



Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

Volume XLV Number 1

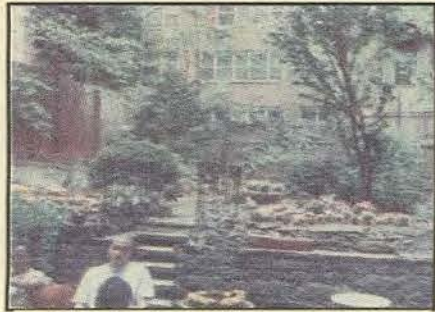
9 Elul 5761

New Dorm Opens Unexpectedly in Time for New Semester

By: Miriam Colton

In a turnabout that surprised many students, the new residence hall on 36th Street opened its top two floors on Sunday. The 36th Residence Hall, previously known as Robert's House, is now housing an additional fifty students, at a crucial time when SCW enrollment has exceeded one thousand students.

The new facility, which has one Graduate Assistant and Resident Assistant, has allowed for Brookdale to



Garden in new dorm presents added attraction for students

keep its study halls in addition to placing eleven fewer students in Independent Housing this semester. Students and administration were worried that the sudden influx of students deciding not to go to Israel for their freshmen year, due to the current tensions there, would leave some students without housing. However, as of Friday, Dean Himer reported that every

student who requested housing had been placed. "It's possible that less people requested housing this year," said Dean Himer, explaining how crowding was reduced even though there was increased enrollment and only 50 additional beds.

Last May, a special issue of the *Observer* revealed that Yeshiva had announced that the new dorm, which was expected to be fully operational by the fall semester, would not be opening. The special issue prompted students into uncommon student activism, and in the midst of finals, students held a protest outside an SCW Board meeting.

At the time, no reason was given as to why the dorm would not be opening. "I had no comment at the time because there were serious negotiations with the labor union going on and it would not have been prudent to be very public," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of

continued on page 14



Workers hurry to finish staircase for opening on Sunday

Undergraduate Tuition Significantly Increases for Second Year in Row

By: Sari Moskowitz

As the fall semester begins, many SCW and YC students return to the same dorms, classrooms, cafeterias and teachers that they have grown accustomed to in previous years. Yet this year, they will be paying significantly more than in the past for the same provisions. For the second year in a row, SCW and YC tuitions are increasing, to the distress of many students and parents who were already struggling to pay the costly price

of attending a private university.

Like most universities, YU raises its tuition fairly frequently—virtually every year or two—to contend with the changes in the economy and the mounting needs of a rapidly growing institution. However, for the estimated 75 percent of students who already depend on financial aid, this year's tuition increase is particularly burdensome.

For the Fall 2001 semester, tuition for SCW students who have already spent at least one semester on campus will be \$23,830. Continuing YC students will now pay \$23,880, which includes a mandatory \$50 activity fee that does not exist for SCW students. These sums indicate a tuition increase of \$1000 for all returning YU undergraduate students. SCW students who are new to the YU campus will be required to pay \$24,930, and the tuition for new YC students will be \$24,980. This is the second year that YU is implementing a

continued on page 21



Orientation 2001
Page 7

YU Launches \$400 Million Capital Campaign

\$275 Million Raised So Far

By: Adina Levine

In a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in late May, YU officially announced its anticipated \$400 million capital campaign, the largest campaign in YU's 115 year history. With more than \$275 million raised to date, the event marks the first major university campaign with ten donors committing \$10 million or more.

"That's more than two-thirds of our overall \$400 million goal - an extraordinary success," commented Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert Beren, who has himself contributed \$15 million to the campaign.

Held in the New York Historical Society, the capital campaign

announcement marked the first major step in Beren's career as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The elaborate ceremony included speeches by Sy Syms and Rabbi Lamm as well as a video outlining the

bon by Max Grill who had just celebrated his 101st birthday.

"This is an historic juncture in the annals of Yeshiva University," said Rabbi Lamm. "The generosity of our friends and sup-



Max Grill celebrates one hundred and first birthday at capital campaign launch

different programs in YU. However, the highlight of the evening was the cutting of the red rib-

continued on page 14

New Azrieli Dean Appointed

By: Alexandra Beard

This summer, Azrieli Graduate School appointed David J. Schnall as a new dean for the upcoming 2001-2002 school year.

Schnall offer a wealth of personal achievement and experience to the university. "Dr. Schnall has an



Schnall

international reputation in both Jewish and secular scholarship, spanning several fields and disciplines and embodying the values of Torah Umadda," said President Norman Lamm at Schnall's appointment. "I can think

of no one better able to bring fresh and creative leadership to the very core of our mission as a yeshiva and a university." After graduating from YC and receiving ordination from RIETS, Schnall acquired a masters degree in Jewish studies from Revel, as well as earning a masters degree and PhD in political science at Fordham University. He then served as a professor of public administration at Long Island University for 12 years, after which he

was appointed to the Herbert Schiff Chair in Management and Administration at Wurzweiler in 1991. In 1999, he was awarded a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship and was the first faculty member from Wurzweiler to receive such an honor. Schnall has also published eight books and over 100 articles dealing with Jewish affairs, management, and public policy.

With the present change in administrations, Azrieli should expect some upcoming developments. "We plan to shape Azrieli's role as the leader and standard bearer in Jewish education not only in teaching and training, research and curriculum development, but also in advocacy and public activism," said Dr. Schnall. "Our curriculum must reflect new developments in educational media and technology alongside the changing realities of contemporary Jewish society, changes that our teachers face everyday."

As a result, Azrieli will increase degree offerings in early childhood education and special education; offer seminars in various professional developmental areas; and create programs that join forces with synagogues, summer camps, museums and Jewish community centers.



Diane Demands Dollars Due to Discrimination
Page 24



Lesbians Likely to Luck out in Lawsuit
Page 12



Coed Courses Characterize College Campus
Page 10

ORIENTATION CALENDER

Wednesday, August 29

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

8:00 PM Orientation 2001: Student Council's Event

Thursday, August 30

8:00 PM Orientation 2001: A night at the theater—Blast!

Friday, August 31

9:30 AM Student Councils' Chesed Event: Help the Homeless

7:12 PM Candle Lighting; Orientation Shabbat begins

Sunday, September 2

Student Council Event

Thursday, September 6

Orientation 2001: Student Council' Event TBA

Sunday, September 9

Orientation 2001: Great Adventure!!!!

The Observer Welcomes

All Comments

Please Call (212)-683-4943

or Email Us at

Observer@ymail.yu.edu

The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10016.

(212) 683-4943. Fax: (212) 340-7773.

Observer@ymail.yu.edu

The Observer is published monthly during the academic year by the Stern College for Women Student Council. The staff of the Observer retains the right to choose newspaper content and to determine the priority of stories. While unsigned editorials represent the views of the Observer's editorial board, all opinions expressed in signed editorials, columns, letters and cartoons are the opinions of the writers or artists and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Observer, Stern College for Women, its student body, faculty or administration.

Adina Levine & Miriam Colton
Editors-in-Chief

Alexandra Beard
Executive Editor

Sari Moskowitz
News Editor

Caryn Litt
Features Editor

Shira Frankel
Copy Editor

Vivi Stahl & Mindy Rothstein
Layout Editors

Ami Flatt & Sara Trappler
Cultural Arts Editors

Michal Leah Kanovsky
Columnist

Shifra Chana Rothstein
Photography Editor

Meryl Sava
Distribution Manager

Rivky Borg
Business Manager

Mimi Sternberg
Business Editor

Yeshiva University *** Midtown Campus *** Office of Student Services

FEELING PUZZLED?

Mrs. Zeldra Braun
Assistant Dean of Students
MID 114 * 340-7715

Ms. Beth Hait
Coordinator of Student Services
MID 133 * 340-7714

Ms. Rachel Kraut
Residence Supervisor
BRH 1G * 340-7795

Dr. Shani Nissel
Assistant to the Resident Supervisor
SRH RA OFFICE * 340-7466

Dr. Rochelle Ausubel
Psychologist
MID 114 * 340-7715

WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.yu.edu/studentservices

Message from the Editors



Adina Levine
Editor-in-Chief

The first time I took the subway, I memorized the number of stops until I would get off, packed my swiss army knife in my back pocket, avoided eye contact with any other passengers and held tightly to my wallet. I carefully checked to make sure I was on the "Uptown" side of the platform before realizing that the train doors had already closed and I had missed the train. Not ten seconds later, I packed into another crowded car, mumbling Tehillim under my breath and crossing my arms over my bag, lest some murderous citizen mug me. And after this traumatic ordeal, I bragged to everyone I saw, "I survived the subway without getting robbed!" Applause was in order.

By contrast, a few years later, I routinely entered the SCW cafeteria and dropped my bag in some seat, joining other similarly abandoned bags. On one such occasion, I entered the cafeteria, deposited my bulging knapsack in the relative security of a bunch of diners, and navigated my way through the lunch line. I passed the student removing the cherry tomato stems to avoid the extra weight, the student who had not yet mastered the frozen yogurt machine as luscious strawberry overflowed from the styrofoam cup, (did you know there's a three week training program to work at Carvel?) the vegetable soup that looked dangerously similar to last night's chicken soup, and finally to the cash register where a swipe of the card revealed that I had spent \$50 in the course of two days. This seemingly mundane experience, while it took only five minutes to write, took 15 to execute and by the time I returned to my point of departure, both the dining students and my knapsack had disappeared.

Dazed and confused, my first thought was to finish my scrumptious dinner in the company of newly discovered friends at an adjoining table before acting too hastily. Task accomplished, I trudged up the stairs to use a payphone to call my cell phone, thinking that someone had accidentally taken my knapsack and the ringing cell phone would reveal the mistake. When a verizon recording revealed that the person I was trying to reach was either unavailable or had traveled beyond the service area, I proceeded to check every floor of the SCW building (luckily there are only eleven flights), wondering whether someone had misplaced my backpack. Finally, I decided to report my bag "missing" and then impulsively changed my plea to "stolen."

Security found my bag relatively soon afterward, a *chafetz chashud* lying in the TV lounge, and I was so grateful that I quickly grabbed my bag to return to the dorm, thanking the guard a million times. "Wait a minute," he urged me, "shouldn't you check to make sure everything is there?" Certain as I was that everything was intact, I made a hasty glance into the bag, ascertained that my wallet was in place, and smiled at the guard to express my appreciation. He directed me to open the wallet, and – at this point, frustrated by the overcautiousness of the guard who obviously didn't understand the trust that exists at SCW – I was surprised to discover \$70 of cash missing – or rather, stolen.

Whoever stole it had in one instance killed all the trust I had invested in my school over the years. I have always left my door unlocked (receiving numerous Brookdale security warnings), deposited food outside the computer room, and applauded the work of S.H.A.R.E. (the Hashavos Aveida program) at returning my lost disks. I had felt bad for students at other schools that had to guard their belongings so carefully when I was perfectly at home and at ease in SCW. But suddenly I was in their shoes, worse in fact, because I had survived the subway but was robbed in my college.

Upon reflection, I recognize that a total loss of trust would be overreacting. One bad experience cannot change the positive relationships that characterize my everyday life at SCW. Instead, a new measured sense of caution was the proper response, to be wary of the negative aspects while embracing the good.

As we begin a new year, we start off on a new foot with a clean slate but not a blank memory. As we make new friends and meet new classmates, we may tend to feel removed from the past, almost carefree. But it would be a mistake to repeat our past errors, and we must use the wisdom of experience of the previous years to guide us in our everlasting quest toward truth and happiness.

I won't pretend to know what wisdom I gained by losing \$70 nor what innocence I lost in the same experience, but its occurrence highlights the essential conflict of a newspaper reporter. We try to approach every story with a positive outlook, but unfortunately, experience has taught us that things aren't always as hunky dory as they seem. In fact, naivete can hurt us if we accept every story at face value and put undeserved trust in biased sources. And yet, to be unreservedly pessimistic erodes the relationship and the loyalty that we feel to our college.

The reader may not glean this ethical conflict from the printed material. For every article printed, you have no idea how many others were rejected. For every negative spin, you cannot appreciate how many positive themes were tossed around. There are two sides to every coin, and you can read any preconceived notion into every article. Some SCW students have accused us of being too negative, while others have criticized our overly positive outlook on our college. And of course, there's no way to please everyone.

This new year has the potential to fulfill all our dreams and lead to success. And to maximize that potential, we must take everything in stride to look for the positive – but also to recognize the truth. And the truth may be that SCW is not perfect. Only by first recognizing that imperfection can we ever hope to change it.



Miriam Colton
Editor-in-Chief

Of the various stories I was working on this summer for 20/20, this one intrigued me most. After spending a few weeks in the *Brian Ross Unit*, the investigative reporting division of *ABC News*, doing stories on pharmaceutical companies and pollution in the Hudson River, the piece on intern life in Washington D.C. that came up with the explosion of the Chandra Levy case grabbed my attention.

Besides being more interesting and lively, the story was one that I as an intern could assist with most. The story was a crash piece, produced in barely a week, and they needed all the help they could get. I spent harried days on the phone to random interns and social commentators in D.C., networking my way around the Capitol, trying to find those willing and interesting enough to go on tape.

Days before the story was aired, the producers were scheduled to fly down to D.C. They had two tickets for the interns; there were three of us. It was understood that I would not go.

I couldn't and wouldn't participate in the party scene, dancing and drinking in the clubs so as to meet D.C. interns. But I mainly couldn't go because the trip, like so many other ABC parties and events, coincided with Shabbos. So while the other interns got a free trip to D.C. and the journalistic opportunity of an intern's dream, I stayed in the office and managed the phones.

This was the first time that my Orthodoxy was in direct conflict with something that I was interested in and more importantly, involved in. I was hit with the strict lim-

itation of the Orthodox Jew in the workplace, especially in journalism.

Does this mean I'm abandoning all thoughts of some variation of that career? Not necessarily. But it did reinforce my belief in the importance of attending Yeshiva University.

I'm able to attend a college where we can fully participate in all social and academic aspects without comprising my Orthodoxy. And even Yeshiva's bashers will reluctantly admit that we are not extensively compromising on academic opportunities. In those areas that we are lacking, Yeshiva and its students should expend the effort to strengthen them because of the importance of having an Orthodox university.

As someone who enjoys extra-curricular activities, I would need to be extremely cautious elsewhere of all that I participate in, while at SCW I have no such worries. ABC is a bastion of American culture, in which I, by virtue of my practice, do not fully participate. The producers and other interns are probably still wondering what kind of life I can have without drinking, clubs, and parties....

At any other college, becoming an editor on the newspaper staff would be extremely difficult as a lot of the work is done on Shabbos. Furthermore, the halachic framework of an Orthodox university assists me, as editor, in deciding what can and cannot be printed. The environment heightens my awareness of halacha, so that not only is my journalism not in conflict with halacha, it is dictated by it.

So while I gained a lot this summer from my experiences at ABC and being out there in the workplace, I'm gaining a lot more from my experiences here at Yeshiva, and with that, look forward to another semester.



Alexandra Beard
Executive Editor

The summer is over, and I'm inspired. Although I'm a

proud out-of-towner and most often dread coming back to the concrete-laden New York City, which I find hard to admit as my second home, I've actually changed my attitude. Surprisingly enough, I'm sort of excited about being back. And it's not because this is my senior year at SCW. It's because this summer I gained the valuable gift of perspective, of being in a place different from the comfort and familiarity of home. Only then could I come back with a renewed view of what was to me, merely ordinary.

This summer I spent six weeks in London working at Aish HaTorah. While I was essentially an intern, working on various public relations and marketing material, being in such a dynamic and successful environment such as Aish UK could not but affect me. The drive and idealism that fueled all who worked there was palpable in the air. The utter confidence of each staff member that his or her efforts and actions were literally making a difference to the Jewish people

was inspirational. And the exciting and vibrant environment of the center, with people of all walks of life coming in to learn more about their heritage and to meet fellow Jews, was simply contagious.

So how did this help me gain clarity about 34th Street? Amongst the many summer programs that Aish UK runs, one of the brand new programs was a three-week trip to New York. Over 70 people from England arrived in the much-anticipated Big Apple, viewing the Empire State Building and hustle and bustle of Manhattan with an idealized sense of freshness and enthusiasm. They toured and shopped, met businessmen and famous rabbis, discussed medical ethics and fundamentals of Jewish thought, and came back inspired and motivated.

"They got all this from New York?" I thought, although now I am quite ashamed for my impudence. And when I told people that I was in university in New York, bright smiles swept over their faces and they asked in amazement, "You actually live in New York? That must be so exciting."

I got a few of these wake up calls this summer, as people constantly reminded me of how lucky I was to be living in the most happening city in the world. To be

honest, I mostly dismissed their comments, denying the 'greatness' of New York and trying to prove the innate superiority of the South, and my hometown of Atlanta.

I couldn't ignore their comments. As I visited the various museum and sites in London, their words kept on creeping into my mind, "New York must be so exciting." But compared to London, compared to all the amazing museums and things to do in London?! Then my final lesson came. I picked up my *Frommers London 2001* and unintentionally opened to a page in the museum section which said, "The Courtauld Gallery, almost impressive as the Frick Collection in New York City." I swallowed hard. I had never been to the Frick.

So I've come back from London determined to actually enjoy New York, from roaming around Central Park more often (although it can never compare to any of the parks in London) to visiting the museums and areas that I have failed until now to appreciate. All I know is that a change of atmosphere can work wonders. Or it could just be that the grass is always greener on the other side. Either way, I finally realized that we live in one of the most amazing cities in the world, even if it did take me an overseas airfare to understand.

Letter to the Editor

Redefining the Role of the President's Circle

Dear Students of Yeshiva:

I am writing to re-acquaint you with the President's Circle, a small group of alumni of Yeshiva College, Sy Syms School and Stern College who, for a number of years, have contributed their money to enhance student life on campus. An article in the last issue of *The Commentator* highlights the need to correct misapprehensions held by students regarding the nature of our group and its activities.

The key part of what we do is "enhancement." We do not serve simply as another bucket of money from which students can feel free to draw. We ask you to come to us with specific proposals for projects, and tell us how you would raise money for them, and, if your project fits within our stated goals, we will help you. Most particularly, we do not provide annual stipends to fund the budget shortfalls of the student organizations or publications, but we are eager to help them with special projects and to get new ideas off the ground. We favor funding projects that are new and untried, and couldn't get traditional support, or that otherwise would have fallen through the cracks without our help. Although our funds are not limitless, over the years we have disbursed tens of thousands of dollars to help add to the special experience of students at Yeshiva Stern.

In the past, we have facilitated this process with occasional meetings with student leaders and with direct consultations with those students. We intend to continue to

do so in the future, when such meetings can be arranged despite the constraints of the academic calendar and our members' often busy schedules. Our primary method of identifying and evaluating proposals has been, and will in all likelihood continue to be, through written student presentations, submitted to us through the Dean of Students and the Development Office. This method has been most effective in the past.

The article in *The Commentator* conspicuously fails to acknowledge that in our last appropriation, we committed \$20,000 to various projects, and that last year we spent over \$30,000. The article in *The Commentator* also implies a student expectation that requests need only be made to be granted. This could not be further from the truth. We have always received requests for more money than is available and have always been selective in our appropriations.

On this basis, we are pleased to continue helping make your years at Yeshiva, Sy Syms and Stern more enjoyable, more fulfilling, more productive, and more memorable. If you have an idea that can make that happen, let the student councils know, and prepare a proposal for them to submit in support of the project, or submit the project to the Dean of Students to be forwarded us.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope that one day you will join us in our efforts to give something special back to Yeshiva, Sy Syms and Stern.

Sincerely,
Louis Tuchman
Co-Chairman of the President's Circle

BARNES & NOBLE IS PROUD TO SERVE THE YESHIVA COMMUNITY

PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR RUSH
BOOKSTORE LOCATION IN
THE LOBBY OF 215 LEXINGTON

*FREE CANVAS BAG WITH PURCHASE OF \$150 OR
MORE
PAY NO SALES TAX ON TEXTBOOKS!*

STORE HOURS:

TUESDAY, 8/28 & WEDNESDAY, 8/29	10-6
THURSDAY, 8/30	12-8
FRIDAY, 8/31	10-2
TUESDAY, 9/4 & WEDNESDAY, 9/5	10-6
THURSDAY, 9/6	12-8
THURSDAY, 9/20	10-7
FRIDAY, 9/7	10-2
MONDAY 9/10 & TUESDAY, 9/11	10-6

Stern Gear is now on sale!!!

Sweatshirts reg \$30
with this coupon \$25

Tee-Shirts reg \$10
with this coupon 2 for \$15

Opinions

Advice from an Upper Classman

By: Ariela Dworetzky

Sunday morning, 9am -- a line of girls standing with shopping malls worth of clothes in giant, dumpy laundry baskets with enough food for a year (many have not yet discovered Pizza Cave; they'll learn). Watching this year's freshmen and "Israel sophomores" move into the SCW dorms brings back memories from last year when I was the new girl, fresh out of seminary. But now, as a peer advisor, at the ripe old age of twenty, I feel wrinkled, wise and experienced enough to share what I learned in my first year at SCW with all of you incoming students.

Here's the lesson of the day: don't follow in my adjustment path.

I spent the first two months of SCW being depressed that I wasn't in Israel. When I got over that, I succumbed to social pressure and attempted to cater to everyone's expectations of the "frum" lifestyle. Suddenly, I was somewhat anti women learning Gemara (after taking a year of Gemara in MMY), refused to say a simple hello to guys that I used to know, and only wore gray and black skirts because blue wasn't tzniyut enough. (I'm exaggerating. I like black and gray.)

