



# Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

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## Tuition Expected to Increase Significantly as Yeshiva Faces Financial Cutbacks

By Adina Levine

In response to pressure to cut costs, Yeshiva University's undergraduate institutions will significantly raise tuition prices for the 2002-2003 academic year. Due to increased expenses and the floundering economy, the University faces a precarious financial situation, and is thus expected to raise tuition more than 7%.

"It's going to be a lot," asserted Dean Bacon. "It's inevitable that there's going to be a tuition increase, and it's inevitable that students are going to be upset."

Although the recommendation has yet to be placed before the Board of Trustees, a selection of high-level undergraduate administrators have already recommend-

ed that the increase be substantial. Last year, the tuition increase was 7% for continuing students and 10% for new students. Though this year's increase is expected to exceed that amount, some administrators have hesitated to label the increase as substantial.

"Steep is in the eye of the beholder," stated John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management. "We want to make [tuition] as modest as possible and still meet revenue needs of the university."

The exact percentage of the increase depends on whether the university continues employing the two tiered system implemented two years ago that distinguishes between tuition for continuing students and that for incoming students. According to one Observer source, the continuity of the two-tiered system is uncertain, although according to both Dean Bacon and Dean Himber, the system will definitely be implemented. Under the two-tiered system, incoming students will be experience a higher percentage increase in tuition costs than their fellow students. On the other hand, without the distinction, continuing students will experience a higher percentage increase but every Yeshiva student would pay an equal amount for the same education.

"No matter what the increase, there will be a difference between what returning students pay and what incoming stu-

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## New Vans Decrease Transportation Services Between Campuses

### Departures on the Hour Pose Inconvenience to Students

By Adina Levine and Miriam Colton

In a flagrant repudiation of student requests, Yeshiva has decreased transportation services between its midtown and uptown campuses. The new Yole ambulettes will depart only on the hour, as opposed to the previous half hour schedule. The ambulettes, which can accommodate 24 passengers, were acquired to replace the fifteen-seater vans, due to a change in safety regulations and insurance rates.

"The laws changed about passengers vans," explained Jeffrey Rosengarten Director of Supporting Service Administration. "Whether we like it or not, that's the reality."

New research indicating that fifteen passenger vans were more likely to tip over motivated the switch. Insurance skyrocketed for fifteen passenger vans, and

thus Yeshiva- spurred by safety concern and economic incentives- decided to lease two Yole ambulettes for intercampus transportation. The fifteen passenger vans will still be utilized as local vans, though they will eventually be phased out

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New ambulettes transport students only on the hour

## Observer Sponsors Symposium on Terrorism

### Hoehnlein and Lamm Address Student Body

By Rachel Fyman

A school-wide symposium on Jewish responses to terrorism was held on February 4th, featuring Malcolm Hoehnlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University. The event, organized by the the Observer, was held at the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center and attended by over 150 students, faculty and board members

"We are living in a moment in Jewish history that is decisive, and its outcome will define the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Mr. Hoehnlein said. "In this war, victory will be hard to define. Failure will be obvious."

Discussing the subject of how students should view the events of the past year "as Jews, Americans, and citizens of the world," Mr. Hoehnlein spoke of the need to stop

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Observer Editors-in-Chief with Dean Bacon, Malcolm Hoehnlein and Rabbi Lamm

## Talmud Program Recruits New Class with Extended Grant

### Who is Avi Chai?

By Miriam Colton

Last week, Yeshiva's Graduate Program for Women in Talmudic Studies received the go-ahead to recruit another two classes in a three-year cycle. Avi Chai, the organization that funds the program, has not yet officially sent out a grant letter to Yeshiva president Rabbi Norman Lamm and was therefore unable to disclose any specific details of the grant.

"We've told Stern that they can recruit an additional two classes," said Rachel Mohl Abrahams, Director Officer at Avi Chai.

Uncertain whether the grant would be renewed, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, the director of the pro-



Women in the Talmud program prepare for shiur in the beis medresh at SCW

gram who is also the chairman of the Judaic Studies Department at SCW, was unable recruit prospective students until this week, what some deemed late in the year. "The publicity is beginning now," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "Ads are being

placed and applications are going out."

The Talmud Program for post college women began in the fall of 2000 with a three-year grant from Avi Chai. The three-year cycle includes two cohorts of about ten students each, remaining in the program for a required two years. The first class will graduate from the program in May. Next year, the current first-year class will continue on the old grant, whereas a new class will be subsumed under the new grant.

While it seems that program will essentially remain the same for next year, some of the grant money will be allocated to the hiring of an additional Talmud teacher for the morning. The program will then employ four faculty members.

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**Social Life at SCW**

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## I N S I D E



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## EDITORIAL: THE NEED TO DISCUSS

We thought long and hard. For the past few months, we have debated and discussed writing about social life at Stern. We worried about the flack we would receive from administrators, the mocking from undergraduates, and feeding the "stereotypes" of Stern students.

An administrator one time warned us not to feed into the stereotype that the academics of Stern fight to avoid. He commented that our paper had the power to draw incoming students, or conversely repel them, depending on whether we would address this issue of socializing. So we didn't. For seven issues, we avoided the topic that has been on the minds of many. We avoided this topic because we believed that we were bettering Stern by attracting intellectual students to a college with a reputation that denies part of its fundamental reality.

But the mirage of Stern as a com-

pletely intellectual institution can only go so far. It can be emblazoned upon the banner of YU Today or other PR publications, but the purpose of the Observer goes further. We cannot confine ourselves to serving the students of tomorrow when we have a much more pressing obligation: the students of today, the present men and women of this university, our contemporaries.

People tend not to like to discuss dating and meeting issues in public. We disagree. If there is no discussion, there is no change. And as much as people like to hide it, there is definitely a social problem at Yeshiva. Ultimately our paper is here to allow students to read about what is on their minds, and to be a forum for change. How can we sit idly by in the name of some abstract greater good when we have the power to help, or at least bring to the limelight a buried issue?

**The Observer**  
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# Message from the Editors



Adina Levine  
Editor-in-Chief

Wearing shoes for the occasion, I sauntered through the halls of my old high school, the same floors I had tread in my juvenile sneakers three years ago. I had dressed up, not only with the shoes, but the brown velvet turtleneck and patterned skirt as well, because I wanted to distinguish myself from that immature high-schooler who had permanently quit that building. I knew people would be looking at me – the teachers noticing my hair, the secretaries scrutinizing my waistline – and I dressed myself accordingly. Admittedly, I carried my busting red knapsack, a remnant from my high school days that had transferred over into my college years.

I entered the classroom that I used to burst into five minutes late. The ten girls sitting there were younger than I remembered myself to have been at their age, but they certainly knew how to dress. I mentally removed myself from them in a hundred different ways – thinking of how much more I knew, how many more places I had been to, how many more tragedies I prized as learning experiences – asserting emphatically to myself that I was not in high school anymore. I presumed that I successfully exuded the aura of the college student.

Then one girl asked me if this were my first day in tenth grade. Crashing my reverie of the differences between us, her one innocent question espoused that I appeared to fit in. The question was not malicious and the presumption not ludicrous so that others chimed in, surrounding me with their engaging attempts to meet the new kid. I gave them a half-hearted smile and nod, asking their names and playing the friendly new tenth grader. Subsequently the head teacher came in, exposing my espionage: I was only a student teacher. But for those two minutes, I was back in tenth grade, talking about shoox and Abercrombie, *Friends* and Z100.

I used to think that high school was a playground and college the real-thing. I used to believe that the separation between the high school mentality and the college mindset was as great as that between church and state. I used to suppose that the high school student became a different person the minute she entered the college campus. But being that tenth grader for two minutes, I realized that the differences that distinguish the college students from their high school counterparts are not so great. They giggle about boys, make fun of teachers, and comment on each other's clothes. Transport the same people to a college cafeteria a few years down the line, and they will still be gossiping about the same topics.

The conclusion I drew from my tenth grade flashback is that the chasms that divide people are not as vast as society establishes. I could be a high school student at the same time as I am in Azrieli Graduate School, and I could relate to those tenth graders despite our differences in age, values and priorities – not

to mention knowledge of fashion. Perhaps society's distinction between the college student and the high school one is unjust, as it would be to completely separate the eleventh grader from the tenth grader when the difference can be ever so slight.

Maybe all differences, all dividing lines, are by definition arbitrary in that they divide by unimportant characteristics rather than unite through the central ones. In our Jewish world, the differences are pronounced, highlighted, exaggerated – and maybe they shouldn't be. The girl who wears only ankle length skirts and is thus classified as undeniably frum may not be so vastly different in hashkafa from the student whose skirts occasionally touch her knee. Those few inches make a world of difference to shadchanim in terms of labeling one "frum" and the other "modern" – supposedly two contradictory terms – but may not indicate the chasm of division that it supposedly represents. After all, isn't the individual's personality so much more telling than the length of her davening or the length of her sleeves?

Someone once told me that stereotypes were for the lazy. The enterprising take pains to get to know a person, while the lazy accept or reject a person based on her qualifications. When a person is identified solely by her traits – where she went to school, what type of clothes she wears, where she is from – the essence of the person is lost in reducing her to a set of facts.

At the same time as repudiating stereotypes as misdirected, I realize that individuals face a conflict as to whether to abide by those same stereotypes. Suppose YC student A enjoys movies, but recognizes that he will be judged negatively if he publicly expresses his viewpoint. Should he succumb to the stereotypes by changing his actions – at least publicly – or continue with his practices possibly to his own detriment?

Maybe there is no right answer. Society needs to radically change its system of classifications, and revolution begins with the individual. If every individual commits himself to not accepting stereotypes at face value, but to investigating the foundations of personality, perhaps the stereotypes would be sapped of their strength. The power of the stereotype rests in its acceptance by those who don't challenge its validity, and especially by those who modify their lifestyles to conform to it.

I haven't decided whether to go by Morah Adina or Miss Levine or some other pseudonym to save my sisters from embarrassment. But I think I'll resolve that issue as I learn how to teach, and redefine myself and my values as I discover how to educate. As I recognize that little things don't always represent huge differences, maybe I'll realize not to judge others by the stereotypes our society employs. And the next time I enter that tenth grade class, maybe I'll just wear the sneakers that make me comfortable and leave at home the briefcase.



Miriam Colton  
Editor-in-Chief

Thursday night I hopped on the 7pm van to the uptown campus. I anticipated chatting with some friends or perhaps sleeping for a few minutes before a lengthy night of layout. Instead, for 45 minutes, I was bombarded with the sitcoms "Friends" and "Everybody Loves Raymond" blaring on the television. Besides just being annoyed by the intrusion into the previously relaxing, social and quiet commute, I was bothered by a deeper issue.

When I first heard about the new vans and the accompanying television, I confess that I was somewhat amused; while the university claims to run in deficit, we have the luxury of televisions in our vans. But simultaneously I recognized that these televisions convey a misguided message.

I'm not arguing about the virtues or demerits of watching television. Each Yeshiva student can determine that independently, and decide how much time she/he wants to spend in the TV lounges around campus. Yet now, Yeshiva is placing a television in the vans where students are captives (it even reflects off the windows). A student who wants the television off will be forced to argue with her/his fellow students. These new vans not only condone watching television. They seem to encourage it.

It is ironic that of all university campus shuttles, the only ones that I have ever heard of with televisions are at Yeshiva. And if Yeshiva hopes that these televisions will promote a news-savvy student body it is sorely mistaken. Anyone who has been on these vans can attest that the news is not what students are watching.

A day before my troublesome van ride, the SOY Seform Sale featured separate shopping hours for men and women for the first time. Initiated upon students' request, the hours allowed men and women to shop without socializing.

I personally think the request is ludicrous. As one rabbi uptown accurately said, "When Eichler's separates, I'll think about it."

The separate hours occurred only one night out of a two-week period. Most men and women could, and did, still shop together on the other nights. There is undeniably some socializing that takes place, as the students who requested the

separate hours claim.

Yet, the premise of the new request, that it is more *machmir* and "frum" to shop separately, is what I think is fallacious. While this year it is still perfectly acceptable to shop on the coed nights, it has now become just that – "coed night." Soon, shopping during separate nights will become the religious thing to do, just as Yeshiva's coed shiurim are now being mocked by many students. Not only do I disagree with the premise that men and women should not shop together, I am troubled by its message of it being more religious that will be absorbed by the student body.

The in-your-face televisions and the divided shopping hours are on opposite sides of the spectrum. It might seem somewhat ironic that I am opposed to both – one a trend toward modernity and the other toward a right-wing ideology. But their very disparity is indicative of the trend at Yeshiva to go toward the extreme.

One can call Yeshiva's ideology many things – modern orthodox, centrist orthodox, Torah U'madda. Yet, essentially it's *raison d'être* is to strive to balance the modernity of American society with a devotion to Torah.

The new televisions and the separate hours both lack this balance. Many can extol the virtues of television, yet Yeshiva's ideology does not condone the total absorption of the gospels of American TV. And while we might agree that certain coed socializing is inherently amiss, Yeshiva's ideology does not preach extreme separation of the sexes in the normal functioning of society.

When I complained to an administrator about the televisions, he responded that it's the students' responsibility to raise such an issue at forums like student life committee meetings. When I asked a rabbi uptown why separate hours were instituted, he answered that it originated from students.

It is the students, and the rebbeim who teach and guide them, who must encourage the balance that Yeshiva has historically signified. Hopefully the next president of Yeshiva, to be chosen in the upcoming months, will also step up to this challenging task. When warning bells of imbalance are sounded, it is the role of this community of students and teachers to demand change, to insure that Yeshiva retain its basic ideology that I so admire.

**Yeshiva graduate Mikey Butler  
received a lung transplant on Sunday.**

**The Butler family expresses gratitude for all  
those who prayed for him.**

**Please continue to pray for a full recovery for**

**Refael Micha'el Yitzchak  
ben  
Nechama Sara**

**The Observer**

**Wishes the entire Yeshiva community**

**Freilechen Purim**

# Letters to the Editor

## Facing off with Berger

To the Editors:

I would like to prove to YU students why Professor David Berger's book, "The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference" is definitely wrong.

1. The author of the Sde Chemed, an encyclopedic canvassing of Jewish law, believed that a messiah from the dead is theoretically possible. 2. Rav Don Isaac Abarbanel, a Rishon from the times of the Spanish Inquisition, also believed this. 3. Rav Ahron Soloveitchik ztl, a Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS, condemned the arguments contained in this book. 4. Rav Pinchas Hirshprung ztl, a tremendous scholar of Jewish law from Toronto, Canada, also condemned the arguments in this book.

This book, implicitly or explicitly, accuses these holy rabbis and teachers of heresy. If one respects these great tzaddikim and their teachings, despite whatever one's beliefs are about the late Lubavitcher Rebbe ztl, this book is definitely wrong. To those who may be 'suspicious' of me, I do not believe that the late Rebbe is or will be the Moshiach.

Adam Felsenthal  
SSSB 2004

## Here's to you, Mr. Robinson

Dear Editors:

Amidst fervently saying tehillim and attending various shiurim, I chanced upon the stirring words of Mr. Robinson in *The Observer*. I felt for his plight as an obviously shtark YU masmid forced to tread upon the Midtown Campus, only to find it deserted.

Certainly that must have been a disappointment. I suppose due to his obvious frumkeit, Mr. Robinson is quite ignorant to the habits of women. His ignorance is certainly admirable, while his snap judgments and criticism are not.

Most Stern students go home for the weekend on a Thursday night - which does not mean they're not shteiging in their own personal beis medrash at home, or helping out for Shabbos which is certainly up there in the realm of mitzvos, particularly since being coveah ittim is a male obligation more so than a female one - but Stern is also well equipped with a Beis Medrash in the dorms as well as the school building, thus allowing for late night learning.

Were he to walk into the Beis at any given moment during the day (challah!) he would find it quite abuzz in the way he represents the Beis Medrash uptown. Along with that fact, I'd also like to point out that I have seen the inside of many Stern dorm rooms, all of which contain a mini Beis Medrash throughout the shelves. My admiration for those who learn in the privacy of their rooms without the added incentive of having others notice, exceeds that of those who restrict their learning to just one room.

I would also like to mention that while Thursday night is heiligah mishmar night for Mr. Robinson, it is a night to devoted, for many SCW women, various chesed organizations, home based chavrusas, and yes, the ever popular date night.

I believe I have been mivatel zman long enough to make my point.

I wish simply to counter Mr. Robinson's dramatic reference to Isaiah's passage with one of my own - Judge not, lest ye be judged, and get your facts straight buddy.

Margueya Novick  
SCW '03

*Author Responds:* Over the last two months, many Stern students have shared with me their opinions regarding my letter. Some complimented me for voicing a long-overdue message; others expressed indifference; and a few heatedly criticized me for challenging a culture I did not understand. Through all these conversations, I have acquired an education regarding Stern College students that, as you correctly point out, I lacked when I first composed my thoughts.

I would like to believe, however, that the ignorance extends in both directions. Sadly, although we attend the same school and champion similar ideals, we barely know each others' educational environments. Regardless of whether you agree with my vision of the ideal Thursday night, I hope that reading my thoughts has granted you a deeper understanding of my uptown culture.

Regarding specific points raised by your responses, I wish to make two points: (1) I consider the women that I did consult before writing my letter to be leaders in the Stern learning community. Not one assured me that learning takes place in other venues on Thursday night, though I am happy that it is apparently so. (2) I have indeed chanced by the Stern Beis Medrash in the morning, and can happily confirm Ms. Novick's assertion. It was this knowledge that erroneously led me to expect a similar atmosphere on Thursday night.

## The Lubavitch Question

Dear Editors,

Those who can criticize the Lubavitch movement are people who obviously didn't grow up lacking an education filled with Torah and Mitzvos the way I did. I, for one, have spent the last four years of my life trying to become an Orthodox Jew, and can say with 100% certainty that I would not be where I am today without the help of the Chabad movement. I also know that I am not the only person here in Yeshiva who can admit that fact.

The point is, to say that Lubavitch Chassidim are not part of Jewish Orthodoxy is an insensitive comment that I take personally. It is as if you are telling me that I can't be Orthodox because I have been inspired by the Rebbe's love and generosity, even if it was not directly from Him but by one of His emissaries. I am proud to admit that I am "Chabad Friendly" and owe everything I am to their movement.

The idea of Moshiach that was instilled in my heart by them I feel drives me to do Mitzvos and who can say that is a bad thing? If one accepts Dr. Berger's idea that Orthodoxy shouldn't accept Lubavitchers for their Messianic beliefs, he must concur that the statistics he uses cannot be precise and are mostly derived from Dr. Berger's psychic ability to read the minds of Lubavitchers when

trying to decipher their true position on Messianism.

Even if this is the belief held by some Lubavitchers, so be it. Don't let this get in the way of our seeing all the good they do. Their main goal is to bring Jews to Judaism, not to force their beliefs onto the rest of the world. Jewish Orthodoxy should learn to applaud them, not criticize.

Susanne Goldstone  
SCW '02

## Blessing the Fruits

To the editors,

I am so glad I have the opportunity to publicly thank TAC and all those who helped put together last week's Tu Bshvat seder. I had always thought that the only way to acknowledge Tu Bshvat was to eat a new fruit and perhaps think about trees, but this year, the beautiful set up of the room, the complete Haggadah, the singing, the dancing, the divrei Torah, and the general ruach of the participants helped to make a holiday that could have slipped by unnoticed into a true celebration. I so appreciate all the work that went in to making the evening possible.

Kalany Rubin  
SCW '02

## The Observer

welcomes your letters to the editors.

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No unsigned letters will be printed.

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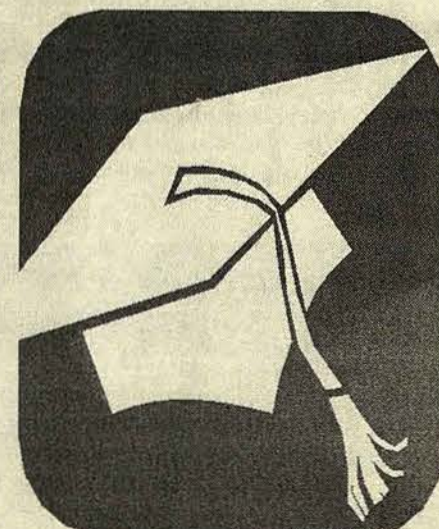
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# Commencement 2002

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YOU FILED FOR  
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IF NOT, PICK UP KIT  
FROM THE OFFICE  
OF THE REGISTRAR  
ON YOUR CAMPUS



# Letters to the Editor

## Hospitality is our Speciality

To the Editors,

On behalf of the Stern College Alumnae Association, I am writing in response to a recent article from an anonymous student about the difficulties faced by out-of-town students in making plans for Shabbat.

The Stern College Alumnae Association has a committee for home hospitality, run by Deborah (Levine) Pechet, SCW '92. The purpose of this committee is to arrange housing for Shabbat for SCW students. We realize that some students may have difficulty in making plans for Shabbat, and this committee is there to help them.

Any students who need housing for Shabbat should contact Deborah Pechet at dapechet@aol.com. They can also visit the Stern College Alumnae Association website at [www.yu.edu/scaa](http://www.yu.edu/scaa) and go to the committees page, where there is contact information for the home hospitality committee.

Sincerely,  
Meira E. Schneider, SCW '98  
VP Communications, SCAA

## Thanks from the Holy Land

To the Editors:

It is with great pride both as an alumna and resident of Israel, to read of your mission Operation Torah Shield.

The participants of this much-needed project will encourage American Jewry in their roles as "shlichim" to visit Israel and to continue to be "Israel-minded" in these turbulent times.

These "shlichim" are certainly the leaders both of today and tomorrow. By keeping the Zionist flame kindled today in the diaspora, they will assure flame's enduring fire in the future.

Thank you for showing your solidarity with us in Israel – "chazak v'amez."

Peninah Segal Rabin  
SCW '79  
WSSW '80

## No Way was it Bias

Dear Editors:

Having not gone on Torah Shield, I would be hard pressed to say what really was the motivation behind Torah Shield's itinerary. Yet based on my conversations with the participants, and the myriad articles about it in the current edition of the Observer, I can try to assume the motivation. Miss Raice claims Torah Shield had an obvious political bias and served that bias through the many trips to the West Bank and the settlements. Mr. Shmidman responds that the trip had no such political bias, and the trip was more religiously oriented.

The truth is only the organizers of Torah Shield really know the motivation. But it is impossible to claim that there was no political slant towards the Right and that the trip wasn't catering to the right wing members of YU and Israeli society. Much of the trip was spent in the West Bank, while I don't remember reading about any meetings with the members of Gush Shalom and Peace Now.

In this aspect Miss Raice is clearly correct. But her fallacy lies with the assumption that the trip was politically biased. The trip was biased; religiously biased. Religious Zionist Jews are for the most part Right Wing politically. Even the Religious Left (i.e., Meimad) lives in the settlements. We support the right of settlement in the West Bank, not because of security or some historical connection, but because Halacha supports it. It was Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook, founder of the Gush Emunim movement, that settled the first area in the West Bank in 1967. Since we support the settlers and feel for the sacrifice they make in order to fulfill this important mitzvah, any trip that's goal was to give moral support to Israelis would be focused on the settlements. Focusing on the settlements is hardly political.

It did, however, appear to have a political bias. For that reason, it might have been better to at least show some support for the Left. It was only a six day trip so not everything could be done. And since many people feel the Left is

responsible for the Intifada, perhaps the organizers of Torah Shield felt they were on the bottom of the list of priorities.

Regardless of how one looks at it, Torah Shield was clearly a success in Israel and hopefully will fulfill its mission in the Diaspora.

Nephtuli Taubenfeld  
SSSB '03

## A Powerful Message

Dear Editors:

Yasher koach on your fantastic coverage of Torah Shield. As a participating member of the mission, I felt that you hit all of right chords and accurately portrayed the many dimensions of the trip. Thanks to your issue, the powerful moments of our time in Eretz Yisroel will stay fresh in my mind for a very long time.

Appreciatively,  
Joe Hirsch  
YC '04

## Off the Mark

Although Yehuda Shmidman has already adequately responded to Shayndie Raice's article, "Too Much to the Right", I feel I would like to elaborate and comment on the specific situations that Raice took offense to. Shayndie Raice, a participant in Operation Torah Shield II, felt that the trip promoted a right wing political view that she obviously did not feel comfortable with and that disturbed her immensely. While I feel that the mission catered to the vast majority of the participants' beliefs, I would like to respond to her article from a more pragmatic point of view, rather than get into a political debate.

Raice points out that those that did not wish to travel to Yesha (Yehuda, Shomron, and Azza) were taken to a nature reserve. Although as a participant on Operation Torah Shield II I went to Yesha, I too have been to Naot Kedumim a number of times. I understand that the reason the group was taken there specifically is that it is in desperate need of finances to keep it open

and running, during this difficult economic time for Israel. We did not only go to Israel to support terror victims, our mission statement is much broader than that, we also wished to support those in need and help the economy as best we could.

The aspect of Raice's article that most disturbed me was her view of our tour through the Moslem Quarter of the Old City. She describes us as "marching through...waving Israeli flags and screaming Jewish songs". We were split in to five groups (I believe that was to keep order) so I can speak only for my own, but we were actually quieter and more reserved than in most other situations. There was no singing, nor any Israeli flags. Utmost respect was given to the occupants of the area. To imply that Americans simply walking through a Moslem neighborhood is as her uncle said, leaving "us [Israelis] with the bullets" and in Raice's words "something so provocative, something that could literally push Arabs over the edge" is a tremendous simplification of the Arab- Israel conflict.

I could go on to ask, where do you draw the line? Should you not leave your home in Shiloh to go to work cause it's too "provocative"? Maybe you shouldn't let your kids go to Rechov Dizengoff (a busy street in Tel Aviv) to do some shopping. But because I wanted to steer away from politics I will just ask, was Ms. Raice there when we gave gifts to everyone in the hospital, not asking what religion they were? Giving with the same warmth and smiles to children who were obviously Moslem. I wonder if we were even on the same trip because we had a totally different experience, and must have come with different ideologies and expectations.

I just wanted to say thank you to all the participants and organizers of OTS II. You did a great job. Although the mission obviously couldn't visit everyone in Israel and may not have appealed to every participant and every Israeli, I think it was a success. The Israelis I came into contact with were thrilled to have us there and asked not only that we come back, but also that we bring our friends. As a participant I felt our mission was accomplished. I myself was stronger and I had strengthened others.

