



Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

Evacuation of Brookdale Hall Proves Efficacy of University's Emergency Plans *Disgruntled Students Claim Communication was Lacking*

By: Adina Levine

The World Trade Center tragedy hit quite close to home as Brookdale Hall residents were evacuated due to a bomb scare in the Empire State Building on September 12. Though eventually discovered to be a false alarm, the scare forced the more than 500 SCW women who reside in Brookdale to travel to the East River and then to sit tight in Schottenstein and the school building before finally being allowed to return to their dorms after midnight.

"I saw all the people running," recalls Sara Silverstein, SCW junior. "The police were running also. I was really terrified. My friend and I freaked out together."

Notified at approximately 10:00 p.m. by local police of the situation, security personnel followed orders to evacuate the building. Before security could ring the fire alarm, however, they needed to ensure that the firemen would not respond, a process that

required several minutes to complete. In the meantime, without the fire alarm, the only means to evacuate all students from the building was to have security guards go door to door, knocking and notifying students to get out of the building. The fire alarm was eventually rung, albeit after most students had already left the building.

However, many students questioned the efficiency of the system, claiming that they had received no official notice of the evacuation, either from security guards or Resident Assistants, and only heard the screams of other students running down the stairway as an indication to get out of the building. This bedlam caused unnecessary panic, they claimed, at having to run en masse without knowing the reason.

"I don't think they communicated well at all," asserted Edah Rotman. "We just didn't know what was going on."

"In retrospect, I understand that there would have been a panic had they rung the

fire alarm," commented Jessica Klein. "But at the moment it was just like how would we have known?" Nevertheless, Klein qualified, "I was very impressed with security in the end."

Liara Kasten, an SCW junior residing on the tenth floor, mistook the fervent screams to be a celebration of someone's engagement or just immature stupidity and saw no cause for alarm. Five minutes later, Kasten looked out in the hallway only to encounter dead silence and had to put two and two together to determine to get out of the building. "I don't know

continued on page 7



Additional security near Empire State Building for fear of bombs

US News Ranks Yeshiva #41

By: Sari Moskowitz

As Yeshiva University celebrates record-breaking undergraduate enrollment and the opening of new buildings on both the YC and SCW campuses, its prestige has been duly recognized by the ranking of YU among the top 50 universities for the sixth consecutive year. In a *US News & World Report* survey published on September 10, 2001, YU was ranked in 41st place, a marked improvement from past years, and by far YU's highest rank until now.

The survey ranked American universities on items such as the university's freshman retention rate, number of students per class and the percentage of full-time faculty members. YU's prestigious rank in 41st place is shared with several other universities, including Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of

California at Irvine and the University of California-Davis. Along with YU, these schools received an overall score of 67. However, the overall score was the only category in which these schools received the same score.

Although YU received several scores lower than its closest competitors, it moved up from its previous ranking of 44th place. Indeed, YU can boast that 92% of its teachers are full-time faculty members, a percentage on par with that of Princeton University, which received first place honors in this year's *US News* survey. In stark contrast, YU accepts 78% of applicants, compared to Princeton, which accepts a scant 12% of those who apply.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub, who was informed

continued on page 13



The Guide Encounters Problems, Again *Miscommunications and Lack of Leadership Cause Difficulties*

By: Miriam Colton

Despite a late start, Part I of *The Guide to the Perplexed*, a handbook of Yeshiva life in New York City, is scheduled to be collated this week and then to be distributed by the RA's. Part II of *The Guide*, the list of addresses and phone numbers, is to be published in a few weeks, though the lack of notices before the holiday break soliciting students' personal information may lead to delays.

Immediately upon the completion of Part I, Dani Weiss, the SCW editor-in-chief of *The Guide*, resigned from her position, making a timely completion of Part II uncertain. "The repercussions of Part I and having to deal with student complaints are what I'm trying to avoid," said Weiss. "I don't have the time. My main concern is school work." Weiss says she will possibly continue to help out unofficially as a favor to Avi Soroka, the YC editor-in-chief of *The Guide*.

One of the complaints that Weiss might be referring to is some students' vocal annoyance at this year's late arrival. Last year, Part I was given out at Orientation, to the satisfaction of many students. "If it was up to me, I would've had it out a long time ago," said Elana Soleimani, SCWSC president.

This year, the editors were unable to hold to that schedule since they only began in August. Soroka blames the late beginning on a miscommunication between him and the Student Council, which funds *The Guide*. Last year, Soroka was also editor, and in fact initiated the early arrival of *The Guide*.

At the end of last semester, Soroka claims that he informed



The Guide aids students in adjusting to life on Yeshiva campuses

incoming Student Council President Lou Shapp that while he would help out with the production of *The Guide*, Shapp would have to find a new editor. In the beginning of August he received a call from Shapp asking about the status of *The Guide*. "I wasn't going to leave the school without *The Guide*," said

continued on page 14

Amid Criticism, Model U.N. Copes with Departure of Secretary General

SCW Given Raw Deal as YC Takes Leadership Third Year in a Row

By: Caryn Litt

As Yeshiva University's largest recruitment vehicle, National Model United Nations could be the perfect opportunity to showcase an equal, symbiotic relationship between Stern College for Women and Yeshiva College. It may come as a shock, therefore, that for the third year in a row the Secretary General hails from Yeshiva College.

It was not supposed to be this way. SCW student Yael Fischer was appointed last year to be Secretary General. However, her revelation toward the end of August that she had transferred to Barnard left the position vacant, and YC student

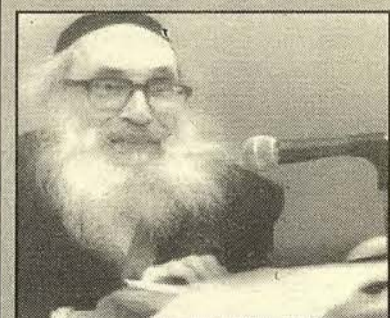
Shai Barnea, one of the Under-Secretary Generals, was promoted to the position. "I never asked them about the search process because I didn't think it was my place to ask, and I didn't want to dwell on the past," Barnea claims.

Although rumors abound that there was no SCW student competent enough for the job, the truth is far less sensational. Because the position of Secretary General demands a certain amount of previous experience and involvement with Model U.N., the candidacy pool is limited to begin with. The only female Under-Secretary General, Michelle Ross, was certainly qualified, but declined

the position. "It really is a big responsibility, taking on such a

continued on page 14

End of an Era



Rav Ahron Soloveichik, leader of Orthodox community and Rosh Yeshiva at RIETS, was niftar at 84
See Page Six



Zionism at Yeshiva
Exclusive Observer
Survey

Page 10



Let Them Have
Their Poppers

Page 20



Honors Programs
Reviewed and
Compared

Page 11

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 16
Metropolitan Experience Sign up

Wednesday, October 17
TAC club fair

Tuesday, October 23
SCW Student Council Club Fair: Koch Auditorium MID 8 pm

Monday, October 29
Office of Placement and Career Services Career Fair: Belfer Hall 8-10 p.m.

Wednesday, October 31
SCW Board of Directors Annual Dinner

Sunday, November 11
SCW and SSSB Midtown Open House 9:30 am

Wednesday, November 28
Dr. Marcia Robbins- Wilf Scholar in Residence Program Lecture: Dr. Maya Angelou, Schottenstein Cultural Center 8 pm

Sunday, December 2
YU 77th Annual Hanukkah Dinner and Convocation: The Waldorf-Astoria 5:30 p.m.

**The Observer Welcomes
All Comments
Please Call (212)-683-4943
or Email Us at
Observer@ymail.yu.edu**



**Alexandra Beard
Executive Editor**

While the rest of New York City shut down on September 11, 2001, we didn't. Much has been said about whether

or not SCW was justified in officially continuing classes during the "Attack on America," as CNN has coined the current crisis in the United States. While some believe canceling classes might have been an impulsive reaction, and others thought that it was simply an obvious security precaution, all views on the issue must be seen as valid and carefully thought out. Nevertheless, from a student's perspective, I felt frustrated and, to tell the truth, angry, that Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday classes went on as nothing in the world – not even terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers *as well* as the Pentagon – had happened.

As were most students who didn't have morning classes Tuesday morning, I was woken up at 9:15 a.m. by a phone call – from my mother that yes, an airplane had flown into the World Trade Center. Half asleep and too disoriented to be in disbelief, I threw on my slippers and ran up to the TV room on the 8th floor of Schottenstein.

On the way to the television, I happened to have looked out the window to see billowing mountains of smoke backdropping the familiar neighborhood buildings of Lexington Avenue. Standing firmly, yet somewhat pathetically, on top of one of those buildings, with the charcoal swarms of smoke behind it, was an American flag. The image contained such a paradox of emotions and symbols, from American pride and the transitory nature of our security, to the idealism of the American dream and what had become of it. I walked by giving the view only 30 seconds of my attention, and I joined the other 20 girls in front of the TV screen to find out how this image had become a reality.

I must have sat there all morning. We all sat there, reacting together, some crying, others like me in total shock, sometimes letting out a laugh of disbelief at the sheer wonder of the possibility of such an execution, and of such a result. Yet some of us had to ignore the trauma, ignore the reality, and pick up and go to class. While the rest of our country was trying to process what had just happened to not only NYC and Washington, but also to the seemingly rosy future of the United States, we had to go to class.

We had to discuss St. Augustine, as one girl exasperately said as she walked into the TV room after her literature class. She was shocked at the irrelevance, the triteness of everything that paled in comparison to the atrocities of the morning's events. Why? Because she was sensitive and she couldn't think about anything else. She wasn't of the mindset to push her emotions to the back burner. And most significantly, she realized that 5000 bodies were burning only a few blocks away, and she couldn't indulge in the leisure of discussing literature or anything other than the fear and confusion she and her fellow students were feeling.

While it is necessary and normal for college students to learn and to discuss literature, September 11th was not a normal day. To make the transition from shocking tragedy to normal everyday life is something that our nation is still trying to do, and it is virtually impossible to have expected students to feign normalcy that Tuesday.

I'd like to think that this sensitivity, as displayed by this fellow SCW student, is enough of a reason to calm any fears that we might have been wandering the streets and putting ourselves in dangerous situations. Word spread that it was safer for us to be sitting in classes, for then the school would know where we were and we wouldn't be running off to Ground Zero. We also wouldn't be moping and freaking out in our rooms, overreacting to the situation.

The Observer

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A couple of points must be made regarding these understandable concerns. First, I feel confident in saying that as college-aged students, the overwhelming majority of us make responsible decisions regarding our own safety. And in a situation such as this, we are even more responsible for ourselves and for our friends. Sitting in a classroom with our thoughts elsewhere didn't accomplish much anyway, as many students testified. And for some of us, freaking out in our rooms and talking the day's events over with our roommates helped the most.

To those who went out to give blood and volunteer at the Red Cross, *yasher koach*. And to those that gathered to say Tehillim and daven for protection and safety, another well-deserved *yasher koach*. But to say that we needed to be contained in a classroom doesn't give justice to the responsibility of Stern College students.

Every university in Atlanta, my hometown, closed down that Tuesday (and the whole week, for that matter). All the malls, and a few of the major highways had shut down, too. And here we were in the heart of Manhattan – a few blocks from another obvious target, the Empire State Building – having class. We even had class the day after Brookdale Hall was evacuated because of a bomb scare at the Empire State Building, of all places.

If so many other colleges across the country closed down as a security measure, why didn't we? Raising another point, one faculty member said that as a Jewish institution, we shouldn't have been open on the day of a terrorist attack undoubtedly caused by Muslim, anti-Israel terrorists. Is that not another reason to take security precautions?

Any aware, thinking individual who has been watching the news over the past weeks, reading editorials and articles, and hearing what the experts have to say, especially the President, must realize what a serious and precarious situation we are facing. The ramifications of what happened that Tuesday, for the U.S., Israel and the entire world, are unthinkable and frighteningly unpredictable.

Therefore, I think that at least *the day that these events occurred* should have been recognized by SCW and classes should not have taken place.

Then again, there are always two sides to a story. A non-Jewish colleague of my father's said something that is capable of washing away my entire argument expressed in this editorial. When told that my Jewish university was still holding classes during the chaos in NY, she replied, "That's fantastic. It just goes to show how important the Jews feel education is, that not even a terrorist attack will stop them from teaching their children." I'm not quite sure what to do with that remark. Perhaps, SCW deserves a *yasher koach*, as well?

Join the Staff

**Observer
Recruitment
meeting**

**October 24th
Room 715, Main
Building**

**Stop by at our booth at
Club Fair next Tuesday**

Message from the Editors



Adina Levine
Editor-in-Chief

Three meals – spaghetti, hamburgers and meatballs – must be assigned to three different diners – Art,

Brendon, and Clarise – on three different days. The following conditions apply...

In the middle of my GREs, a muffled voice crackled over the loudspeaker. I didn't pay any attention to the disturbance; after all, the test was timed and environmental distractions were not affordable. A minute later, a technician burst into the room, noisily apologizing for the otherwise unnoticed announcement and hastily informed us that there had been a plane crash but we were in no immediate danger and could continue the test. Consciously dispelling the question as to why disturb us merely to allow us to continue, I resumed contemplating the immediate problem of Art's dinner. But before I could successfully complete this dubiously enjoyable activity, a familiar voice spoke too close to the microphone, rapidly ordering another series of incoherent commands. The interpreter was not long in coming, and she barged in with the finality that accompanied her dreaded words: "Everyone must evacuate the building."

Though my initial response was annoyance at being forced to retake a test that I didn't need in the first place, the somber pieces of news floating from the voices of frantic New Yorkers provided some perspective. Something about the World Trade Center. Not one plane but two. The words "terrorist" and "hijacked." This fragmented information overwhelmed me in the 15-minute walk to the dorm where my friends were just waking up.

Every event - no matter how universal or minute - has both a global impact and personal ramifications. And the way a student reacts is less a reflection of the nature of the event than a representation of the personality of the student herself. Some students immediately look for the personal aspect, trying to contact fathers who worked "somewhere downtown," while others prepare for a global catastrophe, stocking up at Gristedes in the event of a major war. As Stern College sat shocked in the wake of this unanticipated tragedy, the different reactions were merely individual responses to a communal problem. People handle crisis differently and one response is not inherently better or worse than another.

A classic story tells of a man who tried to change the world and failed, to change his country and failed, to change his city and failed, to change his family and failed. But then he changed himself, and in so doing, changed his family, his city, his country and his world.

In the face of a national crisis, heroism begins with the individual. A student determines her contribution can be donating blood; whether she succeeds or not is irrelevant, it is her commitment to individual action that is commendable. Another student decides that the only way for her to maintain sanity is to continue with her ordinary routine, and whether that be watching a movie or attending class, that student is also commendable in successfully coping with tragedy. Individual responses are necessary, if not heroic, in the face of a global catastrophe.

But individual responses are not enough for student leaders. In times of chaos, confused students look for someone to turn to, and student leaders should be there to give direction. A student leader represents not only herself

but the entire student body in presenting a unified reaction. Troubled times present the ultimate test for the worthiness of the student leader to accept her responsibility.

As the ground below the World Trade Center shook, we as editors of the newspaper sought to rise above catastrophe to best serve our school. In so doing, we reached out to certain student leaders, from both midtown and uptown, to join us in our attempt to guide the students in this time of crisis. Surprisingly, our attempts met with failure. All presumed to aid the students independently and saw a coalition of student leaders as not only unfeasible, but as undesirable.

There are times for independence and there are times for unity. While individuals may act independently during a crisis, student leaders are expected, if not required, to act as a unified front. The World Trade Center tragedy presented a test for the unity of student leadership, and we failed. We failed because we were each so stuck on our own individual responsibilities that we neglected to expand our activities to encompass each other. We disappointed the students and we disappointed ourselves.

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur have since come and gone, and the issue is not blame but a commitment to the future. For all intents and purposes, we should assume that each of us was equally responsible for the past lack of student leadership in our dedication to affect future change. We may initiate change individually but we must work together to make the change successful.

It is the way of the world that Art's meal depends on Brendon, and only by working together can both ever be satisfied. Although the goal certainly can't be to always please everyone, at least working together will create an attempt.



Miriam Colton
Editor-in-Chief

That night we toyed with the idea of putting out a joint special issue with our uptown counterpart. The craggy city of New York had come together

so nicely; perhaps our own microcosm, Yeshiva, could also show unity in the face of adversity. A joint issue would save manpower, money and most importantly, show solidarity as one university. But we were soon to be disillusioned.

When we finally got through to uptown in the wee hours of morning, it was no longer a logistical option and the *Observer* was more than halfway to print. But what bothered me was that in a tone tinged with hubris, the boys mocked our suggestion of a joint special issue. In fact, they seemed slightly surprised and even insulted by such a preposterous idea. Their immediate question at the suggestion of possible joint issues was what would the paper be called, the *Commenobserver*? And while they did graciously invite us to write for them, that was the extent of their magnanimity.

This sentiment expressed by the male students bothered me, as it reflected a lack of university unity and a sometimes indifferent attitude towards Stern that I've noticed since I came to Yeshiva, and in particular to the *Observer*. While I'd rather not view the administration as condescending towards Stern, there is a certain neglect of our college and students. In halachic lingo, one can analogize that in the eyes of Yeshiva higher-ups, filtering down to its male students and even some of its female students, YC is the *ikar* and SCW the *tofel*.

As an example, at the end of last semester, the capital campaign of \$400 million was officially launched at a small gala, with a video presentation featuring the different schools. While YC, along with Einstein, took center stage in the video, inconspicuously glossed over was

Stern College. Ironically, I would have thought that with a capital campaign labeled "Our Faith in the Future," and with all the bigwigs' wives in attendance, Yeshiva could have made a successful point of marketing Stern College and women's education.

It is true that our distant location does contribute to this benign neglect of Stern. But then it's the administration's responsibility to make a greater effort to communicate with us. For example, Rabbi Lamm spoke to the Stern student body all of one time last year, and that was at Orientation at nine in the morning. Since our campus doesn't have access to or even visibility of him on a daily basis, Rabbi Lamm should *davka* come down and speak to us more often. And if not, then don't hold accountable those of our student body who barely know who he is and who could easily go through three or four years at Stern never having seen him or heard him speak.

