



Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

October 17, 2002

Volume XLVI Number 3

11 Heshvan 5762

Students Storm Michigan to Protest Anti-Israel Conference

By Miriam Colton

This Sunday, approximately fifty Yeshiva students rode to Ann Arbor, Michigan to demonstrate outside a Palestinian conference and to hold a vigil "against divestment, terrorism and anti-Semitism." The 2nd annual pro-Palestinian conference, organized by Students Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), supports campaigns to urge university and corporate divestment from Israel.



Students lay down on ground outside pro-Palestinian conference, which they picketed on Sunday

"They're going to be talking about how Israel is an oppressor," said Beth Meshel, an SCW senior who organized the busses to Michigan. "It's completely illegitimate, and we as Jewish students need to go

and show that."

The students left New York on Saturday night for the approximately ten-hour trip, from three locations - Stern College, Yeshiva College and Riverdale. Over half of the par-

ticipants came from SCW, with roughly 25 women making the trip.

Upon arriving in Ann Arbor early Sunday morning, the students picketed outside the conference, which was held at the University Michigan League. They led a peaceful vigil, holding signs, waving Israeli flags, chanting anti-hate slogans and singing Jewish songs.

"It was very scary and emotional," said Shayndi Raice, an SCW junior. "They were wearing shirts that said free Palestine and divest from Israel. They were saying nasty things, screaming at us

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SCW Forced to Leave 29th Street Art Annex

By Alisa Rose

Yeshiva officials have announced that the SCW will be leaving the Art Annex, located on East 29th Street, is moving. The timetable for the move and its new home have yet to be confirmed.

According to one SCW Art professor, the move will be "any day now." Currently, the only viable location to house an art facility is the 8th floor of 215 Lexington. For many the move is a let-down from the Art Annex's spacious studio.

Also, since the move is last minute and Yeshiva has had little time to prepare, the 8th floor, which currently houses Barnes and Nobles, will not be ready in time.

Last week, Professors Susan Gardner, Marjorie Trenk and Carol Lowengrub from the Art department toured the 8th floor of the 215 Lexington. But Yeshiva officials would not confirm the move or disclose other possible locations for the art annex.

"Over the next few weeks it will

become more obvious," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, Yeshiva Director of Supporting Services, noting that "it's very likely" that the Art Annex will be moving to the 8th floor of 215 Lexington.



Students are disappointed that the Art Annex, pictured above, will be moving

SCW began leasing the fifth floor of 118 East 29th Street as a temporary home for the Art Annex in 1997 from Sheltering Arms, a non-profit organization that provides various services to disadvantaged city youth.

The attorney for Sheltering Arms, Diana Lee, said that the building is cur-

rently under contract for sale, and Sheltering Arms is relocating to Harlem. Yeshiva's lease expired last May, but arrangements have been made to extend the lease until January, according to Lee. Yeshiva officials would not comment on the conditions of the lease or on why they chose not to purchase the building.

"It was a temporary arrangement," Rosengarten said about the

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Yeshiva Endowment Rises in Tough Market

By Caryn Litt

As a result of savvy investment strategies, Yeshiva, unlike the majority of colleges and universities in the country, has actually posted growth in their endowment investments during the current economic downturn.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, Yeshiva showed an investment return of 3.5%, raising their endowments from \$882 million to \$917 million in one year, according to Peter Ferrara, Director of Communication and Public Affairs. Yeshiva currently ranks within the top seventy universities in the country for total endowments, according to the United States Department of Education.

Although a 3.5% return is low compared to the 14% and greater returns Yeshiva had been showing just a couple of years ago, it is considered very high in the current market, in which many schools' endowments have suffered. For instance, Columbia showed a return of 1.4% and Fordham, Pratt Institute and Cooper Union showed negative invest-

ment returns this year, according to a report in the *The New York Sun*.

Ezra Merkin, the chair of the Board of Trustees Investment Committee, attributed Yeshiva's success in the market, which as a whole has shown a 45% decline, to its involvement with alternative investments, investments which attempt to compound a rate of return without the need of a strong market.

The Board of Trustees Investment Committee, which is responsible for making Yeshiva's investment decisions, is a volunteer committee comprising skilled investors. Merkin works for Gabriel Capital Group, and in addition to his involvement with Yeshiva's investments, chairs the investment committee of the UJA/Federation of New York.

"Ezra Merkin and the entire committee have made some very wise decisions in the last five to ten years so that they could protect the money that donors gave to the University," said Ferrara.

The endowment figure represents endowments that have

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Presidential Search Flounders as Shatz Withdraws

By Miriam Colton

Following Dr. David Shatz's withdrawal as the prime candidate for the Yeshiva presidency, the search process that finally looked near completion has dissolved in ambiguity. Whether Yeshiva will continue on its path, or create a new process with different requirements for the role, is undecided.

What is known is that Ronald Stanton, the newly elected chairman of the Board of Trustees is taking a firm hold on the process. Last week, Stanton met twice with his Board, the first official action since Shatz's resignation, to discuss the future of the search process. "Since Shatz, nothing official has really happened," said one top Yeshiva administrator. "The whole thing is kind of falling apart."

Stanton would not reveal to the *Observer* whether or not he had reached any conclusive deci-



Dr. David Shatz

sions, only saying that, "there will be some changes." Since Stanton is known to have a close relationship with Rabbi Norman Lamm, some postulate that Lamm will now have more of an input in the process than he did when Robert Beren was chairman of the Board.

Differing from former Beren, Stanton is attempting to create more of a sense of accord among Yeshiva's schools and Board. "I don't intend to do anything until I have some kind of unification of purpose," said Stanton. "There are a lot of individual opinions on all the various boards of Yeshiva. We have

to get some sort of consensus going." Michael Jesselsohn, chairman of the search committee, did not return calls for comment. It is possible that Jesselsohn, who was close to Beren, may lose some of the authority that he has held over the past year.

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Political Science
Department

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Seek
to Draw Fans

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Ari Goldman to
Teach Course
Next Semester

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EDITORIAL

The fifty or so Yeshiva students who made the trek to Michigan for a protest should be commended. However, they should not be commended because they traveled a long distance, because they defended Israel or because they courageously stood up to the enemy. Rather, they should be commended simply because they did *something*.

There are hundreds of causes in the world that are worth fighting for, yet only a handful have penetrated our campus. There are so many issues to which we can devote our time. The paucity of activism on our campus is, at the very best, a sign of our lack of creativity, and, at the very worst, a sign of our astonishingly high level of self-absorption.

Yes, we follow the news, and yes, we form opinions. But of what use to others are our opinions if we do not act on them? Knowledge that is merely amassed and not applied has little meaning. And, in a similar vein, information that is gathered but not translated into action really has no purpose.

That the inclination toward laziness and self-absorption is always stronger than that of altruism should not be our excuse, but rather be our motivation to fight harder.

The Observer welcomes all comments.

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The Observer is published monthly during the academic year by the Stern College for Women Student Council. The staff of the Observer retains the right to choose newspaper content and to determine the priority of stories. While unsigned editorials represent the views of the Observer's editorial board, all opinions expressed in signed editorials, columns, letters and cartoons are the opinions of the writers or artists and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Observer. Stern College for Women, its student body, faculty or administration.

Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				October 17	18	19 TAC Shabbaton
20 Women's Tennis vs Mt. Saint Vincent (Midtown Tennis Club)	21	22 Lecture: Dr. James Fowler, Professor of Theology (Furst 535)	23 YU 6th Annual Book Project Lecture: NY Times writer Janny Scott, author of Portraits of Grief (Weissburg Commons)	24	25	26 Junior Class Shabbaton
27 Women's Tennis vs Manhattanville (Midtown Tennis Club)	28 SSSB Career Fair (Beifer Hall)	29 Dr. Ira Kukin Lecture: Dr. Mario Molina, MIT (location TBA)	30 ORA Agunah Symposium (Wilf campus)	31	November 1	2 Yeshiva University Debate Society Shabbaton
3	4	5 Rosh Hodesh Kislev Election Day Midtown follows Friday schedule	6 Rosh Hodesh Kislev	7 "Battle of the Bands" (Schoffenstein Cultural Center)	8	9 Mikdash Lindenbaum Shabbaton
10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15	16 Mikdash Mevasseret Yerushalayim Shabbaton

From The Editor's Desk



CARYN LITT
Editor-in-Chief

On my way out of the TAC club fair last week, a Chabad club leader stopped me. "Please sign up with us," she cajoled. "We have lots of events – *shiurs*, Tanya discussions. Just sign up, it's not a commitment."

A little hesitant to sign my name – more because of the inevitable inundation of junk e-mail than anything else – I nonetheless promised to keep on the look out for flyers. After all, I never learned Tanya before. It might be interesting.

As I left Koch Auditorium, a thought flitted through my mind. *There are so many different types of people at Stern.*

Most people, when looking at SCW, see a homogeneous population – white, Jewish and from the same tax bracket. But anyone who thinks that all SCW students are the same is obviously looking only skin deep.

Other colleges and universities pride themselves on their diverse student bodies. Their diversity, however, is defined by the number of Black, Hispanic and Asian students they have in proportion to white students. It is hard to understand how these institutions that call people different based on their race are not themselves being racist.

We at SCW are, in fact, fortunate that our diversity hinges not on race but on factors of more depth and subtlety. After all, are not people who view the world through science extremely different from those who view the world through art? Are there not dozens of methods through which one can approach Torah learning? Are there not countless interests represented at SCW, ranging from poetry readings to political action to equestrian clubs?

If there exists any problem related to diversity, it is not that it is lacking, but that students here do not recognize and celebrate it enough. Indeed, while our student body is far from homogeneous, a *climate* of homogeneity still seems to rule the campus.

An English professor recently noted that when she teaches readings on evo-

lution, all of the students who comment in class voice their vehement opposition to the theory. It is only afterwards, in the privacy and secrecy of her office, that some students will voice support for evolution. These students say that they are afraid to let their true feelings be known in a class where the majority is so strongly against them.

In most college environments today, a free exchange of different ideas is not only encouraged but considered essential to the college experience. The SCW classroom, meanwhile, is at times more reminiscent of communist Russia than twenty-first century America.

The most dangerous part of this phenomenon is that the censorship of ideas in the classroom is student-imposed. When a student is intimidated into silence, for fear of being labeled a non-religious liberal, or worse, by another student, we have a case of the college experience turned sour. What students often do not realize, however, is that by closing their minds to other ideas, their own viewpoints lose credibility.

The lack of interactive discourse goes beyond the classroom setting. Recently, a well-meaning SCW student sent a letter through e-mail proposing to match up younger students of her Israel seminary alma mater with older students from that same seminary to learn together. The implication of the suggestion was that it is necessary for the young and vulnerable to be kept on the straight and narrow path by people whose views are similar to their own so that they do not succumb to the negative influences at Stern.

Students here seem to have a genuine fear of interacting too closely with anyone who is different from them, an inclination which is not just a little baffling considering that the SCW community is well within the confines of the Jewish world.

We are, in fact, afforded a unique opportunity to question, explore and debate with others within a Torah environment. It would be a shame to let that opportunity go to waste.



MIRIAM COLTON
Editor-in-Chief

I received an email a few months ago from a man in the Jewish community who had noticed an obituary placed by Yeshiva University in *The New York Times*. Supportive of the resolution not to place obituaries in the *Times*, he requested an explanation from Yeshiva. The reply he received from the Yeshiva spokesman was that the University was "not in the business of boycotting newspapers."

Beyond the issues of Israeli coverage in the *Times* and of placing obituaries in Jewish newspapers is the question of who makes decisions at Yeshiva. Or more aptly put, what motivates these decisions.

For the previous issue of the *Observer*, I investigated the housing policy change at Einstein that now allows same-sex couples to live together. At the very time of the change, *The New York Times* began printing announcements of gay unions in its Sunday Styles wedding section. The first couple, behold, was Jewish. A Reform rabbi officiated.

I believe that the coincidence is symbolic. Science teaches us that nature is a set of actions that invoke increasingly greater reactions. "A butterfly flapping its wings in China can cause a hurricane in America," Rabbi Lamm quoted in his *Shabbos Shuva drasha* at the Jewish Center in Manhattan, about the impact an individual can make. When Yeshiva, the premier spokesman for Modern Orthodoxy puts media image, money and prestige before a basic precept of the Torah, a precedent has been set.

When asked why Yeshiva decided to change its policy, administrators replied that it wasn't worth the financial cost and negative press coverage, especially when the case was likely to be lost.

I would think that standing behind what Yeshiva was founded for, especially at a time when society's standards have become so lax, would be a most worthwhile investment. At the very minimum, Yeshiva could have fought the good fight. Or at the maximum, Yeshiva could reevaluate its relationship to its graduate schools and its non-sectarian charter.

We only need to look back a few decades in Yeshiva history to see the seeds of its current state. When President Samuel Belkin decided in the

early 70's to make the University non-sectarian so it could qualify for governmental funding under the 1968 New York State Bundy Law, the student body, led by the Rav, objected to the secularization trend. They claimed it would lead us on a path away from our Torah goals and force us to compromise.

But Yeshiva had created a huge mansion, and it needed the cash to build, furnish and maintain it. In the early 70's Sheldon Socol came on board to steer Yeshiva toward financial solvency. The University had become so focused on acceptance into the ivory tower of academics and financial endowments, that its original ideology has become blurred.

No matter how hard Yeshiva tries, there will always be universities that are academically stronger, with better facilities, and more "big names," but none with our unique mission. The motto of our university remains Torah U'madda - Torah enhanced by madda, not overtaken by it. Were administrators to look at the student body, I doubt they would meet many who came to Yeshiva because it's ranked 42, 41, or 40. The students I know attend the undergraduate colleges for a Torah environment that combines secular and Judaic studies, the only college of its kind.

A blurred vision allowed for the Einstein policy change. It has also created an environment on our campuses where the current debate among student leaders is how (and whether) to force an increasingly polarized student body to wear kipot uptown and dress appropriately at midtown.

Furthermore, this blurred vision may be the root of the presidential fiasco.

A confusion of values made it necessary two years ago to establish a committee to determine criteria for selection and to hire a million dollar headhunting firm to suggest candidates, whose efforts unearthed Yeshiva insiders like Shatz, Schnall and Riskin. (This was intended to mirror a similar search process at Harvard.) But all the money in the world will not buy clarity where there is none.

Now we're back to square one. Ronald Stanton, newly elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, agrees that the next step is for him to meet all relevant bodies to arrive at some consensus. Hopefully, that consensus will set Torah as a priority and place us back on track.

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LETTERS & OPINIONS

America and Israel Not on Par

Dear Editors,

I am writing in response to Shayndi Raice's article "The Identity Crisis: 9/11 and the American Jew" (Aug. 26, 2002).

I was very bothered by the topic and contents of the article. Ms. Raice writes that after 9/11 she didn't know if she should feel more loyal to America or to Israel.

I can understand how someone living in New York might have been more emotionally affected by the events of 9/11 than an outsider, and I also know that someone from Israel, like myself, is probably more emotionally affected by a terrorist attack there than a Jew is in the Diaspora. Nevertheless, when the terrorists in New York crashed the planes in to the Twin Towers, they weren't specifically trying to kill Jews, as much as they were trying to kill Americans.

In Israel, however, when a homicide bomber blows him or herself up, they are in essence trying to murder as many Jews as they can. They are trying to take away from us what is rightfully ours and what is the most important thing that we as Jews have in the world today - Israel.

Ms. Raice writes in her article that after 9/11 she thought, "Now Americans will understand, they'll be on our side, Israel's side." I'm sorry, but Americans don't have a clue what it is like in Israel.

In America, high-school graduates don't have to worry about getting killed while guarding a checkpoint. Mothers don't have to worry about their children getting shot while on their way to school. And teenagers don't have to worry about getting blown up while hanging out at their favorite pizza store.

The Jewish people have been hated for thousands of years, and now is no different. Sure, it is safer for Jews in America than it is in France, but do you really believe for a moment that if a Jew in America was in trouble and needed help, that Uncle Sam would come rushing to the rescue? Israel, more than any other country, cares about its citizens. And Jews in Israel, especially now, care more about each other than any other countries' citizens care for their fellow countrymen.

I am very grateful to America for everything it has given me, and I have a lot of *hakarat hatov* [gratitude] to it. What happened on September 11th was a tragedy for me too, but that day I came to realize that Israel is the only true place a Jew can call home, and it's the only place where he is welcome. It's true that outwardly Israelis can sometimes seem very rude and uninviting, but a guy off the street whom you never met would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. In America, you would not find that in a million years.

May this year be a safe and successful year, and may we be blessed with true and eternal peace and security.

Sincerely,
Shaya Lerner
YC sophomore

Job Well Done

Dear Editors,

Good job on the August issue. It broke the monotony of work nicely for me.