Miriam Greenspun  
SCW '02

SCWSC Wishes  
the Student Body  
a Happy Purim

# Opinions

## Subway Series

### A Journey, not a Destination

By Margueya Novick

While some people have learned all they needed to know in kindergarten, I find that my college education pales to what I've learned simply by observing the life around me on the average subway ride.

Aside from thought provoking poems and graffiti gracing the walls, the conversations held by my fellow travelers can often provide food for thought.

"Yeah, well I was in his office this one time," a tall, sophisticated looking man was saying as he leaned against the pole of the six train. "And you know how he has that gavel on his desk?"

"Yeah," chuckled the equally well dressed man standing next to him. Both were holding impressive looking attaches, their hair slicked, expensive ties peeking out from well cut blazers.

"So, I ask him one time, you know, what he has it for. And he says to me, 'Dan - some girl makes you think you want to marry her? You hit yourself with this. Hard. And if you wake up and find that you still want to marry her? Repeat the process.'"

The two men laughed appreciatively. To be honest, so did I.

"And sure enough," Dan continued, "I was engaged three months later." He paused for effect. "And sure enough - I wish I'd listened to him."

I looked up curiously, as did Dan's friend. "Really?" he asked, "What happened?"

Dan exhaled loudly. "Man, I don't know- I wasn't a kid; I was thirty, I knew who I was. Had really made it in business. The girl? We dated for three years. I wasn't rushing into anything." There was a brief silence and then he said, "Thirteen months, and we were divorced."

I sat there, dumbfounded. What did this mean? Could someone really walk into a marriage with so much going for it, and not even make it beyond thirteen months? I thought about the people I know, in their early

twenties, in the throes of college, dating people for a month and then deciding to spend the rest of their lives with that person. When there is so much pressure to give into, how much of this lifestyle really assures happiness?

I thought about the three concepts that Dan cited. The first, that at thirty he 'knew' himself. Getting to know oneself is a lifelong process, and much of self discovery, I would assume, comes from marriage. However, a person does need to have a clear grasp on who they are before they make a lifetime decision of such gravity.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau said it well in his book *Emile*, "...before you marry, you must know what sort of man you want to be, how you wish to spend your life, what steps you mean to take to secure a living for your family and for yourself."

A piece of advice recently given to me by my aunt was to ask a date where he sees himself in five years - in fact, to ask that of myself - try to gage an idea of where I'd like to see myself headed. Marriage is only as good as its partners are willing to make it.

A general sentiment I've gotten from a few of my friends here is that marriage is the magical solution to, well, you name it. Everything from spiritual downs to filling out FAFSA forms to picking a building and roommate for next year.

It concerns me that people rush into an institution as intense, as demanding, and as all consuming as marriage in the way that a person would run for shelter. They seem to equate the very act of getting married with having the pieces fall instantly in place. Offhand, we could probably all name a handful of young couples who either broke their engagement or got divorced after a brief marriage.

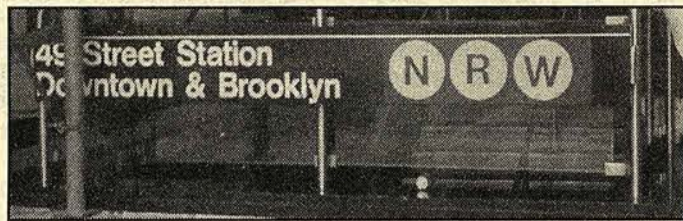
While Orthodox Jews are known for a relatively low divorce rate, it does exist, and seems to be growing amongst today's

youth. While many people will chalk it up to a whirlwind courtship of three to six weeks, I look to Dan as proof that you don't really know anyone until you live with them - after all, three years is a long time to date someone. Perhaps there is a pressure to rush in and finalize something that more time would terminate, but I suspect a lot of today's marital problems come from a warped view of marriage itself.

While being in college is an added strain, to be sure, I assume that for someone like Dan, who had it 'all together,' his direction and focus in marriage specifically was skewed. Lives need to be built on an individual level before a person can be co-dependent. Being single has to be perceived, as a time for growth and opportunity, and only then can someone walk into a marriage with true confidence. If a person has been training themselves all along to rise to challenges and warm to responsibilities, knowing they will eventually bear the fruit, then they have succeeded in a healthy outlook.

It would seem to me that there's a lot of training that goes on to insure a successful marriage, and it does not involve passive living, or expecting marriage to be the flourish of a god-mother's wand, securing a glittering life.

Above all, fixation over marriage is unhealthy and counter-productive. There is nothing more tragic than squandering any moment of time, but specifically a time when the world is open and opportunities peek out from every corner would be criminal to not use to the full. Dan's precautions didn't seem too victorious- the blame, then, for a failed marriage, can't be pinned to school or age. It lies in how well we know ourselves, and how much we consider marriage to be a journey - rather than a destination.



### In My Ideal World... The Desire to Return Home

By Ariela Dworetsky

I went to hear a well-known Israeli politician last week for my Journalism class. The speaker was a secular, left wing member of Knesset. Knowing this, I was still shocked when I heard these words leave his lips, "I advocate splitting Yerushalayim." And then he went on further to ask, "Why do we need the whole thing anyway? The only part of Israel that we need is where the Jews live!" I spoke to this politician afterward and what was meant as a polite question became a torrent of emotion as I pleaded for him to tell me how a Jew, as himself, can say that we should divide Yerushalayim. He avoided the question.

I was literally in tears. How could he not understand? His position was diametrically opposed to the essence of what it means to be a Jew. We whisper the words three times a day in *Shmoneh Esrei*. We cry and close our eyes as we sing the words with passion. "*V'Yerushalayim ircha, b'rachamim tashuv.*"

That same day, my roommate overheard the following conversation in the Stern cafeteria.

A group of girls were discussing their future, and one remarked that when that she has kids, she isn't going to let her sons learn for the year in Israel because it's important for boys to get out and make money. My roommate was appalled.

First of all, I think those priorities sound a tad messed up. But what my roommate innocently asked was, "How can she plan on living here in America in the next twenty years? Doesn't she at least aspire to live in Israel?"

Let me just clarify something. My roommate is not the biggest Zionist in the world. She doesn't know that she'll end up living in Israel but her feelings are, and this is a direct quote, "If *chas veshalom*, I end up living in America, I will feel guilty about it every day of my life."

And that's the way

that we should all feel.

I'm not saying that there aren't good reasons not to make aliya because of course there are. But when I hear a girl say that she can't live in Israel because the shopping isn't great there or her husband won't make as much money there as he could in America, I feel as sad as I did when that politician announced that we should divide Yerushalayim. Because both statements stem from the same problem.

Too many of us don't yearn for *binyan Yerushalayim*. So many of us don't wait for Mashiach to come every day because we are enjoying this exile far too much. Hashem has given us an unbelievable gift - he has given us Israel and the ability to live there under our own sovereignty and yet, very few people want to leave behind their \$200,000 a year jobs to go to Israel, where things aren't as easy in a materialistic sense.

I hear these words come out of the mouths of my fellow Stern students and it really makes me lose hope. But just as I'm about to lose faith in Klal Yisrael, a picture floats in front of my eyes from my recent memory.

It's the memory of landing in Israel with 200 YU students on my plane, catching that first glimpse of Israel and hearing all the boys singing jubilantly, with emotion and sincerity, "*V'Shavu Banim L'Gvulam.*" I remember watching our group dance right outside the plane as they sang "*V'Yerushalayim Ircha B'Rachamim Tashuv*" with a look of such *chibat Eretz Yisrael* on their faces. And I remember our last day in Israel, our one and only Shabbos in Yerushalayim and the look of longing on everyone's faces as we hoped fervently that *Moshiach* would come and that we wouldn't have to return to the Diaspora.

That picture reinforces my belief that there is hope for *Klal Yisrael*.

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

**The elevator is now man-operated.** Responding to complaints voiced at a recent student life committee meeting, SCW has returned to its old practice of removing manpower from checking ID's to having a security guard push the buttons on the elevator. This is done to relieve congestion in the elevator, as it will now stop only on specific floors during peak time.

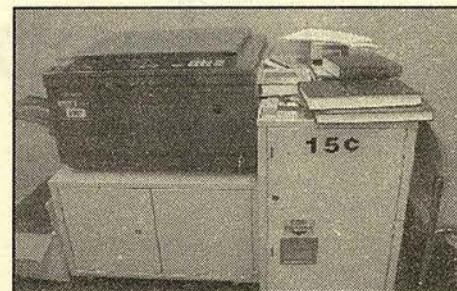


**The choir Kol Shira** has been reintroduced at Stern. After a semester hiatus for lack of choir leader, Kol Shira made its debut performance at the Purim Chagigah.

**The copy machine** in the Beis Midrash is still not working. It has never been working. After numerous complaints to various administrative personnel, students are frustrated that the problem has still not been solved. Many have pointed to the irony that while students are not allowed to bring sefarim outside the beis midrash, there is no place to photocopy sources.

**A hair drive in SCW** is being organized to be completed by Lag Ba'omer.

Participants must grow their hair at least ten inches, and it will be donated for the American Cancer society. For more details, contact Sharon Taub.



**The YU Filmmaking Club** is shooting a "Short" to be entered in slamdance.

Montreal Film Festival, among others. They will be shooting between February 14th and 20th. Positions are open in many different capacities, so email [YU\\_Filmmaking\\_Club@hotmail.com](mailto:YU_Filmmaking_Club@hotmail.com)

**There have been a number of problems** with [www.getgrades.com](http://www.getgrades.com). The site was down for a number of days, and very often students did not receive their grades until many weeks into the semester. "The only teachers who turn their grades in on time are the adjuncts," commented one SCW senior. Officially, teachers must have their grades in within 72 hours after the final but few students receive their grades that soon.

# PRESIDENTS' PAGE



Message from  
SCWSC President  
Elana Soleimani

Hi!

Welcome to Stern College for all the new students, and welcome back to all returnees. I hope everyone enjoyed their vacations and are ready for an exciting new semester. Spring 2002 is set to be jam packed and chock full of events. We couldn't even wait to settle in before we started. First of all our Orientation 2002 was a huge success, with the students enjoying an Imax presentation of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. The SCWSC/SCWTAC Club fair Part II had an amazing turnout, with some new clubs sprouting up even mid year!! The Chabbaad clubs organized a Yossi Piamenta concert, we began steps towards creating the first ever SCW E-Yearbook (for more info e-mail Suzanne Anziska: [Zisks1@Aol.com](mailto:Zisks1@Aol.com)), we cheered on our Lady Macs vs. Baruch, the women's basketball team, and of course YUNMUN and the SOY Seforim sale return.

With so much already happening you would think we would be done, but no there is so much more in store. The arts festival is just around the bend, as are the end of year dessert, ski trip, health fair, and senior dinner just to name a few. Of course I can't divulge everything now or it wouldn't be fun and surprising when you find out. Of course if you have any ideas, are interested in a club or committee, or just want more information you can e-mail us at [SCWSC@hotmail.com](mailto:SCWSC@hotmail.com) or page any member of the board at 1800-800-7759. We look forward to seeing you, and hearing from you!!! Good Luck on midterms!

## Talmud Program at Yeshiva

continued from front page

Currently, Rabbi Moshe Kahn teaches both classes of Talmud in the morning, and Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh and Rabbi Eitan Mayer teach the afternoon halacha component.

Over the past two years the Talmud Program has become better known in the modern orthodox world. Yet, many people, including the participants, are unfamiliar with Avi Chai, which wholly subsidizes the program.

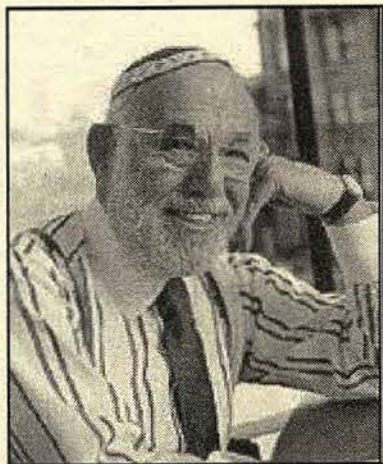
Sponsor of numerous educational institutes, Avi Chai in fact attempts to remain in the background of programs it funds, leaving much of the daily functioning and planning to partners like Yeshiva. Avi Chai is a private, unaffiliated foundation with two goals: to encourage Jews to become more involved in Jewish learning, and to promote understanding along the spectrums of Judaism.

Most of Avi Chai's programs focus on middle and high schools in Israel and America. But if the Avi Chai Board recognizes a lack in some other area of education, such as advanced Talmud study for women, it will initiate and sponsor a program to address the need. "We look at our agenda and then we find partners," said Abraham. "We wanted to create an opportunity for women to continue learning Talmud at a higher level than previously existed. This was a need we saw as crucial."

Avi Chai approached Yeshiva to organize some type of advanced program for women, an idea that Yeshiva administrators had been considering. Avi Chai worked with Yeshiva for a year before announcing the program in February of 2000.

Yeshiva was specifically approached, because Avi Chai says that women in Yeshiva wanted a program within the community. "There weren't many places we could have gone to, unless we wanted to start from scratch," said Abrahams. "We thought it would be an appropriate place."

Avi Chai claims not to have any agenda for the careers of the graduates of the program, such as teaching Talmud to elementary and high



The late Zalman Bernstein, whose foundation Avi Chai, supports the Talmud program

school girls. "We're happy that many women are considering chinuch, but there is not a specific goal of what each woman should do," explained Abrahams.

It is clear though that Avi Chai wants the students to devote themselves exclusively to Talmud study. Over the past two years, women in the program, many of whom plan on teaching Bible, have requested an optional Tanach track twice a week. Permission for such study was not granted by Avi Chai, which does control the focus of the program.

Abrahams explained that that there are other options for Bible, such as the Bernard Revel Graduate School. "Women are going into fields related to Tanach and are studying it on a higher level, but not a lot of women are pursuing Talmud," said Abraham. "It's a niche that needs filling." Right now, no Tanach track will be added, though Abrahams added that, "I guess we'll see in the future."

The past grant promised to Yeshiva in 2000 was for approximately \$1.6 million, though not all the money will necessarily be used. So far, halfway through the three years, Avi Chai has given Yeshiva \$585,000.

Yeshiva does not directly contribute any money to the program, though it does cover overhead costs, such as electricity and room space.

With two classes of students, approximately \$360,000 is allotted for the student stipends. Full-time participants, who commit to the two-



Message from  
TAC President  
Toby Goldfisher

Operation Torah Shield was a huge success. We visited families in Chevron, the Golan, toured the Old City and performed the mitzvah of bikur cholim. Since we returned, I recognize that the mission did more than show achdut and solidarity with Israel. This trip turned the student body of Yeshiva into an actual community. I feel that there has been an increase of passion for student life on campus and achdut within our college community now more than ever.

Recently, I have been doing research on the Jewish Reform and Conservative. In the past, I had learned about these movements in Jewish history classes, but never in depth. Amazingly, I have learned a lot about the commonality of our practices. Also, both movements were founded for the same purpose, which was to bring the contemporary Jewish community together. One may agree or disagree on the practices and details among these movements, but we must realize that it is possible to maintain our beliefs without downplaying those of others. Instead, we should all focus on the ideals that we share.

On a smaller scale, Operation Torah Shield II showed me how so many different

types of people can join together and form one group solely for the reason that they share a common goal. We all made a commitment to become ambassadors of tourism for Israel. We traveled together, davened together, and visited the holiest places on Earth together. Since our return, this commitment has not faltered. Never before have I felt the student body in Stern College so excited to get involved and help make their school a better place. There have been so many women volunteers who helped out with the Soy Sefarim Sale, labeling and setting out the books till all hours of the night.

Last night TAC celebrated Rosh Chodesh Adar with Neshama Carlebach. The diversity of students in the room was amazing. Not only were we having fun because of Neshama's beautiful voice and her rockin' band but we had a common purpose. Everyone was celebrating the new month of Adar joyfully. Sinat chinam is what destroyed the Beit Hamikdash. I hope that, just as these feelings of achdut continued from Operation Torah Shield II, they will linger within us always so that that we will feel a sense of ahavat Yisrael within our own college community and within the Jewish community at large.

## Cancellation of Classes

continued from page 9

change out of your clothes," asserted one SCW student. "You don't break into a sweat and you get out of a gym requirement."

Many students were not affected by the cancelled classes, as indeed the reason for the cancelled classes was because of student disinterest. "I didn't even know they cancelled classes," said Rachel Mandil, SCW junior.

The cancelled classes have particular ramifications for the honors program, as two of the six cancelled classes were honors courses. Dr. Soloveitchik is going on sabbatical and Genes, Heredity and Society did not generate enough student interest and had to be cancelled. Honors students who needed seven honors classes to graduate from the program were upset that these classes were cancelled and not replaced.

"If they told people there was going to be a class, they have to offer something else instead," commented Chavi Kahn, SCW senior.

In response, Dean Orlian explained the difficulty in creating a class after registration has already begun. "It's hard to create a class once people have registered," asserted Dean Orlian. "Changes are seen by such a small percentage of students - no one reads bulletin boards. An Honors class is especially hard to create because you need to find a teacher, etc."

Students were specifically upset that some of the cancellations could have been avoided. Intermediate Hebrew II only appeared in the purple registration book because of a computer error, and Dr. Soloveitchik's intended sabbatical could have been realized before the registration book was printed. "He told us in class, he was going on sabbatical," asserted Shana Strauch, SCW senior. "I saw it on the schedule and I just thought it was a mistake."

And indeed, it was.



Rabbi Haym Soloveitchik's class was cancelled this semester

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## Key Teachers Leave on Sabbatical

By Tamar Melmed

Registration for the spring semester brought exclamations of surprise as SCW students noticed that familiar teachers were absent from the course schedule. Some core members of the SCW faculty are taking time off to do research in and contribute to their respective departments: Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, popular advanced Bible instructor; Jewish Studies professors Rabbi Saul Berman and Dr. Haym Soloveitchik; Professor Penina Schram, staple member of the speech department; and Evelyn Cohen, Art History professor.



Penina Schram

Chovevei Torah.

Dr. Soloveitchik is studying the history of Halacha in Israel. He is investigating the issue of "Gentile Wine" and forming a brief history of the Tosafist movement of the 12th and 13th centuries in Germany and France. He is also forming an introduction of mostly anonymous works of the 11th Century.



Rabbi Mordechai Cohen

Professor Schram has taken a break from SCW to do research at Israel Folktale Archives at Haifa University in order to complete three new books of Jewish Folktales. According to Dean Bacon, Professor Schram has "written many books, most for children, but a few for adults also." Professor Schram has been replaced

"Though it's too bad that their classes are missing this spring, I'm happy to know that they're furthering their education and are on top of their fields," said SCW junior Yael Strauchler.

So what are our teachers busy doing this year? Taking a leave of absence, Rabbi Cohen accepted an invitation to be a Fellow at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Each year, the center dedicates itself to study of a particular area. This year, they have invited Islamic, Christian, and Jewish scholars to work together and study "Biblical Interpretation in a Comparative Context." Rabbi Cohen is studying specifically "Kimhi and Nahmanides on Scriptures' Moral Sense."

Rabbi Berman is on sabbatical from SCW this year and will continue on a leave of absence next year. An instructor of Jewish law in Columbia Law School, he is doing research in *Mishpat Ivri* (Jewish Civil Law) through a Faculty of Law program at the Hebrew University in Israel. He is researching specifically the history of Jewish law and the question of testimony by a Jew in a non-Jewish court against a fellow Jew. Rabbi Berman is also teaching at Yeshivat

by Professor Landis who apparently is very popular among SCW students, and has recently implemented an actors' improvisation course.

Professor Cohen has been commissioned by KTAV Press (published jointly by the YU Museum) to write a book titled "An Introduction to Jewish Art." She is also continuing her research at the Russian Academy of Science Institute of Oriental Studies to begin a comprehensive study of illuminated Hebrew manuscripts from Italy.

According to Dean Karen Bacon, professors must apply for sabbatical by submitting a proposal to a committee stating what they plan on researching and accomplishing during their time away. Once their proposal is approved, they have the opportunity to "advance their research" while receiving their annual salary. Yeshiva does not pay professors who are on a leave of absence.

Though it's very difficult economically for the university to finance these professors and at the same time hire adjunct replacements, Dean Bacon explained, it's worth it so that "they can come back more educated and better instructors."

## Lack of Registration Causes Classes to be Cancelled

By Adina Levine

The more than 300 classes offered in the first distribution of the course catalog created excitement among the students. There were a variety of courses offered, the honors courses spanned twelve disciplines, and there were plenty of English Comps to go around.

But some students were soon to be disappointed. Those who had registered for the Computer class Data Structures had to readjust their schedule once the course was cancelled. Students looking to fill in their seventh honor class with a Jewish history from Dr. Soloveitchik discovered that he was on sabbatical. In short, by the first week of the semester, six classes had been cancelled, but for various reasons. Most of the classes that were cancelled were due to a lack of interest on the part of the students, as only one or two students had registered.

"There's one overriding reason why classes are cancelled," asserted Dean Orlian. "We need a minimal registration to sustain a class, especially if it is a course not needed for a specific major or meeting a general requirement."

Though there is no formal minimum requirement regarding the number of stu-



Students watch screen display closed classes

dents to justify a class, Dean Orlian remarked that the standard is a five student minimum. However, Nochimson's class Strategy of the Novelist attracts only four students, and only three students were enrolled in a Political science class last semester. Despite the discrepancy, Dean Orlian maintains that it is not an absolute number of students that determines whether a class will continue or not. Rather, the content of the course, i.e. whether or not it is necessary for students to take as a requirement, decides its status.

"What happens very often is that stu-

dents like to have a variety of courses offered, but they don't always take those classes," bemoaned Dean Orlian. "We try to be very responsive to student requests. It is a shame because faculty members put a lot of time into their courses."

Some of the classes that the administration considered particularly worthwhile nevertheless did not spark student interest. The Ethics in Journalism class only attracted two or three students, as its 9 a.m. Monday morning time slot prevented many students from enrolling.

"Sometimes it's the hour when the class is offered that prevents students from registering," noted Dean Orlian. However, even when this same course was given at night last year, only four students signed up.

Sometimes the cancellations of classes are built into the system. For the English department, more Comps than

necessary were offered, to "err on the side of caution," according to Dean Orlian, and make sure that all first-year students would be able to fill their requirement. Thus, when one of the Comps offered during the K hour was unable to solicit enough students, it was converted into a survey of American History course.

Dean Orlian stressed that the number of cancelled classes was not extraordinary, and reflected a pattern to expand the number of course offerings that was to be applauded, not censured. For example, Advanced Folk Dance was increased to four course offerings from its two courses last semester. However, it did not generate enough student interest to justify the doubled course offering, and only three classes remain this semester.

"Advanced Folk Dance is the most popular course because you don't need to

*continued on page 7*

## DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS:

# ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMMUNICATIONS



By Miriam Bardy

Almost everyone would agree that sharp writing and reading comprehension skills are necessary tools for almost any career. It's no wonder, then, that a high percentage of SCW students choose to major in English.

Although the requirements for English majors seem arduous, the long-term effects are very rewarding. "English helps expand the mind," says Dr. Richard Nochimson, English professor. "At the same time the skills that are being developed are useful in wide variety of professions. Students are making themselves better qualified in other professions such as law, business and public services."

Furthermore, Professor Laurel Hatvary, Chair of the English Department stated that students who are English majors tend to do well on standardized tests such as the LSATs and that English is intrinsically part of every other major. Thus, it trains students to think intellectually, thereby preparing them for their field in the future. Indeed, although some SCW English majors have gone on to become playwrights, English teachers or editors.

Many students choose an English major because they are unsure of exactly what career they want after graduating college. "When I started at Stern, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life," said one SCW junior, "so I picked English, because I didn't want to lock myself into any one area."

According to the English major course outline designed by Professor Hatvary, SCW has instituted three specific areas in which students can major: Literature, Creative Writing and Communications.

The Literature major requires a total of 31 credits, of which 24 must be in Literature. Literature majors must complete a thesis in order to graduate.

Creative Writing demands 33 credits, 21 of which must be in the realm of English literature. Creative writing courses are required as well as an exit project that consists of portfolio of original works of fiction.

Within English Communications students can choose to concentrate in advertising, which requires 39 credits, public relations, which also requires 39 credits, or Journalism/Broadcasting, which demands 42 credits. All of these majors require students to complete at least 15 credits in English literature.

Under the guidance and supervision of Professor Hatvary, the English Department has grown tremendously. The Literature major is the most developed, offering a large number of topically varied courses. Courses this semester include such interesting and specialized topics as "Psychology and Literature," "Asian American Literature," and "Women, Culture and Society in the Modern World."

While there are courses designed specifically for Communications majors, such as Print and Feature Journalism and Principles of Design and Advertising, English-Communication Majors are encouraged to take additional courses from Sy Syms School of Business and F.I.T.

"Stern offers a variety of English courses," says Professor Hatvary. "But we offer basic liberal arts courses, then we go on to very specific professional Communications courses with the help of F.I.T."

There seems to be overall student satisfaction with the English Department. "I wanted to be an English major because it is culturally and mentally inspiring," says SCW freshman Chana Goldin, a Creative Writing major. "I feel that the English Department at Stern can develop and deepen my love for literature."

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# Honors program

## Plans for Summer Program Remain Unclear

By Rina Shapiro

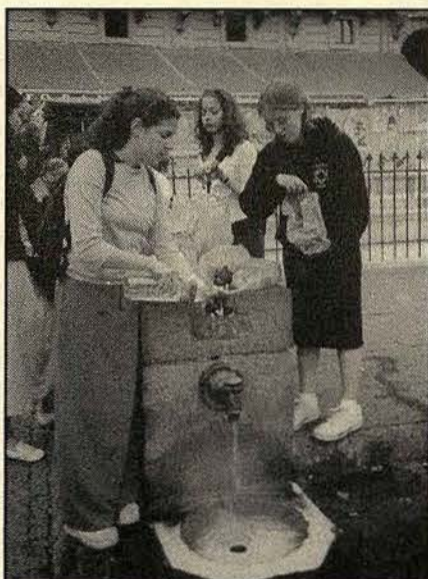
Apply for internships and plan on making big bucks this summer, but think twice about spending time with fellow SCW students in Europe for credit. This year, due to security complications, the Honors Program Committee decided that it would not be offering a summer course abroad.

"The meeting took place on October 15 [to decide whether or not to schedule a trip abroad], not long after September 11," explained Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, Director of the SCW Honors Program. "The faculty committee of the Honors Program met and jointly decided that none of us felt comfortable trying to gauge what would be the political climate many months in the future, nor could we be certain that there wouldn't be further attacks. We worried that neither we, nor students, nor their parents would be comfortable with an honors course abroad."

