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The Unlikely Union between Uptown and Midtown

The Special Issue
that Never Was

Purim 2002

All's fair in the name of Purim

Volume XLV Number 3000

Roshei Yeshiva Repeal Takana of Rabbeinu Gershom

Polygamy Back at YU

By Rabbi Hochberg

Propelled into action by the *Observer's* coverage of the dating crisis, President Rabbi Norman Lamm finally succeeded in forming a committee of YU *Roshei Yeshiva* and leaders, which he had failed to convene ten years ago. After long deliberation over the most effective solution to the dating problem, the committee decided to abolish the *takana* of Rabbeinu Gershom, which forbids a man from marrying more than one wife. Although the *takana* of Rabbeinu Gershom has been in effect for a thousand years, the *Roshei Yeshiva* felt that the current crisis warranted a repeal for YU students of the long-standing custom.

The decision has taken the entire YU community by surprise. Some people question the need for the revocation of the age-old decree. "If there are 1200 boys at YC and 1000 girls at SCW why are girls having such a hard time finding a guy," questioned Leah Gertwosky, the only math major at SCW.

Yeshiva College students on the whole have been very pleased with the annulment of the *takana*. "This has certainly eased the pressure to find one single person to spend your entire life with," said Joe Lieber, YC junior.

At the other end, married women at Stern have been expressing great consternation over the revocation of the *takana*. "I think this was a terrible, terrible solution," said Shaindi Sorgen, SCW junior, who was just married at the beginning of the year.

However, according to Shana Strauch, SCW senior, married women at Stern have no right to complain. "Now the married women here are upset," explained Strauch. "But maybe if these same women would have been less selfish, and would have tried harder to set up their single friends, it wouldn't have come to this."

Single women at Stern are ambivalent about the revocation of the *takana*. "On the one hand, I always dreamt of having a husband for myself," said Mindy Allein, SCW senior. "But at least my married friends can no longer use the 'tired excuse' that their husband's friends are all married."

The "shidduch club," composed of married women in Washington Heights, received the news of the recent developments in YU with joy. "Now our job has been made much easier," said Adina Helfer, a leader of the club, who previously wished to remain anonymous to avoid being inundated with calls by single women, but is now allowing her name to be printed. "While previously, a man's initials could only be handed over to one girl, now they could be had by all."

The mixed response among YU students is mirrored by a similar spectrum of opinions among *rabbeim* and leaders at YU.

"This is a direct result of the shift to the right here at YU," complained Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva. "Perhaps if girls and boys would have been encouraged by their schools in Israel to

socialize in appropriate venues, the way we did when we were younger, this could have been avoided."

"This is not what I meant when I said that YU needs to change its culture," exclaimed Rabbi Aaron Cohen, a Judaic Studies teacher at SCW, who had suggested that setting people up needs to be more part of the mindset here at YU.

"I knew that it was a poor editorial decision on the part of the *Observer* staff to bring the dating issue into the spotlight," commented Dean Karen Bacon. "The status of Orthodox women, which SCW has been quietly revolutionizing, has been set back by a millennium."

In an exclusive interview with Rabbi Aaron Lichtenstein, Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion, and considered by many to be the leader of the Modern Orthodox world, R' Aaron said, "The zeitgeist solicits metamorphosis, albeit, metamorphosis can be parlous. As Shakespeare said, 'Thou art in a parlous state, shepherd.'"

When questioned by the *Observer* about his opinion over the revocation of the *takana*, Rabbi Aharon Kahn, Rosh Yeshiva at YU, wanted to know Rabbi Lamm's position on the matter. When told that Rabbi

Lamm supported the decision, Rabbi Kahn said, "Well, then I oppose it."

Rabbi Yonasan Sacks, another Rosh Yeshiva at YU, claims that when he drove the Rav to the airport in 1983, the Rav indicated that rescinding the *takana* of Rabbeinu Gershom would be a wise idea but the RCA would never approve. However, Rav Herschel Reichman says that when he walked the Rav to his home in Brookline in 1986, the Rav raved about the vision of Rabbeinu Gershom.

Both Rabbis Michael Rosensweig and Herschel Schachter felt that rescinding the *takana* was a poor solution. "The extremes are easiest to explain but hardest to justify," commented Rabbi Rosensweig. In a similar vein, Rabbi Herschel Schachter said, "We have a tradition from the Talmud that you have to be a normal person."

R' Mayer Twersky, after long pause and careful deliberation said, "La'anuyus daati, but I think it's *emes*, I think you can be *medayek* from an extra *vav* in R' Chaim on *hilchos Yom Tov* that this is *mutar*. Yes, this is *emes*." The exact nature of the *diyuk* is being disputed among R' Twersky's closest *talmidim*.

Rav Mayer Goldwicht exclaimed "*pilei pelaim*," but whether he was in favor or opposed to the decision is unclear.

Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Judaic Studies Department at SCW, said, "You have to understand the historical context of Rabbeinu Gershom's *takana* and the economic, social, political and religious tides sweeping through the Ashkenazic community of Northern Europe to fully appreciate the implication of this decision."

Rabbi Ben Chaim, the only Sefardi Rosh Yeshiva at YU stated, "The Ashkenazim have finally come around to see it our way."



Wedding of a YU double couple, where friends of one the brides are separated by a mechitzah throughout the celebration.

Observer and Commentator Unite For Special Issue

Socol Appointed as Student Advocate

By Singer, Shapiro, Colton, Levine, Litt, Streit,
Levine, Moskowitz, and Kraut

In an unprecedented move, the *Observer* and *Commentator* have joined forces as the *CommenObserver*. The *Observer*, the obviously superior paper, has conceded to allow *Commentator* staff to contribute articles, to be severely edited for length and content.

The *CommenObserver* was initiated after the appointment of Sheldon Socol as the student advocate. Rabbi Lamm's final act of desperation as a lame duck president was to appoint Socol because of his rapport with the students.