Michael Davis
SSSB Class of '02
Investment Banking Division
Salomon Smith Barney

Impacting Others, No Matter What

Dear Editors,

Searching on the Internet during work, I stumbled across the column Ms. Colton wrote about her summer experience with Leah (Aug. 26, 2002). I was stunned. I know "Leah" very well. She was engaged to my cousin, was my sister's friend and was the most talented girl in the neighborhood. You look in her pretty, young face, and you wouldn't dream what a past she had. She sang, she performed and she was cute and charming.

We will never forget the horrific accident and all that followed. All of us who know Leah try to lend a helping hand to her family. I am so happy to hear that she went to camp and was so well taken care of.

I will show the column to my friends and family so they can gain insight, and so that they can see that Leah accomplishes positive things even in this state.

Ms. Colton's column was astounding, heartwarming and thought provoking.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Chavi Schwartz
Williamsburg, New York

Time to Pay Up

We would like to thank the members of the SCW student body who pledged their participation in Project One Percent. Over the past six months, thousands of students signed up from across the world and many of those students pledged substantially more than the minimum one percent. It is our hope that a meaningful sum of money will be collected in order to help the innocent victims of terror in Israel.

It is crucial that you fulfill your commitment; you may do so at our website, www.pledge4israel.com. Those who have not yet pledged may still do so on the project website.

Sincerely,
The Project One Percent Team

The Observer
welcomes all letters to
the editors.

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Yeshiva's Boys Club: No Girls Allowed

By Shayndi Raice

When I was seventeen, I told a cousin of mine that I was a feminist. He responded with a shocked expression and whispered to me, "You mean you're a lesbian?!" When people, particularly men, hear the "f" word they aren't sure what to expect. Despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of women who identify themselves as feminists are not man-hating women, society continually associates feminism with its most radical and extreme factions. Perhaps it's easier to dismiss feminists as crazy women who want to blame non-existent problems on men, than it is to face the reality of the problems in our society.

I have recently been struggling with my own identity as a feminist and a student at Yeshiva University. The issue of Stern College and its second class status to Yeshiva College is so old that it's almost cliché to talk about it as a current issue. Additionally, it would be trite and simplistic to categorize the problems I have been facing as being merely the result of sexism. I don't think the attitudes of many young men at Yeshiva College are the consequences of an old-fashioned view of a woman's place in the world (i.e. the kitchen). However, there seems to be a boys club mentality that permeates the walls of YU that screams, "No girls allowed."

A few weeks before Succoth vacation, a friend and I were contacted by a Yeshiva College student, who wanted to know if we would be interested in working on a particular Yeshiva publication. We were excited at the prospect and assured him that we would be fully committed. At that time, we were told to spread the word throughout Stern and were asked to be the midtown representatives.

Since the magazine is a joint collaboration between Yeshiva College and Stern College (TAC and SOY pay for half the funding respectively), we assumed that Stern would have an equal say in its future on such things as article ideas, editors and staff decisions. Apparently, we were very wrong.

The men said they were not impressed with the caliber of students and their writing abilities at Stern College. Rather, it would be best, for the publication of course, if the YC student was editor-in-chief by himself, and the women of Stern College interested in this endeavor accept second tier positions. The assumption is that when it comes to intellectual stimulation and abilities,

women step aside.

I do not want to imply that all men or all Yeshiva College students have this mentality. In fact, there were some incredibly supportive students from Yeshiva College who encouraged my friend and me to fight the other students and try to create our own journal.

However, the mere idea that an intelligent college educated male could even begin to think that he had the authority to direct women in a supposedly equal effort was mind-boggling. Where are these young men learning that they need to be in charge of our minds and intellectual efforts for fear that we will destroy any intellectual endeavor we partake in?

Since I am not privy to what takes place in certain *shiurim* uptown, I can only rely on rumors I hear about the way certain rabbis speak of a woman's role. Yet, I still don't understand how YC students could think it is acceptable to degrade the capabilities of women attending their own university.

As these offenses are continuing without anyone teaching these young men that women deserve a modicum of respect, I think it is our job as women to fight against this degradation. You are probably thinking that now is when the man-hating feminism comes in, but perhaps, the response should be for us as women to strengthen ourselves by learning about ourselves.

For the first time in its history, Stern College will have a Women's Studies minor available. It is quite shocking that it hasn't existed already. The timing seems quite appropriate. Women should have the opportunity to see history, psychology, science and religion through a woman's perspective. They should study about the hardships and achievements of the women before them. Hopefully, this will give them strength to realize that women should create their own ways of dealing with the world, a way that will be inclusive and fair, not prejudiced and derogatory.

Meanwhile, the men uptown can retain their opinions until they realize that without the input of feminine intelligence, creativity and intuition, they are only capable of producing half a product.

People often think if a woman is a feminist it means she has insecurities about being a woman. That assumption is one of the saddest distortions of feminist ideology. It isn't about wanting to be like men. It's about wanting to be women - to have our unique perspectives on the world respected and valued as much as any other.

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Where Do You Stand?

As Yeshiva students standing at a crossroads in the University's history, it is important to explore issues confronting modern Orthodoxy today. College is a time to solidify your own convictions, yet simultaneously gain a deeper understanding of the convictions of others.

The *Observer* is introducing a new feature entitled, "Where Do You Stand?" In each issue, a different topic of importance to the Modern Orthodox world and its basic ideologies will be presented. The attitudes listed on each topic, compiled by Edah, an organization devoted to Modern Orthodox thought and social concerns, are only basic outlines and do not necessarily represent the views of our editorial board.

Rather than create further division among our student body, this new feature will hopefully provide an outlet for constructive debate. We hope that these attitudes will be the basis for further dialogue and discussion.

In this issue, we present the concept of *Da'at Torah*, rabbinic authority. The question of *Da'at Torah* revolves around how much power rabbis hold and whether a Jew is bound to listen to their rulings. What do you think, and where do you stand?

DA'AT TORAH

Attitude 1: In all matters of *halacha*, an individual accepts the binding authority of a *posek*, interpreter of the law. On non-*halachic* matters, persuasive reasoning on the part of the individual is the correct method for decision making, whatever its source.

Attitude 2: Recognition of the authority of one or more *posekim* should lead an individual to accept, with serious deliberation, the non-*halachic* judgments of those *posekim*. This is in recognition of their outstanding wisdom and insight.

Attitude 3: The individual who has accepted the authority of one or more *posekim* on matters of *halacha*, is bound by the judgment of those *posekim* also in non-*halachic* areas when the *posekim* so dictate.

Attitude 4: Recognized rabbinic authorities have the jurisdiction to bind both the individual and the community to comply with their dictates in all aspects of life. They do not have to provide technical *halachic* justification for their position.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS

MESSAGE FROM SCWSC PRESIDENT

Sharon Weiss

Mrs. Smith walked into my tenth grade classroom and announced that my classmate had just earned herself a "zero" for the day. The entire class looked at each other in shock. What was a zero? What did that mean? As I have been becoming more familiar with the field I plan on entering, formal and/or informal education, I have realized how important the beginning can be. Mrs. Smith's entrance on our first day of class created her optimal teaching environment. Mrs. Smith only assigned one zero during the year. The teacher, in this case Mrs. Smith, sets the tone for the classroom. We, as students, set the tone for our campus. Our beginning of the year has set the trend for the coming school year.

Our year has started off on the right foot. Orientation was extremely successful due to those who organized it (Arthur Guttman, Yitz Glass, Rachel Moss, and Elysia Rothenberg) and those who attended and benefited from it. The school, including administration, faculty and students, united on September 11th to remember what happened not far from our own campus. Club fair was a suc-



cess thanks to club heads and you, the students. Both Stern College and Yeshiva College traveled to the University of Michigan to protest against the pro-Palestinian rally. We have created an environment of concern and activism. We should continue to contribute to life on campus and the larger community.

An easy way to find out about campus activity is by checking out www.yustudents.org. Chanoch Goldfeder of the Yeshiva University Computer Society put this readily accessible website together. You should take advantage of the fruits of his labor.

Enjoy all of the activities on campus. Pick up a copy of *The Guide*, and make sure to register for the student directory, which can be accessed at www.yustudents.org. Please contact student council with any ideas, questions or concerns (scwsc@hotmail.com). All of the student councils are here to help maintain and increase the number and effectiveness of events and activity in Stern College.

MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman

Several aspects of Jewish life revolve around the concept of time. Prayers are assigned to specific time periods; the holidays are relegated to certain dates on the calendar. Milestones in life, such as a *brit milah* or a Bar Mitzvah and the antithesis, the period of mourning a close relative, are bound by time as well. Judaism is centered around this idea of time.

The very first commandment given to *B'nei Yisrael* was to establish the Jewish calendar and set aside time for each month and holiday. Shabbat is sanctified only by God and will occur regardless of human involvement. Conversely, the commandment of recording the new month, and thereby setting the dates for the holidays, is a responsibility solely placed upon the Jewish people. This wasn't a commandment that God gave us in complete form. Unlike Shabbat, the establishment of the new month is our responsibility. We have to put the calendar together and declare Rosh Chodesh in order to observe the festivals in their proper times.

I am sure that I am not the first to tell you that *you* are responsible for the successful outcome of your college experience. If the Jewish people fail to act and proclaim the new months, the holidays will not take place. The same phenomenon is true with your stay at Yeshiva University. Whatever venues you choose to pursue make sure that they are worth your valuable time. Time is of the essence.

I obtained the following poem from



<http://kimber.cjscreations.com/time.html>.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR,
ask a student who failed a grade.
To realize the value of ONE MONTH,
ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of

ONE WEEK,
ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of

ONE HOUR,
ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of

ONE MINUTE,
ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of

ONE SECOND,
ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of

ONE MILLISECOND,
ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

From the few weeks that we have been back at school, I have seen tremendous utilization of time. Many students attended a counter rally at the University of Michigan, over 200 students attended a Yosef Karduner concert which raised money for the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund and dozens of students decided to get involved in various school clubs and activities at the TAC and Student Council club fairs. I am confident that this enthusiasm will prevail throughout the year.

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BELFER HALL-WEISSBERG COMMONS
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BUS #1 LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM @ 7:15 p.m.; Schottenstein Dorm @ 7:20 p.m.
BUS #2 LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM @ 7:30 p.m.; Schottenstein Dorm @ 7:35 p.m.

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@ 8:15 PM
245 Lexington Avenue, Room 418**

VAN LEAVES FROM 186TH STREET & AMSTERDAM AVENUE
@ 7:30 P.M.

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
WILF CAMPUS: BELFER HALL, 4TH FLOOR, ROOMS 415, 417, 419
215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR, ROOMS 319, 320

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FROM PROFESSIONALS IN THE
FIELD

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SARAH KADISH-ZENITH MEDIA
JEREMY RENNA-MACY S

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH,
2002**

@ 8:15 PM

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Avenue @ 7:30 p.m.

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HOW TO FIND A JOB IN
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AHARON FISCHMAN
SYSTEMS SUPPORT MANAGER AT HACKENSACK UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH, 2002
@ 8:15 PM
BELFER HALL-218-WILF CAMPUS**

VAN LEAVES FROM BROOKDALE & SCHOTTEN-
STEIN DORMS AT 7:15 & 7:20 PM

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
WILF CAMPUS: BELFER HALL, 4TH FLOOR, ROOMS 415, 417, 419
215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR, ROOMS 319, 320

ON CAMPUS

Journalist Ari Goldman Announced as Scholar-in-Residence

By Rachel Fyman

Professor Ari Goldman has been announced as this year's Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence at SCW. Goldman will moderate a panel of world-renowned journalists for the annual fall semester event and will teach a journalism course in the spring semester.

Goldman, assistant to the interim Dean and associate professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, as well as renowned *New York Times* reporter, will moderate a panel presentation on November 25th entitled "Religion in Crisis."

The panel, open to students from both campuses as well as to the public, will bring together journalists who cover crises concerning their own religions in the media.

"The panelists will be able to share special insights into the problems faced by a person writing from within," Goldman said. "It is very hard to criticize one's own community."

The panel will consist of Tara Bahrapour, an Iranian Muslim writer, and Tom Farragher, a Catholic who has done extensive coverage of the recent scandals in the Church. Goldman will contribute the Jewish perspective, as well as act as moderator.

Bahrapour, author of *To See and See Again: A Life in Iran and America*, is a regular contributor to the *New York Times*. She writes primarily about Islam and Muslim women, and has been involved in the coverage of the Muslim community in the wake of 9/11.

Farragher, a devout Catholic who reports for the *Boston Globe*, was part of the team that investigated the recent revelation that Catholic Church ignored allegations of sexual harassment of young boys by priests. He has written critically about the conduct of the Church in covering up the scandal.

Goldman, himself a graduate of YC ('71), was a reporter for the *New York Times* and covered stories about the Jewish community, such as the riots in Crown Heights in 1991. He is also the author of a memoir entitled *The Search for God at Harvard*. Goldman took a year's leave from his position as a reporter at the *Times* in order to broaden his knowledge of world religion. To do so, he enrolled at the Harvard Divinity

School.

Goldman plans to distribute articles by the panelists before the presentation, and the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.

In the spring semester, Goldman will offer a course at SCW on the topic of journalism and religion, focusing specifically on Judaism.



Ari Goldman

"I'm very excited to hear that they're going to offer a special course in journalism," said Alisa Rose, an SCW senior majoring in journalism. "Right now there isn't much to choose from."

The Wilf Scholar-in-Residence program was inaugurated last year with a lecture by world famous author and poet Maya Angelou, followed by a course on Asian-American Literature by author Susan Choi.

Though aware that this year's presentation does not have the same "name recognition" that Maya Angelou provided, both Goldman and SCW Dean Karen Bacon are confident that students will be interested in the panel discussion.

"It involves scandal and terrorism - burning issues of the day," commented Goldman. "I hope Stern students are interested in major issues in the news." He added that the topic addresses "issues of our own responsibility to our community and our professions."

Bacon asserted that she is not concerned about the number of students who will register for the course and that size does not necessarily reflect success. "Last semester, Asian-American Literature was a small course, but it was very positively received," she said.

The program was made possible by a generous endowment from Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf, who wanted the gift to be used for something both unique and educational. She was excited by the Scholar-in-Residence idea, which has been designed to broaden the education of SCW students by introducing them to different cultural perspectives.

A first of its kind at the midtown campus, the program brings in visiting professors and guest lecturers every year.

Dr. Robbins-Wilf is a member of the Stern College Board and has headed the Academic Affairs Committee since its inception, and holds a masters and doctorate from the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology.

Students Hope to Revitalize Hamevaser Magazine

By Caryn Litt

Hamevaser, Yeshiva's journal of Jewish intellectual thought, is making a comeback. A group of Yeshiva students are hoping to rejuvenate the publication, which has been plagued by disorganization and poor quality for the past few years.

Under the leadership of YC student Yoel Oz, *Hamevaser* is trying to regain its image as a sophisticated, well written and thought provoking magazine on matters of intellectual and social importance to the Orthodox Jewish world.

"I hope that once people see a finished product, it will be something that will spur a *Shabbos* conversation," said Oz.

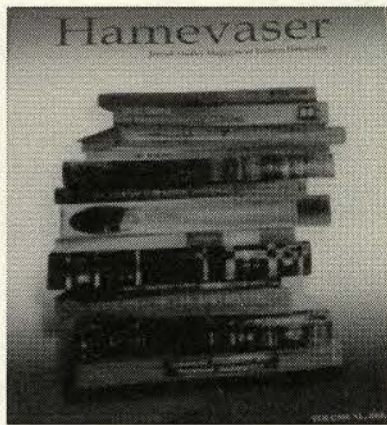
Upcoming issues of *Hamevaser* will feature articles on, among other topics, issues related to *Torah V'Chachmah*, the Rav's understanding of Majesty, medical ethics and the Jewish approach to the study of history.

Students can expect to see several issues of *Hamevaser* this year, with one

or two appearing in the fall semester and as many as two or three coming out in the spring. The first issue is slated to debut around Thanksgiving.

Last year, one issue was published, and that issue had actually been started the year before.

The editorial board, comprised of mostly YC students, is still in the process of accepting and reviewing submissions. To preserve the quality of the magazine,



DEPARTMENT IN FOCUS: EDUCATION

BY Shifra Landowne

To teach is the most noble profession." This oft -quoted aphorism is taken very seriously in the Education department at SCW, by professors and students alike.

"The students here are extremely dedicated to the field of teaching, they are motivated to succeed," said Professor Chaya Gorsetman, coordinator of the Education department. "It is not enough for them just to be teachers, they want to be excellent teachers."