Not all students see security as a valid reason to deter an honors course abroad. "I do not think that the trip abroad should have been canceled," said Esti Zitter, a sophomore in the Honors Program. "YU had a mission to Israel, and security was not an issue there. Obviously, the point of the trip was different, but if YU has no qualms supporting a trip like that, where students were in Yesha (Israeli occupied territories), I don't think a trip to Europe should be any worse."

It is precisely the different purposes of the honors trip and Operation Torah Shield II that Wachtell used to justify the reasons for calling off a trip abroad.

"The students went on Operation Torah Shield to demonstrate their allegiance at a difficult time for Israel, and to encourage others to visit and stand by



Students travelled to Italy last summer as part of Honor's Program

Israel," said Wachtell. "Sending students to participate in an honors course in England or elsewhere in Europe would be a very different situation."

Although there will not be an honors course abroad this summer, there is still a possibility that there will be an honors course offered in America. Due to security complications caused by September 11<sup>th</sup> and Wachtell's maternity leave in November, planning for the program was delayed, but is currently being discussed.

"Clearly part of the allure of the honors courses over the past summer was that they took place in Europe," said Wachtell. "If we were going to offer a course in America, we want to make sure that it will be similarly attractive to students."

Since the initiation of summer honors courses, the Spring Course catalogue has typi-

*continued on page 11*

## Weighing Benefits and Drawbacks, Some Students Quit Honors Program

By Caryn Litt

Although the general level of student satisfaction with the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program, now in its third year, has remained high, fifteen students out of approximately seventy have dropped out of the program since its inception.

While some former honors students transferred to other universities or switched to Sy Syms School of Business, which currently has no honors program, most of the students cited an inability or an unwillingness to fulfill the individual requirements of the program as the reason for their withdrawal.

Requirements include completing seven honors courses, attending a number of lectures and cultural events each semester and writing a thesis under the close mentorship of a professor. Students must be in the program for at least two years to get the honors distinction on their diplomas.

"I think it's a great program, but having to fit honors courses into my schedule was stressing me out," said senior Kalany Rubin, who left the program this year. "I didn't want to be pushed into honors classes that I wasn't interested in."

Beside those not interested in honors courses, there are some students who are simply unable to complete seven courses. Although SCW continues to expand its honors course offerings - this semester there are eighteen, up from eleven last semester - depending on a student's major or personal circumstances, the seven course requirement may be difficult to fill.

For example, one student who originally joined the program but has subsequently withdrawn, spent two years studying in Israel before arriving at SCW as a computer science major, a department in which no honors courses have ever been offered. "There weren't so many Jewish Studies honors classes, and computer classes were challenging," explained the SCW senior. "I was forced to take honors courses in areas I wasn't interested in."

Administrators are aware that there are still some flaws in the academic part of the program. "It's a new program, we're learning as we go," said Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Honors Program. "We're very anxious to be responsive to students' needs." Indeed, the increased number of honors advanced science courses and the two honors math courses offered this semester are direct responses to student suggestions.

Other students have left the Honors Program not because of the required classes, but because of the time-consuming obligations of attending the events and writing a thesis. "The number one reason we're losing students is marriage," said Wachtell, explaining that commuting makes it difficult for married students to attend events, which are almost always at night or on weekends.



Dr Cynthia Wachtell, Honors Program Director

Students during their first year of the program must attend six events per semester, while students in their second, third or fourth years of the program must attend five per semester.

Although the honors events, according to Wachtell, are scheduled with the intent to avoid conflicts with classes and other school events as much as possible,

even some honors students who dorm find the requirement too demanding. "It's really hard to schedule in six events during the semester," said Heather Alperin, a sophomore who is considering leaving the program.

Former honors students who felt that the events and the thesis were too time-consuming will point out that it is not necessary to be in the program to take the honors courses - anyone with a high school average of at least a 90 or who gets permission from the instructor is eligible to enroll - which many consider the most significant element.

"We don't want to be difficult, we want a program that's appealing," said Wachtell. "That doesn't mean, though, that we can waive all our requirements." Wachtell did admit, however, that although certain conditions are absolutely set, such as the seven courses, the thesis and the minimum two year participation, failure to attend a few events is not grounds for dismissal from the program.

However, because the program is still so new, even the more rigid requirements are being challenged as special cases arise. For example, one honors student joined the program at the beginning of her junior year in Fall 2001 because she had been told by the YU Israel Office to apply to the program only once she was at SCW. The student has since decided to graduate in January 2002, and, according to the rules, she should be forced to withdraw because she will have been a participant in the program for only one and a half years.

However, the student has been instructed to submit a written proposal to the Faculty Honors Committee, which consists of Wachtell, Deans Bacon and Orlan and twelve senior faculty members. The committee may consider alternate arrangements, such as the student accelerating her thesis work schedule so as to be finished by January or the student continuing to attend events and work on her thesis even after she has left SCW. "There are no existing rules for situations like these," commented Wachtell. "We have to work on a case by case basis."

Ironically, while the fact that the Honors Program is still in its developing

*continued on page 11*

## 4552 or 4552H:

### What Makes A Course Honors

By Sari Moskowitz

Not only did Chavi find that her honors classes assumed a higher level of student motivation, and thus less work, than her regular classes, but she discovered that some of her non-honors classes were in fact more challenging.

Many SCW students register for honors courses expecting a challenging and rigorous workload but find instead that, despite their reputation for being extremely demanding, some honors courses seem to be on par with SCW's regular classes. This phenomenon leaves many students wondering what differentiates an honors course from an "easy A."

Ideally, honors courses are those that place additional emphasis on independent study, critical thinking, and student research. Therefore, honors courses are open only to students who are part of the Honors Program, as well as to those who maintain at least a 3.5 GPA, or have received special permission to take the course.

Professors who are interested in offering honors courses can submit a proposal to Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, the director of S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program. The course must then be approved during a faculty meeting. "In general, we approve it," notes Wachtell. "We're receptive to suggestions."

Additionally, Wachtell is open to suggestions from students about what honors courses should be offered. Each spring, honors students are requested to fill out a survey that asks which honors courses they would be interested in taking in the

future. "Last spring, people asked for more advanced sciences, math and economics," says Wachtell. "[Therefore], two honors math courses, as well as an overview of economics and several advanced sciences are being offered this spring."

Many times, teachers are requested to offer certain courses. In such cases, the honors status of these courses is occasionally a surprise to both professors and students. "I was surprised to find one of the classes for my major, physical chemistry, is honors this semester," says Toby Josovitz, SCW junior. Josovitz, a biochemistry major, noted that, of the four students in the physical chemistry class, she is the only one who is a member of the Honors Program.

Similarly, in classes such as multivariable calculus, number theory and biochemistry lab, there are only one or two honors students, which leads many to ask why such courses that interest so few people are offered on an honors level, while so many departments fail to offer honors courses of any kind.

According to Wachtell, the English department has consistently been the department that offers the most honors course proposals. "We have courses scheduled [in the English department] through Fall 2002," praised Wachtell. "No other department is so ambitious."

This is one primary reason why this semester's Asian-American literature class, taught by Susan Choi, the Dr. Marcia Wilf Scholar-in-Residence, is not considered an honors course, much to the

*continued on page 11*



Students listen to Observer Symposium, which was considered an honor's event

# Honors program

## What an Honor it Would Be

### Sy Syms is Without Honors Program

By Devorah Schreck

Although a relatively recent addition to Yeshiva University's spectrum of schools, Sy Syms School now boasts a composite enrollment of approximately 700 students from both the uptown and midtown campuses. While Sy Syms appears to be on equal footing with its brother and sister schools in many respects, some discrepancies still exist between the privileges and programs available to liberal arts majors and those available to business majors. One such discrepancy that has been the subject of recent administrative and student buzz is the lack of an honors program at Sy Syms.

"Sy Syms is relatively young, having been in existence for only fifteen years," noted Dr. Charles Snow, Sy Syms' newly appointed dean. As such, it is not surprising that Yeshiva College, established in 1927, and Stern, founded in 1954, would be endowed with honors programs before Sy Syms, he explained.

However, there is a strong desire to bring such a program to the business school. Both students and faculty would be interested in "enhancing the academic quality of the school by establishing a program in which students would engage in an in-depth examination of critical issues that arise in the business world," stated Snow.

What is the problem, then? The answer can be summed up in one word: funding. The endowment of any program in any institution needs to be supported by adequate funding. Especially in light of the current state of the country's economy, people willing to make sizable donations to any cause are few and far between. Without a donor to pay for expenses such as hiring new faculty and recruiting guest lecturers, the Sy Syms honors program remains a nice idea that has been planted but cannot blossom into a reality.

Another financial roadblock on its path is the fact that there are several other priorities, and the honors program, while a valid and exciting prospect, must take its place in line. Funds are generally allotted to existing curricular concerns, programs and opportunities before they can be dedicated to the inauguration of something new.

Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, Director of the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at SCW, sympathizes with the need for a similar program at Sy Syms. While business students can partake in SCW's honors courses, they

cannot become members of the Honors Program. The SCW program is geared toward liberal arts majors exclusively, with speakers and activities catering to its clientele, noted Wachtell. A Sy Syms program would have an inherently different dynamic. Courses and extracurricular opportunities would be of a business nature and would be tailored to the needs of involved students.

While the idea of advanced learning opportunities for those pursuing careers in business sounds grand, whether there is a demand for such a program is questionable.

*The Sy Syms honors program remains a nice idea that has been planted but cannot blossom into a reality*

"If students want a challenge, they could take the more advanced classes that are offered within the current framework," said Leeba Krausz, a junior majoring in accounting with a minor in Management Information Systems.

"There really isn't a need to establish a separate honors track within Sy Syms." Krausz feels regular business courses are so intense that there is no necessity for honors courses.

"As it is, the demand for business courses exceeds the supply," commented Yehudit Frankel, also a junior majoring in Accounting. "There are thirty students crammed into my Intro to Finance class. What we really need are more regular courses!"

However, the idea of an honors track at Sy Syms does appeal to some students.

Adina Ettinger, a junior, was accepted to SCW's honors program upon her entry into college. In addition to the appeal of courses on an advanced level, membership in the program made her eligible for academic scholarships. During her first semester at Stern, Adina remained in the program, partaking of its extracurricular events and academic benefits. Once she committed to an accounting major, however, she was forced to withdraw from the program. "That's the rule," she explained. "The program is for students in Stern College only." A student's interest in becoming a business major should not prevent her from being able to partake in challenging courses at an advanced level, Ettinger noted.

Ettinger would like to see an honors program that would cater to business students, as would her friends. And, like in most cases, whenever there is promise of a new program, recommendations can be readily found. "If a program is instituted, it should be a joint one, for both uptown and midtown campuses," she adds. "After all, we are one school."

## Dropping Out

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stages has made it better able to accommodate students, the newness of the program may also have contributed to students' willingness to leave it, since few tangible benefits have yet to be seen.

It is not known yet, for example, whether graduate schools or employers will distinguish between SCW honors students and non-honors students, as there have been only four honors graduates. "I'm still aiming to get into graduate school," said Rubin. "The Honors Program is great, but I think the schools will take GPA and extra-curricular activities into account."

Wachtell, while admitting that the program is not yet well known or prestigious, is still "sure it registers with employers or graduate schools and that it will catch anyone's attention." In addition to students' being able to put the Honors Program on their resume, the thesis appears on students' transcripts as a graded three-credit course and an honors distinction is marked on students' diplomas.

Lisa Helprin, a senior honors student, attributes her success at securing a top internship at Sony Pictures Entertainment partly to her involvement in the program. "Employers are always impressed with YU graduates because of the dual curriculum, but with the Honors Program, we're essentially balancing three curriculums," said Helprin. "The people who hired me were very pleased with that."

Wachtell also noted that two honors students landed internships at ABC News after having pursued a contact created when ABC News reporter Jill Rackmill addressed the honors students last year.

For most students, however, the benefits of the Honors Program remain somewhat amorphous. "It's hard for students to appreciate the gains," said Wachtell. "I'm trying to build a reservoir of wisdom which can be drawn from later in life." To that end, said Wachtell, the program is meant to expose students to a broader world view, provide a community of like-minded people and spur feelings of pride and confidence from completing a thesis, the "culmination of their academic career."

Still, not everyone is convinced that the program's benefits are equal to the requirements. "You don't need the program to be an academic student," said one of the students who withdrew from the Honors Program. "You can still get close to professors and acquire research skills."

Even honors students themselves are willing to admit that participation in the program simply enhances their experience at SCW, but is not vital to it. "Students who want to seek cultural and educational enrichment outside the classroom would ultimately find it," acknowledges Helprin. "But the Honors Program makes access to those things a lot easier."

## Summer Trip

continued from page 10

cally listed the abroad courses. This year, however, second semester has begun and the location for the program has not been publicized. While students do understand the delay, many are a little annoyed with the lack of publicity about the summer program.

"I would have appreciated if they put the information out in a timely fashion so I can plan my summer around my education," said Rachel Berger, SCW sophomore. She added that, "A possible program in America does have much appeal to me. America is full of culture and history."

Starting in 1999, the honors program at Stern has boasted successful trips abroad to Amsterdam and Florence for Art History, and Vienna and Prague, a single trip, for Jewish History. In the past, the honors summer program trip has consisted of eight to ten students, with an itinerary of approximately ten days, requiring a research paper to be written upon completion of the trip. The program typically cost fifteen hundred dollars, not including airfare.

According to Wachtell, a decision will be made at the end of February whether or not there will be an honors course this summer, and students like Berger are hoping that the answer will be in the affirmative.

## How a Class Gets an H

continued from page 10.

surprise of many students. Although Wachtell admitted that the failure to offer Choi's class as an honors course "may not have been a conscious decision," she stressed that the endowment for the Scholar-in-Residence program was not appropriated only for honors students. Thus, limiting the course to honors students only would be unfair.

A common complaint of honors students is that while honors courses are typically offered in some departments - such as Bible, biology, chemistry, economics, English, history, Jewish history, math and psychology - there are many departments, such as music, art and political science that rarely, if ever, offer honors courses. Therefore, while many biology and chemistry majors are often satisfied with the available honors courses, there are many other participants in the Honors Program that feel forced to take certain courses, in order to complete the seven

honors courses that are required of all participants in the Honors Program.

"We try to be receptive to students' needs," said Wachtell. "We try to make students able to fulfill seven courses without it being an imposition." However, she added that certain courses, such as languages, would not be appropriate honors courses, even if they are advanced, as they are not conducive to analysis and research.

"I think that they offer a great selection of courses," said Elisheva Douglas, a junior majoring in biology. "I always enjoy the honors courses I take and find them challenging. Generally, my favorite courses each semester are the honors courses. They're really challenging, but I appreciate having them."

Many honors students agree with Douglas's content. "I really like the honors philosophy courses they offer," said Ariella Goldstein, a freshman whose is currently

deciding between majoring in philosophy or literature. "They are interesting courses, and I liked that they offered an honors intro course in the first semester to get us into it. On the other hand, I'm not so impressed with the English selection. They should offer more survey courses in the Honors Program."

"I found the Honors Program course selection sufficient, especially since I am a biochemistry major," maintained Josovitz. "But I can understand how the selection would be frustrating for someone who is not majoring in an honors-dense area."

Since students are required to take at least one Judaic studies course each semester, the lack of honors courses in certain departments encourages a great number of honors students to fulfill their requirement by taking their honors courses in the Judaic studies department.

Another complaint that Wachtell often receives is that the several honors courses are offered in the same time slot, which forces students to make a difficult

choice between the two classes. Wachtell hopes that such clashes will not occur in the future, and that as the Honors Program grows, such problems will be eradicated. "We're trying to minimize conflicts," maintains Wachtell. "More honors courses are offered this semester than ever before, and we hope that as the program grows, there will be more people and more classes."

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# on campus

## Joint Programs Seem Surprisingly Unpopular at SCW

By Alisa Rose

Although SCW's joint programs are included in the features that distinguish SCW's academic program from those of other universities, a surprisingly small number of SCW students participate in any of SCW's joint programs.

Most of SCW's joint programs are in health-related fields, such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, dentistry, optometry and podiatry. There are also several joint programs in fields such as engineering, social work, Jewish studies, and Jewish education.

With the exception of SCW's joint programs with the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies and with the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, fewer than ten students usually participate in each joint program. One possible reason is that participation in a joint program requires students to know early in their college educations what careers they want to pursue.

"It's not in the best interest of every student to take advantage of a joint program," says Dean Ethel Orlian. In order to participate in a joint program, "a student must have defined her goals and have a familiarity with the field of interest," says Orlian.

SCW sophomore Michal Wiener is currently participating in the joint program in occupational therapy with Columbia University. At the end of her junior year, after she has completed her college prerequisites and the prerequisites for Columbia's occupational therapy program, she will be eligible to apply for acceptance to the graduate school with which the joint program is connected. If Wiener is accepted, she will finish her senior year of college at the graduate school, after which she'll receive a B.A. from SCW.

"Participating in the joint program saves me a year of college," explains Wiener.

Like most joint programs, the occupational therapy program is designed so that students spend three years at SCW and their senior year at a partner school. Consequently, many SCW students who spent their freshman year in Israel, are deterred from participating in a joint program.

Yet Wiener, who spent her freshman year in Israel, knew immediately upon entering SCW that she wanted to be an occupational therapist. Therefore, after discovering that SCW offers the option of a joint program for occupational therapy, Wiener decided to strive for acceptance, even though it meant taking a very heavy course load each semester.

"I'm taking a lot of credits, but it is do-able," says Wiener, who hopes to complete all of the prerequisites for the joint program and complete 84 credits on campus in two years at SCW. To help make this possible for Wiener and other students participating in joint programs, joint program participants are only required to take four, rather than the usual six, semesters of Jewish core classes, enabling them to finish their prerequisites in only three years on campus.

However, while Wiener is enthusiastic about the possibility of participating in a joint program, she criticizes SCW for its lack of publicity about joint program possibilities. Wiener, who is



Jewish Special Education class in Azrieli

taking 23 credits this semester, regrets that she did not take a full load of seven courses last semester because she did not know about the program. "There was no advertisement for the program," she notes. "It would be great if other students could find out about the program earlier on in college."

However, lack of publicity is only one of the reasons for the low enrollment in these programs, according to administrators. "These programs are designed for small numbers," says Dr. Stefan Bosworth, the pre-health advisor who oversees joint programs in dentistry, podiatry and optometry. "For most students, decisions about health careers are generally made early junior year. Joint programs demand a commitment to a field very early on."

Miriam Schechter, an Academic Advisor at SCW, agrees with Bosworth's assessment that joint programs are only beneficial to a select few students. Schechter, who advises students who are interested in joint programs, agrees that few students are certain about their career choices early enough in their college careers, to consider a joint program. She also emphasizes that the demanding nature of all joint programs makes it difficult for many students to consider a joint program as an option. "A student must be very motivated to participate in a joint program," Schechter notes.

SCW's joint program in engineering with Columbia University attracts a relatively small number of participants. Rachel Guimoye, who is participating in the program, heard about it from other students and had a relatively easy time deciding to join. "It's the best program for me because I know I want to do engineering," says Guimoye, an SCW sophomore.

Guimoye hopes to spend three years at SCW, all the while taking a heavy load of science and math courses, and then two years at Columbia's school of engineering, at the end of which she hopes to receive a B.A. from SCW and a B.S. from Columbia. Although the program does not decrease the total number of years spent in college and graduate school like the other joint programs, Guimoye was attracted to the engineering joint program because it allows her to gain a strong liberal arts and Judaic Studies background at SCW, while at the same time pursuing a degree in engineering.

The most popular joint programs are those with Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School and Bernard Revel Graduate School. Such programs differ from health-related joint programs in that they allow participants to remain at SCW while working on their master's degrees. Both of these programs allow students to take up to 12 credits in either graduate school during their senior year at SCW, and apply the credits to both undergraduate

## A Crossing of Cultures

By Tamar Ellman

This semester SCW students are being offered a course in the English department quite different from any other. Dr. Susan Choi, a visiting professor brought to campus thanks to the Dr. Marcia Wilf Scholar-in-Residence program, is teaching Asian-American Literature.

Dr. Choi has taught fiction writing in the Yale Summer Program, as a teaching fellow in Cornell after having received her masters there, and in the Asian-American Writer's Workshop. This is the first time she has taught literature since she was a teacher's assistant while receiving her doctorate.

Dr. Choi's book, *The Foreign Student*, which was inspired by her Korean father's experiences after arriving in America following the Korean War, prompted Stern to invite Dr. Choi to teach. "Dr. Choi is an interesting woman who seemed an ideal teacher for our group of young women," said Professor Laurel Hatvary, head of the English Department.

Professor Hatvary is herself quite fond of contemporary Asian-American literature and teaches *The Woman Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston (a book Professor Choi's class will be reading this semester) in her Freshman English classes as well as *Bone* by Fae Myenne Ng in her Mothers and Daughters class. But this is the first time a class has been dedicated solely to this topic.

Students seem to appreciate the novelty of the course. "This is the thirteenth literature class I have taken at Stern," said Suzanne Anziska, SCW senior, "and this is one of the best that I have taken so far and it's a topic that I've never been fully exposed to before." SCW senior Esther Robinson added, "It is refreshing to be offered such an interesting course."

and graduate requirements.

Many participants in the joint program with Azrieli are thrilled with the program, including Ayelet Rivka Jaye, an SCW senior who plans to teach Jewish Studies to high school students. Jaye plans to take the maximum four courses at Azrieli during her senior year, so that she will only have six more courses to complete after she graduates from SCW to receive a Master's Degree in Jewish Education. "I love my Judaic Studies classes at SCW, but the Azrieli courses focus on how to teach," says Jaye, in praise of the program.

Another aspiring teacher, Nili Epstein, is getting a head start on a master's degree in Jewish Studies at the Bernard Revel Graduate School. Epstein, an SCW senior who is double majoring in English literature and Judaic Studies, notes that the disadvantage to the joint program is "having to travel uptown." Nevertheless, "I think it's a great



Dr. Susan Choi

The fact that this class is new and that Dr. Choi would be able to "give everyone a new way of seeing the world" is partly why she chose to teach at Stern College. The newness of the class allowed Professor Choi to "design [the class] from the ground up," as she was given complete freedom to teach whatever she wanted as long as it fell within the purview of Asian-American literature.

Professor Choi began learning about her own Korean-American heritage while researching for her book, but she filled in the gaps about Asian culture in general while preparing to teach the class. She found that it "made her world seem richer because she became aware of a new dimension to the city." She chose to teach this class in this school so that the students could experience that same awakening to the different elements of their city.

And that is what is happening. "The culture is very fascinating," said Ariela Tanzer, an SCW Senior. "I'm really excited for great insights into works of literature that I probably wouldn't have picked up on my own"

asserted Sophia Rabbenou, an SCW Junior. The purpose of the Scholar-in-Residence program is, in fact, exactly this: to bring culture to the students at SCW which they may not otherwise have experienced.

In addition, there are many similarities between Asian culture and Jewish culture, which, as Tanzer states "makes it more relevant and meaningful." Professor Hatvary foresaw this when the topic of a potential Asian-American literature class came up. She thought SCW students would be interested in the class because of similarities, such as emphases on "family, food and tradition," between Asian-American culture, specifically Chinese, and Jewish culture.

These similarities help the students to appreciate Asian-American culture to a greater extent than they may have otherwise. And Professor Choi is the perfect person to teach the class. "She is an extremely interesting, energetic and intelligent person who stimulates thought-provoking discussion," stated Rabbenou. Anziska added that "Professor Choi is a very thoughtful and interesting woman and I stand to gain a lot from the class."

She is also familiar with both cultures since her father is Korean and her mother is Jewish. As such, not only are her students learning a great deal from her about one aspect of her heritage, she is learning a great deal about another aspect of her heritage from her students.



Asian American Lit class discusses identity conflict for Japanese Americans

opportunity to be able to take classes at Revel while I'm still at Stern," Epstein says.

Slightly less popular than the joint programs with Azrieli and Revel is SCW's joint program with YU's Wurzweiler School of Social Work. According to Dean Orlian, this joint program is "fairly popular." Like the health-related joint programs, the Wurzweiler joint program is a five-year program, with three years spent at SCW and the student's senior year completed at Wurzweiler. Upon completion, students are awarded a B.A. from SCW after their first year at Wurzweiler and an M.S.W. at the completion of the program.

Although participation in the SCW joint program does not guarantee admittance to the graduate school, SCW students who have participated in joint programs have proven to attain relatively high acceptance rates.

# on campus

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

By Shifra Landau

### Do you feel safe on the SCW campus?



Dikla Carmel  
SCW Sophomore

"Yes. I feel completely safe on campus. I have total trust in the security system here. I find that they are very friendly and I have come to feel very safe around them, and believe that they will protect me if anything should happen. When I visit other colleges, I always notice how much less security they have. And the guards here never let anything slide - they are always taking precautions - I have never not been asked to show my ID"



Erica Oppenheimer,  
SCW Junior

"I felt perfectly safe walking around the campus at all hours of the night, until I heard about the recent attempted muggings. A friend of mine who was accosted outside of a dorm building told me that when a man grabbed her arm and pulled her down the street, the security guard saw it happen. Later, when she asked him why he didn't do anything, he responded that he assumed that she knew the man. Wouldn't it have been better if he had simply asked? Now I am on my guard and feel that I have lost a sense of security."



Itiya Hanau  
SCW Sophomore

"I don't feel any less safe on campus than I did last week or three months ago. I think that if you are smart then you'll be safe."

## EMT Course Cancelled, Again

By Lea Greenspan

**D**ue to student demand, attempts have been organized in the past few months to organize an EMT course on campus. After the cancellation of one such course, another course organized by Yeshiva students to be held at the uptown campus was cancelled two weeks before it was scheduled to begin on January 27. None of the officials coordinating the course seem to know why.

Jeffrey Patow, the Sponsor's Administrator for Emergency Care Programs, Inc., emailed the individuals signed up for the course, explaining that the school required an "assumption of liability for this course."

"These requests make it impossible for us to conduct the program," Patow wrote. "Emergency Care Programs conducts EMT Courses throughout the 5 boroughs of NYC, as well as at a number of universities. It is understandable to ask us for a liability insurance but to request a letter of indemnification for the university is not something we have ever been asked for."

The necessity of this document was also unclear to David Himber, University Dean of Students. In fact, he had to inquire about the content of this necessary letter of assurance before defending the university's requirements. "Let's say you drop an oxygen tank on your friend's toes and you break her toe," Himber said. "The letter of indemnification means that if the student decides to sue - she will sue the company and not Yeshiva University."