"I don't talk to students, much less reporters," asserted Socol as three *Observer* reporters (luckily there are only three) surrounded him, before his secretaries whipped out their staplers to ward off the attackers. "And if I would talk to you, it would be too inappropriate to put in your publication."

Regarding Socol's last remark, the *Observer* reporters decided to expand the inappropriateness of their publication by joining with the *Commentator* for a special issue to publicize the news. *Commentator* editors were originally unavailable for comment because they were too busy trying to get out their last issue.

The students were horrified at Socol's appointment, claiming that closed doors, obnoxious comments, and nasty looks do not invite student confidence.

"Sheldon is the guy for algebra homework," commented Aura Shapiro under her pseudonym Pinchas. "But when it comes to intimacy, it can't be Sheldon. It's in the name."

Furthermore, students were fearful that Socol's wife, daughters, and extended family will now fill all available and unavailable positions at YU.

"We got rid of the P.A. system because we were afraid that Socol was listening," commented Carole Silver, professor of English. "With Socol as the student advocate, YU might become a dictatorship."

This special issue was published in the *Observer* cubicle in Brookdale Hall. Three *Commentator* editors and 12 security guards piled into the cramped quarters.

continued on page 6



Married men make up majority of shidduch club in Washington Heights for fear of being labeled "Selfish" like their wives

F A R S I D E



New Candidates for
Lamm Presidency

Page 4



Nine-Year Old
Harassers
Apprehended by
SCW Security
Lobby

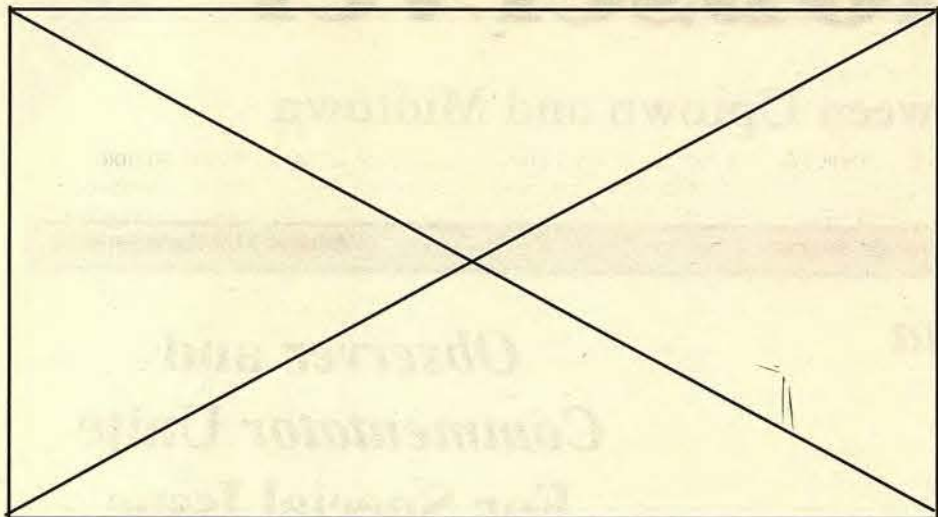
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After-effects of
EdenWok Dinner

Page 78

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The Commen-Observer is published sporadically during the academic year with haphazard funding from Soleimani and Shapp. The staff of the Commen-Observer cannot maintain cordial relationships long enough to publish an issue. All lengthy and irrelevant editorials solely express the opinion of Sour Kraut. Complaints about inter-campus bias and lack of communication should be directed to Colton. For a summary of the annotated version of Levine's columns see index. Any material that is inappropriate, in poor taste, or pseudo-intellectual is due to our new additions of Pinky and the brain.

Miriam and Adina

Nocturnal Narcissists

Margueya Novick
Resident Cynic

Zach Streit and Jessica Jacobs
Shidduchim researchers

Rachel Fyman
Hitman

Ariela Dworetzky
Conscience

Shmuli and Pinky
negative influences

Yehuda Shmidman
phasing out

Steven I. Weiss
Beggar

Caryn Litt and Shai Barnea
Satirists

New Dress Code Implemented

Stern Gear:

Sweater Sets \$60

Pleated skirts \$5

Opaque Tights \$30

"Gird your Loins with Valor."

checks should be made payable to
Rabbi Kahn or Rabbi Kanarfogel

Quote/Unquote The Editors



"While walking in the cafeteria, I passed the iridescent salad bar, and saw the reflection of my well worn denim jacket and green linen skirt that I bought on sale yesterday that my roommate thought looked cute but stereotyped me as Stern. I had an epiphany while serving myself cauliflower, that I am both tough, yet really sensitive...."



"Last year, I had the privilege of shmoozing with Rabbi Lamm while he was waiting for a Friday night flight, and respectfully badgered him about increases in tuition. Well, Norman, I don't like it."



"In a tone tinged with hubris, Rosengarten once called me a 'gal.' For the fifth time, I realized that the campuses need to be united, to rid Yeshiva higher-ups and students of chauvinistic sentiments. One night in the cafeteria, someone asked me to pass the salt. It was then that I knew that the campuses can no longer remain apart, to maintain the ideology I so admire."



"I'm an inveterate cynic. I know better than anyone how to choose a new president, spend Yeshiva's monies, and expunge Sheldon Socol, a Sisyphean homosapien. I compose columns on why I despise YU, and Miriam writes columns on why she hates me."

New Clubs at YC



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We Want You!

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Letters to the Editors

Think Out of the Box

To the editors:

I think the Yole Ambulette TVs are a disgrace. Let's run through a few reasons: 1. There is never one channel that everyone agrees on, thus detracting from the overall achdus on the van. 2. If people really need to watch television, why can't they buy their own personal watchman? 3. The van drivers are incompetent at best, the added distraction of TV only further insures accidents. We, the Chosen Ones of Modern Orthodoxy, must continue on our mission to define what Torah U'Madda means.

