



# Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

April 26, 2002

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## SCW Valedictorian to Address Senior Class at the Garden

By Miriam Colton

Shana (Frankel) Posy, SCW student, will deliver the five-minute student address at the annual May graduation, the first woman to do so since its inception last year. A secular valedictorian, Posy will represent the entire Yeshiva student body at Madison Square Garden.

The joint secular valedictorian Sarit Zauderer, will deliver the valedictory address at the SCW awards ceremony at the end of April.

Last May marked the first time a graduating student addressed the senior class at graduation in more than twenty years. The position of speaker is rotated on a triennial cycle between YC, SCW and Sy Syms, and this year was SCW's turn to designate a representative. Selecting the appropriate speaker last year involved a rigorous process of nominations and interviews, but this year, the deans decided to simplify the procedure.

"Last year the process involved the PR department," said Associate Dean Ethel Orlan. "For this year and henceforth, the speaker will just be the valedictorian and will rotate among the schools."

Zauderer and Posy, who share a 4.0 GPA, were selected as dual valedictorians last week, and decided between themselves who would speak at which event. Since Posy's parents live in Silver Spring, MD, and did not want to travel in

for two events, they agreed that Posy would speak at Madison Square Garden, definitely the more prominent option.

"I'm not scared of public speaking," said Posy. "I rather enjoy it. I'm excited to be the first one from the Stern student body to represent the graduating class."



Shana Posy will speak at graduation

Many students were surprised to learn that hereafter the student speaker will always be the valedictorian. Claiming that the speaker is truly the student representative, some students feel that other factors should be considered, such as school involvement and leadership.

"There's more to it than grades," said Jenny Hersh, SCW junior. "Grades are extremely important, but they don't say everything. I would want an all-around student to represent me as a YU student."

Another problem is that by automatically appointing the valedictorian as the default speaker, the university has not factored in the possible scenario of a valedictorian that might not want to deliver the graduation address or might not be capable of doing it well.

In addition to the automatic selection of the valedictorian as the speaker, the very selection of the valedictorian is also at issue. Some feel that basing the choice of the valedictorian solely on GPA omits

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## Threat of Massive Strike Looms As Negotiations Collapse

### 1199 Workers Lobby for Same Contract as Einstein

By Adina Levine

Separating themselves from the approximately 1,100 Einstein workers who secured their contract last week, the 1199 Labor Union members employed at Yeshiva's Manhattan campuses are preparing for a strike in response to failed contract negotiations. After deciding to notify the university of their intentions to strike, the Manhattan workers voted on Tuesday to authorize the 1199 negotiating team to call a strike

Assembling in the SCW gym during their extended lunch hours, midtown union members voted 63 to one in favor of the authorization, and the Cardozo campus displayed an equally compelling majority of 44 to four.

"We're not voting to strike," explained Stephanie, a librarian. "We're merely voting whether the negotiating team will have the authorization to call a strike. We're going to give the negotiations another chance."

Nevertheless, the workers distributed flyers on Thursday announcing their intention to strike "over poverty and equal pay for equal work."

The 375 workers at the Manhattan campuses - the Wilf campus, midtown, and Cardozo - are lobbying for the same agreement as their Einstein counterparts. The contract, which entails a nine million dollar increase in salaries over the next 42 months, was



Union members picket outside of 245 Lexington

specific to Einstein workers. Though the Manhattan workers are demanding a similar increase, Yeshiva administrators are reluctant to oblige, due to the difference in salary standards between workers for hospitals and workers for colleges.

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## Back to Square One for Presidential Search Process

By Observer Staff

After nine months of inactivity, the 50-person presidential advisory committee reconvened to examine the presidential search process. In the wake of the uproar after Zakheim's candidacy was announced and then withdrawn, the presidential advisory committee reevaluated the entire process at a meeting on April 12th.

The advisory committee, which has not met since the summer, was initially assigned the task of drafting the candidate requirements. It then submitted the draft to the 9-member selection committee, which was charged with finding a suitable candidate.

Selection committee chair Michael Jesselson gave a presentation describing the method of the selection process and how his committee arrived at the Zakheim decision. Part of the ensuing discussion included the committee's future involvement in the search process. The committee, which had met only twice before, asserted the necessity of its participation in the overviewing of candidates in light of the

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## Dr. Edward Levy, Music Professor for 34 Years, Dies at 72

By Suzanne Anziska



Levy will be missed by students

Dr. Edward Levy, chair of the music department at Stern College for Women, died on April 2nd, due to complications with pancreatic cancer. He was 72.

Dr. David Glaser, full-time music professor at SCW and the only remaining professor in the small music department, said Levy would be sorely missed. "He was an imaginative composer, fusing serial procedures and jazz elements into compelling pieces," said Glaser. "At times, Levy was the music department."

Levy was a scholar of all types of music, but he specialized in jazz, and his influence was strongly from the style of bebop. He trained as a jazz musician,

specifically as a clarinet player. "Jazz was his life," said Toby Goldfisher, an SCW senior and music minor who took several courses with Levy along with a number of performance classes. "Many musicians view 'non-classical' music as an inferior idiom. Dr. Levy considered jazz as one of the most complex forms of music. I loved when he would play a selection of Billy Holiday or Charlie Parker and become so passionate about it."

Levy designed the music curriculum as it now exists at SCW and developed the course entitled "The Sense of Music," one that many students at SCW and at YC have taken to fulfill their general requirement in art or music.

According to Dr. Noyes Bartholomew, associate professor of music at YC and long time colleague and personal friend of Levy's, the intro course which Levy created is neither "music appreciation" nor "enjoyment of music."

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**Yeshiva Students Unite for Israel at Rally**

*Support for Israel Continues on Campus*

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## I N S I D E

Senior Yearbook Goes Digital



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### ISSUES AFFECTING WOMEN

- Prenuptial Agreements
- Competitiveness
- Career Choices

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Food Services Faces Charges of Inflated Catering Costs

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## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, April 29**

Awards Ceremony

**Tuesday, April 30**

Susan Choi speaking at Schottenstein Cultural Center

**Wednesday, May 1**

End of year dessert, 8-10 pm

**Thursday, May 2**

Cap and gown distribution  
Koch auditorium, 11am -4 pm

**Sunday, May 5**

Israeli Day Parade

**Thursday, May 23**

Commencement Exercises

**The Observer**

**Welcomes**

**All Comments**

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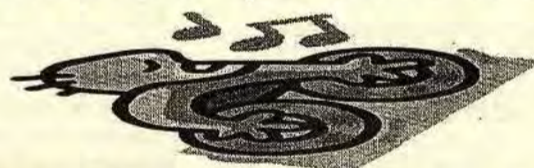
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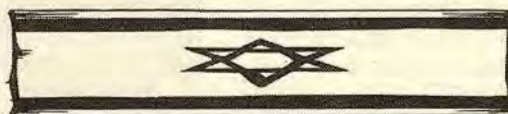


**Monday April 29<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 pm in Koch Auditorium**



**Pick up a sponsor sheet and help raise tzedakah for "Dash Cham"- an Israeli based organization that sends care packages to chayalim who are now defending Eretz Yisrael.**



**Prize for the woman who raises the most money for tzedakah!**

**Dancers get free t-shirts and Dougie's!**

**Come for the raffle, food and fun and do it for a mitzvah on lag b'omer!**



# Message from the Editors



Adina Levine  
Editor-in-Chief

At a recent Student Life Committee meeting, a few disgruntled students were offended at what they saw as

the flagrant violation of the dress code by other students. Whether or not they were justified in taking offense at students donning low-rise jeans or flaunting sleeveless blouses, they looked to the administration to rectify the problem and enforce the dress code it had enacted. Instead of upholding student complaints, administration officials immediately shifted the responsibility of enforcing the dress code to the students themselves, insisting that they approach their peers and comment on their offensive getup in order to create the tznius environment that SCW strives for. Though the administration did accept a role in these affairs, agreeing to more actively enforce the dress code to the best of its ability, the knee-jerk response remained as classifying the enforcement of the dress code as a student responsibility.

At the beginning of this year, the Yankees slid into the World Series for the fifth year in a row. Freshmen and sophomores were content to watch the event from the television lounges in the Brookdale dorm, often having to argue against diehard Buffy fans for control of the remote. But for those few juniors and seniors, the event was a disappointment compared to the big screen television and Dougies that had in previous years highlighted the ceremony.

When my dangerously curious mind inquired as to the change, I was told that the students had not asked for the event. The newly arrived on campus may not have known to ask, and the returning upperclassmen may not have realized the need to ask for an event which had been a regular for the past two years; still, the omission of the event was characterized as the result of lack of student initiative.

This enlarging student responsibility seems to pervade many aspects of Yeshiva's functioning. When I questioned as to why no ceremony was held at Stern on September 11, I was told that no one had asked for one. While wondering why the president of the university did not regularly address Stern students, I was informed that no one had extended an invitation.

It is the student's responsibility to seek out rabbeim for religious guidance, they must make an appointment if desirous of academic advisement, and they must introduce themselves to their deans, psychologists or mashgiach ruchani if there is to be any connection. A college experience is student-initiated with the administration only lurking somewhere in the background. A student is presumed to arrive in college self-motivated (with administrative initiative transgressing the boundary of imposition) and therein lies our first mistake.

All these examples point to a prevalent theme within our university: Yeshiva caters to its students. Certainly this is a positive quality - where else can students request to cancel a day of school for a rally in Washington or successfully organize a massive mission to Israel? Every individual student has the opportunity to build in this college - create a club, organize an event - and even if changing preexisting policy may be somewhat more challenging, the bottom line is that this university affords the individual student a tremendous degree of power.

However, this becomes a drawback when the university relies on the effective use of this power. If a university mandates student initiative for daily operations and requires constant student backlash to correct its wrongdoings, then the university seems to have no independent identity separate from its students. When student power translates into exclusive student responsibility, then for what purpose does

the administration exist? Let us simply have a community of students, and we will determine our own education, social life, and dress code.

This equation would work perfectly if there weren't that fatal flaw called graduation. Granted, some think the registrar does all it can to impede that process, but nevertheless some seniors do graduate, leaving behind perhaps a legacy but an absence of leadership. If a student stay on campus is limited to three years, then with student leaders at the helm, we will continue having the discontinuity characterized by the starting and stopping of clubs that we have witnessed thus far. The Fun Club, the Student Senate, and the Manhattan Club all had their heyday but faded into oblivion once their leaders graduated. Coming to college with a self-focused career path, students naturally exhibit a Louis XV attitude of *Apres moi, le deluge*, who cares what happens to YU after I graduate?

That is why the administration exists. Administrators are intended to help students, lead students, guide students, and provide for students - even and especially when they do not ask. True, there are a select few students self motivated enough to succeed without administrative intervention, but the majority of students need adult leaders and role models emanating from their school. Students may not know of their opportunities until presented with them, and we need administrative initiative to pave the way.

In less than a month, I will reluctantly graduate. I will leave these four walls which some term an *Observer* office, but which by any other standards would be considered a closet. I will step out of this building and cease my dash between Park and Lexington, always late for class. I'd get emotional writing this column, but I have a reputation to maintain, and we all know the value of a reputation.

In reflection of the time I spent at Stern, I must admit that a large portion was devoted to the newspaper. I'd like to thank Miriam Colton, my co-editor-in-chief and good friend for making the experience all the more enjoyable, as well as the dedicated members of the staff (too few to mention) and those administrators who always heralded the efforts if not always the outcomes of our work. But to ensure the continuity of the newspaper, we need activists from both the administration and the student body. Neither one can rely on the other to guarantee that this university maximizes its potential. It is only when the question ceases to be "Whose job is it?" and becomes "What can I do to change it?" that our university will become the best it can be.



Miriam Colton  
Editor-in-Chief

I confess that I was surprised at the response. As the days progressed, more and more stu-

dents signed up to travel to the Washington. By Monday morning coach busses for over half our student body lined the abnormally quiet 34<sup>th</sup> Street. YC cancelled all classes, roshei yeshiva held shiur on the road, our president and deans traveled with us, and the normally sedentary Stern women showed up en masse.

It was inspiring how, in one week, over 100,000 Jews united to demonstrate their support for Israel. The 45-minute walk to the Capitol from the stadium parking lot was the image I have of the future *aliyah l'regel*, only with a different destination. The real success of the rally was not the messages we delivered to the senators or the witty posters we crafted, but the spirit of camaraderie that overtook D.C.

After the inactivity in the 40s on behalf of European Jewry, it was heartening to see that we have learned to overcome the fearfulness that was ingrained in Jewry. We would not sit at home watching CNN, but would travel to D.C. to voice our message.

A week later, I attended a different kind of rally. Held on a chilly, rainy Sunday, the mass *tefillah* gathering on Wall Street featured a different crowd than at the D.C. rally. Here, the streets swarmed with black hats and coats, predominantly comprised of men with a smattering of women. The chants of *tehillim* echoed off the large buildings of the financial district; the tone was mournful, and the weather aptly reflected the solemn mood.

Honestly, I wasn't going to attend this *tefillah* gathering. I figured that a week before I had shlepped to D.C. for 12 hours of a hot day, let alone in a non-air-conditioned bus without windows, to show my support to Israel. If that didn't cut it, what did? I collected money for terror victims and chanted with other ralliers in support of Israel. I

had participated in the ultimate show of political activism.

Over the weekend, I read various editorials and letters criticizing the Agudath Israel's lack of participation in the D.C. rally. I realized I would be equally hypocritical if I did not attend the *tefillah* gathering.

While the Agudath can be disparaged for allowing its rules to infringe on Jewish unity, I would be equally erroneous not to partake in a public demonstration of another form of activism - prayer.

Political activism is key to Israel's survival now, as she needs American support. We went to D.C. with Jews across the spectrum to show the government what we really care about. But Israel also needs our learning and prayer, and Sunday's gathering espoused just that. To be truly committed to helping Israel and other Jewish communities in mercurial situations, we need to balance the message from the week's two disparate gatherings - one of political activism and one of *tefillah*.

In day school we were told of the piety of preceding generations of Jews, simple men and women, who relied on prayer and fasting. But we also learned of the dignity of Tel Hai, of the miraculous War of Independence, and of the stirring capture of the Kotel in '67. And now, over 50 years later, we can't forget the Jewish activism that was a necessary part of the founding of our State.

In our microcosm, Yeshiva finally registers to march in the Israeli Day Parade, Yom Haatzmaut and Yom Hazikaron ceremonies highlight the month, and students continue to raise money for various organizations in Israel and to organize letter campaigns. But along with this political activism, we also have to attend *tefillah* gatherings and *tehillim* assemblies, to come together as a group to implore G-d's help in securing Israel's safety.

We have to pray for our homeland - and we also have to fight for it.

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End of the Year

Observer Dinner

for new and old staff members

May 7  
8 p.m.

Schottenstein Lobby



# Letters to the Editor

## A Certain Amount of Discretion

Dear Editors:

In recent issues of the *Observer* there has been discussion about the student body's uneasiness with certain assigned class materials, specifically in the English department, as noted in an *Observer* article. Art History requires detailed study of religiously driven works, including paintings of the Crucifixion, as well as the study of church architecture. Western Civilization and other history classes mandate readings in the New Testament and studies of the works of the Church Fathers.

I do not wish to debate the halachic validity of reading and studying such works. However, I venture to ask the question, does a Ph.D. qualify a person to decide what is or is not appropriate material to be taught in our school? Why is it that when it comes to kashrus we have stringent supervision, but when it comes to school policy on appropriate selections of material, anything goes?

Of course, just as there are optional stringencies in Kashrus, there may be optional stringencies in self-censorship. But we certainly do not offer every questionable Hashgacha in our cafeteria and then leave it to individual students to decide what will enter their mouths. Nor do we ask cafeteria faculty to determine what should or should not be served in our dining halls. This is not an indictment of our professors for their selections of course material.

In his book defining our school's famed motto, Torah U'Madda, Dr Norman Lamm states, "Openness applied uniformly is openness applied mindlessly. Doing everything, trying everything, tasting everything with no thought to discriminating to the more and less valuable is sure to lead to dilettantism, and is hardly the *shlemut* we seek." It would seem from Rabbi Lamm's perspective that not everything is par for the course. It is an unfortunate situation when a number of students feel compelled to compromise their own ethical standards or face the consequences of working at a significant disadvantage. The administration's confrontation of this issue, an issue that affects the spiritual and academic well being of our entire beloved Yeshiva community, is well overdue.

Rose Blynn  
SCW '03

## Misplaced Analogies

To the Editors,

Since when do we equate tzniut with racism and discrimination? In the article "Can Coed Be Frum?," Rena Goldstein, a Torah Shield II participant, commented on the separation of boys and girls on a bus trip to Yesha. While she was rightfully upset about ending up in the rear of the bus with the rest of the girls, there

was no basis whatsoever for her offensive comparison of that incident to the segregation between blacks and whites on busses in the 1960s.

No one asked the girls on the trip to move to the back of the bus, no one forced them to sit there, no one even gave them dirty looks. They were not discriminated against, but rather voluntarily moved their seats in order to create what they deemed to be a proper separation between the boys and the girls on the bus. Whether the separation was a good idea or not is beside the point. The inclusion of the comment and its unfavorable implications should never have been printed, they were unnecessary and inappropriate.

I would also like to mention that the statistics that appeared in the previously mentioned article were in no way an indicator of the opinions of SCW students. Taking a random sample of Rabbi Kanarfogel's class only reflects the opinions of those people who generally take such accelerated Judaic classes. Admittedly this was mentioned in the footnote at the end of the article, but why would one base an entire article on erroneous information? Do the results of a random sample of New Yorkers about life in the United States reflect what life is generally like as an American? Obviously not.

Sincerely,  
Shoshana Davis  
SCW '03

## What About the Other Half?

To the Editors,

As an alumna of Yeshiva University (SCW 1989), I have followed the presidential search with interest. At the Chag Hasemicha on March 10th I learned more about the controversy surrounding Dov Zakheim's candidacy, both from the protest flyers distributed outside the auditorium, and from Rabbi Dr. Lamm's inspiring words about maintaining the unity of the university. Since RIETS requires rabbinical leadership, I understood that some in the university were considering splitting off the leadership of RIETS from that of the rest of the university, in order to create an appropriate administrative position for Dov Zakheim.

Without commenting on whether Dov Zakheim was the best choice for president, I ask this question. Have women been seriously considered for the position? I accept that it would not be appropriate for a woman to lead RIETS.

However, there is no reason that a qualified woman could not lead the rest of the university, if this position were an option, as it seems to have been for Dov Zakheim. Yeshiva University has produced many talented women administrators, academics, and Torah scholars. Are they considered for any higher leadership positions beyond the obvious one, dean of Stern College?

By restricting its pool of seriously considered presidential candidates, Yeshiva is limiting its own development. It is also sending a message to its women students and alumnae that their talents and accomplishments are not yet completely respected and appreciated.

Miriam Bloom, MD  
SCW 1989  
Silver Spring, Maryland

## Speaking Out for the Community

Dear Editors,

Bravo to *The Observer* for candidly addressing the greatest contemporary issue that affects all religious Jews, regardless of idiosyncratic affiliation. It took particular courage for young women in a religious environment to pursue this issue of shidduchim and dating, and I hope this courage is positively recognized and supported.

The current "system" of dating and marriage is riddled with problems. Tragically, the Jewish community at large failed to acknowledge the scope and severity of these problems until very recently – and by now the situation is out of control. Our leaders and the young people personally affected have been reduced to pointing out the system's many flaws and expressing the need for a "solution."

Everyone knows what's wrong with the system: it's too difficult for religious men and women to meet, and people in general are too concerned with superficialities. Moshe married the daughter of an idolatrous priest. Yehoshua married a former prostitute. R' Akiva hated Torah and didn't learn how to read Hebrew until he turned 40, but a nice Jewish woman

found him suitable – before his reformation. Would any of these people be able to get a date in today's world?

It is the obligation of all religious Jews to effect a massive social reversal. You must encourage your friends to be more outgoing and receptive toward the opposite sex. (This does not necessitate compromising a single halakha in the slightest.) You must avoid all stereotypes, including "modern", "right/left", "black", and which Yeshivot are in or out. If we have the courage to confront contemporary issues in halakha we should have the courage to find the correct balance here as well.

May enough people take this message seriously that the situation can be changed. Too many good people are suffering for no good reason.

Anonymous

*Editor's Note: Due to the nature of the subject and to the validity of the letter's point, we decided to veer from our policy and respect the author's wish to print this letter anonymously.*

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## GRADUATING SENIORS SCW AND SSSB MIDTOWN

### CAP & GOWN DISTRIBUTION

THURSDAY MAY 2

11 AM - 4 PM

KOCH AUDITORIUM STAGE



**THIS IS THE ONLY DAY  
YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR  
CAP AND GOWN**

**NO ATTIRE WILL BE GIVEN OUT  
AT THE THEATER ON  
COMMENCEMENT DAY**

## From the Editors

### Letter to the Commentator a Hoax

After reading a letter in the *Commentator* by an SCW student enraged by the lack of tznius among Kaffiene waitresses, we wanted to meet the student. We searched the halls of SCW for "Chani Feldman," the supposed author of the controversial letter. Lo and behold, Miss Feldman was not to be found. You see, as confirmed by the registrar and the dean's office, Chani Feldman is not a student at SCW nor is she scheduled to graduate in the year

2004 as her letter claimed.

This leaves any reasonable reader with a limited number of possibilities as to the real author of the letter. The most likely possibility is that someone, perhaps a YC or SCW student or a *Commentator* staffer, thought it would be humorous to poke fun at Stern students and their "exaggerated" religious level.

Should we be mistaken, may the real Chani Feldman please stand up.



# Opinions

## Yasher Koach to Our Students

Dear students:

I am addressing you through the medium of your school newspaper in order to reach as many of you as possible.

The matter concerns the Washington Solidarity Rally held on April 15, one which saw Yeshiva send 53 buses and about 2,500 students and faculty to demonstrate on behalf of Israel.

I was enormously impressed, but not at all surprised, by the conduct, demeanor, and maturity of our students. Your seriousness of purpose, dedication to the State of Israel, and awareness of who you are and whom you represent all were obvious to me as well as to others present.

Not only was your comportment in general commented upon by outsiders, but your individual helpfulness to non-YU people as well as to our own participants from the high schools through faculty did not go without notice.

I commend especially the staff people — both the university employees and the students leaders — who conducted themselves with exemplary professionalism, and who went beyond the call of duty to provide aid and comfort graciously to all who needed it.

You have made me, and your teachers and Rebbeim, proud of you. As I said above, I was impressed but not surprised. I congratulate you, and I thank you for inspiring me.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

## Thanks to Yeshiva Students for Their Charity

We wanted to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your concern and worry, as well as for your generous donation in honor of Pesach.

We wanted to tell you that while we have always been a Traditional family, since the murder of Golan, z"l, our family has grown stronger religiously.

Thanks to your donation, Ephraim, the father of our family, who has been unable to work since the tragedy, was able to buy nice new utensils for Pesach. We were also able to switch all the kitchen equipment with kosher-for-Pesach utensils, so that we could enjoy a kosher holiday. Additionally, we celebrated Pesach all together — all the children: Orly, Amira, Moshe, Yif'at, and Avi — with all of their spouses and children.

In spite of our deep sorrow and how much we miss Golan, who was taken from us before his time, we merited celebrating

## Teachers, Listen Up

To the Editors:

As a student at Stern College for Women, I look to the professors to create an atmosphere appropriate to higher learning. This means that I expect my professors to see me as an individual capable of critical thinking. While there are some professors in this college who do, in fact, create an intense, intellectually stimulating classroom environment, most professors rarely challenge their students, preferring to spoon-feed them information instead.

To the professors of Stern College: Challenge us! Please try to recognize that we, the student body, are all thinking individuals. Do not underestimate our level of intelligence by only expecting spit back of your lectures. Give us the opportunity to take the information from your lectures and arrive our own conclusions. Giving us the answers takes the fun out of learning and inhibits our ability to grow intellectually.

Granted, we may fight you, we may whine and complain. Indeed, our thinking may be a bit rusty, or we may be lazy. But don't spoil us by giving in. Push us to rise to the occasion. In the end, the experience will be so much more rewarding, even if we don't see it right away. Please, I beg of you, give us students a run for our money. After all, that's what college is about — a higher learning experience.

K. Hollender  
SCW Senior

Pesach together. We shared a beautiful holiday with delicious food.

It gives us much strength to know that there are good people who care for and help us.

Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts,

The Turgeman Family

May peace reach our region, and may there not be so many wounded and bereaved families.

*This letter was sent to student leaders on the SCW and YC campus. Before Pesach, students at SCW, under the aegis of TAC, raised money to help families for Pesach. As to date, over \$54,000 dollars has been raised by Yeshiva for families of terror victims in Israel.*

## Indecent Exposure

By Shayndi Raice

The events surrounding the expulsion of students from Yeshiva College has led to much speculation and gossip on both the Wilf and Midtown campuses. Unless a trial with witnesses were to take place, the real events that occurred that fateful evening will never be known.

I am not attempting to make any judgment on those involved. My only concern is with the administration's handling of the issue, the reason for their unprofessional behavior and, especially, the response from the YU community.

The conspicuous lack of reporting on the events that took place that evening is disappointing. To claim that no purpose is served because such stories are mere idol gossip or too risqué is merely an excuse to comply with the notion that we Jews shouldn't openly recognize problems facing our community. Perhaps, had the newspapers on campus chosen to expose what really happened, the current gossip and various versions circulating on campus wouldn't exist. More importantly, an open discussion on these types of problems could begin enabling the community to grow stronger.

Additionally, I take issue with the notion that YU's attempt to expel students is a result of its refusal to confront the reality that they have non-religious students in their school. In fact, some of the people involved were not only from very religious families, but were outwardly religious themselves.

Don't air your dirty laundry in public. That's what we're told. We don't want to make a chilul Hashem. The religious community prefers to live in an imaginary world. Worlds where Jewish men don't beat their wives, cheat on them or go to prostitutes. Of course drugs are out of the question for a nice Jewish boy.

We can't indulge in this sort of fantasy world. Professors at Stern

have students, frequently who are married, who come to class with black eyes and sunglasses. These are not problems that only affect non-religious people. All the students at YU who are not strictly "religious" should be appalled at the assertion that they bear the sole responsibility of drugs and sex at YU. Religious or non-religious, rich or poor, the mistreatment of women as well as drug use goes on. YU didn't attempt a major cover up by expelling every student involved and his fifth cousin because they don't want to face the fact that there are non-religious students. They did it because they don't want to admit that religious students could be responsible for such atrocious acts.

The answer is not just to give lectures on safe sex and the dangers of drug abuse. Regardless of how religious a person is, there will always be drug abuse and violence against women until, we, the members of the community, insist on exposure and fighting the veil of secrecy that comes along with such events.

The responsible thing to do would have been for the newspapers to honestly cover the story with all its disturbing detail (without the names of the guilty). To use the opportunity as a chance to expose the disturbing actions that occurred would have brought into the open issues of abuse perpetrated by members of our community. Young religious men and women need to learn to treat each other's bodies with respect as well as their own. The public deserves to be aware that such things go on in our community. If we don't create awareness and an environment for discussion on such topics, how can things ever change?

## Do Your Part On Campus

By Menucha Singer

"Apathy" was a word I had heard in conjunction with Stern students more times than I'd like. At first I tried to fight this reality, however as an active member of one of the executive boards, I was forced to face the truth.

Earlier this semester, TAC worked very hard on having the first-ever mother-daughter night of learning. Not only did we send postcards about the event to every person in the dorms, we also sent one to every student's home. For our speaker, we had reserved Rabbanit Chana Henkin, the world-renowned Talmudic scholar and founder of Nishmat in Israel. After weeks of planning and publicizing, the event finally arrived...only to draw a crowd of approximately 25 Stern students and 10 mothers.

The words "utter humiliation" would not do justice to what I was feeling at the time. Not only was it an embarrassment to this sought-after speaker but also to every person who had put effort into this program. Out of 1,000 Stern students

only 25 were able to give 2 hours of their time to what had the potential to be an amazing event.

The reality became ever more clear to me on the night of Tu B'Shvat, when TAC once again planned an event that was new to Stern, a Tu B'Shvat seder. At this point in the year, having already seen the attitude of students, we had the event in the Schottenstein lounge rather than the much larger Koch auditorium. I regret to inform those of you who did not attend that we could not even fill the 80 seats that had been prepared. Although our efforts were not completely for naught, again there was so much lost potential that night.

