



Yeshiva University Observer

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women

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Joel Introduced to Yeshiva Community at Hannukah Dinner *New Presidential Residence and Office*

By Miriam Colton

Richard M. Joel, president-elect, was officially introduced to the Yeshiva community at the annual Hanukkah Dinner by Board of Trustees Chairman Ronald Stanton, who called on the community to support the decision. Joel received a standing ovation at the dinner, which he attended with his wife Esther, and daughter Ariella, an SCW senior.

President Dr. Norman Lamm also addressed the crowd, praising Stanton for his leadership and devotion to Yeshiva since his official installation as a member of the Board in 1976, the same year Lamm became president. The recent presidential appointment is a major coup for Stanton, who restructured a deteriorating search process only three months after assuming the position of chairman.

The dinner raised a total of \$1.45 million, with approximately \$250,000 covering the expense of the extravaganza. The

remainder will go toward scholarships at the various schools. "The dinner serves as a special reason to give philanthropically and is instrumental in raising money," said Dan Forman, Director of Development. "It has also become a Yeshiva tradition."

The money raised is included in the \$400 million capital campaign, which is currently at the \$345 million mark. After last year's dinner, the campaign was at the \$305 million mark. "Our aim is to reach the goal by this summer," said Forman. "We understand that the economic climate is a difficult one, so we will be somewhat flexible."

The annual dinner, attended by over 800 people, was again held at the Waldorf=Astoria in midtown Manhattan. The black tie event, with its formal proceedings, is intended to be an exclusive event for Yeshiva supporters, as reflected by the steep \$500 couvert fee.

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Student Councils Release Dress Code Letter

Little Change Noticed on Campus

By Anat Barber

Responding to an open forum about the dress code held several months ago, student leaders recently sent a letter to the student body requesting that students dress in accordance with the SCW dress policy during the hours of 9-5. The letter, however, has apparently done little to increase adherence to the dress policy.

The letter, drafted in the beginning of December by SCWSC President Sharon Weiss, SSSBSC President Ellie Nyer and TAC President Lisa Grundman and signed by their respective board members, was intended to encourage students, in an amiable manner, to comply with the dress code.

The decision to write the letter came after much negotiation between student leaders and the Office of the Dean. Having the administration attempt to enforce the policy, student leaders thought, would produce a hostile environment on campus, and they opted to write a letter.

The letter signed by the student leaders requested a concentrated effort to dress appropriately during school hours and while in classes. However, after hours, while utilizing the cafeteria, computer labs, or gymnasium a more relaxed

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

The letter, in part, reads, "We encourage all students to wear skirts and shirts of appropriate length during traditional school hours, being Monday thru Thursday 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. in the 245 and 215 Lexington Avenue school buildings. This standard of dress is reflective of the prime class hours that take place during this time. Students also feel, however, that an element of dignity and modesty in dress should be apparent at all times in the school building."

Despite the cordial tone of the memo, not much of a change has been noted on campus. "They may have made a lot of noise, but not a lot has changed," commented SCW junior Miri Ravich. "I don't see a difference. Students still come to Jewish classes in pants."

The letter seems to have failed to reach its target audience — those who do not follow the dress code. Those students who attend classes dressed inappropriately still contend that any coercion to dress in a specific way is unjustifiable. SCW, they believe, should remain open and understanding of its students' various backgrounds and not strive for a

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Cardozo Quietly Gaining Steam

By Caryn Litt

The Albert Einstein College of Medicine is generally considered the jewel in Yeshiva's crown. In recent years, however, Yeshiva has been pouring money into the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law to expand its facilities, gradually propelling it toward the top stratum of law schools in the country.

In the past few years, Cardozo has purchased more floors in the 55 5th Avenue building it currently occupies and has slowly redone virtually the entire building. In January, Cardozo will be holding the formal opening of its newly renovated library, part of a \$40 million

improvement project.

"The University has been extremely generous and patient with the improvements," said Susan Davis, Cardozo's director of communications and public affairs. "Without the University, we wouldn't have been able to do it."

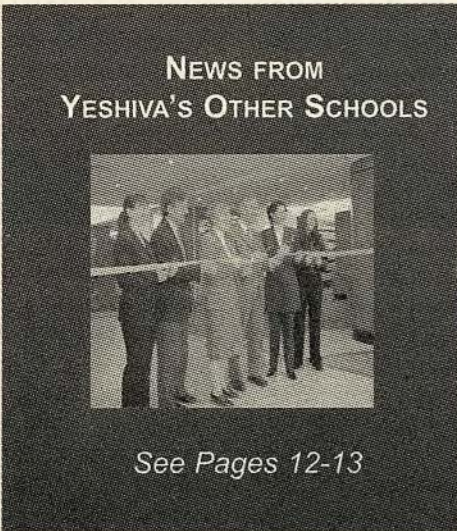
In addition to the library renovation, Cardozo has expanded its lobby, creating a new moot court and a new seminar room in that space, and has refurbished all of the main classrooms, upgrading them with technological advancements and new furniture. Before these improvements, the law school had been largely untouched since its founding in 1976, according to Davis.

"The goal is to have a modern, accommodating, comfortable space for students to go to law school," said Davis.

All of these improvements underscore the commitment to moving Cardozo into the realm of top, competitive law schools. According to the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings, Cardozo is in the second tier of law schools. While *U.S. News* does not print the rank numbers of schools below the top tier, Cardozo is ranked at number 55, just below the top 50 demarcation, according to Assistant Dean of Admissions Robert Schwartz. In individual program areas, Cardozo is ranked number five in the country in intellectual property law and number seven in dispute resolution.

"The rate at which we have climbed

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NEWS FROM
YESHIVA'S OTHER SCHOOLS

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The Tenuous Tenure Track

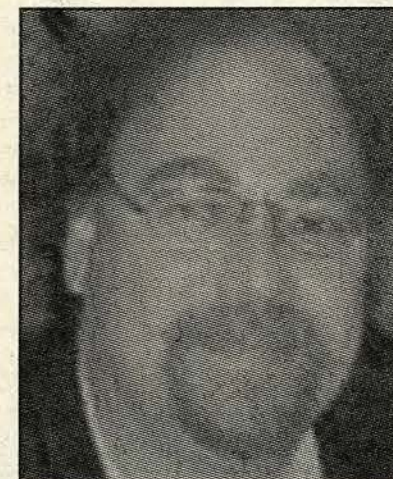
Brill's Rejection Provokes Examination of Process

By Miriam Colton

The recent denial of tenure for Dr. Alan Brill by Yeshiva College and Bernard Revel Graduate School has stunned students and faculty. Brill, an associate professor of Judaic Studies at both schools, has developed an almost cult-like following of male students in the past few years, students who regularly enroll in his Jewish history and philosophy courses.

Brill's teaching contract at Yeshiva will expire at the end of the 2004 academic year.

The effective termination strikes a disconcerting chord with many in the Yeshiva community who believe that it reveals a lack of regard for what students want. It follows another decision to deny tenure to a highly-popular professor. In 1999, Dr. Ross Zucker, a political science professor was denied tenure and subsequently left the University. He is currently an associate professor of political science at Touro's Lander College for Men.



Dr. Alan Brill has been denied tenure at Yeshiva

The recent tenure decision has left many wondering about the secrecy of such decisions, the process and the requirements that need to be met.

