



# Yeshiva University **Observer**

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

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## Turkel Announces Retirement *After 37 Years of Service, Devoted Office Manager Leaves SCW*

By Suzanne Anziska

After 37 years of service, Livia Turkel, the Office Manager in the Stern College Dean's Office, will be retiring.

"Mrs. Turkel preceded me in the Dean's office and she was my first teacher, helping me to understand how a quality administrative office should be run," Dean Bacon lauded her longtime employee. "Personally and professionally, she has had an enormous impact on many students and faculty, and I believe all of us at Yeshiva owe her a huge debt of gratitude."



Livia Turkel Will Leave SCW After 37 Years

Turkel began working at SCW part-time in 1964, though her hours were later increased. Her praises are sung loudly within the college. One SCW senior fondly recalls Turkel's willingness to constantly go the extra mile. "Mrs. Turkel was always concerned that things be done in the proper and most timely manner," she states. "She was in touch with every single issue that was going on in Stern, and especially with the needs of the student body and faculty."

When considering her years at SCW, Turkel reminisces fondly. "Stern College is a select institution, a university for ortho-

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## Maya Angelou to Inaugurate Scholar-in-Residence Program

*Limited Seating Mandates Complex Distribution System*

By Adina Levine

As SCW prepares to host the world-renowned poet and speaker Maya Angelou, a system of tickets has been established where faculty and students must sign up in the Office of Student Services to receive a ticket for the event. As of November 11th, 180 students, in addition to 54 honors students, had signed up for the performance, which will take place on Wednesday, November 28th, at 8 p.m. in the

Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center.

"The students wanted someone who is a multiethnic individual," stated Robbins-Wilf, donor of the program and founding member of the SCW board. "[Angelou] is very well known as a multiethnic poet. We decided to get in touch with her, and she agreed to come."

"This promises to be an exceptional evening," commented Dean Karen Bacon. "Maya Angelou is a remarkable woman, hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature."

In addition to the board members attending the event, any extra seats left over from SCW students will be offered to YC students after November 19th.

"The SCW administration wanted to offer it to SCW students first because it is an SCW program," commented Peter Ferrara of Yeshiva University's Public



Maya Angelou

Relations. "Then they'll open it to YC."

The original plan called for the opening of the event to the public, to inform the community of the wonderful benefits of Stern College. "The idea was that the community would get to know the program and that it would help SCW," asserted Wilf. "If the community came and saw this event and got to know what SCW is, they may end up supporting SCW, or they may have children who want to come to the school."

However, when faced with a decision as to whether to allow more SCW

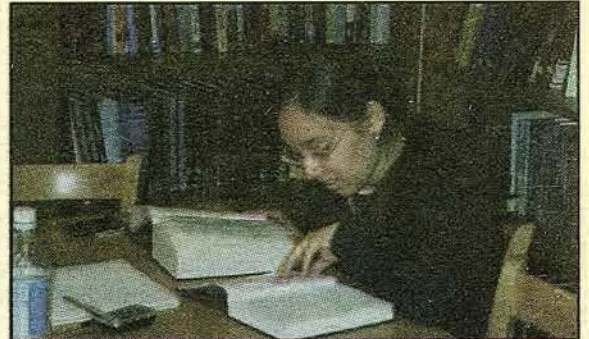
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## Students Petition to Switch Brookdale Beit Midrash and Computer Room

By Alexandra Beard

Walk into the Brookdale Beit Midrash on the second floor and you'll notice overflowing bookshelves and *sefarim* piling onto the tables and chairs that fill the dorm-sized room. Walk into the computer room on the first floor and you'll see a room twice the size occupied by five computers and cubicles with desks utilized for studying. One room is spacious, another is crowded. Should they switch?

According to Ariela Tanzer, TAC Batei Midrash Commissioner and SCW senior, they should. Tanzer and Fruma Farkas, an SCW junior, have organized a petition for SCW students to sign requesting



Sara Jacobson, an SCW junior, shteing in the beit midrash

that the BRH Beit Midrash be moved to the computer room. They already have 100 signatures from participants at the TAC fair and expect more. Once the petition is filled, they will present their request to the Student Life Committee.

"I was unhappy with the Brookdale Beit Midrash and heard complaints from other students that it is too

crowded, they feel that the bookshelves are toppling over them and they can't move," Tanzer explains. "The room is L-shaped like the other BRH rooms, therefore people don't want to learn there because it is too small and claustrophobic."

Tanzer also feels that making the switch will be a show of

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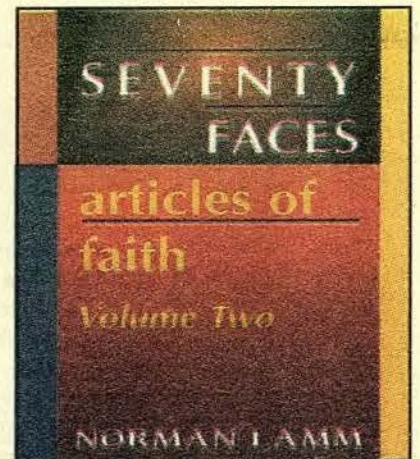
## Rabbi Lamm to Publish Eleventh Book Entitled "Seventy Faces"

By Miriam Colton

Rabbi Norman Lamm's new book, entitled "Seventy Faces: Articles of Faith," is to be published in December, to coincide with the upcoming Yeshiva University Chanukah dinner in his honor. The two-volume compendium of Lamm's popular essays and speeches spanning 35 years, will be distributed to all dinner attendees and then be available for sale.

"The Gemarah says *Shiv'im Panim la'Torah*, which really expresses my ideology, the ideology of Torah Umadda," explained Rabbi Lamm in an interview with the *Observer*. "There is latitude in Torah for more than one *derekh*. 'Seventy' is a metaphoric number which indicates the breadth of Torah - but there are limits. There are seventy, but not seventy-one."

With the encouragement of those who feared the loss of his acclaimed speeches over the years, Rabbi Lamm spent half a year compiling and editing sixty of his popular speeches and essays.



Sneak preview of the cover of "Seventy Faces"

The over 650-page collection consists of ten chapters in two volumes, dealing with current Jewish issues, including Modern Orthodoxy, Faith, Morality and the Family, Israel and Zionism and other relevant issues. The essays enable the reader to view the progression of Lamm's positions on issues with which he grappled in service as Rabbi of the Jewish Center in

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## New Security Measures on Campus



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# I N S I D E

Explicit Literature Elicits Response

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Brown Returns to Teach Course Uptown

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Food Services will Expand to 215 Lex

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 14** - Israel Club speaker @ 8pm  
SURGE speaker @ 7:30pm
- Nov 15** -SAGA goes to The Music Man
- Nov 16** - Rosh Chodesh
- Nov 17** - Psychology/Sociology Club Shabbaton: "Living in the Holy Land"  
Lady Macs: Marymount 8:00 home
- Nov 19** - Chemistry Club: 9:00pm movie and pizza night  
Speech Pathology Speaker
- Nov 20** - Psychology Club: Lavi Greenspan 8pm  
Lady Macs: College of New Rochelle 7:30pm AWAY
- Nov 26** - TAC speaker
- Nov 27** - Lady Macs: John Jay College 8:00 HOME
- Nov 28** - Maya Angelou
- Nov 29** - Chanukasino  
Lady Macs: Baruch College 7:30pm HOME
- Dec 1** - Community Shabbaton
- Dec 2** - Lady Macs: Bard College 2:00 AWAY  
Fencing: NIWFA Holiday Invitational (time TBA) AWAY
- Dec 4** - TAC/Israel Club presents Rebbetzin Judi Steing  
Lady Macs: Suny Purchase 7:30pm AWAY
- Dec 5** - Psychology Club: Rabbi Singer 8pm (Koch)
- Dec 6** - Sociology Club: Jewish heritage "Meeting hate with humanity: life during the holocaust"
- Dec 7** -SURGE 10am
- Dec 8** - Lady Macs: Medger Evers Tournament
- Dec 9** - Lady Macs: Medger Evers Tournament
- Dec 10** - Blood Drive 9am-1pm  
Sephardic Chanukah Dinner  
Racial Tolerance and Awareness Club: Viewing of "Snow Falling on Cedars" with pizza
- Dec 11** - TAC's Chanukah Chagiga  
Lady Macs: Brooklyn College 7:30pm HOME
- Dec 13** - Chanukah Concert!
- Dec 15** - Chemistry Club Shabbaton



**Alexandra Beard**  
Executive Editor

Three girls are sitting on the wrought-iron benches in the Schottenstein courtyard entrance. Clad in long skirts, sweatshirts, and slippers, they're discussing the differences between religious life in

Israel and in America, and all the shades of gray in between. They're discussing problems in the American Orthodox world and problems in the Israeli Charedi world. They're talking about saving world Jewry without really knowing it.

A security guard walks past them and asks with a smile, "It's 1:30 in the morning, aren't you girls meant to be in bed?" He walks by unruffled, not really minding that they're shmoozing in security guard territory and that it's way past their bedtimes. The girls reluctantly look at their watches. One of the girls concludes the conversation with a resolute, "So now what do we do about all these problems?"

I was one of the girls in this conversation, and I walked away uplifted and amazed. It honestly felt good to partake in one of those "issue discussions" that were such a significant part of seminary. But the reality is that these discussions are typical of so many girls' experiences at SCW. The "let's solve the problems of the world" girl (actually, we were all sort of like that) in the conversation stopped mid-sentence to say how grateful she was to be at a college where she could have such a discussion with like-minded people. She was taking a course at another NYC college that evening and realized how wonderful it was that at 1:30 a.m., she could bump into two friends

and engage in a deep conversation about hashkafic issues we all felt strongly about.

This is what I love about SCW. When people give me the talk about Stern not being religious enough and having a shaky environment, I stop them mid-sentence. Because that's not what Stern is. It might have been that way 5 years ago or 10 years ago, which many profess, but it is not that way now. I always tell people the same thing: walk into the Beis Medresh in the SCW school building at any time, and you'll see girls learning. Whether they're having a chavrusa, preparing for Ramban class, or davening mincha, there are always girls in the Beis Medresh. And that's normal.

Yes, SCW is not a seminary, but it's not meant to be one either. And yes, in any environment you have to make a chevrah, a group of stable friends to get you through the challenging moments. But the truth is: that's life. Life isn't bubbled in the warm and fuzzy walls of seminary. And for those who want it to be, SCW isn't that far off, *if you want it to be that way*. You can make your three years at Stern some of the most growth-oriented years of your life, *if you want it to be that way*. The opportunities are boundless, from regular *shuirim* to volunteer groups to private chavrusas. You can create whatever environment you want here and will find at least a dozen other girls to join you. Just realize that the experience you gain from Stern, whether it is religiously growing, stationary, or downhill, is up to you.

# The Observer

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# Message from the Editors



Adina Levine  
Editor-in-Chief

Normally not an emotional person, I didn't cry at Titanic. At the end-of-camp good bye scenes, I didn't bat an eye. I remaining stoic during the World Trade Center tragedy. Though I don't enjoy fighting, I don't avoid confrontation either, and after arguing with the clerk about a hotel bill, she suggested I become a lawyer. Thus — whether it be my unwillingness to wear my heart on my sleeve or the unpardonable crime of expressing my opinions — prevailing sentiment has stigmatized me as "tough."

So designated, I am uncertain from whence this characteristic originated. Is it a prerequisite for my job, as the fragile, delicate female would never survive a day in the rough and tough world of the newspaper editor? Or did this hardened exterior develop along with my on-the-job training in discovering the impracticality of crying every time someone didn't like an article. Or maybe I sought out this toughness, deliberately positing myself in situations where my perspective is bound to jibe with another's and knowingly embracing the circumstance anyway.

But although a certain degree of toughness comes with and in fact is required for the job, it is equally necessary — if not more important — to maintain any possible residue of sensitivity.

People once in a while are offended by the printed material in the *Observer*. "Don't take it personally," they preface their remarks, but I can't help it. And maybe it's not something I should try to help. Maybe it's a good thing that I take criticism personally, that I haven't lost the ability to feel compassion for the people with whom I interact.

Loss of sensitivity is a danger journalists face, and I am not exempt. When I first came to Stern, I remember the outrage I felt at the disrespect of a mere student publication to question an authority's use of financial endowments. Now, years later, I understand and often agree with the philosophy that mandates accountability of the administration to its students.

Someone commented to me after what she claimed was a particularly slanted article that she was certain I had weighed both sides in making my journalistic decision but ... and then she proceeded to criticize. And while I smiled and nodded and accepted her criticism, I silently wondered what she was talking about. What journalistic decision? What both sides? In the wee hours of the morning in the crux of layout, I had made a decision without realizing there was a choice, and

that frightened me. I learned how to write under pressure, but forgot how to think about my decisions. And I still had enough sensitivity left to recognize that wasn't good.

I had started an editorial once about the wonderful work of SHARE, a TAC organization that had returned my abandoned orange disk from the computer room even months after I had forsaken it. I was in awe of my fellow students who put time and effort into determining the owner and enamored with my university that was small enough to encourage such an organization to exist. The words of exuberance flowed from my pen for a paragraph or two, but then the ink ran dry. I ran out of positive things to say and promptly discarded the editorial.

The danger begins when the positive is boring and the scandal sensational. The 30,000 New Yorkers who arrive home safely every night never make it to the front page of the *New York Times*, only the one drunk stabbed on the subway. Similarly, the *Observer* editorials never feature "the reasons I love SCW" signed by 919 students. It seems a no win situation; exclusively positive stories would never stimulate change, but solely negative articles are not an accurate representation of the situation.

I think the answer lies in invoking the obligation of both the editor and reader. We as editors have a responsibility to present, to the best of our ability, both sides to every story. But the best of our ability can only go so far. It is the reader's responsibility to recognize that the printed material is only part of the story. Just as we must infer from the story of the lone New Yorker who dies that everyone else arrived home safely, the reader must glean from the lone student complaint, that there are other students who are happy. If this logic holds, our paper becomes quite positive: the negative writers attest that the remaining students are satisfied with their school, and the printed articles are only exceptions that prove the rule.

I certainly don't mean to absolve us of our responsibilities as editors by asking readers not to take our word as gospel. We will continue to make an active attempt to find the positive, but the reader must realize that precisely what we print doesn't show whether the positive exists. The positive will always exist and thrive, but the newspaper is not necessarily a representation of what Stern is, but, as the voice of change, of what Stern should become. Maybe the university can take it is a compliment when we only complain about the little things, that overall this college is great.



Miriam Colton  
Editor-in-Chief

One night this past Succos, Opa and I sat in the courtyard

succah while he waited for his coffee and cake. We couldn't really talk; my grandfather's hearing had deteriorated to the point where he could barely hear, especially outdoors. But the silence was comfortable; I was content to just be with him. Then, not looking directly at me, Opa reached over to my lap, squeezed my hand and held it in the silence.

You see, this behavior was not typical for Opa. He was a businessman for 85 years who arose at five in the morning to learn gemarah, a survivor who began every speech with the line, "First, I want to give *shevach* and *hodaah l'kal boreah olam*." He was tough and controlled. But simultaneously, especially in his later years, Opa revealed a soft side, an alluring *chen* visible in his eyes. It was this dichotomy that I so admired in Opa and that made him the unique character he was.

As I sit down to write now, amidst the mourning, I try to jog the memories, to search for the core of my relationship with my grandfather.

Opa was critical and demanding. On Shabbos afternoons my mother, sister and I would walk to 79<sup>th</sup> street to my grandparents' house for shalosh seudos. Without fail, Opa would ask me my grades in school. He always wanted to know if I was the best in my class. And he always told me that in Kosice he had been. At my brother's Bar Mitzvah, when I was seven years old, my grandfather began offering me a dollar to sit absolutely still for one full minute. I was never able to complete the minute and it drove the two of us mad. I wanted a dollar and he wanted a self-disciplined child.

Opa was disciplined and direct. When we visited him he would talk with us about school, his ailments, politics etc... After some time, Opa would reach over to the counter and pull out a worn gemarah or a sidur. The conversation was finished.

In sixth grade my relationship with Opa deepened. That was the year I wrote my first poem. Opa loved reading them and I loved writing them for him. He was my biggest fan. Whenever I wrote a new poem, however sentimental and juvenile it might have been, I was giddy with the thought of showing it to him. Immediately, I sent the poem with my father to bring to the office for Opa. Recognizing that I enjoyed writing, Opa once asked me if I wanted to marry a poet or a businessman. I knowingly answered, "A businessman." He winked at my mother and remarked, "Now that's a smart girl."

I further tried to please Opa by learning how to cook a little that year. At family events, I anticipated telling Opa which dish was mine. As he ate the food, he would say with a twinkle in his eye, "A way to a man's heart is through his stomach." Indeed, it was.

I remember when I saw Opa cry. It

was on his hundredth birthday last year, when the family was privileged to travel with him to Israel. On the second day of Chol Hamoed Succos we visited Yad Vashem. In the Hall of Names, my grandfather began to weep over the daughters that he had lost. Never before had I seen him cry so bitterly, and I couldn't stand watching. But I also couldn't get enough of it. To see him expose his soft side, the human weakness that everyone had to have. Even Opa.

And then an hour later we drove to the Kotel, where Opa delighted in giving brachos to a long line of people. He sat with an enormous smile on his face, a twinkle in his eye, in the best of moods. Because Opa didn't brood. And he never looked back.

Opa, when we gathered around your hospital bed last week, you were tough. You would wave your hand, telling us to go home, not to linger in the hospital. You would kick off your blanket, trying to get out of bed to go home. Other times, you would open your eyes and struggle to talk to us, though you were now unable to speak. Failing, you would gaze into our eyes and squeeze our hands, with a tear glistening in the corner of your eye.

I was *zoche* to be the last one who spoke to you before you fell into a coma on Monday.

The day you were *niftar*, Opa, an era ended for our family, the shtiebel and the West Side. No longer will our schedules and lives revolve around you as they did; we won't have to awake early from our Shabbos afternoon naps to walk to your house in time for shalosh seudos, the boys don't need to awake at the break of dawn to take you to shul, Pesach will no longer have you at the head of the table, the rest of our weddings will be without that special brachah under the chuppah.

At your hesped, Opa, the Rabbi recalled that when asked the secret to your longevity, you responded that perhaps you were granted a lengthy and active life so as to be a paradigm for your grandchildren. You succeeded. You were my admirer, my audience, my link, my roots, my Rebbe, my tzadik.

Life goes full circle. As the family sat around Opa's room in Lenox Hill Hospital in the last days of his life, it was now I who sat and caressed his hand. And his skin was so thin, almost translucent, etched with wrinkles and cracks. A 101-year-old parchment of the Torah and of history that had been in the family for an era.

When I walked out of the hospital for the last time, and as I write this now, my fingers continue to rub against each other, hungry for the feel of Opa's skin and the meaning of its lines.

"Hashem natan, Hashem lakach, y'hi Shem Hashem Mvorch" - God gave, God took, May His name be blessed.

## Observer

staff meeting  
November 19  
9:30pm in room 715

Join us for the  
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Commentator  
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on December 21-22

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Shabbos activity!

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# Letters to the Editor

## War is NOT Fun

To the Editor:

After reading Michal Kanovsky's editorial in Volume LXV, Issue #3, which concluded that "War is Fun", I wasn't quite sure how to react. The first thing I had to do was call a friend at Stern College to see if this was just some sick joke posted on your website. Upon concluding that the editorial actually appeared in print, my state of shock turned to a state of disappointment.

I will not use this medium to invalidate Ms. Kanovsky's piece with a composed logical argument. Such an argument is obvious, and need not be presented in this space. I will, however, point out that the feelings expressed are incredibly selfish, and diametrically opposed to how Jews are supposed to behave during times of such anguish.

I do wish to use this forum to publicly send a message to you, your readers, Ms. Kanovsky and the rest of your Editorial Board: I lost five co-workers on September 11, 2001. It was only by the grace of God that I was not with them on the 106<sup>th</sup> floor. Thousands of children will grow up without a mother or a father; or worse, as orphans. Thousands of wives will lose their husbands somewhere in Afghanistan, and thousands of husbands will lose their wives.

War, and every aspect of it, is NOT fun.

It's my hope and prayer that you never have to experience the "fun" that these families are suffering.