Marrisa Wolf, SCW '02, pictured above, gained from hands on experience

One of the most unique aspects of the Education department at SCW is the amount of hands-on experience that a student has before she graduates. Each course requires two hours of weekly field work, and every student must complete one semester of full time student teaching.

"I felt so capable coming out of the program," said Miriam (Mitgang) Kaminetzky, a teacher who graduated the early childhood program in May 2000. "I did field work in so many places while I was at Stern and was critiqued all the way through - I was constantly learning and improving myself and I definitely considered myself a teacher when I graduated."

Many of the education majors at Stern would agree with Kaminetzky, probably because of the serious emphasis that the Education department places on practical experience.

"I feel very equipped when I go into a classroom," said Devorah Schneider, a junior who is majoring in Early Childhood Education.

According to Professor Gorsetman, a strength of the Education Department at SCW is that a student come out with a very broad and extensive knowledge of child development. "They understand how children learn, and they have pedagogic know-how," she said. They can conduct a class, set up a classroom or work with a co-teacher."

The Education department at SCW has two tracks, Childhood Education for grades one through five and Early Childhood Education, focusing on birth to grade two. An education major who has completed all requirements graduates with a temporary New York State teaching certification which becomes permanent if she finishes a graduate degree within five years of completing her B.A.

The program is very extensive, offering courses in psychology, child development, theories of arithmetic, language, literacy, teaching science, education and the arts, and others.

not all articles submitted will be printed, emphasized Oz.

Although the staff is hoping to avoid the disarray into which past issues of *Hamevaser* had fallen, the publication has already been tinged with controversy this year. For the first time in years, the leadership has been taken by one YC student, rather than consisting of one editor-

In addition to all of the course work offered, the Education department is starting to introduce some "outside the box" programming. The department has a new affiliation with the Lincoln Center Institute for the Arts in Education, where different creative programs are embedded into courses, geared toward integrating the arts into education.

Dr. Elizabeth Lazaroff, director of the Education department, is very enthusiastic about the prospects of the partnership. "The possibilities are endless," she said. "The sessions can be used as a jumping off point for teaching, or sometimes to help us teach or understand something better," she said.

There is also a partnership between the Education department and the Yeshiva University Museum.

"The museum has many possibilities," explained Lazaroff. "It can teach how to integrate museum visits into a curriculum, how a teacher can use certain techniques in school to help deepen understanding of a subject. It's arts education together with Jewish education."

Not only is there innovative programming planned for the courses given in SCW, but there are tentative plans for a June education course to be given in Israel. "The course in Israel would be a very exciting prospect for education majors, a wonderful learning opportunity," commented Professor Gorsetman.

With all of its strengths, however, the Education department is not without flaws. Dr. Lazaroff admits that she would like to see "more full time faculty," and "more involvement in research."

Students have echoed Dr. Lazaroff's



Jamie Vichinsky, SCW '02, teaches a model lesson

sentiments. "The teachers here are really helpful and supportive, but sometimes they're just not very accessible because they're not always around," said SCW junior Michal Adler.

Yet the support does continue beyond SCW. "We have an e-mail group where we all still speak, share ideas, compare notes, discuss problems," said Adler. "It's a great way to keep in touch with the other Education majors who I created such a strong bond with, and the teachers are on the list also - they continue putting in time even after we've graduated. That's what makes this program so special."

in-chief from YC and one editor-in-chief from SCW.

Accusations of chauvinism emerged as SCW students claimed that positions of editorships had been offered and then rescinded because Oz and other YC students involved were not impressed with

continued on page 23

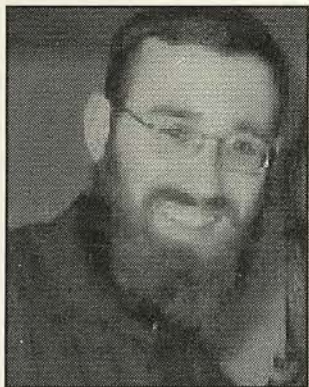
Campus Briefs

New Shabbat Rabbis Hired

After months of searching, the Office of Student Services has finally found two "Shabbat rabbis." Micah Gimpel and Shaya Shtern will be alternating weekends.

Shtern, a YC Graduate '01, currently works at the accounting firm Deloitte & Touche and is planning to go for *semicha* at RIETS. Gimpel, who was in Israel last year, is studying for his CPA and is enrolled in a *semicha* program.

The job of Shabbat rabbi involves making sure Shabbat runs smoothly. The rabbis are responsible for giving *shiurim* and acting as the spiritual leader on campus. The role of the rabbi is also to create a sense of community at SCW, according to Student Services.



Rabbi Shaya Shtern will be coming to midtown to enhance the shabbos experience

New Student Website Launched

The students of Yeshiva have launched a new website, yustudents.org. The website features upcoming events and links to club websites, the two undergraduate newspapers and all student councils. It also supplies cafeteria menus and *minyan* times uptown, as well as academic information. Additionally, the website provides access to both parts of the *Guide*.

The web site was designed and written by Chanoch Goldfeder, the Yeshiva University Computer Society Vice President and Webmaster.

The Executive Council of the Yeshiva Student Union is paying the hosting fees for the site.

YU STUDENTS

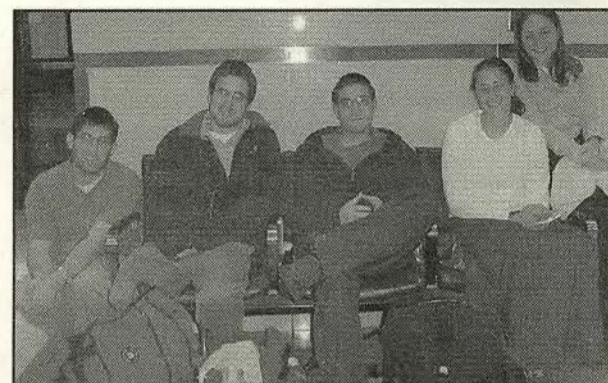
Students Visit Communities over Simchat Torah

Over 500 Yeshiva College, Stern College for Women and RIETS student volunteers traveled to communities all over the United States for the annual Simchat Torah Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours, run by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services.

Seventy-two communities across America, including Palm Beach, FL, Los Angeles, CA, Dallas, TX, and Memphis, TN, hosted the Yeshiva students.

Torah Tours participants were responsible for bringing spirit to the Simchat Torah dancing, giving lectures and interacting with members of the community.

The next major Torah Tours event will be on Shavuot, June 6-7, 2003.



Aron Zuckerman, Zev Prince, David Katz, Lauren Pick and Yonina Bersson and traveled to Young Israel of Century City in Los Angeles for Simchat Torah

Yeshiva Rises in U.S. News Rankings

For the seventh consecutive year, Yeshiva has been ranked one of America's top universities in the annual *US News & World Report* survey. The 2003 survey ranked Yeshiva up one place from last year.

The national university category includes Yeshiva along with 249 other schools. Yeshiva's rank of 40th places it among the top 50 schools that comprise "tier one." Other schools in tier one include Columbia, Harvard, MIT, NYU, Princeton and Yale.

Factors which account for Yeshiva's steady rise in the rankings in recent years include a high rate of retention and graduation among students; high SAT scores; strong faculty resources and availability of faculty to students due to small class size; and strong financial resources. The ranking formula gives greatest weight to reputation since that ultimately impacts on the success of graduates in gaining entry to top graduate programs.

This year *US News* changed the names of the ranking categories to better reflect their missions. Yeshiva was included in the national universities-doctoral category, classifying institutions offering a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and Ph.D. degrees, and emphasizing faculty research.

New Registrar Appointed

A new University Registrar for the Yeshiva University Manhattan campuses has been appointed. Dr. Lea Honigwachs will lead efforts to provide a wide variety of academic record-keeping and course registration services to students, faculty and the entire academic community. She will be responsible for the registrar's offices at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology, Cardozo School of Law, the midtown campus and the Wilf campus.

One of her top priorities over the coming years will be continuing efforts to make the best use of the latest technology, particularly the internet, which will dramatically improve services to both students and faculty.

Dr. Honigwachs brings to the job a wealth of knowledge of Yeshiva and the communities it serves. Her administrative background includes assessment of foreign student transcripts at the City University of New York. At Yeshiva she has served as the registrar at the midtown campus and, for the past two years, at the Wilf campus.

Yosef Karduner Concert Rocks Yeshiva

Yosef Karduner gave a concert at Weissberg Commons at the Wilf Campus last Monday night in order to raise money for the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund, an organization which distributes money to Israeli victims of terror. Karduner did not charge for his performance, and all of the \$1,700 dollars collected will go to the fund.

Publicizing the event was difficult since final approval for the location of the concert was not given until the Friday before the concert. Lisa Grundman, TAC president, was responsible for publicizing the event on the midtown campus, but she was only able to put up signs on the day of the concert.

Still, the event, spearheaded by Yeshiva Student Union Vice President Yaakov Green, attracted around 200 YC students and over 100 SCW students. The midtown campus filled two buses, and a spill over crowd took shuttles uptown.

The concert began at 10:30 p.m., after a *ma'ariv* service, and continued until 12:00 a.m. There was a partition set up, but only the men elected to dance.

Metropolitan Experience Starts with a Bang

This semester the Metropolitan Experience, a program through which SCW students have the opportunity to attend cultural events and dinners around New York City, implemented a new sign up procedure. Rather than forcing students to skip classes and wait hours before allowing them to sign up, the Metropolitan Experience had students submit their names to a lottery during the day. In the evening, students' names were called and they were assigned a number of order.

Events this semester include *Mama Mia*, several operas, a performance by Itzhak Perlman, evenings at Our Name is Mud and dinners at elegant restaurants. Professors accompany students to the events.

Around 200 students submitted their names throughout the day, but there were only approximately 160 spots available.

Metropolitan Experience is sponsored by the Office of Student Services and the Office of the Academic Dean.



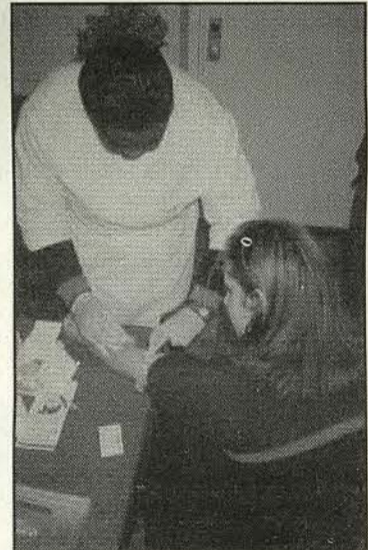
Jessica Lovinger, Chaya Oshrovitz and Barbara Weinberger peruse the option for the Metropolitan experience during sign-up

Blood Drive Held on Campus

On October 7th, SCW held a blood drive in the gym at 245 Lexington. The drive, chaired by SCW senior Racheli Rubin and conducted by the New York Blood Center, attracted 62 students, 40 of whom donated blood. Twenty-two people deferred is not considered an abnormal amount.

Donors received a free pint of Ben and Jerry's ice cream, made possible by a generous deal from Sim's Convenience Store.

Blood drives are held at SCW about four times a year. The next one is scheduled for December 9th. The New York Blood Center urges students to "get the iron up" and participate in this important event.



Students Push for Israeli Food Products in Caf

Trying to be creative in their support of Israel, SCW students are pushing to serve more Israeli food products in the cafeteria.

The Israeli government has appointed a Minister to try to promote Israeli food products through a marketing project called Israeli Fine Foods. Israel supporters on campus are attempting to persuade the Food Services Committee to buy more Israeli food products, in order to help support the Israeli economy. The school would be able to purchase the Israeli products through their regular distributors or from an Israeli distributor.

Currently, the cafeteria features some Israeli products, such as baked goods from Angel's Bakery in Israel.

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ON CAMPUS

New Van Services Leaves Midtown Students Stranded

Student Life Committee Takes Action

By Anat Barber

Students are reacting angrily to the new inter-campus and local van service schedule changes, which decreased the number of shuttles and frequency of their trips.

Changes instituted at the start of the 2002-2003 academic year stipulate fewer vans running between campuses, as well as a timed local van schedule. According to the new local transportation schedule, vans now leave from the various residence halls, as well as the from school building, every thirty minutes regardless of student needs.

In previous years, local vans on the midtown campus ran between buildings as necessary. Upon student request, security would call for an available van which would momentarily arrive to transport students to their desired location.

The change in local van policy was apparently a response to the lack of student utilization of the service. Assessments were based upon the number of students on each van and how often vans were being called. According to Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, the frequent single passenger trips were not cost efficient. Additionally, Rosengarten stated "convenience and safety" were factors in creating the new van schedule.

"Over the last few years the safety of fifteen passenger vans came into question and the switch was made to the new vehicles," explained David Himer, Dean of Students. "Because of the increased



Midtown students must travel locally on the Yole ambulettes on a new, fixed schedule

number of people per vehicle, service has decreased."

Students on the midtown campus are highly dissatisfied with the change.

"You can miss a van by five minutes, and have to sit and wait twenty-five minutes," says SCW junior, Michal Klein. "Sometimes a guard will escort you between residence halls so you don't have to walk by yourself, but it's entirely inconvenient for everyone"

Mostly students are upset by the unsafe predicament they are being forced into. "It's very dangerous because the vans rarely come, and I am forced to walk by myself at night between the buildings," complains SCW junior Ilana Oppenheimer.

Student Life Committee leaders have been alerted to the situation and are attempting to address the issue. A sub-committee has been formed specifically to deal with the problems arising out of the new van service changes. They have already

contacted Mr. Donald Sommers, Chief of Security, to present their platform to him.

The committee will propose a few suggestions in an attempt to make local van service more accommodating. Among the amendments proposed will be a request to have vans leaving in more frequent intervals of fifteen or twenty minutes. An additional suggestion to expedite transportation between buildings is to eliminate van waiting time at any location where there are no students in need of van service. Student Life Committee members hope these suggestions can be put into effect as soon as possible.

In regard to the inter-campus shuttle service, the Student Life Committee has resigned itself to accepting the status quo. They speculate that efforts to make amendments in that area are futile, or have already been exhausted, and they wish to focus their efforts on the "local" problem.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

What's your favorite book, and why?



Lisa Getman, SCW sophomore

"*Cain and Abel* by Jeffrey Archer. It deals with two people who were born on the exact same day yet are enemies. Their daughter and son fall in love, adding a twist of irony to a historical novel."



Atara Kelman, SCW freshman

"I like *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand. It's an extremely thought provoking book on philosophy. The author captures the characters through brilliant development by being highly descriptive."



Natalie Kozlova, SCW senior

"Basically I like all classical literature. I'm crazy about Russian literature. I guess the best is Bulgakov's *A Heart of a Dog*. It's about a doctor who picks a homeless dog off the street and puts a human brain in its head, so that it turns into a human being. But it's really about how

man can never hide his animal instincts."

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The Silent Debate

Do Professors Feel Suppressed from Expressing Opinions?

By Alisa Rose

When Drs. Carole Silver and Ellen Schrecker signed their names to a *New York Times* ad that endorsed the creation of a Palestinian state, some students were outraged, questioning Yeshiva professors' sensitivity in expressing such views in a public forum. While both professors expressed their views outside the University, the issue brought to the forefront the parameters of academic freedom at SCW.

According to many professors, the religious nature of SCW does not infringe on the free exchange of ideas in the classroom.

"The university has not interfered with my scholarly pursuits and provides a vital forum for freedom of thought," says English professor Dr. Judith Neaman, reflecting the sentiments of all the SCW professors who agreed to be interviewed for this article.

Specifically, the professors do not feel censored by the University.

"We never tell professors what they are allowed to teach and not allowed to teach," notes Associate Dean Ethel Orlan, stunned at even hearing the question raised. "Academic freedom is a very important issue."

Dean Karen Bacon identifies a "wholesome exchange" of opinions between students and professors, an exchange that she, as an administrator, in no way mediates.

"My perception is that the faculty here want to teach material and maintain a relationship with the students," says Dean Karen Bacon. "They're not teaching to a room. Their goal is both to teach and develop a relationship with the students." Overall, SCW professors seem to confirm Bacon's assessment.

According to History professor Schrecker, making disparaging remarks about students or digressing from the topic to discuss one's personal political or religious beliefs oversteps the boundaries of professional standards.

While Dr. Hadassa Kosak, who has taught a course in Modern Israel that includes controversial issues, such as the political situation in Israel, knows that there are professional boundaries, she believes that one of the important roles of a university is to sponsor legitimate opinions through open debate. "I view the classroom as a forum to present and discuss diverse historical interpretations," she said.