Separate locations also does not allow the *Observer* the luxury of stopping by at administrators' offices in Belfer or Furst to find out what is going on. Therefore, we have to rely on the courtesy of the administrators returning our calls. While some, like Dean Himber, do return calls, most actually seem to go out of their way not to. The only way we can effectively communicate with them is to travel uptown and ambush them outside their offices. Even the midtown administration isn't kept up to date on Yeshiva news, leaving them in the lurch as well. Our whole campus is in effect kept in the dark at arm's length.

On the day of the trade center terrorism, emergency communiqués from Public Relations went out to the various campuses. Not all of them made their way downtown, and some of them long after the time they were released.

So at the end of the day it is each campus for itself.

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



Letters to the Editor

Insensitive Editorializing

Dear Editor:

Ms. Dworetzky's thoughts on the Sbarro bombing beg pause for criticism. (*Observer* 8/28/01, "Tragedy Mars First Year of Azrieli") "How many of us have eaten lunch at Sbarro's?...how many times have we walked past Sbarro's to go to the kotel.. I'm sure that everyone saw themselves at some point or another eating in that pizza store, or at least walking by."

The author needs some lessons in life. There are those- yes, even from YU and the Orthodox community - who have never had the fortune to touch the kotel or even set foot in Eretz Yisroel. Simply because we never had the hundreds of dollars for airfare. You might as well have asked "Who hasn't shopped at Macy's or Bloomingdales?" Apparently, Ms. Dworetzky never had the daily struggle of putting food on the table and a roof over her head. No telephone, no bank account, etc., etc., etc.

Such callous presumption is ironic in an article mourning Israel's tragedies. Perhaps if we were more understanding and kinder to each other, these atrocities would not befall us as a people. It is the sum total of such "insensitivities" that cost us the Beis Hamikdash and hinders its rebuilding.

If Ms. Dworetzky is a sincere child of Israel and loves Hashem's teaching, she will accept this criticism with part of growing wiser. This was the greatness of Shlomo Hamelech.

Hindishe Lee
SCW '99

Kudos on Special Issue

To the Editors:

Please accept my congratulations for the speed and quality of the special edition you published on the occasion of the dastardly attacks on New York, Washington and elsewhere.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm
President and Rosh HaYeshiva

Friends, You Were Wrong

To the Editors:

As student leaders of Stern College for Women, we feel the need to express our frustration after reading the article entitled "Student Response" in the special issue of the *Observer*. The article implied that the SCW response to the tragedy was to hold "movie night." If you had actually investigated before reporting this story you would have found out about the numerous events that had taken place. We held Tehillim rallies that night in all the dorms; Brookdale had both lobbies filled to capacity. The next day we had a security meeting which 200 students attended. We then held Selichot with Tehillim the next night which at least 300 students came to. SCWSC/TAC also held a speech given by Rabbi Kanarfogel with regards to the situation. This is not to mention the \$1,500 raised for Hatzolah, the letter writing campaigns, and the clothing/food drives that were held.

Although you mentioned YC holding a rally, you forgot to mention that they are miles away from lower Manhattan, and a rally would really be the only thing they could do for the effort. While that rally was being held, hundreds of SCW students were actually going

from hospital to hospital volunteering or donating blood. You were correct in stating that there was a movie shown in the Schottenstein lounge. However, you failed to state that this was one of seven televisions in Stern, all the rest of which were tuned to the news. Out of 900 students in SCW, some students felt they needed a small mental break from the horrific events of that day. In the future, you might want to reconsider jumping to negative conclusions about your peers. We would like to work together this year, but we feel this should be a two way effort.

Thank you,

SCWSC Elana Soleimani President	TAC Toby Goldfisher President
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Rachel Shtern Treasurer	Menucha Singer Treasurer
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Sharon Weiss
Vice President

Yael Shmuel
Recording Secretary

Editors' Response:

The events referred to above, such as the administrative meetings, selichot and fund-raising for Hatzolah, took place after the publication of our special issue. Student Council did not inform us of any of these events during our telephone conversations. The security meeting was vaguely mentioned minutes before press, and, on our initiative, announced in an update.

The actions described as paralleling the rally uptown, such as blood donations and watching the news, were in fact individual student action not organized by student leaders. The event organized by student council, besides the Tehillim, which we did mention in the special edition, still remains as a movie night.

Spoiled Brats

Dear Editors of The Observer,

I am utterly disgusted with some of the articles written in your Special Edition covering the WTC destruction and the national tragedy. To write about lack of organization by the yeshiva about giving blood, enragement of some students that class was not cancelled from the get-go, and the airing of a movie when a national tragedy had just occurred is absolutely despicable.

Firstly, it was very nice that everyone wanted to give blood. Here, at YC, where I am a student, guys were leaving on their own will to the hospitals, ready to give what they have to these people in need. Several ambulances left from here, carrying EMTs that were not even part of Hatzolah. However, not one person even considered criticizing the amount of organization. True, we were not as close to the catastrophe as the Stern campus was, but you must bear with the school to get things organized to the best of their ability.

To write about the lack of organization in the paper sends the wrong message. It says that you are not concerned about the victims. You only care about yourselves and how you are taken care of and many people have now noticed it. I did not see one reference in the *Commentator* about lack of organization or classes being cancelled.

So what if classes were not cancelled?!?! The university has a responsibility to teach the students that attend. No one, at the time, knew what was going on, and now, in the aftermath, you have the audacity to criticize the univer-

sity.

What about those 4500 victims that are sitting in the rubble, their bodies still too hard to find because the bodies may not even exist anymore?!?! Did you girls take the time to consider that you were being selfish in writing this special edition. I find it to be anything but special.

To quote a girl on the last page that she was aggravated that a movie was shown instead of the news is horrendous. If aggravation is what you girls want, then go to Ground Zero and start picking through the rubble to look for someone else's loved ones! Then, when you find someone's limb or, if you are lucky, a whole body, go tell the parents, wives, children, etc. of these people that you have found their loved one. Then you can write about aggravation when you see it on the faces of some of these people. And, if you want to watch the news, the radios have been working just fine!

Why don't you girls look back at this national disaster and count your blessings. I have been counting mine since Tuesday afternoon when I finally heard news from my father's secretary that my father was not on the plane that crashed in Pittsburgh. Up until Monday afternoon, he was booked on that flight from Newark to Los Angeles.

I was the editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper for two-and-a-half years. We were a very credible and almost award winning newspaper (Columbia school of Journalism Award- Runner's Up 1999). I would have never allowed this pure garbage to be written, let alone printed, in my newspaper, and I think you represent yourselves and the YU community very poorly with this selfishness! Next time, think before you print!

David Zelingher
YC Student

The Observer welcomes your letters to the editors. Email us at observer@ymail.yu.edu. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length, and content. No unsigned letters will be printed.

A Call to Students

Dear Students:

I am certain that each one of us has replayed the events of the morning of September 11th and tried to make sense of what happened. To be sure, we feel overwhelming sadness at the tragic loss of life. At the same time, we are angry with those who would kill and maim so wantonly and, of course, we are fearful of what lies ahead. When Dr. Kanarfogel spoke to the student body on Thursday before Rosh Hashanah, he stressed three points: that we cannot claim to understand why this tragedy occurred, that we must not despair, and that it is imperative for us to carry on and re-establish normalcy. I believe his message is one that we should consider seriously and take to heart.

When terror struck New York on that day, I immediately thought of the daily terror attacks facing the State of Israel. I was in Israel during the Gulf War some ten years ago, and more recently, during the suicide bombing of the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem. On both those occasions, I was struck by the enormous courage of ordinary people facing a brutal, callous, and hidden enemy. On September 11, as the news of the attack on the World Trade Center spread throughout the campus, I was struck once again by the responses of ordinary people to extraordinarily terrifying events. Some of you went immediately to give blood, others to assist at triage centers, others sat quietly listening to the news and whispering hushed prayers. The faculty stayed with us throughout that day and the following ones, meeting with their classes, giving students structure, helping them cope, and providing a semblance of normalcy. I am grateful and proud of everyone: students, faculty and staff, for the strength of character that kept the college community from sinking into panic.

After Succoth, I plan to convene a group of student leaders and faculty to discuss ways to commemorate this tragedy and to identify improvement to our on-campus emergency communications. It is my fervent hope that our Tefilot will be heard and that this will be a Shanat Shalom for all mankind.

Sincerely,
Karen Bacon, Ph.D.
Dr. Monique Katz, Dean
Stern College for Women

Kaplan gets you in.

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Opinions

Presidential Search Committee Letter

Dear Yeshiva Family Member,

Dr. Norman Lamm has announced his retirement effective August 31, 2002 as President of Yeshiva University and of its affiliate, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University has appointed a special committee to search for his successor. This committee will make recommendations to the University's Board of Trustees for the selection of a new president.

The committee is beginning a wide-ranging search for the best person to succeed Dr. Lamm. We will be seeking an individual of high intellectual distinction with proven qualities of leadership, a proven devotion to excellence in education and research, a dedication to the ideals, values and mission of this distinctive University, and the capacity to guide a complex institution in the 21st century.

The University's mission expresses its confidence that the best of the heritage of contemporary civilization - in its scientific, humanistic, and artistic manifestations - reflects the traditions of Jewish law, philosophy, and life that have sustained the Jewish people for more than 3500 years. Today, the University and its affiliates comprise some 17 undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate schools and divisions, including the world-renowned Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the highly respected Benjamin N. Cordozo School of Law and the outstanding Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. The University and its affiliates enroll

nearly 7,000 students, including those studying in the State of Israel.

Currently, Yeshiva University is in the first year of a five year, \$400 million dollar capital campaign. The University has already received commitments for more than half of that goal.

We are interested in receiving the names of individuals you consider qualified for the position. We also welcome any comments you wish to make concerning our search. The committee very much values your input into this process and I urge you to provide us with any pertinent information that will aid us in this endeavor. The University has enlisted the executive search firm of Korn/Ferry International to assist us. You may respond to:

Ms. Ann Kern, Managing Director
Korn/Ferry International
200 Park Avenue, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10166
Fax: 212 983 0124
Email (preferred): anita.rosen@korn-

ferry.com

Or, if you prefer, you may also email Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President for Academic Affairs, at lowengru@ymail.yu.edu. Yeshiva University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Michael G. Jesselson
Chairman



Observe Me

A Column of Opinions: War is Fun

Michal Leah Kanovsky

I remember when I was in Israel studying in seminary and there was a war scare one night. In my mind I can still hear the frantic phone calls home made by hysterical girls. But they were the vast minority. Most of us sat around discussing what we thought would happen. When would gas masks be handed out? Are the buses still safe? A few girls offered stories that elder siblings had told them from the Gulf War. There was the picture taken by someone's brother of a scud and a patriot missile intercepting in the air. There was the time someone's sister was in a building next to a building that collapsed. All these stories were told in good fun.

I recall the night being rather euphoric as we sat around bonding over the shared excitement glazed with trepidation. I could imagine all of us decked out in gas masks, spending days together in a sealed shelter. Classes would be cancelled, I'd be with my friends, and we'd cry together and pray together, talk, play cards and chess. That night a few of us made up a four-part harmony to mark the evening. One person sang, "Bombs are falling. Bombs are falling," as another sang, "Missiles, missiles, missiles," and a third joined in with, "Patriot scuds. Patriot scuds," while the fourth repeated, "Explosion," over and over again. It was sick and morbid, but also unforgettable and fun.

When the World Trade Center collapsed I sensed the same shocked exhilaration. No one was singing about missiles, but there was an air of anticipation and excitement. A sign in an open tavern "No terrorist is going to shut this place down!" expressed the thrilling David over Goliath attitude in the air. In the SCW dorms, girls talked excitedly about the possibility of evacuation. When Brookdale was evacuated girls ran to the river in pajamas and then came to Schottenstein recounting with humor the bedlam that occurred on 34th street. It was a scary situation, but in it there were moments of fun.

The city came together after the tragedy. Signs emerged all over with statements like, "Osama bin-Ladin: Wanted dead or alive." Our President swore to "...smoke them out of their holes." In ways it was like rounding up an old-fashioned posse. I've always thought that Western

movies were a lot of fun.

For the few days after the misfortune, SCW students remained gathered together around the TV's watching and shrieking together when appropriate. We hugged each other. We forgave each other. We loved each other. There was a common tragedy, a common fear, and a common enemy which made all our trivialities seem so petty. We stood together and it was nice to be together. It was nice knowing that at this time nobody would be holding grudges or starting arguments. We would all be one. It's no fun to be alone, the togetherness was fun.

We joined hands holding our America flags and danced in the circle of democracy. All over the city people volunteered, pitched in, we all worked for one. Here at SCW there was a rush to find the hospitals that would accept our blood. We all wanted to help together. At *The Observer*, we tried to put out a newspaper. It was a tragic situation that kept us up all night working, but we still had a good time. Working against a clock, trying to get the latest information, attempting to find one printing shop open in the "city that never sleeps." I'll admit, it was fun.

It was kind of like the rallies I attended in the past year. Standing outside of an important building yelling at the tops of our lungs. Raising flags and posters, singing *Hatikva* and then the National Anthem in the next breath. These things are not fun in the sense that you go to have a good time, but you do have a good time. You feel a sense of countering moral injustice and being an active member of the international Jewish community. You feel solidarity with the people around you who are there for the same reason. It's fulfilling and exciting, and it's fun.

I guess you're probably wondering why I would be saying this. Does it seem awful that fun can be seen from such catastrophe? You're probably waiting for me to explain some ethical element these perceptions lead me to. But there is no moral point here. This is just something that I see and notice, normal or not, right or wrong. Take this as you will: war is fun.

Reflections on American Jewish Response to Tragedy

By: Ariela Dworetzky

I was talking with some of my friends in my room last week when we heard a series of sirens outside my window. Since the World Trade Center disaster, we've become accustomed to hearing sirens day and night, but this was different. There were rows and rows of fire trucks covered with flowers. A fireman was about to be buried. We looked at the number of cars and we blinked back tears as for the first time, it hit us how many hundreds of people this one man had affected. And how many more funerals there were going to be in the coming weeks. Then one of my friends remarked, "I can't believe it's been two weeks since the world came crashing down."

As Jews, our world came crashing down, far before September 11, 2001. Our disaster began a whole year before, in Elul 5761 when Intifada 2 began. A year ago when we opened our newspapers and heard about Rabbi Hillel Lieberman's brutal slaying, the destruction of *Kever Yosef* and the lynching of two of our soldiers. And much to our dismay, the violence did not abate. We spent a year in pain, in fear of the news we might wake up to in the morning and after a whole year of terror in *Artzeinu Hakdosha*, we had to face the greatest terror attack ever on American soil.

On a personal level, my father works close to the World Trade Center and he was *zoche* to have slept late that morning. But for all those who were not *zoche* to be one of the lucky ones - we could not help but share their pain. It was not possible to hear the hope in the voices of the families of the victims and then later, the despair. To see wives and children break down in tears as they spoke about their conversations, their last words. To see the *Refuah Shlaima* lists with the words, "missing" or "burned" next to names. We cried with them, we davened for them, we whispered *Tehillim* and begged *Hashem*

to please perform a *nes* and have survivors walk out of the rubble. For whatever reason, unknown to us, *Hashem* responded in the negative.

But unfortunately, *l'tzaaraynu*, this tragedy was not the first one that we had to suffer this year. This year, many among us became widows and orphans. Reading e-mail in the morning became a depressing affair - day after day of shootings, bombings - of Jews like us, being slaughtered as they performed the most innocent of activities, such as driving to work and eating pizza for lunch.

After a year like this, there is no other answer but a call for *teshuva*. My friends will laugh when they read this but I have to quote my favorite essay, which unfortunately, I've had to quote so many times this year. In *Kol Dodi Dofek*, the Rav (Soloveitchik) tells us that he doesn't know the answer to *tzaddik v'ra lo, rasha v'tov lo* and it's a waste of time to contemplate answers because there are none.

However, he tells us that we have to look at *tzaarot* and see them as a message that it's a time to introspect and improve. And if we don't come out of the *zman tzaar* as better people and as a better *Am*, the *tzaar* was *k'ilu*, wasted. To see the way that everyone reacted to this *tzaar* was very inspiring for me. When we were evacuated from Brookdale, although girls were undoubtedly scared, small groups were formed where girls came together to say *Tehillim*. And when TAC organized times for *Tehillim*, the room was always packed to capacity. *Yasher koach*.

In addition to that, I want to wish a *yasher koach* to all those who have volunteered at hospitals and the Red Cross and who have donated blood, or have tried to. The way that the Jewish community has reacted to this tragedy is truly a *Kiddush Hashem*.

Many Rabbeim are calling for a show of support for America on our part. After all, America is the "*malchut shel chessed*" - this is the "good *galuf*" and by identifying with

an American tragedy, we're showing our hakaras tov to this nation that has helped and sheltered us and allowed us to serve *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* as we please. One hundred percent, we do owe a lot to America. This country has been good to us and we're grateful to *Hashem* that this *galut* has not been one of physical pain as our previous *galuyot* have been.

But at the same time, we have to recognize that this "good *galuf*" has not exactly had a positive affect upon us spiritually. We have become so comfortable in America's bountiful material wealth that the average American from Jew admits that his driving desire is not to return to *Eretz Yisrael*, as it should be. Many admit that their desire in life is not for *Mashiach* to come because they are comfortable here and are reluctant to leave this easy and wealthy lifestyle. *Hakarat hatov* to the *malchut shel chessed*, yes. But for a frum Jew to get on television and say, "America, our *only* home", I'm sorry but I think that's going too far.

While we continue to give *tzedaka* to those who, *rachmana l'tzlan*, need it here in the United States, let us also not forget our brothers and sisters in *Eretz Yisrael* who are defending our land with their very presence. Who need money so desperately so they can pay for Hatzala ambulances and equipment, which are constantly getting damaged by rock throwing Palestinians. Who need money to support the families who have lost their breadwinners - for children whose parents were killed in drive by shootings and have no one left to care for them. As we cry for the victims in America, we must also remember those who are suffering in *Artzeinu Hakdosha*.