Joshua Feldman, SSSB '97  
Commentator Editor-in-Chief,  
Volume 61

Member, West Side Hatzolah  
Rescue Worker, September 11, 2001

## Right on the Mark

Kanovsky's article "War is Fun" was good observation of human nature in regards to war. While Ms. Kanovsky never called into question the horrific nature of war, she showed a side to it that most of us over-look. This is not to say that anyone is advocating war as a form of entertainment. However, there is no doubt that fear and horror are corollaries to adrenaline rushes. How else could one explain why we go to see movies like "Psycho" or "Scream," or why shriek-inducing roller coasters are continuously popular?

That exhilaration is a response to being at war is not by itself to be judged as "good" or "bad." It simply is. War is horrible, and there is no frivolity to be attached to death. However, can any of you say that you haven't enjoyed a sketch or appreciated at a joke about the Taliban?

A full reading of the article with an open mind should point to the benign position from which it was written. If you've laughed at our current situation, you've experienced this natural phenomenon.

The writer has done a service for us by pointing out an aspect of ourselves that we normally don't recognize. She is not saying that this is a main focus, but an interesting side note, and I for one agree.

Dani Weiss  
SCW Sophomore

To the Editor:

There must be some epidemic of apathy... Ms. Kanovsky's "War is Fun" (Observer 10/16/01, p.5) transcends a scary future for mankind. Is it blood, mangled limbs or broken bodies that so arouse her "exhilaration"? Perhaps she would have enjoyed the Holocaust. After all, people played music, exchanged old recipes...while waiting their turns for the gas chamber...

In case Ms. Kanovsky hasn't noticed, people DIE the most hideous deaths: violence, starvation, torture. There are the blind and crippled. Screaming orphans and widows. Nightmares - the stench of rotting flesh and blood, the savage instinct to kill or be killed. THOUSANDS have already perished in this war - touching so many of us. She seems to think this is all just a big "pajama party"...

How the Observer could even consider publishing such cruel callousness beyond comprehension. Shame...

Hindishe Lee  
SCW '79, TIW '82

To the Editor:

While war may be a great economic stimulus (and certainly WWII got us out of the Great Depression) and you might feel that "war is fun," some thoughts are better left unsaid.

Toby Josovitz  
SCW junior

## Dishonored

To the editors:

I was very disappointed by last issue's article comparing the YC and SCW Honors programs. Aside from its numerous factual and grammatical errors, the article displayed a disturbing lack of research and, as a result, it reinforced one of the most pernicious false stereotypes about YU.

The article devoted five paragraphs to assessing the weaknesses of the YC Honors program. However, the author failed to interview either Dr. Will Lee, the program's Acting Director, or Dr. Frank Felsenstein, the Director for the previous three years. Both are professors who have regular office hours when they are available to all YU students, so there is no valid reason why they were not interviewed.

Far more alarming was the article's conclusion that "It is a problem that the YC Honors program brings these students up to the work level of a 'real' college, because where does that leave the rest of the student body?" This conclusion was based entirely on the statements of two YC honors students and was not backed by any evidence. The article does not state if those students' knowledge of "real" colleges comes from firsthand experience, what they heard from friends, hallucinogenic-induced visions, or the general "Ivy-inferiority" complex that seems to pervade YU.

In reality, YU's classes, professors and students stack up well against any college. In fact, many professors came to YU after teaching in such 'real' universities as Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth and Columbia. I asked three such teachers to compare their experiences in the different schools, and they all said YU students actually worked harder than their Ivy-League colleagues and were less

likely to take their education for granted. This conclusion has been borne out by my own experiences, and those of my YC friends who have taken courses in Ivy League colleges. For any readers who haven't, let me tell you a big secret: ultimately, how hard or informative a class is depends entirely on how capable and demanding the professor and students are, not whether popular opinion considers the school 'real' or not. I expect such childish insults when I visit Ivy League campuses, not when I pick up the official newspaper of SCW.

Hillel Deutsch  
YC, '02

## Philosophically Opposed

To the Editors:

I was happy to see that your October 16 issue devoted its "Department In Focus" feature to philosophy. Unfortunately, the article contained serious inaccuracies which defeat its purpose of informing prospective philosophy students of what the department offers.

For example, the article states: "Besides taking ten philosophy classes, philosophy majors are expected to write a thesis before graduating." The article then goes on to contrast the "relatively informal" thesis process in the philosophy department with the more structured procedures of the English department. In point of fact, there is no senior thesis requirement in the philosophy department, so any comparison or contrast is a non-starter.

Without elaborating on the article's other inaccuracies, may I suggest that in future installments of the "Focus" feature, statements about how many classes are surveys, whether there are "any in-depth courses on one specific philosopher or one narrow time period," and the like be backed up not with quotations about students' perceptions but with hard data. The data belie some of the quotations.

In addition, while I well understand why student newspapers are reluctant to show articles in advance to people who have a stake in

the article, those reasons should be carefully weighed against the risks of writing an article that is seriously flawed—and ultimately misleads the very student readers whom it aims to inform.

David Shatz  
SCW Professor of Philosophy

## Let Us Dance: Looking for A Mechitzah

To The Editors

Seeing the posters around campus advertising the annual YU Channukah concert, I am reminded of my experience at last year's concert. The musical lineup was good. The entertainers were entertaining. The auditorium was full. But I was bored.

While people were enthusiastically dancing or at least swaying by their seats and in the aisles, I was compelled to remain in my seat and watch because there was no *mechitzah*.

It is a logical assumption that people at a concert would want to dance. The organizers of the event should have been sensitive to this and made the appropriate arrangements for those women sensitive to the halacha. If the concert organizers provided separate seating, why would they stop at providing a *mechitzah* as well? It seems to me that there are more people who would dance only *with a mechitzah* than there are people who would dance only *without one*.

School sponsored events should as a general rule always cater to the highest standard. I hope that those involved in planning this year's concert take this issue into consideration.

Abby Calm  
SCW Junior

The Observer welcomes your letters to the editors.

Email us at [observer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:observer@ymail.yu.edu)

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09/01/01

# Opinions

## More on Zionism

Dear Observer readers:

Since my article "How Zionistic is Your Typical YU Student" was published, many students have asked me about the sign Ezra Levine posted on the window of "Time Out Pizza," which I alluded to in my article. Because so many students have expressed interest, I want to share what the sign said and who signed it. The sign read: "Our Rabbis learned: One should always live in Eretz Yisrael, even in a city whose majority is idolators, and he should not live outside Eretz Yisrael, even in a city with a Jewish majority (Ketuvot 110b).

The following Roshei Yeshiva strongly urge every Jew to seriously consider making Aliyah. We believe that a massive return to our eternal homeland will contribute greatly to an alleviation of all demographic, economic and religious problems in Israel today. We urge the entire Jewish Diaspora, particularly the younger generation, to begin viewing Aliyah as a goal rather than an option."

This sign had the signatures of the following rebbeim: Rav Moshe David Tendler, Rav Ahron Soloveichik, Rav Reichman, Rav Hershel Schachter, Rav Goldvicht, Rav Chaim Drukman, Rabbi Blau and Rabbi Lamm.

One more addition to the article: Although I wrote in my article that the Rambam says that the mitzvah of *Yishuv Eretz Yisrael* is a mitzvah *kiyumis* (a voluntary mitzvah), there are some Rabbis who disagree. Many Rabbis believe that the Rambam thought that the mitzvah is actually a mitzvah

*chiyuvis* (an obligatory mitzvah). If anyone would like to explore this topic further you can read "The Mitzvah of Yishuv Eretz Yisrael," by Rabbi Hershal Schachter, in "Journal of Halacha and Contemporary Society, Number VIII" or email me at [afrumgirl@yahoo.com](mailto:afrumgirl@yahoo.com). I apologize for any confusion my original article may have caused.

Sincerely,  
Kim Davis, SCW Senior

## Not Worthy of a Poll

To the Editor:

I was quite confused by your recent article about Stern and YC students' opinions about moving to Israel. The writer polled students not only about whether they wanted to move to Israel, but whether there was a mitzvah to move there.

While it is already ridiculous to ask whether students plan on moving to Israel (you wouldn't ask how many students plan on keeping Shabbos next week), this question at least serves a purpose of gauging the commitment of the student body to Halacha, whether or not they are right or wrong.

However, asking 100 students whether there is an objective mitzvah to live in Israel is futile. The Poskim and Poskot of YC and Stern (chosen at random) do not determine Halacha. If the poll was simply meant to see how many people are aware of the Halacha, it overlooked the complexity of a Halachic system that rarely answers in yes or no format.

Josh Goldman  
SSSB '03

## Responses to SCW Students' Chesed During Aftermath of Tragedy

**In the past few weeks, letters have poured into Yeshiva offices praising SCW students' assistance with the aftermath of the World Trade Center tragedy. This letter was read by Rabbi Lamm at the annual Stern College Dinner.**

October 11, 2001

Dear Dr. Lamm,

Please excuse my delay in sending this. However, it is now one month since the terrorist attack and the holiday of Simchat Torah, representing endings and beginnings, and I can't think of a more appropriate time to write this note.

On September 11, 2001, following the attacks at the World Trade Center, I found myself at New York University Medical Center running a "command center." We hadn't started out to become a command center. The emergency room was fully staffed and equipped and awaiting patients. When few patients arrived we switched gears and directed our focus to utilizing volunteers and assisting the rescue efforts at the site.

On that first morning, several young women from Stern College of Yeshiva showed up to volunteer to do anything that was required.

Five of these women, in particular, stood out: Malki Roth, Yehudit Weinberger, Shaindi Mayersdorf, Miriam Brickner, and Noa Mazor. When anything needed to be done, these young women did it with no questions asked and in a spirit of giving that represents the best that humanity has to offer. NYU Medical became the center for locating missing people.

Patients lists needed to be gathered from other hospitals and updated hourly, with someone responsible for collating lists and making sure they got to the right person... Additionally the emergency room needed people to help man phones, the volunteer office needed people to field questions, and volunteers had to be organized by skill and hospital needs. There was no task too large or small for these young women. They organized lists of translators, pastoral counselors, crisis counselors and medical personnel. They helped every day to make order out of chaos and did it with a spirit of goodness that permeated everything they did.

On the first day, a request went out for someone to volunteer a pair of shoes. A hospital pharmaceutical representative, who was very familiar with the hospital, had showed up that day in high heels. Without a second's thought, Noa gave her sneak-

ers to this woman who was able to be much more useful in sneakers. Noa walked home that night in her socks and didn't get the sneakers back for two days.

On another day they brought me kosher food from the Stern Cafeteria so that I could eat, and coffee in the morning. On Thursday, the 13th, Noa and Malki were still there while other students had returned home for Shabbat. Noa worked all night in the Patient Representative office and did not leave until 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Malki offered to do any task that needed to be done and only left on Friday in order to return home before sundown.

I was never so proud to be Jewish and would have been proud to call any one of these young women my daughter. I now can't wait to introduce my 16-year old daughter to Yeshiva as soon as I have a chance. Each person I met from your school was more incredible than the next and a great testament to the spirit of Judaism.

When I think of Yeshiva University it will always be about these extraordinary young women. A school full of students like this should be extremely proud. These are the best our society has to offer.

Sincerely,  
C. Rainy Broomfield



## Observe Me

A Column of Opinions:  
The Political Jew

Michal Leah Kanovsky

The political Jew doesn't buy products that support the Palestinian cause. She votes for the candidate she thinks will be better for the State of Israel, no matter what the office. She collects newspaper articles that show bias against Israel and shows them angrily to her friends and writes letters to the editor about them. She sends out a dozen email forwards a day with links to online polls asking this question or that about diplomatic policy toward the State of Israel and she tells her friends which way to vote.

The political Jew reads books about the Holocaust in her free time. She organizes and attends rallies for any Jewish cause in any part of the world. She turns every dinner table into an awareness session and graciously informs the participants in the lucky meal about every detail of what's going on in the Jewish political world. She can tell us what Tony Blair said about Israel in an interview two days ago, or how Hillary Clinton responded to the sanctions that the UN put on Israel.

The political Jew is a Zionist. She is a very specific brand of Zionist. She could be Tzioni, Mizrachi or Dati Lumi. She explains to everyone what Zionism really is and who is or is not a Zionist. The political Jew knows exactly who should be drafted into the Israeli army and why. She knows who is a drain on the Israeli economy and how to rectify the problem. In her presence one is likely to find her solutions very convincing and agree with her that the world must be crazy not to think as she does.

The political Jew takes it as her responsibility to rectify mistaken notions that other people may have. She crusades against ignorance and will devote hours of her time to filling people in on how the Arab situation erupted and why it was inevitable. She knows her Arabs. She will describe the 'Arab mentality' with psychological expertise. It's not that Israel didn't try to help them, but Arabs refuse to compromise. They are raised that way. She will then inform you about what the Koran says about Jews, or what she's heard it says since she's never read it. She will finally cement her argument by contrasting the Palestinian's behavior with the Jew's behavior over the years. 'Jews don't kill', she'll assert, 'Jews aren't terrorists,' and that's why the problem must be the Arab's fault.

The political Jew is best friends with the neighborhood gentiles. She shows them how good a person she is so that they will think well of all Jews. She gives money to their charities and plays with

their children, so that they won't grow up hating Jews. She is extra careful about tipping well at the coffeehouse and will always smile graciously to the Laundromat attendant. She wears a big Star of David necklace which she hopes they notice so that they will understand 'I represent all Jews, see, we're not the bad ones.'

The political Jew is not the only political animal out there. There are political Native Americans, political African Americans, and also political Palestinians. They all champion their nation's cause through diplomatic efforts. They all feel that they have good reason to believe in their cause and spend time convincing others to believe likewise. These political animals are features of the type of democratic society that we live in.

The political Jew could argue that the Torah commands her behavior and that all Jews should be political Jews. But if the political Jew's actions were purely contrived from traditional Judaism, then why is it that the political Jew resembles not so much Jewry throughout history as the other political creatures in today's culture? It couldn't be that the political Palestinian writes letters and organizes rallies because of a Torah command.

Does the political Jew have a mitzvah to be involved in global politics? One could argue that "All Jews are responsible for one another," but one might respond that taking responsibility for other Jews could take the form of giving charity, praying for their welfare and otherwise relying on G-d to protect them, not necessarily trying to sway the political world to the Jewish side. Perhaps being a political Jew is one way to fulfill the commandment to be responsible for all Jews, but it is clearly not the only way. Therefore it would be mistaken to correlate being a good Jew with doing things like boycotting Palestinian products, attending rallies and writing angry letters.

Though the political Jew's behavior might be in consonance with Torah values, I don't think it necessarily stems from a Torah command. And as worthy as it may be, I do not believe all Jews are obligated to function as political representatives. It is a Jew's responsibility to keep the Torah, but every Jew also has a right to avoid politics and should not be made to feel guilty for exercising that right. To be Jewish does not mean to be a political Jew.

\*Michal Leah Kanovsky can be reached at [dimrod80@hotmail.com](mailto:dimrod80@hotmail.com)

# IMPACTING WORLD JEWRY

## Hesped for Rav Ahron Soloveichik Draws Hundreds

By Observer Staff

Hundreds of people filled Lampert Auditorium on November 7th to mark the *shloshim* of Rav Ahron Soloveichik, ZTL, one of the greatest Torah scholars and Jewish leaders of the twentieth century. Rav Ahron passed away during *chol ha'moed sukkos* at the age of 84.

Yeshiva University President Dr. Norman Lamm, the first to address the audience, spoke of the five aspects of *gevurah*, or heroism, that Rav Ahron embodied - his physical strength, his intellectual might, his political staunchness, his



Rav Ahron Soloveichik

moral uprightedness, and his courage when facing death. Lamm emphasized that, although Rav Ahron had been in a position to resent the success and reknow his older brother, Rav Yosef Soloveichik, his love and admiration for his brother never wavered.

Following Lamm, two of Rav Ahron's sons spoke. "My father had a natural disposition

for the spiritual and to do what's right," said Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik. Rabbi Soloveichik stressed that his father's students learned just as much, if not more, from observing Rav Ahron than from his *shiurim*. Rabbi Avram Eliezer Soloveichik included remarks about Rav Aaron's relationship with his wife, who passed away several months ago. Rav Ahron "referred to himself after my mother's passing as half a *neshama*," Rabbi Soloveichik said.

Rav Zebulun Charlop then briefly spoke about Rav Ahron's commitment to Yeshiva University before Rabbi Heschel Reichman, student and colleague of Rav Ahron, recited the *kel maleh* prayer.



Rav Ahron's son delivers hesped

## Religious Levels Vary Among YU's Grad Schools

By Kim Davis

When applying to undergraduate and graduate programs, students must consider various factors and must evaluate each program's scholastic opportunities, extra-curricular programs and campus life. Religious Jews often evaluate another aspect of university life - the Jewish life and programming that each university offers. Not surprisingly, many students choose one of Yeshiva University's undergraduate colleges because of its unique blend of Judaic and secular courses. YU's graduate schools also appeal to students for a variety of reasons, despite the fact that graduate courses are open to both Jews and non-Jews.

Many students, of course, choose YU graduate schools for the religious benefits they offer. Shira Rivkin, a first year student at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, placed Einstein as one of her top choices, not only because of its good reputation, but because, as a YU school, it offers a large Orthodox community, kosher cafeterias, and Jewish holidays off. "It is great to have a large amount of Jews

in your class. My year there are about 10 *frum* girls and about 20 *frum* guys," says Rivkin. "There are *minyanim* three times a day ... and there are *shiurim* during the week [that are offered separately for] men and for women." Additionally, Rivkin and many of her fellow students enjoy the Shabbat atmosphere on campus.

Not all people, however, choose YU graduate schools because of religious reasons. Avi Weisel chose to attend YU's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, not because of its Jewish identity, but because of its accelerated entry program. In fact, says Weisel, "the *minyamin* and *shiurim* [at Cardozo] are nominal because the activities are not school sponsored, rather they are student sponsored." Although there are various Jewish-oriented programs on the Cardozo campus, such as *Tree of Life Club*, *the Israel Club*, and *the Lehman's Society*, that differentiate it from other law schools, many graduate students consider them of secondary importance compared to the academic component. "I chose Cardozo [mainly] because it has a good reputation, and it has an

continued on next page

## Reaction Vary on Campus to Drisha Minyan

By Yael Ariel

The special Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services emphasizing female participation that the Drisha Minyan held earlier this year has sparked diverse reactions from SCW students, ranging from ambivalence to shocked criticism.

On the high holidays, the

Drisha Minyan, an Orthodox *minyan* that meets in the Abraham Joshua Heschel School on the Upper-west Side, gave the option of attending a *minyan* in which women participated in leading *pesukei d'zimra*, read from the Torah, and received *aliyot*. Those who came to the Drisha Minyan could choose between this one and a traditional *minyan*, and both groups joined for parts of the service.

"I'm very surprised," stated SCW senior Ester Levy. "I wouldn't expect that people that got their *smicha* from our university would do something that's very Reform-like." Levy is referring to the fact that the new *minyan* was planned with the approval of Rabbi David Silber, the founder of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, who received his *smicha* from Yeshiva University.

Some students had positive responses. Although the Drisha Minyan is distinct from the Drisha Institute, an establishment that provides continuing education classes to men and women, Rabbi Silber's renown from his involvement with the Drisha Institute has affected students' opinion about the new *minyan*. "It's so important that even if people disagree with Rabbi Silber they should still respect

him and realize that he is a big talmud chacham and fellow Jew," said SCW senior Kim Davis.

Those affiliated with Drisha also have great respect for Rabbi Silber. "I think that he took a really big step that a lot of people condemned him for, and I'm really proud of him," said Shayna Funman, a student at the Drisha Institute's Scholar's Circle.

Although the level of women's participation included in the new *minyan* is reminiscent of services generally associated with the Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist movements, some SCW students were not so concerned. "To each their own," said Renana Harari.

## SCW Students Perform Ultimate Mitzvah

By Jessica Russak

After the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center took the lives of thousands, Jewish volunteers were forced to do *Shmira* by the body remains preserved in NYU hospital. Because a Jewish body must never be left alone, *Shmira* is the mitzvah of staying with a body from the time it is found dead until the time it is buried. New York's Jews, organized by Armin Osgood, have been doing *Shmira* since mid-September. Jews from around the city, primarily the Upper West Side, have selflessly given hours of their time to perform this deed.