Adam Felsenthal
YC 2004

Spoiled Brats II

To the editors:

I'm utterly disgusted by you Stern JAPs. You lazy bums, all you do is shop. You never worry about the homeless and the people struggling in Cambodia. I have been counting my blessings since I was Editor-in-Chief of my high school paper for five and a half years, coming in seventh for the Farmingdale County Ribbon of Excellence. I would never allow such brats to write for my paper.

David Zelingher
YC Misogynist

You've Got Mail

Dear Editors,

The reason I'm writing to you is because you're the superior paper. Your quotes are more accurate, your pictures are more vivid, and your writers are of a higher caliber.

I have sat idly by while the Commentator time and time again has hurt its students and embarrassed the entire Yeshiva community. Guys, take lessons from the Observer, and maybe you'll pick up a few women, and maybe even a few readers.

Jason Koslowe
YCSC Treasurer

Offended in Kaffiene

To the editors:

I like my short skirts. I make most of my living off of tips. You're just jealous of my legs.

Sincerely,
Deedi "Hot Stuff" Deluchi
Waitress in Kaffiene

Ahavat Yisrael

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
It's time to go home.

KUMAAAAAAH!!!
Ezra Levine

Typoes

Dear Editors:

Regarding the article about the bone marrow drive, I just wanted to let you know that it was the brest article I've read in a long time.

Rabbi Metzger



While calling Ilan on her phone the SCW student said, "I'm desperate for a male."



Rosenrauch heard, "Separate hours for the sale."

It was all a case of bad communication.

Get Restrex.



Potential Rabbi Lamm Replacements



Gary Condit

Consequence: All Stern students are now missing (and possibly pregnant)

First major change: To move his office to the Stern campus

Motto: Just do it

Rabbi Saul Berman

Consequence: All Rosh Yeshivas switch to Landers

First major change: Talmud Program receives semicha

Motto: Torah U'MADDAfication



Rabbi Shlomo Riskin

Consequence: Students required to move to Efrat upon graduation

First major change: Rise in Tuition: Checks made out to Riskin

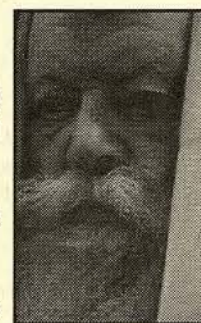
Motto: My way or the highway

Dr. David Berger

Consequence: YU goes bankrupt from abrupt ceasing of Lubavitch donations

First major change: Bans Chabad club

Motto: Moreinu Rebbeinu Adonainu The Rav



Dean Karen Bacon

Consequence: Sy Syms closes

First major change: Rabbi Kanarfogel's signature no longer valid on Add/Drop forms

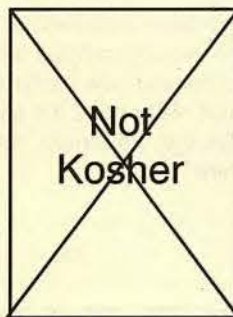
Motto: Excellence

Rabbi Eliyahu Falk

Consequence: Women wear non-descript, shapeless burlap sacks to class

First major change: Oz Vhadar Levusha replaces The Guide

Motto: Women are the gateways to Gehennom



Bibi Netanyahu

Consequence: New curriculum to include marathon orations

First major change: Give back Amsterdam Avenue between 184th and 185th to locals

Motto: Location, location, location

Layout

Problems

Stern Institutes Freezer Policy

By Richard Nochimson

Due to the prevalent perception that SCW is exclusively a place to get married, SCW has instituted a "freezer policy." This policy, modeled after SCW's brother school Lakewood Beis Medresh Gavohah, includes a mandatory three semester waiting period before a student can begin to date. The new policy will deter students who are solely seeking soul mates from attending SCW, therefore enhancing the academic environment.

"Stern College for Women is an academic institution, where these young women of the future can flourish and achieve ultimate excellence in all areas of study," commented Dean Bacon. "Marriage is certainly an individual's prerogative, yet our women will rise above this plague of mediocrity."

Mirroring the residency requirement, a Stern student is now required to complete 84 credits as a single women living in the dorms. However, if a student spent freshmen year being indoctrinated by the brainwashing institutions of Jerusalem, she will have to complete 105 credits, including Nochimson's Sexual Ed 101, and three gyms before she can begin dating. This is to combat the misguided notions of womanhood and marriage imparted at Darchei Binah and the like.

"My Rav Hagaon shlita told me to think that this is the best time to date because the seminary hashpa'ah will not have worn off yet," said Gittel (previously Jasmine) Kurland. "If I don't marry my tzadik now the apikorsus at Stern might affect me."

All seniors who qualify for freezer clearance will be invited to an exclusive shiur by Mashigiach Ruchani Saul Berman, which will teach students how to protect themselves and their money from men.

"We will discuss the deoraitta component of pre-nuptial agreements," said Berman. Students are advised to



Rachel Shtern caught sneaking off to brother school for forbidden date

bring their personal mesechet gittin.

The process for applying for "coming out of the freezer" requires several encounters with the registrar's office. Each senior will receive her senior check to insure that she has fulfilled all her requirements. Next, she must complete a freezer clearance form similar to the FAFSA form. Mrs. Grim, the blond lady, will collect these forms from 7 to 7:17am. She will collect the revised sixth edition, at a time to be announced. Students can pick up a Hershey's kiss on their way out.

Additionally, students are required to submit a personal statement entitled, "How dating will enhance the overall Weltanschauung of Torah Umadda."

However, since few students at SCW what Weltanschauung or Torah Umadda mean, the rule will eradicate all dating.

"The future of our people is at stake," cried Yaakov Green, a YC student, who organized a petition to revoke what he considers a flagrant violation of human rights.