'Tenure' is the term used for professors who hold their position on a permanent

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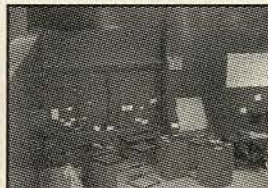
I N S I D E

Spotlight on
Blue Fringe



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Library Space
Temporarily Put to
Use



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MacPac Brings
Political Activism to
Campus



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EDITORIALS

Students Deserve Say in Tenure

The denial of tenure to Dr. Alan Brill, a popular philosophy and Jewish history professor at YC and Revel, has raised questions regarding a process from which students are generally ignored. Here on our own campus, a highly regarded and popular professor has also recently been denied tenure. We do not know the details of the decision, mainly because virtually every administrator refused to speak with us, and the professor requested that we refrain from publicizing the tenure denial. The idea that such a talented professor can be denied tenure, with the student body never having known about it, is alarming.

The tenure process is paradoxical in that it barely takes into account the opinions of the very students it purports to serve. Administrators claim that student sentiment is gleaned from the course evaluations students fill out at the end of each semester. Yet everyone knows that these evaluations are not taken seriously, neither by the students nor by the administrators.

Shockingly, according to current policy, professors are free to read through the evaluations as soon as they are filled out - before final examinations - provided they read them in the Dean's Office. While the evaluations are completed anonymously, it is no difficult feat for the professor to determine the author - handwriting is easily traceable, especially in small classes. Because students are worried that a professor may consciously or sub-consciously punish harsh comments with a poor grade, they generally tend to check off all of the "mostly agree" boxes and refrain from writing lengthy comments.

That evaluations are meant merely for the professor's own personal perusal, and have little affect on tenure decisions, is clear from the fact that the administration does nothing to ensure that students feel comfortable honestly assessing a professor's performance. If evaluations are truly intended to make a difference in the hiring and firing of professors, than they must be safeguarded. Until they are, we can have no faith that our opinions really count.

Please, Sir, Can I Have Some More?

Although the midtown campus has seen tremendous expansion in recent years, it has become apparent that the campus facilities still do not meet the needs of the more than 1,000 students of SCW. Aside from a general sense of elbow-room deficiency, we lack basic college services - a non-overcrowded cafeteria, a regulation-sized gym, 24-hour access to computers.

Perhaps the most crucial service that we lack is a decent Student Services complex, one that could house all of the student services staff in one office suite together with a student counseling center, a plan that Student Services has been backing for years.

SCW actually owns a building that would be ideal for such a venture. However, administrators seem not to consider the designation of this building for some kind of use a priority. A senior member of the administration has actually said that we are not in need of more space. The most discouraging part of that statement is that anyone who thinks we do not need more space clearly has no conception of our needs at all.

The Observer

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Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 22	23 Reading Period Ice Cafe (Koch Auditorium)	24 Reading Period	25 Reading Period	26 Final Exams	27 Final Exams	28 Final Exams Shabbaton
29	30 Final Exams	31 Final Exams	January 1, 2003 Happy New Year!	2 Final Exams	3 Final Exams	4 Final Exams Shabbaton Rosh Chodesh Shevat
5 Final Exams	6 Intercession	7 Intercession	8 Intercession	9 Intercession	10 Intercession	11 Intercession
12 Intercession	13 Intercession	14 Intercession	15 Intercession	16 Intercession	17 Intercession	18 Tu Beshvat
19 Orientation and Registration for New Students; Late Registration for Returning Students	20 Martin Luther King Day First Day of Classes	21	22	23 Women's Basketball (SUNY Purchase)	24	25 Observer/ Commentator Shabbaton (All are welcome!)
26	27	28 Last Day to File for May Degree Women's Basketball SUNY Basketball	29	30	31 Last day to enter new class without special permission	

From The Editor's Desk



CARYN LITT
Editor-in-Chief

The appointment of Mr. Richard Joel as president of Yeshiva is momentous on several accounts, perhaps the most notable of which is his lack of rabbinic ordination. While some may view Joel's election as a slide down the slippery slope of secularization, perhaps the Joel presidency will actually halt the skid down a slope Yeshiva seems already to be on: the slope of insularity, heading ultimately toward irrelevance.

Yeshiva wants to be the model for modern Orthodoxy, and, to some degree, within some circles, it is. But I can assure you that most of my friends at secular colleges, and I have many, don't give a hoot about YU. They don't look to Yeshiva as their role model for anything — not for Torah learning, not for ideology and certainly not for community. We are so absorbed in our own sense of self-importance that we often do not realize how insignificant we are to people outside the Yeshiva community.

While we congratulate ourselves for standing at the forefront of Torah learning, we are actually misrepresenting the priorities of most young, modern Orthodox Jews. It has been my experience that, although Torah learning is certainly integral to their lives, Orthodox Jews at secular colleges are in some ways more concerned with developing a strong community and creating a politically active presence on campus.

Our daily concerns at Yeshiva share little in common with what our counterparts are expending energy on at their campuses. While our Jewish community worries about whether female students should be forced to wear skirts to classes, other Jewish communities are brainstorming about how they can bring more Jews closer to Judaism. While we devote countless hours to the cheating epidemic, college students elsewhere are fighting against an anti-Semitic student union to keep their Hillel house open.

Yes, Yeshiva is unique in that its students place equal emphasis on Torah and secular education. But for Orthodox Jews, a serious commitment to prayer and learning Torah should be a given, not something deserving of a pat on the back. The real challenge comes in seizing the reins of Jewish issues of global concern. How gratifying it would be to see Yeshiva hosting other Jewish college communities in efforts to promote dialogue on issues confronting modern

Orthodoxy. How impressive it would be if other college campuses would look to Yeshiva for encouragement and guidance in their pursuits of Israel activism.

We have such potential to extend our sphere of influence. For while we are unique in our level of Torah learning, we are also unique in that we have the largest Orthodox community of any other college. With nearly 2,500 undergraduate students, Yeshiva is a mass of raw material ready to be molded into some kind of organized action.

A perfect example is our response to the crisis in Israel, which has, for the most part, been within a religious framework. Currently gaining momentum on campus, the MACPAC initiative to involve students politically on behalf of Israel is somewhat unique in that it seeks to draw students out of their narrow perspectives into the broader political arena. Politics is no substitute for davening, learning and completing chesed projects aimed to help Israel, but neither do these activities preclude the need for a greater awareness of the worldly processes around us.

I don't think I'm alone when I admit that before Joel's candidacy was announced I had never heard of the man. Yet he is the recognized leader of thousands of young Jews nationwide, a leader representing a unifying presence of shared concerns and issues across college campuses. While the Hillel organization is probably too left wing for most of our student body, how ironic (yet understandable) that Yeshiva lacks a campus organization devoted to promoting Jewish causes and connecting to Jews at other colleges. While some worry that Joel will not possess the sensitivity required to deal with religious issues, we can at least be assured that he will bring to the job a sensitivity required to earn Yeshiva the respect of the greater modern Orthodox community.

I do not mean to belittle our causes or denigrate our efforts. It has, in fact, been pointed out many times that it is precisely because we do not have external influences to worry about that we can focus on more subtle Jewish issues and more creative projects to assist Israel. I merely intend to highlight that other college students simply cannot, and do not, relate to Yeshiva. And as long as we continue to recede into our shells, selfishly shrugging off external concerns, Yeshiva will never be the beacon of light unto college campuses and it will never reach its fullest potential.



MIRIAM COLTON
Editor-in-Chief

At the packed student dinner that evening, I was astounded by the number of attendees. Clusters of students from virtually every college campus in the US and Canada were present. With one exception: Yeshiva.

The elegant dinner was only one of the many gatherings for students attending the annual General Assembly (GA) of the United Jewish Communities, the arch Jewish organization. In fact, the GA was filled with hundreds of college students who had been invited by their respective Hillels for a gratuitous stay at the GA, "The Event" of Jewish federations. Hillel must have figured, what better opportunity to expose students to possible careers in Jewish communal service.