May we be *zoche* to have a year where we hear only *besurot tovo* and may we be *zoche* to return to our real home - *Yerushalayim Ir HaKodesh with the bi'at HaGoel, b'mimhayra b'ya-maynu*

RAV AHRON: LEADER OF WORLD JEWRY

End of a Dynasty: Gadol Served YU for Decades

By: Adina Levine and Sari Moskowitz

After years of dedicated service to the Jewish community and specifically Yeshiva University, Rav Ahron Soloveichik, a world-renowned Torah giant and spiritual leader of thousands, passed away on October 5th at the age of 84. Brother of the late Rav Yosef Dov Soloveichik, the late spiritual leader of the Modern Orthodox movement, Rav Ahron Soloveichik came to YU when his brother was still the Rosh Yeshiva. Rav Soloveichik began his Talmud shiur at YU almost forty years ago, and continued it throughout the years despite suffering a debilitating stroke in 1983. He commuted to and from Chicago weekly, and in fact, taught his class only three weeks ago.

"He represented the continuation of a family dynasty," commented Rabbi Blau. "He was the end of that generation."

Rav Ahron Soloveichik, the Rosh Yeshiva of the Brisk Yeshiva in Chicago and a Rav at YC, was buried in Israel on Har Hazaytim (Mount of Olives), only two

months after his wife passed away. The funeral was held in his yeshiva in Chicago, in addition to two funeral services – one by



Rav Ahron Soloveichik

the cargo area, another by the plane – held at Newark airport. YU students and rabbeim attended and spoke at both Newark funeral services.

Coming from a distinguished rabbinical family that began in Eastern Europe with Rav Chaim Brisker more than 200 years ago, Rav Soloveichik was known for his strong commitment to *halacha*, as well as his firm opposition to the Oslo peace process. "He was an ardent supporter of Eretz Yisroel," asserted Rabbi Blau. "He was a tremendous humanist, very concerned with Jews and non-Jews. He had very strong views on all matters.

He was a person of extraordinary integrity who on a personal level was the sweetest guy in the world, but was very rigid in political matters."

Rav Soloveichik's influence was felt throughout the world, as Jewish people noticed his strong stance. Evan Torczyner of Long Island recalls how Rav Soloveichik refused to take money from Pepsi to support his yeshiva at a time when Pepsi was boycotting Israel. "He was a wonderful, warm human being," comments Torczyner. "He was interested very much in the welfare of people, a wonderful teacher who stuck to his principles."

Stories about the greatness of Rav Soloveichik are still pouring out from all people who came into contact with him. "As a young man, I had an esrog business in Chicago," recalls Rabbi Moshe Gottessman, Dean of a yeshiva day school HANC on Long Island. "When Rav Soloveichik would walk in, he would make sure I was happy. It was more important to him that I was happy in the business than that he as the customer was happy. Everything with him was done with such kindness."



Rabbi Yosef Blau
Mashgiach Ruchani

Rabbi Ahron Soloveichik zt"l: An Appreciation

Rav Ahron Soloveichik zt"l was a Torah giant who was an unusual blend of many qualities. He was completely loyal to mesorah, particularly to the traditions of his illustrious family, yet totally independent. Mild mannered, careful not to speak ill of anyone, he had an iron will. His moral and physical courage was extraordinary not allowing a debilitating stroke to prevent him from flying weekly between Chicago and New York and saying shiur immediately upon arrival at Yeshiva.

The youngest child of Rav Moshe Soloveichik zt"l, Rav Ahron grew up with the challenge that his older brother Rav Yosef Dov zt"l was already acclaimed as the heir to the family Torah greatness. Possessing internal strength he developed in his learning and emerged as a Torah giant on his own. He studied with his father and received his Semikha from RIETS as well as a bachelor's degree from Yeshiva College. He also had a law degree and brought his secular education, when relevant, into his shiur.

Rav Ahron said a shiur for over fifty years, teaching in Mesifra Tifferes Yerushalayim, Yeshivas Rabbeinu Chaim Berlin, RIETS, Hebrew Theological College of Skokie and Yeshivas Brisk. His classes combined the Brisker methodology and his encyclopedic knowledge. On many occasions he would show that a com-

mentary on a biblical verse reflected a different understanding of a Talmudic text.

Rav Ahron rejected the accepted distinction between Halakha and Aggadah; from his perspective everything was halakha. He took controversial stands on public policy showing great compassion and love for all of Israel and all of mankind. In the nineteen sixties he opposed the Vietnam War on moral grounds. He supported the Eretz Yisrael Hashlema movement rejecting any transfer of territory from Jewish to Arab hands as prohibited. At the same time he abhorred violence and denounced the assassination of Yitzchak Rabin by a religious Jew. He was concerned that any position that he had taken might have been misconstrued as justifying the act.

Rav Ahron and his late wife Ella were true partners and they were devoted to their children, including in-laws and grandchildren. His relationship with his students was close. He was loyal to them and they were loyal to him, many remaining his pupils for decades.

All great Torah figures are simultaneously similar and unique. Rav Ahron was a continuation of the Torah dynasty of Brisk and yet there is no one to whom he can be compared. May his memory be a blessing.

The Offices of the University Dean of Students and Student Services

would like to commend the entire student body for their demonstrations of compassion and countless acts of kindness during the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks.

You have set examples that we shall all strive to follow.

THANK YOU!



PRESIDENTS' PAGE

Message from SCWSC President Elana Soleimani



September 11th is day that no one will forget. We have lived through a memorable piece of history. Textbooks are being re-written as we speak. Imagine the power that we have now. To change what our children, their children, and so on, will learn.

That Tuesday started off no different than any other. Normal choices and decisions were made. Everyone of us has heard of the coincidence story, why one person was saved because of something that seemed trivial at the time but took them out of their normal every day doing and caused them to be in a different place at a different time. Hindsight is always 20/20. On that morning people all over the world began their daily routines only to be thrown into a nightmare by the horrific images of the terrorism that was perpetuated on America, freedom and democracy.

We as Jews are living in the greatest times we have ever seen. In no other time or place have we been so accepted and protected. We have the right to vote, own land, have our own schools and synagogues. In addition our rights are always being protected by our government. In most communities on holidays like Simchat Torah that just passed, there are police out on the streets to make sure no acts of violence are committed against us. Most of us were born into it and do not even know how good we have it, until an event like this brings everything crashing into disturbing perspective for us.

Suddenly life has changed. The idyllic peace that everyone enjoyed and took for granted was shattered by the "evil doers". Bomb scares

became an unfortunate norm, bags were being checked everywhere from airports to the supermarket, and tanks drive down 34th street. It's almost surreal as if from a movie or some ones imagination.

In the days and weeks that have followed the world watched, a mesmerized audience, and shared in the pain of America. Americans, especially New Yorkers (yes we can be nice) "collectively held their breaths" while the tragedy grew a the death toll rose. Firefighters, policemen, Doctors, countless volunteers and regular people, have been working almost non-stop. Their tireless efforts only prove that good can and will triumph over evil.

"Out of the smoke and rubble that was one the world trade center rose patriotism, unity and a determination to prove that freedom and democracy can not be destroyed. President Bush has committed the United States to eliminate terrorism worldwide and hold responsible countries supporting them by all manners available to him. Fear of the unknown is difficult to deal with, but we will rise to the challenge and overcome."

As we have in the past as a nation, as a people. Our history is filled with encouraging stories and fantastic tales. Now is our chance to bring that into our life, our time and our reality.

We did not sit back idyll, we took action and made a difference. From mass tehillim, to donating blood, and going to Chelsea piers, or to NYU medical center; everything each and everyone of you did made a difference. I know, the community, and the world knows you can be counted on in times of need, and I trust we will keep doing everything in our power to help in anyway we can. Remember there are many ways to help and different ways to be involved, find what works for you. Tizku L'Mitzvot.

tributed to 130 charities but he now focuses on funding five organizations.

Although many are in awe of White, he doesn't view his deed as heroic or even noteworthy. "People overemphasize what I'm doing. I get tremendous pleasure out of giving." Had White not given his small fortune away, he would be worth \$100 million today. He is now worth \$8 million and over the next two years he will reduce his wealth to \$2.5 million.

One can learn many important lessons from Tom White, including the obvious need to give Tzedakah. We can take what Mr. White did even a step further. White used monetary assistance to help those around him. However, money eventually runs out. One does not need to be a philanthropist in order in effect and assist people. Time, love and the desire to help is all one really needs to change what is wrong in the world.

Over the past few weeks, I have personally witnessed countless women at Stern College not only giving Tzedakah to many important causes but also giving their free time to volunteer and providing emotional support to the victims and their families which was manifest through Tehilim groups and card campaigns. I had never seen so much emotional energy in Stern College prior to this terrible tragedy. As time goes on, students will slowly go back to their usual routine and be involved in their everyday lives. However, I want this energy and unity that I saw to stay within the student body. Unfortunately, there are countless people that rely on TAC for support financially and emotionally. Fortunately we have a student body who cares and wants to give. Keep your newly opened eyes focused on what matters globally and what we can do as Jewish women. Come to the TAC club fair Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. in Koch Auditorium and get involved in any way you can. Each one of us has a special give to give the world and the world needs all the love and help it can get.

Message from TAC President Toby Goldfisher



On the first days of success, I sat

down to catch up on my reading of past editions of Newsweek and Time magazine. I came across an article in the September 17th edition of Time. This short biography is part of a series called "America's Best" which recognizes people who exemplify the life of the mind, body and spirit.

Tom White of Boston began giving away his hard earned money decades ago at a time when he didn't have a lot to give. Over the course of 55 years in his family business, Mr. White earned and donated over \$50 million. What makes White worthy of the title "America's Best" is not the amount he gave away. Compared to Ted Turner's \$1 billion donation to the United Nations, White's largest contribution is nothing to speak of. What does make White noteworthy is the way he donates. Most philanthropists do not start to give away their small fortunes until they have made a significant amount and remain rich after they get publicity for their charitable deeds. White began to give away his money since he received his first paycheck.

Even as Mr. White's donations progressively increased, he never sought attention or recognition for his generosity. His countless donations were unheard of until just a few years ago. In a footnote of a Harvard Medical school report, White was thanked for making a \$3 million contribution which led to affordable treatment of tuberculosis in Third World countries.

White made his money which he dispensed as if it never belonged to him, from the J.J. White Contacting Co. he inherited from his father in 1945. The company became very successful and built many large scale projects including most of the Boston subway system. Over the years, White has con-

Message from SSSBSC President Darya Gorelik



Hi everyone,

This is the first time this school year when I am able to address the student body. That is why I would like to take this opportunity to describe some of the Student Council duties, or (in other words)

what we are here for. Sy Syms Student Council provides a wide range of activities. Some of them are held to assist the students in their fields of study. For instance, we sponsor a variety of business-oriented clubs and associations such as, the MIS club, American Marketing and Management Associations, Max Investment club, and the Accounting Society. You will be able to join them during the SSSB Reception rescheduled to take place at the uptown campus at the end of October. All throughout the year they will keep you busy with various events held on campus. Besides, this year we are forming an Academic Issues Committee for Sy Syms students. This committee is created to address all your academic problems and concerns directly to the Deans.

We also hope to hear your comments and advice more often. We want you to become more involved in school. This way we can become better in whatever we do for you. In addition, we (together with SCWSC and TAC) have some fun activities planned for you. We will keep you updated on all the upcoming events, seminars, and lectures. Look out for the flyers!

We are also going to have a Fundraiser/Volunteering Drive to help the families of those who died due to the September 11 attack. We think this will give us a chance to show our support to the country and the people who need our help. We encourage you to participate in the Drive. There are so many ways we can help!

I hope you will enjoy your new school year!

Evacuation at Brookdale

continued from front page

what they should have done," commented Kasten. "but almost anything would have been better than what they did do."

Some students who were notified by security were not happy either. Rachel Gross, an SCW sophomore was lounging around her room when a male security guard knocked and, without waiting for permission, entered. "I felt it was a violation of privacy," Gross remarked. "It was fine with me but my roommate was wearing pajamas and didn't want him to see her like that." Further, Gross felt that the information that security provided was not sufficient to contain panic. "The scariest part was that they wouldn't tell us was what going on," stated Gross. "They said 'Don't worry but walk as far as you can.'"

On the other hand, security officials claim that they didn't have more information to provide the students. "If security personnel don't know what to do yet, how can they tell people?" questioned John Gorman of security. Further, Gorman claimed that students were only supposed to evacuate as far as Lexington Avenue; the procession that forced students to the East River was the additional precautions of some students, not security.

Students in Schottenstein were spared the evacuation process, as their location on 29th street put them within sufficient distance from the Empire

State Building to ensure their safety. Many were not even notified that Brookdale was being evacuated, and only discovered it when none of their Brookdale friends answered their phones. Other students were gathered into Schottenstein's dining room to wait out the scare together. The decision not to evacuate Schottenstein was one of the police department and not an administrative decision, stressed Dean Hember. Nevertheless, some students in Schottenstein believed that they were endangered. "They left us there to die," commented Aliza Weinstein, SCW senior. "I could see the Empire State building from my window. If it would have crashed, we would have all died."

On the other hand, some students applauded security procedures under the circumstances. "I believe that there was no other way to handle it," commented Yael Shmuel, SCW senior. "To say that security was wrong to go around knocking on doors to get us out as quickly as possible is ridiculous."

"I think the school handled it extremely well," commented Yael Ariel, SCW sophomore.

Despite the assertions of some students as to the wonderful job performed by security, the administration maintains that the situation could have been managed better. "I think it could have been handled better," remarked Dean Hember, Director of Students, who

was not at the scene at the time. "I plan to have a discussion with both campuses to better put emergency evacuation plans in place to better establish a chain of command."

In fact, at the moment that Brookdale Hall was forced to evacuate, there were no administrative officials on the scene, excepting the Graduate Assistants who directed the students to the East River. Rachel Kraut was the first one to arrive and publicly addressed the students once they were safely back in Brookdale. Mrs. Zeldia Braun, assistant dean of students, arrived shortly thereafter and by the time Dean Karen Bacon and her husband were able to get in from New Jersey, the students were already in their rooms. Head of Public Relations, Peter Ferrara, also came to Brookdale, and many of the administrators stayed on campus into the early hours of the morning.

"The student services staff from the minute this attack happened, has been totally putting out for the students," commented Braun. "I was proud to be part of SCW on that day."

"The unfortunate part of all this was that I was more of a spectator than a participant," stated Dean Bacon, who traveled from her home in New Jersey to calm students after the event. To her surprise, however, there was "nothing that I could call panic when I

continued on page 14

on campus

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS FRESHMAN YEAR: FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS, NOT DUMMIES

By: Ariella Goldstein

"How is college?" question Mom and Dad. "Great," you answer. Then they want to know "Did you make any new friends?" You say, "I'll plead the fifth."

The freshman class of SCW is larger than ever, mainly due to the unprecedented number of students who refrained from attending seminary in Israel. Acknowledging the importance of making friends, first year college students want to be comfortable with their classmates in order to enjoy class. With the size of this year's freshman grade, however, cementing new friendships is not a simple task.

"The size of our class can be a disadvantage for girls who are used to a smaller school," Michelle Sadoff, an SCW freshman, warns. "I have found it overwhelming and a bit more challenging to make friends largely due to the increased class size. It is hard to keep track of the names of all the people you meet simply because you meet so very many people."

The enlarged class size poses a challenge to students to remembering new acquaintances. Some students try to remember different names, thinking, for example, "Dina" is wearing a blue shirt with little stripes. Although this is fine for encountering Dina later on that day in the cafeteria, it doesn't work when Dina obeys the dictates of basic hygiene and changes her shirt.

Subsequently, students are forced to change their methods of

remembering, to find something permanent. Okay, says the overworked freshman brain, her eyes. Dina has brown eyes. Just as a precautionary measure, the student also notes that Dina has brown, straight hair. But then realization hits: "Wait a minute, EVERYONE has brown eyes and brown hair!"

Maybe the answer is that there are simply too many people, that any attempt to make friends is futile. Wrong, according to Melanie Winer, a SCW freshman. "Making friends isn't hard since there are a decent amount of freshmen," Melanie explains. "Whether I am in a class with someone and become friendly with them or I meet someone through a mutual friend, it's been easy to meet people."

Miriam Gutman, another SCW freshman, suggests trying to make friends from the beginning without delay. But some wonder: How early, exactly, is the beginning? If students were too stressed making class schedules during orientation to really concentrate on your social life, are they doomed forever?

"Don't worry," says Jennifer Levenfus, a SCW freshman. "Start with your roommates, maybe help them out with their schoolwork, and before you know it, you'll have a ton of friends."

Relieved to hear this? You can finally answer your parents questions, cancel your psychiatrist appointment and walk back to your dorm room, excited to find out just what your roommates have for homework.

The Out of Towner

By: Dassie Wagner

This article was supposed to be funny. I was supposed to vent my frustrations of being an "out-of-towner" in Stern College. I was going to complain about how difficult moving in day is when you do not live in the tri-state area and how minimal the school building's hours of operation are on days off and weekends and how the cafeteria closes early on Thursday nights. However, as I sat down to write this, I couldn't complain. It all just seemed so trivial. Because you see, as much as I am the first to say that we have to go on with our lives even though America's currently in a war-like state, it is even more important for us to appreciate what we have. Rather than critique Stern, I want to share with you how it felt to be an out-of-towner living in NYC through this tragedy.

Recently, I was walking down Lexington Avenue to run some errands. A woman who seemed to be rushing to a meeting or appointment bumped into me. She did not apologize or even seem remorseful. I was annoyed. All I could think was how rude and inconsiderate she was being. New Yorkers are so self-absorbed, I thought. Mind you, it was not the biggest deal that she bumped into me; however, it seemed so at the time. It was the principle of the matter, I said with conviction. This day happened to be September 10—just one day before September 11, a day that will now forever live in infamy. A day when I watched New Yorkers come together with an unselfish kindness.