Punching Bag in the Gym (Goodbye Norman Lamm)

To the Tune of Candle in the Wind By Elton John

Goodbye, Norman Lamm, though we never knew you at all
You raised a fair share of money, but the amount we saw was small
You brought us from the woodwork, though they made you "play the game"
So from rabbi to doctor they made you change your name

Chorus:

And it seems to me that you lived your life like a punching bag in a gym
Being beaten by the right, at Yeshiva's whim
I would've liked to know you, but you were not around
Everyone will remember you, but you're just a legend at midtown

Tyranny was tough, toughest role you ever played
Yeshiva created a superstar, Torah U'Madda would never fade
After twenty five years, you got us to be forty-one
Yet, your successors- if they find one- may unravel all you've done

Chorus

Goodbye, Norman Lamm, though I never knew you at all
You had the grace to hold yourself
While those around you crawled
Goodbye, Norman Lamm
From this link in the Yeshiva fam
Who see beyond your goatee
And remember you as our sacrificial Lamm

Chorus

New Van Service Between School Buildings

By Lazy Raizy

With the onslaught of a new building catering to Sy Syms students and various other classes (colloquially referred to as the "Lexington Building," thereby differentiating from the other school building, also located on Lexington), an inevitable complaint has arisen. While the building is frequented by most of Stern at some point throughout the day, and is situated two blocks away, the administration has yet to establish van service to help the students in their commute.

"I don't get it," stated one SCW freshman. "I mean, doesn't my daddy pay enough for the school to accommodate me just this once?"

Students were greatly disturbed by the lack of transportation allotted to this new site on campus. "After all, they want us to come to class, don't they?" commented an SCW junior. "At some point, you're in the other building and you have to ask yourself- is this class really worth the effort?"

Martinez, one of the van drivers asserted, "Look here, you know, we have vans going to all these places- the girls can walk the two blocks, you know what I'm sayin'?"

One of the factors raised by the Student Life Committee in this hotly debated issue was the weather. Several girls, after fixing their hair in the morning, will leave their dorm only to find it raining

outside. "We have the option of taking a local to one building, and then we're okay. But that two block stretch to Lex can really kill a good hair day," said an SSSB senior.

Another issue was the evaluation of the other places in midtown where one can take a van. "The way I see it," pointed out an SCW sophomore, "is that way more people go to Macy's than, say, Penn Station or whatever. And yet, it's not like they'll drop us off. If this system is supposed to actually help us out, then why aren't the stops that are actually needed included in the van service?"

"It may not seem like such a big need," conceded one student, "but I bet if they had the vans available, girls would use them." This student also mentioned that she frequently and unabashedly takes the elevator from the caf to the first floor, and will often reschedule her classes upon discovering what building and what floors they're on.

There is currently talk of a moving sidewalk between the two buildings until the administration can decide if extended van service is a possibility.

"We're dealing with a lot of factors," explained a member of the administration. "This may involve another raise in tuition."

HISTORY OF THE WORLD, PART I

We barely thought. We never do. People tend not to like to discuss the past of YU. We disagree. If there's no discussion, there is no change. And is much as people like to hide it, there is definitely a historical problem at Yeshiva. Ultimately, our paper is here to allow students to have something to read in the bathroom, especially those uptown who eat too much Chinese food at Lou Shapp events. How can we sit idly by while our fellow students are in pain?

We are a forum for the past, present and future. Here is our buried past.

According to the Editors

In the beginning, God created Pinky and the brain. Then he created ape. Pinky and the brain, while trying to outthock each other, decided to build Belfar Tower to the top to God, or at least into Socol's office. God punished them and attempted to create confusion by making them speak many different languages. Even though they could not communicate it made no difference. They continued to hock. And God gave up.

According to Hindishe Lee

In the beginning God created a man in gan eden. But wait, has every man been to gan eden? It would be like say every man has been to the Bahamas?! There must be some epidemic of apathy.....Shame....

According to Lou Shapp

In the beginning God create Adam. Then he shortened it to Add. And he also made hotline for all the Eves to call 1-866-ad-ad-ad about his latest event, the GanEdEnWoK.

According to Michal Leah

In the beginning God created man. Then he created woman whose job was to seduce man. But he saw that man and woman weren't having enough fun. So he created war.

According to Dean Bacon

In the beginning, there was Lilith. Oh, and of course Adam. She refused to comply with Adam's demand that she submit herself to him, and in the end fled to midtown by using the Ineffable Name, Rabbi Berman. Then came the meeker Eve. But Adam missed Lilith, and had brief affair with her. To this day, Adam continues to come to midtown on the 9:30 shuttle for brief visits with Lilith.

According to Rabbi Lamm

In the beginning God wanted to create Torah U'Madda. But Adam was not advanced enough for the idea. Until this day, no one knows what Torah U'madda means.

According to SCWSC

In the beginning, we thought Pinky was cute. Or at least not so bad. But then he got married, and Yehoshua Kramer came along. And we're still waiting for the end of the story. ;)

According to Jeffrey Rosengarten

In the beginning there was not enough space. So we got rid of the gals. The end.

According to Sour Kraut

God, don't ever create the world again. I mean it.



Sit Shmira!
Give to the cause!
Smile for the cameras!
1800-Overkill



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We have specially-paced classes for Stern women
Coming Soon...
Elementary Basics of Walking up Stairs

Parshas Haman

By Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh- this is for real
(reprinted from *Shema Koleinu*)

In the footnotes to the sefer "Mechiyas Amalek K'Hilchaso" (p. 465), the author points out a difficulty with the whole premise of the Purim story. In Parshas Haman [Shemos Chapter 16 - many people have the minhag to recite this parsha after shacharis every morning as a segulah for protection against anti-Semites] the Torah tells us "u'bnei yisrael achlu es Haman arbaim shana", the Jews ate Haman for forty years in the midbar. If so, then Haman was already killed by the generation in the desert, so how could he have threatened the Jews a thousand years later during the time of Mordechai and Esther?

