yisrael with my friends."



Over 900 hundred students attend the Yom HaZikaron/HaAtzmaut program

The Third Generation Speaks

By: Yona Israel

On the evening of April 18th, Yom Hashoa was commemorated by a group of Yeshiva College and Stern College students that gathered to send the message that we haven't forgotten the past, and that we will be strong links in continuing the chain for the Jewish future.

As the co-chair of the YC/SCW Yom Hashoa program, I began my search for someone to speak at our Yom Hashoa program long before April 18th. At every Yom Hashoa program I have attended, the program was always the same. Of course they all had aspects that made them different, yet they were all the similar in one way: A holocaust survivor was always the guest speaker. I made call after call to numerous survivors asking them to be our speaker. I had gone through my entire list of potential speakers; no one was available, and I was out of luck.

Once again I picked up the phone, but this time I called an old friend of my mothers, who now works as an interviewer for the Steven Spielberg Foundation, hoping that she

would have a good suggestion as to what I should do. During our conversation, she began to shed light on an aspect of Yom Hashoa that I realized is often forgotten. She explained to me that "Yom Hashoa is a time for memories of the past, but also a time for focusing on strength for the future. What happens when there are no survivors left to talk about the holocaust? Will Yom Hashoa cease to exist? Will the generation of the shoa be forgotten because they are no longer alive to speak about it? Carry on their memory, and continue their legacy, and instead of searching for someone to speak, learn to be the speaker."

With this valuable advice in hand, our Yom Hashoa program "The Third Generation Speaks," was created. The program had a special focus on what it means to be the third generation from the holocaust, and the responsibility we must assume of being the link in the chain of Jewish history that will carry on to the future generations. Elie Wiesel said, "let us say kaddish not only for the dead, but also for the living who have forgotten the dead."

S U M M E R P L A N S

SCW Students Search for Summer Solutions

By: Kim Davis

What are SCW students doing this summer? Taking summer classes, doing internships, working at jobs, traveling, and being camp counselors are just some of the various activities SCW students enjoy during their summer vacation.

Students who are taking summer classes are usually doing so to alleviate their course load during the year so they can concentrate on classes they really want to focus on. For this reason, it is very common to take introduction classes in the summer. Orit Montrose, a senior pre-med student majoring in Biology and Judaic Studies, is taking Physics 1 and 2 at North Park University in Chicago. Located close to her family, who also lives in Chicago, this class will be very helpful to her because she wants to take the MCATs next year.

Kayla Klatzkin, a junior majoring in English, is taking summer school classes at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where her family lives. She wants to go to summer school because she also wants "an easier load during the school year." After her classes end in July, her family is planning an exciting vacation to Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada.

Ruchie Morgan, a sophomore majoring in Biology, is going to SUNY Downstate University to study physical therapy this summer. This will be her last semester at Stern because she plans to transfer to SUNY to finish her degree in physical therapy. "I really love Stern and I hate to be leaving, but I want to go into physical therapy and they don't have it as a major here at Stern."

Another popular option is to work in summer camps. SCW students who work in camp usually do so to contribute to others



Sharon Weiss

and to relax their minds after a year of classes. Sharon Weiss, a sophomore majoring in Jewish History and Sociology, will be a camp counselor this summer at Camp Stone, a Bnei Akiva camp, in Sugargrove, Pennsylvania.

"I grew up in Camp Stone and I want to give back to them," Sharon explains. "I love Camp Stone and I want to be a part of Bnei Akiva because I agree with the movement. This will be my second summer as a counselor and I think that this summer will be fun and rewarding. I'm looking forward to

some fine holiday fun!"

Beth Meshel, a junior majoring in Political Science, is going to be a merakzet (unit head leader) at Camp Young Judea Sprout Lake in Dutchess county, New York for the whole summer. This will be her fifth summer working at there. Young Judea is a Zionist youth movement sponsored by Hadassah (the Woman's Zionist Organization). The camp tries to promote Zionism and Jewish identity in its campers. Although it has a mix of Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox Jews, the food is certified by the OU and accommodates to the different levels of kashrut that people who are there hold. "I grew up in the movement and benefited so much from Young Judea that I want to give back to the movement," Beth comments.

Ahuva From, a senior majoring in Elementary Education, is going to be a learning counselor (a morah) this summer at Camp Regesh in Suffern, New York. Her job consists of learning with 3rd and 4th graders, putting on skits, Madlibs, and hands on projects. This will be her seventh summer at Camp Regesh. "I have done everything from being a camper, to a junior counselor, to a division head, to a learning counselor, and I still love going back," says Ahuva.

There are other SCW students who

are fortunate enough to travel this summer and learn a broad Tova Kalkstein, a senior majoring in Speech,



Beth Meshel

and to relax their minds after a year of classes. Sharon Weiss, a sophomore majoring in Jewish History and Sociology, will be a camp counselor this summer at Camp Stone, a Bnei Akiva camp, in Sugargrove, Pennsylvania.

Yael Ariel, a freshman majoring in Psychology, is going to Israel with her family for a cousin's Bar Mitzvah. Afterwards, she plans to learn and travel in Israel. "I don't have such a large family so we all wanted to go to Israel for my cousin's Bar Mitzvah, and since I'm going to be there anyway, I figured I might as well use that time to travel and learn this summer," Yael says.

Yael Fischer, a sophomore majoring in American Studies is going to Ghana,

continued on page 23

Summer Learning Program to Commence at SCW

By: Nili Epstein

For the first time, TAC in conjunction with the SCW Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies will be running a new summer learning program for SCW students and alumnae. The program, which will explore in-depth the halachas of Shabbos, will run for three weeks, starting on June 4th and ending on June 21st. Rabbi David Pahmer and Rabbi Aaron Cohen, SCW Judaic Studies teachers, will be the instructors.

Some students found the opening of the program unexpected, and were surprised when they received an email announcing it. "It's surprising that TAC would start a program when so many others exist, though it does

show burgeoning interest in women's learning," said Sari Moskowitz, an SCW sophomore. "I'm a little unsure why someone would participate in this program when there are so many others, especially in Israel."

Approximately twenty girls have signed up so far.

The opening of a learning program at SCW enables students to continue their Judaic learning with teachers with whom they are familiar and comfortable.

Suri Breban, a SCW junior who will be participating in the program, is looking forward to the learn-

continued on next page

New Summer Program to Open at MMY

By: Ariela Dworetzky

For many college students, it is very difficult to make summer plans. Many feel too old for camp, but at the same time, do not enjoy the prospect of attending summer school. This might explain why so many Stern girls have no summer plans now and it's already May.

This year, a new opportunity exists for those who don't want to work at HASC or go to summer school. Due to popular demand, Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim is having a summer learning program in Israel. Located in MMY's building in Givat Shaul, the program is open to young women of college age who want to spend a month dedicating their time to learning Tanach, Halacha and Hashkafa with some of the top rabbis in Torah education.

Although to many, the program sounds like a dream come true, Rabbi Alan Haber has been considering canceling the program because of low interest. The question is: if so many girls have been waiting for this, why are so few planning on attending?

"The MMY program sounds awesome but I know better than to ask my parents," says SCW sophomore, Toby Josovitz, "I have a brother who's learning in Israel now and my parents are so worried that I know that I can't ask them for this. It wouldn't be fair to make

them worry so much."

It seems that many people relate to Toby's parents' fears. The "matzav," as Israelis commonly refer to the Palestinian uprising, has been taking its toll not only on Israel's tourist industry, but on many learning programs as well: it isn't only MMY's.

One SCW junior, who wishes to remain anonymous, intended to spend her summer learning at Neve Yerushalayim, but her parents won't allow her to, because they feel that the situation is too dangerous now. "It's ridiculous", she says, "I'm twenty-

one years old and my parents aren't letting me go to Israel because of the remote chance that my bus will blow up! The only reason that I'm listening to them is because I know that if anything did happen, they'd always feel guilty."

Dassie Wagner, an SCW sophomore who looked forward to learning in the Gush program this summer, can relate. "They feel uncomfortable about the current situation that's affecting the Gush area and they're nervous about me getting stuck there and getting involved in a potentially dangerous or threatening situation," says Dassie about her parents, but then she admits, "It hurts me to say it because I wish I was going, but it is a valid point on their part."



Birthright Accepts Large Pool of Applicants from YU

By: Sari Moskowitz

As the Al-Aqsa intifada rages on in Israel, innocent people continue to get killed, politicians continue their struggle for peace, and the decline of Israel's tourism industry continues to wreak havoc on Israel's economy. Consequently, joining solidarity missions has become a popular trend among college-age students who are eager to show their support for Israel. Many students who have spent a year in Israel have already taken advantage of reduced fares and special rates to visit their yeshivot and Israeli family and friends, and many plan to do so this summer.

Furthermore, many students have chosen to travel to Israel this summer on the Birthright Israel program, a program designed to introduce Jews from all different religious backgrounds to the State of Israel. According to Yisroel Schulman, the director of the Maayanot Institute, a Lubavich organization that organizes many of the Birthright contingents, "any Jew between the ages of 18 and 26 who has never been to Israel on a peer educational program is eligible for the Birthright program." Indeed, many SCW and YC students, many of whom have never been to Israel, are eager to

take part in this program.

"I am so excited to go to Israel," says Shira Miller, an SCW sophomore. "I've never been to Israel before, and I think it will be a great experience to go with Birthright."

Yet even those who have been to Israel before share Miller's excitement.

"I am thrilled to be returning to Israel," gushes Netanya Sussman, an SCW junior who has visited Israel in the past. "I am very appreciative and lucky to be able to go to Israel in this tumultuous time. I just hope my parents still let me go."

Tens of thousands of Americans from various religious backgrounds are going on Birthright Israel this summer. Every participant had the opportunity to choose what Jewish organization he or she wanted to travel with. Such choices included Maayanot, Hillel, NCSY and USY. This year, there was also an option for participants to travel on a YC/SCW bus that has been organized by the Maayanot program. Although the bus will be comprised primarily of SCW and YC students, several students from other schools have chosen to join, and several students have chosen to travel with other groups.

"What will make this bus unique," says Yosef Levine, an SSSB graduate and the YU trip organizer, "is that we're the only religious co-ed group. There is massive diversity in this group, and I look forward to the positive group dynamics on the bus."

Cover Your Hair, Doing a Dare

Controversial Issues Discussed at JOFA Conference

By Michal Leah Kanovsky and Yael Ariel

Should women be rabbis? Should lesbians be accepted in the orthodox community? Is there a place for new interpretive feminist Midrashim? All these issues and more were addressed at the 2001: JOFA in Progress conference.

The conference took place at the Kraft Center on the Columbia University campus. This perhaps was the most appropriate place for the conference, since both men and women of Columbia and Barnard attended the conference, while only four SCW women attended. One SCW senior, Debra Chonin-Schwartzberg commented that SCW does not address the topic of feminism. "Most of the Rabbis who teach Judaic studies look down on it," she said. The conference was not advertised on the SCW campus and so many SCW women were unaware of it. But mostly Chonin-Schwartzberg felt that SCW lack of support was because "the people at the conference are advocating for change and the women at SCW are either apathetic or don't feel there needs to be change."

According to the JOFA mission statement, "The mission of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance is to expand the spiritual, ritual, intellectual and political opportunities for women within the framework of halakha." However, the central focus of halakha is not the consensus among all of JOFA's constituents.

Blu Greenberg opened the forum with some remarks about JOFA. "Orthodox Feminism is about Tikkun Olam, not just women's rights." She touched on the issues of Agunot (anchored women), violence against women, women's teffila groups, and women's Torah learning. She questioned when the Orthodox community will finally open their eyes to accepting a woman rabbi, democratize halakhic decisions within the entire community to include women, and teaching the Gemara differently to avoid the engendering and "othering" of women. She concluded by

saying that within Halakha there had to be found a place for feminism and "Haphach VeHaphach Bah VeKula Bah," meaning that by turning and searching the Torah, we will find everything in it.

Next the group split up for the first session. In *Mirror Images: Tzniut and Self*, led by Frannie Pollack and Beth Samuels women examined texts about Tzniut in small groups and then discussed their feelings about them. Coming Down from the



Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance

Balcony: Architecture, Access and Participation, led by Rabbi David Kalb and Pam Scheininger, explained how the physical structure of the synagogues affects women's experience. And *Delving into the Waters: Experiencing Niddah and Mikvah*, led by Mia Diamond Padwa, tried to give an understanding of the way women feel fulfilling this mitzvah. The other sessions were led by various leaders and teachers mostly concentrated from the Modern Orthodox movement, many of whom identify themselves as feminists. The second session featured *The Glass Ceiling: Women's Torah Learning and Worship*, led by Dr. Beverly Gribetz and Karen Miller, discussing the lack of women leaders, specifically of women principals in coeducational by principle Orthodox high schools. *Challenges for Single Feminists in their 20's and 30's*, led by Naomi Mark and Talya Toledatto, was a group discussion over the trials that face single women in the Jewish community today. "The Red Tent" and *Beyond*, led by Dr. Shani Berrin a professor of Jewish studies at SCW, was a discussion about Anita Diamant's controversial book on the Biblical Dinah.

Mincha offered women a chance to pray either with a Minyan or with a women's teffila group. The

program closed with three women, Wendy Amsellem, Idana Goldberg, and Lisa Schlaff, reading their own interpretive feminist Midrashim, that they felt pertained to women's struggles today.

Although the conference explored and attempted to explain and advertise how the balance between orthodoxy and feminism can be maintained, JOFA's ideology seemed to contain contradictions between mission, action

and dissemination. There seemed to be a conflict between an attempt to better the world through incorporating feminism within the boundaries and limits of halakha and changing the halakha to incorporate a modern feminist view.

There were many different opinions on this issue, which points to the acceptance within the organization and Orthodox feminist movement, as well as an internal conflict. The conflict between whether halakha comes before feminism or vice versa and how that conflict is resolved is what will mark whether JOFA maintains its position within orthodoxy or turns to a Jewish Feminist Alliance).

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

CROSSWORD 6

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Crossword on page 17

New Learning Program

continued from previous page

ing. "It's a very important topic and the teachers are great," Breban says. "It will be a good supplement to the learning that is already available at Stern College."

Held four days a week, from Monday to Thursday, the program will be divided into two sessions. The morning session will be from 9:30 to 12:30 and the afternoon sessions will be from 1:30 to 4:30. Students have the option of enrolling for one or both sessions, taught by different instructors. The morning and the afternoon sessions will be structured in a similar manner; both will have time set aside for preparation.

An advantage to the program for many participants is that it will take place in June. Students with summer plans for July and August can augment their summer with this three-week program in June. A few of the women participating in the program also plan on attending other learning programs in Israel, being counselors in America and Israel, working, or attending summer school.

Yocheved Pianko, an SCW junior, is planning on being an advisor on NCSY Michlelet this summer. "The new Stern program is really convenient for me because it doesn't run into my other summer plans," remarked Pianko. "It will give me the opportunity to continue my learning at Stern."