Patow's understanding of the letter was different. "Anything that happens around campus that shouldn't, would be my fault," he said. One example of Patow's liability, which he claimed was given in his initial conversation with Yeshiva, was if any student left during the class to play basketball in the gym and was injured. "I have no problem giving an insurance policy, but there is no way I would give that [letter of indemnification]."

When a company needs to provide

a letter of indemnification, it means that they are a risk factor for an insurance company and are charged a higher price.

Himber does not understand, however, why other universities do not require it. "Any time there is someone from the outside coming in, anytime a program comes on to our premises, we review it with our legal council," he said. "We were advised to require a letter of indemnification."

Though students might turn toward Student Services for answers, they have none because they are simply following the rules. "We don't play lawyer in Student Services," Himber said. "Once they advise it, we follow it."

Himber added, "You have to ask the other colleges why they do not require it."

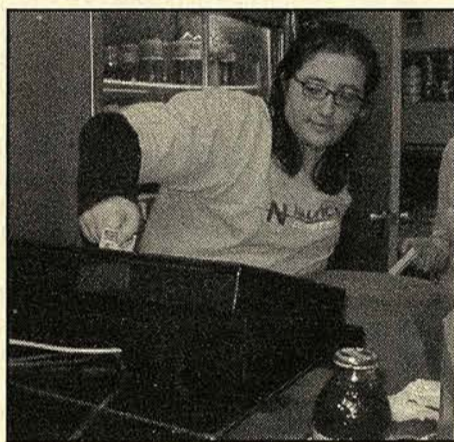
Yet, beyond the bureaucracies, the cancellation of the course has left a dozen or so SCW and YC students without the EMT certification that they so desired.

## Increases in Milners Wages

By Shira Frankel

**I**n an attempt to enhance the quality of Milners and equalize wages between the two campuses, a recent Human Resources meeting decided that salaries of the students who work there are to be slightly increased in the coming semester, changing payment from \$6.50 to \$7.50. Workers at the uptown campus have historically been paid more than their female counterparts, and this change will equalize the same pay for the same job.

"To provide you with high quality assistance and to encourage our students to seek employment within the University, student rates will be increased," asserted the memo from Human Resources. The memo also increased the salary of writing center tutors to \$10 an hour from its previous \$7.50. Students involved in the phone-a-thon will now be paid \$9 an hour, and



Barbara, SCW freshman, swipes student's card at Milners

the university will no longer pay any of its student worker less than \$7.50.

With the recent change of management, Milner's started running better. The new managers put up flyers advertising Milner's employment opportunities. Apparently their methods worked. Milner's is always open when

it's supposed to be, and it is usually well stocked. "It's moving smoother with the new management," commented Anya Sedletcaia, an SCW junior who works at Milner's.

Changes in Milner's since last year include the stocking of items other than drinks and junk food. "I think Milner's is good, especially since they now provide everyday needs like shampoo and soap," said Gitty Schreiber, SCW sophomore. It also has meals-to-go and salads.

While Milner's calls a closet-like room home, its counterpart in Schottenstein Residence Hall is much larger. Called simply "the Schottenstein store," it offers meals and "real foods," in addition to the usual junk food. Students from all the dorms shop at the Schottenstein store, but some find it a hassle and are frustrated with the lack of food in Milner's. "The food [in Milner's] does not have substance," commented Lea Greenspan, SCW sophomore. "The things in Schottenstein are what I need, including meals and regular supplies, like toilet paper. But we don't have a chance to run to Schottenstein all the time."

Students in the new 36<sup>th</sup> Street dorm feel left out, because they have no store in their residence hall. "I think it's not good, because when the cafeteria closes, that's it - no more food for a while thirteen hours," complained Esther Kosoff, SCW junior.

Although there are difficulties in the dorm stores, or lack of them, most SCW students have managed to avoid going hungry after the cafeterias close, even when they throw gala room parties or have late night study sessions.

enough time to get a part-time job during the school year. "In regular colleges," says SCW junior Esther Kosoff, "to be a full time student, you only have to take 12 credits, so a lot of people do that, but in Stern, you really can't. If you're on core and a biology major, which many people are, then you're taking about seven classes, two labs, and possibly a gym."

"I do not have time for a job," says Goldberg. "When I have free time, I'm either doing work or socializing."

## Part-Time Jobs Abound Among Students

By Shira Frankel

**A**lthough the appeal of a part-time job for most students is primarily the chance to bolster their spending-money stash, a fair amount of SCW students have found additional advantages to working part-time.

"Balancing school and work gave me a strong sense of responsibility a sense of independence," says SCW sophomore Rosa Aspir.

Indeed, studies have shown that working while in school can improve one's college experience, as well as one's GPA. A working student also learns to budget her time wisely.

Part-time jobs can also be an investment in one's future. For Aspir, an aspiring lawyer, her work in a law firm is preparation for her future career.

Often, however, students are forced to rely on less exciting part-time jobs at first, such as light office work or tutoring. Later, with more experience, students can land jobs that will actually prepare them for their future careers.

The lack of available jobs for those without experience is frustrating for some students. "I don't have a job because it's hard to find one that is related to my field,"

says Civia Goldberg, SCW junior art major. Although any job would provide some money, Goldberg is unwilling to settle for office work because she feels she will not gain experience in her future line of work.

Experts say, however, that even part-time jobs, like working in an office, can enhance one's skills. Working during school also impresses future employers because it demonstrates organization and drive.

For those who do want part-time jobs, the Office of Placement and Career Services is very helpful. Career counselors like Naomi Kapp review resumes and help students find jobs, both in general work and in specific fields of study. "Many students are successful in obtaining positions through our office," says Kapp.

While having a job during college can be enriching, it is difficult for students to schedule their classes around their work. Aspir was able to arrange her class schedule around her job. Other students, however, end up settling for secondary class choices to accommodate their jobs.

Dina Greenbaum, an SSSB sophomore concentrating in MIS, knew that her overloaded class schedule could not accommodate a regular part-time job, so she searched for a job that would fit in eas-

ily. She found a job teaching Sunday Talmud Torah. "Originally, I just wanted to find a job that would fit into my schedule," says Greenbaum.

Another problem with working part-time while in school is that too many hours on the job can take away from necessary study time. Yet students find that job that are only weekly usually do not infringe on schoolwork. Nevertheless, it does take away from a student's social life. "Preparing for class sometimes takes away a little from the fun I would otherwise be having Saturday night, but it is worth it," says Greenbaum.

To circumvent the potential problems that arise with regular part-time work, some students find unconventional jobs. For example, Lori Girnun, an SCW junior, posts events on jewishnetwork.com, a website that supplies people with information about events happening in their neighborhoods. "It is easier than other jobs, as I don't have to leave the computer," says Girnun. Although the experience is not geared toward her future, she appreciates the chance to make some extra pocket money while sitting in the comfort of her room.

Some students who would like to have jobs say that they simply cannot find

## social life

## Shidduchim: Do They Have a Place at YU?

### In Depth Look at Social System Among Students

By Miriam Colton

A number of years ago, President Rabbi Norman Lamm attempted to organize a committee of rebbeim and school administrators to delineate social policy. Specifically, the committee would address the dating system for Yeshiva's men and women. Few leaders and rebbeim expressed interest in participating and the committee never got off the ground. Years later this issue of meeting the opposite sex has burgeoned into a serious problem for many students.

While Yeshiva prides itself on being the bastion of modern orthodoxy and its logo proudly bears the motto of "Torah U'madda," there has been a slow trend among the student body in the last few years to move toward varying extremes, specifically the right. "My experience in YU over the years is that more than one trend is going on at once," said Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva, who has been at Yeshiva for over thirty years. "The place is moving to the right, except those that aren't. The middle is holding much less."

After returning from a year or more of intense religious study in Israel, students often shun the old system of socializing and no longer feel comfortable attending coed events. Undergraduate men and women are opting to rely solely on being set up by family or friends on traditional shidduch dates. However the shidduch system, requiring networking that is not in place at Yeshiva, often leaves students, especially the female population, with no options and few dates in a world where, traditionally, women marry young.

"You have people who should be going out in terms of their special qualities, who haven't gotten a date in months," explained Rabbi Aaron Cohen, a Judaic Studies teacher at SCW. Rabbi Cohen and his wife attempted to organize a system to set up SCW women, but due to growing familial obligations their plan came to a halt.

"People call me all the time," said Rabbi Blau. "Parents call out of frustration, and those from out-of-town feel it much worse."

Historically, Yeshiva regularly held social mixers and coed events to allow their two campuses to interact. "When my mother went to Stern there were things like coed chagigahs," said Shana Strauch, an SCW senior. "She would go home and ten guys would call her for a date." Strauch is the third generation of women in her family involved in setting people up, and claims "it's just in my blood."

Now, while SOY and TAC attempt to organize "kosher" events like the coed shurim held every few months, students increasingly refuse to attend. "People feel less comfortable attending social events, meeting directly, and socializing as was done 20 or 30 years ago," said Rabbi Cohen, who is the Rabbi of Tifereth Israel in Passaic, NJ.

Indeed, the Soy Seforim Sale had



Men and women take classes together at Revel Graduate School



Some students rely on meeting at places like this l'chaim in Brookdale, or by having engaged friends set them up

requests, initially from women, to hold separate shopping hours. Similarly, on the Torah Shield II mission to Israel in January, a number of participants requested separate busses for traveling.

According to many, the yeshivot in Israel have urged students, particularly women, to refrain from talking to the opposite sex. "What has happened for some of the most religiously committed students is that they have absorbed from rebbeim, usually in Israel, that meeting with members of the other sex at events is not appropriate, even when all are of marriageable ages," explained Rabbi Blau. "Instead they should meet through shidduchim. They tell them what to do, but don't follow through [on how to do it]."

Switching from coed activities to the shidduch system could be a viable option, yet the culture at Yeshiva does not support such a system. "No mechanism for arranging shidduchim has been created, leaving the students stuck, with the students at Stern most affected," said Rabbi Blau.

In the shidduch system one is dependent on other people to find a spouse, requiring a culture and mindset that is focused on setting people up. Many students and rabbis claim this outlook is severely lacking in Yeshiva.

"It's much more on people's mind to get others married," explained Rabbi Cohen of the right-wing world. "It's a whole atmosphere and mindset."

Additionally, the success of the shidduch system is largely dependent on parents who must network among friends and neighbors to find dates for their child. However, the majority of parents of Yeshiva students grew up in a world where socializing was the norm, and are unfamiliar with the shidduch system. "If a parent doesn't know the world of shidduchim or how it works, he would find it foreign or bizarre to make connections to present or introduce one's own child," said Rabbi Cohen. "[Student's] parents are not as knowledgeable how to go about it, whom to contact, and how to network."

Many parents are more modern than their children. They are unfamiliar with the qualities their child is seeking in a spouse and the right-wing world many of their children plan on entering, and therefore have a difficult time representing it to others. "It doesn't work at Yeshiva because parents play less of a role," said Rabbi Blau.

Another group responsible for setting people up is married friends, who, as opposed to singles, have access to students of the opposite sex. In the 'yeshivish' world there's more of a sense of responsibility and networking for friends, to make sure people get married," said Rabbi Cohen.

Unfortunately, students have com-

## Can Coed be Frum?

By Adina Levine

The alphabetical assignment on bus three of the yesha contingent on Torah Shield II created coed busses, albeit against some participants' consent. When faced with the "horror" of sitting in adjacent rows — even though not adjacent seats — with members of the opposite sex, a few women arranged to switch to allow for all the men to sit in the front of the bus while the women occupied the rear.

"It was very upsetting," commented Rena Goldstien, SCW sophomore. "It's not like we're black and white that we need to sit on back of the bus."

In the same Yeshiva University some months earlier Nervus Circus and Chanukasino were relaxed coed events. True, not as many women showed up as men, but the interaction

between the sexes was at its utmost, neign even the focus of the event. Some students barely watched the circus or failed to participate in the casino, but confined their activities to socializing.

"I'm only here for the social mixer," commented one YC senior. "I don't even know what the event is."

Yet, the crowd that attended this event may have been significantly different than those people who attended Torah Shield II

Within Yeshiva University more than just 150 blocks separate the men from the women. Ideologically and practically, the separate campuses create vast differences between the men and women, and the methods of meeting each other are limited. Efforts to unite the campuses — to bring together the men and women — whether academically or socially, are not always successful and often meet with opposition from the right. Coed events sometimes prove a divider between the frum and the social.

"I won't go to coed events because I am afraid of being labeled," asserted one SCW junior, who would not give her name because of the label attached to her statement.

Many see the coed events as being an indicator of level of frumkeit, with the students attending creating a not-so-frum scene that the more frum students avoid. It becomes a cycle that because some frum people are not attending these events, other frum people are not interested in attending to hang out with a less frum crowd. Once the people attending are stereotyped as not-so-frum, other undefined individuals will use the stereotype in deciding whether to attend.

"I don't go to coed events," asserted

SCW junior Rachel. "The kind of guys I want to meet don't go to these events." When asked where she was supposed to meet those kinds of guys, she exclaimed "If I knew, would I be living in a crowded room in Brookdale?"

An exclusive Observer poll found that 66% of SCW students were opposed to attending coed events, with a mere third of the students open to enjoying these events. For those students who did partake in these events, some did not see its coed nature as a factor enhancing the event, believing that the events should not distinguish between the frum and the not frum.

"I think it's great to have them, but I don't purposely go or not go because it's coed," Sara Brodsky. "I go depending on whether activity interests me."

Furthermore, the organizers of such social

mixers nevertheless downplay the coed nature of the activity as the center of the event.

"The focus is not for them to be coed," Lou Shapp asserted. "I tell guys and girls all the time to just come with their friends and hang out. There's no pressure to talk to members of the opposite sex."

Nevertheless, for people who will not attend these events, the primary obstacle is its coed nature.

"Sometimes there are events that I want to go to but I won't because they're coed," commented Liora Kasten, SCW junior. "It shifts the focus away from the event to be like 'oooh! Boys.' It's annoying."

Conversely, some students will specifically attend an event because of its coed scene, philosophically committed to coed activities.

"I believe very strongly in coed activities," asserted Yaakov Green, YC junior. "There's a lot to be gained. When you homogenize a population, you limit yourself."

However, the people who are committed to such activities often differ in terms of religious identification from those who are against such activities. When asked about the religious level of his participants, Lou Shapp admitted that the frum crowd often avoided them. Nevertheless he asserted, "the frum guys are starting to realize that these events are not advocated for being socializing" and are bit by bit participating in the events.

But Shapp's prediction may be premature. According to the Observer pole, 20% of those who did not attend coed events said the reason they do not go is because the activities are boring, and were not opposed to coed events on philosophical grounds. Furthermore, 40% opposed the events because of practical inconveniences, either that the events were held at inconvenient times or the students did not feel like traveling uptown.

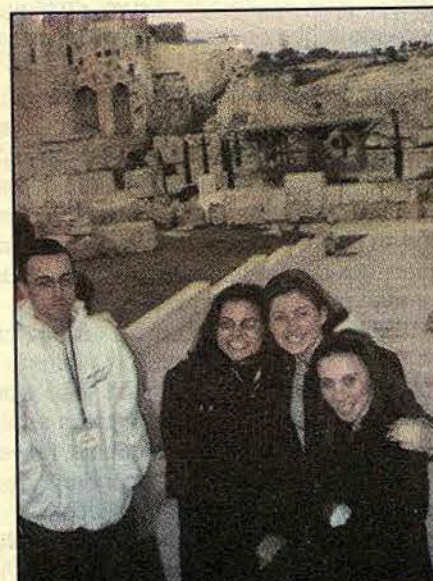
"The events are often held on Thursday nights, and I go home then," commented SCW junior Estee.

"Stern has an inferiority complex that if an event is not held uptown, it's not a real event," observed an SCW junior. "If the event were here, I might drop by, but if I have to travel an hour each way, it's just not worth it."

The remaining 40% of those SCW students who do not attend coed events were comprised of 10% saying they do not talk to boys and 30% proclaiming the right people do not go to these events.



Coed event at Yeshiva



Torah Shield II was considered a "kosher" coed activity

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# social life

## Mens Hours in Brookdale Lounge Change to Accommodate Students

By Shayndi Raice

On Friday, February 1, 2002, the Student Life Committee met to discuss complaints from students in Brookdale Hall regarding the hours that men are permitted in the student lounge in the evenings. The Committee was prompted to address the issue after a number of SCW students approached Rachel Kraut, the Brookdale Hall resident advisor, because they felt uncomfortable about having men in the TV room. The students complained that when men are in the TV room, they are denied the comfort and freedom they enjoy when men are not present. Indeed, many see the TV lounge as the only place to be truly comfortable and relaxed, a luxury that they believe is not possible when men are present, as the presence of men inhibits the way many women choose to dress and act.

In an attempt to forge a compromise between the students that insist on the presence of men in the lounge and those that don't, the Student Life Committee decided to curtail men's hours in the back TV lounge and expand men's hours in the front lounge. Prior to the decision, men were allowed in both lounges until 1:00 A.M. Now, men are prohibited from sitting in the back lounge after 10:00 P.M., but they are permitted to remain in the front lounge until 2:00 A.M.

Despite this attempted compromise, not all SCW students feel that the change in rules is fair. "These girls have to get used to the real world and being around men," asserts Rina Witrow, SCW sophomore. "When they go to work they can't try to avoid being in a room with men because they're uncomfortable."

Other students feel that 10:00 P.M. is very early to be kicking people out of the lounge. "If people want to hang out with their brothers, boyfriends, fiancées or friends, they should be allowed to do it past ten



YC students (in the far back) often sit in the Brookdale TV lounges with female friends

o'clock at night," says Shaina Cohen, SCW junior. "The thing about the front lounge is that it's not a very pleasant atmosphere because everybody is staring at you."

In addition, some students feel that the wishes of more religious students always override the wishes of the less religious. Many students believe that the claim of those who want to wear pants is simply a pretext in order to keep men out of the lounge, because they are uncomfortable with the idea of men walking around the lobby area. Many, such as SCW sophomore Shoshana Chanale, believes that "girls use the excuse that they want to wear pants and it doesn't make sense. They can put on a skirt - they wear one every day."

However, not all students are opposed to the change in men's hours. "[SCW] is an orthodox school and provides all-female dormitories so that girls can feel comfortable," says SCW sophomore Amy Mechlin. "When you choose SCW you know that you're giving up the type of dormitory life that you find in other universities." Despite the clear rift among students over this controversial issue, the Student Life Committee is hopeful that in time, most, if not all students will feel comfortable with the newly instituted compromise.

## Seforim Sale Institutes Separate Hours

### SOY Organizes Successful Sale

By Ariela Dworetsky

Carrying a 60 year legacy, the SOY Seforim Sale is known for the greatest array of Seforim at the best prices. Thousands of people - students and families travel from all over. This year was no different.



SCW and YC students label books prior to sale

Under the leadership of Naftali Levenbrown, students have been working on the Seforim Sale since the beginning of the year and setting up and labeling since the semester began. And as always, their hard work has been paying off. On Sunday, the first day of the sale alone, 600 people came to buy Seforim and Tuesday's count nearly matched that number.

But this year's Seforim Sale featured something different. Due to popular demand, the SOY Sefarim Sale set aside one night with separate hours for men and women. Held on Tuesday, February 12th, it was decided that there would be men's hours from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, followed by women's hours from 8:30- 10:30 PM. "There were enough students who requested this, to make it worth our while," said SOY President Ilan Rosenrauch.

Many students, such as SCW senior Faygie Bomzer, were happy about the switch because they felt that having separate hours "creates a more tznius-dik atmosphere."

Other students felt differently, claiming that they disliked the message that separate hours at SOY Seforim

sale would send out. "I strongly disagree with separate hours," advocated SCW junior, Abby Calm.

Still, most students were indifferent. "It's considerate for all the people who feel uncomfortable going when there's a mixed audience," said Toby Josovitz, SCW junior.

However, in reality, separate hours was not exactly what happened.

Nechama Maiman was one of many girls who did not attend the SOY Seforim Sale last year, but who specifically traveled to YU on Tuesday night, because of women's hours. "I appreciated the fact that they were having separate hours," she said, "I thought that it was a great idea and I wanted to support it."

However, Maiman was quite distraught to discover that there was a large number of YC students that had ignored the "Women Only" sign. "To say separate hours and not have separate hours is just wrong," she exclaimed. Since security was unable to legally enforce the rule, it was up to the sale's employees to make sure that the separate

hours were being kept. While SOY Seforim Sale employees did make announcements asking for the men to leave during women's hours, according to Maiman they were unsuccessful.

In addition, Maiman was very disturbed by the lack of sensitivity that the men displayed. "The boys looked at the sign, snickered and walked straight on," said Maiman. "When a middle aged woman approached them, they ignored her." Maiman was quick to point out that this was only a hashkafic issue but rather, a matter of respect for someone else's sensitivities and decisions. "They live uptown, they can go whenever they want," said Maiman. "We're the ones who deliberately came uptown for the separate hours."

## ROSH CHODESH ADAR



SCW junior Rachel Fyman enjoys the free masks and paraphernalia



Ariel Berger and Michal Bistricher dance at chagigah



Hundreds of women watch Neshama Carlebach and Kol Shira



Excited dancing to popular Neshama song



Neshama Carlebach

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On Torah Shield II we realized the vast implications the recent Intifida has had on Israeli economy and life. It is imperative that as American Jews we contribute our money to the Israeli economy. To further awareness, we have decided to print a graph depicting the struggles of the Israeli economy in each issue of the Observer.



# social life

## How to Meet at Yeshiva

continued from page 14

plained that many married women at SCW often do not set them up. "The married women here are selfish," said Shana Strauch. "Most don't even really think about it. It's nice to do a mitzvah when you get glory from it, unlike a shidduch which is hard work and often doesn't amount to anything." Many SCW students said that in fact they often receive more date suggestions from their single friends than from married friends, and dismiss what they called the "tired excuse" that their husband's friends are all married.

"I don't know many guys at all and people who barely know me, call me up to get set up," said Strauch. "I make it my business to find out who people are."

A group of married women in Washington Heights have formed a "shidduch club," which meets every few weeks to arrange matches between Yeshiva students. Names of men are presented, with initials only, and the women try to match him up with their friends. A list of all the initials presented at the meeting is subsequently sent out to the group's email list of women.

The group, which has been inundated with calls from single women, is praised by many for their good intentions and efforts. Yet, while over eighty couples live in the Heights, the same dozen or so women attend each meeting, requiring the

*The assumption that all social gatherings are inappropriate seems extreme and inconsistent with the world these students live in*

few women who attend to devote numerous hours to shidduch attempts. "More people need to come, to get involved, and do a little bit more," said one woman who is part of the group.

"It's easy to forget once you're married what it was like to be single," said Rebbetzin Shoshana Schachter, wife of Rabbi Herschel Schachter, MYP Rebbe and Rosh Kollel of the Marcos and Adina Katz Kollel at RIETS. "You have to remember your friends."

Another endeavor to address the problem occurred in November, when a group of about 15 female students met with Rebbetzin Schachter, joined by Rabbi Schachter for part of the time. The session was intended to enable the women to voice their concerns.

While these attempts are a step in the right direction, most agree that more drastic and substantial measures are necessary. A few suggestions have been raised that would at least ameliorate the situation, calling for the strengthening of both the coed and shidduch systems.

Rabbi Blau and others suggest a return to coed events. "I'm not convinced that the present system of shidduchim alone is working well," said Rabbi Blau. Coed events are often a more comfortable way of meeting. Even for the sake of getting set up, such events enable one to at least see who people are and to form a wider social network.

"Once, some girls came over to my house and were making fun of YU coed shiurim," said Shana Strauch, whose mother is an un-paid shadchan for the Orthodox Union. "I went upstairs, and brought down a thick book of singles. It wasn't so funny anymore."

"The assumption that all social gatherings are inappropriate seems



A recent wedding of a Yeshiva couple, where the hall was divided by a mechtzah, and men and women, including many singles, were separated throughout the celebration

extreme and inconsistent with the world that these students live in," said Rabbi Blau. "Clearly some social events should be avoided, but attending a shiur or working in a joint kiruv program or chesed project is how many of the rebbeim met their wives."

All were quick to add that for coed events to be successful, the unwavering backing of the rebbeim is necessary to encourage the more religiously inclined students to attend. "The loss of some of the best people because they think that it is *assur* to participate, hurts the quality of these programs," added Rabbi Blau.

Similarly, Strauch stressed the importance of having mixed seating for singles at weddings. She recalled the rabbi who, when asked if a wedding should have separate seating for singles, responded that married people should be separated and singles mixed. Strauch insists that it's a necessary solution, even if some people will be uncomfortable. "You should be willing to be uncomfortable so other people can meet," said Strauch, who would go even further to pre-assign seats if possible. "I've had many guys approach me to set them up with people they talked to at a wedding and were impressed with."

Both Strauch and Rabbi Blau stressed that the rebbeim would have to encourage their students to purposefully create mixed tables at weddings.

"If there are certain kind of events that can be coed and nonetheless deemed appropriate and people can be nudged in that direction, that's wonderful," said Rabbi Cohen. "But you have to be realistic about what people are willing to do." According to Rabbi Cohen, many rebbeim have supported such events, but the students have taken it upon themselves to be stricter. Unless rebbeim across the board are adamant in voicing their approval, he does not see it as a likely solution.

More practical, according to Rabbi Cohen, is a community response to attempt to create a culture in which it's an implicit rule to set people up. "The issue has to be looked at by people who really understand, like sociologists who live in the Yeshiva world," said Rabbi Cohen. "This has to be a large-scale community undertaking, to sit down and discuss it."

As part of this new culture, some suggested that faculty and rebbeim play the role of shadchan. Strauch even suggests hiring an administrator, similar to a guidance counselor, whose role would be to set people up in a quiet way. If not an administrator, many advocate at least giving that responsibility to an existing faculty member who teaches at both campuses. Yet, there are currently few faculty members who teach at both campuses. "We try on some occasions to get rebbeim to teach at both campuses, but it doesn't happen very often," said Rabbi Blau.

Rabbi Cohen encouraged faculty to assume such a responsibility, even if they don't teach at both campuses. "There should be communication between different people who teach," said Rabbi Cohen.

Another suggestion to encourage people, especially young married couples, to set up single friends is to institute an

## Coed Events Falter

continued from page 14

"I think they're good for some people and they should continue to have them because some people really need it, but they should understand that some people aren't going to go," asserted SCW senior Jodie. "If they want to have the right people coming, they have the wrong people running it. Maybe they should require TAC to be there to make it 'frummer.'"

