



# Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

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## New Policy Permits Same-Sex Couples in Einstein Housing

*Ramifications On Other Schools Unclear*

By Miriam Colton

In a remarkable end to a drawn-out battle, Yeshiva University has changed its housing policy at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, enabling same-sex couples to be eligible for on-campus apartments. This change came in response to a lawsuit brought by two lesbian Einstein students in 1998, both of whom claimed unfair and illegal discrimination by the university because they were unable to live with their non-student partners.



Students can now live with their gay partners in the Einstein apartments, pictured above

Under the previous housing policy, the only non-students eligible to reside at Einstein were "spouses and dependent children." The policy, having been altered dramatically, now also allows housing for "any other person with whom the student maintains a genuine, close and interdependent relationship that is intended to be long-

term" (See Box on Page 20). Certain documents are required to prove such a relationship, and the university will determine each request on a case-by-case basis.

### The Lawsuit

The lawsuit, brought by Maggie Jones and Sara Levin, is based on the New York City Human Rights Law, enacted in the 1950's with major revisions in 1991, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The law prohibits discrimination based on gender, race, age, nationality and sexual orientation in such areas as housing, employment, public accommodations and education.

The students claimed that under the guidelines of the law, Einstein's housing policy, which provides housing for married students, had a disparate impact on homosexuals who legally cannot marry.

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## Nulman Returns Amidst Reshuffling of Student Services

By Caryn Litt



Dean Nulman returns to his post at Student Services

As part of a reorganization of the Office of Student Services, Dr. Efreim Nulman, a former Dean of Students who left the post several years ago, has returned to Yeshiva in the expanded position of Senior University Dean of Students. Nulman's return displaced Dean David Himber, who now holds the title of Dean of Students.

Nulman approached Yeshiva about the possibility of returning last year. His desire to return, motivated by his craving more interaction with students, coincided with the University's decision to revamp Student Services, according to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub.

In response to student concerns last year, Yeshiva created the role of

Senior University Dean of Students and filled it with the experienced Nulman, who will oversee Student Services for every college of the University.

Nulman will serve as the highest ranking conciliator between the students and the administration.

Himber was moved to the position of Dean of Students. While he will continue attending events and providing support for undergraduate students, Himber's role will be primarily administrative, freeing Nulman to deal with students on a personal level.

"Dr. Nulman's return strengthens the team of Student Services for the students," said Himber. "We now have another very good person on board."

In addition to Nulman's return, Andrew Leibowitz, who one year ago left his post as Coordinator of Student

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## Committee Narrows Presidential Search to Four Candidates

By Miriam Colton

In a development guaranteed to send a flurry of excitement through the Yeshiva community, the nine-member presidential search committee revealed that four men have been selected as "viable candidates" for Yeshiva president. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, Dr. David Schnall and Dr. David Shatz have unofficially been confirmed by insider *Observer* sources as the four candidates.

A letter dated August 5th was sent to the 50-member advisory committee, consisting of local rabbis, lay leaders and Yeshiva officials, to update them on the progress over the summer of the presidential search. According to the letter, the committee narrowed the list of candidates to approximately ten people, six of whom were interviewed by the entire committee.

"At the moment, the Committee has

identified four of the people as viable candidates," stated the missive, signed by Michael Jesselsohn and Dr. Morton Lowengrub, chairmen of the search committee and advisory committee, respectively. "We are presently conducting background checks on these people and when the process is completed, we shall be certain that members of our various constituencies have an opportunity to meet with the potential candidates."



The four possible candidates (clockwise from upper left): Riskin, Shatz, Schnall and Schiffman

Following the background check, the search committee will "recommend two or three of the candidates to the selection committee," which in turn will submit one candidate for approval by the Board of Trustees. According to the letter, this entire process will be completed by the end of October.

The communiqué is the first official news regarding the presidential search

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## Former Employee Accuses Yeshiva of Age Discrimination

By Caryn Litt

A former Office of Student Finance employee, alleging wrongful termination and age discrimination, has begun proceedings against Yeshiva in an effort to receive monetary compensation.

Ms. Susan Katzenstein, 64, was fired from her position as Assistant Director of

Financial Aid last May after nearly twenty-four years of service. The termination came with no warning and after numerous promotions and raises over the years, according to Katzenstein.

Katzenstein has begun proceedings with the New York City Human Rights Commission in hopes of receiving compensation for some of the salary she would have earned had she continued working for five more years and for medical expenses that are now no longer covered by Yeshiva. Katzenstein and the Human Rights Commission have a meeting scheduled with Yeshiva for mid-October.

"I am looking for compensation, but I'm also looking to make sure that this doesn't happen to other employees," said Katzenstein.

Katzenstein has already contacted a lawyer and, depending on the result of the October meeting, may sue Yeshiva in court.

Martin Bockstein, the General Counselor for Yeshiva, declined to comment.

According to Katzenstein, on May 30th Michael Sperling of Human Resources, Jean Belmont, the Director of Student Finance, and Dr. John Fisher, the Director of Enrollment Management, informed Katzenstein that she was fired

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## Orientation 2002: Midtown Campus

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for Pictures



Central Park and  
Other New York  
City Spots

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Summer Honors  
Course in the  
Jewish South

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September 11th  
Memorial Service in  
the Works

Page 24

*something about the turnout. He added that*



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## EDITORIALS

### Torah - At the Helm or at the Stern?

*"Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, it's hard to get it back in."*

-H.R. Haldeman, author

While the expression above is rather humorous, its deeper message rings true at Yeshiva. The decision to change the housing policy at Einstein now allows gay partners to live together in university apartments. While administrators and students alike can hope that everything will remain status quo, this expectation is unrealistic. Students at Cardozo have already put in requests for a new housing policy, and the day may soon come when students at the undergraduate schools ask for a similar change.

The new policy, in stark defiance of halacha, raises questions about our institution - what do we really stand for, and who are our leaders? At a time when the fourth president of Yeshiva will be chosen and the path for the upcoming years established, these questions have become crucial.

Are we an institution that looks to our rabbinical leaders for guidance, or are we an institution driven to move up in the rankings, motivated by public relations, image and, most of all, money? Are the rabbis and communal leaders involved in making the important decisions, or do these decisions lie solely in the hands of wealthy donors and tight-fisted administrators?

Yeshiva is purportedly the bastion of modern orthodoxy, guided by the motto of Torah U'Madda. Based on the decisions of the past few months, however, we are beginning to wonder whether Torah is really coming first.

### Left in the Lurch

That members of the Yeshiva administration were attuned enough to student concerns to reorganize Student Services is undoubtedly a positive sign. Of course, it is still too soon to tell whether the addition of Dean Nulman to the team and the creation of new titles will make a difference. The effect is especially difficult to predict at SCW. More often than not, it is not the highest ranking officials, entrenched in the Wilf campus, who matter to the students, but the ones who work here and have daily interaction with SCW students.

Here at SCW, therefore, we have special cause to be concerned: Not only have there been no additions to our Office of Student Services, but the vacancy left by Shani Nissel is, at least for the time being, unfilled. With SCW enrollment at an all time high, it does not seem wise to put a strain on the already pressured Student Services. And with the office so occupied with administrative duties, counseling services will undoubtedly suffer.

Nulman was ostensibly brought back to narrow the distance between students and administrators. That need is no less urgent at SCW, but with Nulman's office situated at the Wilf campus, there is no one here to fulfill the need. If a department is undergoing reform, the key leaders can not only interact with a portion of those who it services. Either top administrators in Student Services have to split their hours between the two campuses, or additional staff must be hired here.

We applaud the effort for change, and are hopeful that the effects will be felt at both campuses.

## The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10016.

(212) 683-4943. Fax: (212) 340-7773

Observer@ymail.yu.edu

WWW.YUOBSERVER.COM

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Labor Day No Classes	<b>3</b> -Orientation: Yankees Red Sox Game -OPCS Event (check fliers for more details)	<b>4</b> Follows Monday Schedule -OPCS Event (check fliers for more details)	<b>5</b> -OPCS Event (check fliers for more details)	<b>6</b> Erev Rosh Hashana No Classes	<b>7</b> Rosh Hashana
<b>8</b> Rosh Hashana	<b>9</b> Tzom Gedalia No Classes Midtown Campus	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> September 11 <sup>th</sup> Commemorative Events (check fliers for more details)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Erev Yom Kippur Break Begins	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Erev Sukkot	<b>21</b> Sukkot
<b>22</b> Sukkot	<b>23</b> Chol Hamoed	<b>24</b> Chol Hamoed	<b>25</b> Chol Hamoed	<b>26</b> Chol Hamoed	<b>27</b> Hoshanah Rabbah	<b>28</b> Shemini Azeret -MSDCS Torah Tours
<b>29</b> Simchat Torah	<b>30</b>	<b>October 1</b> Classes Resume				

2002



# Message from the Editors



Caryn Litt  
Editor-in-Chief

When non-Jewish or non-Orthodox people ask me which college I attend, I invariably say, "Yeshiva University." After all, it's a true statement, "University" sounds more impressive than "College" and there is a greater likelihood that those people will have heard of it.

When I first arrived at SCW, there was another reason for choosing the Yeshiva University appellation. I regarded SCW, as no doubt many others do, as the inferior younger sister in the Yeshiva family, whose worth comes not from its own existence, but from its association with the university.

I was wrong.

It is certainly an honor to be a part of the distinguished history and unique Torah U'Madda tradition of Yeshiva University. Yet, viewing SCW as merely the women's counterpart to Yeshiva College, or as the afterthought to a great legacy, obliterates the fact that SCW is truly revolutionary in its own right.

When SCW was established in 1954, higher Torah education for women was in its incipient stages. Today, at a time when advanced Torah study for women is, fortunately, widely accepted, SCW still stands at the forefront.

Aside from offering students at all educational levels the opportunity to study with prestigious faculty who regularly contribute to the scholarly Torah world, SCW has courageously moved forward with its innovative Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudical Studies for Women. Whether or not one agrees with the viewpoint behind the

program, the fact that it exists is a testament to the commitment of SCW to allow each student to fulfill her own particular potential.

More significant than the specific areas of learning, however, is the philosophy inherent in an institution such as SCW. While the world lauds Yeshiva University as the heart and soul of Torah U'Madda, it should not be forgotten that SCW, in its own quiet way, is producing a new generation of Halachik, intelligent and ambitious women, women who embody Torah, Madda and a healthy twenty-first century vision of feminism.

All too often, students at SCW spend their time gazing at the grass on the other side. However, lamenting the fact that Dr. Lamm rarely steps into midtown insults our own esteemed leader, Dean Bacon. Looking enviously at the "real" campus uptown ignores the reality that our own campus expands with new buildings and facilities every year.

Moreover, SCW students should use the realization that SCW has its own great significance to quell all of the trivial rivalries that have hindered SCW's relationship with Yeshiva College in the past. Petty bickering over whose honors program is more challenging, which college produces the most successful graduates and whose publications are more professional are demeaning to all parties involved.

It may be time to step out of the shadow of our glorified family and focus on our own unique strengths. After all, there is no pride in riding the coat tails of some other institution's reputation and achievements. And we definitely have the right to be proud.



Miriam Colton  
Editor-in-Chief

Late Wednesday night, during the first week of camp, I returned to the bunkhouse tired from the day's activities. In the narrow cubicle which I shared with my camper Leah\*, I was shocked to see her lying in excrement. She was completely soiled, as well as sound asleep. I confess that at that instant a part of me longed to pretend that I hadn't seen anything and to run. Acknowledging that option as irresponsible, I quickly gathered myself together, vowed to view the situation with humor, and called for one of my co-counselors. Together, we spent the next hour showering Leah and cleaning up. Thus ended my "initiation" to camp HASC.

Leah has a typical case of TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury). Six years ago, at the age of 19 and engaged to be married to a young Chasidic man, Leah was hit by a car while walking in the street. She remained in a coma for months. Through a miraculous medical recovery, she regained all motor skills, yet was left with no cognition. She bit herself repeatedly, scratched us, and laughed or screeched eerily. Leah was exceptionally pretty, with youthful features and expressions, almost as if she were permanently stuck in the past. She remained a shell of a former self, left with an aura of mystery and an untouchable sadness.

One of the few campers in my bunk who required complete care and supervision, Leah was unable to give anything in return. While the other campers developed affection for us, made funny remarks or eagerly participated in camp activities, Leah just was.

Yet, it was Leah's "being" that taught me the most. Trying to imagine her before the accident, I realized the value of making the most of today. Touched by the unexpressed sadness in her eyes, I experienced the depth of emotion beyond the communicable. Watching her mother cling to the hope that Leah would regain her former self, and even talking to Leah myself, believing that maybe she understood, I recognized the value of hope but also the necessity of sometimes

letting go. Truths that had become clichés suddenly took on new import.

What I came to genuinely internalize was that the more you give the more you really get. The more care I had to give to Leah and to the other campers, the more I cared, and the greater became my ability to care. Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler, a famed Jewish philosopher, wrote that human nature is to love the fruits of his labor, which he views as an extension of himself. By giving to someone you eventually come to love him, since he becomes an extension of yourself. As the summer passed, the physical and mental care that Leah required remained demanding and sometimes difficult, but it slowly developed into a burden of love.

Back at school, working on this issue of the paper, I was struck by how quickly my interest in Yeshiva events was reawakened. As I researched articles about the presidential search process and the new housing policy at Einstein, the quest for facts became a personal challenge. Hours of effort invested into the paper over the years has jelled into concern for the school.

At Yeshiva, a student can attend classes, study in the libraries and socialize on the Thursday nights. But to truly profit the most from college, one has to give to it. Last year we saw students devote themselves to various causes: hundreds traveled to Israel on Torah Shield II, students published Torah publications and SCW women assisted in the 9/11 recovery. I can only imagine that these events and others framed the year for many.

As the new school year begins, take advantage of what the university offers. Sign up at club fair. Help organize events for the student councils. Write for the *Observer*. Put yourself out there to insure that Stern is not just about the social environment and the lengthy weekends. If you do, you'll eventually come to view it, or at least parts of it, as an extension of yourself. You may even grow to love this place.

## The Observer

would like to welcome  
Norman Eisenberg

as Deputy Director  
of the Department of  
Communications and Public Affairs

## The Observer

Wishes  
the Entire  
Yeshiva Community  
a Happy and Healthy  
New Year

Want to join the most  
active student voice  
on campus?

The Observer  
is recruiting staff for this year.

If you are interested in joining  
please contact us at  
observer@ymail.yu.edu.

Signs will be posted shortly with details  
of the annual recruitment meeting.



# President's Page



Message from  
SCWSC President  
Sharon Weiss

recommended. The husband reference was, fortunately, a joke.

After spending a summer in Israel, I curled up with a pile of old mail and magazines that had accumulated in my absence over the summer. Four years ago, I opened a Yeshiva University manila envelope with trepidation. I did not know what to expect once I would arrive at Stern. I had taken college classes before, but the notion of dorming with "Stern girls" terrified me. I remember scanning the list of recommended items to purchase for the dormitory. My jaw dropped when I spotted the word "husband" as one of the items. I was able to breathe again when I read the explanation in parentheses, that a husband pillow was

As a senior, I can honestly say that the stereotypical Stern girl does not exist. Our classrooms are filled with intelligent, strong willed women who set high expectations and fulfill them. We are able to set such high standards because of the education and guidance provided by Stern, because of our location and because of the environment that we, students of a variety of backgrounds, cultures, even countries, choose to create.

Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC) looks forward to working with you and for you. This year's promising board includes Miryam Khavarani (Vice President), Sara Brodsky (Treasurer), Michelle Amini (Corresponding Secretary), and Arie Staller (Recording Secretary). We are

all available for anything you need (page us, (800) 800-7759). We have spent the past few months brainstorming for new and exciting events and ways to improve student life. Events are posted on bulletin boards, so keep your eyes open. I strongly encourage you to attend SCWSC's club fair, which will introduce you to the large variety of this year's clubs in which you can participate. In order to receive updates about events and updates on campus, please email [scwsc@hotmail.com](mailto:scwsc@hotmail.com) with mass email in the subject line and your name and email address in the body of the email.

Welcome to Stern on behalf of SCWSC. We look forward to creating and spending an amazing year with you.