Unfortunately, there had been no one who was close enough to NYU hospital who would be able to walk over on Shabbat to do *Shmira*. Osgood was at a loss for what to do, when YU alumna Adam Plotch realized that Stern College was in the perfect location, and made his plea to the young women of Stern.

After the attacks, SCW was in a frenzy with students trying to help in any way possible. A countless

number of women went to donate blood and called the Red Cross to donate their time. Many tried to go to the site of the attack to help, but were stopped at 14th street where they were informed



SCW students as pictured in the New York Times

that only residents of Lower Manhattan could pass through.

Now, weeks later, women from SCW can still be an enormous help by volunteering for *Shmira* on Shabbat. For the past few weekends, the shifts have been filled by SCW students. But a few Shabbatot are not enough. These bodies will be at NYU hospital for an extended period of time, and as the rubble is sorted, more bodies will be found. *Shmira* must be done, and SCW students are asked now to volunteer for a mitzvah that they may not have the opportunity to perform again.

An immense number of Jewish souls were comforted by the Tehillim and prayers of the 10 girls who have done *Shmira* each weekend. These girls define the giving and generous spirit of the students of SCW.

The physical situation of the *Shmira* feels almost too easy to be such a huge deed. SCW senior Etah Mezzei started the Stern shifts at 2 pm on Friday, October 19th, relieving Leah Cohen, who finished Osgood's week shifts. She did her shift in a warm tent, separate from the bodies and the autopsies, but still with a view of the sealed trucks.

SCW junior Judith Kaplan finished her shift at 5 am and said to the Burns security guard who walked her back to the dorm, "I could have gone another four hours." Her presence, she said, was not only a comfort to Jewish souls, but also to the tired policemen and doctors taking breaks in the tent, some of whom cried when she told them why she was there.

Minimal effort breeds enormous results. To volunteer for *Shmira* for any Shabbat, call Jessica Russak at (646) 935-6288.

## RALLY DRAWS ZIONIST STUDENTS

By Michelle Sadoff

"Arafat is a terrorist" and "Stop the terrorism, stop the hate" were just two of many chants yelled by SCW and YC students, as well as local community members at the October 21<sup>st</sup> pro-Israel/anti-terrorism rally which took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The rally, which was the second one organized by SCW and YC students this year, included chants, pro-Israel anti-terrorism signs, speeches made by students, recitation of *tehillim*, and the singing of *Am Yisrael Chai* and *Hatikva*.

Although only fifty people attended, the general attitude at the rally was enthusiastic. "The student turnout was fairly good considering that it was put together quickly and there wasn't much time to advertise," commented Yael Zimmelman, co-president of the Israel Club. "But in general, we want to have a much higher student attendance."

Despite being small, the turnout on the 21<sup>st</sup> was a diverse

one, ranging from elderly people to parents to students. Everybody present had one thing in common: a love for Israel and hate for terrorism. When asked why she attended the rally, SCW sophomore Lena Dordek said, "I have a strong connection to Israel. I want to give Israel as much support as I possibly can."

In general, there was a feeling that the anti-terrorism aspect of the rally was not given equal attention. "The only thing that was against terrorism at both rallies, was the 'Honk if you hate terrorism' sign and that many people honked," Dordek said.

For the future, there is another rally coming up on December 2nd sponsored by different organizations to speak out against all terrorism. Zimmelman feels it is very important to attend. "As the next generation, it's our responsibility to step forward in support of Israel and to send a strong message, that as long as Israel is engulfed by terror and as long as our soldiers remain missing in action, we won't sit quietly."

# PRESIDENTS' PAGE



**Message from  
TAC President  
Toby Goldfisher**

**Part I:** I thought long and hard before I decided what to write about for this month's column. I know that what I am about to write does not agree with what everyone thinks, but I am willing to take a risk because this issue is important to me.

I was sitting in the Caf the other day with a group of friends. The conversation developed into what many young *frum* adults are discussing these days: dating and marriage. Judy (not her real name) began to complain that she hadn't gone on a date in "more than two weeks!" "What is she complaining about?" I thought to myself. "She is young and smart, why is she so worried?"

A few others chimed in with their dating problems. One complained about the long, drawn out process of dating because there are so many middle people involved. Another whined that she wanted to meet guys in a more "natural" way. Before I knew it, all of these beautiful, smart, young single women were complaining in one way or another about the *shidduch* process. I began to think about the fundamental problem which exists in our outlook on dating.

We need to clarify the problem and understand that we have the power to change. As educated women of the 21st century, we have to realize that we are in a special situation. We are the first generation of Orthodox Jewish women to be collectively educated on a higher level and we are holding positions that women have never held before, whether it be in *chinuch*, business, medicine or law.

There are negative stereotypes about women in general and especially about women who attend SCW. Over the Shabbat table, one middle-aged

man from my community said that many Stern women begin their college experience with one goal, which namely is to get married. I got very upset and proceeded to go on to defend myself and my fellow students to this man, telling him about all of the women I know who attend Stern in order to get an excellent education. Later that day I was thinking about what that man had said, and it dawned on me that there was some truth to his words.

Everyone reading this article should now take a minute or two to think about what makes her happy. I know this sounds hokey but just do it. Now that you have come up with a few things that make you smile, consider where you are in life and how you can attain the goals that brought you to smile. We are students in a unique all women's college. Let's be proud of who we are as people and where we have the potential to go as strong religious women. Why are we rushing to get out of here and get on with our lives?

We need to take some time to realize where we are and where we want to be going. We must shake ourselves and ask why we feel this pressure to move on, be it getting a job or getting married. We have to reevaluate if we really want what we are running towards. If after this long process one decides that what will make her very happy is getting married, then she has made a respectable choice and it is everyone's duty who knows her to help her find her mate.

My fellow women: it is up to us to rise to the challenge. Let's try not to be overcome with and ultimately succumb to the pressure that we are faced with. Realize that marriage is not the only path to happiness. Take pride in who you are and strive to be the best you can be.

## Religious Life at YU Grad Schools

*continued from previous page*

entertainment law program, which interests me," says Miriam Grossman.

Yeshiva graduate schools, as they gain in academic standing, do offer students more than just a religious environment. "Wurzweiler is the only graduate social work program that I am aware of that offers the opportunity to get a certificate in Jewish communal services," says Dina Green, explaining her reason for choosing YU's Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

That YU graduate schools are permeated with a religious atmosphere is not even necessarily a plus for everyone. For those seeking a religion-neutral education, some YU graduate schools can be disappointing. Although most of Wurzweiler's classes, for example, are not about Jewish topics, since there tends to be a majority of Jews in many of the class-

es, Judaism is brought into the classroom. "It seems inevitable that the topic will revolve around Judaism. [For example], if the topic is on ethics, it is hard not to bring Judaism into the picture," says Bilha Fruchter, a first year Wurzweiler student.

Of course, YU graduate schools are not religiously isolated, as not all people who enroll in YU graduate schools are Jewish. "There is such a diversity among the people," says Sarah Kogan, a second year student at YU's Ferkauf School of Psychology. "Religious life at Ferkauf is dependent on the individual." At Einstein, there are a number of clubs that cater to different ethnic groups, such as the Asian Club and the Indian Club. "Every student tries to find his place here," says Malka Skiba, a student in her second year at Einstein.



**Message from  
SCWSC President  
Elana Soleimani**

I have the answer to the question. We'll play Jeopardy I'll give you the answer you tell me the question. I recently had the opportunity and privilege to be a mentor/advisor at a high school leadership conference.

Approximately ten yeshiva high schools from Texas to Baltimore and the tri-state area, 80 students and their faculty advisors, gathered for two days of brainstorming, planning and awareness training. It was basically two-pronged, how we, as Jews, should view and act toward America and our role in light of current events towards Israel as Jews living in America. It was an amazing experience. The most amazing thing of all is that almost 70% of them were women. This is our answer!!! I was in a session, and 30/45 of the participants were women. This is what we need. This is the next generation, the answer.

Before the conference there was a mini-training session. The speaker was explaining

how going out and giving to the students is great, but we can't always be giving, or we run the risk of burning out and in the end not being able to help anyone. We need to re-charge our own batteries as well.

This is my proposition: Let's look toward these young women and make them our energy source. They took time out to come to practically the middle of nowhere, (Walker Valley, New York) where we were even awakened by cowbells, to meet other students like them. Students with foresight, energy, stamina and vision. I don't even think that these women knew what they were, or how amazing it was. They are where we all once were. I saw me now, inside of them. I remember telling my friend that these kids are just like us. They don't sleep, and all they do is think about what they can do for everyone else. Lets go back, find our energy and work with it, use it. There is no reason why the same ten or twelve students should do everything. It burns them out and the results becomes stale. Each and every one of you has something different, unique and special inside. You can make a difference!!! All you have to do is take the initiative. "A journey of 1,000 miles begins with a single step"- Chinese Proverb



**Message from  
SSSBSC President  
Darya Gorelik**

We are already in the middle of the semester. Most of us are still busy with midterms. I hope you do well on all your tests and still have time for the events planned for

you later on in the semester. I think that it is very important for me to explain why it would be beneficial to all the Sy Syms students to join our various clubs and programs. Our goal is to give you an opportunity to get some useful information on the career of your interest and the different ways to reach the goals you set in your life. That is why

I think the students should not hesitate to enroll in our mentoring program. I was very pleased to see that a lot of students are interested in participating.

We hope they will greatly benefit from the opportunity to get some valuable advice from the alumni of the school. Besides that, we are working on arranging a Sy Syms alumni to come on campus to speak about her work experience and career opportunities as a Jewish woman.

I want to stress that we think it is extremely important for every student to get involved in our programs and attend the informational forums and meetings we are having throughout the year.

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



# Security on Campus

## Stern Shuttles: Leaving You Out In the Cold?

By Rachel Horn

Imagine this scenario: It's a frigid Thursday night. Your bus is leaving the Port Authority Bus Terminal in 25 minutes. The bitter wind whips around you as you rush down 34th Street, lugging your suitcase behind you. You arrive at the terminal out of breath, with a pain in your left shoulder from hauling your study load. You shift your things around to get money ready, purchase a ticket, and run up the escalator, only to find your bus has just pulled out. You think to yourself, "If only the shuttle stopped here!"

Students who commute from the New York Port Authority Bus Terminal on 41st Street and Eighth Avenue and Grand Central Station on 42nd Street and Park Avenue have found their own means of transportation to the terminals thus far. Yeshiva University vans, which traveled to these locations everyday in previous years, now only provide service to these locations on Fridays and Sundays. On a trial basis only, one van has been slotted to travel to Port Authority at 5 p.m. each day.

According to John Gorman, the director of Security at Stern College for Women, the adjustment of the van routes was for good reason. "By bringing students to the Port Authority, the vans were being tied up in a lot of traffic," says Gorman. "At peak times, this impacted the rest of the service. We need the most support going to Sixth and Eighth Avenues, to Herald Square and

Penn Station."

This tactic is, of course, based on the supposition that most students need to get to Herald Square and Penn Station. This assumption however, may not be accurate.



A large number of students take the vans to Penn Station

Many students have expressed frustration and concerns about the inconvenience and safety.

Devorah Schneider, an SCW sophomore who lives in Teaneck, NJ, feels transportation should be offered to the Port Authority. "You have to wait at least half an hour for the M16 to take you to the terminal which can cause students to miss their bus and have to wait in Port Authority," Schneider notes. "If vans ran on Thursday night, it would be more reliable and safe." Michelle Bernstein, an SCW freshman, walks to Grand Central Station. "It

is unfair that transportation is provided to such local destinations and I have to walk to 42nd street," she comments.

SCW administrators are now realizing that a need for transportation to Grand Central and Port Authority is necessary. In an effort to reevaluate the needs for shuttle service to these locations, a trial run was planned for the week of October 29th. "One shuttle would leave at 5:30. We'll try this for a week, and then evaluate," Gorman speculates. "If there is a need, this system will continue."

Although some students believe that the shuttle to Grand Central Terminal and the Port Authority should follow the schedule as other bi-hourly shuttles, many are learning to deal with the new, limited service. Indeed, as winter weather rapidly approaches and darkness sets in earlier in the day, those students may choose to accept the new schedule and subscribe to the maxim "beggars can't be choosers."



Vans depart to Grand Central on a trial basis

## Fears of Anthrax Affect SCW

By Margueya Novick

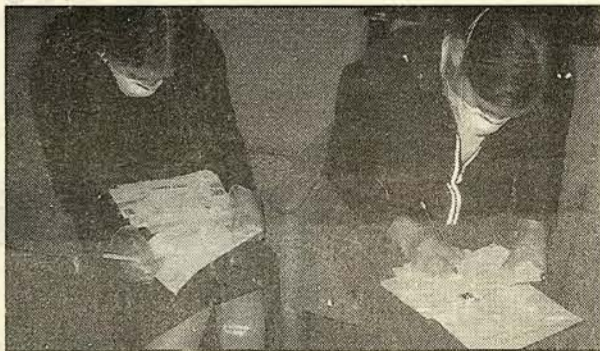
There are common precautions one takes when living in New York City. Students are advised not to walk alone at night, to hold their bags so their wallets are not accessible, and to be wary of the surroundings. Sad though it may be that such safety measures are necessary, it has become a way of life.

However, while staying safe on the streets seems natural, feeling vulnerable when receiving letters is beyond any measure of normal. A person can pre-empt the dangers lurking on a Manhattan street corner, but biological warfare, seeping into our living rooms and office buildings, is not something that a can of mace and a cell phone will ward off. It is not embodied in an ominous figure that one crosses the street to avoid; it is not even exclusive to high profile recipients. Anyone and everyone feels at risk.

"Attention passengers, due to a police investigation at 34th Street, we will be bypassing that station." The usual sighs and complaints are not heard; instead, a unanimous sense of fear passes

over the train. Once again, terrorism breathed into our very air, leaked into crevices that were always considered impenetrable.

At SCW, the threat of anthrax is not a passing thought, a threat that only applies to political figures or celebrities. The RA's are now advised to wear gloves and goggles when sorting the mail, bringing the chaotic situation of world into the dorm.



RAs sort mail with masks

The tension that has crackled in the air since September 11th has taken on different effects. Large public areas are now potential bombing sites, and anyone of Arab descent now has a more sinister air. There has been a general feeling of upset especially in SCW as a Jewish institution alarmingly close to the Empire State Building. As the number of casualties from the latest

threat from anthrax continues to rise, how have the women at SCW been affected?

One student, Gizela Braun, admitted that she is extremely nervous. "I'm scared to open my mail, as is my roommate. We're both really afraid," Braun said. Several students expressed such sentiments, while some felt unaffected. "I feel pretty removed," said Ayelet Rivka Jaye, an SCW junior. "It hasn't really hit Stern."

Aviva Fishoff, an SCW senior added, "There's a National Guard watching all of us walk by in Penn Station, so that's something I've noticed, but I'm not at all afraid. I take the train every day, and don't really think about any of this."

One of the RA's at SCW has had to cope with cautiously sorting mail as well as soothing students' anxiety. "The main thing is to be careful. You should keep [anthrax] in the back of your mind as a possibility, but not to get paranoid."

SCW itself has, thankfully, not been hit by anthrax. Although it is all too easy to get swept up by the spreading panic, students have mainly dealt with this issue calmly and maturely. Subways are still being taken, and life is proceeding as usual - albeit with a new touch of caution.

## New Security Measures Installed on Campus

By Sari Moskowitz

The luxury of rushing into the school building as class is starting is no longer a viable option for many SCW students. As a result of recent efforts to increase the security on both the midtown and main YU campuses, all students and faculty members are now required to enter through the specially designated 'entrance' doors, and exit only through the doors marked 'exit.'



Students must enter through designated "Entrance"

Additional numerous security guards have been positioned outside of the dormitories and school building to force everyone who enters to show ID cards. Indeed, while these new security measures are intended to provide for a safer, more secure environment, they also pose new challenges for many students who must now allow for extra time in order to pass through the security checkpoints properly.

While the new security measures may allow for a more accurate way of checking ID cards, some students have complaints regarding the inconvenience and additional time it takes to show identification, as well as the traffic that results from as many as a dozen students crowding into the narrow 'entrance' lane. "I find it annoying," says Shira Sasson, SCW junior, about the revamped entrances. "But I do think it's a more organized way and it's a much better way to check IDs and control who goes in and comes out."

However,

many students disagree with Sasson, questioning whether the new security measures truly provide a stronger sense of security on campus. "At first there was a sense of added security," comments Sara Brodsky, an SCW junior. "However, I'm not sure any method is entirely foolproof." Dafna Schindler, also a junior, agrees partially with both of her classmates. "I don't know if it makes the building any more secure but it certainly creates

less traffic jams."

Those who support the existence of separate exit and entrance lanes, such as Dean David Hember, extol the multiple benefits of the new system. "[The separate entrance and exit lanes] serve a double function," Dean Hember notes. "In terms of convenience, it's just good practice - and it's easier for security to monitor people coming in."

While many students and faculty members are aware of the changes in security that directly affect them, they may not be aware of the less noticeable procedural adjustments. Donald Sommers, the chief of security of YU, points out that the new security measures include "more careful screening of all mail items, a lot of alert notices and ongoing emergency response training." He also notes that even prior to the recently instituted security measures, YU's security officers were required to attend more emergency response training than any other institution. The reason for this, maintains Sommers, is that "People can't perform their functions if they don't know what their functions entail. That's why training is essential - so we sleep well at night."

"The reason for the heightened security is simply what's going on in the world at large," adds Dean Hember. "Obviously we are living in challenging times and the University is doing our utmost to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and administration."

## Karduner Concert Rocks SCW

Over two hundred students turned out for the TAC/SCWSC sponsored Yosef Karduner concert held on October 24th. SCW women sang along with Karduner's soulful songs.



Rachel Baum, an SCW student, and her mother, who was visiting from Florida, enjoyed themselves at the concert



## Netanyahu to speak at YU Chanukah Dinner

By Caryn Litt

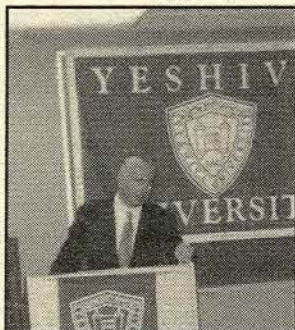
Former Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu has been chosen as the convocation speaker for Yeshiva University's 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Chanuka Dinner and Convocation. Netanyahu, who has made several lecturing appearances at YU in previous years, is expected to tailor his comments to current events by discussing the Free World's response to terrorism.

"Netanyahu is a distinguished leader," stated Peter Ferrara, Director of the Department of Communication and Public Affairs. "Not everyone agrees with him, but he has a compelling and conviction-driven world-view." Netanyahu also has a strong relationship with YU, as evidenced by the YU honorary degree he already holds as well as the many favorable comments he has made about the University in the past.

This year's dinner, which is being held December 2 at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, is particularly significant because Yeshiva University President Dr. Norman Lamm, who announced his retirement plans last year, is being honored. "In all probability, this is Dr.

Lamm's last academic dinner as President of the University and RIETS," commented Ferrara. As the honoree, Lamm will give the keynote address at the dinner.

Immediately preceding the dinner will be the convocation, at which Lamm will confer honorary doctoral degrees on Harvey Becker, Lea Eisenberg, Warren Eisenberg, Benjamin Heller, and Bernard Madoff - all philanthropists and communal leaders who have been significantly involved with YU.



Netanyahu spoke to SCW Honors students last year

Student leaders, including members of Student Council, members of the Torah Activities Council, and the Editors-in-Chief of the *Observer*, have received invitations to the dinner. "I know nothing about the dinner, but I'm pleased to be invited," remarked TAC president Toby Goldfisher.

The Chanuka dinner is considered one of YU's most distinguished events of the academic year. Past speakers have included such celebrated figures as New York Governor George Pataki and New York Senator Charles Schumer.