Since my family does not live in New York and I could not just pick up and

go home, I spent a considerable amount of time walking around the city and watching its people in the aftermath of the attacks. I saw strangers console and embrace one another in the street. I saw citizens volunteering at full force. I inquired about giving blood, but was told by an American Red Cross representative that my blood was not needed. They had received more donors than they could have ever imagined. I went to donate medical supplies with some friends, but we were told that the collections were stopping until the next day because they had received so much money, bandages, and other supplies that they had to sort that before they could even think about taking any more supplies. At this point, I realized something: when push comes to shove, and when it really matters, New Yorkers do care about each other.

Now, as I sit in my home in Atlanta, Georgia, I cannot help but think how other cities might have handled the current crisis. Would they have handled it with the same poise and unity that New York did? Would people have felt the same pride? Would they have cried for those lost as New Yorkers did? We cannot speculate how another city might have reacted. But what I can say, quite certainly, is that New Yorkers are grieving and mourning like we have never seen before. I cannot say that certain things about being in New York do not still bother me and I realize that New Yorkers will not remain in this placid state forever. They will go back to pushing people to get through a crowd and honking their way through rush hour traffic. However, what is overpowering and overwhelming right now is the pride I feel to be connected to the people of New York.

Stay Tuned for...

Club Fair- October 23rd 8:30pm Koch
Get involved, get food, win stuff

Hockey Game- Rangers VS Montreal

Elections- Freshman Class Board & Junior Class Pres
See DD Weberman for more info

Health Fair
Chanukah Concert
Bingo
Murder Mystery
Family Fued

.....and much much more!!!

Beit Midrash at SCW Hosts Leil Iyun

By: Fruma Farkas

On September 24, the Beit Midrash commission held a Mishmar program. With the goal of bringing SCW women together for an evening of Torah learning before Yom Kippur and Succot, the students who participated expressed satisfaction at the program's success. Shiurim were scheduled for convenience, but some women took the opportunity to learn independently. Both the program's coordinators — Ariella Tanzer and Fruma Farkas — fielded many positive remarks including requests for additional learning programs.

The first speaker was Lisa Seligsohn who discussed Sefer Yonah according to the G'ra. Next up was Dena (nee

Freundlich) Knoll. Her shiur, entitled "An Encounter with the Divine," examined the often confusing emotions of Yom Kippur. Are we to feel simcha or are we to try to fulfill the commandment of "v'initem et nafshoteikhem" through the denial of physical needs and pleasures? The third lecturer was Shayna Lerner who creatively introduced her topic of the haftarah of Yom HaKippurim from Sefer Yeshayahu with the famous optical illusion of the young woman and the old hag.

After a brief break, Sarah Davis explained the Avodah of Yom HaKippurim, the Temple service on the holiest day of the year, according to Rav S.R. Hirsch. After a short intermission Jenny Rosenfeld introduced the remaining crowd to "A Bissel Chassideshe Torah." She wondered

aloud: Is Teshuva internal or external? As a possible conclusion, Jenny led all present in a soulful rendition of Rav Shlomo Carlebach's song "Return."

Finally, the last speaker was Fruma Farkas. Her shiur, entitled "What is a Big Shofar?," explained the parallel Rav Kook draws between the three halachic levels of performing the mitzva of t'kiat shofar on Rosh HaShannah and the three potential levels of how the ge'ulah will be realized.

With the exception of the last speaker, all of the women who gave shiurim are currently learning in SCW's Graduate Program in Talmudic Studies. They all did wonderful jobs and will hopefully agree to participate in more Beit Midrash programs.

Torah Tour Travelers Experience Flight Delays But Encourage Communities Nevertheless

By: Observer Staff

More than sixty communities in the United States and Canada were serviced in the largest Torah Tours project to date, with more than 300 predominantly SCW and YC students assuming leadership roles throughout Shemeni Atzeret-Simchat Torah. Run through the Max Stern Division Of Communal Service, Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours is headed by Ari Rockoff and assisted on the Midtown Campus by student intern, Julie Pianko. The program began twenty years ago with only male participants, but at the communities' request, women were asked to participate. The participants must be role models to the orthodox communities at large. "These men and women offer education and a general feeling of ruach to their respective communities," comments Rockoff.

Students volunteer their Yom Tov to participate in the program. After they sign up, teams are arranged to service the

needs of the communities, with an average team comprised of three men and three women. Women give shiurim to women and men to the men. Participants must always be "on," never missing an opportunity to shmooze and encourage participation in the hakofot, the tefila and the eating of the yom tov meals.

Students feel that by participating in Torah Tours they are able to offer what they themselves have experienced. One first time participant remarked, "This was one of the most gratifying experiences of my education, that I was able to practice my abilities as a leader in the Jewish community."

The feedback from the communities was extremely positive, and the program can only continue to grow. Pianko remarked, "The women of Stern College have showed tremendous dedication in their most outstanding response to this program." Students who have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this vital program, are encouraged to sign up for upcoming projects involving kiruv and chinuch.



Give Tzedekkah on a Thursday Night Date

By: Kim Davis

Dine and Donate is a new program sponsored by the Israel Club, that enables students to easily give tzedekkah, charity, while dining at various New York City restaurants. On Thursday nights, 5% of every bill at Dougie's, Mr. Broadway, Village Crown (both meat and dairy restaurants), Levana, or Viva's Natural Pizza will be donated to charity when an SCW or YC ID is shown to the waiter. The donated money will be sent to Hatzolah Yehuda V'Shomron, an ambulance troop that services the West Bank and Gaza Strip (aka Yehuda and Shomron/Yesha).

Although many SCW and YU students desperately want to help Israel, they are often hindered by a lack of funds. While students are willing to write letters

to the Congress and go to pro-Israel rallies, most are unable to donate money on a typical college student's salary. 'Dine and Donate' enables students to give tzedekkah simply by dining out on Thursday nights, a night when many students are already accustomed to eating out.

The idea for "Dine and Donate" came from the co-presidents of the SCW Israel Club, Rebecca Wimmer and Yael Zelman. "I would hope that students would be more inclined to eat at these restaurants because it's such an easy way to do chessed and give tzedekkah," says Wimmer, an SCW junior. "If they are going to eat anyway, they might as well get a mitzvah out of it."

Yehuda Shmidman, president of the YC Israel Club, is pleased to cosponsor 'Dine and Donate' with the SCW Israel club. " 'Dine and Donate' allows students

to effortlessly and practically channel funds to Eretz Yisrael," says Shmidman. "So even though we may not be able to sign away thousands of dollars, we can each give a little amount, and together we will combine to substantially generate funds for our fellow Jews in Eretz Yisrael."

"I believe it's programs like this one [Dine and Donate] that confirm that the Israel Club truly is the most active and important club on campus — even if we're not in Israel, we can still help out — and we must," continues Shmidman.

Participating in the 'Dine and Donate' program will provide bulletproof ambulances and medical supplies for residents of Yesha. During common violent surges in these areas ambulances are often attacked and essential medical supplies are destroyed.

Presently, 'Dine and Donate' is

DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS: PHILOSOPHY



By: Caryn Litt

College is the quintessential stage in one's life for contemplating life's deepest mysteries and most intricate ideologies. For those eager to take advantage of their new intellectual freedom, a philosophy course at SCW is a good place to start.

The philosophy department prides itself on making philosophy accessible to all students. A philosophy course will rarely require a prerequisite, and all of the classes are basically survey classes that will fulfill the paragraph B requirement. "There are two ways to structure a department," explains Dr. David Shatz, philosophy professor and department head. "We can gear it to majors alone, or we can bring philosophy to the student body at large. We opted for the second approach."

The motivation for this decision is, of course, the small number of philosophy majors — there are usually only two or three graduating each year. However, for those who do decide to major in philosophy, the fact that the department is not geared toward them can be frustrating. "I would love to have more specific classes," says philosophy major Meira Weinstein, noting that SCW does not offer any in-depth courses on one specific philosopher or on one narrow time period.

Aside from the course topics, some philosophy majors also take issue with the level at which the classes are taught. According to philosophy professor Dr. Margarita Levin, the professors "make an effort not to assume that anyone has taken philosophy before." This essentially means that every course can be considered introductory. "I think there should be classes for majors only," suggests Tova Warburg, a philosophy major. "Some classes aren't serious or focused enough." On the plus side, because of the small number of philosophy majors, professors are often open to suggestions and will try to accommodate requests.

The course offerings are important to philosophy majors, as there is little beyond taking courses that is required of them. Besides taking ten philosophy classes, philosophy majors are expected to write a thesis before graduating. However, the process is relatively informal, with students choosing a topic and getting some minimal advisement from professors. The English department, conversely, requires its majors to complete Senior Seminar and Senior Thesis, both of which are structured and credited.

In addition to the shortage of courses, philosophy majors are also faced with a paucity of instructors.

"The department consists of Dr. Shatz and me," says Dr. Levin. Although this is a slight exaggeration — there are two adjunct professors in addition to Dr. Shatz and Dr. Levin — the problem is very real. Because students tend to choose professors based on reputation, there are some philosophy majors who, for example, have only taken Dr. Shatz. The administration is not wholly unaware of this phenomenon. "Students need to hear different voices," Dean Orlian insists. "They should expose themselves to new teachers they haven't taken previously."

For the vast majority of SCW students who are not majoring in philosophy, however, there are more than enough professors and courses offered. Every semester at least two courses are added, and they are only repeated every third or fourth semester. "There's always a certain freshness to the department," says Dean Orlian.

Philosophy majors and non-majors alike can certainly appreciate the unique nature of philosophy classes, as well. Because the classes focus on philosophical methods of thinking in addition to philosophical content, a philosophy class can be a welcome change from the formal thinking and writing imposed by other classes. "There are no research papers," says Dr. Levin. "We let students exhibit their own philosophical ideas." Indeed, it is partly this freedom that attracts students to philosophy. "Everyone's used to writing structured essays for English classes With philosophy, there's more creativity, more free thinking," says Weinstein.

While it may be obvious that the thought processes acquired from a philosophy course are useful for other areas, the philosophy itself can be valuable, as well. "Because philosophy touches on issues that affect Jews, it really aids my understanding of Jewish philosophy," says Warburg.

Although Jewish philosophy courses are distinguished from regular philosophy courses both by their covering Jewish philosophers and their heavy reliance on Jewish texts, philosophy majors are allowed to take up to two classes in Jewish philosophy.

Because there are so few philosophy majors, there has been little student-generated interest to start a philosophy club. However, the lack of structured activities does not mean that philosophy is limited to the classroom. "I don't need a formal environment," says Warburg. "I talk to friends about philosophical issues."

only available to SCW and YC students on Thursday nights. But the heads of the Israel Club hope to expand 'Dine and Donate' to other nights and allow for non-YC and SCW people to participate. In return for donating 5% of the bill, restaurants will receive free publicity around Yeshiva campus by the Israel Club.

Highlights of future activities include a shaliach aliyah available weekly to offer advice on campus and a mission to Israel for January break, among others. The heads of the Israel clubs urge everyone to participate — and to submit their own ideas for future activities that benefit our connection to Israel. To volunteer or make suggestions for the Israel Club, contact Yehuda Shmidman at shmidman@gmail.yu.edu, Rebecca Wimmer at mickey911@aol.com, or Yael Zelman at yczem@cs.com.

on campus

Dr. Kanarfogel's Position Expanded at SCW

By Alexandra Beard

Professor Ephraim Kanarfogel, the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History and the Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, will be expanding his role as professor, scholar and rabbi at SCW. While his titles remain the same, Dr. Kanarfogel will have an additional presence in the academic, research and administrative aspects of the Jewish Studies department of SCW.

"I am honored and grateful to have the opportunity to give my all to the University," says Dr. Kanarfogel. "I salute the leadership of Stern College for making this development happen."

This development, which Dr. Kanarfogel explains as an "expansion, not a change in title," will enable Dr. Kanarfogel to devote more of his energies

not only to teaching, but also to administration and research benefiting the Jewish Studies department. In other words, additional responsibilities will enhance his position. For example, starting this semester Dr.



Kanarfogel has added a third course to his traditional two-course per semester schedule, and will continue teaching three courses in the years to come. In addition, he will be able to allot more of his time and creative energy to do research, attend international conferences and pursue other research opportunities. Dr.

Kanarfogel has already published 2 books and over 40 scholarly articles.

"Dr. Kanarfogel over the years has become an increasingly productive and internationally acclaimed scholar," comments Dean Karen Bacon. "Now he will have more time to teach and do research which will be a great benefit to Stern College."

Dr. Kanarfogel agrees that his position expansion will be effective for SCW. "My academic work is going well, and I believe the time is ripe and right which will only prove to be good for the University," he explains. "The more I know, the more they [SCW students] know as a result of my research. And of course, my goal is to first teach students."

As a member of the SCW faculty exclusively, Dr. Kanarfogel's position expansion points to a select invest-

continued on page 14

How Zionist is Your Typical YU Student?

Undergrads Discuss Aliyah

By Kim Davis

Known worldwide for its Zionist ideology, Yeshiva University's stance on Israel is readily determinable. The majority of YU Roshei Yeshiva believe that living in Israel should be a goal for all Jews. This past summer, Ezra Levine, a YC senior, posted a sign that hung on the window in front of *Time Out Pizza*,



to begin viewing Aliyah as a goal rather than an option." Affixed to this sign was a list of eight rabbayim.

Do YU students agree with

this ideology? Or do they follow other poskim? There are basically three opinions in the Orthodox Jewish world concerning the mitzvah of yishuv Eretz Yisrael (Numbers 33:53). Upheld by such gedolim as the Ramban, the Chazon Ish, and the Chafetz Chayim, the first opinion is that living in Israel is a mitzvah chiyuv (an obligatory mitzvah). The second opinion is that living in Israel is a mitzvah kiyumis (a voluntary mitzvah), according to rabbis such as the Rambam and Rav Moshe Feinstein, among others. Finally, the late Satmar Rebbe, among others, believes that the mitzvah of living in Israel is not binding at all today.

How do YU students view the mitzvah of yishuv Eretz Yisrael? To find this out, 100 SCW and 100 YC students were asked two questions. To the question of "do you want to make aliyah?" 66 SCW students said yes, 18

continued on page 16

Bringing the Computer Into the Classroom: Students React to Technology's Role in Education

By Adina Levine

If you were to register for one American Literature class at Queens College, you would have no trouble fitting it into your schedule. That's because the class is an exclusively online course, conducted solely through internet communication,

email discussion groups and student chat rooms. But you wouldn't find such a course at SCW, where even class registration must be conducted in person as opposed to online registration that many colleges - including Queens, Columbia and Barnard - offer.

A compar-

ative analysis of SCW relative to other colleges may show that SCW significantly differs in regard to its use of internet resources. Whether this difference is an indicator of lagging behind in technology is uncertain. Certain students and administrators claim that the move to online education is undesirable, and thus the reason for SCW not following this trend is a conscious decision of choice and not a representation of lack of technological capability.

"I don't think [online education] is a high priority at the moment," comment-

ed Dean Karen Bacon. "Our emphasis has always been on classroom instruction not because we're behind the times but because we believe in it."

Some students have seconded Bacon's approach to online education, claiming that the recent trend is an undesirable substitute for classroom instruction. The interaction of the classroom setting combined with the participation of fellow students makes SCW students, for the most part, prefer live classes to the

continued on page 16



ARRAY OF OPPORTUNITIES ENHANCE CLUB FAIRS

By Shira Frankel

Are you interested in riding horses? Experiencing Canadian culture? Getting to know a local senior citizen? SCW has a wide array of clubs to join. The Torah Activities Council Club Fair on Wednesday, October 17 and at the SCW Student Council club fair on Tuesday, October 23 give students the opportunity to become involved in something that they're interested in and probably not have the chance to do otherwise.

Ellyn Mauner, SCW junior and president of the Equestrian Club, began riding horses two years ago when she joined the equestrian club. She's been riding ever since, and now, as head of the club, encourages others who like horses, beginners or experienced riders, to join. Members of the club take riding lessons once a week, and with enough funding, will hopefully make a team to participate in competitions. For now, participants will pay their own way, but in the future, the cost may be subsidized. This semester, Mauner plans to ride at Jamaica Bay Riding Academy. "They have indoor and outdoor rings, and the facilities are beautiful," she says.

Rebecca Wimmer and Yael Zemelman felt that there was a lack of awareness within the SCW/YC community about what's going on in Israel,

and they wanted to do something about it. So they decided to head the Israel Club. "[Israel] is something we care greatly about so we want everyone to share it," says Wimmer, SCW junior. Their plans for this year include speakers, a bulletin board posting current news, a fundraising concert, and a trip planned for January. Proceeds from the concert will probably go to Hatzolah Yehuda and Shomron. As for the trip, although participants will pay for it themselves, it will be cheaper to go with the SCW/YC group.

Since this is her last semester at SCW, Kim Davis, SCW senior, intends to make this a very special semester for the Psychology Club. She plans to have inspiring speakers. Rabbi Tovia Singer, a leading anti-missionary rabbi, will speak about Christianity's appeal to Jews, and why we lose hundreds of Jews each year to missionaries. In addition, someone who conquered anorexia will discuss her journey back to a normal life.

The Jewish Political Views club, headed by Beth Meshel and Sari Strulowitz, aims to promote more student involvement on the political level. They have already organized voter registration, and they plan to bring in some speakers, including local politicians. Meshel and Strulowitz volunteered for Mark Green's campaign for mayor, and Meshel says that with

continued on page 14

CAMPUS BRIEFS

A New Chair has been Endowed in Jewish History and Literature by Lauren and J. Ezra Merkin. The chair is to be held by a faculty member who is a leading figure in Jewish academic scholarship, and Dr. Haym Soloveitchik, university professor of Jewish history and literature at YU and a distinguished Talmudist and historian, has been named first occupant.

A New Financial Scholarship Seeks to provide grandchildren of past or current members of Yeshiva University faculty has been established by the Board of Trustees, effective fall 2001. To be eligible, the student must be a grandchild of

an active or retired member of the faculty or administration who has served YU on a full-time basis for no less than 25 consecutive years. The maximum amount to be granted in any given year, without regard to the number of applicants, is \$250,000.



Dean Karen Bacon has been noticed in the *New York Resident* top 100 success stories, among such celebrities as Mel Brooks and Michael Bloomberg. The arti-

cle counted Dean Bacon among its leaders for her role in developing Stern College, including the recent purchase of the new dorm.