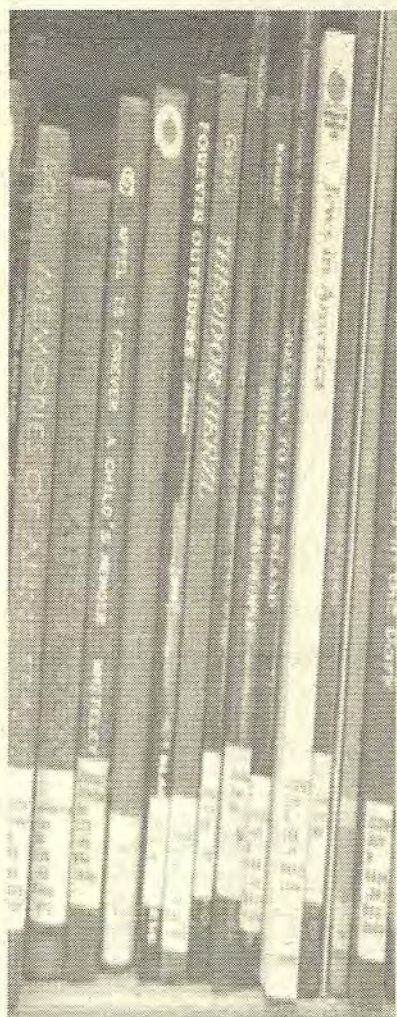


Message from  
TAC President  
Lisa Grundman

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer and now are ready for what will be a great year. While you all were off enjoying vacation, the TAC board has been working to make this year as

fun, exciting and productive as possible. Just to give you guys a little taste for what is coming up, we are starting the year off with our annual orientation *chagiga* on Wednesday, August 28th. Come and join us for some dancing, a *siyum* and cotton candy. We also will be having *selichos* during the Aseret Yemei Teshuva, along with inspiring *shiurim*. After the *chagim* we will have our annual TAC Club Fair, which we encourage everyone to sign up at and get involved. So keep on the lookout for signs, as the time gets closer.

As you can see, TAC offers a huge variety of programs. We have *shiurim* every week, Adopt-a-Bubbie, *chevruta* learning, *tzedakah* drives, Israel club, famous *chagigas* and many more ways for you all to get involved. I hope that you all take advantage of all of the programs and clubs that TAC has to offer. Every one of you can really add a tremendous amount to TAC. I am looking forward to meeting all of you. Please feel free to come and speak to me about any ideas or suggestions you may have throughout the year!



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# Opinions

## Letters to the Editor

### What About Us Men?

Dear Editors:

The *Observer* article on prenuptial agreements (April 26, 2002) was informative but missing a different perspective. When my wife and I got married, we didn't sign a prenuptial because of an oversight (the rabbi forgot to have it with him when we met), but it really wouldn't have made a difference in my case because I gave it anyway. However, my situation is an example where a prenuptial agreement, and the immediate giving of the get that it requires, can often negatively impact the man.

I am in the process of a civil divorce with my wife. I left her on March 8, 2001 after being asked to do so. I knew that day that I would never go back. I left once before, the previous July, but I returned voluntarily seven hours later. I wouldn't wish the prior seven years leading up to that day on anyone.

I spoke to a rabbi that day in March about our divorce; he then called my wife regarding a get. At that time she was not interested in a get. In fact, she immediately called me and asked me to come back to her. It took until July 2001 to have her figure out that she was not going to have me back. Finally, after I had several people call and talk to her, including a woman who has been an agunah for many years, as well as the well-known agunah activist Marilyn Mattie Klein, she realized what might happen. A get was then executed quickly.

It is a real shame when a man leaves a woman to be an agunah. I wanted to do the right thing, so I immediately gave my wife a

get as soon as she would accept it. Now I'm paying for that. She has received a get and has no compelling reason to ever finish a civil divorce.

I've been taken to court again recently, and now 2/3 of my net income is not my own. She is living well while I am struggling to keep a roof over my head. I know that I have to support my kids, and I want the best for them, but I still have to be able to live a semi-normal life. I've recently gone from a donor to a recipient of tzedaka.

Family court is unfair. A bill in the NY state assembly (which calls for equality in child support between parents and can be viewed at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A0276>) will change situations like mine if it becomes law. I urge you to call your state assemblyman and ask him to vote on bill A02767 when it comes up this session.

I met a wonderful woman in August, and we would like to get married. However, according to laws in all 50 states I'm still married to the woman whom I left behind over a year ago. The civil courts should recognize my get as a valid divorce. Things need to be changed.

Perhaps, I should have just put the get into the civil agreement, and then had it executed upon the conclusion of the civil divorce.

Bruce Dunn  
Yeshiva University MIS

### Harried and Hazzled from Finance

Dear Editors:

Though I haven't yet had the pleasure of prolonged conversations with the finance office this year, I have the memories of the recent years to back up my overwhelming dread I feel when I enter the revolving doors of 215 Lex.

The long lines curling behind the banister, the frantic freshmen waiting for clearance before they can move in, the harried and hazzled Yeshiva officials who each tell you a different answer, are all scenes I can do without, especially on my first day at Stern. And yet I feel sorry for those students, with their parents waiting with their wagons of microwaves and bedding, whose first glimpse of Yeshiva is an administration uncaring for the needs of the student body.

Last year, my aggravation had something to do with my FAFSA being selected for verification, and the alarmingly slow

pace at which the process was moving. I don't remember many details. I guess I have suppressed those traumatic memories. I have heard stories of students closed out of classes because the registrar had said they couldn't register before they paid 50 cents.

The finance office presents itself as a disorganized mess of student disarray, with the office only making life more difficult for the students and themselves.

I look forward to moving into Stern this year, without the hassle of years past, and to begin on a new foot.

I would like to thank Amelia Gomes from the financial aid office for helping me sort out my financial woes this summer.

Liora Kasten  
SCW senior

## The Identity Crisis: 9/11 and the American Jew

By Shayndi Raice

September is rolling around, and it's time for the new school year. However, this September may seem a bit different. It will be the one-year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center. Did our lives change forever? Will nothing ever be the same?

I guess things are a little different, but as Robert Thompson pointed out in a recent op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, "Hyperbole had its day: irony was pronounced dead, along with reality TV, action films and other frivolous amusements.... In the last month Bruce Springsteen released 'The Rising' and Anna Nicole Smith got her own TV show."

As much as things have changed, we seem to be reminded by popular culture that some things stay the same. Thompson claims it speaks better of our culture that we don't collapse and change what defines us when crises arise. While I feel that pop culture hasn't changed drastically, and I can still watch "Days of Our Lives" regularly, my identity as an American Jew and my awareness of the struggle that brings has never been stronger.

Things began to change for me when the current *intifadeh* broke out in September 2000 in Israel. However, nothing shook me to the core or took away my sense of security like September 11th.

Like most people, I remember the morning of September 11th clearly. I recall that one of the first thoughts in my head was, "Now the Americans will understand, they'll be on our side, Israel's side." But whose side was I on? What is our side?

After 9/11 my patriotism was the strongest it had ever been. I even loved President Bush for five minutes. At the same time, the only ramification I could think of when this terrible tragedy occurred was its effect on Israel. I felt guilty. I still do. My country had just experienced one of its greatest tragedies, and all I could think about was Israel. Where was my country, and who were my people?

A couple of weeks ago a friend of mine asked me to help plan a rally in New York to free Jonathan Pollard. While I didn't think it seemed like the most pressing issue right now, as a good friend I agreed to help spread the word.

Then she told me it was being held on September 10th. I asked if she was planning on making any connections to September 11th, like the fact that since September 11th it's become even clearer that America and Israel are on the same side. Her response shocked me. She said, "What's all that garbage about America and Israel being one? The point is that Pollard had to choose between being a Jew and being an American. He chose his Judaism and that's the example we all have to follow. You can't be both."

I tried to explain that I didn't think that would be the best way to get New Yorkers to come to her rally. What I found even more disturbing, however, was the thought that I would have to ask New York City police officers for a rally permit for the night before September 11th to free a spy against America. I could only imagine the looks I would get from those police officers. I was afraid they would think, "Whose side



is she on?" Whose side am I on?

What bothers me the most is that I have to choose. My friend said I was being as blind as German Jews in the 1930's if I thought America cared about the Jews. "Israel is the only real place a Jew can call home and rely on," she claimed.

But I feel at home here, especially walking down the streets in New York City, seeing all the diversity, not to mention all the different types of Jews.

In some ways, I feel at home in Israel, too. I love walking around Jerusalem or the big city of Tel Aviv and thinking, "These skyscrapers were made by Jewish hands."

However, I also feel like an outsider in Israel. I'm clearly an American, walking around in my designer clothing and heavy accent.

I guess when it comes down to it, I'm a typical New York Jew, with all the neuroses, arrogance, and trust in America that that implies. I really don't know where my true loyalty lies, but I do know that September 11th changed everything for me as far as my identity.

Still, I don't think it's a no win situation. I always planned on living in Israel after college, but before September 11th I always thought that I would try to blend into Israeli society; that I would try to forget that I was born in America, that it was just an accident, a mistake my parents made that I would correct.

After September 11th, however, I realized that no matter where I live throughout my life I will always be an American. Maybe I'm a Jew first, and I know that Israel is where I'm supposed to be, but I can't help the ideas, values and culture that were inculcated in me. It's as American as apple pie. I'll always love this country and I don't want to try to erase where I come from.

As an American I feel that I have the right to be who I am, and that means not being afraid to admit and fight for the religious and Jewish values that I believe in. Despite the looks I may get from police officers, I need to protest against things that I think this government is doing wrong, even if it's from a solely Jewish perspective. That's my right as an American, and that's what makes this country so great.

I know that this struggle is as old as the Diaspora Jew, but I am a Diaspora Jew, and I can't change that even if I move to Israel. The struggle will always haunt me because I'll always feel a little guilty either way I go. I guess that's just the Jewish guilt in me.

## The Observer

welcomes all letters to the editors.

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for grammar, length and content.

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# on campus

## Anne Scheiber Millions Fund New SCW-Einstein Scholarship

By Observer Staff

SCW has recently announced that the \$2.5 million afforded by the late Anne Scheiber bequest will allow for two full scholarships to SCW graduates at Albert Einstein College of Medicine as well as increased financial aid to SCW students this year.

The money, which is the accumulated interest after years of prolonged courtroom negotiations, will temper off to an annual \$1.5 million specifically aimed at assisting SCW students with demonstrated financial need who express an interest in the sciences, and who will eventually attend medical school. Though Einstein admission is not guaranteed for the selected scholarship recipients, Dean Bacon expects the scholarship to be promoted as an eight year scholarship, available for four years of SCW education as well as four years of paid Einstein tuition.

"I want to give this money out," asserted Dean Bacon. "My greatest joy is assisting students who would otherwise be saddled with the enormous burden of loans."

Since the money came through so late this year, there was no application for the scholarship. Instead, two SCW graduates beginning their first year of Einstein, Deena Blanchard and Yael Yaari, were selected to receive full Einstein scholarships this year. In the future, however, Dean Bacon foresees an application process that will identify students based on credentials and demonstrated financial need, criteria which should not be so difficult to meet.

"We don't have many students going to Einstein each year," commented Dean Bacon. "If we have five in a year, that's a lot. The goal is that with this scholarship, we will have more."

The students, who were not informed until recently that they would be receiving the scholarship, are overjoyed at the news. Blanchard thanks SCW for creating the scholarship and for promoting careers for Jewish women.

"I had a great experience at Stern, especially in my science classes, and I still keep in touch with my professors," commented Blanchard. "The blessing of a school like Stern is that somewhere down the road, someone can say to the deans 'Did you hear Deena's going to Einstein?' and just like that, you'll be eligible for a scholarship. It's an amazing blessing from God."

Though SCW students who may have turned down Einstein could not have factored this scholarship into their decision, in the future Dean Bacon hopes that students will see this scholarship as an incentive to attend SCW and then Einstein. However, there is no set, specific number of scholarships available, leaving open the possibility of numerous partial scholarships, or even multiple full scholarships.

The Scheiber scholarship specifically targets science majors, and the scholarship can be enlarged from medicine to include majors of psychology, math, social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy – almost any major except English majors, according to Dean Bacon.

"My hope is that women interested in these fields or medicine will be attracted to SCW at the undergraduate level in order to be eligible for this scholarship," Dean Bacon remarked.

Though YC has no counterpart scholarship, the will does contain a provision that if not enough qualified women can be found to benefit from the scholarship, the money can go to men. Nevertheless, it is unclear whether men can expect to eventually benefit from this bequest, as the money will also be used to subsidize the numerous unfunded scholarships SCW awards. The conversion of the unfunded financial aid scholarships to funded scholarships will allow for increased availability of funds for other areas within the university.

"There will be more money available for academic programming," predicted Dean Bacon. "Also, it will help offset the deficit."

Some students question the wisdom of creating a scholarship that would, in effect, offer a student a scholarship to graduate school based on the student's work done in high school. Nevertheless, Dean Bacon responds that the university is only acting within the

specifications established by Anne Scheiber.

"It's not a university specific guideline," commented Dean Bacon. "It's donor specific."

When Anne Scheiber passed away in 1995, she earmarked \$20 million to be given to Yeshiva University, specifically to women with demonstrated interest in sciences. In the four years during which Yeshiva has fought the legal battle against Anne Scheiber's family for the use of the money, the portfolio has multiplied to \$34.3 million through Yeshiva's hiring of an outside investment team. Though the will contains a clause that the scholarship cannot exceed \$3,000, Yeshiva has been in court the past year demonstrating that \$3,000 was full tuition at the time of the will's execution, and thus that the will allows for a full tuition scholarship.

Anne Scheiber, who felt she had been discriminated against because of the fact that she was a Jewish woman, envisioned her money being used to further career opportunities for Jewish women, and SCW uses this guideline in creating the scholarship.

"Medical school in general is a huge financial burden, especially for women, Orthodox women, who are concerned with starting a family," asserted Blanchard. "When something like this comes through, especially when it's something you've really wanted to do, it makes the opportunity much more accessible. And when one door opens, a lot of doors open."



Yeshiva cashes in on Ann Scheiber millions for new scholarships

## In Your Own Words Where's your favorite place to go in New York City?



Kirsten Hyman  
SCW senior

"My favorite place is Times Square. I love the excitement and the constant flow of people there. There is also always something going on at Times Square and it epitomizes the energized life of NYC."



Melanie Winer  
SCW sophomore

"I really like to go to South Street Sea Port. I like the view of the water and there's really good shopping. They have a great mall there, and the shopping is in a relaxed setting."



Tzipa Chaim  
SCW senior

"The village is the best place to go. It's got an amazing hip and fun pace, with all the college students hanging out there. There's great diversity, unique clothing and cute guys."

## Enrollment Increases Significantly at SCW

### Israel Program Numbers Remain Steady

By Shifra Landowne

Continuing the trend of recent years, SCW enrollment has significantly increased yet again. Enrollment has increased from 989 students in Fall 2001 to approximately 1,060 registered students for Fall 2002.

"Stern is becoming more popular, the demographic of feeder schools has been going up and new students want to come," said Dr. John Fisher, the Director of Enrollment Management.

Yeshiva College has also experienced an upsurge in enrollment. While last year the number of registered students stood at 1,266, this year that number is well over 1,300.

This year's group of incoming students is also the largest than ever before. SCW has 350 new students arriving, with 100 of them coming directly from high school and entering as freshman, and 250 coming after study in Israel entering as sophomores.

YC has 450 new registered students, with 150 coming directly from high school and 300 coming from Israel.

Although enrollment is up, rejections have also increased, emphasized Michael Kranzler, the Director of Admissions. While the minimum academic standards – 1100 on the SAT and an 85 high school average – have remained the same, the flexibility surrounding those standards have diminished.

The increased enrollment cannot be attributed to fewer students' choosing to study in Israel for a year before coming to Yeshiva. Although earlier in the summer the Office of Admissions predicted a twenty per-

cent decrease in the number of students in the S. Daniel Abraham Program, the numbers are now showing that almost all of the previously undecided students have chosen to go to Israel.

Many families of yeshiva-aged students have been wavering all summer about whether to send their children to Israel. According to



Bombing at Hebrew University in August has not deterred many students from studying in Israel

Admissions, a fair number of people, uncertain of their final decision, have paid deposits both at Yeshiva in Israel and at SCW so that they can wait as long as they can.

"We just try to work with them, be supportive, try to help these families make the right decision," said Fisher. "But it's difficult. We would not be able to accommodate all of these students if they decided to come. At some point we need to know."

Preliminary calculations suggest that the number of Israel Program students this year will, in fact, match the number from last year – approximately 580 students.

Jennifer Levine, of West

Hempstead, New York, is a student at Michlelet Mevaseret Yerushalayim in Jerusalem who says that, while she doubted her decision, she could not have passed up the opportunity to study in Israel.