The result of the more from students opposing coed activities is that students are not aware of how to act in a coed environment.

"We're used to being separate - YC and SCW," commented Talya Graber, SCW junior. "People just aren't used to integrating in coed environment."

This ignorance of how to deal with members of the opposite sex is often interpreted as immaturity, distorting and exaggerating any form of socializing. "I was just talking to a boy and my roommates were laughing in the background," commented one SCW junior. "I was embarrassed to even be with them."

Beyond immaturity, this lack of coed experience can also lead to rudeness. "There's a general unawareness of how to act in front of the opposite sex," observed Green. "Sometimes this translates into being rude, displaying a lack of *midos* on both sides." Specifically in regard to Torah Shield, Green noted, "that's the type of thing a coed trip might be teaching."

Students were uncertain how from people should meet if they avoid coed events. There are some activities that the frum crowd does enjoy, such as Torah Tours, the Seforim Sale, and the recently organized Torah Shield II. In



Some Yeshiva concerts have a mechtzah

acceptable amount of shadchanus, money given by the engaged couple to the shadchan. In the right wing world, shadchanus usually consists of a cash gift of a few thousand dollars, while in the more modern circles it takes the form of presents like books or silver. While all stressed that it's more important to set people up as a good deed, nevertheless if increasing shadchanus won't heal the problem, some agreed that it could help. "There are certain measures that will help the situation," said Rabbi Cohen. "Make sure that people are giving shadchanus, make sure its cash, as opposed to other things. People should be encouraged to be shadchanim by numerous methods, and it should be talked about openly."

All were in agreement that the rebbeim at Yeshiva have to play a more active role in bringing about change, especially in encouraging young Yeshiva couples to set up their friends. "The rabbis definitely have to say something," said Strauch.

"Rebbeim should be emphasizing all these kind of things," added Rabbi Cohen.

While solutions are difficult to come by, all concur that the modern orthodox

describing the difference between these activities and the social mixers, some students noted that one was a chesed activity that just happens to be coed while the other focused solely on social intermingling.

"They are not social events," explained Julie Pianko, SCW senior. "Rather, [they are] a chesed activity. Yet, many people find it relaxing and helpful to be able to meet others in a natural

*It's insanity that people separate themselves when the ultimate goal is to get together*

setting devoid of the artificiality found in the "normal" dating scene. Due to the higher nature of the program, different sides of individuals are brought out that would take much to discover on a date."

Even at the coed activities, the participants still have a difficult time meeting new people, often only being introduced to new faces as a friend's friend.

"If you don't know people, it's really hard to meet people," commented Jodi Schachar, SCW freshman.

In other contexts, Yeshiva students have the opportunity to integrate, such as during summer programs. HASC and Moshava present two diametrically opposed coed scenes, with the HASC scene attracting a more "frum" student but whose integration is within the *tachlis* of dating, while Moshava may attract a more liberal student but promotes the idea of being friends with members of the opposite sex.

"Socially, HASC was much too tense for me," commented one YC junior. "Talking was equated with flirting." The joke is that HASC stands for Halachically Approved Shidduch Camp, soliciting the frum men and women into a 'kosher' coed scene.

"It's perfectly healthy to talk to members of the opposite sex, and it can be done in a *tznius* way," commented Lauren Schiowitz, mentor on the Torah Shield trip. "I think it's insanity that people separate themselves when the ultimate goal is to get together."

The poll was conducted within a random sampling of students in Rabbi Kanarfogel's class and may not necessarily represent an accurate indicator of the opinions at Stern college.

world at Yeshiva has to finally openly grapple with the problem. This necessitates the involvement of rebbeim, parents and students.

In an attempt to create a proper coed event, SOY and TAC are currently planning a joint megilla reading and break fast on Purim night, to be held in the newly renovated Shenk Shul. Men and women will then split up for their respective chagigahs. While some students are attempting to strengthen coed socializing, there will still be many students who will not attend this or any other coed event, relying solely on the underdeveloped shidduch system at Yeshiva.

"We're in a time of flux," said Rabbi Blau. "What approach to take is in the process of formation."

*The Observer would like to thank Rabbi Lamm for addressing the Students on February 4th*



# on campus

## Last of Liberals Leaves SCW

Rabbi Avi Weiss Retires

By Caryn Litt

Rabbi Avi Weiss, a Bible professor in the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department for more than 30 years, retired at the end of last semester. The prominent rabbi and educator cited lack of time as his reason for retiring.

Rabbi Weiss, who joined the SCW faculty in 1969 and remained as an adjunct professor, had in the past few years gradually decreased his time commitments to the college so that by last semester he was teaching only one two-credit course. In the middle of last semester, Weiss informed the administration that he would not be returning after the end of the fall semester.

"I would have really liked to have taken him," said SCW junior Tamar Ellman, who, like many students, was caught off guard by Weiss's sudden absence from the Spring 2002 course catalogue.

Students who did have the opportunity to take Weiss's course described a warm and open classroom environment. "I felt like he really cared about teaching," said SCW junior Meira Weinstein, who was in Weiss's Breishit class last semester. "It was very important for him to relay his ideas to us, but he also wanted to hear from the students."

According to an article printed in *The Jewish Week* last year, Weiss, known for his political activism and advocacy for women's rights in Orthodoxy, had begun to feel isolated within the Yeshiva University community because of his liberal views. In 1999, Weiss founded Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, a rabbinical seminary granting Orthodox ordination but described as an ideological middle ground between the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary and Yeshiva's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

However, Weiss did not attribute his departure from SCW to any rift with Yeshiva. Rather, as Weiss told students, he was leaving simply because he lacked the time necessary to devote to his courses here.

Aside from his involvement in Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Weiss is also the congregational



Rabbi Avi Weiss retires after 32 years

rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale and the president of AMCHA, the coalition for Jewish Concerns.

According to students, Weiss's leftist leanings did occasionally enter into the classroom. For example, students recalled that Weiss did not shy away from mentioning *Trembling Before God*, the controversial documentary about Orthodox homosexuals. "Rabbi Weiss's position was that people should be welcoming, that it doesn't help to push anyone away," said Weinstein.

Weiss's retirement happens to coincide with the absence of SCW's other liberal faculty member — Judaic Studies professor Rabbi Saul Berman. Berman, a member of Weiss's Yeshivat Chovevei Torah's staff and director of Edah, an organization whose slogan reads, "The courage to be modern and Orthodox," left last year to spend one year on sabbatical and one year on a leave of absence. He is expected to return in Fall 2003.

The administration does not seem concerned that the liberal niche of the Jewish Studies staff is currently empty. "We don't hire based on *hashkafa* [philosophical outlook]," explained Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department. "We look for good teachers."

However, while insisting that politics do not belong in the classroom, Kanarfogel did admit that "obviously we like to have a faculty that's recognized and there's a balance we'd like to have."

For some students, however, it is not only the liberal philosophies of Weiss and Berman that are now missing, but also their modern teaching styles and subject matters. "Rabbi Weiss had a very different approach," said SCW sophomore Amy Mechlin. "He looked at the narrative by itself, looking primarily at the words. His perspective definitely made him an asset to the school."

Similarly, although there are several Women and Jewish Law courses offered each semester, Berman's course included subjects usually untouched by other rabbis, such as the laws of *To'enet Beit Din* and women's prayer groups.

said, "But there is no reason not to go."

Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department at SCW, encourages students not to despair and not to "change what you think is right." He stated, "the challenge to B'nei/B'not Torah is to learn, continue in your education, improve yourself and contribute in usual ways," despite the trying situation. He pointed out that this "is not the first lesson history teaches us." We need to pull through difficult times like the "Jews throughout history and do what Jews do."

### Reshit Tzmichat Geulateinu

Escalated violence in Israel has persisted for sixteen months. Jews are concerned over the continuity of Israel as a safe Jewish Homeland. Does the idea *Reshit Tzmichat Geulateinu*, the initial flowering of the Redemption, apply to the State of Israel, and if so, does it still apply now?

Rabbi Tandler expressed hesitancy toward the term *Reshit Tzmichat Geulateinu*. Rabbi Tandler's congregation recites the prayer for the State of Israel, but stopped using the phrase three years ago. He called the idea a curse rather than a blessing. He continued, "Rav Kook coined the term. We had the Holocaust after that." He noted that Rabbi Moshe Feinstein said the phrase does not have such positive implications, as he explained, "The beginning of the geula can take 500 years. We hope this is the *Sof Tzmichat Geulateinu*." He does believe that "*Yeshuv haaretz* is a commandment. But what the future holds depends on prayer and charity."

"I see Israel as a very significant development in Jewish History," Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva, said. "The most important sustaining element of the Jewish people at the present time, both spiritually

## ALUMNI FAVORITE

## RETIREES AFTER 21 YEARS

By Malki Roth

In December 2001, after 21 years of loyal service to YU, Toby (Hilsenrad) Weiss retired from her position as the Director of YU Undergraduate Alumni Affairs.

Throughout her tenure at YU, Weiss, a 1965 graduate of SCW, was greatly appreciated by all of her colleagues. "Toby's strengths were that she knew many people, and people loved to work with her," praised Bob Saltzman, the University Director of Alumni Affairs.

Mrs. Weiss was offered a part-time position in YU's Alumni Department in January 1981. Mrs. Weiss jumped at the opportunity to participate in the department's growth and development. She began by planning and expanding events for Alumni

Affairs. She developed educational and social events for alumnae and students.

By 1983, her talents were recognized and she was promoted to Assistant Director of Undergraduate Alumni Affairs. In 1990, she was offered the position of Director of Undergraduate Alumni Affairs.

During her tenure, alumni activities grew dramatically. Mrs. Weiss loved finding interesting speakers for YU's "Learning Month." She chose prominent Jewish personalities including Rabbi Shlomo Riskin and Rabbi Saul Berman. Sometimes her husband, Rabbi Avi Weiss, a distinguished leader in his own right, would fill in. However, her favorite part of the job was planning alumni reunions, because she loved meeting new people.

Often, Rabbi and Mrs. Weiss would have alumni over for a meal on Shabbat and the first question Mrs. Weiss asked was "Do you get mail?" Many times the guest would simply answer that the mail goes to their parents. Mrs. Weiss would ask them for their new address and memorize it. On Monday, Mrs. Weiss would add the

guest's current address to her list. The next week in shul the guest from the previous Shabbat would usually come up to her and say that they were suddenly receiving all this Yeshiva University mail!

Mrs. Weiss was also known for her efforts to help people navigate their way through the myriad offices of YU, as well as an annual phone-a-thon in January, February and March, and a "Month of Learning" in May. The great success of such programs demanded that Mrs. Weiss devote countless hours of time on weekdays and weeknights to her job.

After many years of devoted service, Mrs. Weiss decided it was time to let the next generation of YU graduates continue the work she initiated. The Yeshiva

Administration recognized her tremendous devotion and work and will split her job into three parts: a director for Yeshiva College Alumni, a director for SCW and SSSB Alumni and another director for the Alumni Annual Fund.

The devotion of the whole Weiss family to YU is a model for all Yeshiva alumni. Rabbi Avi Weiss, her husband, started the trend 32 years ago, when he began teaching at SCW as a full time faculty member. This past semester he, too, retired from SCW. In addition, Weiss' children attended YU High School and Colleges, RIETS, and the YU's Bernard Revel Graduate School.

Although Mrs. Weiss no longer works at YU, she remains a true inspiration to everyone. Her sense of commitment to the school encourages others to get involved as well. This December when she retired, her colleagues made a party in Riverdale and colleagues from all different departments came to honor her. Her son Dov said of the party, "There was an outpouring of love."



Toby Weiss was a favorite at the alumni office

## In Their Opinion: Faculty Responses to Religious and Political Events

By Rachel Horn

This year, both domestic and international news are of greater importance for students in Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women than it ever was in the past.

Thankfully, there are numerous role models in Yeshiva University that can assist students when they find they have difficult questions. Through thinking about the issues and hearing what others have to say, issues may become further clarified and students can discover productive means through which they can gain new insights into their dilemmas.

The *Observer* has decided to pose a few opportune questions to members of the University staff. The purpose of this article is not to propose answers; rather, its goal is to serve as a starting point for personal thought and discussion.

### Zionism

Zionism has been a focus of religious observance for many students. They feel *Yishuv Ha'aretz*, settling the land of Israel, is a commandment that Jews have an obligation to fulfill. However, Judaism is willing to push off everything for *Pikuach Nefesh*, saving a human life. Is it halachically correct and personally responsible to move to and spend time in Israel now?

"Go to Israel whenever you can," urged Karen Bacon, Dean of SCW. "Students have to talk to their families. When a family supports it, the student must go," she said. "We must reinforce the fact that Israel belongs to the Jewish people."

"There is no doubt that Israel is no more dangerous for Jews than any other place in the world," stated Rabbi Moshe Tandler, Rosh Yeshiva at Yeshiva. "How you behave there and taking precautions is an issue," he

and physically." He expressed his faith that Israel will not be destroyed, but stated that he is "uncomfortable with the idea of anyone who knows when Messiah is coming." Certain elements within Zionism see the development of the State of Israel as the initiation of the Messiah's arrival. "The Rav [Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik] did not see commitment to Israel in messianic terms," he pointed out. "I don't see Israel in messianic terms, so the Messiah's not being here does not affect my belief."

### American Jews

As Jews living in America, the issue of how to mete out our allegiances can be confusing. What responsibility do we have, especially since September 11, to support and contribute to the United States government?

Both Rabbi Kanarfogel and Dean Bacon suggested

*continued on page 22*

# Arts Festival 2002

## Student Works from the Events

### Poem: Paper Pomegranates

By Elana Hornblass

I'm cutting roses  
from the paper book  
and yesterday  
I heard nervous laughter  
on the street  
-incessant hyenas  
ravaging their soles  
for the honey nuts  
of the nut man,  
-his old world smell

everyday. Because this city  
where you sleep  
and turtle roll over  
every morning

has roses for the rich  
and loved, haughty  
plush plant, this  
urban pomegranate  
for the lucky and lingering

smells of  
caressing clarinet-canary's creed.  
Every night

they fatten for  
those that are loved.  
And those that aren't  
snip, like pluck, pages

with leaves and layers

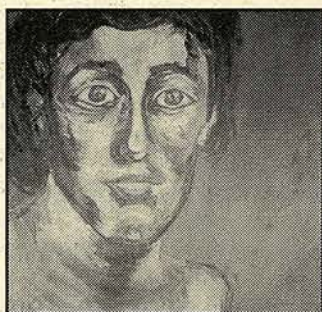
because the pink, in your  
city, a flower in my space,  
is flat and clean  
and bold  
today, today on my wall.

### One of the Artists: Babette Marciano

By Kayla Klatzkin

Monday, February eleventh at 8:00 PM in the Art Annex was certainly a day any appreciator of art looked forward to. The event was an art gallery, displaying many of the creations the talented SCW art students have made. "I really look forward to viewing the art gallery exhibits," stated Sarah Chaya Bogart, an SCW sophomore and art major.

One art student with work on display is Babette Marciano, a senior. After she graduates she wants to use her art degree to buy and sell artwork for museums, and would also like to help recover pieces of art stolen during the Holocaust. The title of the work she is displaying at the gallery is Aliza, and there is much behind this work of art. The series of three



Aliza

paintings, which was made last semester as part of her senior project, are according to Marciano named after her aunt. "My aunt, whom I'm named after, passed away at a really young age from cancer, and I feel very strongly connected to." Marciano has often been told she has a striking resemblance to her aunt.

The paintings are photo-realistic and each has its distinctions: one painting is very colorful, one is black and white, and another is half her aunt and half Marciano. According to Marciano, the paintings are quite emotional, even eerie. "It means a lot to me," Marciano said. "It's an identity issue basically, dealing with who I am, coming from a person that I feel is still a very big part of me even though I don't know her."

Not surprisingly, Marciano believes very much in the Arts Festival. "It's important that the students come together, showing their appreciation of art," Marciano stated.

By Beth Shapiro

"You're loud, but unheard." These words echoed through my mind as she said them with such careless ease. I just stood there, frozen, in her dorm room. The red and orange rays of the fading sun added a devilish cruelty to her normally pleasant face. We were not best friends, but our bond had developed over the past few years.

At first the insult infuriated me, but as my anger subsided, a residue of sadness remained. Her accuracy stung me; like venom in a body her words were a devastation. I felt invisible. Or worse, like a child who keeps talking while all the adults in the room ignore her and continue their grown-up conversation.

The evening stars lost their brilliance as I routinely walked back to my apartment, replaying the scene over and over in my head. Those four words kept haunting me. Her naïveté made her statement even more painful since she seemed to think it was just an innocent fact.

Being described as loud had always frustrated me. That was fairly simple to recover from, but this was different. It didn't attack my demeanor- which would be easily fixable- it waged war against my actual self. The core of my personality; how others saw me. The experience pained me, not because it crushed my ego, but it broke my spirit.

As I entered my apartment, a warm, sweet, vanilla aroma washed over me. I closed my eyes and drew in a breath trying to cleanse myself from what I had experienced. The room hummed with soft girlish laughter. I had walked into my apartment, but at that moment it felt as though the room was converted into a secluded lounge reserved especially for us. All the lights were off; different size fragrances illuminated only the important figures in the room. A large platter of watermelon, pineapple, grapes and mango was placed on the floor along with assorted baked goods and a delicious Zinfandel wine. In the background a soothing CD played, adding to the mood.

"Now either I've stepped into a par-

allel universe, or something is going on that I'm not aware of," I said. My roommates looked at me with such a peaceful disposition it made me jealous. "We all had disappointing days, full of canceled dates, unfair professors and rude employers," they explained. "We decided to forget about the mounds of work, and have ourselves a relaxing evening. We want you to join us, but remember, there is no negative energy allowed in our circle."

"Although I've had an incredibly crappy evening, I'll leave it all behind as I join the friendship circle," I said sarcastically. "Will you feel better if we talk about it? Then you can really enjoy the mood," my roommate suggested. "No, it's not something I really want to talk about, in fact, I'd really like to forget all about it for a while."

"Well, then you've come to the right place. Prepare to forget the annoying and stressful world." They widened their circle, and as I sat down I couldn't help but smile. It was as if some prayer had been said on my behalf, and as a result this wonderful atmosphere was created to begin the healing process.

One of my roommates poured me a glass of semi-dry wine, while another made me a plate of fresh fruit. As I bit into the ripe watermelon its sweet juices overflowed and dribbled down my chin, leaving a sticky film. The messiness reminded me of a child's innocent and carefree manner. As the refreshments began to replenish my energy, I exhaled letting myself feel the effects of the wine.

We sat there and laughed about stories that had been forgotten for too long. It was the kind of laughing that had no sound; only opened mouths, closed eyes and shoulders moving up and down. This was the best laughter, the kind that makes your eyes tear. It's funny, as my roommates were thinking of a song we could sing, I thought about how I already cried twice that evening, but each time a completely different emotion had been released.

We sang along with the music. The words, taken from a section in Psalms, translate from Hebrew to, "O, G-d, my soul thirsts for You, my flesh longs for

You; in a parched and thirsty land with no water." Each one of us inserted our own prayer into the melody. I opened my eyes and saw my friends immersed in concentration, almost as if lost in a different world.

At that moment it came. The tingles. They started at the base of my neck and filtered downward through my spine, out through my limbs, until my entire body hummed with these wonderful vibrations. I felt completely renewed, as if I had taken a long, hot bath after a hectic, mentally exhausting day. Once those four hurtful words settled, I realized she wasn't completely right. There may be more times than I would like to admit when her statement might have been valid, but there were moments like these that compensate for all of the other negative instances. Well, at least for a lot of them.

It was 2:00am, and the wine, coupled with our long day, had finally taken its toll. Heavy eyes, loud yawns and tired bodies made it apparent that our wonderful evening had come to a close. It was work just getting our bodies off the floor.

"Do you know why they say a little alcohol is good for you sometimes?" asked one of my roommates. "I'm not sure I know who they is," I responded.

"But no, why is a little alcohol good for you sometimes?" "Because in the proper setting, like this one, it numbs the body just enough so the soul has a chance to speak, without the constraints of the conscience." She smiled, gave me a kiss on the cheek and went to bed.

As I laid down that night, I thought of the day's different events. Some were bad, some were worse, and then surprisingly, they got a lot better. Slowly, I began to speak. My roommate was sleeping, but these words weren't intended to be heard by her. "Thank You for giving me people in my life like them; they are priceless." As I said these words out loud, I saw them travel beyond my lips into the open air. They flew out my window, over the buildings and skyscrapers until I could see them no more.

I was heard.

## Arts Festival Off to a Successful Start

By Ami Flatt

Since Sunday, February 10th, and continuing through Thursday, February 21st, SCW and YC students have had the opportunity to intensify their appreciation for the arts. This year marks the fourth annual SCW and YC Arts Festival.

"Over the years, the Arts Festival has gotten more and more popular," notes Beth Shapiro, co-chair of the Festival, "it's a chance for students to showcase their own work".

Arts Festival events are taking place on both the uptown and midtown campuses. "The Festival is a two week event in which the faculty, administration and community surrounding YU is given the opportunity to focus on the internal talents that lie within the students," says



Kol Shira performs at Kol Isha event at 36th Street Dorm

Shapiro.

This year will be like no other, and will feature three entirely new components. Student-made films will be a part of the night of one-acts and there will be an interactive digital art event. Additionally, at the opening event, film was distributed to students, and they were asked to photograph pictures that relate to "the voice of the city." The film will be developed and displayed at the closing event.

The Festival, chaired by

Beth Shapiro and Shlomo Schwarzbard. Elizabeth Marciano and Steven I. Weiss head the art component of the event. The film component is lead by Elana Hornblass, Benny Gross, and Ramy Cohen. The music is lead by Chani Monderer, Avigal Zion, Daniel Segall and Elie Rosenblatt, while the poetry and pose component is under Karen Sussman and Shmuli Singer. Shaindi Mayersdorf and Akiva Fischman, who is also responsible for the design of the Festival's eye-catching flier, head the public relations department.

Since the beginning of her enrollment at SCW, Beth Shapiro she has been an avid fan and participant in the Festival. "I thought that it would be a great to see the interworkings of the Festival and see how each detail gets accomplished," notes Shapiro. Shapiro, a marketing major and English minor, is the first Sy Syms student to chair the event.

# Cultural Arts

## Improv Replaces SCDS Plays

By Chana Michels

While the Stern College Dramatics Society was nonexistent last semester, the society is trying hard this semester to redesign its image. Besides hosting speakers and planning events to Off-Broadway shows, SCDS recently started a new series of improvisation workshops.

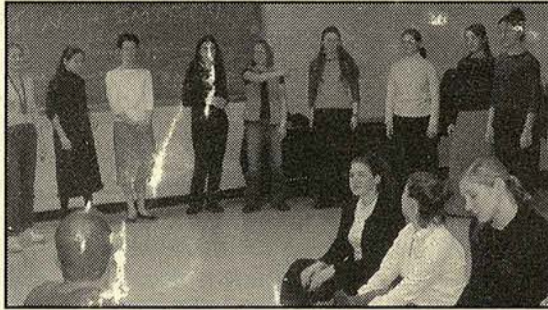
Over forty students attend the weekly theater workshops held Monday and Tuesday nights at the mid-town campus by Kevin Landis, Professor of Speech Communication at SCW. Ideally, the workshop was supposed to be given to a maximum of twelve students, but with an increase of awareness in the performing arts, especially since



Students run in slow motion

there has not been a constructive theater outlet on campus since the beginning of the year, the two-hour workshop is held twice a week to accommodate burgeoning student interest.

Landis was originally approached by SCDS to help increase an interest of the arts on campus and he suggested doing a series of improvisation classes. "Improv is about how to be honest in an



Professor Landis's Improv class draws over 40 students

environment that isn't naturally honest," commented Landis. "It's about living in the moment."

Auditions will be held at the end of March when approximately twelve students will be chosen to be part of an improvisation show. The show is scheduled for performance some time before reading week.

Faige Glaser, SCW senior, was a lead in last year's SCDS production of *The Odd Couple*. She is a member of the Tuesday night improvisation class, and while she is enthusiastic about the workshop, she wishes SCDS would have been able to produce a play as in the past. "I'm really enjoying the workshop, it's great, but it's also nothing like doing a real show."

Since participants of the improvisation workshop make a weekly two-hour commitment, there is debate over whether they should receive credit. While in the past, students like Glaser who participated in SCDS semester productions received one credit for their experience, students are not receiving credit for the improvisation workshop. "While the workshops are serious and the students are making a commitment, I also understand that it's important for students to do things separately from school because they love it," said Landis.

## Time of Favor Draws Large Orthodox Crowd

By Ami Flatt

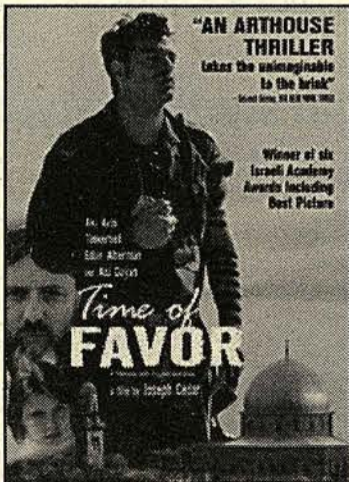
**T**ime of Favor was among a series of movies hastily postponed following September 11 because it relates to

terrorism in Israel. However, interestingly enough the terrorist in the film is an Israeli. *Time of Favor* tells of a Jewish plot to blow up a mosque on Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Directed and written by Joseph Cedar, the Hebrew film with English subtitles won six Israeli academy awards and blew away the box office.

*Time of Favor* opens with three high-spirited Hesder students scrambling through a maze of underground catacombs

in the Old City, only a few feet away from the Dome of Rock. Rabbi Meltzer asks the hero of *Time of Favor*, Menachem, played by Israeli heartthrob Aki Avni, to lead an exclusively religious company of soldiers for service in the military. Rabbi Meltzer, played by Assi Dayan, the son of General Moshe Dayan is the charismatic leader of a settlement in the West Bank. The story complicates with the appearance of Michal (played by actress Tinkerbell), the daughter of Rabbi Meltzer, and transforms into a love triangle. Rabbi Meltzer has promised the hand of his daughter to his

best student Pini (played by comedian Edan Alterman). However, Michal openly defies her father and rejects the bookish Pini for Menachem.