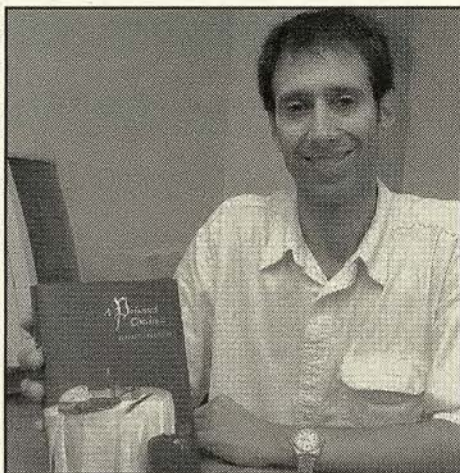
Although Kosak, known for her left-wing ideas, has drawn criticism from some students who were bothered by the historiography she presented, which included views that were unpopular among SCW students, she has never felt restricted by the administration or her students. Though they might sometimes disagree with the views she presents in class, she praises her students as "intellectually ready and mature for encounters with views that differ from their own."

Professors admit to employing an additional measure of sensitivity in their discussions and in creating a course syllabus containing material that their students will be comfortable with, especially in matters relating to Israel, religion and sexual content in literature.

History professor Dr. Jeffrey Freedman is attentive to the "sensibilities" of his students when creating his course syllabi, selectively weeding out works that contain objectionable sexual content. "I want to challenge the students, but it's counterproductive to shock them," he says.

However, although professors may cater their syllabi to their SCW students, they refuse to compromise on including works that they feel are essential to their courses.

Freedman's course, Western Civilization, requires students to read parts of the New Testament. One or two students sometimes approach him after



Dr. Jeffrey Freedman

class complaining that they cannot do the readings on religious grounds. Freedman sees the New Testament as an integral part of the course and refuses to eliminate the readings from the syllabus. "If you want to learn about history, you sometimes have to read things you don't like," says Freedman.

Other professors will sometimes offer substitute readings or suggest that students skip passages that they find objectionable. When a student objects to certain material, Neaman recommends that the student skip the passage, and she abandons the subject in the class discussion, though she says that her colleagues in public universities tell her they do not follow such a procedure.

Dr. Manfred Weidhorn also considers how his course would differ if taught at another university. The English professor, who admits to feeling constrained by his students in the literature courses he teaches, says that his course syllabus would be different if he were teaching at another university. However, Weidhorn maintains that he will not refrain from bringing up sensitive issues if they apply to the works he is discussing.

The religious sensitivities of her students are on Dr. Joanne Jacobson's mind, as well. "But that wouldn't prevent me from teaching or discussing something that really matters intellectually to me," says the English professor.

Many students wish that there were some censorship in the classroom, asserting that SCW professors are awarded "too much" academic freedom. One student suggested that the parameters of academic freedom at SCW should be defined by the school's religious authorities. This student felt that professors sometimes raised issues that should not be discussed in a religious institution. However, none of these students agreed to be quoted on record.

"Not everyone comes to my class with my assumption that college is a place for your ideas to be challenged," acknowledges Jacobson, although she does not agree with that attitude. "Literature is an arena where difficult questions are raised. It's not about confirming what people already know."

English professor Dr. Nora Nachumi observes an additional phenomenon in the censorship imposed by students in her English courses, which she finds troubling. She notes that the students who object to the material often comprise a larger and more vocal part of the class, and those who are comfortable with the material remain silent in class from fear of appearing less religious. "It's very typical of Stern," Nachumi observes. "Because it's so important how observant you are."

Nevertheless, Nachumi and others recognize that the religious nature of SCW can sometimes enrich a debate, enabling conversations that would be impossible in secular universities. Jacobson cites a scene in Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* that parallels the binding of Isaac story from the Bible. "Where else could I find a classroom of students who are prepared to discuss such an issue?" asks Jacobson.

We Have Standards: Committee Decides Academic

By Arie Staller

Will I graduate on time? Should I postpone my wedding for finals? Do I take this once in a lifetime trip to Israel and risk missing classes?

As in every institution, Stern College has guidelines and policies to which students and faculty members are expected to adhere. However, when academic conflicts arise, the Academic Standards Committee will assess the student's situation and help the student solve her dilemmas. The chairman of the committee, Professor Joshua Bacon, meets with Dean Karen Bacon, Dean Ethel Orlan, Dean Zelda Braun, academic advisors and professors, as well as a student representative to discuss requests.

To raise an issue with the committee, a student may either write a letter stating her question or fill out a request form available in the Office of the Registrar. The forms are then submitted to an academic advisor, Rochelle Mogilner, who notifies the committee members when enough requests have been submitted to hold a meeting. Meetings are held once or twice a month depending on how many requests are received.

Shira Miller, this year's student representative, will be attending committee meetings to represent the views and concerns of the student body. Miller, an SCW senior, advises students who put in requests to the committee to discuss the request with her prior to the meeting. This allows Miller to hear the student's point of view and do the necessary research so she can accurately present the student's case to the committee. Although Miller may contribute to the discussion, when the time comes to make a decision only faculty members vote.

Submissions made to the committee deal with any deviation from the normal guidelines and regulations of the college. They deal with issues such as a student's request for a final make-up, a senior being a credit short, having summer courses count in order to graduate on time, and alterations to major requirements.

While the committee's purpose is to aid students when academic deviations occur, Dean Orlan points out that some of the issues presented could have been avoided. "If a student seeks advice early on and is careful to follow the information available in writing, typically she should be fine and not need to ask for extenuating circumstances," she said.

Course schedules are distributed a semester in advance, listing academic deadlines and dates of final exams so that conflicting plans will not be made. The Yeshiva handbook contains school policies regarding how many credits are necessary to graduate, what type of transfer credits will be accepted, and other similar policies.

However, when students do not read these guidelines and the signs posted around school or "take advantage of advisors' willingness to give guidance," requests to the committee become necessary, according to Orlan.

Both Orlan and Professor Bacon

Submissions made to the committee deal with any deviation from the normal guidelines and regulations of the college.

agreed that if students were more informed, a lot of these requests would not be made. However, both were very sympathetic to the fact that incidents occur outside the realm of student's control, and, in these cases, exceptions may need to be made.

According to Professor Bacon, the committee is very concerned with "trying to be fair to everyone." He explained that their goal is to make every situation as equitable as possible. In order for the committee to be effective, however, students must be reasonable in their requests, he said.

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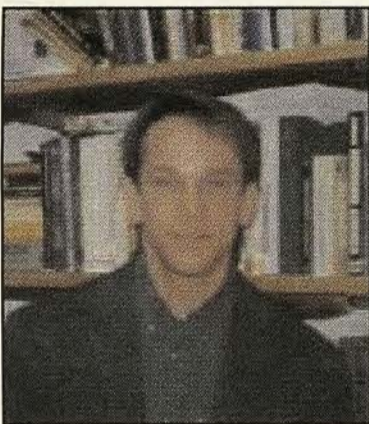
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Luders Brings New Prospects to Political Science Department

By Sari Moskowitz

A quick glance at past SCW course booklets shows a disturbing slump in the Political Science department. In the past five semesters, the Political Science department has offered a maximum of seven courses, and a minimum of four. These numbers that pale in comparison to those of other departments, such as Psychology and English, which have offered as many as 23 and 35 classes per semester, respectively. Additionally, few political science professors in the past few semesters has stayed for more than two semesters, making it difficult for political science majors to find guidance, summer course approval or letters of recommendation.

SCW is counting on Dr. Joseph Luders to redeem the department. Recently hired after an arduous search process, Luders, the only full-time professor in the department, is currently teaching three out of the four courses being offered this semester. Luders, a personable professor who has spent the last three years teaching at Bard College in upstate New York, specializes in American politics and government, and all three of his courses are focused on these areas.



Dr. Joseph Luders teaches three of the political science courses this semester

Although Luders, in his short time at SCW, has already earned a reputation for being entertaining, capable and knowledgeable, many students are still dissatisfied by the lack of diversity in course offerings. Seniors who must take a requisite number of courses in order to graduate are forced to take several of Dr. Luders's classes, two of which are offered back to back, despite the fact that the topics are similar in nature.

Nevertheless, many students and administrators are hopeful that he will be able to revitalize the department, which is a challenging task considering that out of over 1,000 members of SCW's student body, only 17 are currently majoring in political science.

"With Luders now at the helm, the SCW Political Science department should again have the kind of stability which will permit new growth," remarked Dr. Ruth Bevan, the David W. Petegorsky Professor of Political Science and previous head of SCW's Political Science department. "We invite SCW students into the department of political science. Get to know the political science faculty."

Since his arrival, Luders has emphasized the advantages of studying political science, in the hopes of luring new students into the department. He has circulated pamphlets and discussed with students the possible career opportunities that can stem from a background in political science, including careers such as political advisors, criminology, journalism, political commentary and various government offices.

However, Luders's arrival may be too late for some students. "I was planning on majoring in political science, but there are not enough classes offered each semester," reflected Shani Libin, SCW junior. "Nevertheless, Professor Luders seems interested in raising the amount of courses offered to at least equal to uptown. Maybe then more people will be interested in the major."

SCW Dean Karen Bacon has also addressed this issue, by recognizing the previous failures of the department and

the current challenges it faces, as well as her hopes for the future.

"For some time we had a vibrant Political Science department," she said, recalling that when Bevan realized she could not maintain the program on two campuses she decided to move back to YC where she started. "The transition may not be it's not ideal, but for the spring semester hopefully Dr. Luders will help us offer more of what the students want."

Luders, who received his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science of the New School for Social Research, is equally optimistic about the prospects for the Political Science department.

"With my arrival, there is a full-time professor to anchor the department and

this is a huge step in the right direction," commented Luders. "With her backing, we will be able to enlarge the adjunct staff, and ultimately, to hire additional full-time faculty members."

In addition, Luders hopes to organize political events that will interest students, including internships at the United Nations, Senators' offices, *The New York Times* and U.S. Federal Courts among others. He also hopes to revive

the Political Science club.

Aside from his excitement about out-of-classroom projects, Luders has also taken a proactive stance in the classroom. For instance, in his American Government and Politics course, Luders has required all students to get involved in a political project and write a report about their experiences. Suggested projects include volunteering for a political election, organizing a political event on campus or working for a political organization.

Luders hopes that by offering innovative political science venues, interest in the department will grow and more courses will be offered.

"I would like to see six or more courses in the fall of 2003," said Luders optimistically. "To the extent that student interest rises, so too will the number of courses offered."

In fact, signs of Luders's success can already be noted in the halls of SCW.

"Luders has taken control of the Political Science department by its roots," praised Beth Meshel, an SCW senior who enjoys being politically active. "It is comforting to know that I can suggest things to someone who will know what to do with my ideas."

Because Luders is a full-time professor, he will be able to fill the void that Bevan created when she left SCW to teach full-time at the Wilf campus last year.

"I am very excited that the students in the department can now go to someone on this campus to ask questions regarding our major course requirements, and that we can share ideas, thoughts and concerns," said Meshel.

Indeed, there is already a feeling of optimism spreading among those who are interested in political science.

"I think it's great that they finally have someone to run the department, and Luders seems really capable," said Michal Bistricher, an SCW senior majoring in political science.

With the help of talented staff and supportive administrators, the Political Science department at SCW may once again soon flourish.

Political Activism Lacking on SCW Campus

By Shayndi Raice

College campuses are notorious for strong, often liberal, political views of the student body on international issues, as well as domestic issues like economic policy, the death penalty and abortion. Stern College is most definitely not a typical east coast liberal arts college in this regard. While there is activism for Israel, when it comes to other issues SCW students are remarkably unaware and uninterested.

"Number one is Israel and I don't think they are really much involved in anything else," said Beth Meshel, co-president of the J.P. Dunner Society. "There are no anarchists, no anti-capitalists. There are Republicans and there are Democrats on campus but nobody is screaming about it."

Many students at Yeshiva take a strong interest in Israeli politics but have few opinions on other current events, such as the possible war on Iraq. Some had opinions on Iraq, only insofar as it would affect Israel.

"I think the students at Stern care about the war in Iraq in a very myopic sense - how it would affect Israel or their ability to travel to Israel," said Anat Barber, President of AIPAC on the Stern Campus. "I don't think they fully appreciate or understand how it would affect the United States."

Of the approximately forty clubs features at the SCWSC bi-annual Club Fair, only five are related in some form to political activism. Students interested in Israel activism could join AIPAC or the Israel club. The J.P. Dunner Political Society/Jewish Political Views Club is another option, as well as the Environmental Action Committee. For students interested in women's health, there is Making Strides, a walk for breast cancer awareness and research.

For those trying to create awareness, the student body at SCW is often a frustrating audience.

"As students we shouldn't be hiding behind our books or getting too involved in ourselves that we don't see what's happening around the world," said Rachel Baum, President of the Environmental Action Committee.

Baum is involved in City Harvest, a program that takes leftover food from the SCW cafeteria and distributes it to soup kitchens around New York. The food from Stern is taken to two kosher soup kitchens. Baum is also responsible for recycling in the cafeteria. However, despite the progress she has made here she says, "People feel like they're too busy to help out."

Arielle Berger, an SCW junior, is trying to get students involved in Making Strides, a walk for breast cancer research and awareness. "Making Strides is very important for women at Stern College to get involved in because Jewish women are affected by breast cancer," said Berger. Regarding issues of women's health in general, Berger says that the SCW student body has a lot to work. She mentions increased physical activity which she terms "pathetic at Stern," proper eating habits, and more attention to student's with eating disorders in school.

Meshel is also planning to start a new committee on campus called Community Action. Students will be responsible for monitoring New York politicians and other external affairs in the City that could have a direct effect on college students collectively or Jews. The committee will also be involved in planning a response to political statements or bills passed that effect issues students on campus care about.

Despite the lack of political activity available through SCW, there are still other opportunities for those who are interested. "You can be very politically active if students are prepared to look for opportunities themselves," said Meshel. "There are definitely a plethora of options on city council level, state assembly, state senate, and all the state agencies up here."

As an example, four students from SCW participated in the Orthodox Union's IPA summer program this year, in which they interned for members of Congress.

Besides the lack of active political interest, the SCW student body's knowledge of issues seems to be missing. A booth was set up at the club fair to sign up students to protest in Michigan against a Palestinian Conference, which proposed divestment from Israel. Many students who passed the booth were unfamiliar with the term divestment, as well as the divestment movement that is currently sweeping across college campuses.

Even with these clearly-defined clubs, the majority of the student body remains apathetic to current events and political issues. When asked why she thought students were uninterested, Meshel claimed that it has nothing to do with the size of SCW, since many small liberal colleges are very active. "People don't take the time to think about political issues," she said. "They think they're too busy doing their school work."



Beth Meshel and Natalie Merkin sign up students interested in getting involved beyond the campus, for Panim, an outreach organization that sends students to college campuses across the nation

ISRAEL NEWS

Students Plan for Another Mission to Israel

By Miriam Colton

Following last January's successful Torah Shield II and due to a current outpouring of student interest on both campuses, another mission to Israel is being seriously considered for this winter break. The plans for a mission are still in the formative stages, hinging on commitment of money from various organizations.

Student leaders on campus, mainly the presidents of the Israel Club, have begun discussion as to the format of the trip. "The motivation can not be just to repeat it because it was done last year, but rather to respond to the current situation," said Ari Rockoff, head of the youth and outreach department of the Max Stern Division of Communal Service (MSDCS), and a key player in last year's mission.

Preliminary meetings were held last week at MSDCS to discuss possibilities, though no conclusive decision was reached.

According to Rebecca Wimmer, co-president of the Israel Club at midtown, one suggestion that has been offered is a fusion of a solidarity mission and a pilot trip. A pilot trip is designed to bring people interested in *aliyah* to Israel so they can genuinely explore the possibility in terms of employment, schools, and communities.

The main component that the students must await before coordinating such a large-scale operation is the involvement of larger organizations. According to Rockoff, if student leaders want heavy subsidies, which are crucial to attracting participants, organizational involvement is key.

Last year, Jewish organizations underwrote the majority of the costs of the mission, with students paying \$350 dollars for the entire trip. The trip, costing a rough total of \$200,000, mainly for travel and transportation, was heavily subsidized by the Ministry of Tourism, The Jewish Agency and a handful of private donors, with the Orthodox Union assisting in organization.

The motivation can not be just to repeat it because it was done last year, but rather to respond to the current situation.

"We definitely want to make it subsidized," stated Wimmer. "It's hard though to get the same donors as last year since the mission was successful as a one time major event."

The Orthodox Union is currently determining whether they will take an active role in this year's mission. "We're engaged in preliminary discussions as to whether the degree of interest on the part of the students and on the part of donors indicate if we should proceed or not," said Rabbi Moshe Krupku, OU National Director of Community and Synagogue Services.