"Yes, when things were bad on the news I thought about not coming," said Levine. "Yes, I have restrictions from my parents and, yes, I do get nervous, but I cannot imagine not being [there]."

Indeed, the past few weeks have seen many students who had been enrolled at SCW change their minds in favor of going to Israel.

"Earlier in the summer, there was a fear that we wouldn't have enough housing," said Dean Bacon. "We now can accommodate everybody because so many people have changed their minds and decided to go to Israel."

If the Israel Program numbers do go down at all, it may not even be because students have decided not to study in Israel. According to Kranzler, while the tuition of the Israel Program used to be \$500, with \$250 going toward tuition and the rest going to Yeshiva, the price has doubled this year. The fact that the new price is \$1000 and only \$500 goes straight to YU tuition can be a big consideration, and potentially a big drawback, for families. Therefore, the number of students registered in the Israel Program do not accurately reflect the number of students who are actually studying in Israel.

"Compared to other schools, our Israel Program is still very large," said Dean Bacon. "It's an amazing phenomenon in our community that people are still going to Israel."



# NEWS UPDATES

## Workers Sign Contract, After Weeks of Negotiations

By Observer Staff

Yeshiva has finally reached an agreement with 1199 Union workers providing for an increase of salaries by 13%. The contract, which will last for 48 months, does not equalize Yeshiva workers with the Einstein workers. Yeshiva workers had ended a three-day strike last May without negotiating a contract.

The strike, which had initially begun because maintenance employees at the college campuses were not paid the same as workers at the Einstein campuses, involved almost 90% of Yeshiva facility employees, and crippled food services, the Office of the Registrar and the library. The final contract does not equalize pay but contains a provision for housekeeping to eventually equalize the payment over four years.

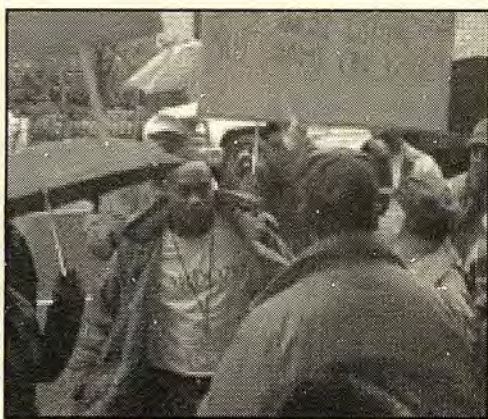
"I guess in a sense it was a fair contract, but it wasn't what we had really wanted," asserted Clarence Barrett, union representative.

Union workers, though split over the outcome of the negotiations, all agreed to go back to work. Some were satisfied with the final contract, uplifted by an increase of 13%, while others merely acceded to the whims of the majority. Some workers predict a similar strike and increased negotiations when this new contract elapses.

*The union members believe that the strike was unquestionably effective as a negotiating tool.*

"We had more or less split," stated Barrett. "Some of the union membership were not satisfied with the outcome, some of the membership were satisfied."

The four year contract will enforce the increase in incremental stages, with a three percent increase the first year, two percent the second, and four percent for



Yeshiva workers went on strike last May

the following two years.

"The contract wasn't what we had totally wanted, but for the moment, it's acceptable," commented Trevor Young, another union representative. "The thinking is that over a period of time, the salaries will be brought up to eventually be on par with Einstein. It may take a while."

Some Yeshiva workers feel they deserve higher salaries because they will most probably be doing extra work, as a result of the University hiring freeze which has been in place for six months.

"That means it's more work for us," said Young.

Furthermore, many of the workers are suspicious of Yeshiva's cries of a "budget deficit."

"We did our own investigation, hiring people from Washington D.C.," asserted Barrett. "Our information tells us that Yeshiva does have the money."

Despite the tumult the strike wreaked upon the university, the union members believe that the strike was unquestionably effective as a negotiating tool.

Young noted that the university's offers increased dramatically from seven percent before the strike to the final settlement of 13 percent.

"It was the first time since I've been here that we had to strike," Barrett remarked. "It was new to the membership and the management for us to be on the street."

## Remaining Floors of 36th Street Residence Hall Open

By Observer Staff

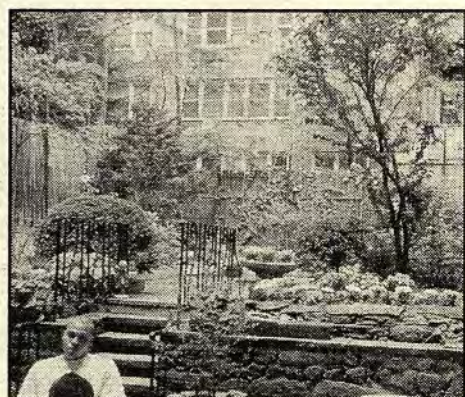
Responding to an enrollment boom, Yeshiva opened the remaining two floors of the 36th Street Residence Hall to allow for the maximum capacity of 100 SCW students. The dormitory, which contains the recent additions of a laundry room and back lounge, also houses a student lounge with two game tables.

"I've been hearing from lots of people how beautifully decorated and how beautiful the back lounge is," commented Resident Advisor Leeba Krausz, SCW senior.

The 36th Street Residence Hall contains single and double occupancy rooms and is primarily geared for upperclassmen. The two top floors were opened last year, and, despite the lack of an elevator, move-in proceeded smoothly. This year, the second and third floors were opened, maximizing the building's occupancy.

"It's a different layout than the other floors because it was restructured differently, but it houses the same number of students," commented Assistant Dea of Students Zeldia Braun.

The 36th Street Residence Hall, previously known as Robert's House, is now housing an additional fifty students, at a time when SCW enrollment has exceeded one thousand students. The new facil-



Courtyard garden is one of the attractions of the 36th St. Residence Hall

ity, which has one Graduate Advisor and no additional Residence Advisor despite the addition of the new students, has allowed Brookdale Residence Hall to keep its study hall.

The third floor was completed by last January but remained empty because enrollment did not necessitate its opening.

Students appear to be appreciating the facilities of the new dorm.

"The SCW board has been instrumental in making this new dorm open and available to us," Sharon Weiss, SCWSC president. "I'm sure that students will benefit from and appreciate this new facility."

## Midtown Short-Staffed with Nissel Departure

continued from front page

Services amid student outcry, has returned to the Wilf campus Office of Student Services. He replaced Avi Rosman and has been given the title of Assistant Dean of Students.

A graduate of Queens College, Nulman received his Ph.D in Psychology. He started working for Yeshiva in 1984, as the Assistant Dean of Students. During his sixteen years at Yeshiva, Nulman moved to Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students and, finally, University Dean of Students.

Citing the need for a change as his reason, Nulman left his post in June 2000. During the past two years, Nulman has retained his connection to Yeshiva, teaching sociology at SCW and at Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Now back at the helm of Student Services, Nulman has immediate goals of advocating for more housing and of establishing a University counseling center, which would operate independently of Student Services, thus ensuring greater confidentiality.

"There is a need for a separate unit," said Nulman. "One of the main problems that needs to be fixed is rebuilding trust between administrators and students."

That one of Nulman's top priorities is mending the administration's relationship with the students is, in fact, fueling student speculation that the reshuffling within Student Services is a result of the disciplinary fiasco last year, in which a number of Yeshiva College students were expelled after a Purim party grew out of control.

According to Lowengrub, however, the reorganization resulted from more general discussions with SCW and YC students that revealed that students were unhappy with the way they were being treated. Specific student concerns expressed at the end of last year ranged from dissatisfaction with the confidentiality policy to the cancellation of the storage service at SCW.

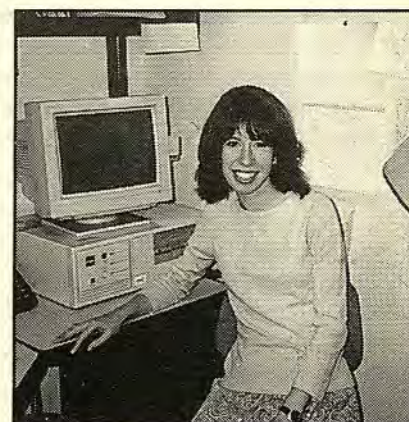
Lowengrub also emphasized that Himber's new position was not a demotion. Rather, Lowengrub said, the reshuffling was a way to bring more manpower to Student Services and provide the Dean of Students with more help.

In any case, administrators perceive the return of Nulman as a real benefit. "I had a good relationship with Dr. Nulman in the past, and I am sure we'll work well together in the future," commented Dean Karen Bacon.

While Nulman's reappointment greatly affects student leaders who deal with Student Services on a regular basis, it is unclear what the impact will be on the average SCW student. While

both Nulman and Himber have offices at SCW, neither of them has established office hours. According to Zeldia Braun, Assistant Dean of Students at SCW, once Nulman sees how his time is allotted, he may be at the midtown campus on a more regular basis.

In the meantime, in what may be of greater significance to SCW students, the midtown campus is already begin-



Shani Nissel departs SCW after two years

ning the academic year suffering from a personnel shortage in Student Services. Dr. Shani Nissel, after serving as Assistant to the Residence Supervisor and as a Personal Counselor for two years, moved away and left her job at SCW.

Nissel's departure comes at a time when SCW is facing increased enrollment and has just opened two more floors of housing in the 36th Street dormitory.

However, because of the University hiring freeze, in which, in an effort to reduce the operating budget deficit, no non-essential jobs are being filled at all Yeshiva campuses aside from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, there are currently no efforts to fill the position vacated by Nissel. Braun and Rachel Kraut, the Residence Supervisor, will shoulder the responsibilities.

"Shani Nissel's position is critical and essential," said Braun. "But we're doing our best so that students don't feel negatively affected."

In order to circumvent the hiring freeze, which has been in effect for six months, Student Services would have to submit its arguments of why the position is essential enough to warrant an exception. The Office of Academic Affairs has not received a specific request, according to Lowengrub.

According to Nulman, however, the Student Services budget that he submitted at the beginning of this past summer included a replacement for Nissel's position. Nulman is at this time still awaiting approval for the budget.

"I'm optimistic that we're going to find a way to get someone in that position," said Nulman.

**The Observer**  
Wishes a  
**Mazel Tov**  
to  
**Sari Moskowitz**  
on her engagement



# CAMPUS BRIEFS

## Yeshiva Issues New Identification Cards

Yeshiva has ordered new Identification cards for all University personnel and incoming students. The aim is for increased security, although the cards will do nothing different from before.

The card has a new design. It hangs length-wise instead of width-wise, and the status of the person, such as student or faculty, is more prominently displayed.

Although new pictures are being taken, the ID numbers will remain the same.

## Guide On Its Way to Completion

Part I of the 2002-2003 Guide to the Perplexed, boasting a Spiderman theme and sporting a nifty Magic Eye cover, is already being distributed to students. This year, the Guide, which was edited by YC student Gennady Gelman, is soft-cover bound, rather than loose-leafed like in past years.

Part II of the Guide, the compendium of student phone numbers and addresses, is scheduled to appear in hard copy a few weeks after Rosh Hashana. Student information is being collected at Orientation and within the first few days of school. Part II will also be available online.

Last year, the Guide suffered from organizational problems, and Part II of the Guide never appeared in a hard copy format.



Dr. Levy

## Memorial Concert For Levy Planned

SCW music professor Dr. David Glaser is coordinating a concert in memory of Dr. Edward Levy, the chair of the SCW music department who passed away from cancer last

year. He had taught at SCW for thirty-four years.

The memorial concert is scheduled for sometime in the spring semester. Organizers of the concert have determined the Schottenstein Cultural Center to be unsuitable for a musical performance, so the location of the concert will most probably be off-campus, though the exact location is yet to be determined.

As part of the program, professionals, and some graduate students, will play some of the music Levy himself composed.

## New Professors Join SCW Faculty

SCW has hired some new professors. Joining the faculty this Fall 2002 semester are Dr. Bhaskar Sengupta, Dr. Joseph Luders and Dr. Jeffrey Weisberg.

Sengupta will oversee the Computer Science departments at SCW, as well as at YC and SSSB. Hired as a full-time professor, he will also work on the development of the department.

Luders joins the Political Science department. His specialties are American policy and the American Civil Rights movement.

Weisberg is an addition to the Biology department who will teach another Biology Essentials course, as well as a Cell Biology course.

## Facilities Increase Dollar Amount on Cafeteria Cards

For the second year in a row, the amount of money on the Cafeteria card has increased. The amount is now at \$900, up from \$825 last year and \$750 two years ago.

All students living in University dormitories are required to pay the money. Each year, the high minimum caf card amount provokes outcry among students, especially those who hail from the tri-state area. These stu-

dents claim the mandatory amount is too high for their food needs.

## Full Tuition Scholarship in Place This Year

Several incoming YC and SCW students are arriving on campus this year having received full tuition scholarships.

In the past, the highest scholarship in the Distinguished Scholars program was worth \$10,000. As tuition has grown to over \$24,000, however, Yeshiva realized that that amount was too small.

The new scholarship was awarded based on the same criteria as before – a minimum 90 high school average and a score of 1400 on the SAT. Though the new scholarship covers increases in the tuition over the next four years, it does not pay the housing or meal plan costs.

## New Printing Rules in Effect

Hoping to stem the steadily escalating cost of printing in Academic Computing labs and classrooms, Yeshiva MIS has put a printing conservation program into effect for the Fall 2002 semester.



Students will now be limited in their printing use

Yeshiva has set an upper-limit threshold of 500 pages per user per month. When a user reaches the last ten percent of the threshold, a warning message will appear on the computer screen. If a user reaches the limit and tries to print, the job will automatically not print.

Students in extenuating circumstances may submit requests for more printing privileges.

# SEPTEMBER 11

## SCWSC, TAC, and SSSBSC

Invite the entire midtown Yeshiva University community to attend a meaningful September 11th memorial program.

Join your community for a congregational Shacharit service, followed by a minute of silence, a Shofar blowing and an address by **President of Yeshiva University, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm.**

The event will take place at 8:00 a.m. in the Shottenstein Cultural Center.

Let us stand united in reflection of the events of this past year.



# Summer 2002

## Dixie Chicks

### SCW Honors Course Explores the South

By Alisa Rose

Six SCW students got a hands-on view of southern Jewish history and a firsthand taste of southern hospitality on a 10-day course this summer. The students explored the development of Jewish history in the south by touring Charleston, South Carolina, Savannah, Georgia and Atlanta, as well as two smaller cities - Beaufort, South Carolina and Macon, Georgia - which have small Jewish communities today.

Students were unanimous in their praise for the course.

"Not only was this course fun, but I learned a lot, because the information we learned was mixed in with the experiences we had and the things we saw," said Shira Frankel.

"The course was intensely rewarding," agreed SCW junior Shifra Landowne. "It was so fascinating to visit these places and be able to get an inside look at the Jewish communities."

Aside from touring the historic Jewish sites of the cities, the students and the course's professor, Dr. Marc Lee Raphael, the chair of the Jewish Studies department at the College of William and

Mary in Virginia, also explored the modern Jewish life in these southern cities, meeting with leaders of the Jewish communities, and visiting the city's synagogues.

Many students were surprised to learn that the South was home to some of the earliest Jewish communities, and they were unaware that Charleston is credited with providing the birthplace for Reform Judaism. Professor Raphael delivered daily lectures to the students, which often turned into lengthy discussions as students grappled with the reasons for the unique identity of the southern Jew and debated the reasons for the development of Reform Judaism in Charleston.

According to all participants, the small size of the course worked to its advantage, although the administration was forced to subsidize the course even further.

"The small size fostered a sense of informality that was conducive to a more open classroom," said SCW senior Rose Blynn. "We each felt freer to discuss whatever questions were on our mind, and we were able to learn a lot more because of that. It was kind of like going on a road trip with your family, or a small

group of friends."

Agreed SCW Miriam Bader, "I especially liked that it was small. I felt we all got to know each other fast since we were with each other 24/7."

Bader went on to highlight the unique relationship that the students developed with Dr. Raphael. "I don't think one usually gets so comfortable around a professor until the end of the semester, if at all, but because we spent so much time together I felt very comfortable approaching him with questions and comments," she said.

Landowne credited Professor Raphael and "the intellectual level and interest of the group" for the course's success.

Raphael was similarly enthusiastic about the students and the course's size. "The students were bright, intellectually curious, highly motivated, and incredibly fun to be with," he said. "Six students was a perfect number as I believe I got to know each one as an individual, and they each got to know me well."

Although the small enrollment demanded greater subsidies from the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program, funded by a major gift from businessman and philanthropist Mr. Danny Abraham, administrators were willing to do so.