I would hate for those of you reading this to walk away feeling as though you have completely let us down and that there is no hope for any future events. Last Monday, I had the privilege of being a part of the rally in Washington. Prior to the rally, we had ordered three busses having in mind the usual reaction of the student-body...we were wrong. Students flooded the lobby where the sign-up was being held. Long lines had formed and

students had even begun to fight over the few remaining spots. It took only a couple of hours before we had completely filled eleven buses.

Each one of those students then went to the rally, giving up an entire day of school and a tremendous amount of energy to the cause. I will never forget the way the students on my bus were begging the driver to let them off as we were approaching the rally but were stuck in traffic. This was a kind of spirit and enthusiasm that I did not think was possible of a Stern student.

I would not have the audacity to compare a nationwide rally for the support of Israel to student-run events at a university. I do want to suggest however, that each person take a tiny part of the enthusiasm that they had at the rally and use it for something that is so easy to be a part of. When you see signs hanging up in the caf take two seconds to read about the event that it's trying publicize, and don't stop there. Figure out how you can fit it into your schedule. Being in a Jewish college has insurmountable potential and your student governments have the

means to make it happen but not without the full backing of the students.

There will never be a better time to learn how to get involved for the future, in your own communities. Although this year is coming to a close, keep this message in mind for next year and the rest of your time at Stern. I know that each and every one of you has the potential to be involved...I've seen it, but it's up to you to put in the extra effort and really make it happen.

The  
**Observer**  
wishes everyone

Good Luck  
on Finals



# President's Page



## Message from TAC President Toby Goldfisher

A few weeks ago on Rosh Chodesh Iyar, we read parshiot Tazria and Metzora. Parshat Tazria begins with a description of a woman who becomes tmeah after having a child. The torah goes into a long and detailed description of her kedusha status. If she gave birth to a baby boy, she is tmeah for a week and then she can proceed to dip in the mikvah. Thirty days later she is fully tehora and she can now resume and partake in all things of kedusha. During these thirty days she was in a kind of semi tmeah/tehorah status. If she would have given birth to a baby girl, she would have had to wait two weeks before dipping into the mikvah and then her status of semi tmeah/tehorah status would have been for sixty days. She couldn't partake in anything of kedusha during that time like going into the mikdash or eating from a korban, but she was not fully tmeah either. After these thirty or sixty days, the woman must go into the mikdash and bring two korbanot; a korban olah and a korban chatat.

There are two questions that Rav Shimshon Raphael Hirsch discusses in relation to this concept. He begins by asking why a woman must bring a korban chatat? He is puzzled because there is no seeming chet that she must repent for. The second question he asks is why the torah lists that the woman first brings the olah and then afterward brings the chatat? Shouldn't it be listed in chronological order where the chatat would be first and afterward the olah?

Rav Hirsch has a beautiful and insightful explanation. He begins by describing the deeper meaning behind having a child. He says that a child is a gift from Hashem. One never merits having a child or deserves this role, rather this new baby is a neshama that Hashem has now entrusted in the parent's hands. Hashem trusts that the husband and wife will raise this precious little soul in torah and mitzvot and that this neshama will be as precious to them as it is to Him.

Rav Hirsch explains that the new mother brings a korban chatat to "repent" and symbolize that she regrets the time she has just spent away from kedusha. She is showing that she will raise her child in torah and things of kedusha, not like the status she was just at and was very far from Hashem. Rav Hirsch goes on to explain why chronologically the korban olah was listed before the korban chatat even though they were brought in the opposite order chronologically. He says that by bringing the olah, one shows God that they are giving their entire being up to Hashem symbolically by sacrificing an entire animal. The new mother is showing that her life and her new child's life are all in the

hands of God.

According to Rav Hirsch, Hashem views this child as a gift to these parents. They didn't merit the role nor did they accomplish great feats to become parents. Hashem believed they would do a good job in raising this precious neshama and gave them the opportunity to do so.

I believe there is a parallel between this idea of children and Eretz Yisrael. After 2000 years of crying and yearning for Israel, Hashem finally "said" that we as a nation were ready to accept it. He saw that we were at a point where we would do a good job "raising" the country and working it, "teaching" it and nurturing it. Am Yisrael was given the opportunity to become parents to this holy and beautiful land once again. However, we are now faced with many problems within this land. We have not been good parents to this neshama and have not been raising it correctly. What can we do to help ease this pain and get back on track?

I strongly believe that tefillah is a crucial part in anything we do as a nation. To cry out and speak to God in one voice is a powerful way to communicate our feelings to each other as well as to Hashem. However, we must not just stand idly by and think that our tears will be the only way to help our brothers and sisters who are dying and being mauled every day in our land. We must act. We were given voices and bodies not just to sit passively, but to speak out and act out against these atrocities. As a college of almost 1,000 powerful Jewish women, we have been doing so many things to help over the past year.

When I began my year as TAC president, I honestly didn't know what I was getting myself into. I thought long and hard about my goals for the year in terms of programs for students and the way this TAC board would approach our job. I came up with two basic and broad goals we would have in anything we did this year; to encompass and attract many types of students to TAC events, and to support Eretz Yisrael in any way we could. At that time, I didn't fully understand what that would mean. We as a school have stepped up and risen to the task, doing anything and everything that could help the people of Israel.

For me, the turning point of this year was Operation Torah Shield II. The countless hours of stressful work and planning that went into the mission is unfathomable by anyone who did not experience it firsthand. But whatever hardships and pain that was experienced, it was well worth it. Students took initiative and 200 strong went to Eretz Yisrael. They didn't board the plane just to see and appreciate the land. Rather, we went to experience our land in a new light. Every second that was

spent in Israel, and a lot of time after returning, was given for the sake of Am Yisrael. I don't want to get too sappy, but it really does move me when I think about all that was accomplished in those six short days.

Since then, students at Stern seem to have been woken up from a deep slumber and now jump at every chance to help families in Eretz Yisrael who have been suffering, or showing love and support to the chayalim whose lives are on the line day and night. Students at Stern have been plugging away with their YC counterparts, raising tzedakah to help out families who have been suffering economically in Eretz Yisrael. They went up to strangers at the Rally on Washington and asked for donations. They approached men and women at the tehillim rally to give tzedaka. Because of their hard work and dedication, YU has raised over \$50,000 in total; and we are not stopping there. We have a Dance-a-Thon planned for Monday night, Lag Ba'omer. Students will be sponsored by their friends to dance, and all the proceeds will go to Dash Cham- an organization that sends care packages to chayalim who are stationed and fighting in Israel. These packages will show a small piece of hakarat hatov for what they are doing.

To just shift gears, this will be the last time I am writing for the Observer as TAC president and as a student of Stern College. I wanted to take this time to recognize that everything TAC did this year was because of all of the hard work and dedication of every person on the TAC board. Menucha Singer, Sarah Emerson, Abby Weiss, Lisa Grundman and Lisa Bergman have made this year so special for me and for everyone at this school. We owe them hakarat hatov. Each one of them is so strong in their own way and had great ideas for this past year. I have never worked with such a talented group of women, and I personally want to thank each of them for an incredibly special year.

One parting thought. I saw many people shine this year in many ways. Please take your fire and passion for what you have done and let it carry you throughout your life. Every student in Stern has something special and unique about them that no one else has. I believe we were given this "special thing" in order to utilize it and to give back to Am Yisrael. My bracha to everyone is that we should all find our fire and continue to fuel it and use it to help Am Yisrael. Thanks for a great year.



## Message from SCWSC President Elana Soleimani

-You are never alone  
-Learn to delegate and know who you delegate to  
-You represent the women of Stern College first and foremost

-100% of the people will never be satisfied  
-150 blocks is not only a geographical difference  
-HAVE FUN!!!

The rest of you are just going to have to learn on your own. It wont always be a fun existence, but I can almost promise you that will be meaningful and significant.

Recently many people have been asking me what possessed me to run and if I would ever do it again. The answers are simple. I don't know, but in a heartbeat. I don't regret a single thing I did, only what I didn't do.

To my fellow graduates good luck in the future, and to everyone else, I am going to miss you....

Can you believe we made it this far? What an amazing and unbelievable year! We have lived through astonishing acts of history that we will never forget and left our mark on society. This year taught me more who I am, and who you are. With each earth shattering event and every new twist came an unbelievable challenge. We pulled through it and are better for it.

I learned to work with different types of people, and made more friends than enemies. I had to concede when I was wrong and look at the bigger picture, but the most important thing I learned was the strength that numbers and unity bring. While graduation looms on the horizon and the end of my time as president quickly approaches I would like to give some pointers to the new leadership:



## Message from SSSBSC President Darya Gorelik

Dear students,

The school year is almost over. A lot of us are graduating and moving on with our lives — working or continuing education. I wish all graduates to succeed in whatever they do. To those who are staying — I wish you to

choose good leaders for the next year and do your best to help them achieve your common goals.

Although Israel has been going through a lot this year, we see that our students do their best to help their country. That is what really keeps us together. The same way, I think, the students should unite to work on making our school better in all ways. We, as leaders understand that that is one of the most important things to help achieve your goals.

I hope you all had a great school year and I hope to see you at the Sy Syms Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 1st at 6 pm, and at the End of the Year Dessert which follows the Ceremony.

Best of luck on your finals.

**Remember the time you slept through registration?**

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# Elections 2002

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(Valid between 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm Mon-Thurs. Valid Saturday night and  
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Student ID required, noncombinable with any other discount.



## Blood Drive Offers Pint for a Pint

By Racheli Rubin



SSSB Junior Mimi Sternberg, signs up to donate blood

SCW will run a blood drive on Monday, April 29th, continuing its efforts to replenish New York's blood supply.

For over ten years, SCW has been running blood drives under the direction of the New York Blood Center. However, despite a significant increase in

student population within the last few years, the amount of donors has decreased since the inception of the blood drive. According to Liz Wyeth, SCW's blood drive account manager, the minimum amount of donors for which the NYBC usually runs blood drives is 40 - a number that SCW barely reaches each time, despite its current student body of over 900 women.

Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun related that at one time 80-90 women would donate at a time - twice the current average of donors. The poor showing may be attributed to students' fear of the unknown. Rumors of women fainting when giving blood, as a result of their not having eaten prior to the blood drawing, have fueled these fears. "People come in and it's really great that they want to save a life, but they forget about their own by not eating before they donate," remarked Yael Shmuel, SCW blood drive coordinator.

Logistical details, such as the timing, may also have contributed to the relatively low turnout. Sarah Sanders, an SCW junior, observed that "last time it was very limited. It was only in the morning. I knew people who wanted to donate but had class during that time." Recently, the blood drives have been held from 9am-1pm. For some, the first break in the day comes at 1:15, leaving out those who would want to donate, but do not want to miss class in order to do so.

In an attempt to accommodate more students, the next blood drive will take place on April 29 from 10am-2pm. As an additional incentive, the first one hundred students to sign up will receive a free pint of ice cream.

Perhaps more people would donate blood if they knew of its importance. "Nearly 2,000 blood donations are needed daily for patients in local hospitals," writes Dr. Robert Jones, President and CEO of NYBC, in his monthly statement intended to encourage more blood donations. Nine out of ten people need blood some time in their lives and one of every ten hospital patients require a transfusion.

Additionally, donating blood is soon to become even more important since, until now, 25% of the United States's blood supply has come from Europe, a reality that will change as of May 31, 2002. After that point, donors having spent three months or more anywhere in the United Kingdom from 1980-1996 will be indefinitely deferred. As of October 31, 2002 anyone who has spent five years or more anywhere in Europe from 1980 until now will also be turned away. This will mark the first time

*continued on page 29*

## Chemistry Meets Mickey Mouse

By Observer Staff

While the rest of SCW students reluctantly returned to school after Pesach break, three students headed to Orlando instead. On April 7-9, SCW seniors Rachel Nivasch and Bracha Kenigsberg and SCW junior Shira Frankel attended the American Chemical Society's 223rd National Meeting and Exposition. The trip was in reward for winning the undergraduate research poster contest at SCW, a contest held in November.

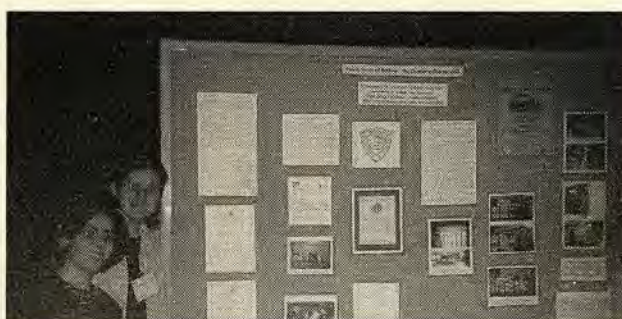
The students had made posters displaying their research, which were judged by SCW science teachers. The winners were awarded with an all-expenses-paid trip to the ACS meeting in Orlando, where they displayed their posters. Dr. Lea Blau, an SCW chemistry professor, also attended the meeting.

Unfortunately, two other winners of the poster contest were unable to attend the meeting because their tickets to Florida were cancelled. "We made reservations and we showed up at the airport and they

told us that the tickets were cancelled," said Anya Sedletcaia, SCW junior. "I was very disappointed because we worked hard on the posters."

She and her sister, Elena Sedletscaia, SCW senior, could not find alternate arrangements in time, so they did not attend the meeting. However, Sedletcaia will be doing more research this summer, and she hopes that she will have a chance to attend the ACS meeting next year.

One of the events at the meeting was the 2000-2001 Student Affiliates Chapter Awards Ceremony, where SCW received an award as a commendable chapter.



Shira Frankel and Rachel Nivasch present their research poster in Orlando

About a thousand students presented over 750 posters describing their research work in various fields. The SCW students were able to interact with other students from different backgrounds and with different experiences. "It was very

## DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS:

### ART



By Shifra Landowne

The great artist Michelangelo once said, "A man paints with his brains and not with his hands." This statement seems to pinpoint the main goal of the Art department at SCW, designed to provide a rich art background that allows students to bring greater understanding to any field they choose to pursue.

It is a major priority of the department that art majors get a significant exposure to both art history and studio art. "It behooves every art history major to get some sense of what the mediums are, a practical understanding of art," asserts Art History professor Nanni Kaps.

The art department at SCW is supplemented by a joint program at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, where students take courses specific to their concentration. "One of the advantages that students here have over an F.I.T. education is that they have a strong art background and become truly art literate before moving on to a more focused study at F.I.T.," says Professor Susan Gardner, head of the art studio.

Art majors have an option of a fine arts major or a shaped major (the joint F.I.T. program) focusing on studio art, art history, or art therapy. The relatively strong department boasts close to thirty majors, with ten graduating this May, and is housed in an impressive studio on 29th St.

The studio course offerings consist of a generally standard fare of multilevel classes in painting, drawing, sculpture and design, as well as some token variety classes offered each semester in subjects such as photography, printmaking, watercolor and pastel. Art history has similarly structured offerings of History of Art I, II and III, and one or two more detailed courses per semester, focusing on specific centuries, on East Asian or Contemporary art, and a few other selections.

Despite the program's strengths, some students do not feel the art program is adequate. Sophomore Odelia Amar, who plans to be a high school art teacher, intends to take a year off in between graduation and graduate school to supplement her art skills. "I don't feel comfortable leaving Stern and considering myself trained as an artist," says Amar.

This insecurity could be due to the limited number of teachers in the art department. Amar says that if not every teacher is agreeable to a particular student, the remaining options can feel very limiting.

Sari Zev, a junior with a shaped major in computer graphics and graphic design, does not share Amar's frustrations. "I'm satisfied because I really love Professor Gardner," Zev says. "This is my sixth time taking her. I don't feel limited."



Art students enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the Art Annex

Another challenge for shaped major students are scheduling difficulties. Zev says that although the courses offered at F.I.T. are great, and the school provides convenient transportation, organizing her schedule requires tedious coordination.

"My art demands are not very adaptable to my other requirements," comments Amar. "I would love to see more classes offered, which would provide more flexibility to help me juggle F.I.T. Stern art and my Judaic and other requirements."

Talent is not necessarily a prerequisite for participating in the art program. Indeed, the art department's array of offerings provides plenty of options for non-majors. "Taking studio art is about as educational an experience as you'll have," Gardner says. "It's a visual experience, an intellectual experience, you gain a feeling of *gestalt* - it's both sides of the brain talking to each other."

Both the studio and art history departments boast highly developed course experiences for non-majors. The Studio Experience course includes exposure to drawing, sculpture and painting, and the Introduction to Art is a survey of art history. "The Intro to Art class is very important," says Kaps. "An introduction to visual literacy is a really essential part of an undergraduate core that most other colleges don't offer."

The Intro course is based on one from the core curriculum at Columbia University, and, according to Kaps, "has proven to be a very successful course for non-majors - it gives them the ability to appreciate art, and the confidence to go to museums and feel like they

have the background to really understand what they are looking at." Kaps also explains that art history is applicable for everyone who studies it, as "it contains interdisciplinary depth, it can be applied to history, literature - a variety of subjects."

Unfortunately, the art department might be facing a downgrade. For the last six years, the art studio has been located in a building on East 29th Street, across from the Schottenstein dormitory. The Art Annex, as it is known, is one of Stern's significantly more impressive resources, a double height, sun-filled space that Yeshiva rents from Sheltering Arms, an organization that operates on the lower floors. The organization has recently put the building up for sale, putting the home of the art department in jeopardy.

Gardner has suggested buying the building in order to preserve the studio, but Yeshiva says they will create a new space in the 215 Lexington building. Gardner is dismayed at the thought of having to move out of the ideal studio space. "That building feels like an office building," Gardner remarks, implying that it is not prone to a studio environment. "When you walk in [29th St.], you feel like an authentic artist."

Furthermore, Gardner asserts that the majors have definitely changed over the past few years and are more committed. "There is real talent here and they really do deserve the best," said Gardner. She doubts that the new space in 215 will be able to accommodate the rapidly growing major. According to Gardner, new students are continuously coming to see her about joining the art major, and that she has been thinking of new ways to expand the existing space. She believes that there is little chance that the new space will be as large or as "user friendly" as the current one.

The art students have seized an unofficial ownership of the studio. Many opt to live in the Schottenstein dorm for its convenient location to the studio, splitting the bulk of their time between the parallel buildings. Gardner regrets having to potentially dismantle the hub of art life that has been created on 29th Street. "They spend all their time shuffling back and forth," says Gardner. "They just come in here, kick off their shoes, make it home."

"The studio is great - it's really beautiful, really a pleasure, and the large windows provide the proper light required for a workspace," says Zev. "It's really the best possible and most ideal space that we

exciting getting to know students from other schools," said Frankel.

The students also had the opportunity to attend many lectures that were given in all different aspects of chemistry. "It was very interesting," said Nivasch. "The topics ranged a great deal."

According to the SCW students who travelled to Orlando, the exposition was one of the most enjoyable parts of the trip. There, companies such as IBM, Merck, and Bristol-Myers Squibb exhibited new or interesting products.

Each student wound up with more pens than they could use, several periodic tables, and too many promises of junk mail.



# Summer 2002

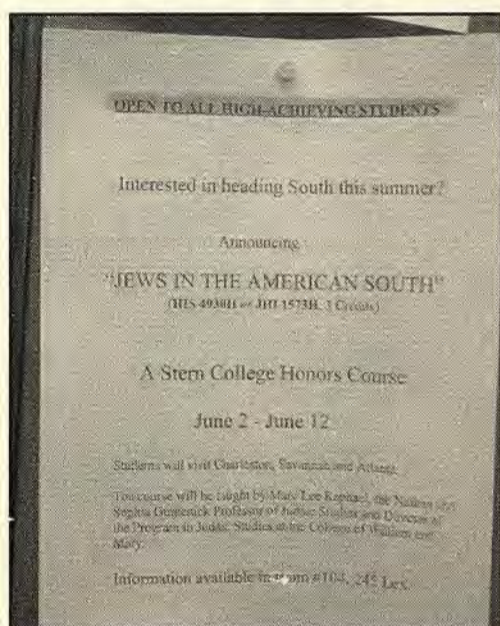
## Travel Dangers Determine Location of Honors Course

By Rachel Horn

Although off to a late start, the SCW summer honors course entitled "Jews in the American South" will take place in Charleston, Savannah and Atlanta. Varying from the practices of past years in which the honors course was held in Europe, this year's program is American-based to account for insecurity in traveling abroad.

"I think it will be a great course," said Honors Program Director, Dr. Cynthia Wachtell. "The students seem very enthusiastic."

While many students have already expressed interest in participating in the summer course, according to Wachtell there has been a misconception that the course is open exclusively to honors students. "This course, as is any other honors



Late advertising announced the summer honors Trip

course, is open to high achieving students," clarified Wachtell. A high achieving student is defined as "someone on the dean's list at the end of last year, or, in the case of incoming students, a person who entered with a 90 or above high school average and a correspondingly high SAT scores."

Wachtell pointed out that other students would be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on their grades/ Wachtell stressed that interested students who fall into this category should not hesitate to apply for the program.

Aside from eligibility confusion, the cost of the program has deterred many students who would otherwise have considered the course. While \$1500 includes tuition, housing, food, entrance fees and local transit, transportation to the South is not included in the price. "I would be very interested if the cost was greatly reduced," said Ariella Goldstein, SCW freshman and member of the Honors Program.

However, Wachtell argued that a three credit summer course similar to this class would cost about \$1050 on campus. The extra \$450 covers traveling expenses.

"In reality, the cost of the course is very reasonable," said Dean Karen Bacon. "Students have to appreciate the fact that the university must collect tuition. We can't deliver a program without any income." She did point out that "in a case of extreme hardship, I could see what I could do," but student financial aid does not have funds set aside for this cause.

"The Honors Program in general is subsidized," said Elana Abilevitz, SCW sophomore and Honors Program member. "If they want this program to be a success, they should allot more of the money designated for honors events to use for this course." Wachtell and Bacon both asserted that the trip is already partially subsidized.

The course is composed of visits to Charleston, Savannah and Atlanta. A few undetermined smaller towns will also be visited to explore the history of small town Jewish life. Students will visit places of historical and cultural interest pertaining to Jews.

continued on page 29

## Despite Violence, SCW Students Still Heading to Israel

By Alisa Rose

Although fewer SCW students than usual are planning to spend time in Israel this summer, the frequent terrorist attacks in Israel over the past few months have not deterred some SCW students from spending their vacations in Israel.

"I am nervous about going," admitted Jenny Richmond, an SCW junior who will spend the summer conducting research at Weitzmann Institute in Rehovot. "But I really want to spend the summer in Israel. I'm definitely not canceling my trip."

"It's important for people not to be afraid to go, though I understand the fear," said Gila Lifschitz, who is not nervous about spending her summer in Israel. The SCW junior is participating in the Yavne Olami Women's Internship Program, which helps students find internships with Israel companies. Lifschitz, who recently spent Passover in Israel with her family, says that her parents "are very proud" that she is spending her summer in Israel, and they have not expressed any reservations about her going. "If we don't go, we're giving in to what the Arabs want," Lifschitz asserted.

Elana Epstein, who will be serving as a counselor on Mischelet NCSY, a Jewish Studies learning program for

high school girls, agreed on the importance of going to Israel. "They need people," said Epstein. "The more people who stop going the more the Arabs are winning." Though she is not nervous about going to Israel, partly because she was in Israel learning last year when the intifada began, the SCW junior noted that her parents "would prefer that I not go." Epstein has considered alternate summer plans in the event that the program is canceled because of the security situation.

Like Epstein, Adena Kozak is considering her options for the summer if she does not go to Israel. The SCW sophomore hopes to spend the summer in Israel, possibly taking summer school courses at Bar Ilan University. "I wish it would be safer, that the situation wasn't a factor," said Kozak, who is unsure whether her parents will allow her travel to Israel because of the current situation.

Whether she spends her summer in Israel or not, Kozak stressed the importance of "action," such as writing letters to the President or attending rallies, and taking advantage of the "mobility" that America affords. "Everyone has to take upon themselves personally something they can do to help," said Kozak. "Even if you don't go to Israel, you can help the situation in Israel."

Some students actually viewed the situation as an impetus to go to Israel, to show the importance of visiting Israel despite the situation. "Of course we're nervous, but the country lives because people still go," said Noemie Botbol from France, who has a different perspective on the violence than the average American. "If the situation worsens in France, my family is moving to Israel," said the SCW sophomore, referring to the recent upsurge in anti-Semitism in France. "Jews are much less comfortable in France. They've never been as free as American Jews."

Although Adina Rozmaryn's plans to spend the summer in Israel were suspended because her parents were worried for her safety, she reflected the opinions of many SCW students on traveling to Israel during dangerous times. "Just because there's a war doesn't mean we shouldn't go," said Rozmaryn. "It's our land and we will be there, war or no war."

Other students emphasized that the importance of Israel overrides nervousness about physical safety. "Just because it's dangerous doesn't mean we should desert our land," said Hudi Lerner, who plans to spend her second consecutive summer as a counselor on Mischelet NCSY. "The situation doesn't mean that we shouldn't go there."

## YESHIVA OFFERS NEW SUMMER SCHOOL CLASSES

By Tamar Ellman

With finals and the end of the school year in the horizon, many students are looking to continue their education in the summer - and many of them will do it at Yeshiva.

The selection of courses offered this summer has been widely expanded. "There are more courses than ever before," said academic advisor Mimi Schechter. This year, Introduction to Computer Science, Survey of English Literature II, Fundamentals of Political Science and Introduction to Statistics are being offered for the first time. These are all courses that are part of the core requirement of SCW.

One of the more interesting courses being offered this summer is Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice: course/internship. The course will be one day of lecture a week and three days of internship in a criminal justice agency, with Friday off.

The lectures will be offered by professors Sidney Langer and Jim Vrettos, as well as visiting professionals, such as probation officers, corrections officers, police officers and members of the District Attorney's office. Students will be placed in agencies such as the District Attorney's office, the Department of Probation, Health Administration and the Fortune Society.

This is the second year that the course is being offered to Yeshiva students. It was first offered last summer, but very late in the year, and only five students took advantage of it. This summer it is hoped that ten students will join the program. The course is opened to both YC and SCW students, although it seems more YC students are aware of it because an advertisement was placed in the *Commentator* and not in the *Observer*. In addition, Yeshiva is offering a



Yeshiva summer courses are held at the Wilf campus

speech course, also a core requirement, which is only open to YC students. While the SCW speech requirement is a one semester, three-credit course, the YC requirement is two semesters worth of two credit speech classes. Because the summer course offered is only worth two credits, SCW students cannot register for it. "This is just another example of how YU treats the men better than the women," griped SCW sophomore Rivky Malzyner.

An unwelcome addition to this year's Yeshiva summer experience is the price. The price has gone up to \$450 a credit. "This price is restrictive," complained SCW junior Goldie Simon. "We pay so much for yearly tuition to begin with. Not everyone can necessarily afford to pay this much for a summer course, especially since all courses are during the daytime, thus preventing a person from working."

The price will not deter everyone, however. Marissa Varnai, SCW Junior, said that she is taking summer

courses in Yeshiva so that "I can graduate on time." Yeshiva's Manhattan location comes into play in the summer as well, as Varnai commented, "I'm from Chicago and I really wanted to stay in Manhattan for the summer."

The main component that is drastically different in Yeshiva summer life is that the usual single-sex environment is not present. "Yeshiva is supposed to be a single sex school," said SCW sophomore Rina Witrow. "I don't like that if I wanted to take summer school here it would have to be co-ed. Plus it's really annoying to have to go uptown."

Shayndi Raice, another sophomore, feels otherwise. "It makes sense that the summer school is co-ed because they probably don't have enough people to keep it separate," says Raice. However, Raice did agree that it was inconvenient to have to schlep all the way uptown for classes. They should offer classes at the midtown campus," said Raice.



## SCW Finally Collects Scheiber's Millions

By Rachel Fyman

Starting in September 2002, SCW students will begin to benefit from a generous donation bequeathed to the university by the late Anne Scheiber.

Ms. Scheiber passed away in January 1995, at the age of 101, leaving virtually her entire estate - \$22 million - to Yeshiva University. Her family contested her will, and, after what the legal counsel of YU described as an "extremely lengthy series of court proceedings," the University was victorious and is now beginning the process of allocating the money.