To answer this perplexing question, we must first analyze another difficulty raised by Rav V. Havel, in his Shut- Davar HaMosif Hevel, regarding the sugya of chatzi shiur (Yoma 74a). R' Yochanan, who holds chatzi shiur assur min haTorah, assumes that even eating less than a kezayis is called "achilah", and thus assur min haTorah, while Reish Lakish holds that chatzi shiur mutar min haTorah, because eating less than a kezayis is not considered "achilah". R. Havel points out, however, that they ate Haman over a period of forty years (14610 days), as mentioned above, and since we know that Haman was eaten every day (Bamidbar 11:9), they must have eaten less than a kezayis each day. Since the Torah nonetheless uses the language of "achlu es Haman", we see that eating less than a kezayis is called "achilah", which seems to contradict the opinion of Reish Lakish.

The sefer Hakaas Haman K'hilchaso (vol. 2 p. 618) brings down an answer from the Safra D'Tznyosa (a work on the laws of tznius), who explains that Reish Lakish here is consistent with his opinion in Chulin 103b. In that sugya, R' Yochanan holds that achilah is defined by hanaas garon, the pleasure of swallowing food, while Reish Lakish defines it as hanaas meiyayim, the satiation caused by the presence of food in the stomach. If so, then R' Yochanan holds that the Haman eaten over forty years cannot be mitzta'ref to constitute a complete shiur, because the hanaas garon of each day concluded before the next day began. Therefore, he is forced to assume that even eating less than a kezayis constitutes achilah. Reish Lakish, though, would explain that separate meals cannot combine to form a shiur because the satiation of one meal is no longer present when the next meal commences, as the processing of food by the digestive system gradually removes it from the stomach. However, Chazal tell us (see Rashi to Bamidbar 21:5) that when the Jews ate Haman in the desert, they had no need to use the bathroom, as Haman was miraculously assimilated by their bodies without the normal process of digestion. Reish Lakish therefore understood that Haman remained in their stomach throughout the forty years

without undergoing any digestion, and therefore the meals over the entire forty years could be mitzta'ref to a shiur, as they all led to a simultaneous satiation of the stomach, and therefore the achilah Haman was in fact a full shiur of achilah. He therefore holds that chatzi shiur is not considered achilah, as the Torah only uses the word "achlu" by Haman and never by chatzi shiur, and Rabbi Havel's difficulty is dissolved. This approach is advantageous in that it also explains how the Jews could have survived for forty years on Haman alone, eating only a tiny ration each day. If, as we have explained, they were miraculously nourished by Haman even without the process of digestion, then their stomachs were always full and they never needed to eat more than a little snack. In any case, though, it seems that we have not been able to answer our original question, so we must try a different approach.

Perhaps we can solve our original problem, then, by investigating a famous contradiction pointed out by the commentaries on Megilas Esther. In the first perek of the Megilah, we read "v'chamas hamelech ba'ara vo", the king's mother-in-law was Ba'arah-Vo, but later in the seventh perek we are told "v'chamas hamelech shachacha", the king's mother-in-law was Shachachah. This clear contradiction regarding the name of the king's mother-in-law is resolved by the Beis Halevi (quoted in Artscroll's best-selling How to be a Brisker Without Reading Rashi Script) in a classic Brisker fashion by assuming that Achashverosh actually had two mothers-in-laws, as the megilah explicitly records: "gam Vashti haMalkah asesah mishte' nashim", also Queen Vashti was created from two mothers. This peculiar fact about Vashti's lineage was traditionally understood as a miracle (perhaps to add to the Achashverosh's punishment for using the vessels of the Beis Hamikdash). However, in the contemporary era, scientists have actually been able to combine the genetic materials of two females to produce a female embryo, and we can now understand that the ancient Persians must have also possessed this technology, which they used to create Vashti.

Based on this fact, we can then establish that the Persians were able to clone human beings, as it is well known that cloning is a much simpler technological feat than artificial genetic recombination (see *Annals of Reproductive Bibliomancy*, June 1999). The answer to the Mechiyas Amalek K'Hilchaso's question is then clear. Although Haman died during the time of Moshe Rabbenu, the wicked Persian scientists found some of his remaining DNA and cloned it in order to threaten the Jews! (This may be the source from the Torah for Jurassic Park. Also, see above regarding Hannibal.) (Of course, all of the Torah's references to movies are intended only for a ger toshav, who is permitted to watch movies. Any Jewish soul watching a movie violates a Torah prohibition [Vayikra 19:28]. This insight is very

important in solving many of the halachic issues raised by the new technology of cloning. (See *Journal of Halachah and Contemporary Society* XXXIV.) The Poskim discuss whether a clone is considered the son or the brother of his genetic "parent". However, since we see here that Haman's clone was called Haman and considered a continuation of the original Haman, we can learn that a clone possessed the exact same halachic identity as his genetic "parent". Therefore, the two of them would divide the "parent's" property fifty-fifty, and they would each have to give his wife a get in order for her to remarry. It is still unclear whether one who deserves the death penalty in Beis Din could clone himself and have the clone executed instead (see the similar issue raised by the Ov V'Yidoni K'Hilchaso, v. 8 p. 1023), but certainly one who had a contract taken out on him by the mafia could clone himself and let them kill the clone. (Many Poskim point out that this theme would also make a good movie.)