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Chemistry Lecture and Presentation

continued from page 12

In 1949, he immigrated to the United States, where he received an undergraduate degree at Columbia University and later, a Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1962. Currently a professor at Cornell University, Dr.



Chemistry Majors Enjoy Nobel Prize Lecture

Hoffmann was awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1981. In addition to teaching and researching various areas in Chemistry, Dr. Hoffmann is also an accomplished playwright and poet.

Two SCW students, Shira Rivkin and Shana Frankel recently traveled to California to partake in a Chemistry Symposium that included free tickets to Dr. Hoffmann's play, *Oxygen*. The play is about a group of people who were investigating possible candidates for the next Nobel Prize. In addition to the candidates' scientific work, the investigation included a deeper look into each candidate's personal lives as well as an analysis of their wives. The play was "scientifically humorous," described Shira Rivkin, as it explored man's moral side as well as elucidated various chemical matters.

"We were very happy with the process," commented Dr. Hoffmann on the turn-out of his play. "The way the director and actors developed the play [as] we put a really hard task before them. There was [a lot] of time frame shifts with [little] time to change costumes. I think people responded well, thinking as they were taking in the play."

Sponsored by the American Chemical Society (ACS), with over 18,000 people attending, the Chemistry symposium is a "unique organization in that it devotes much to education and involves a lot of undergraduate students in its symposia," explained Dr. Blau.

"It was a lot of fun," said Shana Frankel. "There is a lot more fields in chemistry out there than I thought." Shana commended the ACS for giving undergraduate students a taste of what is going on in the international forum of chemistry. "It interests students to look into chemistry and to do research in order to have opportunities to attend such events."

Shira, who majored in chemistry and is planning to attend Einstein Medical School in the fall, added, "Chemistry is different. For the

rest of my life, I will be involved in biology, and knowing Chemistry enables one to really understand what is behind biology. In order to fully understand what occurs in the body, one needs a grasp of chemistry."

On April 2, Shira and Shana presented their posters; Shira's was based on research she did at Einstein Medical School this past summer on Cell Channels under the guidance of Dr. Bargiello, while Shana's was research she performed at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in Washington, DC on the analysis of genetic sequence information gathered by a national genetic sequencing. Both students would like to further develop their research.

With notable achievements in both scientific and literary fields, Dr. Hoffmann encourages exploration of fields other than one's specialty. "One has to try other things, to provide both a spiritual and emotional side to one's life," he remarked. "[This] is not so easy, when science is so all-encompassing, drawing on all of one's intellectual energies." Dr. Hoffmann did point out that he only became involved in writing after he became comfortable and was satisfied with his progress in the sciences. Moreover, Dr. Hoffmann stresses that science should be open to all intellectual levels. "Science does not require talent," explained Dr. Hoffmann, just interest. "Science is not an ethically neutral [subject]," he added. One of the goals of Dr. Hoffmann, as well as of many scientists, is to make science accessible and interesting to the general public.

Continuing his work at Cornell University, Hoffmann will have a paper coming out in July on the possible superconductors that could be found in silver II and III Chemistry as well as a collection of American Scientist columns that will be organized into a book. Furthermore, Dr. Hoffmann has come out with a new book entitled, "Old Wine, New Flasks" in conjunction with Shira Leibowitz Schmidt. Dr. Hoffmann's visit was preceded by a breakfast with the administration, YU Chemistry majors as well as the board of the SCW Chemistry Club, an award-winning club presented with an ACS plaque during the 1999-2000 academic school year.



Shana Frankel also presents

Summer Internships

continued from back page

junior computational biology major, is looking forward to her fourth summer working at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. "I am working on a project of inherent value that is contributing to the Institute's overall work," says Frankel, who plans to become a researcher or work for a pharmaceutical company upon graduation.

Dr. Babich, who conducts research projects with SCW students during the school year, notes the important role that summer research internships serve for science majors. "Educationally, these internships broaden the student's horizons and let them see the 'behind the scenes' development of biomedical aspects," Babich remarked. "Practically, these students can get a letter of recommendation from someone outside of Stern College, and they get exposure to interacting with different kinds of people."

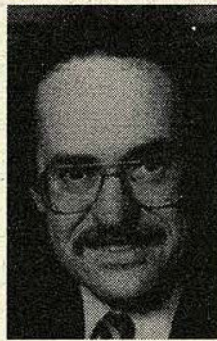


Meri Weiss

Frankel agrees, "You learn so much more in a research lab than in a year in the classroom."

Dershowitz

continued from front page



Torah is with a story about Rabbi Eliezar who was discussing with his student Yehoshua about what the *halachah* is regarding who is the rightful owner of an abandoned nest of eggs, dependent on where the mother bird falls on the ground from the nest. Rabbi Eliezar explained that if she fell within area A, neighbor A would receive the eggs, but if it fell in area B, neighbor B would own them. "But Rabbi, what happens if one leg of the bird lies in area A and another leg in area B?" questioned Yehoshua. Rabbi Eliezar responded to Yehoshua's question by kicking him out of the yeshivah.

The lecture also covered contemporary topics in judicial law such as affirmative action, capital punishment, the role of religion in state law, and the powers of the Supreme Court. Dershowitz strongly voiced his opinion regarding many of these subjects, particularly concerning the separation of church and state. He criticized President George W. Bush for incorporating Christianity into his inauguration speech, which "excluded us as Jews from the unity" and was "not a speech of unity, rather of trinity." Dershowitz also raised the question if Jews should reconcile the Holocaust. "Reconciliation connotes equal fault and the term can't be used concerning the Holocaust," he said. "Don't reconcile over the Holocaust...demand *teshuva*." The speech concluded

Dershowitz said that he was Yehoshua as a student in a Yeshiva University high school, and his questioning and discerning paved the path for him to become a Harvard law professor of 38 years. "Line drawing makes the story of civilization, and it is essential to figure out the methodology of figuring out differences," exclaimed Dershowitz. "This is the beauty of Judaism, which is also the foundation of justice."

Brown Leaves Sy Syms

continued from page 14

changes in SSSB. "The school is changing. While it is unquestionably improving, in some ways I was personally happier when it was smaller. My first year there were six finance majors, so every course had the same students and we had to go out and find jobs for them individually," Brown explains. "A lot of people have come and gone over the years; a lot of changes have occurred. I feel a little like a parent whose last child has just moved out, and who isn't sure what to do with the rest of his life."

Such sentiments like these make his departure all the more sentimental, such as voiced by his own finance students, such as Tanya Bayeva, a SSSB sophomore. "I feel that his departure is unfair to us because he was a teacher that was able to make a difference in someone's life," Bayeva says. "He is a great teacher and a person of powerful intellect; his contribution to SSSB is enormous and I can't believe

that I won't be able to take him next semester."

Dean Jaskoll, Associate Dean of SSSB, echoed similar feelings. "We'll miss him greatly. Because he is moving to Israel, his departure is a bit less sad, but we understand the decision and wish him the best of luck and hope that he will return to teach here," Jaskoll comments.

"While I enjoy teaching, I never thought of it as a full-time, lifelong career. Unlike most faculty members, I publish no academic research and have never aspired to, although I admire those who do," Brown explains. "I believe that a professional school can use a sprinkling of people like me. The core of a school should always be its full-time, academic faculty with doctorates and extensive research publications."

Professor Brown's emergence into the SSSB faculty came about in 1988, the second year of the school, when he was hired as an adjunct by Dean Schiff, who

has just resigned this year as Dean of SSSB. Brown's term at the school posed as a great asset for the school and definitely put SSSB as one of the top ranked business school in the country. His ability to be able to relate to students, guide them, and allow them to seek advice whenever necessary made him a professor that was well respected by his students. His classes not only taught the course, but also taught how you could relate the class to the business world at large. His assignments and classroom lectures were useful and stimulating and connected the material to what students will deal with when entering corporate America.

Brown received a B.S. in mathematics at Harvard in 1978 and then went on to study mathematical finance in the Ph.D. program at the University of Chicago, and received his MBA in 1982. In 1983, his first teaching job was at the Fordham Graduate School of Business, where he was hired right

out of graduate school. Throughout the 1980's he traded on Wall Street, did portfolio management, investment banking for mathematical securities in mortgages and derivatives. Some noteworthy firms that he worked for include J.P. Morgan and Prudential, but he also worked a lot for himself. In 1987, he started writing financial advice columns on Prodigy and answering questions on message boards, he then later moved to CompuServe, then AOL. While doing all this, he was still teaching at Fordham and later at Sy Syms School of Business.

As his assets increased with his increasing investment activities, he then reduced these activities to become a full-time professor of finance, where he has truly become an important asset to the school. In 1987 he married Deborah Pastor, and together they were able to fulfill their dream of going into business together by founding eRaider.com. He has two children, Jacob, 8, and Aviva, 3,

and lives on the Upper West Side.

As President of Privateer Asset Management, a New York money management firm, and founder of eRaider.com and Allied Owners Action Fund, Brown also manages \$24 million in private investments. The success of his company can be clearly seen in many articles featured in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and *Business Week*.

"I have refused to make any plans until I have recharged myself a little," Brown says in reference to his laid back approach as to what he will be doing next. "I appreciate all the good wishes I have received from students, faculty and staff. I don't know what the future will bring (who does?) but I'm sure it will be exciting". Regardless of where he is going, or what he will be doing, Professor Brown will surely be missed, and we hope that his future will be at least as exciting as it has been so far.

on campus

Married at Stern: Putting Stereotypes to Rest

By: Caryn Litt

SCW has long suffered the image that its academics take the backburner to dia-



mond rings and cute hats. While it is true that some aspects of SCW hint to the impression of students racing to get married - the decorated "mazel tov" doors are famous - the image is in fact a huge misconception upheld mostly by those who do not even attend SCW. There is no denying, however, that a fair percentage of SCW students are married and even pregnant. The proliferation of married students at college prompts the question of exactly what impact these married students have on the student body, as

well as on the reputation of the institution in general.

Among the single SCW students of the student body, negative stereotypes exist regarding married students. "Married people don't take challenging classes," says SCW sophomore Yael Strauchler. "They're worrying about whether they should make chicken or lasagna for dinner."

According to the administration and faculty, this stereotype is largely unfounded. "I have never found that marriage status affects anything," comments Dean Karen Bacon. Dr. Ellen Schrecker, professor of history, has not noted that many differences between married and single students in the classroom. "It's more about the student herself, how seriously she takes her education," Schrecker says. Bible professor Mrs. Naomi Grunhaus agrees. "Marriage in and of itself does not mean they won't be committed to their work," she says.

In terms of making school work easier, SCW does little to encourage marriage while students are still enrolled. "Married students are not open to exemptions or exceptions simply

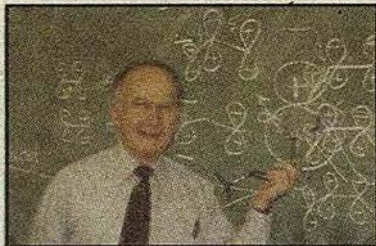
continued on page 23

"Old Wine, New Flasks"

Nobel Prize Winner Speak to Chem Majors at SCW

By: M. Weiss

On March 15th, Chemistry Nobel Laureate, Roald Hoffmann spoke to the SCW and YC Organic Chemistry classes about his award-winning work on electrocyclic reactions.



Dr. Hoffmann's work studies the effects of heat and light on the cyclization of conjugated polyenes. One of the many practical applications of this reaction is that we can now further understand the way the body metabolizes and converts the sun's rays into vitamin D through photochemical synthesis, meaning that further research may reveal a way to get a better, safer tan.

A familiar face at YU, Dr. Hoffmann spent a sabbatical at Yeshiva in 1995 and was the first Kukin lecturer at the University, an annual lecture presented by various prominent scientists of our day. "It is important for students to be exposed to lectures by top scientists who can explain the benefits of science," said Dr. Lea Blau, head of the Chemistry department at SCW.

Born in Poland in 1937, Dr. Hoffmann survived the Holocaust by hiding in the attic of a village schoolhouse.

continued on page 11

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

By: Alexandra Beard

"WHY ARE YOU GOING TO SUMMER SCHOOL?"

Pamela Kleinman-

"Since I am a transfer student and there was a discrepancy concerning how many core and elective classes I had to take, I need one more class to graduate. I will be taking an awesome class at UCLA entitled 'The Third Reich and the Jews.' I am taking this course not only because I need another Judaic credit, but also because it sounds really interesting, for it incorporates many different views on the subject."

Alia Kay-

"I am a marketing major and there are a lot of requirements in SSSB. I will be taking some Paragraph E classes during the summer, and since I am a freshman, taking summer courses will lessen my load for my Junior and Senior year."

Sarabeth Needle-

"I'm planning on taking an English Literature class during the summer to lighten my load and to get my Paragraph B requirements out of the way. Summer school is a great opportunity because it enables you to focus a whole five weeks on one class, and then you can concentrate on doing well and learning a lot without having six other classes to worry about."



Kay and Kleinman

Major Changes in SCW Education Department

By: Rivky Guber

As a result of recently revised New York State guidelines, the education department at SCW has revised the requirements and general focus of the education major. "The state is changing the curriculum for the K-6 grades," comments the Office of Academic Advisement. "Accordingly, we are changing ours to better prepare our students." Although most university majors are not dictated by official state guidelines, there are certain general basics that are required, and each college decides what is appropriate to supplement the major. Education, however, is different than most majors because it falls into the category of "pre-professional majors". In other words,

the students graduate with certification in this field and can start working upon graduation. For this reason, the requirements must comply with the regulations set forth by New York State. There are three principle areas that the education department is working on. First

is the placing of additional emphasis on field experience. "From the very beginning of the student's college career, she will be doing more classroom observation and almost every course will require fieldwork," says Dean Bacon. "We will be having a new director in charge



Shira Rivkin presenting research at Chemistry symposium

of field work only." Additionally, Dr. Lazaroff, the head of the education department, has a background in the arts and is developing new arts and education courses. The purpose of these courses will be to enhance the student's appreciation for his or her teacher.

Additionally, the Stern College education department is working with Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts to design programs and events that explain

and demonstrate how to utilize the arts as a method of enhancing the curriculum. "The arts are such an important and dynamic medium for teaching and understanding," states one junior majoring in education. "Combining them with education classes will greatly enhance my ability to reach more students who don't necessarily connect with traditional ways of teaching."

The final alteration currently being made to the education major incorporates courses focusing on the use of technology and multi-media in the classroom. These courses will discuss

integrating tools such as CD-ROM programs and Internet web sites into the lesson plan. Technological horizons are boundlessly expanding and opening new vistas for education that were never thought possible. Our ability to use these opportunities should be expanding proportionally as well. If not, even the sharpest educator will not be able to keep up with the fast paced technological expertise of her students. For this reason, we are relieved to see that Stern still remains one step ahead of its students.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The Sophomore class sponsored a party in Central Park on May 6th, featuring a day of sports and sun and ending with a barbecue. The numerous participants enjoyed the outdoors as they played football, baseball, or just simply tanned in the sun. "It's a great idea," commented Dafna Schindler, "and a good way to meet other people from my class."