"In general, honors courses, whether during the academic year or during the summer, enroll few students," Dean Bacon noted. "Thus far we have had four other summer honors courses. I don't think any enrolled more than 10 students."

The \$1500 tuition for the course, which included three credits, all transportation, food, and hotel-stays, deterred many students from enrolling, though the cost was already heavily subsidized by the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program.

"I am really happy that Stern pulled through with the trip despite the small number of people and the inevitable financial strain that that causes - even though it happened to work out for our benefit," said Landowne.



Fountain at Forsyth Park, Savannah, Ga. Pictured, from left, Dr Marc L. Raphael, Shifra Landowne, Alisa Rose, Miriam Bader, Rose Blynn, Rebecca Rosenberg, Shira Frankel, tour guide

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## Students Travel Cross Country to Teach Torah

### MSDCS Expands Summer Programs in Various Communities

By Shayndi Raice

While many others were in camp or on family vacations this summer, over seventy students traveled to Jewish communities across the country to teach Torah and lead outreach programs. Yeshiva Summer Torah Seminars, run by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) expanded its program this year, changing its format, adding more participants and doubling the number of communities to which it sends students.

This year also marked the first year that undergraduate and graduate women were able to participate in the program. "Many communities requested women because they felt they needed role models for the young women in the community as well," said Rabbi Ari Rockoff, head of the Youth and Outreach Department of MSDCS.

The YSTS program received over 130 applicants this year, yet was only able to accept 70 to send to the fifteen participating communities, which included Atlanta and Jacksonville, Florida. Nonetheless, the number of participants was more than triple than the previous year.

The students traveled to the different cities and were placed at various homes in the community. Throughout the day

they lead a variety of programs, such as learning groups, children's programs and Shabbat activities. The communities cover the costs for the students.

The program is similar to Torah Tours, which sends students to communities for Shavuot and Simchat Torah. However, the summer seminars are unique in that they are often longer, lasting anywhere from five days to a month. For example, students stayed in Omaha for five days, while those in L.A. stayed for a month. "The learning on these programs are in greater depth and therefore the impact on the community is that much greater," explained Rockoff.

While most students are accepted to Torah Tours, applicants for YSTS need to have a greater degree of comfort with giving small lectures. Both programs attract YC, SCW and RIETS students, though others can apply as well.

Previously, the program followed a more classical kollel style, and a rosh kollel and approximately eight to ten young men would go to a community and set up a mini *beit midrash*. The new seminar pro-

gram allowed for greater interaction between the community members and students through informal learning throughout the day.

"We'll still set up that classical kollel program if a community requests it," said Rockoff. "However, other communities needed something more creative and a more package program."

Many of the groups still included a rosh kollel, usually a student from the Rosh Kollel Elyon at RIETS. Additionally, two roshes yeshiva from RIETS participated in seminars this summer. Rabbi Michael Rosenweig went to Silver Spring, Maryland for the month of June where a learning program was organized at the Hebrew Academy. Local students, the majority from Yeshiva University, participated in the program.

Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky, also a rosh yeshiva, traveled to Los Angeles where he supervised a *beit midrash* at Congregation Beth Israel. While the students learned with members of the com-

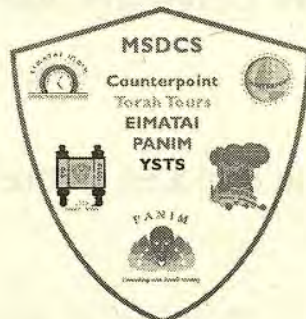
munity in the mornings and evenings, during the day when the congregants were at work they were able to learn *nidah* together with Rabbi Sobolofsky, a requirement for ordination at RIETS.

Lea Colton, who participated in this summer's trip to Allentown, Pennsylvania with six others, enjoyed the experience. "It was a very positive experience to be representing YU and to see what Jewish life out of New York is like," said Colton.

A post-semicha student, Rabbi Craig Berkowitz, served as the rosh kollel on the Allentown kollel, while the others were mostly graduate men and women. In the evenings the students gave lectures such as "Liberties in Time: When Women Control the Calendar" and "The Many Colors of Repentance -Teshuva through the Eyes of the Maharal."

Most of the day was spent learning with members of the community *chavruta* style, with many taking the opportunity to learn some basic Jewish law. Although the synagogue where the learning took place, Congregation Sons of Israel, was officially Orthodox, not all members were completely observant. "The community was warm and appreciated the fact that we were there," said Colton.

Students who are interested in participating in Torah Tours on Sept. 28-29th can inquire further at the MSDCS office.



One Project at a Time!  
www.yu.edu/riets



# Summer 2002

## Recurring Nightmare: Thoughts on a Summer Job in Israel

By Alisa Rose

Despite professing a commitment to living in Israel, I must admit that I was nervous about spending my summer there. It bothered me that I was so nervous, but I just couldn't banish the nightmarish images of the terror attacks from my thoughts. Bloody, flesh-covered sidewalks. Detached limbs. Broken families. Orphaned children. Why am I traveling to a war zone?

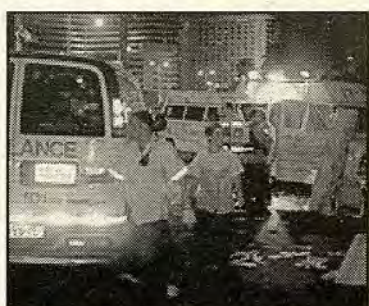
The day before I flew to Israel, there was a suicide bombing on a Jerusalem bus, killing 19 and wounding dozens more. I calmed fears of my own personal safety by telling myself that I would leave early if I felt unsafe. As I boarded the plane, I tried to preoccupy myself with other thoughts. No matter how hard I tried, though, I just couldn't forget one image the newspapers had described: a young woman, wearing a flowered print dress remaining in her seat on the completely gutted bus, headless.

I decided not to travel by bus while I was in Israel. I prepared myself for a summer that would involve limited travel. I imagined every venture outside put me at risk of ambush by mobs of hateful Arabs. I had spent my freshman year and the first semester of my sophomore year of college in Israel, but the most recent images of Israel seemed nothing like the relatively peaceful country I had fallen in love with three years ago. From living in Israel, I knew the media's depictions often emphasized the violence, while overlooking the normal, everyday life that most Israelis lead, but I still found myself feeling increasingly ambivalent about my trip.

It took me a few weeks in Israel to summon the courage to travel by bus, a few weeks of witnessing - and participating in - the normal, everyday life of the Israeli people. I watched several young boys play ball in the parking lot next to their building, as the radio inside reported the latest terror attack, an ambush of a bus in Emmanuel. I was so taken by the image - of normal, happy children playing ball outside their Jerusalem homes when times in Israel are clearly abnormal - that I barely noticed when the boys almost knocked me in the head

with their ball.

I experienced firsthand the motto that I had heard quoted so often as I integrated into daily life in Israel. "This is our home." It is not a war zone. And even terror attacks don't warrant abandoning one's home. But the desire to carry on with life and the resolve



Terrorist attacks have become commonplace in Israel

not to relocate one's home to another country despite terror attacks does not mean we should become immune to the pain.

I came to work in Israel at the *Jerusalem Post* this summer, but I learned much more than the inner workings of a daily newspaper. I realized that the impulse to push the painful images of terrorist attacks out of my head is an inappropriate - if not an insensitive - reaction to terror attacks.

Call it naive or wishful thinking, but I never considered the enormity of the pain of people who lost family members to terror. The pain doesn't merely dissipate a year after the attack. If anything, it grows as the death becomes reality. It becomes clear that the victims' seats will always be empty. They are not on extended vacation with friends. They are never going to walk through the front door again.

I interviewed a mother who lost her teenage daughter when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the Sbarro restaurant last summer. "It hurts even more now," she told me, tears flowing freely down her cheeks, as the single mother described how alone she feels in her pain.

She hasn't worked the last few months; piles of laundry bury her living room rug. "The Israelis don't seem to care," she told me. But then she revealed a postcard - hidden under piles of papers - that she had received that week. There was a hint of a smile on her face

as she showed me the postcard.

Ostensibly from Finland, the postcard included a short message of hope, an English quote from Isaiah, and a prayer that G-d bless this woman. It was signed simply "Lena."

"At least somebody cares," she said, her pain almost palpable.

At the conclusion of the interview, I thanked her for speaking to me, but I was baffled by her reply. I understood that for many victims it is therapeutic to talk about their loss, but I did not expect to be thanked for performing a *mitzvah*.

"Thank you," she said to me. "At least I had someone visit me." She still gripped the postcard in her hand, as if Lena would keep her company after I had departed. I smiled politely, walked out of her apartment and burst into tears.

Thank you, Lena.

I never sent a victim a postcard because I didn't know anyone personally. But that didn't stop you.

I may be fortunate that I am able to force my painful memories of terror attacks out of my thoughts - but it is terribly insensitive to take advantage of that fact. My pain is meaningless if it's buried in my consciousness and doesn't lead to action, if it doesn't cause me to sympathize with the victims.

I have recurring nightmares now of headless, limbless victims. I know I must translate those visions into messages of hope and prayer because the dead were my fellow Jews - fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, co-workers, and heroes - who happened to travel on the wrong bus or eat in the wrong pizza shop.

As I write a card to a victim I never met, Israel's children are still outside, playing ball, leading their normal, everyday lives in their homes in Jerusalem. For most residents of Israel, life is normal.

But we must not forget the victims whose lives will never be normal again. And, we must let them know that we remember them, whether we are living in Israel or America.

## It all Comes Together in the Ukraine

By Shira Freundlich

Have you ever experienced something, which, as you reflect back on it, leaves you with the thought, "There is no way I went through that"? That is exactly how I felt after being a counselor for two weeks in the Ohr Dessa/Tikvah Orphanage Summer Camp in Odessa, Ukraine.

Along with only two other American students, I worked hand in hand with fourteen ultra-Orthodox Israeli girls. We were the first Americans to ever be involved in the orphanage's summer program. Our job entailed creating and coordinating Jewish oriented activities for 250 Ukrainian children, some of whom were orphans while others came from homes stricken with poverty. These programs ranged from dance aerobics and amusement parks to challah baking and a Hachnasat Sefer Torah.

As the pioneering Americans, there was no precedent or set rules for us to turn to for guidance in dealing with the others. Rather, it was up to the three of us to define our role and justify our "American" presence.

It was not as easy as it sounds. This was the first time that we were literally in charge of an entire camp, where we were the counselors, division heads, and program coordinators all at once. And this was not like running a backyard camp in America; we not only had to get accustomed to the culture, language and lifestyle of our Ukrainian campers, we also had to get accustomed to the culture, language and lifestyle of our fellow Israeli staff members. The summer camp had to blend and integrate Russian, Israeli and American customs in order to function smoothly.

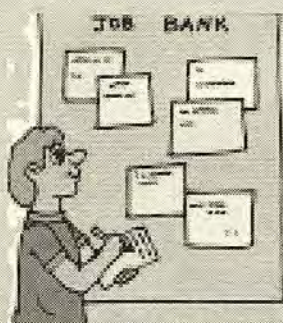
What made it even more interesting was that the Ukrainian children were fluent in Hebrew because many of their teachers had been Israeli. Never before had I, nor the other Americans on the program, worked in an environment where Hebrew was our sole means of communication.

We quickly learned that none of that mattered. The diversity in customs, practices and way of living did not make any difference in the connections we formed with the children and in the friendships we developed with the Israelis. In fact, they only served to enhance our unbelievable experience.

From the first day of camp it was impossible not to fall in love with these children. Simple acts such as giving each other makeovers with my mother's old makeup, playing Badminton during rest times and teaching them the HaMalach HaGoel song at night turned into moments that have left indelible marks in my memories. Watching them dance at a mock Jewish wedding, paint their own *shabbos* tablecloths and give lanyard bracelets to each other taught me that despite the indescribable pains these children have all witnessed there is always room for happiness in life.

Working with Israelis has opened my eyes to a very different lifestyle than the one in which I was raised. Those fourteen girls taught me so much about the *chareidi* Israeli world and gave me a deeper, richer appreciation and respect for it. Talking to them about Israel, school, family and yes, dating was so fascinating and enriching. To be honest, I think we three Americans fascinated them just as much, if not more. They had never been exposed to "from American girls" before and were just as intrigued and curious about our way of living. Our mutual respect for each other turned into genuine care, and true friendships from two vastly different Jewish worlds were created.

While I left the Ukraine with many new friends and lasting memories, the summer also taught me a great deal about Jewish life around the world and the impact we can all have on each other.



Jewish museum seeks intern  
with computer skills  
for a cataloguing project.

Must have an interest in Jewish art, and a desire to learn about our collection.

Please contact Jennifer Berkowitz,  
graduate student at JTS and curator of The Judaica Museum of The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale,  
(718) 581-1786 or [jberkowitz@hebrewhome.org](mailto:jberkowitz@hebrewhome.org)



# Orientation



RA's and Peer Advisors hand out keys to students in front of Brookdale Hall



Incoming students Sarah Agadzani and Leah Shafar wait to move into Brookdale dorm



Lines early Sunday morning stretched down 34th Street as students waited to move in



Elycia Rothenberg, Orientation chair, and Lauren Appel discuss Orientation details



Marni Rosen, SCW sophomore from Columbus, Ohio, Welcome Luncheon with parents. Rosen is returning from the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program, in which she studied at MMY in Jerusalem

## Orientation

Tuesday  
BOAT CRUISE 2002

*Spend an enjoyable evening on the Hudson surrounded by the New York skyline. 8pm*

Wednesday  
Student Councils' Chagigah

*8 pm, Koch Auditorium*

Thursday  
A Night at the Theater: "42nd Street"

Friday  
Student Councils' Chesed Event

*Light breakfast in the cafe followed by a meaningful "Help the homeless event." 9:30am*



Jessica Lovinger and Chaya Osherovitz enjoy Orientation events



# Orientation



SCW students receive packets of information upon arrival to the dorms



Nechama Gottlieb, Frumi Horowitz, Esther Lamm and Yafit Vaanunu join other students at the Buffet Welcome Dinner Sunday night

## Highlights

### Shabbat

Dr Ephraim Kanarfogel and family, Dean Karen Bacon and family, Dean Zelda Braun and family, and Residence Supervisor Rachel Kraut will join the student at midtown

### Saturday Night An Evening Around Town

Tour the city on a double-decker bus with friends old and new

### Sunday Student Council Event

### Tuesday Yankees vs. Red Sox

Travel to Yankee Stadium to partake in one of the city's favorite pastimes



Parents help students move into their dorms amidst the mayhem



Incoming SCW student, Shayna Schafer, and her mom



(l-r) Barbara Weinberger, Chaya Osherovitz, Rivka Fromer, Malka Lipetz, Leah Golshan, Rachel Goldshan



(l-r) Dina Freedman, Nikita Lazarus, Alyssa Block, Simcha Ben-David enjoy Buffet Dinner in Koch Auditorium



Dean Zelda Braun (far left) mingles among students and parents at orientation events



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

## Tired of Your Treadmill? Try Central Park

By Ariella Goldstein

Central Park seems almost out of place in New York City. Amidst skyscrapers and speeding cabs, in the center of Manhattan, lies 843 acres of trees. The world's most famous park, while certainly the elegant background of Museum Mile, can also function as the personal gym of all New Yorkers.

Central Park is ostensibly the cultural core of the city. Adjacent to the park, you'll find the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History, the Guggenheim Museum and the New York Historical Society. Inside the park you can attend the Delacorte Theater. The theater-within-a-park is often home to free productions and concerts. Just this past summer, it presented *Twelfth Night*, the Shakespeare in the Park production.

If you are unacquainted with the park, you'd best begin with a Central Park Walking Tour. All Sundays, from September 1st through November 10th, you can catch a licensed New York City tour guide at a midtown subway entrance at 9:30 a.m. This three hour tour will appeal to both historians and the average moviegoer, as the tour shows you the history behind the design of America's first planned public space as well as locales from famous movies such as *You've Got Mail*.

Central Park is mainly known for the numerous fitness opportunities it offers. Fitness connoisseurs are sure to enjoy Central Park's more vigorous activities. There are a number of great running paths in Central Park. First are Park Drives. Circling the entire Park, the drives provide three long distance routes - 6.1 miles, 5.2 miles, or 1.7 miles, or shorter distances if you cross the Park at a number of scenic locations. Another option is the Reservoir. The Reservoir track is 1.58 miles around and offers some of the best skyline views in the Park and many scenic opportunities.