So as not to close without some words of jest, in the spirit of the day, allow me to quote an intriguing observation by Rabbi J. Elbaum (of London) regarding a difficult pasuk in the Megilah. The Megilah tells us that Achashverosh decorated his palace with chur, karpas u'techeles, and it is hard to understand why Achashverosh would want to decorate his luxurious palace with a simple vegetable such as karpas. Rabbi Elbaum answered this difficulty by reference to the famous question of the Lechem Rav (Rabbi Atkins), who notes that the Jews fasted for three days beginning on the thirteenth of Nisan, including the fifteenth of Nisan, and asks how they could fast on Pesach if we know that it is forbidden to fast on a Yom Tov. Rabbi Elbaum answers both of these questions by explaining that Achashverosh knew that if the Jews had faith in Hashem, they would be saved from his evil decree. He realized as well that on the seder night, when we remember the story of Yetzias Mitzraim, all Jews are inspired to put their trust in Hashem, and renew their faith that He will rescue them from their oppressors. Achashverosh therefore used his interior decorating as a ruse to confiscate all of the karpas in his entire kingdom, knowing full well that without karpas we could never hold a Pesach seder and thwart his evil plans. This explains, then, not only the royal need for karpas, but also how the Jews were permitted to fast on Pesach, for without karpas, they never reached the stage of shulchan aruch, and were thus halachically forbidden to eat.

Achashverosh did not realize, however, that the faith of the Jews in Hashem is not so easily effaced, and the Jews placed their trust in Hashem nonetheless, and were ultimately saved. May we too merit to keep our faith intact through the most challenging of circumstances and see the ultimate redemption speedily in our days.

on campus

Students Storm Millner's

By Moishe Singer

The night before taanis esther, 900 SCW students stormed Milners. After weeks of desperate late-night treks to Sims due to Milners being closed and understocked, students expressed their outrage by ransacking the gummy bears. The students picked the lock, climbed over the counter and opened the door to allow the "TV-room regulars" to partake in their illegalities.

On a subsequent sugar high, the students continued their rampage, running down 34th street, heading toward the river. Ill-equipped to make the run, one student wearing Prada high heels started hyperventilating. Security called Hatzolah, and the entire uptown Hatzolah contingent quickly arrived at the scene, with Yehoshua Kramer in tow.

"It was the scariest experience of my life," said Sari Whiner. "Stern should know better than to ask us to run. Yoga is enough for me."

Hatzolah volunteers, all with individual walkie-talkies, pagers and cellphones, were quick to diagnose the ailment. "It was grave and life-threatening," said Gary Snitow, who felt obliged to spend the night in the Brookdale lounge. "Thank God I was there."

Snitow is currently dating Sari Whiner. "This is the highest achievement of Hatzolah," said Rabbi Blau. "What a natural setting to meet in."

The remaining students continued their rampage to the Schottenstein convenience store, ending a the five-block, two hour walk.

Security's role in the affair remains muddled, with an exclusive *Observer* source supposing that security was the brainchild behind the entire affair. Steven I. Weiss was detained for hours for inciting the stampede. "Students probably saw him and ran," said Hoise Gtafadat, the newest 20 year old security guard.

"Security specifically targets me," commented Steven I. Weiss, who was lurking outside of the Brookdale lounge when the event occurred. "Why wouldn't the next person they go after be my sister Sharon?"

Responding to the irrelevance of his remark, Sharon Weiss responded that she would rather comment in the *Commentator* because they are the better newspaper. When confronted with the fact that the



Brother and sister suspects in security scams

Commentator will not becoming out ever again because they have decided to merge with YU Today, Weiss responded, "Oh well, I guess I'll never talk."

The aftermath of the storming of the Millners has left a shaken administration and triumphant student body. Some students were exuberant at their colleague's display of heroism. "It's about time someone stood up for the Stern students," commented Dean Himber. "But being that it's not my job, I think the students did a valiant act."

In response to the Millners raid, Lou Shapp decided to organize a rally which he entitled MillRally. "This day will live in infamy," said Sha, who once more abbreviate his name. "Call 1866 LOUSHAPP." The attendance at the rally was abundant, although only five SCW students attended for fear that they would be stigmatized as attendees of coed events.

"I can't meet guys at these events," said Rachel, SCW junior. "If I could meet guys, do you think I'd be living in a crowded room in Brookdale." Instead, Rachel and her friends have signed up on bashert.com, a kosher "coed" activity.

SCWSC instead opted for a movie night, supposing *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* to be the ideal choice.

Joint Issue

continued from front page

The guys came equipped with kegs of beer, hookahs and cigarettes to inspire them, yet erupted in a brawl once under the influence. Violating shomer nagiah, Susanne Goldstone got Zack in a hemlock before giving Shmuli a bloody nose.

The only verbal argument that marred the otherwise perfect night was what to entitle the prestigious publication. *Commentator* staff felt it should be called the *Observer*, admitting their inferiority to the *Observer*. Even though *Observer* editors agreed that they surpassed their counterpart, they insisted on arguing merely to prove that they were considering applying to law school. The *Observer* editors triumphed and the publication is named the *Comment-Observer*.

"I'm proud that the editors argue about everything," commented Dean Hecht, pre-law advisor.

This special issue was graciously sponsored by David Zelinger.



Observer graciously allows *Commentator* to use stands following joint issue

Midtown Campus named Aphrodite Campus

By Peter Ferrara

In a move epitomizing how SCW will be viewed in the upcoming century, the midtown campus has been renamed the Aphrodite campus, due to a generous donation by the Soloveitchik family who liken themselves to Aphrodite. This name is meant to reflect the structure and purpose of Stern College which will now focus more exclusively on the appearance of the female students.

"I'm really glad that Stern girls are finally going to pay attention to the way they look," commented Rabbi Oratz. "It's not fair to those of us who see them every day that they look like shlumps."

The initial \$8 million of the donation will go to line the pockets of the various administrators who helped secure this donation.

"I desperately needed a new car so I can never leave the uptown campus," asserted Rabbi Lamm.

The next \$15 million will go to erect a massive sculpture in the middle of 34th street that will give chizuk to the women at Stern College as they trek between Brookdale Hall and the main building. This sculpture will be Michelangelo's David so that Stern women will at least have some contact with members of the opposite sex.