Heightened Security has Instituted a new system for ensuring I.D. check. Students must now enter through designated entrance staircases and exit through a separate door. The new rule promises to provide increased security, although it will require added inconvenience and confusion.

Africa Kosher Safaris cancelled its sukkot trip. The 13 students who planned

on attending are disappointed but understand that some students were afraid to travel during this difficult time. Nevertheless, they are planning on having another special student tour to South Africa during intersession.

The average class size has grown this semester, as an influx of freshmen pervade SCW. Classes of approximately forty students, a size heretofore considered a huge class, has now become the norm.

on campus

Honors Program off to a Late Start But Students Anticipate Exciting Year

By: Sari Moskowitz

Over a month into the fall semester, participants in the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program have begun to question why they have not yet received a schedule of the program's fall events that they are required to attend. This semester there were no events before Succot vacation, as there have



Dr. Wachtell, Honors Program Director

been in past years.

Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, founder and director of the Honors Program, attributes this year's delayed start to an unusual holiday schedule that allowed for only one full week of school before the Succot vacation. She adds that the delay was compounded by the World Trade Center tragedy in September. "It [the delay] is disappointing," she notes. "The World Trade Center tragedy slowed things considerably—it was hard to get a hold of people."

While Wachtell regrets that unavoidable circumstances lead to a delayed beginning, she refuses to let the delay hamper the eagerness and excitement felt by this year's Honors students. "It's been an unusual year," she says, "but there will be a full calendar of events with rich offerings."

Indeed, most participants are sympathetic about the reasons for the delay, and continue to look forward to this year's events. "The speakers and activities run by the program are enriching and thought provoking," comments Toby Josovitz, an SCW junior. "It's an incredible cultural experience I wouldn't have

received as just another SCW student."

Shira Frankel, an SCW junior disagrees, about the speakers. "I don't feel I've gained much from that experience," Frankel says. However, like many other participants, Frankel adds that the "cultural events are really good and well planned," and that she enjoys the opportunity to participate in events she would otherwise not attend.

Wachtell acknowledges that these extracurricular activities "help foster a community feeling within the Honors Program." It is this unity, she notes, that separates the SCW Honors Program from YC's Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program.

Although this semester's program has not yet been released, Wachtell guarantees that spectacular programs have already been planned, such as a speech by world-renowned author Maya Angelou, a walking tour of Grand Central Terminal and a leadership seminar about conflict resolution and communication skills.

Now in its third year, the Honors Program has approximately sixty-five participants, who were accepted based on their outstanding achievements in academic and extracurricular spheres. According to Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, the founder and director of the Honors Program, the goal of the program is to have 25 new students join each year, so that from its fourth year and onward, there will be close to 90 students in the program each year.



Honors Students on Tour of Lower East Side

Each Honors student is required to take seven honors courses during her time at SCW. Honors classes differ from standard SCW courses because they are more advanced and they demand additional analysis and synthesis, laboratory work, writing and research. Although any student can apply to take an honors course, teachers of honors courses reserve the right to screen students and accept only those they believe will meet the rigorous demands of an honors course.

"Honors courses are smaller and the material can be presented on a deeper level, so I understand the topic better and learn more," observes Elisheva Douglas, an SCW sophomore. "People are in the class because of these reasons and it makes for good class discussions, which is a plus. I'll take as many [honors courses] as I can handle."

Additionally, participants in the Honors Program are required to attend various cultural events, lectures and leadership seminars that are offered each semester. Of approximately nine events that are offered each semester, first year participants in the Honors Program must attend at least six, and returning Honors students are required to be present at no less than five events. In the past, such events have included speakers such as former Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and lawyer/professor/author Alan Dershowitz and trips to the New York City Ballet and the Historical Society.



Honors Students at midtown on a cultural walking tour

The Honors Student: Uptown vs. Downtown

By: Michal Leah Kanovsky

In Fall '99, two programs were started at Yeshiva University. One was the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College and the other was the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College. Both are referred to as "The Honors Program," and that's where the similarities stop. They are run by different directors (Dr. Cynthia Wachtell downtown and Dr. William Lee uptown), have different requirements, and have different goals.

"I think that one of the most important ways in which we're different is that we have a rich extra-curricular calendar and they don't have that," says Dr. Wachtell. One of the requirements of the program downtown is that members participate in a number of scheduled events every semester. To Dr. Wachtell, these events are an important part of the downtown program's mission. Aside from exposing students to cultural institutions and role models, they also help get members of the honors program to know one another. "There's a strong sense of community for the program at Stern because we have events and dinners," Wachtell says.

Although cultural events and speakers are planned uptown, there are no requirements that the men attend, and few do. The mission statement for the uptown Honors Program asserts that they want "to enhance education throughout Yeshiva College by providing an exceptionally broad, deep, rigorous education for our most talented students." Nowhere does it mention cultural enhancement as a target.

One reason for the lack of extracurricular activities on the uptown campus is that the men at YC do not have the same time flexibility as the women at SCW. They attend religious classes all morning and do not begin their secular workload until the afternoon. During the evening, when events downtown would be scheduled, many men uptown are still in classes. The reality of YC is that they cannot have the same events in their Honors Program as SCW, but their program takes on a different flavor because of that lack. Dr. Wachtell concludes, "One consequence is that it's hard to cre-

ate a community if there aren't community events."

The focus of the YC program is not the honors community, rather the classes that are given. In these classes professors are encouraged "to invent interesting honors courses and rethink all their courses."

"I've been in the program for 3 years and I've really found it to be great," says Zvi Rosen, a YC Senior. "My experience of honors classes are superior to the equivalents for quite a variety of reasons, mainly because courses are taught at a more intense level. Professors have more freedom to go at it in the way they want to."

At what level are the classes being taught? Certainly higher than the regular YC class, but then what level is the regular YC class at? "People often say YU isn't a real college because it's easier and there isn't much reading, but honors program classes are more challenging, which somehow seems that it's more as if it's a real college," says Aryeh Hoenig, a YC junior in the program. He explains that the YC honors program brings education up to the level of other colleges, but these 'college type' classes would be impossible to implement wide-scale at YC. "It happens to be we have a lot of class time and it's not feasible for us to have so much work and so much class time, but the honors courses push the envelope a little bit and challenge you further," Hoenig comments. "It's a good program but not for everyone."

This is exactly the problem with the Honors Program that Yehuda Shmidman, a YC junior who is not in the program, has. "The school should make more efforts in building the bulk of the school and classes and the faculty there, they should focus their efforts on programs for everyone, and they're not ready for focusing on honors yet," Shmidman says. "Theoretically, there should be an honors program, but only when the rest of the school measures up." It is a problem that the YC honors program brings those students up to the work level of a 'real' college, because where does that leave the rest of the student body?

A regular student to get into an honors course uptown requires the instructor's

Ask not
what your school can do for you.
But what you can do
for your school.

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continued on page 16

Business News

Dean Snow Holds Open Forum

Success, but Lack of Student Participation

By: Mimi Sternberg



At the beginning of September, Sy Syms held an open forum with Dean Snow for Syms students, but only six students out of more than a total of two hundred at midtown, showed up. The meeting was intended to enable students officially meet the new dean and discuss new ideas for school happenings. The bleak attendance may have been due to lack of publicity or bad scheduling. But one of the more popular and prevalent assumptions was lack of interest within the student body of Sy Syms.

"I felt uncomfortable when I walked into the room and no one was there," said Nava Feig SSSB Junior.

Those six students who did attend benefited by the intimacy of the meeting. "Those not in attendance missed a privileged opportunity, but at least it benefited us," said Chloe Berman, SSSB senior. "A small group atmosphere allowed for it to be more one on one and made me feel more fortunate to have attended."

Despite all this, it seemed that Dean Snow enjoying sharing his ideas with the students, and even scheduled another open forum for February. Snow's goal for the meeting was to get to know the students and enable them to get involved in Sy Syms.

In contrast to Dean Nuremberg, the previous dean of Sy Syms, who rarely appeared at the midtown campus, Dean Snow splits his time between the campuses, with two days a week at each campus. This greatly helps the midtown students and allows them to be more confident knowing that there is a higher authority available to them.

"Having a hierarchy figure around...makes me more comfortable knowing that he realizes that Sy Syms midtown campus needs a figure that will not be distant to the students," said Feig.

The open forum was a success in its coverage and enabled Snow to discuss his new ideas. One of his plans is a new Office of Career Services for Alumni, for those who have already graduated from Yeshiva University. With the economy doing poorly, this idea may be beneficial to alumni who are currently employed as well as for mothers who took off time from working and want to return to the job market. Snow would also like to implement into the curriculum a course focusing on business activities relating to Israel for those students planning on emigrating to Israel.

In terms of student input at the forum, a major concern voiced by the six students was regarding majors and the need for more courses. As Nava Feig said, "I sometimes feel that as a marketing major there aren't enough course choices." Dean Snow acknowledged that Sy Syms has concentrated more on the accounting and finance majors because when the school started in 1987, they were the first majors implemented. He jotted down the students' ideas for courses and agreed to look into it further.

Students also questioned why there wasn't a Sy Syms dinner last year. Snow responded that it was partly due to lack of funds, but said he hopes to fundraise so as to acquire sponsors for future dinners.

The attendees also mentioned to Snow that lack of publicity for events and communication within the school contributes greatly to the lack of participation within the school. Snow guaranteed that a new and improved way of soliciting student activism would be worked on. Perhaps then more students will show up to the next forum in February.

FLOUNDERING ECONOMY

PROMISES TO AFFECT ALL SCW

By: Mimi Sternberg

The tragic events of September 11th left a rippling effect on all American citizens and almost every facet of every day life. One of the most tangible things that was affected was the economy. Because the attacks hit so close to home, New York City businesses are hurt.

The downtown area, where the attacks occurred approximately two miles from Stern College, was the financial capital of the world and many businesses are relocating. Losing businesses, especially big organizations such as Morgan Stanley, would mean huge losses for the city, but losing business is only half of our economic problems as the damage that took place is expected to take a huge toll on the city and the government.

Some experts say that it may cost \$1 billion for the city to replace emergency vehicles, such as ambulances and fire engines that were destroyed as the twin towers were collapsing. "The cleanup at ground zero is expected to cost about \$5 billion, overtime for uniformed workers is expected to be about \$3 billion, and approximately \$14 billion to rebuild the financial district of downtown," says Reginald Patrick, a reporter for City Hall. Although Washington has promised New York \$20 billion, the city expects the reconstruction to cost about \$40 billion. Insurance company obligations are presumed to exceed \$25 billion, and relatives of victims

are expected to seek about \$5 billion.

Included in all this lost revenue, the city may lose about 115,000 jobs. The loss of jobs may have a direct effect on SCW and SSSB students, especially those who are graduating within the year and would be looking for future jobs that are business related or located near the trade center. It may thus be either impossible to find a job or students will be obligated to settle for jobs that won't be as convenient to commute to as the city.

Since America was already heading toward a recession, "the attacks couldn't have come at a worse time," said one retail analyst, and basically no aspect of the economy has

been spared a strong decrease in recent earnings. One retail consultant talked about how the retail business, especially retail clothing would be hit quite hard, including such stores as the Gap, Abercrombie and Fitch, and Saks.

Although it may not be possible for all of us to spend as much as we'd like to, it is our duty as American citizens to keep this economy going. Let us not have our confidence debilitated. We must go about our everyday lives and show the terrorists of the world that they cannot let our spirits falter. We owe it to ourselves, but most of all we owe it to our brothers and sisters living in Israel who have to deal with this everyday.

CROSSWORD

ANSWERS

Crossword on page 19

K	O	P	S	T	H	A	W	I	A	N	
E	Y	R	E	R	E	N	O	C	I	O	
G	L	A	N	C	E	T	R	A	I	L	S
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New Dorm Life

continued from back page

everyone, which makes it feel small and homey.

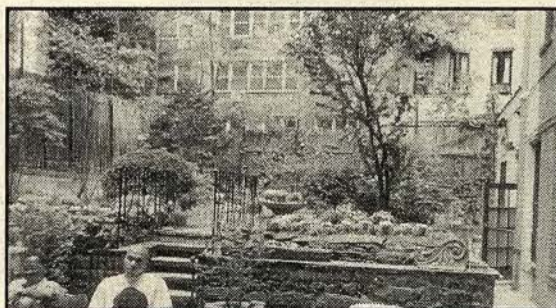
In fact, not only is the number of new dorm residents small but the size of each individual room is also relatively small. "At first, it seemed like a matchbox," SCW student Shira Sasson observed, "but it really has everything you need." Almost all of the students interviewed said that they get used to the small size and enjoy the luxury of having everything they need in very close proximity. In addition, they enjoy the new and clean atmosphere in the rooms. Each room has a bed, desk, closet, dresser, sink, and full-length mirror. One major perk is that each bedroom has its own digitally operated air conditioner, which can be adjusted to an exact temperature with the push of a button. The sink in each room is handy, but clearly limited in size. "The sink in the room is perfect for *negel vasser* (ritual washing of hands)," stated Faygie Bomzer, SCW student, "but not for anything else besides washing your face."

One accommodation that differentiates 36th Street

from the other dorms is the fact that all the students must use communal bathrooms. For some, this is quite uncomfortable while for others it is only a small disadvantage. Each floor has a bathroom containing four stalls and four showers, but in order to get in the bathroom, the student must use her room key. Most students feel that using a key is an annoyance, especially after having had bathrooms attached to their rooms in the past. There seems to be no problem waiting for shower use, with everyone working on different schedules. Although the idea of a communal bathroom may sound old fashioned and unappealing to some, here on 36th Street it comes with an advantage: daily cleaning service. Every day the bathrooms are cleaned, and toilet paper is provided. In addition, garbage is collected daily when a resident places it outside her room.

Another potentially annoying factor in the dorm is

the fact that there are no elevators in the building. The residents must walk up and down to the fourth and fifth floors every day. For some, this is slightly annoying while others have gotten used to it as part of daily living, and one resident says she enjoys the exercise. "I don't mind the steps, but I wish they offered services to carry suitcases up



and down the steps," commented Bomzer, although she later stated that anytime she had a request, security took care of it immediately. In fact, moving day was reported to have gone smoothly, as security facilitated the process by providing suitcases and other transport items.

Other inconveniences characterize daily life in the new

dorm. The fresh smell of paint permeates throughout the building, which offends some students. Until recently, local van service did not extend to the new dorm, causing students to have to walk from the school building as late as one a.m. Finally, the laundry room in the new dorm has not yet been installed, and some students need to carry their dirty clothes to utilize the washing machines and dryers in the Brookdale basement. However, the cleaners adjoining the new dorm has agreed to provide laundry services at a discount to the 36th street residents.

The workout room, library (Beit Midrash), and computer lab have not been set up yet, but the building has its own highlights. The residents seem to really enjoy the splash of nature from the outdoor garden, with access from the lobby. "I like the garden," resident Natania Wright said. "Having plants and flowers in the middle of Manhattan is my favorite part [of the building]. I hope to go there more to study

and eat outside." Some residents mentioned that they like to read and relax in the garden in their free time. There has even been a sukkah built there in respect for the holiday. Several residents have also been very impressed with the elegant and spacious TV lounge in the lobby.

One last factor that makes the new dorm unique is its physical location. Unlike Brookdale, which is located on 34th Street, the new dorm is located on a smaller street with less traffic. "Here it's more residential, unlike 34th St. which is part of a business district," Frank stated. "The overall feeling here is different since it's not on a huge street." Others commented on the enjoyable residential environment as well as the close proximity to the school building.

But despite its inconveniences, the general sentiment seems to be positive regarding the new dorm. As Shira Sasson remarked, "When something is new, how bad can it be?"

Ethernet in the Dorms: Excellent or Elusive?

By: Alexandra Beard

Students in the Schottenstein and Brookdale dormitories now have direct Ethernet access to the Internet from their rooms, thanks to the University's Residence Hall Networking Project called Resnet, the residential portion of the Yeshiva University Manhattan campuses' computer network. The goal of the project is to provide Internet connectivity for undergraduate students housed in Y.U. residence halls.

With Ethernet, students can connect to the Internet from their p.c through an internal connection line without tying up the phone. The advantages are obvious. "I find that using the Ethernet in my dorm is much more convenient than having to dialing up to a phone line," says Chava Hartman, a SCW junior. "Using the system is easy, as well."

Instructions as to how to install the program were provided to students in a booklet upon move-in, and are also available online. "I was able to install it myself using the instructions given online. Besides the occasional rebooting because it sometimes doesn't connect properly to my computer, for the most part the Ethernet works very well and is fast and efficient," comments Mindy Rothstein. "A word of advice: MIS suggested to purchase a '3COM' network card which costs \$150. You can buy a no-namer for \$40 and it works just the same."

Other students have not

had such luck in installing Ethernet in their rooms. "I have the same room this year in Schottenstein as last year, and I still cannot get Ethernet access," says Naomi Friedman, a SCW senior. "I called MIS to fix it last year,



and I've called them this year, but they haven't done anything about it yet."

And the dormitory at Windsor doesn't offer Ethernet which makes some students, such as Dani Weiss, feel out of the loop. "It gets to be annoying for those of us who don't want to go through the bother of getting a landline because we have cell phones. That means we can't get online from our dorms," Weiss, a SCW junior, explains. "Even if we were offered the system, I have no idea how to use it and I am only aware of a few of its advantages."

Some aren't even fully aware that the network exists. "No, I'm not using the Ethernet in the dorms, but it sounds vaguely familiar," comments Ariella Goldstein.

But for the most part, students are aware that the Ethernet in the dorms is available and offers speedy and convenient Internet access. "I was really excited when I heard that we have Ethernet in Brookdale this year, but to tell you the truth, I haven't

taken advantage of it yet. I still have to install my network," admits Alisa Rose. "I think Ethernet is a great idea and I am planning on using the system, but I just haven't bought a card yet," says Aviva Krombach, a SCW senior.

"I am not using the Ethernet connection because I do not have a computer in my room," explains Kim Davis, a SCW junior. "I am aware of it, but I don't know how it works, how to use it or it's advantages!"

