



# Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

November 20, 2002

Volume XLVI Number 4

15 Kislev 5763

## Richard Joel Identified as Prime Presidential Candidate

By Miriam Colton

**R**ichard Joel, director of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, is the leading candidate for the Yeshiva presidency, supplanting Dr. Baruch Brody who withdrew his candidacy this Monday.

Internal Yeshiva meetings were held over the past few days to discuss Joel's viability as a candidate, including meetings of the RIETS Board on Thursday and the Board of Trustees on Tuesday afternoon. Additionally, a select group of RIETS *roshei yeshiva* met with Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ronald Stanton on Monday.

Within the next couple of days, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ronald Stanton will have further discussions with board members and *roshei yeshiva* at Yeshiva, and Joel will then most likely meet these key players.

If everything runs smoothly, Stanton will officially announce Joel as the presidential nominee, and Joel will then go through a more official process, involving meetings with members of all Yeshiva Boards, *roshei yeshiva* and faculty, followed by an official vote of the Board of Trustees.

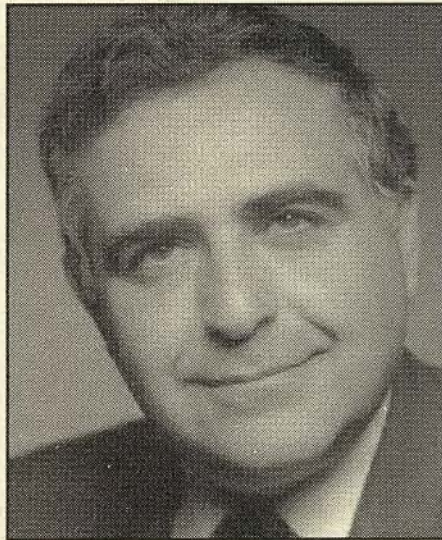
Stanton confirmed to the *Observer* that Brody has withdrawn his candida-

cy. Following the announcement last week naming Brody as the most promising candidate in the search process, internal opposition arose to Brody's liberal views and his lack of affiliation with Yeshiva.

"I'm not doing this by myself," said Stanton, who has revamped the search committee and now serves as its chairman. "If I can't get support of the majority of the community, what am I trying to do?"

While Brody had some preliminary meetings, he had not begun the official process of meeting the Board members and Yeshiva community, though he was scheduled to fly into New York shortly. "We were very enthused about him," said one member of the search committee. "He was going to go through the process."

After news of the reaction to Brody reached the search committee, it approached Joel early last week to solicit his candidacy. A longstanding Jewish communal worker with strong administrative and fundraising abilities, Joel also has a steady affiliation with the University. According to Stanton, while Joel never officially submitted his name for the position and had turned down prior offers, he now expressed interest in the position, if it were to be



Richard Joel

offered.

Rather than announcing a name before gauging reaction within Yeshiva, as had been done with Brody, the new search committee is proceeding cautiously before officially declaring Joel a candidate. While Stanton refuses to confirm the nomination, Joel is currently the focus of the search. "We can only deal with one person at a time," said Stanton.

Joel would not comment to the *Observer* on his candidacy.

*continued on page 15*

## Dress Code Forum Prompts Action by Student Leaders

By Anat Barber

**S**tudent leaders are currently wrangling with administrators over amending the long-standing dress code policy. The reevaluation of the policy comes in response to a student-organized dress code forum that took place at the midtown campus on October 22nd.

According to the 2002 orientation booklet, the dress code at SCW mandates that "dresses and skirts of appropriate length, and blouses with sleeves must be worn at all times in the college buildings [not including dormitories]." Failure to comply with the code has recently become widespread, compelling student leaders to organize the forum.

However, in a combined effort among SCWSC President Sharon Weiss, TAC President Lisa Grundman and SSSBSC President Ellie Nyer, student leaders have produced what they feel is a compromise to the code. The three student leaders drafted a letter last week calling on students to dress appropriately during school hours and while in classes, in both of the academic school buildings. However, after school hours, while utilizing the cafeteria, computer labs or gymnasium, a more relaxed dress environment would be tolerable. The letter will be sent out shortly.

*continued on page 18*

## Yeshiva Delays Granting Contracts to Faculty

*Professors See Treatment as Part of  
Disturbing Trend*

By Caryn Litt

**I**t has recently come to light that, because Yeshiva has delayed approving its 2002-2003 budget, professors have been working without having yet received their pay increases for this year. Members of the faculty are currently considering taking appropriate actions.

In September, full time and tenured professors were informed that, because the budget had not yet been approved, the University was unable to inform them of their raises for this year or to pay them their increased salaries. Professors were assured that the budget would be approved by October 1st and that the difference in their salaries from last year to this year would be paid retroactively, according to several professors.

Now well into November, the professors, who have been receiving paychecks based on their salaries from last year, have yet to be notified

of their pay increases. The budget is expected to be approved at the next board meeting, which will hopefully allow a communication from the administration regarding the pay increases to arrive soon after.

After remaining quiet for months, professors have begun to express their frustration.

"We don't think it's fair to have to work without knowing what our compensation is," commented Dr. Joanne Jacobson, SCW and YC English professor. "Many professors are reaching the point of anger."

Tenured professors, as well as full time professors who generally work at three-year appointment intervals, do not receive contracts every year, but they do get "letters of appointment." These letters are written in a collegial style which inform the professors of their pay increases for the coming year, including raises based on cost of living increases and merit,

*continued on page 28*

## Hundreds Turn Out For Israel Vendor Fair

By Marissa Parker

**H**undreds of members of the Yeshiva community flooded the Wilf campus's Belfer Hall last Thursday for an Israeli vendor fair. People had the opportunity to buy various items, from jewelry to calling cards, sold by Israeli merchants whose businesses have suffered due to the current situation in Israel.

The Israeli vendor fair was part of an Israeli-themed day for both SCW and YC students, and included *aliyah* forums, *shiurs* and a Chaim Dovid concert.

The main focus of the evening was the vendor fair, coordinated by YC sophomore Eli Renov, at which more than twenty vendors sold various Israeli products, including jewelry, clothing, silver judaica, posters and Israeli souvenirs.

The idea for a vendor fair originated with Wilf campus SSSB president Gabriel Jacobson. While the idea was still in its incipient stage, however, Yeshiva students were notified that vendors were coming in for a fair in Queens and should also appear for a few hours to the Wilf campus.



Glenn Berger, far right, mans booth of assorted Judaica objects

Jacobson agreed, and appointed YC junior Eli Renov to coordinate the endeavor.

"Personally, I'm a fan of Israel," said Renov. "I would do anything to help my country."

SSSB took responsibility for publicizing the event. The fair was opened mainly to the Yeshiva community and to the local residents. Fliers were sent out to both campuses, as well as to the synagogues in the Wilf campus vicinity.

From among the vendors that were sched-

*continued on page 8*

Battle of the Band  
Rocks Yeshiva



Page 20

Former Dean  
Celebrates 100th  
Birthday



Page 8

Health Awareness  
Week Debuts  
on Campus



Page 16

# EDITORIALS

## Time to Speak Out

This campus is still reeling in the aftermath of the by now infamous dress code forum. Weeks later, students still recall the bitter animosity that arose during the forum and the palpable tension that it left in its wake. Indeed, the marked divisiveness at the open forum has been lamented by all those involved, and some have even gone so far as to say that bringing the issue to light has caused more harm than good.

However, while the dress code forum certainly evidenced an increasing polarity on campus that is cause for concern, it cannot be considered a complete debacle. Whether or not a definitive change will result from the discussion, one constructive by-product has already emerged: the students have been roused from their apathetic slumber.

Students may not be aware of it, but there are numerous student-run committees that are constantly working behind the scenes to improve all areas of academic and social life at SCW. For the most part, the students who run these committees are not elected officials, so it is difficult to know exactly to whom you are entrusting important decisions. In general, if you want your voice heard, it is up to you to make it heard.

With regard to the dress code, student leaders have taken notice of the emotions currently running high on campus, and they are trying to respond to the needs of the students in an appropriate way. Staying aware of developments in policy changes, channeling whatever energy you may have stored and letting student leaders know your opinion is a way to ensure that your interests will be reflected in the final resolution.

SCW's small size means that each individual's opinion counts and that the students have the ability to effect changes in relation to serious issues. Get involved, and let your voice be heard.

## Changing Old Ways

*"Stern and Yeshiva students communicate a distrust of these staff members in areas of personal problem resolution and discipline." - Middle States Report*

As the Middle States report highlighted, Yeshiva students seem to distrust Student Services. This distrust is founded on past experience - all too often, enlisting the aid of members of Student Services has resulted in negative consequences.

That the recently formed disciplinary committee has isolated the reshaping of the role of Student Services as a primary goal underscores the urgency of the problem. Indeed, committee members pointed to the Student Service administrators' serving as both disciplinarians and student advocates as a real conflict.

As editors of the newspaper, we have experienced first hand numerous cases in which Student Service administrators showed an unwillingness to assist students when they face difficulties with the administration.

Consider the following example. When trying to put out our first issue several months ago, before the academic year officially began, we were informed that we were required to leave the building in which our office is located by the end of working hours. In answer to our protests, Student Service administrators either merely repeated the Facilities Management's order or, even worse, did not take our request seriously and scolded us for its lateness. Not once did any member of Student Services "advocate" for us.

Since the start of the year, Student Service administrators consistently have chosen to uphold the "rules," and advocacy on our behalf has been sorely lacking. Let us be clear - we don't expect Student Services to break rules. However, we do not think it is beyond reason to expect a certain degree of sympathy and at least the pretense that our needs are important.

After all, the point of Student Services is that they serve as a liaison between the administration and the students, an arbiter that considers both sides equally, seriously and compassionately. If Student Service administrators are unwilling to serve the students, then they really have no purpose at all.

# The Observer

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY, 10016.

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

Observer@ymail.yu.edu

WWW.YUOBSERVER.COM

**Miriam Colton & Caryn Litt**  
Editors-in-Chief

**Rachel Fyman**  
Managing Editor

**Alisa Rose**  
Executive Editor

**Shayndi Raice**  
News Editor

**Shifra Landowne**  
Features Editor

**Rachel Horn**  
Cultural Arts Editor

**Andrea Gelnick**  
Photography Editor

**Anat Barber**  
Associate News  
Editor

**Ariella Goldstein**  
Copy Editor

**Talya Zaret**  
Business Manager

**Sarabeth Reingold**  
Layout Staff

**Arie Staller**  
Staff Writer

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.

Clarification from October Issue: Jennie Rosenfeld and Gavi Posner were the editors of *Hamevaser* two years. They appointed new editors for last year, who never published an issue of the magazine.

# Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>November 17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Mac Madness (Wilf Campus)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Sophomore Class Shabbaton
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Dr. Marcia Robbins- Wilf Scholar-in- Residence Colloquium (Schottenstein Cultural Center)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Thanksgiving	<b>30</b> Chanukah
<b>December 1</b> Chanukah	<b>2</b> Chanukah  Women's Basketball (SUNY Maritime)	<b>3</b> Chanukah Chanukah Chagiga (Koch Auditorium)	<b>4</b> Chanukah Women's Basketball (Marymount College)	<b>5</b> Chanukah/Rosh Chodesh Tevet Chanukah Concert (Lamport Auditorium)	<b>6</b> Rosh Chodesh	<b>7</b> Science Shabbaton (Chemistry and Biology clubs)
<b>8</b> 78 <sup>th</sup> Annual Chanukah Dinner and Convocation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Tobi Kahn Lecture "Sacred Space" (Wilf Campus)	<b>11</b> Last day to drop a course	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Michlalah Shabbaton
<b>15</b> Asarah Btevet	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Toby Kahn - Art Critique Schottenstein Hall	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> French Club Play (Zysman Hall) Women's Basketball (St. Joseph's College)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Reading Week Shabbaton

# From The Editor's Desk



**CARYN LITT**  
Editor-in-Chief

During a lively Shabbat table conversation a few weeks ago, a friend of mine casually mentioned that, in her opinion, modern Orthodoxy had failed. Unable to let such a comment slide, I courteously expressed my disagreement.

After debating for quite a while, it became clear that we concurred on the point that most people identifying with modern Orthodoxy were not really adherents to the Torah U'Madda philosophy. We disagreed, however, about whether the principles of Torah U'Madda were being fulfilled by anyone at all.

My friend believed that the balance between Torah and secular life that the Torah U'Madda ideology demands is impossible and self-defeating. I maintained that, though the balance is difficult, a life of Torah U'Madda is possible, and many people, in fact, are achieving it. Agreeing to disagree, we changed the subject after reaching that point of the argument.

This conversation has reverberated in my mind these past few weeks, as certain recent events at Yeshiva have sparked debate on exactly what the ideals are on which our institution runs, a debate which has highlighted the confusion which surrounds the rather ambiguous philosophy of Torah U'Madda.

Although we have been thrown into confusion as to what Torah U'Madda is, we can at least be certain, however, of what Torah U'Madda is not. For instance, it seems clear that Torah U'Madda does not mean, as some students would like to suggest, that compliance with certain principles of Torah, whether one considers those principles to be exact halakha or not, is reserved for "Torah time." Indeed, when students propose that modest dress, and behavior, can be checked at the door of the secular classroom, they are offering not a compromise to the school's dress code, but rather a direct contradiction to the ideals on which Yeshiva purports to stand.

It is equally clear, however, that Torah U'Madda does not mean using Torah as a shield to engage in *sinat chinam*, hatred of a fellow Jew. While Orthodoxy inherently requires a certain degree of refusal to compromise, it cannot, morally and logically, demand disrespect of others to the point of a *chilul Hashem*, a desecration of God's name – a phenomenon that, unfortunately, was in full force at the recent dress code forum.

What Torah U'Madda, then, must imply is really the most obvious definition: the complete integration of Torah values with the secular world. This subtle and yet complex philosophy entails applying Torah principles, whether halakhic or moral, to the secular world. It involves looking to the Torah as the ultimate moral guide for living one's life, albeit in a secular environment and while involved in secular pursuits.

In this sense, living a life of Torah U'Madda is indeed a difficult challenge, for it involves engaging in a *shikul hada'at*, a conscience weighing, at every

step of the way. An adherent to Torah U'Madda, even as she immerses herself in a secular world, must ask herself difficult questions. *Am I dressed in a way that is in accordance with the Torah? Would God approve of my insulting a Jew who is less observant than I am? Is cheating on this test against halakha?* Indeed, the Torah U'Madda lifestyle can often feel like a tightrope walk – move a little too much to the right or a little too much to the left, and you run the risk of falling off.

As we all struggle on an individual level, we might wish we could turn for guidance to the institution – the prototypical propounder of Torah U'Madda ideals – of which we are all a part. Yet, lamentably, Yeshiva itself often seems to falter in the face of challenges presented by the Torah U'Madda philosophy.

It is understandable that an institution that is trying to survive and compete in the modern world must in some instances accept a more lenient view within halakha. In fact, I disagree with those who argue that Yeshiva should not be concerned with rising in the rankings of top universities – an institution that does not strive equally for academic excellence, together with its Torah objective, fails to achieve Torah U'Madda as much as an institution that neglects its Torah education. However, it has become apparent in recent weeks that Yeshiva's lack of integration of Torah values into the running of this institution has gone too far.

The recent revelation that Yeshiva professors have not yet received their letters of appointment this year is disillusioning news to those of us who have always held Yeshiva to the high standards of Torah U'Madda. Even if it is concluded that the University is not blatantly violating the biblical prohibition of *lo talin pe'ulat sachir itcha ad boker* (a worker's wage may not remain with you overnight until morning, *Leviticus* 19:13), there are still obvious moral issues to consider. After all, the injunction of "*lo talin*" surely implies the moral obligation of treating a wage earner, one considered to be in a rather vulnerable position, with respect and dignity.

Indeed, the lack of consideration Yeshiva has shown for its faculty is embarrassing. For the second time this year, in two separate incidents, a Yeshiva employee has mentioned to me the paradox of an Orthodox university treating its staff members in a degrading way. This negative impression of a modern Orthodox institution reeks of *chilul Hashem* and points to a failure of the integration of Torah values into a modern establishment.

Like each individual, Yeshiva, if it wishes to maintain its adherence to a Torah U'Madda philosophy, must engage in a *shikul hada'at* for every decision it makes. This careful weighing is no doubt a challenge, but simply because achieving a way of life is difficult does not mean one should shy away from it, especially if it is regarded as an ideal. The struggle inherent in Torah U'Madda does not necessitate, as my friend suggested, discarding it, but rather working even harder to achieve it.



**MIRIAM COLTON**  
Editor-in-Chief

White objects of all different shapes and forms were piled under a bright light. And I was supposed to draw it. Yeah right, I thought. Apprehensively, I put pencil to paper, and, behold, several hours later my piece began to take form.

When I enrolled in Studio Experience this semester, I gave myself a two-week trial period to ascertain whether or not I was in over my head. Honestly, I was hesitant. I had never taken an art class and I hadn't previously displayed any talent in drawing or painting. However, envious of the "Art Annex" culture, I was curious if I could find within myself some spark of ability.

In the end, Studio Experience has proven to be one of the most enlightening and productive classes that I've taken at Stern. While I had learned about some art techniques in History of Art, which I took under Core duress, I now have a greater appreciation for the subtleties in paintings and drawings, and am more aware of line and form of ordinary objects.

But most important for me, I have found creative expression through the course. At the beginning of the semester, the professor instructed us to listen to music while we drew, and admonished us when we talked too much. Rather than think, we were supposed to concentrate on our senses – to feel, see and hear. This generates a state of relaxation that is conducive to creativity, and now I can easily spend six straight hours working in the Annex.

Recently, a freshman asked me to name classes that I would recommend at Stern. Mulling it over, I realized that of the over two-dozen courses that I've taken at Stern, the ones that I liked exposed me to a new perspective and required my creative input.

Another such course that I took during my sophomore year was Modern Israel, taught by an acknowledged left-leaning professor. Having attended Jewish schools for over twelve years and having visited Israel several times, I was attracted to the topic. However, my knowledge of Zionist history was drawn from books like Leon Uris' *Exodus*, which depicted

ideal warriors with plow and rifle in hand, working the land during the day, dancing the *horah* at night and with clear purpose to their lives.

In the course, we delved into the complex debate over Zionist history. We read of the neglect, and even abuse, that Yemenite Jewry endured upon emigration to Israel, and of *paar adati*, the colossal ethnic gap between elite Ashkenazim and immigrant Sephardim. I learned of some Israeli excesses toward its Arab population and of the inability of the settler population prior to 1967 to accept the "docility" of Holocaust survivors, and I recognized an inevitable disintegration of an idealized Zionist past.

While Studio Experience exposes me to the art world, Talmud, which I took last year, exposed me to another world – that of the living *mesorah*. Other halakha classes that I've taken generally presented the final law, which I had to understand, memorize, and observe. In *gemara*, we involved ourselves in the millennia-long conversation and debate about exactly what the law should be and why. I shifted my perspective from the end result to the dynamic process that created it.

Ironically, the courses that I have mentioned were not popular. Enrollment in Studio Experience and Talmud was below the dozen mark, I believe, because of the time and effort that each required and the relative difficulty of the courses. For example, Talmud requires preparation and review and Studio almost a dozen hours a week. Additionally, students may be afraid to take courses that challenge previously conceived notions and beliefs. Modern Israel had a larger enrollment, but a significant portion of the students vociferously complained of having to learn such "anti-Zionist" views.

A real draw of this University is the opportunity to explore new areas within the framework of Torah; it would be a waste to squander such an opportunity. So, I suppose as registration rolls around students can choose courses that guarantee a good grade at little cost. Or they can choose a course that has the potential to open new vistas.

## The Observer

Wishes the Entire  
Yeshiva Community  
a Happy Hanukkah

The Observer Welcomes All Comments  
Please Call Us at  
212-683-4943

# LETTERS & OPINIONS

## Exchange Ideas Respectfully

Dear Editors:

I have been following the ongoing controversy in the *Observer* and *Commentator* over Dr. Schrecker's adding her signature to a public letter in the *The New York Times* with dismay. Without a doubt, the situation in the Middle East, *Eretz Yisrael*, evokes a strong emotional response from a majority of the Yeshiva University community.

We have lost alumni to the violence and terror. On some other college campuses in this country, and in Europe, there is a campaign calling for divestment from Israeli companies. Several Israeli academics in the University of Manchester, in England, were dismissed solely for their Israeli citizenship. Jewish students have faced harassment from pro-Palestinian groups and their left-wing supporters on campuses. On the other hand, academic faculty want to be able to freely express opinions that differ from that of the student body if they see fit. This does not make respectful exchange easy.

For starters, to lower our voices would be a simple thing. Let us have a dialogue, without the loud, provocative words like "anti-Israel" or "McCarthyite." In an academic environment everyone benefits from a climate of mutual respect.

Dr. Schrecker is a respected scholar and an asset to the History department. As one of her former students, I can attest to her fairness and tolerance of alternative views in the classroom.

Miriam Gloger  
SCW '00

## Diversity Can Only Go So Far

To the Editors:

In the most recent issue of the *Observer*, Caryn Litt suggested in her column SCW students do not celebrate diversity enough and are afraid to speak their minds for fear of being branded non-religious.

We take issue with several points of Ms. Litt's column. Firstly, her comparison of the SCW classroom to "communist Russia" appears to us to be an overstatement.

Furthermore, she specifically attacked a learning program that intended to match up older and younger students from a post high school program, saying that the program undermines the diversity and openness SCW students should feel. Ms. Litt viewed the initiative as a "suggestion ... that it was 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." We would like to suggest a more nuanced view of the establishment of this learning program, as well as a different approach to religious diversity in general.

We agree with Ms. Litt that diversity at SCW should be celebrated. We personally enjoy how the varied backgrounds of women enrich the academic environment. Indeed, the Kli Yakar explains that the sin of the builders of the tower of Babylon was that they thought that uniformity would breed peace, and that God showed them, on the contrary, diversity and space would benefit society much more.

However, we do not view this learning program as an attack on diversity. Rather, the student who is organizing this program is most probably attempting to strengthen religiously those who are part of this wonderful diversity. We must keep in mind that SCW is an academic institution and not a

yeshiva; therefore not every opinion espoused can be assumed to be halakhically acceptable. This program encourages women to make learning Torah for its own sake a priority in their daily lives. Gaining Torah knowledge with other women with whom they share certain *hashkafot* can prepare them more to participate knowledgeably and non-apologetically in a diverse world. Perhaps we should encourage more varieties of such programs. This will familiarize women with the range of halakhically viable opinions on controversial topics. Then, they will be more credible, as well as comfortable, to speak their minds. We applaud the establishment of this program, as well as another new program initiated to partner women who were unable to spend the year in Israel with those who were privileged to do so.

We must continue, in all avenues possible, *lehagdil Torah u'leha'adira*.

Jenny Richmond SCW '03  
Atara Sendor SCW '03

## The Truth About Hamevaser

Dear Editors,

I carefully read your article on *Hamevaser* ("Students Hope to Revitalize Hamevaser Magazine," October 18th), and I would like to highlight some details that were left out.

Before the editorial staff first convened, Yoel Oz offered me a standing co-editorial position. I responded that I would consider it. It was implicitly understood that, should I not accept the position, another SCW student would take the post. Before this was clarified, however, Oz's male co-editor was announced a few days later at the *Hamevaser* meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to express my regret that a successful collaboration between YC and SCW was not achieved. It seems to me that most failures to work together stem from miscommunication. I believe that, had more discussion and compromise been invested, feelings would have been spared and much energy would have been saved.

I wish the best of luck to this year's *Hamevaser* staff.

Malka Zeiger  
SCW '04

## Student Life Committee Takes Issue

As the Student Life Committee it is our job to act on the students' behalf in expressing concerns and ideas to the administration. However in order for us to do our job effectively and responsibly we need you, the student body, to do your part in enhancing the school as well.

How can the Student Life Committee make requests of the deans and administrators when the students do not take the time to do simple things for themselves, such as cleaning up after eating in the caf? How can the Student Life Committee continue to act as advocates on behalf of the students when the lack of respect for such things as classroom cleanliness is obviously being ignored?

In order for us to do our job efficiently and productively the student body must step up and take initiative to make this campus a better, safer, and cleaner environment.

Rachel Shtern and Yael Reisman,  
Co-chairwomen of the  
Student Life Committee

## Don't Take It Personally

By Shayndi Raice

Last year I worked as an intern for a law firm in Manhattan. It was my first work experience outside of Jewish day camps, and to say that I was shocked at the type of foul language that was casually tossed around would be an understatement. I was told that because it was a litigation firm the atmosphere was perhaps somewhat more intense than a corporate law firm. However, that lawyers would openly curse in front of me without any regard for my sex or age never ceased to amaze me. I was never the type of person who walked out of movies that had foul language, but to hear the types of words the people in that office consistently and unabashedly used really offended me.