"I am delighted for the students and for Ms. Scheiber," Dean Karen Bacon said.

During the legal proceedings, YU was unable to distribute grants from the Anne Scheiber Scholarship

Fund. However, the money was invested during that time, and is now worth close to \$30 million. In her will, Ms. Scheiber stipulated that the money be used for scholarships and interest-free loans for "needy and deserving [female] students...attending Albert Einstein College of Medicine or SCW." As a result of the culmination of the court case, YU is now able to meet these requests.

Ms. Scheiber, who lived an austere life in Midtown Manhattan not far from SCW, made her fortune by investing savings of \$5000 in the stock market. During her 23-year career with the Internal Revenue Service between 1920 and 1943, Ms. Scheiber's highest annual salary was \$3,150. Though she received excellent performance reviews, she was never promoted, a fact that she attributed to being both Jewish and a woman. It appears that this discrimination motivated her to bequeath her estate to Stern College, to ensure that Jewish women would be given opportunities that were not available to her.

Ms. Scheiber had no connection with SCW during her lifetime, and her bequest came as a surprise to the university when it was first announced in December 1995.



Anne Scheiber

Dr. John Fisher, Director of Enrollment at YU, said that he is waiting for a decision from the Board regarding qualifications of scholarship recipients and the amount to be granted to each student, but that he should know in about a month.

The University is currently trying to determine exactly what Ms. Scheiber's intentions were, as outlined in her will. For example, it seems that she intended the scholarships to be based both on financial need and high academic performance, and granted to women who have "indicated intention to study medicine or to enter the field of the physical and natural sciences and who have indicated their desire to assist in the development of humanity and to alleviate pain and suffering." However, it is unclear which students would fulfill these requirements.

Furthermore, according to Dean Bacon, Ms. Scheiber specified in her will that no student receive more than \$3,000 per year. YU has petitioned the court to be allowed instead to grant full scholarships to worthy recipients, due to the increased cost of tuition since the will was signed in 1975, Dean Bacon said.

Though Ms. Scheiber suggested that the money be distributed as both scholarships and loans, the university is leaning towards using the funds as scholarships, as loans tend to build up over the years and are often very difficult for graduates to repay, according to Dean Bacon.

According to Dr. Fisher, approximately 70% of YU's graduates receive some sort of financial aid, including need- and merit-based scholarships, loans from the university and the government, and work-study.

However, Dean Bacon noted that many of the scholarships awarded by YU are not funded, which often causes the university to run a deficit. The Dean is hopeful that Anne Scheiber Scholarships will enable the University to offer more scholarships, as well as fund some of the currently unfunded scholarships.

every five years, with a more comprehensive evaluation occurring approximately every ten years.

Because Yeshiva has changed so much since its last Middle States evaluation on January 15, 1991, this year's evaluation process demanded a great deal of assessment and evaluation of Yeshiva's changes. For example, Yeshiva has expanded its student health services from employing a part-time physician to a full time health staff on each campus. Yeshiva has also expanded its student life programs, by contributing between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to the development of weekend programming and the funding of over 40 clubs per campus. As a result of these and other drastic changes throughout Yeshiva's campuses, critical evaluation was necessary for renewed Middle States accreditation.

Although the accreditation process was monitored primarily by Dr. Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs, students from all campuses were also asked to meet with Middle States officials throughout the process, to evaluate student services and other aspects of

## SCW Receives Over One Million for New Chair

### Rabbi Kanarfogel Named Billy Ivry Professor of Jewish History

By Miriam Colton

In a formal ceremony held at midtown on March 3rd, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel became the first chair of the Billy Ivry Professor of Jewish History. Billy Ivry, a longstanding supporter of Yeshiva and specifically of Rabbi Kanarfogel's work, is the first woman to invest a chair at SCW.

"The challenge for us today is to support the state of Israel and to ensure the safety of Jews around the world," said Dean Bacon at the investiture. "One mechanism is to ensure that Torah is passed on. Billy Ivry is doing her part by investing in Stern College women, and Dr. Kanarfogel is doing his part by educating these women."

According to Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President of Academic Affairs, a strong university should have a number of endowed chairs in their various departments. This is one of the first chairs endowed at SCW, though Lowengrub claims a few more endowments are currently in progress. Chair endowments, requiring a contribution of between \$1 and \$1.5 million, support the position in terms of salary and scholarly research. "These chairs allow our faculty to make certain that they have ability and resources to produce works of the highest scholarship," said Lowengrub. "It is a great honor to the holder and the institution."

Dr. Kanarfogel will hold this chair as long as he is at SCW.

Billy Ivry, a businesswoman who climbed the ladder of success on Wall Street, has been a steady supporter of Yeshiva since she gave \$100 dollars for a scholarship fund in 1947 in honor of her mother, Rebecca Ivry. "I did not or could not imagine then that I would be involved in this institution for 55 years," said Ivry, who choked up during her address. "This association has given me a sorority of sisters and daughters."

Ivry has also funded the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at Stern College, of which Rabbi Kanarfogel is the chairman. "She is an extraordinary patron of Stern College and Jewish



Rabbi Kanarfogel addresses audience at the Schottenstein Residence Hall, where he was inaugurated as Billy Ivry Professor of Jewish History

Studies," said Bacon. "She is not an investor who walks away from her investments."

Additionally, Ivry has taken a personal interest in the career of Rabbi Kanarfogel and the advancement of his scholarly goals. "Billy took enormous pleasure in the publication of his first two books and arrival of his six children," said Dean Bacon. "This endowment recognizes a unique relationship between two special people."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Rabbi Kanarfogel announced the upcoming publication of a book about Ashkenazi liturgy, which he plans to dedicate to Ivry in gratitude for her support.

Rabbi Kanarfogel is the director of the Advanced Talmud Program at Yeshiva, in addition to teaching Jewish History classes at SCW. "One can only marvel how he can find the time in a day to successfully perform well in all aspects of his role at Yeshiva," exclaimed Rabbi Lamm.

A "loyal son of Yeshiva" Rabbi Kanarfogel has completed his entire academic career at Yeshiva, as a graduate of Yeshiva College, RIETS and Revel. "My entire academic career has been under the stewardship of Rabbi Lamm," said Rabbi Kanarfogel, "noting that all his diplomas from Yeshiva are signed by Rabbi Lamm."



Billy Ivry endows Jewish History chair at SCW  
Story on page 11

campus life.

Students met with the Middle States evaluation team during their March visit, including SCW's Menucha Singer, Rachel Shtern, Elana Soleimani, Miriam Colton, Adina Levine and Shoshana Davis, among others.

The students were asked to openly discuss all component of college life, ranging from academia to social life. "SCW is an intimate environment and it's easier to promote a student life," said Toby Goldfisher, TAC president, at the

meeting.

Beth Meschel, a student activist, praised the activities organized on campus, yet bemoaned the lack of community. "Something I've observed over the past four semesters is that a lot of people feel that Stern is a commuter school," said Meschel. "There is a lot of resistance from the students to stay on campus and make this their college experience."

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## Yeshiva Set to Acquire Middle States Accreditation

By Sari Moskowitz

On March 17, a team of trained educators arrived on the campuses of Yeshiva to evaluate the university for accreditation by the Middle States Association, an organization whose stamp of approval has bestowed prestige and respect upon educational institutions for over 100 years. The evaluation took place after nearly four years of diligent preparation of reports and self-evaluation by various YU administrators, teachers and students.

"Middle States evaluates whether each institution reaches its own goals," Dean Karen Bacon noted. "They do not judge one institution in comparison to others."

Each educational institution that desires Middle States accreditation must undergo rigorous self-evaluation for several years. It must then be evaluated by the Commissioner on Higher Education who determines an institution's accreditation based on certain guidelines such as the institution's academic achievements, student activities and health facilities.

Each institution is normally evaluated



# Senior Class

## First Batch of Honors Graduates Hand in Exit Paper

By Adina Levine

Three years after the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program began, the first significant set of honors students submitted their senior projects on April 19th. With as varied topics as *Addiction* by Ruthie Efron to *Navigating the Human Genome* by Shoshana Posy, the papers represented the final element required for completion of the program.

"It was a really great opportunity for students to develop their own skills in learning," stated Tziporah Kapustin, SCW senior who had written about Kain and Hevel.

Culminating the work of several semesters, the senior project is a research paper in the area of the student's major. With a minimum of twenty five pages long (excluding footnotes, documents, charts or appendices), the papers included a background section but moved considerably beyond this in developing and presenting original ideas and arguments, according to the student handbook presented to honors students.

"It was fascinating to go through handwritten notes, released FBI documents with black lines through them, and pull it together for some comprehensive idea," asserted SCW senior Meira Russ, who researched the initiation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. "It was completely worth it to be able to do that."

The honors paper is submitted in lieu of a senior thesis in four majors - English, Art, Art History, and History. In all other areas of study, the student must take an exit exam as well as "complete the senior project."

"We didn't want to put students in the situation where they have to complete two major papers," asserted Dr. Wachtell, Director of the Honors Program.

However, some students have expressed dissatisfaction that the requirements are not fairly distributed among honors students. For example, the English major has to write a twenty page thesis to graduate anyway, and the honors paper is merely five pages longer, and functions in lieu of her graduation requirement. According to Dr. Wachtell, however, the difference between the honors paper and the standard senior thesis is not one of length but that the honors paper spans several semesters while the senior thesis is a one semester project.

"The longer honors papers are the product of considerable more development," commented Professor Laurel Hatvary, Chair of the English Department. "Students have time to mull over, research and finally edit their papers over an extended period of time. It should make a difference. I've found over the years that some fine senior theses were actually written in the year after students had finished their classes, although we don't encourage that."

Nevertheless, some students who have to take both an exit exam and complete a senior project complained that it was not fair that other honors students could satisfy both requirements in one paper.

"It's a legitimate point," admitted Dr. Wachtell. Nevertheless, she explained the reasoning of the requirement. "To do a major research paper on Fitzgerald and then another major research paper on Hemmingway seems a bit redundant, as opposed to the graduate exams which are unrelated to the senior project."

One student commented that non-English majors should not be forced to write papers. "If I wanted to write papers, I'd be an English major," she asserted. She believed that senior projects should be reserved specifically to those departments that require exit papers, and all other areas of study should employ a more difficult exit exam.

For some students, the senior project presented a deterrent from joining the Honors Program. "It's one of the reasons I am not in the honors program," commented Tova Fischer, SCW sophomore. "Senior year when I'm taking the hardest classes which all happen to be honors classes anyway, I don't want to



Students wait outside Dr. Wachtell's office

be bothered with an honors paper."

The approximately twelve honors students slated to graduate in May comprised the first class to graduate the program. Already four students graduated in June 2001 either by completing SCW in two years or joining the program after having already enrolled in SCW. In addition, three honors students graduated in January, having fulfilled the program's requirements in two and a half years. Minimum residency requirement for the program is only two years, and, upon initiation, the program was available to current students such as Distinguished Scholars who would have qualified for the Honors Program had they entered SCW a year later. The twelve students graduating the program this semester are Ruth Ephron, Shoshana (Frankel) Posy, Lisa Helprin, Yael Horowitz, Michelle Humi, Chavi Kahn, Lea Kapustin, Bracha Kenigsberg, Adina Levine, Aliza Weinstein, Meira Russ, Nina Taub, and Yehudit Weinberger.

"This is the first large group of students coming through the program," stated Dr. Wachtell.

The student works under a mentor, chosen in her field of study. A second reader, chosen either by the student or the mentor, also reviews the paper, and the readers confer to decide on a letter grade. The senior paper is taken for three credits in the final semester of a student's career at SCW, even though the work for the senior project spans several semesters,

*continued on page 13*

## Yearbook Debuts on CD-Rom

By Alana Sher

How hard can it be to undertake a project like senior yearbook? Very hard. In fact, the SCW Student Council has not broken even on last year's expenditures. The yearbooks, which still have not been distributed to the graduates, cost a hefty \$250 per person.

Last year's problem, according to Suzanne Anziska, SCW Senior Class President and head of the 2001-02 yearbook committee, was that not enough people were willing to shell out the money for their yearbooks, and Student Council was unable to recover all of the funds it had laid out.

Anziska's goal for this year was to cut costs, while at the same time collaborate with students on a yearbook that was both "cool and different."

After discussing several options with her board, she met with representatives from WizBee, an Israeli computer company with a branch in New Jersey, which creates CD yearbooks.

On January 29, the WizBee Representatives came to SCW to give students a demonstration on how the CD yearbook operates. Attendance was poor - which Anziska chalks up to student apathy - but the board decided on the CD yearbook after consulting and receiving approval from Mrs. Zeldra Braun, Associate Dean of Student Services, and Elana Soleimani, SCW Student Council President.

Anziska insists that a CD yearbook has a lot of potential. Unlike a paper yearbook, it has unlimited space to post hundreds of pictures, samples of student prose, poetry and artwork and even individual student files. "In a paper yearbook, each student is limited to a little corner of a page, but not in our yearbook," says Anziska.

The board is hopeful that they will be allowed to purchase a digital camera to take pictures in school, and they are encouraging students to continue submitting their own personal photos.

Although a CD yearbook has several drawbacks - it can't be leafed through on Shabbat or displayed on a bookshelf - Anziska maintains that "it has everything a paper one has and so much more. We're all based on computer now and it is amazing and exciting that this traditional thing can still be traditional and move into the future."

Despite Anziska's enthusiasm and the yearbook's modest price of \$80, many students contend that changing the status quo is a bad idea.

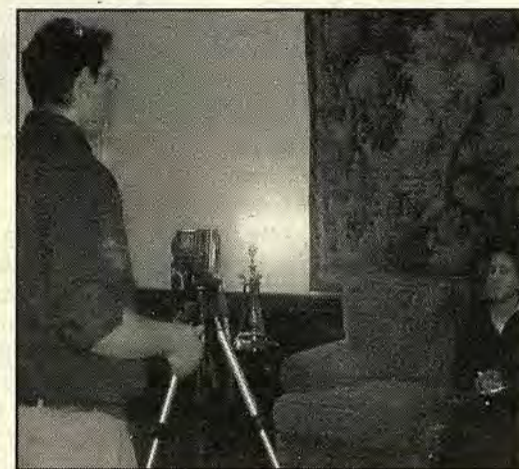
"I think that there is something about a paper yearbook that years from now you can go back and look through the pages," says Dana Feldschreiber, an SCW senior. "Years from now

the CD yearbook might not even work and may be obsolete."

Apparently, Feldschreiber is not alone in her sentiments. Out of 251 students registered to graduate in May, only 80 people showed up on picture day on March 5.

The lack of student participation stemmed from student resentment of the novel CD yearbook, as well as from general indifference. "I was too lazy and busy with a lot of other things," confesses Sara Lampert, SCW senior. "The CD yearbook may be very nice, but I just didn't have a chance to partake."

The paltry turnout was upsetting to the yearbook staff, who had spread the word via email, word of mouth and by cluttering the school's walls with fliers.



Kalany Rubin poses for CD Yearbook shot

Anziska scheduled a makeup picture day on April 10. The signs were up in the lobby and the e-mails were sent, yet only an additional 40 students attended.

"I don't know what else to do," admits Anziska. "It's extremely frustrating to try to get everyone together and participate in something so important that establishes our identity with the school."

She has many great ideas for the yearbook, including an advertising tactic of hyper-linking the yearbook with the websites of its various advertisers. However, they may not reach fruition if students do not become more involved.

Already several students have decided that they will not purchase a CD yearbook.

"What's the point if you can't look at it on Shabbos?" asks Adina Popowitz, SCW senior.

Anziska hopes that more students will give the idea a fair chance and set it as a precedent for future years.

"We want to have it by graduation," she says confidently. "And it can still happen."

## LACK OF PLANS FOR SENIOR DINNER FRUSTRATE STUDENTS

By Sari Moskowitz

As the semester winds down and students begin to plan for next year, plans for senior dinner are noticeably absent from the agenda.

In previous years, the senior dinner has been organized by the senior class board members, and has taken place at various restaurants. However, this year, apathy about the plans for senior dinner among seniors and senior class leaders is noticeable. "As far as I know, we are not having a senior dinner," says Elana Soleimani, SCW senior and Student Council President.

Although seniors are perceptibly busy with exit exams, graduation plans and graduate school decisions, many have voiced the desire to make time in their busy schedules for the still unplanned senior dinner. "I think that it is something that students appreciate and look forward to," notes SCW senior Tami Munk, who will attend senior dinner if an initiative is taken to plan the dinner. Munk adds that she would be disappointed if plans for the dinner do not

materialize.

SCW senior Yona Israel agrees with Munk. "I think senior dinner is a nice idea," says Israel. "It's a nice time to be with friends before graduation." Yet perhaps this year seniors will have to find a different time to hang out with their friends and classmates.

Nevertheless, there are some seniors who are not saddened by the idea that there may not be a senior dinner. "I really don't participate much in the school's activities, especially since I live off-campus," says SCW senior Miriam Marcus. Nevertheless, Marcus sympathizes with those seniors who would have enjoyed the senior dinner. "I'm sure there are people who will be disappointed," she says.

For those who are interested in attending a senior dinner, YC student council president and senior Lou Shapp urges seniors not to give up hope. Although his plans are still in the works, Shapp admits to having some ideas of how seniors can get together before they graduate in May. "It may not be as formal as in the past," says Shapp of his plans. "As long as it's fun and something you can take with you."



# on campus

## Eight Apply for 2002 Talmud Program

By Adina Levine

Despite the hurrah over the renewal of the Avi Chai grant for the two year Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies, only eight students have applied for the upcoming year. The eight applicants include seven SCW graduates, as well as one outside student. Though the deadline for applications ended March 25th, applications are still being submitted, and thus no acceptances have gone out.

"We certainly have a fine group of students that can be accepted," commented Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, director of the program. "Part of the reason we are waiting [to send out acceptances] is because we want to get the best possible group."

Indeed, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel asserted that he had encountered approximately twenty inquiries regarding applications, but had rejected all but these eight on the basis of qualifications.

"It's open to a very select group," Rabbi Kanarfogel remarked. "If someone is not qualified, we don't encourage them to apply."

The only qualification for the Talmud program is two years of formal post high school Talmud study. However, when faced with a choice between enforcing rigid prerequisites or soliciting enough participants to sustain the program, the program's *rebbeim* were uncertain which to pick.

"We've never been at that point, and we're hoping we will not have to make those kinds of decisions," commented Rabbi Kanarfogel. "Obviously, though, critical mass is important here. A program with four to six participants is obviously not as strong as one with eight or ten."

Indeed, Rabbi Moshe Kahn, Talmud instructor in the program, suggested that the prerequisite standards may need to be flexible, depending on the group of students that apply. "In the beginning, we said you need two years of previous Talmud study," remarked Rabbi Kahn. "The standard was based on the standard of students we had and the type of program we thought to create. If it's not feasible, then we may have to modify our prerequisites. It's not *halacha l'moshe m'sinai*."

If the program were to lower its standards, it might enlarge its applicant pool to include beginner Talmudic students. "I don't think there's anything wrong with a program for beginners," opined Rabbi Kahn. "But then the program is serving a completely different purpose."

When asked whether beginner students could have a place in the program, which is geared for advanced gemara study on a postgraduate level, Chavi Kahn responded, "I think they could be accepted as long as there are two tracts. You can have quality and quantity – why should you have to choose?"

Having seven applicants for a ten student program may not be such an anomaly, as Rabbi Kanarfogel noted that the first year of the program employed only eight people.

"We have always been very firm in our qualifications," insisted Rabbi Kanarfogel. "We want ten students, but only of the most qualified."

Indeed, the program plans to expand as it will hire Rabbi Gedaliah Berger to teach halacha in the fall. Current instructor Rabbi Eitan Meyer will switch from halacha to gemara, to ensure two



Eight students joined the first year of the Talmud program

## Van Schedule Changes, Again

By Shayndi Raice

The inter-campus transportation schedule has changed yet again, with vans now running every 45 minutes. Widespread student dissatisfaction with the ambulette transportation system, implemented at the beginning of the semester, prompted the alteration.

When students expressed disappointment at the change from vans to ambulettes, which take longer to reach their destinations and started off running once an hour, the Student Life Committees of the main and midtown campuses conducted a joint meeting to address the problem. They formed a sub-committee for transportation, headed by Ilan Rosenrauch and Yehoshua Kramer, to address the issue.

The sub-committee presented the problem to Don Sommers, Chief of Security, claiming they were lied to about how often the ambulettes would run and whether it would be allowed on the FDR Drive. They suggested that either the university purchase an extra ambulette, thereby switching to a rotation system of every 45 minutes, or use some local campus transportation vans for transportation between the two campuses.

A compromise was reached where two ambulettes would be used along with the use of some of the local campus vans, one each from the Wilf and Midtown campuses. While there will now be one fewer local van running on each campus, the Student Life Committee hopes that the greater frequency will appease the dissatisfaction with the current system.

According to Student Life Committee Chairman of the midtown campus, Ellie Nyer, student dissatisfaction with the previous situation stemmed from many issues. "People were upset because they couldn't get on a van, there wasn't enough service and the times were horrible," said Nyer.

distinct classes in each subject.

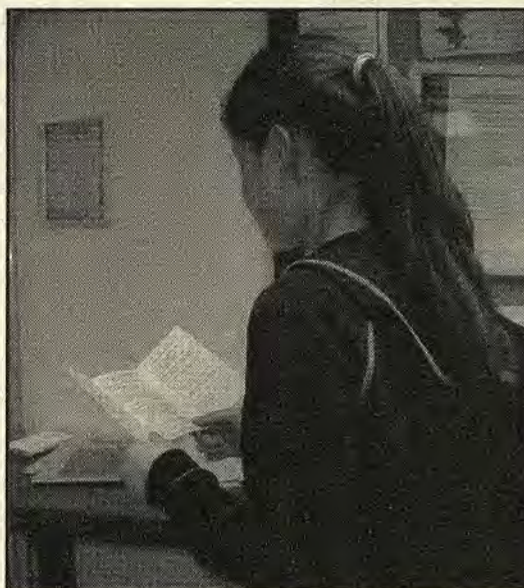
The question arises as to why more students are not applying. The first consideration is that the program is only aimed at a specific segment of the Stern population, those who learn gemara.

Out of the approximately 1000 women who attend SCW, fewer than fifty of them attend an exclusively gemara class. Some halacha classes utilize segments of gemara, but a focus on specifically gemara is limited to the one Beginner Talmud class, one Intermediate Talmud class, and one Advanced Talmud class.

"If we want to get more people, we have to start encouraging gemara in college," asserted Rabbi Kahn.

The most simple reason why more students do not take gemara classes is that they have no interest in or do not feel capable of learning gemara. Others, while interested in gemara, do

The furor began when, for insurance reasons, the university could no longer use the 14 passenger vans, which ran every half an hour. Subsequently, Yeshiva purchased two ambulettes which are able to accommodate twenty five passengers. Because the ambulettes exceed the weight limit allowed on the FDR Drive, they are forced to take the streets of Manhattan between campuses, which lengthens travel time. After the system switched over to the use of only two ambulette



Student checks van schedule due to arbitrary departure times

busses, inter-campus transportation was only available every hour.

Prior to winter break in January, the Student Life Committee was notified of the impending switch from vans to ambulettes, as well as the change from every half hour to every hour. In response they demanded from Jeffrey Rosengarten, the Director of the Supporting Services Administration, and Jeff Socol, the Associate Director of Facilities Management, that vans continue to run every half hour. The committee was assured that the situation would be taken care of and that the busses would indeed run every half hour. However, when students came

back from winter break, the transportation only ran every hour.

Many students were upset right from the start, but it still took some time before the problem was dealt with. Sommers claimed that vans were consistently running only half full, so security refused more service. At the same time, however, the Student Life Committee was inundated with complaints from students saying that they were being turned away from full busses.

Nyer claimed that miscommunication often occurs between the Student Life Committee and those in charge. "People who are higher than us always tell us what they think is correct," said Nyer. "But we hear what the students say, and what it comes down to is if the students aren't happy we have to fix it." So far students seem to be satisfied with the new 45 minute schedule, which was revised in April, although most miss the original system of transportation running every half hour. Some students find the irregularity of every 45 minutes a difficult schedule to follow. "The new schedule is definitely better, but it still takes a long time," said SSSB sophomore Rina Witrow. "I think the old system was the best," she said, referring to the vans that ran every half an hour.

ing gemara, you could really say that it is promoting the Talmud program."

Some students expressed frustration that the program was not generating more interest.

"I'm saddened that the community has not embraced the opportunity of this program," asserted Julie Panko. "It's not about becoming rabbis but about becoming educated women. Before women run to teach, they should make sure they have enough of a background themselves."

Shana Strauch insisted on the need for the program and the need for community support to sustain the program. "There's virtually no chance for advanced learning for women," she asserted. "At least not in America."

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## Students Hand in Papers

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beginning in the student's junior year. The student submits four copies of her senior project, one to each reader, one to Dr. Wachtell, and one to the library where all honors papers are available for circulation.

"It's challenging, rewarding and occasionally frustrating," commented Professor Hatvary, who has mentored two students. "The first student was a literature major who was simply very different from the second student who was a

communications major, and the experience was very different. I find you can't generalize about it."

According to Dr. Wachtell, almost all honors papers receive an A, with the lowest grade so far being a B plus.

"The mentor is working with the student every step of the way," asserted Dr. Wachtell. "Any errors are detected early on in the process, and corrected."



# on campus

## Loewy Awarded Professor of the Year Seniors Gather for Annual Awards Assembly

By Jessica Jacobs

In its third year, the Professor of the Year award was presented to biology professor Brenda Loewy, the first woman to win the prestigious honor.

"She's a great teacher who encourages her students in and outside the classroom," opined one SCW junior. "I voted for her."

The Silber Professor Award is selected by the students in a two step voting process, in which students initially nominate any full time faculty member for the award, and then vote on the finalists the next day. The award entails a monetary compensation of \$18,000.

There is an addition "Teacher of the Year" chosen by seniors. This honor is awarded to one Jewish studies teacher and one general studies teacher. The selection process for the recipient of this award is a two step process. First, members of student boards nominate a few teachers from both Jewish and general studies departments. Then the entire senior class votes on the nominees to select the recipients.



Brenda Loewy is the first woman to win Silber award

In addition to faculty awards, a number of student awards based on school involvement and academic achievement are given to graduating seniors. Usually an academic based award is awarded through the various departments of the school. Each department receives a list of the graduating seniors with a major in that area and then the department nominates the qualified students.

Most of the awards given have been endowed by various donors. However, if there is not an award for an area of interest, a department can suggest one.

Other awards are voted on by students, like "excellence in character" and "commitment to chesed" awards. These awards were voted by seniors on March

23. The recipients of all the senior awards will be honored at an awards assembly on April 29.

A long-standing tradition at SCW, the awards assembly originated when it was realized that the senior dinner was "not the right forum to recognize academic achievement," according to Associate Dean Ethel Orlian.

## Strike Threatens Yeshiva's Daily Functioning

continued from page 1

"The funding sources are very different between the Resnick campuses and Manhattan campuses," asserted Ferrara. "We don't have any access to those third party donations that Einstein has. Our money only comes from two sources: tuition and philanthropy."

The union negotiating team is demanding an equivalent increase as Einstein workers, as well as stipulating that base salaries be raised to Einstein standards.

"Everyone wants to negotiate fairly so that the employees get a good deal," asserted Ferrara. "But they are just being unrealistic." Ferrara pointed out that the union is effectively demanding an almost 25% increase in wages by asking not only to be brought up to the Einstein standards, but also to have their salaries increased according to those standards. The negotiating team at YU maintains that the work at Einstein is not equivalent to work at other Yeshiva facilities.

"We are comparing apples and oranges," explained Ferrara. "The university is one house, but these [workers] are clearly in different rooms."

The union members have voted to strike if they do not receive a contract on par with the Einstein campus. Flaunting signs that read "We give 100% and YU only wants to give us 2% over 3 years," Yeshiva workers picketed outside of 245 Lexington building chanting "Shame on you, YU."

"What a *chilul Hashem*," commented Naomi Friedman, SCW senior.