Even though YU is offering this benefit, it does not mean that all students should and must own a p.c. According to the ResNet website, "The use of a pc in the residence halls is optional and not a requirement of the University. The University provides access to computers in a number of locations on campus. There are nearly 400 computers readily available in various computer laboratories, classrooms, the Library and other locations at the Midtown and Main campuses."

While both desktop and laptops computers are appropriate for the system, students are encouraged to utilize laptops, as they save space in dorm rooms and are mobile around campus.

For more information on ResNet and instructions, including minimum system requirements and connection details, go to www.yu.edu/mis/resnet.htm or email ANS Academic Computing at resnet@ymail.yu.edu.

Cell Phone, Dorm Phone or Both?

By: Chava Hartman

Due to major hassles that arose last year in installing Verizon phone service, a number of students have opted to forgo a dorm phone and rely solely on their cell phones. I got ripped off last year so there really is no point in continuing with them" says Adina Lastoff, an SCW junior.

Cell phones have the bonus of convenience. Students and parents feel safer knowing they have a way to get in touch at all times if necessary. "When I go away people still have a way to contact me," says Ilanit Newton, an SCW sophomore.

In addition, students sign up for wireless service because the plans often come with free long distance, making it fairly inexpensive to speak

to family and friends back home.

However, there are still those that remain loyal to Verizon and have signed up for phone service again this year. "My apartment does not have Ethernet, so I need a phone line to go online," says Marissa Varnai, an SCW junior. "It is also easier to make local calls from a regular phone, as well as to call people within the Stern buildings."

Responding to the surplus of cell phones on campus, Mrs. Gordon, the computer lab instructor, has instituted a new rule in the computer lab. Students are not allowed to use cell phones while in the computer lab because "it is disturbing, and the computer room is not a lounge area - it is a work area and it disturbs people who are working in the room."

YU Ranked #41

continued from front page

YU's ranking several days before the survey was published, attributes the change in YU's rank to the university's concerted efforts to keep class size down, hire more faculty members and improve the university's academics. "The Honors Programs at both YC and SCW helped," Lowengrub adds. However, he notes that while YU has definitely improved in many areas, "this [ranking] does not really tell the whole story." Lowengrub admits that while "[YU's] ranking helps attract students who might have other choices," its strong dual curriculum plays a greater role in attracting undergraduate students.

One such student is Hadassa Kolchir, a freshman who came to SCW not because of its academic ranking, but because she was "looking for a place where I could continue my Judaic education while getting a secular education at the same time." Indeed, many

prospective undergraduates and current YU students are unaware of YU's prestigious rank, and they choose YU for its dual curriculum and social advantages.

Similarly, Liora Kasten, a junior who transferred to SCW this semester, admits that while she doesn't care much about YU's rank among other universities, "it helps to know that YU is getting up there, so maybe when I apply to graduate school they will have heard about YU and the fact that it's a pretty good school."

Still, Lowengrub stresses that as YU becomes a more competitive university, the administration will work hard to continue offering excellent undergraduate opportunities to its students. "We want to match our needs to our capacity," he says. "It is very important to offer as much opportunity as possible to students who can handle a dual curriculum."

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Model U.N. Issues

continued from front page

great endeavor," explained Ross.

To quickly recover from the time lost by Fischer's sudden departure, the Admissions Office, which runs Model U.N., had no choice but to appoint Barnea because he had been the most involved in the preparation process.

Administrators are quick to acknowledge that the situation is far from ideal. "We don't want any gender to be three years in a row," said Michael Kranzler, Director of Admissions. "We tried to make every effort to get another woman. We're all upset about this."

The leadership of Model U.N. had successfully alternated between SCW and YC until last year, when Joshua Summers became the second YC student in a row to run the conference. According to Kranzler, the only qualified women either graduated or declined the position.

This trend has some worrying that the inability to enlist a woman for the role of Secretary General may be indicative of a greater problem. Although unflattering, there is the notion that SCW students may be less likely to accept roles that demand a lot of responsibility. Kranzler suggested that it was easier in general to find students willing to lead the conference in its beginning years,

because it was much smaller and did not appear to be such a daunting task as it is now. "There were more capable people around to run a smaller event than a larger event," said Kranzler.

Although Dean Karen Bacon promptly dismissed the charge that women do not take on leadership roles as a generalization, she did admit that the women lack enthusiasm and commitment to Model U.N., perhaps because of the weakness of the political science department. "Without that strong faculty support," said Bacon, "the women may feel insufficiently encouraged to take on the responsibility."

Another, more politically correct, obstacle for women is the fact that the administrators in charge of Model U.N. are in the Admissions Office — on the uptown campus. "It works with the boys well, because they're there, uptown," Ross noted. "If there's a glitch or a problem, [Barnea's] right there." Indeed, the job of Secretary General requires hours of work each week, and might require a woman to be uptown a significant amount of time, said Ross. "It's a fundamental issue," said Dean Bacon. "Stern students don't have immediate access to sources of information."

Ryan Hyman from the Admissions Office claims, however, that it is not necessary for the work to be done

in the Admissions Office uptown. According to him, the work can be done anywhere, and he can always be contacted by phone.

In fact, Hyman insists that the utmost is done to ensure equality between the two colleges and convenience for Stern students. The fourteen to sixteen committee chairs each year are allocated equally to the two colleges, and preparatory meetings throughout the year alternate between the two campuses. "I don't mind going out of my way," said Hyman. "I want to go [to midtown] to help Stern out." There is hope that the Admissions Office slated to officially open soon at the midtown campus will alleviate some of the pressure.

Although it seems to be Model U.N.'s largest issue right now, alienating women is not the only injustice the conference is accused of. Complaints have surfaced recently that appointments to the Model U.N. staff reek of favoritism. "Two years ago when I first got involved, there was an application process, with an interview. This year there was nothing like that at all," says SCW Senior Susanne Goldstone, who will chair a committee this year.

Many people believe that, instead of an application process open to everyone, Model U.N. leaders simply chose people they knew to be committee chairs. However,

continued on page 18

Evacuation

continued from page 7

got there."

Despite the supposed calmness of the students after the event, a series of complications occurred in the tumult of 34th street that necessitated the appearance of a *hatzalah* ambulance sometime after midnight. One student sustained a cut on



Brookdale Hall

her foot, and another student took off her high heeled shoes to run barefoot to the East River but remained unharmed. At least two students and one security guard experienced different degrees of asthma attacks caused by inhaling the putrid air of 34th street; some of them were eventually brought to the hospital, but quickly treated and released, according to Dean Himber. Nevertheless, or maybe especially because of the situation, there was a large turnout for the 1 A.M. *selichos* that took place in

Koch auditorium.

But the controversy surrounding the Brookdale Hall evacuation did not end that night. After a very tense night, some students were enraged that classes were in session the next morning. "I couldn't believe that they had class the next day," commented Sara Epstein, SCW sophomore. "It was late... how are we supposed to function for a 9 a.m. class?"

"I feel that the school did not handle it well the next morning," seconded Shmuel. "The administration was insensitive to make people show up for class at 9 A.M. after having been kicked out of their rooms until almost midnight."

Students noticed the disparity between the events of the preceding night and those during the day. "It was wierd that so much happened at night and life went on as usual during the day," noted Masha Igel, SCW sophomore.

In response to student complaints about the continuation of classes, Dean Bacon maintains that the structure of a normal routine was of paramount importance during a time of chaos. "I don't think it was at all negative to have classes," commented Dean Bacon. "It provided structure and a reality check that many students needed. People were free not to attend and I don't think faculty in anyway penalized those students who didn't attend." In addition, student leaders and the administra-

tion did organize to have Rabbi Kanarfogel address the student population during the universal lunchbreak on Thursday.

In the weeks after the evacuation, SCW is still reeling from the impact. Many out of town students did not return on the "in between days" between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur in response to the terror in Manhattan. On Tzom Gedaliah, the number of returning students, according to a security check at noon, was only 300 of the 500 Brookdale residents. Classes were conducted with a 60-70% attendance record, a number sufficiently normal according to Dean Bacon. However, it is unclear how many of these students were not planning on coming back anyway and how many modified their plans in response to the World Trade Center tragedy.

The administration plans to make some changes in emergency responses. Security intends to have increased fire drills and enforced emergency plans. "The best thing we learned from this is that we have to train students," asserted Gorman. Further, Dean Bacon plans to assemble student leaders to form a committee led by Dr. Perlman to determine what changes the university needs to make. "Hopefully we will never experience anything like this again," asserted Himber. "In spite of this, we want better plans in place for the future."

The Guide's Difficulties

continued from front page

Soroka, on why he agreed to the editorship for a second year. "We worked as hard as we could, with a lot of sleepless nights, and we weren't able to come out by Orientation."

When Soroka decided to work on *The Guide* in August he asked his co-editor from last year to suggest a female counterpart. Weiss said she only agreed to do *The Guide* because Soroka, a friend, was in a tight spot. "She did me a big favor," agreed Soroka.

These miscommunications between *The Guide* and the Student Council as well as the difficulties in finding and retaining editors, is a common scenario in *The Guide's* past. In the last years, three of the editors, one of them being Soroka, repeated their leadership for a second year because of inability to attract new editors.

Prior to last year, both Parts I and II were given out after Succos. Last year, while Part I came out during Orientation, Part II only appeared around January. *The Guide* partially blamed this delay on lack of student input and a small staff.

But some people question whether the staff is appointed in the most efficient manner possible. SCW Student Council had little, if any, role this year in the appointment of the female co-editor. Additionally, in the past, a few students have claimed they wanted to work on *The Guide* but did not know how to go about getting involved, and were not contacted when they expressed initial interest.

The tedious work on *The Guide* requires students' generously donating time from their summer vacation, to update and reorganize the information in Part I, such as checking kosher restaurants and re-listing Broadway shows and clubs. After printing, the staff must also collate the 2,000 plus copies, which can take over a day.

Some have suggested paying *The Guide* staff, since their work is grueling and needs to be done over summer break. However, Soroka, speaking for *The*

Guide, rejected this proposition. "There's not a fair way to get paid," said Soroka. "And students shouldn't do it to get paid." The Student Councils have also not made any suggestions to this effect.

Another difficulty is that it seems doubly hard to find SCW students to join the staff. "It's harder to find a girl than a guy," said Soroka. "I don't know why." This year's guide, according to Soroka, was clearly dominated by YC students.

With Weiss resigning, *The Guide* is left without a female representative, and it is unclear whether a new SCW head will be appointed. When questioned, Student Council said it had not been informed of Weiss' resignation and therefore had no plans for a replacement. A female representative is necessary as a contact on campus for *The Guide*, as well as a reflection of the cost that is split equally between the two student councils. "[Soleimani] should be appointing a new editor," said Soroka. "I hope she is."

Last-minute reorganization for the distribution of Part I at midtown might be necessary due to Weiss' resignation, since final responsibility now may fall to the Student Council. *The Guide* was to be delivered on September 11th and then before Rosh Hashana. The delivery was delayed because of the Twin Towers tragedy, and only arrived at Yeshiva the week of Yom Kippur. Distribution at the uptown campus began the day before Yom Kippur. Distribution at midtown is slated for this week.

The Guide this year, with a theme of Harry Potter, features a new calendar section, a planner with candle lighting and holiday times. Additionally, Soroka hopes to introduce a Part III, to appear in January, as an address book for students returning to Yeshiva in the spring semester. Sign up for Part II of *The Guide* will only be available online this year, at their website <http://guide.yucs.org>.

Clubs at SCW

continued from page 10

Green's election, she would like to get him to speak at SCW. Also, Meshel says that they intend to bring in people from different parties. "I might be a democrat, but I'd invite community leaders/politicians from any party, to hear all sides of issues," she says.

Sara Brodsky, an SCW junior, wants other students to know that there is a country very close to the United States. Therefore, she decided to start the Canada Club, which was actually started before, but hasn't been active in SCW in many years. She says that the club is meant to be inclusive, embracing students of all nationalities. It will allow participants to experience Canadian culture, and mostly will be a way for all students, especially Canadians, to get together, meet new people and have fun. Events planned for the club include movie nights and a hockey game.

Dr. Kanarfogel

continued from page 10

ment in SCW's department of Jewish Studies. Dean Bacon sees this development primarily as a result of Dr. Kanarfogel's unswerving dedication to his students and


Several of the TAC clubs focus on reaching out to others in the community. The Homeless Soup Kitchen Club organizes students to spend some time helping those less fortunate that they are. Participating students visit to a homeless soup kitchen where they help feed the hungry.

In the Adopt-a-Bubbie Club, students get to know people from a local senior citizen center. Once a week, they eat lunch together and participate in other events. The students gain valuable experiences from spending time with the elderly, and the bubbies enjoy spending time with the SCW students.

Go to the club fairs, sign up for activities that interest you, and happy clubbing!

his studies, exhibited both in the past and the present. "Dr. Kanarfogel is interested in devoting more time and mental attention to students and research, and it [his position expansion] will of course prove to benefit the entire college because he is so devoted to his students already."



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YU Students and Aliyah

continued from page 10

SCW students said they didn't know, and 16 SCW students said no. By contrast, 59 YC students said yes, 27 YC students said they didn't know, and 14 YC students said no. In response to the question "do you think that Bnai Yisrael has a chiyuv to make aliyah?" 47 SCW students said yes, 25 SCW students said they didn't know, and 28 SCW students said no. Similarly, 50 YC students said yes, 19 YC students said they didn't know, and 31 YC students said no.

This random survey indicates that the majority of YU students want to make aliyah and think that Jews have a chiyuv to make aliyah. "I know that Bnai Yisrael has a chiyuv to make aliyah," says Ezra Levine, who is making aliyah this summer with Kumah. "I would say simply say that anyone that prays three times a day with sincerity, anyone that says birkat hamazon after meals and listens to the words he or she is saying, anyone who listens to the Torah portion we read each week - cannot help but feel a spiritual urge and obligation to go where a Jew belongs. It is an imperative for Jews to go live in Israel - I promise it is where God wants you to be."

Hillel Deutsch, YC senior, also thinks Bnai Yisrael has a chiyuv to make aliyah. "The vast majority of chachmei yisrael either write explicitly that there is a mitzvah to live in Israel, like the Ramban, or consider living in

Israel to be a prerequisite to being a true member of Klal Yisrael," he states. "Additionally, there are so many mitzvot that require living in Israel that any Jew living in chutz laaretz is, in some sense, only a half-Jew in terms of kiyumei hamitzvot."

Julie Pianko, a senior at SCW, is planning on making aliyah. "Many people say that they can't make aliyah because they can't leave their parents, yet many parents openly admit that if the majority of their children would be in Eretz Yisrael, they would have no choice but to make aliyah also," Pianko asserts.

On the other side of the spectrum, some YU students do not want to make aliyah and do not think that Jews have a chiyuv to live in Israel. "I feel it's very important for Jews to make aliyah, but I don't feel it's an obligation," says Aliza Blumenfeld, a sophomore at SCW. "If it was an obligation, then people who don't do it would be doing something wrong, and I don't agree with that at all. The only time it becomes an obligation and a truly kadosh thing to do is when Mashiach comes. I think American support for the country is just as important as moving there. I think Israel needs strong voices from here and there in order for it to become loud enough to be heard throughout the world."

Elisheva Douglas, a sophomore at SCW, also does not want to make aliyah

and does not think that Jews have a chiyuv. "I am a rare breed here at Stern - I am not a Zionist and decidedly not pro-Israel or pro-aliyah," comments Douglas. "The difference is I care about the people rather than the country. I feel that people had and have no right to attempt the formation of a state, particularly a secular state, in Eretz Yisroel. While waiting for Moshiach, may be a tedious task, it is the only way we can expect a true return to our land. We've been waiting for thousands of years, and we can keep waiting."

Many YU students were undecided about aliyah and if it were a mitzvah chiyuv. Orly Elisha falls into this category. Elisha, a senior at SCW, wants to make aliyah if G-d wants her to. "It is true that it is a mitzvah to live in Eretz Yisrael yet it is only one out of 613," says Elisha. "Another one of the mitzvot is 'veahavta et raecha.' We have a responsibility for our fellow Jews, especially spiritually. The kollel in Yerushalem doesn't need me as much as that little city in the middle of Colorado with 100,000 Jews and no shul. What every Jew needs to figure out is what gifts G-d gave them and where they would be able to optimize them the most to reach the goal. A G-d conscious world."

Honors Program Comparison

continued from page 11

special permission. Downtown any student with good academic standing may register for any honors class. "I never had a problem getting into the honors class." Dee Dee Lax, an SCW senior says, "I think it's nice that they have it available to students on campus." At what level are the honors classes at SCW, though?

Dr. Wachtell explains that the honors courses are supposed to "draw upon students thinking and analysis, library work and primary materials." Ruthie Ephron, an SCW senior, testifies that "the honors classes are a lot more challenging, you do gain more from them, and you put in more effort." But that is not the only opinion. "A lot of these honors courses really aren't on as high a level as they're purported to be, one Honors Program member complained. "Supposedly everything is at a higher level, they make it like their talking about more important issues or they assign one extra paper, but the caliber of the work wasn't any higher than my other classes." And although some find the required events of the program to be rewarding, many women complain that they are just time consuming and pointless.

Any woman with a certain GPA can take honors classes, but they cannot participate in the program without filling out a lengthy application. They are meant to enter SCW from high school in the program, which means that if they did not do well in high school they are automatically banned from the program at Stern. Although there are a few slots open for current students to transfer into the program, transferring while at SCW is not the encouraged method for getting into the program. Chani Schubert, former SCWSC president says, "It isn't fair that the Honors Program is not open to all students. It should be open to everyone and the requirements should be to maintain a certain GPA to be in the program." Otherwise the program becomes elitist and unfair. There is no honors program offered for the students at Sy Syms. Aviva

Muller, an SCW senior, mentions "I wish they would offer honors classes for Sy Syms classes." By not doing, so a large part of the downtown community is excluded despite academic excellence and motivation.

The program is meant to remain small and close-knit, but in doing so it cuts off a lot of students who would otherwise be eligible. Many students have the grades, just not the opportunity. They either do not know about the program when applying to Stern or only become interested when in Stern. Why is the program only widely available to entering students? Dr. Wachtell explains that having disciplined students at SCW raises the level of learning for everyone and benefits the whole college "by improving the school's reputation. In order to attract students you give them high



academic scholarships and perks." It is only a perk if it is not available to everyone, so the majority of students must be excluded.