Admittedly, some of the "frum" restrictions did not seem like they were based on what Hashem thinks is "frum," but rather, from what other people deem to be "frum." For instance, I don't see anything wrong with going to a shiur uptown (one that's open for girls to go to!). It's really not a big deal, you go on a shuttle, you hear some Torah, you take the shuttle back. What's so "not frum" about that? Or another example - quoting for the newspaper. We are people, HaKadosh Baruch Hu gave us thoughts and opinions- why is it not tzanua to express them? I don't suggest making a rally with picket signs, but to state your opinion in the Observer? Is that really not tzanua? And to quote everyone's favorite example: the dating pressure. Dating is not the be all and end of all of life. So if you feel that you aren't ready to date, don't start just because you think it won't be considered frum that you aren't ready to build your bayit neeman b'Yisrael. At nineteen years old, there's really no rush. One more example, quoting my Rosh Yeshiva, when you see a guy that you used to know standing outside of Brookdale and duck because it

isn't the "frum" thing to say hi to a guy because what will people think, is that frumkeit, or rather lack of derech erez?

After returning from Israel, many of us try to separate ourselves from the "modern" lifestyles that we grew up in and sometimes go to the opposite extreme just to prove that we've changed. But again, there's no need to prove to anyone that we're different from the way we once were -- we live before Hashem alone and that entails living up to His expectations of us, not to everyone else's.

There are many different hashkafot out there and as long as they're firmly based on halacha, there's no problem with the large array. And if one way is not the derech that you would choose, then take a different derech; but respect the other's ways and don't judge!

When it comes down to it, you answer to yourself and to Hashem. If you have confidence in your hashkafa, (and you're following an acceptable Orthodox Rav), then yasher koach, continue doing it and don't worry so much about what other people might think.

If we could only accept each other and understand that we're all attempting to reach one goal, to serve HaKadosh Baruch Hu, we would be so much closer to being metaken the Sinai Chinam that was the cause of the churban!

Unfortunately, it took me a year of being in "shmutz la'aretz" and a summer of learning in Eretz Yisrael to figure out this simple truth. But I want others to learn from my experience so you don't have to go through a semester of confusion and worrying about catering to other people's expectations as I did.

I wish you all much hatzlacha in your first year of SCW. Take advantage of all the benefits that SCW has to offer. Don't be like I was and mope for two months that your parents didn't let you stay Shana Bet. Don't cry every time you look inside your wallet because it's quarters that occupy the change pocket and not sheqalim. Keep up with the changes you made in Israel and make the most of every opportunity that arises at SCW. And if I can do anything to help anyone, (i.e. if you need somewhere to go for Shabbos, if you need my caf card...), don't hesitate to ask.

L'Shana HaBaa B'Yerushalayim HaBnuya.



Observe Me

A Column of Opinions: On Being a College Professor

Michal Leah Kanovsky

What is the difference between a good and bad professor? If the students are not learning, whose fault is it? When is a professor simply not doing his/her job?

To begin answering this question I would like to draw some distinctions between what an elementary/high school teacher should be vs. what a college professor should be.

A grade school teacher has the task of introducing not only a new subject to his pupils, but the concept of learning altogether. This teacher should be concerned with sparking love of knowledge within ALL his students. The teacher should try hard to interest his students in the topic in any way possible, even while sacrificing depth at times.

The prep school teacher is important for the development of learned adults; however his function should not be confused with the function of a college professor.

A college is a house of learning. Those who choose to enter a college do so freely for no other purpose than to learn. The college student chooses her own schedule and picks classes that she is interested in. Therefore when a college professor walks into his classroom on the first day of a new semester, he has no need to hook the student onto the topic. If he is a talented speaker, so much the better; however the college student must acknowledge that her first motivation for being in that classroom is not to be entertained, but to be taught. As dry and boring as a professor may be, if he is teaching his subject and allowing the student the option of learning then he is doing his job.

The college professor has a different set of responsibilities than the high school teacher. Whereas the prep teacher needs to be concerned with every member of his classroom, the college professor has a responsibility towards his subject, not his students. If the class offered is Calc III then no matter how dull witted or ill-prepared the majority of the class may be, the professor must persevere in teaching Calc III. Even if only one member of the classroom can understand the subject, she has the right to learn the subject that she signed up for at its proper level. If the professor is so inclined, he may spend his own time tutoring remedial mathematics to his other pupils, but in the classroom, during the scheduled classtime he must be true to the subject over the welfare of individual students. It is the responsibility of those individual students to sign up for the appropriate classes.

A high school teacher need not be an expert in English Literature to teach Beowulf, but a college professor has no excuse for ignorance. A professor must know his subject well or he should not be teaching it. For a professor to enter a classroom having only briefly prepared his subject would be akin to having a Kaplan instructor lead a college class. "Teacher" in the academic community implies a level of expertise in the subject that must be above and beyond the knowledge that will be taught in class. For every statement a professor says in class he should know three related facts and two ways of backing it up when questioned by the skeptical student. A college student sits by her professor's feet to absorb his knowledge, not to hear a parrot who has no independent understanding of the topic.

After this basic outline of the major differences between a grade school

teacher and a college professor, I will paint a portrait of what I consider to be a great professor, an adequate professor and an inadequate professor.

A great professor is a gifted lecturer and excited about his topic. He is readily available to students for consultation and encourages them to work to their potential. He grades fairly both the good and bad, offering a challenge to most of his students. He is clear in his expectations and prepares a syllabus in advance, which he keeps to, so that his students can easily keep up with the readings and assignments.

An adequate professor does not go so far. He too is an expert in his subject but may not be a great speaker. He can be dull at times, he may repeat himself a lot. He may not challenge or expect too much from his students in terms of tests and papers. What makes him acceptable is that though he doesn't encourage it, he offers his students the OPTION of learning. He prepares a syllabus with pertinent readings. He is available for consultation upon request. Yes, there may be many students in his class who waste their time and don't learn anything, but that is their own fault, not his. The motivated student who takes responsibility for her own education will be able to gain a great deal from the course by pushing herself to her potential, even when not required. She will do the readings and write good papers and carry on intelligent discussions with the professor. She will therefore benefit from this class as much as from a more talented professor. The adequate professor gives every student the option of learning.

This brings us lastly to the inadequate professor. He walks into class the first day of the semester without a syllabus or an ill-prepared one. He bases his subject mater on his estimation of his students' mental capabilities rather than on the topic he has been commissioned to teach. He does not make clear on what standards the grades are based. He displays no expertise in his field and refuses to adequately back up his statements in class. He then expects that his unsubstantiated statements should be law in the minds of his students when they spit it back on his tests. He comes late, leaves early and in general is known as a joke teacher in a joke class. The brightest minds in his class often end up with lowered grades. When students ask him for more challenging material he becomes insulted and petty, refusing to extend himself for the few who want to learn the subject offered properly, rather than at the lowered level he teaches it. He is altogether unhelpful, unknowledgeable, and unworthy of the title of college professor since he not only does not offer students the option of learning, but actively stands in the way of students gaining an education.

So to the students of SCW, I beg you to enjoy the great teachers you have and be patient with the adequate professors. Your education is in your hands and any teacher who unlocks the gates of knowledge for you should be appreciated, whether she holds open those doors for you or not. To the professors of SCW, I ask you to allow your students to learn. If you find that you are incapable of such an allowance then I suggest that you resign for perhaps your talents would be best served elsewhere. A high school teacher should be teaching at a high school; please do not defile my college.

Bridal Headings

hand picked bridal headpieces & veils

- 👑 Crowns, Tiaras, Headbands & More ...
- 👑 Swarovski Rhinestone Crystals
- 👑 Imported & Domestic
- 👑 Sales & Rentals
- 👑 Reasonable Rates

Brandy Engelman 718-972-5794 • Day & Eve Appts Available

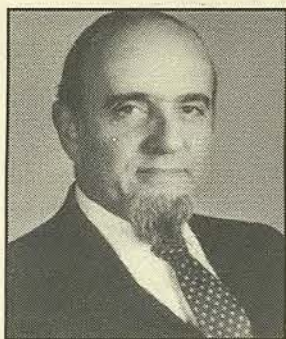
N.Y. Times Boycott Stirs Debate in the Jewish Community

In Support of Boycott

By: Sari Moskowitz

In recent months, the escalation of violence between Palestinians and Israelis in the Middle East has captured worldwide media attention. Seldom has a day gone by where the news was not filled with graphic pictures of bombings, rioters throwing stones and innocent citizens, mourning the premature deaths of their loved ones.

Yet terrorism is not the only destructive force that is wreaking havoc on Israeli society. And Palestinians are not the only ones who are



Rabbi Lookstein,
spiritual leader of
Congregation
Kehilath Jeshurun
on the Upper East
Side, who is leading
the boycott of the
NYT

attempting to destroy the State of Israel. Perhaps even more dangerous than occasional bombs and frequent shootings is the damage that the foreign media is slowly inflicting on Israel, by attempting to place the blame on Israel and at the same time rally support for the Palestinian cause. Like a child who learns at a young age that verbal sparring often causes suffering similar to that of physical wounds, Israel is

learning firsthand the dangerous and damaging effects of slanted news reporting.

During the course of my 8 weeks in Israel this summer, I had the privilege of attending a lecture given by Jim Lederman, the longest running foreign correspondent in Israel. Lederman candidly spoke of the current "matsav" and how foreign correspondents often misconstrue the facts (either deliberately or carelessly) in order to inject their own political views into their articles.

There are dozens of horrifying examples of how the foreign media has intentionally spread anti-Israel propaganda cleverly disguised as news articles.

For example, one of the most egregious journalistic blunders of the Al-Aksa intifada occurred within the first 48 hours of the fighting. The *New York Times* and other reputable news agencies (including the Associated Press) printed a photo of a bloodied young man who the caption identified as an Arab, being beaten by an Israeli police officer. In reality, the man was an American yeshiva student who was wounded by Palestinian fighters, not Israeli forces. Although the *Times* and other newspapers eventually published corrections, the damage had already been done.

Mark Twain once wrote, "If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed." And yet, while we cannot prevent biased, anti-Israel reports from finding their way into the American media, we must not sit idly by and watch the media discreet-

ly alienate Americans from Israel and the Jewish people. We must express our right to receive factual, balanced news reports, rather than one-sided propaganda. To this end, we must take action that will make our wishes known without causing more harm to the reputation of the Jewish nation and the State of Israel.

How can this be done? Perhaps we can mimic Israel's practice of preemptively striking those who pose a threat to the state. Yet something tells me that assassinating journalists to prevent them from writing anti-Israel articles will do more harm than good. A more practical (and lawful) method is to boycott a newspaper that is known for its frequent publication of anti-Israel reports. One might suggest the Associated Press or the British *Independent*, two news agencies with a reputation for repeatedly printing skewed articles. But how many Americans actually read these publications? To truly make our point, we must appeal to newspaper with widespread circulation. A newspaper that has published many anti-Israel reports. One that will most likely not suffer serious consequences from such a boycott, but will certainly take note of its message, and will hopefully begin to provide its millions of readers with more balanced reports from the Middle East. The *New York Times* is a prime example of such a publication.

The Israeli government faces a tremendous amount of criticism on a daily basis- from its own citizens (and government officials), its Arab neighbors, the United Nations and countless non-governmental organizations. America is one of the strongest allies Israel has left, but that may change if the media continues brainwashing Americans to sympathize with Palestinian aggressors, instead of Israeli victims. Although there will always be people who are anti-Israel and anti-Semitic, the American people should be free to form their own opinions based on the real issues, rather than on a journalist's imbalanced reporting. A boycott of the *New York Times* will not only bolster Jewish solidarity and support for the State of Israel, but will also serve to ensure that newspapers contain factually correct articles, not embellished editorials passed off as news.

Opposed to Boycott

By: Observer Staff

The upcoming boycott of the *New York Times* will take place during *Aseret Yemai Teshuva*, the ten days between *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur*. The purpose of the boycott is to improve the *New York Times*' coverage of Israel, yet it raises interesting questions about the Jewish community's expectations of media coverage. Rabbi Haskell Lookstein, the primary organizer of the boycott, claims that the *Times* has shown a "consistent anti-Israel bias and active effort to minimize the PA's anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement." Whether the boycott will achieve its expressed aim, "to deliver a message to the *Times*... to let its editors and owners know we are upset and taking action," remains uncertain at this time. However, one may question whether a boycott is appropriate by closely examining the expectations of Rabbi Lookstein and others subscribing to the boycott.

Many of us may live in communities where leaders routinely denounce the *Times* anti-Israel bias. The admirable coverage of the *Washington Post* and other pro-Israel newspapers may be idealized; compared with such papers, the *Times* is found sorely lacking. Yet beyond the insular walls of our communities lie differing views. Upon hearing of the proposed boycott, one non-observant Jew asked me, "Why would you want to boycott the *Times*? It's one of the most pro-Israel newspapers in the country." And indeed, the speaker is not alone in his views, as many secular Americans as well as Palestinians see a pro-Israel bias in the *Times* coverage.

So perhaps the expectations of Rabbi Lookstein and others are somewhat unrealistic. No,

the *NY Times* does not cover every event completely objectively, but which newspaper does? Journalists are not perfect; like the rest of us, they have opinions that are reflected in their writing despite their best efforts to remain unbiased. One should distinguish between intentional, malicious distortion of the facts, which should be fought through all available means, and the slight, inadvertent bias that is a natural

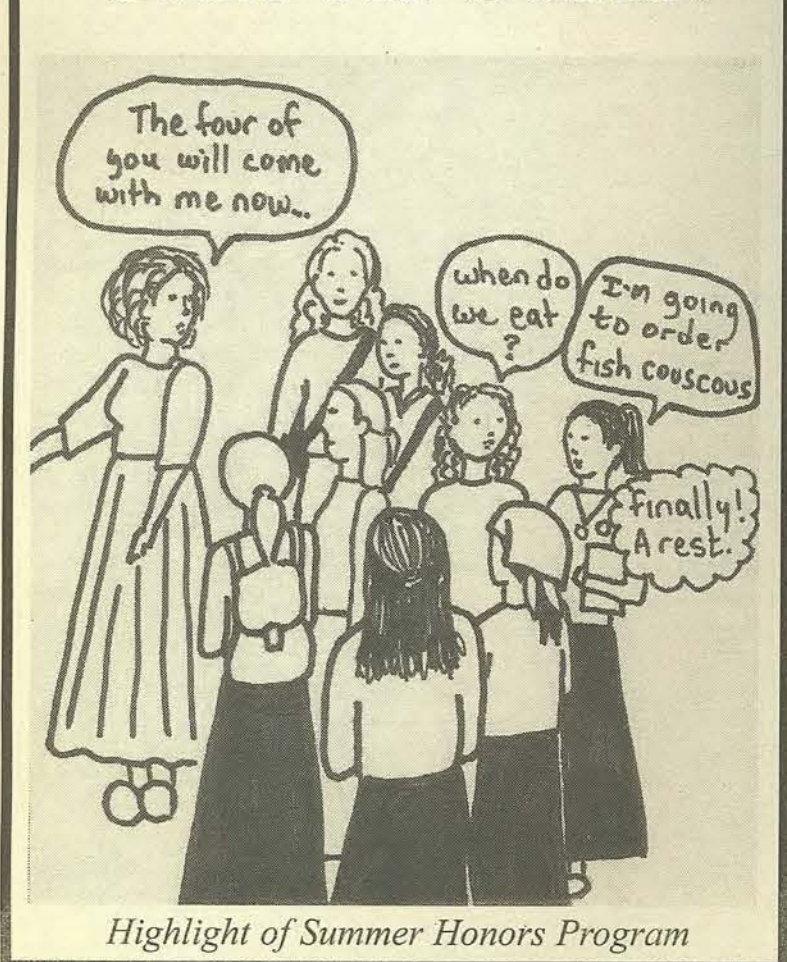


byproduct of the writer's beliefs.

All that I have written thus far should not preclude all efforts on our part to improve the *Times*' coverage of Israel. Yet I question whether a boycott is appropriate. How many people will subscribe to this boycott? What percentage is that number of the total *Times* subscriptions? Will the *Times* notice? And if they do notice, will they respond in the way we wish them to?

Even before the boycott, the *Times* has already improved its coverage. Jonathan Mark, in the August 17th issue of the Jewish week, reviewed media coverage of the Sbarro bombing. He writes, "Clyde Haberman, doing a temporary gig in Jerusalem, has been nothing short of spectacular these last several weeks." Perhaps it is with such an emphasis on the positive, as opposed to a boycott that focuses solely on the negative, that the greatest hope lies for a long-lasting improvement in the *Times*' coverage of Israel.

ONLY AT STERN



Highlight of Summer Honors Program

Kaplan gets you in.

College Law School Business School
Graduate School Medical School

Classes * Online Courses * Books * Software

Classes are filling fast, so call or
visit us online today to reserve your seat!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com

Test Prep, Admissions and Guidance. For life.

*Last names are registered trademarks of their respective owners.

CR00002

Orientation 2001



Message from SCWSC President Elana Soleimani

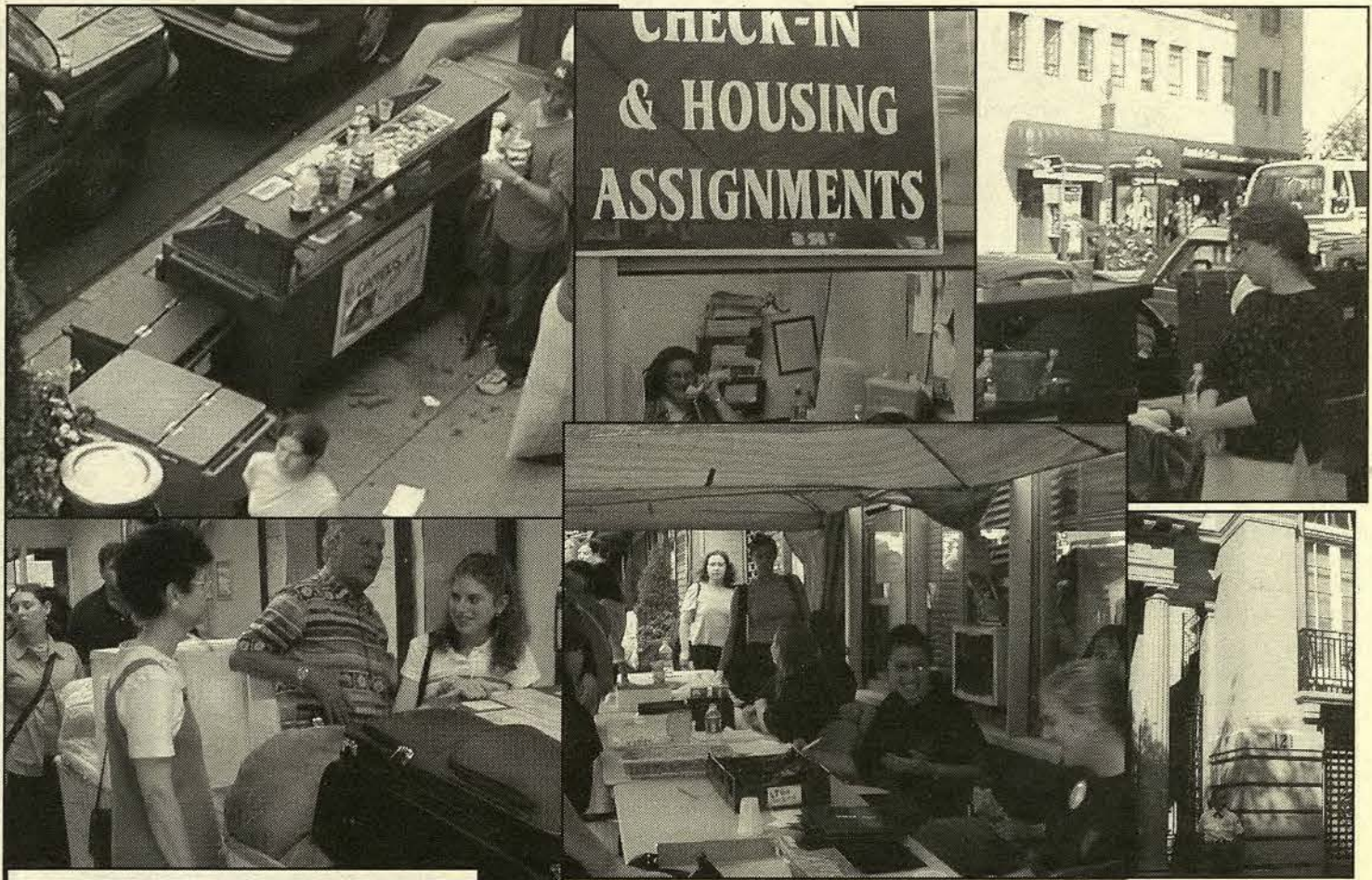
Hi!
I hope everyone enjoyed her summers.

Welcome to all the first-timers and welcome back to the returnees.