Lion and Tigers and Bears did not prevent the SCWSC Biology and Chemistry Club from taking a trip to the

Bronx Zoo on Sunday May 6th. Charging students only \$5 to attend, the program's organizers were pleased with its success.

Rabbi Norman Lamm delivered the annual memorial Belkin lecture on May 1st. After giving a brief bio of Dr. Belkin, Lamm lectured on Philo, the famed Greek historian whom Belkin studied and wrote about in great depth. He also spoke about Dr. Belkin's book, *In His Own Image*, which discusses man's servitude to G-d.

The Last S.U.R.G.E. meeting was held on May 4th and featured Dr. Zypman, YU's very own physics professor.

Senior dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2001 at the Star of Palm Beach. RSVP is required for the \$25 per person dinner. Interested seniors should contact Elisheva Weissman at (646) 935 6171 or Moishe Singer at (646) 685-2100 or email SRdinner@yahoo.com.

A seminar dealing with The

Agunah Crisis was held on Sunday May 6th at the Yeshiva of Flatbush Elementary School. Sponsored by Lmaan Bnos Yisroel International, Rabbinic participants included Rabbi Herschel Shacter, Rabbi Zvulun Lieberman, Rabbi Kenneth Auman, Rabbi Mordechai Tender, Rabbi Elazar Teitz, and Rabbi Yaakov Pollack.

The first annual Moroccan Shabbaton, attended by over 100 students, was held on April 19, fostering unity among the Moroccan students.

on campus

Essay and Writing Awards Offered at SCW

By Alexandra Beard

For anyone wondering what purpose a senior thesis serves other than enabling one to graduate, here's an answer. Yeshiva University offered three annually endowed awards for the best essays submitted by undergraduates in Jewish Studies, and SCW offered two awards for excellence in writing. The prizes for winning such awards range from \$100 to \$1000. But many students complain that they did not have enough time to work on submissions, since signs for the contest were posted not much more than a couple of weeks before the deadline of April 25, 2000.

"I was really annoyed because it seems like they put the signs up the day before the submissions were due," says Alisa Rose, a SCW sophomore majoring in Journalism. "I definitely wanted to enter, but the only way I could have was if I already had a pre-existing essay. This apparently is a reoccurring theme in SCW that contests and events aren't well publicized."

With only a few weeks to brainstorm and produce an award-winning essay, some of which must be 2,000 to 3,000 words in length, many shared Rose's view that there simply wasn't enough time allotted to put together an essay worthy enough to receive such an honor. "I think these awards are a great opportunity for students to utilize their writing abilities," comments Ami Flatt, a SCW junior majoring in English Communications. "I personally did not apply because I felt I could not give the project the proper amount of time it deserved."

Despite the apparent upset amongst students, the contest received a full share of submissions. "We received a lot of submissions this year, more than ever," comments Dean Ethel Orlian.

Three of the five awards

were open to all undergraduate students, from both YC and SCW. The Lawrence P. Fischer Memorial Award, which is awarded to the best paper on any aspect of Jewish History, boasts a cash award of \$750. It must be written in Hebrew. For those who prefer writing in English, the Edward A. Rothman Memorial Award offers \$550 for the best paper on the theme of "Issues in Orthodox Judaism in Practice." Lastly, the Fannie and Asher Scharfstein Memorial Award of \$600 is given to the best paper on the topic of "Gemilat Hesed," dealing with the definition of the term in its broadest interpretation and importance.

For SCW students only, the Professor Laurel Hatvary Award gives a \$100 cash award for creative writing, with preference normally given to seniors. In addition, the Dean David Mirsky Memorial Award which may be in any subject awards \$1000, the highest cash award of all, to a graduating SCW senior.

Each award, depending on the academic nature of the subject matter, has a committee composed of various YU faculty members who serve as the judges of the submissions. The committees for the awards concerning Jewish History include Dr. Kanarfogel, Dr. Kosak, Dr. Gurock, Dr. Shatz, Rabbi Auman, Rabbi Kahn, Rabbi Hochberg and Rabbi M. Cohen. Dr. Hatvary, Dr. Beckman, Dr. Silver, and Dr. Neaman compose the writing award committee.

To insure objectivity, students were asked not to print their name on the title page of their essay, but instead include a pseudonym, which would also be printed on the outside of an envelope that would have the author's true name inside.

Winners will receive their awards at the May 9th Student Awards assembly.

Kanarfogel and Kossak Release New Books

By Sara Trappier and Ami Flatt

A book party will be held in Schottenstein's Ivy Student Center on Thursday, May 10 presenting two books exploring divergent topics in accordance with along held tradition to celebrate books released by faculty. Culture of Opposition: Jewish Immigrant Workers, the new book by Professor Hadasa Kosak, Associate Professor of history at SCW, is being presented along with the new publication by Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chair

of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies, titled Peering through the Lattices: Mystical, Magical, and Pietistic Dimensions in the Tosafist Period (Wayne State University Press). Kosak writes about a period of Jewish immigrant

sweatshop workers arriving in New York City between the years 1881 and 1905 from Czarist Russia that is commonly viewed by historians as being a stagnant, compliant movement. She presents this period in a unique light, portraying these Jews as being part of a militant and active community democratizing their work experience. "Activism burst out of the workplace and spilled out into the streets," Kosak says. She focuses on the high level of community militancy, activism, and unrest of the Jewish workers. This book's importance is twofold: it reflects the New York City experience during the turn of the twentieth century as well as the American Jewish experience. "The New York City experience is very much the American experience," explains Kosak. "This militancy is something that is also part of the American Jewish experience." The work focuses on life on the lower East side, the center of the early Jewish immigrant community, which later spread to Brownsville, Harlem, and Williamsburg. Kosak began researching this topic as a graduate stu-

END OF THE YEAR DESSERT SERVES HONORS TO SCW LEADERS

By Alexandra Beard

On May 3, 2001, over 100 SCW students gathered in a balloon-filled Koch Auditorium to recognize the efforts of student leaders at the End of the Year Dessert. Chaired by SCWSC President Chani Schubert, the evening awarded outstanding students and administrators for their devotion to both SCW activities and to students. The award ceremony concluded with the stepping down of the 2000-2001 student leaders and the inauguration of



next year's SCWSC boards.

Gila Loike, the outgoing TAC president, awarded Zelda Braun and Beth Hiat with a plaque "in appreciation for the outstanding dedication to the women of Stern College," as well as bouquets and a picture album "to remember us by." Other faculty members who were recognized included Betty Gordon of the MIS computer lab, Jose Morales, who according to Loike, "you'll always have to deal with when having an event," and Mrs. Esther Handel and Tammy of Food Services "for their continuous smiles."

Exceptional student leaders who displayed efforts beyond the call of duty also received plaques. Hagit Sedaghatpour, president of the Sephardic Club who ran three shabbatons this year, was awarded with the first honor. "Hagit had so many positions this year as president we don't even know where to start," said Schubert. Other leaders also awarded with a plaque were Elisheva Weissman, president of the Senior Class and chairwoman of the Senior Class Dinner, Rebecca Eisenberg of Model U.N., Shayna Astor, president of the Israel Club and the Biology Club, Michal Gold,

Senior Year Book Coordinator and Pre dental Club President, Chana Rosenblatt, president of the Athletic Club and coeditor of "Derech HaTeva," and Arona Schneider, head of Belles and president of the Dramatic Society.

The members of each class board, as well as the heads of the various SCWSC clubs including Michelle Fogel, Editor-in-Chief of "The Observer," were presented with a certificate of recognition.

Before installing the new SCWSC board, which will be headed by Elana Soleimani as president, Chani Schubert expressed appreciation for this past year's board. "I want to thank this year's entire board, for without each of them, this year wouldn't have happened," Schubert said, handing out gifts to the old board. Following the "out with the old, in with the new" tradition, Schubert presented the new board with gifts, as well as Soleimani the key

to the SCWSC office. "I know you've been waiting a long time for this," Schubert said jokingly.

This past year's TAC board was also presented with parting gifts. Gila Loike then inaugurated Toby Goldfisher as the new TAC president, upon which Goldfisher gave a D'var Torah in honor of the evening.



Students who attended the dessert enthusiastically cheered on the awardees which contributed to the feeling of school pride that permeated Koch Auditorium. "I think this event is very important so to recognize all of our leaders," said Sharon Weiss, this year's new SCWSC vice president. "I know how much

continued on page 23



researching this topic as a graduate stu-

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BUSINESS NEWS

Brown's Resignation is a Blow to SSSB

By: Mimi Sternberg

Aaron Brown's term as professor of finance in SSSB from 1988 until present, in which he has taught 100 courses and over 600 students, is soon to come to a halt. Brown announced this past semester that he has resigned his appointment at SSSB. Whether this resignation is permanent or not remains to be seen, but regardless, this news comes as another blow to the SSSB administration, due to the resignation of another popular SSSB professor, Avi Rosenfeld, who teaches in the MIS department, who will be moving to Israel. In addition, Professor Snow, assistant professor of accounting, will not be teaching full time next semester, and Deborah Cohen, assistant professor of marketing, who just had a baby, will not be teaching next semester. Where this leaves SSSB remains to be seen.



Brown bases his resignation on a variety of reasons. "I have been teaching too many courses to too many students in a row. I am a little burned out, not giving it the energy and attention it demands. Sometimes it gets hard to remember what course I'm teaching, where we are in the semester and I mix up student with ones I had ten years ago," he says. "At the moment my business demands a lot of energy and I want to devote more time to it for a while. I want to take my children to Israel and spend three to six months there in the summer. To show my state of mind, I've made practically no plans, just had my brother arrange an apartment for two months. I'll figure out the rest when I get there."

His final reason for resigning is due to

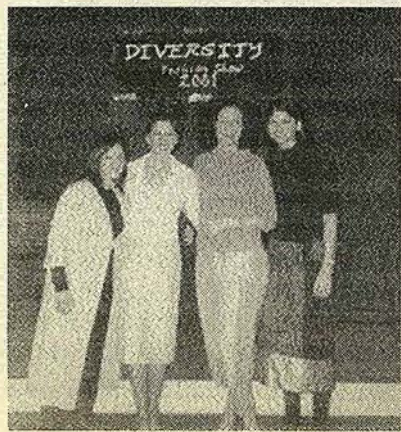
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Sy Syms Makes a Fashion Statement

By: Beth Shapiro

From flip-flops to catwalks, the Sy Syms School of Business Spring Fashion Show 2001 had it all. The theme of the March 27th show was diversity. This theme was continuous throughout the night with eclectic ensembles of dresses, skirts, patterns, polka dots and accessories. The audience was alive and invigorated due to the funky mix of music and talented student models strutting spring styles down the runway.

The producers of the show were Daniella Diamond, Elisheva Nyer, and Beth Shapiro, along with other coordinators such as Batsheva Lam, Michelle Ickwics and Rebecca Glass. Although SCW may not be a fashion school, these undergraduates did a very professional job. The clothes that the models wore were lent to the show from big name designers such as DKNY, View, and Forewear. Furthermore, there were specialty designers like Michael Sin, Karen



and Nicole Fellini, but the array of contributors did not stop there. Each model was given unique jewelry pieces to wear, provided by "A Touch of Brilliance", along with hair accessories.

continued on page 23

THE TRUTH BEHIND REPRICING: YU PROFESSOR'S OPINION

By: Professor Aaron Brown

On March 21, the Securities and Exchange Commission exempted stock option repricings from all the holders and best price rules established by the Williams Act. The decision will have little practical effect beyond simplifying the paperwork when corporations reprice employee stock options. But it raises an important theoretical issue older than the United States.

The Massachusetts Bay Company and Plymouth Company were joint stock companies organized in England in the early 1600's. These companies consisted of Adventurers and Planters. Adventurers did not cross the ocean in tiny wooden ships with only the proverbial nine-inch plank between them and the deep blue sea. Adventurers did not brave starvation, exposure or hostile attack; they did not discover new lands and peoples; they did not wonder what was beyond the horizon. Adventurers put up the money and stayed home. This, by the way, is the sense of "adventure" preserved in the term "venture capitalist."

It was Planters who got on the ships and sailed to New England to build shining cities on hills. Things were simple. Planters joined an adventure to explore and settle a wilderness. Adventurers planted money in the hopes of reaping a profit.

Once the Planters got to Massachusetts, things got complicated. There was a lot of land to settle, modern Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, but all the Adventurers were back in England. The colony was land rich and Adventurer poor. Yankee ingenuity filled the lack with a new breed of home-grown Adventurer/Planter, people who put up the money and expertise to create the joint stock company and build the town, then went to live there and help it prosper. Generally such people specialized in the work of founding towns via joint stock companies, and moved every few years to a new settlement.

This job required a variety of skills. The single most important was ability to deal with the Native Americans, but it was also important to have some cash, be skilled in administration and know how to deal with the colonial government. Fur traders had the first two attributes and often went into the business, but other professions were represented as well. For almost 200 years, as late as Daniel Boone and Aaron Burr, this was the model of settlement formation in the modern United States.

A major change from the original joint stock companies was that the line between investor and employee had blurred. The advantage of this is better alignment of interests. The disadvantage is more complex relationships, particularly the risk that the Adventurer/Planter will use his dual role to take advantage of the pure Adventurers and pure Planters.

There is an obvious parallel to the explosion of employee stock ownership and stock options plans in the 1990s. One half of this change is that employees become investors. Just like the Adventurer/Planter, this has the advantage of better alignment of interests and the disadvantage of more opportunity for self-dealing.

But the other half of this change has received less attention outside the Corporate Finance division of the SEC. It puts the company in the position of selling securities to its employees. For 70 years a legal structure has been built up to regulate the selling of securities to the public, with a complex web of protections. At the same time, people can do anything short of fraud when selling private securities. Selling to employees is somewhere in between.

This was not a major issue in the early days of stock and option compensation. Employees received straightforward securities that were simple derivations of securities already registered for public sale. Employees did not have to make decisions about these securities, and stock-based compensation did not represent a significant fraction of total compensation. Top management would sometimes write themselves more complex securities with much greater value relative to salary, but top managers presumably had the financial expertise and detailed corporate knowledge to look out for themselves.

Then the stock market went up. The value of employee stock compensation ballooned. It is not uncommon for a mid-level employee to hold stock-based benefits worth more than ten years salary. Then the stock market went back down. That led many companies to reprice options or make other retroactive efforts to change the terms of stock-based compensation.

A straightforward repricing does not involve a tender offer. If a company simply says that options granted at \$50 per share are now exercisable at \$25 per share, no decisions are required by the employee optionholders. But most companies avoid straightforward repricings due to unfavorable accounting treatment and shareholder objections. Instead, complicated plans are developed which often require employee consent and sophisticated financial decisions. For example, the company might offer to give one unvested option at \$25 in exchange for three vested options at \$50. Or the plan might have complicated contingent features so its value is not easily derived from the value of a security registered for public sale.