The Ministry of Tourism, which absorbed a majority of the costs last year, may be interested in sponsoring a mission again. "It was a tremendous success last year and the first instinct is let's do it again," said Rachel Seeman, director of marketing for the Ministry of Tourism. "But we need to know if its feasible and all the money can be put together before we can get involved." Seeman is waiting for the students to present an idea or plan.

The main draw for the Ministry of Tourism last year was the ambassador-in-

training component, in which students had to commit to ten speaking engagements about Israel. Most likely, their participation will be contingent on the program. When then asked if they would want different participants from last year, Seeman said she was not sure.

One new player that seems to already be committed to assisting in the endeavor is Yavneh Olami. An unaffiliated Orthodox student organization based in Israel, Yavneh Olami strives to strengthen solidarity between Jewish students and provide them with a religious Zionist framework. Dozens of SCW and YC students have participated in their Summer Internship Program (SIP), in which students are placed in internships in Israel.

In an interview with the *Observer*, Yair Givati, the international coordinator of Yavneh Olami, said his organization is eager to help out with mission.

"We see that students want to come," said Givati. "We're doing it for the needs of students and the needs of Israel." In addition to a Yeshiva mission, Yavneh Olami may sponsor missions from other colleges as well.

According to Givati, Yavneh Olami would help find sponsors for the trip, as well as connect the students with Israeli organizations. "We're trying to find funding for it, to reduce costs as much as possible," said Givati. "We have connections in Israel that might help the students."

When questioned whether an *aliyah* component is key to Yavneh Olami's participation, Givati said that its main goal is to get Jewish students here, and if there is a need it can help organize programs about *aliyah*. Programs that Givati would run would include sessions with Tehilla Tzeira, an organization that gives guidance to students interested in *aliyah*, as well as the World Jewish Agency, the *Sochnut*, which offers practical assistance with documents and paper work.

In January, Yeshiva is sending its students on a birthright mission to Israel, under the auspices of Yavneh Olami.

On Torah Shield II, 200 Yeshiva students participated in a week-long solidarity mission to Israel. The mission aimed to show support for Israeli citizens, particularly those affected daily by the recent outbreaks of terror, and to train the students to become "tourism ambassadors" for Israel.

All parties agree that key to success of another mission is the devotion and involvement of students. "Given the excitement and sense of accomplishment that Operation Torah Shield II generated, many students have approached me and asked whether there will be another mission this year," said Mordechai Raskas, president of the Israel Club on the Wilf campus.

Adina Rozmaryn, an SCW senior who participated in Torah Shield II, would definitely be interested in going again this year. "Given the fact that the situation in Israel has not gotten better and tourism is still at a low, it's important for us to show support," said Rozmaryn. "Also, the mission, and supporting Israel in general, is something that unites the students and provides a sense of community and pride for the school."

While it's too soon to tell whether the students will be able to pull off the mission and get the necessary support, the sentiment is highly optimistic. "Right now its really just excitement and it has to be translated into action," said Rockoff. "Nonetheless, the feeling on campus is that it's going to happen."

Yeshiva Students Visit Victims of Terror in Israel

By Shifra Landowne

Considering the safety situation of the past two years in Israel, the mere presence of American Jews in Israel is encouraging to Israelis. However, this past Succoth some Yeshiva students, feeling that the situation warranted more substantial activities, took the initiative to organize several programs to visit victims of terrorism.

The events, which were organized by Yeshiva students with the help of Israel Solidarity Fund and OneFamily organization, included visiting victims of terror at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem and at the rehabilitation center of the Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv, as well as at private homes.

Naphtali Weisz, a RIETS student from Columbus, Ohio, organized the project along with Gary Guttenberg, a YC senior. The motivation for the programs was part of efforts that have been in motion since Yeshiva's Torah Shield II last January. Since Torah Shield II, Weisz and other Yeshiva students have established *Kol Haneshama*, an organization which personalizes the stories of terror victims, and have helped raise close to sixty-four thousand dollars for causes relating to victims of terror in Israel.

"Mostly our motivation was just to bring support, as well as educate ourselves," said Weisz.

Many of the students were moved by their visits this Succoth in ways they had not imagined possible. At Tel Hashomer hospital, where Yeshiva students arrived with gift bags of videos, popcorn, stress balls and other various items, they were met by a social worker, who gave a short preface concerning each of the victims whom they would visit. The students then visited about a dozen patients, all of whom were wounded in terrorist bombs in the last few months.

"This was extremely helpful," says Elisha Horen, a junior at SCW. "You are so uncertain going in - you are just stepping into somebody's personal life and have no idea how you will be received, how friendly and cheerful you should appear and what your boundaries are."

All of the students were surprised at the positive reception that they received.

"Everyone was so impressed that these Americans took the time," says Weisz. "We talked to people all over. The guy at the *makolet* [market] was so touched by what we were doing he threw in free food for our gift bags."



Alan Bauer, pictured above with his wife, invited students to his succah and told them about his experience in a suicide bombing last March

Horen described how positive her visits were despite her apprehension. "These people so broken, yet all they wanted to tell me was what it means to them to be a Jew in Israel," said Horen. "I went in expecting total depression and ended up with a really uplifting experience."

A powerful event of the week for many students was visiting the home of Alan Bauer, an American born Jerusalem resident whose seven-year-old son was injured in a bomb on King George Street before last Passover. "He was so real and honest," said SCW senior Caryn Litt. "He admitted what his questions and his doubts were, and he spoke about the reality of living with this every day."

Bauer described in detail the time following the bombing, from the ambulance ride to his son's current rehabilitation. Bauer's son, Yehonatan, is on his way to a complete recovery.

Visiting victims of terror is not something new; it has been a large aspect of many solidarity missions. However, the Yeshiva events over this Succoth were aimed more specifically at changing the notion of being in Israel on vacation.

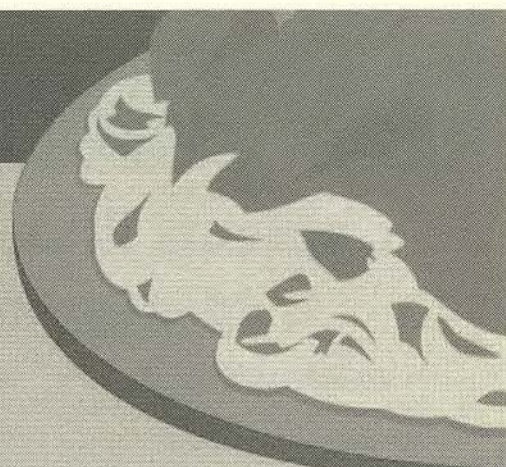
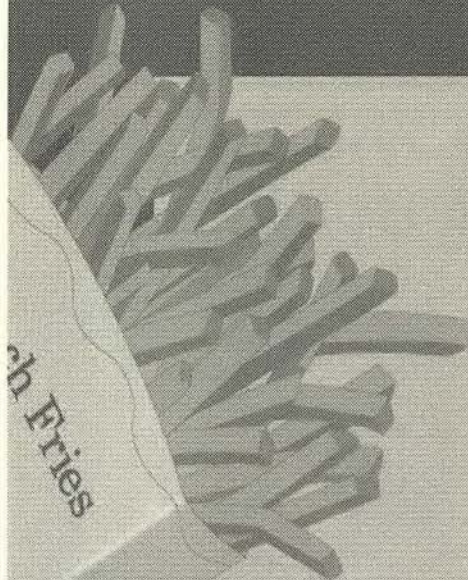
"It's not enough just to go over there and sit in the hotel, and it doesn't have to be very difficult to do more than that," said Weisz. "Just spending one afternoon at someone's home, showing them that this isn't just their problem, its very simple to show support."

Most of the events that took place attracted around eight students each, but event organizers were not disappointed with the low attendance.

"Small encounters can make a huge difference," said Weisz.



Students visit patients at the Tel Hashomer rehabilitation unit in Tel-Aviv, Israel



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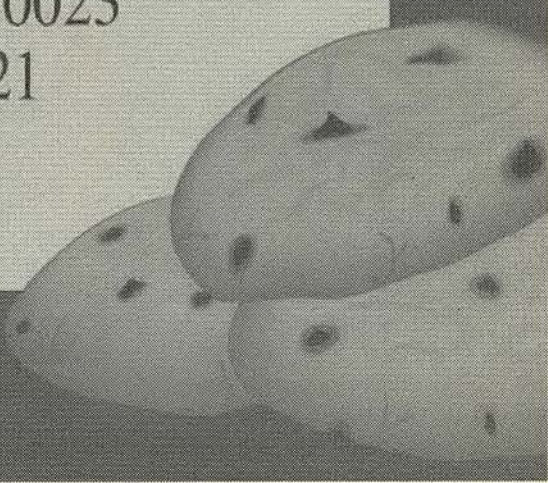
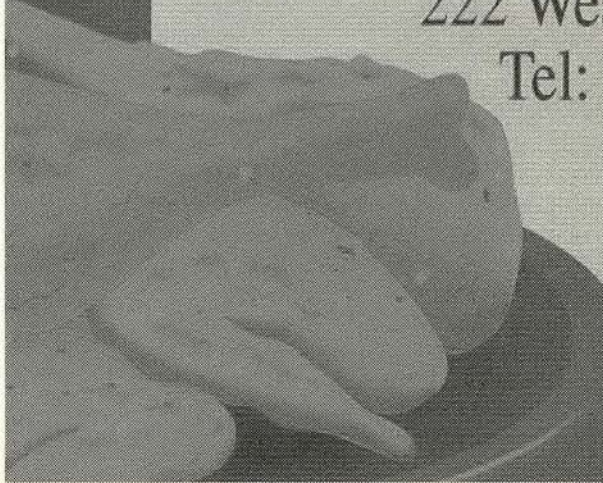
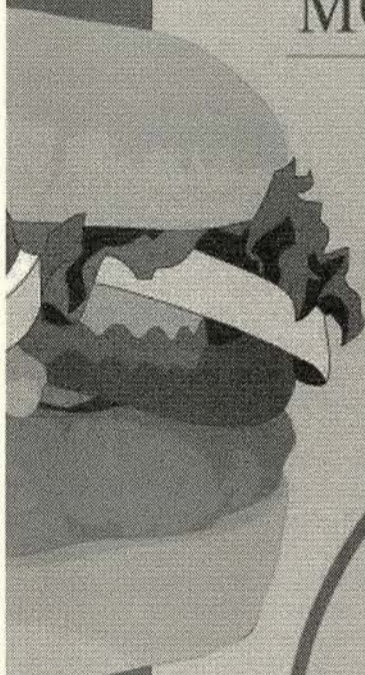
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Ann Arbor, Michigan: A Personal Response

By Elisha Horen

We loaded up two coach buses, fifty eight seats, sixty three flags and four hundred sandwiches. Ten hours after departing from Manhattan, a slightly limp group flopped off the bus onto the campus of the University of Michigan and was almost instantaneously revived.

With Israeli flags draped around our shoulders and singing in unison "Am Yisrael Chai," the nation of Israel lives, we walked to the entrance of the conference hall that held a pro-Palestinian conference calling from divestment of funds from Israel.

Rabbi Avi Weiss addressed our group before the beginning of the rally with the following message: in a place of impurity Jews strive to bring holiness, and in a place of injustice and slander we bring truth. Richard Joel, the Director of Hillel, reminded us that we were not at the rally to change the mind of any of the conference participants, but rather to be a role model for the world. It was made clear that this would be a peaceful demonstration - if anyone tried to provoke us, we would respond with our undaunted continuous singing. Our presence would be felt by standing together in the group, proudly waving our flags.

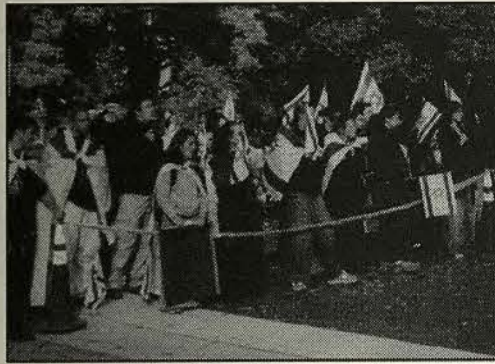
Our group flanked both sides of the entrance to the conference behind yellow police tape, and we danced in the faces of distinctly looking Palestinian students and their American supporters as they walked to the conference.

Originally, I was afraid that the Palestinian supporters would yell hateful slurs calling for the annihilation of Jews, such as "From the river to the sea Palestine will be free" (code words for the annihilation of the Jewish people in the Jewish state). However, I felt mainly defiant when Palestinian men came by with their flags. What could I say to them, what did I want to say to them? Part of me wanted to shake them and tell them to stop being so blind to believe in such lies.

I wanted to feel as if my loud singing would shake them, and in a way I think it did. We showed that Jews aren't a small group that can be victimized. We are the post-Holocaust generation and will therefore not meekly accept anti-Semitism.

A year ago, I stood inside the crematorium at Majdanek, Poland. Next to me, a group of Israeli high school boys encircled an old survivor, who was saying *Kaddish*. After he concluded, a strong sound rose, a sound of song, the sound of many voices coming together and proclaiming "Am Yisrael Chai." The survivor added the Hebrew words, *gam poh*, also here.

We now realize that we don't have to wait until after a mass Jewish destruction to declare that the Jews live on. Rather, we must sing this song while the lives of our brothers and sisters in Israel are being threatened.



protesters stood outside the conference for the entire day

Today we have the power to stand strong in the face of our adversaries. And as was voiced by the student coordinators of the rally and the survivor I heard in Majdanek, wherever that voice of evil is, wherever the voice of injustice manifests itself, we will be there.

I was disappointed at the small turnout of Yeshiva students. Three large coach buses were prepared to leave from Stern on Saturday night, but we had to send two away unused. Where were the people who had wanted to make it? I'm sure they had other good places to be, were unsure of what the rally entailed, or were thrown off by the last minute arrangements. But where are our priorities during Israel's time of need? As students at a religious institution, we should use our united front and steadfast ideology to spread our messages on campuses that are suffering from large proportions of anti-Semitic students and faculty members.

Part of me felt angry when I looked into those faces of evil, some filled with incredible hatred. I was angry with them for sympathizing and defending inexcusable murderers who were leaving in their wake a population of disabled Jews who lie in hospital beds and rehabilitation centers throughout Israel.

I am angry at them for justifying the terrorist who blew himself up in a coffee house on Rechov Alenby after walking up to Kineret, the cashier at the café, and looking her in the face. I am angry that they don't even know that Kineret lies in a body glove to protect her healing skin from the burns that cover 90% of her beautiful body, and who can't go out of doors during daylight because the heat is too much for her body which is still hot with her burns. But more importantly, I am here to carry on her message: we must not be scared away from our homeland.

My desire to "shake" those going into the conference wasn't aggressive in nature. Rather, my aim was to express that the Jews are here to stay, vibrantly celebrating our culture, state and flag of which we are so proud. And we demonstrated this pride by dancing with our arms waving the Israeli flag over our heads, allowing it to soar and flap in the wind in front of the enemies' eyes.

Students Protest at Conference

continued from front page

and making fun of us."

Following the protest outside the conference, the students were joined at noon by an additional 400 protesters at the Diag, the central square of the University campus, where they held a rally in support of Israel.

The slogan for the Diag rally was "take back the college campuses" and "divest in democracy, peace and Israel." Meshel, along with other student leaders, addressed the crowd.

"I came to support my peers who have to deal with pro-Palestinian sentiment on their campuses," Meshel remarked.

Amcha, Aish HaTorah of Michigan and the Zionist Organization of America sponsored the protest and rally. Amcha - The Coalition for Jewish Concerns, was founded in 1992 by Rabbi Avi Weiss as a grassroots Jewish activist organization.

At around 1:30pm, the students met in a University building for a conference on terrorism, and key activists, such as international terrorism expert John Loftus, informed the students about the SAFE conference speakers' histories.

For example, one of the speakers was Sami Al-Arian, a tenured professor at the University of South Florida, who has ties with people and organizations that sponsor terrorist activities. Al-Arian caused a national controversy when he was suspended from his university position for his terrorist links.

The *Tampa Tribune* reported that Al-Arian is a founder and ruling council member of terrorist group Islamic Jihad, which murdered New Jersey college student Alisa Flatow and many others. Stephen Flatow, Alisa's father and an activist on behalf of terrorist victims, paid for the busses to Michigan.

Following their own conference, the students returned to the Palestinian conference to continue their protest. They lay down on the ground to visualize the deaths by the bombings and sang "Achenu," our brethren, while someone read the names of the terrorist victims of the Hebrew University bombing. "It was a little awkward for me, but every one else seemed moved," said Sharon Weiss, SCWSC President.

Last Monday, on October 7th, Amcha got wind of the conference and recognized the need for a counter-rally. They called Meshel to enlist students from SCW and YC to travel to Michigan. "If this type of anti-Semitism is going on at a university campus, the most logical thing is for university students to go and protest," said Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld, an Amcha activist.