I figured out the best way to start off all my 'articles.' I am going to tell you the date that I write this, so you can understand where I am coming from, and don't think that I am being unnecessarily weird or odd. Today is August 1, 2001. Can you empathize with what I am going through? I am taking time in the middle of the summer to stop and think about school!!! It kills the day (today was pizza day!!) and every day of summertime is precious. There are 16 camp days left (thanks Lauren), not that any of us are counting... Yes I work in a day camp. I did not take any summer school courses this term. I am still in the midst of it so I don't know the outcome of my decisions; when you read this, come and ask me. I can tell you that one can learn a lot from little people (pee-wees, mini humans) a.k.a. persons under the age of five. (Kiddie Camp!) The most important of them being, if you don't give something your all, and put your heart into it, you might as well sit on the side and watch. I taught gymnastics (yes you read that correctly) the determination on their scrunched up little faces taught me so much. But I have a quick question for you to ponder first... What happens when we "grow up" (read get older) where does all that good stuff go? Why can't we keep it and use it our whole lives? So this is my challenge to you, the women of Stern College, find your inner kid, grab the determination, spirit, drive and heart and bring it to us. Start that club/committee, run that program/event and become involved. If you do it correctly, as I learned from my campers the rewards are tremendous.

On that note... this is to be an amazing year. My board; Sharon Weiss -- Vice President, Rachel Shtern -- Treasurer, Susanne Goldstone -- Corresponding Secretary, Yael Shmuel -- Recording Secretary and I have been working since the end of last year. The orientation committee, headed by Miriam and Bruria, and Shira the peer advisor coordinator, have diligently been planning one of the biggest and best orientations ever. The trips and events are to be amazing and fun. There are to going to be some new events but the old favorites are back again. The Cruise and night on Broadway promise to be amazing. In addition stay tuned for Club Fair as well as the annual Yeshiva University Chanukah Concert, Chanucasino, Stand up YU, the SCDS play and much much more. This is going to be a stellar year, and we want YOU to be a part of it! So find us, tell us what you're interested in, and what you want to do, I am confident you can have an impact and make a difference. Don't forget to buy your new SCW gear.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year, and an easy and meaningful fast.



New Events Highlight This Year's Orientation

By: Kayla Klitzkin

Though the first class will not officially start until Wednesday, the college experience began much earlier. Orientation 2001 has been in the works for three months, and the result is what is bound to be a great success. "This will be a great opportunity for people to interact with one another and get involved with the school," remarked Miryam Khavarani, SCW sophomore and head of the SCW Orientation Committee.

Led by Bruria Kaganoff, the other head of the SCW Orientation Committee, and Mrs. Zelda Braun, as well as Jason Koslowe, Yaakov Green, Avi Rossman and Dean Himer who have been planning Orientation at YC, Orientation promises to be enjoyable for incoming SCW students.

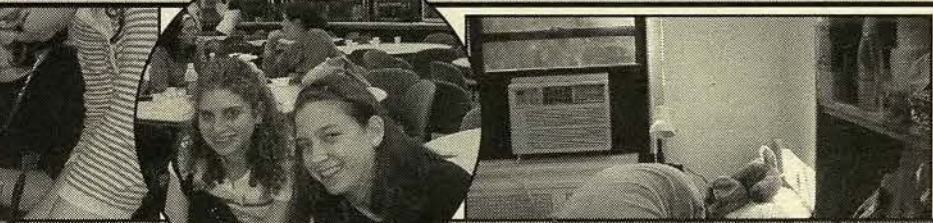
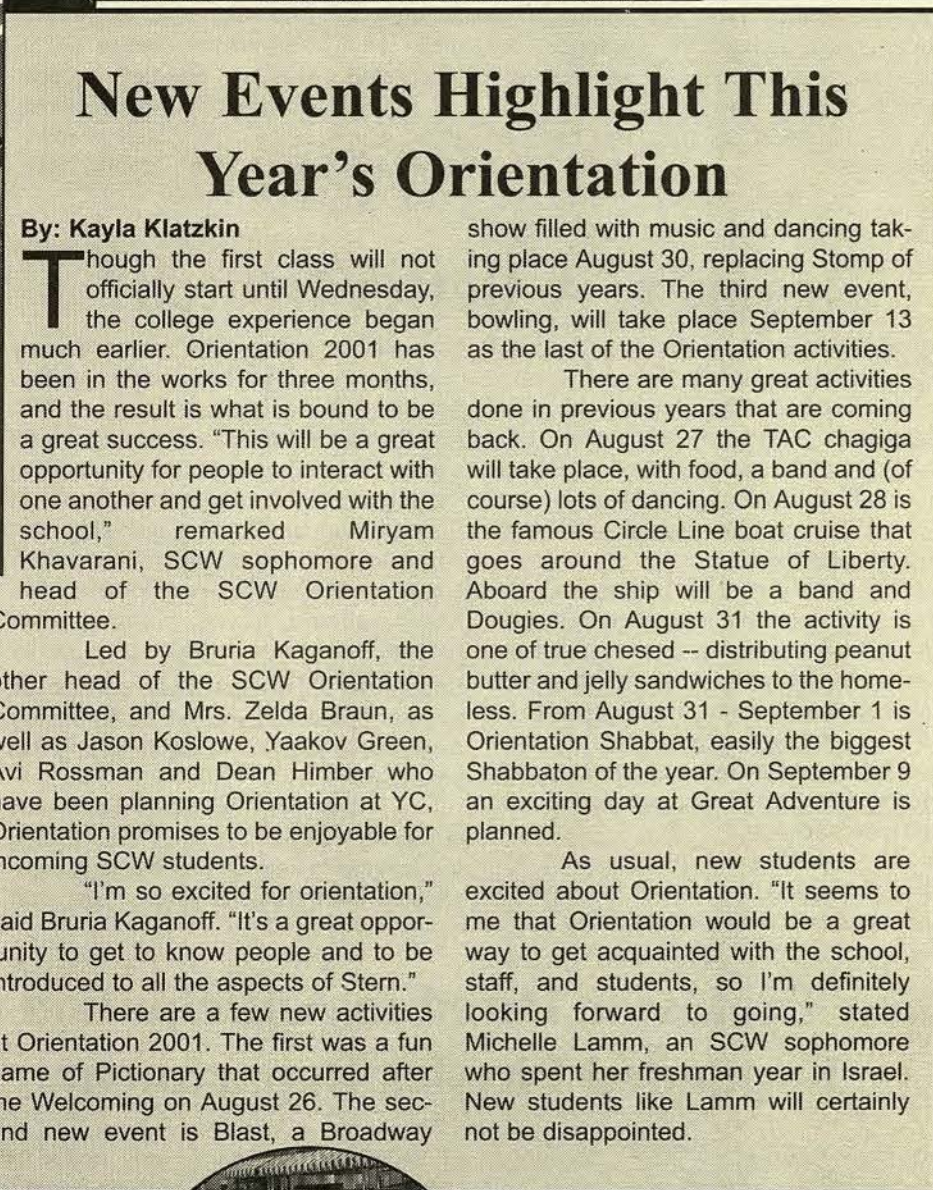
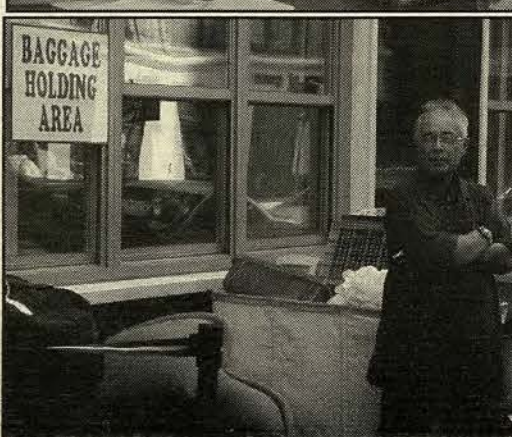
"I'm so excited for orientation," said Bruria Kaganoff. "It's a great opportunity to get to know people and to be introduced to all the aspects of Stern."

There are a few new activities at Orientation 2001. The first was a fun game of Pictionary that occurred after the Welcoming on August 26. The second new event is Blast, a Broadway

show filled with music and dancing taking place August 30, replacing Stomp of previous years. The third new event, bowling, will take place September 13 as the last of the Orientation activities.

There are many great activities done in previous years that are coming back. On August 27 the TAC chagiga will take place, with food, a band and (of course) lots of dancing. On August 28 is the famous Circle Line boat cruise that goes around the Statue of Liberty. Aboard the ship will be a band and Dougies. On August 31 the activity is one of true chesed -- distributing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the homeless. From August 31 - September 1 is Orientation Shabbat, easily the biggest Shabbaton of the year. On September 9 an exciting day at Great Adventure is planned.

As usual, new students are excited about Orientation. "It seems to me that Orientation would be a great way to get acquainted with the school, staff, and students, so I'm definitely looking forward to going," stated Michelle Lamm, an SCW sophomore who spent her freshman year in Israel. New students like Lamm will certainly not be disappointed.



on campus

Raising the Cost of Meal Plan: Necessary or Nuisance?

By: Alana Sher

If you checked any of the many bills sent to you from the Office of Student Finances, you may have noticed that the meal plan cost was raised from \$750 to \$825 per semester. The subtle increase has stirred mixed responses from students depending on their classification.

There are two types of students at SCW: those with money on their cafeteria cards at the end of the year and those without. A Type A student concludes each school year with hundreds of dollars remaining on her account. There are several explanations for this phenomenon. Some members of this species are avid diners and rarely grace the cafeteria with their presence. Other Type A students hail from the tri-state area, and consequently have no need to use the cafeteria on the weekends.

Because meal

plan money cannot be retrieved from an account at the conclusion of each school year, some students allocate the money to Tzedakah, while others -- as a result of either



neglect or a conscientious decision -- allow SCW to pocket the remainder.

Sara Lampert, a senior, had over \$200 remaining on her cafeteria card at the end of last year.

"I went to the YU store and bought cases of bottled water," said Lampert. "I distributed it amongst my family and we all used it." According to Lampert, if a refund had been an option, she would not have squandered her money on

water. The other 50 percent of SCW students on the meal plan are Type B, a.k.a., moochers. Come the end of each semester, their cards beep as they are swiped, marking limited funds. Many of these girls are "out-of-towners" and as their money dwindles they rely on friends to pay for their meals.

Despite the fact that Lynn Seide, a resident of Woodmere, ate all of her meals from Thursday nights to Monday mornings off campus, she concluded her junior year with less than \$60 remaining on her caf card.

Seide concurs with the consensus of students questioned; that food in the SCW cafeteria is somewhat overpriced. She did say, however, "raising the cost to \$825 was not needed, except maybe for out-of-towners, since there are always girls walking around asking for money."

ResTrex: A Better Switch?

By: Alexandra Beard

Long gone are the days of waiting two weeks into the school year before picking up the phone. For the 2001-2002 school year, Yeshiva University is teaming up Verizon and offering a special new student telephone service called ResTrex.

An acronym for "residence center," ResTrex offers more features than the Verizon telephone plans previously used at YU. In addition to the benefit of last year's service that allows students to dial the last four digits of any dorm number at no cost, ResTrex also provides Call Waiting and Call Forwarding included in the basic package.

Available at all dorms and off-campus housing, the service permanently assigns each room a telephone num-

ber, with the jacks in the rooms already marked. To verify your phone number, just dial 9 (for an outside line) and 958. And to make the hassle of moving in a bit easier, Verizon has temporarily turned on the telephone line in each room as of Sunday, August 26. This will allow students to make calls within the 5 boroughs as well as receive incoming calls. But to secure a line, Verizon must receive telephone service orders by September 6th or else phone service will be interrupted and you will be financially responsible for all calls made during this time period.

With ResTrex, Verizon evidently is putting more of an effort into making the telephone service process less complicated than previous years. Last year

On The Go Commuter Life at SCW

By: Chava Hartman

The administration's sudden announcement last spring that the new SCW dormitory would not open as scheduled sparked school-wide protest. Those scheduled to live in the new dorms worried that they would have no place to live, and even those who had safely requested Brookdale feared they would end up with unwanted roommates. Amid all the hoopla, however, there remained one group of SCW students that simply couldn't care less -- the commuters.

Although they often go unnoticed, commuters comprise approximately 8% of the student body, with the majority of them traveling from Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Washington Heights each morning. The choice to live at home is usually based on the advantages that home-life offers -- good food, no roommates, and constant quiet. "Some people are happier living at home," notes Dean Karen Bacon. "My only concern is with students who want to live in the dorms, but are unable to afford it."

Indeed, for those whose sole reason for commuting is the expense involved in dorming, the disadvantages to commuting become apparent more quickly. A major difficulty for commuters is the actual commute. "It takes me ten minutes to walk to the train, forty-five minutes once I'm on the train, and then an additional fifteen minutes from the train stop to Stern," says one commuter from Flatbush. For those who find it hard to be productive on trains, commuting can be a real hassle. "I waste a lot of precious time traveling and I get home tired," SCW junior Natalie Kozlova complains. Commuters also must

worry about weather conditions. When SCW remains open during snowstorms, for example, commuters who rely on public transportation are often forced to miss class.

Commuters are more likely to be faced with social problems, as well. "I commuted last year, but this year I decided to dorm," says junior Tamar Ellman, who lives just a 20-minute walk away from SCW. "I just felt that I was missing out on too much." Although fliers are up for all students to see, and commuters as well as dorm residents receive e-mail advertisements, commuters are not as likely to participate in extra-curricular activities. "I miss out on [evening] activities and shiurim because I don't want to travel home alone in the dark," explains a commuter. Active participation in events takes real commitment. One student stressed, "it all depends on how much you want to do it. If a student wants something badly enough, the opportunity is usually there."

For commuters, even something like scheduling classes can be more challenging. One commuter from Flatbush says, "I can't take some classes because they are offered later in the day." Another commuter explains that she would "prefer to start later because then it is an easier commute because I am not traveling during rush hour." In either situation, the student who commutes is limited in her course offerings.

Commuting is not easy. Those who dorm should appreciate the commuters for their dedication to the school, and should realize one very important thing - because of the commuters, there are fewer people in the dorms.

was particularly difficult, with students the first few weeks of school waiting in lines for the pay phones, just to waste time with Verizon listening to hispanic elevator music in hope to speak to a human representative and load off their complaints. For some it took a few days to get service, others a few weeks. At an act of expected courtesy, Verizon sent free calling cards to all students and a letter apologizing for the disorder-

ered service. "I had a lot of problems with Verizon last year, and I was one of the first in my room to get service, but it still took me at least two weeks," says Aviva Krombach, an SCW senior. "After last year's chaos and everyone being frustrated with Verizon, they seem to be trying to start the year off on the right foot by helping students have an easier transition time in the first week of school."

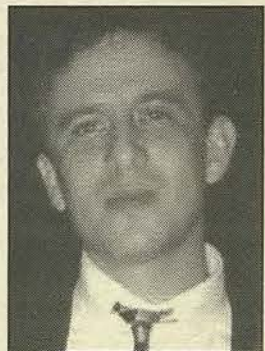
New Professor Hired in Anticipation of Expanded Physics Department

By: Shira Frankel

In an effort to advance the Physics Department, SCW has recently hired Dr. Anatoly Frenkel as an associate professor of Physics. Frenkel brings to SCW his teaching expertise, as well as research opportunities for students. Frenkel's focus will be Physics, but he is also scheduled to teach the discrete structures course in Computer Science this fall.

Many students are hopeful that Frenkel will help foster more physics opportunities at SCW. "The school doesn't push girls to be interested in sciences other than biology and chemistry," says Rachel

Guimoye, an SCW sophomore and a pre-engineering student. Guimoye believes that if more physics courses



Anatoly Frenkel

were offered, students would take them.

However, Lea Greenspan, SCW sophomore, says that SCW stu-

dents tend not to be math and physics-oriented, and are more interested in humanities courses. Those students interested in physics generally seek out schools that are more affiliated with the natural sciences.

For example, Shira Silverberg, an engineering student, has just left SCW after her freshman year because of the lack of opportunities in the math and physics departments.

"There is a very limited number of physics courses offered," says Silverberg of her decision to leave. "There is no major, and there isn't even a

continued on next page

NEWS UPDATE YU to Create Full Tuition Academic Scholarship in a Year

By: Observer Staff

In an ambitious announcement, YU has enlarged its academic scholarship program to include five full tuition scholarships for the Fall 2002 year.

"There will be an uptake in the number of funds available without restricting the number of students receiving academic scholarships," said Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions

Half of the current Distinguished Scholars will receive this full tuition scholarship, while the remaining five students would continue to receive the \$10,000 Distinguished scholarship.

"The idea is to make Stern more competitive for the brightest students," explained Dean Karen Bacon.

"I think it's wonderful," exclaimed Dean Orlian. "If people need help and are deserving of it, I feel very positively about it."

Students expressed optimism regarding the increased scholarship, although regret that they personally would not benefit from it.

"The increased scholarship creates a wonderful opportunity for intelligent students who otherwise couldn't afford Stern's tuition," commented Racheli Rubin, SCW junior. "\$10,000 helped students immensely but it still left a sizable portion of tuition unsubsidized. Now Stern can attract the best students."

Maya Angelou to Address SCW Students this Semester

By: Chana Michels

The Marsha Wilf Scholar in Residence Program, a first of its kind at the midtown campus, will bring visiting professors and guest lecturers every year. Maya Angelou will be the featured speaker in the fall, followed by Susan Choi, previous professor at Cornell and Yale, who will teach a course in Asian-American literature in the spring.

When Dr. Marsha Wilf decided to give a gift to Stern College, she wanted to do something unique. "I didn't want to donate a building or something the girls would just look at," Wilf said.

Marjorie Diner Blenden, president of the Stern Board, came up with the idea of having a permanent program of visiting professors and lecturers, and asked Wilf what she thought of the idea. "I thought it would be perfect," Wilf said. "I wanted something I could be involved in, something that would combine education with philanthropy."

According to Wilf, the committee was told that various SCW students and professors were interested in multi-cultural affairs. "So, we headed into that [aspect] for the first speaker," Wilf explained. "Maya Angelou was the first on our list. I think everyone has read something of hers at one point. She wasn't cheap. She gave us a price and we met it. It's going to be great for the school and great for the girls."

While much of the program revolves around the cost, in the future, it may expand to include more than two guests per year. Though the first guests are women from the English field, the program will invite other experts, such as doctors, lawyers, politicians, and scientists, and they do not have to be women.

Wilf, who is on the SCW Board and was the head of the Academic Affairs Committee since its inception, has a masters and doctorate from the Ferkauf Graduate School of Education. Wilf's philanthropy does not begin or end with Stern, but one of her dearest projects is



sponsoring Darya Gorelick, senior and student president of Sy Syms. When Gorelick was in high school in Herzon, Ukraine, she was one of ten students whose essay was picked from 8,000 to be awarded a trip to visit America, a mission funded by Jewish Children International, a Lubavitch organization. Ira Yarovokofsky, board member of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work and head of the Lubavitch Russian program, introduced Gorelick to Wilf and the idea blossomed to bring Gorelick to study in the States.

"He asked me and I said, 'absolutely,'" remarked Wilf. "If she stayed there she would have no life. She'll really be able to do something here and now, she's like a daughter to me." Gorelick who was sixteen when she started Stern, takes seven courses per semester, maintains a straight A average, and continues to make her parents and her surrogate mother proud.

Wilf is not sure if she will sponsor another student when Gorelick graduates in the spring. "I think our relationship will be on-going," she said. "It's kind of been like a fairy tale for her, I guess for me too."

Gorelick, as well as other Stern students, are excited about the Marsha Wilf Scholar in Residence Program. "Stern has a limited spectrum of courses they offer," said Shira Sasson, SCW junior. "So, I think this is really good because it is a way to broaden the courses that are offered. We should be open to new subjects and I think students who won't come will be missing out."

True to infamous student apathy, there will be students who won't come. Ilana Schindler, SCW senior, doesn't plan on attending the events because for her, a lecture is a lecture. "I probably wouldn't go because I'd get bored and fall asleep," Schindler admitted. "I don't do school events or speakers in general. But it's going to be good to have more diversity on campus."

Wilf's innovative program will attempt to combat student apathy. In fact, Wilf plans on taking Choi's course in the spring along with the SCW students. "To be honest, I think a lot of us on the student board will be there," she added. That in itself should be an incentive for Stern students.

New Physics Professor

continued from previous page

minor. I was frustrated with the lack of options I was offered."

Frenkel is aware of the many challenges of teaching physics at SCW. "For students not majoring in physics, it is traditionally perceived as one of the most difficult, and, often, least attractive subjects," remarks Frenkel. "I believe the main resource available for the student to develop curiosity about physics is the instructor."

The students who participated in the new professor's first physics lecture at SCW, as a candidate for the position, believe that his knowledge and passion for the subject are key elements that will make Dr. Frenkel a good professor.

Frenkel hopes to teach in a way that will ensure the maintenance of a high level of curiosity and understanding in his students. Frenkel also believes that practice is key in the success of a physics student. He credits his predecessor, Dr. Pommot-Maia, and his colleague, Dr. Estes, for setting up and maintaining the physics laboratory. He and Dr. Estes will continue working on upgrading the existing experiments, and designing new ones, to better reflect the material of the course.

Aside from experiments done during the course, Dr. Frenkel plans to urge undergraduate students to get involved in independent research, guided by an advisor and working in collaboration

with other students and professors. Frenkel is currently working on projects in several disciplines, to which an undergraduate student participating in the research can make a genuine contribution. This is one of the reasons, says Dean Karen Bacon, that Dr. Frenkel was hired for this position.

Before joining the SCW faculty, Frenkel taught Physics and Computer Science at other institutions: Queens College, University of Washington, and Tel Aviv University. Frenkel's educational background begins with Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees from St. Petersburg University in Russia. He earned a Ph.D. in Physics several years ago from Tel Aviv University, specializing in experimental condensed matter physics. Frenkel's latest research development has been at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY, working on projects in physics, structural biology, and environmental chemistry.