"I was thinking that my exposure to art was inadequate at Stern College," commented SSSB senior Rachel Shtern who has never taken an art class in her life,

and is wondering why her view adequately represents the view of Stern women. "I've always wanted a life size nude on my front lawn."

The YU vans- which now only run once a day, accommodate 12 passengers and must travel through Teaneck, but do boast virtual reality entertainment for its passengers - will transport students from the Wilf campus to the Aphrodite campus. Nevertheless, the Soloveitchik grant can only cover the costs of new statues, potted plants, and the fixing of cracks in the sidewalks. Thus, tuition is expected to increase next year to pay for the daily expenses of students.

"As long as we continue to be a top-tier university, we might as well increase tuition," commented Dean Snow in an exclusive interview with *Observer* reporters, asking repeatedly "Are you guys the same as the *Commentator*?"

The naming of the campus has had the effect of polarizing YU students into the revolutionary uptown/midtown division, with each desiring to be like the other. "We want to be like the boys," whined SCW students. "We want a new dorm and Maya Angelou like the girls," whined YC students. Wondering how the sculpture had any impact on this division, Dean Bacon asserted "What sculpture? Peter Ferrara hasn't returned my calls."



David to highlight 34th Street



The Student Life Committee asked, "Run them as often as you can."



Jeffreys Rosengarten and Socol heard, "One an hour and bigger vans."

It was all a case of bad communication.

Get Restrex.

verizon

Personals

Obviously shtark YU masmid seeks biting sarcasm woman who fervently says tehillim while being mevatel zman on Thursday nights. Help this buddy get his facts straight! Call the Observer, we'll set you up.



Can I treat you to sheperd's pie? 7 p.m. in the caf. We'll put it on my card.



Looking for Hispanic man. Looks good in a uniform. I'll show you my I.D.....



I was too frum to talk to you. You were too frum to talk to me. I was buying Pliskin's marriage guide. You were buying Shas. I went to the sefarim sale from 6-8. You were there from 8-10. Let's get together

for a kezais of cake.

The CommenObserver welcomes all personals. Please submit them to Rabbi Blau for approval.

Semicha YU guy looking for left wing, talmida chachama to support me.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SHTARK WHEN YOU....

10. read the Observer
9. don't know what floor the beis medrash is on
8. have seen a movie in the last 2 years besides the "Lights of Chanukah"
7. speak in English without Yiddish idioms
6. take Rabbi Avi Weiss
5. meet your date in the brookdale lounge (instead of the toothbrush aisle in Duane Reade)
4. have not never heard of Brenda's in Brooklyn
3. are on SCWSC
2. have never read Pliskin's book on "How to be a Perfect Wife."
1. go to Lou Shapp's events

Model UN Sued for Nepotism

Not written by Caryn Litt

In a shocking revelation after heated email and phone arguments, The Observer has confirmed that Model UN employs extreme nepotism in its appointments of positions. Secretary Hocker Shai Barnea was appointed amidst rampant chauvinism in which SCW students got the raw deal. Women at the conference were relegated to making coffee and serving as waitresses while amazingly, YC students - particularly those who hock for the Commentator - were appointed to all the high positions.

Among these boys is Nascent Editor-in-Chief Shmuli (Sam) Singer who not only deemed himself worthy of an Anglicized name change, but also felt himself too brilliant to attend an interview with Barnea. "I'm so mentally equipped that my applications to medical schools exonerate me from any mortal activity," whined Shmuli Singer in a two minute cell phone interview before he hastened to inform The Observer for the fifth time that he had to go call his girlfriend. "Model UN should be enumerating their blessings on their good fortune that I will bestow my presence on their measly conference."

Nevertheless, Singer received the highest position at the conference of Chief Justice in a high profile case between the Dean of Students and the expelled student, who could not attend shacharis that day. Even though this appointment reeked of injustice, Singer ironically agreed to accept this position, believing himself to be the only one capable of rendering justice.

The Beginning

The Observer initially got wind of the scandalous appointments when they received an anonymous fax from West Hempstead. After paging Barnea,

because he refused like many others to provide the editors with his cell phone number, Colton accused Barnea of keeping Stern College at arm's length, davka analogizing Barnea to the tofel and Miriam to the ikar. After a protracted argument, Adina Levine who was busy making snide comments chimed in with another one of her untimely tactless jokes, asserting "Let's accuse Shai of sexual harassment."

Streit, not of Mazah company family but of the Yeshiva-basher Streits, who needed to be involved in every Commentator-Observer discussion, offered his advice on how to research, investigate, compose, and layout the story.

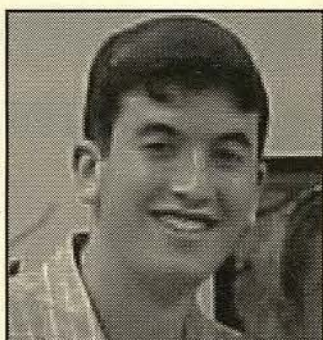
The Middle

Model UN is currently being sued by anonymous Observer staff, with a grand jury indictment of verbal abuse, phone evasiveness, nepotism, bribery, and kissing-up. Barnea, who is currently preparing a 350 page brief, has retained the law services of Yeshiva Counsel Martin Blockstien who became Barnea's hero after denying Diane's demand for dollars.