This brings us to the Williams Act. Passed in 1968, it added provisions to sections 13 and 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Williams demands, subject to some exceptions, that an offer to buy securities be made to "all holders" of a security, and that all subscribers be given the "best price" paid to any holder. These rules have become known as the "All Holders/Best Price" requirement. They are intended to prevent selective tenders and multi-tier offers, which are abusive practices.

Williams did not, however, define what a tender offer is. Hanson Trust PLC v. SCM Corp., 774 F.2d 47 (2d Cir. 1985) held that the relevant determination is whether sellers need the protections of the tender offer rules. It seems clear that employees do need these protections. The offers are complex and can represent large amounts of money, and employers are in a position to exert considerable pressure on employees both through the terms of

the offer and employment considerations.

On the other hand, employees are constantly in a state of unprotected complex negotiation. Is there a difference between an employee who is afraid taking all her vacation days will hurt her chances of promotion and one who thinks refusing to tender vested options at below market value will do the same? If the former situation is completely unregulated, do we need the SEC to crack down on the latter just because a public security is technically involved?

The key question is the reason for the repricing. Companies always claim it is necessary to retain and motivate employees. In that case, flexibility is necessary. There are no laws forcing a company to pay every employee the same amount, so it is clearly sensible for a company to be free to renegotiate compensation selectively. If it wants to reprice options for some employees but not others, or on different terms for different groups, that should not be an SEC issue (it might raise labor or discrimination issues, but those are different rules). Basically, as long as the company is treating the employee/shareholders as employees, the SEC should not get involved.

But another motivation of some repricings is to improve capital structure. A company might feel, for example, that a large number of out-of-the-money stock options is depressing the stock price; that it would be preferable to have a smaller number of at-the-money options. In this case it is treating the employee/shareholders as shareholders, and they should have all the attendant protections.

It is easy to distinguish between these two cases. If the purpose is to retain and motivate employees, it must have positive economic value to the employees and negative to the company. In other words, the value of the new securities issued to employees, as a group, must exceed the value of securities tendered by employees. In that case the company should be free to spread the excess value around to maximize the value of retention and motivation, and even to offer negative value choices to some employees, as long as the overall value of the plan is significantly positive.

If the purpose is to improve capital structure, it cannot have significant positive economic value to employees. If the value of the new securities issued is less than or equal to the value of the securities tendered, then employees are entitled to the same protections as any public investor.

This is not an issue of much practical importance, but it is an early foray into the unknown legal territory of employee/investor rights. Over the next few years the evolution of this branch of securities law will be important for shaping corporate governance. Traditionally, employee shareholders have been regarded as passive tools of management. If the law consistently treats them as employees first and shareholders second, as this SEC decision does, that relationship can be expected to continue. But if the SEC regards them as shareholders first and employees second, they can assume an active role.

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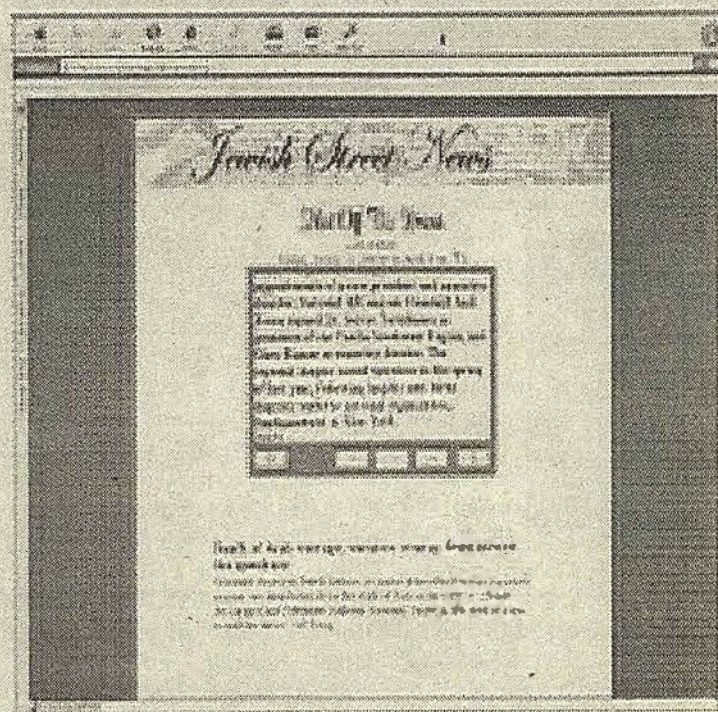
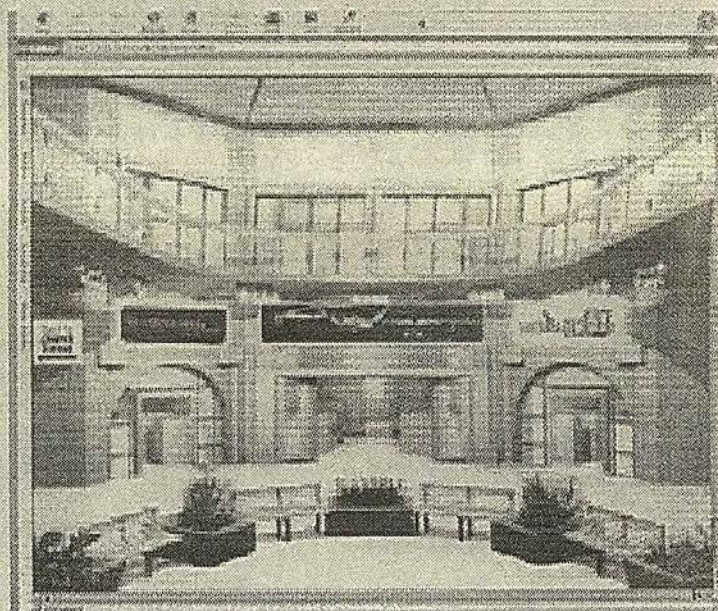
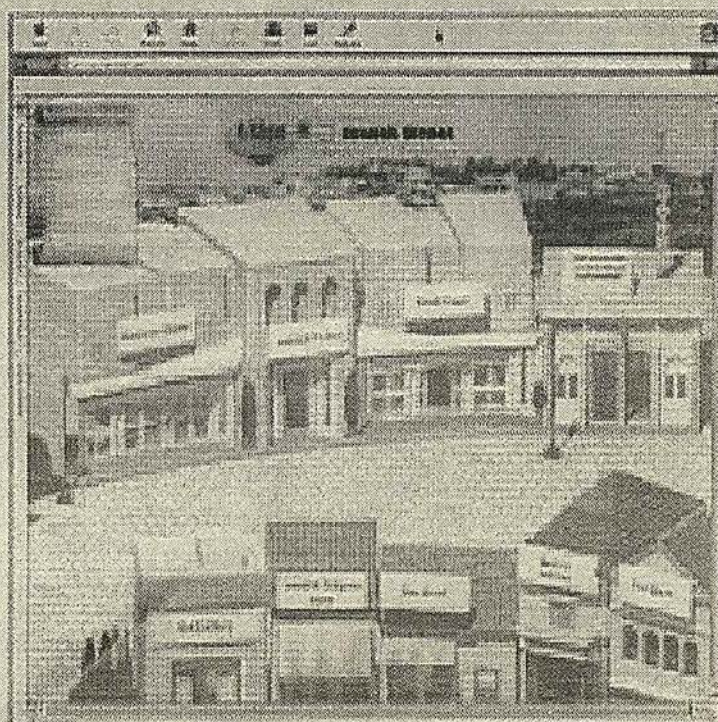
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C u l t u r a l A r t s

“Judgment at Nuremberg:” A Compelling Production

By: Chana Michels

Who is responsible for the Holocaust? Who should enforce the law, and to what standards? Must we, as ordinary people, bear responsibility for crimes against humanity?

These thought provoking questions are the focus of the Broadway production, “Judgment at Nuremberg,” a riveting adaptation of the film that was nominated for twelve Academy Awards in 1961. Even if its subject matter was not so commandingly vital, “Judgment at Nuremberg” qualifies as one of the best plays this season.

The story begins with Dan Haywood, an obscure American judge, wonderfully played by George Gizzard, who arrives in Nuremberg in 1947 to preside over the trial of four German judges accused of crimes against humanity.

Things get tricky when the defendants claim that they were acting under orders. There wasn't a precedent in Germany for treating their actions as crimes, so Haywood's international tribunal must develop its own law as the trial progresses.

Michael Hayden plays an

electrifying Oscar Rolfe, the brilliant German lawyer who is highly logical, horribly conflicted, and determined to restore dignity to his fallen country. His opponent, Colonel Parker, as portrayed by Robert Foxworth, is an American military lawyer emotionally wounded by the war, and is relentless in his prosecution.

After Haywood meets Mme. Bertholt, wife of a German military leader sentenced to death, played by Marthe Keller, and Mrs. Habelstadt, a housekeeper in Nuremberg, played by Patricia Conolly, he wonders how much the German people knew during the war about the Nazis heinous actions.

The stellar cast also includes veterans such as Maximilian Schell and Joseph Wiseman. Schell, who won the Oscar for Best Actor in 1961 for his portrayal of Oscar Rolfe, rightfully gets top billing for his emotionally riveting performance of the principal defendant, Ernst Janning.

Janning denies he knew about the atrocities of the concentration camps, but he admits to unjustly condemning people in accordance with the demands of the German government. Haywood rejects this argument, recognizing that condemning even one innocent man is wrong. “In this case, the dagger of the assassin was concealed beneath the robe of the jurist,” Haywood states.

Janning, an internationally renowned legal mind, represents the depths to which the legal system can fall, and Haywood, a country hick from the south with earthly wisdom and common sense, represents the heights to which a legal system can

soar. The music, costumes, lighting, and especially the dynamic and creative set, are superb. The stage is a modern representation of the Nuremberg courtroom, and its imposing double door original from the actual courthouse. On top of the door, an engraving of the Ten Commandments dually represents the sense of justice the play evokes, and reminds the audience of the victims of the Holocaust. In addition, the walls are covered with blown-up photographs of Nazi victims and perfectly timed to music, the photos appear throughout the scenes in various configurations and patterns.

The play has cathartic effect because the story is not just about the Holocaust, but about every inhumane and irresponsible act, no matter how insignificant or excusable it may seem in context. The trial is not just about the victorious over the vanquished, but it is a tale of justice over revenge.

After select performances every few months, the audience is invited to stay for a symposium entitled “Judgment After Nuremberg.” This is a unique opportunity to not only see the actors dressed in their own clothes and out of character, but also to learn insights about the production and history about Nuremberg.

After the April symposium, Patricia Conolly, who plays Mrs. Habelstadt, asked me, “What I want to know is where are the other students?” I couldn't answer her and wanted to know the same thing. I guess not enough people know that ten-dollar student tickets are available the day of performance.

M o v e m e n t i n M a n h a t t a n

By: Noa Mazor

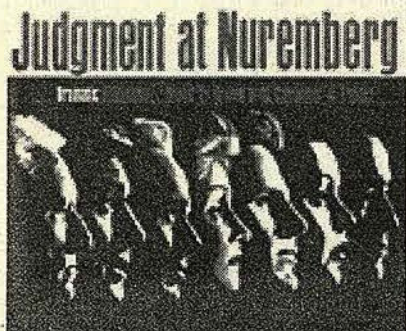
Ever get bored of simcha dancing? Are you tired of doing the grapevine and running around in endless circles? If you think that the Yemenite step is leading you in the wrong direction, then it is time to try something new. For some innovative movement, head over to Sal Anthony's Movement Salon, located at 109 Third Avenue at 17th street. This spacious studio is home to an array of exercise and music classes. When first walking into this three-story complex, one will be confronted with what will at first seem like a medieval torture device; however, in reality it is pilates equipment. Pilates is a system of exercise designed to strengthen the core muscles while increasing flexibility and coordination.



The loud pounding noises coming from the back of the room may entice one to head in that direction. Off to the corner, one will find a circle of people joyfully pounding on oversized African drums. This class is a great way to work off pre-final frustrations. However, a word of cautions; hands will feel sore the following day.

All females are then invited to walk down the spiral staircase and join Yaldis for a belly dancing class. Yaldis, a professional belly dancer from Turkey, teaches the class, and instructs participants on the secrets of this meditation art. In the East, belly dancing is often performed at bridal showers and weddings to add to the bride's enjoyment of her special day. With the guidance of Yaldis and the lively Eastern music, one will soon wish that the two-hour class would never end. An added incentive to letting loose is that there are absolutely no mirrors in the studio.

I highly recommend classes at Sal Anthony's, the instructors are energetic and the atmosphere is creative. The classes provide a solid work out and are fun. Others classes offered at Sal Anthony Salon Movement include yoga, modern dance, and salsa. For a complete list of classes and times visit www.movementsalon.com.



Thinking About That Starbucks's Mocha Frap???

By: Kim Davis

Have you ever wondered what is really kosher at Starbucks? Like many students, I have always been curious about what is really kosher when I walk into Starbucks.

It seems that so many people have different ideas about what is kosher there! I decided to do a little investigation of Starbucks to see what is really kosher there. I went to visit the Starbucks on 29th Street and Park Avenue.

I walked into Starbucks and asked them what they put in specific products that they made. According to the workers at the Starbucks on 29th Street and Park Avenue, the following products are made with the following ingredients:

Hot chocolate: The hot chocolate is made with Fontana vanilla or Fontana sugar free vanilla (has an

OU hechsher on it), steamed milk (which is always kosher unless one keeps cholev yisrael), and Starbucks Bar Mocha Powder (without hechsher on it).

Latte: A latte is made with Starbucks' Espresso Roast (has an OU hechsher on it) and steamed milk.

Tea: The flavored teas that Starbucks serves all are made by the brand Tazo (the flavors Awake Black Tea, Calm Herbal Infusion, Wild Sweet Orange Herbal Infusion, China Green Tips Varietal Green Tea, Tazo Chai Organic Spiced Black, Passion Herbal Infusion, and Refresh Herbal all have a hechsher symbol of the letters “KSD” inside of a square that have the word “kosher” below that symbol).

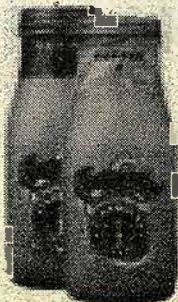
Frappachinos: The frappachinos that are made in the store are made with Starbucks Blended Beverage Coffee Base (no hechsher), and Starbucks Frappuccino Beverage Mix (no hechsher). If the frappachino is mocha flavored, then a third ingredient Starbucks Bar Mocha Powder, (no hechsher) is added. Even though these are not kosher, the frappachinos that are

prepackaged in glass bottles that are sold in the grocery stores and in the stern dorm food stores are kosher. An OU rabbi, Rabbi Sysche Heschel, believes that they are under the supervision of Rabbi Chariop.

Whipped Cream: The whipped cream at Starbucks is made with Farmland Daries heavy cream (with a Kof K hechsher) and Fontana vanilla (with an OU hechsher).