Taking their lunch hour break to stand outside in the rain, the union leaders explained that Einstein workers typically receive almost seven percent more for their work than workers on the other Yeshiva campuses.

"We hear about these [administrators] getting six figure salaries uptown," complained Byron Allen from plumbing. "Here, we have people who can't buy steak twice or once a r... sister school Albert



A Strike could paralyze kitchen operations

Einstein got a bigger increase."

A similar picket occurred on Thursday at the Wilf campus that coincided with the Einstein vote on whether to accept the contract.

"It was a strictly informational picket," observed Ferrara. "They were giving no information, however, just yelling 'no contract, no work.'"

The past contract for 1199 union members was a three year contract that had expired in the fall. However, negotiations were postponed due to the terrorism attacks, according to Dean Himber, and the remaining five months were allotted for negotiating. However, when the ensuing discussions failed to present an agreeable contract, the workers claim they have no choice but to strike.

"We don't want to strike, nobody wants to strike," commented Clarence Barret, union representative. "But they leave us with no choice. We got to earn a living."

It remains unclear what YU would do in the event of a strike. The 1199 workers include kitchen facilities, office staff, and almost all of YU personnel, excepting Burns security guards who form their own union. If all these workers went on strike simultaneously, it is unclear how facilities would continue to function.

"It's not all workers, but it's enough that if a work stoppage should occur, it could affect the working of the university," commented Dean Himber. "The goal is to keep things running and maintain the university the best we can."

If such a strike were to occur during the time of registration, the cessation of regis-

## Writing Contests Offer Cash Prizes to Students

By Ariella Goldstein

SCW recently offered students the opportunity to compete in five writing contests, with the winning essays receiving cash prizes ranging from \$100 to \$1000 dollars.

"These writing awards allow for the recognition of students who have produced outstanding written work and have demonstrated their research or creative abilities," commented Associate Dean Ethel Orlian.

Three of the essays focus on Jewish topics. The Lawrence P. Fischer Memorial Award is granted to the best paper, written in Hebrew and submitted by an undergraduate student on the subject of Jewish history. The prize for this award is \$750 dollars.

The Edward A. Rothman Memorial Award is presented to the author who writes the best essay on the theme of "Issues in Orthodox Judaism in Practice." This essay must be between 2,000 and 3,000 words, with a cash prize of \$550 dollars.

The third essay award for \$600 dollars, the Fannie and Asher Scharfstein Memorial Award, is bestowed upon the author of the best paper on *gemilut chesed*, charity. This essay should deal with the definition of this term in its broad interpretation and importance.

Additionally, there are two awards for excellence in creative writing. The Dean David Mirsky Memorial Award, which grants the highest cash award

of \$1000 dollars, commemorates the late SCW English professor and dean, may be written on any subject. The prize is \$1000. This award is only open to seniors.

The Professor Laurel Hatvary Award is in commemoration of Professor Hatvary's 25th year at Stern. "I was really touched by it," says Professor Hatvary. "I cried." While this award of \$100 dollars gives preference to seniors, it is open to all students.

The essays, due April 10, had to be submitted in a manila envelope under a pseudonym. As sealed envelope containing the author's real name was included with the essay. "The precautions are taken to ensure objectivity," said Orlian.

While the money awarded seems likely to be a large incentive for students to submit papers, some felt that the awards were not publicized enough. Fliers were in the Dean's Office announcing the contests, though only a few weeks before the due date. Elisheva Douglas, SCW junior, stated, "I probably would have entered had I known about the awards."

According to Professor Hatvary, SCW is happy with the standard of the papers submitted. "The great thing about these awards is the quality of the submissions," says Professor Hatvary. "We are a very small school, and yet we always seem to have a number of genuinely talented writers among us."

trar activities could prove critical. Moreover, kitchen and library facilities would be severely handicapped, preventing students from accessing study material for finals. The International cafeteria in Koch auditorium was already closed on Tuesday, while union workers voted in the gym. Student leaders served the food in the main cafeteria.

"It's not clear that our institution would be able to cope with a long term strike, but it would be able to cope in terms of a short term strike," opined Ferrara. Ferrara was fearful that the union might support YU workers to strike for as long as a month.

When asked whether Yeshiva would employ interim workers, Dean Himber responded that such a supposition was "premature" and declined further elaboration. "When a strike happens, it will be dealt with when it happens," commented Dean Himber.

Nevertheless, Ferrara responds that to the best of his knowledge, the last time there was a strike the students assumed the responsibilities.

"The last time we had a strike, we gave students on campus the keys to cafeteria," recollected Ferrara. "And students took care of it on their own."

Some students were initially disconcerted as to the suggestion that they access their own food in the event of a strike. They wondered why the university would neglect to hire interim workers to assist in running Yeshiva facilities.

"Do they expect us to do the cooking and photocopying instead of going to class?" exclaimed one SCW senior.

The union members regretted the inconvenience to students that the strike might cause. "I feel sorry for the students," commented Ricky from painting and maintenance. "They have enough to worry about tests and stuff without having to worry about their halls being clean. We're going to reunite with the students and get it right."

Some SCW students went even further in alleging that the university was unprepared to deal with a strike because it did not have a backup staff ready.

"We have no leverage over striking workers if they know that YU has no one else," commented Dafna Schindler, SCW junior.

Other students applauded the university's recognition and gratitude to the workers at Yeshiva, and saw the university's unwillingness to hire workers as an indicator of the importance of university workers to the administration.

Many students sided with the gripes of the strikers. "It's great that they are taking action to stand up for their rights," insisted Liora Kasten, SCW junior.

"These are people who are normally underappreciated," said Friedman.

The Einstein agreement, which raises salary rates by 13.63 percent over the term of the contract, was approved by members on April 19th. The union had initially demanded \$13.4 million, and the final compromise thus saves the university \$4.5 million.

"I think you could characterize it as a win-win negotiation for both sides," asserted Ferrara.

Spurring the Einstein negotiations was a recent agreement that 1199 had worked out with city hospitals, assuming a \$13.4 million increase in salaries. The agreement between 1199 and the League of Voluntary Hospitals was 40% financed by Governor Pataki with significant donations from Blue Shield.

"1199 is looking for a settlement which was identical to that which they signed with the league of voluntary hospitals," Ferrara stated. "I think that the 1199 union recognized that they had to develop a college/university guild which handles negotiations differently than hospitals."

As the administration and students prepare for the seemingly inevitable strike, the workers have not let their devotion to the university give way. "I love to work for Yeshiva," asserted Allen. "Just, pay me."



# on campus

## Students and Administrators Accuse Food Services of Inflated Prices

By Caryn Litt

According to the Yeshiva University Student Services Source Book, Food Services "is the place to turn to for event-catering needs." However, amid charges of exorbitant prices and poor service, lately some have deliberately opted not to turn to Food Services.

"We haven't ordered food for events from Food Services in a long time," said Toby Goldfisher, president of Torah Activities Council. Suspicious of what seemed like high prices, Goldfisher began comparing the Food Services prices to those of outside sources and found a considerable disparity. Goldfisher now shops at Cosco's and uses outside bakeries and restaurants for TAC events.

The SCW Dean's Office, too, has been less than satisfied with Food Services. According to Josephine Isaac, a secretary in the Dean's Office who is responsible for ordering food for events, after the Dean's Office reviewed its budget last summer and saw how much it was paying for food, a survey was conducted that revealed Food Services was extremely costly.

For example, said Isaac, Food Services charged the Dean's Office \$20 per person for a bagel breakfast last year, while Circa NY charges \$7.50 per person. "Food Services' prices are a bit high," said Dean Karen Bacon. According to Isaac, the Dean's Office started using outside food sources in September.

"Catering is the cash cow of the University's Food Services operation," acknowledged Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of the Supporting Service Administration, which oversees Food Services, a department of the University. Because the cafeteria part of Food Services that provides food to students is subsidized by the University, it tries to make up its losses through catering. "In a catering atmosphere, one is more free to charge prices that are realistic and that cover expenses," said Rosengarten.

Defending the high prices, Rosengarten explained that, along with differences in food quality standards and labor wages, Food Services charges more because of the "nuances" — it usually ends up supplying the paper goods and the ice, as well as setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Rosengarten did not deny that some outside caterers could offer cheaper prices.

According to Rosengarten, Yeshiva employs only legal aliens and unionized workers, so that, for example, events in the early morning or on Sundays can become a big labor expense for Food Services. "Prices aren't high because we're charging too much, but because expenses are too high," claimed Rosengarten.

Dismissing the loss in business as "not significant," Rosengarten

pointed out that smaller catering jobs do not matter so much and that most other offices of Yeshiva still use Food Services, such as the Development Office, the President's Office, the Admissions Office and the graduate schools.

While using outside food sources is allowed, the practice is discouraged because the University would prefer the income. According to an Observer source, some department heads require their subordinates to use Food Services so that budgets for food are easily kept under observation.

While the recent gripes from the SCW campus may not have caused a dent in the revenues of Food Services, they have brought to light the apparent mismanagement of the Department. Bills are often

pointed out that smaller catering jobs do not matter so much and that most other offices of Yeshiva still use Food Services, such as the Development Office, the President's Office, the Admissions Office and the graduate schools.

Even a prestigious consulting firm, however, seems not to have helped Food Services deflect complaints of poor service and low quality food. Food Services consistently arrives late to begin setting up for events, and often utensils and wash-bins are missing. Special requests generally are not honored, and there are reports of communication problems among the staff. "They're just not professional enough for me, and I don't want to deal with them," said Isaac.

Goldfisher, who now uses Food Services only for beverages, said that often her orders for drinks are not even properly filled — while she asks for juice, water and diet drinks, Food Services provides non-diet sodas.

Part of the problem may be simply that Food Services is designed primarily to provide students with food rather than as a catering service. Food Services even turns down catering orders if fulfilling them would interfere with daily food services. "Our priority is to make sure students eat," said Rosengarten.

Additionally, orders are required to be submitted two weeks prior to any event, unlike professional catering operations that may be able to fill a same day order. Indeed, those who use Food Services for regular, yearly events, such as the Office of Student Services, which sponsors Orientation every year, reported better service.

Rosengarten himself implied that the entire Food Services department is less than ideal. Since Food Services is, in effect, a money losing operation for the University, Yeshiva has researched alternative possibilities, including using outside companies, as many other colleges do.

However, outside companies were generally not interested in servicing Yeshiva, since its colleges are small and its campuses are spread out, requiring two kitchens and two staffs.

There have also been complaints of Food Services' providing poor quality food. When Goldfisher planned a last minute "break the fast" on the Yom Kippur Katan fast day, she relied on Food Services, which, according to Goldfisher, brought stale bread and old tuna fish. There have been other reports of rotten fruit and soggy sandwiches.

"Our clientele tends to complain more than other clientele," said Rosengarten. "Nobody bats a thousand, but our consultant disagrees with anyone who says the food isn't good."



Food Service, claiming to lose money on students, attempts to compensate by overcharging for events

delivered months after an event and are rarely, if ever, itemized. "I would get a totally random number as my bill," said Goldfisher.

According to Isaac, when the Dean's Office asked for a catering menu from Food Services in order to see how much each item cost, the Wilf campus Food Services denied the request.

"Part of the problem with Food Services is they don't provide a price list," said Dean Bacon.

It is, in fact, practices like these that have fueled the suspicions of unreasonable price inflation. Both Mr. Moshe Singer, the manager of the Midtown Food Services, and Mr. Jacob Lieberman, the Associate Director of Food Services, declined to comment.

"We don't just take our prices out of the air," insisted Rosengarten. Admitting that Food Services does have an information dissemination problem, Rosengarten attributed the disorganization to the department's being understaffed and overworked. "It's not because we don't want to provide itemized bills," said Rosengarten. "It's just hard to pack thirty hours of work into twenty four hours."

The only catering guide currently available is outdated and does not include what foods are offered and how much products cost. Food Services plans to create a web page linked to Yeshiva's site that would give catering information and facilitate order submissions.

According to Rosengarten, the current prices are "based on acceptable principles in the field." Since 1987, Yeshiva has relied on the expertise of Birchfield Food Systems, a large college and uni-

## In Your Own Words

"How do you feel about SCW Jewish and secular requirements?"



Melinda Russak, SCW Freshman:

"I understand the need for Jewish studies requirements. Yet, I would like to see a change allowing students with a heavier secular workload to have less Jewish studies requirements. There should be Jewish studies requirements based on the level of difficulty and number of classes a major requires. I do agree with the one Jewish studies class minimum per term — we come here to be in a Jewish environment. Without any Judaic classes there would be no point in coming to this school."



Zahava Machnokoff, SCW Sophomore:

"Since this is a Yeshiva college whose belief is in *Torah U'madda* there has to be some sort of structure to the Jewish studies. What kind of message would the school be sending if it would not have equal requirements for both secular and Hebrew studies. What would be the point then of a Yeshiva college?"

For the secular requirements students might dislike a subject without actually knowing what it is. Sometimes these same students will change their majors just because they enjoyed one of their requirement classes."

Kate Stubbe, SCW Senior:

"I think that Jewish studies core is a lot of work, that goes without acknowledgement by the school due to the credit system. Students should only be required to take a minimum of one Jewish studies class a semester. Also, there are tracks for Jewish studies uptown at Yeshiva College and there should be the same opportunity here at Stern."

As far as secular requirements are concerned, there are too many Arts and Humanities requirements."

## The Observer

Wishes  
Mazel Tov

to Cultural Arts Editor  
Sara Trappler  
&  
Staff Writer  
Chana Michels

on their respective engagements





## Prenuptial Agreements Slowly Gain Popularity

By Miriam Colton

When Karyn and Alan Hollender married last year, it was understood that they would sign a prenuptial agreement before their wedding. Both had previously heard about prenuptials, a contract intended to protect the wife in the event of a divorce, and wanted to do their part in creating a societal norm in which all married couples sign prenuptials.

Many women in the modern orthodox community, including the Yeshiva University world, have signed prenuptials, the use of which gained popularity in the early 90s. However, there is a surprisingly large segment of the married student body at SCW which has decided not to sign prenuptials. Of ten married women questioned, ranging in ideological spectrum, only four had signed a prenuptial.

In recent decades there has been an intensification of concern for *agunot* in the Jewish community. A Jewish woman is halachically bound to her husband and cannot remarry until she receives a *get*, a Jewish divorce. Although a *beit din*, court of law, can call upon a man to give his wife a *get*, the *beit din* has no way of enforcing it. Unfortunately, many men have used the *get* process to exploit their wives.

"Some men deliberately inflict the status of *iggun* on their spouses, for ulterior motives, by refusing to initiate the *get* process as required by halakah," writes Rabbi Norman Lamm in an article discussing prenuptials. "This has become an acute communal problem that demands redress."

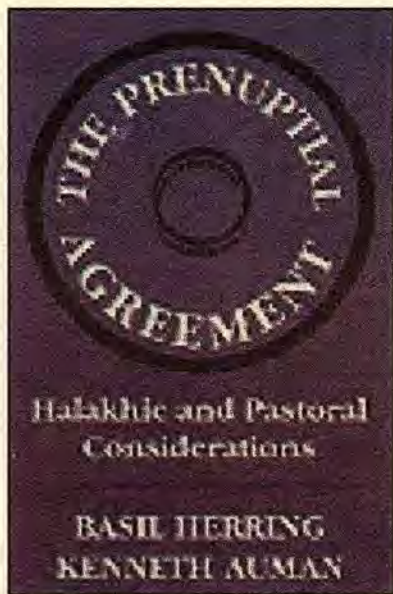
In response, a number of respected rabbis and organizations, including the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA), have encouraged the use of prenuptials. The agreement, a halachic and civil document, consists of two essential parts, intended to provide for an expedient *get* process in the event of a divorce.

The first part, *arbitration*, states that in the unlikely case of marital dispute the couple agrees to abide by the binding decision of a specific *beit din*, court of law, clearly named by the couple. The second part is the husband's *assumption of obligation* to support his wife on a daily basis upon separation. This payment, which is usually \$100-\$150 per day, is designed to give a strong incentive to the husband to accelerate the *get* process, and not to blackmail his wife into paying him a large sum of money.

"The obligation kicks in when a woman is interested in ending the marriage and the man is not," explained Rabbi Yona Reiss, Director of the Beit Din of America (BDA), an affiliate of the RCA. The obligation ceases when the husband responds to a summons or asks the *beit din* to decide the on the couple's marital dispute.

This agreement is legally and halachically enforceable, though to date, no cases have reached civil court.

According to Rabbi Kenneth Auman, co-editor of *The Prenuptial Agreement* published in 1996, a number of modern orthodox couples nowadays are utilizing the prenuptial agreement. Many rabbis, including Rabbi Auman, require the couple to sign the agreement before the wedding, and in a resolution passed in 1993, the RCA urged its members not to perform a wedding ceremony without a prior prenuptial. "A lot of people are doing it," said Rabbi Auman of the Young Israel of



Book edited by Rabbis Basil Herring and Kenneth Auman addresses all aspects of prenuptial agreements

Flatbush. "Most rabbanim require or at least encourage it."

Rabbis and couples are trying to make prenuptials the norm. "Brides might feel like it's insulting to suspect the groom of potentially withholding a *get*," said Rabbi Auman. "By requiring it for everyone, it's not insulting in any one case."

The Hollenders went even further by asking their *mesader keddushin*, the officiating rabbi, to describe the prenuptial at the chasan's *tisch*, or party. "We asked him to address it, because to reinforce the reason we signed it," said Hollender (Spero), an SCW senior. "We want people to know that couples are doing it and why they are doing it, so it will become popular and bring the *agunah* issue to light."

"It's scary to think that there are going to be couples, who are our contemporaries, who will get divorced," said Jordana (Sutain) Mondorow, a member of the Talmud Program for Women. "To help those women, prenuptials have to become the norm." Mondorow, who was unable to complete a prenuptial before her wedding, is considering signing a postnuptial, which is a similar contract drawn up after the wedding. Most women said one should be suspicious of a man unwilling to sign a prenuptial.

According to Rabbis Auman and Reiss, prenuptials have already helped a number of women. "I can think of two cases that I personally dealt with, in which the prenuptials precipitated the giving of the *get*," said Rabbi Auman. Rabbi Reiss noted a case in which the man, no longer religious, appeared before the BDA and said he would not have given a *get* had he not signed a prenuptial.

In the Yeshiva University world, prenuptials are generally accepted. The "marriage packet" that RIETS offers to engaged couples includes a copy of the prenuptial form. Furthermore, the *roshei yeshiva* at RIETS signed a statement in 1999 "urging all officiating rabbis to counsel and encourage marrying couples to sign such an agreement." The signers include Rabbis Norman Lamm, Zevulun Charlop, Herschel Schachter and Michael Rosensweig. "The prenuptial is highly touted by the *roshei yeshiva* at YU and for good reason and purpose," said Rabbi Reiss.

RIETS *rosh yeshiva* Rabbi Mordechai Willig was heavily involved in drafting the standard prenuptial form used by most rabbis, though he declined to comment to *The Observer*.

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## A Cat Fight

### Do All-Women Colleges Breed Competitiveness?

By Adina Levine

The biology review sheet had taken the SCW junior hours to compose. She had slaved over it, diligently laboring until it became the perfect tool for midterm study. So when another student approached her in the library to ask to photocopy the document, she abruptly responded "No." When her classmate demanded an explanation, she proceeded to lament over how hard she had worked, and the unfairness that another student should benefit.

"Women can be intellectually competitive in the classroom," commented Professor Laurel Hatvary, Chair of the English Department. "They can be critical of each other's ideas if they understand that an intellectual challenge is not a personal attack."

Competition among women manifests itself in a multitude of instances. The question emerges as to whether women are inherently more competitive than men, and whether this competition is an integral part of female relationships.

"There are very few people who don't feel the pressure to be skinny, to be pretty, to have the perfect boyfriend, the perfect husband, the perfect wedding," commented one SCW senior. "How else can it be? This is Stern — we are all Orthodox girls living on top of each other."

However, some students believed that competition was not a Stern-only phenomenon, but rather it was characteristic of all women.

"Women are not competitive as in being aggressive, but they are petty, vindictive and nasty," asserted one SCW junior.

What may differentiate Stern competition from ordinary rivalry may be in the perception of this competition, according to some SCW students.

"The difference is that everyone at Stern pretends they're not competitive," SCW senior Julie Pianko remarked. "But they all are. How can they not be?"

The presence of men may be the incentive for female competition, and thus the competition at Stern should be significantly less than in coed environments. "Women are more competitive with women when men are present," opined Jenni Rosenberg, SCW senior. "That's why all girls schools were invented."

However, whether Stern is actually less competitive than coed schools may be open to debate. Rivalry may manifest itself in other instances to create for increased competition in other areas of life, such as the classroom. Students may be reluctant to share notes or review sheets in vying with their classmates for the higher grade.

"I share my notes but I understand why people wouldn't want to," stated Aliza Weinstein, SCW senior. "They did all the work. Why should someone else gain from it without lifting a finger?"

If there are no men as an outlet for competition, Stern women may also exhibit increased rivalry regarding standards for dress. Some students refuse to reveal where they purchase clothing in order to avoid duplication in fashions. Other students specifically dress to conform to the styles set by their classmates, and possibly even attempt to outdo their peers.

"My gut reaction in the morning is to put on a jean skirt and sneakers," stated Fyman. "But going through the back of my mind is knowing that everyone else will be wearing a sweater set. It's not so much competition as peer pressure."

Alternatively, the absence of men may exacerbate the competition over men, as each male automatically escalates in importance and accessibility. The most prominent display of competition occurs in relation to securing dates. When her friend asked her to review a shidduch, one student gave a negative review, calling the guy both a "dork" and "weird." It was not one week later before this student went out with this guy herself.

"Girls have this fear that they won't get married," remarked Shana Strauch. "And they're going to do whatever they need to do in order to get married."

The question whether it is insecurity nurturing competitiveness becomes especially applicable when discussing competition over religious levels.

"People are competitive about superficial and non superficial issues," stated Weinstein. "People are even competitive about being frum."

Other students also noticed the competition over religious levels, with some students trying to surpass each other in what stringencies they practiced or how often they learned. "It was more an issue in Israel, but the competition for being frum still extends here," commented Rosenberg. "It's disgusting and it's crazy, and I don't get it."

On the other hand, Rabbi Kanarfogel believed that this competition was a positive manifestation. "It's a form of *kinat sofrim*," opined Rabbi Kanarfogel. "Just as in academics, healthy competition is good."

The issue is how much of this competition is specific to women, and whether women are more prone to competition than men.

"Girls want all the attention in front of boys," asserted Liora Kasten, SCW junior. "Boys are probably competitive, but not as much for attention."

Some, however, feel that the playing fields are equivalent, with men and women exhibiting equal amounts of competition. In sports, where competition is most prominent, Head of Athletics Dr. Zerneck feels that both men and women display a healthy amount of competition.

"Across the board, I have not seen any difference between competitive levels in men and women in athletics," observed Zerneck. "Like it or not, competition is an integral part of capitalism and American society. My experience is that most people have a degree of competitiveness inside of them."

In some instances, it might be that men are more likely to be competitive. In an academic environment, men may be more vocal in trying to outsmart each other. "Guys are much more competitive in traditional ways," remarked Dr. Ellen Shrecker, who teaches History at both the uptown and midtown campuses. "They are responding to those characteristics that are encouraged by society."

Nevertheless, some denied that competition existed among women. "When groups are working together, women tend to be more cooperative than men," observed Dean Karen Bacon. "In the world of work, employers have commented that women have better team skills. Although of course, there are individual differences."

The absence of competition — and indeed, the presence of teamwork — is apparent in classroom settings, according to some professors. "At Stern, the relationships among women are exemplary," commented Dr. Carole Silver. "It is especially evident when you assign group projects. If there is any competition, it is very veiled."

Some students further support the notion that there was no issue of competition in the classroom.

"There's no competition that I've noticed," explained Joy Kamhin, SCW freshman. "Granted, people in Stern are only happy with A's, but it's not at someone else's expense."

Kamhin believes that the way women dress is also not reflective of competition. "Everyone tries to look really good, but it's not a competitive thing," commented Kamhin. "Girls are helpful in telling you what you should wear, what looks good."

Though whether or not competition is pronounced among women, or specifically among Stern women, may be open to debate, not everyone even agrees that competition is a negative quality. "As long as it's kept within the bounds, competition is good as a way of testing yourself," concluded Dr. Zerneck.



Women are often hesitant to lend other students their notes



## Practical Considerations Override Ambition in Women's Career Choices

By Caryn Litt

The Office of Placement and Career Services recently ran a workshop for students featuring a panel discussion with four successful, Orthodox businesswomen, three of whom were graduates of either SCW or Sy Syms School of Business. "We wanted to show our students that there are other options for women besides for the traditional outlets," explained Naomi Kapp, Associate Director of OPCS. More workshops that will focus on different careers are currently being planned.

That such events are necessary reflects the hesitation among SCW students to strive for high-powered careers. Conscious of religious and familial obligations, many students opt for less time-consuming and energy-absorbing jobs.

"When students come back from Israel, where they are taught the importance of family, many of them want to rethink their career paths," said Kapp. Kapp, who estimated that she is in contact with approximately seventy percent of the student body, noted that a large number of the women had high career goals during high school but have since modified them.

This "goal modification" phenomenon is actually quite common and occurs in a variety of disciplines, most notably in the sciences. For instance, many women scale down their dreams of medical school to more easily manageable goals.

"It's important for a woman to have a career and work, but it's also important to stay flexible to be able to be there for your children," said SCW junior Adi Gedali. Gedali reevaluated her original plans to become a doctor when she realized being on call would not balance well with a family. She has subsequently decided to pursue a career in biotechnology.

Indeed, given the large number of science majors at SCW, a relatively small number of students — about 15-20 each year, according to pre-health advisor Dr. Stefan Bosworth — continue on to medical school. In addition to concerns of balancing family with what they envision to be a stressful career, some women are also daunted by the number of years required to obtain the education and training.

Preferring to spend two to three years on a graduate education, rather than five to eight years for a Ph.D or medical school, students may involve themselves in a number of other health occupations, such as physical therapy or occupational therapy.

"I have considered physical therapy; I'm considering biotechnology," said SCW junior Jenny Richmond, a Biology major. "I ruled out research because that requires a Ph.D, and I'm looking for something that only requires a masters." Similarly, often students who had considered entering Ph.D programs in psychology will choose instead to pursue a Masters in Social Work.

"People generally fall back on the therapies as an alternative to medicine, and are then unhappy," remarked Kapp. "My only concern is that students don't shortchange themselves."

That some students may fail to reach their potential is a concern shared by most administrators who are in contact with students. Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun regularly meets with students who express apprehension about their career goals. "I firmly believe that women need to have a sense of professional development and achievement," said Braun. "Our women have to achieve the best they can." Braun encourages students to pursue their passions.

Career Advisement is also attuned to the

unique concerns of SCW students. Pre-Law Advisor Dr. Michael Hecht very often encounters students who are interested in law school but who are not interested in becoming high-powered lawyers.

"I encourage these students to go to law school and use their law degrees in professions where they can utilize the degrees while not having the crazy lifestyle normally associated with law," said Hecht. Hecht informs students of opportunities besides corporate law, such as administration, government work and Jewish communal service. There has been an increase in women interested in corporate law in the past five years, Hecht noted, although still the majority of the 23 current pre-law students envision themselves filling a traditional role in the family.

Similarly, Bosworth frequently advises students about health related fields aside from becoming medical doctors, such as pharmacology, genetic counseling and public health, as well as types of medicine that do not require many years of training, such as podiatry and midwifery. "We talk about every possible health option," said Bosworth.

According to both Hecht and Bosworth, many students also express concerns about choosing a career that is appropriate for life in Israel.

Since most women are searching seriously for some way to apply their professional interests, it seems as though goal modification should not be taken as a sign of weakness or defeat. Rather, these women view their choices as creative ways to achieve both an intellectually stimulating career and a fulfilling family and religious life — while sacrificing the least amount possible of either.

Although many students alter their original career plans, interest in graduate education is extremely high, especially in comparison with the general population. So far this year more than a hundred students have

submitted requests to the Office of the Registrar for their transcripts to be sent to graduate schools.

In what may be a characteristic peculiarity among college students, many SCW students are generally very focused and career-oriented. According to Kapp, approximately sixty percent of SCW students know already when entering the college what profession they want to go into.