This disappointment inspires Pini to become a religious fanatic and launch into actions that build to a suspenseful if not entirely believable climax.

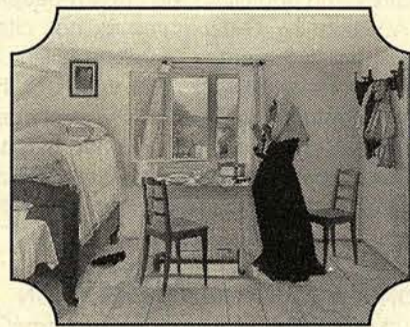
*Time of Favor* is framed by a sort of tunnel vision that is accentuated by the conscious absence of Palestinian characters. The settlers only see what they want to see and are enthralled by Rabbi Meltzer's sense of destiny. Director Joseph Cedar is an

Orthodox Jew, and though not a settler, the movement is regarded as unproblematic up to the point in which its ideals become extremist. Many critics assert that *Time of Favor* is a coded response to the crime of Igal Amir in that Cedar is familiar with the particular nationalist religious fanaticism that nurtured Amir, and Pini makes statements such as "we are going to put history back on its proper course." Further, throughout the movie there is a very real sense of tension that exists between the religious and the secular. Menachem finds his most cherished

## Art Exhibition Confronts Jewish Struggle During Enlightenment

By Sara Trappler

**T**he Jewish Museum's exhibition entitled "The Emergence of Jewish Artists in Nineteenth-Century Europe" is a must-see for all art and history lovers, as well as anyone with a Jewish consciousness. The exhibition,



which has been on view from November 18, 2001 and will end on March 17, 2002, features together for the first time about 70 works by 21 Enlightened Jewish artists from England, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Austria-Hungary and Poland.

This period of time brought equal citizenship to Jews in Europe, resulting in political emancipation as well as Jewish assimilation. Jews were now allowed professions previously restricted, and Jewish artists became recognized as professionals in the art world for the first time in modern history.

The paintings on view represent the conflict between Jewish tradition and new intellectual and secular freedom developing among the Jewish communities in Europe during the nineteenth century. The artists presented had attempted to reconcile their Jewish identities with the changing world around them. Many clung



to their Judaism in their art, depicting familiar scenes from Orthodox lifestyles, while others painted daring and controversial scenes, never before seen in Jewish art, such as nudes.

Some of the artists whose works are on display are Camille Pissaro, Max Lieberman, Simeon Solomon, Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, Vittorio Corcos, and Vito d'Ancona. There are five different galleries, each highlighting a unique theme and struggle within the larger framework of this era. The most interesting – and most contrasting – two rooms

beliefs challenged when he is accused of participating in terrorist activities from a secret service already mistrustful of the loyalties of religious soldiers.

I highly recommend *Time of Favor*. It is an enjoyable film, slightly cheesy at times and yet thought provoking. Assi Dyan delivers a remarkable and inspiring performance. Cedar is very realistic in his portrayal of Pini, Michal, and Menachem. The characters all seemed familiar, as if I knew them from somewhere. *Time of Favor* is playing at the Quad Cinema and the Sutton. Call for show times.

are the first and last.

The first room, entitled "Jewish Identity in Transition," reveals Jewish artists that returned to the traditional past in their work, painting Jewish rituals and customs from their childhood in an effort to preserve a fading lifestyle in their art. Many of the paintings in this gallery reflect artistic styles of the time, as artists such as Oppenheim, Isidor Kaufmann, and Edouard Moyse tried to integrate into European society and the academic art world.

"Establishing a Secular Realm," is the final and most thought-provoking part of the exhibition; its paintings are indicative of the profound effect Emancipation had on the Jewish European community. All traces of Jewish tradition are lost in these final works, as the artists embrace new types of cultural identity. These paintings are landscapes, still lifes, nudes, and genre paintings – with nothing Jewish about them accept their artists.



The other rooms in the exhibition are also characteristic of the new Enlightened Jew, although not as powerfully as the last. In "The Burden of Belonging" are works by Polish Jewish artists Samuel Hirszenberg and Maurycy Minkowski who depict the pogroms and poverty that inflicted the Eastern European Jews at the end of the nineteenth century during the struggle for emancipation.

The third room, "Creating an Individual Identity," is filled with self-portraits that exhibit the acculturation of Jews during this time as well as a self-preoccupation of the artists. "The Solomon Family" is a gallery displaying works of the three Solomon siblings, Abraham, Rebecca, and Simeon, who were all artists during the Victorian period.

One leaves the exhibition with a deeper understanding of the Enlightenment period; of both the pain and change it brought on the Jews of its time. Even more, the viewer is confronted with the age-old dilemma Jews have faced since its conception as a nation: the struggle to belong to its surrounding environment while still maintaining its Jewish traditions and identity. Many of the paintings on the wall show that the desire to belong may sometimes be stronger than the commitment to be different.

The Observer  
wishes Mazal Tov  
to past Observer editors  
Michelle Fogel and  
Alexandra Beard  
on their recent  
engagements

## Insights into Purim: Rabbi Alter Metzger

The following is an edited excerpt from the new book *Chasidic Perspectives: A Festival Anthology*, adapted by Rabbi Alter B. Metzger, Professor of Chassidism at SCW. It is a collection of discourses by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, published by Kehot Publication Society (Order Department: 718-778-0226).

### THE NAME "PURIM"

The Talmud states that if someone reads the *Megillah* in reverse order, then he has not fulfilled the mitzvah of reading the *Megillah* on Purim. Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov explains this to mean that if someone views the *Megillah* retrospectively, as just the record of an event of the past, believing that the Purim miracle is not linked to present times, he has not fulfilled his *Megillah* obligation. The purpose of the *Megillah* reading is to use it as a guide from which we derive and learn proper Jewish conduct in our own times. This is true of the *Megillah* narrative in general, and particularly in relation to the verse which explains the term "Purim."

The name of a thing indicates its uniqueness. This verse, therefore, reveals the inner meaning of "Purim," for the word itself conveys a primary concept in the *Megillah*, a concept which serves as an eternal lesson for the whole Jewish people as well as for each individual Jew.

The verse states, "Therefore these days are called 'Purim'—based on the *pur*." (Esther 9:26)

A number of questions can be raised when we study this passage. The *Megillah* is written in Hebrew, yet the word *pur* is not a Hebrew word, but a Persian one. The verse itself, after stating "Cast a

*pur*" (Esther 9:24) adds the translation in Hebrew—"this is the *goral*, the lot (as in casting lots)." The first question that arises is why this holiday is called "Purim—according to the name of the *pur*," the Hebrew word *goralot* (lots) would seem to be more appropriate? For all other Jewish holidays, including Chanukah (which like Purim is Rabbinic), are designated by Hebrew names. Moreover, shouldn't the name of this holiday express, as is the case with all other holidays, the miracle and rescue and cause for thanksgiving? The name *pur* refers to the very reverse, for this casting lots was the means that the wicked Haman intended to use to destroy and annihilate the Jewish people.

Additionally, G-d's name is not cited anywhere in the entire *Megillah*. This is in singular variance with other works of the Holy Scriptures, for in each and every one of them G-d's name is mentioned at least several times. This omission connotes an unusually great concealment of G-dliness.

### CONCEALMENT AND REVELATION

As mentioned, the Hebrew name of an entity conveys its unique nature. The quality of hiding and concealment within the *Megillah* is indicated by its very name. The *Megillah* is called "*Megillat Esther*" and the word *Ester* is related by the Talmud to *seiter* (concealment).

Yet in total contrast to this, the book of Esther is often simply called the "*Megillah*." The word *Megillah* is etymologically linked to the word *gilui*, which means openness and revelation, the very opposite of concealment.

The two opposing motifs of concealment and revelation are apparent not only in the *Megillah*, but in the very holiday of

Purim itself. On the one hand, this festival is called "Purim," a Persian term for the means used to devise the evil decree against the Jews, which reflects the concealment of G-dliness.

In contrast to this, Purim is observed with feasting and rejoicing in far greater measure than other holidays, a joy so boundless "*ad delo yada*"—till we can no longer distinguish between self-evident opposites.

### THE LESSON FOR ALL TIMES

The spiritual implications of the event [of Purim] are manifestly clear: When a time of adversity occurs, there are those who think that the first and primary endeavor should be to seek a natural remedy. The *Megillah*, however, tells us that this must come *later*, after having first strengthened the link of the Jewish people with G-d by learning Torah and fulfilling His *mitzvot*. Only then should a natural means and external "garb" be sought to cope with the difficulty. If there is true realization of the primacy of repentance, then any external vestment or natural efforts expended later will be adequate for bringing the miraculous rescue from a realm far beyond nature. One would think that this applies only at a time when G-dliness is manifest in the world, and not when the Jewish people are in exile, particularly in the pre-Messianic era when great spiritual darkness prevails.

But here we see that at the time of Purim, when Jews were in exile, "scattered and dispersed among the nations" (Esther 3:8), the Purim miracle came not through natural means, but as a result of "Fast for me... for three days" (Esther 4:16), which resulted in the return of the Jewish people to G-d.

### THE TRUE PURPOSE OF CONCEALMENT

This, therefore, is the rationale for the name "Purim," a Persian word which refers to the evil decree. It is also the reason why G-d's name is not mentioned explicitly but only by allusion. This is the special concept of Purim and *Megillat Esther*.

In fact, Jews are not subordinate to the laws of nature, neither in the spiritual dimension of their lives (as, for example, divine aid in gaining true insight and understanding in one's Torah study, a reward for sincere piety), nor in material and worldly matters. This transcendence of nature's laws applies when it is necessary to be involved with the Persian "Purim" and "*Esther*," meaning concealment. It is explained in many Chasidic sources that the Persian "*pur*"—the Hebrew "*goral*" (lots)—refers to a lofty level above and beyond the development and creation of the spiritual and material worlds.

Thus, when a Jew reads *Megillat Esther* and internalizes the realization that even those matters which appear as "*Esther*," as in the Biblical phrase of two-fold G-dly concealment, are actually linked to *Megillah*—meaning revelation—then he possesses the knowledge that even the *pur* cast by the evil Haman was really the Hebrew "*goral*"—and all of this is not just an event of the past, but something eternally contemporary and relevant.

Then the Jew advances to the highest level of revelation: *Megillah*—manifest G-dliness—which evokes a progressively greater joy *ad delo yada*—a boundless unlimited joy.

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# Business page

## Bigwigs Impart Entrepreneurial Advice in Friday Class

By Mimi Sternberg

While many students at Yeshiva University hurry home on Fridays, seventy students from the Sy Syms School of Business gather at the midtown campus to attend lectures given by CEOs, top executives and entrepreneurial figures from some of the most successful corporations. In their remarks, the businessmen offer a firsthand account of their daily operational activities and describe how they realized their stature in the corporate world.

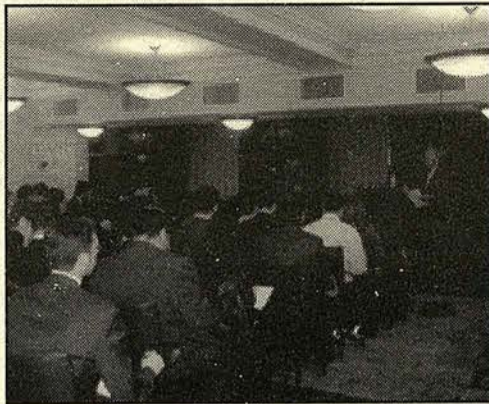
"This class has to offer is that it affords the students an opportunity to meet entrepreneurs, which makes it a good tool for their educational process," said SSSB Dean Charles Snow. "Secondly, it allows the students to understand issues that the executive has previously faced, faces presently, and how they may anticipate future issues that may impact the students' future careers. It's important for the students to understand an entrepreneur's thinking process when facing a challenge."

Indeed, the seminar is SSSB's sole course which offers an inside look at what top businessmen do in their fields and allows students to interact with and question these businessmen. The lectures enhance the students' knowledge of corporate America and give them a better understanding of potential career choices.

The class takes place every Friday from 10:00-11:30 and is led by Professor Lawrence Bellman. It is offered in the spring semester because the amount of time that is required to plan this course, convince speakers to attend, and find a convenient date for both parties is a complicated process. The class takes so much time to plan and organize that Professor Bellman spends practically the whole fall semester planning out the course.

An unusual element of the class is that it is co-ed, giving the class greater diversity. According to Professor Bellman, the class is co-ed as a matter of convenience - SSSB does not want to force a Fortune 500 CEO to travel twice to speak to both the uptown and midtown campuses, especially considering that it is already a complicated process in order to find a convenient time a week for the speaker to be available.

The course is held on the midtown campus because of its central location in relation to many business companies.



Mathew Pittinsky speaks in Friday morning Seminar

Most uptown students enrolled in the seminar feel that the course being co-ed is a non-issue. "Under the circumstances, with world renowned professionals, it's only fair for all students to participate," said YC junior Shai Barnea.

The class is also held to the highest standards by Dr. Norman Lamm. Dr. Lamm is very active in the class, whether by sealing a scheduling of a top executive or just giving his moral support to the class.

Indeed, the SSSB seminar is an asset to Yeshiva. By bringing top business executives to speak and offer educational insights into corporate America, Yeshiva can enhance its image in the business world, which may in turn assist in Yeshiva's development by gathering support and possible funds.

Some tangible results have already been realized. Through the course, some executives get their first glimpse as to what Sy Syms is all about, and, in past years, there have been chairmen who were so impressed with the quality of the students' questions, answers and interest that they offered many internships to the school.

As opposed to merely offering theoretical insights, the speakers so far have given many practical pieces of advice. The first class featured Steven Bernstein, CEO of SBA Communications, a company that provides means for communication, such as towers for wireless phone services. Mr. Bernstein advised the students to surround themselves with people who are smarter, be slow to hire and quick to fire and always stay focused. He spoke about the importance of getting a job that you enjoy, monitoring every aspect of your business and sharing it with your employees, giving them incentive plans and motivating them with company goals. He suggested asking your employer to monitor your work performance in order to improve. He spoke of the importance of surrounding yourself with a group of loyal people.

The second week of the class featured Matthew Pittinsky, Chairman of Blackboard Inc, an online education center facilitating teaching and learning. His business is so successful that it is connected with all major U.S. textbook publishers, creating a marketplace for students and teachers and an almost virtual means for a classroom, where students can pick up their grades and homework assignments. He gave the students fifteen rules of how to succeed in starting a business. Some of the rules he spoke of were about how it is crucial to have money for a business, but it is even more important to have a good business strategy, pick people to always be a part of your team that believe in your vision, and to recognize your strengths and weaknesses.



Steven Bernstein, CEO of SBA Communications

## A Major Change

By Batsheva Rutman

After an emotionally uplifting year in Israel, coming to SCW can be quite the burst of reality that not many women are prepared for. Although in Israel your head is actually in the books, you aren't thinking about courses, workloads and definitely not a major - at least I wasn't.

Yet, every time you are in a conversation with person you barely know and neither one of you have anything to say, the question "what is your major" inevitably seems to come up. And then you say, "I am in the process of switching my major," while the other person tells you how she found a way to graduate early while taking a double major and has a full time job set up for after they graduate.

Does that sound familiar? Leila Fishbein, a junior majoring in finance can definitely identify with this notion. "From the day I got to Stern everyone was telling me what their major was, and I was clueless to what was even offered at Sy Syms. I didn't actually decide until later what I really wanted to study and I had to take the right courses immediately".

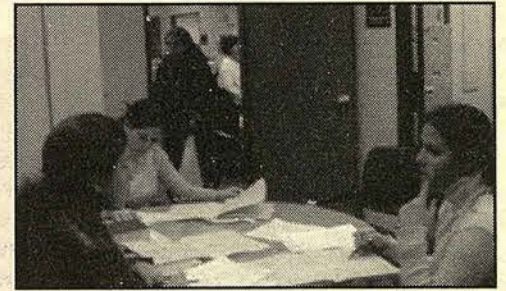
Although a calling in life comes easy for some lucky students, others suffer with anxiety and panic attacks when the subject of a major comes up. And still others, like me, choose a major because of intense peer and parental pressure, and then decide to change it because they find it impossible to stomach the classes. Usually switching a major is easy, although on some occasions it is actually a lot harder and more complicated than it actually sounds.

When I was studying in Israel, I recall being sent packets of information only about Jewish Studies courses. When I actually began my classes at Sy Syms, I was confused and overwhelmed like any student and had no idea what classes I needed to take or what major had to be declared early. Who would think about a major her first year of college, and who would think that not every major would be as open to her if she didn't take that majors class first or in a specific order?

It didn't enter my mind, nor did anyone ever tell me, that if you even want to consider Accounting as a possibility for a major, you needed to take Accounting I immediately. All of this important information can be found in the packets of information students get as they sign up for classes, but half the students are so overwhelmed, they either don't read them accurately or can't exactly understand them. And, by the time they ask questions, it is

Many other high profile and exciting executives such as Richard Grasso, Chairman and CEO of the NYSE, and Russ Berrie, CEO of Russ Berrie & Co., the makers of the troll doll, are scheduled to speak.

"This class is a great and important opportunity for us to get a first hand insight into the corporate world," commented SSSB junior Aliza Bogner. "It gives us a chance to interact with top executives in a classroom environment, enabling us to ask them any questions that we may have and teaching us life lessons on any future careers."



generally too late.

Ira Protchikis, a senior majoring in Finance was in this similar position. "When I got to Yeshiva University I was not advised by any teacher, or anyone on the administration about the different majors and different elements to them. It was pure luck that I landed in the right classes."

I found no such luck, and little did I realize that by not taking the course, I would be alienating myself from this respectable major. I innocently went on with my normal routine, claimed a major just to have something written on my transcript, and, during February 2001, I realized that I was unhappy and needed change. I figured every major in Sy Syms would be open, and I decided that I wanted to try Accounting, a major I had heard had wonderful professors and great placement of jobs after graduation.

I was excited and hopeful about this new major and began to dream about my chic office on Wall Street at a top 5 firm. Alas, after meeting with a Sy Syms representative, I was told the bad news: in order to keep this as a major and graduate by May 2003, I would need to take two or more classes of summer school.

Astonished and close to tears, I left the meeting feeling far less hopeful than I came in and the dreams of my chic office on Wall Street now turned to that of a janitorial closet at my old high school. What was I to do? Could I still switch my major?

It has been about 11 months since that day, and, although much happier and far more settled, I continue to struggle to make my major work. I am resigned to the fact that I am going to have to spend my summers in a classroom and possibly work at the same time, yet I am much happier with the situation I am in.

Needless to say, I learned the important lesson that it is imperative to ask questions, and that one should at least begin to think about what she wants to do with her life a lot earlier than her first day of college. No one should just put down a major because she wants to sound interesting; one should investigate properly the classes she needs to take. And for all of you who are unhappy in your majors, don't push off switching to a major you will enjoy better.

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# on campus

## TEXTBOOK COSTS STRAIN STUDENTS

By Rachel Fyman

The beginning of the semester means a chance to start afresh. Along with the anticipation of new courses and different professors however, comes the often less-exciting prospect of purchasing expensive new textbooks.

In the past, students estimate that they were required to spend between \$100 and \$400 dollars on books. Sara Brodsky, an SSSB junior, calculated that she spent approximately \$400 dollars on books for just three of her seven courses this semester. "It's a ridiculous amount to spend," she said, "but it's a necessary part of the cost of our education." Many students and parents also feel that the cost of textbooks is just another drop in the bucket of funds required for a quality college education.

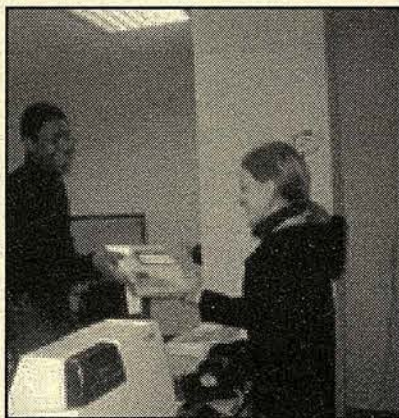
Other students feel that, considering the high and ever-rising cost of tuition, textbooks present an additional financial burden. As one student indicated, "I pay for my own books, and the amount I have to spend for even one class can represent an entire week's pay." As such, some students opt for taking books out of the library rather than buying them.

Students are especially frustrated when professors assign new editions of textbooks. For example, when the newest edition of a text was assigned for Dr. Dilorenzo's Social Psychology's class, students quickly complained about the cost of purchasing a brand-new textbook. Many students in the class immediately asked if they could buy an older edition of the book, which they could buy at a cheaper price from a previous student, maintaining that there are often few changes in newer editions.

An editorial coordinator at McGraw-Hill, a major publisher of college textbooks, indicated that the company primarily markets its books to professors rather than students. "Of course, it is the professors who assign the books to their classes," she said. "If we appeal to them, they bring us the customers." As such, factored into the cost of textbooks are often educational supplements for teachers, such as instructor's manuals, test questions, study guides, CD Roms and websites.

She also stated that McGraw-Hill recognizes that price is often a concern for professors. However, their research has shown that professors at community colleges and vocational schools are more concerned about the costs of the books they assign, and therefore textbooks for such courses tend to be cheaper. It is assumed that students at private universities, such as Yeshiva, are more interested in up-to-date, thorough, and better quality textbooks, and can afford to spend more money on them.

Yeshiva's reputation for high academic standards necessitates that the material used by faculty and students



Student buys textbooks from Barnes and Noble on campus

be as current as possible. This is obviously the primary concern of professors in most departments when assigning textbooks. However, when possible, many faculty members do recognize the financial burden they are imposing on students. "I do consider the costs of texts," asserted Ms. Ann Peters, a professor in the English Department.

According to Elie Nyer of the Student Life Committee, efforts to alleviate the textbook issue are focused more on SSSB, whose required books generally have a higher turnover rate than those used in SCW. Professors must continue placing new editions on the syllabi in order for the school to retain its Middle States Accreditation, but the Student Life Committee has suggested that professors verbally tell the students when a previous year's edition will suffice.

In response to the frequent claim that the prices of textbooks are inflated because of a "captive market," the representative from McGraw-Hill pointed out that they only give a suggested price, while the bookstores decide what to actually charge for a given book.

Students questions why - in a time when everything from Broadway to kosher restaurants recognize that students have limited resources - bookstores do not seem concerned about the financial burden presented by the purchase of textbooks - something obviously more necessary to education than entertainment or fine dining.

In attempt to lighten students' load, New York has a law exempting college textbooks from taxes. As a customer service representative at Barnes and Noble explained, this exemption applies to all students enrolled in college in either New York or New Jersey. In order to receive this exemption from Barnes and Noble, students are required to fax a copy of their college ID and Social Security card to the Tax Exempt Department (at 1-201-864-6081). Conspicuously, neither the government nor the bookstores publicize this law, and very few students are aware of it.

There are students who feel that textbooks are a worthwhile investment, and intend to keep some of their books for future reference. While this may be possible for some subjects, students fear that texts for will become outdated before they are of any use. As one SCW graduate pointed out,

"Anatomy might not change so much, but what good is a chemistry book that hasn't heard of some of the elements, or a sociology book that thinks we're still in the Cold War?"



Barnes and Noble temporarily occupied the 8th floor to assist in the purchase of textbooks

## Stern Takes A New Approach to Education

By Anna Rachel Krakowsky

Collaborative programs have been a rapidly increasing phenomenon and opportunity for the women at SCW. One of the most recent programs that Stern has established is the Higher Education Collaborative Workshop with the Lincoln Center Institute for the arts in education. This program is unique in that it is a Collaborative that works directly with college students as well as faculty in order to integrate the active study and experience of art into teacher preparation programs.

The Lincoln Center Institute practice is based on the philosophy of Aesthetic Education, an institution that extends the progressive education theory into the world of arts. Here, through working in partnership with educators and students, the institute offers hands-on workshops that focus on forms of Art such as dance, music, theatre, visual arts and architecture.

The hands-on approach is so successful because it demonstrates teaching as a factor in the integral role that arts play in education. This program offers a series of workshops around a specific study of art. These sessions are run by expert educators.

The program requires students to not only attend workshops by successful professionals and educators in the fields of arts, but also to actively engage in ongoing inquiry and reflection as well as participation in performances of the arts. For example, students attend a live performance at Lincoln Center's Clark Studio theatre in the specific area of arts that they have been studying and then attend follow up discussion sessions.

Members of the Stern faculty are encouraged to attend similar sessions as well. The faculty is offered a slightly

altered program that includes workshops, a live performance and follow-up. Besides the obvious educational benefits that this program provides for faculty it also provides free access to all of Lincoln Center's sessions throughout the year.

This program was introduced to Stern College a short year ago by head of the elementary education department, Dr. Lazoroff. Lazoroff currently oversees and coordinates this joint program. "The response has been astounding and even far more enthusiastic than anticipated," he noted. He explained that the key to the program's success is not only the in-class workshops but more specifically the performances themselves and the whole experience of going to Lincoln Center. The live performances are unique in that they are followed by question and dialogue sessions between the program's participants and the performers.

This program is not only open to students in Education and Art courses. For the first time this program is opened to students in psychology as well.

"It's truly exciting to be a part of this program and to see how much thought and intelligence goes into not only the arts but this program as well," said Bini Borenstein, a Junor Art Major taking the Arts and Education course. "It is not only fun but truly gratifying and beautiful."

"This unusual and unique program has been the newest and most powerful session brought to Stern", says junior Ilana Flatow, an education major who claims to have gained several insights after the program's first session.

The program brings a dramatically new approach to education in Stern College and perhaps is just the first successful step in incorporating progressive philosophy and aesthetic education into the curriculum.

## Faculty Political Opinions

continued from page 17

that the symposium in which Rabbi Lamm and Malcolm Hoenlein dealt with this issue was a terrific resource from which to take advice. "We should look toward community figures such as Rabbi Lamm and Mr. Hoenlein to take direction from them," Rabbi Kanarfogel said. "They have a broader perspective."

America has great ability to aid Israel. "We have an extraordinary government in Washington. The experience in the Middle East is part of the network of the War on terrorism," Dean Bacon said. "Therefore, we have to support the government," Bacon continued. "Send e-mails, write letters."

Similarly, Rabbi Blau remarked, "The enemies of the US and Israel are the same. The main contribution you can make is to put pressure on the American government." Rabbi Tendler said, "We must counter the animosity of those against us." He emphasized, "America is the only exist-

ing world power. It must be in our favor."

Terror must be recognized and rooted out wherever it may be located, despite the element of where our interest lies. "We have to be cognizant of what happens here," Rabbi Kanarfogel stated. "We have partial feelings, but we have to care for both [countries]. Terrorism is nondiscriminatory. We must factor in what unites everyone."