My father, a partner at that firm, essentially told me to "get over it." This was the way people spoke in the "real world," and if I wanted to go into law, particularly litigation, I better get used to it. Although I have no interest in litigation, mostly because of my experience at this law firm, I believe that the message my father imparted to me was correct.

There may be things in life with which we morally disagree, and we ourselves may choose not to behave in such a manner, yet to be a member of society often means dealing with people who behave differently from us. This acceptance does not mean there are no lines that can be crossed. What it does mean is that we have an imperative to analyze an issue very closely before we decide to speak out against it.

In addition, I believe that by refusing to speak and behave in the manner the lawyers in this firm behaved, I set an example. I never allowed my speech to become degraded to the level of others around me. People, particularly my fellow interns, noticed. They saw that I didn't use that language, and through my example they were able to grow more sensitive to the issue and ceased using such language in front of me.

My experience this summer can be applied to the dress code debate now raging on campus. I did not attend the recent open forum regarding the dress code, but I was at the leadership shabbaton a while back when the issue was first brought up. The YSU president asked whether it was the responsibility of student leaders to enforce the dress code. Most people felt that students' scolding other students was not the best way to draw others closer to Judaism.

However, there was a general consensus that violations of the dress code were so offensive that the situation should not be allowed to continue. From the discussion, it became clear that many students at SCW are offended when other students walk into class, especially a Judaic studies class, wearing clothing that perhaps would make the instructor feel uncomfortable.

As I sat there listening to the various proposals raised, my shock at what

these student leaders were saying began to grow. They seemed to be saying that a dress code would be warranted simply to preserve the comfort level of religious students and rabbinical figures and to refrain from offending their religious sensitivities - a proposition that I find untenable.

Firstly, let us remember that we are at a university, a stepping-stone to the world at large. We should no longer be treated as children, with our eyes being guarded from inappropriate scenes. While rabbis and professors have a responsibility to educate and enlighten students, in an academic institution their responsibility ends when it comes to coercion. When the language used in the law firm offended me, my response was not to scold or demand the cessation of such language; it was to act as an example, to be an *ohr la'goyim*, a light unto the nations. If students or instructors at Yeshiva find certain manners or dress inappropriate, for halakhic or personal reasons, the only valid solution is to set an example that warrants respect and sensitivity.

Given that the dress code is not a halakhic code, at least not at this school, then the fact that students "take offense" at violations of the dress code is indicative of childish attitudes and religious fanaticism. It seems to me that those who take personal offense are clearly not comfortable enough in their own religious convictions if they feel the need to have a monolithic student body at Stern.

Diversity is a virtue, and it should be encouraged and respected at any academic institution, even if we disagree with the outcomes of individuals' decisions. As stated previously, if one feels uncomfortable with a behavior pattern, she should feel free to set an example that others will respect and want to follow - but the use of coercion is simply not acceptable in an academic institution. As young adults on the cusp of entering the "real world," our university experience should prepare us for pluralism, not intolerance.

The recent Middle States accreditation report hailed the student body as "vibrant and energetic individuals who exhibit great appreciation for intellectual activity and spiritual development." The report characterized the community experience at Yeshiva as "transforming."

Personally, my fellow students inspire me daily. Their convictions and values, repeatedly expressed through their behavior, give me strength in my own religious and moral beliefs. Students and instructors ought to remember that their example alone should be sufficient in creating a sensitive environment. For those few who will continue to dress exceedingly inappropriately, they alone should feel embarrassed. Our sole concern should be to look inside ourselves and ensure that we are presenting an example that is worthy of imitation.

## The Observer

welcomes all letters to the editors.

We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, length and content. No unsigned letters will be printed.

Letters should include the writer's address, as well as his or her school and expected date of graduation, if applicable.

E-mail us at [observer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:observer@ymail.yu.edu)

# MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENTS

## MESSAGE FROM SCWSC PRESIDENT

Sharon Weiss

Picture a five-year-old girl named Ilana at her classmate's birthday party at a roller rink. The cake comes out and everyone sings. Everyone gets a piece of cake except for the girl who gets an Entenmanns donut because she



is the only girl who keeps kosher in her class. This is one of few birthday parties that Ilana is able to attend as most birthday parties take place on Shabbat.

Ilana's parents decided to transfer her into another school by the time she was eight years old. Ilana was greeted the first day with, "You aren't *tznius*, you are wearing sandals without socks." Ilana could not come up with a response; this was a whole new world to her.

After years of switching schools and submerging herself in differing religious environments, Ilana came to Stern College for Women. She was ecstatic to find such a diverse student body. Fortunately, Ilana has grown up with a background in which she can truly appreciate diversity in the Jewish community. Ilana enjoyed having different social circles and being exposed to varying Jewish opinions. Ilana's tenet beliefs were never contradicted because everyone in Stern College for Women shares the same core of beliefs and values.

I wanted to take the opportunity to explain exactly why the Midtown

Student Councils chose to raise the issue of dress standards in Stern. We wanted women to be able to attend a school with a comfortable campus environment. The only way we saw fit to create such an environment was to take into account students' opinions and the deans' opinions until we could arrive at a compromise.

Ilana, and I would argue most students, are pleased that Stern can attract such a diverse population. Ilana can see past the patches of gray areas of religious discrepancies between "denominations" within modern Orthodoxy. All of us contribute and create this comfortable, respectful and diverse religious environment. I ask that we maintain such an environment for each other, and for future students like Ilana. Ways that we can do so include respecting the school's dress code during school hours, yet judging people by their character rather than by what they wear. We can all maintain our individuality without disrespecting each other.

Beyond the everyday environment, many events have been taking place on campus. Please visit [www.YUSTUDENTS.org](http://www.YUSTUDENTS.org) to keep updated on Student Council and club events. Student Council is always here to help you with anything from events, to issues with cafeteria food, to whatever happens on campus.

You can reach us by email: [scwsc@hotmail.com](mailto:scwsc@hotmail.com)

## MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman

When we were in high school, we would all rush to get our bags and run out when the school bell rang at the end of the day. When the last bell rang on Friday it had an even stronger impact. It meant the weekend had come... it was time to relax, enjoy Shabbat, catch up on sleep, get together with friends, see the latest movies and not think about school until Sunday night.

In high school, we all looked forward to one weekend a year that strayed from this routine. This was the weekend of the class shabbaton. Even though we were still with friends and faculty from school, there was a different atmosphere; it was a unique opportunity to get to know each other in a more personal and intimate way. Shabbat was celebrated on a higher level. Everyone joined together for a beautiful *Kaballat Shabbat* davening, bringing the Shabbat in on a high. The *ruach* and excitement continued throughout Shabbat and even stayed throughout the rest of the school year. There was something special about the whole grade joining together to observe and honor Shabbat. This unique feeling is usually most effective in larger numbers, when one can look around the room and see students with a variety of personalities and backgrounds join together as one unit to perform a mitzvah. There is nothing like it. People experience this awesome emotion every week.

However, the majority of women at Stern College have yet to experience this feeling within the walls of Stern. It is as if there is a loud bell that rings every Thursday between the hours of 1:30pm and 5pm. There is a huge rush out of the building. Girls "pack" for the weekend even before they start their day on Thursday. To most people out of the YU community this would seem as a huge shock. Shabbos on many college campuses is the best part of their Jewish life there. Everyone gets to meet each other, and join together as one unit, all to observe Shabbat. Isn't it ironic



the women's college, this atmosphere is clearly not a highlight and barely existent to the general population of Stern women? I'm not asking you to stay in every Shabbos. However, I do think that there is something special about everyone "staying in" for Shabbos at least once or twice a year.

There are so many things that every student can add to the Shabbos atmosphere. Why is it that we choose to take these talents and facilitate them in other places? Is it apathy, or because no one else "stays-in"? Or is it because we don't have enough self-confidence to break the trend?

I think the answer to this question is all of the above. There are many excuses from many people but I think the time has come for everyone to forget the excuses. Your college experience will come but once: take it or leave it. How can you graduate and leave college not even spending ONE Shabbat in Stern? How can you say that you don't like Shabbat at Stern when you have not even tried it?

It is at this time that I challenge each and every one of you to stay in school for at least one Shabbat at some point throughout your time at Stern. If you never had a reason to stay in school for Shabbat, how about this one: there is a shabbaton almost every week. There are shabbatons that cater to the interests of every student. The shabbatons' sponsors run the gamut from Israel seminars to the Drama Society to the Chabad Club to the French Club. We are even having a Yachad Shabbaton on January 31st. You will have another opportunity to rise to the occasion. On March 22nd Neshama Carlebach and Mrs. Grunhaus will be joining us for Shabbat at Stern. I'm sure that if you take the time to see what the options are, you'll find there is much to gain. And maybe you could even make a difference. Just remember- *carpe diem!*

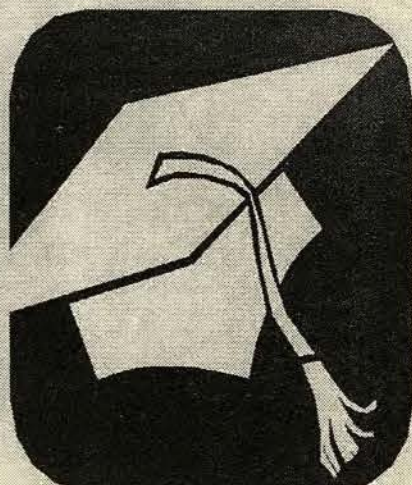
THURSDAY MAY 22 11 AM

THE THEATER  
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

# Commencement 2003

SENIORS, HAVE  
YOU FILED FOR  
GRADUATION?

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



## 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 are only basic outlines and do not necessarily represent the views of our editorial board. Further information and halakhic sources can be found on the Edah website, at [www.edah.org](http://www.edah.org).

In this issue, we present the concept of *Pluralism & Tolerance*. The idea of pluralism is a key issue in the global Jewish community today. As Orthodox Jews, we must grapple with the question of how far we can go in our cooperation with other denominations. What do you think, and where do you stand?

### Pluralism & Tolerance

Attitude 1: Non-Orthodox denominations are realities which make positive contributions to Jewish identity. Therefore, we should maximize our cooperation with them, attempt to strengthen and influence them, and strive to maintain the unity of the Jewish people.

Attitude 2: Non-Orthodox denominations are incomplete forms of Judaism. They are a reality, and the well-being of the Jewish people in the Diaspora is dependent upon cooperation amongst all Jews. Therefore, we should cooperate on all matters affecting the welfare and security of the Jewish community, while remaining separated on all internal, religious matters.

Attitude 3: Cooperation with Non-Orthodox denominations constitutes recognition of their legitimacy and falsely suggests the halakhic validity of their positions. Therefore maximum separation is necessary.

Attitude 4: The boundaries of Judaism are identical with boundaries of Orthodoxy; therefore Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform are not Judaism.

# ON CAMPUS

## Better Late than Never

### 34-Year Old Wife and Mother Enters SCW Class of '06

By Miriam Colton

Like other prospective SCW freshmen, Daly Ben-David was taking her SATs and writing a college admissions essay last year. When orientation rolled around in August, she, too, was accompanied by eager and proud parents. But many of the similarities ended there - for Ben-David's fellow freshmen had just completed high school and she had spent the past sixteen years as a mother and wife.

Ben-David, 34, commutes two hours daily from her apartment in Forest Hills, Queens, where she lives with her husband, daughter and son. After years of devoting herself full-time to being a mom, Ben-David decided she wanted to complete her higher education. "It took time until I realized that it was not a big thing to also invest in yourself," says Ben-David. "Everything in my life has been focused on my kids."

Sitting in the cafeteria eating the SCW lunch staple of frozen yogurt and fruit, Ben-David hardly looks older than the other students. Fashionably dressed in a tight black skirt, with her long blond hair pulled back in a ponytail, she couldn't be taken for any more than her early twenties.

But Ben-David is the oldest woman enrolled at SCW, a school that does not typically attract students who return later in life for a degree. Undeterred, she is enamored of Yeshiva and the students. "I came for the mixture of Judaic Studies and being around my people," she exclaims. "It feels like family."

Born in Georgia, Russia, into a traditional Jewish home, Ben-David grew up with a strong emphasis on familial obligations and raising children. While she always worked part-time at more menial jobs due to her lack of a college degree, Ben-David spent most of her days in the past dozen years helping her kids with their homework, going on trips and outings and being active at her children's schools. "I never wanted my children raised by babysitters," she says in accented English. "I didn't want to miss the little things. For someone else it might be okay, but not me."

Ben-David stresses the support of her family. "I could never make it on my own," she insists, her large brown eyes shining with eagerness and youthful optimism. "Even my husband giving me a little pat on the shoulder or saying 'you're gonna make it,' is important."

Married in 1985 at the age of 18 to a boy from the same Georgian background and neighborhood in Israel, Ben-David spent the next year studying at night for a high school degree in Nahariya, Israel. Her family had made aliyah from Georgia when she was ten.

Soon after her husband Chaim returned from the army in 1987, the Ben-Davids moved to Austria, where his family had a business. "I didn't really have any friends," she says of those years spent mastering German and raising her children. "There wasn't a big emphasis on the synagogue, and most people only attended for the High Holidays."

After ten years of loneliness, Ben-David and her husband decided to leave Austria. Her parents had immigrated to America a few years earlier,



Pictured above, the Ben-David family (l-r): Taly, Rony, Daly and Chaim

after their middle daughter married an American, and the Ben-Davids decided to join them in 1997.

In Queens, Ben-David joined the local Parents Association at the Forest Hills public school and attended symposiums and lectures on parenting. "I had to learn the American way, which is very different from life in Georgia and Israel and Austria," she says. "It's different being a mom in each of these places."

But then life's path veered. Last spring her sister happened to mention a place called Yeshiva University. "She said there is a place where you can learn about Judaism plus have academics," recalls Ben-David. "It sounded perfect. I never heard of such a thing before." Due to her experience in Austria, where her kids were the "only ones with black hair," Ben-David was "hungry to be around my people."

In June she went to the Yeshiva Admissions Office for a tour of the University. "I was so afraid," she says. "Seventeen years out of high school, to be back in a university is scary."

Subconsciously hoping that Director of Admissions Michael Kranzler would give her an excuse to back out, she was shocked when he informed her that she had nine days to take her SATs, write an admissions essay, and enroll for the fall semester. "I asked what are the SATs," exclaimed Ben David in her breathless, excited manner.

For those nine days, Ben-David studied intensely and, she jokes, lost five pounds. She scored in the range required for admission to Yeshiva, a high mark for someone of limited English with so little time to study. She also had to write an admissions essay. "I didn't know what to do, and my daughter said, 'it's okay Mom, I'll help you, we'll do it together,'" she says with a laugh.

Ben-David was accepted by Yeshiva and offered a generous financial package. "I had the green light to go to college," she says.

The help and pride of her children has been a real incentive for Ben-David. "My son tells his friends that 'my mom is smart, so I have to be smart too,'" says Ben-David of her eleven-year-old son, Ronny.

So, too, her daughter Taly, 16, is eagerly anticipating college in two years and is considering applying to SCW, along with Columbia and NYU. "We're very close and I look up to her," says the younger Ben-David of her relationship with her mother. "We're like the 'Gilmore Girls.'"

Enrolled in the beginner's Jewish Studies track, Ben-David cannot stop

sharing the new ideas she learns with her family. "Studying for my Judaic Studies test last week, I found so many new things, and I kept saying how come I didn't know these things before," says Ben-David, who comes from a traditional kosher home. She is eager to learn from her classmates, and has already picked up the habits of kissing *mezuzahs* and saying the traditional prayer as she washes her hands before meals.

Of her fellow students she says: "I enjoy looking at them. They have a lot of self-confidence and dedication, more than I had at their age."

She admits that the relaxed atmosphere in the classroom shocked her. "I was surprised to see students eating in class when a teacher is talking," she exclaims.

Currently taking management, accounting, English composition and three Judaic studies classes, Ben-David is not sure what she wants to major in, though she is leaning toward accounting. Taking full advantage of the academic assistance offered, Ben-David has utilized the Writing Center and math tutoring program. The effort has paid off, and her first grades of the semester were all in the 90's.

Only in her early thirties and almost finished raising her children, Ben-David is excited about the next four years. Nevertheless, she says her family will always be her biggest achievement and that motherhood is a world of its own. She emphasizes that she is careful to organize her study schedule around her kids and to remember that they come first. "When I look around I've accomplished quite a bit," she says. "Maybe not academically, but on the other side. Nothing else comes close to being a mother."

## IN YOUR OWN WORDS

### How do you feel about the status quo of the dress code?



Dikla Carmel, SCW sophomore

"Stern College is a college for Jewish women, but they shouldn't force anything upon anybody. They should allow girls to practice Judaism on their own level, but at the same

time students should be respectful regarding what they wear."



Frumie Horowitz, SCW sophomore

"Firstly, the University has to decide whether they want a dress code, and, if they do, they have to enforce it. If it wants to pretend it isn't a *frum* institution then it shouldn't have

a dress code. The school has a bit of an identity crisis."



Yael Reisman, SCW junior

"Ideally students would have the common sense to dress respectfully based on each teacher's preferences. Unfortunately, most of the young adults in this institution are missing that sense and because of this

a rule is deemed necessary."

Visit the YC and SCW  
Student Website  
at  
**YUSTUDENTS.ORG.**

Check out the latest  
happenings on campus  
and register for the Guide.

Come see the first production  
of the revived and better than ever SCDS.  
Before studying gets out of hand,  
come chill out at  
**Ice Cafe**

The play where cappuccino and open mike  
will be at its frothiest!

Monday, December 23rd, 8pm, in Koch Auditorium.  
The event is open to SCW and YC students.

# ON CAMPUS

## SCW Prepares for 50th Anniversary Celebrations

By Rachel Fyman

As an all-women's Jewish college, SCW has long been proud of its legacy. With the milestone 50th anniversary approaching in 2004, plans for a year of celebration have already begun.

Student leaders - particularly juniors who will be graduating next spring - have been invited to attend meetings and join committees to organize events that will mark the occasion.

"On campus we should make a big deal about it," said Junior Class President Elysia Rothenberg. "It's something to be very proud of."

According to Joan Apple, Director of Development at SCW, the anniversary is an optimal time to increase the involvement of university alumnae, and programs will be geared toward both present and past students.

The special events marking the important milestone will begin in February 2004 with a museum retrospective at the Yeshiva University Museum, which will include photographs, memorabilia and a video presentation of the history of SCW.

The committee is hoping to host a lecture series of famous women including some SCW graduates, as well as tours of the midtown campus for alumnae who have not seen the expansion of the campus in recent years. Additionally, the SCW dinner, usually held every 18 months, has been put off until the spring of 2004, to be included in the commemorative events.

Apple also envisions a "family day" at the Puck Building, involving games and activities for children of all ages. She adds that a similar carnival was held a number of years ago for Purim and was highly successful.

"We'd like each event to really be very special," said Apple, who is working together with two alumnae co-chairs to plan the events. "This is massive."

Despite all the ambitious plans, Apple has not yet received a budget for

the anniversary events. Peter Ferrara, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, is in the process of "working it out," according to Apple. Additionally, Apple is fundraising for the celebrations; she hopes to receive donations of \$1,000 from 50 alumnae, and has secured at least one commitment from a donor for a special gift of \$50,000. She also foresees having certain events underwritten by SCW supporters.

The anniversary and the accompanying publicity seem like a great fundraising opportunity. Nevertheless, Apple insists that, "The prime reason for the events is not for fundraising but to celebrate."

A letter will be sent to SCW graduates informing them of the half-century milestone and inviting them to participate in events. It will also request photographs or memorabilia for display in the museum exhibit.

Apple expects to involve alumnae who have never been active before. "It's very important that alumnae support their college, and they don't the way they should," Apple noted. "The outside world looks at that and the Board of Trustees looks at that."

In an attempt to involve current students, Apple recently contacted SCWSC president Sharon Weiss to organize a gift to the college from this year's senior class, as a first step in the process. "That's what makes strong alumnae," Apple asserted. She anticipates that such a gift from the graduating class will become a yearly tradition.

Though Apple's responsibilities do not usually encompass such efforts, the job fell to her because there is nobody specifically in charge of SCW alumnae, and Yeshiva's Department of Alumnae Affairs is short-handed due to the University's current hiring freeze.

SCW was established as Yeshiva's undergraduate college for women in 1954 through a major gift from the late industrialist Max Stern. From the first graduating class of 26 students in 1958, SCW now boasts almost 300 graduates a year.



Joan Apple, above, is already planning events for SCW's 50th anniversary

## Former Dean of Students Reminisces About SCW's History

### Looking Back at the Age of 100

By Shayndi Raice

Before SCW had dormitories, and at a time when students had to get their parents' permission to go on a date, Elizabeth Isaacs Gilbert was the dean of students at SCW. Born in 1902, she became the first dean of students at SCW in 1955.

Currently, Gilbert resides in the Shalom Nursing Home in Mount Vernon, New York. She isn't quite what one expects of a woman who just passed her 100th birthday. Alert and cracking jokes, Gilbert seems unable to control her laughter, often bouncing ebulliently at some of her humorous memories from her days as dean. Poised and smiling, Gilbert takes a trip down memory lane to the years when SCW had in its first class only 26 women.

Gilbert remembers when ideas to start a women's college began circulating. "I remember Dr. Belkin talking to my husband, and they both really agreed we should have a girl's college comparable to the boy's," she recalls. "That was just a dream. But suddenly there appeared upon the scene Mr. Max Stern and one, two, three, we had Stern College. That's how the dream became a reality."

The couple was friendly with Max Stern, so when he approached Dean Belkin to begin a college for women, he suggested Gilbert as dean of students.

After she was appointed, Gilbert sat down to a private meeting with each student. "At first I didn't know what to do with them all," she recalls. "Then I found out each girl's interest and I tried to develop those interests."

Her relationships with students became very personal. Gilbert recalls having to mediate fights between mothers and daughters and having to call the mother of a student in the hospital who had attempted suicide.

Although when Gilbert began working for SCW in the 50's there were few students and almost no facilities, she has fond memories of her years there. As the dean of students, Gilbert oversaw all extracurricular activities. She recalls that a student once approached her to organize a club because her name was Judy, and she wanted to organize a club of all the students named Judy. "She didn't last the semester," says Gilbert, laughing gaily.

With the Holocaust having ended only ten years earlier and the State of Israel only a few years into its existence, the 50's were an interesting time for American Jews, and the students at SCW reflected the time period. Gilbert recalls a student who had survived the Holocaust and had numbers tattooed on her arm. Another student came from Russia with no knowledge of Judaism. "This story had a fairy tale ending," remarks Gilbert. "Her mother had her meet a couple of young men and she ended up getting married."

Gilbert was also in charge of the rules and regulations the SCW students had to follow. There was a rule, for instance, that students could not date without parental permission and a rule that students had to be in the dorms before midnight. However, unlike today, the dress code wasn't an issue at SCW. "We didn't have a dress code at the time," says Ms. Gilbert. "My daughter and I were going through old pictures and came across a picture of me with short sleeves and a low cut neckline. Nobody thought anything of it then."

Although rules were strict between the boys and girls and "there was no dancing," the students from both campuses would regularly meet. Gilbert was responsible for creating a room where the men and women could meet "totally innocently."



Elizabeth Gilbert

Gilbert remembers when the first student got married at SCW. "Everyone wondered what she would do, but she kept on going to college and when she had children she had her mother take care of them," she recalls. As the school grew, more students were getting married. Gilbert recalls a professor asking her to do something about it because he thought the girls were too young to be married. "I said, 'what do you want me to do about it?'" Ms. Gilbert recalls.

Originally, SCW assumed that most students would be coming from Central, the Yeshiva University High School for Girls. These students were able to learn Judaic Studies on an advanced level; however, the school was surprised, as was Gilbert, at the variety of students who attended. The college had to create four tracks for Judaic studies in order to provide the students with levels of learning that would be right for them.

Immediately after SCW was created, there was a quick reaction of interested religious women who wanted to attend the college, not only throughout the country but around the world. Gilbert recalls students from Belgium, Hungary and Argentina. "It was amazing how quickly the word spread," she says.

Today, Gilbert remains shocked that Stern has over 1,000 students enrolled. "When I left in 1967 they had four hundred," she remarks. "I visualized that maybe they would grow to six hundred."

Part of a dwindling generation, Gilbert refers to SCW as a college for "girls," hardly politically correct in this day, and still calls Eleanor Roosevelt as "Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt."

Born Elizabeth Klein to Russian immigrants living on the Lower East Side, Gilbert remembers the years before an idea for a Jewish women's college would ever have entered people's minds. Gilbert attended Wadleigh High School and then went on to get a degree in French from Barnard College. Since not many Orthodox women went to college at the time, Ms. Gilbert recalls her greatest obstacle to college was anti-Semitism.