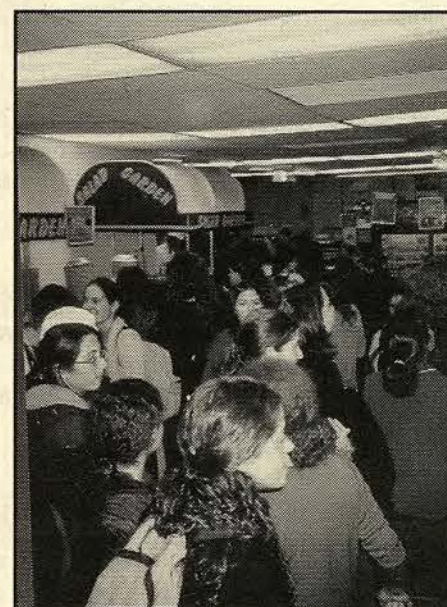
Pinchas Shapiro, who decided to stay at YC for another year to edit Barnea's "brief," eagerly emailed the Observer with the most important fact that he would be privileged to be at the midtown campus next week to discuss the issue, and the girls should hype themselves up accordingly. "Ladies," commenced Shapiro, "I am always respectfully yours."

The End

Barnea denies ever being wrong in any situation, and claims, "this article is @\$%." (The Observer reserves the right to edit all quotes for content)



The Defendant



Cattle Prod implemented to control overcrowding in cafe



Where's Waldo?

CAMPUS BRIEFS

No Zitti in the Cafeteria Last Week. In an unprecedented move, the cafeteria did not serve baked zitti even once last week. It was not available in either the main cafeteria or Koch, for lunch or dinner. Mr. Singer, director of food services, confirmed that this was the first week in the annals of Stern that had not seen at least one meal of baked zitti, but refused comment as to the reason for this. Students are currently organizing a protest rally scheduled for club hour this week. For more information, please contact the "Bring Back the Zitti" Campaign managers.

Psych Majors Set a Record As the deadline approaches for seniors to file for graduation this May, the Dean's office has come out with interesting statistics. Of the 250 women planning to graduate in May 2002, 200 are Psychology majors. Of the remaining 50 students graduating, 47 are bio majors who plan to do graduate work in the areas of occupational or physical

therapy. Three students who filed for graduation have yet to declare a major, but all three are minoring in Judaic Studies.



Students board van to catch latest episode of "Friends"

New Van Service Praised by Students. Due to pressure by the Student Life Committee, Stern College will now be providing van service to and from Macy's Department store on 34th St. While the vans between the Main and Midtown campuses will continue to run on an hourly basis, the new "Shopping Shuttles" will

run every fifteen minutes, from Sunday to Thursday, during hours in which Macy's is open. Students have already raised concerns about the lack of scheduled service on Fridays, but the administration has not ruled out the option.

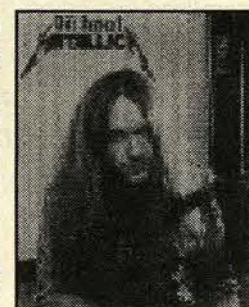
The next honors course will be a chauvinism course offered by Jeffrey Rosengarten. The course will examine the works of Plato, Hamilton and Hugh Hephner.

In response to student life committee complaints, security instituted an uptown elevator that will run express from the lobby to the eleventh floor every hour, and a local elevator that will stop on every floor. However, after an outpouring of complaints, facilities got fed up and got rid of the entire elevator system. Students are now forced to walk between flights, although there is a fire pole for going down. Students were initially pleased with such an arrangement, because it gave

them the opportunity to work off low fat corn muffins.

For those who want to know what your roommate's extension was 4 years ago the Guide will be now be mailed to members of the alumni association.

Metallica will keynote next TAC chagiga, giving a special lecture "laws of dating" joint with Rabbi Hochberg. Herring will be served after the event.



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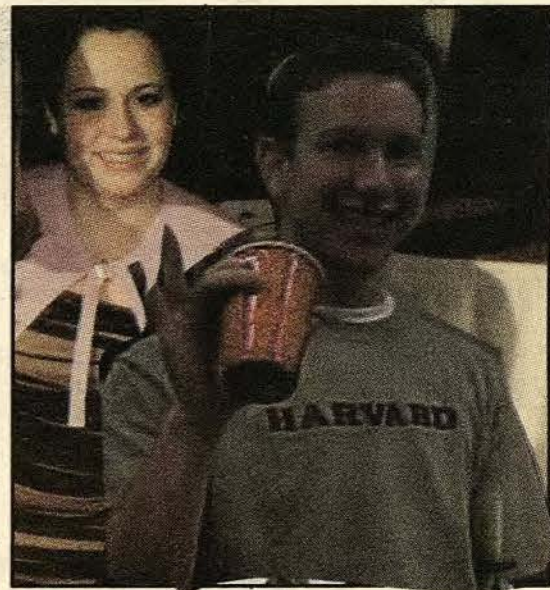
Posted By Rebecca Glass (2/25/02) - Oh my Gosh!!! Who would've thought that a guy who marches in the Old City screaming Jewish songs would hit it off with a one-dimensionally biased girl. I have much to respond to such a right match.






Posted By Curtis Nassau (2/24/02) -I love all you Torah Shielders! I know you will keep your commitment to each other because I saw how you live a life of commitment every day. I hope you plan to speak about tourism to Israel at your wedding. Give me a call sometime...

Posted By Julie Pianko (2/24/02) - Dear Huds and Shads, Wow!!! I am so proud of you guys! You totally accomplished the real goal of Torah Shield. May you be zoche to build a bayis neeman in Yesha. Love, Juls

Posted By Rabbi Waxman (2/24/02) - Mazel Tov! I want to make sure that amidst all the revelries you don't forget to fulfill your ten speaking engagements.

Posted By Rabbi Lamm (2/24/02) - Mazel Tov to my dear and close students Shana and Yehoshua. I take great 'nachas' in this simcha. Wishing you Onlysimchas.



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The Environmental Awareness Club is organizing a HAIR DRIVE!

Students are asked to please gather and save the hairs that accumulate at the bottom of their skirts, in their shoelaces and just about everywhere.

There are huge amounts of hair, of every different color and texture, floating around Stern.

Your hairballs can make a difference!

Tizku L'Mitzvos!