In addition to Frenkel, Dr. Dimitri Antoniou was hired as an adjunct assistant professor. He will be teaching Classical Mechanics, an advanced Physics course, this fall.

As the new semester begins, Frenkel looks forward to the challenge before him in transforming the Physics Department into something that will, in the near future, attract more students.

DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS: PSYCHOLOGY



By: Caryn Litt

The human mind is mysterious, intriguing, and full of complexities - but no longer unexplainable thanks to the field of psychology. The extent of most lay people's involvement with psychology is the occasional sprinkling of terminology such as "Freudian slip" and "Pavlov's dogs" into their conversations. For a large number of Stern students, however, this elementary knowledge of psychology just isn't enough.

Second only to Jewish Studies, psychology is one of the most popular majors at SCW, with a whopping twenty percent of SCW students currently declaring psychology as their major. "Students choose psychology because it really is a very adaptive major," explains Naomi Kapp, from the Career and Placement Office. "You can apply it to a variety of careers."

Indeed, while the majority of psychology majors continue on in the field for a PhD in Psychology, a Masters in Social Work, or a Masters in Special Education, a large percentage opt for careers unrelated to psychology, including marketing, human resources, public relations, and habilitation specialties, such as occupational and physical therapy.

Chava Hartman, an SCW junior and psychology major, is considering attending law school after she graduates. "Psychology will help me because it gives one a whole new approach to looking at and analyzing things," she says.

SCW administration has been racing to keep up with the burgeoning number of psychology majors. Even with four full-time professors and five adjunct professors, students complain that the classes, in particular the introductory classes, get closed too quickly. Although Dean Ethel Orlian claims "it almost never happens that students don't get in [to classes]," this semester's psychology course schedule includes many changes to accommodate the number of students. While previously only three Introductory Psychology classes were offered, now four are. The administration has also added sections of Developmental I, Personality, and Experimental Psychology Lab, bringing the total number of course sections offered to twenty. To compare, the History department is offering nine courses this semester.

While the quantity of courses is impressive, the quality remains questionable. "It's sad, but I look at my psych classes as my 'light' classes for the semester," admits psychology major Shira Freundlich. To fulfill the need for a challenge, some students complement their psychology majors with a second major or a minor, often in Jewish Studies or business.

"Certainly, given students' varied backgrounds and interests, some are more likely to find certain classes [either] more or less challenging," notes psychology professor Dr. Terry DiLorenzo. To help combat this phenomenon, the psychology department has implemented a complex system of prerequisites this fall. For example, Experimental Psychology is now required for almost all advanced courses, and some courses demand Psychobiology as a prerequisite.

According to the information sheet for psychology majors, "the purpose of establishing prereq-

uisites is to ensure that students taking advanced courses have an equal background and thereby eliminate as much redundancy as possible." Another way of dealing with the issue has been to create more honors psychology classes, such as the Senior Research Seminar, which is open only to upper level majors.

Other efforts have also been made recently to improve the stature of the psychology major. This fall the major has increased to thirty-six credits, not including statistics. In addition, in order to provide exposure to the various areas of psychology, the major is now structured to require five foundation courses, choices from two different group clusters, and electives.

Variety is, in fact, one of the main concerns of the psychology department. "My coming on board has added another perspective, since my background is in health psych," says DiLorenzo, who joined the faculty in the fall of 1999. "It's nice that all of the faculty in the department have varied training and interests."

The changes in the psychology department have for the most part gone unnoticed by the students, however. "I personally feel the teachers are weak and do not make psychology interesting to learn about," complains one psychology major who wishes to remain anonymous. "They need a new variety and new styles than what they've had for the past who knows how many years."

Part of the frustration of psychology majors can be attributed to the long wait they must endure before reaching the more interesting side to psychology. As Freundlich says, "Psych is a hands-on field, it's not something that can be taught out of a textbook."

Students usually do not experience psychology until senior year, when they are expected to complete an internship of eight hours a week, typically collecting and entering data and doing analysis. Past placements have included Mount Sinai Rutenberg Cancer Center, New York University Child Guidance Center, and the Bronx Veterans Administration.

Fortunately there are other outlets for those excited about psychology. Stern offers psychology majors who meet certain academic requirements the chance to join Psi Chi, the national psychology honors society. There is also a Psychology Club, which hosts speakers and events throughout the year, and a Psychology journal. "These can be important vehicles for students to learn more about the field, share information, and participate in professional or academic activities," comments DiLorenzo.

Perhaps it is this permeation of a psychology culture that contributes to the success of psychology majors. Last year, nearly ninety percent of psychology majors passed the Major Field Achievement Test, and over ninety percent were accepted into graduate schools.

Studying psychology is not limited to being merely a means, however, but can be an end, as well. "Most people have a curiosity about human behavior," says Kapp. "If nothing else, psych majors will understand themselves and their friends better."

Summer Highlights

Jewish Activism This Summer: The Inside Scoop

By: Kim Davis

This summer, Jewish activism seemed to be more popular than ever. There were no shortage of organizations with positions available for students in Israel and America in the field of Jewish activism, and many Yeshiva University students grabbed at the opportunity.

Students who were not able to be in Israel this summer often tried to support Israel and the Jewish world in other ways by working in Jewish communal services in America. A handful of students found internships through CLIP, the Hillels of New York/FECS Collegiate Leadership Internship Program.

Lori Miodownik, an SCW junior found a marketing internship with the UJA through CLIP, where she worked under the supervision of a mentor, and spent half a day in weekly seminars that concentrated on issues of concern to today's Jewish college students, such as Jewish identity and the development of New York's Jewish community.

Tamar Ellman, an SCW junior, also worked at the UJA for the resource line. "From working at the UJA I learned a lot about the opportunities available in the field of Jewish communal service," remarked

Ellman.

Another popular choice for many Yeshiva students was IPA, the Institute for Public Affairs of the Orthodox Union, which places Jewish college students at internships around D.C.

"It's important for Jews to be active in politics so as to give a voice to



Students on IPA in Washington D.C.

the political process," said Caryn Litt, who through the IPA interned in the Library of Congress and a soviet Jewry lobbying group. "As trite as it may sound, you can really make a difference."

The OU interns served in many Congressional offices, including those of Senators Daniel Moynihan and Chuck Schumer, and Jewish political organizations including AIPAC, the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) and the National Jewish Democratic Council.

The goal of IPA is to give Jewish college students the opportunity to interact with people in congress and to provide them with the chance to participate in the democratic political process.

Suzanne

Goldstone, a senior majoring in Political Science, worked in the congressional office with Shelley Berkley, a Jewish congresswoman who is a U.S. representative from Nevada. "As an Orthodox Jew interested in politics, I felt that the most productive way to spend my summer would be representing a Jewish organization on Capital Hill," said Goldstone.

Many Yeshiva students were involved in Jewish activism in Israel as well.

Sari Moskowitz, who worked in the Jerusalem office of the ADL, spent her days doing various research, including preparing for the United Nations conference that took place at the end of August, with the objective of fighting racism and xenophobia.

Moskowitz found the job fascinating. "Working in the Israel office of the ADL allows me to study the Israeli society and the Israeli government and the problems they face on a daily basis, and help explore solutions to these difficult situations," explained Moskowitz. "It is extremely rewarding work. It is wonderful to be able to relate to the Israeli community and the world Jewish community on such a comprehensive

continued on page 23

YC Campus Turns Coed Over Summer Session

Students Discuss Virtues of Mixed Classes

By: Ariela Dworetzky

The YC Campus looks a little different in the summer than it does during the rest of the year -- owing to the fact that a percentage of the students are female. Although, women usually don't make up a very large portion of the classes, the coed factor often changes the dynamics of both the classroom as well as the YU atmosphere.

Rachel Kra, an SCW junior, took an economics course at YC this summer, and found it to be a very pleasant experience. A graduate of Bruria High School, Kra has not been in a coed class since third grade and admits to expecting the worst. In the beginning, she was reluctant to speak aloud in class, being that she was one of three women in a class with eleven men. However, after a couple of days, she found herself getting more comfortable and began to appreciate the different setting that a coed class provides.

"The guys would ask intelligent questions," says Kra. "I felt a little intimidated because they knew what they were talking about. I really felt that they approached the topics in a very logical way- in a similar style to the way they would approach an issue in Gemara."

What impressed Kra more than their intelligence was the way that the guys in the class treated her. "They all said 'hello' to me" explains Kra. "They really acted like mentches."

Rachel found the coed class to be refreshing, although she thinks it's best to keep the coed classes only for the summer and not have any dur-

ing the year, being that might deter students from attending Yeshiva.

However, not everyone appreciated the coed atmosphere. One YC junior took a course where there was only one girl in the class and he explained that she was made to feel very uncomfortable by some of the guys in the class. "Certain guys were very immature," he says. "Some just ignored her." He admits that it was a strange situation but understands the need for YU to have coed classes in the summer. "In truth this isn't any worse than Queens, or summer classes in any other secular university," he confesses. "I don't really see girls taking classes here as a problem."

Asher Klein, a YC senior, took an accounting course in the summer; a large class which consisted of one woman. He doesn't remember ever hearing her speak in class, and he never heard anyone even comment on the fact that there was a girl in the class. "It really wasn't an issue," he says. "It didn't bother anyone."

Due to the presence of Wurzweiler on the YC campus however, the ratio of women to men was a lot higher this summer than it normally is during the year, and Asher admits that that changed the atmosphere a lot. "There were so many women that you really couldn't tell that this is an all men's college," Asher explains, "Many of the women from Wurzweiler weren't dressed so tzanua and some of the guys weren't so thrilled about that."

Students Travel to Florence for Honors Course

By: Mirat Strobel

As many students pondered how to spend their summer vacation, eight SCW students signed up for the honors program in Florence, Italy. The three-credit course, led by Professor Cohen of the art history department, primarily focused on the Italian renaissance art and the Jewish experience in Medici Florence.

Professor Cohen meticulously planned a full schedule of activities daily. Students were required to keep a daily journal and submit a research paper before the fall semester. Additionally, there were required readings every night. "It's so exciting to actually see the works that I've studied so much about in class," said junior Tamar Melmed.

Most of the day was spent walking around, observing different works, and listening to what Professor Cohen said. "It was a little straining to walk around all day," said senior Yael Horowitz. "Out of everyone Professor Cohen was in the best shape."

The group stayed in Hotel Villani at the center of the city, right near Brunelleschi's dome. The streets were very narrow and the air was musty, but the culture was brimming with beauty and intrigue. Greenery

could be found only after entering a building and walking into its courtyard. Therefore the students were excited to walk through the Boboli Gardens, a magnificently large feature of the Pitti Palace. "The Boboli Gardens was my favorite," said Horowitz.

Some chapels and baptisteries were listed on the itinerary. This posed a problem for some of the students whose Rabbis prohibited entering a place of Christian worship. The result was that four students joined Professor Cohen into the chapels while the other four were assigned to other activities, such as Jewish community service.

The group also traveled to Siena for one day. They visited the synagogue in Siena, where they were treated to a lecture on the history of the city.

For Shabbat, the group prayed in the synagogue in Florence, which was full of people. Rabbi Dr. Yosef Levi, Chief Rabbi of Florence, greeted the group and invited them for Kiddush. The students ate their Shabbat meals together with others from the Jewish community.

"It was wonderful to see that the Jewish community of Florence, under the continuing leadership of Rabbi Dr. Yosef Levi, has become even more vibrant and active in the last two years," said Professor Cohen.

continued on page 18

Prague Honors Course Marks First Jewish History Course Abroad

By: Shira Frankel

This summer, ten SCW students embarked on a nine-day mission to seek out Jewish history European cities that were once hubs of Jewish culture. Noted historian and professor, Rabbi Dr. Sid Z. Leiman, and the travel coordinator, Dr. Jessica Grant, led the group through Austria and the former Czechoslovakia on a trip that Sara Trappler, SCW junior, describes as "educational, inspirational and a real eye-opener."

Though beginning with a short stopover in Zurich, where three students unknowingly said goodbye to their luggage, the rest of the trip proved to be successful. The course began with a tour of old Jewish areas of Vienna, including

of Rabbi Samson Wertheimer, now a Jewish museum. The jewel of the museum is the private synagogue of Rabbi Wertheimer, fortunately not destroyed during the Holocaust. Back in Vienna that afternoon, the students toured Schonbrunn palace, the beautiful summer residence of the Habsburg rulers. The group stood where, half a century ago, thousands of German people waited eagerly to hear Hitler proclaim the Anschluss from the balcony of one of the buildings. "It was chilling to stand there," says Chana Michels, SCW junior.

They traveled to the Czech Republic via Slovakia, and the group soon entered their third country in less than twelve hours. From their hotel, the

continued on page 21



the Jewish museum on the Judenplatz, the old Jewish Square. Next, the group headed to Eisenstadt, a neighboring province of Austria. The chain once used to close the street on Shabbat to non-pedestrian traffic stands as a reminder of the life that used to be led in those streets. The group toured the old home

THURSDAY MAY 23 11 AM

**THE THEATER
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN**

Commencement 2002

**SENIORS, HAVE
YOU FILED FOR
GRADUATION?**

**IF NOT, PICK UP KIT
FROM THE OFFICE
OF THE REGISTRAR
ON YOUR CAMPUS**



on campus

Hundreds Turn Out for RIETS Dinner Honoring Lamm

By: Miriam Colton

Over one thousand people attended the RIETS annual dinner on June 11th, honoring Rabbi Norman Lamm for his 25 years as Rosh HaYeshiva of RIETS. Rabbi Lamm's



Rabbi Lamm addresses packed Grand Hyatt ballroom

address at the dinner was his first public speech to Yeshiva University since he announced his resignation for the end of this year. In a passionate and emotional style, Rabbi Lamm stressed continued devotion to the ideals of Torah Umadda. He emphasized the importance of the university president remaining as the Rosh HaYeshiva of RIETS, since in the past few months there has been suggestions to divide it into two positions, especially among the Rabbis at RIETS.

"I believe that one person should serve in both presidencies," said Rabbi Lamm. "You cannot separate Yeshiva from University without injuring Yeshiva University."

Rabbi Lamm also delineated the requirements for the president in keeping with his presidency. "The president, as a symbol, should be a PhD and a lamdan," said Rabbi Lamm. "He should have an advanced academic degree and be a rav."

In the address, featured on three screens to serve the large crowd in

the Grand Hyatt ballroom, Rabbi Lamm reviewed the importance of Torah Umadda, an ideology that he has worked tirelessly to promote throughout his presidency.

"Preserve our unique vision," said Rabbi Lamm. "That vision includes: Torah Umadda, a maximum openness towards all Jews within the confines of halacha, a positive attitude towards the State of Israel."

Rabbi Lamm also made a strong endorsement of Orthodox unity. "Orthodoxy today is divided roughly into two camps and we need and must cherish both, for who can tell which will better survive and thrive in the long trajectory of history," said Rabbi Lamm. "They have amongst them people of exemplary devotion and sacrifice, of great scholarship, or humane outlook and love of Torah. Whether or not they reciprocate we must value them – at the same time that we disagree."



Rabbi Lamm receives inscribed megillah cover from board of trustees

He explained that haredim are more inwardly inclined and practice of lifestyle of living within a self-made fortress, while Yeshiva has a desire to meet modernity head on. "Yeshiva has

continued on page 22

NCSY Draws from SCW Students Many Students Play Active Role in NCSY as Advisors

By: Caryn Litt

SCW's annual Club Fair provides the opportunity to join a variety of fascinating groups, such as the Fine Arts Society, the J.P. Dunner Political Science Club, and the Observer. However, even with SCW's wide array of extra-curricular activities, a large number of students choose to devote their time to off-campus pursuits. One of the more common ventures is being an advisor for the National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY).

With several hundred chapters throughout twelve regions in the U.S. and Canada, NCSY claims around 15,000 participants – and the number is growing. A large aspect of NCSY's success can be attributed to its advisors, the vast majority of whom, at least for the East coast regions, hail from Yeshiva University. "Stern and [YC] advisors are in a culture of *kiruv* opportunities," says New England Regional Director Rabbi Ari Solomont. "You do it because your *chevra's* doing it. NCSY is almost a part of campus life."

"Many of my co-advisors are in Stern with me, so I feel that it impacts and enhances my experience at Stern," says Atara Senor, an SCW junior and a regional advisor for the New England Region.

For many, it is helpful that one need not choose between SCW and NCSY. "Stern has a very flexible course schedule," explains Lisa Bergman, an SCW junior who will be the advisor for the Fair Lawn, New Jersey chapter for the second year in a row. "I only feel like I'm sacrificing my school work a little bit [by being an NCSY advisor]."

Advisor qualifications include being at least two years out of high school, having a certain level of maturity, and being committed to Torah and the Jewish people. "The bottom line is you have to be a *mensh*," says Rabbi Solomont.

Perhaps the most important thing advisors must be able to offer, however, is time. Regional advisors generally only attend regional

events, such as weekend retreats known as *shabbatons*. However, even those advisors are required to make a significant commitment to NCSY at some level. "It doesn't do us any good to have an advisor come to one *shabbaton* and not come to anything else," Rabbi Solomont explains.

These advisors are expected to create



relationships with the participants and maintain them in between *shabbatons*, through phone calls, e-mails, and *chevrusas*. "Thousands of American Jewish teenagers are yearning for spirituality," says Senor, recognizing the important role she plays. "The positive influence an advisor can have on such individuals is endless."

Chapter advisors must devote a considerably greater amount

continued on page 22

Likely Victory for Lesbian Lawsuit Court of Appeals Decision Changes Course of the Case

By: Adina Levine

In a decisive victory for the lesbian plaintiffs suing Yeshiva University for denying them housing, the Court of Appeals ruled in early July that it would not dismiss the case. The top state court's verdict overturned a lower court decision that had dismissed *Levin vs. Yeshiva University*, ruling that the plaintiff's claim was



unfounded in as much as the Albert Einstein College of Medicine housing policy denied housing equally to nonmarried students, both heterosexual and homosexual.

"We have maintained all along that our housing policies are fair and nondiscriminatory," proclaimed a statement issued by YU after the lower court dismissal. However, the Court of Appeals ruled that since heterosexual couples at least had the ability to get married and qualify for housing while homosexual marriages are not recognized by the state, the plaintiff had a significant

case and could pursue its claims in Trial Court.

Asked whether this decision promised a plaintiff victory, Attorney James Esseks responded, "I think it does. Given what the Court of Appeals decided, [it] would be relatively easy [to win]. All we have to do is prove that the housing policy has a differential effect on gay and lesbian partners and we have plenty of material specifically stating their housing policy to substantiate our claim."

The potential victory of the plaintiffs, Sara Levin and Maggie Jones, presents YU

with an ethical dilemma. Although YU Attorney Mark Jacoby did not return calls for comment, Rabbi Lamm has elsewhere been quoted as saying, "under no circumstances can Judaism permit homosexuality to become respectable."

However, this adamant stance might be forced to waver in the face of a YU loss, and possibly compromise YU's philosophy of Torah U'madda. On the other hand, the plaintiff claims that this is not a religious issue that might otherwise threaten YU's integrity, that Einstein is an independent graduate school that has been

eligible for tax breaks and other government benefits for its non-partisan education.

"The medical school is not a religious institution," commented Esseks. "There's nothing religious in its instruction, it is subject to New York City and New York State human rights laws insofar as it accepts state money for schooling. It would be different if we were talking about the Rabbinic school."

However, the religious contingents within Einstein do not necessarily feel that their school is a nonreligious institution. "Only about 10% of my

continued on page 22

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The eighth floor in 215 Lexington has been cleared for SCW use, though it still remains to be remodeled before classes can commence. There has been no further development of the 215 Lexington building, all of which is owned by Y.U. but only three floors of which are in use. Plans to move the Art Annex to the new building apparently have been postponed.

The computer graphics room in the Art Annex – housing five MAC computers – has been moved to the sixth floor of the main building. The reason for the move is that the new room will not only allow com-

puter graphic students to have internet access, but also that the new room is more spacious to allow for the purchase of additional computers. Indeed, a sixth MAC computer has been ordered and will hopefully enable six students to enjoy the computer graphics classes.

The scaffolding along Lexington Avenue as well as along 34th street has been removed which certainly allows for a more scenic view of New York city along Stern College campus, although it may prove to be a detrimental development in the event of a downpour.

In a break from the tradition of past years, returning students were allowed to move in on Sunday, August 26th, along with the incoming students. "I think it's great," commented Dean Bacon. "It's easier for parents to move [their children] in on a Sunday." Move in proceeded at its usual standard pace while refreshments were available to make the ordeal at least somewhat more pleasant.

The Brookdale courtyard has been refurbished to include a spacious sitting area, yellow benches and patio tables. Thanks to the Student Life Committee, the



500 students currently crammed into Brookdale will now have a relaxation area to enjoy themselves and study for tests.

All locks have been changed in Brookdale Hall, invalidating previously lost or stolen keys.

on campus

SCW ENROLLMENT REACHES ALL TIME HIGH

By: Kim Davis and Ariela Dworetzky

This year, SCW's enrollment has reached its record peak, numbering 1015 students, owing mostly to the large number of incoming freshmen. Many have voiced that the increase in enrollment is largely due to the number of students who have chosen not to attend yeshivot and seminaries in Israel because of the ongoing "matzav". However, the Yeshiva University administration adamantly insist that the increase in enrollment is independent of the ongoing violence in Israel. "Our large numbers are not due to the situation in Israel, rather it is due to the robust growth of incoming students," said Michael Kranzler, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions. "In fact, very few students who intended to go to Israel have changed their mind."