Meshel, a political activist on campus who also co-organized a mass student lobbying mission to Washington D.C. two years ago, immediately got busy. She set up a desk in the lobby of 245 Lexington for students to sign up, and plastered signs all over campus.

Meshel also contacted Seth Jacobson, a YC student, to solicit participation from uptown. Meshel and others worked quickly to organize the eleventh-hour trip.

"The time and effort were definitely worth it," said Meshel. "I look at this trip as being on the same scale as the Washington D.C. rally last year."

In three days Meshel got over 70 women to sign up, with over 150 people signed up in total. However, on Saturday night, less than half the women who enlisted actually showed up. At the Wilf campus, the same thing occurred. "It's disgraceful that people signed up, busses were ordered and people didn't show up," said Motti Schleider, a YC junior.

"Some of the busses ordered had to be sent back."

Nonetheless, the organizers were grateful to those who did show up. "We're not disappointed," said Rabbi Weiss. "We're overwhelmed with who came. It's the beginning of a response to take back our campuses."

Besides the counter-rally and protests on Sunday, Rabbis Weiss and Herzfeld spent the Shabbat in Michigan for "A Shabbat Against Hate," and picketed across the street



SCW Senior Shira Miller picketed outside the conference holding a sign that read, "This is an anti-Semitic Hate Conference"

from the conference, held over the entire weekend.

Organizers of the counter-rally stressed the significance of the location of the rally. Detroit, Michigan has one of the largest Arab population outside the Arab world and the University of Michigan has a highly active pro-Palestinian student population. Ironically, Michigan was traditionally a haven for Jews when Ivy League schools wouldn't accept them.

"We were on the defensive end, because Palestinians at Michigan are definitely fervent in their cause," said Hilary Lewin, an SCW freshmen. Lewin was stunned by the stories of anti-Semitism on campus told to her by Jewish students from Kent State University in Ohio who were also at the rally.

The issue of divestment from Israel has been raised on a number of college campuses, most notably Berkeley, where SAFE held its first annual conference last year. The SAFE Conference calls for an end to Israeli occupation, refers to Zionism as inherently racist, and states on its website that, "It is not our place to dictate the strategies or tactics adopted by the Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation."

The call for divestment is based on successful campaigns launched against apartheid in South Africa in the 1970 and 1980s. Universities have been ablaze with divestment debate over the past few months.

Harvard's President Lawrence Summers made waves in September when he cited a faculty/student petition to divest Harvard and MIT from companies that do business with Israel and declared the petition "anti-Semitic in effect, if not intent."

Many Yeshiva students who traveled to the conference said the experience was a real eye-opener for them. "I didn't know what to expect," said Lewin. "I've seen such things on TV, but when I'm standing outside the conference and I see kids my own age waving Palestinian flags, wearing their *kaffiyehs* and chanting anti-Israel slogans, it all becomes very tangible and real."



Yeshiva students, along with 500 hundred others, attended a rally in support of Israel on the Diag, main square, of the Michigan campus

Cultural Arts

Refurbished Dramatic Society Begins Promising Year

By Rachel Horn

If all the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players, then the goal of the Stern College Dramatics Society (SCDS) is to provide students with dramatic involvement where they feel comfortable taking their roles as players while maintaining their religious ideologies.

Since the student body at SCW has progressively become more religious over the years, involvement in public acting has diminished, explained SCDS co-president Bella Tendler. However, after a full house attendance at the improvisation production last year, students were asking for a second showing, and SCDS realized that there still is a vast interest in drama on campus.

The challenge for this year is to create several venues to explore drama available to students. "In the past, we have not tapped into the interests of SCW students," Tendler said. "Putting on a play is not the only form of drama."

The responsibility of ensuring enthusiasm about drama on campus falls upon the Dramatic Society, according to co-president of the club Aliza Blumenfeld. "We want to regain the confidence of the student body," she said. "We are here to give the students what they are interested in."

At the Dramatic Society's first board meeting, ideas to meet this challenge shot across the room. The board suggested propositions that spanned from movie viewings to book recordings for blind children to poetry "slams," a kind of spontaneous rhythmic sharing of poetry.

The Drama Society plans to offer trips to theater events each month. This month they will be viewing *Metamorphosis* on Broadway. They are also looking into producing an Arts Festival, an open mike night and public readings of monologues. They want to offer trips to museums, provide information about theater job opportunities and internships as well as take suggestions from the student body.

SCW has recruited Professor Josh Scher as a theater professor. With an undergraduate degree in Drama from Brown University and a graduate degree in Drama from Yale, Professor Scher is expected to be a valuable resource for the Society. Although Professor Scher firmly believes that "the drama society is and should be a student-run organization," he will act as an "informal advisor."

Based on the success and positive feedback from the improvisation class last year, SCW has hired Scher to teach fundamental acting skills in a beginning acting class. "The class is designed to introduce students to the process of acting not through performance but learning what one's job is as an interpretive artist through tools such as workshops, exercises and discussions," said Scher.

The class may culminate in a "Night of Scenes," where students will perform the scenes they have written in class. The two acting classes that are being offered have reached their caps of 15 students per class, and a waiting list has already been created.

"Hopefully this will be ongoing," said Scher. "I'd like to teach accredited courses in play writing, directing and dramatic literature."

Scher is not yet considering the possibility of a Drama minor or major at SCW. "The proposition of a minor or major would be putting the cart before the horse," he said. "Hopefully we'll see accredited courses next year and perhaps eventually that will turn into a development, but that is in the future."

In addition to the fresh programs SCDS hopes to implement, the Dramatic Society will continue the tradition of hosting the annual production during the second semester. The play is not only an opportunity for students who enjoy acting. "It's a great chance for students who are interested to



Members of the Dramatic Society (l-r), Tamar May, Aliza Blumenfeld, Rachel Daniels, Bella Tendler

learn about background, set design and directing," said Tendler. "A student assistant director or producer can learn how a play is put together." Professor Scher will direct the play. The Dramatic Society is currently in the process of reading through scripts and selecting a play, and auditions are planned for this semester.

The Dramatic Society differs from other clubs at SCW in that it is an independent body with its own budget and account but is also under SCWSC. As a member of the Dramatic Society, a student will receive e-mails about upcoming events and will have the first chance to sign up to see the monthly performance. SCDS plans to work with other clubs to achieve maximum success. "We will work with the head of the Manhattan Club, the Metropolitan Experience and the Student Councils," Blumenfeld said. "We are not just about promoting ourselves, we are about student involvement."

The purpose of the origination of art, and drama in particular, was to glorify God, noted Scher, who was surprised at the lack of dramatic activity thus far on campus. "For a school so defined by religion, the component of drama can fill an important void," he said. "It's a great opportunity."

Dining Out

Review of Wolf and Lamb

By Devorah Heching

Wolf and Lamb: Is it a steak house? A delicatessen? Or maybe just your run of the mill "meat and potatoes" kind of place? The answer is yes, yes and yes. Whatever classification you give it, there is no mistaking that Wolf and Lamb, located at 10 East 48th street, is a first-class eatery. The sizzle of steak and the smell of fresh bread bombard your senses as soon as you walk in to this handsome restaurant. You are immediately drawn in to the time-capsule quality of the restaurant from the exposed red brick to the soft Italian music and mahogany wood finish.

The restaurant's somewhat exotic name was chosen by the two Lubavitch Chassidim who own it, David Ederly and Yossi Wunch. The two chose the name because of its allusion to the time of Messiah when the wolf and lamb, two natural enemies, will finally lie together in peace. While some patrons may think the name unusual, there is no question that the food is unusually good. The chef forgoes the flashy in favor of genuinely delicious food. Even before ordering, there is a large basket of warm, toasted bread on the table boasting a satisfyingly thick and crunchy crust.

There are approximately thirty entrée options on the menu, with prices ranging anywhere from fifteen to thirty dollars. Of particular value is the entrée labeled unobtrusively as the "dinner special." The special

includes a garden variety salad, in addition to a large and delicately spiced meat knish. The delectable meat knish was only trumped by the main dish of the entrée, a large mound of meaty ribs accompanied by a side of roasted vegetables and some superb fries. All this can be had for under twenty dollars, a pretty reasonable price for a very satiating meal. Be forewarned, though, that this is not a good choice on a date, as the ribs tend to be a "hands-on" type of food.

For a deep, beefy taste among entrées, there's little to match the steak sandwich. The service is far superior (and much friendlier) than you would expect at a regular steakhouse, though somewhat relaxed in terms of pacing.

For dessert a waitress urged our table to sample the chocolate mousse cake. At first we were skeptical and began to grow impatient during our moderately lengthy wait for its arrival, but we were pleasantly surprised when it finally came. Instead of the somewhat stale wedge of frosting usually posturing under the name chocolate mousse cake, we were served a creamy mousse concoction completely covered by an overlay of thick chocolate.

After this delightful dining experience we were forced to conclude that while in today's world the wolf and lamb may not be at peace, this restaurant is proof that as a restaurant they go together just fine.

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Cultural Arts

The Guys: Catharsis for America

By Rachel Horn

In Graham Greene's novel on the early years of the war in Vietnam, *The Quiet American*, a British reporter in Vietnam refers to "war films." He means movies that document World War II and the courageous soldiers who fought for the Allied Powers, risking their lives for their country and fellow soldiers. When Greene wrote his novel in the early 1950's, America did not yet have men fighting in Vietnam, and World War II was the considered the archetypal model of war. In the later part of the twentieth century, however, the term "war films" evokes images of dense jungles and demoralized soldiers smoking pot and watching friends being blown up in the rice fields of Indochina.

Perhaps *The Guys*, the first public performance dealing with the terrorist attacks of September 11th, is the initial step towards a new common perception of war. With *The Guys*, a makeshift play written by journalist Anne Nelson and directed by Jim Simpson about an editor's experience with a fire chief, the territory of September 11th is no longer relegated to news and conversation. Rather, it has become part of national history and culture.

This generation will now look to September 11th as the primary milestone in contemporary history; it is the focal point to which future political maneuvers and social trends will refer. As the anniversary of the tragedy passed, *The Guys* served as the first divider in the transformation from the period of Ground Zero, funeral services, and the clearing of remains and debris to the period of rebuilding, rededication and remembrance.

The play opened at a workshop sponsored by the Flea Theater and has been playing there since. On the one-year anniversary of September 11th, the play was shown for free at Lincoln Center. Since the script has been published, the Actor's Gang in Los Angeles and other independent groups have been producing the play as well. The Flea Theater's production stars Terrence Mann and Polly Draper. After October 15th, Dan Lauria and Peggy Lipton will assume the lead roles.

As much as this play marks a new stage in the aftermath of the tragedy, the poignant dialogue between the two characters taps into so many of the emotions and thought processes that have reverberated in the minds and hearts of New Yorkers throughout the year. The editor's soliloquies touch upon questions such as the role of religion in the event, the challenge of returning to "normalcy," the pride and sorrow over our "beautiful, gleaming, wounded city," and the level of interaction between people in Manhattan.

The interplay between the two unlikely partners is realistic. A yuppie uptown intellectual and a blue-collar fire chief awkwardly sit face to face while sipping coffee. They are anxious to dispose of the uncomfortable silence between them and stumble through the difficult task of finding proper words for the eulogies of the fire chief's late firemen. His transference of seemingly trivial information ("Pat once told me he made a Waldorf salad for the church picnic...I didn't even know they had church picnics anymore") is woven into beautiful eulogies which unearth the modest yet sterling qualities of our new-sprung heroes with the help of the editor.

The proverbial fire chief's macho façade, endearing New York/Italian accent and difficulty expressing emotion offer comic relief in good taste. The editor is perhaps too idyllic and melodramatic, but then again, what public speech, ceremony or article written on this subject matter has not been?

The characters acknowledge the fact that their vastly different paths would never have crossed had it not been for the World Trade Center attacks. However, they build a strong bond based on shared human emotions rather than similarities in lifestyle. The lesson in commonality that they learn is one that all Americans who have suffered due to the calamity have discovered: pain and suffering are blind to social status.

The down-to-earth and genuine nature of the characters makes it feasible for viewers to understand and relate to them. Director Jim Simpson puts it best when he describes the actors as being "on intimate terms with the audience."

The Guys serves as a testimony to the new consciousness and character of New York City. The standing ovation it receives indeed depicts the common spirit and understanding the audience shares with the characters. *The Guys* is unique in that it so accurately portrays the raw emotions that New Yorkers felt this past year while it simultaneously grants the audience a cathartic and meaningful opportunity to pay tribute to 9/11 as a tragedy that, although freshly experienced, has passed.

Tickets for *The Guys* can be purchased through Smartix, 212-206-1515 or www.smartix.com. The *Guys* is playing at Flea Theater, 41 White Street.

A New Perspective on Women in the Bible

By Reina Roth

Each artist must search for the figures that are representative of a personal search in our rapidly changing world. This prevalent theme can be traced throughout the portraits at the Hebrew Union College's exhibit on Biblical Women, entitled "Archetype/Anonymous: Biblical Women in Contemporary Art."

Through paintings, sculptures, costumes and photographs, artists selected particular Biblical women as subjects of their work in an effort to creatively interpret these iconic figures. Biblical women's lives can be examined from many different perspectives. While these women are usually viewed through the lenses of Biblical tradition, the artists in this exhibit challenge the dominating stereotypes in a quest to find the core meaning of the textual description of each personality.

Laura Lazar Siegel's portrayal of the Ruth is an excellent example of the content found in the exhibit. The artist uses oil on canvas for the five scenarios that she depicts, in which she highlights the main aspects of the story of this prominent figure. The first painting, "Tragedy and Resurrection," illustrates the death of Naomi's husband and sons. Gray figures lying on a lower level depict the deceased. A red woman, Naomi, is huddled in humiliation in the corner while a tall light figure stands in the center showing Naomi overcoming this struggle with the decision to return to Israel.

The paintings then continue with the choice of Ruth to follow her mother-in-law and stay by her side. The third scene expresses the alienation of Ruth in this foreign land. The figure of Ruth stands tall but hunched over, giving the viewer a feeling of her loneliness, but through the figures' bright colors the viewer is aware of her willingness to overcome her status. The fourth painting presents her redemption where she meets Boaz in the threshing floor room. Lastly, the artist depicts what she calls "Family." On

this final piece she depicts not only Ruth and her descendants but also her own family and the Biblical ancestors that helped shape all of these women. Biblical women are represented with their names while the artist's family is portrayed through photographs. The future generations of the Jewish people are represented by a bouquet of flowers with the image of a baby protruding from its center. This final portrait summarizes the point the exhibit: the past is only a way to the future.

The artists, through the characters chosen, frequently challenge our conceptions of the situation of the figures they portray. For example, whom does one sympathize with - Sara, who was barren for 90 years, or Hagar, who was evicted and discarded?

The art enables people to see beyond the expected. For instance, one normally would not see the daughters of Laban as prominent biblical figures, yet artists have chosen them to deliver a message to the public through their work.

With a rich use of color, material, texture and technique, contemporary artists underscore the spiritual power of these Biblical stories through artistic expression. Visual artists, drawn to the energy of the Biblical text, have brought contemporary values to new interpretations of the archetypal women. Although the installation of the art is typical, the spacious rooms and lighting gave the pieces an allowance of projection through their colors and textures.

In the past century the status of the western woman has changed dramatically. Along with the responsibility and values that the women of the Bible possessed, the modern woman has circumstances of independence and intellectual freedom. In the art chosen for illustration, the woman assumes the role of activist and as historical persona. The exhibit blends the positive aspects of each period to create a picture of a strong and vibrant female.

The exhibit is being shown at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion at 1 West 4th St., through January 10, 2003. Call 212-824-2205 for more details.

Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

Stories with a Heartbeat

Evening with Penina Schram, Professor at SCW and storyteller, and Mordechai Schram, singer/drummer.

October 17, 8:00 pm
92nd Street Y
92nd Street at Lexington Ave
\$12

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

Yentl

A classic Yiddish play performed in Yiddish with English translation.

October 15-December 29, 2002
The PCMH Theatre
344 West 36th Street, 212-307-4100
www.folksbeine.org

The Lubavitch of Brooklyn: Intimate Portrait

Exhibition of photographs by Steve Hoffman, documents the daily life and rituals of the Jewish Chabad Lubavitch community of Crown Heights.

October 20, 2002- February 2, 2003
Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Ave, between 103 and 104 Streets
212-534-1672
\$4 Student Admission

Bukharan Jewish Folk Music: Ensemble Maqam

A concert of traditional folk music of the Bukharan Jews who hail from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. In their festive costumes, the Ensemble Maqam uses unique ethnic instruments.