Flavoring: The flavors that are added to drinks include Irish cream, hazelnut, raspberry, crème de menthe, carmel, cinnamon and almond (these are all from the brand Fontana and have an OU hechsher on them).

Mocha Syrup: The mocha syrup that is sometimes added on top of the whipped cream is made from Starbucks Bar Mocha Powder (no hechsher) and water.



Candy Bars: Starbucks has a variety of candy bars that come in expresso, carmel, and dark chocolate flavors (all have a hechsher that is a “star” inside of a “D”).

Soymilk: The soymilk that is used to add to drinks is Westbrae Nature West Soy Plus (with a hechsher that is a “K” inside of a square).

Packaged flavored coffee: The prepackaged flavored coffee at Starbucks comes in a variety of flavors consisting of Ethiopia Yergacheffe, Ethiopia Sidamo, Sumatra, Starbucks Coffee House Blend, Arabian Mocha Sanani, Kenya, and Caffè Verona (these all have an OU hechsher on them).

After discovering that the drinks above were made with the following ingredients, I emailed the Orthodox Union (Kosher@ou.org). The OU rabbi, Rabbi Sysche Heschel, replied and said that even if the ingredients of a drink are kosher, it can be problematic to drink beverages made in Starbucks. He said that “once these packages are opened, the OU can no longer assume that the contents are free of any contamination by additives, creamers, etc. and free from any concerns of

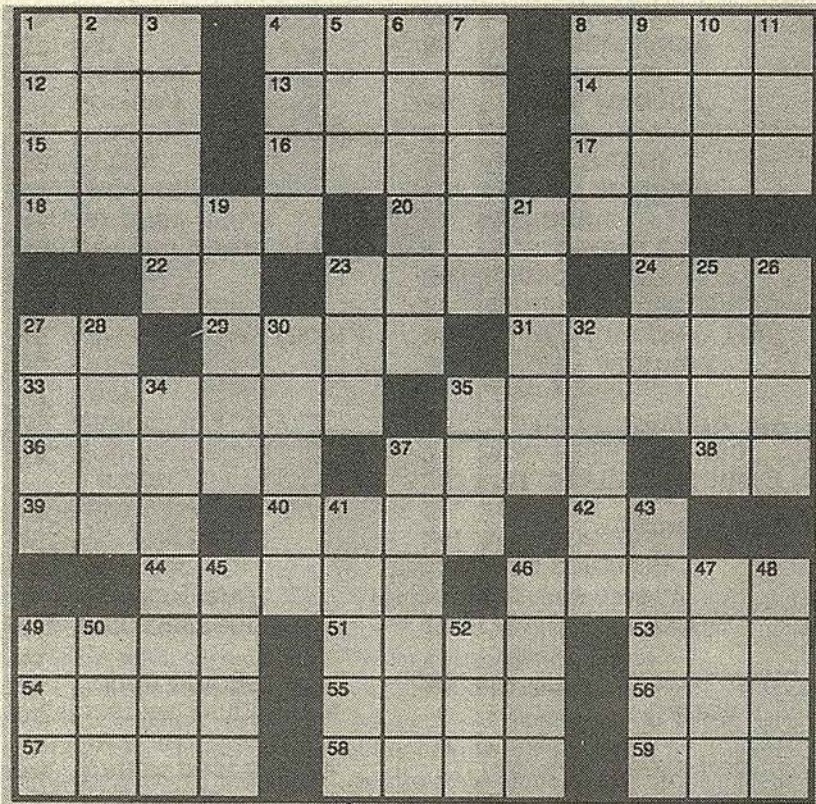
non-kosher equipment.” He also does not encourage Jews to drink in Starbucks because in order for us to be 100% sure that what we are drinking is kosher, there would need to be a mashgiach present to assure that there are no other similar products being substituted for the kosher kind. It is important to note that even though currently the Starbucks on 29th Street and Park is using the ingredients listed above for their drinks, if they run out, they may buy another brand. Another concern that Rabbi Heschel had was that the keilim (equipment) might also be used for non-kosher purposes. Rabbi Heschel said that the OU does not encourage Jews to “sit down and have a cup of coffee at a Starbucks café that does not have certification-not even out of a Styrofoam cup, nor at any other non-certified coffee shop.” And as of now the OU has not heard of any Starbucks Coffee Shops that have a mashgiach.

Although Rabbi Heschel believes the kashrut of Starbucks is problematic, it is best to ask your personal rabbi about it.

Disclaimer: The opinions represented herein are solely based on the research of the author.

Cultural Arts

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Across:

- 1. ____ Mahal
- 4. Tel ____, Israel
- 8. Out of Bounds
- 12. Sheep she
- 13. Zhivago's love
- 14. ____ facto
- 15. Author Deighton
- 16. Collar style
- 17. Any time now
- 18. Ferber and Purviance
- 20. Swallows' homes
- 22. Biblical "you"
- 23. Most wonderful
- 24. Brother or sister, for short
- 27. ____, shucks
- 29. Type of poker
- 31. Slip by
- 33. "The Blue ____"
- 35. Footballer's headgear
- 36. Incompetent
- 37. O'Hara plantation
- 38. Be quiet!
- 39. Bradley of "60 minutes" et al
- 40. Small thing
- 42. Baltimore's locale (abbr.)
- 44. 10th president
- 46. Steam bath
- 49. Water, in Mexico
- 51. Lhasa ____ (dog)
- 53. Selleck or Seaver
- 54. Sickness carrier
- 55. Thailand, formerly
- 56. "____ the Beloved Country"
- 57. Singing brothers' surname
- 58. Razor blade feature

59. "____ Anybody Seen My Gal?"

Down:

- 1. Before scope or vision
- 2. Inspired with fear
- 3. Lind or Craig
- 4. Dart players' refreshments
- 5. Dye holder
- 6. Pressed clothes
- 7. Wind indicators
- 8. Brawler's weapon
- 9. Animal that "plays dead"
- 10. GI's entertainment org
- 11. Chaney of horror films
- 19. "The Fox and the Grapes" writer
- 21. Direct the course of
- 23. Chignon
- 25. Fateful March date
- 26. Actress Howland of "Alice"
- 27. What young George couldn't tell (2 wds.)
- 28. Magic scepter
- 30. Whole amount
- 32. Peruvian pack animal
- 34. Hand motion
- 35. ____ on rye
- 37. Dormant
- 41. Josh
- 43. Kind of treat
- 45. Thanksgiving dish
- 46. Any
- 47. Writer Ephron
- 48. Carter and Vanderbilt
- 49. ____ Khan (Turkish title)
- 50. Pearl
- 52. Slump

Crossword Answers on page 10

Book Review

Be Within, Stay Above

By: Kayla Klatzkin

Searching for the meaning of life? Looking for inspiration or some sage advice? You need not read a self-help book by some guru to find it. There is someone from our own Jewish world for us to look to. Who could this be? I will give you two hints:

- 1. Congress proclaimed his birthday as Education Day USA.
- 2. He received the Congressional Gold Medal, a rare honor bestowed on only 130 Americans since Thomas Jefferson.

Give up? It is none other than the late Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson of blessed memory. *Be Within, Stay Above*, edited by Tzvi Freeman, is filled with the sage advice Rabbi Schneerson has given over his many years as Rebbe. This book is one of snippets, taken from the Rebbe's speeches, letters, and informal talks at Hasidic gatherings known as Fabrengens. *Be Within, Stay Above* is the second in its series, the first being *Bringing Heaven Down to Earth*. You do not need any knowledge of the first book to read the second; one does not follow the other. On each page, there is something new for the reader to ponder and grow from.

Now do not think *Be Within, Stay Above* is a book only Lubavitchers can enjoy. There are no confusing Hasidic concepts or difficult Hebrew phrases. It is in English and is meant for everyone - Jew and non Jew

alike. The Rebbe had a love for all people, which can in fact be seen in many of these snippets.

Take "Differences," for example: "Don't be afraid of the other person because he is different from you. There is far more in common between any two human beings than there are differences. As for the differences, think of them as the hooks that hold us together. Differences are the thing we have most in common."

That snippet is a mere sampling of the more than 200 pages worth of wisdom Freeman has painstakingly compiled into numerous sections, such as Getting Past Mind, Scientist, and Mystic and Relationships. Freeman modestly proclaims in his introduction that the amount of the Rebbe's wisdom he has compiled, despite all the work which has gone into it, is "less than a droplet is to a valley of mist."

This book might not be representative of the Rebbe's incredible wealth of wisdom, but Freeman gives the reader a good sampling of it, and it is thus well worth reading. By reading this book, you may find more meaning to life and discover more about yourself. You may also feel closer to G-d and come to an understanding of what the Rebbe's life was all about. If, as the Rebbe stated, "Truth is the ultimate living Being," then *Be Within, Stay Above* is a book which pulsates with life.

Chagall Exhibition at The Jewish Museum

By: Sara Trappler

This Spring early works never before seen in the west, by one of the world's most cherished Jewish artists is on view at The Jewish Museum. "Marc Chagall: Early Works from Russian Collections" is a special exhibition of paintings, drawings and murals from 1920 that Chagall created for the Jewish State Theatre in Moscow. They are being displayed from April 28 through October 14, in addition to selected paintings from Chagall's earliest art teacher, Yehuda Pen.





The Jewish Museum pairs the works of these inspiring artists together in order to "understand the ambiance and influences that shaped Chagall's life." Chagall's works explore personal themes such as his Jewish identity, his village, and his relationships in passionate self-discovery.

"It's a great opportunity for students to see the work of a world famous Jewish artist," says Chana Rosenblatt, an SCW junior. For SCW students, it is a short train ride on the number six train that stops on 86th street, a few blocks away from the museum.

Chagall grew up in Vitebsk, a town in the Russian Pale of Settlement, which he left during the early twentieth century in order to develop himself as an artist in the art centers of St. Petersburg and Paris. The Jewish Museum's website says that although Chagall was exposed to and experimented with various artistic styles, he always maintained the integrity of his unique inner vision. "Chagall developed the original visual vocabulary that became deeply embedded in his psyche." His modern techniques contributed to the avant-garde artistic movement in Russia and Europe.

Pen profoundly influenced the young artist and served as an artistic model to the Eastern European shtetl. He was the director of the first Jewish school in the Pale of Settlement where he exhibited his own paintings, and he was the main artistic impact for the second generation of shtetl youth.

The museum has extended its hours in honor of the exhibition by opening an hour earlier on Sundays, closing an hour later on Tuesdays, and remaining open on Fridays. In addition, there will be a "Marc Chagall Family Day" at The Jewish Museum on Sunday, May 6 at 11 am. There is also a two-dollar surcharge in addition to museum admission for the Chagall exhibition.



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HEALTH BULLETIN: COFFEE BREAK

By: Ami Flatt

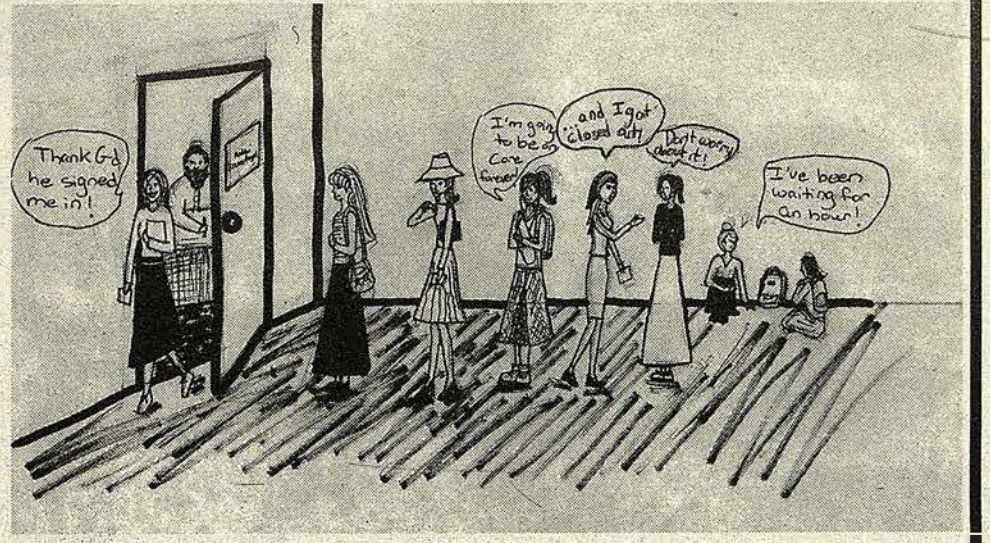
If it weren't for the coffee," David Letterman once remarked, "I'd have no identifiable personality whatsoever". That's a sentiment most Java lovers can understand. However, for many, the day does not begin without a cup of coffee. One SCW sophomore quips, "Without caffeine my brain works in slow motion". Treasured as it is, coffee has been said to cause many ills; mother's say that it stunts growth, and scientists link consumption to heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis. Do our lattes really carry health risks? Health experts at the American Dietetic Association annual meeting in October attest that drinking up to three cups of coffee a day poses no apparent health risk, and may even carry numerous health benefits.

Researchers found that drinking one cup of coffee (100 milligrams of caffeine) increases metabolic rate by as much as 10%, accelerates blood pressure, quickens the heart rate, and augments breathing. Initially, researchers feared the effects of this heightened stimulation. However, recent studies suggest that regular coffee drinkers quickly develop a tolerance to caffeine, thus minimizing its effects. Further, coffee does not appear to increase the risk of heart disease, according to a 10 year study of more than 85,000 women. In the February 1996 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Harvard researchers reported that women who drank six or more cups of coffee a day were not any more likely to suffer a heart attack than women who drank only two cups. Additionally, in the February 1998 *European Journal of Cancer Prevention*, scientist found no link between coffee consumption and breast cancer.

Yet, shocking new studies indicate that consumption of more than 1000 milligrams of caffeine can induce panicky feelings even in people who do not have a predisposition toward anxiety disorders. 1000 milligrams may seem like a lot of caffeine, yet in reality it is not. An 8-ounce cup of coffee contains an average of 135 milligrams of caffeine, but in today's era of super sizing, most beverages are a lot larger. For example, the Stern Cafeteria offers 12 ounce, 16 ounce, and 20 ounce cups. Thus, one should note actual consumption.

Nutritionists seem to conclude that a cup a day may offer some benefits and that moderation is key. In the August 1999 issue of *Physiology and Behavior*, English researchers reported that volunteers who drank caffeinated coffee in the morning performed better than nondrinkers on tests that involved learning new information. So, if you need a kick before today's exam, cautiously reach for the Java.

ONLY AT STERN



New Academic Advisor

Continued from backpage

senior. "And it's not only at SCW that registration is a nightmare."

However, whether the move leaves the Registrar short-staffed during the crucial period of registration is yet to be determined. "It leaves the Registrar in need of additional personnel," admitted Mogilner. "They're in the process of reorganization and enhancing the role of the Registrar to service the needs of the students."