Moreover, more than a hundred SCW students are currently enrolled in one of the school's joint programs, such as social work or physical therapy. Participation in a joint program, which shaves a year off of undergraduate study, often requires that a student decide her career choice as early as the end of her sophomore year, which, if a student studied in Israel for a year, may mean making the decision after spending only one year at college.

Even without being a part of a joint program, when a student spends only three years at SCW, as the majority of students do, the process of choosing a career necessarily accelerates.

"There is really a mass mentality that you must finish SCW in three years," said Kapp. "People are running, but they don't always know where they're running to."

That students are in a rush to finish their general education may indicate that practical concerns, as opposed to receiving an education for its own sake, motivate many of the SCW students.

According to Kapp, the careers that most SCW students decide on are the more traditional ones. "My impression is that the women are concerned about having a career that they'll be able to support themselves with," said Kapp. Some women return from their year of study in Israel determined to support husbands who will learn Torah, noted

## Empowering or Sheltering? Students Debate Pros and Cons of All-Women Classes

By Miriam Colton

On Fridays, Sy Syms holds a business seminar class open to both male and female undergraduates. Lectures are delivered by various CEOs, and students are encouraged to ask questions. Invariably, the majority of questions come from the male half of the room, with less than a handful of the women raising their hands, perhaps even none.

While the main draw of Yeshiva University to prospective students is the religious environment and Judaic classes, the undergraduate colleges are also unique for another reason. As one of 70 women's colleges in the United States, SCW provides an all-female environment on campus, in the dorms, and in the classroom.

It has become an accepted idea in the field of psychology and sociology that women learn better without men in the classroom. "It is intellectually empowering," asserted Dean Karen Bacon. "It also gives women the opportunity to assert leadership, without having to fight over gender issues."

Traditionally, men have been more aggressive and dominant in the academic world and in the workplace. With men around, women are more likely to be self-conscious, timid and embarrassed.

Students point to the coed lectures held at Yeshiva, during which many SCW women are too uncomfortable to speak up. "It's definitely better this way," said SCW junior Tamar Ellman, though she admits that she hasn't been in a coed educational framework since elementary school. "When you go to these coed events and lectures you can see how few girls speak up."

Conversely, in an all-female environment, the women who are inclined to defer to men find the freedom and ease to express themselves. "In the years in college and before, there is a lot of growth in terms of personality, identity and goals of life," said Dean Bacon. "Without the social conventions or pressure, even the most timid woman can make her voice heard."

Michelle Sadoff, a freshman, attended public school in Minneapolis prior to coming to Yeshiva. Accustomed to a coed environment, Sadoff favors all-women's classes. "The atmosphere in general is more conducive to studying because there's less social pressure," said Sadoff.

"It's less pressure in an all-women's environment," said Masha Igel, an SCW sophomore who attended the Hebrew Academy of Montreal, a coed high school. "Girls are more into impressing guys and socializing in a coed setting. Stereotypes are played out when guys and girls are in class together."

Women also like the separate classes because it creates a more halachically appropriate environment. "It helps in terms of certain restrictions on interactions," said Sadoff.

Some feel that coed classes are a particular obstacle in women's studies courses. "It greatly depends on



Many students enjoy the ease of discussions in all women classes

the topic of the class," said Nora Nachumi, an SCW English professor who teaches a number of women and literature courses on campus. "In certain classes like women's studies, women feel a lot freer and more comfortable without guys around." She notes that in coed classes she has taught at other colleges, women often backed down from a point or opinion when challenged by a man in the class.

Professors in a coed classroom sometimes undervalue women's comments, supporting a woman's natural tendency to be more reticent in front of men. "Teachers respond differently to men and women," said Dr. Joshua Bacon, a SCW psychology professor, who previously taught uptown as well. "They tend to be more casual about the women's comments and more challenging to the male students." Since they are expected to be quiet and demure, women subconsciously live up to this projected image.

A number of the students would prefer being in a coed classes and think that single-sex classes is one of the drawbacks of SCW. "I enjoy coed classes," said Liora Kasten, SCW junior, who switched last semester from the University of Maryland. "If I have an opinion I'll share it. I don't care who's around."

"I would like the idea of being in a more natural environment," said junior Racheli Rubin, who attended YULA high school. "I think guys in the classroom would add an important dynamic, by bringing in different strengths and perspectives."

Rubin, who was debating between attending Barnard and SCW, feels that an all-women's college like Barnard has the advantage of offering its students the option of taking classes with men from Columbia University, as well as sharing a campus and community with the entire university.

According to the Women College Coalition, an association representing women's colleges in the U.S and Canada, 90% of women's colleges have cross-registration with neighboring coed colleges and universities. SCW is unique in that coed classes are almost nonexistent, and it does not share a campus with a coed institution like Barnard does with Columbia. Even though YC and SCW do have some joint events and can utilize the other's academic facilities, an SCW student can in actuality have almost no interaction with the YC men in and outside the classroom.

Some admit that while women may

*continued on page 18*

Kapp. "Unusual careers are few and far between," said Kapp.

The burgeoning interest in Sy Syms School of Business may also reflect the practical concerns that factor into a career choice. Aside for the almost two hundred students enrolled in SSSB, a significant number of SCW students have chosen to minor in a business

related field.

"I'm minoring in business because I'm interested in it, but also because it's practical," admitted SCW junior Tamar Ellman, an English major.



# Prenuptials

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Several of the women who signed the prenuptials were encouraged by their rabbis or teachers. Susie (Moskovitz) Loberfeld, an SCW senior, said Professor Fayge Safran included the prenuptials in her marriage course at SCW. The more outspoken teachers at SCW will sometimes discuss prenuptials in their Women and Jewish Law courses, such as Rabbi Saul Berman, currently on sabbatical. Loberfeld, who married her husband Josh in August, said that in addition to the encouragement of her teacher, her *mesader kedushin*, Rabbi J.J. Schachter, insisted a prenuptial be signed.

The married women who had signed prenuptials said that they were unsure whether their friends were also signing prenuptials. "People don't really talk about it," said Loberfeld.

While many of unmarried students have heard the term prenuptial, the majority were unclear what it was. Women are often dependent on learning about a prenuptial from their rabbis, assuming they support it. If an officiating rabbi is not supportive of prenuptials, the woman may be left unaware of the issues involved.

"Something should be done to make the students at Stern informed about prenuptials," said Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh, a teacher in the Advanced Talmud Program for Women and rebbe at MTA. Suggestions include holding a seminar or lecture, as well as distribution of material that explains the document.

While prenuptials are becoming more popular in the centrist and modern circles like Yeshiva, in the right-wing world it is still considered taboo.

"It's more accepted in the modern orthodox world than in the yeshivish world," said Rabbi Auman. "My impression is that they don't like to deal with anything that's new."

SCW students who did not sign prenuptials were influenced by a variety of factors, including ignorance, rabbinic or external pressure, and ideological objections. Of the six women who did not sign prenuptials only one was willing to have her name printed in the *Observer*. One student initially agreed and then changed her mind upon conferring with her husband.

One junior who married this year, was unclear what a prenuptial was. "I don't think I signed one," she said, declining to give her name. "I'm not really sure what it is."

I had so many other things to take care of and no one stressed that I should sign a prenuptial, or that a prenuptial is really effective," said Shira (Weinberg) Goodman. "I didn't feel pressure."

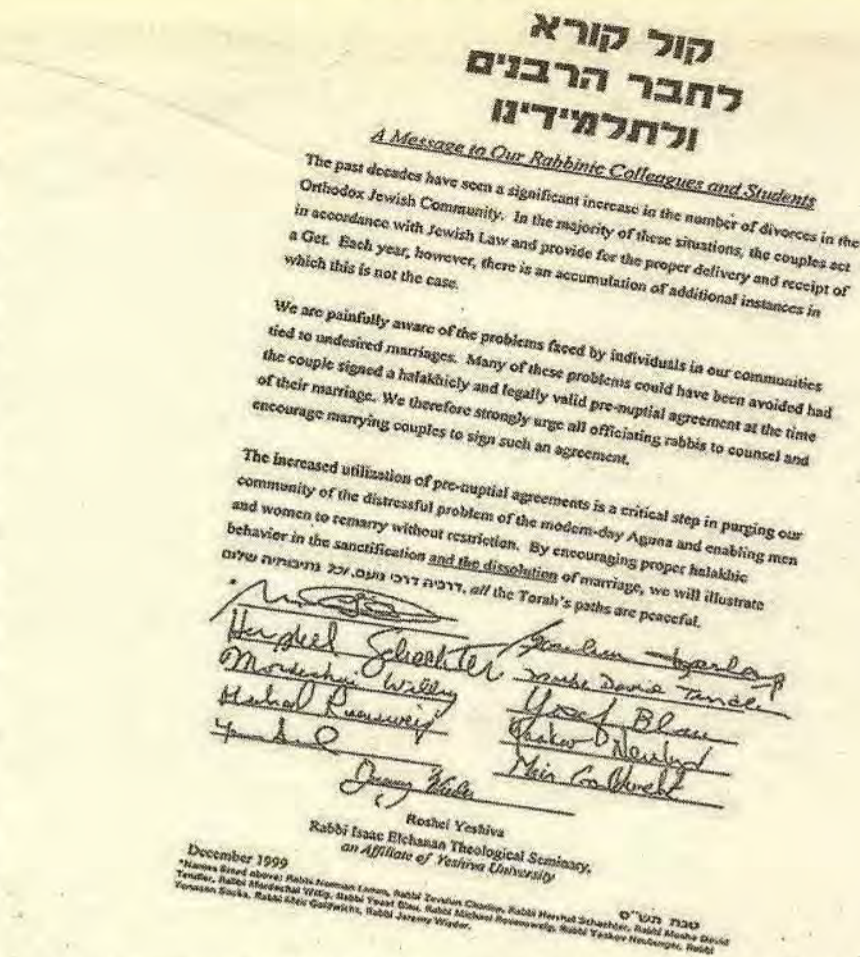
A number of students object to signing prenuptials on ideological grounds. "We discussed it for a long time, and decided we didn't feel comfortable signing one," said one SCW senior who also declined to give her name.

Some feel that discussing divorce before the wedding could dampen on the marriage. "Divorce is more out there if you put it on the table," said one married senior, citing a concept discussed by the late Rabbi Avigdor Miller, a world-renowned author and speaker. "My husband and I are very against going into a marriage even thinking we're going to get divorced."

This woman and others are ideologically opposed to prenuptials. "It's insulting to him that I don't trust him enough by thinking that he wouldn't go by a *beit din*, and it's insulting to me that I would choose to marry someone who would be like that," she said.

Those who did sign a prenuptial insist that it wasn't uncomfortable. "I don't think it was weird at all," said Fay (Blashka) Gersten, whose *mesader kiddushin*, Rabbi Pesach Lerner, National Council Executive Vice President, insisted on a prenuptial.

"It didn't set a tone at all," said Loberfeld. "It's not that different than the *ketubah* which also discusses divorce." A *ketubah*, the marriage contract signed at the wedding ceremony, states the sum of



RIETS proclamation signed by Rabbis Lamm, Charlop, Schechter, Tender, Willig, Blau, Rosensweig, Neuberger, Sacks, Goldwicht and Wieder

money to be given to a woman with a *get*, though the word divorce is never explicitly mentioned.

Some women's rabbis object to prenuptials on halachic grounds. One woman, whose husband learns in a more right-wing yeshiva, said his rabbi was opposed to it ideologically and halachically. Another woman's rabbi only held by the *arbitration* clause, but felt the second part of the agreement, the husband's *assumption of obligation*, to be halachically problematic.

Marilyn Mattie Klein, president and founder of L'maan B'nos Yisrael International (LBYI), an organization founded in 1998 to help *agunot* around the world, firmly supports prenuptials, though she is quick to note that it can in fact harm women. She points to the arbitration component of the agreement as the source of this harm, claiming that women commit to a specific *beit din*, sometimes unaware of the policies and fairness of that *beit din*. Additionally, the members of the *beit din* can change over the years. "It has happened a few times that the prenuptial worked against women because the *beit din* wasn't honorable," explained Klein.

While there are various prenuptial forms in existence, some include additional clauses that state other issues besides the *get* that the specified *beit din* will arbitrate, such as child custody, visitation rights, and monetary disputes. Klein is opposed to including these clauses, because corruption and lack of sensitivity to the needs of the women by the *beit din* can easily skew such judgements, and the woman is then bound to that *beit din*.

Klein's organization has issued a "Standards for Batei Din," delineating certain principles by which *batei din* should abide, such as making the the giving of the *get* the first item of business in the divorce proceedings so that the man cannot use the *get* as a methods of bribery for other issues like monetary matters. Usually, a couple settles all components of their divorce with one *beit din*.

"It's a problem if a woman assumes that because she has a prenuptial she's okay," said Klein. "It's a tool, but in no way a solution to the problems of the *get*."

Klein also recommends replacing a specific *beit din* in the arbitration clause with names of individual rabbis who are known to be sensitive to women's needs. However, many rabbis claim that naming specific rabbis is difficult, and that while some *batei din* are corrupt, the majority are not. Although not foolproof, many emphasize that prenuptials are a definitive step in the right direction. "It's like a seat belt," said Rabbi Reiss. "It doesn't eliminate problems of disaster, but it reduces it

## קול קורא לחבר הרבנים ולתלמידיהו

A Message to Our Rabbinic Colleagues and Students

The past decades have seen a significant increase in the number of divorces in the Orthodox Jewish Community. In the majority of these situations, the couples act in accordance with Jewish Law and provide for the proper delivery and receipt of a *Get*. Each year, however, there is an accumulation of additional instances in which this is not the case.

We are painfully aware of the problems faced by individuals in our communities tied to undesired marriages. Many of these problems could have been avoided had the couple signed a halakhically and legally valid pre-nuptial agreement at the time of their marriage. We therefore strongly urge all officiating rabbis to counsel and encourage marrying couples to sign such an agreement.

The increased utilization of pre-nuptial agreements is a critical step in purging our community of the distressful problem of the modern-day *Aguna* and enabling men and women to remarry without restriction. By encouraging proper halakhic behavior in the sanctification and the dissolution of marriage, we will illustrate דרכיה דרכי נועם וכל מוצאותיה שלום. *All the Torah's paths are peaceful.*

*(Signatures of Rabbis Lamm, Charlop, Schechter, Tender, Willig, Blau, Rosensweig, Neuberger, Sacks, Goldwicht, and Wieder)*

Roshel Yeshiva  
Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary,  
an Affiliate of Yeshiva University

December 1999

*(List of rabbis who signed the document)*

by a large percentage."

As the prenuptial becomes more standard with the passage of time, most rabbis and couples who support its use are hopeful that it will be adopted more rapidly," said Klein. "The strength of it always depends on the community's desire for it to work."

More information on prenuptials is available through the Orthodox Caucus, an organization devoted to publicizing issues in the Jewish community, at [www.orthodoxcaucus.com](http://www.orthodoxcaucus.com)

# Women in the Classroom

continued from page 17

act differently with men, exposure to men in the college framework will prepare women for the inevitable interaction in the workplace. "Guys can be more aggressive in the classroom dialogue," said Professor Nachumi. "It's a good experience for women to engage in conversation in the presence of men."

Students feel that this added perspective that each gender contributes would be likewise beneficial to the men uptown. "Guys uptown don't have the brilliant girl sitting next to them in class to dispel whatever myths they may have about the other's intelligence and vice versa," said Rubin. "What either campus says about the other isn't too educated, because you can't speak knowledgeably about something without being a part of it."

Even those students who are in favor of separate-sex education acknowledge that for some women coed classes are beneficial. "Some girls definitely do better in a coed environment," said Sadoff. "The competitive environment of men helps women achieve more academically."

By graduate school, a coed environment becomes less of a problem, according to Dean Bacon. "In graduate school, you're getting to a goal, not defining that goal," said Dean Bacon. "Social pressures don't have as much of an impact."

And while some feel a lack of interaction in the classroom and on campus could be harmful in the long run, Dean Bacon insists that once a woman is strong in her convictions and self-esteem she will be at the greatest advantage. "Then, you can function with anyone," said Dean Bacon. "It's all about what's inside you."



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**Naomi Klass Mauer** Assistant Publisher, The Jewish Press

For further information transportation & parking call Marilyn Mattie Klein, M.A. M.S.W. (718) 338-0833, or visit our website at [www.lbyi.org](http://www.lbyi.org)

L'maan B'nos Yisrael International would like to thank the following Rabbinical and synagogue organizations for supporting our efforts in this program: National Council of Young Israel, Orthodox Union, Rabbinical Alliance of America (Igud), Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbinical Courts of the State of Israel

*Alone we can do little. With the help of Hashem, together, we can accomplish much.*

**WITH THE HELP OF HASHEM, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE**



# sports

## Proposal To Rent Gym at Baruch College Falls Through

### Search For Gym Facilities Continues

By Alisa Rose

A recent proposal to rent gym space at Baruch College to accommodate SCW sports teams has fallen through, though officials are looking into other options.

"We were extremely disappointed that it didn't work out, but we are actively engaged in pursuing other options," said Richard Zerneck, YU director of athletics.

The plan, which would have allowed SCW teams to use Baruch's facilities on 23rd and Lexington about twice a week, fell through when Baruch officials withdrew. Baruch College recently opened a new building on 26th and Lexington with gym facilities, freeing their older facility for use by others. At the last minute, Baruch backed out of the deal because they did not want to limit their flexibility, according to Zerneck.

Zerneck expressed his optimism about finding other gyms for SCW teams and for "other activities the SCW gym cannot accommodate." He mentioned a proposal with the Sol Goldman Y on 14th Street that would acquire gym space for a volleyball team next fall.

SCW currently rents space for the basketball team to practice at Basketball City,



Back to the Drawing Board:  
SCW sports will continue in the eleventh floor gym

court time for the tennis team and tennis classes at the Midtown Tennis Center, and pool time for classes and recreation at Columbia Grammar School. SCW's gym, located on the 11th floor of the 245 Lexington Avenue building, is about half the size of a regulation gym.

"We practice in the little gym on the 11th floor," said SCW's fencing coach, Judy Cummins. "Even if we have the whole gym to ourselves, it is just adequate."

During fencing season, Cummins leads practices for the fencing team twice a week in SCW's gym, one night of which is shared with a dance class. "It's impos-

sible to hold fencing practice with a dance class going on," said Cummins. "I also think it's dangerous." Cummins noted that she has had to give lessons in the hallway because there was not enough room in the gym.

The administration is working on schedule changes for the coming fall, so the fencing team and dance class will not have to use the gym at the same time, according to Cummins.

The fencing team also hosts meets in SCW's gym about two to three times a year, meets that the small gym can barely accommodate. "The room isn't big enough for a regulation-size fencing strip," explained Cummins. But she praised Zerneck for his efforts. "He is totally accessible and really works for the students," said Cummins.

Chanie Angster echoed Cummins' assessment of the gym. "It's not adequate," said the SCW junior and member of the fencing team, noting its "very small" size. However, Angster was not enthusiastic about the possibility of practicing in an outside gym either. "By the time we get there, we won't have any time to practice," said Angster. "We don't really want that."

In addition to the inconvenience of not having an adequate gym on campus, lack of adequate gym facilities is one of several factors that prevent SCW from qualifying as an NCAA school. The NCAA now requires that schools sponsor at least five sports, three of which must be "team" sports. However, lack of facilities makes SCW unable to support numerous sports teams.

Many SCW students said that they longed for a standard-size gym on campus. Until then, Zerneck reassured students, "We are constantly looking for gym space for Stern."



Athletics Department seeks replacements in Baruch Gym

## "ON THE AIR"

By Sara Lampert

Imagine that you love sports. You read the sports section every day; you watch ESPN's Sportscenter religiously. If it is the New Jersey Nets that you love, then you must know Ian Eagle and Bill Raftery. If it is the New York Knicks that you love, then you must know Walt Frazier and Marv Albert. And if it is the Yeshiva University Macs that you love, then you must know Adam Cohen and Avi Bloom.

Adam and Avi are the voices you hear when you click on "live broadcast" during a Macs game. On top of being full time students at YU, they do hours of preparation before each game. The day before, advertisements need to be made and signs have to be hung up around campus. Research has to be done on the opposing team and names and numbers have to be memorized in order for the broadcast to run smoothly and sound professional. Adam and Avi study the opposing teams' record, statistics and various facts about the team. Then they dissect that information and apply it to the broadcast.

Game day is a process that would normally take an entire television crew to produce. But Adam and Avi do it on their own and have it under control. Two hours before the game, they bring the equipment to the Max Stern Athletic Center and test it out. Then they tape interviews with the coaches from both teams. Fifteen minutes before tip-off they have a pre-game show with music, updated highlights and one of the interviews. Then it's game time, and Adam and Avi get on the air and sound like true professionals.

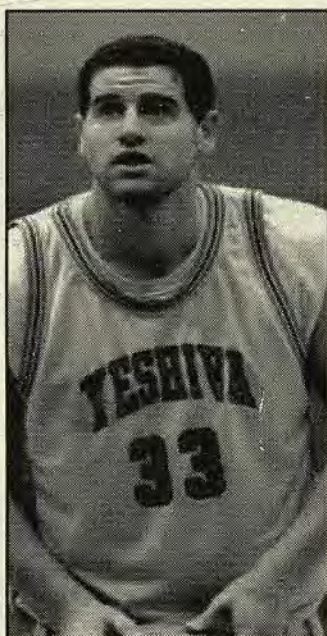
Adam does the play by play, and Avi is the color commentator. A play by play man is responsible for making the people who are listening feel like they are seeing the action on the court. The color commentator gives more of a total background of

the teams and individuals.

I had the opportunity of breaking the sex-barrier and doing a broadcast at the Red Sarachek Basketball Tournament at YU. What I learned is that to do this you have to really love it and be dedicated, since the preparation involved is more difficult than the actual broadcast. Through hard work, Adam and Avi were able to raise \$4500 for equipment necessary to broadcast games through the web.

As Adam and Avi would have ended their broadcast on a "Macs note," the Macs won their last eight of ten games. Coach Jonathan Halpert won his three hundredth career game, as his son Rafi scored a three pointer that sent the game into Overtime.

As Rafi says, "It was a great season but we look forward to improving and hopefully next season the team will win the conference." Thanks to the hard work of Adam and Avi, we can all click on to the web to hear it.



Yossi Gev's performance is only one of the many topics for the Web Broadcast

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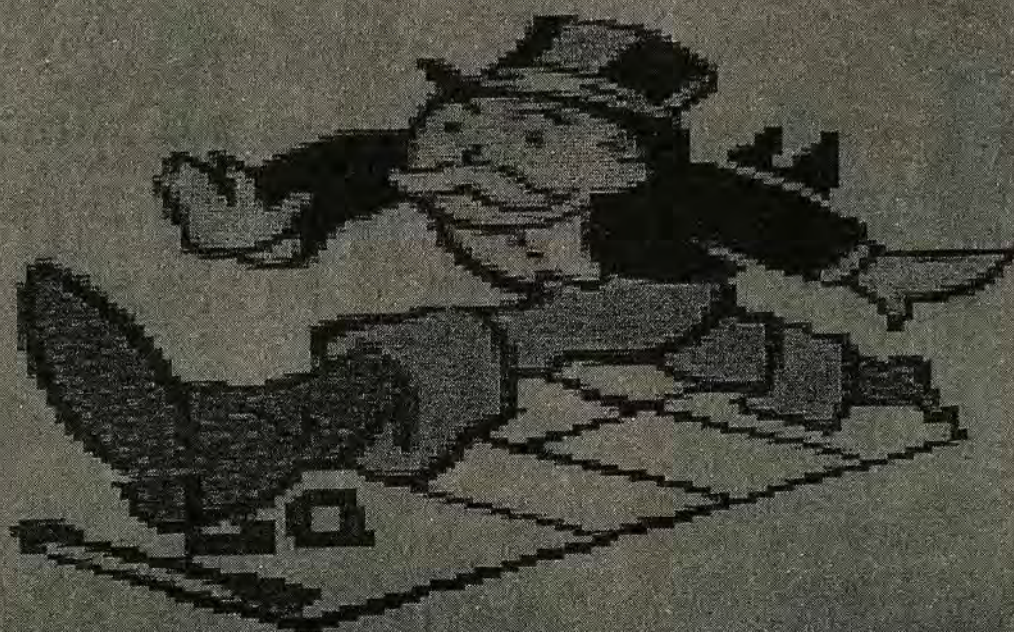
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President



## Library Assesses Progress Through Student Survey

By Shira Frankel

In an effort to measure and increase patron satisfaction and utilization of University library services, Yeshiva libraries are conducting a survey for all students, faculty and staff. The focus is on library services and the level to which they meet or exceed patrons' expectations.

The format of the survey was created by experts and is completely professional, according to university librarians. The survey was modeled after Servqual, a joint project of Fortune 500 companies and the Institute for Market Research.

However, even though the libraries sent out e-mails to students and have posted flyers advertising the survey, they fear that many Yeshiva students will not participate. "I did look at the email, but I didn't go to the site," said Ariella Goldstein, SCW freshman. "If they distributed the survey on paper I would probably do it."

As an incentive for people to fill out the survey, "there will be a drawing for a prize on the national level which I expect will be a Palm or similar device," said Pearl Berger, dean of university libraries. "There will be gift certificates as well."

The survey is determined by three factors: input - availability of books and resources, cataloging, reference questions, output - actual patron use like check-outs and computer databases, and outcome - the impact of library services on the success of students' endeavors.

Items in the survey include willingness to help users, space that facilitates quiet study, complete runs of journal titles, modern equipment, timely document delivery inter-library loan and compre-

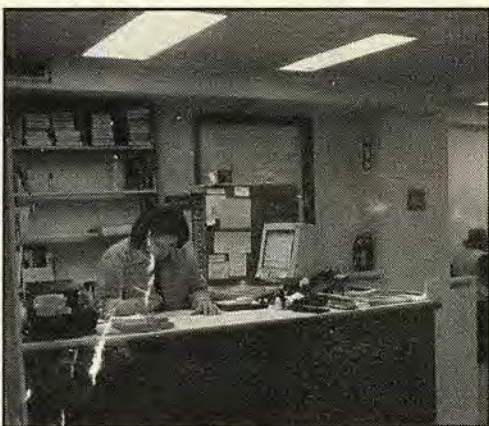


Lack of resource material at SCW will probably cause low ratings

hensive print collections. For each item on the survey, patrons are asked to identify their minimum service level, desired service level and perception of the library's service performance on a scale of 1-9.

Many students feel there is little purpose in completing the questionnaire. "I'm not a survey person," said Rachel Nathanson, SCW sophomore. "I don't feel like they accomplish anything."

The survey is being conducted



Students evaluate librarian's assistance through the survey

through the Association of Research Libraries' (ARL) LibQUAL+ program. It is part of a research and development project sponsored by the ARL in collaboration with the Texas A&M University Libraries. The project's goal is to define and measure library service quality across institutions and to create useful quality-assessment tools for libraries. A total of 170 academic libraries, representing some of the largest research libraries in North America, are participating in the Spring 2002 LibQUAL+ survey project.

"The survey document is standard for the participating libraries, which means that Yeshiva did not have the option of changing it or adding to it," said Berger. "Our participation will provide the YU Libraries with information about how our patrons perceive library service, and how this compares with patrons at other universities."

By initiating action based on the information they receive from their library users and from other LibQUAL+ participants, libraries can provide services that are more closely aligned with user expectations. As library services are improved, the ultimate goal is to surpass user expectations in search of excellent library services that better help users to reach their learning and research objectives.

Some students are excited at the prospect of improvement. "It's important for students to fill it out, because if one thing is essential, it's that YC and SCW students make their feelings and opinions known, and not settle for an inadequate status quo," said Alan Goldsmith, YC freshman. "Regardless of what happens with this specific survey, students will only benefit if they increase their feedback in positive and prominent

## Midtown Campus Names Four Valedictorians

continued from page 1

other crucial factors like difficulty of major, choice of classes and school leadership.

"GPA is our rule at the current time," said Orlian. "We can't start judging extraneous factors, because how are we going to weigh it all?"

Conversely, the YC valedictorian is chosen by a democratic ballot, with the student body voting among approximately ten men with the highest GPAs in the college.