In addition, every Sunday at 10:00

a.m., one can receive rock climbing lessons at Central Park's North Meadow Recreation Center, located mid-Park at 97th Street. The price tag, however, is steep. A four-week course costs \$200 per person.

Less expensive options are available as well. There are more tennis courts located in Central Park than anywhere else in Manhattan, and you can easily acquire a single day pass to one of the thirty courts located on the West Side (near 96th Street) for only \$5.00. The courts are open April 6th through November.

During the day, you'll find loads of cyclists enjoying a relaxing ride with friends, as bicycling is one of the most popular Park activities. Bicycles may be rented at the Loeb Boathouse, located at 74th Street and East Drive.

Another popular sport at Central Park is skating. In-line skaters have three rinks to choose from during the summer months. If you're someone who doesn't shy away from competition, you can skate with the pros at West Drive and 67th Street. The Wollman Rink is set up for in-line skating during the summer, and ice skating during the winter. Ice skaters can also choose the Laser Rink, located at the north end of the Park at 106th Street.

Equestrians will be happy to note that horseback riding is permitted during regular park hours. The Central Park bridle path exceeds six miles. The Claremont Riding Academy, located at 175 West 89th Street, provides riding horses. According to representatives from the riding academy, one must be able to walk, trot and can-

tor with or without stirrups in order to rent a horse and bring it to Central Park. If you are an experienced rider, then you may rent a horse for \$50.00 per hour. Less adept riders may want to take advantage of Claremont's private riding lessons, at \$55.00 per half-hour.

Central Park offers many interesting opportunities to those seeking a bit of fresh air. One example of a virtually unheard of activity is lawn bowling. The object of the game is to roll the bowl so that it comes to rest close to a small white ball (the jack) at the far end of the rink. Due to the three-pound ball's shape (it is biased, not round), the bowl rolls in a curve. A player wins points by placing more bowls closer to the jack than his or her opponent. Games are played by individuals or two-, three- or four-person teams. There are 5 million bowlers worldwide, mostly in England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and Hong Kong. The New York Lawn Bowling Club was founded in 1926 and welcomes all members. Members bowl at the green, located near the 69th street entrance every day except Monday. Equipment and lessons are provided to new members free of charge. For infor-



Biking or jogging in Central Park are only two of many sporting activities available

mation, contact Charles Crawford at [cwcl@juno.com](mailto:cwcl@juno.com).

Those seeking less active fare may enjoy Central Park's gondola rides and boat rentals. The Chess and Checkers House, located mid-Park at 64th Street, will loan playing pieces with a \$20.00 deposit. Another relaxing activity is fishing at the Harlem Peer at 110th Street, near Fifth Avenue.

Central Park will provide those seeking a more peaceful day with certain entertainment, but those seeking an exciting, refreshing break from their indoor exercise equipment will certainly not lack for activities.

## Village Crown Moroccan: A True Dining Experience

By Liana Biniashvili

Conveniently located in the heart of the East Village, the Village Crown is a beautiful, inviting and warm restaurant. Decorated with fine ceramic plates and lamps imported from Morocco, the restaurant transports its diners to a luxurious North African setting. The restaurant boasts a colorful Moroccan Hina tent filled with beautiful costumes, chairs and tables. On Monday nights, a buffet is served in the tent, accompanied by ethnic music. The tent, which seats from eighty to a hundred people, is open to private parties for rent. Opposite the Hina tent is a homey, charming garden with patio chairs and tables, which is open for dairy brunch and Italian. Next door, the Village Crown offers a dairy restaurant.

The menu is vast, including cold appetizers such as tahini, tabouli salad, babaganush, Moroccan carrot salad, matbucha salad, humus and Moroccan eggplant salad. There are unique salads, too, such as caramelized walnut salad. The appetizers can be served individually or in combination as part of the Village Platter.

There are several daily specials. Some of the most popular items are tajins with lamb and prunes, cooked slowly, and served with one side order of rice, potatoes, couscous or vegetables. Tajins are a traditional Moroccan dish which can be made of lamb, chicken or vegetables, cooked slowly. If you are not an exotic eater, traditional dishes such as steak, chicken kebabs and Shwarma can be ordered as well.

The restaurant is also an excellent place for lunch. The lunch menu platters include Moroccan salad medley, vegetable couscous and Moroccan chicken. Desserts include Moroccan cigars, made from ground beef rolled in a thin layer of filo pastry and baklava served with either soothing Moroccan tea or regular tea.

Village Crown offers excellent service. The waiters are very friendly and knowledgeable about the menu, which is helpful when ordering. The waiters can suggest an appetizing meal or

describe the dish you may be interested in. Not only are the waiters helpful, they also periodically come up to an assigned table and ask if anything is needed.

The menu is reasonably priced, with cold appetizers ranging from five to six dollars. A combination of cold appetizers or Village Platter is about ten dollars. Tajins, kebabs and main courses range from eighteen to twenty dollars. The delicious desserts can range from five to six dollars each.

Village Crown caters to every kind of individual. On a regular night the restaurant attracts both young and old. Professionals come to the restaurant to get a warm dinner, and you might even see parents bringing their kids in for a bite. The restaurant is ideal for almost any kind of gathering. The atmosphere is intimate enough for a date, cozy enough for a get-together with friends, and, with the Hina tent, suitable for large private parties. By and large, the Village Crown caters to every individual, in an inviting and laid-back atmosphere.

As the holidays approach, the Village Crown offers another advantage: the restaurant sets up a large *sukkah*. So if you're looking for an elegant place to dine during Sukkot, try the Village Crown.

Bon Appetite!

The Village Crown is located at 94-96 Third Avenue. It is Glatt Kosher.



Horseback riding in Central Park is available through Clairmont at \$50 an hour

**"The Pen is Mightier Than the Sword"**

Any other thoughts?  
Write for The Observer

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



The Village Crown meat restaurant boasts a Moroccan ambiance



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

## A Tribute to A Bygone Era: The Legacy of Tenement Living

By Rachel Horn

There is a famous old Yiddish song that begins, "Vus is geven is geven is nisht dawh," which means: "What happened has passed and no longer exists." As I wander through the Lower East Side, I behold Chinese-owned fabric stores, Italian-operated hardware stores and, nestled quietly in between, dusty Jewish bookstores and old kosher bakeries. Whereas stores of this variety dominated the streets a century before, only a handful can be found dispersed around the neighborhood these days.

On the door to a storage room in a store selling painted umbrellas and antique Judaica are black and white pictures of an elderly man playing the violin. The rotund Jewish proprietor proudly informs me that the subject of the pictures is her husband, may he rest in peace, who inherited the store from his father before him. It is on this note that I pass Seward Park and head for 97 Orchard Street, built in 1864 and home of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

"Our main purpose is not only to preserve stories of immigrants coming to this country 100 years ago," explains Robin Marcato, Associate Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the museum, "but to look at what we call the 'usable past' and learn from it. What has changed and progressed and what hasn't?"

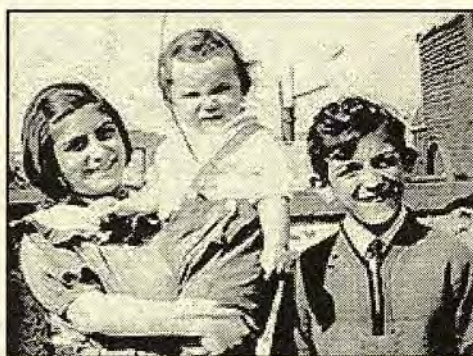
When you touch the wooden banister leading from the entry hall to the apartments upstairs, you touch the lives of 7,000 people - residents of the house as well as factory workers in the garment industry who worked in the building climbed up those stairs each day. Eighty percent of the Jewish families in the United States today trace their recent ancestry back to an address of a tenement house in the Lower East Side.

The Tenement Museum successfully demonstrates what life was like for new immigrants to New York in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The restorations to the actual structure were kept to a minimum. The items that furnish the two apartments illustrate the lives of two different families, one living in 1892 and one living in 1910, and give an accurate portrayal of the original contents.

The guided tour gives a detailed description of the grievous conditions in which the residents of the tenement housing system lived. "Even if you hear the stories, you might never quite connect," says Marcato. "Actually seeing the stories makes you connect."

Observing first hand the three-room apartments between the five stories of a 67-foot by 25-foot building into which twenty families were cramped definitely drives home the experience of abject poverty. There were no indoor bathrooms, showers or running water in the building. (Baths could be purchased for a nickel on Delancey Street. If that was out of a person's price range, the East River was a few short blocks away.) The outhouse, which was shared with a local pub, housed six bathrooms. Plumbing was not introduced until 1910 and electricity was introduced in 1924. The smell of coal permeated the building incessantly. Women carried buckets of water up the stairs and chamber pots down the stairs at all times of the day. Due to the unsanitary conditions of the time, the infant mortality rate was a shocking 40 percent.

In addition to resident accommodations, the tenement houses also lodged the Lower East Side's booming garment business. Women basted, stitched and ironed clothing in families' living rooms where the mother of the house sanitized



Children on the roof of 97 Orchard, which now houses the tenement museum, circa 1935

diapers by boiling them on the stove while she simultaneously cooked dinner.

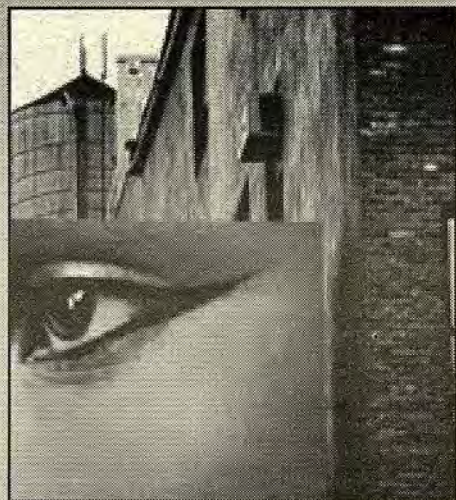
The landlords opted to evict the residents and shut down, as they were unwilling to renovate according to legal housing standards. The building was boarded up from 1935 until 1988, when the Lower East Side Tenement Museum bought and restored the building. The Museum gives guided tours describing the atrocities of the sweatshop business and mass-housing system, the vast ethnic make-up of the Lower East Side that changed with time and the impact of Jewish immigrants on New York's culture.

Although landmarks such as Gus's pickles, Kossar's Bialy shop and the building that housed the old Jewish paper *The Forward* exude the flavor of the Lower East Side, the authentic and even stereotypically Jewish environment of the Lower East Side belongs to a bygone era.

The information office for the Lower East Side Tenement Museum can be found on Allen Street, located on the corner of Orchard Street and Broome Street.

Student tickets are \$7;  
adult tickets are \$9.

For hours call 212-431-0233.



"Dangerous Beauty" is on exhibition at the JCC of Manhattan

### "Jews and Justice" Series (Part 2)

Lecture by Aharon Barak, President of the Supreme Court in Israel.  
September 9, 2002, 6:30 p.m.  
15 West 16th Street, 917-606-8200  
Free, registration required

## The Buck Stops Here

Get the Most Out of Your New York Dollar

By Rachel Horn

Life in the big city can get quite expensive after a few days of treating yourself to taxis, restaurants and 34th Street shopping. Pretty soon, you'll learn to take trains, use your transfers and buy your food at the cafeteria instead of at restaurants.

Here's a tip that can keep you living the high life on low means: using your Student ID card to its fullest potential can save you a pretty penny.

If you walk into virtually any kosher restaurant in Murray Hill and confidently demand your student discount, not failing to mention your unwavering loyalty to

the establishment and the amount of friends who you've converted to become regular customers, you will get the break. eee's gives five percent off all orders and Viva Natural Pizzeria gives ten percent off any order worth \$7.00 or more. Mr. Broadway and Mendy's offer a ten percent deduction for any in-store order. Circa NY gives ten percent off on in-store orders as well.

Many educational venues are eager to encourage students to develop their academic backgrounds through the resources available in Manhattan. Almost all of the museums in New York offer student fares. Eichler's Bookstore awards a five percent discount on all purchases to students. The New York Public Library grants free library cards to all student applicants. A yearly subscription to *The Wall Street Journal*

costs \$175, but students can pay \$98. The New York Times sells the newspaper to YC and SCW students for a weekly fee of only \$3.80. A yearly subscription to *Newsweek* costs \$41.08. However, a student ID can get you the magazine for \$24.64.

A plethora of price breaks are available for lovers of New York culture and entertainment. Student tickets for Broadway shows can be purchased every day for a discounted price. Shows that offer reduced admissions are listed in all publications that offer theater information. Students can purchase tickets for all events at the 92nd Street Y for 50 percent less than the original price on the night of

the event. Laser Park, located on 163 W. 46th Street, between 6th Avenue and Broadway, offers a buy one game, get one game free deal to students, and Barcode/Galactic Circus, located on 1540 Broadway, offers a ten percent student discount on video game cards.

Synergy Fitness, located between 23rd Street and Park Avenue, will give students a break on the entrance fee. The gym usually costs \$299 for a yearly membership plus \$24 a month. Students can pay \$100 and \$24 a month (ask for Tony).

One more helpful hint to keep up your sleeve throughout your bargain-searching endeavors: Managers and store owners will often decide to create a student discount on the spot. Don't be afraid to ask.

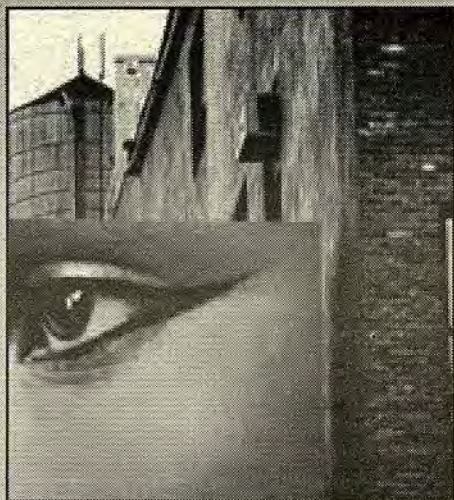


Synergy offers discounts with a student ID card

## Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

### "Dangerous Beauty"

Exhibition includes gallery works and video art. Takes a critical look at the effects of our society's obsession with beauty. Curated by Maron Slone.  
Until September 8, 2002  
The JCC of Manhattan  
334 Amsterdam Avenue at 76th Street



"Dangerous Beauty" is on exhibition at the JCC of Manhattan

### "Jews and Justice" Series (Part 2)

Lecture by Aharon Barak, President of the Supreme Court in Israel.  
September 9, 2002, 6:30 p.m.  
15 West 16th Street, 917-606-8200  
Free, registration required

### "The Fire Stays In Red: Ronny Someck and Elliott Sharp"

Ronny Someck is a leading Israeli poet whose work is rich in slang. In his newest book of poetry, *The Fire Stays In Red*, Someck's distinct Sephardi voice vividly summons Israel's multicultural scene. Downtown musician and composer Elliott Sharp sets Ronny Someck's spoken word tapestries to music.  
September 26, 2002, 8:00 p.m.  
The JCC in Manhattan  
334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th Street  
\$15.00

### "Female, Jewish and Educated"

Lecture by Professor Helen Freidenreich  
September 30, 2002, 7:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Leo Baeck Institute  
15 West 16th Street, 212-294-8340  
\$5.00

### Art Against Forgetting-Paintings by Leonard Meiselman

Art dealing with two meaningful motifs to American Jews, prayer shawls and American flags, both filled with ritual and ceremony.  
Until October 13, 2002  
Yeshiva University Museum  
15 West 16th Street, 212-294-8330  
Free of charge

### "Fruits of a Lifetime"

Kathryn Yochelson Collection of Israeli Arts from the 1920s to the 1960s. Many

Israeli artists featured expressed their optimistic hopes for peace between Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land through their artwork.  
Until October 27, 2002  
Yeshiva University Museum  
15 West 16th Street, 212-294-8330

### The City of K: Franz Kafka and Prague

Photographs, manuscripts and books set in a series of innovative multimedia environments put the German Jewish writer Franz Kafka in the context of the city in which he grew up and illuminate the imagination and psyche that created his powerful literature.  
Until January 5, 2003  
The Jewish Museum  
1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street, 212-423-3200, www.thejewishmuseum.org  
\$5.50 Student admission



Franz Kafka exhibit at the Jewish Museum



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



## BOOKWORM: CITY ON FIRE

*City on Fire*  
 Publisher Targum Press,  
 distributed by Feldheim  
 Publishers  
 Price: \$22.95

By Devorah Heching

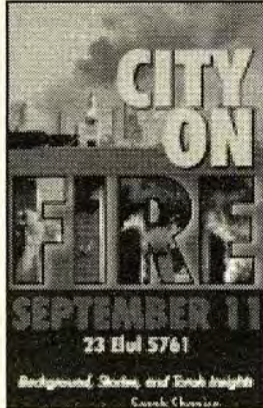
So much has already been written about September 11th that any further remarks risk being redundant at best. Mindful of this challenge, in her new book *City on Fire*, Sorah Shapiro, a freelance writer for both Jewish and secular publications, compiled a selection of background information as well as stories and perspectives on 9/11 written by others. Shapiro has carefully selected her material to highlight a perspective of the day's events that is largely ignored by the secular media: the role of God in that fateful day.