Several SCW students admit to have oscillated between their concern for their safety and their desire to spend their year in Israel. Some students have decided to continue with their plans, despite the growing security threat. Ariella Adler, an SCW student who intends on spending the year at MMY, admits that the violence is cause for concern, but she understands the importance of going to Israel especially now, and will just try to be more cautious. Channa Cohen, who will join Ariella at MMY, says she will take "betachon pills everyday" to keep her spirits up, despite the terror that is taking place in Israel. "I have talked to people who live in Israel and they just take each day at a time," she says. She claims to feel very safe in Israel because, "it is the place that Hashem has given to us, as the Jewish people. Hashem is closest to us in Eretz Yisrael and we have direct protection from Him there."

Aliza Nadel, from Fair Lawn, New Jersey, is another SCW student who intends on spending her freshmen year in Israel. Currently enrolled in Michlalah, Nadel explains that she never had doubts about going to Israel, because of the Zionist ideology that has been instilled in her from Bnai Akiva.

However, on the other side of the spectrum, there are those students who have chosen to forego their year in Israel, due to the deteriorating security.

Avi Pittlemen, from Milwaukee,

Wisconsin, had previously planned on attending yeshiva in Israel but will be entering YC this fall, as a freshmen instead. "I didn't want my parents to be in a situation in which they were constantly worried," he explains.

Ariella Meittis and Melanie Lowey, from Los Angeles, California, were planning on attending Michlalah and MMY respectively, but their parents have decided that they should forego their year abroad, due to the situation in Israel.

However, the Yeshiva University administration maintains that the numbers of participants in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program remained the same as previous years, and was largely unaffected by the matzav, until the devastating and tragic suicide attack at Sbarros, which claimed the life of Azrieli student Shoshana Greenbaum.

John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, says that he has received calls from 60% of the participants, who were seriously considering withdrawing from the program. "The morning of the Sbarro attack, we received many phone calls from students who were considering their options," says Fisher. "However in the past few days, the amount of phone calls has diminished dramatically.

What it boiled down to in the end was about 30 students, 10 on the Main Campus and 20 on the Midtown campus, who decided to forego their Israel year. The vast majority are going ahead."

Nava Levenson, from Manhattan, may be going to SCW for her sophomore year, but for this coming year, she plans to go to a new seminary, ABY. Levenson says that she has never been scared to go to Israel because she was raised with Zionist values.

"They must realize the intrinsic value of Israel and how holy it is or else they wouldn't try so hard to obtain it," says Levenson. "If they are willing to slay themselves in the process, they must be on to something Israel has. And if the Palestinians realize its value, all the more so the rightful owners of the land should." When friends ask her why she is not afraid to be in Israel, her response is, "I've never really seen it as an option to pull out."

Tragedy Mars First Year of Azrieli Israel Program

YU Student Perishes in Sbarro Bombing

By: Ariela Dworetzky

The perilous situation in Israel hit home when YU student Shoshana Greenbaum was tragically killed on the August 9th Sbarro bombing.

"It's a heartbreaking tragedy, very sad," commented Dean Orlian. "It brings to home what many families are experienc-



ing and makes the whole picture more tragic."

How many of us have eaten lunch at Sbarro's? And if like me, you aren't into pizza, how many times have we walked past Sbarros to go to the Kotel, to King George, Meah Shearim, Ben Yehuda?! We didn't have to try to relate because I'm sure that everyone saw themselves at some point or another eating in that pizza store, or at least walking by, and wondering, what if I had been there? That could have been me.

But what hit the American Jewish community the hardest was when the list of victims was publicized and we saw the name, Shoshana Greenbaum, age 31. She had been married for 15 months and was 4 months pregnant with their first child when she was killed at Sbarros, leaving behind not only her husband, but also her parents, to whom she

was their only child. She was in Israel for six weeks learning in Yeshiva University's Azrieli program, as part of her quest for a master's degree in Jewish education.

I was zoche to have Morah Shoshana Haymen as my eighth grade teacher at HALB and she was one of the most unique and inspiring teachers that I've ever had. Morah Haymen cared about each and every one of her students; she never showed favoritism to any girl and what was so impressive about her was she was much more than a lesson book; she exemplified what she taught. Morah Haymen taught in HALB for many years and she watched her colleagues get married, one by one, at age twenty and twenty-one, and although she remained single, she was so happy for every teacher. I can't think of one time that I saw her without a bright smile on her face.

HALB parents and children reacted to the tragic news with shock and horror. In Mesorah, where many of her former students attend, grief counselors were brought up to deal with the children. Said one counselor, "It was horrible, all the girls were crying. My sister had her last year and I had to try to comfort her and I didn't know what to say! It's just so awful."

Many of her former students went to pay a shiva call to her husband, Shmuel Greenbaum - girls ranging from third graders to girls starting their junior year in college- all whom had benefited from Morah Haymen. One girl whom I had gone to school with brought her Hilchot Shabbat note-

Barnes and Noble Takes Over YU Bookstores

Posman's Suddenly Closes Operations on Campus

By: Miriam Colton

In a surprising move this summer that left university officials scrambling to find a replacement, Posman Collegiate Bookstores have terminated their bookselling service on all Yeshiva University campuses. Barnes and Noble, a major textbook retailer, has been contracted to take over and will be setting up rush bookstores at various locations at the beginning of the semester.

"Posman made a decision independent of YU to close many of their collegiate bookstores," said David Himer, Dean of Student Services. "Barnes and Noble came through with the best arrangement and will be setting up shop on both campuses."

The decision for Posman to close caught students and administration off guard, as just last winter Posman opened a newly renovated store on the corner of

184th street. Posman executives were reluctant to discuss their decision to vacate the campus a few months after investing in a new store, stating that it concerned the profitability of the operation.

"We had been in negotiations for a long time, so we went through with it, even though it really wasn't profitable at that point," said Maxene Posman, President of Posman Collegiate Bookstores. "We though business might improve."

Posman has been selling textbooks on the Yeshiva campuses for over fifteen years. "We cut back on stores that were not making money or whose operations



Posman will no longer be at Yeshiva

were marginal," said Posman. "We have only wonderful things to say about YU and we're sorry it didn't work out."

An August 20th memo sent to students and faculty from Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, stated that Posman had closed many of their retail outlets in New York, including the ones at NYU and the New School University.

There are no plans for a new store uptown in the now empty store at 184th and Amsterdam. "It seems all major book retailers are going to internet-based support for colleges, so you really can't find any willing to open stores on campuses," said Rosengarten.

In fact, one of the appealing aspects of a contract with Barnes and Noble was a new YU website it is currently developing, enabling students to buy textbooks and other products on the internet. The website should be up by Thanksgiving. It is unclear whether Barnes and Noble will continue to set up pop up stores on campus, once the website is functioning.

"I run the mailrooms on the different campuses and we've seen how many textbooks come in from places like amazon.com," said Rosengarten. "Students beat us to it and have been ordering online for a while."

Barnes and Noble will be selling their textbooks at SCW, YC, Ferkauf and Cardozo. The location of the pop up bookstore on the midtown campus will remain the same as last year, the lobby of 215 Lex. The dates for the bookstore are August 28th

continued on page 22



book and she remembered with a smile how Morah Haymen used to encourage her to express her creativity when learning Hilchot Shabbat.

Shmuel Greenbaum had but one request for us all. He encouraged all that knew her to spread what we had learned from Morah Haymen. "Not everyone had Morah Shoshana," he told us, "Spread what she taught you. Make sure that everyone is affected by her."

Shoshana Greenbaum had been studying in Azrieli's summer program. It was the first year of the Azrieli Summer Block program and a YU press report in July had bragged "Yeshiva University faculty and Students demonstrate solidarity with Israel as programs continue during crisis." Seventy students enrolled in Azrieli participated in the summer program, and 200 undergraduates studied in Israel during the summer.

YU Alumn Makes List of 50 Most Influential American Jews

By: Kim Davis

Have you ever heard of a popular magazine called "Newsweek"? If you have, you will get a kick out of a new Jewish Webzine, an online magazine, called *Jewsweek*, located at www.jewsweek.com. One of its most highly acclaimed articles titled "The Jewsweek Fifty: The 50 Most Influential Jews in America" was the cover story for the June 26th issue, has received more than 100 letters from readers.

"The list has taken on a life of its own," says Benyamin Cohen, editor and founder of *Jewsweek*.

"*Jewsweek.com* sent out questionnaires to many Jewish leaders across the denominational spectrum, including some of the influentials who made it on the list," Cohen replies, "and we got about 200 names and then narrowed it down to 50."

The list of the fifty most influential Jews in America includes famous Jewish figures such as Alan Greenspan, Joseph Lieberman and Steven Spielberg. But what really makes this list unique is that it includes those who impact Jewry from behind the scenes and are not in the public eye. "There are several other Jewish publications that come out with these lists annually but they always consist of the usual suspects," says Cohen. "At *Jewsweek.com* we wanted to introduce our readers to lesser known, but just as influential people."

Many lists of influential people include names of those Jews who are involved in programs and institutions. "Most of these people who are on the list are not involved in institutional Judaism. For example, Shlomo Ressler as an individual, has impacted the Jewish community

more than some people who are involved in institutions," Cohen explains.

Shlomo Ressler, 29, began writing weekly divrai Torah for an NCSY chapter bulletin called "Bible Babble." His goal was to make them short



Meir Soloveichik

and concise, because teenagers have very short attention spans. "People don't have patience for things they put in practical use and the Torah is a living Torah," says Ressler. He started emailing these divrai

Torah out to his friends, and as time went on, his email list grew to 15,000 people.

The list of the 50 most influential Jews in America includes some Yeshiva University affiliates: Rabbi Benjamin Blech and Lavi Greenspan. Rabbi Blech, a professor at Yeshiva, who has written eight books, is most well known for *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Learning Yiddish*.

And then there is Lavi Greenspan. Imagine being in Fordham law school and Yeshiva University for rabbinical ordination and having your dreams shattered by becoming completely blind. During the prime of his life, at the young age of 26, Greenspan lost his vision due to a benign brain tumor. However, instead of letting this tragedy shatter his dreams, he completed both smicha and law school. Greenspan, now 30, has defi-

nately not let his blindness deter him from impacting the world. In fact, in the past three and a half years, he has spoken publicly for more than 100 organizations, sharing his personal story of triumph. Currently working as a lawyer for IDT, Greenspan's uniqueness is that he always see the glass as half-full. Greenspan has a very optimistic outlook about his future, which is a result of his emunah in Hashem, and believes that he will one day see again. "What keeps me going is my dream to see again," Greenspan says.

In addition to the list of the top 50, the article had a list of "Up and Comers," people who are going to be influential to America in the future. This list includes Rabbi Meir Soloveichik and Rabbi Ezra Cohen, former YU students. "Both these alumni show promise and have the potential to make the list in years to come," predicts Cohen.

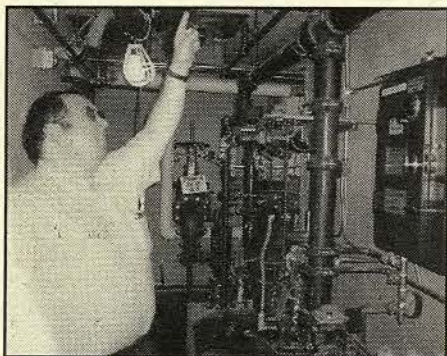
New Dorm Opens

continued from front page

Supporting Services. The negotiations with the labor union were over monetary issues and work conditions, and lasted over two months.

Questioned as to whether the student activism affected the opening of the dorm, Rosengarten claims that he was not aware of any effects, and that work continued the "same the day before and the day after the special issue came out."

"The student noise was neutral," said Rosengarten. "There may be some who felt it was positive, but from my perspective, it didn't slow me down or speed me up."



Socol leads Observer on tour of "belly of the beast," the basement of new dorm

Conversely, in an example of administrative differences, Dean Humber felt that the activism was helpful. "It brought the issue to forefront and showed that students were rightfully concerned about their living conditions," said Humber.

Some have expressed skepticism over Rosengarten's claim that student response had no effect. "If student activism was useless then why didn't Rosengarten quietly tell the students and the Observer editors the truth to begin with, and they would've kept quiet about the whole issue," said Toby Josovitz, SCW junior. "Instead, they let the whole issue explode. So either way, Yeshiva totally mishandled the situation." It remains unclear why it was announced that the new dorm would not open at all for the new semester.

Marjorie Blenden, chairman of the SCW Board, was unsure whether the actions caused the Board to work harder, yet claimed it had a favorable effect because it showed great student effort. The students protested at a Board meeting, and presented it with a student petition, which the Board then passed on to Robert Beren, Chairman of the Yeshiva Board and Sheldon Socol, Vice President for Business Affairs.

The two new dormitory floors, on the fourth and fifth floor, consist of single rooms except for two double bedrooms on each floor. The T-shaped layout, similar to that of Schottenstein, has a communal bathroom on

each floor, in addition to individual sinks in each room. Each bathroom has only four toilets and four shower stalls for twenty-six students, which may be a nuisance in the morning rush before classes begin.

The front lounge on the first floor is open to men and is completely renovated with couches, a piano and a fireplace. "We worked really hard decorating the new lounge and the lobby hallways," said Blenden.

Behind the lounge is a garden with benches and tables, which according to Blenden, will grow strawberries and roses in the spring. It is undecided whether men will be allowed in the garden. "We will be consulting members of the student life committee to see what the students want," said Humber. "By the time school opens on Wednesday we will have a definitive policy." As this issue went to press no decision had been reached.

The lack of elevator in the dorm proved to be somewhat of a hassle on moving day. "No elevators is common in college dorms," said Rosengarten. The building has two stairwells; one, with a skylight, is open to student use, and the other to be used by the workers over the next two months of construction. Other minor disadvantages of the new dorms are no kitchens on the floors and no storage in the basement.

The 3rd floor is slated to be finished by late October, and the entire dorm by Thanksgiving. The major electrical and plumbing structure is already in place in the entire building; what is awaiting is more minor construction like electrical outlets, flooring and bathrooms. Current plans call for the 2nd and 3rd floors to be occupied next semester.

The rear lounge, the workout room and the laundry room are not completed, but will be by Thanksgiving. Students can do their laundry next door at the laundromat for a reduced price, until the room is ready. It is standard in construction to work downwards on a building, in order to reduce noise and damage. The work will continue on a regular 9-5 schedule.

"We're going to try to do the work while the students are in school," said Rosengarten. "All the heavy service working in the building is completed except in the basement, and the drilling should not be too loud." However, on a tour of the dorm last week that Rosengarten and Jeffrey Socol of Facilities gave to the Observer, there were sporadic outbursts of very loud drilling in the lobby.

Amidst all the hoopla over the new dorm, students are happy with the new space. "I'm sure there will be problems but that's normal," said Mindy Rothstein, who is living in the 36th Street Residence Hall. "I'm just glad to be part of the group to break in

Capital Campaign Launched

continued from front page

University's position as the most outstanding institution of combined secular scholarship and Jewish studies in the world."

Begun this past year, the campaign was only announced once the committee had reached a significant portion of its goal. Donations of various amounts – ranging from \$100,000 to \$25 million – were collected even before the inauguration of the campaign. The single largest donation, a \$25 million gift, was given by the Michael Price foundation intended to construct the Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In fact, a large portion – exactly half – of the intended \$400 million will be raised by and support Einstein. By contrast, the three different YU boards – the SCW board, the YC board and the SSSB board – are each responsible for raising \$50 million. Only the money that the individual board raises will be used for that institution.

"\$400 million sounds like a lot," reflected Rena Zlatin, "but how much of that money do you think we're actually going to see?"

Actually, compared to the other YU undergraduate institutions, the SCW board has raised less than half its goal, although the figures for SSSB and YC are currently unavailable. And Director of Development, Joan Apple, predicts that the SCW board is going to have a harder time raising that sum than its contemporary board uptown.

"It's not so easy in this economy to find millions," commented Marjorie Blenden, Chairman of the SCW Board. "We work very hard to raise it. It might be a little more difficult because women's colleges raise a lot from alumni. We're not an old school, and our alumni are very young. Yeshiva College is older than we are, not much older, but older."

Yet, Dean Bacon maintains that the SCW board's relative difficulty in fundraising will not negatively impact its students or its campus.

"In recent years, a huge commitment has been made to SCW," Dean Bacon remarked. "Five more buildings have been added, which must have cost an

awful lot of money. There certainly hasn't been that kind of development uptown; theirs took place years before. We've made very strong progress in increasing faculty [as] appropriate for the size of the school. The picture today is very different than fifteen years ago."

And many of the donors had, in fact, witnessed the evolution of YU during the last fifteen years. Of the \$275 million raised so far, many of the donors were familiar names to YU students – including S. Daniel Abraham, Robert and Renee Belfer family foundation, Geraldine Schottenstein, and Sy Syms.

"The best givers as fundraisers are your old donors," remarked Joan Apple, SCW Director of Development. "They're the ones to give the most money. As soon as a pledge is paid up, we go back to them for more."

Apparently, some students have noticed the repetition of the same donors in the titles of the YU buildings.

"It's nice that the same people keep donating," commented Dafna Schindler, SCW junior. "But it can get a little confusing, like that time when I told my friend to meet me in Schottenstein. I meant Residence hall, and it took me about half an hour waiting until I realized she was at the Cultural Center."

Although Schindler spoke in jest, administrators admit that it is a legitimate concern that YU seems to draw from the same donors over and over again.

"When the University says that it has met about half the goal, it is primarily from old donors," observed Dean Bacon. "Now comes the hard part. The biggest challenge is in finding new philanthropists. There are only so many times you can ask the same people for money."

On the other hand, Daniel Forman, Vice President of Development, maintains that the capital campaign has been funded by both new and old donors. "Some of our donors are completely new to the University," commented Forman. "Others are connected through generations, [but] all are united and galvanized by our unique mission."



Kosher Gourmet
Cholov Israel
ORGANIC VEGETARIAN

PIZZA PASTA SALADS

Grand Opening Sept. 10
Student Specials the Entire Week

Pizza Cave At 64 E 34th Street
will become

“VIVA NATURAL PIZZERIA”

A Healthy Gourmet Pizzeria

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

HEALTH BULLETIN: The Weight on Fat

By: Ami Flatt

Frozen yogurt -- not ice cream; pretzels -- not chips; baked -- not fried; skim -- not whole. Strolling down the aisles of the supermarket, one can gather that the American public is obsessed with reducing and eliminating fat from their diet. As one SCW student quips, "I equate low-fat with healthy, or at least healthier."

And it seems that the efforts of nutritionists have paid off. Americans have cut back on fat from 40% of calories in 1968 to only 33% today. Furthermore, according to the U.S Department of Agriculture, we have lessened the amount of saturated fat in our diets from 18% to 11%.

With these facts in mind, it seems that we can congratulate ourselves, or better yet indulge in a piece of Entenmanns Fat-Free Angel Food Cake and a scoop of Ben & Jerry's Low-Fat Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream. However, some of the country's leading diet and health experts now claim that a low-fat, high carbohydrate diet is far from ideal.

It is easy to understand why experts began prescribing low-fat, high-carbohydrate diets. Gram for gram, fat contains more than twice the number of calories as carbohydrates. Reducing the total amount of fat in the diet and replacing it with carbohydrates would seem to be a great way to lose weight. Yet, decreasing fat has not proven to be helpful for weight loss. Despite the surge for low-fat products, Americans have continued growing fatter and fatter. The reason is simple. Although we are eating less fat, we are consuming more empty calories, mainly consisting of sugars and refined flour -- also known as simple carbohydrates.

There is another more serious reason to question the merits of a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet. While the low-fat, high-carb diet does reduce artery clogging LDL cholesterol, it also lowers HDL cholesterol, commonly called "good" cholesterol because it has been shown to remove "bad" LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream. "When HDL levels fall, heart disease risk climbs, even if your total cholesterol remains normal," says Frank Sacks, MD, an epidemiologist at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Additionally, a low-fat, high-carb diet raises the levels of triglycerides, which are fat molecules in the bloodstream that are a marker for increased heart disease risk. Sacks and others believe that one should follow a diet rich in unsaturated fats, which are found in vegetable oils, nuts, seeds, and grains. On a relatively high unsaturated fat diet, levels of "bad" cholesterol fall while levels of "good" cholesterol remain high. Sacks believes that a heart-healthy diet can contain up to 40% of its calories from unsaturated fat.

Experts are still arguing over the merits of low versus higher fat diets. However, all agree that the ideal diet is dependent on the individual's motive. If one already suffers from a cardiovascular disease, extremely low-fat diets can help unclog arteries. If one is healthy and wants to lower their risk of developing heart disease, one should reduce his saturated fat intake. Finally, if one is looking to lose weight, cutting back on fat is a sensible plan.

In any event, put the Entenmanns and Ben & Jerry's aside and reach for an apple.

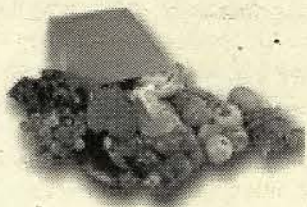
Low-Fat Recipe: Vegetable Kugel

Ingredients:

- 20 oz. Frozen vegetables
- 1 tsp. Oil
- 1 cupped chopped raw onions
- ¾ c. cornflake crumbs
- 2 tbsp. Lowfat Mayonnaise
- 4 egg whites

- 1) Sauté oil and chopped onions
- 2) In separate bowl, beat up egg whites
- 3) Combine mayonnaise, cornflake crumbs, onions and vegetables.
- 4) Fold in egg whites
- 5) In 8 inch pan, bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until cooked.