Some students point to the fact that a student who has been on campus for her entire college career is at a disadvantage in the SCW process, since all four years are averaged into her GPA. Students who study in Israel for the first year or transfer from another college, do not have those previous grades averaged into their total GPA.

"It does seem kind of unfair that students on campus longer are in effect penalized," said Abby Calm, SCW junior.

Although Posy agreed that there might be some flaws with the current system, she said she could think of no better system. "Everything has its disadvantages," she said. "I don't think it's more flawed than any other method."

"There was tremendous controversy about it years back," said Dean Karen Bacon. "The students decided that they felt that the valedictorian should have the highest academic average." Bacon and others point out that by having the students elect the valedictorian, popularity often becomes a factor.

The Judaic studies valedictorian, Rachelle Weinstein, will join Zauderer in giving a valedictory address at the awards ceremony on April 29th. With a joint major in chemistry, Weinstein decided to major in Judaic studies for her own fulfillment and enjoyment. "It was challenging but I'm glad I did a double major," said Weinstein. "I hope to use my Judaic studies background in a community setting."

While Weinstein enjoyed most of her courses, she did point out that the Judaic studies department could definitely use "a wider variety of selection."

Danielle Harris, Sy Syms valedictorian, will also speak at the awards ceremony. A finance major, she will remain in New York next year to work at a financial company. "I really enjoyed the Sy Syms courses," said Harris from Rechaviah, Jerusalem. "My professors were very accessible, and provided an all-around education."

Posy, a computational biology major, will attend Columbia University Graduate



Weinstein, with a double major, takes the Judaic Studies Valedictorian

School next year and plans to devote her career to computer research in biology. She has been awarded the prestigious Howard Hughes Fellowship, which entitles her to fully paid tuition and a large stipend of over \$20,000 dollars.

Ironically, both Posy and Zauderer are married, a fact that one might perceive as a challenge to academic achievement. One member of the Yeshiva PR department admitted that having a married woman represent the SCW graduating class was harmful to Yeshiva's image. SCW has traditionally attempted to fight the stereotype that its student body is highly pressured and focused on getting married.

Dean Bacon pointed out that while most undergraduates do not get married, Posy and Zauderer prove that for some women it's possible to achieve academic excellence while being married. "I believe people who are motivated and talented can do more than one thing well," said Bacon. "Being a student and being married is doable."

In fact, Zauderer, a speech and audiology major who married last June, claims that being married has helped her academically. "It has motivated me a lot more," explained Zauderer. "I feel a lot more responsible because I have to eventually make money and contribute to supporting a family." Zauderer's extra-curricular life has mainly consisted of speech internships that she has held throughout her college years. "I feel really prepared for graduate school," she said.

The graduation ceremony on May 23rd will also feature keynote speaker Limor Livnat, the Minister of Education in Israel. From YC 308 men are candidates for graduation, as are 253 women from SCW.

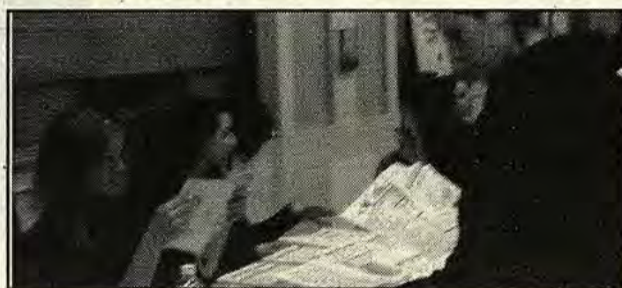


Table on nutrition

### Women's Health Fair

SCW women browse different tables at the annual Women's Health Fair, held in March. Booths included information about proper eating habits, relations techniques, breast cancer awareness, and spousal abuse.



Table with information packets on spousal abuse

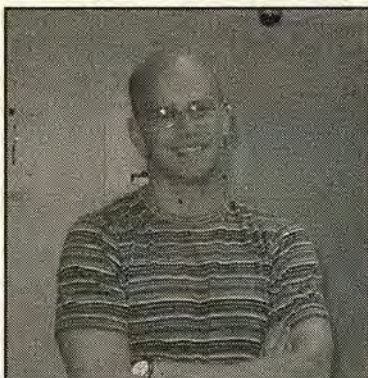
## CAMPUS BRIEFS

The final schedule this year includes finals the morning after Shavuot, which may present a problem for out of town students who wished to travel home for the holiday. Those students are now forced either to forfeit spending Shavuot with their families or to travel back to school on the already late Saturday night, and nevertheless wake up early for their final. This year school will be open for shavuot to accommodate students as much as possible.

Summer Housing has been approved this year for any student taking Yeshiva summer school, enrolled in an internship for credit, or taking F.I.T. summer school as part of Yeshiva credit. Summer hous-

ing will only run for the first session, ending before July, and those students who enroll in the second session of Yeshiva summer school will have to find their housing elsewhere.

Registration this semester is employing a new system of dropping off registration forms for upperclassmen, under the assumption that the registrar will



Kevin Landis is one of the Judges for the Constitutional Contest

be able to grant their requests for the most part. No longer will upperclassmen be forced to wait online for their registration time, although lower classmen must register in person.

This year marks the inauguration of the Langfan Family Constitutional Oratorical contest. SCW and SSSB students compete for a prize of \$1500 based on the content and delivery of oration on the topic of Drug Testing of High School students. The contest was held

on April 25th with four students participating. Abby Malen and Adina Levine split the prize.

Jane Galland has been hired as assistant to the dean. The new position was created to allow for maximum efficiency within the Deans Office, and will facilitate the management of the office.

The Wellness and Fitness Gym class took a tour of the cafeteria. Explained by the head of Food Services as to the nutritional difference between raw carrots and cooked carrots, the students examined the nutritional value of different foods in the cafeteria. Whether they will abide by these lessons is a different issue.



# on campus

## Yom Hazikaron / Yom Haatzmaut Ceremony Receives Large Turnout

By Ariela Dworetzky

Yom Hazikaron is a painful day - and the transition to Yom Haatzmaut is always very difficult. This year, it was harder than usual. It's been a year of reading the news, only to read the lists of names and ages of those killed while eating pizza, celebrating Passover and driving home.

This year, Israel's Day of Remembrance was both overwhelming and depressing. Many SCW students claimed that they weren't exactly sure how to commemorate the day - with the numbers of victims so high and the pain so intense, how can one limit one's mourning to one day?

The organizers of the Yeshiva Yom Hazikaron/Yom Haatzmaut program took a difficult situation and carried out a program that was appropriate and comforting. Students arrived at Lampport Auditorium and viewed clips from attacks that have taken place in Israel, from as far back as 1991. Organizers read a small synopsis from each of Israel's wars, and then read the names of the soldiers that have been killed since the outbreak of the current violence.

"We wanted people to really feel a connection to everyone that's living in Israel, who are putting their lives on the line every single day by living there," said Rebecca Wimmer, SSSB junior and co-president of the Israel Club. "We want people to really feel the pain, loss and suffering every time a terrorist attack happens in Israel. We should realize how lucky we are to have



Students dance at chagiga in the Rubin Caf Eretz Yisrael."

Rav Goldwicht, Rav Schechter and Rav Blau spoke about the importance of the Jewish State and urged Yeshiva students to do what they could to help - to pray, learn, give charity, write letters to the President, and visit Israel.

Lou Shapp, Yeshiva College Student Council President led the students in a festive prayer service in honor of Yom Haatzmaut. The service was followed by dancing in the Rubin Hall cafeteria.

Students who chose to attend the Yom Hazikaron program were greatly moved by the choice of clips and the speeches by the roshei yeshiva.

"I think the turnout was really beautiful," said Wimmer. "And based on the responses that I received from people afterwards, I feel that people were really affected by it and thought it was a really meaningful program."

"I think the Israel club presidents Rebecca Wimmer, Tzippy Berman, and Yehuda Shmidman did an excellent job on the program," said SCW junior Dassie Wagner. "It was especially important this year to commemorate and celebrate our homeland and its heroes. They made sure that the students of YC and SCW were able to do so."



Ceremony for Yom Hazikaron in Lampport auditorium

## YUSSR Sends Annual Group to Lead Seders for Pesach

By Rachel Horn

Yeshiva University Students for the Spiritual Revival of the Soviet Union (YUSSR) sent 40 students to Jewish communities in Belarus, Poland and Germany to lead seders and informal education programs this Pesach.

The volunteers were divided among 16 communities in Belarus, three in Poland and three in Germany. The groups were responsible for *kashering* kitchens, organizing food for holiday meals, running *seders*, and teaching children and adults in the community about Pesach and Judaism in general.

Yeshiva University students came back inspired by the alacrity of the youth, whose only source of Jewish education is YUSSR. Therefore, they were extremely eager to participate in activities. "I learned so much more from the teens that grew up here [in Moghilev] than they learned from me," said Menucha Singer, SCW senior who volunteered in Moghilev, Belarus. "They don't have a yeshiva education, but they stick with it."

Students also gained new appreciation of the opportunities to learn and succeed in a free environment after witnessing the conditions that prevail in Belarus. Esther Feman, SCW sophomore, volunteered in Baronovitch, home of Rav Elchanan Wasserman's yeshiva. "Before World War II, every yeshiva boy wanted to go to Baronovitch," Feman said. "Now the Torah study is so limited there."

Feman recalled the story of the final

moments of Rav Elchonon's life. "Surrounded by the Jews of the town, he noted that it is better for them to die al kiddush Hashem, sanctification of G-d's name, so that the learning in America will have the merit to continue to grow," she said. "Then the Nazis, *yimach shemam*, took over." With this in mind she asserted, "We have a responsibility to live up to the expectations of the great Torah giants who came before us and take advantage of the fact that we have the opportunity to learn and grow freely as Jews."

The Pesach trip is only one component of YUSSR's extensive activities in Eastern Europe. "Four times a year, volunteer groups from the States assist during Pesach and Shavuot as well as help out our camp programs," said Ellie Schanker, education director of YUSSR.

YUSSR aims to educate Eastern European Jews and reacquaint them with Judaism. Judaism has been forbidden in many communities for as long a period as

sixty years, as a result of the Holocaust and Communist rule. "The goal of YUSSR is to provide Jewish educational opportunities in Belarus and the former Soviet Union," Schanker noted. While programs are available for all members of the Jewish communities, the central focus is on the youth.

Spurred by the desire of Yeshiva University students who wanted to spread Judaism in Eastern Europe, the organization was formed in 1991. It founded summer camps in Moscow, Siberia and Estonia. However, it is only in recent years that YUSSR has seen the fruits of its labor. "Throughout the years, YUSSR has found its niche," said Schanker, "They have discovered success in concentrating on Belarus."

In addition to Ellie Schanker, YUSSR's administration is composed of Ruth Rotenberg, executive director and Ari Sherizan, overseas director.

YUSSR also sponsors programs at the youth center in Minsk that run year-round. Programs include Shabbat services and meals, a Sunday school that offer both Jewish classes. A recent addition is the bar/bat Mitzvah seminars for students coming of age. They learn the customs and laws of bar/bat mitzvah and have a celebration.

The Pesach and Sukkot trips are important because they afford smaller communities the chance to experience a

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

By Chava Hartman

On Yom Hashoah, SCW held a program attended by more than 200 SCW students, which was sponsored by the Zachor club on campus. The Yom Hashoah program has focused on the survival of different individuals from the camps. However, this year the program focused on the righteous gentiles who risked their lives in order to save Jewish people.

"Our religion is all about *hakarat hatov* [expressing gratitude], so it only seems appropriate to dedicate the program and remember those people that helped the Jews," said Yonah Israel, director of the Zachor club.

In addition to having a man who was saved by gentiles tell his story, a movie about a Christian organization who helped Jews during the Holocaust was shown. "The movie was a different idea that people never knew about," said SCW junior Bini Borenstein. "It showed us that there is so much information out there that we don't know about. It is important to remember not only the Jews that survived, but also the people who risked their life because it restores our faith in mankind."

The program commenced with the lighting of six candles; each candle represented one million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Yellow tulips lay by the side of the candles. Israel explained that the color yellow was chosen in order to represent the yellow stars the Jews were forced to wear and a tulip was chosen because the tulip is the national flower of Holland, and the people of Holland attempted to save the Jews during WWII.

Immediately after the candle-lighting ceremony, Mr. Nathan Warman, the guest speaker told his survival story. Maria and John Wavrinuk, righteous gentiles, allowed him and his wife to live with them for nine months in a village near Chelm, Poland. However, after the first nine months, living with the Wavrinuks was more difficult, and they were forced to leave.

However, instead of forcing them to run, John Wavrinuk built a bunker deep into the woods for Mr. Warman and his wife and 20 other people to live in. In addition, every night the Jews would go to the Wavrinuk's house to eat dinner. Eventually, the Warmans moved back into Chelm because it was free. Until this day, Mr. Warman still keeps in touch with the family that risked their lives to save Jewish people.

Following Mr. Warman's speech there was a short film on the Zegota, an organized Christian Human Rights program in Poland.



Tanya and Rachel pose with translators and hostesses

Jewish holiday. "For the *chagim*, volunteers come to communities outside of Minsk where there aren't strong educational structures," said Schanker.

While Yeshiva is included in the organization's title, the only affiliation, noted Schanker, is the donated office space. "YUSSR is an independent not-for-profit organization," she said. It is privately supported, with a large portion of the funding provided by the Lauder Foundation. Several figures from the Yeshiva world serve on the board, but the program is open to "all college and yeshiva students."

Students came back with new perspectives and feelings that they made a difference. "I felt that the program was successful," said Singer.

"I was proud of everyone's performance," commented Schanker. "We only have one overseas director, so the volunteers enable us to do so much more."



Yoni, Tanya, and Rachel Horn are serenaded by the community choir in Borisov, Belarus



# KOL HANESHAMA

## REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM IN ISRAEL



### KEREN SHATSKY

#### MEETING LOVE WITH LOVE

Keren Shatsky enjoyed all the perks of being the baby of the family. The youngest of six children, Keren received lavish treatment from her siblings and parents. "She always asked us to play with her or to do homework together," her sister Miriam reminisced. "We definitely had a soft spot for her."

Not the selfish type, Keren "never picked fights and never gave my parents trouble," her sister recalled. Her father Shabtai remembered how Keren eagerly helped with household chores. "She never refused when we asked her to do favors." Active in Bnei Akiva and always ready to lend a hand, Keren, 14, privately revealed a cheerful side to the quiet and shy demeanor she showed in public. "All of my memories of Keren are of her smiling," said Chani Friedman, a close friend. Together with her siblings, Keren sang to their favorite songs and regularly prepared meals for Shabbat.

When her friends felt ill, Keren sent cards with sweet wishes for a full recovery. "She was always trying to make people happy," noted one family friend. "That just reflects how much everyone loved her. She was only trying to return the love."

*Keren Shatsky was killed in a mall bombing in the town of Karnei Shomron on February 16, 2002.*

*(Written by students at Fuchs Beit Sefer Mizrachi, Cleveland, OH.)*



### HILLEL LIEBERMAN

#### MAN OF DREAMS

Dreams do come true, at least when you are Hillel Lieberman. Driven by a dual vision of moving to Israel and becoming an educator, Hillel taught students at a yeshiva near Joseph's Tomb in the historic city of Shechem. "I never saw him filled with such incredible joy and happiness," recalled his wife Yael.

His devotion to his fellow Jews was legendary. "He always did what he felt he had to do," said Fern Rosenblatt, who befriended Hillel in college. When a snowstorm threatened to cancel a rally for Soviet Jewry, Hillel made it a point to be there, trudging through the knee-high snow without hesitation.

A father of seven, Hillel, 37, commuted each day from his home in Elon Moreh to the yeshiva. He cherished the holy site of Joseph's Tomb and often held lectures there. "When Jews were forbidden from entering the Tomb, Hillel would sleep on the floor by its entrance," remembered Hillel's cousin, David. As his wife observed, "He was totally devoted to the place."

*Hillel Lieberman was killed while rescuing Torah scrolls from Joseph's Tomb on October 8, 2000.*

*(Written by students at Yeshiva University, New York.)*



### SHOSHANA BEN-YISHAI

#### REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

Shoshana Ben-Yishai led by example. The girls in her class saw her as someone to emulate, said Na'ama Toren, who taught Shoshana's 11th grade class. Everybody loved her. Friends recall how she greeted everyone with a smile, even perfect strangers whom she encountered on the street.

The eldest of six children, Shoshi, as she was affectionately called, loved to read. She had just finished the latest installment in the Harry Potter series, and took special interest in reading about the history of Israel. A dedicated student, Shoshana, 16, delved into her science book and helped fellow classmates with their homework.

After moving to Israel with her family at age five, Shoshana developed a strong bond with the land and its people. Her room was covered with posters of historical sites in Israel, and she paid close attention to current events. She was a very special and wonderful individual, reminisced Shoshana's father, Yitzhak. It was important for her to help others.

*Shoshana Ben-Yishai was killed on November 4, 2001, when a gunman opened fire on a bus headed for north Jerusalem.*

*(Written by students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Canada.)*



### TZACHI DAVID

#### DUTY ABOVE AND BEYOND

Tzachi David always went beyond the call of duty. "When Tzachi was in high school, he would ask the custodians if there was anything he could help them with, so that they could go home early," recalled his sister Na'ama.

Tzachi, who grew up in Tel-Aviv, patrolled the Israeli border near Tulkarem. Always looking to go the extra mile, he enlisted in a special military dog-training program offered by the Israel Defense Force. Before his tenure in the IDF, Tzachi volunteered for Mishmar Ezrachi, a civilians patrol group, and at Beit Halochem, an organization that cares for wounded soldiers.

An honors student in biology, Tzachi, 19, was given special permission from his commander to return home every weekend so that he could spend Shabbat with his parents and two younger sisters. Most people would take advantage of this situation, but not Tzachi. Instead, he offered to take on additional shifts during the week.

*Tzachi David was shot while guarding the army base near Tulkarem on September 11, 2001.*

*(Written by students at the Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy, Livingston, NJ.)*



### TEHIYA BLOOMBERG

#### FIRST AID

Tehiya Bloomberg learned to care for others at an early age. Only 15 when her mother passed away, Tehiya stepped in to help with the household responsibilities and to care for her father and siblings. "She took over my mother's role in the family," said Tehiya's brother.

As a nurse in the Karnei Shomron medical clinic, Tehiya, 40, saw to it that everyone received full medical attention, regardless of the time of day. "She was always willing to assist people in her home," said Rina Gruber, a family friend. "She never gave anyone the impression that they were disturbing her." Tehiya baked cakes for neighborhood simchot and took an active role in her community.

The mother of five children, aged 8-14, and five months pregnant with her sixth, Tehiya kept a watchful eye over her family. "She was always busy, racing from one place to another, but she always had time for

the kids," recalled Gruber. Tehiya and her family had just finished shopping for school supplies when their car was ambushed. "No matter how busy she was, she received people calmly and with this huge smile on her face," recounted Gruber.

*Tehiya Bloomberg was shot as she traveled along the Azoun bypass road on August 5, 2001.*

*(Written by students at the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy, New York.)*



### SHMUEL GILLIS

#### MIND, BODY AND SOUL

Shmuel Gillis never let his prominence get the better of him. As the senior hematologist at Hadassah-Ein Kerem hospital, the British-born Shmuel cared for countless patients, both Israeli and Arab, and helped ease them back to recovery. "He was better than an angel," recalled one of his patients.

Outside of the hospital, Shmuel devoted himself to his family. "He wanted to give his children a good basis for life," observed his wife Ruti. "He was a very special father." Shmuel regularly learned with his children, aged 3-13, and also valued his own education, reading up on his three favorite topics: medicine, history, and Israel.

An outdoorsman who loved the land of Israel, Shmuel, 42, led his family on hikes through the mountains and tended to a garden near his home in Karmei Tzur. He also served as a physician in the reserve forces of the army and "was extremely involved in the community," recounted Ezra Shvab, a family friend. During the High Holidays, Shmuel would lead the service and dazzled congregants with his beautiful voice. "He was a very talented and modest man," said Ron Shechner, Shmuel's brother-in-law. "He was one of the few people in the world involved in the kind of research he was doing."

*Shmuel Gillis was shot as he traveled along the Jerusalem-Hebron highway on February 1, 2001.*

*(Written by students at Fuchs Beit Sefer Mizrachi, Cleveland, OH.)*



### ELIRAN ROSENBERG-ZAYAT

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Eliran Rosenberg-Zayat handled computer problems of all types. "We always knew who to call," said one of his friends. A computer enthusiast from an early age, Eliran, 15, learned how to program computers and filled several notebooks with information on the subject.

Naturally warm and outgoing, Eliran won the respect and confidence of his friends. "He could always keep a secret," recalled one peer. At night, Eliran would escort his friends home to make sure that they arrived safely. "He was a really loyal friend, and never said no to us," observed a classmate of Eliran's.

When his mother remarried, Eliran embraced his new half-brothers with love and affection. "They still talk about how much they miss him, how much they miss his advice," said Eliran's mother Michal. Mature beyond his years, Eliran asserted himself as a pillar of support in the home. "When I needed someone to advise me, he was always the one who listened and helped me," his mother noted. "He made light and happiness around him."

*Eliran Rosenberg-Zayat was killed near Petach Tikvah as he waited for his school bus on March 28, 2001.*

*(Written by students at the Finestone Yeshiva of the South, Memphis, TN.)*

### KOL HANESHAMA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION:

THE AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD  
THE BOSTON JEWISH ADVOCATE  
THE BUFFALO JEWISH REVIEW  
THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS  
THE CHICAGO JUF NEWS  
CLEVELAND JEWISH NEWS  
CONNECTICUT JEWISH LEDGER

DEEP SOUTH JEWISH VOICE  
DETROIT JEWISH NEWS  
ILLIANA NEWS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA  
INTERMOUNTAIN JEWISH NEWS  
JACKSONVILLE JEWISH NEWS  
THE JEWISH HERALD

JEWISH HOUSTON HERALD-VOICE  
JEWISH NEWS OF GREATER PHOENIX  
THE JEWISH PRESS  
INDIANAPOLIS JEWISH POST & OPINION  
KENTUCKY JEWISH POST & OPINION  
LEHIGH VALLEY HAKOL  
LOS ANGELES JEWISH JOURNAL

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE  
THE LAS VEGAS JEWISH REPORTER  
THE MEMPHIS HEBREW WATCHMAN  
THE NEW JERSEY JEWISH STANDARD  
THE NEW YORK JEWISH WEEK  
OHIO JEWISH CHRONICLE

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH EXPONENT  
READING PA SHALOM  
RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD & VOICE  
THE ROCHESTER JEWISH LEDGER  
ST. LOUIS JEWISH LIGHT  
TEXAS JEWISH POST  
WISCONSIN JEWISH CHRONICLE

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[WWW.KOLHANESHAMA.NET](http://WWW.KOLHANESHAMA.NET)



# Business News

## No Sy Syms Dinner This Year

By Mimi Sternberg

The annual Sy Syms School of Business dinner may not be held this year. The reason, ironically, has to do with financing.

The dinner started out ten years ago as a low budget, informal gathering with cocktails, some faculty, students, an awards ceremony, and a few recruiters. In recent years, however, the event has ballooned into a lavish \$60,000 affair with dinner, donors, and some very influential Fortune 500 CEO's - which neither the SSSB Student Council nor the school wants to pay for.

Originally, the dinner was paid for nearly entirely by student councils of Sy Syms. Last year, however, the conflict came to a head as the presidents of both campuses rejected the notion of having the students fund the dinner, citing lack of money in their budget as the reason.

Additionally, they asserted that the dinner should be funded by the school, since the event serves as a public relations opportunity.

Instead of a dinner, much of the budgets were used for Carnival-Omer. This not only depleted all student council funds, but actually left over a \$4,000 deficit for this year's uptown SSSBSC and a limp amount of funds for the midtown SSSBSC.

This year, however, the students were determined to have a dinner and. Led by SSSBSC President Michael Davis, dinner organizers Ellie Nyer, Daniella Diamant, and Eli Goldenberg began planning the dinner in the fall.

"The dinner is important as a great way for students to get out and meet corporate executives," said Diamant. "Establishing outside contacts helps the students in their future careers. It is also the largest event that Sy Syms has which can bring these two worlds together."

The organizers had already booked the Intrepid Air and Space

Museum for May 6th and had prospective caterers. However, they had to abruptly halt their plans. They were unable to find a guest speaker that would be able to lend his name to the event in order to help procure financing. Yeshiva did not offer such financing at the time of budget construction for this year.

Faced with a \$50-60,000 bill and no promise of school funding, the plans for the dinner simply had to be put off. "Although we were aware of the exorbitant costs associated with such an event, we were optimistic that the necessary capital would be acquired by the school," said Davis. "However, the leadership and vision necessary on the part of the school's administration failed to materialize in any significant manner."

"Our faculty most definitely encourages and supports the dinner," insisted SSSB Dean Charles Snow. Snow admitted that such an event is critical to the school, and, as such, should be funded by the school.

However, said Snow, due to budgetary constraints, a donor would be needed to create an endowment specifically for the dinner - which is not the school's priority right now.

"Fundraising for SSSB is geared more towards scholarships for students, which helps facilitate a better infrastructure of quality education," Snow explained. "We first focus on the scholarships, leaving the dinner last on our fundraising agenda." Sheldon Socol, vice president of business affairs and Ira Jaskol, Associate Dean of SSSB rejected the idea of the school funding the dinner.

Even if a dinner could have been possible, the Student Council would not have wanted it to occur if some assurance of continuity could not be created. They feel that a plan of action must be developed to enable for the dinner to become a stable event within SSSB for years to

come.

"It would be almost pointless for us to have a dinner this year and not one the year after," said Davis. "It would mean that the dinner was planned haphazardly if it wasn't planned with the intention of making it part of a staple of the Sy Syms School of Business for many years to come."

The ongoing conflict between the students and the administration left the students with a bittersweet feeling. The event was not only greatly accepted by the student body, but also by the alumni association, many of whom were also distraught upon learning of the absence of the dinner yet again this year.

"I don't think that it's fair for the students to have to fund the dinner," said SCW Elana Groeschler, who is minoring in SSSB. "They have school work, need to find jobs, and most of the students are in debt themselves. Who would feel comfortable asking people for money?"

In place of the dinner, there will be an awards ceremony on May 6th at the Yeshiva University Museum. The ceremony will provide students with the opportunity to look around the museum and then participate in the awards distribution ceremony. The guests will include members of the administration, several board members including the chairman, and possibly Sy Syms employees.

Absent from the ceremony will be formal seating, bountiful food, and, most significantly, corporate employees. "Although the ceremony will not be as lavish as the dinner was intended to be, I think that it will be an enjoyable event," said Snow. "It will allow students to not only tour the YU museum, which is very interesting to see, but also fulfill the purpose that the original dinner was meant to accomplish, just not as lavish."

## Syms Graduates Face Precarious Job Market

By Batsheva Rutman

Even though the recession the United States has faced for the past year seems to be ending, the economy has not grown enough for the unemployment rate to fall from 5.9 percent, an extremely high rate. Some say it will take up to 5 years to bring joblessness down to levels seen a few years ago. We are definitely not out of cold waters yet.

This is what seniors and juniors at Yeshiva University are facing this year as they attempt to look for jobs. Aviva Muller, a senior majoring in accounting, found that students finding jobs this year had a much harder time than in previous years. "In years before, students were getting up to three offers for positions," said Muller. Now we are happy to receive even one." s

Ira Protckis, a senior finance major, knew it was going to be especially tough to find a job and decided to use a different method. "I called up everyone I knew and used all my contacts to help put my resume out and get interviews," said Protckis. "I ended up getting more interviews than some others who had the OPCS's help".

Dean Charles Snow, dean of the Sy Syms School of Business, agreed that this year finding jobs for students was more difficult than other years because the

actual numbers of jobs available are far fewer than previous years. While statistics of placement will not be available until the summer, he explained that this year certain crucial aspects have affected each major's job market and must be taken into consideration.



Arthur Anderson Faces Cutbacks Because of Enron Scandal

The MIS majors have been deeply hurt by the "dot com" collapse, explained Snow, which has affected the recruiting for positions by many tech companies. This would account for the lack of jobs available in the MIS field.

Dean Snow was optimistic about the marketing and management majors' prospects. The companies in these specific fields are looking for students who are close to their graduation and who can start immediately.