Dean Orlian, on the other hand, denied that the Registrar is now short-staffed. "The Registrar was simply undergoing a restructuring in which we decided that doing [senior] checks is a major part of advisement," commented Dean Orlian. "It was most efficient to work with someone who was already trained in doing checks."

Trying to alleviate the crunch

time of registration, Dean Orlian anticipates that students will utilize the academic advisors throughout the semester, not only waiting until registration to figure out whether they can graduate. "We want academic advisement to be an ongoing process throughout a student's college experience, as opposed to just being done at the end," Dean Orlian remarked.

Mogilner will serve as the only full time academic advisor, joining Miriam Schechter and Susan Ostreicher, part time advisers. Schechter will become a full-time academic advisor next year.

"I'm looking forward to a rewarding and positive experience," Mogilner concluded.

Dean of Students, Food Services, SSSBSA and SSSBSC presents..

Monday, May 14th

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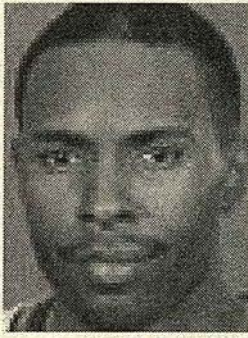
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SPORTS NEWS

The Role of an Athlete

By: Sara Lampert



When thinking of the athlete's role, people usually relate it to his ability to perform his sport at a high level. How fast can he shoot the puck? How far can he throw the ball? How fast can he run the bases? While we would agree that these are all extremely important attributes for athletes in their specific field, equally important, if not more so, is their position as a role model to the younger generation of Americans who look up to these athletes as something special. And they become "role models" not just to the youth but to many fans who idolize these men and women as something special and even sometimes as super human. How they behave and what they say has a greater impact than the athlete probably realizes.

Although this probably is unfair, it is nevertheless true. What all of us should realize is that in most cases, these are extremely gifted men and women in really only one area, and this is sports. God gave them an ability which when used properly can be a great gift. But athletic ability is not always matched with brain power. A great majority of athletes needed all kinds of help to get through school and I don't mean just tutors. If there were more than two cars in a parking lot, some couldn't find their car.

This brings us to a New York Knicks player named Charlie Ward. In last week's Sunday New York Times magazine, Ward came out with very anti-Semitic comments. The fact that he publicly made remarks against the Jewish people in a city so heavily populated by Jews shows little intelligence. Charlie Ward calls himself a true Christian. Yet

that term supposedly stands for love of all people regardless of race or creed. To further show the level of Ward's intelligence, when he was asked to apologize for his racist, inflammatory remarks he said, "I didn't say all Jews...all Jews didn't persecute Jesus...some followed him." Apparently the only good Jews are those that followed Jesus.

People have every right to believe whatever it is they believe. But when they preach and teach, it is something else. What will the young people who aren't as highly educated and exposed to the real values in this world think when they hear Ward's venom? What will I think when I see Charlie Ward and Allan Houston hold hands and bow their heads in prayer before the game when I know what they really think of Jews as people? Is it a total oxymoron for me to stand at Madison Square Garden at the first Knicks playoff game against the Raptors and cheer for the Knicks? Am I essentially cheering for people who hate me?

What took the church years to finally acknowledge and overturn has now been refuted once again by those "great biblical scholars" named Charlie Ward, Allan Houston and Kurt Thomas. Hopefully the people of New York will let the team and Madison Square Garden know exactly where we all stand with regard to intolerance.

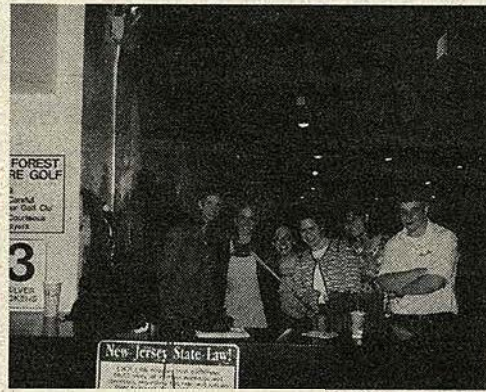
SCWSC Takes Club leaders to Sports Complex

By: Observer Staff

In the first annual Appreciation Event, SCWSC decided to show gratitude to student leaders with a pizza dinner and trip to Sports World on April 29th.

"We wanted to do something that everyone would be able to benefit from and chill out together," remarked Chani Schubert, SCWSC President. "We felt that girls worked hard this year, and this is our way of expressing gratitude and appreciation for all they do."

Although originally intended to be a coed event, the trip to Sports World ended up being exclusively for SCW leaders. Provided with free games of Lasertag, miniature golf, and bowling, SCW students also had the opportunity to use tokens and tickets, redeemable for prizes.



"I got bubbles!" exclaimed Hagit Sedaghat-Pour

"I love Sports World," commented Arona Schneider, SCW senior, waving a slinky and yo-yo. "I think it's really nice that Student Council is appreciating all that we do. We really work hard."

Although all class boards, club heads, and random student leaders were invited, the approximately 20 students that attended Sports World included participants who didn't even know why they were invited.

"I'm really not into Sports World," said Kim Davis, SCW junior. "But I'm so flattered that I was invited, that I couldn't say no."

All in all, student leaders were immensely pleased with the success of the event.

"It was a great bonding experience," concluded Toby Goldfisher, incoming TAC president.

ATHLETIC AWARDS BANQUET

SCW and YC students received athletic awards for various gym classes as well as for intramurals. The event was held uptown on May 8th.



Have You Studied for Jazz Yet?

Finals in Gym Classes Spark Controversy Among Students

By: Adina Levine

As the library fills up during reading week, students study for all types of finals - for Biology, for English Literature, and for... Yoga. Yes, even physical education courses have finals, and many students are not happy about that.

"I think it's ridiculous," asserted Toby Goldfisher, SCW junior, "that I have to have a practical and a written test."

"I'm absolutely opposed," commented Margueya Novick, SCW sophomore. "I think it's stupid. Do you realize I had to buy a textbook and write a term paper, in addition to taking a final? I don't think gym is going to help me in the workplace, I really don't."

Even students who aren't personally affected by finals in gym classes expressed dismay at the concept. "I don't take gym classes here," said Jen Marcus, SCW sophomore. "But I think if people are stressed out about finals in gym classes, they shouldn't have to do it."

On the other hand, some students understand the need for finals in an academic course, but believe the amount of credit given for the course is not commensurate with its workload. "I can understand that they're implemented to make gym classes more serious," remarked Chana Rosenblatt, SCW senior and Head of the Athletics Committee, "but simply because they're half credit classes, I don't think gym classes are on a level to have finals."

However, the administration feels very strongly that finals should be administered.

"Academic credit should have an academic component," commented Dean Karen Bacon. "The most important thing is that the experience be meaningful and

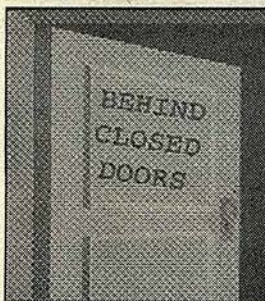


open to dispute. According to Dr. Zernyck, "Exercise is recreation. That's what the workout rooms are for. But the class is more than that - more meaningful, more important and more valuable. Students need to take it seriously."

On the other hand, students distinguish between the different physical education courses, claiming that a strenuous class like basketball should not be treated the same as a more passive class like Wellness and Fitness. In fact, the basketball classes this semester will not feature a final exam, unlike previous years that demanded a spitback test on the history of basketball. "Classes like these depend on aptitude, how you play, and what skills you develop," commented Mariann Schachter Zonis, SCW basketball teacher. "Some people just aren't good test takers."

Dr. Zernyck expressed surprise to find out that many students were upset about finals in physical education classes. "I can count on one hand the number of students - male or female - who have complained to me," said Dr. Zernyck. "If there's a large reaction out there, I'm a little concerned that no one has contacted me." Dr. Zernyck further encouraged students to contact him so he can help alleviate their stress.

But the question of whether a physical education course is by its very nature performance-based is



Modern Problems that Lay Hidden in the Orthodox World

K'ISH ECHAD B'LEV ECHAD



Lisa Helprin

When we were growing up, Shlock Rock came out with a beautiful song by the name of "Minyan Man." It was about a Jew who got off a bus in Mobile, Alabama and walked miles until he could find a fellow Jew, all the while, with Shabbos steadily approaching. Suddenly, he was greeted by an elderly Orthodox man who told him where he could find a Minyan. He explained to the visitor that they used to have one every Shabbos, but their tenth man was recently niftar. He immediately turned to the traveler and said, "Won't you stay with us for Shabbos, Minyan Man?" One reason that I find the song so special, is it teaches us what we can accomplish when we look past our differences as fellow Jews. The Alabama native knew nothing about this man, except that he was Jewish, and he nonetheless immediately asked him to come to his minyan, stay for Shabbos, and join him in his Avodas Hashem. For close to two years now, this column

has dealt with issues confronting the Orthodox world of today. Whether it is dealing with kids at risk, helping couples who must adopt, or interacting with the Orthodox deaf, there is a unifying characteristic amongst them all. That is, that each problem is not merely a problem by itself. However, they are all part of a larger picture. It is imperative, of course, that we deal with each issue at hand separately, professionally, and with the utmost sensitivity. However, by only attacking the problems at their tips, and not their roots, we will always be left with a seemingly untenable situation. At the heart of the matter lies an ailment we can cure, and through doing so, we can be on the road to a more effective remedy for each individual situation. What I refer to, of course, is our dire need for Ahavas Chinam. In Parshas Terumah, when detailing how to build the Mishkan, the Torah tells us that the Keruvim were "Porshei kenafim l'malah, u'penayhem ish el achiv." - "That their wings shall be spread upward, and their faces one to another." Recently, Rabbi Pesach Krohn, quoting the Sefero on this Pasuk noted that the Keruvim had both aspects of Torah. In other

words, their wings were facing Shamayim, symbolizing Mitzvot Bein Adam Lamakom, while they were facing one other, symbolizing Mitzvot Bein Adam L'Chaveyro, between man and his fellow man. That is, a Jew cannot be a shalaim Jew without both - true Avodas Hashem necessitates loving your fellow Jew. As I write this, we are coming out of the Chag HaPesach, Zman Chayrutainu. As we gathered around our Seder tables with family and friends at home, in the mountains, on YUSSR, or in Israel, we once again thanked Hashem for taking us out of Egypt and for saving us throughout the generations from all those who stand up against us - "Shebechol dor vador omdim alaynu l'chaloteinu, v'Hakadosh Baruch Humatz ilaynu miyadam." To put in bluntly, wherever he goes, the Jew manages to find enemies. There are enough people against us externally. We make up such a minuscule percentage of the world population, we must not be against each other, as well. There is a common tie that unites us - our Torah - and it is up to us to decide whether or not we will let it. To conclude, the same way we are machmir on other mitzvot, so too, we must be machmir on the D'oraissas of Ahavas Yisroel, of truly loving our fellow Jew. Once we can truly love one another unconditionally, we will be able to combat the challenges that face our community today. This being my final column, I thank you for two great years, and look forward to the day that a column such as this will no longer be necessary. Hopefully, over time, all of Klal Yisroel will show each other the emesdik love deemed necessary by the Torah, and thus ensure a brighter tomorrow for our children. By starting now, we CAN make it happen. Hopefully, through our efforts, let us see the coming of Moshiach and the Binyan Beit Hamikdash, bimhayrah biyamenu.

Talmud Program Reviewed

continued from front page

students that women's learning is important," explained Rabbi Moshe Kahn, a faculty member on the program as well as at SCW.

The program is willing to add ten students, depending on how many accept by the May 21st deadline. The participants, both the current and joining, will continue to receive \$18,000 from Avi Chai, the foundation that initiated and is sponsoring the program.

According to Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh, faculty member of the program, the controversy surrounding the program has died down. "For the first two weeks after the program was announced, it was the buzz, and then people forgot about it," explained Rabbi Bednarsh. Yet, many SCW and YC students still discuss the value of the program.

Foremost, students grapple with the essential issue of women's gemara learning. "If there's an availability of intellectual stimulation in secular studies it should be parallel in the Jewish studies," said Moshe Mandel, YC junior.

"There's been a wall built between the *torah she ba'al peh* and *torah she b'chtav* for women and this program is trying to overcome that," said Rabbi Kahn. "Women shouldn't think the only area open to them is *Tanach*."

On the other hand, some students, whether privately or publicly, oppose advanced gemara learning for women. "You just can't have two kollelniks existing together," said Ben Fried, YC senior. "Now it's two years, but eventually it might be 3 or 4 or 5 and then other things get neglected."

Included in this issue of boundaries, some have begun to fear that this program will lead to ordination, or *semicha*, for women. Gabe Wintner, YC Senior, explained that while he realizes the importance of guarding boundaries, there is a need for women to continue their Talmud education. "*Semicha* is not the logical outcome of this program," said Wintner. "Will it happen here? Probably. Does that mean the program should be cancelled? No."

Both Rabbi Bednarsh and Rabbi Kanarfogel are adamant that the program will in no way lead to anything remotely near *semicha*. "While it may be unclear what the technical source for the prohibition [of *semicha*] is, nonetheless, it is totally *asur*," insisted Bednarsh. "I think anyone who knows the women in this program will quickly abandon such ideas."

With the program comes the fear of a stereotype. "When people hear that you're in the 'Stern kollel' they have a certain image of you," said Ariela Tanzer, an SCW junior majoring in English and Judaic Studies, who is considering the program in two year's time. "I hear a lot of girls judging and stereotyping, and



Rabbi Bednarsh learns with student

kal vachomer with guys."

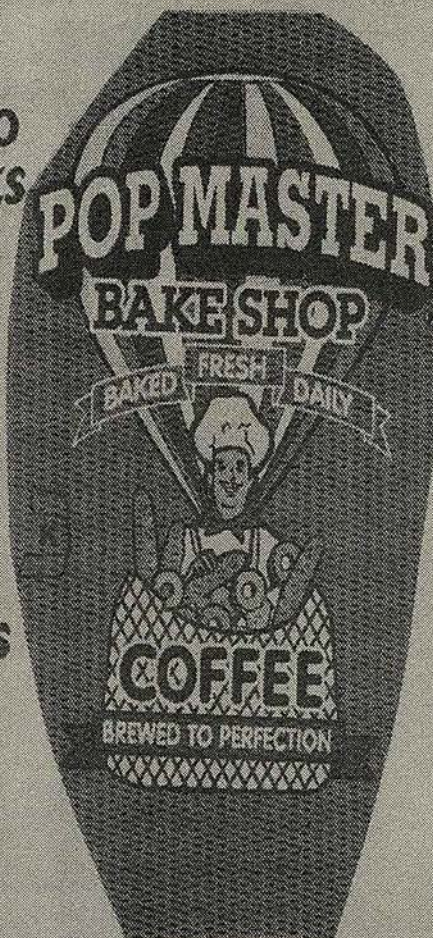
Nechama Soloveichik will be joining the program next year, and is not worried what people will think. "I'm a big believer in doing what you want," said Nachama Soloveichik, who plans on attending law school. "There's a lot I want to do and I'm not willing to sacrifice any of them." She feels that the stereotypes are misguided. "Anyone who calls me a feminist is wrong," claimed Soloveichik. "I'm against anything they cling to, like *tefilla* groups and women getting *aliyas*."