"The dean at Barnard at the time was very anti-Semitic," recalls Ms. Gilbert. "They rejected me at first, though finally I was admitted. Some months after college they got together and wanted to know how I was doing. After that everything was fine."

She later married Moses L. Isaacs, who became the Dean of Yeshiva College, and had two children with him, a son and a daughter. Her son lives in Jerusalem and her daughter lives nearby in Yonkers. Gilbert was the name of her second husband.

Women's lives have changed drastically from the 50's and Gilbert notices the change. "I think students today are more politically active. I remember when women couldn't even vote," she says. Personally, Gilbert has seen society go through numerous such changes, many of which she believes have been true advances. Yet, her years at Stern remain some of her fondest. "I was very happy there," says Ms. Gilbert. "I felt I was doing some truly good."

A successful technology company is looking for bright and motivated students for part time employment.

Contact Eli at 917-903-1955 or email your resume to [employment@matematica4u.com](mailto:employment@matematica4u.com)

# ISRAEL NEWS

## Vendor Fair Held at Belfer Hall

continued from front page

uled to appear in Queens, Jacobson and Renov chose those specific vendors that they thought would be appropriate for a Yeshiva audience. They also added charitable organizations, such as Magen Dovid Adom, to the fair.

For the most part, the vendors were happy to have come to Yeshiva. The popular clothing store Shkalim, located on Ben Yehuda Street, was a huge attraction at the fair. The Shkalim store has been in business for over 30 years.

"It's so nice seeing everyone, I remember all the girls from their seminary year," said Uri Shkalim, owner of Shkalim. In efforts to keep his business afloat, Shkalim will be putting his store online within a couple of months, at [www.shkalim.com](http://www.shkalim.com).

Yuval Boteach sold products from his souvenir shop, Jewels of Jerusalem, also located on Ben Yehuda Street. His store windows were blown out twice from bombs.

"There are more people in this room now than come to Ben Yehuda in a week," said Boteach. "We wish people were coming to Israel, and that we didn't have to come here. But it's hard. We don't blame Americans. It's very nice that they organize things here." Boteach left his wife with his two sons and new-born baby daughter to travel to the U.S.

Although the vendors appreciated that Yeshiva hosted a fair, it is unclear how successful the vendors were at the end of the evening.

"I felt like this was more of a social event," said Glenn Berger, a Fort Lee, NJ native who has made a career out of selling Israeli products in America. "But I understand that the students are on a budget. They're not going to spend hundreds of dollars." Berger has pitched Israeli products to various retailers, such as Bed Bath & Beyond.

Although vendors noticed the socializing at the fair, many of them appreciated the high energy levels in the room and did not think that the social atmosphere detracted from people's buying, said Jacobson.

"For the most part, the vendors were very happy," said Jacobson. Even the ones who had not been so successful at least realized that this fair was of a different type, noted Jacobson.

Indeed, because this fair was just a branch of the Queens fair, most of the vendors were pleased to get even a little bit extra from what they would have gotten if they had only gone to the Queens fair.

In any event, Yeshiva students were pleased to have some of the Israel experience here in New York. "I feel like I'm right back in Israel, walking through the streets of Ben-Yehuda," said Atara Zisquit, an SCW sophomore who attended Bnot Torah Institute in Israel last year.

In addition to vendors, there were several organizations and charities represented, such as Israel Bonds and the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund. SCW students Danielle Rosenberg and Leah Weisz estimated that they raised approximately four hundred dollars for the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund by selling Hanukkah cards, bracelets commemorating terror victims and the new special edition Shalshelas CD. "It really touches your heart to know that the students of Yeshiva are so supportive of Israel," said Rosenberg.

The vendor fair was advertised as part of an Israel-themed day. The day began



Shkalim was the only booth at the vendor fair selling women's clothing

with a visit from an *aliyah* representative to the Wilf campus during club hour, continued with a *shiur* given by Rabbi Meir Goldwicht and ended with a Chaim Dovid Concert at Weissberg Commons.

These other events of "Israel Day" were actually built around the vendor fair. Most of the events were planned for different days, but the organizers were able to coordinate the events to occur on the same day.

For instance, an *aliyah* representative comes to the Wilf campus every Thursday. Once the vendor fair was arranged, SSSB added the *aliyah* representative to the flier to create the impression of an "Israel Day."

Similarly, Rav Goldwicht's *shiur* was actually secured by Rabbi Ari Rockoff, director of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, to address the Torah Mezion Kollel, which happened to be visiting Yeshiva. The Kollel visit was planned independently of the vendor fair.

The Torah Mezion Kollel visit initiated the Community Learning Program Network (CLP Net) organized by Rockoff. Torah Mezion is a prestigious kollel in which essentially all members are post-*hesder* and come to teach at one of their 15 kollels in America.

Goldwicht delivered a *shiur* to the Kollel and other Yeshiva students about the Kollel's duty to bridge the gap between Jews in America and in Israel. "You have no idea how much of an impact you can have on someone," said Goldwicht.

Coordinating the various events to occur on the same day was part of the marketing strategy. "We wanted to put all the events on one day in order to promote Israel on campus," said Jacobson.

Jacobson credited the Israel club with helping to advertise the various events.

Although most of the creative planning flowed from the Wilf campus, the midtown student councils, along with all of the Wilf student councils, helped fund the Chaim Dovid concert. Although Chaim Dovid was already in America and was not flown in specifically for the Yeshiva performance, the concert was still the biggest expense of the day.

The Chaim Dovid concert brought the feel of the Old City to the Wilf campus, as students danced for hours in Weissberg Commons. The concert was used to raise money for Israel, as well, with a table set up for money donations to Magen David Adom.

"It was a very good idea to showcase musicians from Israel because music is a special language that helps raise everyone's spirits," said Efrat Ribak, an SCW student from Jerusalem. "In this case, we're simultaneously helping the Israeli economy, so it's a win-win situation."

## MacPAC Organizes Petition In Support of Israel

By Rachel Fyman

American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) liaisons at SCW and YC are circulating a petition this week asking students to affirm their "unconditional support for the State of Israel."

Similar petitions are being drafted at 60 college campuses across the United States. The goal of the initiative is to collect thousands of signatures to send to members of Congress and to publicize in newspapers, according to Anat Barber, AIPAC-trained student activist at SCW.

"We want to show how important the State of Israel is to college students - the future American leaders," Barber said.

The petition, which asks for students' names, e-mail addresses and hometowns, further states that signers "condemn any and all acts of terrorism and reiterate that Israel has the right...to defend itself in the name of democracy." The petition also expresses "sincere gratitude to the United States for its strong support for Israel."

Volunteers will be collecting signatures in the lobby of 245 Lexington this week, though Barber asserted that they are prepared to go door-to-door in the dormitories as well, if need be. "On our campus there's no reason why we can't have an overwhelming number of students signing," she said.

While other campuses across the nation are beset by lack of awareness among the student populations, this is clearly not an obstacle at SCW. "At Yeshiva, lack of education isn't a problem," Barber stated. "We just need to be more proactive here. We are trying to combat apathy on our campus."

The idea of the petition was one result of a three-day seminar hosted this summer by AIPAC in Washington, DC. Barber, one of three Yeshiva undergraduates who attended the conference, is the head of MacPAC - Maccabee Public Affairs Committee - together with YC junior, Kevin Cyrulnik. Though both were

### COPY OF PETITION:

We, members of the Yeshiva University community, affirm our unconditional support for the State of Israel. We condemn any and all acts of terrorism and reiterate that Israel has the right, and must do all in its power, to defend itself in the name of democracy. We further express our sincere gratitude to the United States for its strong support for Israel and hope to see the relationship between our two allied countries continue indefinitely.

trained by AIPAC, MacPAC is a Yeshiva club not directly linked with the organization because AIPAC does not have official clubs on campuses.

"We are proactive, pro-Israel students working for the betterment of American-Israeli relations," Barber explained.

A cluster meeting was held recently for AIPAC liaisons from all New York college campuses to discuss plans and strategies for furthering the committees' goals, but no representative from Yeshiva was able to attend.

MacPAC is not working in conjunction with the Israel Club. Though MacPAC invited the Israel Club on campus to join in their endeavors, the club declined. "We didn't feel it was necessary," said Rebecca Wimmer, president of SCW's Israel Club. "We have a lot of our own things going on." Barber concurred that the clubs have differing agendas and that collaboration between the two was not crucial.

MacPAC is in the process of planning other initiatives as well, such as raising money on campus to send to politicians in less Jewishly populated areas of the country to promote Israel's cause in Congress.



Vendors at the fair sold Israeli Judaica to students

**BUY  
ISRAELI  
PRODUCTS**



# ISRAEL NEWS

## Prospects of a Mission to Israel Remain Unclear

By Miriam Colton

Student leaders from both campuses met last Wednesday night, November 13th, to ascertain progress on organizing a mission to Israel. Not having yet pegged any major financial supporters, the students will announce whether there will be a mission within the next two weeks. In addition to financial woes, the mission seems plagued with the lack of a united leadership and a clear goal.

"We do want it to happen, but in the end it comes down to money," said Josh Goldman, SOY President. "It is mid-November and we are cutting it very close."

Conspicuously absent from the organization this year is the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS), whose Director of Youth and Outreach, Rabbi Ari Rockoff, as well as two student interns, played a key role in spearheading Torah Shield II. While MSDCS toyed with the idea in October of again taking an active role, it ultimately decided not to take that role.

Both Rabbi David Israel, overall director of MSDCS, and Rockoff noted that their office didn't believe it would be possible to raise the same kind of money as last year, when the trip cost a total of \$350 per person. They also pointed to the existence of other student missions this year, reducing the urgency of this mission. "While the current situation is still tragic, it's of a different urgency than it was last year," said Rabbi David Israel. "Also, to do something every year would lose its impact."

A new player this year seems to be Yavneh Olami, an unaffiliated Orthodox student organization based in Israel, whose goal is to heighten students' connection to Israel. Yair Givati, the international coordinator of Yavneh, who was brought in by Rebecca Wimmer and Kayla Wruble, co-presidents of the Israel club, said that his organization is interested in working on a mission with Yeshiva.

Givati attended the meeting of the organizers last Wednesday night, who included the presidents of the Israel club and representatives from the student councils, but none of the leaders from last year's Torah Shield II mission. However, Givati said that he got the sense the students were hesitant and vague. "I didn't get a straight answer and am waiting to hear from them," he explained. "We can't even begin to raise money until we have a basic itinerary and clear goal of the mission."

If Yavneh Olami does get involved, costs for the mission may be higher this year. "We definitely don't want it over \$1,000 dollars," said Goldman, who, along with the other students, believes a low cost is crucial in attracting students. Not as large an organization as the ones involved last year, Yavneh Olami would ask individ-



Torah Shield II last year was a whopping success and many students are eager for another mission

ual groups to sponsor parts of the mission, and bring in as many other organizations as possible. For example, it would ask a settlers' group to sponsor a trip to the West Bank.

The meeting last week with Givati was the second official meeting of the organizers this year, both times concluding with the decision to split up and seek donors individually. A few of the students met privately last Thursday with the Ministry of Tourism, which also decided not to become involved this year.

The Orthodox Union, which served as a facilitator to Torah Shield II, says it was not officially approached this year, and believes that there is not enough time to pull off a mission now. "Last year there was a unique purpose in getting large numbers there immediately, and Torah Shield was a pioneering effort," said Rabbi Moshe Krupka, OU National Director of Community and Synagogue Services. The OU mainly served as a liaison to the other organizations last year, and some of the students claim that they don't need that type of assistance anymore.

On Torah Shield II, 200 Yeshiva students participated in a week long solidarity mission to Israel to show support for Israeli citizens. The trip, costing roughly \$200,000, mainly for travel and transportation, was heavily subsidized by the Ministry of Tourism, The Jewish Agency and a handful of private donors.

One idea that organizers seriously toyed with this year was the addition of a European leg to the trip, in which the students would first visit France and Belgium to show their support for the communities ravaged by anti-Semitism. "We'd be going to communities and showing them that we're with them and that the students care about Jews all over the world," explained Shai Barnea, YSU president, who said most students he approached were interested in going to Europe.

Such an idea stems from the desire to be different from last year's mission and to have a unique goal. "We are pursuing as many leads as possible," said Goldman. "We don't want just a repeat of last year's successes."

## Nefesh B'Nefesh Hopes to Spread Torah

By Chavie Schwarzbard

What began as a campus-wide project at Yeshiva is now spreading to dozens of communities. At the beginning of the semester, Nefesh B'Nefesh initiated a program whereby students would complete Talmud, Mishnah and Tanakh in memory of terror victims in Israel. Now, Yeshiva students are hoping to encourage such learning programs at schools across the U.S.

"As word spread of this incredible opportunity, more and more people expressed desire to get involved with learning" said RIETS student Naphtali Weisz.

A meeting was held on Thursday, November 14th, to get students involved in the efforts. The current expansions, which are in the initial stages, are being led by Weisz, together with RIETS students Reuven Brand and Yehuda

Willing. While the project is under the guidance of the RIETS students, YC and SCW students are helping in the organization. Currently, students are busy calling Jewish day schools and high school to solicit their participation.

Originally, Nefesh B'Nefesh organizers were planning to have a *siyum haTorah* during Hanukkah at the annual SOY *chagigah*. Almost immediately after the original project was announced in August, the entire student body signed up to complete all portions of Talmud, Mishnah and Tanakh. "Yeshiva students are already committed to finishing the anticipated learning targets," said Weisz.

The project arrived at SCW a little later, in October, with students signing up to fill slots in Tanakh. A separate Hanukkah *siyum* was planned for midtown.

Nefesh B'Nefesh has since revised its objective. Its current goals are, "Increasing Torah study within community schools and shuls, reviving awareness of the situation in Israel by dedicated learning, and highlighting *Kavod Hatorah* [honor for the Torah] at a large *Siyum Hashas* [completion of the Talmud]." Essentially, what the rally in Washington last year was for political action, organizers are hoping Nefesh B'Nefesh will be for learning.

With the new goal of including synagogues and schools, Nefesh B'Nefesh organizers have pushed off the *siyum* to a Sunday afternoon in March. Although there are no definite locations for the

event, which will be lead by the *roshei yeshiva* of RIETS, organizers are hoping to involve enough people to fill Nassau Coliseum. The list of participants and their areas of learning will appear in a program that will be distributed at the *siyum*.

Since Yeshiva students at the Wilf Campus have already officially signed up to complete all the apportioned slots for the *siyum*, participating congregations and schools will be able to chose the topic and style of learning they prefer. For example, schools can continue with their academic curriculum and designate it in memory of terror victims, or they can institute additional learning for

students who opt to participate. The target group for the project is junior high and above.

A Nefesh B'Nefesh website is currently being constructed by Ephraim Shapiro, a YC graduate, at [www.learn4israel.com](http://www.learn4israel.com).

To maximize the sense of a connection to the terror victims, Nefesh

B'Nefesh has issued wallet sized cards to all participants, with a picture and name of a terror victim on each. Nefesh B'Nefesh is also planning to notify the families of the victims that members of the Jewish community are setting aside a significant amount of time in order to honor the memories of their loved ones.

Nefesh B'Nefesh is also under the auspices of the One Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund. According to Weisz, it's a student project being organized by RIETS and the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, and is sponsored in part by the Emergency Fund.

Other programs being organized by students with the help of the One Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund include "Cookies for Israel," "Diet for Israel" and "Adopt a Family." Recently, they launched the "Chanukah Card Initiative," a program to raise money to send to yeshiva and seminary students in Israel who will purchase Hanukkah gifts for victims of terror.

As student organizers hurry to inform communities of the project, they claim initial response has been highly positive. "We've received very good responses," said Reuven Brand. "A number of schools have been contacted and are very enthusiastic about participating."

Students interested in getting involved can e-mail [KolHaneshama@aol.com](mailto:KolHaneshama@aol.com).



WWW.YUOBSERVER.COM

# *If* you could, **THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS** \* *If* would you?

\**If* you could,

- Inspire the next generation of day school students with your love of Judaism
- Respond to the call for talented and literate Judaic studies teachers
- Help create a culture of service among Jewish college graduates in North America
- Join other exceptional individuals in Jewish day school classrooms across North America

would you?

By joining THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS you could shape the future of Jewish life in America. **Will you?**

THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS will select 18 Fellows to teach for a one or two-year term in modern Orthodox and Community middle and high schools across North America beginning in September 2003.

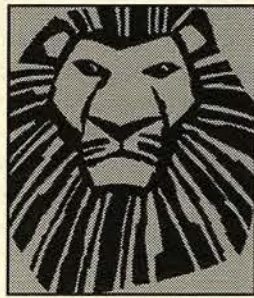
If you have an extensive background in – and commitment to – Torah study, are strongly connected to the State of Israel, have excelled academically, and consider yourself a “people person” with strong leadership qualities, contact:

**THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS**  
 Rabbi Uri Gordon, Director  
 1-888-JTCORPS • [www.jtcorps.org](http://www.jtcorps.org) • [info@jtcorps.org](mailto:info@jtcorps.org)  
 45 West 36th Street • New York, NY 10018

THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS is an educational initiative of EDAH sponsored by a grant from The AVI CHAI Foundation.

# Campus Briefs

## South African Club Kicks Off Its First Event of the Year



The South African Club is kicking off its first-ever event with a trip to Broadway to see "The Lion King" on December 11th.

The idea has proven to be a whopping success for the club. Priced at \$20 each, all 30 tickets sold out almost immediately after the club posted signs in the school buildings and dorms.

Co-presidents Kirsten Hyman and Daniella Alpert are currently creating a waiting list of other interested students and are attempting to procure additional tickets to meet student demand.

## Lincoln Center Storyteller Enthralls Education Majors

David Gonzalez, a Latino storyteller who works out of the Lincoln Center Institute, performed on November 12th for approximately 30 SCW students in Schottenstein Residence Hall. Organized by education professor Dr. Elizabeth Lazaroff and geared specifically to education majors, the show was entitled "As If the Past Were Listening." The event is part of a series of creative programs for the SCW Education department, which is organized by Lincoln Center and geared toward integrating the arts into education.

A master storyteller, Gonzalez recollected ancient folktales from the Latino world, such as Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Gonzalez used his guitar to liven the storytelling, which was also accompanied by the keyboard music of a Lincoln Center Institute colleague.

Gonzalez has performed at venues around the world, including London's Royal National Theatre, the Smithsonian Institution, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and at schools throughout North America. He holds a doctorate in music therapy from New York University's School of Education.



David Gonzalez

## Shabbaton in Lakewood Scheduled for November 23rd

Following the pattern of previous years, the Lakewood Shabbaton will be held again this year. Organized by Lakewood resident Mrs. Shulamis Schreiber, the Shabbaton, to be held on November 23rd, is open to college-aged women, including SCW students, and is intended to provide some extra spirituality before the Jewish holidays. Schreiber tries to organize several Shabbatonim every year to coincide with Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, Pesah and Shavuot.

In the past, the Shabbaton has drawn approximately 40 participants, mostly SCW students. Participants are set up in pairs at different families in Lakewood. Everyone eats at the Schreibers' home Friday night, and the meal is followed by a *shuir* and an *oneg* Shabbat. Students eat Shabbat lunch with their host families, and the afternoon includes a learning session on source material about the upcoming holiday. The Shabbaton concludes with a *melavah malkah* after Shabbat.

Past participants say that their Shabbat spent in Lakewood was a spiritually uplifting experience.

## Freshmen Elections Held



Sarabeth Reingold

Elections for freshman class board were held on October 24th. The newly inducted freshman class board consists of Pamela Goldfaden as president, Sarabeth Reingold as vice president, Lauren Ratzker as treasurer, and Hilary Lewin as secretary. Two candidates ran for the position of president and for the position

vice president, while the treasurer and secretary positions were uncontested.

## New Laundry Machines in Brookdale

In an attempt to upgrade its facilities, Yeshiva has installed new washers and dryers in Brookdale Residence Hall. The new machines operate by a vending card, and the Facilities Management says that the new machines will be more reliable than the older models that were replaced.

While most students are happy with the machinery upgrade and the new machines' performance, some Brookdale residents are annoyed with the increase in the price. The washers and dryers, which previously cost 50 cents a cycle, now cost 75 cents a cycle. There is also a three-dollar charge for purchasing a card, though free cards were distributed to each resident.



New laundry machines in Brookdale Hall

## Psych Grads Address Students



Psychology Club presidents, Estie Savitsky (l) and Lauren Appel

Approximately 30 SCW and YC students attended a meeting of the psychology club on November 6th to explore their options for psychology graduate programs, which are known to be highly competitive and selective. The event, organized by club heads Lauren Appel and Estie Savitsky, with assistance from Associate Director of OPCS Naomi Kapp, featured SCW alumnae who are pursuing graduate degrees in various fields

of psychology. The four speakers elaborated on the differences between the many psychology programs available. They also explained how they made their personal decisions about their respective programs, described the workload and courses in their programs and addressed students' concerns regarding the stressful process of applying to the competitive graduate school programs in psychology.

The speakers included: Ravital Kranzler, PhD candidate in clinical psychology at Farleigh Dickinson University; Michelle Humi, PsyD (Doctor of Psychology) candidate in clinical health psychology at Yeshiva's Ferkhauf Graduate School of Psychology; Tova Perl, MSW candidate at NYU School of Social Work; and Arielle Freundlich, MS candidate in School Psychology at Queens College.

## SCW Students Given Award

The Rabbi Isaac N. Trainin Bikur Cholim Coordinating Council of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services presented an award to the students of SCW at its 15th annual conference on November 10. The award, titled the Rabbi Jeshua Schnitzer Award, recognizes the students' "outstanding dedication and leadership in organizing and performing the mitzvah of shemira and the reading of tehillim for victims of 9/11."

The Bikur Cholim offers consultation, programs, and training for volunteers. The theme of this year's conference was "In the Company of Hope: Lifting Spirits Through Bikur Cholim."



## Annual Security Report Published

Yeshiva published its annual security report in October, which it distributed at both campuses. The midtown report, required by the Campus Security Act of

1990, includes crime statistics from the SCW campus from 1999 through the present. While most of the incidents of crime on the midtown campus have remained unchanged in the past three years—the number of cases of manslaughter, for example, is zero for all three years—other statistics have changed. There has been a drop in the number of drug abuse violations from one in 1999 to zero in 2002. However, the number of burglaries has increased from zero in 1999 to five in 2002.

The report for the Wilf campus indicates incidents of drug violations, weapons possession, and arson in 2002. It is noteworthy that Yeshiva is one of the few college campuses in the U.S. with no hate crimes to report.

## Bacon to Keynote OU Convention

Dr. Karen Bacon, Monique C. Katz Dean of SCW, will deliver the keynote address at the Orthodox Union's National Convention on December 26-29. The focus of the convention is the ways in which the OU serves the community. Other speakers at the convention, which will be held at the Rye Town Hilton, will include Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Dr. J.J. Schacter and Malcolm Hoenlein.



As part of an effort to encourage young leadership, the OU will provide Yeshiva students with buses to the convention on Thursday and will host them gratuitously for the day. More information will be posted shortly.

## History Professor Publishes New Book

Jeffrey Freedman, associate professor of history at Yeshiva since 1992, has recently published *A Poisoned Chalice* (Princeton University Press). The book describes the poisoning of the communion wine in Zurich's main cathedral in 1776. No culprit was ever found for the crime that nearly killed 1,200 people. According to Freedman, the crime was so malicious that it questioned the limits of human reason that defined itself.



Jeffrey Freedman displays his new book, "A Poisoned Chalice"

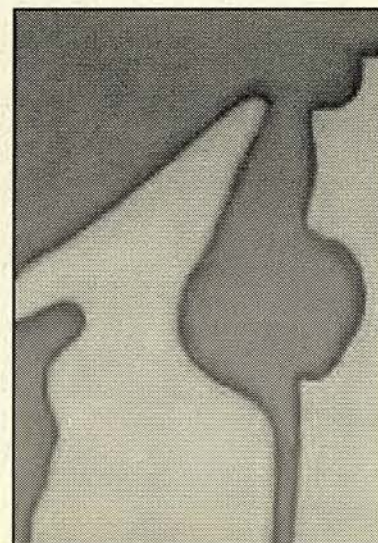
The *New York Times Literary Supplement* hailed the book as a "tour de force."

## Artist-in-Residence Program Initiated Uptown

On Thursday, November 14th, students were invited to attend an opening exhibit of Tobi Kahn's work titled "Tobi Kahn: 'Microcosmos'" at the Yeshiva University Museum. The final scheduled events will take place on December 17 when Kahn will visit the Wilf campus and speak individually with students.

Kahn is a graduate of Marsha Stern Talmudic Academy Yeshiva University High School for boys (MTA).

Tobi Kahn is the first ever artist-in-residence on the Wilf campus. Four events were scheduled, open to both Wilf and midtown students, for this semester. There will also be another program exclusively for honors art students.