Where do Yeshiva students fit in this picture? Nowhere, seems to be the unspoken answer of our administration. Yeshiva's representation at the GA consisted of a couple of haphazard stragglers. One SCW and one YC student came independently, and four students, myself included, were attending a journalism conference in the same hotel. While Yeshiva did subsidize a portion of our journalism conference, upon request, neither we nor the Yeshiva administration knew that the conference occurred concurrently with the GA. (I managed to bail out of only some journalism lectures to attend GA sessions and events.)

Interestingly, the YC student had requested that Student Services sponsor his trip since Yeshiva has no Hillel. The equivalent must then be Student Services, he claimed. The request was unequivocally denied. Additionally, neither Student Services nor any other office posted signs about the upcoming GA, and many students were thus unaware of the event. Indeed, prior to my arrival in downtown Philadelphia, where the convention was held this year, I had never heard of the GA and had little comprehension of the scope and depth of Jewish communal service.

Yeshiva's greatest strength is that is an Orthodox institution. As students here, we have no need for a Hillel to arrange Jewish activities, which are part of our daily life on campus. I am likewise grateful that we need not compromise with other streams of Judaism on religious issues. In the arguments regarding the publication of *One People, Two Worlds*, a book co-written by an Orthodox rabbi and Reform rabbi, I easily see both sides on the merits of such theological debate.

Yet communal unity is a different realm. A relationship must exist on a professional communal level on issues affecting all Jewry, especially at such a critical time in Israel's history. For instance, would the Washington rally last year have been so successful if not for the union of Jews, no prefix, in support of Israel?

Thus, to produce future Jewish leaders, Yeshiva must expose its capable students to the greater Jewish world, beyond Orthodoxy. So, too, if RIETS wants to graduate the rabbis of tomorrow, those men need to be comfortable dealing with the entire Jewish community and its organizations. And the problem is not one of talent or potential. In my two and a half years on campus, I've seen the student body exhibit its leadership skills, through the many projects and programs, specifically for Israel, organized on campus. Indeed, the stable Jewish setting at Yeshiva fosters such actions and there is no lack of potential Jewish communal leaders.

Students at Yeshiva, however, lack familiarity with the needs and opportunities in the Jewish community outside their world. Those interested in Jewish service need to be informed of their possibilities. While most Yeshiva students are familiar with organizations such as the Orthodox Union or the Young Israel, the myriad non-Orthodox organizations and opportunities are obscure to them. These federations also need young leaders, and it never hurts for Orthodox Jewry to have its say. Rather than remaining complacent in an insular cocoon, Yeshiva and its students must actively contribute to the greater Jewish community.

Luckily, it seems time is ripe for change. This week, the Orthodox Union is sponsoring a day for YC and SCW students at its annual convention. Perhaps recognizing the need for young blood in an old men's club, it is hosting a session for students on opportunities in Jewish organizations.

The true change, ultimately, will arrive with Mr. Richard Joel's presidency. We have begun to hear of plans for a new program to train future Jewish leaders, beginning with students from the rabbinical seminary. According to a proud Ronald Stanton, Joel has a clear vision for educating and training new leaders, both for Yeshiva and for the community. The director of Hillel for fourteen years, Joel is leaving the center of young Jewish life to become the leaders of the center of young Orthodox life. Hopefully, he will be able to direct some of the talent here to the wider community.

Join us for our annual
Observer/Commentator
shabbaton
January 24-5
Special Lecture and Program!
All are welcome

The Observer

Wishes Everyone
The Best of Luck
on Finals

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

How Frum Should Stern Be?

Dear Editors,

The important article about religious guidance at Stern ("Religious Guidance on Campus: Is There Enough," November 20th, 2002) contrasts the atmosphere at Stern with that of the seminaries most Stern students attend in Israel. The growing number of students make it impossible for Rabbi Hochberg, who is available part time, to adequately meet the needs of the total student body.

However there is also a philosophic difference that should be explored. If Stern provides too little guidance many of the Israeli seminaries may provide too much. It is far too easy for a rabbi at a seminary, speaking in the name of religious authority, to control the religious thinking of an eighteen year old.

In Stern, students have the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of religious perspectives. Yes, it may be confusing, but it leads to religious and personal growth, while not hindering the quest of finding a *posek*. Whether all decisions should be made for one by a *posek* or only halakhic ones is another issue to consider. Finding the proper balance in a complex institution with a diverse student body is hard.

Having some familiarity with the uptown campus, I see it has not been solved there either.

Rabbi Yosef Blau
Mashgiach Ruchani

Thou Shalt Not Say Tehillim in Vain

To the rabbinic staff and students of Yeshiva University,

I was a student at Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University, between 1994-1997. During that time, I served as the president of the Torah Activities Council. Unfortunately, I can recall many school-wide *tehillim* [psalms] that I arranged *beshaat hadchak* [in a time of urgency]. In April 1995, I remember leading responsive *tehillim* when Alisa Flatow was still in the intensive care unit, before she succumbed to her wounds from a terrorist attack in Gaza. In November 1995, I remember arranging a communal *tehillim* in memory of the assassinated Prime Minister Yitzchak Rabin. In February 1996, I remember speaking before the *tehillim* we said when Sarah Duker was killed, in one of two bus bombings that killed 25 people and injured more than 80 in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

I remember these painful moments when our school community came together in prayer and mourning. I remember feeling that the Jewish people were in crisis. We were *beshaat hadchak*.

The appointment of Richard Joel to YU presidency is not a *shaat hadchak*.

Upon graduating Stern College, I made *aliyah* to Jerusalem. I have lived here ever since. I know what a *shaat hadchak* is. I am surrounded by crisis. I am surrounded by the real dangers and threats to the Jewish people. I have stood at the kotel with thousands of fellow Jews, pleading for an end to the suffering in our country. There is a desperate need for *tehillim*. Ours and Yours. From inside Israel and from outside. We, in Israel, are truly in a *shaat hadchak*.

How dare you use the same expression to refer to the politics of Yeshiva University?

How can you, rabbinic staff and students, call an emergency *tehillim* rally on behalf of terrorist victims in Israel one day and on behalf of a unified university

presidency the next?

How am I to understand your words of prayer and support for Israel? If you believe our situations are at all comparable, your words have become tainted and meaningless to me. You have displayed a complete and utter misunderstanding of Jewish priorities and values. You have abused and distorted the act of communal prayer *beshaat hadchak*.

You should indeed be saying *tehillim*. You should be saying the *mizmorim* [psalms] of *Hallel*, thankful that someone who has a real concern and love for the Jewish people has agreed to become YU's new president. With the help of God, may he bring a more sensitive and sacred set of Jewish priorities and values to your institution.

Emily Shapiro
SCW 1997

Halakha Must Dictate Policy

To the Editors,

The proposed outcome of the October 22nd student forum at Stern, a letter calling for students to respect a more limited form of the current dress code, is indeed a "compromise" - of Yeshiva University's religious ideals.

As a non-Stern student, I can't pretend to represent campus sentiment. Rather, I write idealistically, as a joint stakeholder in our University's mission.

Before assessing proposals regarding student clothing, the framework of the dress code at Stern must be clarified. If the rules simply establish a "conducive atmosphere" for a Jewish education, as was indicated in one of the documents uncovered by the Student Council, then these 30 year old policies should be adapted to reflect what society presently considers appropriate. If students feel comfortable wearing a piece of clothing to a nice restaurant, why should it be barred from an all-women's classroom?