## Those Who Didn't Go

### Freshmen React to Current Situation in Israel

By Rina Shapiro

Due to the current situation in Israel, the freshman and sophomore classes are larger than normal this semester. Many students who were planning on going to Israel, either for Shana Aleph or Shana Bet, changed their plans at the last moment because of the August 9th bombing at Sbarros in central Jerusalem. Now, however, due to the September 11th tragedy and recent anthrax threats, America also seems less than secure. Do SCW students feel that changing their plans for security reasons were for naught?

Brooke Laniado, an SCW freshman, was prevented by her parents from spending the year in Israel due to security issues. "I was fighting on and off with my parents during my senior year to be able to go Israel," Laniado says. "When the bombing at Sbarros took place, my parents told me that I definitely couldn't go."

Laniado, though she wishes she went to Israel, is enjoying SCW. "I'm happy here. I would be going through similar things in terms of dealing with security if I was in Israel, and it's not like I wouldn't be afraid if I was there. But I wish I was in Israel more since the September 11th tragedy."

Tamar May, another freshman whose original plans were changed from going to Israel, is doing well at SCW. While upset that she's not in Israel, she supports her parents' decision. "I'm not still upset, but I feel like I missed an opportunity. But I didn't get more upset about it after the September 11th tragedy."

Many viewed the September 11th tragedy as bearing some sort of message. Chava Brochin, an SCW

sophomore, spent last year in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel program and is currently taking a leave of absence in her second year at Darchei Binah. "In the course of events, I saw the hand of G-d, and felt very lucky to be in Israel."

HaRav Kanievsky, one of the head rabbis in Bnei Brak, said that the safest place to be is Israel," she comments. "I always just thought of that as a nice thing to say, but I see that he meant it after the September 11th tragedy. G-d sent us a message, and that message shouldn't be ignored."

Sarah Weisman, an SCW freshman who hails from Jerusalem, agrees that there is a message and a lesson to learn. "There's no reason to be scared to go to Israel because there's divine intervention. Whatever is going to happen will happen, anywhere, anytime," she says. "You aren't throwing yourself into a fiery furnace by going to Israel."

Though most students who weren't able to go to Israel are happy and adjusted at SCW, there is still a longing to be in Israel amongst them. While being interviewed, May was on the phone with a friend in Israel. Over the long-distance static, she yelled, "I want to be there with you guys!"

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## DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS: BIOLOGY



By Caryn Litt

As the women's college of Yeshiva University, SCW unquestionably has a role in revolutionizing women's education and in proving female stereotypes wrong. A good example of Stern's rising to the occasion is the serious approach it takes toward the sciences, a field typically considered part of the male domain. The Biology department, in particular, is in fact one of the strongest departments at Stern.

"When I first got to Stern, I didn't even know what I wanted to do," says Sabrina Weisman, SCW Biology major and coeditor of *Derech Hatevah*. "I found quickly, though, that Biology is one of the best departments in the school."

The department is certainly unparalleled in the individual attention given to students in order to guarantee their success after they leave SCW. "We are interested in the students developing their potential and in adding 'uniqueness' to their resumes," asserts Biology professor Dr. Harvey Babich. To that end, a heavy emphasis is placed on extracurricular experiences. Professors continually make students aware of internship and research opportunities. During this past summer, more than fifteen percent of science majors participated in some kind of internship, including internships at the Weizman Institute of Science and the Rusk Institute of NYU Medical Center.



Students are also encouraged to participate in the clubs and activities offered at SCW. In addition to the Biology Club, there is the *Derech Hatevah* publication, a Torah and science journal, and SURGE, a forum for the sharing of student research. "I enjoyed talking about my research with other people and exploring it in a group setting," says Shoshana Frankel, who recently delivered a SURGE presentation entitled, "Navigating the Human Genome."

Although a very important aspect of the educational, and resume-building, process, these extracurricular activities are still above and beyond the heavy course-load expected of Biology majors. "There's a tremendous amount of pressure; you're never finished with your work," says SCW Biology major Jenny Richmond. Compounded with the lectures are labs, some of which last for hours and require extensive lab reports.

Although considered by some students to be too lengthy and time-consuming, the labs are actually a major contributor to the excellent reputation the Biology department has. According to Babich, the Biology department is allowed "unlimited funds," helped along by large, individual donations, to keep its labs state-of-the-art. The labs used by Biology majors are continually being updated with the newest equipment.

The department has an eye on the future in other ways, as well. A goal

of the department is to develop a four-year intensive program that combines biotechnology and business, such as the field of genomics healthcare. "We want to show students their interdisciplinary opportunities," explains Biology professor Dr. Brenda Loewy.

As the requirements for the Biology major exist now, the objective seems to be on preparing students with a well-rounded foundation. The major is structured so that students take courses from the following three areas: Population and Ecology, Molecular and Cellular, and Organismal. Although some Biology majors claim that the requirement of such courses as Ecology is not useful, the administration insists that the requirement is necessary, even if only for success on the Biology Major Field Achievement Test, which covers all areas of Biology. "We can't have such a minimalist view," says Dean Ethel Orlan. "The more we know the better."

Although the Biology department has created a highly developed program for those majoring in it, the department seems lacking in its offerings to non-majors. Stern requires one

year of science with lab for all students, and, although Chemistry and Physics are options, the vast majority of students elect to take Biology. The level at which the non-majors Biology class is taught, however,

can be frustrating. "Just because someone's not majoring in Biology doesn't mean she's not interested in science," claims Yael Zimmelman, an SCW junior. "I come out of class saying, 'that was the biggest waste of time.'" Indeed, there are many students who feel that the non-majors class, which covers only Human Biology, is barely even on a high-school level.

The difficulty for the administration, however, is that the grades are so extreme - for whatever reason, there are still students in the non-majors Biology class getting C's and D's. To combat the issue, the administration in recent years offered an Introduction to Science course as an alternative to the Biology class, which was not well received, and has considered creating an Honors non-majors Biology class. "I don't have a clear answer to this problem," admits Dean Karen Bacon.

Non-biology majors who are still serious about science would prefer introductory courses in more specific aspects of biology, such as anatomy or genetics. As of now, however, these courses do not fulfill the science requirement. The Biology department does envision a greater offering of Biology courses for both science and non-science majors, but the implementation of those courses is obviously largely dependent on the size of the school - as well as whether the number of SCW women interested in science continues to grow.

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## Does a Double Curriculum Mean Half the Work?

By Rachel Fyman

With midterms well under way, stress levels at Stern are high. The cafeteria and libraries are filled with study groups, and tests and papers are the primary topic of conversation in the elevators. Lines are forming at the Xerox machines at the same time as overpriced textbooks are being cracked open for the first time. This atmosphere begs the simple question - is this midterm cramming the extent of the workload at Stern?

"The workload is definitely lighter here, and the whole academic environment is just more relaxed," says junior Adina Rozmaryn, who transferred from Brandeis to SCW this year.

While Stern professes to be a top-notch institution for higher education, many students feel that Stern's main draw is its social, rather than academic, advantages. "If academics had been my priority, I would have gone to a college closer to where I live," says one student who is not from the New York area.

There is no denying that there is work to be done at Stern, but, for a large number of students, a heavy workload at Stern is purely seasonal. "Midterms and finals time is always stressful," says Assistant Dean of Students

Zelda Braun, noting that students will come to her for help in general stress-management.

Even though the majority of tests and papers all seem to be concentrated within a period of a few weeks, there are courses that require consistent work throughout the semester. Stern currently offers twelve Honors courses, which are characterized precisely by the increased readings and papers they require. "It's entirely subjective," says SSSB junior Sara Brodsky. "You can take all easy courses or all hard courses." SCW senior Ronit Mendel adds, "[The workload] depends on how hard you choose to work."

Many students do, in fact, choose to take courses that have reputations for being easy. A number of students will admit, for example, to taking Jewish Studies classes below their level in order to inflate their Grade Point Averages.

Despite the assertion that the workload is relatively light, professors often get complaints from students who feel that they are unable to complete assignments on time.

This could be a result of the fact that, due to the dual curriculum required by the University, students may be taking up to seven courses each semester, plus labs and required gym courses, which is significantly more than students take in other colleges. The more advanced Jewish Studies do not necessarily demand less work than general studies classes, either. "I don't think of my courses differently from any other course offered in the University," says Bible professor Naomi Grunhaus. "The best way to grow in Torah is to study it seriously."

One advantageous result to having a moderate workload is having more time for part-time jobs and for participating in the many extra-curricular activities and *chessed* opportunities that Stern encourages. The University does, after all, pride itself in producing well-rounded students.



Students engrossed in lecture of Yehudah Amichai poetry class

## SCW Departs from Precedent by Changing Calendar

### Classes Held on Tzom Gedalia and on Friday

By Rachel Gross

For the first time in many years, the SCW administration decided to hold classes on Tzom Gedalia, the fast following Rosh Hashana that has typically provided a day off for SCW students. To clarify why this year's schedule differed from those of previous years, Zelda Braun, the associate Dean of Students, explained that it was necessary to have school on Tzom Gedalia because of the unusually long yom tov break that afforded nearly three weeks of vacation.

It is required by law that class schedules for each day of the week be held at least fifteen times during the course of a semester. Consequently, the administration decided to hold school on Tzom Gedalia, so that school would not have to start early and intercession would not have to be shortened to compensate for the lost Thursday schedule.

Yet while the SCW administration felt confident in its decision, many SCW students voiced their opposition to having school on Tzom Gedalia. One sentiment shared by many students asserted that having school on Tzom Gedalia was unfair and inconvenient for out-of-towners who had to choose between spending Rosh Hashana with their families or staying in the tri-state area so that they could return for school immediately after the holiday.

"For out-of-towners it's very hard because if they go home they miss class so they have to stay away from home an

extra week," commented Miriam Guttman, an SCW freshman from Ohio. "It's terrible," agreed Debra Feinberg, an SCW sophomore from New Jersey, who commiserated with her friends from out-of-town. "It's inconvenient and very difficult to commute because Rosh Hashana ended so late which made it difficult to get buses. It's unfair that many girls missed class."

Indeed, because SCW prides itself on its diverse student body, it was difficult for many students to accept that this year on Tzom Gedalia, SCW was transformed into a commuter school.

Another common complaint was that being in school on Tzom Gedalia detracted from the serious nature of the fast. "I feel that having school on a fast day is wrong because a fast day is supposed to be a solemn day and you can't concentrate when you're in school," commented Arielle Reich, an SCW freshman from Connecticut.

Victoria Menashy, a freshman from California agreed, and suggested that "it's a bad idea to have normal classes, but instead there should have been an optional program in the morning."

Though many SCW students failed to realize that YC students always have morning classes on fast days, as did most SCW students when they were in high school, those who did acknowledge this fact still maintained that having class was inconvenient. SCW freshman Michelle Bernstein, recognized this fact and admitted that, "I've always had at least a half a day on Tzom Gedalia, but [this year]

it's annoying to commute." Bernstein also voiced the fear of many - that the school will be empty on Tzom Gedalia. Others wondered whether any given lessons would be repeated for absent students at a later time, a perk that would make attendance on Tzom Gedalia even more trouble than it is worth.

Classes were also held on Friday, October 19, for those students who normally have classes on Thursday afternoons. Not surprisingly, many students responded with the same feelings of understanding and criticism similar to those that were expressed when school was held on Tzom Gedalia. "I felt that it was a big inconvenience because Shabbos was really starting to come in early," lamented senior Miriam Marcus. "I don't know how people who had school until the afternoon were able to travel for Shabbos. But on the other hand, I do understand why they had to do this. We have so many days off for the chagim. The must keep up with the state standard."

Tamar Ellman, an SCW junior, agreed. "I have no afternoon classes on Thursdays so it didn't bother me because I didn't have to come to school anyway," she says of the Friday classes. "But it would have bothered me had I been required to come." Many students who attended the Friday classes noticed that while their Shabbos plans may have been limited, the classes were necessary to help students and teachers complete their coursework.

## REACTIONS TO YESHIVA UNIVERSITY'S CAREER FAIR

By Alana Sher

Student responses to Yeshiva University's Career Fair on Monday, October 29, were as varied as their majors. A plethora of representatives in the fields of accounting, finance, marketing, management, communications, computers, business and actuarial sciences gathered at Belfer Hall-Weissberg Commons to meet with the hopeful candidates of summer internships and full-time jobs post graduation. Some students found the variety of careers offered as limited, while others found it comprehensive.

"The Career Fair is a great opportunity to explore career options," commented Lisa Fuchs, a senior in Sy Syms. "I'm interested in finding a job in programming for next year, so I brought my resume with me."

Sy Syms students perused the tables, submitting resumes and gathering information about various firms including, Knight Trading Group, AXA Advisors Inc., Prudential Securities and Doral Bank.

"The student turnout looks good, very good," said Susanne Goldstone, Corresponding Secretary of SCW Student Council. "However, I wish there could have been a few more businesses I would be interested in. I found only one listing under the subject I'm looking into."

While the Career Fair pamphlet boasts numerous listings under subjects such as accounting and information technology, the brochure fails to cite more than two representatives in both the fields of Healthcare and Law. Some students interested in graduate programs were also dismayed at the meager selection of graduate programs. "There weren't a lot of graduate schools and I was hoping Ferkauf would be here," observed Estie Rosen,

a senior interested in psychology. "Fordham was supposed to be here, but they're not."

Ruthie Ephron, also a psychology major, admits that although the program has its good points, there is much room for improvement. "I met with representatives from Adelphi, Hofstra and St. Johns and asked them questions about their schools, financial aid and the statistics to get in," stated Ephron. "It was good, but the Career Fair could be improved if it offered more graduate schools."

Toby Goldfisher, the SCW Torah Activities Council president, proffered advice to the career guidance staff. "There were few graduate schools for psychology and I can count on my hand the career choices for informal Jewish education," said Goldfisher. "They need more of a social science focus because they're very focused on business and actuarial science. There were around three graduate programs here."

Although many students feel that there is not enough emphasis on graduate programs, there are those who found the Career Fair beneficial.

Leora Schayer has spent the past few months sending out requests for graduate school applications in social work. Attending Career Fair expedites the application process, she says. "It makes life easier because everything is gathered here, you sign up and send out all in one place," asserted Shayer.

Yet for many students-especially those in the liberal arts program - the struggle to find a career continues. "I went to Career Fair to see what my options were for something a little more off-beat, like writing," commented Margueya Novick, a communications major at SCW. "I felt bad that the creative arts were not represented, there was almost nothing and it was very discouraging."

## WYUR

continued from page 13

Waisbord remarked, after being told about WYUR for the first time. "If WYUR didn't come back, obviously it wouldn't make me terribly upset, but if it did I would listen and see if it was any good."

Other students remember the days when WYUR was a working radio station and hope to hear the sounds of WYUR again. "I

think having a YU radio station is a great idea because it can give students a chance to feel connected to YU while they are in their dorms or homes," commented Kim Davis, an SCW senior. "I would love to see the YU radio station up and running again. I love YU, and since I am graduating soon, I would enjoy every opportunity to feel connected to the school before I leave." Only time will tell if Davis will get her wish.

## Eimatai

continued from page 19

The success of the conference is evident by the large number of responses the EIMATAI office has received. "The coordinators were so enthusiastic, the kids caught on and were excited; planning activities for their schools," said Ariela Dworetzky, SCW Junior. "After the conference was over, the EIMATAI office received a lot of positive feedback from the kids themselves and the school

administrations." On November 1, a follow up meeting was held among EIMATAI advisors and coordinators to discuss the implementation of the programs the students had developed two weeks earlier. The second EIMATAI event of the year will be held on Shabbos, December 7-8, 2001; location to be announced. For more information on how to get involved, go to [www.yu.edu/riets](http://www.yu.edu/riets) and click on the EIMATAI link.

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## Feeling Puzzled?

### A Look At SCW Psychological Counseling Services

By Caryn Litt

In the immediate aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks two months ago, efforts were made by the school to inform the students know that they did not have to grapple with the ramifications of such an enormous tragedy on their own. Indeed, after the terrorist attacks, a mostly behind-the-scenes facet of Stern suddenly surfaced: the school's psychological counseling network.

Not wanting to intrude too much into the students' lives, the counseling staff at SCW generally keeps a low profile – sometimes to a detrimental degree. "I don't even know who [the counselors] are," claims one first year student.

This lack of information regarding the counseling services is not a minor issue. After the events of September 11th, a committee consisting of student leaders, faculty, and administrators was formed with the purpose of offering recommendations on how best to handle the situation. The committee, chaired by psychology professor Dr. Marcel Perlman, found that, although SCW offers extensive counseling services, many students know nothing about them. "The dissemination of information is very important," says Perlman.

However, according to Zelda Braun, Assistant Dean of Students and a Personal Counselor, the fact that some students are not aware of the services available to them is not the fault of the counseling staff.

The Office of Student Services has publicized its counseling services on the Yeshiva University web-site, in the Yeshiva University daily planner, in the *Observer*, in the residence handbook, through large fliers hanging around the school, and through letters to the students. "The crux of what we do is to be out there, getting to know students in different ways, so they know we can help them," asserts Braun. The recommendation committee's preliminary ideas for making students more aware of the services available to them include running informational meetings, seminars, and symposia, as well as increasing safety awareness.

For a large number of students, though, there is not so much an ambiguity regarding who the counselors are, but rather what the

counselors actually do. "I feel like they're there to deal with people with real problems," says an SCW junior. "I think I'm at a stage in my life where I can take care of my own problems."

That the counselors are only for people with major, life-or-death issues is a prevalent, though misguided, perception at Stern. In reality, the majority of problems the counselors encounter include such mundane concerns as roommate difficulties and schoolwork pressures, as well as more general religious,



Dean Zelda Braun consults with student

social, and personal growth issues that arise. "If I ever feel like I need to get something off my chest, it's good to have someone just to listen," confides Elisheva Douglas, an SCW sophomore.

The fact that the counseling staff deals mainly with routine and ordinary situations have led some to question

*continued on page 22*

## Sexual Content in Literature Classes: Should it be Censored?

By Adina Levine

They threw off their clothes, and he gathered her to him and found her, found the pure lambent reality of her forever invisible flesh."

A classic of literature, *Women in Love* was read in the English "Modernism" course. Students blushed when reading this material.

In a Drama literature class, the teacher required the students to act out a play. When the script called for the student reader to exclaim, "He was good. He was so good. We usually do it in the garage but..." the student paused. Instead of curtailing the presentation of the drama, the teacher instead encouraged the student to continue.

In Professor Anne Peter's "American Culture and New York City," she apologized to the class for the potentially offensive material she had forgotten existed in Doctorow's *Ragtime*. Considering the relatively small attendance that day, she joked that she had probably caused half the

class to drop the course. Indeed, one student remarked that she had dropped a different course because of the offensive nature of the material.

The question of whether sexual material should be taught in SCW remains a heavily debated topic, both among its students and its faculty. Though by and large teachers do not deliberately seek out sexual material, most do not censor it either. The issue is whether the presence of sexual content in literature should play a role in its selection on a syllabus. Some teachers believe that offensive material should be avoided while other teachers see no need for "protecting" their students, and in fact, see the practice as harmful to the long-term interests of the students.

Professor Peters maintains that a teacher should use some discretion in choosing a syllabus.

"In my English comp class this semester, when I had a choice of two poems, I picked the less offensive one," commented Peters. "I



Reading for class: Is Freud appropriate?

want the discussion of literature to be interesting, not a discussion where some students can't open their mouth. In another school, I might be afraid of the opposite problem: that the discussion would get out of control, turning away from the literature to a discussion of the material."

While admitting the existence of the issue, other teachers do not attach so much significance to the sexual content of the material in preparing a syllabus. A host of factors influence a teacher's selection of course assignments, according to Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, and sexual content is only one of them.

"I think this is a weighing factor, one of maybe a dozen factors," explained Wachtell, "but I

*continued on page 16*

## Nervus Circus Performs at YU

By Jodi Schachar

Ladies and Gentlemen, the circus has arrived at YU. The nervus circus, that is. On Thursday night, November 2, SCWSC and YCSC sponsored the Coney Island Circus Sideshow, a novelty act circus, to give students a relaxing night of entertainment and relieve their stress from the current midterm strain. The show consisted of acts such as



Nervus Circus Performs

sword swallowers, snake charmers, and contortionists.

"I think it's a great turnout for midterms and the world series," said YCSC president Lou Shapp.