Tobi Kahn's exhibit "Microcosmos" at the Yeshiva University Museum features spiritual paintings, such as the one pictured at left, evocative of the cosmos and inspired by Genesis.

# ON CAMPUS

## Middle States Report Published

continued from back page

a springboard to construct a curriculum that "meets the intellectual needs and desires of students."

The report also noted "students appear to be intellectually 'hungry' but do not always find enough 'food on the table,'" referring to a shortage of course offerings.

SCW Dean Karen Bacon asserted that this observation was germane only to certain fields of study where student interest is not particularly high. "They may be referring to departments that have few students majoring in it," she explained. SCW and YC have recently added new courses and created new minors and shaped majors, including the Women's Studies minor at SCW and the American Studies minor in both colleges, and SCW has plans to continuously reevaluate departments that consistently offer few courses.

The Middle States team also commented on the curricular disparities between YC and SCW, such as differences in general studies requirements, saying that the rationale for some of the differences are unclear.

One of the most serious problems affecting students, according to the Middle States report, is the often ineffective and unhelpful academic advisement, especially at SCW. Supporting students' claims that advisors lack sufficient knowledge of the programs in different majors, the report concluded that college advisors do not have information that clearly outlines requirements. The report also noted that there is no annual course catalogue to which students have access and faculty itself has limited knowledge of requirements.

Dismissing the claims of the advisors that students should accept more responsibility for learning about academic programs, the report suggested that the University create "comprehensive, clear, and updated information available to all students."

SCW has already begun combating this problem by setting up easily accessible information sheets on requirements for each major.

### Faculty

The Middle States report heavily criticized the treatment of professors at both undergraduate institutions. The report praised the faculty of Yeshiva as "a strong, hard-working group of teacher-scholars, totally dedicated to their students and the University's mission." However, the report concluded that the University has a major problem with its faculty: "The faculty's obvious discontent with workload, salaries, and institutional support for teaching and research, disintegrating morale, and sense of disenfranchisement are pervasive."

The report further cautioned that the professors' low salaries reflect a "penurious approach to the funding of the University's undergraduate program that is at odds with its stated priorities."

While Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President for Academic Affairs, pointed out that there have been significant faculty raises in the last three years, the report urges the University to further raise salaries. Dr. Lowengrub said that although the University is continually trying to improve faculty pay, it is highly unlikely that salaries will be raised any further at this time due to the current economic situation.

The report also cited Yeshiva's somewhat unique hiring of what the report termed as "para-academic Jewish studies instructors." While many areas of Jewish studies are taught from an academic perspective, and as such are "appointed, promoted, and tenured on a basis of equality with all other academic staff," the report

noticed that "the para-academic staff, primarily at Yeshiva College, because they do not often possess doctoral degrees, are not appointed on a tenure track and their salaries also lag behind their colleagues with doctorates."

Bacon agreed that this matter should be looked at. "In the fine arts there are different credentials for different fields," said Bacon. "In the area of Jewish studies the Ph.D. is not a typical degree and the type of credentials that our faculty bring, such as rabbinical ordination, are the most advanced."

Another issue the report raised was the low numbers of tenure-track faculty and the University's heavy reliance on part-time appointments. The report

urged the University to beware of this phenomenon because "advising, mentoring, supervising student research, participating in co-curricular activities [all] suffer when a majority of the faculty are temporary and, usually, part-time employees."

One of the major problems the accreditation team noticed was the heavy workload of faculty, which the report concluded was "out of balance with the expectation of research pursuits, the commitment to closer student-faculty relationships, active learning pedagogy, and the mentoring model of advisement." The University has recently been hiring new faculty members who are required to take on a three-course load per semester, while senior faculty members continue to struggle with a four-course load. The report charged that such policies lead to "discontent and resentment among instructors with a long tenure."

Numerous other problems regarding the faculty were pointed out by the report, such as proper support, issues of commuting between two campuses and career development. The report especially stressed the fact that "faculty believe they are not part of the decision making process and are left out of the information flow." Faculty claims of disenfranchisement extend to a fear that "key decisions affecting academic life are being made by non-academic administrators," stated the report.

### Facilities

In addition to academic possibilities, the Middle States report also discussed the University's facilities, specifically pointing to the disparity of facilities between the Wilf and midtown campuses.

For instance, the meager athletic facilities at SCW were a point of concern for the accreditation team. While the report pointed to the workout rooms that have been installed in every dormitory building as a positive addition to athletic facilities, it deemed them insufficient in bringing athletic facilities of SCW up to par with comparable institutions.

While Bacon suggested that the disparity between athletic facilities is the legacy of sports having traditionally been considered a male field of interest, she did admit that the problems remain today because it is very difficult, if not nearly impossible, to find a suitable place to build athletic facilities in midtown Manhattan. "SCW is constantly in search of an appropriate building and, were the building to arise, SCW would search for a suitable donor to finance the operation," said Bacon.

Library facilities were found to be insufficient in most areas. While the commission admitted that Yeshiva's Judaic col-

lection is considered among the best in the United States, it nevertheless pointed out that while "the general collections are adequate in size...they are alarmingly dated as a result of chronically inadequate acquisitions budgets from the 1970's to the present."

The commission clearly stated that the library's "business collection is inadequate." The report summarized the library problem by urging the University to change its library budget policy "if Yeshiva University is to achieve its goal of remaining a competitive liberal arts and business institution that delivers quality instruction and is committed to faculty and student research."

The report noticed that laboratory facilities "range from inadequate to state-of-the-art." Computer labs at SCW were deemed adequate, although the

limited space was noted, and YC was urged to add more space due to an expanding student population.

In regard to the chemistry and other laboratories, YC and SCW are both "in need of major upgrading."

### Budget

The accreditation team appeared baffled by the University's low allocation of endowment money to help alleviate the financial problems that the University faces. The report strongly recommended that "the University consider changing its policy to allocate a percentage of these funds to the budget."

According to the report, almost all of the problems facing Yeshiva could be alleviated if the Vice President for Business Affairs would allow more funds to be directed towards these areas. The report noted that "there seems to be plenty of funding available for both facilities and for the staffing needed to maintain them."

Both Dean Bacon and Dr. Lowengrub claimed that the money in the endowment is not available to be used for faculty raises or other financial necessities.

The report seemed to suggest that that Yeshiva raise tuition, even more than the ten percent hike planned for incoming students, although it did admit that Yeshiva

was right to be cautious in this area.

### Managerial Efficacy

One of the report's strongest critiques of the University was for its lack of management effectiveness. The report positively noted that Yeshiva runs like a family. However, the report concluded that "members of the family were not talking amongst themselves," and it pointed to a lack of "widespread communication between the administration and the faculty, staff and students."

The report gave numerous reasons to account for this problem. One of the biggest problems cited was that individuals carry out too many of the responsibilities. While the commission heavily praised Dr. Lowengrub, it nevertheless claimed that "there is a shortage of senior managerial staff in the Office of Academic Affairs."

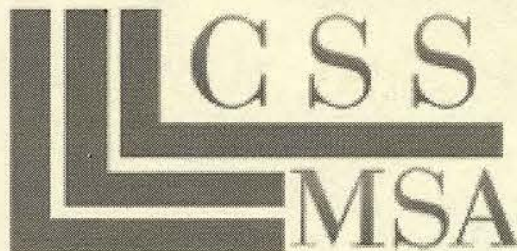
The report continued by stating that "one indicator of this shortage is the large span of control of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, with too many individuals reporting directly to that position." They suggested that perhaps the position be subdivided to give more specific responsibilities to different individuals.

A specific suggestion made by the accreditation team to alleviate managerial problems was the creation of an Institutional Planning and Resources department that would collect and analyze data on student satisfaction and alumni educational outcomes, which could be measured by survey and focus group research.

"Our office is definitely moving in that direction," commented Lowengrub.

Additionally, the administration seems very enthusiastic about the idea of Institutional Research. "Very often in doing planning we will ask each other a question and realize the data exists but they haven't been collected," said Bacon. "I think its worth spending money on because, being trained as a scientist, I think you can learn incredible things from studying data, and you can also come up with brilliant questions from looking at data. Without it you really tend to reinvent the wheel."

The Middle States accreditation team emerged from their visit with a sense of the great potential of Yeshiva. However, the team concluded that "the full potential of the institution will not be realized unless all constituencies are brought together to share a vision for Yeshiva's future."



Want to Reach  
Hundreds of  
College Students?  
Place an Ad in  
**The Observer**

Email us at  
[observer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:observer@ymail.yu.edu)  
Attn: Talya

# ON CAMPUS

## Academic Advisement Center Tries To Publicize Services

By Alisa Rose

The Office of Academic Advisement is intended to help navigate students through sometimes confusing requirements, to help them make their schedules and decide on a major and to perform junior and senior checks to make sure that students will graduate on time. Surprisingly, however, many students do not take advantage of the services provided by the academic advisors.

In order to better publicize the office, SCW recently posted signs on the bulletin board at the entrance to the school building and in the registrars' office informing students that the two full-time academic advisors, Miriam Schechter and Rochelle Mogilner, and part-time advisor, Susan Ostreicher, are available to answer questions.

"We have been trying to publicize that advisors are here and ready and willing to talk to students," said Associate Dean Ethel Orlan.

In addition, the office is undergoing some renovations. An academic advisement center is in the process of being designed in the Office of the Dean. Shelves holding newly updated sheets describing each SCW major and minor requirements and listing the faculty members in that major, as well as their email addresses and phone numbers, have already been mounted on the wall. The link to the advisement office on the SCW website is also being updated to include more information, including reminders about approaching deadlines.

Rochelle Mogilner, who has been working as an academic advisor at SCW for the last one and half years, says that most students already know about the academic advisement office, and they take advantage of it. "Students know that they can come in with questions," Mogilner said.

However, many students say that although they are aware of the advisors, they choose not to take advantage of them because they have found them unhelpful in the past. Students say they have found that while advisors answer some of their questions, they generally do not display the patience the students were expecting.

"The advisor mapped out my courses for me, but she didn't explain it," said Itiya Hanau, an SCW junior, who, like other students, hoped for more individualized attention and more detailed explanations. Many students choose to figure out their academic plans on their own rather than use academic advisement.

The recent advertising campaign of the



Rochelle Mogilner advises students on their course studies

advisement office is trying to reverse this common impulse. "We want to encourage more students to come in," said Orlan. "It's important to get help from people who are knowledgeable rather than just asking friends who may not have up to date, accurate information."

Miriam Schechter, who has been an academic advisor for the last six years, encourages every student to take advantage of the academic advisors and to talk to them early in their college careers. "Sometimes students come in because they need some focus," Schechter said. "We can help clarify their academic goals."

Aside from answering questions relating to requirements and majors, the office also performs junior and senior checks to make sure that students know what courses they have left to take. Signs instructing students to make appointments for junior and senior check are posted on the bulletin at the entrance of the school building. Still, many students fail to schedule appointments.

One student acknowledged that she should schedule an appointment for a senior check, but her last encounter with an academic advisor was so unpleasant that she was not interested in going back into the office.

"Sometimes students don't like what the academic advisors have to say because they are dealing with credits and other annoying requirements," suggested SCW senior Ayelet Rivka Jaye.

Schechter stressed that the advisors try very hard to accommodate each student, and advisors will often discuss a student's situation with the other advisors. "We won't just give a blanket no to students' requests and concerns," Schechter

said. "We care very much."

Mogilner acknowledged that students are sometimes dissatisfied with the answers they receive from an academic advisor. "Sometimes students have false expectations," said Mogilner. "But whenever there's an alternative, we try to work with it."

Although students who fail to schedule junior and senior checks are partly to blame for any problems they may encounter, academic advisement has been criticized for not following up on those students and encouraging them to schedule appointments.

"Ultimately it's the students' responsibility," conceded SCW senior Sara Roer. "But as a courtesy to the students, the administration should make a greater effort."

Some students suggested that the administration should at least make a greater effort to reach out to younger students, either by calling them or sending them a letter, informing them that academic advisors are available.

"I didn't know about the academic advisors until right now," said SCW student Avigayil Rosen, who arrived at SCW this fall. "You have to do a lot of work to seek them out," she said. "They should be seeking you out."

Recalling the confusion that she experienced when she first entered Stern two years ago, Roer recommended that the administration follow up on all the freshmen and new sophomores and invite them to speak to academic advisors. "People walk out of orientation very overwhelmed," Roer explained. "The administration should reach out more to younger students."

office hours and their contact information are posted in the Yeshiva University Source Book, which is distributed at the beginning of the semester.

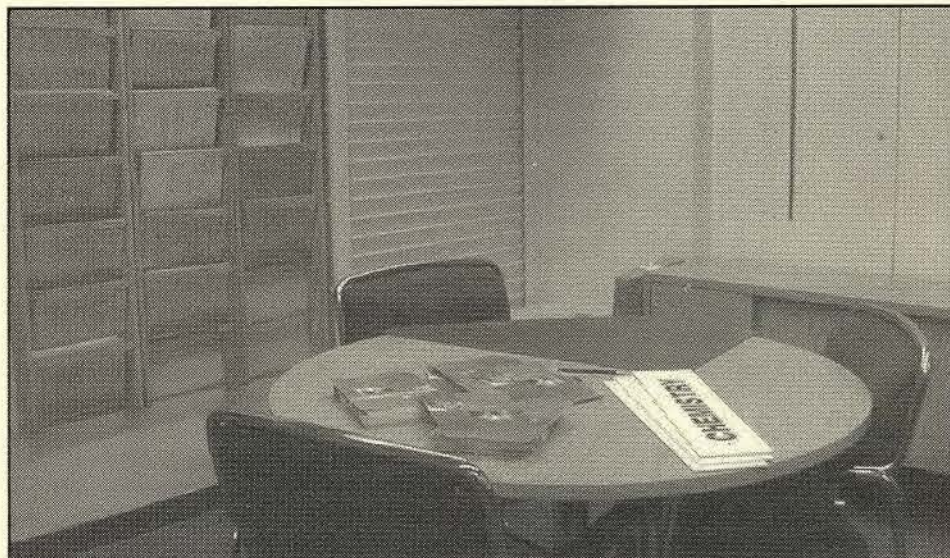
Besides for academic advisors, students can also direct their questions to the faculty members in their majors, as well as to specific advisors for pre-health, pre-law, and pre-engineering students.

Dr. Stefan Bosworth, who serves as the pre-health advisor for both SCW and YC students, divides his time between the two campuses. He is at SCW on Mondays and Wednesdays, and he is also available by email and phone. Overall SCW students have found Bosworth to be very accessible.

"The biggest major here at SCW is health related," said Bosworth, noting that it is unusual for a relatively small university like Yeshiva to have a full-time pre-health advisor. "It reflects a very strong commitment of this university to students majoring in the health sciences."

Bosworth explores possible careers with students, helps them decide which courses to take, and he assists with graduate school, medical school and dental school applications.

While pre-health students have expressed satisfaction with their advisement, pre-law students have complained that the law advisor, Dr. Michael Hecht, is not accessible enough and that the advisement is insufficient. Specifically, pre-law students mentioned that recommendations on which courses to take or on which fields of study to concentrate are often not given until it is too late. Furthermore, Hecht is at the midtown campus for only a few hours a week.



New academic advisement area in the Dean's Office features requirement sheets. The list of academic advisors for different majors

## Hanukkah Dinner

continued from page 24

member of the Board of Directors of Einstein's Women's Division. Mrs. Feinberg has also held leadership positions in numerous organizations, including UJA-Federation of New York and the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Charles Kushner is chairman of Kushner Companies, one of the leading privately held real estate organizations in the New York metropolitan region. A committed supporter of Jewish education, Mr. Kushner is a Yeshiva benefactor and founding member of the Board of Directors of Stern College for Women. Mr. Kushner is a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, was appointed by President Clinton to the US Holocaust Memorial Council, and has been active in the leadership of numerous Jewish institutions, medical centers, and performing arts organizations in the New York/New Jersey area.

Barry A. Shenkman joined the Board of Directors of Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1998 and serves as treasurer. He is president and treasurer of the Jacob Burns Foundation, a private charitable foundation created by his grandfather, Jacob Burns, who was one of the founders of Cardozo. Mr. Shenkman also was instrumental in establishing the

Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, NY.

Elliot K. Wolk, former senior managing director and member of the board of directors of the Bear Stearns Companies, Inc., is head of Elliot K. Wolk Investments. A member of the Board of Overseers of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Mr. Wolk and his wife, Dr. Nancy Wolk, are AECOM benefactors. He is a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Sloan School of Management and the executive committee of the International Directors Council of the Guggenheim Museum, and served for five years on the Corporation Board of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Several University trustees and benefactors will play leadership roles at the gala: Mordecai D. Katz is dinner chair; Erica Jesselson is honorary dinner chair; Dr. Ira Kukin is convocation chair; and Jack Z. Belz and David I. Schachne are Scroll of Honor chairs. Ruth Madoff is arrangements chair.

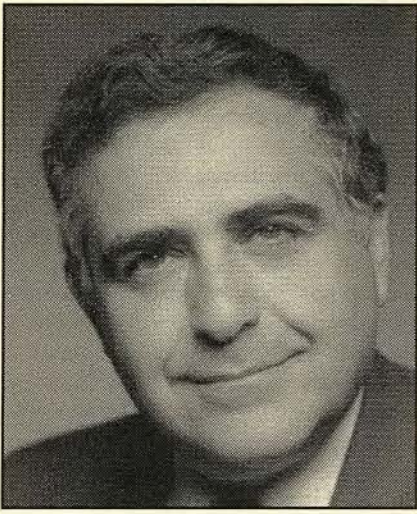
Since 1924, Yeshiva's annual Hannukah dinner has served as the primary fundraising event for the University. The evening traditionally gathers close to 1,000 friends and benefactors of Yeshiva.

The  
last day  
to file  
P/F for a course  
is Friday  
November 22nd

# BIOGRAPHIES

By Miriam Colton

## Richard Joel



President and International Director of Hillel since 1988, Richard Joel has played a leading role in shaping Jewish identity on college campuses. During his fourteen years there, Joel has become one of the leading spokesmen

for young Jews and has revived Jewish feelings among college students.

A graduate of NYU, Joel received his BA in 1972 and his J.D. in 1975. Following his graduation, he worked as the Assistant District Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Appeals Bureau in the Bronx. Though not a former student of Yeshiva, Joel has worked as Director of Yeshiva Alumni Affairs, as well as Associate Dean at the Cardozo School of Law.

While Joel may not have the breadth of academic credentials as the other candidates, he does have extensive experience in Jewish leadership and communal work. When Joel applied for the position of director of Hillel, the organization's main hesitation was that he did not have rabbinic ordination. Nonetheless, it accepted Joel for what was deemed "his charisma and vision," and its desire to give the organization an overhaul. Under Joel's slogan, "Maximizing the Number of

Jews Doing Jewish With Other Jews," Hillel is currently the largest Jewish campus organization in the world with over 500 regional centers.

During his tenure, Hillel's budget grew from \$16 to \$36 million and its headquarters was relocated to a new central building in Washington D.C. Along with billionaires Michael Steinhart and Edgar Bronfman, two board members of Hillel, Joel helped found Birthright, which brings young Jews to Israel for free.

Joel, 51, lives with his wife Esther and six children in Silver Spring, Maryland. His son is currently studying at Yeshiva's Gruss Institute in Israel and his daughter at SCW, a fact that many consider important. "While he might not have gone to YU, he clearly has a vested interest in it," said one Yeshiva official.

Within the Orthodox world, Joel recently served as the chairman of the NCSY Special Commission that was charged to conduct an independent investigation of the Orthodox Union

regarding Baruch Lanner, the former NCSY director charged with sexual abuse. Under Joel's leadership, the nine-member committee published a report criticizing the OU, stating that it had direct knowledge of the abuse and failed to act appropriately, and calling for "a radical change in the culture of the OU."

Because of his strong and vocal stance on the issue, Joel has at times been at odds with Lanner supporters, including some Yeshiva *roshei yeshiva*.

Joel is also on the eleven-member editorial board of the *Edah Journal*, a triennial publication on Orthodoxy's engagement with modernity.

Many feel that Joel's efforts at Hillel, where he oversees a large budget and hundreds of employees, as well as his success in revamping that organization, make him the premiere candidate for Yeshiva.

## Baruch Brody



Well-known expert in medical ethics and philosophy of law, Dr. Baruch Brody, is a professor of philosophy at Rice University in Houston as well as the director of the Center for Ethics at the Baylor College of Medicine. He has also

taught at other universities such as Hunter, MIT and Harvard, and has authored numerous books and articles on medical ethics.

Brody, 59, was born in Brooklyn where he studied at Yeshiva Chaim Berlin for four years, though he did not get rabbinic ordination because he didn't plan to go into the rabbinate. During his time at Chaim Berlin, he also received a BA from Brooklyn College in 1962, and went on to get a PhD from Princeton in 1967, after being awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at Oxford in 1965.

Brody, and his wife Deana, moved to Houston, Texas in 1976. They have three sons, two of whom attended the University of Pennsylvania and one went to Harvard. One of his sons recently made *aliyah*, and the youngest is currently learning at Har Etzion in Alon Shvut.

In Houston in the mid-70s, the Brodys encountered a Hebrew Academy that was floundering due to bankruptcy. Brody

assumed a key role in reconstructing the school and helping it achieve financial solvency, and became the chair of its Board of Education. Under his leadership, a program to learn in Israel during the senior year of high school was adopted.

Incidentally, the school recently became the Robert Beren Academy, named for the former chairman of Yeshiva's Board of Trustees. While Brody's name may have come up in the presidential search process last year under Beren's leadership, it was not a serious consideration on either side.

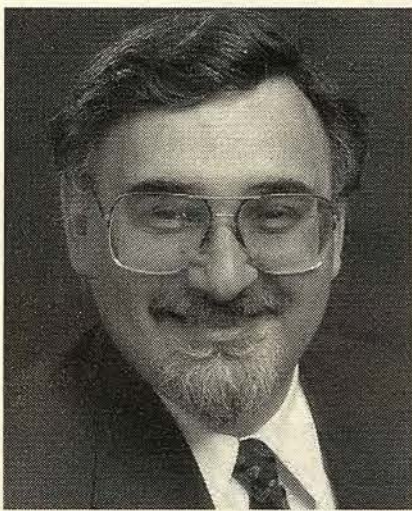
The Brodys are active members of United Orthodox Synagogue, a modern Orthodox synagogue with over 400 families. The other large orthodox synagogue in Houston is the Young Israel, situated in a different neighborhood, and "people decide where they're going to live based on the shul," according to one Houston community member. According to the same community member, Brody is known to have a "certain view on things,

and a clear understanding of what he wants, and is bright enough and confident enough to do it."

"He is completely committed to modern Orthodoxy," said Rabbi Joseph Radinsky, rabbi of UOS and close friend of Brody. Brody gives a women's halakha *shiur* on Shabbat, and his wife is the organizer of the Women's *tefilla* group there, and is said to be active in the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA), though she is not on the official board.

His liberal viewpoint, coupled with his lack of affiliation with Yeshiva, was worrisome to many when they heard of his candidacy. Additionally, Brody is said to have encouraged his children to attend the Ivy Leagues. "Cardozo and Einstein are right up his alley, the question lies with the yeshiva and undergraduate colleges," said one Yeshiva official. "His name comes from left-field and we don't know what to make of it."

## David Schnall



Dr. David Schnall, dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education, has a long affiliation with Yeshiva. He received his undergraduate degree from Yeshiva College in 1969, rabbinic ordination from RIETS in 1972, and master's degree in Jewish studies from Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies. He later earned a PhD in political science at Fordham University 1974.

Before assuming the deanship of Azrieli in 2001, Schnall held the Herbert Schiff Chair in Management and Administration at Wurzeiler since 1991. Prior to that he served as professor in the Department of Public Administration at Long Island University. In 1999, Schnall was awarded a prestigious J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship and spent the year at Hebrew University in Israel.

An expert in Jewish social issues like family and education, Schnall has pub-

lished numerous books and articles, most recently *By the Sweat of Your Brow: Reflections On Work and the Workplace in Classic Jewish Text*. Under his leadership, Azrieli has attempted to expand its education program and create a more structured curriculum for its students.

Schnall, in his mid-50s, lives with his wife Toby, in West Hempstead where he belongs to the local Young Israel. His two sons are currently students at Yeshiva schools and his daughter is still in high school.

His candidacy for president has been publicized since August. The only current candidate who has rabbinic ordination, Schnall's candidacy is labeled as the one that would not create waves at Yeshiva.