However, is it rational for Yeshiva to establish "school regulations...non-reflective of halakhic norms?" Jewish law mandates certain boundaries for fashion decency. If the University's policies are not anchored in halakha, hasn't our entire organizational purpose been breached? Yeshiva is set up as a religious Jewish school, and we should set its norms by halakhic standards (just as we do for Shabbat observance in the dorms). Otherwise, what separates our school from any other?

All questions regarding the dress code should be framed by a halakhic consistency. What type of clothing exactly is allowed according to halakha? Is there room to alter the dress code within halakha? Let halakhic authorities push those bounds, and leave the University to reconcile the campus reality with this halakhic ideal. Not one rabbi's view of the dress code was quoted in the *Observer* ("Dress Code Forum Prompts Action by Student Leaders," November 20th, 2002).

Furthermore, assuming a religious basis to the policy and to our institution, the notion that religious practice should only be expected during a portion of the day suggests a failure of our institutional philosophy. Stern should be able to show its students that religious values not only have their place in the "synagogue," but in every facet of their lives. If we can't impart that lesson within our institution, how can we hope to have any impact on our students' lives after they leave here?

And on a more basic level, if such a policy is not relevant all day, then how can we expect students to take it seriously for any part of the day? If pants, for example, are allowed, then permit them. But if they are deemed halakhically inappropriate, shouldn't we be consistent?

In order to increase adherence to the rules, the administrators, faculty and staff must adhere to the conduct they expect of the women, broadcast the expectations of incoming students and openly discuss the reasons they feel the University has a dress code. It is unfortunate students feel that a policy is being unwillingly thrust upon them. The institution should instill pride in the religious mores it, and its policies, represent.

While it is obvious that a university cannot dictate halakha, the policy that the current generation of Stern students adopts will become the norm for the Jewish woman of the 21st century. Let's not sell her short.

Josh Goldman
SOY President
SSSB '02

Help Save Agunot

To the Editors,

I would like to personally thank you for publicizing ORA. ("ORA Organizes Protests to Help Agunot," November 20th, 2002).

Hopefully, due to this article, women at Stern college will now actively get involved in our activities, as we truly need their help in trying to solve one of Orthodox Judaism's biggest problems.

ORA. Founder

MSDCS Needs Recharging

To the Editors,

The presidential special edition of the *Observer* and *Commentator* quoted president-elect Mr. Richard Joel on his views regarding Yeshiva's involvement with the greater Jewish community ("Constructing A Vision: Joel's Building Blocks," December 6, 2002). Joel said that Yeshiva should serve as a role model to all humanity, and he suggested supercharging the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) to make sure that it plays a large role in the Jewish community.

I absolutely agree with Mr. Joel's recommendation of expanding MSDCS, since that is the office that is supposed to facilitate SCW and YC students to be involved on the Jewish communal level. At this point, we are only brushing the very tip of the giant iceberg.

Right now, MSDCS only offers three programs. It offers the Torah Tours program, which connects us with other Orthodox communities nationwide, but only a few times a year. The Panim program takes a limited number of SCW and YC students to other college campuses nationwide to run outreach programs. The Counterpoint program sends a handful of students to Australia to facilitate outreach programs for high school students.

The biggest problem I have with MSDCS is that because it lacks in programming, they should take special care to promote the organizations that do hold programs involved in all these areas - but they don't.

So if Richard Joel wants to "supercharge MSDCS," I am with him all the way. Hire more staff. Hire a Hillel professional to help improve and educate this office. The students want to be the "worthy role model for all humanity" that Mr. Joel spoke about. Mr. Joel - please help us achieve this goal. Put the money where the heart is. *Kol yisrael aravim ze la'ze* [all of Israel is responsible for one another]. Make it happen.

Beth Meshel
SCW '03

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

Thanks for Money Raised for

Below is a reprint of a letter thanking those who contributed to an Israel breast cancer fundraising campaign. SCW students participated by collecting money on campus. The efforts at SCW are for the refuah of SCW junior Ali Lederer's mother, Gitta Lederer - Bracha Gitel Bat Hanah.

To the community,

This year Edmonton Hadassah Wizo Health Services Campaign reached a new high in pledges and gifts. This could not have happened without your incredible participation. Your gift made a significant difference and without a doubt will impact on the quality of the services that our hospitals provide in Israel. In particular, the M Fanny Breast Care facility, at the Asaf Harofe Hospital which provides services of every nature for breast cancer patients, will be the recipient of your generous contribution.

On behalf of Gitta Lederer (Bracha Gitel Bat Hanah), our Health Services Honoree, I thank you for understanding the importance of this year's campaign.... ISRAEL NEEDS US MORE THAN EVER.... you "came through," and I thank you personally for your commitment to the work that we do for our beloved country Israel....

Yours sincerely,
Michelle Marcushamer.
Edmonton Hadassah-Wizo Health
Services chairperson 2002.

MESSAGE FROM SCWSC PRESIDENT

Sharon Weiss



Ronald Jenkins, of sophomore status, is the star basketball player at Midwest University. He fell behind in classes because he was caring for his mother who was dying of cancer. Ronald's mother passed away during finals week. Ronald's coach therefore helped him cheat on his final exam. The student was caught in the act, and the University is debating whether or not to expel Jenkins. This scenario was presented at the debate team's meet in Queens College. Although I lost this debate, I learned a great deal during the process. I was competing against students who attend larger universities where there is little personal attention. In Stern, student services would have been in close contact with the student while the mother was ill and would have assisted in making the student's life at school easier and accommodating during such difficult times.

After discussing the scenario with other college students, I realized how lucky I am to know that my presence and commitment to Stern is apparent, as is every other student's allegiance to Stern. Student service administration goes beyond what is required of them because they love what they are doing. There are two areas where we as students should assist them in order to benefit the school at large. The Office of Student Services needs more staff. Stern College already had less staff than Yeshiva College last year and the discrepancy is even greater since Dr. Shani Nissel's absence. Students must voice the need for more staff to improve the department, and, in turn, our campus.

A second area that needs revamping is guidance counseling, which also falls under the realm of student services. I know of many students who would not seek guidance from the school because they were fearful of being "kicked out" of Stern.

I can empathize with them. We need a mental health center where we can go for guidance and advice for our friends or ourselves. I do not think that there is any other university that does not have a mental health center. We have students who are depressed, have eating disorders, or just need some help in getting their lives together. Stern needs a place for those with such problems or friends with these types of problems to go where they are guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality.

As a student leader, I am asking for your help and support. The dress code is an area that all three student councils attempted to address together. It was a controversial issue that we hoped to make less controversial in order to preserve a comfortable school environment. Expanding student services and providing Stern students with a mental health center is clearly something that would be positive and is necessary on the Midtown Campus. Please email scwsc@hotmail.com or page any of the board at (800) 800-7759 to get involved. This student life issue will be one of student council's priorities in the coming semester. The student council board wishes you good luck on finals and hopes you have an amazing vacation. We are looking forward to another eventful semester.

Taking Frum Too Far

By Alisa Rose

I recently heard of a disturbing phenomenon - many students regret attending SCW because it is not "frum." They reluctantly come here because their parents are willing to dish out \$30,000 a year, and all their friends are here. And, anyway, "there's no place else to go." Many of these students categorically refuse to get involved in SCW activities because SCW activities aren't frum.

This troubling attitude reflects a gross misunderstanding of SCW and a lack of appreciation as a student at this unique institution. Where else can a Jewish woman receive an unparalleled Torah education alongside a superior secular education? Where else can one find a university that is committed to providing its students with a college experience within a Torah environment?