The accounting majors have been luckiest this year, as most have been placed in jobs already. Dean Snow explained that this is because many accounting firms begin their interviews in September and hire all the college graduates by February. As opposed to other majors, most accounting students know by now where they are working. The larger accounting firms also provide internships for students as juniors, so many of the seniors had internships and received offers after their summer positions.

However, even the "lucky" field of accounting was plagued with problems this year as Anderson, a top five accounting firm, was caught up in the Enron scandal and did not offer summer internships to college juniors.

In general, the number of summer internships dropped from last year, and the number of students accepted also fell. Chani Angster, a junior accounting major, was one of those students disappointed by the situation. "Because Anderson wasn't an option this year, many women did not get internships and are now searching for jobs last minute," said Angster. Angster has changed her plans and will now be traveling the world running a Lubavitch camp.

Although the year looks slightly grim, Dean Snow said that the "effort is still ongoing" and he is confident that jobs can still be found for those students who have not been placed yet.

## No Candidate in Sight for President

continued from page 1

backlash over the Zakheim suggestion.

"We discussed having a more open process to allow for more players to have input," commented SSSB senior Mikey Davis, a YC student representative at the meeting. "The people on this committee should be more vocal in expressing opinions."

Jesselson was firm that the search committee is actively pursuing new possibilities for Yeshiva president. "The process is continuing as always," asserted Jesselson. "We're open to nominations until the day we choose."

The committee plans to review previous suggestions, names which might have only been superficially considered. New names may surface; otherwise the committee will be forced to reevaluate its priorities and reconsider those previously rejected or glossed over.

At the same time that the committee elected to have more openness and participation within the committee, the members insisted that there be ultimate confidentiality from the press. Reflecting on the Zakheim affair, some opined that the leak to the press proved detrimental to the search committee's intentions, and could possibly have negative repercussions for the candidate. Additionally, all agreed that they want to be in control of the facts and timing of the information that the public receives.

As to how much the values of the committee's priorities have changed after backlash over Zakheim is uncertain. One member hoped that the committee would

have "learned its lesson" that the rabbis from RIETS would only accept qualified Torah scholars to lead Yeshiva. Some committee members maintain that Zakheim was the right choice, and circumstances merely prevented his appointment. In this mentality, the next search committee suggestion would most probably fit the Zakheim model.

"We had identified a candidate," asserted Jesselson. "He just decided not to pursue it."

Another committee member alleged that the search committee may have too high standards. "Look around the room," ordered the committee member. "Everyone here has to pick someone in this room to be the next president of YU, and write it down on a piece of paper. I guarantee you that less than 50% of you would be able to put a name down with any confidence."

It is uncertain whether the presidential search committee will have a candidate in time for Rabbi Lamm's retirement, set to occur in the summer.

"It's impossible to say," opined Davis. "The process is not one that benefits from being done expediently. The time frame is arbitrary as it is." When asked specifically

whether he expected the search committee to have a candidate in time, Davis responded, "I would doubt it."

"We don't want to commit to a time frame," stated Jesselson. "It's more important to pick the right person."



It is unclear what lessons the search committee has learned from the Zakheim controversy

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# Business News

## OPCS HOSTS WOMEN IN BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM

By Liana Bianiashvilli

On March 18, 2002, the Office of Placement and Career Services held an event dealing with orthodox women's success in the business world. Four successful businesswomen sat on a discussion panel speaking about their professions, work environments, families and how they maintain an Orthodox lifestyle while working in the business world.

"I thought the event was very informative," said Sara Brodsky. "It is enlightening to see how these religious businesswomen manage to successfully balance their careers and family lives."

Judith Putterman, Vice President, Head of Corporate Trading at Fuji Securities, Suzy Schwartz, Senior Vice President, Senior Account Director at BBDO New York, Gail Hoffman, e-business consultant working with large financial institutions, and Tova Herrmann, CPA, former employee of Deloitte & Touche served as the panelists. Each speaker had her own take on working in the business world.

"When you look for a job you have to give yourself a chance and not get easily discouraged with rejection," Judith Putterman stated. "You should pursue your options with an open mind."

Putterman herself began in the field of publishing, and, after having children, reassessed her values and decided to enter a career that would be more lucrative. She applied and received acceptance to Columbia Business School and earned her M.B.A in Finance. After being hired by a major firm, she worked her way up. Putterman stressed that gaining experience in one's field is a key to getting hired. She also mentioned that her humor has served as a major asset to her in the highly stressful and male dominated world of finance.

Putterman shared her experiences with the job search and offered advice in interviewing. "Your religion, marital status and children are not anyone's business,

and, furthermore, religion should never be the focal point of an interview," said Putterman. Being the right person for the job is the only thing that is relevant at an interview, emphasized Putterman.

Additionally, Putterman stated that one should maintain a professional demeanor at work and not discuss one's social life. She added that it was better not to call attention to leaving for holidays.

Suzy Schwartz focused on demonstrating commitment to what is important in one's life. She emphasized that women constantly have to make choices while they are working because they cannot do



Gail Hoffman addressed SCW students on choosing a career

everything at once. She mentioned that her job requires her to travel, which is hard for her family. However, they all understand how important her career is to her and support her. There was a point when Schwartz felt it was best for her to take a leave of absence from her job, but she eventually returned with more fervor and enthusiasm.

Gail Hoffman discussed everyday issues one deals with while working in the financial service industry. She discussed the importance of socializing in the business world and corporate dining, saying, "you will constantly be making choices about what restaurant to dine at and how to handle Kashrut." She concurred with both previous speakers that the only way

to live with tradeoffs is to have a strong identity.

Having come from a background where her mother worked while she was growing up, Hoffman did not experience the choice to work as a conflicted one. It was a natural extension of what would make her fulfilled.

On the other hand, she did point to two articles that had appeared in the Sunday New York Times, one that focused on unequal parity of salary between men and women and one that focused on women in their forties having forfeited family life in favor of career advancement. She referred to both articles because she wanted students to realize that one must plan for family as well if that is equally important to an individual. She concluded by saying that as Orthodox women who did move up the corporate ladder and had children they, the panelists, were indeed a minority.

Tova Herrmann completed the presentation as she spoke about the importance of job experience. "The more experience you have in a particular industry, the more companies are willing to accommodate your needs, within reason of course," Herrmann said.

Herrmann said that was particularly true of the accounting field that prides itself in career development for women with families. She added that receiving a CPA would provide one with more leverage on the job with issues such as holidays, work assignments and compensation, as one will be considered a more valuable employee with that credential.

She also acknowledged the importance of working hard to gain trust on the job and that the first few years of work will have to be full-time. She added powerfully, "whatever decisions you make do not feel guilty." Life is all about choices and tradeoffs, and each person must decide for herself what the right formula is for her.

All four agreed collectively on common issues a Jewish woman faces when working in business. They all mentioned the

high costs of childcare, location, having supportive co-workers and, most of all, a supportive husband. Most Jewish women are faced with childcare issues as soon as they begin working, so they advised finding good yet affordable childcare.

Another important factor was location of residence, and how many Jewish women choose to live closer to work so they can leave later and still make it home for Shabbat.

Supportive co-workers are important, they said, in order to be able to take off for the holidays, because they will cover a lot of the work. However, it is equally important to cover for them when they are out on holidays, such as Christmas.

The women stated that having a career requires dedication, a passion for challenge and hard work and a need to be busy. They also stated that a supportive husband, one who is prepared to make dinner and put the children to bed, is necessary for any woman seeking a career.

A question and answer period ensued where students and panelists were involved in lively interaction. The students asked about internships, career paths and the job search and ended with thanking the guests for their advice.

"The conference made me realize how focused and dedicated you have to be to a career," said SSSB junior Leba Krausz. "The advice they gave was pertinent, applicable and useful. Each panelist was on target with issues that concern religious businesswomen today."

The event was deemed a great success, due to the quality and honesty of the speakers and the work of Ms. Naomi Kapp and Rachel Chasky. Students responded enthusiastically when asked about the event.

## Salute 10 Israel Parade 54 Years

### "Israel and America Now and Forever"

Join your fellow Stern College students in this momentous event by marching in the parade for the first time in a decade!



**Date:** Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> 2002  
**Pick up t-shirt in Brookdale Hall lobby from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm**

**Place:** Meet on 54<sup>th</sup> St. between Madison and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave at 2:15 pm.

**Time:** Marching begins at 3:00 pm.

Show the world that Stern is standing by Israel's side.

Bring your flags -No bags allowed



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

## Student Fiction: The Train Traveler's Guide to Survival

By Beth Shapiro

Why is it when you just want to fall asleep while traveling, the person who's sitting next to you feels compelled to speak to you? Now I've heard I'm not the first person to experience this annoying phenomenon known in my circles as the "Nod and Smile Syndrome."

To those of you not familiar with this syndrome I will explain its name's origin. When someone decides to strike up a conversation with you and informs you of either hours of useless information, or burdens you with their tiring thoughts, all you as the listener can do in hopes that they'll get the hint is nod and smile. If you make the mistake of answering with anything more than a three-syllable reply, you've just been sucked in.

Many theories have been written to try and block this magnetic energy we expel that pulls people to speak to perfect strangers. There is the "pretend you are sleeping theory," the "I'm wearing earphones so don't try and talk to me theory," and of course my personal favorite, the "I don't speak a de English theory."

Before I go on any further, I feel as though I need to provide you with an example, a quiz so to speak, to see how you would handle a situation such as the following. You are on a train. You sit down by the window, place your bags in the overhead area, and take out a book and begin to read. A man wearing a suit, carrying a lop top and a cup of coffee chooses the seat next to you. You exchange smiles and he begins to do work. About a half and hour into your journey the man sees you reading and asks, "Good book?" You politely respond, "Very," accompanied with a friendly smile.

Now so far you've done very well and have not instigated a thing. He continues typing away and then asks, "Is the book for business or pleasure?" You say, "For school." Once again excellent job! It wasn't more than three syllables and it was a closed ended answer. Then he says "You know I read that book" and you say "Oh really did you like it?" Now you're thinking that was a seemingly innocent question, he'll answer me by saying "yes" or "no"-right? WRONG!

Weren't you listening to any-

thing I said! You just broke every cardinal rule: 1) Three syllables, three syllables, how many syllables was your answer? Six, actually seven, oh who cares! The point is it wasn't three. 2) You asked a question that's not closed ended. You just set yourself up. It's like asking your grandfather what it was like when he was a child? Do you not think he's going to recount every example of why life was wonderful in the good old days? 3) You seemed interested; that is the biggest mistake of the mall.

Now if you want to speak with the man next to you because he's attractive and mysterious, that's one thing, but if you want a relaxing train ride where you can catch some zzz's you've just struck out!

O.K. I sound a little bitter about the subject, but you would too if you just experienced what I went through. I know everyone says that, but I'm telling the truth. You don't believe me? Well, let me tell you what my train ride to Boston was like and then you'll understand the severity of the "Nod and Smile Syndrome."

It is a crisp November morning and I am going to visit my brother in Boston. Parenthetically, "crisp" is a term used by New Yorker's which in reality means extremely cold. I arrive at Penn station, board the train and choose a window seat. Midterms have just come to an end and I am excited to sleep for the four hour journey. As I get comfortable, a man in khakis and a polo shirt, carrying a large paper bag and the New York Times says, "Is someone sitting next to you?" I smile, say no, and watch him sit down with a very relaxed look on his face.

The train is packed. Every seat is taken and some people are even standing in the aisles. As we pull out of the station and begin our journey, I watch as the city's towering buildings fade away. I hear a rustling sound, so I turn my head and the man next to me proceeds to take out of his bag a bottle of Bloody Mary mix and a travel size bottle of Vodka. (Mind you this is 9:35 in the morning.) At that moment I begin to get the feeling this may be a very long trip.

Somehow he makes eye contact with me and asked, "Would you like some?" I smile and say, "No, thanks." (Three syllables, I'm o.k.) "Do you know how long it is until we get to Back Bay?" I shake my head no and say, "Sorry." By this time Mr. L finishes his Bloody Mary and reaches into his goodie bag for something else. I don't know this man's name, nor do I want to, so I refer to him in my mind as Mr. L - for lush! Have you ever seen those 20 oz cans of beer? Well I haven't, at least not until Mr. L pulls one from his Mary Poppins bag of fun. He opens the can in one loud click,

For the whole 40 minutes Mr. L spoke, it seemed as if he didn't inhale once. He just slurred his words together and at various points when he wanted me to agree, he would wait for me to nod and smile.)

"Well," he said, "I guess that's why I love her." I once again give him my famous nod and smile, but this time I realize I am getting a crick in my neck from all the nodding, so I turn towards the window to stretch a little. All of a sudden, Mr. L's legs begin to invade my personal space; I thank G-d for arm rests because without them this slurring idiot would be all over me.

To compensate I am so close to the window I'm surprised I didn't become it. This "migration pattern" of his is not bad enough, the putrid stench of his alcoholic breath begins to permeate the area. It smells like a dozen cats just curled up and died right next to me. Planning my escape, I try and think of places I can take refuge. However, there are no available seats any where in my vicinity.

With my luck if I hide in the bathroom Mr. L will either come to "relieve" himself, or throw up and I will be stuck in even closer quarters with him. Once again I hear that well-known "clique" and "Ahhhh" sound as Mr. L chugs another brewskie. At this point I'm wondering if I should suggest to him an I.V. drip, so he doesn't have to waste time opening cans. It seems he's forgotten we are speaking and thankfully I close my eyes.

"Ummmm, excuse me", Mr. L slurs. Oh no not again I say to myself, why can't he just get the hint. "Ummmm, I was wondering if you knew ummmmm" "No!, I don't know where Back Bay is, why don't you ask someone else!"

I want this slurring, alcoholic woodpecker to leave me alone! I think he got my hard to miss hint and takes out his paper, which he attempts to read. I don't know how he thinks he can make out the letters; he keeps squinting and widening his eyes to try and focus what probably looked like "Martianese."

Exhaling, and with only a half an hour to go, I fold my arms together and gaze at the beautiful sites out the win-

dow. Without turning my head I know what Mr. L is doing. This time I hear two "clicks" with an elongated "Ahhhhhhhhhh" and you guessed it he's just opened not one, but two 20 ounce cans. "Ya want one," he asks. "No, thank you I don't drink", I say politely. "Ahh come on, I won't tell anybody." "No, that's alright I don't really like beer with my breakfast." He lets out a little chuckle and begins to drink from both of them simultaneously.

Within about five minutes from our previous conversation, if you can call it that when one of us is not fully conscious, Mr. L remembers me again. Peck, peck, peck! I don't turn my head. Peck, peck, peck. I have no choice and reluctantly I face him. Like a broken radio he says, "Ummmmm, do you know when were ummm, going to be at Back Bay?"

I can feel the tears well up in my eyes, how am I going to get him to leave me alone? Why is this happening to me? Can't anyone hear the deafening screams for help that are going on in my head? They are so loud I can't imagine the sound isn't penetrating through my skin! Then as though my words were prayers, 3 angels, like the ones who visited Abraham at his tent, except mine are in Armani suits, come to my rescue.

"Excuse me, we couldn't help overhearing your conversation, we are going to Back Bay as well. It's in a few stops, but we better wait by the doors since it gets a little crowded over here."

They help Mr. L gather his things and as Mr. L says goodbye to me the three men wink; they made up the "it gets crowded excuse" to get him away. I smile back and mouth a relieved "thank you."

With the twenty minutes left before my train ride comes to an end I fall fast asleep. I can honestly say it was the best, most relaxing and deepest twenty-minute sleep I have ever had. Now you know about the nod and smile syndrome. Just be careful you don't instigate any unwanted conversations, unless you have the ability to sleep with your eyes open, or three angels in Armani suits are ready to come to your rescue.



and makes an "Ahhhhh" sound as the carbonated foam rises from the top.

I realize I am completely starring at this man inhale his alcohol, so I decide to lean my head against the window and attempt once more to fall asleep. I check my watch, 10:05; good I'll have about a three-hour nap. As I am about to dose off, you know that world in between the conscious and unconscious, I feel a tap on my shoulder, like a woodpecker jabbing for food in my arm. "Yes", I say as I turn towards the annoying woodpecker, "Heeeeey, I am just wondering, ummm, you know where Back Bay is?" "Nope, Sorry" I say while clenching my teeth. "Ohhhh, just joking. What I mean is, do you um know when we are getting to Back Bay?" Again with clenched teeth I answer "No." Then he continues on, "Sorry I'm a little tipsy." "Really!" I say in an exaggerated tone, "I had no idea".

(I must interject at this point to insure you understand that this is where I made the crucial mistake of answering back. It is imperative you recognize the very moment I accidentally instigated the conversation. Now of course since I've given him the white flag, he begins to tell me about his life, his job, which he loves and his girlfriend who he's visiting in Boston.



## Y O M H A A T Z M A U T C E L E B R A T I O N



# Cultural Arts

## A Conversation with Amélie

By Sara Trappler

J.D. Salinger wrote in *The Catcher in the Rye* that a good novel is one that makes the reader want to phone the character after finishing the book to have a conversation. The same holds true with film. When you leave a movie and are taken in by a character so much that you feel the character would make a great and interesting friend - when this rare occurrence happens, you know it is a good film.

After seeing *Amélie*, a film nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar and directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet, I mostly remembered this unusual, endearing, and imaginative girl who sees the world in a light unlike most people. *Amélie Poulain*, acted brilliantly by French actress, Audrey Tautou, is a girl in love with life and the people around her. After finding an old tin box from the 1950s filled with childhood treasures, she tracks down its owner after amusing effort and returns it anonymously. After secretly watching the man's deep emotion upon finding his personal relic, *Amélie* experiences happiness that she had never knew before.

This leads her to quietly and mischievously transform strangers' lives in her small Parisian town. A lonely girl whose mother died when she was young outside the Eiffel Tower when a woman commit-

ting suicide landed on her, *Amélie* does not have any real relationships besides her difficult to deal with father. That changes, however, when she discovers the joy of helping people in a secret manner.

From sending a fake lost love letter to a heartbroken widow, to befriending the strange artist everyone rejects, to cleverly making a man and woman in the Montmartre café believe each one adores the other, *Amélie* creates a colorful world filled with endless surprises and boundless creativity.

The film reaches its climax with the mysterious photo album that *Amélie* discovers outside a photo booth in a train station. What begins as another favor toward a stranger with her efforts to return the album, leads to a humorous and mysterious relationship with the young man who owns it, Nino, played just as brilliantly by Mathieu Kassovitz. What turns out to be a romantic comedy somehow goes against the usual characteristics of its genre, almost creating its own.

*Amélie* is a film that makes you for two hours think differently about the events and people that surround you. It is romantic and spontaneous in a unique and clever way that defies clichés usually found in romantic comedies. *Amélie* is a character that you will want to phone after the film to make your life more interesting than it was before.



## Pesach Sheini: Rabbi Metzger's Chassidic Perspectives

By Sara Trappler

*Chassidic Perspectives: A Festival Anthology* is a new comprehensive and enriching work adapted by Rabbi Alter B. Metzger, Judaic studies professor at SCW. The book is based on discourses by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson on the many different Jewish holidays that span the year. The discourse on *Pesach Sheini*, "The Never-Ending Quest for Self-Betterment," highlights the important lesson concerning the power of every Jew: to refuse to be complacent and to reach new unprecedented heights in one's spiritual service.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains that the observance of *Pesach Sheini* - the obligation to bring a Pesach sacrifice on the fourteenth day of Iyar if a Jew was unable to do so a month before on Pesach itself - is unique among the other commands in the Torah. This *mitzvah* did not begin with a command from G-d, but was the result of the plea of a small group of Jews who were in a state of ritual impurity at the time when the Pesach sacrifice was brought. They said to Moses, "*Lamah nigarah*," - "Why should we be deficient in the service of G-d?"

G-d has created the world in such a way that man is not solely a "recipient" - one who takes; man also has the spiritual privilege and ability to be a *mashpia*, mentor, one who bestows and elicits spiritually from above to the world below. In matters of Torah and mitzvot, generally, the task of a Jew is to be a "receiver" such as when the Jews openly accepted the Torah at Sinai. The Jews as a "bestower" is illustrated in the laws of *Pesach Sheini*, which were only the result of the zealous efforts of those who declared "*lamah nigarah*" in the fulfillment of this precept.

From this we can derive a profound insight into the way that a Jew should serve G-d. At first this incident seems difficult to understand. If G-d desired that there be an observance of *Pesach Sheini*, then He could have revealed it initially at Sinai when Jews were commanded to observe all the *mitzvot*. If Moses did not instruct them

at all regarding this *mitzvah*, then this obviously implies the absence of any obligation. Why, then, did these individuals come with their demand while simultaneously displaying their profound loyalty and faith in Moses, along with their awareness that he had not commanded this mitzvah either at Sinai or subsequently.

From this we can derive a new and significant concept. When a Jew senses within himself a shortcoming or glaring defect, then he should rely on no one, but plead to Moses and to G-d Himself, "Why should I be lacking, and imperfect in my service to G-d?"

When someone is concerned about his bond with G-d and his inadequate awe and fear of G-d, then he must be conscious of the fact that "All is in the hands of Heaven except for the fear of Heaven." It is therefore G-d's Will, as revealed to us through the narrative of *Pesach Sheini*, that a Jew should entreat and demand on his own initiative, express his inner sense of shortcoming, and exclaim "*lamah nigarah*." As we see in the case of *Pesach Sheini*, G-d is compassionately responsive and reveals to us a new *mitzvah* of the Torah, which was heretofore concealed.

This has a meaningful implication for even a "simple" Jew. When reflecting on his status and his limited capabilities, he may sense that he has no right to plead. *Pesach Sheini* is G-d's response to this self-doubt. G-d is infinitely greater than man; nevertheless, these individuals came and successfully entreated Him and benefited the entire Jewish people.

This applies as well in relation to the redemption of the Jewish nation. Notwithstanding a Jew's profound faith in the Messianic redemption, a Jew cannot be serenely complacent. His own sense of anguish and his knowledge of the suffering of the entire Jewish people in

## Improv Show: Expect the Unexpected

By Kayla Klatzkin

The evening of April 11 marked a new chapter in the history of Stern College Dramatic Society. Rather than the traditional play, SCDS hosted an improvisational show. Although the departure from tradition was initially met with disappointment and skepticism, the show ultimately met with success.

"It was great," said Kevin Landis, SCW Speech Professor and director of the show. "I was happy with the response and the turnout." Approximately 200 people attended.

The audience was absorbed in the show, often roaring with laughter. "It was a welcome release after the week's workload," Michelle Lamm, SCW sophomore remarked.

The show pitted two teams against each other - the Baywatch Babes, consisting of Aliza Blumenfeld, Faige Glaser, Robyn Burgher and Shoshana Davis, against Smooth Chicks, with Tamar May, Chaya Glaser, Bella Tendler and Jodi Schachar as its members. The host, officially called Master of Ceremonies, was Melanie Weiner.

During the course of the show, the cast members improvised their way through various scenarios. The first game was a warm up game called "Freeze."

An audience member was called up and twisted two cast members into odd positions. The two then had to make sense of their strange positions and keep on improvising until another cast member shouted "freeze" and took one of their places.

Another game was called "Party Quirks." Everyone in the game, except for the party host, had to have some strange quirk which members of the audience suggested. Among the quirks the audience chose were unconsciousness, Schizophrenia, and someone who thought she was a fish. When the party host was taken from backstage, where she had been staying while the audience picked out the quirks, she had to figure out what the quirks were.

The actresses performed other games, such as "No You Didn't," "Slo Mo World Champs," and "World."

Four improv experts, including Landis, judged the teams' performances, and, admitting a close game,



The Improv Show was Open to the Public on April 11

chose the Baywatch Babes as the winners.

The improv show grew out of Landis's popular acting workshop. In addition to the regular class time, the cast members of the show fine-tuned their improvisational skills three days a week for about a month preceding the show. "The women worked really hard and did a great job, especially in such a performance that is so random and very intense," commented Lamm, who is a participant in the workshop.

SCW junior Dani Weiss, president of SCDS and stage manager of the show, was also pleased at the show's success. "I think that the women involved did a phenomenal job, and I'm looking forward to seeing where they take SCDS next year," Weiss said. Of the students in the acting workshop, she stated that "they have been the driving force this semester." According to Weiss, a second improv show before reading week is being considered but depends on student interest.

"I think an audience knows and appreciates how difficult it is for an actor to stand in front of peers, with no script and no idea what is coming next, and make something entertaining out of nothing," said Landis. "That is the pleasure of watching and performing improv. The students pulled it off beautifully."

the dispersion of exile compels a Jew to cry out and implore to G-d for deliverance and the immediate redemption.

Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak of Lubavitch stated that the essence of *Pesach Sheini* is that "there is nothing irretrievably lost." It is never too late. G-d provides the spiritual concept of *Pesach Sheini*, the awareness that one can always rectify and set aright events of the past through repentance.

**"A Bird in the Hand is Worth Two in the Bush"**

Any other thoughts?  
Write for The Observer

observer@ymail.yu.edu



## It's All in the Blood

### Third Generation SCW Student Compares Grandmother's Experience with her Own

By Sephi Kraut

Sy Syms School of Business junior Ellie Nyer represents Yeshiva tradition at its best. The third generation of Yeshiva University educated women in her family, Nyer followed the path forged by her grandmother in 1955 and tread by her mother in 1976.

"My entire family has been educated through the YU school system - it's kind of a natural progression of events in my family to choose YU," remarked Ellie. She did not even consider attending any other college.

Motivated by her desire to attend a Jewish college, Mrs. Rosa Isaacs, Ellie's grandmother, bravely relocated from her San Francisco home and enrolled as a sophomore in SCW's first class, despite not knowing a soul.

Mrs. Isaacs' graduating class of 1958 - the first ever in SCW history - consisted of 26 students. In its early years, SCW dorming existed exclusively for students from outside of New York and the metropolitan area. Mrs. Isaacs lived in rented space in the Duane Hotel on 37th and Madison Ave., bound by strict rules, including an 11:00 pm curfew. Mrs. Isaacs remembers the living conditions as "quite lovely" and adds that she remains in touch with several of the women whom she dormed with over forty years ago.

In the late 1960's, SCW bought its first own dormitory, called Brookdale Hall, which Mrs. Esther (Issacs) Nyer, Ellie's mother, lived in when she arrived at SCW

in 1976. In 1980, Esther Nyer was one of 87 graduates.

Today, SCW dorming houses large amounts of local students in addition to the students not from the New York area. The university offers five housing options in different locations in order to provide sufficient space for the tremendous number of dormers.

Ellie spent her first two years at SCW living in Brookdale Hall, just as her mother did 20 years earlier.



Ellie Nyer, a third generation SCW student

She jokes that as much fun as it is to compare Brookdale stories with her mother, the spacious apartment she now resides in on Lexington Ave. is enough reason to part slightly from that "Brookdale tradition." Instead, she reverts to the original "hotel tradition" established by her grandmother over 40 years earlier.

The most obvious change at SCW since 1958 is the size of the student body. Ellie will graduate next year along with more than 150 students. Remarkably, in 43 years, SCW alumnae have grown in number from the original 26 to more than 4,000.

Who knows what kind of changes will greet the next generation of Nyer women who attend SCW? The number of students and dorming standards are likely to change further, but the Yeshiva pride seems likely to remain.

## Levy's Death Creates Void in Music Department

continued from page 1

"He believed that the principles that lay behind his Sense of Music course were fundamental to any sophisticated experience with art works," observed Bartholomew. "The course came to be the one in which he took greatest pride."

Dr. Levy, born in Brooklyn on May 2, 1929, was at Yeshiva until he took a sabbatical last semester to treat his cancer, thinking he would get better and return to the place he loved most: the classroom. Sadly, Levy never returned to his students.

During his early teens, Levy followed what was then modern jazz, and, in his opinion, learned "a sense of rhythmic flow, of phrasing, and preference for" certain chords from musicians like Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker.

Levy was a composer as well as an author of many articles on the analysis of music and compositional techniques. He was published in journals such as *The Journal of Research in Music Education*, and *The Music Educator's Journal*.

Two years ago, one of his compositions, "West of Nepal," was performed for the first time in the United States at Merkin Hall, where his students had the privilege of sitting beside him in the audience while his piece was performed.