Whatever America's political problems may be, Dean Bacon feels American Jews have a responsibility to be concerned and acknowledged, "We are citizens of this country."

"We have to respond to the country of our citizenship and to our Homeland," Rabbi Blau stated. "I believe we are capable of caring for two things.

In order to reduce their overall expenses, some students try to sell their books at the end of each semester. Bookstores, such as Barnes and Noble, offer a "buy-back" program, where they will purchase used books from students based on the marketability of the books. However, one student was dismayed to find that Barnes and Noble would pay her only \$13.50 for five books which had cost her close to \$100 only five months before.

As a result of this, most students prefer to sell their books to fellow SCW and SSSB students, either independently or in the book-exchange organized by the SSSBSC. This system proves to be the most convenient and cost-effective for both the sellers and buyers.

## Students will Bear Brunt of Deficit Costs

continued from front page

dents pay," commented Dean Himber. "The goal is to continue providing validity services and quality education."

Some students opposed the two-tiered system, claiming that for the same education, every student should pay the same amount. "Why should I pay more because I went to Israel for a year than my friend who went straight to SCW?" questioned one SCW junior.

The decision determining tuition costs for the following academic year is usually made in March or April, but will be finalized earlier this year because of the expected large increase, enabling parents and students to plan their costs well in advance.

"We need to make the decision as quickly as possible," Fisher asserted.

### "Normal to Increase"

There are numerous factors influencing the need for so substantial an increase. One sentiment maintains that the tuition increase this year is in accordance with increases every year, and nothing out of the ordinary is motivating the increase.

"Every college- including YU- raises tuition every year," commented Fisher. "The question just is how much."

In fact, the increase was foreseen years ago when the university made a deliberate decision to try to rival its competing colleges financially. Comparing the costs and quality of education at the surrounding universities, YU discovered that its tuition was significantly lower than those colleges with a similar quality of education. While 2001-2002 tuition for YU was only \$18,600, tuition at Barnard College was \$22,942 and at Brandeis \$26,568. In fact, compared to other colleges which YU considers its peers, YU ranked the cheapest.

"We really are dramatically underpriced in terms of tuition," stated Dean Bacon. "It's necessary to put [the increase] in some perspective."

The university thus made a conscious attempt to raise tuition to be on par with those colleges it considers its equals and to have the financial resources to continue to rival those colleges academically. Spread over a number of years, the plan is to gradually increase tuition on a two-tiered level to eventually arrive at an across-the-board tuition that is comparable to other colleges.

"The goal is not to catch up," commented Dean Bacon, "but simply to be more fairly priced for our competition."

Some students questioned the premise that Yeshiva has a right to charge as much for its education as Ivy League schools. "Who do they think they are? An Ivy League school?" questioned Aliza Weinstein, SCW senior. "Tuition is already a fortune, especially for parents who have been paying private school tuition all their lives."

### Facing a Deficit

On the other hand, some administrators believe that the underlying problem causing the increase is the precarious financial situation the university faces that has motivated a demand for a decrease in costs. Yeshiva is confronted with a growing deficit, according to one Observer source, that has created concern to reassess its finances.

"Our deficit is more that tuition increase will generate," asserted Bacon.

### Floundering Economy

The causes to this financial "crisis" are uncertain. Some point to the struggling economy as the chief factor behind the university's uncertain financial situation. The poor stock market, bordering what some administrators have termed a "recession," translates into decreased available spending for Yeshiva, and the university must cutback accordingly.

"These are tough times for universi-

ties in general," commented Fisher. "There's nothing unusual about that."

The correlation between the world economy and Yeshiva's individual finances is specifically highlighted in relation to its donors. Some potential donors will now not be able to afford to donate to YU, and some of Yeshiva's major past philanthropists, because of recent events, will no longer be able to give such large sums.

"September 11<sup>th</sup> has taken its toll not only on YU, but on the world," asserted Dean Himber. "It's not only that YU has stock but the people who donate money may have also lost a lot of money because of recent events. People are reassessing their portfolios as to what to give and how to give."

Because of the economy, Yeshiva's costs have also skyrocketed, specifically in regard to insurances and security. The university must now spend more for increased security, and pay more to maintain the same insurances that they had utilized previously.

"The economy has something to do with [the financial 'crisis']," commented Dean Bacon. "For example, health insurance has skyrocketed."

### Stern's Expenses

Others point the finger of blame at the increased expenditures of Stern College as a potentially unnecessary drain of funds. During the last few years, Stern College has purchased many buildings - including 215 Lexington and the new dormitory - and the available facilities of both buildings are not fully utilized, as the eighth floor of 215 Lexington, though ready for use, sits empty, and the third floor of the new dormitory remains uninhabited.

"I'm finally willing to acknowledge our part in the university's deficit," commented Dean Bacon. "We have a problem meeting our operating costs. Down here we've put a lot of money into enlarging our facilities."

Nevertheless, Bacon maintains that the campus expansion at midtown was neither unnecessary nor irresponsible, pointing out that the 50 students located in independent housing could fill the empty beds in the new dorm.

"I believe we needed these buildings to accommodate increasing enrollment," asserted Bacon. "I don't think we have excessive space. We didn't purchase the buildings because we needed space for the future. We needed space for the present. We don't have enough classroom space, we don't have excessive office space, and we certainly don't have excessive lounge space."

Furthermore, Bacon believes that the daily operating costs of the main campus still exceed that of the midtown campus, but that midtown has increased short term expenses to pay back for its facilities.

"It's going to take a while to pay off what we've purchased," Bacon remarked. "The university's deficit is lumped together - in the good times we all share, in the bad times, we all suffer."

### Financial Aid

Another large drain in funds is the amount of financial aid scholarships that Yeshiva awards. There are eight million dollars worth of unfunded scholarships, need based scholarships without donors, that Yeshiva plans to continue. Maintaining these scholarships presents a

## Summer Housing Update

By Jessica Jacobs

Looking for a place to stay over the summer? You may be eligible for Stern College's summer housing option. According to last year's requirements any stern student who is taking a YU summer course, participating in a (for credit) internship, or taking an FIT course (within the 14 required credits) is a candidate for this program. However, many students feel that the summer housing option should be open to a wider array of students. As one SCW freshman put it "I feel that it is unfair to discriminate against any stern student who chooses to study at another institution over the summer but wants to remain in the atmosphere Stern provides".



Also, YU classes are only offered uptown during the summer session and therefore it is a more convenient option for many girls to go to schools like Baruch or NYU rather than have to travel to Washington Heights daily, especially if they are planning to work or partake in any other program during the course of the summer.

Stern has been running this program for the past two years. In the first year of the program's existence about fifteen girls participated, while in its second year participation swelled to about forty-five and the number of girls taking advantage of the program this year is expected to rise significantly yet again. The office of resident life runs the program and information regarding this year's options should be available shortly.

problem for university finances.

"It's a very big problem for us," Bacon explained. "One of the goals in raising tuition is that people who can afford tuition will compensate for those people who can't."

Nevertheless, it is uncertain how raising tuition will help this dilemma if the university plans to award more financial aid scholarships proportionate to the increase in tuition.

"The difficulty is to increase tuition, increase financial aid, and still come out ahead," stated Bacon.

Indeed, the university does plan on continuing its large financial aid program despite the increase. "Whatever increase in tuition will be matched with an increase in financial aid," Fisher remarked.

When confronted with increasing tuition costs and increasing financial aid, some students felt that raising tuition may be counterproductive. "If they are just going to have to give more financial aid, what's the point?" SCW senior Aliza Weinstein exclaimed.

### Capital Campaign

There is a question of how the university is facing financial dilemmas at the same time of its ever increasing \$400 million capital campaign revenue. Director of Development Daniel Forman responds that of the capital campaign money, most of the pledges were restricted in that they were designated for a specific use. Less than 5% is unrestricted donations that can be used to alleviate the university of its daily operating costs. Moreover, the university cannot touch the principle of the donation, but only utilizes its interest, a significantly smaller amount than the \$400 million it champions. Finally, the \$400 million announced in the capital campaign includes pledges that are paid off in multiple years, meaning that the university will not see this money for a while.

"The capital campaign aims at long range goals and development," explained Forman. "The benefit that tuition will see

from the capital campaign will be five to ten years from now."

A comforting factor of the capital campaign is that, though the university will not benefit from the donations currently, this financial crisis is only a short-term phenomenon that will be improved once the pledges are all paid.

"Because the endowments are there in the long term, it's safe to say that we're not closing or anything," asserted Dean Bacon.

### Solutions

A possible source of funds that might help ease SCW's financial burden is the Anne Scheiber money, that is now worth \$38 million from its initial \$22 million. Scheiber bequeathed her money to fund scholarships for women, and though a court battle among her inheritors has prevented SCW from seeing that money, the legal dispute seems likely to be resolved soon in favor of Yeshiva University. Not all of this money would go to SCW, however, as SCW is not the only YU institution that helps women. Nevertheless, it is assumed that a significant portion of the money would help SCW.

"It would directly impact on our deficit," commented Dean Bacon. "It would change unfunded scholarships to funded ones." Then, reflecting on the math, Bacon noted, "It's amazing how large our deficit is, that the interest from the \$38 million still might not cover all of our unfunded scholarships."

### Student Response

Not surprisingly, many students were distraught at the perspective of having tuition rise significantly for the third subsequent year, appalled at the recurring tradition of raising tuition without an end in sight.

"I think it is ridiculous already," commented Rachelle Mandil, SCW junior. "Every year they raise it. How high is it going to go?"

## \$15 Publication Fee Suggested as Part of Increase

By Adina Levine

In addition to the substantial tuition increase, an enlarged SCWSC fee has been submitted as a suggestion to the Board of Trustees.

"The increase for each student will be very modest that overall will enable student council to have more money," commented Dean Bacon. "I recommended the increase."

In addition to the increased student council fee, only SCW students will have to pay an additional \$15 publication fee. This money will be used to pay for some of SCW publications such as Derech Hateva, Shivim Panim, Besamim -and the Observer.

"The \$15 will help us to pay for some of publication costs because that was

really what was sucking us dry," Elana Soleimani, SCWSC president remarked.

The additional \$15 will actually not go to enhance the Observer funds, as \$15,000 will not adequately support the newspaper budget. The money will not go directly to the Observer toward an independent bank account, but the Observer editor-in-chief will have to ask student council for the money that has already been allotted for them. Incidentally, neither Observer editors - nor any of the editors for other publications - were not consulted before suggesting this fee toward the Board.

"I've been fighting for this for years," asserted Soleimani. "Inflation has gone up in New York City, and my budget has always stayed the same. Now maybe we'll have more money to work with."

## SCW Students Attacked Twice Within Two Weeks

By Elana Sher

In the past month there have been two attacks on SCW students in the vicinity of the campus. The most recent one occurring on Monday night, January 28. Around 9 p.m. on that night, four freshmen were walking up 33rd street toward Brookdale Hall after eating at a yogurt shop located on 3rd Avenue. Suddenly, they were attacked by three African American girls.

The assailants - two dressed in black and one wearing bright yellow - were teenagers, with heights between 5'4"-5'7" and of medium build. The students were unaware that they were being followed until the attackers began to shower them with blows landing on their eyes, ears and back of the head.

"They came up behind us and hit us in the head pretty hard," said Shawn Fineman, an SCW student from Phoenix, Arizona. "Not to the point that I was going to cry, but it did hurt."

According to Shayna Estreicher, another one of the attacked students, the assailants seemed more intent on frightening the students rather than mugging them.

"It seemed like they just wanted to pick on someone," said Estreicher, who is from Baltimore.

The students attempted to cross the street but were impeded by the attackers. At that point Jessica Jacobs, a student from Miami, threatened to call security. Only then did the attackers grab her arm and scream that they were going to steal her wallet. Before they could take her money, a truck driver came to the aid of



Students are encouraged to utilize local vans due to recent attacks

the students by shouting at the attackers from his cab, which consequently sent them fleeing from the scene.

Jacobs called uptown security from her cell phone and they in turn directed her to call 1888 STERNYU. They were told to go to the 215 Lexington building.

"Security sat with us, called the resident advisor and called the police," said Fineman. "They kept us calm and handled everything with the police."

Currently, the police are investigating the case and have not ruled out the possibility that the attackers go to the local high school on 34th street.

Three teenage girls were apprehended for the first attack made on an SCW student several weeks prior to this incident. The student attacked, whose name cannot be disclosed, was alone on 35th Street between Park and Lexington avenues, at 10 p.m., when the African American attackers approached her from behind and hit her with a lead pipe.

Fortunately, she sustained no injuries and the police have yet to link her attack with the one on January 28.

"We hope that the attack is not a

## Met Experience

continued from page 25

sign up will get a spot in an event. Additionally, those who are closed out of events, can sign up for the waiting list, and thus have the opportunity to attend if another student withdraws.

Although the initial plan for signing up was that all students should meet in the Schottenstein Residence Hall at the same time, many eager students decided to arrive several hours in advance, to ensure that they are first on line to receive their number one choice. In many cases, students are willing to cut class, miss dinner, and wait around for as many as five hours, in order to receive their top choice. "They ought to show a movie while we wait," suggests Mara Hellman, SCW sophomore. "It's really nice how the school offers this program, but it's hard for people who have class in the evening, who have to come late or miss the sign up and therefore don't get their first choices," she adds. Cohen is appreciative of the program, but recognizes that "the system is badly set up, although I don't know what solution there could be." Some students suggested that the sign up

begin later in the evening, or on a Sunday, which may allow more students to participate.

Another problem arises when students attempt to cheat the system, by signing their names on a list hours before the doors open, and then leave until closer to the time of registration. Such actions are prohibited by the organizers of the event, and cause much resentment among the girls who stay in Schottenstein the entire time. Additionally, many girls who add their names to the list and leave, fail to return in time for registration, which causes much confusion and chaos.

The members of Metropolitan Experience Committee are aware of the system's flaws, and hope to improve the registration system for next semester. "We realize that so many people are upset (about the system), although we couldn't make changes for this semester," says Blumenfeld. "However, we plan on meeting next semester to help make the system a lot more honest and pleasing for everyone".

"Our best defense is an alert group of young ladies," said Rosengarten.

As for the four freshmen girls, their traumatic experience will not deter them from carrying on with their lives as before.

"I know it's a big city," said Jacobs. "Sometimes things happen."

trend, but a fluke," stated Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of the Supporting Service Administration that oversees safety and security.

According to Rosengarten, there is no reason to believe that the attacks were anti-Semitic or designated for SCW students.

"The attack was definitely not an anti-Semitic one," said Estreicher. "There was nothing that would indicate us as Jews."

SCW security posted an advisory up on campus warning students not to walk alone at night. Don Sommers, head of SCW security, insists that students should take the shuttles and walk in groups at night.

**Questions? Comments? Complaints?**

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## Hoenlein and Lamm Address SCW Students

continued from front page



SCW Student Shayndi Raice asks question to Rabbi Lamm following symposium

ignoring the warning signs. Invoking the Jewish concept of "zechira," Hoenlein indicated that the U.S. government chose to ignore ten wake-up calls since 1993 before the September 11th attack. "We have to consider all things proceeding, and anticipate all that flows from it," commented Hoenlein.

The symposium, entitled "Why should the nations say 'Where is Their God?' Jewish responses to terrorism," was organized by *The Observer* Editors-in-Chief, in conjunction with the Deans Office, in response to student requests for a forum to give insight into the tragic events occurring around the world this year.

"The student newspaper cannot just

report on what happens, but must help shape school policy," asserted Adina Levine, *Observer* editor-in-chief. "This symposium epitomized how the newspaper can be a vehicle of change, and we would like to thank the Deans Office for helping us organize such a massive event."

Originally, *Observer* editor-in-chief approached Dean Bacon for guidance and assistance in organizing some type of school-wide function after September 11th. Bacon put the students in contact with Hoenlein and helped arrange technical details. "Dean Bacon was really helpful in encouraging us as students to take initiative," said Miriam Colton, *Observer* Editor-in-Chief.

Furthermore, the symposium marked not only a response to the tragic events of September 11th but also the first time Rabbi Lamm addressed the midtown students this year.

"We felt that it is important for the midtown students to feel a connection to the university president," said Colton. "Having Rabbi Lamm speak for the first time at the midtown campus this year accomplished just that."

Students listened for over an hour as first Malcolm Hoenlein and then Rabbi Lamm addressed the audience and the appropriate response to terrorism in the

U.S. and Israel for American Jews.

According to Mr. Hoenlein, the threat of Islamic fundamentalists is a global phenomenon. He pointed out the relationship that exists between these groups, such as Al-Qaeida and Hamas, and neo-nazism. The current fighting in Israel, he claimed, is not another Intifada, but rather a full-blown war about the right of the Jewish state and the Jewish people to exist.

Mr. Hoenlein ended his speech with a call to American Jews to visit Israel to show their support. Furthermore, he requested that students voice their opinions to American politicians. "We have power because the world says we have," Mr. Hoenlein asserted. "We have a say in our own fate. What we do now will affect future generations and they will judge us. We better have good answers."

Rabbi Norman Lamm, following Hoenlein, responded on a religious level to terrorism, and discussed how the Jews should react to the terrorism in the context of the larger question of human suffering. Rabbi Lamm mentioned that of the 6000 languages spoken in the world today, the only "universal language is tears, which serves to unite all humanity."

Rabbi Lamm outlined two approaches to the existence of evil. The first theory states that evil is a vehicle for good and that suffering enables people to rise higher. The second theory, referred to by Rabbi Lamm as the "freedom theory", explains that G-d had to minimize His control in the world to enable man to have freedom of choice. Evil, therefore, is the perpetration and responsibility of mankind.

Rabbi Lamm encouraged the audience not to blame G-d, but rather to

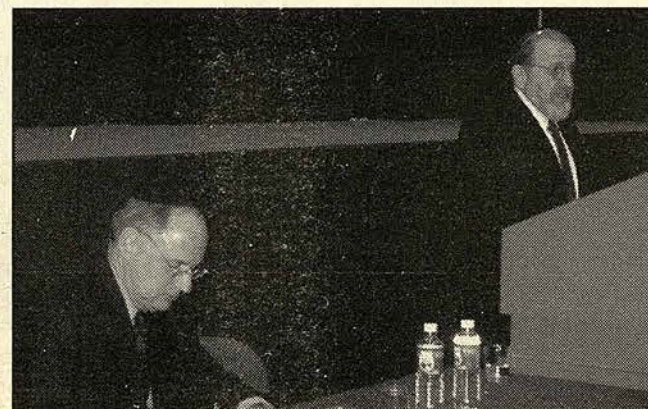
look for practical lessons that can be learned from the tragic events unfolding. Finally, he pointed to the conclusion of the book of Job. After questioning G-d and the suffering of the righteous throughout the book, Job realizes that once he is in the presence of G-d, his questions cease to be questions at all.

Letters and posters were circulated advertising the event, although some uptown students still complained that there was not enough publicity. Only approximately fifteen uptown students attended the event, and were forced to take the van because there were not enough students for a bus. *Observer* editors responded that they could as midtown students to publicize the event, and had asked for - and for the most part received - cooperation from the uptown administration in organizing the events. They pointed out that students not knowing about the event originated from not reading student publications, as the two most recent editions of the *Observer* advertised the event.

After both speeches, the floor was opened to questions from the audience, which were answered by both Mr. Hoenlein and Rabbi Lamm. The event was concluded with light refreshments outside the theater.



Dean Himber (far right) travelled to midtown to hear speakers



Hoenlein (left) and Rabbi Lamm (right) share podium



# on campus

## YC Team Pulls in Second Place in Mock Trial Tournament

By Ariella Goldstein

A man is dead in his chair from a gunshot wound to his head. He was last seen with the defendant, his employee who was coincidentally denied promotion that very day. The only witness is a janitor with a history of knowledge of firearms. The forensic pathologist determines a concentration of cocaine in the victim's urine.

On January 25 and 27, 2001 the mock trial teams of both Stern College and Yeshiva College competed against NYU and St. John's University in Yeshiva's Second Annual Invitational Mock Trial Tournament. During the competition, which took place in the Midtown campus, the students acted out this murder case as though they were trying the case before a real court.

"The most important part of Mock Trial is to have fun," asserted program's organizer Adina Levine. "It does also give you a taste of what it means to be a lawyer."

Based on a scoring system that awards winners based on the skills of the students, rather than the merits of their case, the winner of this year's tournament was NYU with Yeshiva College achieving second place. Trophies for best lawyer and best witness were awarded.

As a Sabbath-observant school, Yeshiva University is prevented from participating in American Mock Trial Association's (abbreviated AMTA) regional tournaments, which are held on Saturdays. Consequently, students organized to host an invitational tournament, which could be planned by Yeshiva students to accommodate their religious practices.



SCW students give opening for Defense

"I want to call up AMTA and insist that Yeshiva be able to compete," asserted Erica Penala from NYU in her acceptance speech. "If Yeshiva's Terry Gerch could whip my butt on cross as he did today, I think they should be able to compete in the regionals."

After Penala's moving speech, the coach from St. John's, who is a member of AMTA's board, pledged that he would try to accommodate Yeshiva's religious needs in creating the regionals for the following year.

"It would be great if we could compete for a regional," Levine remarked. "It would also mean that we would have to work ten times harder."

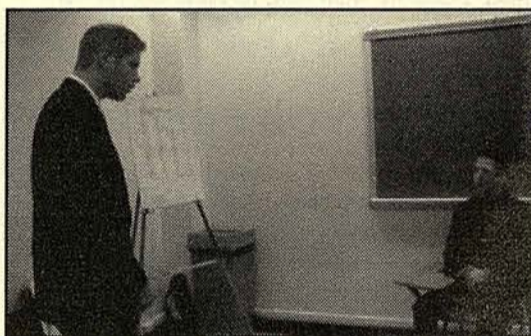
This year's case, the State of Midlands vs. Ashley Thornhill, was a murder case designed to contain flaws that provide for reasonable doubt. "This makes the case a bit harder for the prosecution," admits Sara Brodsky, SCW junior. The prosecution, however, has more "control over the case," says Hillel Deutch, YC senior. "The prosecution is allowed to pick the first two witnesses, but the cases do favor the defense. To win, however, teams must accumulate more points than their opponent. Therefore, whether or not the actual case favors one side does not affect each team's ability to win."

Although each of SCW's eight mock trial participants joined the team for different reasons, they were unified through their hard

work, frequent practices, and interesting experiences.

"The most common question people ask me when they find out that I'm a political science major is 'so you want to be a lawyer?'" says Liora Kasten, an SCW junior who served as a lawyer. "My response is always an emphatic 'NO!' I never want to practice law, although I do enjoy litigation and law classes. That's why I was positively ecstatic to join the Stern mock trial team. I get to argue and debate, harass witnesses, and pretend that I'm a lawyer without all the dirty bureaucracy."

Witnesses also enjoyed the competitions, despite the hard work and stress during the competition. "It was a fun experience," reflects Tamar Ellman, an SCW junior who played the dual role of a janitor as a witness for the prosecution and a security guard as witness for the defense. "The other



Hillel Deutch cross examines witness

schools were really fun to watch, and they had some great actors."

Especially difficult for the SCW and YC teams was lack of an attorney coach, or even a faculty advisor. The mock trial teams were student initiated, by Adina Levine from SCW and Hillel Deutch from YC, and the captains had to single-handedly lead their teammates through the laws governing trial procedures. "It's a lot of work," asserted Deutch. "Lawyers must meet with their witnesses on their own time. Since neither YC nor Stern had a coach, it was difficult to learn what the proper procedures are for a court room. Both teams should be proud of what they accomplished despite this deficiency."



Liora Kasten objects for leading questions

## Women Wait Hours for "The Producers"

By Sara Jacobson

Many SCW students may feel privileged to attend college in New York City, "the culture capital of the world," but how many really take advantage of it? With the help of Mrs. Zelda Braun, the Office of Students Services, and the Office of the Dean, the Metropolitan Experience, a unique program that allows SCW students to experience New York's cultural attractions free of charge, was created. To enable students to attend an event at a convenient time, each event takes place on different day throughout the semester.

Since it began in the Spring 1999 semester, the Metropolitan experience has enabled students to attend interesting cultural events such as Broadway shows like *The Lion King*, *Aida*, *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as the New York City Ballet, a pottery making workshop, *Porgy and Bess* at the New York City Opera, and dinners at various ethnic restaurants. Another benefit of the program is that each event is chaperoned by a different SCW professor and his or her spouse, which allows students to meet new teachers or get to know those they have already met. Consequently, the Metropolitan Experience is an opportunity that many students look forward to and are eager to participate in. "It's a great way to see New York City for free," says SCW sophomore, Ilanit Newton.

The program's popularity, however, is perhaps its

only flaw. Although the offered events are very impressive, there are only a limited amount of spaces allotted for each event. In fact, the total number of students that can participate in this semester's events are 190. This often leads to the disappointment of many and the happiness of the few who get their number one choice. Nevertheless, this semester, only 165 slots were filled. While slots for this semester's most popular choice, Broadway's *The Producers*, were snatched up very quickly, students refused to sign up for less popular events. "They always offer one really good thing, and everything else is really great, but not equally as fantastic," notes Nechama Cohnen, SCW freshman.

"As a committee member, I've noticed that people don't even glance at the less popular events. Students should realize that it's free and cultural, and should try them out—what have you got to lose?" says Aliza Blumenfeld, an SCW sophomore who is one of five SCW students that is on the committee that organizes the Metropolitan Experience. Blumenfeld and other committee members encourage students to attend events other than their top one or two choices, as the Metropolitan Experience offers the opportunity for students to experience events they would otherwise never have tried. Certainly, while there seems to be a great deal of competition for the most popular event, almost every student who comes to

continued on page 24



Students show up in the early afternoon to get tickets to the popular events

## Third Floor of 36<sup>th</sup> street Sits Ready and Waiting but Remains Closed

By Adina Levine

Despite its promise to open in January, the remaining floors of the 36<sup>th</sup> street dorm did not open in time for this semester. Though the third floor of the building has been rehabilitated and is now ready for inhabitants, a lack of a need prevented its opening.

"There were no students to fill the rooms," stated Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration. "Unless we were going to rent out the rooms to outside students, we just didn't have a need to open it."

The dormitories on the third floor could house approximately another 25 students, but spring enrollment did not require the extra facilities. A greater num-

ber of students graduated than enrolled in January, creating many extra beds throughout Brookdale and Schottenstien that made the opening of the new dorm unnecessary.