There is a striking and very sad irony to the reasons given for avoiding SCW's extracurricular activities. The purpose of a university like SCW is that even involvement in extracurricular activities that are not specifically Torah pursuits are kosher and open to all students. Typically writing for one's university paper is a secular pursuit, but at SCW, our newspaper is the student mouthpiece and the watchdog of a Torah-oriented university. How many other student newspapers regularly include articles discussing events like *agunot* rallies, *seforim* sales, or Chanukah concerts? How many other newspapers are charged with the responsibility of documenting the progress, the successes and the failures of such an important and pioneering university like SCW?

Working on this paper has afforded me a front-row view of the developments of a university that plays an integral role in developing the Jewish leaders of tomorrow. As students, this university gives us a lot to be proud of. But perhaps even more importantly, Yeshiva provides us with the opportunity to change things that we are not proud of, to

address issues that require improvement. Consequently, even if the argument against involvement in school because it's not "frum" holds some weight, it certainly does not excuse lack of involvement. It merely begs the question even further - why don't you get involved and make SCW "more frum"?

The *Observer* is just one example of an outlet available for students to help shape SCW into the university they would like it to be. It is absolutely puzzling to me that students will avoid writing for the *Observer* because it is not considered frum. It baffles me every time a student insists that I may not attach her name to an opinion she has expressed because she does not want her name to appear in the paper.

Besides for the wide range of activities available, as a small school, SCW also affords students with the unique opportunity of initiating their own projects, of molding their own college experience. There are also a plethora of strictly Torah-related activities that are in dire need of more student involvement. (For example, *Binah Yesairah*, SCW's weekly parsha bulletin, is looking for an editor for next semester.)

If you see SCW as a place where getting involved is *treif* - if you attend SCW only because your parents want you to or because all your friends are here - then you're totally missing the point of this dynamic institution and misunderstanding its tremendous potential.

But if you take advantage of the opportunities here, you might even come to discover that there are much better reasons to attend SCW. You will likely uncover countless more ways to grow, countless more friends to be made and countless more achievements to be accomplished. And you may even help shape SCW's present, and plant the seeds for its future growth.

MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman



There are two points in the school year that almost every college student anticipates and dreads at the same time. It is a time that they look forward to throughout the whole semester and still apprehend because of the frustrations that occur. This is registration. The second the course catalogue comes out, students are filling the office with questions, planning out their schedules hundreds of times and asking their peers about classes being offered. Students cannot wait to change their classes and try to make their schedules the best that they can be. This is the easiest part of the registration process. After using up dozens of pieces of paper and figuring out every minute detail, you then get to actually go through the registration process. Once students start registering, there are two computers set up in the lobby. You know that once the computers are set up, it's a bad sign. Within seconds, classes are closed out and your whole schedule needs to be reconstructed. Students try their hardest to get signed into classes, and they pull as many strings as possible. Students get frustrated, annoyed and some even cry. There is just nothing fun to it.

This year when I registered for classes, I tried to have a more laid back attitude. Instead of going into registration with my "fists up and ready to fight," I was going to just

relax and prepare myself for getting "closed out." I tried to tell myself that there was no reason to get all worked up. Nothing was going to come of it. As I stood on line waiting to hand in my form, I was told that I was in fact closed out of my class. As much

as I was frustrated and did not get my way, I pushed myself to stay in control and deal with reality. The world was not coming to an end and somehow everything was going to work out. This was only a bump in the road.

Life is not easy. If everything worked out the way we wanted there would never be any challenges to overcome. We would not have an opportunity to learn from our mistakes, to grow and change our mentality. As much as people can say things that bother us, or problems arise that place a block in the road, we have to remember that in the bigger picture this is a minuscule issue which will eventually be resolved.

Now that registration is over and everyone has been assigned to their classes let's try to keep this in mind for the next semester. Once those computers are set up and we get to the registration desk, just remember that no matter what we are told, everything will work out.

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.

In this issue, we present the concept of Outreach. Reaching out to other Jews in an attempt to draw them closer to Judaism is regarded as an important principle within Orthodoxy. However, as Orthodox Jews we must grapple with the question of to what extent we can force our beliefs on others. What do you think, and where do you stand?

OUTREACH

Attitude 1: Outreach to non-affiliated or non-observant Jews is a fulfillment of the commandments of learning Torah and loving God. The goal is to aid these Jews in becoming the best possible Jews they can be at that point in time. The means you use should preserve the person's independence, and you must respect the person's ultimate choice of affiliation, even if it is with non-Orthodox movements.

Attitude 2: Outreach to non-observant Jews is a fulfillment of the commandment of *tochacha*, rebuke. The goal is to move people closer to Torah in their beliefs and in their actions. The means you use must not violate the person's independence, and you must respect the person's ultimate choice of affiliation, even if it is with non-Orthodox movements.

Attitude 3: Outreach to non-Orthodox Jews is the fulfillment of the commandment of *tochacha*. The goal is to move people toward repentance - the full adoption of Orthodox life. The means you use may not compromise your Orthodox integrity, although they may sometimes require the other person to separate from his or her family, friends and community.

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

ON CAMPUS

Disciplinary Committee Completes Procedural Document

By Alisa Rose

The disciplinary committee is one major step closer in its efforts to protect students. At the most recent meeting, which took place approximately two weeks ago on the midtown campus, the latest draft of the procedural document was revealed. Overall, committee members were pleased with the document and the committee's progress.

Additionally, a subcommittee was formed to move on to the committee's next goal of drafting a Student's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The disciplinary committee, which was formed in response to disciplinary issues last year, has been meeting since the beginning of the semester.

"I think we have a completed document," Dean of Students David Himer said, praising the committee's success in finalizing the document, which delineates how Yeshiva will deal with infractions of University rules. Committee members were unsatisfied with the draft that was presented at the previous meeting, calling it too "generic." The document was re-worked, and the one presented at the last meeting was well-received.

"We made a lot of progress," said SCWSC President Sharon Weiss. "The document is basically completed. There are just some minor modifications that need to be made."

The procedural document details the administrative process that is undertaken when a student commits an infraction. It describes which administrators would handle the case, and, depending on the severity of the case, what kind of actions will be taken. The document does not outline specific infractions.

Most of the process described in the document is not an introduction of new disciplinary policies, but rather a clarification of the pre-existing system. "The model on paper is pretty much the model that we have been using," explained Senior University Dean of Students Efreim Nulman. "It just puts in more protection and makes it clear to the students what the procedure is."

The document ensures that students are aware at all times what disciplinary actions are being taken against them. It also gives students the right to administrative representation - an administrator may accompany the student to a dean to help the student plead his case.

"At all times the student is informed about what's going on," emphasized SCW student and committee member Shoshana Davis. "It was a very good disciplinary system, but no one knew how it worked. We fine-tuned the system that was already in place."

The document also allows for more flexibility within the disciplinary process. "If something is a minimal issue we can treat it that way," Nulman said.

Both Nulman and Himer expressed their intentions to release the document to students as soon as it is completed. They are considering including it in the student catalogue or posting it online.

"I feel confident that things are taking shape, and we have all the students' best interest in mind," noted SCW student and committee member Beth Meshel.

At the meeting, committee members also formed a subcommittee to draft the Student's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. The subcommittee will review similar documents that other universities have in place as a springboard for Yeshiva's document. "A lot of the document is common sense," said Davis. "But the document will ensure that students are aware of what is expected of them."

Assistant Dean of Students Andrew Leibowitz will chair the subcommittee, which includes Wilf campus Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau, SCW students Shoshana Davis and Beth Meshel, YC students Josh Sturm and Yaakov Green and a Yeshiva lawyer.