The YC students, composing the majority of the attending students, had mixed reactions to the show. The general opinion was that a more mature form of entertainment should have been offered. "If I were five years younger I might enjoy it more," YC student Gavi Nadel said.

However, some students loved the kid it brought out in them. "It's a dying form of entertainment that has been around for hundreds of years and it's good it still exists," commented Motti Schleider.

Accustomed to a more active audience, sword swallower The Great Fredini was not impressed. "It's not the greatest venue," asserted Fredini. "I



guess they wanted to keep people in the bleachers, [but] it was a little tough to get a rise out of the crowd sometimes." Acts from The Coney Island Circus Sideshow have appeared on television shows such as Ripley's Believe It or Not and Jerry Springer.

With dinner provided, a YC student band playing music at intermission, and a simple, yet entertaining show, the event proved to be a enjoyable experience overall. Many students are looking forward to the next student council sponsored event, Chanukasino.

# CAMPUS BRIEFS



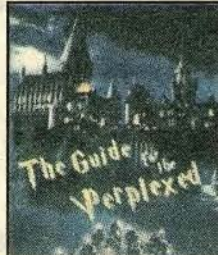
Peter Ferrara

**Director of Public Relations,** Peter Ferrara, will now be at the midtown campus every Wednesday in room 905. Attempting to establish more of a connection between

the uptown campus and the midtown one, the move will mark the first time that SCW has maintained a Public Relations representative on campus.

**SCW's Open House** was held on Sunday November 11th. SCW students assisted in leading students on guided tours throughout the SCW campus, including Schottenstein dorm, the new dorm, and 215 Lexington. Despite traffic resulting from the UN meeting, attendance reached an all time high of hundreds of participants.

**The presidential search** process, headed by Dr. Lowengrub, has received a list of approximately 75 names solicited from



This Year's Guide

the letter that went out to all YU family members, and has narrowed it down to approximately 25 potential candidates. The next stage of the process involves the contacting of these candidates to determine whether they are even interested in the position, to further narrow the list before beginning the interview process.

**Though Still not Distributed** as of press, Part I of the Guide is scheduled to be handed out this week.

**A Crisis Management Committee** has been organized by Dr. Perlman and is in the planning of organizing a lecture to better adept students to handling crises and tightening up procedures in the event of a crisis.

**Journalists and Best-Selling Authors** Samuel G. Freedman and Ari Goldman will speak at the Morris Epstein Forum on the arts at the Cultural Center on November 19, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. Their talk, "An Exploration of the Crises Facing World Jewry Today," is open to the public at no charge.

# on campus

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

**“Freshmen: How does the workload at SCW compare to that of high school?”**



**Shira Saul-**  
“I’m finding that there’s so much work here, especially reading. There is a lot of material assigned in a short amount of time. I also feel that teachers sometimes forget we’re taking 5 other classes. My work requires a lot of memorization for tests and lots of spit back, which is very frustrating. The difference between college and high school is that in college, there is a lot of work out of class and you have to learn a lot of it on your own.”

**Yael Shalom-**

“My high school was very academic from the secular aspect, so SCW is comparable. I had a lot of work in high school, but in college there is more reading and less busy work. You have to pace yourself. No one is going to spoonfeed you what you have to do each day. But it’s not too much work, you still have time for social life. There are always Thursday and Saturday nights!”



**Helena Stone-**  
“I came from a challenging high school, which has prepared me well for college. Each semester here depends on the amount and type of courses you are taking. Handling the workload has been easier for me than for many of my friends. But it is not so hard that people aren’t dealing with the workload. Most people are able to cope, and anyway, this is what I expected college to be like.”

## Unpredictable Classroom Temperatures Bother Teachers and Students

By Jodi Schachar

Upon entering the classroom, one is more than likely to find the scenario to look more like the innards of a closet than a typical class. Bulky garb such as jackets and sweaters drape off of chairs as students decide which layer of clothing is most appropriate to the classroom temperature. It may sound like a big procedure, but such actions have become the ritualistic classroom dance for SCW students. The classroom temperature seems to have become as unpredictable as the weather and has become an impairment to learning, according to students and teachers alike.

In reference to the Sy Syms Building, English teacher Dr. Silver said, “You roast, you freeze, I will now not use room 717 because you can’t ventilate it. It’s so sad because it’s such a beautiful building.”

One student joked about the situation by stating “I’m wearing a winter coat in the middle of the classroom!”

According to speech professor Professor Schram, “When the temperature is chilly it can be invigorating, but when it is too stuffy it is not conducive to the learning and teaching environment. I can’t even open the windows due to the noise factor.”

However, students and teachers are not aware of the complexities that consist in regulating room temperatures. In the 245 Lexington building, each room is equipped with a convector, a special device that regulates the room temperature by turning on either hot or cold water for the venting systems from the central

building system. In the 215 Lexington building, because SCW occupies only three floors, matters are complicated even further. Each floor, two, three, and parts of seven, has a separate individual air system that is not linked to the rest of the building or even to one another. The rooms are controlled by a computerized thermostat, which is supposed to keep them between 68-72 degrees. Checking such systems daily is not realistic, but the maintenance or plant operations staff do check the classroom temperature every Monday.

Usually after October 15th the systems are switched to winter opera-

tions, with air-conditioning no longer usable. This year, however, the staff waited an extra week before winterizing. The unseasonably warm outside weather has affected the usually smooth operation of the ventilation system.



Fans cool hot administration office

## It’s My Birthright, and I’ll Go if I Want To!

By Bridget Gallina

As you brace yourself for the spacious elevator ride up to the third floor, you spot this poster out of the corner of your eye: “Wanna go to Israel for free?” You forget about plans to check your email, and excitedly run over to see the details of this enticing offer. If you’re one of the many Stern women who went to Israel for the year, you’ll have better luck getting past security without your ID then going to Israel with Birthright. Nonetheless many a post-Israel-Stern girl made a valiant attempt at applying to Birthright this year in hopes of exploring the Holy Land for free. Though most failed miserably, some did make the cut.

Penina Oberstein, a junior at Stern, went to Midreshet Moriah for the year. She applied to Birthright because she was under the impression that anyone who didn’t attend a touring summer program is eligible “The emphasis during your year in Israel is not touring,” said Penina. It took 3 weeks for the Oberstein’s rejection letter to arrive. “I was a little surprised,” said Oberstein. “People said I definitely had a chance.”

Other students simply left out the fact that they went to Israel for the year. “I don’t want to tell them that I went to Israel for the year, because it wasn’t at all an organized tour,” said one student. “We went on a few tiyulim, but I wouldn’t say that I got to tour the land.”

Especially during these times when people are scared to go, Israel is practically desperate for tourists. If people are offering to pay, someone should go regardless of the fact that they learned there for a year.”

As for policy, the Birthright website www.BirthrightIsrael.com does offer some specifics in regards to who’s eligible: “The Birthright Israel gift is open to all Jewish young adults, ages 18 to 26, post high-school, who have not traveled to Israel before on a peer educational trip.

Even without a free trip, students are planning to travel to Israel for mid-winter vacation and many airlines are offering tickets at an all time low. Either way, it’s our responsibility to show our support now more than ever, and the greatest way to do so would be to get on that plane. So no matter how you get there, stop studying for those midterms and plan that trip!

## SCW Holds Annual Dinner

By Observer Staff

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, SCW celebrated its 57-year anniversary with its annual board dinner, held at the Pierre on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The three honorees - Jessica Bibliowicz, Susan Rosenblatt, and Daryl Roth - are longtime SCW supporters.

“These three honorees are exemplary role models for the students of Stern College - and I say that without exaggeration,” asserted Dr. Lamm in his public address. “They represent the ideal toward which Stern College points its students: striving to maximize one’s potential - in the working world, in the community and in the family.”

With Ben Brafman serving as the Master of Ceremonies, the program included *Hamotzi* by Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, the singing of “God Bless America” by guest cabaret performer Loren Korevic, speeches by Dean Bacon and Dr. Lamm followed by presentations to the honorees.

Jessica Bibliowicz, a graduate of



Student leaders attend dinner

Cornell University, has steadily risen to the top of the financial services industry over her 20 year career. In addition to serving as president



Rosenblatt, her husband and nine children, two of whom attend Stern College

and chief operating officer of John A. Levin & Co. as well as executive vice president and head of Smith Barney Mutual Funds, Bibliowicz has also demonstrated her unique intellectual ability in her frequent appearances as guest commentator on CNBC, CNN and Fox Business News, as well as her quotations in *Business Week*, *The New York Times*, and other publications. However, all her accomplishment cannot take away from her role as loving wife and mother of two children.

Susan Rosenblatt, mother of nine, also hailed numerous accomplished, one of which as Brafman joked, was that, “by bringing her entire family, [she had] successfully filled this entire room.” In addition to her familial accomplishments, Rosenblatt, together with her husband, litigated two class action lawsuits

## Whatever Happened to WYUR?

By Kayla Klatzkin

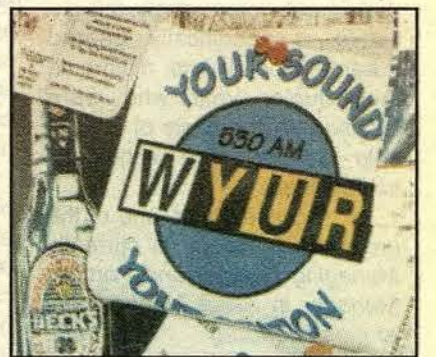
After more than a year of inactivity, WYUR, the official radio station of YU, is still not running. Are individual students wondering why? “No, not really,” said Sahar Solaimazadeh, an SCW senior.

There are those, though, that are more curious. “I would like to know why if YU has a station it is not running,” stated Steven Litkowski, an SSSB freshman.

For Litkowski and others wanting to know what’s going on, here is the inside story, according to Alex Traiman, the former Acting Station Manager. The equipment in WYUR’s radio station dates back to the 70s, and is no longer usable. New equipment is the only option. Though originally a new state-of-the-art radio station was estimated at over \$50,000, a way was found to replace the most essential equipment for under \$15,000.

How would WYUR allocate the funds for this system? After failing to find donations, Traiman looked within YU for funds. Having no luck from YU or SCW student councils, who claimed budget constraints, Traiman wrote a twelve-

page proposal that discussed how YU would benefit from having WYUR on campus. This proposal



was submitted one year ago to the Presidents Circle, and after eight months of waiting, an agreement was finally reached: if YCSC and SCWSC would donate \$2,500 a piece, then the President’s Circle would donate \$10,000, and enough money would thereby be raised to revive WYUR. The money remains to be seen, and Traiman, an upper senior, feels he has done all he can.

The students of SCW have varying opinions regarding WYUR. Some new students are not even aware of its existence, such as Elana Waisbord, an SCW sophomore who spent her first year in Israel. “It sounds interesting,”

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continued on page 20

# Business News

## Brown to Return Part-time to Syms Single Course to be Taught Uptown

By Mimi Sternberg

After announcing his resignation last year, Professor Aaron Brown has decided to return to Sy Syms on a part-time basis. Rumors recently circulating that the Finance professor would return full-time to Syms have been confirmed as false, and Brown will only be teaching one advanced course at the uptown campus. "It's unfortunate," commented Dean Snow. "We had really hoped for his full-time return." Brown has not ruled out returning full-time for the Fall '02 semester.

Brown, who resigned last semester citing work overload as a factor, had planned to move to Israel for a year, but instead remained in New York and is currently working in the financial risk management department at Citigroup.

The return of Professor Brown to the midtown campus would have been especially appreciated considering the status of the Finance department as it is now. "It's frustrating that he will only be teaching the YC students, though I can't say



Professor Brown will not return in the spring

I'm surprised," said one Sy Syms junior. "The boys always get preferential treatment."

SSSB midtown campus already has an incongruously small number of tenure professors for an institution that is purporting to compete with top tier undergraduate business schools. Furthermore, this semester there are only three finance classes beyond the introductory level, all taught by non-full time professors. "Having Brown back next semester would have filled a much needed vacancy in the Finance department," said SSSB junior Yaelle Levy. "He is one of the best finance teachers and his absence is very noticeable."

In addition to his didactic contributions, Brown was well liked for his sensitivity and concern for the welfare of his students. "I'm very disappointed," said SSSB student Melissa Chames. "I was really looking forward to taking Professor Brown again."

## WHAT'S A LIBERAL ARTS MAJOR LIKE YOU DOING ON A "STREET" LIKE THIS?

By Devorah Schreck

Are you majoring in biology but dream about mergers and acquisitions? Are you studying to be a psychologist but would love the opportunity to analyze the ups and down of the market? If you have an interest in business but are a Liberal Arts major, don't cross off a career on Wall Street just yet.

On October 16<sup>th</sup> in a conference room at the offices of Weil, Gotshal and Manges, LLP, 23 Yeshiva University students kicked off the start of The Wall Street Mentoring Program.

Spearheaded by three Wall Street professionals—Ed Zughaft, Lance Hirt and Steve Major, (the latter two of whom are YC graduates,)—the WSMP is intended to provide Yeshiva students with guidance and information about possible careers on Wall Street. Interestingly, this initiative is specifically geared towards Liberal Arts majors in their Junior year who were selected on the basis of leadership abilities and scholastic achievement.

Steve Major, one of the program's initiators, is currently *Managing Director and Portfolio Manager in Asset Management at Ladenburg Thalmann*. However, back in 1989, Steve was pre-Med at YC. Like many Yeshiva students, Steve was not quite sure what career he wanted to pursue. Eventually, he heeded his "calling," and currently has a job he is excited and enthusiastic about. One of the motivations for his involvement in this program is his wish that "there was something like this around when I was back in YU." A lot of bright, capable college students pick a profession such as law and medicine by default, he explained. This is truly unfortunate, and hopefully through the initiative of these three dedicated individuals, students will gain the opportunity to learn from mentors about the business world and

make an informed decision about their own career futures.

According to Zughaft, *Managing Director of Investment Banking at Lehman Brothers*, the goal of the program is three-fold: 1) To help students understand more about opportunities available to them in the business world. 2) To help students evaluate and determine what's best for each of them, and 3) To assist students in their efforts to get a job through coaching as well as through the contacts they will make in the business world.

But, what appeal does a Liberal Arts student have to a business employer, you ask?

After all, a Finance major is definitely more ahead of the game than an English major, right? Well, it's not so simple. As the mentors explained, "Companies get hundreds of resumes. Most of the majors listed are business, finance, management etc. An applicant who's an English major, for example, is something different and often captures the interest of the hiring party."

Obviously if you're completely dedicated to and excited about a career in accounting, no one will advise you to major in basket-weaving and hope you'll get hired by a top accounting firm. The point clearly reinforced by the mentors, however, is that if you show promise, commitment and dedication, the fact that you didn't major in business is not viewed as an impediment. On the contrary, it's something distinct, out of the ordinary. It separates you from the other hundred applicants, and an employer may be inclined to take a closer look and grant you an interview.

And, the response to the program has been overwhelmingly positive.

Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of YU's Office of Placement and Career Services was very pleased with the turnout and is looking forward to

the continuation of the program. Zughaft, Major and Hirt, *Executive Director of Mergers and Acquisitions at Morgan Stanley*, had contacted the YU placement office because they "wanted to recruit talented Juniors who would not ordinarily consider careers on Wall Street," she explained. Students would be paired with mentors according to their individual interests, and through this relationship "students will develop networking opportunities. They'll be exposed to new trends and issues on Wall Street so when they graduate, they'll have a competitive edge," she anticipates.

Yeshiva students are also very enthusiastic about it.

David Zundorfer, a YC Junior, like most of the students there, was not necessarily planning on pursuing a career on "The Street." Studying to be an actuary, Zundorfer found the reception to be an eye-opening and beneficial experience. "A person could be a History major and end up going into investment banking," he has come to realize. "This was very reassuring, since I am still not completely sure that I will want to be an actuary."

"It's really great," said one SCW student after the reception. "I thought that once I committed to a psychology major, that was it—I was closed out of a business career forever. I was very excited to hear that's not the case at all."

Many students gained a sense of open-mindedness from the evening as well. They've begun "thinking out of the box." Their horizons have been broadened as they realize the many options the world holds for them. It's an open-mindedness that breeds assurance and confidence. As Zundorfer put it, "I know that there will still be plenty of opportunities out there if I decide to steer my career in a different direction."

## Student Apathy Rampant in Sy Syms

By Elina Loiser

Well into the third month of the semester, the MIS and Max Investment Clubs have just scheduled their first meetings of the year, signifying a slow start for SSSB clubs.

According to Midtown SSSBSC President Dar'ya Gorelik, the delay is due partly to the September 11th terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and partly to the fact that the holiday break occurred earlier in the semester than usual. Because of the interruptions, the Sy Syms Reception was pushed off, thereby freezing club activities.

However, a low level of SSSB action is just as much a result of students' unawareness of the opportunities SSSBSC provides. "I looked at the boards a couple of times, and I didn't see anything that was supposed to be important for the classes," said SSSB Freshman Aella Kleinman.

Another widespread attitude was expressed by SSSB Sophomore Talia Nissim. "I am not so interested in the clubs because I don't have time," said Nissim.

According to Dar'ya Gorelik only about ten percent of the Student Council funds were spent on club activities last year due to the lack of student participation. This year

Student Council is ready to spend up to 50% of its funds on student-initiated events. "I hope it is going to be more active this year," said Gorelik.

However, some club leaders are reluctant to depend on Student Council budgeting. The Max Investment Club, for example, runs independently of Student Council. According to Deedee Weberman, Max Investment Club President on the midtown campus, whatever expenses the club has are covered by the club's own money. Perhaps as a consequence, the Max Investment Club is one of the most successful and active SSSB clubs at YU. "Sy Syms provides enough opportunities," insisted Weberman. "Students just don't take advantage of them."

In other efforts to bolster student participation, the midtown and uptown MIS clubs have merged. "We wanted to have a better budget and a better turnout of people," explained Liana Biniashvili, co-president of the MIS Club.

Student involvement uptown is not faring much better. Michael Davis, the uptown SSSBSC President, described the situation as "slowly improving." Davis attributed low student enthusiasm the difficulties of the job market. He emphasized that interaction between the campuses could be better.

## Complaints Characterize SSSB Reception

By Melissa Chames

Last month's SSSB event featuring a business club fair and addresses from Dean Charles Snow, Assistant Dean Ira Jaskoll, and members of the SSSBSC, was apparently marred by transportation problems and inattentiveness.

Since the October 22 event was held in Weissberg Commons, bus service was provided for SCW students from the midtown campus to the uptown campus. However, bus service was not arranged for the way back. "It would have been so much more convenient if return transportation would have been provided," said SSSB sophomore Holly Fuchs. SCW students were forced to rely on the van service to get back to their respective dorms.

Some students complained that other participants talking in the back of Weissberg Commons disrupted the speakers' comments. Part of the chaos resulted from the fact that the sign-up tables for the various clubs did not close when the speakers began their addresses.

The students who were able to hear the speakers did enjoy what they heard. Bringing sources from the

Torah, Snow illustrated Participatory Management, a model of management when one consults his inferiors for feedback and perspectives. He emphasized that it is always useful to involve others when making decisions, and he invited students to visit his office.

Dean Jaskoll reassured students that despite the downhill economy, the faculty of SSSB and the Office of Career and Placement Services would remain dedicated to placing their students. He pointed out that last year SSSB was successful in securing positions for ninety-nine percent of the student body.

Michael Davis, President of the uptown SSSBSC, also addressed the issue of the precarious economy, but he put responsibility on the students, emphasizing the need for SSSB students to excel in their studies and to attend SSSB functions and activities. In this way, said Davis, the SSSB will maintain and even improve its reputation in the business world, thereby making it easier for SSSB students to secure positions in an increasingly competitive job market.



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# on campus

## Candidates Run Unopposed in Freshmen Elections

By Ariella Goldstein

The four candidates vying to become heads of SCW's freshman class faced a typical challenge this year as they tried to get voter support. Despite the large size of the freshman class, the candidates found it difficult to lure freshmen to the voting station.

Many speculate that the lack of voters stemmed from the fact that there was only one person running for each of the four available positions. "There was no point in voting because the candidates were running unopposed," says Leah Osherowitz, an SCW freshman. "I think the freshmen elections was a funny race," comments Natalie Aidel, also a freshman. "And I use the word race very lightly because competition is a necessary component of a race and there was no competition in this race."