Serves 8. About 60 calories per portion.



Provi Provi Changes to Tuscan Grill

By: Sara Trappler

When I entered the new restaurant, I saw no visible changes. The classy atmosphere was the same as it had been before Pesach, when it went by the name "Provi Provi" and served expensive, dairy Italian cuisine. The same small tables with white tablecloths and low burning candles fill the dimly lit room. Yet, now a smell of grilled meat drifts by.

The friendly waiter approaches my table to take my order. The menu is humble; only a few choices are offered for each category. There is red meat and chicken from the grill, Al Forno, pasta, fish, and sides (vegetables mostly). I ask the waiter for a recommendation and he suggests one of the day's specials: Hanger Steak with a Barbaresco Wine Shallot Sauce, which I agree to.

The food arrives in good timing, but left me enough time to enjoy the garlic bread on the table. I can tell before tasting my order that it is delicious. The boneless, well done, tender steak is covered with a rich wine sauce and is served with mashed potatoes and Haricot vert (string beans and cooked carrots). The dressing and portion is just right: not too much and not too little. There are scallions sprinkled over the mashed potatoes and green spices on the steak giving it extra flavor. After tasting the food I know I was right; it is not only aesthetically agreeable but tasty as well.

I am so satisfied after the meal that I have no room to order any of their interesting desserts, such as Open Faced Apple Torte, Deep Dish Apple Annie Cake, or Chocolate Mousse Torte. There is also a selection of coffee and tea as well as alcoholic drinks from the bar (Scotch, Bourbon and Cordials).

After I finish eating, I speak to the owner of Tuscan Grill, former owner of Provi Provi, Mr. Rami Kidouchim. He says he changed the restaurant from dairy to meat to increase business. A dairy restaurant usually only serves those who come to the restaurant and does not concentrate on the outside corporate world, while a meat restaurant can cater, deliver, and serve parties. Kidouchim says they may be opening on Simchat Torah this year for a singles event, something not possible last year.

One of the major changes that occurred with the conversion from dairy to meat is not the clientele, but the combination at tables. "Men tend to eat more meat, so we never used to get tables



with all men," Kidouchim explains. Now, the restaurant attracts larger groups of men, since women typically eat less red meat and more dairy foods.

Grilled chicken with vegetables is very popular among women, and the Tuscan RibEye marinated in Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Rosemary and Garlic is very popular among the men. "Men demand certain things and women demand certain things and now we can combine both of them."

As far as his old customers, Kidouchim says he has to build a customer base slowly, since many people do not necessarily know the Tuscan Grill is the old Provi Provi. To combat this, the old "Provi Provi" sign outside still remains (in addition to the new "Tuscan Grill" sign) so that old customers do not think the restaurant closed down. Initially, Kidouchim thought to keep the upstairs dairy, but it did not work out and the second floor is currently used for parties. However, Kidouchim hopes to one day open another dairy restaurant like the old Provi Provi.

Kidouchim hopes to expand the Tuscan Grill's menu to appease the clientele who prefer a lighter meal than meat. He plans to expand the pasta section (without meat served with it), to offer more vegetarian selection, as well as offering additional cuts of meat. He is experimenting with different specials, such as the one I had earlier, that may make their way to the permanent menu. Dealing with a kosher meat menu is more difficult than with dairy, because the owner is dependent on suppliers and certain cuts of meat are not always available. Since the Tuscan Grill is under the strict supervision of the OK, the kosher market resources are limited. Yet, with the help of excellent service, good food, ambitious goals, and a growing crowd of customers, I am sure the Tuscan Grill will be a popular choice among the increasing selection of kosher restaurants in New York.

Cheap Culture: Theater Tickets and Tips

By: Chana Michels

Don't let the "starving college student" stereotype prevent you from exploring New York's fine arts scene. Here are tips that will prevent you from paying big bucks; remember, you're no longer a tourist but a now a Manhattan resident.

1) TDF TKTS—If you are looking for cheap tickets, the first name to remember is Theatre Development Fund. TDF, a not-for-profit organization, has been around since 1968 and its goal is to make theater more affordable. The two TKTS booths are located at Times Square and at the mezzanine of the World Trade Center. Just look for the long

lines.

TKTS booths sell tickets the day of performance for 25 to 50 percent off the original price, although a \$2.50 service charge is added. Availability of shows is posted on the front of the booths and only cash or travelers checks are accepted, so don't bring credit cards. TKTS has tickets for most shows, but you won't find those for The Producers, Proof, and The Lion King. The theater reviews in the Friday Weekend section of the *New York Times* usually mention if tickets are available at TKTS half an hour before the performance.

Don't forget to join TDF's student mailing list. Each month you will

receive approximately four discount-ticket offers (up to 75 percent off the original price). Sign up is free and there's no obligation to buy tickets. Visits www.tdf.com for more information.

2) Student vouchers—If you're not in the mood to wait in long TKTS lines, introduce yourself to Betty at SCW Student Services. Beside her contagious smile and knowledge of everything that goes on at the midtown campus, Betty is the caretaker of the vouchers theaters send to SCW. These coupons can offer up to 60% off regular priced tickets and can be used for purchases at the box office or through ticketmaster or telecharge.

3) Rush Tickets and Standing Room Only— This is my favorite option because it's the cheapest and most convenient way to make Broadway and the rest of the fine arts

continued on next page



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

MOVIE REVIEW OF *DIVIDED WE FALL*

By: Sara Trappier

This powerful, beautifully depicted story of a childless Czech couple during World War II is a rare insight into a time that Hollywood can very seldom capture as well as foreign films do. The film, based on real stories, was nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film of the Year 2000. A Czech film company produced Jan Hrebejk's feature film, which was shot in quaint Czech streets and performed by talented Czech actors, providing a genuine and haunting quality to the film.

The story begins with the deportation of Czech Jews to the Terezin ghetto, and then focuses on a Catholic couple, the Cizeks, who were friends with their young Jewish neighbor, David Wiener, before the war. The couple's relationship is strained because the lovely and pretty wife, Marie, superbly acted by Anna Siskova, has difficulty becoming pregnant. Additional tension comes from frequent visits by their Czech-German friend, Horst Prohaska, a Nazi collaborator whose cruel and pretentious manner fills their home with an uncomfortable intensity. He manages to convince Marie's husband, Josef, played successfully by Boleslav Polivka, to work with him for the Germans, while also trying to win over Marie's heart, who is deeply devoted to her husband despite his sterility.

The biggest problem with Horst Prohaska is that while he sits at the Cizeks' table flirting with Marie, condemning her husband,

and supporting the Third Reich, the young Jewish neighbor, David, hides a few feet away behind a door leading to the Cizek's secret storage room. David accidentally reentered the Cizeks' life when Josef found him hiding in an empty Jewish house that Josef had daringly intruded in order to save jewelry before Nazi confiscation, to fulfill a promise he had made to his Jewish friend before the war. David's eyes immediately reveal where he is coming from. One sees



pain, confusion and emptiness, yet there is a glimpse of hope behind his innocent face, similar to photos of holocaust victims hanging on museum walls.

While we do not see scenes from the concentration camps, one knows the evil injustices David suffered in Poland by seeing his frail timidity throughout the film and by hearing about some of his experiences. As the story unfolds, Prohaska becomes more of a threat to the Cizeks when he comes close to discovering David. After Marie refuses Prohaska's advances, the Nazi collaborator turns to revenge. He arranges for an elderly Nazi official, Albrecht Kepke, to move into the Cizeks' home. Taking a bold leap of faith, Marie lies that she is pregnant in order to prevent the Nazi official from moving in. This lie causes a twist in the plot, which may or

may not save the Cizeks from imminent danger.

The film ends in one of those too-quickly-tied-together scenes, which leaves the audience relieved and content, yet wondering at its possibility. The scene involves a strange combination of characters with a strange choice of music. The film's only flaw, perhaps, is in its final scene, which has a different feel to the rest of the movie. Its success, however, is in the ability to combine the seriousness and tragedy of a time period with comic relief. The film has been called black humor, which is only a partial description. It is dramatic, suspenseful, authentic and gripping, and should be viewed by people of all religions and ages.

"For me, the film tells a story that reflects my personal view of the strength of human dignity," director Jan Hrebejk said. "It shows that even a small display of decency can be very heroic. And, in contrast, sometimes an easily overlooked indecency can turn out to be a great tragedy. Of course, I'd like to tell the story in an entertaining way even in view of its serious World War II theme."

Although a film like "Life is Beautiful" attempted to achieve the same goal, it caused controversy over whether holocaust films should have any humor. Yet, humor is what has always helped people survive pain and suffering, and it may be needed in holocaust films to hold an audience. "Divided We Fall" definitely captivates its audience until the end.

Subway Symphony: A Creative Piece

By: Margueya Novick

Far beneath the bustling crowds of New York City's workers, an underworld of activity pulsates with a life of its own. It is the heartbeat of the city, the bloodlines that keep the upper world moving in a systematic rhythm. It is the subway.



The subway does far more than just breathe life into the city, connecting various commuters to their varied destinations. It provides New York with a unique sub culture -- one need only step into the Transit Museum to get a sense of the widespread universal language of the underground trains. Posters, key-chains, and tote bags depict the colorful aspects of this popular transport system, and establish these rickety cattle cars as platforms for the creative side of our metropolitan city.

Your destination, and how you'll get there, will at times take a back seat to your subway experience. Admission is only a dollar fifty (free transfers are available) and although there may only be standing room, transportation is always at hand for when you're ready to leave. Every evening, from the start of rush hour until deep into the night, mini concerts are being performed, drowning out the roaring and screeching of incoming trains, filling the graffitied underground walls with the sounds of African drums and xylophones. The sense of unwinding from a hard day's work is almost tangible as people voluntarily miss trains to hear the next round. Couples dance, people hum along, and with appreciative grins, money is dropped into some sort of receptacle as people head off for their destinations.

Who are the people behind the music? What brings them here, what inspires them to give of themselves each night, contributing to the ebb and flow of the city workers, providing an inimitable backdrop to the otherwise weary commute?

I met James at the West 4th station. Sitting unassumingly with a bandana on his head, sporting both a guitar and a harmonica, his sign declares that he needs money for college -- please!! As the trains

come and go, he belts out classic rock favorites, including many from the Beatles. He goes to college in Syracuse and, like many others, has not yet decided on a major. He has been performing for half a year. He took guitar lessons for a few months, but the harmonica is self-taught. He makes, on average, ten dollars an hour (considering that most people make that -- minus tax -- sitting in an office, this would definitely rival for a career change).

He loves classic rock, and plays songs that he feels are familiar and popular -- he finds that most people respond best (meaning, give money) when he plays "Everybody has a Hungry Heart" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You." When asked what is most effective for subway performing, he said, "You have to do a combination -- singing along with instrument accompaniment. No one wants to just hear you sing."

James comes faithfully from six to ten every evening, mainly to the B and D line, since it's on his way home. He has played professionally once or twice, but mainly the subway is his stage.

"I've met lots of people through this -- they're always asking me questions," he says. "It's really an interesting experience."

Over on 42nd Street, Jonathan, forty-something and smiling beneath his afro, sits off in a corner, strumming his guitar. He never went to college, and works in construction. He never took any lessons, and although he has not yet played professionally, he hopes to one day. "I hope I'll be discovered one time," he says wistfully. Unlike James, playing in the subway is an outlet for him, strictly for relaxation. He does not maintain set hours of work -- his playing schedule varies from day to day, as does the money that comes in. He has been playing in stations since he was a teenager, finding it to be cathartic. His inspiration is Jimi Hendrix, and he mainly performs funk. "Funk is a feeling," he says. When asked for elaboration, he replied, "It's hard to explain."

Kanja, amidst the comers and goers of the 59th Street station, is in his thirties, and happily plays upon a complicated looking instrument called a cora. Kanja spoke to me through an interpreter -- his English is sparse, at best. He has been playing the cora since he was fourteen, and learned from his father who was a famous musician in his village and died two years ago. He has been playing for subway passengers for seven months now, and pulls in about eighty to ninety dollars an evening. He plays for up to four hours, and serves as a delivery man for different

continued on page 23

Student Tickets

continued from previous page

scene a regular component in your life. The beauty about living in Manhattan is having the spontaneity to walk to the theater district whenever you feel like seeing a show.

Most theaters offer rush tickets, which means that on the day of performance they sell a certain amount of tickets for \$15-\$25 dollars. The fixed price and the actual rush policy varies on the theater, so stop by the theater or depending on the show, call Ticketmaster (212-307-4100), Telecharge (212-239-6200), or the Disney Hotline (212-307-4747) to ask about the rush policy for specific shows. Keep in mind that generally, rush tickets turn into "student rush tickets," available only to students with valid ID (that's you).

For example, Annie Get Your Gun offers a 50% discount for students as long as they present student ID on the day of performance, but this offer is only good for the seats on the mezzanine.

Contact offers \$20 tickets for the best available seats in the house for students with ID, but the tickets are offered two hours before the performance. At Chicago, with student ID, you can buy far-right or far-left orchestra seats for \$20. Aida is similar in that it also offers \$20 orchestra seats with student ID but Aida sets aside only twenty tickets, so make sure to join the line in front of the box office before it opens (10 AM during the week and 12 PM on Sundays).

Popular shows like Phantom of the Opera and Proof offer standing room rush tickets for \$20, but only when the show is sold out. Mama Mia already has this policy and doesn't open until October 15th!

The New York City Ballet, The American Ballet Theater, The New York Philharmonic, and other various attractions at the Lincoln Center (you do know where that is, right?) also have generous student rush offers. NYCB has \$10 tickets for the

fourth tier available for most performances. On a few occasions the ticket salesperson seated me in the second or third tier if I asked! ABT has \$20 tickets and find out if they are as nice.

Jazz at the Lincoln Center features world-renowned jazz musicians who perform in the lovely star-lit Kaplan Penthouse. Enjoy the breathtaking Manhattan skyline while listening to the best jazz in town. Tickets are \$45 dollars, but if you bring student ID, you'll get in for \$10 on the night of performance!

Carnegie Hall begins selling its student tickets on Saturday for the coming week. Even for a popular performance, student tickets should still be available on Sunday. The ticket price varies with the performance.

These are just a few examples of student rush tickets. Make sure to update your information

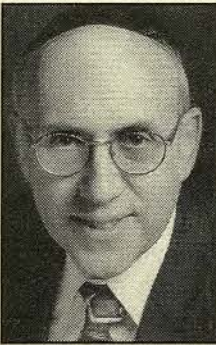
continued on page 23

Business News

New Dean for Sy Syms

By: Caryn Litt

Professor Charles Snow, a six-time winner of the Professor of the Year Award, has been selected as the new dean of Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business. Snow will split his time between the midtown and uptown campuses.



Although he is "not at liberty to discuss the details," Snow's contract allows for at least

two to three years as dean, enough time to begin implementing his ideas and seeing their results. "Our goal is to increase the academic excellence and broaden the scope of the school," Snow said.

Specifically, Snow plans to expand the area of business ethics and to offer a new genre of courses, such as the historical development of modern finance, which will be offered in the spring semester, and a course focusing on Israeli businesses.

With a careful eye on the economy, Snow also hopes to upgrade the Office of Placement and Career Services, by increasing the scope of companies that the office is in contact with and by beginning to service Sy Syms alumni in addition to currently enrolled students. "We need to be proactive," said Snow. "We're reviewing the process through which we do things in the Office of Career and Placement Services ... because of all the talk of the impending economic recession."

A graduate of Yeshiva College, Snow received his masters and doctoral degrees from the Graduate School of

Business of New York University. He served for ten years on the faculty of Bernard Baruch's School of business before becoming the Vice President of Training for Morgan Stanley in 1985.

Snow joined the Sy Syms faculty in 1993, and has since become wildly popular with the students, winning the Professor of the Year Award six years in a row. "He is so personable with the students, he lets you ask him whatever questions you want... he gives great advice," raved Liana Biniashvili, a SSSB sophomore.

After Dean Harold Nierenberg announced his retirement plans, a nation-wide search was conducted by a professional Boston-based search firm, producing a large, confidential, candidacy pool. A committee of administrators, members of the SSSB Board of Directors, faculty, and student leaders was formed to review the selection. Snow was chosen after an arduous process, one that included undergoing at least twelve separate interviews.

In addition to fulfilling his administrative duties, Snow will continue to teach. He is teaching one course this fall at the midtown campus, and will teach one course in the spring semester, although it is yet to be decided at which campus.

In efforts to provide more of an administrative presence at the midtown campus, Snow said, he will be at the midtown campus two afternoons a week.

For students, this time allotment is certainly welcome news. "One problem with Dean Nierenberg was that he spent all his time uptown," commented SSSB junior Adina Lastoff. "If I ever found him, it was a miracle."

Florence Trip

continued from page 10

The eight students ate daily at Ruth's, the only kosher restaurant in Florence. By the end of the trip, each student could have recited the items on the menu by heart.

Kosher "gelato", or ice cream, was available in two to four flavors in a few places. The group visited those places as



Enjoying Florentine Culture

we all went into that one afternoon began offering ten kosher flavors," said Professor Cohen.

Although the course was very exhausting, everyone agreed that the work was worth it. "It was a learning experience unlike any other," said senior Suri Strobel.

This was the second summer that Professor Cohen led the SCW students into Europe. Last year, the students went to Amsterdam. Professor Cohen taught a class in the spring on Fifteenth-Century Art that was a pre-requisite for the summer course.

Rumors of Cheating Characterize SSSB Finals

Administrators say Rumors were Unfounded; Students Think Otherwise

By: Adina Levine

While some students were pondering the annual interest on a ten year lease, other students were not so concerned. While some students were dumbfounded at applying the EBIT formula, others were playing basketball. And while some students were faced with the ethical dilemma as to whether it was right to silently watch cheating, other students cranked the dilemma up a notch.

Because during uptown finals last year, two students stole the SSSB tests. Either they bribed the guards or they snuck into the building late at night, but no matter how they pulled it off, final tests were circulating just days before the tests were to be administered.

At least that's how rumor has it. But the SSSB administration maintains otherwise.

"The rumors were circulating," acknowledged Assistant Dean of SSSB Ira Jaskoll, "but it turned out to be nothing that I was able to verify."

"No one knows whether cheating occurred or not," commented Dr. Charles Snow. "It remained a rumor."

Nevertheless, as a safety precaution Jaskoll ordered all SSSB faculty to change their tests, and to the best of his knowledge, they complied. However, the extent of their changes was not always satisfactory to students, as one student complained of a teacher limiting options on tests but not changing the questions themselves.

The perpetrators of the supposed cheating were apparently never apprehended. While asserting that the supposed theft never occurred, Jaskoll maintained that it was the responsibility of fellow students to catch any wrongdoer.

"We're not policemen here," commented Jaskoll. "If students see [cheating] or hear it, they have to come forward. We must remember what we learn in our limudai kodesh classes and apply it to our other classes."

This widespread scandal embarrassed SSSB administration and students.

"I'm not comfortable with even the notion of rumors," emphasized Snow. "There shouldn't be the environment where a perception exists that cheating took place."

"It's an embarrassment that students within an Orthodox institution would do something like this," exclaimed SSSBSC president Mikey Davis. "When they've worked in the business world, they realize that they're cheating no one but themselves."

The extent of the cheating was apparently not limited to SSSB. One Chumash teacher was notified that his test had been lifted, and subsequently modified his final. Nor was it limited to the uptown campus. One SCW Business class teacher was wary that perhaps his test had also been stolen, and radically altered his test, to the dismay of many students.

"He gave out pointed questions and said these are the things that are going to be on the test," recalled Nechama Soloveichik, SCW graduate who is currently studying in the learning program. "Then he came in the next day and said that somebody stole some tests uptown so he changed it. I had to blindly fill out answers. I thought it was very unfair. I also thought that since he had all of our email addresses, he should have sent us an email the day before."

This most recent issue further highlights the constant problem of the mesora uptown. With the recent YU network, students have access to last year's tests at their fingertips, often with the knowledge of the teacher. In fact, Snow plans to implement a constructive plan to eliminate the mesora.

"We are going to take every step to first make sure that exams are administered in a controlled environment," asserted Snow, "and second to eliminate the concept of the mesora. Under no circumstance will I tolerate a scintilla of cheating."

To accomplish the

elimination of the mesora, Snow plans to mandate and strictly enforce that teachers change their tests every semester. "Each professor is going to be or has been instructed that if they want to keep their job, they must make new exams every semester," commented Snow. "They must show some initiative in creating exams. We're looking for academic excellence, and if an instructor can't keep up, they'll be asked to get out."

Some students refuse to use the mesora on principle, claiming that it is equivalent to cheating and is morally repulsive. But other students say they have no choice, that they may be at a disadvantage if the remainder of the class utilizes the mesora while they take the high ground. Finally, some students think that there is no problem with the mesora - and, on the contrary, can act as a beneficial system.

"I think that it is a good thing because though it can be a form of cheating, if you pass on old tests it's a form of helping other students out in a kosher way," commented Aryeh Hoenig, YC junior. "It doesn't have to be unethical, it can just be old tests that teachers allow their students to access before creating a new test. It's an indirect way of stating that YU isn't so competitive and we're all here to help each other out, and it doesn't have to be cutthroat. *Kol Yisroel Arevim zeh lazeh.*"

On the other hand, some students disagreed with this upbeat view of the mesora. "Whether it's halachically considered cheating or not, I just don't think it's appropriate," asserted Ariela Dworetzky, SCW junior, who switched from SSSB last year. "If people claim that they have to use the mesora in order to get more learning done, they should reevaluate their priorities. One hundred percent learning should be number one, but it's more important to act *lifnim meshurat hadin* concerning honesty than to be awarded for outstanding academic achievement or scholarships."