October 20, 2002
Yeshiva University Museum
15 West 16th Street, 212-294-8330
\$12 Student Admission

Mambo in the Catskills: The Latino-Jewish Connection in Latin Music

A panel of musicians, dancers, entrepreneurs and journalists/concert by the Harbor Latin Big Band

October 27, 2002, 4:00 pm
MAKOR, Steinhardt Center
35 West 67th Street, 212-415-5500

Einstein

This unprecedented exhibition will profile this extraordinary scientific genius. View rare handwritten manuscripts, letters, photos and political cartoons. Organized by the Museum of Natural History and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th St.
Begins November, 2002

Why Bother With the Bible

Lecture by Rabbi Saul Berman, Bruce Feiler, Rabbi Harold Kushner and Ellen Frankel.

92nd Street Y
Lexington Ave between 91st and 92nd St
212-415-5500
November 3, 7:30 pm
\$18

Stories Untold: Jewish Pioneer Women 1850-1910

Symposium with Hasia Dinerm Historian and Andrea Kalinowski, Artist.

Yeshiva University Museum
15 W 16th Street
212-294-8330 x8805
November 10, 1:00-2:00 pm
Free with museum admission



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Search for President Continues

continued from front page

Immediately before school closed for Succoth break, Shatz, a long-time Yeshiva professor, appeared as the prime presidential hopeful and a shoo-in for the role. However, upon returning to school, students and administrators were surprised to hear that Shatz had withdrawn his name, returning the search to the beginning.

"It was a question of two different kinds of lives and what kind I wanted to lead," said Shatz. "During the past weeks, I've had many interviews and met with various people at the school and I got a much clearer picture of what the role entails." Shatz claims that he did not want to give up his scholarship and teaching, and that the decision was wrenching for him and his family.

Dr. David Schnall, the other name put forward in late August, which was made public by the *Observer*, refused to confirm or deny rumors circulating among Yeshiva board members that he will remove his name as a candidate as well.

Shatz is the second candidate to officially resign days after becoming the prime runner. Undersecretary of Defense Dr. Dov S. Zakheim removed his name in March after an uproar at Yeshiva campuses. Shatz's resignation and the lack of other suitable candidates have led many to the assumption that nobody wants the position, at least as it is currently presented.

"It's a tremendously demanding job, but I don't think it's the case that nobody wants it," said Stanton. "That's why we have to change the methodology of the search."

Part of that change will include the addition of new positions, such as executive vice president, to assist the president with his responsibilities. "We're going to surround whoever is picked with people who call fill those vacancies," said Stanton.

Shatz's candidature involved the splitting of the role of rosh hayeshiva and president. Shatz would have been president of both Yeshiva and RIETS, yet would not have held the title of rosh hayeshiva, claiming that he "did not want

that title," though he possibly would have grown into the role.

Zakheim as president mandated the splitting of the presidency of RIETS and Yeshiva, since the RIETS Board refused to accept someone without rabbinic authority as the president of RIETS. The RIETS Board would have accepted Shatz as their president.

It is once again unclear whether the roles of president and rosh hayeshiva will be split, or whether there will be some other possible combination. "A split is definitely still a possibility," said Stanton.

Until a new president is found, Rabbi Lamm will remain in his capacity. "I believe Rabbi Lamm will stay on until the issue is resolved," said Peter Ferrara, director of Yeshiva's Communications and Public Relations Department. "However, that doesn't mean indefinitely. I do believe the issue will be resolved."

While all new proceedings are being kept secret for the present time, names of presidential possibilities have been floating around the campuses. Surprisingly, Rabbi Shlomo Riskin's name has resurfaced even though it appeared that the University was not ready to accept his conditions for the job, which included, among others, his commuting to Israel for the weekends.

One new prospect places Rabbi Michael Rosensweig, a rosh yeshiva at RIETS, as the president and rosh hayeshiva. SCW Dean Dr. Karen Bacon is mentioned as a possible vice president under him. Rosensweig holds a PhD in Jewish History from Revel under Dr. Haym Soloveitchik.

Other possibilities include focusing the search on the rabbinate or to recruit candidates who were previously uninterested in the position, such as Rabbi J.J. Shachter. "They haven't gone after people not interested in the position," said one Yeshiva administrator. "Maybe they have to make conditions right for them."

As the search process undergoes an in-depth look at its effectiveness and resumes a desperate air of secrecy, the only sure thing right now is that it's continuing.

Art Annex to Move Buildings

continued from front page

acquisition of the 29th street space six years ago. "It lasted long enough for people to forget that it was temporary."

Over the past six years, the Art Annex has developed into one of SCW's more impressive assets, often serving as one of the highlights of tours to prospective SCW students and their parents.

"Moving here was arriving at heaven," said Gardner, referring to the unique ambiance of the studio space. The studio has a high ceiling and large windows that span the length of the double height room, creating a bright and airy feel.

Art faculty members and students were reluctant to let the Art Annex go.

"When you walk in here, you feel 'I could do art work here,'" said a heartbroken Gardner. She admitted that the 8th floor of 215 Lexington is adequate, but noted, "We're moving from studio space to office space."

Students echoed Gardner's sentiments.

"This [current location] is the ideal place," said SCW student Sara Reif. "It's upsetting."

For many, the layout of the studio was less of an issue than the physical location of the Art Annex. Many art students live in Schottenstein because of its proximity to the Art Annex, and students said that the new location would be less convenient.

"If I forget something in the dorm, I can just run across the street," explained SCW senior Mirat Strobel, who, like many art majors, spends the bulk of her day – and many nights – in the Art Annex.

Acknowledging the beautiful architecture of the current studios, art professor Carol Lowengrub remarked, "It's always hard for an artist to move studios, but I think it will be okay."

Administrators, too, have expressed confidence in the move.

"The studio will be different," acknowledged Dean Karen Bacon. "But it might even turn out to be better in the end."

Gardner conceded that the new space would be adequate if it is renovated, but she expressed concern that no renovations have been undertaken yet.

Gardner, who is taking a sabbatical

Yeshiva Endowment Goes Up

continued from front page

accumulated since the founding of Yeshiva, although the greatest growth has occurred within the last five years. In 1995, for instance, the endowment amounted to only \$375 million.

Although Yeshiva was able to show growth during a recession, the University invested somewhat conservatively when the market was strong. While many other of the highly endowed universities were showing returns as high as thirty and forty percent a couple of years ago, Yeshiva posted only a 14.9% return in 2000 and a 13.7% return in 2001, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

"At times of the boom of the stock market, when other universities showed a lot of growth, we were looking at more modest gains," commented Ferrara. "But when the market went down, we retained modest gains."

Merkin himself recognized the precariousness of the current market.

"In a relative basis, we've done very nicely," said Merkin. "Looking backwards, it's been okay. Looking forward, we can only hope."

While the increase in endowments adds prestige to the university, it really has only relatively minor practical significance. Since endowments are given with the intention that they are to be perpetuated, the university builds up the endowment fund and protects the principle by touching only a portion of it each year. As per policy set by the Board of Trustees, only 5.5% of the endowment can be factored into the budget. In fact, since the investment return was lower than the percentage taken out of the endowment fund, the corpus of the total endowment will post a net loss.

Additionally, endowments are generally designated for specific uses, such as chairs, deanships and scholarships and are unusable for the daily opera-

tions of the university, such as heating and maintenance, and for capital expenditures, such as building projects.

Therefore, while providing some relief in the approximately \$400 million budget, the endowment money can have only a limited effect on the operating budget deficit. Additionally, Merkin noted that although the market has showed significant decline, there is no parallel decline in the operating costs of the university.

The deficit, which has provoked raises in tuition and a hiring freeze, was caused by a shortage of unrestricted cash reserves.

Restricted gifts, which are like endowments in that they are designated for a specific use yet which differ from endowments in that they are intended for use in the current year, are also generally unusable for the daily operations of the university.

The raise in total endowments comes at a time when the \$400 million capital campaign is starting to slow down. Although only announced publicly in May of last year, the "quiet phase" of the capital fundraising campaign, in which major donors and trustees were appealed to for significant sums of money, actually began one and a half years earlier, according to Vice President of Development Daniel Forman. Now that the large donors have been exhausted, there has been a natural slowing down of the campaign.

"We did extremely well in the first two years, we broke records," said Forman. "Now we are spreading our tentacles to other constituencies."

Of the \$400 million goal, \$340 million has been raised so far, about half of which is in pledges, said Forman.



The uptown campus was renamed last year in honor of the Wilf family's 10 million dollar gift

next semester, was also worried about how the Art department would adjust to its new home in her absence. She wondered if the move would take a toll on the flourishing art department, which, according to Gardner, nearly doubled since it moved into the 29th Street facilities. "Students come to the Art Annex and decide to major in art because of the

great facilities," she maintained.

There is reassuring evidence, however, that the art department may continue to thrive. Yeshiva officials are currently working on acquiring a major donor for SCW's art department, according to director of development, Dan Forman.

Ann D. Koffsky

artist

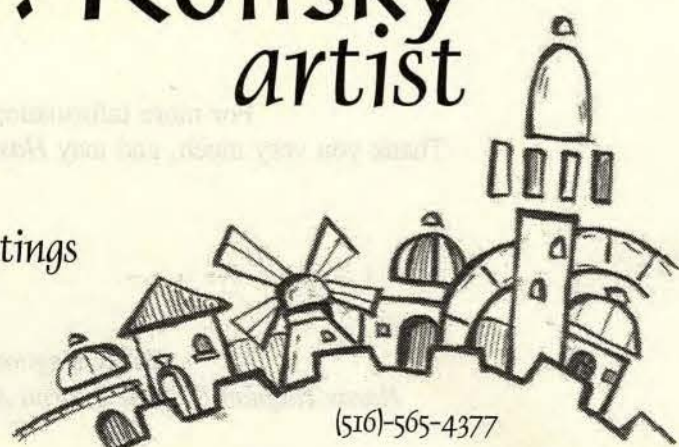
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New Committee to Draft Student Bill of Rights

By Alisa Rose

Yeshiva University administrators and students have formed a committee to deal with all non-academic issues at SCW and YC, including the drafting of a joint document outlining disciplinary procedures.

The need for such a document became clear last year when several YC students were expelled without undergoing any formal process, according to student leaders on both the midtown and Wilf campuses, who pushed for the document.

"Rules haven't been written down, and they need to be," said SCWSC president Sharon Weiss, one of the students on the committee.

The impetus for the formation of the committee came as a result of the "inadequacies of the current systems that were exposed last year," according to YC Student Union president Shai Barnea. It was one of the first issues Barnea discussed with Dr. Efreim Nulman after he assumed the position of Dean of Student

Services at the beginning of this year.

"It's a good issue to take up," said Nulman, who has pushed for the formation of the committee. "We want to help the students."

After an introductory meeting last week between Nulman and SCW student representatives, Weiss praised Nulman for his support. "He's really there for the students."

"Rules haven't been written down, and they need to be."

The committee, which is still in the planning stage, is expected to consist of Student Services deans, four YC students, four SCW students, Yeshiva lawyers, and possibly faculty members. Administrators are currently finalizing the members of the committee, according to

Nulman.

In addition to drafting a Student Bill of Rights, the committee is also discussing, among other issues, the need for hiring an administrator who would serve as an advocate on behalf of the students. Under the current system, Student Services officials function both as student advocates and as disciplinarians.

Committee members will examine other universities' policies and legal issues in drafting the joint YC/SCW document.

"There are different issues uptown and downtown," explained Weiss, but she believes that it is still important to formulate an all-inclusive documents that covered the issues that could occur on either campus.

Besides Weiss, SCW students Shoshana Davis, Rachel Shtern, and Beth Meshel will serve on the committee.

Campus Bulletin

Help improve your school.

Email Rachel Shtern and Yael Reisman, heads of the Student Life Committee, at studentlife03@yahoo.com with suggestions.

Wanna play ball?

If you are interested in joining basketball intramurals on Tuesday nights at 8:45pm, please call Yonina Bersson at 845-641-7897 or e-mail at yonins@aol.com

If you are the head of a club or organization at SCW and are interested in placing a bulletin notice here, email the Observer at observer@ymail.yu.edu

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SPORTS NEWS

New Volleyball Club Formed at SCW

By Rachel Fyman

This semester, after months of requests from the student body, SCW has introduced an official Volleyball Club. The club, which held try-outs last semester and hopes to eventually become a varsity team, practices every Sunday at the Sol Goldman Y on 14th Street.

"The women at SCW have been pushing for this for a while," said Dr. Richard Zerneck, director of Athletics at Yeshiva. "The lack of an appropriate gym stopped us."

Students initiated the formation of the volleyball club, and were involved in the process of finding a coach and acquiring the necessary funding, according to Zerneck.

"We have a fencing team, a basketball team, and a tennis team," said Racheli Rubin, an SCW senior who was one of the primary forces behind the new club. "Why not a team for volleyball as well?"

In order for a team to attain varsity status, which will enable it to compete in a league with other college teams, it must first exist on campus for two semesters as a club. The Volleyball Club, coached by SCW volleyball teacher Vicky Kui, is accredited as a team sport. According to Dr. Zerneck, the club may eventually compete against clubs from other colleges.

"I'm really excited about the team; there's never been one before," said SCW sophomore Tamar May. "The coach is great and she works us very hard - hopefully, we'll be a great team."

Previously, there had been volleyball intramurals on campus. However, some students felt that the informal nature of the games was not conducive to improving one's skills. The Volleyball Club requires more serious commitment and involves intensive drills rather than just a pick-up game, as the intramurals were.

Rubin, who was involved in resurrecting the volleyball intramurals and subsequently the club, hopes that intramurals will continue this year as well. Unfortunately, she is graduating at the end of this semester and will not be at SCW to play on the team when it becomes competitive.

"There has been a lot of interest and enthusiasm from students," commented Rubin. "We have also had the complete and unfailing support of Dr. Zerneck and the administration, who, impelled by students' motivation and initiative, have done everything from the administrative standpoint to facilitate the realization of our goal."

The club is small, consisting of only about a dozen students, and therefore has not needed to cut players as of yet, a step that will most likely be necessary when it attains varsity status. According to Rubin, there are currently enough members to play as a team, but students with experience in volleyball that are interested and dedicated to playing seriously are always welcome.

Lady Macs Begin Campaign to Draw Fans

By Ariella Goldstein

On November 23, 2002 the Lady Maccabees, or Lady Macs as they are affectionately called, will commence the new season with a game at the Wentworth Institute in Boston - and few students will notice.

SCW's basketball team has long lacked student support, but this year, a concerted effort is underway to draw a wider fan support base.

The Lady Macs will soon be holding a rally called "Mac Madness," with the support of the SCWSC, at which there will be food and giveaways.

"The rally will allow SCW students to meet the players and learn about the team," said Dr. Karen Green, the Lady Macs coach.

Added to a lack of interest is a lack of convenience - the home court of the Lady Macs is in Queens, at Yeshiva University's High School for Girls, which is an hour away. SCW's basketball team, therefore, does not get the crowds and cheerleaders that other colleges have.

"It's hard to play when you don't have many supporters," noted Blair Chaletzky, SCW junior and member of the basketball team. "It really makes a difference when there is a crowd on the sidelines, cheering for your team."

The team attracts more fans when they play at Baruch College, just a few blocks away, according to Green.

With the rally, team members hope to convince the SCW student body that the Lady Macs are worth rooting for.

"The team is good and does really well," insisted Lady Macs manager Aliza Blumenfeld. "The games are always really close and very exciting."



Lady Macs 2001-2002 team, pictured above, distinguished themselves last year at several tournaments

Perhaps the best way for the Lady Macs to attract fans is to continue playing as well as they have been.

While the Lady Macs has been most well known for its achievements off the court - the Lady Macs placed second of all Collegiate Women's Basketball teams in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's annual Academic Top Twenty-five last year, with an average team GPA of 3.679 - the team has begun to win recognition on the court, as well.

According to Green, the Lady Macs are the topic of much discussion within the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference, the women's basketball league that the Lady Macs joined last year. This attention, said Green, is a result of "how far we have come in such a short amount of time."

Indeed, the Lady Macs were one of the top four teams in the Hudson Valley Conference, with an overall record of 11-9 and a conference record of 4-3. In addition, SCW junior Shayna Greenwald was voted the Most

Valuable Player of the conference.

"We put a lot of time and effort into the team," noted Lisa Misher, SCW senior and member of the basketball team.

The Lady Macs also won the Medger Evers Betty Shabazz Memorial Tournament last year. This weekend tournament is held in the beginning of December and involves three other teams besides for the Lady Macs: Medger Evers, College of New Rochelle and Suny-Purchase.