However, newly elected Secretary, Jessica Jacobs, attributes the poor voter turnout to the delay in the distribution of fliers about the elections. "Fliers went out late and everything was done in a rush," she says.

Despite the lack of enthusiasm exhibited by most freshmen, new President Jessica Strick says that both she and her fellow officers are raring to go. "We are really excited about all the activities and are planning to improve both on-campus and off-campus student life," Strick says.

Vice President Gloria Levy shares Strick's enthusiasm.

"I want to take advantage of SCW's great location to acquaint the freshmen with all that the metropolitan experience has to offer," she comments. Levy also would like to have more shabbatonim both at SCW and elsewhere, and she hopes that the freshmen student government will hold a fundraising raffle to raise money for different tzedakah organizations.

Malkie Roth, the newly appointed Treasurer, also has many ideas for her year in office. She would like to institute "twenty-four hour technical support to aid students whose computers or telephones might not be working during the night." She also hopes to plan a day of sports in Central Park for both SCW and YC students.

Secretary Jacobs intends to make the freshmen "closer with the rest of the school." She plans to organize chesed trips to visit sick patients at NYU Hospital. In addition, Jacobs would like the freshmen class to know that as soon as midterms are over, the officers will begin publicizing the programs they are planning. "We did not think that students would be able to attend many social events because of their tests. But we have a lot of great ideas, and would also welcome suggestions from all freshmen," Jacobs says.

"Since Gloria, Jessica and Malkie live in the same room, and I live right above them, we are easy to find and are always available to listen to any questions or ideas the freshman have," says Jessica Strick.

## Turkel Leaves SCW

continued from front page

dox Jewish women and I have been proud to work here," she remarks. "I have had the privilege of working with our dedicated Dean, Karen Bacon. I have always held, and still do hold genuine esteem for this institution, and with the years have begun to look upon the entire college as my extended family. One does not say goodbye to family."

The consensus among the students who have interacted with Turkel is that she will be sorely missed and her presence will be impossible to replace.

A dinner will be held in honor of Turkel later this month. Family, friends and colleagues will be in attendance to pay tribute to Turkel for the dedication and commitment she has shown to the SCW community over the past three decades.

## Maya Angelou

continued from front page

students to attend or to open it to the public, the university decided that the students should get priority. "They are afraid to open it to the public because then some of the students wouldn't get tickets," commented Joan Apple, Director of Development at SCW.

The current program calls for a public reading by Maya Angelou of her works. There will not be a reception where she could meet with student leaders, to the dismay of some students. Neither will there be a question and answer session following the reading. "She's very strict about what she does," stated Apple. However, Ferrara still expressed optimism that Angelou would be able to meet with student leaders.

Though Apple admitted that it is not usual to have a speaker who would not answer questions, Apple believes that Angelou's eminence outweighs her drawback. "We felt that she is very special and people clamor to hear her," asserted Apple.

Indeed, such a renowned poet as Angelou comes with a price. Angelou's one

night performance, including her transportation and accommodations, costs almost \$28,000, according to Dean Bacon. Nevertheless, compared to other public figures who the college had considered retaining, this figure is reasonable. "It's substantial but not crazy," asserted Bacon. "It certainly would be beyond our means if not for the donor."

Angelou is best known for her autobiography *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Turned into a CBS special production, her story highlights the difficulty of growing up as an African-American woman. In addition to her best-selling books, Angelou has contributed countless articles to prestigious publications including *Life*, *Essence* and *The New York Times*.

Many SCW students eagerly anticipate the speech. "I think it's a great idea to bring different cultures to Stern," commented Abby Calm, SCW junior. "It's

important to sense how that personality works."

"I get students telling me they are uncomfortable with the things I assign while in other colleges they don't say anything to me," Nochimson stated. However, Nochimson claimed that he did not change his courseload to reflect the different reactions of students. "I believe it is in the long term interest of the students for professors to assign the same material as they would in other colleges," he said.

As to whether sexual material makes students more uncomfortable in YC than SCW, Professor Nochimson, who teaches at both campuses, reflected that reactions were generally similar, with the exception that "when I read a work with homosexuality in it, it made the

## Sexual Content in Literature

continued from page 12

wouldn't say it's a prominent one, at least in my experience." Other factors, according to Wachtell, includes gender balance and topical coverage in choosing reading material.

On the other hand, some faculty members stress that their role is not to teach the content of material but the structure of literature, and art being art, they should not shy away from sexual material.

"A lot of literature has sex in it," explained Professor Richard Nochimson. "I'm never teaching content but how it's written, the art of literature. While I'm certainly not seeking out sexual content, I don't run away from it. If it's there in works that should be in the course, to censor the curriculum doesn't serve the best interests of the student."

Though teachers apparently differ when considering sexual material, the question arises as to whether this is an exclusively SCW phenomenon or a practice that would occur in all colleges. The main issue, it seems, that would motivate different treatment in SCW is how the students react to the literature. "A class has personality as a group," Peters remarked. "It's

students uptown more uncomfortable," commented Nochimson. "That would be understandable."

Some students cite halachik issues as the difference in appropriateness between teaching sexual content uptown and at SCW. "If you are afraid of *hirhurim*, it shouldn't be taught to the boys," stressed Michal Leah Kanovsky, SCW senior. "But for women, the issue is just appropriateness."

According to Dr. Wachtell, however, the issue is less what makes students uncomfortable than whether they will generalize from the offensive literature to incorrect conclusions. "The risk is that you don't want to give students a skewed view of a literary genre or sub-genre," Wachtell remarked. "Maybe because the students here are less exposed in general, I'm more aware that those authors can be conceived as speaking for larger ethnic groups. My concern is that students might equate a type of author with a sensitive issue he addresses. For example, I wouldn't want the only minority voice in a course to be the one dealing with a sensitive subject. If you were to assign a work with sexual content, you need a reason to do so."

In addition to faculty disagreement concerning the topic of sexual material in literature classes, students are also deeply divided over the issue. Some students maintain that such material is not proper within an Orthodox university and others respond that censorship of ideas is counterproductive and dangerous.

"I think it's a big misconception to link sex and art," asserted Margueya Novick, SCW junior. "Why is that art? Who decided that it is art? What is artful to some is totally offensive to others. When you're dealing with such a sensitive and personal issue as this, I think the teacher should be very selective in what they choose to teach. There's plenty of enlightening material without sex in it. There's not any intrinsic value in a graphic scene that you can't get otherwise from less offensive material."

Other students seconded Novick's approach. "We're in a Jewish institution, not a public school," commented Tova Krausz, SCW freshman. "Up to a point, it's okay. But it starts getting uncomfortable." However, Krausz qualified, "I'm not saying

we should be completely sheltered either. It should just not be as blatant as it seems to be."

Some students disagreed with this characterization of Yeshiva University as narrowly directed only toward Torah ideas. "Stern should be a pluralistic institution in the sense that all ideas can be expressed," asserted Toby Josovitz, SCW junior.

Other students agreed with this opinion, asserting that the education at SCW should rival that of other colleges. "We are a regular college," remarked Jenny Hirsch, SCW junior. "Students should understand that in a university, we learn literature. And not all literature is a reflection of what they believe in."

Some students believed in a golden mean, that the teacher must use discretion in selecting or rejecting certain stories. "The teacher should not censor material," commented Rachel Schneider, SCW sophomore, "nevertheless she should not give a certain story if every word is a curse."

Some students claimed that the background of most teachers is not similar to the background of the students, resulting in a disparity in their approaches to sexual content. "Teachers just don't get it," commented a frustrated Aliza Weinstein, SCW senior. "It's not taboo the way they think it is. We don't want to know about this." Weinstein believed the issue is not inexperience that makes the subject taboo, rather a genuine lack of interest. Nevertheless, Weinstein admitted, "I personally don't have a problem with it."

Students were divided in classifying exactly what constituted offensive literature. Some students pointed to literature that made reference to sex as inappropriate while others only had a problem with graphic scenes. Some students had a problem with any form of bad language, offended at the word "damn," while others defined curses more narrowly. On the other hand, the English Honors Society read *She's Come Undone* last year, a work by Wally Lamb that contained several objectionable scenes including a lesbian relationship. "I think it's a hard call," reflected Rachel Fyman, SCW junior. "On the one hand, if it's a literature class we should learn literature. On the other hand, sometimes it's inappropriate."

one of the advantages of being in this stage of our lives, and it's within the role of the university to expose us to varied ethnic cultures."

Other SCW students were not as enthusiastic. "I'm just going because I feel like I should," Tamar Ellman, SCW junior, remarked. "It's an experience."

On the other hand, some students were not planning on attending. "I know that's it's an experience of a lifetime and I would definitely recommend it," asserted Liora Kasten, SCW junior, "but I'm uninterested in poetry and literature."

Indeed, some SCW students remained uninformed of either Maya Angelou's significance or the event. Another who had heard of Angelou never-

theless expressed disbelief that she was coming to speak at SCW, claiming not to have read either the signs or the letter from Dean Bacon that was posted on every door of the Brookdale dorms.

The Scholar in Residence Program will continue in the spring with a course in Asian American literature taught by Susan Choi. "We're hoping that during the course of the scholar-in-residence program, the board members will participate," commented Robbins-Wilf, who plans to sit in on the spring course. Asked whether she would be taking the course for credit, Robbins-Wilf laughed, "I don't need the credit, but it wouldn't be so bad as a continuing education course."



# Sports Page

## Lady Macs Ranks 2nd on Academic Honor Roll

By Alexandra Beard

The Lady Macs, SCW's basketball team, isn't ranking high only on the courts. The team, coached by Dr. Karen Green, has been named by The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) to its Academic Top 25 List in the category of colleges that do not give academic scholarships. The Lady Macs ranked second for the 2000-2001 school year with a cumulative G.P.A of 3.679, higher than last year's 3.443 and 14th place ranking. And they finished the season with a 12-9 record.



We're no dumb jocks

also finished the season with our best record in history," says Dr. Richard Zerneck, YU Director of Athletics and Physical Education. "It was truly a wonderful year for the Lady Macs."

To determine the team grade point average, the total number of quality points is divided by the total number of hours accumulated for the 2000-2001 academic school year. WBCA-member coaches nominate team members from which winners are chosen.

The 2000-2001 WBCA honor roll is the sixth annual ranking of women's basketball teams' annual per-

formance and separates schools by NCAA division.

Not only did the team demonstrate its academic excellence, but they

## Maintenance Men are Watching; Better Exercise in a Skirt

By Michal Leah Kanovsky

Before you go exercising in the Schottenstein Residence Hall workout room, make sure to bring a skirt with you - men may be walking through.

Many girls at Stern prefer to work out at the residence hall workout rooms rather than join a regular gym for reasons of modesty. They don't want to exercise in front of men. Yet, at the Schottenstein workout room, maintenance men walk through on a regular basis to get to an electrical closet accessible only through a door in the workout room.

"From what I understand," Shani Nissel, residence supervisor at Schottenstein Residence Hall, says, "The official policy is that they cannot just go in there. They have to be escorted by a female security guard to make sure the room is empty or everyone's appropriately dressed."

This system seems to be followed in general. "Usually one of the security guards will come in first and warn us and tell us that the men are coming through." Ayelet Rivka Jaye, an SCW junior, explains. The regularity of it doesn't bother her. "I'm fine with it because I exercise in a skirt anyway, but even for people who wear pants, they get enough time so that they can change into a skirt before the men come through."

Kim Davis, an SCW senior, uses the same precaution to deal with the situation. "I notice [the men regularly walking through] and I'm a little bit concerned, so just to be safe I wear a skirt." Exercising in a skirt doesn't bother her too much.

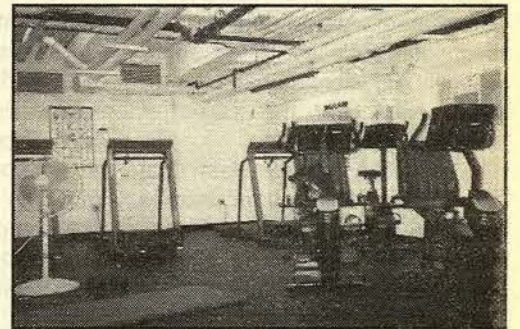
"When they come in, we tell them to look the other way," Ronit Perlman, an SCW senior explains. Michelle Berger confirms that "they usually don't look [at us]," however, she adds, "I don't think it's so appropriate for them to be walking in while we're

exercising.

A curtain could easily be constructed to block off the view of the exercise machines, from the door to the exercise room to the door to the electrical closet. This would prevent girls from having to work out in skirts and the maintenance men from consciously having to avert their eyes. Although this has been going on since Schottenstein opened five years ago, and girls are apparently not pleased with the situation, Nissel says the suggestion of a curtain has never been made to her nor has the issue ever come up for discussion.

Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics and P.E., says that he has never heard a complaint about the system before. "If this means that maintenance men have continual access to the room then I can understand the girls having a problem. I do know that in deference to that type of problem we close the room for an hour when we clean it." To have that part of the room closed off with a curtain is not a decision he could make, but he suggests that the issue be brought up with the Student Life Committee and Mr. Jeffrey Sokol, Associate Director, Facilities Management.

"I think it's a big problem, I just didn't know there was anything to do to stop it," Orit Montrose, an SCW junior comments. "I definitely would prevent it." If you agree, then talk to the Student Life Committee and ask for a solution.



Maintenance entrance through exercise room

## Brookdale Beit Midrash Considers Relocating

continued from front page

priorities. "The Brookdale Beit Midrash is an embarrassment. There are 25 chairs and 600 girls in the dorm," comments Tanzer. "Shouldn't they [SCW] be encouraging more girls to be learning - isn't this what YU is all about - Torah? Girls don't use the BRH Beit Midrash so much because it's crowded so we should have more room to learn."

Tanzer's plan is to move the 5 computers and 28 chairs that presently occupy the computer room to the Beit Midrash, which holds 25 chairs, as well as bookshelves and tables. She has measured both rooms and claims that by taking out the bookshelves from the Beit Midrash, Room 2A will be equally, if not more, suitable as the computer room.

"It is beneficial for both sides to switch the rooms," Tanzer says. "It just makes more sense space-wise. Also, the computer room as a study room is primarily used for finals, whereas the Beit Midrash is used everyday. It will get the most use as a Beit Midrash."

According to Tanzer, most students who were asked to sign the petition were supportive; only one or two declined, saying that it was unfair for

people who use the computer room as a study hall. "The cubicles from the computer room will fit into the Beit Midrash room and it will be more conducive for everyone to study," says Toby Goldfisher, TAC President. "People are misunderstanding - they can also study in the Beit Midrash if it is switched."

And students are on the most part supportive. "The Beit Midrash definitely should be moved to a bigger location," comments Devorah Shreck, an SCW junior. "The only problem I can see is that there are already not enough study rooms in the dorm."

Goldfisher expects to encounter some unwillingness in making the move. "Nothing is cut and dry in this school, and you can quote me on that," she says with a laugh. "Nothing is going to be done so easily, and maybe that is so students will fight to get things done. I know there's going to be tons of red tape to get this done."

Tanzer, on the other hand, doesn't foresee too many problems. "This shouldn't incur any real expenses - we'll use the same shelves, tables and chairs - so I don't expect any obstacles, if I have student support," she says. "If there are some expenses with moving the computers, it's worth it to enhance our Beit Midrash."



First Floor Computer Room

## Rabbi Lamm to Publish New Book

continued from front page



Manhattan and throughout his 25-year presidency of Yeshiva. "For those interested in my point of view, this gives them a collection of my thoughts on current issues," said Rabbi Lamm.

"Seventy Faces" is currently at press and is being published by Ktav Publishing and Yeshiva. Each volume will be sold for \$29.50. The book was funded privately by Elliot and Debbie Gibber, enabling it to be published in time for the December dinner.

The funding is in memory of Charles Goldner, who passed away this past week on 20 Cheshvan. "Seventy Faces" will bring Lamm's roster of books to eleven, amongst which are his favorites "Torah Lishmah" and "Faith and Doubt," both of which were published in the 70's.

Scheduled to retire as President of Yeshiva at the end of the year, Lamm intends to devote a large portion of his time to writing and publishing. His next book will be a compilation of his more scholarly articles. "I hope to publish my scholarly articles separately," said Lamm.

The essay bearing the book's title, "Seventy Faces," addresses the topic of pluralism and calls for respect for the Reform and Conservative community, but not recognition of them as co-legitimizes to

Orthodoxy. "A pluralism that accepts everything as co-legitimate is not pluralism, but the kind of relativism that leads to spiritual nihilism," wrote Lamm in 1986. "If 'Torah' has an infinite number of faces, then it is faceless and without value or significance."

Continuing this theme of Jewish unity, the book concludes with Lamm's most recent speech delivered in June at the RIETS dinner, in which he addressed the future of Yeshiva as a bastion of centrist Orthodoxy, adhering to the principles of Torah Umadda while stressing unity with all camps of Orthodoxy.

"Orthodoxy today is divided roughly into two camps," said Rabbi Lamm. "We need and must cherish both, for who can tell which will better survive and thrive in the long trajectory of history."

TAC, The Israel Club, and the MIA Club Present:

### REBBETZIN JUDI STEINIG

Rebbetzin of the Young Israel of Bayside, NY and

Program Director of the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers

Join us as Rebbetzin Steinig delivers an inspirational shiur on the topic of *Pidyun Shvuyim*, followed by a discussion on the plight of Israel's MIA's, and the actions we can take to help seek their return.

Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Stern College  
Room 718  
7:45 PM

# Cultural Arts

## HEALTH BULLETIN: Sugar or Sweet 'n Low

By Ami Flatt

It's 9:30 am at Starbucks on 29th and Park, customers are in a mad rush, quickly picking up their coffee from the barista, adding sweetener and milk. One woman grabs three packets of Sweet 'n Low and dashes for the door. Another woman, hastily puts 5 packets of pure sugar into her already sweet caramel machiatto.

The scene shifts, it is lunch time in the Stern cafeteria, woman are sipping sodas. Which is the better alternative, diet soda or regular? "I only drink diet", says a SCW junior, "I am calorie conscious and I don't think that it poses any major risks". A SCW sophomore remarks, "I prefer not to drink diet sodas, I heard that artificial sweeteners can cause cancer, it is not worth the risk".

According to a 1998 survey by the Calorie Control Council, 144 million American adults consume low calorie, sugar-free products such as artificially sweetened sodas and desserts. The Food and Drug Administration has approved four sugar substitutes for the use in foods. They are saccharin, aspartame, acesulfame-K, and sucralose. Two approved sugar substitutes, saccharin and aspartame, have been the subject of ongoing controversy.

FDA officials claim that aspartame, sold under names such as NutraSweet and Equal, is completely safe. The agency says that over 100 toxicological and clinical tests confirm that aspartame is safe for the general population. However, saccharin, manufactured as Sweet 'n Low,

has been a subject of dispute.

In 1977, a Canadian study showed that saccharin itself was the cause of bladder cancer in rats. Congress responded by passing the Saccharin Study and Labeling Act, a law requiring that all foods containing saccharin carry a label that reads "Use of this product may be hazardous to your health."

Later, the FDA and National Cancer Institute performed a population based study of saccharin's role in bladder cancer in human and found that "in general" people who used the sweetener had no greater risk of bladder cancer than the population at large. However, individuals who consume six or more servings of sweetener may have a heightened risk.

But given saccharin's continuing status, should consumers use it? "We know for certain that it causes cancer in animals," says Andrew Laumbach, a Consumer Safety Officer in FDA's Office of Pre-market Approval. However, he acknowledges that animal studies do not necessarily predict that way that a human will react to a substance. The National Cancer Institute states that "epidemiological studies do not provide clear evidence" of a link to cancer. Regina Ziegler, an epidemiologist says, "typical intakes of saccharin at normal levels for adults show no evidence of a public health problem." Thus, evidence seems to support the safety of artificial sweeteners.

## The Music Man: A Musical Delight

By Sara Trappler

Susan Stroman's revival of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* is the endearing story of a traveling salesman, Harold Hill, well played by the talented actor Robert Sean Leonard, who visits a small Iowa town in 1912 where he meets and falls in love with the willful, spinster librarian, Marian Paroo, acted admirably by Rebecca Luker.