Despite the oft-repeated catechism "God bless America" that is invariably appended to the conclusion of most 9/11 related remarks, Shapiro believes that the role of God in the World Trade Center attacks is absent in almost all accounts and analyses of the disaster.

To fill this void, Shapiro narrates a series of vignettes of both survivors of the attacks as well as rescue workers who raced to the scene only to be caught in the fury of the storm themselves. Shapiro focuses on the recurring theme that links each of these stories - the belief in divine providence as the wellspring of survival. Reading these touching, and often frightening, stories of passes with near-death leaves the reader with the impression that the issue of survival was neither a question of luck nor quick wits. Rather, as we read the stories of the survivors themselves, without the filter of a journalist interposed between, we recognize that it was only through Divine intervention that each survivor is here today to relate his or her personal miracle.

More importantly, Shapiro seeks to dispel a common secular notion as to cause and effect in world events. When most journalists search for a cause of an event, they focus on the perpetrators. In the case of the World Trade Center attacks, that perpetrator could be Bin

Laden, the Taliban or Saddam Hussein. However, as an observant Jew, Shapiro believes that the human actors are agents of God's will and that He is the one who ultimately determines the contours of history. For an observant Jew, an analysis of 9/11 requires more than the knowledge of the actual events and the unquestionably evil agents who affected those events. It requires a soul searching analysis of how his or her own actions and the current global moral standards might have contributed to create a backdrop against which God could have permitted such a horrific disaster to occur.



To elucidate this point, Shapiro provides a collection of perspectives of prominent orthodox Rabbis and educators discussing the orthodox Jewish viewpoint of the infamous day and what the Jewish response to this tragedy should be. While a secular person may view September 11th in disbelief, questioning even the existence of God in light of such senseless tragedy, a religious person frames the question in the inverse. Rather than ask, "How could this have happened if there is a God?" the observant Jew counters, in the words of Rabbi Shmuel Kamenetsky, "Could this [have] happened without God?"

As it winds through the various essays, *City on Fire* conveys the message that September 11th was an event carried out by the al Qaeda (who are fully culpable), but was orchestrated by a higher force. This message is especially timely as we approach the anniversary of September 11 and the High Holidays.

The observant Jew is ever mindful that our lives are directed by an unseen hand and that events in this world are not random - mere happenstance - but rather follow a premeditated and deliberate design. Often that design is hidden from our limited faculties, and events that on the surface appear horrific and base can challenge our deep-seeded belief in the veracity of that design. Shapiro reminds us that tragic events, even one as devastating as 9/11, should be viewed not as a test of the depth of our conviction but rather as opportunities to explore the role of God in tragedy and to extract a fundamentally Jewish lesson from the events - that it is God Who directs the world stage, but it is us, through our actions, who influence which script God chooses.

## Beren Resigns

continued from back page board.

"[Beren] took a strong personal interest in the presidential search process," said one Yeshiva insider. "He definitely had his opinions."

Stanton, who is set to replace Beren pending an official Board vote, declined to discuss his goals and plans with the *Observer* until he is officially chairman. Stanton has a long association with Yeshiva, having served on the Board since 1976. As a youth, Stanton was offered a scholarship by the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue to study at Yeshiva and become the next rabbinic leader of the congregation.

However, Stanton preferred a career in business and, in 1950, Stanton graduated from City College of New York with a degree in economics. He later used this degree to form his own company, Transammonia, in 1965. Stanton is also a trustee of New York Hospital, the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan.

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[hait@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:hait@ymail.yu.edu)

Rachel Kraut, MSW  
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# Business News



### Message from SSSB President Ellie Nyer

As another summer goes by and a new school year begins, I would like to welcome all students to the Sy Syms School of Business. At this time I feel it is appropriate to introduce myself in this first of many short pieces that I am allotted to write in the *Observer*. My name is Elisheva Nyer (mostly known around campus as Ellie) I am a senior and a Marketing major at Syms, as well as the Sy Syms President for the Midtown Syms campus. This year, I have the pleasure of working with a great executive board that consists of Daniella Diamant as Vice President, Shaina Greenwald as Treasurer and Jessica Strick as Secretary. We have already begun to put together many great projects, seminars, lectures and trips that we hope you all will attend. Make sure to keep your eyes open regarding any upcoming Sy Syms events. On Wednesday, October 9th we will have the annual Sy Syms Orientation Reception held on the Wilf campus. All first time Syms students are encouraged to attend and all returning Syms students are always welcome. In

addition, keep your eyes open for flyers about a Book Fair, where students can sell their old text books and at the same time avoid buying brand new books. All Syms returning students are requested to participate in selling their old books, so new students as well as returning ones can purchase them.

Just a reminder to all seniors: your resumes are due within the first two weeks of school if you wish to use the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS) to assist you in your job search this year. There will also be a mandatory orientation on Wednesday, August 28th during club hour for seniors who are working with OPCS. Additionally, for any new or returning students I encourage you to use OPCS. They can and will help you build your resume, find an internship, land a summer job/ internship and much more.

So now that I have finished all the reminders for now, I hope everyone has a smooth time moving in and getting acclimated. I am excited to see all the familiar faces around campus and meet all of the new ones. If anyone is in need of assistance in any area please feel free to call upon anyone from the Sy Syms executive board, and we will be happy to help in any way that we can.

Welcome again, and I hope you have a great year!

## Letter Sent Out By Search Committee

continued from front page

process since the Zakheim candidacy last March. The selection of Dr. Dov Zakheim as a potential candidate caused an uproar in the Yeshiva community concerning the splitting of the roles of president and *rosh hayeshiva*, as reported in a special issue of the *Observer* last year. Zakheim's candidacy also provoked outrage



Search Committee continues search for president, with Lamm agreeing to stay on until a replacement is found

at the secrecy of the selection and the fact that it was first revealed in the *Jewish Week*.

In response to the need to return to the drawing board, Rabbi Lamm announced that he would stay on until a new president was appointed, though he originally intended to retire last May. Many of the candidates who were considered over the summer were already possibilities last year, though the committee claims a few new names were added.

All of the candidates have Ph.Ds and rabbinic ordination, with the exception of Dr. Schiffman whose ordination is unknown to the *Observer*, thereby averting the need to split the roles of *rosh hayeshiva* and president.

Rabbi Riskin's continued candidacy comes as a surprise to many, since it was rumored last year that he was no longer a possibility. "His candidacy was an interesting issue from the start," said one local rabbi and member of the advisory committee. "How he would manage it is unclear."

Rabbi Riskin currently lives in Efrat, Israel, where he is the chief rabbi. He is also chancellor of the Ohr Torah Stone Institutes, which he founded in 1984, whose supporters include many Yeshiva donors and whose new men's program Yeshivat Toras Shraga is situated at Yeshiva's Joseph and Caroline Gruss building in Jerusalem. Many felt that

Riskin only remained an option because he was a favorite of Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Beren. The possibility of Riskin leaving Israel or commuting seems unlikely, yet Riskin was seen at the main campus just last week.

Riskin, Shatz and Schnall have a long association with Yeshiva, as all three are graduates of YC with rabbinic ordination from RIETS. Dr. Schnall was appointed dean of Azrieli Graduate School last year and previously taught at Wurweiler School of Social Work. Dr. Shatz is a professor of philosophy at Yeshiva and Columbia University.

Dr. Schiffman holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brandeis University and is Professor of Hebrew studies at New York University. An author of numerous Jewish books, he is a world renowned expert on the Dead Sea scrolls and wrote "Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls."

While the names of the candidates remain unofficial, the letter is the first action in over three months, and Yeshiva may in fact be one step closer to finding its next president.

## SSSB Captures Media Attention

By Sari Moskowitz

Over the summer, Sy Syms School of Business significantly increased its exposure in the media through both faculty and students. Members of the SSSB faculty appeared in over ten newspapers, television and radio programs, and the Intermediate Accounting II course that was offered in July was videotaped for a segment that aired on ABC news.

According to Peter Ferrara, Yeshiva's Director of Communications and Public Affairs, over twenty-five SSSB's professors were featured in the media this summer. Among those are Dr. Moses Pava, SSSB Dean Charles Snow, Dr. Robert Greenberg, Rabbi Robert Hirt, and Dr. Aaron Levine.

Featured on ABC and CNN and in the Associated Press, the Washington Times, the Baltimore Jewish Times, the Denver Post and several other media sources, SSSB professors discussed various issues including the WorldCom fiasco, business ethics and accounting methodologies and abuses.

"This summer PR has tried to be really proactive for the university in gaining media attention," said Ferrara. Certainly, the prominence of SSSB in the media over the summer illustrates the department's great success.

"The frequent appearance of SSSB in the news shows clearly that the corporate world fully recognizes the quality of the faculty at SSSB and that they're interested in hearing their views on a number of issues," noted Dean Snow.

The Channel 7 crew that videotaped the summer accounting course, taught by Professor Charles Horning, took shots of the nine students taking notes and asking questions. The thirty-second segment aired last week.

Aside from speaking with Dean Snow, the reporter also interviewed two students, asking them their thoughts on accounting amid the recent business scandals and the need for business ethics to be taught in schools.

"It was an interesting experience to have a cameraman in the classroom,"

said SSSB senior Batsheva Rutman, one of the students interviewed.

Rutman told the reporter that she felt the recent scandals revealed the importance of accounting in business firms and that a way to avoid getting in trouble would be to always ask a superior for explanations when told of something that does not seem to make sense.

Part of what attracted Channel 7 to SSSB was its association with Yeshiva and the assumption that a Jewish institution would be more likely to teach business ethics.

"They were looking for something local, and they wanted Yeshiva University in particular because they felt that since we include Judaic Studies in our curriculum, our kids must already have some degree of ethical training," said Snow.

For the past few years, SSSB has offered a Seminar on Business Ethics course. Planned for the Spring 2003 semester is a Forensic Accounting course, which will focus on fraud investigation. Snow also hopes to offer another ethics course in addition to the one already on the Fall 2002 schedule.

As part of SSSB's efforts to increase awareness about ethics in business, a full day conference is in the planning stages. The conference would

focus on Jewish business ethics and would include as speakers members of the SSSB and YC faculties, such as Dr. Pava and Dr. Levine, as well as corporate leaders.

Despite the prestige that comes with being recognized in the media, Dean Snow maintains that such recognition brings with it added responsibility. "It is gratifying for the Dean to have his school represented in the media, but it also strains us because we have to deal with things on a real time basis," said Dean Snow. "We can't tell CNN and AP to 'come back in a couple of weeks.'"

Nevertheless, Snow welcomes the added responsibility. "It's a wonderful thing that the students can avail themselves of such a faculty," he said.



Dean Snow was interviewed by ABC News this summer

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# ATTENTION ALL UNDERGRADUATES!

Welcome back to Yeshiva University. We hope you had an enjoyable and interesting summer.

We at the Office of Placement & Career Services (OPCS) are dedicated to providing quality career counseling, graduate school advisement, internship development, job search assistance and placement to all undergraduates.

Stop by our offices located at 215 LEX Rooms 319 & 320 on the Midtown Campus and BH 415, 417, & 419 on the Wilf Campus to see how we can help you or call us at 917-326-4845 and 212-960-0845 respectively.

## CALENDAR OF SELECTED OPCS EVENTS:

### “SENIOR ORIENTATION TO CAMPUS RECRUITMENT PROCESS”

Wed., Aug. 28, 2002-Club Hour-215 Lex, room 314-Midtown Campus

Thurs., Aug. 29, 2002-Club Hour-BH 430-Wilf Campus

\* (required of all seniors interested in full time employment in business after graduation)

### “TOP TIER ACCOUNTING NIGHT”

Wed., Aug. 28, 2002-BH Weissberg Commons- 8 PM

\* (required of all accounting majors)

### “MIDSIZE ACCOUNTING NIGHT”

Tues., Sept. 3, 2002 - 245 Lex, room 718- 8:15 PM

\* (required of all accounting majors)

### “GRADUATE SCHOOL ORIENTATION WORKSHOP”

Wed., Sept. 4, 2002-Club Hour-245 Lex, room 718-Midtown Campus

Thurs., Sept. 12, 2002-Club Hour-BH 807-Wilf Campus

\* (recommended for students applying to graduate and professional schools after graduation)

### “HOW TO INTERVIEW (new workshop series)”

Tues., Sept. 3, 2002-8:30 PM-BH 807—Required for all Seniors interested in Finance

Wed., Sept. 4, 2002-Club Hour-215 Lex, room 313

\* (required of all MIDTOWN Accounting Seniors)

Wed., Sept. 4, 2002-8:15 PM-BH 218-Required for all Seniors interested in COMP/ INF

Thurs., Sept. 5, 2002-Club Hour-BH 411-Required for Wilf Campus Accounting Seniors



## Yeshiva Gives in to Gay Students

continued from front page

The case, which was taken on by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), endured a long haul in the courts over the past four years. The case was dismissed twice by the New York State Supreme Court and its Appellate Division on the basis that the policy had the same impact on non-married heterosexual students as it did on non-married homosexual students. The ACLU then filed with the Court of Appeals, New York State's highest court, which is charged with defining principles of law as they relate to particular lawsuits.

In a swift reversal, the Court of Appeals reinstated and remitted the lawsuit to the New York State Supreme Court for further proceedings. The decision, issued in July 2001, stated that the comparison drawn by the lower courts was misguided, and that the correct analogy was between all homosexuals and all heterosexuals, even married ones. Some heterosexuals receive housing, while none of the homosexuals do.

According to the Court of Appeals interpretation, the housing standard could possibly be considered discriminatory under the law. Chief Judge Kaye wrote, "That policy [Einstein housing] has a disparate impact on homosexual students, because they can not marry and thus can not live with their partners in student housing. By contrast, heterosexual students have the option of marrying their life partners."

After nine months of discussions and research, Yeshiva decided in early August to change its policy. The decision, made quietly during the summer lull, was publicized in a metro update in *The New York Times* on August 11th.

The specific case of *Levin vs. Yeshiva University* included the legality of the housing policy, as well as monetary claims of financial and emotional distress for the two students. The lawsuit does not specify the exact cost the women are claiming for being forced to live in higher-priced apartments outside of campus and for the extra burden of commuting and not having constant use of the Einstein library.

Both sides are optimistic that the claim will be settled outside of court.

### Anatomy of the Policy Change

The reason for the sudden development at Yeshiva differs according to the two parties to the lawsuit. James Esseks, ACLU lawyer for the two women, believes that, based on the Court of Appeals decision, Yeshiva could not have won the lawsuit.

*"Yeshiva decided it was better to change the policy than to go through litigation. The time and effort involved was not worthy of the mission of Einstein."*

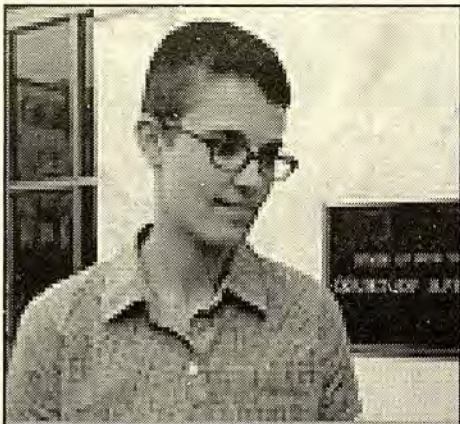
"What the decision implied is that if everything the students said occurred, it would be considered against the law," said Esseks. "YU has never had reason to deny the facts of the case."

According to Esseks, it would have been a lost cause to continue fighting in court. "While its true that no court said so, it was only a matter of time before Yeshiva would be forced to change its policy," he said.

When questioned whether Yeshiva was bound to lose the case, Yeshiva lawyer Mark Jacoby responded "not necessarily."

He added, "The plaintiffs had the burden of proof to prove discrimination, but to avoid the distraction and invasion of privacy that a lawsuit entails, we decided not to continue."