The subcommittee is slated to meet at the beginning of next semester. After the committee members have formulated a draft of the Student's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, all of the disciplinary committee members will meet together to discuss it.

"The general consensus is that we're moving in the right direction," said Nulman.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

How do you feel about the cultural life on campus?



Bella Tendler,
SCW junior

"It's been a little lame for a while, but every year there have been some really talented people - actors, writers, artists. When we get that on display at fairs or through the drama society, you really see that there's some serious talent around here."



Shoshana Davis,
SCW senior

"I'm on the committee for the Metropolitan experience and they strive to do the best they can, to give them a myriad of experiences that students could not necessarily afford on their own. New York is the cultural center of the world."



Ayelet Fischer,
SCW freshman

"I feel like they're very lacking, they're not what they would be on a regular campus. Ice Café was really good, and you could tell that they tried to make an event that would be held on a real campus."

The Offices of Student Services
& The Dean of Students

Wish All Stern College and Sy Syms Students

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINALS

If there is any way we can be helpful, please don't hesitate to drop by our office located in SCW, Room 110.

Zelda Braun
SCW 114

Beth Hait
SCW 133

Rachel Kraut
BRH 1G

Rochelle Ausubel
SCW 405

Marga Marx
SCW 305

ON CAMPUS

SCW Considers Expansion Options

Unused Yeshiva Property on 35th Street

By Alisa Rose

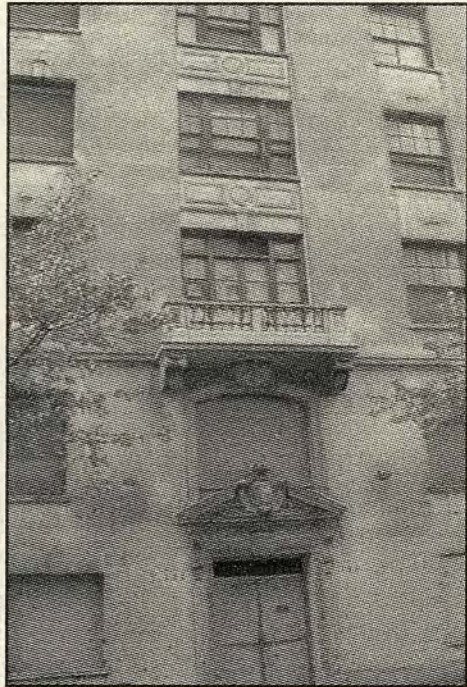
Despite the steady stream of renovations and building projects that have occurred at SCW over the past eight years, the College still seems to be bursting at the seams. It is somewhat surprising, therefore, that SCW actually owns a vacant building.

SCW currently owns a nine-story building located at 150 East 35th Street, adjacent to the school building on 245 Lexington. Purchased in 1997, at the same time as the Schottenstein Cultural Center and the Schottenstein Residence Hall, the building, which once served as an apartment building, has been untouched. The inside is gutted, and the windows are boarded up.

There are no immediate plans in place for the building, but its occupancy code is flexible and allows for both office and residence space, according to Yeshiva Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten.

The main problem holding up construction and renovation is the lack of funds. Without a donor to finance the cost of construction, Yeshiva will not proceed with any plans. However, administrators do not seem to consider the building a top priority right now and are not actively seeking a donor. They are still looking for a donor for the 36th Street Residence Hall, which opened last year.

"As of now, there's no particular plan that I'm aware of," said Rosengarten. "It's hard to do everything at once. We're



expanding in other areas." According to Rosengarten, SCW currently does not need the space in the building.

This answer is surprising since a main complaint among midtown students is the lack of appropriate facilities. Specifically, student leaders have been pushing for an appropriate student center. "I can think of many uses for the space," said one midtown student leader. "Stern needs a space where all services for students are together."

One idea would be to house a new guidance center in the building; the idea

continued on page 8

Library Spreads to Old Museum Space

By Rachel Fyman

After months of vacancy, Yeshiva has finally begun to utilize the space in the Mendel Gottesman Library building that previously housed the Yeshiva University Museum. In time for reading week and finals, the top level of the museum space, which has been vacant for several years since the museum moved locations, has been temporarily designated as a group study area.

The museum occupied two levels off the first floor of the library.

The upper level of the museum space has been painted, its lighting has been readjusted and chairs and study tables have been moved in. Renovations were completed this week. The bottom level of the museum remains untouched, containing some of the museum's displays that have yet to be moved.

Yeshiva has been slow to utilize the empty space because, although the museum moved to its current W. 16th Street location three years ago, it has not completed the moving process and continues to store art pieces at the Wilf campus due to regulations about transferring art. Some exhibits continue to be on display in the space, as well.

The space previously occupied by the museum would seem ideal for students' needs, but more investigation into who exactly owns the space is needed before grander plans are put into motion. Yeshiva has not yet discussed future plans with the museum.

According to Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of Supporting Services, the new study area is temporary. However, if students take advantage of the space and seem to benefit from the new group study area, the possibility remains that the study area may become a more permanent arrangement.

The study area, which accommodates between 40 and 50 people, allows students to study in groups. In the past, students have complained that study

groups in the library produced too much noise because of the acoustics. YSU President Shai Barnea emphasized that the new study area will be open to students on the Wilf campus, as well as those from SCW. The idea for the renovation was brought up this semester at the YC Student Life Committee, chaired by Barnea.

YC students have been searching for a space to create a large student education center so that the library can become a quiet center for research and schoolwork. Student leaders envision a large study facility, housing new photocopy machines, the computers that are currently on the second floor of Pollack, and some medium-sized seminar rooms that would be appropriate for guest speakers and for student committees to meet. They would like such a study area to be open 24 hours a day, which would require posting an additional guard all night at the library.

"It's important to have in a university a study place that you can always go to," said Barnea.

According to Barnea, plans for a student education center have the full support of YC Dean Norman Adler and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ronald Stanton.

Aside from the improvements inside the museum space, coffee urns have been set up for students to partake of hot drinks in the lounge area by the elevators, outside the old museum space. YC students also have hopes to refurbish that lounge area into an elegant lounge similar to the ones at the Schottenstein and 36th Street Residence Halls at midtown.

The presence of the new urns is the result of discussions between Barnea and Mrs. Pearl Berger, dean of Library Services. The library staff was originally hesitant to allow food in such close proximity to the library, but a tenuous agreement was nevertheless reached. Hopes are that the urns will be close enough to the library to benefit students who are

Construction Underway for New Art Space

By Alisa Rose

SCW has finally received permission from the building commission to house the Art department on the 8th floor of 215 Lexington. The Art department must vacate its current location in the Art Annex on East 29th Street by the end of January.

"It's coming together exactly as we hoped," commented Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services. "We received almost everything we needed for this floor in the permit."

Work is underway to prepare the space. Yeshiva workers have already painted the new space, and Art department chair Susan Gardner toured the floor to take note of the progress. After reviewing a blueprint of the floor, Gardner will mark where everything from the Art Annex should be located in the new space.

"I'm a little concerned that things won't be done in time," said Gardner, noting that she has not seen the blueprint yet.

Signs saying, "Everyone remove your work by Jan 6. We are on the move" are posted all over the Art Annex, warning students of the impending move. According

to Gardner, the move is set to begin on January 6th and will continue throughout that week. Gardner leaves on sabbatical next semester, but intends to be in SCW throughout intercession to organize the move and to help prepare the new space.

"I'm doing my best so the beginning of next semester isn't chaotic," Gardner said.