Joining in this sentiment, participants currently in the program are satisfied with the advanced level and the opportunity to continue their Jewish education. "This program is all about learning," said Rachel Goldstein, a student currently enrolled in the program. "There's no political agenda, at least from our teachers. It's *kulo torah*."

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Jewish Students Gather in D.C. in Support of Israel

SCW Student Speaks at Youth Rally

By: Kim Davis

On April 22 the Youth Rally For Truth was held in Lafayette Park, Washington D.C., directly across from the White House. The purpose of the rally, which was sponsored by Young Judea, was to unite Jews in support of Israel, especially in the specific cause of urging Washington to pressure the Palestinians to release Israeli Missing in Action soldiers.

The participants, approximately totaling 400 to 500 people, were mainly high school students from the organizations USY, NCSY, NSTY, B'nai Akiva, Tsofim/Tsbar, Hamagshimim, and Alexander Muss high school in Israel. Keynote speakers included, among others, Josh Schaff, national director of Young Judea, Brian Jaffee, director of Hamagshimim, Rabbi Avi Weiss, and a speaker from the Israeli Embassy. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon sent remarks to be read.

Beth Meshel, a junior at SCW majoring in Political Science, was among the speakers. Meshel, speaking on behalf of The Student Coalition in Support of Israel, began her speech by talking about the MIA's. In her speech, she incorporated Earth Day, which coincided with the date of the rally, Meshel compared the cause of environmentalists to the plight of MIA's. Both environmentalists and Israeli soldiers fight for their land, she said, but only the environmentalists are able to appreciate the results of their effort, while the MIA's are being held hostage by their enemy.

Meshel then went on to attack Palestinian propaganda. She refuted numerous claims that the Palestinians make, including the most famous one that

Israel is not interested in making peace. "Since Israel's establishment in 1948, Israel has tried to make peace with her neighbors and has paid a heavy price both in lives and by size," said Meshel. "Currently, Israel has made peace with Jordan and Egypt. And, in 1993, Rabin shook hands with Arafat with the hopes to achieve peace, and this past summer, Barak was overly generous in giving parts of Jerusalem to the Palestinians. It was Arafat who rejected the peace."

In addition to Meshel, other SCW students attended the rally. Yael Ariel, a freshman majoring in Psychology, said, "I had a great time at the rally. It was awesome to see kids from different youth groups, representing different religious and sometimes political ideologies, coming together as Jews to support Israel. There were tons of signs and Israeli flags, and a lot of cheering."

Devorah Helmus, a senior majoring in Art, said, "I went because I felt that sometimes I am too far removed from what is going on in Israel. I think that when people in Israel are suffering we are suffering too, and we have to share their pain because we are one."

Meshel encourages Yeshiva University students to attend future rallies for Israel. She emphasizes, "I think it's crucial for [YC]/Stern students, as representatives of Orthodox Jews with Torah values, to come out to show their concern and unconditional support for Israel and the MIAs because as Torah Jews we understand that Israel is an integral component of our Jewish identities. It is also important to show a united front to the rest of the Jewish community."

YU Graduates Grapple to Find Plans After Graduation

By: Sari Moskowitz

As graduation approaches and seniors finish their exit projects and final exams, there is one question that still lingers in the minds of the future graduates. What will I do after I graduate? For many, this question is more difficult than the most puzzling question on a college exam, more vexing than any riddle or brain teaser.

"Most people that are looking for jobs have no idea what they're doing," says Michelle Fogel, an SCW senior who majored in Political Science and Journalism. "Jobs in the communications field you just can't get 10 months in advance."

Yet it's not just Communications majors that are confused about the future. "I think about the future a lot," says Greg Samuels, a YC senior who is majoring in Psychology. "In all likelihood, I'll work for a semester and then go to law school." But like most seniors, he's really not sure.

Graduates of some departments are more likely than others to know what they are doing after graduation. Many SSSB majors, for example, are prepared to enter the work force, even if only temporarily. "I'm hoping to work for a while and then go for an MBA," says one SSSB senior. "I hope I'll be able to pull it off."

"Most of my friends don't know what they're doing," remarks Hagit Sedaghat-pour, an SCW senior who majored in Political Science. "But I think it's because

they needed a bit more advising than they got at SCW. The application process causes enough anxiety - doing it alone is even worse."

However, Sedaghat-pour quickly admits that despite her difficulties with her applications, choosing a career was not so difficult. "I always knew I wanted to be a lawyer," she says. And indeed, she is one of the 5 graduating Political Science majors who will go to law school next year.

"There are so many different options for graduates," says Professor Hatvary, who has advised hundreds of students over the years. "Many get married, take time off, go to graduate school or law school. Others choose to go straight to work, and possibly go to graduate school after working for a while." With so many options available, it's no wonder that so many graduates have difficulty deciding what to do after graduation.

Nevertheless, Professor Hatvary maintains that the function of an undergraduate education is for one to receive a well-rounded education that will serve as a springboard for specialized study. "Almost every job requires an additional education. An undergraduate education makes you an educated person, a citizen, and prepares you for graduate school. It serves to give you a taste and a direction, and to lead you to a specialized field of study."

The Observer

will be holding an

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This year's and next year's staff is invited.

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What: Basar will be served

EXAMINING ADOLESCENCE IN MODERN ORTHODOXY

By: A. Weinstein

Orthodox Jews are most likely a very challenging group to study. Just defining Orthodoxy and its subdivisions is complicated, because everything is based on perception. There has yet to be any serious academic study of Orthodox adolescent girls that has reached the community itself.

Yet, the expectations and attitudes of the Orthodox community undoubtedly exert influence on the behavior of its adolescent girls. *Halacha*, Torah law, regulates daily life for the observant, setting them apart from American culture. In a study interviewing a class of SCW students, several described the very high standards of the Orthodox community. Girls should "be perfect" in that they must look pretty, be "aidle" (sweet, kind and well behaved), agree with their elders, and hang out with the 'good girls.' One student added, "in a sense, there is a bigger [feeling of] conflict for Jewish adolescents...because a lot of adolescent behavior is not okay within the bounds of *halacha*." Some segments of the Orthodox community "demand conformity" and individuality is not a positive attribute, but a curiosity.

More than one student felt that adolescents are supposed to be "mini-adults." "From a *halachic* perspective, adolescents are obligated in *mitzvot* the same as adults - which is a daunting task." The identity "crisis" in Orthodox teens often involves the questioning of Judaism and G-d. This period is the most crucial time in 'religious development' because it is during adolescence that an individual decides if he or she will continue to practice Judaism. Although several girls remember having pride in their religious identity, a number of students admitted that they "grappled with

it," or even "ignored it."

But concern was expressed about the attitude of the society towards this stage; "I don't believe that the community recognizes fully that rebellion and extremism are normal...it is considered pre-adulthood and not so much as a own period. There is no real transition...it's may be because eighteen and nineteen year-olds are getting married." There was one suggestion that society "just expect[s] us to remain children till we marry and become adults."

Surprisingly, only two students referred to the expectation of being "*kallah maidelas*" (Yiddish phrase used to refer to girls of marriageable age). Many of the students felt that marrying early was "definitely idealized... But not getting married before 23 seemed nonfic."

"I have wanted to get married since seventh grade," wrote one married student. "I collected proposal letters and I thought marriage was the best thing in the world." Yet according to one student, "before 20 was ridiculous" and there was a voice that rejected the custom of getting young; claiming that singles "need to mature and real people first."

However, many students expressed pressures that the students endure to do with appearances, which are kept as a serious concern for *kallah maidelas*. The students cited the pressures of dieting, dressing right, appearance and "socially acceptable behavior." Orthodox Jewish girls allow themselves to be objects and the supporters of the almighty fashion industry because they must be seen as marriageable:

"We are supposed to be pretty Jewish girls," commented one student. "Ninety percent of my friends have dry their hair...Makeup—I myself have hundreds of dollars of makeup, creams, hair products.

We must look good for men (*shidduch*) but also for the women who scrutinize us young girls...Fads come and go. I don't wear any of my clothes for more than two years.

The rules of *tzniyut* (modest dress and behavior) are supposed to combat this, and in some communities it works, stresses one student. However, by and large, the students felt that the entire point of *tzniyut* was lost among Orthodox teens. Responding to the desires of men, Orthodox girls "try to dress as trashy as possible," wearing their long sleeve shirts tight and their skirts with slits, although certainly the ideal is quite the opposite. One student wrote that Orthodox teens "are eventually going to be marriage obsessed. Hence...they are very aware of the fact that they are being locked at...they 'fall for' the calls of the fashion industry."

The survey asked the students if society has made talks about sexuality taboo. One student ruminated that sexuality is considered inappropriate, though kids talk about it on their own. It is not possible to determine what effect this censoring has had on Orthodox teens. Is innocence a virtue? Or is it impractical and even hurtful to be caught unaware about a subject that dominates politics, commercialism, and religion? One student wrote, "I was exposed but some discussions are taboo and most adolescents are sexually repressed and embarrassed if they do think about such things."

It seems fair to say that there are many Orthodox teens, both male and female who are not informed about sexuality. This is understandable; sex is not necessary as a topic for discussion before marriage. But how do adolescents reconcile or feel about the changes of their bodies if no one is really educating them about sexuality?

Orthodox adolescents are in many ways typical adolescents. They too undergo

bouts of self-doubt and confusion. They knew perfect girls and cool cliques. They were the boy crazy prey of the fashion industry. But there are some elements of their lives that are off center for what psychologists term as typical adolescence. They live in a community with great expectations, with great religious obligations and unique social and religious customs. Is the Orthodox community expecting too much? There must be a reason why several girls felt that there is no recognition of adolescence as a stage in development. Further, there must be a cause of the marriage rush. Why is the fact that adolescents are sexual beings overlooked? These girls might be married in a few years.

Are we college students still adolescents? One proposal is that the post high school Israel experience is the last stage of adolescence. This year is dedicated to maturing; it is an acceptable time for extreme swings in behavior and the search for identity. Another proposal labels the first year in college as filled with many "adolescent" issues - confidence, social adjustment, and self-definition. One student surveyed said that "the SCW marriage obsession is also symptomatic of adolescence. Once people come back, they enter a new stage - that of dating. This makes them adults but how many are fully matured??"

The survey conducted does not represent an accurate representation of Orthodox adolescents; these are young women who have matriculated to college and are enrolled in a given class. Clearly, this tiny sample will be skewed and biased. Furthermore, the article does not reflect the beliefs of its author, who is merely explaining the responses to a questionnaire.

Selecting the Valedictorians

continued from front page

amazing girl," said Chana Rosenblatt, SCW senior. "She's bright, she's talented, she's a great basketball player, and a really dedicated friend. I'm really happy for her. She deserves it."



Aviva Weilgus, Sy Syms valedictorian

The method for selecting valedictorian at SCW is based exclusively on total Grade Point Average, provided the student fulfill the residency requirements. By contrast, YC's valedictorian is chosen by a student vote. YC seniors vote for their top three choices out of the ten highest GPAs in the first round of voting. Students vote again in the second round, picking one candidate out of three nominees. The YC valedictorian this year is Raymond Sultan. Like SCW, SSSB also chooses valedictorians based on GPA, with this year's valedictorians being Aviva Weilgus and Menachem Weiss.

"It's a tremendous honor to be selected," commented

Weilgus, who will be working at the accounting firm Deloitte & Touche next year.

But questions of whether a voting system is more appropriate for choosing valedictorian continue to plague the student body and administrators.

"It comes down to how you define Valedictorian," reflected Dean Karen Bacon. "Whether it's strictly the student with the highest GPA or whether its definition is an outstanding student. Each one has its positive and each one has its negative. If you go with the highest GPA, some students say that doesn't adequately represent the student body. If you go with a vote, students feel that it may be a popularity contest."

There are some clear advantages to choosing a valedictorian based only on GPA. "I think I like this system the best," commented Dean Orlian. "It's more straightforward. It eliminates other factors that maybe should or should not be considered, like what percentage of the class votes, what percentage of the class knows the candidates, what issues they consider in electing a candidate."

Ten years ago, SCW used to have a similar voting process but fear that it was becoming a popularity contest prompted

reform.

"If it's only one hundredth of a point and you're limiting it to the top GPAs, it's not really a popularity contest," reflected Toby Goldfisher, SCW junior.

On the other hand, some students felt that a vote would inevitably lead to a popularity contest. "If there are ten people on the ballot, I'm going to vote for whoever I know," commented Jennie Rosenfeld, SCW senior. "By its very nature, the winner will be a reflection of who knows more people."

Finally, some students believe that valedictorian should be some form of a popularity contest. "Don't you think that's important?" asserted Miriam Greenspun, SCW senior. "The valedictorian should be someone the students know, not just some random person that doesn't adequately represent the graduating class."

However, Dean Bacon questions the belief that the valedictorian must represent the class. "I don't know how the valedictorian is supposed to represent the class," Bacon ruminated. "It's an honor and doesn't have to represent the class."

Some SCW students expressed concern regarding SCW's method of picking a valedictorian. One problem is that

since GPAs are so close, the valedictorian is not unique in its high academic achievements.

"These things are very close," admitted Dean Bacon. "The top candidates can be .001 apart."

"Due to the problem of grade inflation, valedictorian doesn't mean anything," stated Aliza Weinstien, SCW senior. "You can take easy classes and not have learned anything and not be an intelligent person."

Students believe that achieving a high GPA could be a reflection of which classes you take, not how smart you are. "If you take a really easy major, it's really easy to have a high GPA," commented Susanne Goldstone, SCW junior. "My major, on the other hand, polisci, is a relatively difficult major."

The present system would allow for unfair class representatives, according to some SCW students. "The valedictorian could end up being a bookworm who never leaves the library and doesn't do anything for her school," Goldstone said.

Some students also point to the SCW joint program system as a potential source of skewed results. Students who take graduate classes are evaluated on the same level as those who take easy Judaic studies classes. Some

students point to a system of weighting harder classes as a possible answer to this problem.

"I think they should take other things into consideration," asserted Arona Schneider, SCW senior.

Nevertheless, administrators maintain that SCW's present system is the best. "A clear advantage to choosing the highest GPA is that there's no argument," Bacon said. "Otherwise people complain that not enough people voted, people didn't know there were elections, people didn't know the candidates. The fact that a person deserves honor is sometimes open to discussion as the vote leaves room for people to second-guess the results."

Systems for selecting valedictorians vary at other colleges, ranging from selecting the highest GPA to arranging a faculty or student vote to not having any valedictorian at all, such as Barnard College.

But no matter which system for choosing valedictorian SCW employs, there's bound to be controversy as well as benefits. "I think it's a very hard decision to make," commented Mina Shoshani, SCW senior.