"Yeshiva decided it was better to change the policy than to go through liti-



Maggie Jones, gay student, is victorious in her quest to change housing policy at Einstein

gation," said Jacoby. "The time and effort involved was not worthy of the mission of Einstein."

Jacoby's sentiments were echoed by Director of Yeshiva Communications and Public Relations Peter Ferrara. "This is a hybrid institution that speaks with a single voice, but also recognizes the plurality of all its colleges and schools," said Ferrara.

Both he and Jacoby stressed that dragging Yeshiva's name into the press with a drawn-out trial was something it wanted to avoid. Yeshiva raises money for its schools, particularly Einstein, from wealthy liberal Jews.

Established as an Orthodox institution under the creed of Torah U'Madda, many wonder how Yeshiva could have backed down from a case that involves a Jewish law forbidding homosexuality, even if they were likely to lose. Many believe that Torah should be the factor in deciding the case, not time, money or image.

In a *Jewish Week* article published last week, Harvey Blitz, president of the Orthodox Union, said he feels the change in policy is accommodating, and thus promoting, homosexual lifestyles.

"They should have litigated this to a conclusion," said Blitz. "The position they took originally was correct and they should have defended that position."

However, Yeshiva claims that Einstein does not promote the same principles as some of its other schools.

"The medical college is a non-sectarian college that can't operate on the basis of religious values," said Jacoby.

Einstein was established in 1950, when it was difficult for Jews to be admitted into medical schools. Since then, Einstein has evolved into a source of pride for the University, increasing its rank and prestige as an institution.

The rabbinic leaders at Yeshiva have not yet taken an official stance on the development, since the school year has not begun. Rabbi Yosef Blau, Mashgiach Ruchani at Yeshiva, believes that the rabbis will soon meet to discuss the consequences of the policy change and to decide whether there will be an immediate reaction.

"They should not have functioned in such a hidden way, without the involvement of the community," said Rabbi Blau. "By now, they should have learned that they pay a price for that."

It is unclear exactly who made the decision to change the housing policy. According to Ferrara, the Yeshiva Board of Trustees made the final decision and did not require the president's approval. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm is said to have opposed the change.

Rabbi Lamm did not respond to a request for comment.

However, a Yeshiva insider claims that it is likely that the eight-member Executive Council of the President, which includes Peter Ferrara; Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Sheldon Socol, Vice President for Business Affairs; Martin Bockstein, General Counsel; and Rabbi Lamm, president; played a bigger role in the decision than publicized.

Regardless of who made the final decision, some believe that those making such decisions, the majority of whom are not Orthodox Jews, may often not be in concordance with the university's blend of modernity and halachic guidance.

## Housing Policy at AECOM

Below are the housing clauses detailing the eligibility requirements for housing at Einstein apartments.

### Previous Policy

With the exception of students, post-doctoral fellows and their spouses and dependent children, other individuals are not permitted to reside in AECOM housing. The shortage of apartments makes this limitation mandatory and no exceptions may be permitted

### Current Policy

Subject to availability of suitable apartments, limited categories of non-students may be permitted to reside with a student in AECOM housing, including a spouse and dependent children, or any other person with whom the student maintains a genuine, close and interdependent relationship that is or is intended to be long-term. This relationship may or may not involve a close and commit-

ted personal relationship, may or may not involve persons who are permitted to marry one another under state law, and may or may not involve family members other than spouses and dependent children.

For each year that housing is requested, the existence of a qualifying relationship shall be confirmed in writing to the AECOM Housing Office by affidavits signed by both the student and the non-student, and shall be further supported by such documentary evidence of the nature of the relationship as may be requested by the College from time to time. Documentary evidence establishing the following facts generally shall be sufficient for this purpose: a marriage certificate; financial interdependence as evidenced by joint ownership of significant assets in a joint bond or stock brokerage account...registration as domestic partners under the New York City Domestic Partnership Law.

"There has been a secularization trend at Yeshiva," said Rabbi Blau. "It used to be run by Orthodox Jews, but that is often not the case anymore. It's all coming to a head in terms of the president."

### Ramifications on Yeshiva's Other Schools

Presently, the change in policy has only been enacted at Einstein. However, Cardozo Law School, the only other Yeshiva graduate school with housing for married students, is fundamentally equal to Einstein - a non-sectarian college under the umbrella of Yeshiva that receives governmental funding. To date, no one has made such a housing request at Cardozo. If such a request is ever submitted, it seems likely Yeshiva will have to comply or return to court.

According to Ferrara, the possibility of such an occurrence is now only hypothetical and will have to be discussed when the issue arises. He admitted that "we've opened ourselves up to a lot of stuff."

It appears that the hypothetical may arrive sooner than Yeshiva anticipated. Dominick Schirripa, President of the Gay and Lesbian Law Student Alliance at Cardozo (GALLSA), told the Observer that he already e-mailed Yeshiva administrators on behalf of his club asking whether the same policy will be enacted at Cardozo. He has not yet received a reply.

Schirripa believes that it's ridiculous not to change both schools' policies. "They were motivated [to change their policy] by the decision from the Court of Appeals, which stated that the case could go to trial to see if the policy had a disparate impact on gays," said Schirripa. "It seems like they're begging for another lawsuit to be filed."

GALLSA filed an amicus brief in support of the two women, and Schirripa is sure that his group will take some sort of action, such as entering private discussions with Yeshiva, even if there are no Cardozo students willing to file a suit.

RIETS, Yeshiva's rabbinical seminary, would not seem to be threatened by any possible lawsuits. The more important issue for many is the ramifications of the case on the undergraduate schools.

The New York City Human Rights Law, which is the basis of the discriminatory claims, includes an exemption for religious institutions. Yeshiva never claimed this exemption for Einstein in the lawsuit, since it receives government money and its charter is not religious in character. RIETS, an affiliate of Yeshiva that does not receive government funding as a rabbinical seminary, would most likely fall under the exemption, even according to ACLU lawyer Esseks.

What remains unclear is whether the undergraduate schools, YC and SCW, which have a substantial religious studies program yet receive government assistance, would be able to claim exemption

under the law. Yeshiva changed its schools' charters, except for RIETS, in 1967, technically establishing them as secular institutions so that they would be eligible for state and city funding.

The undergraduate colleges would probably not be eligible for the exemption, and a case of discrimination could arise in the future regarding the housing policy.

Married students from both the undergraduate colleges are eligible for apart-

**The more important issue for many is the ramifications of the lawsuit on the undergraduate schools.**

ments on the main campus, even if their spouses are not Yeshiva students. Though Yeshiva doesn't own many of those apartments, it acts as a broker, deciding who is entitled to live there, and therefore must comply to the Human Rights guidelines for housing. While there is no set policy in place for the apartments, according to Esseks a "policy happens even if it's not written and even if it's ad-hoc."

The *Levin vs. Yeshiva University* lawsuit is not the first time that concerns regarding homosexuality have arisen at the university. In 1995, intense controversy concerning the formation of a gay club at YC pitted Yeshiva against many members of its own community and the right-wing factions. Though in the end the storm died down and the club was never created, it raised the issue of the gay clubs at Yeshiva's graduate schools.

The university, through its student unions, has funded gay clubs at Cardozo and Einstein for years. Under laws against discrimination based on sexual orientation, the university was forced to fund the gay clubs at the graduate schools, just as they fund all other clubs. Sharp criticism of Yeshiva arose from right wing groups, which published numerous letters in the media disparaging Yeshiva for its lack of moral spine.

Touro Law School, similarly associated with an Orthodox college, has had a gay club on its campus for many years, though it has not attracted the same publicity as Yeshiva.

As the events over the next few weeks unfold, Yeshiva may be called on to defend its graduate schools and the balance of Torah U'Madda that it has strived to achieve throughout the institution.

"As society gets more complex, the distance between the orthodox community and the non-orthodox community grows," said Rabbi Blau. "The juggling act at Yeshiva becomes more and more difficult."



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# KOL HANESHAMA

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM IN ISRAEL



## DOV ROSMAN CONCERN FOR ALL

Dov Rosman, 58, was a man who devoted his life to giving. With a broad smile on his silver-haired face, he was constantly conscious of the needs of those around him and managed to help in any way possible. He was a dedicated, caring employer for the workers in his fabrics business and constantly concerned himself with their welfare. His wife, Penina, is reminded of Dov's care for his Arab workers; he truly believed in mutual cooperation between different people.

Dov's love for helping others expressed itself in his care for his three daughters and grandchildren, whom he adored. Despite facing hardships, he was always there to provide for his family and those around him. His neighbors in Netanya benefited from his benevolence and will miss his warm, magnanimous countenance.

**DOV ROSMAN WAS KILLED IN A SHOOTING ATTACK NEAR KIBBUTZ MAGAL. HIS FIRST YAHRZEIT WILL BE AUGUST 26.**



## YOSEF ISHRAN A LOVE FOR THE LAND

From his earliest days living in Jerusalem's Pisgat Ze'ev neighborhood, Yosef showed a unique love for Eretz Yisrael. He soon developed a deep connection to the land, following the dictum of G-d to his forefather Abraham, "Go and walk about in the land." Yosef's greatest joy was hiking the various areas of Israel, exploring the terrain, learning its features and secrets.

A child of blue and white, his mother, Rina, recalls how instead of taking the bus home from elementary school, Yosef would often walk through the wadi back to their home. He enjoyed climbing its rocks and listening to the desert silence. After moving to Tekoa, Yosef would hike and explore the land of Yehuda, in the shadow of the resting place of the Patriarchs. It was hiking in the caves below Tekoa with his best friend Kobi Mandell where Yossi, 14, was killed, in the land he loved so much.

**YOSEF ISHRAN'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED IN A CAVE NEAR HIS HOME IN TEKOA ON MAY 8, 2001.**



## YOHEVED SHOSHAN BABY SISTER WHO MADE A BIG IMPACT

Yocheved Shoshan's disposition was as sunny as her beautiful golden curls. Although it is quite easy to become lost in a large family or to be overshadowed by older siblings, Yocheved managed to stand out. At 10 years old, the seventh of eight children, she found her niche in life by trying to help others with her *Chesed*. Her family and friends were most often the lucky recipients of her warm gifts. She always helped her mother in the kitchen and her younger sister with her lessons. Knowing how tedious homework could be, Yocheved showed her mature foresight by making a game out of it, pretending to be the teacher with her sister as the student. Since mathematics and Parshat Hashavuah were her favorite subjects, Yocheved had no trouble teaching her young charge how to complete her assignments.

Yocheved had a knack for using her benevolent per-

sonality to bring people together. Her classmates all said the same thing: Yocheved was a peacemaker, always attempting to settle arguments between her friends. Those who knew and loved this beautiful little girl will remember that characteristic most of all.

**YOHEVED WAS KILLED IN THE SBARRO'S BOMBING. HER FIRST YAHRZEIT WILL BE AUGUST 9.**



## SHIRI NEGARI TREASURED BY EVERYONE WHO MET HER

One who followed Shiri Negari down the street would be charmed by the long blonde braid swaying behind her. Shiri's flowing hair was a fitting extension of the captivating personality to which it belonged. While Shiri, a poet and singer, was beloved within her own family for her spirited improvisations and her gift for spontaneously bringing her friends to laughter, Shiri touched people from all over the world, and had the unique ability to make a stranger's chance encounter with her forever memorable.

Although her vibrant life was abruptly taken from her, Shiri extracted as much out of her 22 years as she possibly could. After studying biology and literature in Pelech high school, Shiri dedicated her army service to counseling troubled teenagers; "she would sit down with them and discuss their problems in life over a game of backgammon," her family recalled.

Shiri's passion for travelling brought her to South America, where she learned Spanish, climbed mountains, and explored the ocean floor. Her adventures abroad were also precious opportunities for Shiri to grow close to her new, exotic friends and to connect with Jews in communities she never knew existed. In one email to her family Shiri wrote cheerfully, "I find good people here." Shiri always made a lasting impression on the good people she found, a fact that was obvious from several letters to Shiri's family by acquaintances, who consistently expressed their admiration for Shiri.

Even in her very last moments Shiri was impacting the lives of strangers. The doctor who treated Shiri after the attack that ultimately took her life "was struck by how beautiful she was." Pleasant and graceful until the very end, Shiri affected the trauma doctor in a way he had never been before. Said the doctor, "it was the first time I have cried [after losing a patient]."

**SHIRI WAS KILLED ON HER WAY TO WORK ON JUNE 18, 2002. VISIT SHIRI'S WEB SITE AT WWW.SHIRI.US.**



## SHANI AVI-TZEDEK A YOUNG LIFE MOURNED

Shani Avi-Tzedek was supposed to travel to Berlin on a teen summer program. The youthful fifteen year old innocently worried about being forgotten by her high school friends while she was away. She will certainly never be forgotten.

As Shani lay wrapped in blue cloth before hundreds of mourners attending her funeral, her father, Eli, cried, "Today, at this time, we had planned to celebrate the birthday of our youngest son. The party is not taking place. Instead we are attending in event in which we part from you forever."

Devastated friends, in shock couldn't believe she was really gone. One said, "I'm still waiting for you to come off the bus smiling and happy." Regrettably, Shani's death is not the first tragedy that the Boyer High School, in Bayet VaGan has known. Two young graduates have also lost their lives to Arab terror. Pictures, candles, and flowers in the hallway of the Jerusalem high school memorialize the three fallen students. On Shani's picture a friend inscribed words from a popular Israeli song, "Rest, rest small girl."

**Shani was killed in a bus bombing in Jerusalem on June 19, 2002.**



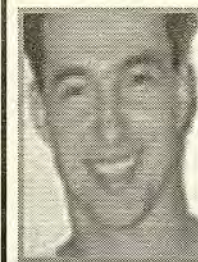
## YARON PICKHOLTZ "I AM HERE SO THAT YOU CAN LIVE IN PEACE"

Yaron Pickholtz was an ordinary boy with an extraordinary love for his family, for his friends, and for life, said his mother, Tzilah. She reminisced about her son's constant curiosity, his eloquence in telling stories and jokes and his contentment with simplicity, "he learned to love whatever he had." His parents and two sisters depended on him: "If there was anything we needed, we knew he'd be there," Tzilah remembered.

Yaron, 20, was revered by his friends: "Friends were the most important thing to Yaron", said his younger sister Ayala, "he was always popular in school." He made an effort to keep in touch with his friends even as he served in the army.

Upon being drafted into the army, Yaron was accepted into a combat engineering unit. "I am here so that you can live in peace," he told his parents. Yaron's striking sense of purpose and leadership ability influenced his comrades and gained their utmost trust. At his funeral, Yaron's commanding officer recalled how his soldiers "followed him with closed eyes."

**YARON PICKHOLTZ WAS SHOT AND KILLED BY PALESTINIANS AS HE WAS INSPECTING CARS AT A ROADBLOCK NORTH OF TUL QAREM ON NOVEMBER 29, 2001.**



## TZVIKA GOLOMBECK THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Tzvika Golombeck sought his education from every resource he could access. His mother, Sarit, recalled how, from a very young age, Tzvika was always interested in everything—sports, politics, music, and geography. "Sometimes, I would hear my son's voice on a radio quiz show when he called to answer a trivia question." Tzvika's talent for telling jokes endlessly entertained his family and friends.

Tzvika, 26, served in a combat unit of the Engineering Corps. "He wanted to be a soldier, and he had true talent for it," said his mother. He confided in his sister about the dangers of his job: he told her about a confrontation with armed Palestinians during a patrol in Hebron. The newspapers covered the incident, but did not mention the soldier by name. Only after Tzvika was released from the army did his mother discover that that soldier was her son: "He didn't want us to worry about him."

Tzvika graduated from Hebrew University with a BA in International Relations. While studying there, Tzvika was an advisor to two American students. His mother affirmed, "Tzvika accomplished in twenty-six years what should have taken one hundred years."

**TZVIKA GOLOMBECK WAS KILLED IN A PIZZERIA BOMBING IN JERUSALEM. HIS FIRST YAHRZEIT WILL BE ON AUGUST 9.**

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

- 5 TOWNS JEWISH TIMES • THE AMERICAN JEWISH WORLD • BLUEPRINT • 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 COMMUNITY VOICE OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY • THE JEWISH HERALD • JEWISH HOUSTON HERALD-VOICE • JEWISH TIMES OF NORTHWEST INDIANA • 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 • ROCKLAND JEWISH REPORTER • ST. LOUIS JEWISH LIGHT • TEXAS JEWISH POST • WASHINGTON JEWISH TIMES • WISCONSIN JEWISH CHRONICLE

Kol Haneshama, a project of the students of Yeshiva University, thanks the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, One Family and EIMATAI for their assistance and support. If any high school or newspaper would like to participate, please email kolhaneshama@aol.com, or call (212) 946-1940. To learn how you can help the families in Israel or to view more sketches, please visit [www.kolhaneshama.net](http://www.kolhaneshama.net).