With his fast-talking style, "Professor" Harold Hill convinces the town that unless they adopt his revolutionary music program, "The Think System," the morale of the youngsters of River City will be forever doomed. Chaos ensues as Hill's credentials are questioned and he is called upon to prove himself to the citizens of River City.

This all-American family musical is pleasantly entertaining, featuring an entire score of classic hit songs including "Til There was You", "Gary, Indiana", "Lida Rose" and "Seventy-six Trombones". The tale is refresh-

ing and comic, the acting superb, especially the impressive performances of the young actors that play the children of River City, and one leaves the theatre still hearing the delightful music.

The story's comic tone changes slightly toward the end, when the romance between Harold Hill and Ms. Paroo develops. Her previous feelings of mistrust and annoyance changes almost too quickly when she suddenly falls in love with Mr. Hill. This helps determine, of course, his ultimate fate once the citizens of River City discover he is not really a "music man."

Originally produced on Broadway in the 1950s, it ran for 1,375 performances, starring Barbara Cook and Robert Preston, and won eight Tony Awards. A classic film version of the musical also starred Robert Preston, Shirley Jones and a very young Ron Howard. The *Music Man* was embraced by theatre audiences of all ages, as it is today. It is fun, light, and easily appreciated.

## A Tribute to Yehuda Amichai: The 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Honors an Immortal Poet

By Sara Trappler

The words of the great Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai, echoed through the large Kaufman Concert Hall at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y as his daughter, Emanuella Amichai, stood elegantly in the blue spotlight reading an English translation of one of the poet's poems from a cycle called "Patriotic Songs."

Many continue to remember Yehuda Amichai, who lived from 1924-2000 and whose poetry has been translated into thirty-three languages. The audience remembered him that Monday evening on October 29th through his poetry that lives on in the hearts of his readers.

When the *Observer* asked Amichai's son, David Amichai, how he remembers his father, the Hebrew University student said, "Even though [Yehuda Amichai] was in four wars, he never had any hatred for anyone and he really saw love between humans as important." The eternal message of Amichai's words was strongly felt that evening, especially in the aftermath of the recent tragic events in New York.

The first readers were Amichai's family, who often

inspired his work. His wife, Hana Amichai, a teacher at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, read her husband's verses in the original Hebrew. After the poem read by Emanuella Amichai, who studies acting in Tel Aviv, David Amichai read a poem by his father. The three Amichais looked at the audience proudly before leaving the stage, and one might have thought that they were going to greet the immortal bard behind stage.

Amichai's presence was eerily sensed that night,

stage.

Other published poets, such as Chana Bloch, Karl Kirchwey, Stanley Moss, Martin Peretz, Grace Schulman, Philip Schultz, and Leon Wieseltier, recited numerous Amichai poems, mainly in English. They read his poems on universal themes like love, hatred, war, peace, life, death, pain and joy.

"I found this event very meaningful," said Nechama Reich, a SCW sophomore who attended the event, "because I related to many of the poem topics... It was an enriching experience for me to hear poetry read in this forum." SCW students can study Amichai's poetry in Professor Cohen's Israeli Literature course at SCW, a course that explores Israeli writers from the Pioneer period before the formation of an Independent Israeli State through the wars, industrial developments, and new native Israeli generations.

After the hour-long poetry reading, which was sponsored by the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Unterberg Poetry Center, the audience met the readers, including Amichai's family, in the Y's art gallery where complimentary wine was served. "I thought it was very nice," David Amichai said about the tribute to his father. "I am very glad for an event for my father, and it was arranged very nicely."



SCW Course on Yehuda Amichai Poetry

especially during the last reading, which was a poem read by Yehuda Amichai himself. His voice was heard on stage from a tape recording of his poetry reading at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y a few years ago. Amichai was reading the poem entitled "When I Die," and his voice resonated through the room so clearly that one almost expected to see him appear in the blue light that shone on the empty

## MOVIE REVIEW OF TRAINING DAY

By Observer Staff

*Training Day* makes ordinary fraternity hazing look like a sisterhood bake-off. The movie depicts the day a young rookie cop tries out for an intense undercover narcotics position on the LAPD. In that day the cop, Jake Hoyt, played by Ethan Hawke, must demonstrate his psychological mettle and overall aggressiveness at playing dirty to keep the streets clean. His would-be boss, ably played by Denzel Washington, shows him the ropes and much more on this action-packed adventure.

Washington plays Alonzo, a drug thug with attitude, a power-hungry, blood-thirsty 'narc' who uses violence and intimidation to scare drug dealers into informing. Hawke, playing the typical cop with the familiar mixture of plucky determination and ingenuousness, just wants to make the world a safer place for his beautiful wife and newborn daughter. Alonzo has been on the streets for much longer, and preaches to his protégé (sometimes almost morphing into his Malcolm X character) that the best way to get results is not always



through playing by the rules.

Sure enough, Hoyt is faced with the grueling choice between trusting authority and maintaining his principles. As he observes that the line between crime-fighting and slight peccadilloes blur, Hoyt must determine how to best seek justice. He would like to rid the world of as much crime as he can, while Alonzo is far less concerned with detaining two rapists in an alleyway.

When Hoyt stops to do the honorable thing and fight single-handedly against the two attackers, Alonzo's idea of back-up entails smoking a cigarette and watching the show. Alonzo maintains that it is more efficient to get the wolf than to waste your time on all the shleppy little sheep. He and Alonzo don't only differ philo-

sophically, either; Alonzo exposes Hoyt to some brutal and downright lawless tactics at arriving at justice.

All in all, the film is an enjoyable if violent portrayal of the seamy LA drug world. Clearly, though, the focus is on the two main characters. The issue of a corrupt environment and the moral toll it takes on even the good guys is an oft-visited one, and this movie addresses it without seeming preachy or pedantic. Hawke and Washington play their parts with gusto: Hawke with his usual look of uneasiness in his own skin coupled with his boyish eagerness, and Washington clearly enjoying himself as one bagged bully.

Director Antoine Fuqua (*The Replacement Killers*, and *Bait*) includes good fighting scenes, cameos that will doubtlessly garner Oscar nods for that lovable, winsome duo Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre, and clever, funny dialogue. Despite oversimplified formulaic personality caricatures and obvious plot scenes, "Training Day" keeps you occupied and entertained, and doesn't disappoint.

# Cultural Arts

## An Eee'sy Delight

By Sara Trappler and Ami Flatt

Midtown Manhattan now has a new eatery for students and professionals on the go. Located on 34th between Park and Lexington avenues, eee's is a bakery and café that features French rolls, bagels, spreads, salads, sandwiches, soups, fat free smoothies, assorted coffee and espresso, pastries, cookies, cakes, pies, muffins, and croissants all reasonably priced. Eee's is a great place to enjoy a leisurely Sunday brunch, a rushed Monday morning breakfast, or a mid-day biscotti and coffee with a friend.

This new café with small tables, spacious seating, a calm atmosphere, and friendly management opened in the first week of September. Eee's is the latest addition to the Pizza Cave family. (Viva Le Natural Pizzeria, located near Brookdale Hall, is not affiliated with Pizza Cave.) Eee's replaces the former Le Croissant bakery, which was closed for six months, taken over by Pizza Cave ownership, and made Kosher.

"The owner saw no kosher bakery around here," notes Marlene Marinez, the manager of eee's. She says that business is going well, although they have to do more advertising. Marinez, a former employee of Pizza Cave, enjoys her new job. "I enjoy it more than the pizza store because I don't get burned," she says. "I don't have to deal with the ovens."

Marinez recommends the tuna, which is a popular choice among customers. The tuna can be served in a sandwich, as a tuna melt, or tossed on a salad. Another well-liked choice is the mochaccino, which combines espresso, steamed milk and chocolate, ideal for chilly winter days. Popular desserts include the brownie cheesecake and mocha cheesecake.

We went in for a late lunch to try eee's creations. We ordered the Old Fashion Tuna Salad, which is tuna mixed with celery, red onion, and mayonnaise with romaine lettuce, tomatoes and watercress with a fat-free blue cheese dressing (one of the many dressings offered). This salad tasted crisp, fresh, and was filling. We also ordered the Grilled Vegetable Supreme, grilled eggplant, zucchini, slow roasted tomatoes, and Italian peppers on focaccia bread. This, too, was tasty, satisfying, and an interesting sandwich choice.

The smoothies, which come in strawberry and mango, were delightful and refreshing. We were happy with our orders and especially recommend the smoothies.

Eee's is open during the week from seven until seven, on Fridays until two hours before Shabbat, and Sundays from nine until seven. Inquiries should be made regarding what is Cholov Yisrael on the menu. Eee's offer a ten percent discount to all SCW students with a valid ID.

## Book Review

By Miri Ravich

It is not often that we hear the story of woman in the bible. This changes with a refreshing look at Dinah, Jacob's only daughter. "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant is about life through the eyes of Dinah. It is about strong traditions, relationships, passion, and morality in the biblical era. The reader is taken through Dinah's life, experiencing ancient rites and traditions. Anita Diamant reaches into Dinah's mind at every age of her life. Diamant disclaims Dinah as a mere "defiled" victim. She gives a minor Biblical character real depth.



The red tent is where woman mark femininity. It becomes a place of unity and companionship. It's here that the women mark passage to womanhood, celebrate the joys of pregnancy and experience the pain of childbirth. It's here where Dinah learns and preserves the stories and traditions of her family. In the red tent, Dinah looks into the hearts and minds of her family, dissecting the complex web of personal relationships.

The only daughter of Jacob and Leah, Dinah lives in a world much different from her father and brothers. Most of the time, her father and brothers are unaware of her existence. From her aunt Rachel, Dinah learns the mysteries of midwifery, and from her other aunts, the art of homemaking. She retells the well-known story of Jacob's courtship of Rachel and Leah, and her own ill-

fated marriage to prince Shalem. She observes the odd reunion of Jacob and Esau, meets her cruel and proud grandmother Rebecca, and celebrates the women's rite of maturity. She tells of her half-brother Joseph's unmerited rise to fame and fortune in Egypt, and her own escape to Egypt after her beloved Shalem is slaughtered. Finally, she tells of bearing a son and watching him grow into a prince, and eventually finding peace in Egypt.

Despite Diamant's vivid narrative, I must say that I became gravely disappointed with the turn of pages. While Diamant made Leah and Rachel, Zilpah and Bilhah come alive, as real people, most of her men are not represented in the highly questionable character and is not godly at all. Jacob is often condescending, and disrespectful. Jacob's sons are depicted as purely barbarian. They do as they wish, and are portrayed as greedy and lustful.

The manner in which Diamant characterizes the forefathers is disturbing. She shows the forefathers as shallow and evil individuals. In her attempt to make the tragic story of Dinah come alive, Diamant totally distorts our patriarch's virtues. Parts of the book flat out contradict the biblical version of the narrative. From the book, it seems that the Jews are barbarians, and only the Egyptians have honor and class. This book results in an overall negative characterization of Dinah's Jewish Roots.

## Stabbing of YC Student

continued from back page

tally thrown me for a loop," he said. "I'm basically not a happy camper right now." Increasing his misery, he adds, is the lack of support from YU. "It seems to me that they're covering it up," he reflected. "It doesn't surprise me. They care about their name and what the *goyim* think. They're not so altruistic as to care about their students."

The school promised to send out a letter to his teachers, informing them of the situation, the student explained, but the letter was never sent and some of his teachers have been less than understanding. Nevertheless, the student was grateful that Dean Himber had come to visit him in the hospital.

After this traumatic experi-

ence, the student is considering transferring to another college. However, no plans are definite and, expecting to stay at YU, he "looks at this as a necessary evil until I get my degree and can go back to Israel."

This student's experience raises questions regarding the extent of security's jurisdiction. The apartment, referred to as "the Crackhouse" by some YU students, houses a majority of YU students renting their own apartments, with one *Observer* source supposing that approximately 90% of the tenants were YU students. Nevertheless, with a location on 189th Street and Amsterdam, the apartment is a full two blocks beyond security's parameters.

Some students believe that it is within the role of the university to guarantee that the surrounding areas are safe for travel.

"Plenty of YU guys live there," observed the stabbed student. "Just because they have an apartment means that they're not entitled to security?" Nevertheless, he qualified that before expanding security's operations, he would hope that security would first tighten up on existing responsibilities. "Security should first do what they are supposed to do," he said. "They grill YU guys for their I.D. when obviously they're YU guys when they should be doing foot patrol or guarding 189th street."

On the other hand, the administration maintained that students need to use their judgment in walking the streets of Washington Heights late at night, and that security should not have to compensate for the poor decision of a student. "Students in college are expected to exercise good

judgment, to decide where to travel and when to travel," commented Dean Himber. Summers further pointed out that the local vans run there, allowing the student the option if not the recommendation to take the van when it is not safe to walk.

The assumption that students are aware of the dangers of Washington Heights was questioned by the stabbed student. "I don't feel I was adequately informed," he asserted. "I'm not a long-term YU guy familiar with the lingo." As to whether he thought it was unsafe to be walking alone at 1:15 a.m., the student exclaimed, "That's retarded. Everyone walks around at that hour, the area is very populated."

The reaction of YU students is mixed, with many students seeing no need for security to extend its parameters to encompass off campus housing.

"I don't really think they need to because there has to be some kind of limit," commented Gabe Winter, YC senior. "You don't walk around Harlem at night. Maybe there should be some kind of letter sent home telling students in no uncertain terms that it's not a safe area to walk around in. He probably didn't realize it was dangerous."

Despite the calamity of the stabbing, the majority of students professed that this experience will not affect their conduct or influence them to exercise greater safety precautions. "I definitely don't think that it has any effect at all," remarked YC senior Mikey Davis. "You can't be afraid, you can't let *pachad* take over your life."

## Eimatai Conference Kicks off Year's Program

By Toby Josovitz


The EIMATAI Yeshiva High School Leadership Project, sponsored by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, brings together student leaders from different *yeshivot* throughout the country.



From October 22 to October 24, EIMATAI kicked off the year with a gala conference held at the Jeronimo's Hotel in the Catskill Mountains. Sixty five student representatives from MTA, TABC, Central, HAFTR, Hillel, Kushner, Magen David, Moshe Aaron, Rambam, Stern Hebrew High School, Westchester. 13 RIETS/Yeshiva University student mentors attended the seminar.

The goal of the conference was to create awareness among the student leaders about issues concerning Jews and Israel and to implement novel activities on the high school level. The students heard thought provoking lectures from leading figures in the Jewish community such as Yaakov Haller from the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, Rabbi David Israel, Director of MSDCS; Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt, Rabbi of the Riverdale Jewish Center. Group workshops lead by charismatic Yeshiva students such as EIMATAI coordinators Yehuda Sarna and Judy Goldgrab inspired the students to develop innovative ideas. For example, the representatives of Magen David decided to do a Rikkudim-a-thon to raise money for Israel and HAFTR a Senate to deal with Israel issues.

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## YU Offers EMT Course

By Alisa Rose

For the second year in a row, Emergency Care Programs is offering an EMT course for YU students. The \$750 course, which requires at least 20 participants to take place, begins in December and ends in May with a total of 30 sessions.

In the past, YU students have used their certification to volunteer for ambulance services, including Hatzalah in New York and other cities, and Magen David Adom in Israel.

Yaniv Kerem is organizing the EMT course this year. The YC sophomore explains his motivation for taking the course, "I'm planning on going into medicine, and I think there's much to be gained by being certified as an EMT," he says.

Like Kerem, Sharon Barouk, an SCW senior, highlights the benefits of the course in terms of her career ambitions. "Becoming certified would introduce me to the life of emergency care and medicine, and I would like to end up studying emergency medicine," Barouk says. The biology major also plans to volunteer as an EMT for an ambulance corps.

Tova Warburg, an SCW junior who received her EMT certification several years ago, advises that students earning certification, "It's important to realize that both the certification process and actually riding for an ambulance corps is a huge time commitment."

Besides for volunteering for

an ambulance service in Englewood, N.J. and for Magen David Adom in Israel, Warburg, a philosophy major, has used her certification during emergencies that occurred when she was not on call.

"Even if one does not plan on using his/her certification to ride for an ambulance corps, it is worth having it for those times when emergencies arise and you are the only one around who knows what to do," says Warburg whose EMT certification proved useful when a friend suffered severe bleeding after falling during a hike.

"It's a useful skill to know for the health and safety of your neighborhood and family," agrees SCW junior Miriam Thaler, who is taking the course but does not plan to volunteer for an ambulance service in the near future.

The cost of the course, \$750, which includes tuition, constituting the bulk of the price, a textbook and equipment, deterred some SCW students from signing up for the course. SCW freshman Michelle Sadoff did not sign up for the course, but she admits, "It would have been useful because I'm pre-med."

The cost of EMT courses generally range from \$600 to \$1000, but some hospitals and ambulance corps offer subsidized prices to their employees and volunteers.

Says Warburg, whose EMT course at Bergen County EMS Training Center was actually paid for by her ambulance corps, "It is most definitely worth it to get EMT-certified."

## Mark or Mike for Mayor

### How SCW Students Felt About the Election

By Shira Frankel

In New York City's recent mayoral election, Democrat Mark Green and Republican Mike Bloomberg fought to become New York City's next leader. Although many of SCW's NYC residents voted in the election, many were unaware of the issues at hand. In fact, it seemed that most SCW students who were aware of the issues and expressed interest in the election were not NYC residents. At the first event of the Jewish Political Views Club, a forum entitled "American Politics and Pie," representatives of each candidate spoke about the candidates' political objectives to an audience of which most of the participants were not from New York. SCW junior Beth Meshel, a co-president of the club, was not dismayed by the turnout. The goal, she maintains, was for people to realize that "we all live in the city and are affected by the mayoral election. For example, the way they choose the budget affects things like subways, which most SCW students use. If people cannot vote themselves, they can educate others."

This election was unique not only because of

the current political challenges that face New York, but also because both candidates were Jewish. In contrast to the recent presidential campaign, in which many votes were influenced by the fact that the vice-presidential candidate, Senator Joseph Lieberman, was an Orthodox Jew, in this election, votes



Students benefit from on-campus campaigning

cannot be swayed by the candidates' religious affiliation. Sari Strulowitz, SCW senior and co-president of the Jewish Political Views Club, said, "It's better this way. People are forced to vote based on the issues."

Nevertheless, many people focused on how each candidate intends to deal with Israel. At the forum, Mark Green's representative, Jonathan Rosen, noted that Green works closely with Israel and that he travels there frequently. He also pointed out that Green is a personal friend of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. However, he did not clarify Green's views about Israel. "He loves the Palestinians," asserted Tova Gavrilova, SCW sophomore, about Green. Whether this statement represents truth or opinion, it represents the opinions of many SCW students, that each candidate's approach to Israel strongly influences their decision.

Many NYC residents and non-residents supported Bloomberg because current NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani endorsed him. Although his show of support was not surprising because both Bloomberg and Giuliani are republicans, many felt that an endorsement by the city's beloved mayor gives credence to Bloomberg's campaign.

SCW sophomore Rina Witrow, is not a New York City resident, but she is interested in the issues surrounding the mayoral election. Initially, she supported Green. However, after the forum, she realized that NYC can benefit greatly from Bloomberg's business expertise. "Bloomberg's slogan, 'a leader - not a politician,' works well," said Witrow. "He can create jobs. It's really

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## New Cafeteria Planned for 215

continued from back page

new machines, which were installed last week, are operated by a new company that Food Services claims will more effectively stock the machines. In addition to packaged snacks, the machines will serve cold food, such as sandwiches and yogurt.

For many students vending machines did not seem like a solution at all. "Very few people will buy their lunch from a machine," said Rina Witrow, an SCW sophomore. "The food from a vending machine is disgusting. You never know when it was made."

Also, the vending machines require students to lay out personal money, in addition to the already high



Workers attempt to maneuver new machine through the lounge doorway in Brookdale

cost of the caf card. "I'm not satisfied with the fact that the only food option is a vending machine," said Ellie Nyer, co-president of the Student Life Committee. Ergo, the Student Life Committee suggested that students be able to use their caf card for the vending machines.