For both uptown and downtown programs, Dr. Wachtell says "the content is the same behind both, but they each have their own faculty board overseeing, so in essence they are the same but how they play out is different." In most ways, the programs are completely different, but both suffer from the same criticism that in only focusing on enriching the honors students, the school neglects the rest of the student body's basic educational needs. Yehuda Shmidman put it best, "You don't make the icing when you don't have a cake."

Online Education

continued from page 10

possibility of online education. "I like classes the way they are," remarked Bruria Kaganoff, SCW senior. "I like seeing my teachers. If you have a question, you can ask them to their face, and the questions of other students also help you."

"Part of class is learning from the teacher along with learning from fellow students," agreed Tamar Ellman, SCW junior. "If you wanted raw knowledge, you could just read a book."

Despite the fact that SCW has never offered - nor does it currently plan to offer - a course online, some faculty members have taught online courses at other universities. For example, Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Honors Program, taught online courses at the New School for Social Research, including Vietnam literature and Secrets of the South, a course that she taught at SCW last semester. "Online teaching can work," asserted Wachtell. "It's a different experience. You don't see students face to face and obviously there are benefits and costs to that. I personally prefer live, but it's another way of learning."

Although the general sentiment opposes online education, teachers and students are more divided regarding incorporating online elements into the classroom. These could include recommending web research, encouraging email communication, and creating an online site for the course. Some students applaud this endeavor to utilize

technology to enhance the classroom experience, and are often regretful that it is not used more.

"If you ask me whether I think more teachers should use it, I would say yes because you need to keep up," commented Aviva Davis, SCW senior. "It's chaval not to use what's there. The internet can be a tremendous teaching tool if used properly."

However, some students disagree with the move to further integrate technology in the classroom, claiming that the advantages would be negligible compared with the increased hassle - for the teachers to have to constantly update their webpage, and for the students to have to constantly check the webpage for additional assignments. "I don't see any reason to make it more online except that they'd be giving us more work," commented Lea Greenspan, SCW sophomore, "and we don't need that."

Finally, some students believe that it would be beneficial to increase technological use in the classroom, but the initiative should come from the teachers and not the administration.

"I think it's up to the teacher," observed Yael Ariel, SCW sophomore. "Imparting knowledge is the teacher's responsibility but the method of education should be his choice. I don't think it's a good idea for the administration to push teachers to use more of the internet. It would be a silly requirement for the teachers that would end up taking away from our education in the end."

Although not an official policy, some individual teachers have registered their classes on blackboard.com. Last semester, Finance 1001 was registered on blackboard.com, Discreet Structure is registered this semester, and Professor Hatvary registers all her English classes on the site. However, Hatvary has expressed disappointment that the advantages provided by blackboard.com were not fully utilized by her students.

"I was surprised because I thought they would use it more," commented Hatvary. The reason for this phenomenon, she supposes, was because "I don't think all of them were all that computer savvy. A lot of them were uneasy around computers."

However, some students believe that the online site may be more trouble than it is worth. Teachers will often post the homework only on the online site, requiring students to check the web site before completing the assignment. "I find it annoying that just to get my homework, I have to hook up my phone line, sign on, and write it down anyway," asserted Davis.

On the other hand, Dean Bacon believes that the information available online would also be available in the classroom, and thus would avoid this potential drawback. "At the moment, we don't intend to have that if you don't get material online, you can't get it at all," stated Bacon.

University officials plan to eventually have the entire university registered under blackboard.com. Not only would this provide a unified system for online course material, but it would afford additional advantages that the teachers who register individually don't have access to.

In addition to registering a class online, a simpler form of an online accessory to a course includes email communication between the professors and the students. Many professors advertise their email address on their syllabus and encourage student communication. Hatvary asserts that many of her students are in contact through email communication asking for her input on their assignment drafts. On the other hand, many students maintain that although teachers often ask for the email addresses of their students, they don't often utilize this information.

"None of my classes have an online component," remarked Greenspan. "Even though the teachers ask for our email addresses, no one really contacts me."

But despite the fact that email communication is not always used to its fullest, students assert the desirability of such communication. "I think everyone has email so it would

be helpful for the teachers to tell students if class were canceled," commented Kaganoff.

Finally, the barest minimum of technology that students debate is whether a teacher's syllabus should appear on SCW's webpage. Some students do not see any need for an online syllabus. "As long as they give it out, we don't need it online," Greenspan asserted.

On the other hand, many students agree that an online syllabus could prove useful in selecting a class and in enforcing that teachers have a syllabus. Apparently, some measures have been taken to try to update the webpage, but none completed. However, some teachers are hesitant to put their syllabi online, claiming that "I could see why some teachers hesitate to put it online," commented Wachtel. "Once it's online, it's accessible to anyone in the world and some teachers are uncomfortable with that."

The entire concept of online education marks an interesting development in technology's affect on society, where having a computer was once a luxury, it now is a necessity. And as more classes move to incorporate more online components into classroom instruction, the social implications of the internet have only yet begun to be understood.

Sports Corner

Volleyball and Basketball Classes Rearranged

Lady Macs Join Basketball Conference

By: Observer Staff

The Lady Macs, SCW's basketball team, have joined the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference starting the 2001-2002 school year. Until present, the Lady Macs have been an independent team and have not been a member of a conference since the independent conference they were members of in the past dissolved. In searching for a new conference, the Lady Macs applied for membership to Hudson Valley last year and have been accepted for the present school year.

The conference involves

eight teams that will play against the Lady Macs during the year at least once. On February 9 and 10, the Lady Macs will join their fellow conference teams in a conference tournament.

"The advantage of the Lady Macs joining the conference is that it gives team members something to shoot for in terms of an opportunity for a championship tournament with trophies and honors," explains Dr. Richard Zerneck. "It is positive for our team members to be involved, and we expect the team to do well and be competent in the conference tournament."

By: Alexandra Beard

In a scramble to hire new instructors at the beginning of the Fall 2001 semester, both volleyball and basketball classes did some switching around – in both scheduling and hiring teachers. Thursday night's volleyball class taught by Madeline Toliver was cancelled, attributed to a conflict in duties of the instructor. In addition, the basketball class offered this semester was also cancelled at late notice. Nevertheless, SCW managed to secure new instructors for both classes, and made some new additions to the physical education course lineup to accommodate student's schedule changes.

"There was a lot of aggravation, many phone calls,

letters and emails, but we were able to find new instructors," explains Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics and Physical Education. Toliver, the former volleyball instructor, was quickly replaced by Viki Qui, the men's assistant volleyball coach at Y.C. But finding an instructor to replace Ms. Zonis, the former basketball teacher, was more of a challenge. Finally, a 2001 SCW graduate, Chana Rosenblatt, was hired to teach the advanced basketball class Monday nights.

"I'm really looking forward to being the basketball instructor during this semester and I think students realize that although I'm friends with some of them, there has to be some difference in our relationship on the court. I don't expect there to

be any conflict" comments Rosenblatt. "Students are excited to finally have a basketball course and seem to be enthusiastic to have someone like me to be their instructor."

With the cancellation of the beginning and intermediate basketball courses, a second volleyball class is being offered also on Monday nights. Therefore, instead of the usual two basketball classes and one volleyball class per semester, SCW has offered two volleyball and one basketball class instead.

"We know this has been last minute, but we have tried to be flexible in accommodating to students' schedules," Zerneck explains.

Dougies Confusion Resolved

continued from back page

According to Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, "Any food event on campus has to come through Food Services, to make sure the kashrus is okay." However, David Himber, Dean of Student Services, said that not all events have to go through Food Services and that his office often does not demand that student leaders to submit their plans to Food Services.

Dougie's switched its hashgacha in May after its contract with the OU expired. "We wanted to look for a different hashgacha," said Douglas Soclof, owner of Dougie's. "It's more flexible to expand under the OK."

The Orthodox Union began supervi-

sion of Yeshiva Food Services in 1997, before which Yeshiva had an in-house Rav Hamachshir who oversaw numerous mashgichim on the various campuses. When Rabbi Phillip Reiss decided to retire, Yeshiva decided to switch over to the OU.



"Around the time for [Rabbi Reiss] to retire there was no one in the wings to replace him," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services. "The OU is well known and in consonance with the halachic ideology of most of those at YU."

Twist of Faith

continued from page 19

provides minimal transitions, Mr. Newman fulfills the complex task of smoothly developing his character throughout a soul-searching ordeal. Mr. Schapiro fails in this aspect, though more as a result of the script than of his own accord.

The music is composed and performed by Avi Kunstler on guitar. He solves the problem of describing the beauty of the Sabbath, its bittersweet departure, and the self-discovery of studying in Jerusalem, by incorporating these experiences through song. This highlights the difficulty of not having musically trained actors, but

Mr. Newman continues to shine during this difficult juncture.

Mr. Kunstler's earthy voice and folk-style melodies are pleasant companions to the serious subject matter, but the songs sung solely in Hebrew break the momentum, while the songs sung both in Hebrew and English add to the energy. This observation may diminish the play's emotional aspect and stem from a religious bias that the majority of the audience will not understand Hebrew, which reverts to the fascinating and original question the show raises to Jewish theater-goers, how does one separate religion and an appreciation of drama from theater? Or better yet, does it need to be separated?

Come to the T.A.C. Club Fair and get
involved!

Wednesday, October 17th

@ 8:30pm

Koch Auditorium

We Want You!!!

Cultural Arts

HEALTH BULLETIN: Coping with Trauma

By: Ami Flatt

As the world reacts to terrorism on America's shores, each of us is affected both emotionally and physically by the events of September 11. Shock, tension, anxiety, and stress are rampant, particularly throughout the streets of Manhattan. Many feel a sense of lost innocence and wonder if they will ever feel safe again. A SCW senior remarks, "I am scared to roam the streets, and I shudder when I hear a plane overhead."

"I think right now people are going to have a lot of fear, and that is normal," anxiety expert Jerilyn Ross, MA, tells WebMD. "Even people who normally feel very strong and together may find themselves weepy or unable to sleep or concentrate. They may also be terrified of things they normally don't think about, like sending their kids off on the school bus or taking public transportation." Ross is president of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America and author of the book *Triumph over Fear*. Ross recommends making efforts to resume a normal schedule as quickly as possible and says it is important to follow routine eating, sleeping, and exercise patterns.

Levy, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, leads the community outreach arm of the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute. He says that even as far away from the Pentagon and World Trade Center as California people are exhibiting signs of acute stress. "I think millions of people are feeling this now, and it is important for us to know that," Levy says.

Levy emphasizes the importance of awareness. He relates, "If you are coming to a speed bump in the road, you slow down. The more we know about the abnormal responses we will have, the more prepared we are and the less disruptive they are. People who won't ever get PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) but who break down crying and have waves of emotion feel they are losing it. It is important for people to hear that this is normal. These are the predictable ways people have of responding to traumatic events."

Russell J. Kormann, Ph.D., associate director of the post-traumatic stress disorder program at Rutgers University's Anxiety Disorders Clinic stresses the fact that these emotions are normal reactions to terror. "My mantra has been to give credit to the trauma," he says. "This is a horrific event. We have to give it its just due. If you are feeling full of distress, that makes some sense. Give people permission - give yourself permission - to feel those feelings as sensible and not as an overreaction. And if you are having strong feelings, you are going to have to do what you may not want to do - talk about it with others." Thus, it is crucial for us to acknowledge that our fears and anxieties are valid and normal.

Students Hurry to Sign up for Metropolitan Experience

By: Kayla Klatzkin

On the evening of October 16, Schottenstein's first floor lounge will be bustling with students. Many will wait patiently in line for hours to get much coveted tickets to Broadway shows. Others will arrive closer to 7:00 PM, when the doors officially open, and settle for opera tickets, an elegant dining experience, or perhaps chamber music. This program, known as the Metropolitan Experience, is designed to give students a taste of Manhattan culture. "It's a nice thing because we're given a great chance to experience different things in the city,"



Music Man is one of the Events featured in the Metropolitan Experience

says Sahar Solaimanzadeh, SCW Senior and avid Metropolitan Experience participant.

Metropolitan Experience events are free, and with perks like great seats to Broadway shows, operas, and other performances, the long lines are easily explained. However, some feel that these lines make the Metropolitan Experience not worth attending. "The Metropolitan experience is something that I say I'd like to take advantage of each year," comments Alana Sher, SCW Senior, "but when it comes time to stand around in line, I never go through with it." Sher, however, does admit that "it is worth it for those who have the patience to wait."

The Metropolitan Experience events take place between October 22 and December

11. More than 200 slots are available for Metropolitan Experience events, with one slot per student. From the total of 12 events, the Broadway shows offered are *Aida* and *The Music Man*, both big hits, the opera selections are *Mikado* and *The Magic Flute*, and the restaurants include *Va Bene* along with two other fine dining experiences.

Another unique element to The Metropolitan Experience is that it provides an opportunity to spend time with faculty members outside of the classroom setting. Faculty serves as

guides to each event. "It's a great way to get to know faculty that you might not otherwise get to meet," explains Solaimanzadeh.

Much work goes into the planning of The Metropolitan Experience events. A committee of five students met in May and carefully selected each event and the faculty members that are to participate. Beth Hiat, Coordinator of Student Services, welcomes ideas for future Metropolitan Experience events, which may in turn be suggested to future committees.

MOVIE REVIEW OF *O*

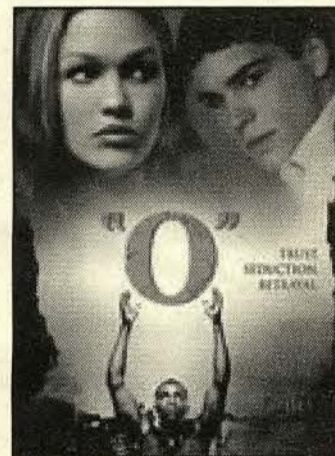
By: Ami Flatt

O is a modern day remake of Shakespeare's "Othello." Odin, played by Mekhi Phifer, is a black basketball star in an elite, Southern, all white prep school. Hugo, played by Josh Hartnett, is jealous of Odin and despises him. Hugo tries to convince Odin that his girlfriend, Desi, played by Julia Stiles, is unfaithful to him. Through the manipulation and exploitation of their weaknesses, Hugo incorporates his roommate Roger (Elden Henson), his girlfriend Emily (Rain Phoenix), and Odin's best friend Michael Cassio (Andrew Keegan) into his plot. However, as the championship basketball game approaches, Hugo's twisted scheme turns more destructive than planned and the evening amounts to a true Shakespearean tragedy.

O accurately illustrates the themes of race, class, and gender that are woven into "Othello." Odin is black, Desi is white, and their interracial relationship angers Hugo. Class is emphasized in that Desi is the daughter of the dean and comes from an upscale family, while Odin is from a poor Southern family and attends school on a full basketball scholarship. Hugo is presented as being aware of his social inferiority. Lastly, the issue of gender is powerful in the final scenes with the attacks on Desi and Emily.

An interesting story lies behind the film. *O* was repeatedly

delayed for release due to outbreaks of school violence. Miramax changed the film's release date as a social



responsibility in the wake of the Columbine High School shooting and other high profile cases of the same nature. Because of the delay, producers claim that they were not able to capitalize on the popularity of its cast.

All in all, *O* was captivating, although I would not recommend it, especially to the weak of heart. I walked out of the theater feeling disturbed because of the extreme amount of violence. In essence, *O* was a fast paced powerful film. Further, it reminded me of "Save the Last Dance" because Julia Stiles starred in both films and the interracial themes were similar. However, *O* is successful in that it puts Shakespeare into a contemporary perspective and makes it accessible to the younger audience.

Opposites Attract: Reviewing Beauty and the Beast

By: Kayla Klatzkin

Beauty and the Beast, first an animated Disney movie, became a Tony Award-winning hit Broadway show seven years ago, and shows no sign of closing any time soon. People come to the Lunt-Fontanne Theater to see a live version of the film. The show is a carbon copy of the film, from the opening to the finale, and just about everything in between.

The actors and actresses gave a splendid performance. Sarah Litzinger plays Belle very well. She gives Belle an inner strength you can really feel, and has a beautiful high-pitched voice. As the bitter, brooding prince-turned-beast whose heart slowly melts, Steve Blanchard captures the demeanor and movements of a beast particularly well. Christopher Sieber plays Gaston to perfection. Though he is the villain, and quite a nasty one (the audience actually booed him when he took his bow - something I have never witnessed before), he is also quite funny. With his very exaggerated macho attitude, (he has an almost constant wide fake grin and he flexes his arm



muscles every chance he gets), he is incredibly cartoonish. Brad Aspel, who plays Gaston's dopey sidekick Lefou, is very cartoonish as well. He is thrown, kicked and flipped so much he seems to be made entirely of rubber. These two, more than any other characters, seemed to be ripped straight off the frames from the movie.

The score of the show by Alan Menken is a strong one, and accompanied with lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, makes for a very nice combination. The choreography, singing and acting are all impressive. Had the show dared to depart a little from the movie that would have been even more impressive, but the show is nonetheless well-done. My only complaint is the finale; it is too sugary sweet. Being that Beauty and the Beast is a Disney production, however, that is to be expected. That is what the audience wants anyway, as the finale in the movie is the same. The bottom line is that if you enjoyed the movie, you will enjoy the musical.

Model U.N.

continued from page 14

conference heads cited disorganization and lack of time, partially as a result of Fischer's transferring, as the real reasons there was no application process. "It's not exactly 'who you know,' but that, when pressed for time, we're going to go back to the people we know have experience," explained Ross.