**YUOBSERVER.COM  
FOR THE  
LATEST  
YESHIVA NEWS**

**ORA and TAC  
present**

**A Women's Night  
of Awareness**

*featuring*

**Naomi Klass Mauer**

**Assistant to the Publisher,  
Jewish Press  
and a former agunah**

**8pm, Tuesday, November 26**

**Koch Auditorium**

**245 Lexington Avenue**

**Stern College for Women**

**Refreshments will be served**

**picture ID required**

## High School Mishmar Program to Debut at SCW

By Elisha Horen

In efforts to replicate the integrated learning programs between high school students and YC students that exist at the Wilf Campus, TAC, with the help of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS), is currently developing a similar program at midtown. The new mishmar program is expected to commence in December.

The learning program, to be held monthly, will involve dinner for the high school students followed by chaburah style learning with an SCW student. Each group will be able to choose between preparing sources for a shiur to be given at the end of the evening, or learning about any topic they find interesting. The program will begin with a student sharing a *dvar torah* with the entire group and will end with a short *shiur*, given by a SCW student or faculty member.

Frisch, Ma'ayanot, Central, North Shore Hebrew Academy and Yeshiva of Flatbush are among the schools that have been invited to participate. High schools have been receptive, eager to participate in a program that may be more successful than their own mishmar programs, said MSDCS coordinator Rabbi Ari Rockoff.

MSDCS and TAC are still in the process of confirming the high schools and finding SCW students, particularly alumnae of the participating high schools, to mentor the program. To that end, organizers have not yet begun advertising the program on campus, though the idea is spreading by word of mouth among students.

"Student participation is obviously a necessary component of the program," said SCW junior Rachel Horn, who is an intern at MSDCS.

Such a program has been in development for a while. Lauren

Pick, an SCW senior and alumna of Yeshiva of Flatbush, began a learning program at SCW last year for alumnae and current students of Yeshiva of Flatbush. Expanding on Pick's idea, TAC decided to spearhead a program for all high school girls.

In need of a liaison to the high schools, TAC approached Rockoff, whose department promotes leadership and learning for high school students, to help coordinate the program. In addition to receiving funding by MSDCS, the program will be partially sponsored by the Office of Admissions. Their hope is that by exposing high school girls to Stern, particularly the learning environment, some of them will ultimately decide to attend the college.

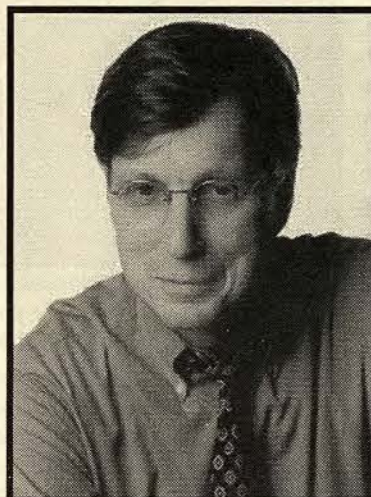
"The program is a win-win situation for everyone," said Rockoff. "Kids will enjoy seeing their friends, schools will be happy that they are learning, and alumnae will be eager to help and have a chance to teach." Besides Horn and Rockoff, MSDCS intern Abby Weiss and TAC President Lisa Grundman are coordinating the program.

Organizers have faced some technical difficulties, particularly regarding lack of appropriate facilities. The expected size of the group calls for a larger space than the SCW *beit medrash*, though ideally organizers wanted to hold the program there. Instead, TAC has secured Koch Auditorium as the site for the program.

"While a certain aspect of a *beit medrash* environment may be lost, a high energy atmosphere is sure to develop when Koch Auditorium fills with 100 women learning Torah," said Grundman.

## Stern College for Women Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence

Presents



Ari L. Goldman, YC '71

Journalist and Professor, former *New York Times* reporter, Associate Professor at Columbia University, and author of *The Search for God at Harvard*

### Moderates a colloquium on **Religion in Crisis: Scandal, Terrorism, and Truth**

Mr. Goldman and two panelists, one Muslim and the other Catholic, explore the journalist's responsibility to one's faith and one's readers.

Panelists: Tara Bahrapour, a *New York Times* writer and author, and Tom Farragher, a *Boston Globe* reporter who investigated the recent scandals in the Catholic Church.

**Monday, November 25, 2002 – 7:30PM**

Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center  
239 East 34th Street

Students and faculty are invited to attend this event. For further information, please contact via email: [scwdean@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:scwdean@ymail.yu.edu)  
\*Photo ID required at the door; not open to the general public.



Yeshiva University

## Presidential Process Continues

~~continues from front page~~ show a clear departure from the present model of a single president and rosh hayeshiva, since neither candidate has rabbinic ordination. Last March, the sudden announcement of the first candidate, Undersecretary of Defense Dov Zakheim, triggered a huge public outcry over the splitting of the roles. Zakheim withdrew his candidacy shortly after.

Stanton says the committee was ideally looking for a man who could fill both positions but that proved impossible. "The original concept of wanting a clone of Rabbi Lamm wasn't working," said Stanton. He added, "We need to decide what's important and who can speak for Yeshiva. Then, we can find fantastic assistants for the other areas."

Some feel that the issue with Zakheim was not only the splitting of the roles, but more that he would have polarized the University. "Joel is a man who knows Yeshiva well and would not step on toes more than necessary," said one Board member. "He would not turn the institution upside down, but understands it and is deeply devoted to it."

Ultimate acceptance of this split of president and rosh hayeshiva lies with RIETS, which must accept any candidate as its president as well. Neither Joel, nor Brody, who did not want to enter the University amidst uproar, would consider accepting the position without also accepted by RIETS as their presi-

dent. At the meeting on Monday of the RIETS roshei yeshiva there was strong opposition to the splitting of the roles.

President Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm himself vehemently spoke out against the splitting of the roles in a speech he made at last year's RIETS Chag Hasmicha. But now, Lamm seems to have changed his mind. Even before Dr. David Shatz removed his name as a presidential candidate in September, Lamm had agreed to remain on as the rosh hayeshiva with him. Now, too, he has agreed to remain on in that position if Joel does become president. Lamm is said to be a close friend of Joel and in favor of his appointment.

Rabbi Lamm did not return calls for comment.

As an ex-officio member of the new search committee, Lamm has played a key role in determining the recent nominees. The committee was revamped when Stanton assumed the role of Chairman of the Board of Trustees in mid-September.

Previously, the search committee, under Michael Jesselson's tight reign, was to submit names of a few candidates to the selection committee. That committee – consisting mainly of executive members of the Board of Trustees – was then to propose a candidate to the Board. Currently, the selection committee and search committee have merged into one search committee, making the



Chairman on the Board Ronald Stanton has taken a firm hold of the search process

process more expedient and effective. The new committee consists of seven members: Stanton; David Gottesman, Board Chairman Emeritus; Michael Jesselson; Ludwig Braverman, Board Treasurer; Burton Resnick, Board Chairman of the Executive Committee; Karen Bacon, SCW Dean; and Rabbi Lamm, ex-officio member. Four of the members are on the Executive Board of the Board of Trustees.

Bacon is a surprising addition to the search committee, which was previously without a Yeshiva inside member. Stanton is said to be personally fond of Bacon and insists, "she knows what's

going on." He is also known as a Lamm loyalist and has involved Lamm in the search process from the start.

Stanton's inclusive style of leadership differs from that of former Chairman of the Board Robert Beren, who held the presidential process under close wraps and was known to have been at odds with Lamm at times.

Part of Stanton's new approach includes meetings between the candidate and Yeshiva faculty and roshei yeshiva, before an official vote of the Board. Another one of Stanton's additions is a meeting between the candidate and a group of student leaders.

If Joel does become president, he will begin at the start of next year. According to some Board members, Joel had already mentioned the possibility to Hillel.

Ironically, last year Joel served as a member of the 50-member advisory committee, made up of lay leaders, faculty members and roshei yeshiva, which drafted the presidential requirements. He has a longstanding association with Yeshiva, and two of his children are currently enrolled at its schools.

Now, the key is acceptance of Joel from the broad spectrum of Yeshiva. While Stanton admits that no candidate is perfect, he said, "It's a judgment call as to who can do the best job."

## Health Awareness Hits Campus

*Students Learn About Breast Cancer in Gym Classes*

By Shifra Landowne

Although they have missed the deadline of National Breast Cancer Awareness month, SCW's Student Health Services launched a new and exciting health program. Last week was a trial run of the Health Awareness Week, during which every physical education class devotes one period to learning about a women's health topic.

The program was an idea that was discussed as early as last year by Dean of Students Zeldra Braun and Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics. It came to fruition this semester under the guidance of Mary Little of the Student Health Services, which is run by the Beth Israel Medical Center.

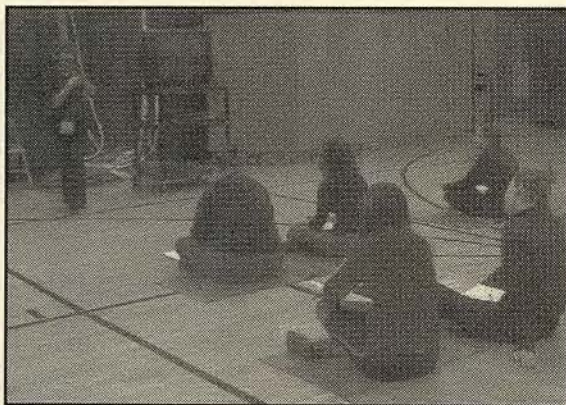
This first program focused on raising awareness of breast cancer in young women, with emphasis on the misconception that breast cancer only occurs in older women, when in fact it can occur in women as young as seventeen years old.

"The common misconception is that this only happens to older women," said Little. "The Stern women need to understand that everyone needs to take responsibility for being aware."

The program featured a speech by a young breast cancer survivor, followed by a video and basic early detection instructions.

"The program went really well," said Chana Rosenblatt, instructor of Beginner and Advanced Basketball. "Many students hadn't previously known anything about early detection."

The success of this first program will determine the forums for future programs, but the school is committed to running some form of health awareness program every semester. "For the first program, I agreed that the physical education classes were the best way to



Presentation in gym classes last week included a film about breast cancer in young women as well as a speech from a survivor

reach people," said Dr. Zerneck. "But we have to evaluate this method and see what works well."

Braun stated that she hopes to see this particular program continue, and she plans to put together a three student committee to help decide future topics and forums. In the past, the health awareness on campus has included a yearly Health Fair and sporadic lectures, but those programs depend on voluntary attendance. Conversely, this new program will be a sure way to reach a maximum number of students.

"With the physical ed program, you have a captive audience, and you are handing them information," said Dr. Kerneck.

While there has been talk of health awareness programs on the Wilf campus, Zerneck said he does not see a program there "getting off the ground anywhere near as quickly as this did."

According to Little, potential future topics include exercise, nutrition and stress management. It appears that many of the students are appreciating her efforts.

"The school really is providing a great service," says Sefi Kraut, an SCW junior who learned about breast cancer in her basketball class. "These topics are crucial to us as young women."

## ORA Organizes Protests to Help Agunot

By Shayndi Raice

Rabbis, Orthodox feminists and numerous Jewish organizations have been searching for ways to successfully address the problem of forcing a man to give his wife a Jewish divorce. The Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), the Yeshiva student-initiated organization which protests in front of the homes of recalcitrant husbands, has already made significant progress and is currently proceeding full force in its efforts

After having officially and legally formed as an organization, ORA, still at what organizers call its beginning stage, is now concentrating on procuring student involvement for its administrative duties and actual protests, as well as spreading awareness about the agunah issue in general.

Currently, ORA is looking ahead to its next large protest. The organization was contacted regarding a case of a Brooklyn man who has refused to give his wife a *get*, a Jewish divorce, for three years. In order to educate the recalcitrant husband, ORA plans on protesting outside his office in early December to make people around him, particularly his employer, aware of his actions.

ORA board members are also trying to attract more female involvement in the organization, said one board member. There are only three YC students on the board; SCW students have yet to become actively involved. Organizers say they are desperate to get students from SCW involved.

"We are yeshiva *bachurim* [young men] at YC and we don't know so many girls," explained organizers on the lack of participation by SCW students in what is traditionally considered a women's issue.

Besides the need for more women, organizers want "people from all sorts of places to get involved. There are no official positions that have been assigned yet and we are very much looking for people."

Aside from its protests, ORA is also interested in educating the public. "ORA's purpose is twofold," said a board member. "We want to help agunot and we want to spread the severity of the agunah issue."

Organizers feel that people are not educated enough about the seriousness of the issue. The student founders were first jolted into action when they realized nothing was being done about the issue.

"Plenty of people support Israel and give charity," said a board member. "But many people are not aware of the agunah crisis."

As part of its campaign to spread awareness of the agunah crisis, as well as about the organization itself, ORA recently hosted a symposium, featuring



Michelle Greenberg Kobrin addresses ORA symposium along with Rabbi Hershel Schachter

Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Beit Din of America head Rabbi Yonah Weiss and attorney Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin. Additionally, the organization plans on having a former agunah speak to the women at SCW.

ORA was, according to its mission statement, incorporated in April of 2002 "by students at Yeshiva University concerned with social justice in the Jewish community."

The organization has taken a somewhat unique role in trying to free agunot. Rather than only spread awareness or urge young people to sign a prenuptial agreement prior to marriage which would help to ensure compliance, ORA chooses to go after recalcitrant husbands in a physical way.

The organization has already seen success with its protest method. Its mission statement cites a case in which ORA was involved for only three weeks, after which a husband who had refused to give his wife a *get* for eleven years finally agreed to do so.

ORA will only take the drastic steps of physical protest once a *seiruv*, an injunction from the Beit Din, has been issued identifying the man as a recalcitrant husband. In its mission statement, organization heads make it abundantly clear that they want to work closely with the halakhic and rabbinic authorities, particularly Rabbi Hershel Schachter who personally approves all the activities engaged in by ORA.

The tactic of protesting is not new. A few years ago Rabbi Yosef Blau, Wilf campus Mashgiach Ruchani, organized a protest similar to the ones ORA conducts. However, that protest was a one-time affair, and no organization to deal with the problem in such a fashion arose from it.

Organizers feel that ORA has found its unique niche to help the agunah problem in a proactive way.

"People see our method as more risky than offering social or psychological support," said a board member. "Our plan is new and seems to be having an exciting rate of success."

**OPEN HOUSE 2002**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH



Dean of Students Zeldra Braun talks with prospective students and their parents



SCW Dean Karen Bacon delivers address to a packed Koch auditorium on Sunday



Student leaders, (l-r) SSSB President Ellie Nyer, SCW President Sharon Weiss and SCW Recording Secretary Arie Staller, were eager to volunteer as guides during Open House



## Disciplinary Committee in Initial Stages of Drafting Bill of Rights

By Alisa Rose

The newly formed undergraduate disciplinary committee met at the midtown campus for the first time on November 7th, to begin the task of drafting a document that will outline student rules and disciplinary procedures.

The committee, composed of Student Services administrators, SCW and YC students and a Yeshiva lawyer, discussed the general makeup of the document, exploring what should be included in the document, how specific it should be in listing particular infractions and their consequences and how it should be worded.

The wide-ranging discussion also considered the difference between on-campus and off-campus infractions, legal issues, and the policies of other universities.

"I want to give the student body a sense that disciplinary procedures are clear and that students rights and responsibilities are spelled out in a document," Dean Efreim Nulman said after the meeting, which he deemed a "worthwhile effort."

The need for such a document became obvious last year when several YC students were expelled without a formal disciplinary procedure, many of whom were later readmitted. At the urging of student leaders, Nulman organized the committee at the beginning of this year to draft a document to outline what has been referred to as a Students' Bill of Rights.

Before the committee's next meeting, which will be held on November 26th, Nulman will send each committee member a copy of a draft of a document that is being composed with Yeshiva lawyer Toby Stone. The committee will have the opportunity to look over the document and discuss it at their next meeting.

"It is premature to know how it will all work

out until we have something concrete," said Wilf campus Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau, a member of the committee. He noted that the committee's next meeting should yield more substantive results.

The disciplinary committee includes student representatives from both SCW and YC and the document will apply to both schools. Some SCW representatives, however, expressed impatience with the extensive discussion of "YC issues" at the first meeting.

*"It is premature to know how it will all work out until we have something concrete."*

The Wilf campus often has a greater predominance of issues relating to physical violence, while midtown issues are more often related to residence life and psychological guidance.

"There was too much time spent on particulars," said Shoshana Davis, one of the SCW representatives. "The guys inadvertently monopolized the conversation."

SCWSC president Sharon Weiss echoed Davis's sentiment. "I think we may want to also meet separately in smaller groups because our main issues are so different," said Weiss. Other students questioned whether such a split would be helpful since the document will cover any issue that could arise on either campus.

Student representatives at the meeting also called for reshaping of the roles of Student Services. Currently, Student Services administrators serve as both disciplinarians and student advocates, which many feel is a conflict of interest. Students currently feel uncomfortable talking with and trusting administrators who are also responsible for disciplining them.

Most of the committee members echoed Nulman's assessment that the first meeting was a success and are looking forward to the next meeting when they will actually have a draft to discuss. "The meeting was as productive as can be expected of a first meeting," commented YSU president Shai Barnea.

### Kochaviah '03

is looking to fill the following positions:

1. Editor-in-Chief
2. Layout
3. Photographers
4. Graphic Designers
5. Art Editor
6. Literary Editor
7. Copywriters

Anyone interested should email Esther, Senior Class President, at [Hfster991@aol.com](mailto:Hfster991@aol.com) or [eglazer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:eglazer@ymail.yu.edu)

## Department in Focus: Music

By Shifra Landowne

SCW's music department is one of the undiscovered gems of the undergraduate program. Despite the fact that it is amongst the smallest departments, (it employs one full time professor and has less than three majors and six minors) it may very well be one of the most enthusiastic. This excitement and dedication is due to the small group of students all doing something that they love.



Dr. David Glaser runs the music department almost single-handedly

Professor David Glaser, whose official title is "Visiting Assistant Professor," has been acting as the de facto head of the music department since former department head Professor Edward Levy passed away last year. According to Dean Karen Bacon, there is no active search for a new department head, yet Glaser has not been promoted. No reason was given by the administration for this continued vacancy. Though Glaser, who teaches all the principal music classes, is the only full professor, an adjunct instructor, Christopher Buchenholz, was hired this semester to teach a one-credit, ear-training course.

Despite the obvious hindrance of a department with one professor and without a head, the course work is interesting to the music students. Malka Zeiger, a junior majoring in music, does not mind the minimal variety of courses. "Professor Glaser is a fantastic teacher," she says. "I take him for three classes a semester and only like him more."

In an attempt to improve options for majors, as well as to make the music department more accessible to students with minimal or no music background, Glaser will be working to expand the course offerings. This semester's courses are Sense of Music, Harmony and Twentieth Century Music. Among the new projects in the development are a choir ensemble, which has been approved by the adminis-

tration and is now in need of a female lead. Other additions include a history course tentatively entitled Jazz and American Vernacular Music and a course in music composition. The class in composition will only be open to students who have completed two semesters of Harmony.

As part of Glaser's effort to expand the music department, a memorial concert in memory of Levy will be held Sunday, February 23rd. The performance will feature

musical pieces written by Professors Levy, Glaser and Bartholomew, a professor of music at the Wilf Campus. It will be free for all students.

Most of the students currently enrolled in music classes are satisfied with the courses. "I loved Sense of Music," says Yael Gamss, an SCW junior. "We analyzed pieces of music for common themes, tore apart all aspects of them. Also, Professor Glaser is very relaxed - you can say what you think, and he helps you develop your thoughts."

Additionally, the three music majors appreciate the smallness of the department because it is conducive to higher level learning. "I find myself very challenged because all the students are talented and committed," says Zeiger. Nevertheless, Zeiger admits that there is some handicap due to the limits of courses offered each semester.

While it remains unclear to students why the administration is not actively seeking to expand its department, most students feel that Glaser is doing all he personally can to help the students.

"He carries the entire department on his shoulders and does it well," said Sarah Weinstein, a music minor. "He thinks big."

## Students Hope to Make Senate Relevant

By Arie Staller

Two years ago, when SCW students wanted a larger variety of advanced Jewish Studies courses, they brought their request to the Student Senate. After intense deliberations among themselves, the Senate raised the concern with the deans, faculty and administration. It may have taken a year, but when it came time to register for the following fall semester, there were new Jewish studies course topics offered, as well as a new professors for the advanced levels. This expansion of course offerings is one example of how the Student Senate has been successful for the students.

Jennifer Marcus and Erika Goldstein, the two students leading the Senate this year, anticipate accomplishing the goal of "providing the students with a solution to their demands."

Under the by-laws of the SCW Constitution, a Student Senate is required to represent the students' general academic concerns. Article IV states: "The Senate is the official liaison between the

students and the administration regarding academic affairs."

The Senate differs from the Academic Standards Committee, which handles individual cases and is composed of mostly deans and faculty members with only one student on the committee. The Senate is concerned with the general academic well-being of the school from the student perspective.

The role of the Senate is to assess student concerns and prioritize them in order of necessity. Only after numerous reassessments and modifications does the Senate present its issues to the deans, faculty and administration.

Although the Senate has no official jurisdiction to make enforceable decisions, the faculty and administration work with the Senate to change current procedures and to reach mutual goals among faculty and students.

The Senate is made up of a select body of students who represent each class as well as a diversity of majors. "It is chiefly important that the Senate be comprised of active, attentive, personable, and vocal students," states a press

release of the Student Senate, "in order to benefit the students in the manner that they deserve and to best reflect the students' needs."

In past years, SCW's Student Senate has been defunct, but this year a new approach is being taken by Marcus and Goldstein. "The Senate has been meeting a lot and really wants to make things happen," said Sara Brodsky, SCWSC treasurer who served on the Senate for two years.

According to Senate leaders, "The current Senate hopes to not only change the past but to create a living legacy for stronger future senates."

This new activity may be a result of observing the YC/SSSB Senate, which has been continually active uptown and meets approximately every two weeks.

According to Joshua Sturm, YC senior and Senate chair, their responsibilities range the academic spectrum. These include academic integrity protocols and recommendations, developing procedures for selecting valedictorians, fine tuning policies towards students with learning disabilities and improving

teacher evaluation forms.

Unfortunately, such an active student voice has been missing at midtown. While the YC Senate has reputable standing, many SCW students do not even know the Senate exists. "I know a Senate is composed of students who come together to deal with academic problems within the school," said Esther Feld, SSSB junior. "But I didn't know we had one at Stern."

In order to achieve more student awareness and input, there is currently a suggestion box located in the registrar's office encouraging the student body to utilize the Senate. "The Senate really wishes to emphasize its accessibility and willingness to be closely involved with all the issues pertaining to academic affairs," said Marcus.

Those involved believe that the Student Senate is a very important aspect of a student's academic life. "The Student Senate is where the students have the power for the future enhancement of their academic career," said Brodsky.

## Religious Guidance on Campus: Is there Enough?

By Rachel Fyman

The recent discussions regarding the dress code at SCW, and the related halakhic implication of any change, have brought to the forefront Yeshiva's role in providing religious guidance for students. Overall, the sentiment among the student body is that there is not sufficient religious leadership at the midtown campus.

Many students enter SCW following a year of intense religious experience in Israel, and are seeking the same type of religious environment. Often, however, they encounter academics who are unwilling to give them the personal and ideological advice that they received in Israel or high school. "If you go to the rabbis after class, you can ask them questions," says Sigalle Matlovsky, an SCW junior. "But they seem more interested in their class work than more personal issues."

In fact, the vast majority of Judaic studies professors at SCW are part-time, which many feel is not conducive to forming relationships between faculty and students. As a result, many students feel more comfortable referring their questions to their rabbi from home, or a teacher from high school or seminary.

The role of religious guidance at SCW officially falls to Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, the Mashgiach Ruchani. While Rabbi Hochberg has office hours and invites students to stop by his office, call or e-mail him with both halachic questions and personal issues, many students are unaware of the opportunity. "I didn't know that a mashgiach ruchani existed," claims Chanie Angster, an SSSB senior, echoing the mildly surprised responses of numerous students.

One possible explanation is that Rabbi Hochberg's office is on the sixth floor, far removed from the other Students Services offices, and the door bears no nameplate. "In an ideal world, the mashgiach ruchani would sit in the front hallway and people would pass by," Hochberg explains. "It's a responsive role."

In addition to teaching two popular courses a semester - at both the advanced and beginner levels - Rabbi Hochberg spends 12 hours a week at the midtown campus. A letter from him is distributed in the residence packet at the beginning of the semester, and he sends a letter containing halachic guidelines to students before the holidays.

"I'm busy with students most of the time I'm here," asserts Rabbi Hochberg, who is also the rabbi of the Young Israel of Jamaica Estates. "Some people come regularly, some come once about a specific issue." He adds that the majority of students who meet with him are either students who attend his classes or his Wednesday night shmooze.

Nevertheless, many feel that one part-time rabbi cannot fill the needs of a student body of over 1,000 students. "The

role could use more hours," admits Hochberg, who took over the position in 1995 from Rabbi Flaum, who had been full-time.