"If you don't need to open the new dorm, why would they open it?" asserted one SCW student. "I think it was a great decision by the university, assuming that they will open it in September if there is a need."

It was not only enrollment that prevented the opening of the dorm, but a mandate for fiscal responsibility. In a time when the university is trying to cut back on costs, the unnecessary expense of opening the new dorm would be irresponsible.

"We want to defer spending money we don't have to spend right now,"

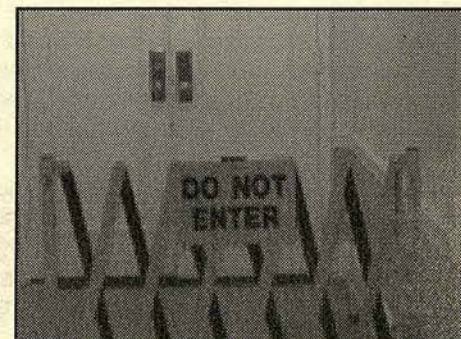
Rosengarten remarked. "We're not rushing to get furniture so it can sit in dust."

"I'm told it takes a tremendous amount [of money] to operate a floor," commented Dean Bacon. "We're trying to be conservative."

Nevertheless, Bacon admitted that the opening of the floor would "certainly be more comfortable."

Some students believed that the new dorm should be opened even though there were extra beds, to help relieve crowding in the other dorms, specifically in Brookdale. "Four people in a D room in Brookdale makes you feel like a sardine," asserted Beth Meschel, SCW junior. "If there's a ready floor, open it."

"I think they should have opened the bottom two floors instead of the top two floors so we don't have to walk up so



Closed floor at 36th Street Dorm

many flights," asserted Vivi Stahl, SCW junior. "If you're going to have a dorm, though, you need to treat it like a dorm. Even for two flights, we should have a van."

Students are hopeful that the new dorm will open for next semester.

## Mima'amakim Considers Breaking from YU

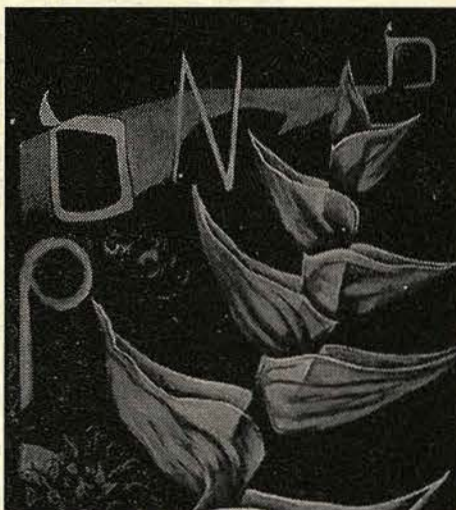
By Shayndi Raice

With the annual Arts Festival in full swing, students have had a forum to express themselves artistically these past few weeks. However, some have questioned the opportunities for such arts students at Yeshiva throughout the year. One such group that has attempted to give religious artists a voice is Mima'amakim. Started two and a half years ago by a former Yeshiva student, Chaim Strauchler, Mima'amakim has become Yeshiva's journal of creative expression on the Jewish religious experience. While still involved in Mima'amakim, Strauchler, now studying Religion at Oxford has handed the reins over to the next generation of writers.

Jake Marmer, a YU graduate and the current Editor-In-Chief defines the goal of Mima'amakim as "an environment where traditional and religious people can feel comfortable writing." Marmer says that while some people write about their positive experiences as a religious Jew, "some people are bitter and disappointed and they have issues. Art gives them a forum to express that."

Rather than censoring material, Marmer says Mima'amakim "decided to take it and deal with it." Recently, the editors of Mima'amakim have

been debating whether to continue the publication under the auspices of Yeshiva. While their web site is totally unedited, Marmer feels that if they continue to work through the university, they will be forced to censor much of the writing. Marmer pointed to a Jewish gay writer who has been post-



Cover of 2001 Issue

ed on their site; Mima'amakim fears that Yeshiva might want to edit such works.

Other problems have arisen as to the relationship Yeshiva will continue to have with Mima'amakim. While it is officially a publication of Yeshiva, the past edition mostly consisted of

pieces from people outside of the Yeshiva community. Students from other universities, as well as religious Jews all over the world, have contributed pieces expressing their uniquely Jewish viewpoints.

Because of the widespread interest in Mima'amakim and the somewhat disturbing lack of interest among Yeshiva University students, Mima'amakim is considering breaking away from the University. Marmer says that one of the main goals of Mima'amakim is to create a religious artistic community. According to Marmer, many young Jewish artists struggle in the religious community where learning is viewed as the primary and most valuable connection to God and Judaism.

Mima'amakim provides a place for religious artists to come together and celebrate Judaism through their God given talents.

The response they get from the YU community will ultimately determine how close they choose to keep their ties with the University. With all that it has to contribute to the student body and all YU students could potentially contribute to it, some students felt it would be sad to see Mima'amakim lose its ties with Yeshiva University.

The deadline for submitting work for their next issue is March 1st.

## Equestrian Club Reinstated this Semester

By Jodi Schachar

Finding a tree is a novelty in New York City. Horseback riding in New York City might seem equally implausible. However, SCW students did not allow such obstacles to get in their way.

This year, after a brief hiatus last spring, the equestrian club is back stronger than ever. Several new members joined since Student Council began subsidizing the program. Student Council covers one-third of the cost and provides van transportation to the lessons at the Jamaica Bay Riding Academy in Brooklyn.

The Equestrian Club meets every Friday morning for an hour of learning the techniques and perfecting the art of horseback riding. Beginner riders focus on the basics of trotting, cantering, and general handling of a horse, while advanced members practice their jumping skills.

Although the club does not count for any athletic credits in Stern, it is a unique and rewarding experience. "It's a lot of fun," said president Ellyn Mayer. "It's something you see results from right away. It's a very rewarding and an enjoyable sport."

The club now costs members around thirty dollars a lesson, with a minimum of ten lessons.

Two years ago Aspir founded the Stern with the hope that Stern students would want to cultivate their interest in horses. Today, the Equestrian Club is a well-established club offered at SCW, completely full for this semester.

Though it is too late to join this year, the club will be back next year and everyone is welcome to join.

## New Vans Run on Hourly Schedule

continued from front page

over time.

"The fifteen passenger vans had a much high accident occurrence," commented Rosengarten. "We've never had that problem, but it's a nationwide statistic."

Ironically, the Yeshiva van a number of years ago that did have an accident was an MTA minibus, more the size of the current ambulettes than the fifteen-passenger vans. Furthermore, the new ambulette has already met with a mishap within only weeks of its inauguration. Last week, the van hit a pothole and tilted on its side, injuring some students.

The new vans create a number of inconveniences for students. Because of their increased occupancy, the vans are prohibited from traveling on the FDR until 96th street and must instead use first or second avenues. Due to street traffic and traffic lights, the ride between campuses that in the past only took 20 minutes has been extended to somewhere between 30 minutes and an hour, depending on traffic conditions.

"The bigger vans are nicer, but I would forgo that to have it come more frequently," commented Kalany Rubin, SCW senior. "It definitely makes things less convenient."

Before winter break, the student life committee had voiced concerns about the lack of enough space on the fifteen passenger vans on peak times. Administrators responded that Yeshiva would be leasing new vans in compliance with the new safety regulations, that would transport additional students. The student life committee approved the decision under the assumption that the new vehicles would merely replace the old vans, not alter the number of departures.

"I was under the impression that it would be the same schedule, just more people on each van," asserted Elana Soleimani, SCWSC president. "They totally went against what we had asked for."

Upon returning from vacation, students were alarmed to discover that the schedule had been adjusted so that vans left on the hour. The signs announcing these changes stated that this new schedule was in response to suggestions and approved by student leaders.

"I didn't want anyone to think that I okayed this," commented Elana Soleimani, SCWSC president. "It's not okay." Student leaders eventually removed the signs, and emailed high level administrators voicing their complaints.

"This is the time that we need the university to be receptive to student needs," asserted Susanne Goldstone, SCW senior. "What are we supposed to do when they use the requests of

students against us?"

In response to student complaints, the administration has decided to clock the vans for a period of three weeks to see whether it would be possible to adjust the schedule to allow for departures every 45 minutes.

"We would like to run the van for three weeks to see how long it takes to do the run," Himer remarked.

Discussions within the transportation subcommittee of student life have suggested adding a third van during peak hours. It is unclear whether the university will consider any variation of such an option, yet adamantly refuses to lease a third van permanently because of monetary considerations.

"If you can get someone wishing to underwrite the transportation needs of YU, then maybe we would buy a third van," commented Dean Himer. "Otherwise I doubt it."

"We are looking to save money wherever possible," asserted Rosengarten. "We believe we can nevertheless accommodate the bulk of the needs. Will some people have to wait? Yeah, just like we have to wait for every other type of transportation. That's a fact of life."

According to Rosengarten, other than the MTA, Yeshiva is the largest transportation provider, with a \$1.5 to \$1.7 million budget.

"The positive is that it's safe and legal," commented Rosengarten. "The negative is that if you wanted smaller vans that came more often that's not what we have."

The schedule poses a particular problem for students who have specific time commitments to met. For example, one Azrieli student needed to be in class at 7:50. Assuming that the 7 p.m. van would be sufficient for his needs, the student boarded the shuttle. Street traffic necessitated that the ride last an hour. Finally, the student requested that he be let off the van to take the subway to class, but the driver refused due to insurance reasons.

"I've only been uptown three times this year," said Aliza Weinstein, "But now, I would never go uptown because the vans are so ugly and it's so inconvenient."

The consequence to these new inconveniences is that now students are often forced to take the A train when they have a particular need at the other campus.

"If YU was looking to increase safety, it's working against them," asserted one SCW junior. "Most students have to take the A train if they want to get across campus in under one hour."

## Want to Write for Shivim Panim?

Shivim Panim, SCW's Torah Journal, is now accepting article submission for this year's publication.

For more information or to submit an article, please contact:

Ayelet Rivka Jaye, ext. 6210  
or email  
ericajaye@hotmail.com

or

Alisa Rose, ext. 5694  
or email arose@ymail.yu.edu

## Kol Haneshama

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over 40 cities," said Weisz, who is from Columbus, Ohio. "We're still looking for good people to get involved."

Two weeks ago, Weisz and Elbaum met with Yeshiva President Rabbi Norman Lamm, as well as representatives of Yeshiva's Public Relations Department, who suggested that they first attempt to present their idea to small Jewish newspapers from outside the New York area. *Kol Haneshama* compiled lists of Yeshiva students from places like Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland and Los Angeles, and then asked them to contact their local paper. "We're presenting *Kol Haneshama* as not only a very exciting national project, but as an important local issue as well," explained Weisz.

To *Kol Haneshama's* delight, dozens of newspapers have already expressed keen interest in allocating a free monthly page. As of press, the *Jewish Week* has agreed to print *Kol Haneshama*, and the organizers are negotiating with other metropolitan and community newspapers. "While the newspapers are helping us by printing our page for free, we are presenting them with what will be an important and popular feature," explained Elbaum.

Each page will feature approximately eight short bios, along with thumbnail photographs, of victims of varying ages, sex and religious affiliation. The *Kol Haneshama* organizers will layout and design the page, to be sent completely

## Mission Statement of Kol Haneshama

For one week in January, 200 students from Yeshiva University traveled to Israel to show solidarity with our people and met with victims of terror. Their stories of strength and determination, of hope and grief, inspired us. We pay tribute to them, and remember the courageous lives that are lost.

-The Students of Yeshiva University

ready for press to participating newspapers. Additionally, *Kol Haneshama* will create a web page that will feature these bios as well as links to other sites, such as the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund that assists families of terror victims.

Organizers of *Kol Haneshama* are quick to stress that their campaign does not have a political agenda, and is unaffiliated with any institution.

With the first issue scheduled to run the first week of March and continue on a monthly basis thereafter, an idea that originated during a group discussion on Torah Shield II has sprouted into a campaign surpassing the organizers' hopes. "The feedback has been really positive," said Sarah Emerson. "It just goes to show how a group of individuals can really make a difference."

All high schools and newspapers that would like to participate in *Kol Haneshama* can email [kolhaneshama@aol.com](mailto:kolhaneshama@aol.com).

## High Probability that Guide Part II Will not be Printed

By Miriam Colton and Shayndi Raice

Once again, The Guide has encountered problems. While Part I was distributed in November, albeit late, Part II, which features students' names and addresses, has not appeared on the horizon well after its intended time. According to Observer sources, Part II will not be published on hard-copy. Instead, students will be able to check names and addresses on the online site at [guide.yucs.org](http://guide.yucs.org), or will possibly receive an email copy of Part II in excel format.



Originally, Part II was supposed to be published in early December, which was already somewhat late in the year. The editors claimed it had been held up due to the September 11th related-delays and internal problems. The reasons for the current delay has turned into a "he said she said" scenario, with all students involved blaming other student leaders. It is even unclear who is the official editor of Part II, and even if there is one, as the person Lou Shapp named denied being editor.

The main reasons for the delay according to inside sources are Saroka's

resignment after the publication of Part I and the failure of Shapp to pick up the pieces and find a suitable replacement. Also, the printer of the Guide requested nearly \$4,000 dollars for printing costs, but gave Yeshiva a proof full of typographical errors. Publicity of Part II was extremely poor this year and signs encouraging students to sign up only went up after the holidays. "I did not see enough publicity around campus," said Liara Kasten, SCW junior. "I only signed up because a member of student council was in my class and kept personally reminding me to sign up."

As an example of the miscommunication between students involved, Shapp claims The Guide will be printed within a few weeks and then distributed at both campuses. He says that, "nothing held it up, because students were satisfied with the online site." He pointed to the fact that this year marked the earliest time The Guide was put online as a measure of its success.

Others dispute Shapp's knowledge of the facts. In response to Shapp's excuse, they claim that The Guide has previously been online, while simultaneously was distributed in print for the obvious advantages of the roommate finder, convenience, and alphabetical listing of names.

When Elana Soleimani, SCWSC president, was questioned as to the reason for the delay she responded "I would love to know the answer to that. It was very badly organized and poorly planned."

This is not the first time The Guide and its editors have experienced difficulty this year. Part I of the Guide, which is often distributed at orientation in August, did not appear on campus till after the holidays.

Students are required to work in the summer, and many tireless hours go into producing the student handbook to life in the city.

It remains unclear where the fault lies for the problems of publications, and all parties involved adamantly place the blame on the others. Yet, it is clear that for the first time in many years, Yeshiva students are without the essential and popular Part II of the Guide.

## Model U.N. at Kutchers

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that were discussed," said administrative assistant Natalie Mercant.

"Editing was more difficult in the past and the handwriting would sometimes cause confusion," said Barnea. "The rapporteur would have to wait in the resource room and hold up the committee."

In turn, "the resource room, which is the center of production for all working papers, resolutions and newspapers, was very effective," asserted Rachel Shtern, Director of the Resource Room. It was less crowded and more organized.

However, since the documents were being typed in the actual committees, delegates occasionally became impatient with the amount of time that it took to type the papers, which was frustrating for some administrative assistants.

Also different from past conferences was that this year, one crisis was introduced for all committees, rather than crises for individual committees.

Delegates were told that a lecture would be given after ma'ariv. Instead, during that time, the crisis was introduced: a nuclear reactor was detonated in Russia. Each committee had to deal with the ramifications that were pertinent to its topic. When each committee resumed session further information was provided, informing the delegates that this act had links to the terrorist Al Qaeda regime.

Students were interested with the topic, but expressed disappointment over the extra hour they had to spend in committee due to the lack of the lecture and implementation of the crisis.

Other students felt it was difficult to couple the scenario with issues that could be discussed in certain committees. "Although the topic of terrorism is timely and appropriate, it is not so applicable to our committee," said Gitti Gross, a delegate in the United Nations Environment Program.

Most chairs found the crisis situation to be innovative. "This system is much more effective," noted Rosenberg.

Conference participants were not

as pleased with the facilities. Although the hotel was large enough to accommodate all the needs of the convention, committees often needed to wait to receive documents from the resource room as it was far from most committee rooms. "It would be better if the resource room was closer to the committee rooms," commented Rosenberg. "I think Great Gorge, Vernon Valley was a better place to host Model UN," declared associate editor of the YUNMUN paper, Matt Zimmerman.

Hundreds of high-school students from all over the United States and Canada convene at Model UN to learn to work in a group, construct viable solutions to world issues and master parliamentary procedure. "Countries were able to come together to discuss pressing issues in the world," Shmuel stated. "After hearing debates and resolutions, I am convinced that these students will be capable leaders of the future."

YUNMUN is the largest and most successful recruiting event for prospective students sponsored by Yeshiva University. "Model UN is designed to attract the top students from across North America," Ryan Hyman, Director of Admissions noted. He added, "Our best recruiting tool is the students of Yeshiva University. What better way to showcase what the University has to offer than through its students?"

Through interaction with the Yeshiva students who run the committee sessions, prospective students are provided with an opportunity to observe and become acquainted with YC and SCW students.

YUNMUN serves a purpose for Yeshiva University students, as well. "It is a chance for Yeshiva students to broaden their horizons and gain leadership experience as well as a chance to spend a few days with peers," Barnea commented.

With the actual United Nations' recent disapproval of Israel's actions in the Middle East and with



Gershon Shwartz and Batsheva Rutman, Yeshiva students who assisted at Model U.N.

committee topics in the convention that might be controversial to a Halachic value system, one might wonder at the University's decision to continue hosting a Model United Nations.

Shmuel feels that students do keep a Jewish perspective while conducting themselves in committee. "The fact that these students go to yeshiva high schools show they keep Jewish values in mind," commented Shmuel. "I think because yeshiva students know YU is in favor of Israel, they embrace the opposition," suggested Josh Klarfeld, Chair of UNICEF. "There is no conflict. They know this is not real; it is a Model UN."

Both delegates and Yeshiva University students gained valuable skills in articulating, cooperating and prioritizing. "I'm impressed with both staff members and delegates," remarked Stephanie Epstein, Chair of ICJ. "The staff was united and worked together."

"The students were interested in accomplishing their goals in committee. What impressed me even more was when students requested to give Divrei Torah in front of their colleagues," noted Elly Goldenberg, Chair of UNEP. "YUNMUN was an excellent demonstration of the synthesis of Torah U'Madah."

## New Wilf Campus

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the three undergraduate schools.

More recently, Joseph and his nephew, Leonard Wilf, gave \$2 million during the early phase of the Campaign for Yeshiva University to create the Wilf Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship Fund. Their latest donation brings their total support for the Campaign for Yeshiva University to \$12 million, making the Wilf family the third largest Campaign donor.

"After being approached with various philanthropic opportunities, the Wilf family chose the Main Campus development project," Forman said, explaining why the Main Campus was the beneficiary of the latest donation.

Joan Apple, the director of development for Stern College, noted that officials are currently looking for a donor to name the Midtown Campus. "We've already solicited most of the Board of Trustees," Apple said. "We're looking for new donors among alumni, parents, and people in the community who are interested in Jewish women's education."

Besides soliciting donors for a gift to name the SCW campus, officials are also looking for smaller-scale donors to name rooms in the new 36th Street dormitory, and rooms in the 215 Lexington school building as well as donors for academic programs at SCW.

# on campus

## Yeshiva Students Aim to Make A Difference

### Kol Haneshama Launched to Memorialize Victims

By Miriam Colton

A nation-wide newspaper project to memorialize Israeli victims of terror has been launched by a group of Yeshiva students. Called *Kol Haneshama*, the campaign will produce a full-page of personal biographies of the terror victims, to be sent to Jewish newspapers across the country for publication, beginning in March.

Yeshiva students will write the first issue of *Kol Haneshama*. However, the plan is for Jewish high school students to research and compose the biographies for the remainder of the project. According to *Kol Haneshama* organizers, this component is an effort to unite Jewish youth in support of Israel and bring the project to the local level of Jewish communities. "The high school students will get to know the families of the terror victims and form a relationship with them," explained Judah Elbaum.

The idea for *Kol Haneshama* originated at a seminar of Torah Shield II, the solidarity mission to Israel of Yeshiva students over winter break. Students were split into groups, to discuss ways to help Israel's economy and media image. Naphtali Weisz and Judah Elbaum, both YC seniors, realized that the American Jewish public was lacking personal empathy with the victims. "I asked people on the mission if they knew the names of victims," explained Naphtali Weisz. "Over 250 people have died, and students had a hard time naming even five victims."

An avid reader of the *New York Times'* noted *Portraits of Grief*, which commemorates victims of the World Trade attacks, Weisz, along with Elbaum, thought to create a similar type of project for Israeli victims. Modeled after the *Portraits of Grief*, the project will memorialize the lives of the victims by highlighting their achievements. These bios are not intended to



Kol Haneshama meets with Yaakov Haller (far right) of the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund to discuss ideas

be obituaries, rather short glimpses into the victim's life and personality. According to the proposal statement of *Kol Haneshama*, "Those [New York Times] sketches place a human face on a tragedy of incomprehensible proportions. American Jews likewise are yearning for a human connection to the Israeli victims of terrorists."

Immediately upon returning from Israel, Weisz and Elbaum, who are the official project coordinators, pulled together a team of both YC and SCW students to help organize the campaign. Currently the group consists of Joe Hirsch, Avi Robinson, Yaakov Green, Sarah Emerson, Abby Calm, and Miriam Colton.

In the past week, many YC and SCW students, mainly from out-of-town Jewish cities, have been asked to call their local newspapers to make a pitch for *Kol Haneshama* and to contact their old high schools for potential writers. "We have put together a great team of Yeshiva students to work on the project, representing

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## Uptown Campus Named Wilf Campus

By Alisa Rose

Last week the Main Campus was officially renamed the Wilf Campus, in appreciation to the Wilf family of Hillside, NJ for a \$10 million gift that will be directed primarily toward enhancing the beauty of the uptown campus.

Eight million dollars of the donation will fund projects to enhance the beauty of the Yeshiva University Main Campus in Washington Heights, while the remaining money will be directed toward the family's continued support of the Wilf Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship Fund to benefit YC, SCW, and SSSB students.

"The campus enhancements are expected to improve the quality of campus life and the overall academic experience of students," according to a Yeshiva University press release.

The beautification projects, which will include alterations in the Tenzer Gardens area adjacent to Belfer Hall, the installation of a sculpture identifying the campus and landscaping of the lawn in front of the Max Stern Athletic Center, a redesigning of the southeastern entrance to the campus on Amsterdam Avenue, and the installation of new lighting posts, will be implemented in stages.

The improvements, some of which may require city approval, are slated to begin in the spring and continue throughout the summer, so the first most obvious signs of the name-change will be on Yeshiva University stationary, some of which already bears the new name.



An "attractive display" of banners will be erected throughout the uptown campus to say both "Yeshiva University" and "Wilf Campus," according to vice president for development, Dan Forman.

"We have a pre-existing model of how to treat campus names," said Forman, citing the Einstein campus, which is now referred to as the Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus. "The Main Campus will be referred to as the Wilf Campus in all forms of recognition."

The donors, Joseph Wilf, a member of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University, and his wife Elizabeth Wilf, a member of the Board of Trustees of Stern College for Women, will be thanked in a public ceremony, expected to take place in the fall 2002, after some of the beautification projects have been completed.

The Wilf family, which has supported Yeshiva University for many years, made its first "benefactor-level contribution" 11 years ago, when it established a major scholarship fund for financially needy or academically deserving students of

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## Hundreds Gather in Catskills for 12th Annual Model U.N.

### Third Topic and Administrative Assistants Debut this Year

By Rachel Horn

Over 700 people, including delegates from 35 high schools, Yeshiva College students and SCW students, packed Kutcher's Hotel on Sunday, February 10 to Tuesday, February 12 to participate in Yeshiva University's twelfth annual National Model United Nations.

Secretary General Shai Barnea, together with Yael Shmuel and Michelle Ross, Under-Secretary Generals, implemented several new elements at this year's convention.

One such development was the addition of a third topic released subsequent to the original two main areas of research. YUNMUN released the third topic on February 1, giving the delegates less time to research, and forcing them to think on their feet.

"In the past, some committees had finished both topics by the fourth session," explained Barnea. "We felt that the third topic would stimulate the sessions and enhance the conference." Added Shmuel, "The way I see it, it was a back up."

However, some members of the YUNMUN staff felt the third topic should have been implemented under different circumstances. "The topic could have been introduced in August, when the kids had time to research it," Jenni Rosenberg, Chair of ECOFIN stated. "They were hesitant to speak about the issue."

Another innovation was the creation of the role of administrative assistant. This position replaced the prior job of the rappateur, who served as a vessel between the committees and the resource room. The administrative assistant's job was to type the working papers and resolutions in the actual committees and then proceed to carry the documents to the resource room in order to photocopy them for distribution.

This development enabled more of the staff to have closer contact with the committees and delegates. "I gained involvement with the kids and further understood the issues

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High school students act as delegates to the U.N.

## 8TH FLOOR AT 215 LEX OPEN FOR BUSINESS

By Sari Moskowitz

As always, the beginning of a new semester poses many hassles to students, and purchasing books and school supplies should not be one of them. Fortunately, in January 2002, Barnes & Noble, SCW's "pop-up" bookstore, opened its doors on the 8th floor of SCW's 215 Lexington Avenue building. Unlike in past semesters, when SCW's bookstore existed in a classroom or in the lobby of the 215 building, this year's bookstore created a user-friendly environment that allowed students to make purchases without waiting on a crowded line for extended periods of time.

Most students, many of whom were unaware that SCW owned the 8th floor of the building, were surprised and thrilled to see the new use of space. "It's convenient, especially since I'm an SSSB student so I'm already in that building," praised Sara Brodsky, SSSB junior. "It makes good use of the space SCW



Observer sources speculate that the Art Annex will soon move to 215 Lexington

store closed on February 7, the 8th floor will now remain available if there is a need for space in the future.

On the whole, the placement of the bookstore on the 8th floor received the acclaim of most SCW students. "It was great," said SCW senior Dafna Schindler of the 8th floor bookstore. "It was much less hectic than on the first floor. They told you right away if your book was there," remarked Schindler, comparing this year's system to last year's.

Unlike in the past, students were requested to make their selections before they reached the front of the line, so that the vendors would be able to search for the books as quickly as possible.

"Previous locations didn't have enough room, and now it's comfortable for buyers and sellers," added Brodsky. Yet perhaps the most successful part of SCW's expansion to the 8th floor is the message that it sends to its students- that YU intends to make its students as comfortable as possible in the midtown campus.