"We haven't found any company even willing to consider it," countered Rosengarten, because of the high cost of a machine capable of accepting the cards.

Besides for skirting the lack of substantial food at 215 Lex, the installation of new vending machines does not address the issue of overcrowding in the main caf.

"When I come down to caf it takes 15 minutes to push through the lines, then I can't find a place to sit, and I'm often late to class," complained Rivky Malzyner, an SCW student. "This is an urgent issue that needs to be addressed by the administration."

Replying to a suggestion by the *Observer* that additional workers be hired in the caf to alleviate long lines at peak dining hours, Rosengarten again rejected hiring new personnel, claiming that the lines may stem from students dawdling over their choices. He said that for a small campus, SCW has adequate food facilities.

However, students disagreed and blamed the overcrowding on lack of space and poor management of the staff. "Sometimes it's so ridiculous when it's crowded," said Witrow. "It could be peak lunch hour and they only have one register open. Also, the space is so tight that you have to squeeze through the lines to reach the cashier, and the drink machines are often hidden by the lines."

Even when both registers are manned the lines remain long in the caf and many feel that the only effective solution is the hiring and re-management of staff. "They have to hire more food services workers or at least manage the positions better," said Borg. "The caf is often bordering total ineffectiveness. Yeshiva has to revise food service at Stern and do something drastic to improve the service."

The new cafeteria planned for 215 may also not alleviate the overcrowding in the main caf in the future. According to Rosengarten, the new cafeteria will be in lieu of the cafeteria in Koch. While the new cafeteria may hold more students than Koch, the

number is not significant enough to alleviate overcrowding, especially if enrollment will continue to increase as projected.

Currently, an architect and engineer are assessing the basement of 215 for sufficient electrical power to house the food services. "I'll have plans later this year," said Rosengarten. Subsequently, the plans have to be presented to the administration, and a budget needs to be approved, a process that can take from a few months to over a year.

The basement was chosen as



Students crowd at tables in basement cafeteria

the location for the new caf due to its large space. It also facilitates deliveries and promotes cleanliness throughout the rest of the food-free building. "The space was fairly undesirable for classes, but fine for a food operation," said Rosengarten.

The new caf will have a different menu than the main cafeteria, and will be more similar to the services of Koch. "It wouldn't make sense to do the same food options in 215 as in the main caf," said Rosengarten.

Students are still not satisfied with the interim food option at 215 and continue to protest the overcrowding in the main caf. "We plan to continue to look into other food possibilities at 215 Lex," said Fran Broth, co-president of the Student Life Committee. David Himber, Dean of Student Service, urged students to continue pursuing this issue through the Student Life Committee.

## Blenden Elected to Board of Trustees

continued from back page

from his Board meetings.

Mrs. Blenden is also actively involved with several other organizations including Hadassah, Amit, and the League of Women Voters. Additionally, she is an executive at her family's real estate firm, the Leonard Diener Investment Company. In her very limited spare time, Mrs. Blenden is an avid reader and music lover. Among her favorite genres are the romantic classics and modern jazz; she is especially fond of Ella Fitzgerald and Art Tatum.

Mrs. Blenden is able to remain active by adhering to a strict routine and planning her days so as to maximize the use of her time. For instance, she keeps a pad and paper by her bed and the last thing she does each night is to write down everything she has to do the next day. She arranges the list logistically and thereby eliminates a lot of run around time.

In addition to being an alumna of Vassar College, Mrs. Blenden has earned an MBA in accounting from Fairleigh Dickenson University and a masters degree in Education from Columbia University Teacher's College. Mrs. Blenden has also received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Yeshiva University.

## SCW Board Dinner

continued from page 13

against the tobacco industry, soliciting the highest jury verdict in the history of litigation, \$145 billion.

Finally, the last of the three honorees, Daryl Roth has been no less successful in her career as theater producer. She has launched 19 productions, including four plays that have earned the Pulitzer Prize for Drama: *Three Tall Women*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Wit*, and this year's Tony Award winner *Proof*.

The highlight of the evening was in the public reading of a letter Rabbi Lamm had received from a citizen who had observed the *chesed* of SCW women after the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack. [see attached text of letter] Among other things, C. Rainy Broomfield, the author of the letter, extolled the five SCW student volunteers as "a great testament to the spirit of Judaism" and "the best our society has to offer."

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## Transfer students: Coming in or going out?

By Chava Hartman

Choosing which college to attend is perhaps one of life's most important decisions. Although much thought is generally put into this decision, a large number of people are not happy after they finally reach college. Stern College for Women, like all colleges, loses students every year who decide to attend other schools, but also receives new students every year.

Each year, SCW loses approximately 10% of its students to different colleges. People transfer out of SCW for a variety of reasons. Although some may think SCW's midtown location is ideal, not everyone is meant for city life. "I wanted to see trees more than maybe once a week at Central Park," explains one student who transferred out of SCW. Dissatisfaction with location can affect one's entire college experience.

Another common reason for leaving SCW is what some describe as a negative school atmosphere. Offering her reason for switching, one former SCW student says, "I did not feel that the students were happy to be in school because they went home every weekend."

Indeed, for those who desire a more social environment in addition to its academic environment, SCW does present

a challenge. As Dr. Jon Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, admits, "most students come to Stern very focused, they stay, and then graduate."

An all Jewish women's college poses other social issues as well. For people looking for a diverse experience, SCW might not be the best option. One student who transferred from Stern after only a year claims, "that after being in both a Jewish [elementary] school and high school, I wanted to be exposed to the people of different cultures and learn different things."

Diversity is also a problem regarding the courses offered at a small college like Stern, and a fair number of students are forced to transfer elsewhere depending on their majors. "I decided I wanted to be a nutritionist, and Stern just did not have the program here," a former SCW student explains. As is the case with any college, certain majors tend to be more popular, so the program tends to be stronger.

Although it may seem that a disproportionately large number of students are leaving SCW, approximately the same number transfer to SCW every year. Many students transfer in for the same reasons that other

## Elections

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about business now."

However, Rosen pointed out that if Bloomberg intends to run the city as he ran his business, people should look at how he ran his business. Rosen was quick to point out that Bloomberg's business faced three sexual harassment lawsuits over a five year span. He added that because Bloomberg paid off two of the plaintiffs, there seems to be credence to the claims. Yet some, such as Elisheva Douglas, SCW sophomore, maintain that this should not sway one's decision too much. "Most businesses probably get sexual harassment suits. They're fairly common

these days, and many seem to be frivolous," she said.

Some SCW New York City residents felt that classes should have been cancelled on Election Day. Some said they would have voted, but they simply did not have time. Others did not vote, or did not bother

US citizens, it is their right and obligation to vote. Shira Miller, SCW junior, insists that voting is very important. "Not having time to go home to vote is not a good excuse." She said that the hours of the voting locations are flexible; students could usually sleep at home the night before and vote early in the morning, or they could go after classes.

A memorable lesson from the last presidential election is that every vote counts. The people have the power to control how their government continues. Therefore, it is important to focus on the issues and cast your vote whenever possible.



The Candidates

registering, because of the hassle involved. There were complaints of long lines at voting locations, and the long commute home to places like Brooklyn. However, there were students who believed that as

students transfer out. For example, while some might leave SCW because the program for their major is not strong, many people transfer into SCW specifically for the areas in which SCW is strong. Talia Frolich, a junior who transferred to SCW from the University of Pennsylvania, is considering a Judaic Studies-related profession. "I was not doing enough learning at Penn and I didn't feel like I was improving my skills," she stated. For Frolich, it was important to be in an environment in which professors approached the text from a religious perspective and

where the classes were taught by rabbis and professors that she trusted.

In addition, many college students come to SCW for other academic reasons. One student who transferred to SCW noted that "it is much more relaxing and conducive to be in a class with fewer people than in a class with a couple hundred." Smaller class sizes, and, subsequently, more personal contact with professors, present a big advantage unique to SCW. Similarly, students do not just transfer out of SCW for social reasons - many are transferring to SCW for the

social advantages that SCW offers. Adina Rozmaryn, a junior who transferred from Brandeis, confides that "it was really hard being the 'different one' the whole time... and without a group of friends to relate to, it was just too difficult."

The decision to transfer is no easier than the original decision of which college to attend. "I think it's a very brave thing to do," asserted one SCW Junior. "After you're settled in somewhere, it's really hard to just get up an leave."

## Counseling on Campus

continued from page 12

how well-trained the counselors are at handling more serious issues. "I don't think Stern has any more or less problems than other schools. I don't think we're ill-equipped to deal with serious issues," insists Rachel Kraut, the Residence Supervisor and a Personal Counselor.

In the past, however, students have accused the counseling staff of being unprofessional, and even inept, when it comes to handling sensitive problems. "They can't ignore anorexia, bulimia .... They can't send kids home because they want to commit suicide," says Donna Amdur, a Stern graduate who was a Resident Assistant at Stern for two years. Amdur disclosed that her perception was that the school forced students with real mental health issues to leave, at times resorting to such coercive measures as threatening to fail them if they did not withdraw.

The administration sees such situations in a different light. "If someone is acutely ill, that person needs treatment outside [the school]," says Braun. Adds University Dean of Students David Himber, "We want to be helpful to students. If a student has to leave, it's beneficial for that student to withdraw." In any case, circumstances that necessitate withdrawal are rare at Stern.

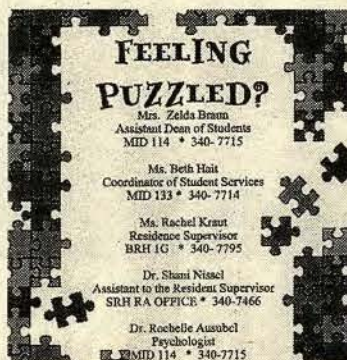
Even if a situation does not merit the withdrawal of a student, there are points at which the school will admit its inability to help. Speaking on condition of anonymity, one student, who described her home as abusive, related how during her first year at Stern she had met regularly with school psychologist Dr. Rochelle Ausubel before

Ausubel suggested she seek help beyond the school. "She wasn't saying anything inappropriate, telling me to go outside," says the student. "It's not [the school's] responsibility to fix all the psychological damage from my childhood." It is the student's impression that the psychologist's concern was only that she managed to "get through the school-day."

Another area the counseling staff has to contend with is the often sticky issue of confidentiality. "We, as counselors, define 'confidentiality' differently," admits Braun. Generally, the extent of confidentiality is determined on a case by case basis, with the counselors reserving the right to involve parents and academic administrators if necessary, such as in "life and death" circumstances. "We are concerned with maintaining the trust of all students," maintains Himber. Still, says Himber, "There are cases where information may be shared on a professional level."

It is perhaps because of all the uncertainty surrounding the school's counseling services that some students seek advice specifically *not* from the school's official counselors. Many students, in fact, prefer speaking with professors, to whom they have personal connections, than with the counselors, who are, in essence, strangers. "Every *rebbe* has some kind of rapport with students," says Rabbi David Pahmer, a Judaic Studies professor at Stern and an assistant *mashgiach ruchani* on the uptown campus, who admits that Stern students will often discuss personal issues with him. Rabbi Aaron Cohen, another Judaic Studies professor, also acknowledges that students speak to him

about personal matters, in such



"Feeling Puzzled" sign is posted at different locations around campus advertising Student Services

areas as interpersonal relationships, family dynamics, dating, and educational and career choices. "In areas relating to Torah values and life's priorities, it's understandable that a student would want to speak to someone who focuses on religious issues," says Cohen. "For serious or complex problems ... [I would] refer the student to someone with

greater training and skills." Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg holds the official position of a spiritual Guidance Counselor at Stern.

In addition to professors, Resident Assistants also informally counsel students on occasion. RA's, who are selected only after an extensive interview process, undergo intensive training before the beginning of the school year, during which time they become familiar with security and role-play in different scenarios. During the year, RA's attend weekly meetings to discuss problems, usually in non-specific terms. "The RA is the link that will expose the students to further help," says RA Bruria Lapin. "Some things are out of my job description ... but for every problem I've never felt like I was on my own."

That students might choose to bypass the counseling staff, which, in addition to Braun, Kraut, Ausubel, and Hochberg, includes Beth Hait, Dr. Shani Nissel, and International Student Advisor Marga Marx, is not necessarily a veiled criticism of the staff members, all of whom claim many years of experience, but could be the result of a general

wariness students sometimes have towards "professional" help. "There's a certain societal stigma attached to seeing a psychologist," noted one SCW Junior.

Making sure the counselors remain approachable, therefore, is a key concern for the school. For example, even though Braun, Hait, Nissel, and Kraut all hold social work, guidance, or psychology degrees, only Ausubel is listed by her official title as psychologist. In addition, although there have been complaints about the location of the counseling offices - Braun's is inside the Office of the Registrar - there are advantages. "My dream is to have our own space, yet [this location] gives privacy, because people don't know why a student is coming in," says Braun, noting that an office complex of counselors could be too imposing and would perhaps deter students from going inside.

As much as the counseling staff tries to be approachable, however, there is a limit to the number of students who will seek help. As one RA commented, "there are students who have issues, and students who don't."

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# on campus

## New Cafeteria Planned for 215 Lex

### Crowding in Caf Calls for Additional Food Options

By Miriam Colton

A new cafeteria at 215 Lexington is scheduled to open within the next two years, though as of yet no specific time table has been released by Yeshiva administration. The new food facility will provide a convenient food location for Sy Syms students who attend most of their classes at 215 Lex and will hopefully alleviate overcrowding in the main cafeteria at SCW.

The expansion and renovation at 215 Lex, of which the cafeteria is only a portion, is intended to eventually nearly parallel the facilities of the main school building. The cafeteria is currently only in the beginning stages of planning, but is anticipated to be in the basement, and will hold about 150 people at capacity.

"In my book, the new cafeteria is a very high priority," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, in an interview with the Observer. "We have felt for a time that we need to enhance the food services operations."

Since the new cafeteria will most likely not be available before two years, other food possibilities at 215 Lex were high on the agenda of a recent Student Life Committee meeting. As an interim solution, student leaders suggested a small makeshift food operation to service students.

However, this suggestion was



Students encounter lengthy lines at peak caf hours

quickly shot down by administration for reasons of manpower and space. "To be frank, the likelihood of hiring additional staff is very slim," said Rosengarten. He said that Yeshiva would sooner reallocate current staff, but that this would entail curtailing certain services in the main cafeteria. "My judgment is that it doesn't make sense for reallocation [of the staff]," said Rosengarten.

To another suggestion to open a facility comparable to Millner's Mart, Rosengarten responded that it would be highly improbable to find students willing to work during the day.

Instead, Yeshiva thought that the installation of new vending machines at all the locations at the midtown campus would solve the problem. "The quickest thing we could do was to get an automat operation," said Rosengarten.

In the past, vending machines on campus were habitually broken or empty, often for weeks at a time. The

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New vending machines in 215 Lex

## SCW Board Chairwoman Elected to YU's Board of Trustees

### Blenden Becomes One of Few Women on Board

By Jessica Jacobs

Mrs. Marjorie Diener-Blenden, a long time benefactor and supporter of Stern College, was elected to Yeshiva University's Board of Trustees on September 13th.

"The Board believed that she had done such an outstanding job as Chairman of the Stern Board," asserted Mr. Robert Beren, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. "We felt she would be a marvelous asset to the Board of the University and that it would also give Stern College a special voice to the trustees."

Involved in YU since 1989, Mrs. Blenden has made significant contributions to the SCW campus. Along with her brother,



Marjorie Diener-Blenden

Lawrence Diener (also a member of the YC Board), his wife, Adele, and her mother, Mrs. Beatrice Diener, Mrs. Blenden endowed the Beatrice Diener Dining Hall in the Jerome and Geraldine Schottenstein Residence Hall. She also endowed SCW's organic chemistry laboratory, along with her mother, in the memory of her father.

Belden originally

planned on becoming more involved with Vassar, her alma mater, but a visit to the SCW campus quickly changed her mind.

"Vassar can get along without me, but maybe I can make a difference at Stern," Blenden decided.

Shortly after her visit to SCW, Mrs. Blenden became a member of the Board of Directors, and in 1990 was elected Secretary of the Board. In 1994, she was elected Vice Chairman and Chairman in 2000.

Though only recently elected to the Board of Trustees, Blenden is no stranger to the Board. Her father, Leonard Diener, was also a member of the Board of Trustees, and Mrs. Blenden still has distinct memories of picking him up

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## Grand Opening of Midtown Office of Admissions Delayed

By Alisa Rose

Although room 212 of 215 Lex has been designated the Midtown Office of Admissions since last semester, plans for its grand opening as a fully-functioning admissions office have been delayed until a full-time receptionist is hired.

Until now, space constraints prevented SCW from having its own Admissions Office. "It was only natural to open an admissions office after the 215 Lexington Avenue building opened," explains Dean Karen Bacon.

Carla Shron,

Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, one of the two faculty members who have offices in the new admissions center, highlights the benefits of a local office. "Having an admissions office on the Midtown campus enables students to have an interview and see the campus at the same time," she notes. In the past, prospective students had to travel uptown to the Office of Admissions for interviews after visiting the SCW midtown campus.

However, while the administration has finally addressed the lack of space, it now faces another hurdle in opening the office: They must hire a full-time receptionist.

Aliza Fireman, an SCW junior, expressed exasperation at the office's perpetually closed door. "I tried to go there three times this week, and it was never opened," Fireman comments.

Unlike the Midtown campus's new Financial Aid Office, which is opened twice a week and staffed by employees who also work in the Uptown office, the Office of Admissions is looking for a new staff member to serve as a full-time receptionist. The budget for the new position was only approved recently.

"Once we get a full-time receptionist the office will be opened all the time," explains Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler. The receptionist will allow for the office to be opened

even when the two admissions directors, Carla Shron and Helen Moskowitz are away recruiting students.

The relatively small Office of Admissions was made even smaller when the administration agreed to rent the room that was intended to be the admissions conference room to the Office of Student Finance. The Admissions Office, currently houses two smaller offices belonging to Shron and Moskowitz, as well as a reception area. Despite its size, Kranzler says that "the office space is beautiful. I look forward to being there quite often."

Aside from conducting interviews, the admissions office has SCW catalogues



New Admissions Office

that students can take for their friends. Having midtown offices enables the admissions staff to become more familiar with SCW and its students when they are not recruiting. In addition, the office allows new students to reconnect with the admissions officers who interviewed them in high school.

The midtown admissions office is currently opened by appointment only. The office runs tours for visiting students every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

## Stabbing of YC Student Sparks Security Reevaluation

By Adina Levine

After numerous burglaries, muggings and other illegal activities that characterize the perilous neighborhood of Washington Heights, the first stabbing of a YU student occurred only two weeks ago outside a 189<sup>th</sup> Street apartment. The student, a YC junior from Texas, sustained injuries to his back and shoulder but emerged otherwise unscathed from the stabbing. Nevertheless, the student has since considered leaving YU because of the hazardous living conditions and disenchantment with his university.

"I've never been a big YU fan," asserted the student, who requested anonymity because he didn't "want to be known as the student who was stabbed."

At 1:15 a.m. on Thursday, October 18th the student had been entering a friend's apartment house

when a neighborhood man approached him, enquiring for the party's whereabouts. The student answered the stranger's question and then turned around, before

**"Plenty of YU guys live there. Just because they have an apartment means that they're not entitled to security?"**

experiencing what he describes, felt like a punch, in his back. He managed to enter the apartment, however shaken, originally unaware that he had been stabbed.

"I thought I had been punched," recalled the student, "but then I reached back to feel the spot and my fingers kind of went into the hole and I was covered in blood."

The student was consequently rushed to the emergency room at Harlem Hospital, where he

was informed that the knife had punctured his back and arm's bicep and tricep, with his rib protecting his lungs from any damage. The student was released the next morning with only a healing scar and no permanent nerve damage.

"I lucked out in a way," he reflected. "I mean I obviously didn't want this to happen, but it was somehow divinely ordained not to be worse."

Though the police never caught the stabber, an ongoing police investigation is still looking for possible suspects, according to Don Summers, Chief of Security.

Though the incident has left him with no permanent physical scars, the student is psychologically drained. Having survived the army in Israel, he is bitter that it is only once he came to YU that he got stabbed.

"[The stabbing] has men-  
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