As a sign of the Lady Macs' growing reputation, the host team made special arrangements for the Lady Macs. The tournament consists of two rounds, the first of which is held on Saturday night. There are two games held on Saturday night, one at 6:00 p.m. and the other at 8:00 p.m. Since 6:00 p.m. is too soon after the end of Shabbat for the Lady Macs to compete, Medger Evers arranged for the team to play at the 8:00 p.m. game.

"They are very accommodating," said Misher.

SCW Rents Gym Space at Goldman Y

By Chava Hartman

The Athletics department at SCW has found a temporary solution to the problem of inadequate gym space at the midtown campus. Arrangements have been made to rent the facilities of the Sol Goldman Y on 14th Street every Sunday night.

"Although this was not their intended plan, it still accomplishes everything they wanted, and rentals is what Yeshiva has to do if we want to expand our facilities," claimed Dr. Richard Zerneck, director of Athletics at Yeshiva.

Over the last few years the administration has been trying to rent a gym in close proximity to SCW in order to enhance the gym programs within the physical education department. The current gym, located on the 11th floor of 245 Lexington Ave., is too small for most team practices.

Last year, Yeshiva negotiated to rent the gym facilities at Baruch College. This facility, located on 26th street, includes a full size gym, large locker rooms and a pool. YU planned to rent this gym at night, which would allow for the formation of a volleyball team and for the basketball team to practice there instead of having to travel to Basketball City in Chelsea Piers for practice.

However, the vice president of Baruch

College rescinded the offer because its administration was unsure if it would still need the gym for its own students.

"The opportunity to improve what we have fell through on their end," Zerneck said. "But we hope to resurrect the idea as soon as possible."

Over the summer, Baruch College contacted Zerneck and informed him that the college would again be willing to discuss the possibility of Yeshiva's renting its gym. This option, however, would not come to fruition until either the spring semester or, more likely, fall 2003.

Though the gym at Baruch is not new, it is better than SCW's current athletic facilities has. It would centralize a lot of the sports program at SCW, and it would make more opportunities available for students. SCW's varsity teams would have a more convenient place and more time to practice, and students would have access to a pool for swimming classes.

"Having access to the Baruch College gym would allow us to practice more often and for longer periods of time," said Blair Chaletzky, an SCW junior and member of the basketball team.

The gym rented at the Goldman Y has been designated for practice time for the new volleyball club. The basketball team will continue to hold its practices at Basketball City.

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Women's Studies Minor

continued from back page

ness to say they aren't feminists," said Racheli Rubin, an SCW senior. "People associate feminism with an antiquated inaccurate view of bra-burning. I think it's about equal opportunity and the breaking down of double standards."

SCW junior Shifra Landowne is interested in completing the Women's Studies minor. "This should be the ideal place for a girl to come and learn what it means to be a woman," said Landowne. "It's surprising to many that despite the number of courses in women's studies there has yet to be an official minor."

While Bacon and Hatvary do not see the addition of the minor as telling of any growing feminism on campus, Nachumi pointed to changes the women's movement has undergone in the recent years as a possible reason for the new open-

ness to the minor. "There's a new sense that feminism isn't this monolithic middle class white women's movement," said Nachumi. "This is obviously being reflected, there is a renewed feeling of hopefulness about feminism and the women's movement."

"They want to balance their commitment to Orthodox Judaism with the demands of being a woman in twenty first century America."

Both Nachumi and Hatvary are hopeful that students will take advantage of the minor and new courses. "I've taught a range of students, from students who are openly calling themselves feminists to students who would never dream of doing that," said Nachumi. "What I find is that despite many, many differences, the students at Stern tend to be concerned almost across the board with their identities as women."

New Guest Policy Enacted

continued from back page

inated and how it will be enforced.

"The responses we got at the first meeting with facilities management were rather ambiguous," said SCW junior and co-chairman of the Student Life Committee, Yael Reisman.

At the most recent Student Life Committee meeting, Jeffrey Socol, the Associate Director of Facilities Management, brought a registered architect to explain the technicalities of the building codes. Yeshiva officials were unwilling to back down from their claim that a law exists and that they must enforce it.

"There will be ways of making provisions that will enable a guest policy to work," Rosengarten. "But I want to make sure that things are safe and legal."

A sub-committee is currently being formed that will work on reaching guest policy that will satisfy Yeshiva officials as well as students.

Student reaction to this policy has

varied, from acceptance to the policy to incredulosity.

"I understand if they are instituting this new policy because of fire regulations," said SCW senior Talya Graber, who lives in the 36th Street Residence Hall.

However, many students questioned whether hosting overnight guests when there is no empty bed for the guests was really a fire hazard or a violation of occupancy codes. "It seems unlikely that every girl in every room will have a guest on any given night to the point where the building will reach capacity," said SCW sophomore Darrah More.

Other students seemed unconcerned about the new policy, sensing that there is very little that can be done to ensure that this policy is adhered to, short of bed checks every evening. "If they do try to enforce this policy, students will surely find a way around it," Graber noted.

Hamevaser Attempts to Restart

continued from page 7

the intellectual abilities of SCW students.

"We were looking for an equal collaboration," said SCW junior Malka Zeiger, one of the original candidates for editor-in-chief.

Oz, however, denied any chauvinist motivations.

"It had absolutely nothing to do with gender," insisted Oz. "I can't stress enough how important it is to have Stern students involved."

While Oz claimed that Zeiger herself had expressed reluctance about taking the job, Zeiger insisted that she had never officially rejected the offer.

According to Oz, the *Hamevaser* staff has been actively recruiting SCW students to play a role in the publication. Oz and his executive editor, SCW student Dani Weiss, have asked professors at

SCW, including philosophy professors Dr. David Shatz and Dr. Charles Raffel, Jewish History professor Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel and Director of the Honors Program Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, for names of qualified students who may be interested in editorial positions. The *Hamevaser* staff, however, has been unable to find a qualified SCW student willing to commit the time and effort demanded by the publication, said Oz.

Part of the reason for the lack of female leadership is the ad hoc nature of the transfer of power from one editor of *Hamevaser* to the next. The previous editors, Ari Weiss and Jenny Rosenfeld, did not specifically appoint anyone to take over. Oz, a political science and Jewish philosophy major who transferred from Cornell last fall, expressed interest in running the magazine last May and began researching various topics over the sum-

mer.

"I am interested in preserving continuity," said Oz. "Maybe we should implement elections, appointments or by-laws

Although the staff is hoping to avoid the disarray into which past issues of *Hamevaser* had fallen, the publication has already been tinged with controversy this year.

so we can avoid these kinds of conflicts in the future."

It is uncertain whether the fact that only YC is represented in the editor-in-

chief position will have ramifications on the magazine's funding. In past years, TAC and SOY have contributed equally to *Hamevaser*. Currently, *Hamevaser* has no budget.

Hamevaser was founded in 1963 as a newspaper covering Jewish news, specifically for the YC programs now known as MYP and JSS. In the 1980's, *Hamevaser* evolved into more of a journal. Oz described the philosophical outlook of the publication as one corresponding to the Rabbinical Council of America.

Oz has grand plans beyond just the printing of the magazine. Hoping to expand the influence of the *Hamevaser*, Oz envisions, as a long-term goal, the creation of a society of different chapters on college campuses, which would come together at conferences once or twice a year to discuss issues of Jewish thought, Zionism, education and political issues.

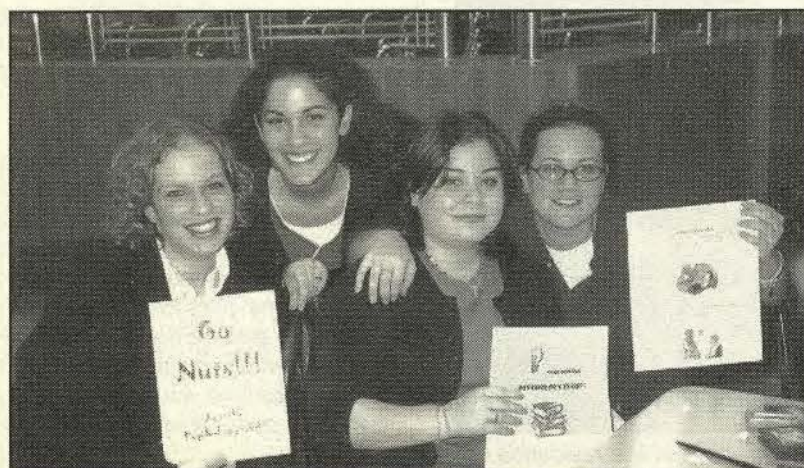
Club Fairs



Mera Bender (far right), TAC Secretary, dispenses free gifts at the TAC Club Fair



SCW seniors Devorah Schrek (l) and Ayelet Rivka Jaye sign students up for Aish Hatorah learning and Bina Yeteira, respectively, at the TAC Club Fair



Psychology Club members (l-r), Estie Savitsky, Lauren Appel, Dafna Schindler, Lauren Yosevitz



Hundreds of students crowded Koch Auditorium for SCWSC Club Fair

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ON CAMPUS

Yeshiva Fails to Reach Settlement with Katzenstein

By Caryn Litt

In a meeting mediated by the New York State Division of Human Rights, Ms. Susan Katzenstein, the former Yeshiva employee who is alleging age discrimination against the University, and representatives of Yeshiva failed to reach a settlement.

During the one and a half hour meeting, held this past Thursday at an uptown branch of the Division of Human Rights, the Director of Student Finance Jean Belmont and Yeshiva attorney Mark Potel offered Katzenstein around three months pay, but Katzenstein rejected the offer.

"I felt that it wasn't enough," said Katzenstein. "I need something to replace the money from the time frame of my not working and not getting social security."

Katzenstein, who came to the meeting with her daughter and sister but with no legal representation, is seeking a year and half to two years pay as compensation and is still considering taking the case to court if she does not receive a satisfactory offer from Yeshiva. Yeshiva agreed to rethink its offer, and Katzenstein will meet with the University again before taking legal action.

Potel declined to comment, and Belmont, who left for a vacation in Florida soon after the meeting, was unavailable for comment.

Katzenstein, 64, was fired abruptly 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, raises and commendation letters over the years, according to Katzenstein. Contrary to unconfirmed rumors, Katzenstein was at no point offered a job or rehired by the University.

Having been given no reason for her dismissal other than that her work had been "unsatisfactory," and noting that two young employees who had been hired shortly before Katzenstein's dismissal were promoted to her position,

Katzenstein enlisted the aid of the New York State Division of Human Rights (DHR). The DHR, created in 1968, works to compel compliance with the state's Human Rights Law, which bans discrimination against others because of age, race, creed, national origin, sex or marital status.

The DHR is unable to comment on a case until it is resolved for fear of compromising the information of the case, according to a spokeswoman for the DHR.

However, there is reason to believe that Katzenstein's case is legally meritorious, since before the DHR even accepts a case, it conducts a fact-finding investigation and determines based on the evidence presented that there exists a "probable cause to believe that unlawful discrimination took place."

To defend itself, Yeshiva must prove that it had legitimate reasons for dismissing Katzenstein. Belmont, who was Katzenstein's boss and was involved in her dismissal, has submitted evidence of Katzenstein's purported unsatisfactory work. According to Katzenstein, however, Yeshiva's claims are false and inaccurate.

Indeed, almost all Yeshiva administrators were shocked when Katzenstein was fired.

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

It is uncertain when the next meeting will be between Katzenstein and Yeshiva. The DHR is currently backed up with many cases, and, according to a spokeswoman for the DHR, it is difficult to say when the next meeting will occur.

Katzenstein, who has been unable to find a new job and has no other source of income aside from her unemployment money, still hopes to arrive at an equitable settlement.

"We're still negotiating," said Katzenstein. "Hopefully we can reach a conclusion without too much of a dispute."

SCW Restricts Guests in Residence Halls

By Anat Barber

Yeshiva officials have recently introduced a new policy regarding overnight guests in SCW residence halls, creating a mild uproar among the student body. According to the new policy, if there is one bed in a room, no guest may sleep over.

Apparently, fire and building codes mandate that any room designated as a single occupancy room may not have more than one person sleeping in it, regardless of the capacity of the floor as a whole.

In light of the dangers this overcrowding could cause, it is puzzling why this policy is only being enacted now.

"This is not a new policy," insisted Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Service Administration. "This is simply an old policy being enforced."

The Yeshiva University Resident Handbook for the Midtown Campus does not require that every guest have a bed; it merely states, "Permission must be given for a guest to use a student's bed."

If enforced, the policy would have the greatest impact on students living in Schottenstein Residence Hall and in 36th Street Residence Halls - dormitories with single occupancy rooms. Those students would be prohibited from hosting overnight guests in their rooms. However, the policy would also prevent students in Brookdale Residence Hall from hosting

overnight guests unless there is an empty bed in the room.

The enforcement of the policy seems impractical. Currently, when students sign in guests, they are not asked if there is an empty bed.

Officials in Rosengarten's office claimed that the certificate of occupancy allows for only the prescribed number of occupants in any given room. Anything above that number puts the building over its maximum capacity and in violation of fire codes. The reason, they said, for this policy coming to the forefront now is that "somebody stumbled over a violation."



Students may now be restricted in the guests they can have in the residence halls, such as Schottenstein, pictured above

SCW Introduces Women's Studies Minor

By Shayndi Raice

Although women's studies have been a popular area of academic study in universities since the '60s, for the first time in its history, SCW will now be offering a Women's Studies minor. English Professors Dr. Nora Nachumi and Dr. Laurel Hatvary spearheaded the push for the new minor.

"I hope the classes will provide a safe place for women to explore issues about how they want to balance their commitment to Orthodox Judaism with the demands of being a woman in twenty first century America," said Nachumi.

Dean Karen Bacon asserted that, although there have always been courses available for students interested in women's studies, there simply was not an established framework available to those interested in a minor. However, the administration finally decided to create an official minor. "When a particular framework exists, students are more comfortable," said Bacon.

The minor will be relatively small, requiring only fifteen credits, nine of which can be included in the paragraph E requirement. The only required course for the minor is Women, Culture and Society in the Modern World, which falls under the English and History department. It is usually co-taught by Dr. Ellen Schrecker and Dr. Carol Silver.

In the spring semester, Nachumi, who will be in charge of the minor, plans to teach Introduction to Women's Studies for the first time. It will eventually become a prerequisite for the minor.

Nachumi hopes the course will enable students to become familiar with certain discourses that affect women's lives. Such issues include ideas of beauty and representation, female sexuality, abortion and violence against women.

"I think our students at Stern are remarkably conscious of some of these things anyway," remarked Nachumi. "I'd like them to really become familiar with discussions about these issues and be more aware of the cultural influences that affect their lives."

The courses will come from a wide variety of departments, ideally including courses in Art, Bible, Biology, English, History, Judaic Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

"Education today is more interested in interdisciplinary studies," explained Bacon.

While many courses that will be included under the Women's Studies minor have already existed, a slew of new courses are expected to be added to

The statute Rosengarten cited is static and applies to all University dormitories where the certificate of occupancy allows for only a certain number of persons in



Dean Karen Bacon supported the creation of a Women's Studies minor

the course offerings. Currently available to students interested in women's studies are such courses as Chaucer's Women, History of Women in the United States, Psychology of Women, and the previously mentioned Women in Culture and Society.

Ideas for new courses include Woman and Art, Biology of Women, and, of course, Women in the Bible.

Students minoring in women's studies will be required to choose courses from at least two departments.

Many thought the change was long due since women's studies has been considered a strong academic field for some time. "It's about time they had such a minor," said Tamar Belsh, an SCW junior.

Part of the reason for the delay was concerns that certain topics might make students feel uncomfortable. "One doesn't want to offend people and one doesn't want to go out of one's way to offend people," said Dr. Hatvary.

Although that has been a factor in postponing the idea for a Women's Studies minor until now, professors currently feel they could teach the necessary courses with academic integrity while not offending students.

"I think it's a balance between being sensitive to student's sensibilities and at the same time addressing issues that are standard and addressed to these studies," said Nachumi. Additionally, both Nachumi and Hatvary added that students who might find the idea of women's studies offensive, would not take such courses

Students welcome the minor and the new perspectives it will bring to their studies. "I'm surprised by students' quick-

continued on page 23

each room.

However, an administrative assistant from New York University's Residence Life office claimed no knowledge of this law. He said the University has never had a problem with students hosting guests, even in single occupancy rooms where there is only one bed. Similar policies allowing for guests in single occupancy rooms are in place in both Barnard and Columbia Colleges.

"If you are having an extra guest in your room it is OK, if you are having a party or a lot of people, that is against fire safety regulations," said a tenured building inspector for the New York City fire department who wished to remain anonymous. "But one person is no problem." The inspector said he had never heard of the violation which Yeshiva officials cited.

Student leaders are demanding conclusive answers to where this policy orig-

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