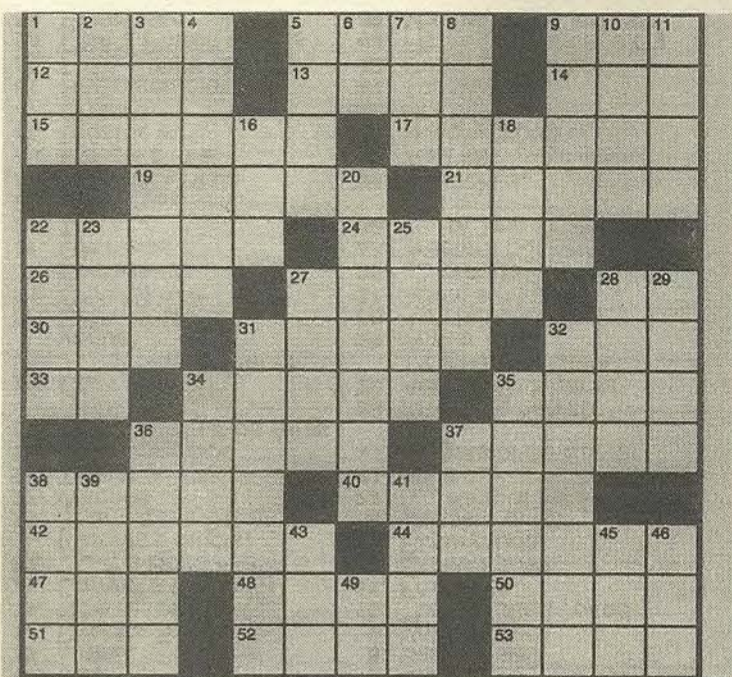
Committee chairs are usually chosen far in advance of the actual conference, held in February, so that they can prepare by familiarizing themselves with the rules and topics of debate. Although the fifteen committee chairs have already been selected, numerous other positions, such as assistant chairs, rapporteurs, and resource room workers, are still available. Criteria for staff include having both experience and the ability to interact well with the hundreds of high school students from all over the country who attend the conference.

Ross emphasized that Model U.N. should ideally be open to everyone, and there are plans for a Model U.N. table to be set up at Stern's Club Fair. "It's to everyone's advantage for all students to be included in the selection process," says Kranzler.

In any case, administrators are certainly concerned with maintaining the popularity of its largest and most far-reaching recruitment vehicle. "Model U.N. really does a tremendous amount for all of YU," says Hyman. "The more positive YU looks at Model U.N., the better for Stern and Yeshiva College."

Cultural Arts

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across

- 1. The Keystone _____
- 5. Spring event
- 9. John, in Scotland
- 12. "Jane _____" (Bronte)
- 13. Nevada gambling town
- 14. AFL's partner
- 15. Quick look
- 17. Follows behind, as a detective would
- 19. Records
- 21. Washing - machine cycle
- 22. Actress Garbo
- 24. Stick (to)
- 26. Greater sum
- 27. Item in the linen closet
- 28. "The Sound _____ Music"
- 30. Overheard trains
- 31. Church singers
- 32. _____ Walter Scott
- 33. Omaha's locale (abbr.)
- 34. Author Virginia _____
- 35. Elbow bone
- 36. Main artery
- 37. Serpentine
- 38. Used a crowbar
- 40. Cut of beef
- 42. TV Dog Star
- 44. Dame Christie of mysteries
- 47. Peanut product
- 48. Declare emphatically
- 50. Dispute
- 51. Ike's initials
- 52. Refracting glass
- 53. Fringe

down

- 1. Beer barrel
- 2. Popeye's gal Olive
- 3. People who babble
- 4. Upper House of Congress
- 5. Birch or yew
- 6. The boy
- 7. Tiny insect
- 8. One who frets
- 9. Betty Crocker topper
- 10. Is sick
- 11. Rocket's _____ cone
- 16. Ledger examiner (abbr.)
- 18. "_____ That a Shame" (Fats Domino)
- 20. Student
- 22. FBI agents (hyph.)
- 23. Stage part
- 25. Viking explorer Ericson
- 27. Fired a gun
- 28. Pig's sound
- 29. Ravel
- 31. Friendly
- 32. Equipped with louvers
- 34. Tribulations
- 35. Dangerous
- 36. Church's walkway
- 37. Hang loosely
- 38. Walk wearily
- 39. _____ the fridge
- 41. Rowing tools
- 43. First woman
- 45. Cuddle
- 46. Lemon, lime or orange drink
- 49. 14th letter

Answers on Page 12

Pearls Arrive at the Museum of Natural History

By: Sara Trappler

A new exhibit at New York's American Museum of Natural history examines the natural history of pearls, combining art, literature, science, history and beautiful jewelry into the story of pearl-forming mollusks, part of one of the most diverse animal phyla on Earth. The exhibit, on display from October 13, 2001 until April 14, 2002, has over 600 unique



objects and 500,000 pearls, and combines many historically and culturally significant pieces of pearl jewelry and decorative objects. One of the highlights of the exhibition will be the section on the decorative use of pearls, featuring beautiful objects, glamorous jewelry, fashions incorporating pearls, and pearls worn by royalty and celebrities, such as the prototype of the pearl necklace worn by Audrey Hepburn in the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* as well as the necklace bought as a gift by Joe DiMaggio for his bride, Marilyn Monroe.

This rare exhibit, entitled "Pearls," acquired its objects and pearls through loan from public and private collections around the world, including Russia, England, France, Monaco, Germany, Portugal, China, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Tahiti, and the United States.

Divided into seven sections, *Pearls* begins with a virtual undersea environment of pearls where the harvest oysters lie. The next section - "Pearls Reveal Their Secrets" - explores the natural beauty and cultural meanings of pearls throughout the ages and across the world. Wall-size images and stunning historical and modern pearl objects reveal the physical, chemical, and optical properties of pearls. It shows the process of how a mollusk produces a pearl, and features beautiful jewelry, such as a dress ornament from the court of Czarina Elizaveta Petrovna, daughter of Peter the Great of Russia.

The central gallery introduces visitors to the wonders featured in the other sections. The museum's giant clam, which is the world's largest mollusk specimen, is viewed alongside a reproduction of the world's largest known pearl from the Berlin Natural History Museum. In addition, magnifi-

cent portraits and jewelry expose the long-established relationship between royalty and pearls throughout history.

The third section of the exhibit, "Marine Mollusks and Their Pearls," showcases different types of marine mollusks, its pearls, and the cultural objects made from them. The next section, "Freshwater Mollusks and Their Pearls," focuses on individual freshwater species. A major highlight is of a Scottish freshwater half-pearl necklace that belongs to the Duke of Norfolk in England. This section also focuses on North American pearl mussels and the Mississippi watershed, an area containing the most diverse pearl mussels in the world.

"Getting Pearls," the fifth section, shows how pearls have been gathered, farmed, and cultured. A video examines the production process of modern pearls, and another display shows the many processes pearls go through before they reach the jewelry store. Grading sets from a great variety of pearls are presented, allowing visitors to compare their own pearls with those on view.

The final section, "Pearls in Human History," concludes the exhibition with a remarkable selection of historically and culturally significant pieces of pearl jewelry and decorative objects from around the world. Here are pearls tracing back to 300 BCE, as well as a North American Indian civilization from 200 BCE. Pearls are featured from the Renaissance, the Kremlin Armoury, and Empress Josephine of France. It also highlights the shifting popularity of pearls starting from the time of Louis XVI in France until the natural pearl market during the Gilded Age of the early 1900's. As pearls reached the public market, they became affordable to almost every citizen, and not only the wealthy and prestigious.

This unusual and exciting exhibit that creates a magical world out of a previously viewed simple object, is organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in collaboration with The Field Museum in Chicago. After *Pearls* leaves New York, it will travel to the Field Museum, where it will be displayed from June 28, 2002, through January 5th, 2003.

The above information on the "Pearls" exhibit was obtained from the American Museum of Natural History's web site. For more information go to www.amnh.org/exhibitions/pearls/.

Accept Twist of Faith or Fate Will Be With You

By: Chana Michels

The smell of wax burning from Shabbos candles and songs of phrases from the Talmud is not what one expects to smell or hear when going to the theater. These details are rampant in "Twist of Faith," a three-man show currently playing Monday nights at the Producer's Club and make one wonder how to separate religion from theater when a show takes on a religious theme.

Rarely does this dilemma surface in the New York theater scene, or in theater in general, so "Twist of Faith" is a welcome pioneer effort at uncovering a new focus of stage drama. In a post-Seinfeld era where shows like "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Tale of the Allergist's Wife" explore Jewish culture, "Twist of Faith" centers around Judaism as a religion,

and by doing so, uncovers themes that can be enjoyed by all audiences. Supporting this innovative and new subject matter is incumbent on Jews who love theater, and the thought-provoking, yet humorous dialogue and sincere, heartfelt plot is reason enough to evoke all theatergoers to see "Twist of Faith."

Performed at:
The Producer's Club
358 West 44th Street
Monday Nights at
8:00 PM
201-567-6664
twistmondays@aol.com

Sam (John Newman) is an assimilated Jew and successful commodity trader forced to spend the night in

Boro Park when his Porsche breaks down on a wintry Friday evening. He is befriended by Baruch (Matt Schapiro), a religious man, who introduces him to Judaism, the Sabbath, and the idea that there is more to life than mundane pursuits. This "chance encounter" affects both characters as they look to each other for advice and search for meaning in life.

Yiddish words are expected while Talmudic axioms and explanations about Jewish concepts are a refreshing anomaly. Judaism may be the forum, but the play intelligently emphasizes important aspects of belief and spirituality, universal themes that appeal to a diverse crowd. The characters' search for self awareness stirs an awakening amongst the audience and the frequent humor woven throughout the play, is a catholic

(no pun intended!) common ground felt by all people.

For the most part, Mr. Schapiro convincingly plays the part of a soft-spoken and serious yeshiva student, but a trained eye can discern his slightly forced Hebrew is not fluent. The fact that he sways before he picks up a prayerbook and overly claps and jumps to show enthusiasm during shalom aleichem, indicates that true to his task, Mr. Schapiro is just an actor playing a part. This is if the bobby pins attached to his velvet yarmulke are not a dead give-away.

Mr. Newman gives a strong performance as the ever-cynical secular Jew who is intimidated of Judaism. Whether he is attacking Judaism, or eventually defending it, Mr. Newman creates the energy on stage. Even though the script

continued on page 17

on campus

PIONEERS OF NEW DORM ADJUST SMOOTHLY DESPITE INCONVENIENCES

By: Sara Jacobson

After a tumultuous past four months of not knowing whether the new dorm would open in time for this semester, the final outcome arrived when the approximately 50 SCW students moved into the upper two floors of the 36th Street dorm.



Student in new dorm room

Although most of the 36th Street pioneers have adjusted smoothly, a host of inconveniences distinguishes the new dorm life from other SCW dormitories.

The most unique factor that characterizes the new dorm is the privacy, according to several residents. The mostly single and few double rooms that occupy the two open floors, accommodating approximately 50 students, create an atmosphere very

different than the other SCW dorms. "You don't feel like you're in a huge dorm like in Brookdale," commented SCW student Sarah Frank. "You can make your own noise. It feels more relaxed, and you can really have privacy."

The extreme privacy of the new dorm might also contribute to its detriment, as some residents acknowledge that it could get lonely. One student commented on the convenience of requesting to be placed in a room across from a friend's room, enabling a resident to have her own room while living next to friends. But while this sharing a floor with friends provides a wonderful opportunity, it can also create a drawback when students need their floormates in order to have a good time. For some, this privacy and "quiet" setting could possibly be lonely or difficult. "I think it would be hard to come here without friends because it's quieter here,"

SCW student Natania Wright said. "Everyone's in their room doing their own thing. I wouldn't recommend a first year student living in a single room in general."

Although the dorm can get quiet, several students commented on the warm and friendly atmosphere found in a smaller, less populated dorm. Bethea Salem, the dorm's Resident Assistant spoke very enthusiastically about the atmosphere of the dorm. "Everyone's very friendly on my floor," she asserted. "People knock [on each other's doors], and leave their doors open. Since there aren't so many girls, we can have floor parties and birthday parties often, and due to the size, everyone participates." Salem lives on the 5th floor while Celia Sporer, the Graduate Assistant, occupies two rooms on the 4th floor. Other students said that since there are relatively few students living in the dorm, it's easy to know

continued on page 12



New Dorm GA Celia Sporer Talks in Lounge with Students

First Ever Scholarship Donor Dinner

By Michal Leah Kanovsky

Students, shine your shoes and put on a smile, you're going out to dinner. This year, for the first time ever, scholarship students and patrons will mingle together at one large event at the Midtown Campus. This dinner will be another step in the university's constant goal of showing appreciation and encouraging further financial support.

Many generous donors give scholarship money to Yeshiva University, which is then distributed to worthy students. YU has often tried to instill a sense of *Hakarat Hatov* (being thankful for good) into the recipients of these scholarships by having them write letters to their benefactors. In recent years, the university has increased their efforts by implementing a series of individual meetings between donors and students at luncheons or dinners. Both the students and the donors have found these meetings to be positive and beneficial. This year, the university wants to bring things to the next level, by arranging just one large scholarship dinner.

Dan Forman, in charge of organizing the scholarship dinner, explains that "The university couldn't afford to continue these programs [of meetings] on an individual basis, rather this program [the scholarship dinner] brings together, on one single evening,

many families meeting with many students." The idea of having one single event to introduce donors and beneficiaries is not unique to YU, programs like this have taken place at NYU and other universities, proving successful for both the student and the donor.

Donors who have contributed more than \$100,000 in endowments to the University will be invited. Students will not officially be required to attend, rather encouraged to come if they are selected. Foreman says "We hope, as a result of this program, the University will be encouraging not only the families to continue their involvement of both time and support of YU and SCW, but also that these luncheons serve to further educate the students themselves, so that one day, when many of these students are successful, they will remember this experience and give back to their school." So in addition to present fundraising, the University hopes to use this dinner to foster an attitude of giving back in current students for the future. Foreman concluded that "this helps educate students that scholarship support doesn't come out of this air, but from people who care about them."

Although the scholarship dinner is set to take place in early spring, a final date has not yet been set. Much of the planning is still taking place, but more details will be provided in the coming months.

Change in Dougies Hashgacha Creates Questions on Campus

Resolution Reached to Maintain Dougies Availability to Students

By: Miriam Colton

An agreement has been reached between the restaurant Dougie's, which recently switched its kashrus supervision from OU to OK, and the Orthodox Union, that will continue to allow Dougie's to cater events at Yeshiva University. The uncertainty arose because Yeshiva University Food Services is certified by the OU, which has a clear-cut policy that their own mashgiach is necessary for meat catering.

Upon prodding from the *Observer*, the two parties contacted each other and reached an agreement with no great financial loss to Dougie's, a perennial favorite with Yeshiva students. A mashgiach will only need to be hired by Dougie's for a large event obviously related to Food Services, such as the annual Superbowl event. Dougie's agreed to absorb the expense of the extra mashgiach for these events. Smaller events, such as dorm floor parties or meetings, are not an issue, because such events would not be considered part of Food Services.

Before reaching this consensus, rumors spread among the student body that Dougie's would not be allowed to cater any events. "YU will stop using Dougie's for events, since Dougie's isn't under OU and YU is," said one uptown resident advisor. "I know this because as an RA, I wanted to get Dougie's for a floor party, but I was told no by the head dorm counselor."

When the *Observer* originally contacted Rabbi Steinberg, Rabbinic Coordinator in the Kashrus Division of the Orthodox Union, it was informed that Dougie's actually would be curtailed in its ability to serve on campus. "All catering on campus goes through Food

Services, which is under the OU, so it's our responsibility to make sure people are eating food certified by OU," explained Steinberg. "On campus, people assume everything is OU."

Off campus events don't pose a problem. In fact, Dougie's catered the Orientation cruise at the beginning of the semester, after they had already



SCW students Enjoy Dougies At Student Council Events

switched supervisions in May. When questioned about this, Steinberg of the OU was caught off-guard as he was unaware of this event, yet promptly responded that it took place off campus.

Steinberg was quick to explain that Dougie's poses a problem since it is a meat caterer. While OU does recognize various hashgachas for dairy products, among them the OK, it will never recognize another supervision for meat production. Questioned as to the reason for this policy, Rabbi Genack, Rabbinic Administrator of the OU's Kosher Division did not clarify.

The indecision of the Orthodox Union about what is considered an official Yeshiva event was found even among Yeshiva administrators.

continued on page 17

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPENS ON MIDTOWN CAMPUS

By: Alisa Rose

In a move that many SCW students consider long overdue the Yeshiva University Financial Aid Office has opened an office on the SCW campus in room 215 of 215 Lexington.

The office's opening has been met by relief, joy, and surprise from the SCW student body, which has been requesting a midtown office for years. "Student council meetings were vocal about needing a place to call their own, and now we're here," says Lori Farior, Associate Director of Student Accounts. "There was a need for it."

Since its opening, the office has assisted approximately 20 to 25 students day, but staffers have pointed out that these numbers are probably relatively low because many students are not yet aware of the new office. The office, with a staff of two, is currently opened on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-1 and 2-5:30, but it will increase its hours if there is a need. The office is adjacent to the new Office of Admissions, which has been used sporadically on a need basis, and will have its official opening when a fulltime receptionist is hired, according to the Admissions office uptown.

Although the office is a fraction of the size of the uptown campus office, it can perform all the same tasks as its counterpart. The office does have plans, however, to expand to a "full-service financial aid

office" according to Farior, but when and where are still unknown.

Administrators claim that the extended delay in opening a midtown financial aid office was due to lack of space on the SCW campus. Original plans to open a more spacious office on the 7th floor of 715 Lexington proved impossible because of computer wiring difficulties.

But most students are just relieved that the office has finally opened. Susan Katzenstein, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, who works in the midtown office on Thursdays said, "Quite a few students have said 'I'm so glad you're here.' Students were so happy they didn't have to travel uptown."

Chanie Angster may have been one of the students Katzenstein was discussing. The SCW junior said that although she has not actually used the new office, she stopped by to say hello because she was so glad to see them. "Last year I had to take over an hour to go uptown to deal with my financial aid package. Now if you have issues there's a local office to talk to."

SCW junior Mirat Strobel agrees, "Having a financial aid office down here is a definite improvement. Dealing with financial aid over the phone was OK but if I needed advice or help filling out forms, I would have to go uptown which was annoying."

Angster succinctly expressed many students' sentiments, "It's darn well about time."