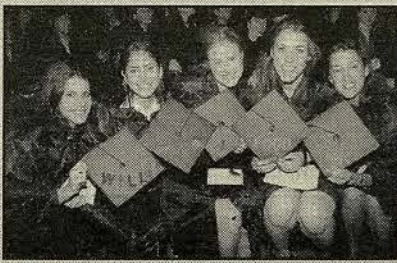
Graduation Speaker

continued from back page

would be next, I would not think that unreasonable. If anything, the longevities of the schools might be the determining factor: Yeshiva College was opened first, then SCW and finally SSSB."

Some SCW students agree that SCW should be the next under-

graduate school represented as a graduate school speaker. "It's only fair that SCW should be next," commented Shira Frankel, SCW junior. "The main campus and the midtown one should be treated equally."



Holbrooke as keynote speaker

THE OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES

welcomes all new and returning students to the Midtown Campus of Yeshiva University, to Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business. We would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to all undergraduates to stop by and visit our offices at 215 Lexington Avenue, Rooms 319 & 320. We can help you with:

- ◆ Part-time or Full-time Jobs
- ◆ Internship Development
- ◆ Volunteer Experiences
- ◆ Graduate School Application
- ◆ Career Counseling and Major Selection
- ◆ Internet and Library Research
- ◆ Resume Writing and Interview Preparation

You can also contact us by phone at 917-326-4845, by e-mail at opcs@ymail.yu.edu, or by logging on to our website, www.yu.edu/stern and clicking on Career Services.

Please check your mailboxes and school/dorm bulletin boards for flyers promoting upcoming workshops.

Office of Placement & Career Services Calendar of Events Midtown Campus

THE FOLLOWING IS HAPPENING
DURING:

CLUB HOUR

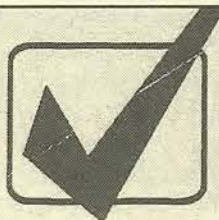
Wednesday, Aug. 29, 01, LX-316, Orientation to On-Campus Recruiting for Seniors Interested in Business

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 01, LX-316, Liberal Arts Placement Orientation

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 01, LX-316, Mock Interview Workshop for Business Placement

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 01, LX-316, Graduate School Workshop

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
ADDITIONAL EVENTS WILL BE POSTED BY MONTH
PLEASE CONTACT OPCS FOR MORE INFO 215 LX-319



ATTENTION SENIORS!

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
PRESENTS

ORIENTATION TO ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING

THIS WORKSHOP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL SENIORS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESS AFTER GRADUATION AND PARTICIPATING IN OUR ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING PROGRAM.

MIDTOWN CAMPUS

WED., AUG. 29, 2001

CLUB HOUR: 2:40-3:35 P.M.

215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 313

MAIN CAMPUS

THURS., AUG. 30, 2001

CLUB HOUR: 2:45-3:45 P.M.

BH-502

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BH-415, 417, 419/MID-215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOMS 319, 320
960-0845/917-326-4845/44

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
PRESENTS

TOP TIER ACCOUNTING FIRMS NIGHT

MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM:
ARTHUR ANDERSEN, DELOITTE & TOUCHE, ERNST & YOUNG,
GRANT THORNTON, KPMG, & PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2001,
BELFER HALL - WEISSBERG COMMONS AT 8:00 P.M.

REQUIRED OF ALL ACCOUNTING MAJORS

RECOMMENDED FOR ALL STUDENTS

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED

VAN LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM AT 7:15 PM
& SCHOTTENSTEIN AT 7:20 P.M.

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
BH-415/419 OR MID-215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 316
960-0845 or 917-326-4844/45

Persky Sues Yeshiva

continued from back page

rent student. It was the students who brought her food for the week. Doesn't that say something about a teacher?"

Pursuing a logical advancement in her career, in 1997 Persky expressed interest in the higher position of Assistant Dean, which had been recently vacated by Ira Jaskoll.

However, according to Persky, within the year, things began to sour when John Fisher was hired as Director of Enrollment Management in the fall of 1998.

The suit states, "Fisher sought to transform Yeshiva's image from liberal centrist to right wing Orthodox, in order to attract more Orthodox students...In furtherance of that objective, Fisher sought to terminate plaintiff's employment and replace her with an Orthodox Jewish woman, who would be a more 'appropriate' person for Yeshiva's students to interact with. Fisher's goals were the motivation for a campaign of harassment and intimidation which were carried out by Nierenberg and Associate Dean Jaskoll, and were calculated to force plaintiff out of Yeshiva."

Fisher said he is unable to comment on the pending litigation.

From then on, Persky said that she suffered from this new attitude, with its intent to force her to resign from her position as Assistant to the Dean. In October of 1999 Harold Nierenberg, SSSB Dean who retired this past year, informed Persky that she would no longer attend recruitment trips to Israel because "she was not the right personality for the recruitment thing," and an orthodox faculty member took her place.

Additionally, Nierenberg began to dock Persky for the time she took off to attend doctoral classes at his original suggestion, a practice since 1994 and for which she had never had never been docked previously. Other faculty members in the same position were not penalized for missed teaching time.

The biggest blow for Persky came when Nierenberg informed her that she would not be promoted to the position of Assistant Dean. "He said I can't tell you over the telephone why, but it's never going to happen at YU," said Persky.

A month later, in January of 2000, Persky was demoted from her position as Assistant to the Dean and offered a full-time faculty position, which she claims she was forced to accept for fear of being fired. "I am a single mom and I have bills coming in every month," explained Persky.

Yeshiva did not give Persky a reason for her demotion. "An employer does not have to give a reason why they fire someone," said Ostrove. "But if they don't give a reason that lends suspicion to why they did it." Nierenberg said he had to fight hard to obtain her a teaching position and that "once I leave I think you'll be in real trouble."

According to Persky, Yeshiva only offered her the full-time instructing position to make the demotion more palatable to others. "It would have been an unpopular move to fire me," said Persky. "I am a popular teacher and it would've been very difficult to explain why they discharged me."

Sharon Lynn was hired to replace Persky as Assistant to the Dean. The suit says that Lynn is "an Orthodox Jew with less academic qualifications and less experience than plaintiff."

When Nierenberg was searching for a replacement for

Persky, he asked her advice on a possible replacement and said, "She has one up on you in that she's frum."

Immediately thereafter Persky retained counsel, who sent a letter to Yeshiva accusing it of religious discrimination. In what the suit claims was a "flagrant violation of plaintiff's privacy, Nierenberg showed the plaintiff's counsel's letter to several Orthodox faculty members, and as a result plaintiff was treated as persona non grata by faculty and administrators."

In July of 2000, Persky filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). In a letter to the editor of the *Jewish Week*, Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President for Academic Affairs, writes that the EEOC found the complaint to be without merit and dismissed.

Ostrove said that Lowengrub's comments were taken out of context. The EEOC deals with hundreds of cases and often dismisses them due to lack of wherewithal or time to investigate. In federal court, upon further investigation, many of the originally dismissed cases are often won, explained Ostrove, who specializes in employment law. In fact, in March of 2001 Persky received a Right to Sue Letter from the EEOC.

Lowengrub did not return calls for comment.

In a summer that is marked with two headline legal battles for the university, Persky is suing Yeshiva for three million in compensatory damages and three million in punitive damages, as well as for the position of Assistant Dean.

The religious discrimination suit is unconnected to the fact that the university receives federal funding. Yeshiva has just filed an answer to the plaintiff's complaint and it could be months before a decision is reached.

Surprising many students, Persky is still a full-time professor at the university, and will be teaching classes this fall. She signed a contract in May for a year. "I have been able to separate a legal issue from my professional duty," explained Persky. "We'll soon see how the other side responds."

Ostrove claims that many students support Persky, and emphasized that since the article in the *Jewish Week*, she has received numerous calls from students who were upset to hear what had happened. "She really cared about her students," said Ariela Dworetzky, a business minor. "She is not teaching Judaic Studies so her place is not to be a religious role model. And as for the business world, she is definitely a role model and mentor."

There are those who question Persky's claim of religion discrimination, and say that perhaps she was better suited for the job of a professor. "She's very much a people person and has a lot of charisma in the classroom," said Abby Calm, SCW junior. "I don't think she enjoys the paper work aspect of her job and I imagine as a dean you have a lot of paper work."

Persky's suit rests on proving that she did suffer religion discrimination, which will be difficult to prove because there is rarely direct evidence in such cases. But Ostrove is adamant that the actions and words of the university are proof of its discrimination. "Everything points to fact that something strange is going on here," said Ostrove. "You add it all up and you say why else?"

Observer Website

continued from back page

In the past, the Observer has maintained a sporadic website that began in 1998, under the editorship of Susan Jacobs and the webmaster Lauren Krieger. Some students express skepticism at the Observer's attempt to relaunch their site and have complained that in the past the site was unreliable and often neglected. A reason for the sporadic nature of the site was that the Observer often lacked the time and money involved, and felt that the demand wasn't large enough.

"We're grateful to the past editors for starting the site and providing a functional framework for it," said Stubbe. "However, we feel now that with the new technological age and with students more into the web, there is a greater demand for a site than there has been in the past."

Editors are insistent that this time the site will be seen through to fruition and will be updated regularly. "We thought long and hard before we embarked on this expenditure of time and money, being that we don't have

very much of either," said Colton. "We decided it was worth it and we plan to stay true to our decision."

The website has been in progress throughout the summer and this will be its first issue featured online. Stubbe will update the site as soon as the paper goes to print and the new online edition will appear either the day before or the same day that a new issue is published. In addition to the monthly edition, the site will include any urgent news breaking at Yeshiva.

The editors are also specifically reaching out to alumni in expectation that the new site will renew their ties to SCW. "There are many alumni who want to know what's happening at SCW," said Levine. "I think everyone wants to foster an SCW global community and a web site of the school paper seems the way to do it."

The decision to relaunch the site was made in May with the appointment of the new editors. Since then the Observer has been searching for an adequate webmaster. "We're

really lucky to have found Kate," said Colton. "We wanted to keep it within the student body and besides having previous experience in web design, Kate's responsible and organized."

Stubbe, who is a computer science major, has designed numerous sites in the past, and is currently the webmaster and president of the computer science society at SCW. The editors have high hopes of ultimately expanding it to include new features, such as additional links and advertisements on the site, which will bring in much needed money to the Observer. Furthermore, while there is no current link on the official yeshiva website to the Observer, editors have hopes for such a link in the future.

Stubbe webmaster maintains that she welcomes any advice that students have, which they can either post or email. "We welcome any new ideas and help," said Stubbe. "The site is for everyone and we want it to reflect what people want."

Rubin Fire

continued from back page

"They're all avoidable with caution on this end," commented Department of Security Don Summers. "The guys don't have any cooking skills. They play basketball while something's cooking. Midtown doesn't have that problem." In fact, the only fire to damage SCW was a lab fire more than ten years ago, but never a dorm fire, according to Dean Bacon.

While Rosen refused to comment on Y.U.'s handling of fire procedures, Olivestone emphatically proclaimed, "Overall, they were fairly helpful and things moved quickly. I wouldn't have minded some form of compensation and I don't completely understand why the insurance company won't pay

for it. I thought that's what insurance companies are for."

On the other hand, the administration felt that the fire evacuation was flawless. "The university's response - and I'm not just saying this because I'm with the University - was excellent," observed Dean Himber.

Himber's plans for preventing future fires include sensitizing the students regarding fire safety, encouraging them to read the Resident's handbook and tightening up on enforcement to avoid an overloaded wire. There are no other concrete plans to change the Resident's handbook nor measures to enforce added compliance to these guidelines.

The Observer
would like to congratulate
Peter Ferrara
on his recent marriage

With Gratitude
and
Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy New Year
to
Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm and family
Dean Karen Bacon and family
and the entire
administration, faculty and board
of
Stern College for Women

An anonymous sponsor



Toby Goldfisher
TAC President

Welcome back to all the returning students of Stern College and *bruchot habaot* to all the incoming students. For all of the new students who I did not yet meet personally, my name is Toby Goldfisher and I am your TAC president. I hope everyone had a great summer and is rested for the upcoming school year full of exciting new events that will enhance all of our experiences at Stern.

I spent my summer in *Eretz Yisrael* as a madricha on a program called "Yad B'Yad." This program was just like any other touring summer camp in Israel for high school Juniors and Seniors but there is one major difference; there are Yachad members who are also part of the trip. Yachad is an organization for developmentally disabled children and young adults who's goal is to mainstream them into "normal" society. I was privileged to witness many exceptional acts of chesed this summer, but the purest moments that stand out in my mind are the countless times when I would watch from afar as seventeen-year-olds put their own needs on hold when their 23 year old friends needed a hand.

Chesed is a very puzzling concept to me. I think that by calling something an act of chesed it diminishes the pure act of kindness that may have just been preformed. The most special acts of chesed are done when no one is watching, when you are with your friends or with your family, not when you may be in a special program specifically dedicated to an act of chesed. The strangest thing about doing a good deed is that when it is done for total selfless reasons, most of the time the doer gets so much more out of the act than the receiver.

Tac offers countless formal programs to perform chesed from adopt a bubbie and bikur cholim to volunteering in a homeless soup kitchen. TAC is very unique in that it offers many different angles for every person to find the way they can uniquely give back to the Jewish community. However, I think the most important and purest way one can perform chesed is when they don't consciously think they are doing something exceptional. Today I witnessed many beautiful acts while incoming students were waiting on line to move into Brookdale Hall. It was hot and everyone had many pieces of luggage to take with them into the tiny elevators. This uncomfortable situations could have easily caused many to get upset. But I saw so many people helping each other with their luggage, offering the person next to them on line a cold drink or just striking up a conversation with a new student who seemed a bit nervous. These were all pure acts of chesed.

I hope that every student in Stern College will get involved in TAC and find out how they in their own unique way with their own talents can help give to the Yeshiva University community and to the Jewish community at large.

Location Determines Graduate School Decision, Seniors Say

By: Batsheva Rutman

Senior year is a time for writing resumes, scheduling interviews, and intense decision making -- especially for those heading toward graduate schools. Students can't help but feel anxiety during the process of finding the school that's right for them.

"What was stressful was deciding what to pursue this year," commented Graduate Assistant Chana Rosenblatt, "whether to go to graduate school or look for a full time job."

Sixty percent of SCW graduates apply to graduate schools, and in a large variety of areas. The most common graduate schools Stern students apply to are health related graduate schools, which include medicine, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Next in line are psychology, social work, and education graduate schools. Law school ranks third, and PhD studies rank fourth.

"Stern women have a very strong showing in graduate school, and most are happy with the school they have chosen," says Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of the Office of Career and Placement.

The Office of Placement and Career Services directs students in choosing appropriate schools, and advocates taking several steps in

order to make this crucial decision. Kapp advises that students first determine their geographic preference. The majority of SCW students choose graduate schools in New York or New Jersey because of the active Jewish communities in these regions.

Because the New York area has its own large Jewish communities, most students who stay in the New York area are not forced to base their decision on the Jewish life of the particular graduate school, but instead can focus on the school's reputation. This includes students attending Yeshiva University graduate schools. "Cardozo is a great school, has an excellent reputation, and is in a convenient location," says Joshua Summers, a former Yeshiva College student who entered Cardozo Law School this fall. "The Jewish life is an added bonus but not a factor that weighed heavily in my final decision. New York already provides enough Jewish support."

There is only a small number of students who, because they desire to attend the top ranking graduate schools in their field, are open to the idea of venturing out of New York. For these students, the Jewish life at the school or within the nearby community is a major determining factor of which top school they will choose to attend. The most common locations outside New York for SCW students

to consider are Boston, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C. and California.

Once the geographic preference of the student has been decided, the second step is resolving which schools to apply to. Kapp advises talking to department heads and academic advisors who can provide specific information about each school. The recommended number of schools to apply to is between five and ten. After students are accepted by more than one school, they can then explore their different options more closely.

Students must make sure to examine the orientation program of each of the graduate schools to see if it caters to their specialty. For example, someone interested in clinical psychology should be careful to choose a graduate school that specializes specifically in clinical psychology. Only intense investigation will allow the student to be more comfortable with her decision.

For all those stressing out over this critical decision, relax and breathe easy. Yeshiva University Administration offers support and direction to all those applying to graduate school. All you have to do is get accepted.

Tuition Increase

continued from front page
two-tiered tuition system.

The goal of the two-tiered tuition system is to keep tuition for continuing students close to what it was when they began their studies. By doing so, asserts University Dean of Students David Himber, "YU is trying to be fair with current students, [by implementing] a system not unique to YU."

Yet new students are less than thrilled to be paying more than their classmates. "I don't understand why I have to pay more than others to receive the same services," wonders SCW sophomore Rachel Gross. "It just doesn't seem fair."

According to Dean Himber, the additional tuition money will be used to compensate for the inflation that affected the economy over the past year, as well as additional expenses that the University must pay, such as increased prices of fuel and electricity and necessary building improvements. Additionally, students will pay \$825 for the meal plan, instead of the \$750 that students paid last year. The need to increase the cost of the meal plan came on the advice of an outside food-consultant, who noticed that YU's meal plan is one of the cheapest college meal plans in the New York area.

"Many, many students didn't have enough on their

caf cards to begin with, and as the semester went on, they needed to add," explains Dean Himber. "To avoid situations like that, the University added more money to the meal plan."

However, many students are outraged at the increased price of the meal plan. One such student is SCW junior Ariela Dworetzky, who had a surplus of roughly \$400 on her caf card at the end of last year. "I don't see why it's fair to charge parents so much money for food when for many people, this money is not used up," she says. "I certainly hope that since they're charging us an arm-and-a-leg, the food will be worth it."

"I think it's a waste of waste of money, especially for the food that they offer," adds Pamela Levy, an SCW junior. "They should have more options for the meal plan, so that students can pay different amounts of money depending on their needs." About the entire tuition increase, she notes "I think it's not justified, and it makes it harder on the students, especially the ones that can't afford it."

Although it is too early to tell how many students will require financial assistance this year, Dean Himber is quick to point out that "Along with the tuition increase came an increase in [the] financial aid [that is] available."

Prague Summer Trip

continued from page 10

group was within walking distance of the five synagogues in the center of Prague. One, the Alt-Neu, meaning Old-New, is still used as a synagogue. The others are open only as museums.

The group spent Shabbat in Prague, and davened in the Alt-Neu shul. "It was an unbelievable experience being in a synagogue with such historic significance behind it," Michels says. "It was incredible both from a factual standpoint, that it simply smelled like a very old building, and emotionally, that stood where people stood centuries ago, in the time of the Maharal." Because of security issues, all visitors were frisked before entering the synagogue. Although the security measures bothered the students at first, they realized that it was a matter of pekuach

nefesh.

On Sunday, the group headed to Terezin, a village occupied by the Germans in World War II, and converted into a propaganda town. The town and the relatively mild political prison in Terezin was shown to the Red Cross as an example of a concentration camp. One stark example of the propaganda is the "shaving room" in the prison. The walls are lined with sinks and mirrors; the sinks, however, have no pipes. There was never running water there; the sole purpose of the room was to deceive the world about the conditions of the prisoners. In the other part of Terezin, where most of the people lived, there is a shed that was used as a synagogue during the war. One moving Hebrew inscription remaining on the wall is, translated, "Throughout all this, we have

not forgotten Your name; please don't forget us."

"The program was extremely organized, and Professor Leiman kept us interested and involved in every site we visited," Trappler said.

Michels felt that the trip affected her in ways she hadn't imagined. "My eyes were widened from a religious perspective, and I saw firsthand how rich Jewish history is," she remarked. I also gained a greater confidence in Jewish scholarship, which reinforced my seminary experience the year before last."

The students appreciated the hands-on approach of the course. "We learned things from a new perspective, seeing things in a way that cannot be seen from a classroom," said Trappler. Indeed, the best way to study history is to go back in time, to see where that history made headlines years ago.

WELCOME BACK

*Do you have strong opinions?
Want to build up your resume?
Interested in getting involved?*

Work for the Observer

Stay Tuned for More Details

Lamm Honored

continued from page 12

pioneered an educational system founded on confidence and strength, one that does not rely on a ghetto wall to sustain us," said Lamm. "This is what we are all about."

Among the speakers who wowed the crowd was Meir Soloveichik, a prominent member of



Lamm stresses the importance of the presidency remaining as one position

the Kollel Elyon, who spoke about his relationship with Rabbi Lamm as his student. "I was fortunate to get to know Rabbi Lamm and in the course of our time together, I came to see him as a Rebbe," stated Soloveichik, grandson of Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik. "I can say to him that you have a chasid here at RIETS."

RIETS board chairman, Julius Berman, praised Rabbi Lamm for his

devotion to the university. "He presided over the inevitable transition in Yeshiva University that resulted from the passing of the Rav," said Berman. "Rabbi Lamm molded and melded a corps of roshei yeshiva for our institution that is second to none and has enabled Yeshiva to continue transmitting the legacy of the Rav." In gratitude to Rabbi Lamm, RIETS announced the renaming of the Kollel l'Horaah, the highest level of ordination, as the Rabbi Norman Lamm Kollel l'Horaah.