"I think that if there was someone available full time it would be beneficial to those seeking guidance," comments Shoshana Davis, an SCW senior. "And it would increase the chance of inspiring someone who wouldn't have sought it."

While some students are looking for more personal guidance, others are seeking a *posek* for the college in general. It is in this area that the role of mashgiach ruchani seems vague.

Since there are no *roshei yeshiva* at midtown, as there are at the Wilf campus, nobody at SCW stands out as an obvious halakhic authority. While Rabbi Hochberg answers some halakhic questions, such as the lighting of Chanukah candles in the lobby, he does not deal with more large-scale queries. "School halachic questions are directed uptown,"

he explains. The college occasionally turns to Rabbi Dr. Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Jewish Studies Department, to decide on halachic questions.

Rabbinic figures at the midtown campus seem to shy away from making public statements with regard to halakha. "I'm very frustrated they are unwilling to use the word halakha here," says SCW sophomore Hindy Poupko, in regard to the recent dress code forum. "It's indicative of the lack of religious presence at this school."

Without halachic figures with the authority and respect of the uptown *roshei yeshiva*, it would be difficult to find someone to issue rulings. "There could be no one *posek*," asserts SCW freshman Tova Glatter. "Every student comes from a different community and a different family. It would be extremely difficult to encompass all different backgrounds of all different girls into one *psak* [religious ruling]."

A minority of students prefers this lack of halachic leadership. Racheli Rubin, an SCW senior, appreciates that there is no one person that regulates religious observance on campus. "There is diversity among students, and people would want different leadership," she explains. "The school isn't meant to tell us how to live as Jews." Rubin adds that the current system allows students to choose their own paths and to seek their own mentors if they so desire.

While Rubin may be happy with the status quo on campus, it appears that the majority of the student body expects such guidance, only to be sorely disappointed. "They think they don't need to reach out to us because we're in a Jewish school," states Aliza Blumenfeld, SCW junior. "I feel that my Judaism has regressed here. We have academic advisors, why don't we have religious advisors?"



Rabbi Hochberg, above, is the official Mashgiach Ruchani on campus

## Dress Code

continued from front page

The letter does not inform the students of a change in the code; rather it recommends that "students take a step in alleviating the tension in regard to the current dress situation" and encourages students to "wear skirts and shirts of appropriate length during primary school hours."

"We want to set up a compromise we feel students can live up to," Weiss remarked.

While at first Dean Karen Bacon condoned the letter, the administration later reconsidered and prevented the letter from being distributed on schedule. In a meeting between administrators and student leaders held this past Monday, the deans agreed to let the letter be distributed. The letter is currently in editing stages and is being prepared for public release.

"I was not sure it was the best approach for the students to send the letter," said Dean Ethel Orlian. "I don't know if the dress code is in their jurisdiction, and I'm not sure what they hope to accomplish."

Orlian pointed out that since the student leaders do not have the authority to unilaterally alter the dress code, sending out a letter merely recommending certain behavior may be confusing to the student body.

Student leaders and the administration seem, in fact, to be at odds with each other. Prior to a November 7th meeting between student leaders and Dean Bacon, the office of the dean was poised to send out a disciplinary letter of their own to the student body. That letter was to have emphasized the current dress code and the necessity of following it.

Furthermore, student leaders' urging the student body to wear appropriately clothing only at certain hours of the day is in direct opposition to the existing dress code.

While Weiss, Nyer and Grundman assert that the dress code issue was raised completely as a result of student initiative, administrators insist that their decision to write a letter came before the student-organized dress code forum.

"The issue has come to our attention because of style change," said Dean Bacon, noting that, in recent years, the prevalence of pant-wearing students on campus has increased. "I notice the change as soon as I walk out of my office."

Bacon is not the only administrator to have noticed the change. Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, President of Yeshiva University, has made reference to the many students wearing pants he noted while attending a board meeting at the midtown campus earlier in the year.

Despite the pervasiveness of the policy violation in past years, the administration has done little, if anything, to combat the problem. However, in light of the increased disobedience, the administration feels they have reached a threshold of tolerance and a response is imperative.

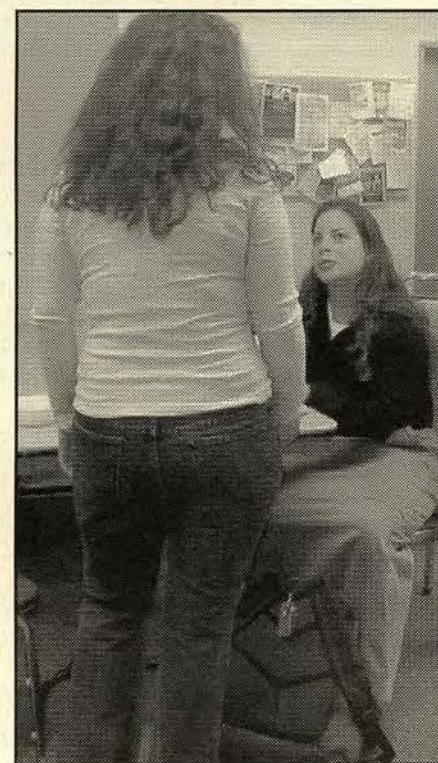
"We need to enlist people's compliance," Bacon said, "or else we will end up with a police state." In the letter from the administration set to have been distributed last week, the deans appealed to the students' sense of belonging and unity in an attempt to encourage adherence to the policy.

While the administration argues that their letter was mild in tone, the three student leaders disagree.

"The dean's letter focused too much on the word 'code' and could potentially turn many people off," Weiss said. "The deans understood our concern, and we hope to reach a compromise."

The content of the student council letter is said to directly reflect the student body's opinion as garnered from the forum.

"The purpose of the forum was to give students a chance to express their opinions to the student leaders," said Grundman. "And we feel we were successful one hundred percent."



Students' wearing pants on campus, such as in the cafeteria, pictured above, has become more common in recent years

Literature distributed at the forum contained excerpts reflective of the status quo as well as the reasons behind it. For example, according to a 1970 text from the dean's office, the dress code is a school regulation, non-reflective of halachic norm. "Its purpose," the thirty-two year old document states, "is to ensure an atmosphere or milieu that is conducive to who and what we are—a women's college that provides Torah education and Jewish studies in addition to a program of general studies."

Notwithstanding that citation, Dean Bacon does admit that the policy has religious roots. "We insist on a dress code because we want to represent mainstream Orthodox Judaism," she stated. "However if the dress code was halakha we wouldn't differentiate between the buildings and anywhere else. The University does not make halachic rulings."

In any event, it is clear to student leaders and administrators alike that the dress code issue must be addressed. If anything, the recently held dress code forum indicated that a high degree of religious polarity exists at SCW.

Though every attempt was made at the forum to clear the discussion of religious overtones, it was almost impossible to do so. Students who attended the forum noted much negativity.

"The room very quickly filled with tension," remarked Lauren Appel, an SCW senior.

Students were also surprised at the level of hostility and emotion that was present at the forum. "Students went into personal attack and it was unnecessary," commented SSSB senior Dvora Lipkind.

Added SCW junior Yael Reisman, "It was a gross display of *sinat chinam* [baseless hatred of a fellow Jew]."

Student sentiment regarding the code varied, but the overarching feeling was that the dress code is somewhat constricting. "People use a dress code to set up boundaries," Lipkind said. "In no way should it be enforced in a college setting."

However, many students felt the dress code issue is really a non-issue and should not be up for discussion. "When women come to Stern they know there is a dress code," remarked SSSB sophomore Rivky Malzyner. "For rabbis to require it in class or in school is not so astounding."

Student leaders are hopeful that a compromise to satisfy all members of the student body, as well as the administrators, can be reached.

"The purpose of this entire ordeal was to create a comfortable campus environment both educationally and socially, given the fact that we are a yeshiva and a university," said Weiss. "And I think we

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING

# BUSINESS NEWS

## CLUB UPDATES

### Economics Club Takes Trip to Federal Reserve Bank

By Liana Biniashvili

**S**CW's Economics Club embarked on its second annual trip to the Federal Reserve, located in the heart of downtown Manhattan, on November 2nd. Five students participated in the trip.

The students visited the museum of the Fed, which contains educational displays and interactive computer games that tested their knowledge of economic policy. They also saw a video presentation on the bank's Gold Vault, which stores billions dollars in gold of foreign currency. The video also illustrated how U.S. currency is made with the help of complex robots that are regulated and supervised by the bank's staff.

The guide concluded the tour by escorting the five women to another room on the floor, which housed books, articles, speeches, and comic books concerning the financial system of the United States. Each attendee grabbed as much as she could from the complimentary array of literature offered.

The final stop on the tour was the Fed's extensive coin collection, which included a current Israeli shekel and a two thousand-year old Judean shekel that dated back to the ancient times of Bar Kohba.

Students noted that since they were not economics majors, (the club is made up of many SSSB students), they learned important information about the United States' economy that they had not previously known. "I was able to answer questions and comment in economics class after coming to the Federal Reserve," said Sara Brodsky, an SSSB senior.

The Federal Reserve was established by the U.S. Congress to formulate and execute monetary policy and serve as the banker for the U.S. government. Along with its general responsibilities the New York branch is unique because it is responsible for conducting open market operations, intervening in foreign exchange markets, and storing monetary gold for foreign central banks, governments and international agencies.

### FMA Holds Orientation Meeting

By Observer Staff

**T**he Financial Management Association (FMA), a joint Wilf and midtown club, held its orientation event on Monday, November 11th. At the meeting, FMA presidents Tanya Bayeva and David Ratzker discussed the goals of FMA and detailed the benefits of membership in the organization.

The culmination of the meeting was a team game, designed to refresh students' memory of the basic financial instruments: stocks and bonds. Professor Sperling, FMA Faculty advisor, judged the teams' responses. Winners Yaelle Levy and Rachel Chasky each were awarded \$25.

The FMA is a national organization that was incorporated into Sy Syms School of Business in the spring of 2002. Sixteen SSSB students are currently official members, the majority of whom are women. FMA gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of financial careers, and it is useful to hone interview and job seeking skills.

For membership information, e-mail [fmasssb@yahoo.com](mailto:fmasssb@yahoo.com) or call 917-592-9212. There are a limited amount of discounted memberships available. The deadline for FMA applications is the end of November.

## MESSAGE FROM SSSBSC PRESIDENT



As we approach the midpoint of the semester I would like to catch everyone up thus far and let you all in on some of the upcoming events that are planned.

In October, the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council worked very hard to put together a fantastic Orientation Reception. It turned out to be extremely successful, with improved attendance, informative speakers, club sign ups and free SSSB mugs. But the planning did not end there!

In terms of upcoming events, even now in the midst of midterms the SSSBSC board, along with club heads, are working hard to plan programs and events. In the middle of November the FMA, the Max Stern Investment and the MIS clubs are holding their "kick-off" nights. In addition, OPCS is holding lectures on various career opportunities throughout the month. I urge all of you to attend these events both within SSSB and OPCS. They are arranged for your benefit so that you can be active in school as well as enhance your knowledge of the business world.

As for within the Syms Midtown Campus, the SSSBSC has ordered the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* for a bit of leisure reading. They are available everyday on the second floor of the 215 Lexington building located on each of the coffee tables. We understand the importance for every student to be up to date on all current events of the world and aspects of business. Please do not remove the papers so that everyone can share them.

On an academic note, take advantage of the free tutoring Sy Syms has to offer. If you are in need of assistance in any of your business studies please contact either Mrs. Ruth Forman in the Syms midtown office or myself, and we will be happy to pair you up with a tutor. Also, if you would like to make some extra money or if you just want to help a fellow student in their classes, sign up to tutor; we can always use the help.

The SSSBSC is always open and receptive to suggestions regarding events and speakers. If you have any ideas please feel free to contact any of the Sy Syms student council members Daniella Diamant (V.P.), Shayna Greenwald (Tres.), Jessica Strick (Sec.) or myself. In addition, those who wish to get more involved in student government should contact us.

Here is something to look forward to...Hanukkah gifts! During the whole week of Hanukkah the SSSBSC will be distributing gifts to every Sy Syms student. Make sure you get one as soon as Chanukah begins.

Thursday, December 26 – Sunday, December 29, 2002 | 21– 24 Tevet, 5763 | Rye Town Hilton | Westchester, NY

# Be one of the decision makers at this year's trailblazing OU NATIONAL CONVENTION

## SPECIAL INVITATION

for Future Community Leaders  
from Stern College to spend  
Thursday, December 26th at the Convention

Join Discussions on the  
Future of the Orthodox Community

SPECIAL SHIURIM

Special Meeting with Rabbi Dr. Tzvi  
Hersh Weinreb and OU Leadership

DINNER INCLUDED

Bus transportation  
provided.

Limited number  
of seats available.

First preference will be  
given to NCSY advisors.

TO RESERVE YOUR  
PLACE CALL RABBI  
LENNY BESSLER AT  
NCSY 212.613.8352



ORTHODOX UNION  
ELEVEN BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

VISIT [WWW.OU.ORG](http://WWW.OU.ORG) FOR  
REGULAR PROGRAM UPDATES

You will want to hear from  
these distinguished leaders:

- HARAV YISRAEL MEIR LAU  
ISRAEL CHIEF RABBI
  - RABBI DR. TZVI HERSH WEINREB  
OU EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
- DR. KAREN BACON  
MONIQUE C. KATZ DEAN,  
STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
  - RABBI HERSHEL BILLET
  - RABBI YITZCHOK BREITOWITZ
  - RABBI DR. GERSHON C. GEWIRTZ
  - RABBI SHMUEL GOLDIN
  - MALCOLM HOENLEIN
  - STEPHEN HOFFMAN
  - RABBI LEONARD MATENKY
  - RABBI DR. AARON RAKEFFET
  - RABBI HERSHEL SCHACHTER
  - RABBI DR. J.J. SCHACHTER
- AND MANY MORE

# Cultural Arts

## Battle of the Bands Rocks Midtown Campus

By Chanita Friedman and  
Devorah Heching

The Battle of the Bands, held on November 7th at the Schottenstein Cultural Center, has been hailed a huge success by the student body. The band Takaseem, which was selected from eight competitors as the winner of the event, will open for Dedi and Shwekey at the annual Yeshiva University Chanukah Concert in a few weeks.

The event filled the Cultural Center to capacity, drawing over 300 SCW and YC students, and security was forced to turn away students.

Event planners were astounded at the success of the competition. "I personally did not expect that many people to show up," said Jon Perl, YC junior class president and co-coordinator of the event. "For minimal advertising, we were surprised that it was such a sell out."

The eight bands - the Shabbatones, Shaz, Aspaklaria, Mizrach, Takaseem, Yitzy Spinner, Eli Chait and Eitan Katz - had styles varying from hard rock to middle eastern influences. Although most of the groups pointed to Shlomo Carlebach as a major influence on their musical compositions, each of the bands had its own distinct sound.

Shaz, for instance, was able to get the crowd excited with its jazz-influenced Jewish music. Performers ran through the crowds and created an energetic atmosphere. Yitzy Spinner had an opposite style, playing an acoustic guitar with another performer on the bongos.

"The participating eclectic groups performed a wide range of musical styles all within the Jewish theme," commented Yummy Schachter, vice president of SOY, and event co-coordinator.

While some of the groups had been performing together long before the event, other bands formed specifically to compete in Battle of the Bands. Mizrach,

a band of three brothers, has been playing together for years, and Aspaklaria and Eitan Katz were well known before the Battle of the Bands. In contrast, the winning band, Takaseem, had only begun practicing as a group a few weeks prior to the battle.

The eight bands, composed of Yeshiva students, alumni and others, were judged by a panel of Jewish music experts. The panel of judges included Moe Rosenblum of Diaspora Yeshiva Band, Eli Schwebel of Lev Tahor, Adam Melzer of Neginah Orchestra, Dov Katz of Neshoma Orchestra and Yitzchak Rosenthal of Shalshales.

The winning band was chosen based on an elaborate point system. Each judge was given a questionnaire which covered multiple aspects of every performance. The bands were then assigned a different

points rating based on, for example, the amount of audience participation that was exhibited or the musical talent the group displayed. After all eight bands performed the total number of points were tallied up, and Takaseem was announced as the winner.

Nachum Segal, radio announcer for JM in the AM and YC graduate, hosted the competition. Event planners were pleased to secure his involvement.

"We truly admire Nachum Segal for his continued support of the Yeshiva events, and for taking time out of his busy schedule to join us and host the Battle of the Bands," said Schachter.

The idea of the Battle of the Bands was conceived by YSU president Shai Barnea, who presented the idea for the competition at the beginning of the fall semester. Barnea enlisted Schachter and Perl to

coordinate the event.

"This is something which has been discussed for years but never was done," said Schachter. "Shai and I felt that this would be a great opportunity to support the multitude of talent that does not usually get exposure in the world of Jewish music. We wanted to give these bands the chance to express themselves artistically, and to display their various talents." Added Perl, "It was a great way to incorporate the talent of students in the University with the events that we run."

Perl and Schachter were responsible for selecting bands to compete. They also were involved in the myriad technical details, such as staging and setting up the sound equipment. TAC and SCWSC were also involved in the planning. Schachter noted that the technical details and security arrangements were made possible with the help of SCWSC president Sharon Weiss.

Event organizers specifically chose Schottenstein Cultural Center as the site for the competition because of its high-tech equipment. "We thought that the new cultural center would be a perfect venue for this type of event," explained Schachter. "We also wanted to utilize an underused facility that is at our disposal." However, the cultural center proved to be too small for the eager crowds, and Lamport Auditorium at the Wilf campus will probably be selected as the venue for an future event of this caliber, said Schachter.

Reactions to the event were largely positive. Many of those who attended would like to see more of this kind of musical exhibition and are hopeful for a similar event in the future.

"As far as I know, no future events of this sort are being planned," said Perl. "I'd be glad to work on further programs like this in the future. I think it should be made into an annual event."

### Spotlight on Takaseem

By Shayndi Raice

When Jesse Asher, a YC senior, and his brother David, 16, met Ben Antelis, 17, they befriended him as the new kid on the block in their Hillside, NJ, community. They didn't expect him to be a musician who would complete their ensemble as Takaseem, the winning band in Yeshiva's recent Battle of the Bands.

"My brother and I used to play together in our basement," recalls Jesse, who plays bass and sings. "We tried to become friends with David, and one day we just started jamming."

After hearing about the opportunity to compete in the Battle of the Bands from Shai Barnea, YSU president, the three friends decided to form a band only four weeks before the Battle of the Bands. "We're warriors so we decided to go for it," says Jesse of the spontaneous decision to try out. They describe the victory as "expected but unexpected."

Jesse and David are half Egyptian on

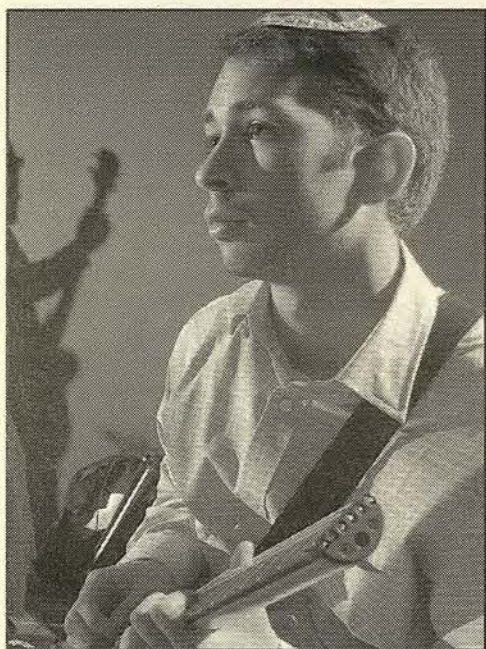
their father's side and they credit their grandfather, a *chazzan*, as a heavy influence on their Middle Eastern music. The name of the band is derived from the Arabic term for improvisational music. They also cited Yossi Piamenta, Perl Jam and Led Zeppelin as musical influences.

"We knew we were doing some experimental stuff but we wanted to go for it," says Jesse.

Life hasn't changed much for the band yet.

"We don't get out much," says Jesse. "We hang out in my basement." David did say that his teacher at JEC is very proud of him and that he had been given donuts in school for winning the competition.

For now, the guys say they're "taking it one step at a time" and are just excited to open for Dedi and Shwekey at the upcoming Yeshiva Chanukah concert. If you miss them at the Yeshiva concert, you can also catch Takaseem at Hanukkahstock, at the West Side Institutional on December 7th.



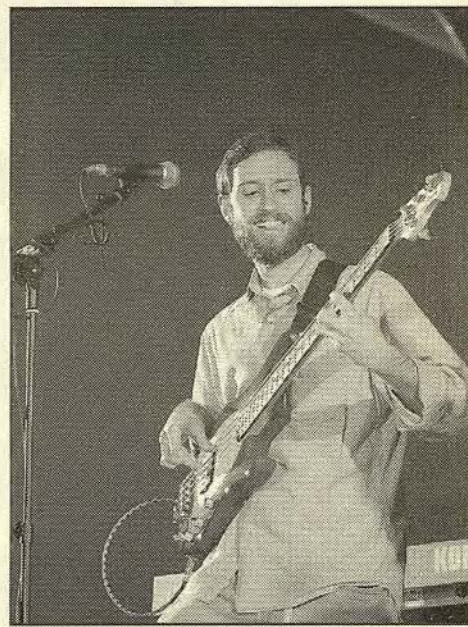
Yitzy Spinner performs on acoustic guitar

(Photo courtesy of Yeshiva Department of Communications and Public Affairs)



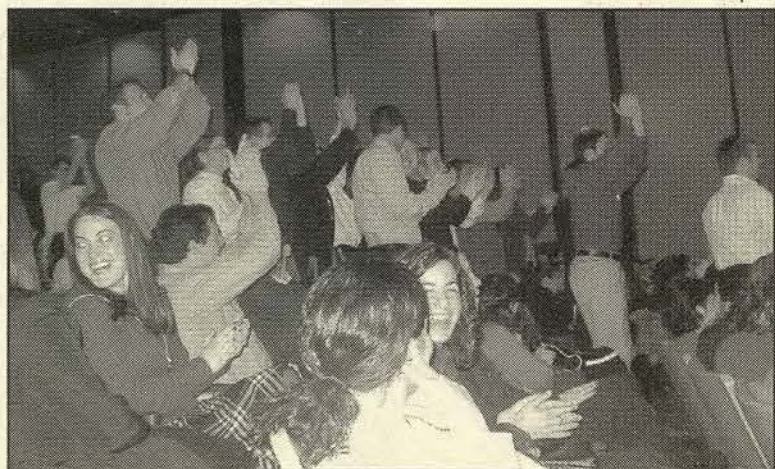
Takaseem (l-r), David Asher, Jesse Asher and Ben Antelis

(Photo courtesy of Yeshiva Department of Communications and Public Affairs)



Jessie Asher plays guitar and sings for Takaseem, Battle of the Bands winner

(Photo courtesy of Yeshiva Department of Communications and Public Affairs)



Audience members enjoyed themselves at the Battle of the Bands



Students took the opportunity to hang out with their friends

# Cultural Arts

## Boy Bands Proliferate in Jewish Music Scene

By Rachel Horn

Everyone wants a piece of "the hock." That Yeshiva students are anxious to connect specifically to the music scene is evident in the latest phenomenon: the proliferation of "Jewish boy bands."



song to a compilation CD produced by the One Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund in support of Israel. Although they currently have a demo that they sell at concerts, they are working on a band CD to be released in January.

"Writing the songs is a group effort," said Zwillenberg, "but Dov [Rosenblatt], our lead singer, writes most of the songs that the band performs. It takes talent."

At the Wilf campus, and in Manhattan as a whole, a growing number of students and young professionals have been molding Jewish pop-culture by performing publicly in various venues. What distinguishes these "boy bands" are their casual formations — often just a group of friends joining together — and their performances at events such as *simchas* or youth group programs.

For instance, the Shabbatoners, an a cappella group, are often invited to sing at bar/ bat mitzvah celebrations on Shabbat or hotel gatherings on Yom Tov.

"When you think of a band, you think of instruments, such as guitars and keyboards," said Shael Sokolowski, a member of the Shabbatoners. "But we are a *simcha* group."

The group currently consists of ten members, four of whom are students at YC. It was founded in 1993 by Aryeh Perlman to fill the void of music on Shabbat.

"You can't play music on Shabbos," said Sokolowski, "but we try to make Shabbos more *liebedick* [lively]."

The Shabbatoners meet every other week to practice for their upcoming performances and a CD that they expect to release in the coming spring. The songs they began working on are not originals, as the group does not see themselves as a band or the CD as a goal in itself.

"We rearranged currently existing songs for harmonies, giving specific parts to specific people," Sokolowski explained. "The purpose of the CD is to get our name around and to generate more gigs for Shabbos."