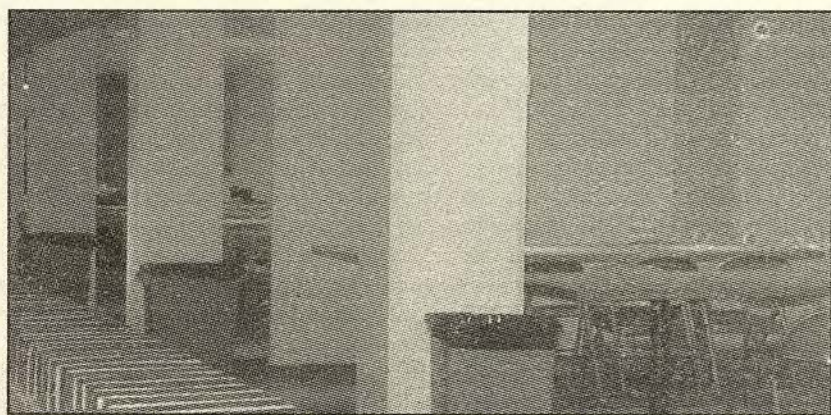
Like the current studio, the new space is well-lit and has three bathrooms and a kitchen. It has fewer sinks than the Art Annex and lacks electrical sockets and exhaust fans. The permit does not allow for the installation of additional such facilities. If SCW had requested to change the plumbing or electrical system, it would have taken much longer to attain a permit, Rosengarten explained.

"I think it will work out," Gardner said after visiting the space. "What worries me is if it will be open the same hours."

The Art Annex on East 29th Street is open until 1 A.M. every night to accommodate art students, who tend to work until very late at night. Currently, the heating and air conditioning in 215 Lexington Avenue automatically shuts off at 5 P.M. because it is an office building.

Students are concerned about the move, especially since Gardner will not be on campus next semester. "It will be really hard to settle in without Professor Gardner here," said one art student.

Gardner, who admits to being "very overwhelmed" by the move, is hoping to hire a new full-time art professor to lighten her load. During her sabbatical next semester, three new art professors will teach



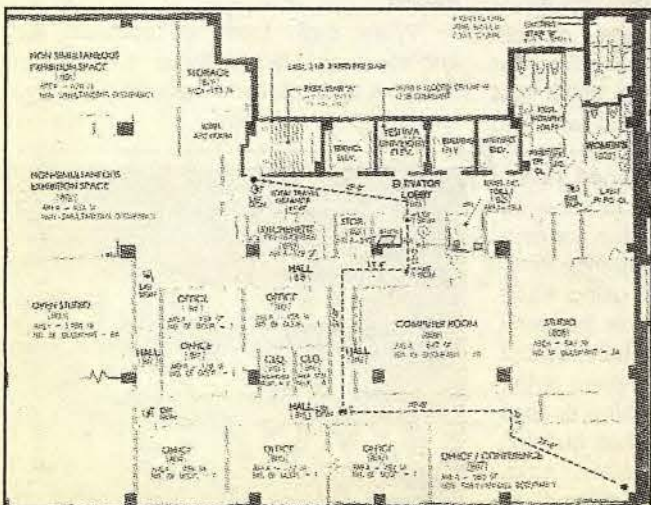
Vacated space in the Gottesman Library building is renovated for study use

some of Gardner's regular classes. Ginger Levant will teach Principles of Design; Casey Ruble will teach Intermediate/Advanced oil painting, and Sarah Hirzel will teach Beginning Painting.

Despite her sabbatical, Gardner expects to come in at least four times next

semester to meet with the senior art students about their senior projects.

Barnes and Noble, which has been located on the 8th floor of 215 Lexington for the past few semesters, will probably operate from there again, though the set up of the store may be different because of the Art department's arrival.



The blueprint, above, details the plans for the new space, which has proposed occupancy of 110 persons

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY MIDTOWN CAMPUS SELECTED NAMED GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

MIDTOWN CAMPUS ...\$20 million	215 LEXINGTON AVENUE
The building.....\$10 million	Lobby.....\$2 million
Classrooms.....\$50,000 each	245 LEXINGTON AVENUE
	The building.....\$10 million

253 LEXINGTON AVENUE (Science Hall)
The building.....\$3 million
Laboratories.....\$500,000 each
121 EAST 29TH STREET (Schottenstein)
East wing.....\$1 million
West wing.....\$1 million
Computerization of entire building.....\$1 million

ISRAEL NEWS

Project One Percent To Distribute Money in January

Thousands Raised for Israeli Terror Victims

By Miriam Colton

Months after initiating a nationwide effort, Project One Percent organizers are seeing the fruits of their labor. To date, they have succeeded in raising \$26,000 from roughly 400 students, who have donated a portion of their summer earnings for terror victims in Israel.

Most recently, in an attempt to encourage laggards to come through on their pledges, organizers secured a donor to match the final \$10,000 raised. Jewish philanthropist Warren Eisenberg, CEO of Bed, Bath and Beyond, has agreed to match the money collected between \$23,500 and \$33,500, which would bring the sum total to the \$40,000 target. Though they have thus far only collected an additional \$3,500, organizers are hopeful that Eisenberg will match this amount as well.

After January, Project One Percent will no longer be collecting pledges.

Initially, over 1200 high school, college and graduate students from across the country pledged a percentage of their summer income. Despite the large number of pledges, many proved difficult to collect. According to Uri Miller, a YC senior who organized the project with Gershon Strauchler, YC '02, the men have encountered normal difficulties in the collection process, such as getting in touch with some of the students and encouraging others to redeem their pledges. "We've collected about 25% of the collectible pledges," he explained, which he said is reasonable, citing a principle in business that "80% of one's profits will come from 20% of one's clients."

After all the hard work, the men are looking forward to the culmination of their tireless efforts — distributing the money in Israel. "We're going to speak to the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund (IESF) and see where it's needed," said Miller who plans to distribute the money over winter break. One option is to donate a large portion of the money to families of terror victims of the Hebrew University bombing. Over 500 people in Israel have been murdered and 4,000 wounded since the beginning of the Intifada.

With the project nearly completed,

Project One Percent is looking toward future goals. Miller and Strauchler will run the same project next summer and will begin planning in the next few months. "We are trying to learn from some of our mistakes and from those things we thought were done very well," said Miller. He hopes to make the effort more web-based, reducing the initial legwork of going around gathering student pledges.

Project One Percent also wants to expand to other venues, still playing off the idea of giving an income percentage to charity. One idea is for American Jewish stores to donate 1% of their proceeds to the IESF, a non-profit group that has supported numerous projects for Israeli victims of terror. Though Miller said he hasn't pursued the option to see if it is viable, one company, Keilu.com, a for-profit website selling Israeli merchandise, has already agreed to participate.

Initiated last spring, Project One Percent has cut across denominational lines, marking one of the first occasions when Jewish college students from across the country joined together for Israel charity. While the original target group was Yeshiva students the idea expanded to the entire country. Diverse organizations such as Hillel, The World Union of Jewish Students, The Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education and Bnei Akiva have supported the effort.

The project has received international news coverage, including stories in the *Jewish Week*, *Arutz 7* and *The Los Angeles Jewish Journal*.

This project is only one of the many efforts by Yeshiva students in support of Israel over the past year. Most recently, students launched Project Lman Achai to organize a citywide Torah *siyum* in March in memory of Israeli victims of terror.

Currently, Project One Percent is seeking additional student volunteers to help implement the new ideas. "I would say that what is most important right now is volunteers - we want lots of them next semester to help us," said Miller. "The concept of this project has been proven to be successful and we think that with more hands will come more money."