## Program for 9/11 Planned

*continued from back page*

significant, according to Weiss. When he informed SCW of his decision, the evening program, which was being spearheaded by Grundman, was canceled.

"I perceived that the students would appreciate seeing Dr. Lamm," said Dean Karen Bacon. "At the time of 9/11, students felt far from the center of activity - far from the security decisions, far from the source of communication."

Concern that the 340-person capacity of the SCC may not be big enough has prompted event planners to also reserve Koch Auditorium, which holds approximately 200 people, for a possible spill-over crowd. It is still undetermined as to whether a satellite hook-up will be set up there to broadcast proceedings from the SCC.

Relying partly on the assumption that many students will opt to attend city memorial services or travel to Ground Zero instead of attending the college's morning program, student leaders and administrators do not foresee, with both the SCC and Koch in use, any trouble accommodating the number of interested students in the morning.

"We don't expect more than a third of the student body to attend," said Dean Bacon.

Classes are not being canceled at either campus, although the request was submitted at the Wilf campus.

According to Weiss, SCWSC contacted YSU over the summer regarding a joint program. Because of traveling difficulties, however, any joint program could only have been an evening affair.

YSU rejected the idea of a joint program in favor of holding the memorial service in the morning, at the time when New York City would be holding its services, according to YSU President Shai Barnea.

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

## Shabbat Rabbi at SCW

*continued from back page*

against Chovevei Torah, pointing to the fact that rabbis who filled the position previously had rabbinical ordination from other institutions, such as Ohr Somayach.

Yeshivat Chovevei Torah was founded in 1999 by Rabbi Avi Weiss, formerly a professor of Judaic Studies at SCW, and is housed in Congregation Ramath Orah in Morningside Heights. The yeshiva is an outgrowth of the Meorot Institute, started six years ago by Rabbi Weiss and Rabbi Saul Berman, a former professor of Judaic Studies at SCW and founder of Edah, as a fellowship program for RIETS students. The first class at Chovevei Torah included students with recent backgrounds at Yeshiva and the Jewish Theological Seminary. While only a handful of students have transferred from RIETS to Chovevei Torah, it has been considered by some as a rival school.

Duker said that, while he has received other offers for this year, both he and his wife invested a lot of time in the job and would have liked to continue. "It is unfortunate when politics get in the way of Torah," he said.

## Project One Percent Raises Thousands

*continued from back page*

centage of her salary as a counselor at HASC this summer.

Project One Percent coordinators are not certain to whom they will donate the money, though they are now toying with the idea of donating it to the families and victims of the Hebrew University suicide bombing. Over 500 people in Israel have been murdered and 4,000 wounded since the beginning of the intifada.

The most difficult aspect of the project - actually collecting all the pledges - still lies ahead for Miller, Strauchler and Jacob. Students can presently mail in their checks, but to expedite the collection process they will soon be able to fulfill their pledges electronically by credit card at the project's website, [pledge4israel.com](http://pledge4israel.com), which was con-

structed without charge by Eric Andron, a YC graduate.

"We want to thank everyone who pledged money and strongly encour-



Yeshiva students have raised thousands of dollars for Israel through numerous projects - SCW women, above, collect money at rally in Washington

## Discrimination in Finance Office

*continued from front page*

as of that day, claiming her work was unsatisfactory, without elaborating. They initially asked her to sign an "irrevocable resignation" form, which included the promise of a three-month severance pay. Katzenstein refused to sign.

According to an employee who worked in Human Resources until this past January, regular Yeshiva procedure is to give some notice, generally one or two weeks, to employees who are let go because they are simply not needed anymore, and no notice to employees who are deemed to have done something wrong. In all cases, severance pay, if given at all, is limited to two weeks.

Sperling, Belmont and Fisher all declined to comment.

Many Yeshiva officials were shocked to hear of Katzenstein's dismissal.

"It was quite a surprise to all of us," said Ruth Glick, the Senior Registrar for SCW. "I had a wonderful experience working with her. There was never a problem, and she worked very well with the students."

Citing the numerous commendation letters she has received from parents and students over the years, as well as her promotions and raises, Katzenstein is claiming that she could not have been fired for doing unsatisfactory work. Noting that two young employees who had been hired shortly before Katzenstein's dismissal were promoted to her position, Katzenstein is alleging age discrimination.

Katzenstein's suspicions were also aroused when she noticed that there are no Jewish managerial employees left in the undergraduate department of the Office of Student Finances, and only two Jewish union employees.

Katzenstein, whose professional duties were reviewing requests for financial aid and creating aid packages, felt that Yeshiva was consciously trying to expunge from the Office of Student Finances people who may have personal connections to the Jewish community.

However, racial discrimination is not officially part of Katzenstein's complaint at this time.

Katzenstein is not the only one dissatisfied with the department. One former Office of Student Finances employee who currently works in the SCW Office of the Registrar said that she left the department after working there for seventeen and a half years when Belmont began giving her different work from what was in her job description.

"The atmosphere 100 percent changed when Neil Harris [the former Director of Student Finances] left," said the employee, who wished to remain anonymous. "A lot of people resigned, a lot of people were fired. I was worried that I would be fired, too, and that's why I resigned. I just couldn't stay there. I was too upset."

Furthermore, Belmont, who is herself not Jewish, has hired all non-Jewish people since taking over for Harris two years ago,

**"She was a great worker. YU never gave any indication of the reason she was fired."**

according to this employee.

Katzenstein has also pointed to other injustices in the department. According to her, when Harris left after being forced to resign, the Office asked her to push off her seventy hours of vacation time. The request was never put in writing, and Yeshiva later refused to pay her.

"That Yeshiva could treat Jewish people, their own people, this way is unbelievable," said Katzenstein.

Katzenstein also recalled the way in which she was fired. According to her account, Belmont asked almost everyone else in the

age them to come through on those pledges," said Strauchler, who plans to send out e-mails to all students reminding them of their pledges.

The project, launched on Israel's Independence Day in April, works with the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund (IESF), a non-profit group that has supported numerous projects for Israeli victims of terror. While IESF has provided some assistance to Project One Percent, the campaign is being run independently by the three students.

Miller, Strauchler and Jacob initiated the campaign, after Miller read about the Summer Public Interest Fund, an annual program of the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, in which first year students donate one percent of their summer earnings to enable second year students to work for non-profit organizations. The initiative is also based on Jewish practice, which requires people to donate a percentage of their annual income to charity.

For the next few months, the three ambitious Yeshiva students will be devoting their energies to following through on the thousands of pledges. After that task is complete, they hope to expand the campaign to include percentages of bar mitzvah, engagement and wedding monetary gifts. With the money, the students hope to impact the lives of victims of terror and to show their solidarity with Israel.

"We've seen students work to support Israel in many ways and it's been very inspirational," remarked Strauchler. "It [Project One Percent] shows that the young community really cares about future of *am Israel*."

department to leave so that she would be alone when she was informed of her dismissal, and two security guards escorted her out of the building.

"It was very humiliating," she said.

Aside from her work in the Office of Student Finances at the Wilf campus, Katzenstein began working at the midtown campus one to two days a week when the midtown Office of Student Finances opened at the beginning of last year.

While a computer often determines the amount of financial aid a student receives, Katzenstein was responsible for awarding additional aid based on special factors, such as cases in which a parent lost a job, a family had high medical expenses or a family had several children in college.

"I've worked with [Katzenstein] for many years, and I have always found her to be most helpful to students on campus," said Assistant Dean of Students Zeldra Braun.

In general, Katzenstein's associates were quick to come to her defense. One Yeshiva official expressed confidence that she would win any case against Yeshiva hands-down.

"She was a great worker," said the official. "YU never gave any indication of the reason she was fired."

Katzenstein is hoping to arrive at a conciliation at the October meeting with Yeshiva, although she is not seeking her old job back - just monetary compensation. Katzenstein is ineligible to receive Social Security until the end of next year, and she has been having trouble finding a new job because of her age.

Katzenstein has promised to pursue her case in court, if necessary.

"A lot of employees are scared that this could happen to them," said Katzenstein. "I just don't want [Yeshiva] to do this to my friends."

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# on campus

## 9/11 Commemoration Event at Yeshiva in the Works

Lamm to Address Midtown Campus

By Caryn Litt

With the one year anniversary of the September 11th terror attacks only a couple of weeks away, student leaders and administrators are still scrambling to plan a memorial service that will satisfy everyone. After the rejection of a university-wide program that would have connected both campuses via satellite, a new plan is in motion, as of press time, that calls for two concurrent programs to follow a similar format at both the Wilf and midtown campuses in the morning of the 11th. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, the president of the university, will speak at the midtown campus.

"September 11th greatly affected SCW because of our location," said SCWSC President Sharon Weiss. "Attendance at the September 11th program will demonstrate our connection to the greater community of New York and America."

As of press time, the morning program includes a Shacharit *minyán* at both campuses, followed by a moment of silence capped off with a Shofar blast held simultaneously at both campuses at 8:46 a.m., the time that the first World Trade Center tower collapsed. Lamm is then scheduled to speak at the gathering at the Schottenstein Cultural Center on the midtown campus, while a different speaker addresses the program in Lamport Auditorium at the Wilf Campus.

The Wilf campus has yet to confirm its speaker.

Following the speakers, Tehilim will most likely be read.

Both programs should end by 9:30 a.m., thereby not requiring classes to be completely canceled.

"This program is extremely crucial to have," commented TAC President Lisa Grundman. "As Americans, it would be disrespectful and irresponsible if we let the day pass without some kind of recognition."

To create a feeling of university unity, the other Yeshiva campuses, Resnick and Cardozo, are also plan-



Dr. Lamm will speak at the Schottenstein Cultural Center, pictured above

ning to conduct a moment of silence and blow a Shofar at 8:46 am.

Earlier in the planning process, the midtown and Wilf campuses were going to be joined via satellite, so that the entire student body could commemorate the terror attacks together and hear Lamm's remarks. The telecommunication system fell through, however, after administrators determined that the \$8,000 cost to the project was too high to justify the expense.

If a sponsor can be found in time to pay for the telecommunication costs, the original plan may still be put into motion, said Weiss.

After the live satellite idea was rejected, there was some uncertainty regarding where Lamm would deliver his address. At first, Lamm determined to speak at the Wilf campus, and someone else, most likely Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, the Chair of the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department, would have spoken at the midtown gathering.

SCW student leaders had, in fact, been planning an evening program in addition to the morning service at which Lamm would speak, in order to ensure that Yeshiva's president addressed the SCW students at some point during the day.

Lamm, however, switched his site of address to the midtown campus after realizing that his appearance at the main morning event would be more

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## Beren Resigns as Board Chairman

By Sari Moskowitz

In a decision that shocked many, Robert M. Beren, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Yeshiva University for the past two years, announced his resignation from the Board.

Although the vote for the new chairman will not take place until September 18th, it is believed by many that Ronald Stanton, the current Vice Chairman of the Board, will replace Beren as Chairman.

Beren, after serving as the Vice Chairman of the Board for several years, was appointed as the Chairman in 2002. Although the Chairman is usually elected or re-elected every two years, Beren's presidency was short-lived, as compared to his predecessor, David Gottesman, who served as Chairman from 1993-2000.



Robert Beren

As Chairman, Beren, who resides in Wichita, Kansas and is the CEO of several crude oil and natural gas companies, was known for launching the \$400 million capital campaign that has already reached the \$200 million mark. He was equally well known for having taken a strong personal interest in the search for a new Yeshiva president, chairing the presidential nominating committee.

Although Beren did not disclose the reasons for his resignation and did not return calls for comment, many have speculated that personality clashes and conflicting opinions may have influenced Beren's decision.

Beren was a strong personal advocate of Dov Zakheim whose candidacy was announced last March, and his removal as a candidate may have hastened Beren's resignation from the

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## A Little Goes a Long Way

Students' Summer Incomes Raise Thousands for Israel

By Miriam Colton

The typical summer income for a college student might not amount to much. But to the initiators of Project One Percent, three Yeshiva College students, a small percentage of many students' incomes could raise thousands of dollars for charity. After much hard work and planning, it appears they were right.

This summer, these ingenious students - Uri Miller, Gershon Strauchler and Ovadiah Jacob - sparked a nation-wide effort entitled Project One Percent to raise money for financial and emotional support to Israeli victims of terror. To date, over 2,000 students have pledged a portion of their summer income, ranging from one to ten percent. Organizers anticipate that thousands of dollars will be raised, once the pledges are redeemed.

"It's like the Jewish concept of *machazit hashekel* [donation of a half a coin by each Jew during the Temple]," said Strauchler, who graduated from YC in May. "Every voice is important, and even a little bit can make a difference."

The original target group of the project was college students. Now the idea has expanded to high schools and graduate schools across the country with pledges coming in from Duke University, University of St. Thomas, and such local orthodox high schools as Frisch and Rambam.

Over 300 YC and SCW students have promised donations, constituting over 10% of the total pledges. In addition, explained Miller, a YC senior, "Yeshiva students helped enable us to bring the project to a national and international level." As an example of such assistance, dozens of

Yeshiva students weeded through the crowds at the Israeli Day Parade last May to collect pledges from students.

The only national fund raising effort for Israel aimed particularly at the young Jewish community, Project One Percent has cut across denominational lines and marks one of the first occasions when Jewish college students from across the country have joined together for Israel.

"Palestinian students have demonstrated their effectiveness on college campuses by banding together and broadcasting their message to the world," said Miller. "It was time for Jewish students to overshadow the Palestinian agenda by coming together and amplifying their own message."

The project has relied heavily on student organizations for publicity, as well as on the remarkably effective student grapevine. Assistance has come from numerous student organizations including Hillel, The World Union of Jewish Students, The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, Bnei Akiva and Young Judea.

Additionally, over 15 summer camps, such as Ramah and Moshava, agreed to partake in the project and encourage the participation of their staff. For example, Miller and Strauchler traveled to Camp HASC this summer to solicit counselor participation from the more than 200 college-age counselors. In one night they succeeded in raising over \$10,000 in pledges.

"The project is great because it provides a framework for students who want to help Israel with their own money," said Rachel Chudnoff, SCW junior who pledged a per-

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## Shabbat Rabbi Position Not Yet Filled at SCW

Politics Color Hiring Process

By Rachel Fyman

The spring semester ended amidst dispute regarding the position of the Shabbat rabbi at SCW when Yeshiva retracted its offer to renew Rabbi Jonathan Duker's position. Duker, a student at Yeshiva's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Judaic Studies, attributes the university's refusal to invite him back to the fact that he learns at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, which has been strongly criticized by some members of the YU community for its liberal philosophy. No official reason was given to Duker for the dismissal, and he was given an assurance that it was "not personal" and there had been no complaints about him.

"We were not given a real answer as to why the offer was retracted," said Duker, who, together with his wife and son, spent almost every Shabbat at SCW last year and was in charge of the religious environment and activities over the weekend. "There was something about the

process that was not straightforward."

No contract was signed by Duker for his role as rabbi, just a verbal agreement on an annual basis.

Dean of Students David Himer, declined to discuss personnel issues with the *Observer*.

Many students wondered why the job was taken away from Duker, who enjoyed it and was willing to continue on in his capacity as Shabbat rabbi, considering that no suitable replacement was immediately found. According to Himer, Yeshiva has hired a rabbi who has committed to spending every third Shabbat at the midtown campus. At press time, the administration was in the process of finalizing plans with another rabbi who would potentially spend two weekends a month at Stern.

The average Shabbat at SCW attracts anywhere from 30 to 200 students.

In filling the position, Dean Himer said Student Services looks for a rabbi or rabbinical student who will relate well to the students at midtown. He added that

there is no official written policy or guidelines on criteria for the position.

"I didn't think where I learn affected my relationship with the students," Duker said. "Students never said anything about it, and nobody seemed bothered by it." Duker also commented that his superiors were aware of his choice of yeshiva before he was originally hired for the position.

"Last year student leaders led a campaign [to keep Rabbi Duker in his position]," said Sharon Weiss, SCWSC president. "We thought he was good at his job and positively affected the Shabbos atmosphere at Stern." According to Weiss, students were disappointed that he would not be returning and a petition was submitted to Student Services, which Dean Himer acknowledges having received.

While some students believe that Yeshiva should give priority to its own rabbinical students, others, including Duker himself, suggest a possibility of discrimination specifically

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