And as Nechama Soloveichik, SCW senior, concluded, "Overall I think it comes out pretty fair."

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Awards Ceremony

continued from page 13



went into every detail of creating SCW events and I am sure everyone on the upcoming board will put in a lot of effort as well."

Chana Rosenblatt, who was awarded for "going beyond her duties in all positions," according to Schubert, felt that everyone who received awards were deserving of recognition. "I myself was really excited to get this award because I feel like I've worked hard for the student body during my stay at SCW and that I've made a difference," Rosenblatt says. "Even though this plaque certainly wasn't necessary, I really appreciate it."

Orly Elisha, president of the Chabad Club, attended the dessert to show support for her fellow leaders. "As president an SCWSC club, I feel that it's important for me to be a part of this event for leaders so to try to encourage other people to be involved."

Hagit Sedaghatpour also attended to recognize her fellow leaders, but ended up being recognized herself. "I think it's wonderful that we're being recognized, and it shows that our hard work pays off and it feels great," Sedaghatpour says. "It took me three years to get involved from when I came to SCW, and I learned that if elected to a position, you must put effort into your job. Even if you don't have an official position, every-



Married @ SCW

continued from page 12

because they are married," asserts Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students. "If they have specific problems, we help them the way we would help anyone else."

Even when a student does try to use her marriage or pregnancy as an excuse for failing to complete work or performing poorly on an exam - Schrecker could recall only one such case in thirteen years of teaching at SCW - teachers generally do not give them special treatment. "Marriage might

always been impressed by married students, and their hard work should demand the respect of their fellow students," Dean Bacon comments. "I commend people who can do it - be married, have a family, and do school," acknowledges SCW junior Beth Shapiro.

Interestingly, the increased responsibility of married students may be precisely the reason why they perform academically the same and even better once married. "Marriage is a maturing experience," suggests Grunhaus. "It opens people's minds to new ways of thinking and makes them more realistic." According to Dean Bacon, "married students are often more goal-directed and organized. They are able to better appreciate the preciousness of time."

Even though official policy and academic performance do not distinguish married students from non-married students, their very presence on campus does affect the college environment. "The large number of married students creates this feeling that one's supposed to get engaged and get married," says Schrecker. One SCW sophomore comments that seeing so many married people at Stern "puts on a lot of pressure to get married." Not everyone feels the pressure, though. "I wouldn't do it [get married while in college], but if they want to, kol hakavod," says an SCW junior.

However, even if married students do not create pressure for others to marry, they still contribute to a general atmosphere of marriage as a priority. "There's a definite let's get out of college feeling," says SCW sophomore A tara Sender.

It seems logical that a correlation between getting married and a decrease in one's involvement with college should exist. Since recently getting married, one student admitted that she has lost interest. "Before marriage I would at least consider going to school events, now, not at all," Braun maintains, however, that student involvement is not a function of marital status but of the stu-

dent's personality. "Married people who were active [before marriage] stay active [after marriage]," Braun said.

Even so, married students still miss out on certain experiences that their single friends have. "College is a time to focus on personal growth," Sender says, representing the sentiments of many college students. "Marriage is also the beginning of a life of self-discovery," says Dean Bacon in response to the former claim. "Students should be taking a different approach and start looking at the intellectual quality of marriage."

The expression of dissatisfaction with married women on campus has put married students on the defensive. According to one recently engaged sophomore, single students have no reason to complain. "People knew before they came to Stern what it would be like," she says. But marriage at SCW also can be seen from a more ideological point of view. "Stern is a religious girls college," Grunhaus mentions. "Marriage is an institution which the halacha is in favor of."

Indeed, for some, the presence of married women at SCW represents an ideal, and therefore produces a positive environment. "Most people want to be married and have kids, maybe not now, but at some point," says Shapiro. "This college is better than others because Stern emphasizes that although work is important, family is important, too." According to Grunhaus, "there are students who are primarily concerned with marriage and some who are mostly interested in launching their careers. Students have to think realistically about integrating...the presence of married girls helps foster that."

The ideal for Orthodox women - having a career and a family - and an intellectual environment are not mutually exclusive. "The college holds students to a high standard of academics," asserts Dean Bacon. "Stern College is built around a community of teaching and learning. All students who are serious about education are welcome."



create more of a likelihood of a crisis, but I never thought that was a more valid excuse," claims Grunhaus. Official policy is that married and pregnant students are treated the same as any student with special personal issues or medical problems.

In some cases, the course-load for a married or pregnant student is even more difficult. Many pregnant students, for example, are excused from Biology Lab because of the carcinogenic chemical Formaldehyde, which can be harmful to fetuses, used in preservatives. However, they are not excused from the midterm and final, which is a practicum. "Pregnant students are at a disadvantage," insists lab instructor Dr. Harriet Zuckerbraun. "They have to know everything without having done the actual dissections." A student who is allergic to Formaldehyde or has other related medical problems is treated the same way as a pregnant student.

Being married while at college, therefore, can be very challenging. "I have

Summer Plans

continued from page 9

Africa for seven weeks during the summer to build houses for underdeveloped communities. She is volunteering because she interested in non-profit, humanitarian work.

Because there are so many wonderful opportunities in the summer, some girls are not quite sure what they want to do. Karyn Spero, a junior majoring in psychology, is getting married this June. After her wedding, she wants to either take summer classes at Cleveland State University, work at camp together with her husband, or work for Americangreetings.com. Karyn says that because of all her options give her opportunities to do things over the summer that are interesting, productive, and beneficial, she is unsure of what she wants to do as of now.

Students who get jobs in the summer often do so to make money and because it looks good on their resume. Some who are interning and do not get paid might do so to get experience and as a reference for future jobs. For example, psychology majors who have internships will be able to get a feel for what they want to do in the future by trying different options in the field of psychology. Good ways to find jobs or internships for the summer are to look for job offers posted in the SCW building and to attend the career fairs offered by SCW and YU.

But whatever they choose to do in the summer, SCW students know how to make the most of their vacation days before returning to school in the fall.

Fashion Show

continued from page 14

sories from "Tali Mohadeb" accessories. In addition, an up and coming designer named "Tzina" was used in the shows lineup.

All of these elements along with the spirited attitudes of the announcers gave the show a type of energy that was felt by all those who were present. The audience felt comfortable in this funky and fun atmosphere and was willing to sit back, relax, and enjoy the hour and a half journey into spring's new wardrobe.

The styles that were shown gave an insight into the trendy and hot new looks. Some styles included wrap dresses, tie up shirts, and plaids and linen outfits, which were shown in an assortment of colors. Black and white seem to be the colors this spring, along with brighter ones such as pink, baby blue, and beige. In addition, the announcers pointed out the top 10 must haves in the show for your spring closet. These "must haves" include the strappy sandal, wide colorful belts, hoop earrings, and anything with polka dots.

The Spring Fashion Show not only provided an in depth look into spring fashion, but it also showed the viewer how to put these looks together. For all those that missed out on this "fashion mania" experience, don't fret. These Sy Syms students plan on notifying you about what you should wear to keep warm and stylish, in the winter fashion show next semester.

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on campus

New Bible Professor to Join Faculty Next Semester

By: Caryn Litt

The Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies has hired Dr. Michelle Levine as a Bible professor for the upcoming year. Levine will teach on the advanced level.

"Tanach is one of the largest departments and we needed extra faculty," explained Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies. "We hired her to provide additional opportunities in Tanach."

By giving students greater choice in Bible classes, the Jewish Studies department will also accomplish its ultimate goals - making the skill levels more distinct and reducing class sizes.

Levine attended Michlala and Brooklyn College, from which she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She received her Masters from Revel and taught part-time at Stern before leaving to write her dissertation, on the literary style of Ramban, for which she received prizes and grants. Her

areas of expertise include Bible language, Parshanut, and medieval Jewish thought.

"I've heard [Dr. Levine] speak and have a positive impression of her as a scholar," remarked Bible professor Rabbi Mordechai Cohen. "It sounds like it will be a good addition to the department."

For the Fall 2001 semester Levine is slated to teach Exegesis of the Malbim, Shir Hashirim, and Genesis, prompting some students to question the diversity of the Bible department.

"I feel that the advanced Tanach teachers are very *parshanut*-oriented. There's a big lack of teachers who teach *Chumash* more thematically," said SCW sophomore Abby Calm.

Kanarfogel, however, is pleased with the direction in which Levine's arrival shows the Bible department is heading. According to him, "the Bible teachers are all dynamic, all interesting, all have a lot to say, all are sought after ... We now have a tremendous richness in Tanach."

"We hired her to provide additional opportunities in Tanach"

SCW Loses Key Computer Science Professor

Pommot-Maia Leaves as Department Suffers Neglect

By: Miriam Colton

Frustrated with her treatment at SCW, Dr. Marize Pommot-Maia will be leaving her position as a computer science and physics professor at the end of this semester. Pommot-Maia, who has continually voiced her complaints over the four years that she has taught at SCW, feels that while she has had support from the Administration, services like Facilities and MIS are hurting the department and its teachers. "Computer Science is an exasperating department to work in," claimed Pommot-Maia. "I came in last semester to teach a course and the system I needed wasn't set up, even though I received an email over the summer from MIS that they had installed the program."

Pommot-Maia feels that the computer science students are seriously neglected. While most majors at SCW have at least one professor who teaches full-time in that department, the Computer Science major does not have anyone.

"Stern needs a full-time teacher, exclusively at midtown, who will involve the students in research and give them professional advice and guidance," Pommot-Maia asserted. She was hired to teach an equal number of computer science and physics courses, but ended up teaching at least 75% computer science courses, due to lack of professors for those courses. Currently Dr. Breban is the only full-time exclusive Computer Science teacher, and he is shared with YC.

Though a practical field, computer science is one of the smallest departments at SCW, with about twenty majors. Pommot-Maia insists that the major would grow steadily if SCW did a better job of promot-

ing it, by holding forums on its appeal to women who want both a career and family.

Pommot-Maia's main complaint is directed at MIS, the department in charge of computer software and maintenance, and Facilities the department which takes care of the technical aspects like wiring, authorizing computer purchases, and setting up Ethernet. "It's unacceptable and inefficient that as a computer teacher I had to wait two weeks to receive a computer address to be part of the network, when it takes five minutes to do," explained Pommot-Maia. She claims that the computers and software at SCW are not continually updated



and that it's difficult to conduct research and teach in such an environment.

In response to these complaints, Dean Bacon has requested that an MIS person be responsible for the Computer Science department's needs, with special expertise in their operating systems and programs. MIS has declined to respond.

To fill the vacancy left by Pommot-Maia, last week the Dean's office hired a new teacher, Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, current professor at Queens College, who will be teaching physics and Discrete Structure. According to Dean Bacon, Frenkel will be focused on building up the physics department. The Intro to Computer Science course is still

vacant and listed as Staff in the Fall '01 registration booklet. SCW prefers to hire an additional full-time professor to cover the Intro class and others. "It's possible we won't hire a new full-time Professor for another few months, because it's late in the game," said Dean Bacon. "We will have to hire a part time teacher to teach the introductory class in the meantime. The commercial sector is absorbing the talented people, and that possibility of money is hard to compete with."

Many students feel that in that case, salaries for the computer science department should be raised to counter the competition. Some computer science majors speculate that the administration's inability to retain a favorite like Pommot-Maia, as well as its difficulties in acquiring a full-time teacher, continue the pattern of neglect towards the department.

Many alumnae, as well as students, were upset to hear that Pommot-Maia would not be returning to SCW. Valerie Shwartz, SCW '00, currently working at Goldman Sachs, was dismayed. "I ended up as a major because Pommot-Maia taught the Intro class," explained Shwartz. At Pommot-Maia's urging, with the assistance of Dean Bacon, a new computer room exclusively for major opened in 245 Lex this year.

Pommot-Maia will be returning to the commercial sector "to make money." She entered the education to share her knowledge but became frustrated. "It's a rapidly evolving field and we're behind," claimed Pommot-Maia. "It's a shame because we have bright students who can be terrific professionals and we're denying them the opportunity to grow."

Mogilner Becomes First Full Time Academic Advisor

Move from Registrar Redefines Responsibilities of the Two Departments

By: Adina Levine

In an attempt to accommodate a burgeoning student body with more academic advisors, Ms. Rochelle Mogilner has been moved from the Registrar to Academic Advisement. Hired in October 2000 to do senior checks as a Registrar responsibility, Mogilner will now conduct senior checks in her new role as the only full time academic advisor.

"This new position is much more enjoyable," reflected Mogilner. "I'm more of a people person."

With a social work background at Ohel as the Domestic Violence Program coordinator for 18 years, Mogilner received her masters from Wurtzweiler in 1982. As an alum of YU, Mogilner began working at SCW this past October.

"I always liked the concept of working at a university and working with women," Mogilner remarked. "This job seemed like a good shidduch."

Some students expressed joy that the university has finally decided to expand its academic advisement department to help



students. "It's about time that SCW realized that having only two part time advisors can't help 1,000 students," commented Mindy Rothstein, SCW sophomore.

But as to whether moving personnel from the Registrar would solve this problem, students weren't sure. "It's understaffed both ways," said Esther Vogel, SCW

continued on page 18

STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS INTERNSHIP

By: Alisa Rose

As summer approaches and many SCW students look forward to spending their days outdoors, several science majors are excited about spending most of their summer indoors. In a noteworthy achievement, more than a dozen SCW students have won prestigious internships in research institutes this summer.

"Internships are an honor because they are competitive," says biology professor Dr. Babich.

After completing an application and an interview, several students were selected to do

says. AECOM not only offers a stipend for the summer, but they also have optional on-campus housing.

Three SCW students will have further to travel to their internships. Rachel Nivasch, Meryl Sava, and Michal Gold were selected to do their internships at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. Rachel Nivasch, an SCW junior majoring in biology, actually declined an internship at AECOM to research at the Weizmann Institute instead. For her, the decision was not too difficult because Weizmann had the research areas she was interested in, and her family lives in Israel. When asked whether she is disappointed to be spending her summer indoors, Nivasch, who hopes to pursue a Ph.D in chemistry, replied, "Usually in the summer I have nothing to do... I am happy that I'll be busy."

Aside from the many students who have been accepted to internship programs, several sci-



Bracha Kenigsberg

research at AECOM (Albert Einstein College of Medicine). AECOM runs an 8-week summer research program, appointing their interns to different research projects. Among the SCW students chose for the AECOM internships this summer were Shayna A'ister, Elena Sedletscaia, Yehudit Weinberger, Bracha Kenigsberg, Hadassa Ruitman, Meredith Weiss, Elana Hamburger, and Rachel Nivasch.

As a junior biology major hoping to go to medical school, Bracha Kenigsberg is excited about research at AECOM this summer. "I love research, and this is an opportunity to learn even more about medical research," she



Yehudit Weinberger

ence majors will be working on directed independent research projects in research institutes this summer. Shoshana Frankel, a

continued on page 11