Observer sources revealed that Rabbi Lamm spent a long time preparing this address. The speech has been published by the department of communications as a small pamphlet labeled "Past Present Future." According to the department of communications at Yeshiva it has not been decided whether any other dinner will honor Rabbi Lamm.

Rabbi Lamm announced in March that the 2001-02 academic year would be his last as president, after which he will become University chancellor. "Cherish this great historic institution," said Rabbi Lamm. "You will need it for your children and grandchildren. Give it your love."

Einstein Housing Lawsuit

continued from page 12

class is Orthodox," said Sally Sultan, second year student at Einstein. "It feels like more because of their spouses and kids." Regarding the lawsuit, Sultan remarked, "It's not a big thing that people talk about."

Filed in 1998 by the Gay and Lesbian Law Student Alliance, the case has ramifications beyond AECOM. A similar housing policy is instituted in Cardozo, and an allowance for homosexuals may offend some of the more religious components in the YU community.

"It's ridiculous," said Liora Kasten, SCW junior. "If they're not married, they're not married. If they want to get married, let them go to Vermont. Their issue is with the state, not YU."

Though Levin and Jones have since graduated from Einstein, they are nevertheless seeking reimbursement for their financial costs associated in renting higher-priced apartments. Einstein's housing policy

provides low cost apartments across the street from the primary educational facilities - but only to married students. Levin first requested shared housing on behalf of herself and her domestic partner of six years Carla Richmond when she entered Einstein in 1996, and Maggie Jones asked for housing with her partner Joslyn Hidalgo upon her arrival in medical school the following year. Both students were denied housing at the time, an event that Jones claimed caused "considerable financial and emotional expenses that other married couples are not asked to endure."

The case represents a pivotal dispute within the legal community as to whether distinguishing married couples is equivalent to discriminating against homosexuals. And Esseks anticipates a favorable plaintiff outcome that could challenge existing legal philosophy within New York State. "I think eventually we're going to win," Esseks predicts.

SCW Students Active in NCSY

continued from page 12

of time to NCSY. Bergman spends a minimum of two hours a week working for NCSY, with some weeks requiring as many as fifteen hours. "It definitely takes up a lot of my time," Bergman acknowledges.

Responsibilities of chapter advisors include overseeing a chapter board, helping to plan chapter events, attending several chapter events a month, and encouraging youths to come to NCSY programs - all in addition to attending the regional events.

Regional directors complain that it is difficult to find students, especially male students, willing to make such a huge time commitment. Rabbi Solomont suggests that many men do not want to take time away from their Torah learning. Rafi Eis is an example of this phenomenon. A YC junior and New Jersey Regional advisor, Eis spends more than eight hours per day learning. "I have

been thinking about taking a chapter, but it is too time-consuming," Eis admits. The catch-22 is that those men for whom Torah is so important are precisely the ones NCSY wants.

However, those involved in NCSY, the youth arm of the Orthodox Union founded more than forty years ago to increase teenagers' level of commitment to Judaism, believe that the opportunity of serving as a desperately needed role model for Jewish youths is worth any amount of time and sacrifice. "They're looking at you," says Rabbi Solomont. "The way you daven, dress, act."

The proximity in age between the NCSY members and advisors helps to create a natural bond. "The experiences advisors went through in high school, they're going through now also," adds Bergman. "The most frustrating thing is to not be able to prevent them from

making the same mistakes you did."

There is a fine line, however, between role modeling and preaching. "Sometimes I get that strange feeling of 'proselytizing' - like I'm trying to 'sell' Judaism to these kids," admits Sendor.

Indeed, advisors do not always realize the tremendous responsibility involved when in a position to influence teen-agers. Although a certain amount of advisor training always existed, the training of advisors has recently become more elaborate, largely in response to the incident concerning Rabbi Lanner, an NCSY administrator charged with physically and mentally abusing NCSY members.

A February 8, 2001 NCSY memorandum states that, "An NCSY Standards Committee has already been

Diminishing Numbers of Students Opt to Spend Shabbat at SCW

By: Tamar Ellman

While many students in other universities often stay in for shabbat, most students in SCW rarely do as they claim there is little *ruach* on campus during shabbat. Those students that do opt to remain in for shabbat, are usually out-of-towners and spend most of the time in their room, sleeping.

"I stayed in for shabbat because I don't live in New York and I was not in the mood to stay by someone's house," says Rena Zlatin, an SCW Junior. "I personally don't like eating with everyone. I like staying in the dorm room with my friends and eating a quiet dinner."

Nadine Schulman agrees with Zlatin that she stays in "because I'm from out-of-town, but I try to do it as little as possible."

On an average shabbat, the *minyanim* are lacking in attendance, as are the meals. SCW brings down YC students to make those minyanim. Most of those that come

are visiting someone in particular or are interested in experiencing a shabbat in mid-town Manhattan.

Some of the girls who stay in for shabbat stay in for its convenience and not for its activities. "I stayed in for shabbat when a group of friends of mine wanted to spend the week-end together in the city," said Penina Schreiber, an SCW junior. "I mean, Stern is extremely convenient when you want to walk around on shabbat afternoon." Few people come for the actual Stern shabbat experience.

Part of the reason that a diminutive number of students stay for shabbat is that unlike other universities, SCW is an all-Jewish university. Other universities have popular shabbatot in large part because it gets the students involved in the Jewish life on their campuses, which is not the case at SCW.

Since a large majority of the student body is from the New York area, most would rather go

home to a comfortable bed and home-cooked meals than stay in their dorm rooms and eat cafeteria food. Universities outside of New York do not have to face this problem.

To attract more people to participate in the shabbatot, SCW needs to have more interesting shabbatonim with more interesting activities. "Stern needs shabbatons that interest people," says Goldie Simon.

"The weeks I stayed in were for specific shabbatonim that were taking place that I was a part of or it was finals and I just didn't want to go anywhere else," says Beth Meshel.

One thing that was unanimous among students questioned, in order to attract more people to stay in for shabbat, SCW needs to provide better food with more of a variety. People do not want to have for shabbat the same foods they have all week, especially when, for most, their mothers' home-cooked meals are not far

Posman Vacates Yeshiva

continued from page 13

through September 11th. Barnes and Noble will be selling their books uptown in the old Posman store at 186th and Amsterdam through September 25th, because of the later starting date of the graduate schools.

Barnes and Noble, and two other competitors, submitted their proposal in early June, due to the lateness of Posman's sudden announcement. The contract with Barnes and Noble was signed only two weeks ago, on August 15th. The contract delineates the responsibilities for the university and Barnes and Noble, amongst which is the stipulation that the university receive a small portion of the sales. "At a certain point if they do enough business the school get reimbursement from Barnes and Noble," said Rosengarten. "But frankly there is not a lot of money in the book business."

"We've really had to scramble to get all the books here in time," said Bobbie Kroman, general manager at the

Barnes and Noble college bookstore. "The orders were quite late, so I'm sure some books are missing."

However, Rosengarten explicitly states that Yeshiva only went into contract with Barnes and Noble with the guarantee that it would be able to supply all the requested books. "We were very clear to all possible contractors about their responsibility," said Rosengarten. "We said look at the calendar, your job is to get all booklists filled."

He explained that some professors did not submit their booklists by the requested date and therefore Barnes and Noble may have a hard time filling those by the first day of classes. Rosengarten said this situation is no different than previous years and is unrelated to the switchover.

"They want people to give them a little leeway because they're trying their best to pick up the pieces that one company left behind," said Rosengarten. "We should give them a little leeway, but we still expect a good job."

created to develop national behavioral guidelines and sensitivity training programs... a booklet will be published setting forth harassment guidelines, conduct policy guidelines, and complaint procedures.... This booklet will be required reading for all NCSY staff members."

In New Jersey, prospective advisors must attend two to three training sessions run by The Jewish Family Services a year before advising at any NCSY events.

These guidelines are particularly important given the social nature of NCSY. According to Sendor, one of the goals of NCSY is to "create a safe, Torah-centered social scene for teen-agers." Bergman acknowledges that "a lot of my friends come from NCSY and are still my good friends today."

It is this nostalgia, as well as a familiarity with the region, that often propels advisors back to the regions within which they grew up. As Bergman says, "There wasn't a doubt in mind that I would come back to New Jersey." Rabbi Solomont cautions, however, that there should be "a good mix of [local and non-local] advisors. There is a need for fresh faces who can bring new ideas and new energy to the region."

The constant need to keep energy levels high can be one of the most trying aspects of being an advisor. "I start questioning, 'Am I cool enough? Am I really making a difference?'" Sendor confides. "When it comes down to it, you just have to be yourself and let your natural commitment to Judaism shine out."

www.JewishStreet.com

Your Online Jewish 3-D city – Its your Cyber home away from home!

An Internet Extravaganza!

Featuring:

- The First Complete 3-D Online City
- Live Views of The Western Wall
- Live Radio & TV From Israel
- Daily Updated News

General Information Including:

- WORLD WIDE
- Candle Lighting Times
- Kosher Restaurants
- Synagogues & Chabads

Over 50 Stores Including:

- Kosher Food Store
- Religious Goods
- Judaica Stores
- Software
- Books
- Music
- Travel
- Art

Special Services

- JewishStreet Custom Browser
- Yahrzeit Reminder Program
- Text and Audio Chat (Coming Soon)
- Multi Media Learning Center (Something for Everyone!)

Now there's a Jewish city you can afford to visit !

So come join the "Mishpacha" at:

www.JewishStreet.com



Subway Music

continued from page 17

stores in the area. Promptly at six he bikes over to the station, eager to catch the people rushing home. "He plays



here because it's very populated," explained the kind bystander who offered his services as mediator. He's currently getting a license from Music Under New York, an organization that is a backbone to free lance musicians, paying them and pro-

viding them with set gigs.

While the solo artists have only themselves to split the profit, nothing they can do on their own compares to the power of a group. Antiba, who shares the stage at West 4th with James, plays nightly with up to twelve other people. They implement flutes, drums, and song. African music with charismatic, engaging beats emanate from their instruments, and people stand, transfixed. When asked if they have ever played professionally, Antiba replied, "We are always professional. We don't say, hey, it's just the subway. We play the same here as on stage."

They have actually

performed at Carnegie Hall, but prefer to play underground. "You don't have to deal with all the harassment that musicians get in clubs. Here you can just play."

Antiba has been playing with his group since he was a child. They're all related and love the same type of music. He has picked up most of it on his own, but, "I'm still learning," he says. "Every time I play I learn something new."

They make various amounts of money per night, depending on the crowd. When asked for his musical inspiration, Antiba simply looked upward with a glowing smile and said, "God."

Student Tickets

continued from page 17

since the policies constantly change.

4) Free Julliard Concerts— Located at the Lincoln Center, Julliard is one of the best performing art schools in the world. Unfortunately, information is not available over the phone so visit the Lincoln Center to pick up the Center's monthly calendar which includes the schedule of Julliard's free plays, symphonies, and concerts.

6)New York Times "Arts & Leisure Weekend"— The New York Times will mark its 150th anniversary in September with a cultural celebration including an "Arts & Leisure Weekend." The Times and cultural institutions around the globe are partnering to offer special events, reduced prices, free admission and other packages created especially for Times readers.

Some of the highlights include buy one full price ticket and get one for \$18.51 in honor of The Times' founding in 1851.

Tickets are available for 20 Broadway shows and more than 50 off-Broadway, regional theater, opera, dance and music performances. Kiss Me Kate, Proof, Contact and A Thousand Clowns, The New York Philharmonic, and the New York City Ballet, are just a few of the shows and companies participating. Already many of the events are selling out.

A "Celebrate the Arts" sweepstakes will cap off the weekend with a massive giveaway of hundreds of museum memberships and free tickets to Broadway shows and other per-

Jewish Activism

continued from page 10

hensive level, and to help them as much as possible."

The current Intifada in Israel is a motivating factor for the burgeoning interest in Jewish communal service by Yeshiva students. "With the current situation in Israel, the best thing that one can do is to go to Israel," said Jason Orenstein, an YC senior who in August became the North American Coordinator of Student Affairs for the Aliyah Department of the Jewish agency, which encourages students to make aliyah. "If you cant go, the next best thing is Jewish activism."

Yonah Berman, Annie Kadosh, and Ezra Levine were in Israel this summer with a program called SSNAP (Students Spreading Knowledge and Pride), sponsored by Tehilla Tzeira. SSNAP was involved in many activities in Israel promoting aliyah

and Jewish unity. For one activity, the group went around Jerusalem interviewing people about whether or not they thought it was worth it to be in Israel during this difficult time. SSMAP will show this video in different schools across America to promote visiting in Israel.

Another activity that they organized was a skit called "Where Is My Brother?" In this skit, they acted out what it is like to lose a brother so that the audience could sympathize with the family members of the MIA's. They did various other activities such as reading poetry, giving out bumper stickers, and organizing a unity concert with the yeshivat har etzion.

Kadosh says that the program was a success. "My goal this summer was to learn how to be a more effective college leader and to channel my abilities to make

performances from participating organizations in the New York Tri-State area. Check out www.nytimes.com/artsandleisureweekend, call 1-866-NYT-1851, and read the Living Arts section of the Times for more information.

7) SCW Fine Arts Society and The Metropolitan Experience—The Metropolitan Experience is the cheapest and most fun venue for SCW students to step out into the world of fine arts. The Office of Student Services and Office of the Dean sponsors various events per semester which have

included performances of The Lion King, Aida, The Fantasticks, Les Meserables, the New York City Opera, the New York Philharmonic, and the New York City Ballet. Each event is lead by a faculty member and preceded by an intimate dinner. At the beginning of each semester, students gather in Schottenstein to sign up for the event of her choice. Don't be surprised if you see students cut class and wait in line for hours in order to be first when the doors open.

If the event you want to attend is full, or if you want to be

on campus

Yeshiva is Slapped with \$6 Million Discrimination Suit

Persky Claims she was Demoted Because she is not Orthodox

By: Miriam Colton

Yeshiva University was hit with a six million dollar religious discrimination lawsuit filed by Sy Syms faculty member, Diane Persky, this past June. The suit, which made headline news in the *Jewish Week*, contends that Persky was denied promotion and then demoted due to the fact that she was "not frum enough."

"She [plaintiff] was discriminated against, defamed and denied promotion solely because she was not an Orthodox Jew and/or because she did not outwardly fit the stereotypical appearance of Orthodox Jews," said the complaint filed by Rick Ostrove, an attorney at Leeds Morelli & Brown.

Persky, who is a Conservative Jew, was forced to resign from her administration position as Assistant to the Dean in January 2000, giving up all possibility of advancement in educational administration at Sy Syms midtown, and to settle for a faculty position. "Yeshiva's discrimination has soured the burgeoning of a promising academic administrator," said Ostrove.

The suit, which was filed in the Manhattan Federal Court, claims Yeshiva is in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as Human Rights Laws in New York State and City, which grant one the right to be free from discrimination in employment based on religion.

The circumstances in which one can make religious criteria for employment are far and few between according to Ostrove "If you're looking for a priest, obviously he has to

be Catholic," said Ostrove. "A recruitment director at Yeshiva does not have to be Jewish, and certainly does not have to be Orthodox."

"If their [Yeshiva's] defense is that she's not Orthodox and therefore not a proper role model, well that's illegal," said Ostrove.

Martin Bockstein, general counsel of Yeshiva, has not returned calls for comment.

Hired as an adjunct professor in 1993, within months Persky was promoted to Assistant to the Dean, a full-time administrative position focused on career advisement and recruitment. In an interview with the *Observer*, Persky explained that she much preferred this position to teaching, as she was able to maintain daily contact with all Sy Syms women. "I knew every single woman on a personal basis," said Persky, who in 1996 received the professor of the year award. Persky points to the fact that during her tenure, enrollment at the midtown division of Sy Syms went up from 100 to 186, as proof of her success in recruiting students.

"She was a home-away-from-home mother for many students," said a 1996 Sy Syms alumnae who still keeps in touch with Persky. Persky attended many students' weddings and was often invited to their apartments for Friday night dinner. When Persky was sitting *shiva* a few years ago, students went to pay their condolences. "Almost everyone there was either a past or cur-

continued on page 20



Persky, pictured in the *Jewish Week*, in dress deemed too colorful by Yeshiva

Observer Editors Launch New Website

By: Observer Staff

After more than a year of dormancy, yuobserver.com, the official website of the Observer, featuring an online edition of the newspaper, has been relaunched, and will be up within the week. The new website is hoped to widen the readership of the Observer, as well as provide a closer



Editors after late-night work on website

link between the student body and the Observer. The Observer's effectiveness as a reliable source of news for the Yeshiva community will thereby be increased.

"This is one major step in our goal to increase readership and circulation," said Miriam Colton, co-editor-in-chief. "The online edition expands access to families of students, alumni, board

members, and the Jewish community at large."

The website, which had been sporadically used and updated over the past three years, is redesigned for smoother use. The home page of the site features the front-page stories of the newspaper and the side banner links to various sections, such as news, editorials and features. All articles in the newspaper will be put online. Among the new features on the site are a message board and email links to the editors and webmaster.

"The site is definitely more user-friendly than it's ever been," claimed Kate Stubbe, webmaster and SCW senior. "The layout is organized so the user doesn't get lost in a maze of links and articles, and there are new venues for interaction, such as the message board."

Observer editors also believe that the website will bring in students who haven't always picked up a copy of the paper in the past, especially since SCW students often spend a consider-

able amount of time online daily.

"Students will have easy access to us," said Adina Levine, co-editor-in-chief. "With more of the student body reading the paper and a new line of communication open, our command of the news will be enhanced. Students will have an easier time and perhaps more incentive in relaying news and opinions."

The website is financially separate from the official Yeshiva website at yu.edu, and the Observer owns its domain name independently. Editors stated that they specifically wanted their own domain name so as to maintain the independent nature of their publication. The cost of maintaining the website is relatively inexpensive since the work was kept within the student body. Costs include a monthly fee to the web host server as well as the purchase of pertinent software to create and maintain the site.

continued on page 20

Electrical Fire Ravages Ruben Hall

By: Adina Levine

Though not the first fire to damage Yeshiva University's property and reputation, the electrical fire that consumed a Ruben dormitory in late June was the most recent. No one was hurt in the fire that raged for less than an hour, although four Y.U. workers were treated for smoke inhalation, and some property was damaged.

"We were very lucky," remarked Department of Security Don Summers. "Because it was during the summer months, only a couple of the floors were occupied. There was nobody stuck above the fire. Usually, the dorm would have been full."

The two students who occupied Ruben 520 - Zvi Rosen, YC Senior, and Elisha Olivestone, YC junior - were absent from the room when the fire began on June 18th. Both returned that evening to an already vanquished fire and burnt room.

"It was more of a nuisance than anything else," commented Rosen.

Debating whether the fire originated from overloaded wires or a faulty refrigerator, the two stu-

dents have not yet completely settled insurance claims.

"It was the result of electrical-overloaded wires," commented Summers. "They had plugged in too many devices. You can't overload electrical outlets, with hot plates and extension cords and such. It's common with electrical things."

On the other hand, the students have a different opinion. "I don't believe that was the case," remarked Rosen. "What I believe happened was that the refrigerator overheated."

"I spoke to a fire marshal, and he said it was an accidental overload from the refrigerator," Olivestone agreed.

While the students debate the blame for the fire, the financial responsibility for the damage will be assumed by both the students and Y.U. The personal damage that the students suffered - Rosen's computer and Olivestone's clothing

and laptop - will be the loss of the students, while the damage to the room will presumably be assumed by Y.U. "My only concern was that they were going to charge me for the damage to the room," said Olivestone. "I haven't



received a final answer on that, which I find kind of disturbing."

Some students have pointed to the fact that the fire was specifically in Ruben hall as beneficial; had the fire been in Morgenstern, where the furniture is attached, the damage would have been compounded.

Other fires have occasionally characterized Y.U.'s history, including an apartment fire a couple of years ago that began with an overheated chulent pot.

continued on page 20

Students React to Yet Another Graduation Speech

Assessing the Aftermath of YC Senior's Address

By: Observer Staff

The graduating seniors of the 2001 class marched down the aisle at Madison Square Garden in a common annual procession. But what distinguished them from years past was the graduate speaker who addressed his class.

"As graduates of Yeshiva University, we are uniquely capable of



David Krieger

employing different perspectives and understanding the confluence and interaction of different forces, especially the religious perspective," the graduate speaker David Krieger addressed his peers. "There is no place in the world like Yeshiva University."

Reactions to this momentous change were mixed, with many students appreciating the concept of the graduate speaker but questioning Krieger's ability to fully represent the

class. Other students applauded Krieger as the first senior to address his class in more than twenty years. Finally, some students expressed annoyance at having to listen to yet another speech, as Krieger's speech followed keynote speaker Richard Holbrooke and preceded Rabbi Lamm.

Some members of the administration remained ambivalent about having a student speak at graduation. Though not at the actual graduation, Dean Orlian reflected on the philosophy of the student speaker. "I don't know necessarily where the idea originated from," remarked Orlian. "I don't necessarily think it's a bad idea for students to hear from their peers."

But the most important question facing students today is what effect Krieger's speech will have on future graduations. Will the successful implementation of a graduate speaker ensure its continuation for years to come? Or will the mixed reactions to Krieger's speech threaten the establishment of the graduate speaker in future years? Finally, and most important to SCW students, is will an SCW student be



Willig family boasts numerous graduates

the next graduate speaker?

"I'm under the impression that they plan to rotate among the schools," reflected Dean Bacon. "It's very possible that SCW

continued on page 18