Most members of Shabbatoners are not considering making a career out of Shabbatoners.

"I'm not all that ambitious," Sokolowski reflected. "I'm not looking to be the next Jewish star."

Managing his Judaic and secular studies along with his extracurricular responsibilities, Sokolowski confessed that his band takes a secondary role. "It definitely doesn't come before schoolwork," he said. "In the food chain of music, I'm on the bottom. It's not like people stop me and say 'Oh my God, you're in the Shabbatoners.'"

Other bands have taken a more serious attitude to their ventures, though almost all are not interested in pursuing professional careers. The Blue Fringe band, for instance, has been more aggressive in publicizing its name. The band, which consists of four YC students, has lined up concerts and produced a demo CD, and it writes its own music.

"It takes up a lot of time," said Dan Zwillenberg, a YC senior who plays drums for the band. "Before gigs, we practice everyday for three hours." Jon Perl, an SSSB junior, manages the band and schedules their performances. They already have six concerts lined up over Hanukkah, and will be performing at the annual TAC chagigah.

The group has also contributed a

Rosenblatt is also a member of a rock band called Gonzo Station, which was recently on the air on 104.3 FM, a classic rock radio station.

Blue Fringe originally formed in order to play at an event at the Hillel House of the University of Pennsylvania. Rosenblatt gathered a few friends who would be interested in playing.

"We sat in Rubin Hall one Friday night talking until a name for a band popped up," recalled Zwillenberg.

Zwillenberg credited Jewish artists such as Shlomo Carlebach, the Moshav Band and the Diaspora Yeshiva Band as well as secular artists such as Counting Crows, John Mayer and The Beatles as influences on the band.

"It's Jewish rock with a pop influence," described Zwillenberg. "It's not at all *freilich* [happy] or wedding music."

Like the members of Shabbatoners, however, Zwillenberg, who began playing drums five years ago, does not see himself continuing with the band as a profession. "It doesn't look likely," he said. "It's a grueling, competitive career."

Indeed, for most "boy bands," performing is just a hobby.

"There's no real future unless I give my life to it," said David Perlman, YC senior and member of the popular band The Chevra. "I look at it as more of a fun thing between friends than a business venture for the future."

For Perlman, being a member of The Chevra is a chance to attract people to Jewish music. "Our music is not typical Jewish music," he said. "It got the younger kids who aren't into Jewish music listening."

This popularity amongst the teenage crowd has created a challenge for The Chevra. "There is a boy band image projected," Perlman, who has previously been a member of Bitachon and Besamim, explained. "People come to the concerts to say 'How can you call yourselves frum?' But they don't see the letters and phone calls from parents and kids thanking us for the music."

Although its members are not interested in music as a long time career, The Chevra performs relatively often — at least twice a month and more often during Jewish holidays.

"We're constantly going out of town for concerts," said Perlman. "We do more concerts out of town than in New York, often in Conservadox communities." The Chevra has performed in Los Angeles and Toronto, and will be going to England and Chicago.

The Chevra achieved popularity with their first CD, which has won several awards for its song "Ye'hay." Their second CD, comprising a cappella music based on Shlomo Carlebach's songs, also was a hit.

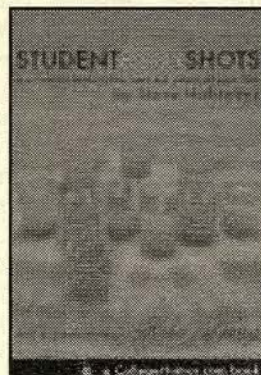


## Bookworm: Student Body Shots

*Body Shots: A Sarcastic Look at the Best 4-6 Years of your Life*  
Publisher: Trafford  
August, 2002

By Devorah Heching

One day it's going to happen. You're going to look around and realize your parents are gone, your laundry is dirty, and you've gained, lost and gained back fifteen pounds. You're in college. You'd call your parents and tell them but they've stopped accepting charges."  
—Steve Hofstetter



In his book, *Student Body Shots: A Sarcastic Look at the Best 4-6 Years of your Life*, Steve Hofstetter proves that there is something profoundly universal about the college experience. This book is for everyone, whether you attend the usual overpopulated coeducational university, or a small single-sex religious institution like Yeshiva.

Hofstetter illustrates these universal college experiences in the form of one to two sentence punch lines known as "shots" detailing the ins and outs of "normal" college life. These shots are organized under different topic headings ranging from academics to AOL Instant Messenger to female bathroom habits.

For instance, at one point Hofstetter muses, "I am surprised that college girls aren't all incredibly strong. With the amount of...[junk] they carry back and forth from the shower every day, they should be able to...[tackle] any guy that limits himself to a bottle of shampoo and a towel."

Besides the humor, *Student Body Shots* offers a realistic view of college life, instead of another cheesy tribute to the "best four years of our lives." Hofstetter is able to

convey the reality of college life in a style vaguely reminiscent of syndicated humor columnist Dave Barry. He mixes blatant honesty with sarcasm, resulting in an amusing series of anecdotes with a kind of hidden wisdom to which any student can relate. For example, any college student could probably relate to Hofstetter's description of midterm stress. He writes, "I once had five midterms in two days, and when I told someone about it they told me they had six. Not only did I know they were only taking five classes, but apparently, math wasn't one of them."

Much of Hofstetter's material originated in his own experiences as a college student. Hofstetter, 23, is a recent graduate of Columbia University. He claims to have majored in fraternity. While writing for the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, Hofstetter attracted a growing coterie of fans, and soon his attempts at making his fellow students laugh escalated into a weekly online column at collegehumor.com, reaching about 2,500 students nation-wide. In his senior year, Hofstetter had the novel idea to combine all his punch lines into one book. In the future, Hofstetter plans on writing more books as well as "dabbling in some screenplays."

*Student Body Shots*, a triumphant first attempt, is an excellent choice of reading material for those stressed out days. With a grand total of 99 pages it can be read in one sitting or as a light read for those college bathrooms. It is the perfect book to read when in search of a way to put off that philosophy paper due in an hour.

## Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

### Foreign Sister

Israeli film: *burdened Israeli mother hires young Ethiopian woman to care for her mother-in-law. Their friendship grows when a tragic accident occurs. Best film in Jerusalem Film Festival 2002.*

November 21, 2002  
7:30 pm  
JCC  
334 Amsterdam Ave at 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
\$12.00

### Why Care? An Evening with Elie Wiesel

Lecture by Elie Wiesel  
November 21, 2003  
8:00 pm  
92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y  
Lexington Ave at 92<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Ticketed event

### Tomer Ganihar

Photographs that capture mass mystical gathering of Israeli youth in Holy Land X  
Through November 23, 2003  
Paul Rodgers Gallery  
529 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
212-414-9810

### Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Begins 9:00 pm on 77<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Park West eventually moving to Broadway and 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Thursday, November 26, 2002

### Dudu Fisher: Something Old, Something New

Through December 8, 2003  
The Mazer Theater  
197 East Broadway at Jefferson Street  
212-239-6200, www.dudufisher.com  
Tickets (\$60/\$45)

### Abraham Summit: An Evening of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Dialogue

Rabbi J. Rolando Matalon, Reverend Joseph C. Hough Jr, and Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf will conduct a panel discussion moderated by Brice Feiler  
December 11, 2003  
7:30 pm  
92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y  
Lexington Ave at 92<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Ticketed event

# Cultural Arts

## SCW Speech Professor Shares Stories of Love

By Rachel Horn

Peninnah Schram, SCW speech professor, tells only love stories. This self-imposed rule would seem to limit the material that a premier Jewish folklorist could recount. Yet Schram insists that love pervades most aspects of Jewish life.

"All Jewish stories are about love," she asserts. "The themes in Judaism include love: love of God, Shabbat, language, family and music. Love stories occur between parents and children, lovers, friends, teachers and students."

As part of the series "The Oral Tradition: Jewish Stories for Adults," at the 92nd Street Y, Schram recently hosted "Stories with a Heartbeat." She captivated the audience with her twinkling eyes, poise and tales that spanned from pirates to princesses to the dining room table in her parents' home.

A master orator, Schram utilized several techniques to allure her listeners. She used quips such as "The sultan's son died of love...That's life." When she invited members of the audience to ask questions, she remarked with sincerity, "I'll answer anything in the world." In the middle of a story about a magical bird that ate only raisins and almonds, she stopped to throw bags of raisins and almonds to the listeners.

The love found in all of Schram's stories is matched by her passion for telling them. "I'm excited, nervous and anxious the first time I tell a story," she confides with a smile. "I want to reach the audience. If I've chosen the story wisely, delight takes over and the story carries." Schram becomes so enthralled with the message of the tale that her most favorite story is always the one she is telling at the moment.

Schram has found many outlets through which to relate her messages. She travels across the United States as a storyteller-in-residence for various conferences and is an editor for "The Jewish Storytelling Newsletter." A published writer and artist, Schram has authored seven books. She has recently put out a CD that intertwines folktales with songs rendered by singer/guitarist Gerard Edery entitled *The Minstrel and the Storyteller: Stories and Songs of the Jewish People*.

An Associate Professor of Speech and Drama at SCW, Schram shares her love of language and communication with students. "My goal is not just entertainment, but also to teach," said Schram. She divulged that she "was pirated" from Iona College in New Rochelle in the 1970's by Dr. Abraham Tauber, Chairman of the Speech Department at Yeshiva College at the time. She accepted the offer immediately.

Since then, she has had no regrets. "I'm impressed that the seriousness of students and *menchlichkeit* [manners] continue to be part of the student body," she said. "I love the environment, and the students." Her students seem to feel the same way - Schram says she often spots faces of present and former students in her audiences at the 92nd Street Y and at workshops throughout the country.

According to Schram, who was integral to the creation of a combined major in speech and drama, SCW interest in the field has declined over the years. The major has been discontinued and has

been replaced with the English communications major. However, because of Schram's presence, storytelling remains a focus at SCW. She plans to teach a storytelling class this spring.

Schram was originally motivated to consider storytelling professionally after she began recording for the Jewish Braille Institute. She developed her own style while drawing from the expertise of other

great storytellers. "I was influenced by Elie Wiesel and his stories," she noted. She learned important skills from Ruth Rubin, a Yiddish folk singer and ethnomusicologist. "Ruth was my role model and friend," she recollected. "I learned from her how to set a story in context, how to set a story in a scene."

Her tenure at the 92nd Street Y as a resident storyteller began in 1970 when she proposed "Kernels of a Pomegranate," a hands-on workshop dealing with the techniques of storytelling. As the Founding Director at the 92nd Street Y Jewish Storytelling Center, she continues to offer performances and workshops and serves as a resource to rabbis and teachers across the country.

The repertoire of stories Schram tells was gleaned throughout her lifetime. "I remember many stories from my childhood," she says. "I also do a lot of research." She collects Talmudic, Midrashic and medieval stories from the Israel Folktale Archives, a resource center that contains over 23,000 stories classi-

fied by theme. She draws her stories from ethnic Jewish communities all over the world, including European, North African and Middle Eastern countries.

Schram's desire to tell tales is firmly rooted in her childhood. "I was very blessed to have parents who loved stories," she says. "My mother told didactic folktales which taught me to restrain anger." Her love for Biblical and Talmudic stories, especially those about the hero Elijah the Prophet, originated with her father. "He was a cantor," she recalls. "Hearing the words and the music together had a strong impact on me." As a child, Schram observed her father representing the community through prayer on the high holidays. "I was greatly influenced by the *Hineni* prayer of the cantor on Yom Kippur service," she explains. "Since then, I have written a Storyteller's Prayer and have my students do the same."

The tradition of performing continues in Schram's family. Her son, Mordechai Schram, has always been interested in communication through music. "Even as a kid, he came to my programs," she says. "Music has always been a part of his life." Mordechai has recently become the cantor at a Reconstructionist synagogue and has begun performing with his mother. He plays the dumbec, an Israeli tambourine, while his mother entertains.

Schram's *raison d'être* is to convey notions of love through storytelling. "My goal is wonderfully expressed by [Bachya] Ibn Pakoda's *Duties of the Heart*," she says. "The voice is the messenger of the heart. I really believe that." If love stories are the message of her heart, then Schram's voice is sure to be heard.



Peninnah Schram

## TORAH ACTIVITIES COUNCIL

Proudly Presents

Our Annual

# CHANUKAH CHAGIGA

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm  
Koch Auditorium

Special Band:  
The Blue Fringe Band

# Cultural Arts

## Universal Language of Abstract Art

### Exhibition of Adolf Gottlieb's Works

By Reina Roth

People tend to either love, hate or simply misunderstand abstract art. Any art enthusiast, however, should at least find the Jewish Museum's current exhibit on Adolph Gottlieb's (1903-1974) abstract works interesting. The exhibit, entitled "Adolph Gottlieb: A Survey Exhibition," traces Gottlieb's growth as an abstract artist throughout the 19th century.

The exhibit makes it clear that Gottlieb's art has its moment in the sun while still spotlighting an extremely creative period in American art. While Gottlieb always pursued modern art, the progression toward extremely abstract during the course of his lifetime is clear.

His signature style, attained late in life, was the "Burst," a colored disc above a flurry of brush strokes on a plain background. This form presents a polarity with the circle above and the burst of strokes below any kind of duality can be seen. It presents competing emotional charges with essential contrasts, such as day and night or male and female. The period of the "Burst" is his latest and most famous. It represents his whole philosophy of meditative and spiritual art.

Gottlieb's view was simplistic even at the beginning of his career, when he was studying at the Artist Students League in New York in his late 20s. The exhibition boasts canvases from this era. Even from his initial paintings, one can see that he possessed a simple style; his forms are flattened and yet realistic. For instance, the Arizona Still Life, an oil painting on pressed board from 1938, presents stylized vegetables on a deformed table, with shadows that do not enhance the three dimensionality of the figures. His paintings of this period demonstrate his familiarity with Cubism.

In the late 1930's his style takes a turn into pictographs, which was inspired by the Jungian psychology. This was Gottlieb's response to the conflict among the highly civilized cultures in Europe and Asia. Here he addresses this brutality through ideas of modern psychology, classical literature and pre-modern and tribal art. In the late 1940's, Gottlieb began to dissect his pictographs and examine the image and the grid separately. Gottlieb decided to pump up his play on lines, creating one of his largest works at the culmination of this phase - "Labyrinth No 3," an oil and enamel on canvas from 1954. Its immense scale coincides with new heroic portions of American Abstract paintings of the 1950's. The painting gives the feel of a real maze with its yellow, black and white gridded lines which are punctuated by shapes but mainly it is an abstract wall of controlled improvisation. He continued using imagery landscapes, with two distinct sections in every picture using imagery to show this opposition.

Gottlieb continued to push his art further into pure abstract style, and, in 1956, his ideas converged to create his famous Burst paintings. Although paralyzed by a stroke in 1970 which left his whole body paralyzed except for his right arm and hand, he continued to produce his paintings until his

last days.

Gottlieb's artistic style reflects the attitude he had toward art in general. He felt that his art should not be affected by his personal identity. He once said that art is an "interaction and should transcend any racial, ethnic, religious, national boundaries." As is evident in his work, Gottlieb stood for art as a heroic quest, and abstraction as the universal language.

"Adolph Gottlieb: A Survey Exhibition" is being shown at the Jewish Museum, located at 1109 5th Ave. (at 92nd St.), until March 3rd, 2003.



Above, Gottlieb's Untitled (Self Portrait in Mirror). The 1938 oil on canvas reflects Gottlieb's simple and flat style

## Movie Review: The Grey Zone

By Rachel Berger

There have been so many films about the Holocaust produced that it is hard to find an original kernel on which to base a movie. "The Grey Zone," a film written and directed by Tim Blake Nelson (The Eye of God), takes the Holocaust to new and gruesome depths by exploring the moral grey zone faced by prisoners of Auschwitz.

The story follows four members of the Sonderkommando, Jews given special benefits and an extra four months of life in exchange for helping the Nazi's exterminate prisoners efficiently. Based on the true experiences of Dr. Nyiszli (Allan Corduner), a Jewish pathologist who worked for the infamous Dr. Mengele in his torture experiments, the film deals with the moral dilemma when living with the threat of "kill or be killed." Faced with these harrowing decisions, members of the Sonderkommando decide to plan a revolt and attempt to destroy two of the crematoria in Auschwitz.

A side plot involves the hiding of a girl who managed to survive the gas chambers and is discovered alive on the way to the crematorium. The four members of the Sonderkommando, played by David Arquette, Steve Buscemi, David Chandler and Daniel Benzali, discover a young girl who miraculously survives the gas chambers. The issue becomes a moral one - do they risk their own lives, and their plot to destroy the crematorium, for this girl? Or do they let her burn alive in the crematoria? It is a strange decision for a group who seem so removed from moral values. The same man who discovers the girl is shown in a previous scene beating a man to death. He kills in one situation, but saves lives in another.

Towards the end of the movie one of the members of the Sonderkommando confesses that his choice to be part of the Sonderkommando has surpassed the evil he thought he was capable of and he feels his only redeeming action could be suicide. The audience is forced to ask themselves how



Grey Zone may be too gruesome for some viewers

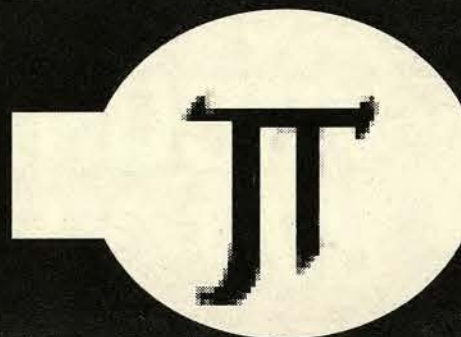
they would have behaved had they been in their situation.

The revolting images portrayed in the film are intensely disturbing. People are shot, barracks blown up and people are burned on electric fences and bayoneted through their middles. The movie shows Sonderkommandos' herding Jews into the gas chambers, transporting the dead bodies to the fires, removing their hair and teeth and burning the corpses. In one particularly gruesome scene, someone recounts a previous Sonderkommando who had to first burn his entire transport, then his wife, and then his two daughters. In another, these men mimic the Nazis' brutality when they burn a guard alive in the crematoria. There are even more grisly details that are too horrifying to mention.

The movie manages to convey the torturous feeling of being trapped in hell. The mass murder and cremation, the heavy torture and blatant disregard for the value of human life are harrowingly portrayed. Not one of the group survives. Death is imminent and the viewer feels asphyxiated by the gruesomeness of this film.

The very repulsiveness of the plot manages to dull the point; the movie becomes merely a montage of despicable acts and gory scenes. While this film may have been important to make, we do not deserve the pain it inevitably brings.

Live Music!



## CAFE

226 West 72 Street, New York City

212-724-2424

Sun-Thurs

10:30 AM - 9 PM

Friday

10:30 AM - 2 PM

Now open Saturday nights! Call for times

Cholov Yisroel \* Under supervision of Rabbi A. Marmorstein

10% Discount with this Ad

THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COUNCILS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY  
in conjunction with J & R Music and Computer World presents

# YESHIVA UNIVERSITY CHANUKAH CONCERT

2002-03 5763

*starring*

# DEED AND SHWEKEY

ALSO FEATURING THE WINNER OF THE YU BATTLE OF THE BANDS

NEGINAH ORCHESTRA



SURPRISE GUEST STAR!

SPONSORED BY:



MUSIC WORLD  
COMPUTER WORLD  
www.JandR.com  
Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:  
1.800.221.8180  
Park Row • New York  
212.238.9000



(212) 724-3322  
www.DouglasBBQ.com

PALACE TOURS  
1.800.44.20378 www.PalaceTours.com

Design by Graphics.com  
Graphic Design 212.668.3036

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 2002

LAMPORT AUDITORIUM - ZYSMAN HALL

AMSTERDAM AVENUE AND 187th STREET

TICKETS: \$36, \$25, \$18, \$10

Mixed & Separate Seating Available

**YUCONCERT.COM**

**877-YUCONCERT**

SHOW BEGINS AT 7:30PM SHARP

VALID PHOTO I.D. REQUIRED FOR ENTRY



# HANUKKAH

## Bloomberg to Receive Honorary Degree at Hanukkah Dinner

By Observer Staff

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will deliver the keynote address and Ronald P. Stanton will be officially installed as chairman of Yeshiva University's Board of Trustees at the University's 78th Annual Hanukkah Dinner and Convocation on Sunday, December 8, at the Waldorf=Astoria. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships to the various schools of Yeshiva.



Bloomberg to keynote Hanukkah dinner

The Convocation will be held in The Starlight Roof, where University President Dr. Norman Lamm will confer an honorary doctoral degree upon Mayor Bloomberg as well as four prominent communal leaders and philanthropists. The installation of Mr. Stanton, chairman and chief executive officer of Transammonia, Inc., will take place at the Dinner following the Convocation.

Mayor Bloomberg was elected in 2001 as the city's 108th mayor. Prior to seeking political office, Bloomberg was a prominent figure on Wall Street and a partner at Salomon Brothers. In 1982, he launched his own company, Bloomberg LP, which revolutionized the way Wall Street does business. Nearly 20 years after its founding, Bloomberg LP employs more than 8,000 people – including 2,500 in New York City – in more than 100 offices worldwide.

Betty Feinberg, Charles Kushner, Barry A. Shenkman, and Elliot K. Wolk will receive honorary degrees from Rabbi Lamm for their civic, communal and philanthropic leadership.

Betty Feinberg is secretary of the Board of Overseers of Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM) and a

*continued on page 13*

## Chanukah Concert Promises to Draw Large Crowds This Year

By Rebecca Rosenberg

Like in past years, hundreds of Yeshiva students and the Jewish community at large will once again flock to Lamport auditorium for the annual YU Chanukah Concert to be held on December 5th. This year's concert features popular Jewish performers Dedi and Shwekey, the latter of whom will be making his first appearance at Yeshiva, and will open with the winner of the recent Battle of the Bands.

As a departure from previous years, when proceeds went to the student organizations, all proceeds from this year's concert will be donated to the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund to aid victims of terrorism in Israel.

"We are trying to make a difference and help Israel," said SOY vice president Yummy Schachter, who is the producer of this year's concert.

The Battle of the Bands, which was held last week at the midtown campus and drew over 300 YC and SCW students, garnered a lot of excitement for the upcoming concert. The event consisted of eight bands competing for the opportunity to open for Dedi and Shwekey, a great opportunity for a fledgling band. The newly formed Takaseem band, made up of three YC stu-

dents, won the competition.

"Takaseem will add a really nice touch to the concert," said Wilf SSSB junior Eli Renov. "Their original style of music in combination with their outstanding talent will provide for an incredible show."

Indeed, ticket sales for the Chanukah concert seem to be up. "I think the competition really got people excited for the concert," said SCW student Nechama

"I will be meeting with security sometime within the next two weeks to map out a plan of action," Schachter commented. "They were excellent at the Battle of the Bands, and I'm sure they'll be great at the concert as well."

Sponsors of this year's concert, which costs thousands of dollars, include Dougie's, Bangitout.com, and J&R Music World. Information about the concert can be found at [www.yuconcert.com](http://www.yuconcert.com).

According to Schachter, YC graduate Ephraim Shapiro has been instrumental in the organization of the concert this year, as in previous years; Shapiro is also in charge of publicity and maintaining the website. "Ephraim Shapiro's constant guidance is a true benefit to all

of the students in Yeshiva," said Schachter. "Certainly I know, as someone who is new to planning such events, that I would not be able to do so without him." YC student Yehoshua Kramer produced last year's concert.

As the concert approaches, students at midtown are excited for the yearly social and music event. "I came with twelve friends and had a great time last year," asserted SCW student Elisa Lohmiller. "I definitely plan to go again this year."



Gottlieb, who is selling tickets on the midtown campus and says dozens of SCW women have already bought tickets.

Tickets for the concert went on sale on November 11th, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$36 for both mixed and separate seating. Lamport Auditorium seats 1,100 people, and in previous years the concert has sold out.

Due to the lack of admissions restrictions, additional security measures will be taken as part of increased security efforts at Yeshiva buildings. All concertgoers will be required to present a photo ID for admissions.

## Office of Academic Advisement

Bewitched, bothered and bewildered.

Need Help?



- CORE?
- choosing a major?
- planning a schedule?
- figuring out which classes you need to take?
- junior checks? senior checks?



We are here to help.



**Who:** Miriam Schechter, Rochelle Mogilner, and Susan Ostreicher

**Where:** Office of the Dean -- Rooms 106, 105 & 104

**When:** Mon.-Thurs. -- 8:30-5:30 p.m. and Fri. -- 9:00-12:00 noon

Early advisement can make a difference.



# SPORTS NEWS

## Tennis Team Ends Season with 3-4 Record

By Shoshana Herman

On October 27 SCW's tennis team ended its 2002 season with a thumping 9-0 loss at home to Manhattanville College. This resulted in a final 3-4 won-loss record for the team.