"Seeing his face, and watching him sit with his musical colleagues and his wife Mary, an accomplished pianist in her own right, was so moving," commented Goldfisher. "Dr. Levy was proud to have his students there, and we were excited to share in this experience with him."

Levy's approach to teaching was unique. "When I had five sections of one course he told me to 'teach the students, not the material,'" recalled Glaser. "That was some of the best advice I've ever received."

"Dr. Levy was skilled at teaching a first time student as well as an experienced one in the same class," Goldfisher explained. "He knew how to challenge everyone."

Levy expected a lot from his students.

"He wanted perfection," acknowledged Goldfisher. "Only the best." His students were taught how to listen to and analyze music through different techniques. They were required to read secondary literature about music analysis and music as an art form.

In addition to the intro class, Levy also taught Jazz, Classical, Antiquity to Baroque, harmony, and performance. He gave students the opportunity to perform in the Arts Festival and recitals and offered voice lessons, as well. He would often play along on the clarinet with many of his students. "When we were playing the music for him you wanted him to be thrilled with how it sounded," SCW junior Atara Sendor, a music major, fondly recalled. "All you ever wanted was for Dr. Levy to love how you played. It would make your day."

"When you learned with him, you learned about who he was," said Goldfisher. "Dr. Levy had years of experience in education and performing. He shared that with his students so freely."

According to Goldfisher, Levy knew how to connect the arts together and see the whole picture. He would not allow someone to say that a piece of music was beautiful, instead, he made them understand and see the science behind it. "Dr. Levy taught people to strip away anything fake," said Sendor. "He taught you how to look at a medium from the perspective of the medium itself."

Sendor spent every Tuesday during the Fall 2001 semester meeting Levy for private lessons. "I called it 'Tuesdays With Eddie,'" said Sendor. "Even when he knew he was dying, teaching was so much a part of him. Dr. Levy was such a fighting spirit and he never gave up. I had the unique privilege to watch someone die so gracefully."

Goldfisher recalled the last time she saw Levy, when he stopped at school on the way back from one of his treatments. "Dr. Levy told me about all the different treatments he

## Students Balance Home Life and School

By Margueya Novick

It isn't until nine thirty at night that Aviva\* can first sit down to dinner with her husband. Her married life has begun just days before the new semester, and while the inevitable required evening classes would not have fazed her in the dorm, it is now compounded with the added responsibilities of cleaning up after dinner, putting away laundry and making time for her husband.

Sarah has gone from living mere blocks from Stern to enduring a two-hour daily commute. Because of the way her class schedule works out, she is stuck in school all day. For someone who has left her home early in the morning filled with things to get done, being compelled to remain in school until her last class can be something of an inconvenience.

Gail has done the unthinkable by missing not one but three finals. Falling sick while pregnant, the attitude of doggedly getting through finals now shifted to the priority at hand - getting better for the sake of her family.

The adjustments and changes one makes upon getting married are huge, and all the more so when one remains a full time student. Particularly in Stern, when the school itself centers around dorm life and on campus activities, a commuter whose focus is now the home truly feels the change her life is undergoing.

"Socially, my life is very different," asserts Aviva. The friends of hers who had been somewhat peripheral, those she would only speak to in passing in the elevator, have mainly fallen away. Her main friends are still a strong part of her life, however. Both they and Aviva make a point of keeping in touch. "But it's not always convenient," she points out. "They're still keeping dorm hours. When my husband's at maariv [evening prayers], it's a good time for me to call, but they may not be back in the dorm yet." She also adds, "My Sundays can get lonely."

For Gail, socializing has shifted from seeing her friends around the dorm to speaking to them on the phone. "I still have what to say to them, that hasn't changed," says Gail. "You do need them differently when you're married, but the friendships are still strong."

Sarah is still involved in school activities, but to a lesser degree. "It's hard, balancing a home life and a school life - your entire focus is different now," Sarah said. "School is busy to begin with, and now to maintain a household on top of that!"

While it's hard to imagine attending SCW without all of the surrounding

was looking into, hoping some of them would work," said Goldfisher. "Even when the situation looked extremely bleak, he did not give up hope. Before we each went our separate ways, he gave me a kiss goodbye and said that he'd see me in school soon."

In addition to his passion for music, Levy also had a deep concern for the environment and even offered a class devoted to ecology. He wanted to make sure to keep the environment safe, saving it for future generations.

The question remains of what is now in store for the music department. Levy worked hard to develop Stern's music department, update it and get more space in SCW, as had been previously been done on the Wilf Campus.

In the coming academic year, the music department will offer a choral ensemble for any students interested in singing, and there will be classes in harmony, the history of Modern Music

functions and social aspects, for Gail Stern seems to be the best college for this stage of life, as well. "The school has been so accommodating," she comments, referring to her missed finals. "I barely had to explain why I missed them. They were also willing to work with me on make-up exams. Between the teachers being understanding and the *chevra* [group of friends] I have here, I'm really happy with Stern."

Aviva, however, feels differently. "Stern is not a school of commuters," she claims. "They really don't cater to someone who's not in the dorm. It can be quite frustrating to have been traveling for an hour and a half; only to discover your teacher's not even there." It is also somewhat of a strain for her to bring in whichever heavy textbooks are required for class. "If I was just running to my dorm, I wouldn't mind - but I have to carry them around all day, and I don't even necessarily use them," she said. "My back is really killing by the end of the day."

All three have tremendous support from their husbands, a necessity when one is balancing a home life as well as school. Aviva's husband, for example, heats up dinner and sets the table when she won't be home until late.

While all three spoke glowingly of marriage, Aviva notes that "it's easier, I think, if you're just working and married. I can't leave my work at the 'office,' it has to come home with me along with the household things I have to do, as well."

Despite the difficulties and frustrations, when asked if a student should wait to get married, basing her decision to do so on when she'll finish school, all three responded with an emphatic, "No." Despite the juggling that comes along and the wear and tear of commuting, each feels that this is a stage of life that builds a person, and, if anything, enhances everything else they do. "My schoolwork has slipped," Gail says, "but at the same time, I'm gaining perspective on what's really important. I think it's ridiculous to push off marriage - your home is the focus, and everything builds from there."

"It's a personal choice," Aviva adds. "Not everyone can handle it, necessarily. If grades and schoolwork are everything to someone, then yes, they'll find marriage to be stressful on top of it. But I love being married. It gives me a certain security."

"The important thing, says Sarah, "is that you get married when you're ready. Once you reach a certain point, there's no reason to push it off."

\*All last names have been left out of the article.

and of course, Sense of Music. Pending approval, there may be an Honors course in the Spring 2003 semester on opera.

"Music students of Dr. Levy were like family," remarked Goldfisher. "Dr. Levy was the leader and my mentor. He will sorely be missed by all those who called him teacher."

### The Observer

Joins the Yeshiva community in mourning the loss of Dr. Edward Levy.



## Summer Honors Course

continued from page 10

For instance, the course will also focus on the Jewish role in the Civil Rights movement. In addition, they will visit synagogues and other Jewish sites as well as the usual museums and landmarks.

The summer course was designed to "give our students the opportunity to travel in a way which is in keeping with their needs," Wachtell noted. "We offer a service for our students which more generic programs don't have." The food is glatt kosher and the Shabbat spent in Savannah will be held in a location that is in walking distance to a synagogue. Also, the subject matter is focused on the Jewish experience in the South.

This is the fourth summer in which SCW is hosting a summer honors course. The first three were spent abroad in Europe. An Art History class in Florence was offered the first summer and an Art History and Jewish culture class was offered the second year in Amsterdam. Last summer, SCW hosted two courses, one in Vienna and Prague that explored the Jewish experience in those places and one in Medici, Florence that

focused on art and the Jewish experience there.

When the honors faculty met this year after Sukkot vacation, they decided to revoke the original intention for a Literature course in England. "After September 11, we didn't feel comfortable sending students abroad," said Wachtell. "We did not want to proceed with the original trip and then have to cancel last minute." The faculty explored other options, and the proposal to go south seemed the most appealing and practical.

The Nathan and Sophia Gumenick Professor of Judaic Studies at the College of William and Mary, Dr. Marc Lee Raphael, will teach the course. He will determine the workload, although Wachtell suspects that there will be "one major piece of work...one major research paper that will be submitted after the course is over." There might be quizzes, journal entries or reading assignments to complete over the trip as well.

Students wishing to apply should contact Dr. Wachtell as soon as possible.

## Low Attendance Characterizes Blood Drives

continued from page 9

of which the New York blood banks will need to be self-supporting, making blood donations even more critical. According to The New York Blood Center, if local donations do not increase, the New York community will face a real health care crisis this summer.

A person has 8-12 pints in his or her body and can easily spare one. The body replaces plasma within 24 hours. When donating, a person gives less than one pint of blood that will either be donated as whole blood to one patient or broken down into four components and given to several people.

Despite the relatively low attendance, the fact that SCW runs four blood drives a year, twice as many as most colleges, makes it a strong supporter of the community blood program, said Wyeth. Wyeth also pointed out that the number of SCW donors would be higher were it not for the larger than usual amount of rejections. On average there are ten women who attempt to give, but are turned away due to such reasons as low iron levels, the taking of medication on which one cannot give blood, or extended stays in areas from where blood is not accepted.

"Stern College for Women students are concerned enough to organize blood drives for the New York Blood Center shows that the women have a broader sense of community responsibility that is essential to who we are," enthused Braun.

One must weigh at least 110 lbs. in order

to donate and needs to not have given blood within the last 56 days. There is no danger of contracting diseases from giving blood since all the materials used for each donation are new, sterile and disposable and used only once. The actual procedure takes 7-10 minutes, but, between registering and resting afterwards, students should give themselves 30-45 minutes.

For information on Stern College's upcoming blood drive contact Yael Shmuel at (646) 935-

### Tourism & Israel Second Graph in the Observer

#### DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM TO ISRAEL IN RECENT YEARS

- 1995 A record year - 2.5 million visitors
- 1996 2.3 million visitors
- 1997 2.2 million visitors (-3%)
- 1998 2.2 million visitors (-4%)
- 1999 2.5 million visitors (+17%)
- 2000 An all time record with 2.7 million visitors (Forecasted - 3.2 million)
- Forecast for 2001 - 1.2 million visitors (-55%)

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# Shalom From the Holy Land

By Kim Davis

This past January, after I graduated from SCW, I hopped on a plane and headed straight for Jerusalem, to fulfill my dream of living in the Holy Land.

These past 2 and 1/2 months have been like a emotional roller coaster, learning at Neve Yerushalayim, a women's seimnary in Jerusalem, but I must say, I love being here! Despite all of the horrible atrocities that our happening to our people in the holy land, I see so much *chesed*, good deeds, and *haskacha pratis*, divine intervention. Although I miss my friends and family terribly, I have never been so happy in my whole life.

In a way I feel very scared, especially when I hear helicopters swirling above the city in the middle of the night and hear the word "*pi'gua*", attack, at least a few times each day. But I also feel very safe. As King David said in Tehillim, I feel like *Hashem* is with me wherever I go!

It's hard to know what the right thing to do is. Is it right to remain here, or to go back to America? Many of the people who are leaving Israel and who are abstaining from coming here are very holy, G-d fearing Jews, and I would never judge them. Each person has to make a personal calculation to decide what is best for him/her.

As for me, for the first time in my life, everything seems very clear. I want to stay here in Israel for the long haul. I see the other side of the coin, which says that there are so many reasons a Jew should be in Israel during these times.

Although I do not blame Jews who are leaving Israel, I encourage Jews to come here to Israel, if they can, for the same reasons that I want to remain here. Bellow are the six reasons have led me to this conclusion and impacted by decision to make *aliyah*.

1) The *gedolim*, sages, of Israel are not saying that Israel is a dangerous place. Rather, they told the yeshiva students in Israel who had left yeshiva for



Pesach break to return early. Also, during the Gulf War, when people asked the *gedolim* whether they should stay in Israel or leave, they told most people to stay. In addition, Rav Chaim Pinchas Schienberg told people that if they left during the Gulf War, their *bitachon*, faith, would not be as strong as people who had remained in Israel.

2) The truth is, God has already determined on Rosh Hashanah who is going to live and who is going to die this year. It says in the Rosh Hashanah *machzor*, prayer book, that it is already decreed who is going to die by fire, who by sword, who by illness etc. But *chazzal* say that by one's destiny can be changed by prayer, charity or extraordinary kind deeds. If God decreed for someone to die, but that person does a phenomenal action, remarkably improves his character, or does sincere repentance, he/she can live. All this can be done in Israel.

3) Being in Israel, we are not reading Jewish history books or newspaper reports about what's happening to the Jews "over there." We are playing a part in these important times by making a difference. Israel is the future of the Jews,

and just our presence here makes a difference. What a *zechus*, merit, to be able to be here with our family. Also, Israel desperately needs Jews here now. If Jews leave, or refrain from coming, then the Arabs' goal will be achieved.

4) Despite all of the horror that is happening here, there are so many miracles that are also happening. Unfortunately, the news only reports the negative incidents. It says that God's eyes are always cast on the Holy Land. Rabbi Hershel Schechter says in his article "Yishuv Eretz Yisrael" in the *Journal of Halacha in Contemporary Society* that there is a stronger level of *haskacha pratis* here in the Holy Land.

It was reported in recent news articles that one Israeli girl was present at 5 attacks and was not injured in one of them. It seems that although she was at the wrong place many times, it was not her time to go and therefore, God protected her.

One girl received a nail in the main artery in her upper thigh in a recent attack, a wound that can be life threatening in a matter of minutes. However, an Israeli who had

experience in paramedics, ran to her, applied pressure to her leg, and prevented her from bleeding to death. Another girl, was shot in her lung and had stopped breathing. While the paramedics passed over her, thinking she was already dead, a fellow Jew who was not a paramedic ran to her and gave her CPR. She is now alive and okay, *Baruch Hashem!* These girls did not die, rather they are here to live and relate the deeds of *Hashem*.

5) Danger in the Holy Land never prevented many of our sages from the past from coming, or at least attempting, to Israel. Just think of Nachmonides, Rav Yehuda HaLevi, the Vilna Gaon, Rabbi Nachman, and many others. Their pilgrimage to Israel was much more dangerous then being in Israel today. They had to worry about pirates, bandits, starvation, and so much more. Yet, living in the Holy Land was worth it to them.

6) For me at least, living in Israel during these times makes me much more God conscious. Being here in the midst of violence makes me fear *Hashem* so much more. It is easier to do a *chesbon hanefesh*, calculation of myself, to ensure that I am worthy of being protected. Am I doing enough *mitzvot* to merit the *zechus* of being protected? Am I contributing enough to Jewish nation the nation? Am I bringing *kedushah*, holiness, to the world? Am I living up to my potential?

Hopefully, my being in Israel will make all these aspects and goals easier to achieve, enriching my life and the Jewish nation.

## Middle States

continued from page 11

One aspect of Yeshiva that was studied critically was the university's notion of "Torah Umadda." Students were asked questions about how well Yeshiva promotes learning Torah, philanthropy, social action and other Jewish values. Overall, the response to these questions indicated that the majority of students are satisfied with Yeshiva's Jewish education and the inculcation of Jewish values that is available on all campuses.

"I can't say enough to praise the concepts of Torah U'maddah and how it is absolutely possible and even necessary for a Torah Jew to immerse oneself on both religious and secular studies," asserted one student.

The accreditation process began in October of 1999, with a meeting conducted by Dr. Robin Dasher Alston, a representative from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. A steering committee was then established, and workgroups were formed to evaluate different aspects of the university, such as library services, Jewish education, Yeshiva's Israel program, faculty development and student services.

The findings of the different work groups were reported in various different reports, each emphasizing the negative and positive aspects of the school. In one report, released on February 27, 2001, 51% of Yeshiva alumni were recorded as having a positive undergraduate experience, whereas only 3% of alumni believe their entire experience was poor. 20% of alumni admitted to having an excellent education experience.

Although the results of the self-evaluation were predominantly positive, Dean Bacon praises the system for its ability to show the institution where its faults are and what areas need to be improved. "Self-study is an invaluable part of the process," Bacon asserted.

Dr. Raji Viswanathan, a professor at Yeshiva, is also pleased with the results of the self-study efforts. "The exit reports were all very positive," she said. "Although the final reports are not yet it, I have no doubt about our accreditation."



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# 600 SCW Students Attend Washington Rally

continued from back page

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which organized the rally, drew cheers when he stated "Israel as a nation is entitled to use strength in her self-defense."

Other speakers included former prime minister of Israel Binyamin Netanyahu, Construction and Housing Minister of Israel Natan Sharansky, Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, congressional leaders, former New York mayor Rudolph Guliani, and New York governor George Pataki.

Each speaker began with a variation on executive vice chairman of the Presidents Conference Malcolm Hoenlein's assurance that the American

Jewish community was "writing a new page" in its history.

After congratulating the crowd for making the sacrifice to come to Washington, Maryland Senator and dean of the 13 women in the US Senate Barbara McCulsky said, "We are showing solidarity with Israel with our feelings of grief and anger."

Nobel Laureate and Holocaust Survivor Elie Wiesel said "there is no more sacred cause" than supporting Israel's current war on terror and told the crowd, "This day will be remembered forever by your children and grandchildren."

Each speaker echoed the remarks of the previous one, saluting Bush's determination in the war on terror and commitment, in the words of Steven Hoffman, president of the United Jewish Communities, to assuring the "continued existence of free people all over the world."

"We are all here for the same purpose: America and Israel must end terrorism," said former mayor of New York City, Rudolph Guliani. "We have to stand together to make it clear that we are all committed to the same goal." He explained that Israel stood with America during her time of terrorism and darkness while others shifted the blame or celebrated, and now "we must remember that and support Israel during her own time of terror." The crowd erupted in wild applause when he ended with, "We are not going to cower and back down!"

Former Prime Minister of Israel, Bibi Netanyahu, drew parallels between Israel and the United States. He said, "While so many outside have given up, we must still



distinguish between freedom and tyranny, right and wrong, and good and evil." Invoking the memory of Martin Luther King, Jr., Netanyahu explained that King was preaching the opposite of terrorism and succeeded in his fight "because he believed in the sanctity of life and embraced the challenge of democracy" without resorting to terror.

"Netanyahu's remarks were strong, forceful and powerful," said Jessica Singer, SCW from New Hampshire. "Most of the other speakers merely quoted data and recycled old material, while Netanyahu, on the other hand, made his presence and his strong opinion known. He connected with the crowd."

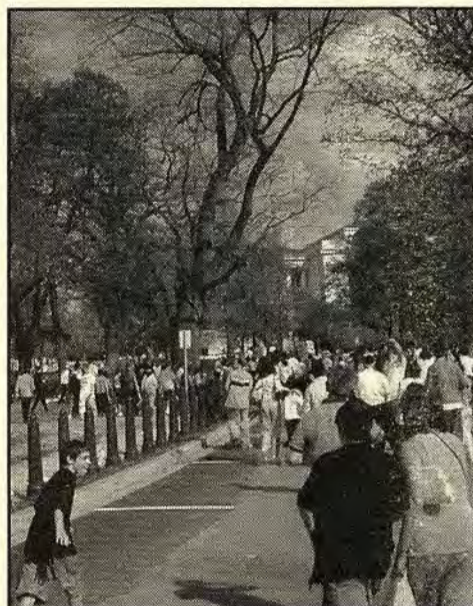
Pennsylvania Senator Arlin Specter declared the gathering as bigger than the crowd that gathers for the inauguration of the president on the same lawn and noted that this fact made the "strong affirmation of Israel's right to self-defense."

A group of American's affected by the

Palestinian terror in Israel each spoke a word in closing, including survivor of the WTC attack in NYC and the Ben Yehuda bombing earlier this year in Jerusalem with his family, Mark Sokolow. Rabbi Seth Mandel, father of 14-year old terror victim Kobi Mandel, asked the crowd to join him in saying Shema Yisrael, as his opportunity to say it with his dying son was robbed from him.

Rabbi Fred Dobb, a Reconstructionist rabbi from Maryland, and Rabbi Hershel Billet, an Orthodox rabbi from Long Island, led the crowd in various psalms and prayers for the State of Israel.

YC senior Reuven Brand, and Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University student leader Nira Kogen concluded the rally with their closing remarks.



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# Israel Activism

## Hundreds of Yeshiva Students Travel to Washington Rally

By Sara Emerson

Approximately 600 SCW students joined with close to 200,000 other Jews and non-Jews who gathered together on Monday, April 15th to rally in solidarity for Israel on the front lawn of the US Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Yeshiva University sent a total of fifty-three buses, carrying more than 2,400 university and high school students, faculty and staff to the nations capital. Twelve of the buses left from the midtown campus. YC cancelled classes for the rally, and rescheduled class for Yom Haatzmaut. SCW remained open, although most classes were cancelled anyway.

Reporters from many TV broadcast stations and print news publications, such as CNN and Associated Press, showed up at the Wilf campus to report on YU's participation in the rally. Dr. Norman Lamm, as well as some YC students, were interviewed live by several reporters.

"We were showing support of Israel," said Michal Sova, SCW senior. "Our rallying together gives Chizuk to the Israeli community that their American brothers and sisters have not forgotten them."

At the rally, more than 100 YC, SCW, and SSSB students carried large donation buckets, each adorned with a photo and story of an Israeli citizen killed by terrorists in recent attacks. They collected in excess of \$30,000 for the Israel Emergency



Ariel Rabin, YC student, checks in before boarding a Yeshiva bus to the D.C. rally

Solidarity Fund.

"Coming to the rally was an amazing experience for me," said Adina Popowitz, SCW senior. "Rallying together with my fellow Jews in America makes the situation that is going on in Israel more real for me. I'm now a part of what's going on. I'm now a part of history."

Once in Washington, SCW students exited their buses and made the few mile trek to the rally, joining with masses of people - Jews of all denominations and nationalities and non-Jews, as well - to express solidarity for Israel's current war against Palestinian terrorism.

The diverse crowd stood together on an unseasonably warm day to proclaim their support for the linking of America's war on terror after 9/11 with Israel's. Many signs and chants echoed this sentiment and tied the two countries together with slogans such as "9/11 is 24/7 in Israel," and "Arafat=Bin Laden=Hussein."

As the SCW students arrived, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz was speaking. His remarks linking the "people of Israel and the people of Palestine" as victims of terror drew the crowd to chant "No Double Standards" in response.

The rally had begun at 1 p.m with a moment of silence intended to coincide with the start of Yom Hazikaron in Israel and then with the singing of the American and Israeli national anthems.

Mortimor Zuckerman, chairman of the

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Rav Schechter, Rav Willing, their spouses and their students took a picture in front of the Library of Congress

## Yeshiva Raises \$54,000 for Israel

By Rina Shapiro

In efforts to show their compassion and solidarity, YC and SCW raised a total of \$54,000 for Israeli victims of terror within five weeks. The money will be sent to the Israel Emergency Fund, where it will go straight to families of Israeli terror victims.

The fundraising efforts began on March 13, when both campuses convened a school-wide prayer service in honor of Yom Kippur Kattan, an international day of prayer and fasting due to the current crisis in Israel. Students raised over \$5,000, which was matched dollar-for-dollar by the respective student organizations at both campuses. Ten families of victims in Israel, chosen by Kol Haneshama, received \$1,000 each for Passover.

TAC also attempted to raise money for Magen David Edom and the Kobi Mandel Fund, a fund started in memory of a young boy who was a victim of terror in Tekoa. Due to the impromptu location of the mincha services on the Yom Kippur Katan, along with the rainy weather and lack of the expected minyan, efforts to raise an excess of \$5,000 were not reached.

The next week, TAC decided to continue raising

money for the Israel Emergency Fund. A campaign was initiated to get every student in SCW to donate \$5 to the fund and, by the end of the week, \$5,000 was successfully raised. In little over one week, SCW and YC raised \$10,000.

Toby Goldfisher, president of TAC, and Tuly

Weisz, YC student and Project Coordinator of *Kol Haneshama*, the newspaper project memorializing victims of terror which spearheaded the money raising efforts, decided that there was no reason to stop raising money for victims of terror. "Why stop?" said Goldfisher. "People will keep on giving." At the rally in Washington D.C., \$35,000 was raised.

Pictures of victims of terror which was glued to paint buckets, which over 100

students used to collect money.

Within the past couple of days at YC and SCW, and at the Tehillim gathering on Sunday, April 21, at Wall Street, there were continued efforts to raise money for Israeli victims of terror. \$9,000 more dollars were raised, bringing the total to \$54,000. SCW and YC plan to raise more money on May 6th, when Yeshiva marches in the Israeli Day Parade.

All donations will be handed over to the Israel



Students collected money for terrorist victims at the Washington rally

## Yeshiva March in Israeli Day Parade for the First Time in a Decade

By Suzanne Anziska

For the first time in a decade, Yeshiva University will march in the Salute to Israel Day Parade. Between 500 and 1000 SCW, YC, SSSB and RIETS students are expected to turn out to march in the parade, estimated Yehuda Shmidman, YC junior and president of the Israel club.

Shmidman said that there had been talk about getting involved in the parade for a while. "Rabbi Ari Rockoff of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services made the initial inquiries and passed on the appropriate information to me," said Shmidman. Shmidman personally registered Yeshiva for the parade.

Reuven Brand, a YC senior heavily involved in organizing Israel activities on campus, made an effort to reach out to the rabbis to join the student in marching. Shmidman anticipated a strong endorsement from the roshai yeshiva from RIETS. "The plan is to get Dr. Lamm involved as well, if the timing works out with his busy schedule," said Shmidman.

According to Shmidman, RIETS, the Rabbinic Alumni Association, TAC, SCWSC, and YCSC have all given gracious support. Shmidman praised the immediate action of Toby Goldfisher, the president of TAC, and Lou Shapp, YCSC President. "They are always the first to jump on board for Israel related activities and the most helpful and eager," said Shmidman.

The excitement over Yeshiva's marching in the parade this year has led some to wonder why Yeshiva has not marched in previous years. "In the past, the parade has been during finals or after school was over," suggested Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun. This year the parade falls out much earlier, during reading week.

With the theme of, "Israel and America, Now and Forever," this year's parade comes on the heels of the massive Israel Solidarity Rally in Washington, D.C., in which more than 1500 Yeshiva undergraduates attended. The theme of the parade is seen as a non-political message.

"We're in a crisis time, and this explains the overwhelming response to the Washington rally and the Yom

Emergency Solidarity Fund, a relief organization for the families of terror victims in Israel. "The Yeshiva community and particularly the student body have proven themselves time and time again as passionate about Israel," said Neil Thalheim, Director of the Fund. In other efforts to raise money, a group of YC students have jumpstarted Project 1%, a plan to get every student to donate 1% of summer earnings to Israeli victims of ter-

Hazikaron/Yom Haatzmaut program," said Shmidman. "It directly reflects the student body's undying emotion and connection to *Eretz Yisrael*."

"We should feel so proud to be a part of something as momentous as this," said



In the past, students were forced to march with other organizations

Goldfisher. "Thousands of people come to the parade, and we can show with our bodies and voices how much we love and support Israel."

According to Goldfisher, the faculty and administration are invited and encouraged to march with the students. "I am pleased the students have opted to participate fully, and I hope that the turnout will be astounding," said Braun.

Efforts are being made to facilitate students' participation in the parade. There is no cost for students to march in the parade. TAC and Student Council are taking care of designing the t-shirts, which will be blue and have some part of the theme on it, along with all the sponsors.

Students can sign up in the lobby of 245 Lexington in the next week. Goldfisher pointed out that, once they sign up, they have made a commitment to march in the parade.

Due to location and heavy traffic, there will be no buses provided from the Midtown Campus. All those who have signed up to march will be meeting at 2:45pm on 54th Street, between Madison and Fifth, entrance from the Madison side. Marching kicks off at 3:00 pm from that location and will end at 79th Street.

The college and RIETS are being placed behind the two Yeshiva high schools, The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy and the Wang Yeshiva High School for Girls, and in front of the Albert Einstein School of Medicine.

ror through the Israel Emergency Fund.

Yeshiva has received attention from Jewish publications about their success in raising money. An article appeared in *The Jewish Week* last week which mentioned the students' success at raising the money.

"We are making the biggest *kiddush Hashem*," said Goldfisher. "It's amazing."