The coaches admitted that the team began the season at a disadvantage. "The girls had to go out against teams that have been practicing since August," explained head coach Randi Greenberg. Furthermore, many of the contending teams began playing in September, while the Jewish holidays prevented Yeshiva's team from competing until October.

The coaches and team members are optimistic about next season. "This was my first time playing on a tennis team and it was a great experience," said SCW junior Emily Turetsky. "I would definitely do it again." According to Coach Debbie Schwartz, the team is made up of motivated young women. "Now that we know them," she said, "we can do even more."

Each game consists of 6 singles and 3 doubles matches. The team, which has been playing in the Division III Skyline Conference since 1999 and is headed by co-captains Sheri Wolnerman and Sari Nossbaum, plays its home matches at the Midtown Tennis Club on West 27th Street and 8th Avenue.

"They are good sports," said Schwartz of the women. "They are team members who play their hearts out."

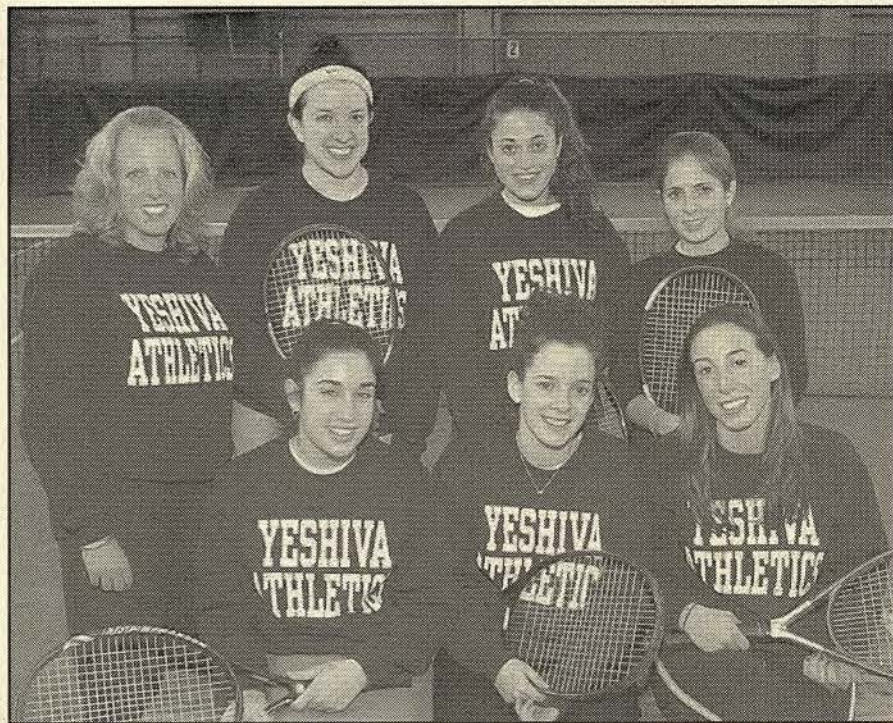
The 2002 season began on October 3 with a loss to Mt. St. Mary College. With their record 0-2, the team quickly rebound-

ed to win their next two games. A game against City College on October 15 was canceled due to inclement weather, shortening the already brief 8-game season. The team went on to beat the College of Mt. St. Vincent at home with an impressive 9-0 victory, giving them their first winning record of the season as they went up in the standings 3-2. Unfortunately, the team then lost to both St. Joseph's College and Manhattanville College.

Team members are hardly disappointed about the final results. "We're here to have a good time," said SCW senior Shira Shwartzberg.

The team's 11 members enjoy the rigorous Wednesday night practices and Sunday matches. "I didn't find it too time consuming," said Wolnerman, an SCW freshman who has been playing tennis since first grade and competing since eighth grade. "I was used to practicing daily during the season."

Both of the coaches of the women's tennis team are new. Head coach Greenberg is a league coordinator for World Team Tennis and coaches other school teams, in addition to offering private lessons. Schwartz, silver medalist at the 1997 Maccabiah Games in Israel, has coached the MTA/YUHS tennis team, as well as the high school team of the Torah Academy of Bergen County, NJ. Greenberg and Schwartz replaced Heidi Nathan who, after two years as coach, resigned to stay home with her new baby.



Tennis Team '02, pictured above, put their all into the season's games

## Event Rallies Support for Varsity Teams

By Chava Hartman

As a display of support for Yeshiva's many varsity teams, the athletics department—in conjunction with SCWSC, SSSBSC, YCSA, and IBC—will be hosting Mac Madness on November 19th at the Max Stern gym on the Wilf campus, at press time.

The event is a student-faculty basketball game involving YC students and male faculty from both SCW and YC, including SSSB dean, Dr. Charles Snow, Jewish History professor Dr. Jeffrey Gurock and Yossi Gev, former Mac star.

Participating students were selected by leaders of the student governments. "The players were chosen based on their ability to play basketball, but also on their ability to have a good time," explained Gabriel Jacobson, president of SSSBSC on the Wilf campus, who has been one of the prime organizers of the event.

"The event is geared to having fun with the professors outside of the classroom," Jacobson added.

Over the course of the evening, each of Yeshiva's teams will be recognized, as will the individuals who dedicate themselves to their respective sports.

"The purpose of this program is to give recognition to all the teams, even the teams that have finished for the season, like the tennis and soccer teams," explained Dr. Richard

Zerneck, director of athletics at Yeshiva.

Free prizes and giveaways, such as t-shirts and neck-lanyards, will be distributed, and each spectator will get a raffle ticket with a chance to win prizes from the various teams.

Organizers hope that the event will both publicize the sports teams among the student body and show support for the athletes who represent Yeshiva.

"This event will hopefully draw more students to the games in order to support their peers," said Jessica Epstein, SCW sophomore and member of the basketball team. While most colleges rally behind their competitive teams, the SCW student body has generally shown apathy toward its teams in the past.

The Lady Macs, specifically, hope to attract supporters. Still under the influence and guidance of the head coach of six years, Dr. Green, and because many of the starting players have returned for an other season, the SCW basketball team is expected to be extremely competitive this season. The Lady Macs are hoping to perform well in their game against Wentworth Institute in Boston this weekend.

Aside from the basketball team, SCW currently has varsity fencing and tennis teams. Additionally, the volleyball team hopes to attain varsity status by next year.

Can you keep a secret?  
No!  
Good!!

NOW ACCEPTING  
BRIDAL GOWNS  
& MOTHER/SISTER  
GOWNS  
in excellent condition  
ON CONSIGNMENT!

**Bridal Secrets**  
now revealed in Cedarhurst!

Bridal Gowns & Headpieces, Gowns for Mother & Sister  
Custom Made and Rentals by Domestic & European Designers

Unique, Upscale, Affordable Collection  
CZ Jewelry, Evening Bags & Accessories  
Floral Consultant - Fresh & Silk Available  
Professional In-house Bridal Consultant  
for all other details of your Affair.

Conveniently Located at  
415A Central Avenue - Cedarhurst, New York 11516  
Consultation by appointment - Browsers welcome  
(516) 295-2062

**The Observer**  
is seeking  
a webmaster.  
If you are interested  
please contact us at  
[observer@ymail.yu.edu](mailto:observer@ymail.yu.edu)

## Professors Await Salary Contracts

continued from front page

and their expected course-load. Ironically, because adjunct professors are awarded new contracts each year, they have already been receiving their pay increases for this year.

The letters of appointment are ordinarily sent out at some point during the summer. Some professors pointed out that, although this year is not the first year that letters have been delayed, the delay has never been as lengthy as three months.

According to Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President for Academic Affairs, the salaries and raises of the professors have already been set and are not in question. Rather, the delay in the letters of appointment is the result of a technical procedural matter - the budget must be accepted as a whole, and, since the University has had to wait on the budget in certain areas, the budget has simply not been approved yet.

"It's very important that we let the faculty know their salaries," said Lowengrub. "We hope this will be resolved soon."

Administrators have pointed to the unstable economy and the state of flux of Board of Trustees as impediments to the budget approval process. Lowengrub intimated that if for some reason the budget is not accepted at the next Board meeting, slated for the end of November, an exception might be made to allow the professors' salaries portion of the budget to be approved separately.

At the very least, the professors are assured of being notified of their pay increases before next semester, since awarding payment for work done in the previous year creates problems when filing taxes, according to Dean Karen Bacon.

As the semester has worn on and communication from the administration has been lacking, professors have begun to feel that they are being mistreated.

"This is absolutely outrageous," said Dr. Joan Haahr, a YC English professor. "The fact that the trustees can't get their act together is a real problem for the faculty as well as for the University as a whole. It has certainly caused quite a bit of furor among the faculty, and we're debating what to do about it."

For the past couple of months the professors have mainly been informally griping to one another, but organized responses are now beginning to take shape. For instance, Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, a YC physics professor, is currently discussing with several colleagues the option of drafting a letter, and obtaining signatures of faculty members, to be sent to the administration. Other faculty members are apparently planning different courses of action, which have not yet been made public at this time.

The Yeshiva faculty is not allowed to strike or collectively bargain because it is bound by the landmark 1980 Supreme Court decision, *National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] v. Yeshiva* in which the Supreme Court ruled that full time faculty of a private university, because they are involved in hiring and firing decisions, are considered management.

However, there are other possible responses. While the professors are not legally allowed to stop teaching their classes, they would be able, for instance, to refuse to write recommendations, hold office hours or serve on their various committees.

"There are actions the faculty could take," said Haahr. "We're talking about it. We've been cautious up until now because we don't want to hurt the students."

Haahr did say that if the appointments, once they are given, include a very low pay increase, Yeshiva can "expect some action."

Although Lowengrub declined to comment on the exact salary increases, because of the poor economy, the pay increases are expected to be precisely commensurate with the natural rise in cost of living - not much higher than a two or three percent raise.

In any event, the delay in pay raises

has caused some professors to suffer with financial insecurity these past few months. For those who are financially dependent on their monthly paychecks, getting paid last year's salaries is not sufficient to meet the natural rise in expenses that comes from yearly inflation, even at a time when inflation is rather low. As it is, Yeshiva professors' salaries are significantly lower than the average for comparable institutions, according to Haahr.

"There are faculty who need the money," emphasized Haahr. "They count on the increases. Rent has gone up, costs have risen."

Lowengrub declined to comment on whether, once the difference in salary is paid retroactively, the interest that money has accumulated while in the hands of Yeshiva will be paid, as well.

Even professors who are more financially secure are frustrated with Yeshiva for what they perceive as a lack of professionalism, at the very least, and blatant disregard for the faculty, at the very worst.

"Some people in the administration don't really understand how a modern university is supposed to run," commented Dr. Ellen Schrecker, a YC and SCW history professor who has taught at Yeshiva for 15 years. Schrecker, along with many other professors, have expressed disbelief that a university has not managed to pass its budget well into the first semester.

Administrators have claimed that the

**"There are actions the faculty could take. We've been cautious up until now because we don't want to hurt the students."**

failure to pass the budget is a sign of the economic downturn, and that other universities are experiencing similar difficulties. However, a spokesman for the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), a non-profit organization based in Washington that works to defend academic freedom and professional values, questioned this claim.

"It's hard to understand why a university can't get a budget together in a timely fashion - it's already November," said Robert Kreiser, an associate secretary of the AAUP. "I'm not aware of any other institutions having this problem."

Professors have attributed Yeshiva's failure to attend to its administrative obligations to the disorganization and power vacuum caused by the presidential search and the reshuffling of the Board of Trustees.

"The inability to find a president has stopped the normal functioning of the University, which was never good to begin with," said Schrecker. "It's anarchy at the moment. There's a black hole."

In accordance with the recently released Middle States report, professors have also pointed to the fact that academic and financial decisions are in the hands of only a few people as an obstacle to progress.

The recent actions of the administrations have particularly resonated with professors who have been at Yeshiva for a long time and who see the current situation as part of an unfortunate trend.

"To the professors, [the delay in pay increases] is another indication of Yeshiva's considering the faculty's interests expendable vis-a-vis other issues that come up in the University," said Haahr, who has taught at Yeshiva for 33 years. "It's always the faculty that loses out."

Indeed, there seems to be a long history of strained relations between the Yeshiva administration and the faculty. In the 1970's, professors grew upset at what they perceived as irrational and erratic decision-making on the part of the administration. Hoping to unionize, the Yeshiva University Faculty Association filed a petition with the NLRB for certification as a bargaining agent.

Yeshiva blocked the petition, however, claiming that members of its faculty should be considered management since they are involved in firing and hiring decisions, and therefore should not be allowed to unionize. Yeshiva argued its case all the way to the Supreme Court, which ultimately ruled in favor of Yeshiva. To this day, faculty at all private institutions are

**"Some people in the administration don't really understand how a modern university is supposed to run."**

legally prohibited from unionizing.

During the past two decades, the faculty has persistently tried to assert its rights to appropriate monetary compensation. Throughout the 1980's and early 1990's, the professors' salaries remained significantly lower than virtually every other school in the area, recalled Schrecker. In 1996, when it became clear that Yeshiva was no longer in a precarious fiscal position, the administration began to raise salaries.

However, before Yeshiva professors' salaries could catch up to the average professor salary, the administration began slowing down the raises. In 1999, 32 YC and SCW professors submitted a letter to Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm calling for more adequate compensation. The professors' salaries today are still lagging far behind that of the average salary for university professors.

Aside from salary issues, Yeshiva's treatment of faculty with regard to personnel issues has been recognized by objective sources as being poor. Since 1982, when Yeshiva fired several tenured professors and refused to justify its actions before a faculty hearing, Yeshiva has been on the AAUP censure list.

Although the issues surrounding the terminated professors were resolved several years ago, Yeshiva has remained on the list because it has yet to adopt policies that are in accordance with AAUP guidelines on academic due process, said Kreiser. For instance, Yeshiva has no appeals process in place for faculty regarding personnel issues, such as when Yeshiva denies tenure to a professor.

"Everyone agrees, from high to low in the Yeshiva ladder, that the faculty needs new governance documents," said Haahr, who serves as Yeshiva's AAUP chapter president.

A committee, comprising two representatives from each of the three undergraduate colleges, YC, SCW and SSSB, and Lowengrub, was formed to rewrite some of Yeshiva's policies in order to bring them in line with universally accepted AAUP standards, and some progress has apparently been made. However, just last month, the AAUP, which communicates with Yeshiva twice a year, wrote a letter to Yeshiva checking up on its progress and has yet to receive a response, said Kreiser.

## Online Enrollment

continued from back page

"The drawback [to online registration] is that there's no advisors to help choose your schedules," he said. "Advisors are here to help you make your schedules. It makes it easier - especially for new students."

According to Fisher, this is a university-wide project including all of the Yeshiva campuses. Therefore, it is an expensive undertaking that the administration has considered for some time. According to Fisher, because SCW is a smaller, residential college it really was not as urgent to have this system implemented as it was with larger public colleges.

## Campus Bulletin



### Get Involved in AIPAC

Jonathan Kessler  
December 10, 2002  
Around 8:30 PM  
Room: TBA  
ON WILF CAMPUS

Please RSVP to Bebes14@aol.com with your name, and phone number ASAP. This is an opportunity to do something about our Israel activism.

### Surge Event

Surge - Student Undergraduate Research Group Exchange - cordially invites for  
hors d'oeuvres and discussion  
Tuesday, November 26th  
5:30pm  
Room 501, 245 Lexington

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

According to Haahr, the new policies have been slow to be adopted mainly because of the bureaucracy involved - a new policy must be approved by the faculty, the Board of Trustees and Yeshiva's lawyers - compounded with Yeshiva's not considering the policy revision to be a priority at this time.

"Everything [related to the policy revision] is at a stasis right now because of the confusion at the top of the University," said Haahr. "There's no way a new document will get through until there's more order."

Haahr did note that the committee has received much encouragement from the Office of Academic Affairs.

Yeshiva is one of approximately fifty other colleges or universities in the country that is on the AAUP censure list, said Kreiser. Practically, being on the censure list means that when Yeshiva is listed with different associations, its name is accompanied by an asterisk or other designation. Kreiser noted that seeing such a designation may discourage prospective faculty members from applying to Yeshiva, although the precise ramifications of Yeshiva's censure has not been determined.

Furthermore, Fisher admits that the online registration has not yet been implemented partly due to a rule of thumb he holds by: "If you have something that's not working and you computerize it, it makes it worse."

However, Yeshiva has recently attempted to improve its registrar's office, including the hiring of a new head registrar. "Stern now has an excellent registrar office, Fisher continues. "I have full confidence we're going to make it work."

# ON CAMPUS

## SCW Prepares to Move Art Annex to 8th Floor of 215

By Alisa Rose

SCW officials have confirmed that the Art Annex will be relocating to the 8th floor of the 215 Lexington Avenue building, and they are now scrambling to obtain the necessary permits from the New York City building commissioner so that the move can take place before the start of next semester.

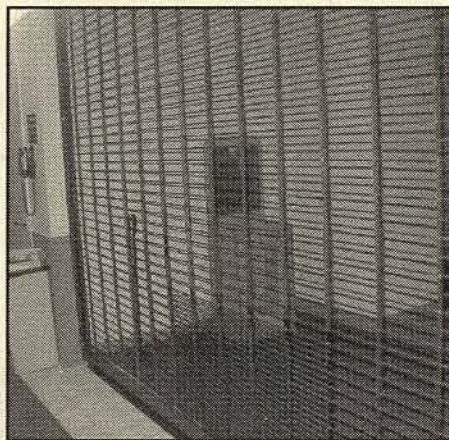
In order to use the floor as the Art Annex, SCW must acquire a permit from the building commission. The permit includes technicalities such as receiving a specific code of occupancy for that particular use.

SCW's lease on the Art Annex's current facility on the fifth floor of 118 East 29th Street expires at the end of January, but the new space for the Art Annex cannot be renovated until a permit is granted from the building commission.

It can often take months for the building commission to grant a permit, according to an official in the office of Jeffrey Rosengarten, the Director of Supporting Service Administration. In order to speed up the process, SCW has hired a government expediter, whose job is to stand on top of government officials to make sure that the permit is taken care of as quickly as possible. "This is a routine procedure," noted Rosengarten's assistant.

Art professor Susan Gardner is waiting for word from Rosengarten about the move, which she estimates will take place the first week of January, and about preparations for the new space.

Gardner is relieved that the move has been delayed until the end of this semester, and it will not disrupt this semester's classes. But she is worried that as of yet, no renovations have been done to the new space. "We need ventilation, we need more sinks..." Gardner noted, shrugging her shoulders in wonder over how the proper renovations will be completed in



Construction has not yet begun on the 8th floor of 215 Lexington, pictured above

time.

"We're moving from studio space to office space," Gardner said.

She also worried about how all of the art supplies will effectively be moved to the new space. She has not begun any preparations for the move besides for informing students that their projects will be due several days earlier, and she advised students to move their projects themselves.

"If not, there is no guarantee that you'll see it again in one piece," said art student Mirat Strobel, SCW senior.

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. Sheltering Arms recently sold the building. The Yeshiva lease expired last May but arrangements were made to extend the lease until January.

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

## New Technology to Debut Next Semester

By Arie Staller

As of May 2003, SCW students may say good-bye to the long, stressful lines outside the registrar's office when registering for the following semester. Yeshiva is currently adopting a new system that will enable students to register for their classes online.

"We are working on web-enabling a whole range of things," said Dr. John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management at Yeshiva. A pilot project using the new technology is currently underway throughout the University and is planned to benefit both students and faculty.

In addition to online registration, this new development will allow the faculty to enrich their curricula. A select group of teachers will be able to post their syllabi and reading lists on the web as well as links to the articles that are usually kept on reserve in the SCW library, Fisher explained. Some classes that give multiple-choice exams may even have the exams online. In addition, it is expected that as early as the end of this semester, faculty will be able to post grades immediately online rather than having to go through the registrar's office. Students will therefore be able to receive their grades faster than had previously been possible.

Online registration, however, seems like the largest part of the technological advancements. According to Fisher, "a small group, most likely those juniors who will be seniors in Fall 2003, will register on

the web." Students will be given user ID's, personal identification numbers and the dates they can register for classes in the coming semester.

Students at SCW are eager for the debut of the online registration.

"I hate the registration process," says Esther Feld, a Sy Syms junior. "If there was some way other than standing on that line, it would make the whole ordeal so much easier."

In order to make sure those students with priority will get the classes they need, there is a committee, including Associate Dean Ethel Orlian, which has already been through days of training to learn the tools. The administration now has to decide how they wish to implement this online registration. "We want to make sure the system is fair," said Fisher.

The only drawback to online registration, reported in higher education literature, is that students who do so have less of an opportunity to make friends. "This won't be a problem for Stern," asserted Fisher, who previously worked at Columbia University. He explains that in larger universities, registration time is an opportunity for new students to meet one another.

Orlian, however, feels there might be another disadvantage to the students not registering in person. "In school, we're available to help," she said. "How this will relate to advisement, I don't know." A clerk in the office of the registrar felt that the students should utilize the academic advisors.

continued on page 27

## SCW to Introduce Two New Joint Programs

By Anat Barber

As early as next fall, SCW may see its graduates taking part in two new joint programs, through

which students can study to become nurses or physicians assistants. The two independent programs, one at Mercy College and one at Johns Hopkins University, are currently at different stages of arbitration.

An articulation agreement between The Graduate Program in Physician Assistant Studies at Mercy College and Yeshiva will hopefully be finalized in time for the spring 2003 semester.

"If students have met prerequisites, they may be able to take advantage of the program as early as next fall," explained Associate Dean of SCW, Ethel Orlian.

According to the Office of the Dean, the agreement was two years in the making. "The reason for the delay is that Mercy was restructuring its program," said Orlian.

The newly designed program requires students to have completed at least 111 credits at SCW before moving on to the accelerated MPS degree program at Mercy College. Additionally, each student wishing to participate in the joint program must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of application and have fulfilled the necessary course requirements.

"I believe this program will be successful," commented Miriam Schechter, Director of Academic Advisement.

A certain amount of reciprocity will exist between the universities for the completion of both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree. Mercy College will accept credits from Yeshiva toward the master's degree, and Yeshiva will grant a B.A. degree to students based on qualifying course work at Mercy. Additionally, Mercy College will reserve up to four places for Yeshiva students in each of their incoming classes.

The joint program in nursing with Johns Hopkins University is also near final stages of agreement.

## Middle States Highlights Yeshiva's Strengths and Weaknesses

By Shayndi Raice

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, a non-profit, peer administered organization that accredits secondary schools, recently submitted a report by the accreditation team to Yeshiva University. The report was an analysis of the University's competence in the field of academics as well as their findings on the efficacy of the staff, the salary and workload of faculty, and the financial dealings of Yeshiva.

While the report applauded strides made by Yeshiva since the last Middle States accreditation report in 1991, it pointed to numerous problematic areas that the University must take into consideration. The conferral of Middle States accreditation is prestigious, and its recommendations are generally taken seriously.

The Middle States report advised

The new accelerated track will be taking the place of a joint nursing program with New York University that was disbanded a few years ago at the behest of New York University. "Since I have been

here, I have seen a number of students express interest in a nursing program," noted Schechter.

The program offers a variety of advantages to students. For example, the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing is ranked as number five in the nation according to *U.S. News and World Report* and is in close proximity to Baltimore's large Orthodox community.

Within the guidelines of the program, students will complete

three years of schooling at SCW before enrolling at Johns Hopkins. After one year they would earn their Bachelor of Science degree as well as their Bachelor of Arts diploma from SCW, followed by an additional year to complete their master's degree in nursing.

The joint programs enable students to earn a B.A. and M.A. in only five years, in comparison to the six years it would take if each degree were pursued separately.

Other joint programs at SCW include those with Columbia Engineering, Columbia Occupational Therapy, New York College of Podiatric Medicine, SUNY College of Optometry, NYU College of Dentistry and Bar Ilan School of Economic and Business Administration.

According to agreements with John Hopkins and Mercy, a representative from the graduate school will come to SCW at least once each semester to present students with their options, and students will be invited to visit the campuses and learn more about the environment they may choose.

"We are trying to accommodate interests where we can," Dean Orlian said. "Joint programs are a great way to broaden our range where we are limited as a liberal arts college."

that "Yeshiva University should not fear to contemplate change but embrace it as a means to bring about a heightened awareness and deeper understanding of the critical issues facing faculty and students alike."

### Academic Evaluation

The Middle States report described the undergraduate curricula as, in general, of "a high standard." However, according to the report, the Yeshiva environment is one in which students who want to be challenged can be, while others find easier routes.

The Middle States team did notice an improved academic atmosphere from its last visit, which it partly attributed to the Honors Programs at both campuses. The report said that the Honors Programs provide "richer and more rigorous experiences," and it suggested that Yeshiva use the Honors Program

continued on page 12