Project One Percent has worked with the IESF to help families of terror victims

MacPAC Introduces Plan to Sway Politicians

By Shayndi Raice

Since the current crisis in Israel began, Yeshiva students' support for Israel has consisted primarily of encouraging students to make aliyah and give charity. However, with the arrival on campus of MacPAC, a college version of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), Yeshiva is beginning to reach new heights of political involvement. The club is currently circulating a petition, and it is planning an innovative campaign to sway politicians to Israel's side.

Last week, Jonathan Kessler, the Director of Political Leadership for AIPAC, visited students at Yeshiva interested in getting involved in political activism for Israel.

Kessler introduced an initiative to educate members of Congress from geographic locations with small Jewish populations about Israel. The plan calls for the collection of 10 dollars from each Yeshiva student to contribute to political campaigns across the country.

Kessler stressed that educating Congress about Israel is the key to continuing the positive U.S.-Israel relations that have resulted in nearly \$4 billion of American foreign aid. He repeated constantly that "money doesn't get support but it gets you a seat at the table." The hope is that the money donated to various political campaigns will earn students a "seat at the table" to try to educate congressmen about the importance of the continued support for Israel.

Kessler suggested that Yeshiva, with a student body that is overwhelmingly pro-Israel and is comprised of young men and women from cities across the United States, has significant advantages in helping Israel. Because students don't have to "waste their time" fighting Palestinian groups on campus, they can rise to the next level of actively seeking to educate Congress about Israel.

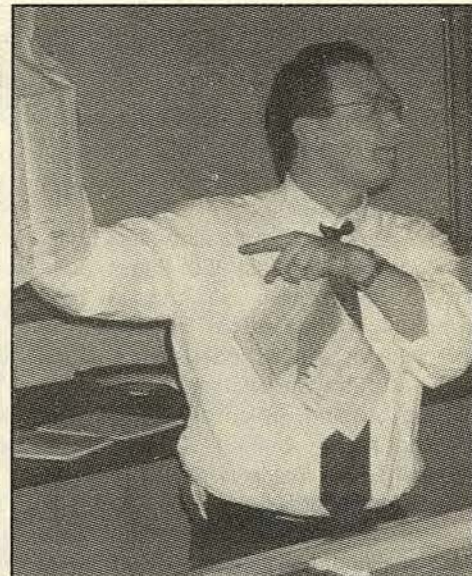
MacPAC leaders Kevin Cyrulnik, YC junior, and Anat Barber, SCW junior, plan to implement this initiative at the start of next semester.

Kessler also encouraged students to sign the petition in support of Israel that has been circulating on campus, explaining that the petition could have a direct effect on the political process. The petition follows the model of other college petitions across the country, with the ultimate goal of printing the petition and signatories in an ad in the college newspaper.

The Yeshiva petition currently has over 1,000 signatures culled from both campuses.

The petition has been met with some opposition by students since it calls for the "unconditional support of the State of Israel."

However, Cyrulnik, author of the petition, has defended the importance of the statement. "The essence of the statement is not to support political parties or policies," said Cyrulnik. "It is to affirm our unconditional support for the belief that the State of Israel has a right to exist and



Jonathan Kessler, AIPAC representative, shows college petitions to Yeshiva students at MacPAC lecture

to protect itself."

The leaders of MacPAC, while not an official AIPAC club, were both trained this past summer by AIPAC at a political leadership-training seminar along with 240 other college students and are serving as unofficial AIPAC liaisons.

While Cyrulnik pointed out that "a lot of the issues at the seminar weren't applicable to us because it dealt with combating pro-Palestinian groups on campus," he stressed that Yeshiva has a unique position to fulfill.

Cyrulnik expressed regret at the lack of political activity on campus and attributed student apathy to several causes. "Students don't have to face opposition from pro-Palestinian groups," suggested Cyrulnik. "Then there's just student apathy in general. And an issue that I think people forget is that Orthodox Jews think they're doing enough by praying and listening to the news."

The growth of MacPAC is part of a greater trend of increased Israel activity on campus. In fact, most causes on campus have become somehow attached to Israel. For instance, while many college campuses have programs that promote breast cancer awareness, SCW recently held a campaign collecting money for breast cancer patients in Israel.

Other initiatives include efforts to push Food Services to sell Israeli food products, Project One Percent, which raised money for terror victims through students' summer incomes, and the recent Israel Vendor Fair.

"It took a while for us to get our act together but now there's a lot available for students to get involved," said Rebecca Wimmer, Israel Club president. "Because everyone here cares, we have tremendous potential."

Unlike MacPAC, the Israel Club primarily focuses on promoting student aliyah and giving support to Israel directly, rather than through American political means.

"While both types of activism are important, we try to focus on sending financial and emotional support directly to Israel," said Wimmer.

35th Street Building Vacant

continued from page 7

also includes housing the new center in the same building as the health center, which is currently in a room in Brookdale Hall. "A guidance center would be nice," said Dean Karen Bacon. "Also, faculty could always use more office space and student councils, as well as the *Observer*, could use bigger offices." Until recently, all student councils shared one small office space in 245 Lexington.

Student Services, which is currently pushing for money for a new guidance center, had no knowledge of the possible use of this building for a center.

Due to a bad economy, Bacon said the University would be willing to sell the building if offered a good price. "It seems they would sell it because they need the funding," said Bacon.

Currently, Yeshiva is working on expansions at other midtown buildings.

One project is utilizing the basement of the 215 Lexington to house a cafeteria, an alternative to the busy and often crowded cafeteria in 245 Lexington. Yeshiva announced plans to build a new cafeteria last year, but as of yet, no progress on the project has been made.

"We pretty much know what we would like to do with the space," said Rosengarten, but he is still waiting for funds from the University to begin the project.

Until that cafeteria is constructed, Rosengarten would like to expand the current breakfast food store in Schottenstein Residence Hall on an experimental basis next semester to serve either lunch or dinner. That dining room would serve "to ease the chaos" in the main cafeteria, according to Rosengarten.

When Koch Auditorium opened several years ago, it was intended to serve as a temporary solution to ease the congestion in the main cafeteria. Students, however, have complained that using Koch for food services is not feasible because it makes it very difficult to hold school functions there, and also complain of the small choice of food. "Everything doesn't need to be crammed into that building [245 Lexington]," Rosengarten said. "Spreading services throughout the campus will give people more of a feeling of a campus."

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ISRAEL NEWS

Student Mission to Israel Collapses

By Miriam Colton

The January student mission to Israel was officially cancelled this Tuesday via an email to all students who had expressed interest in participating. Plans for the trip collapsed because mission organizers were unable to lower the costs of the trip, priced at \$1,375, and attracting enough participants proved impossible.

Entitled Operation G.I.V.E., an acronym for Group Israel Volunteer Experience, the ten-day trip to Israel was to combine touring, learning and volunteer work, and be based at the Kings Hotel in central Jerusalem.

To reduce costs, the organizers of G.I.V.E. have spent the last few weeks soliciting funding from Jewish federations, synagogues and individual donors. However, only West Orange, NJ and Teaneck, NJ agreed to sponsor students from their respective communities. West Orange offered a \$1,000 discount, and Teaneck offered a \$200 discount.

Up until Monday, the organizers, Israel Club co-presidents Rebecca Wimmer and Kayla Wruble, were waiting to hear about possible subsidies from such communities as LA, Baltimore, Toronto and Silver Spring. When this fell through, they emailed all the students who attended the official launching meeting of the mission last week, reiterating the final price and asking if there was still interest. Only two students responded by the 5pm deadline on Tuesday.

Wimmer attributes the difficulty of raising funds to the bad economy. "Virtually every organization and community enlisted to subsidize the trip replied that they didn't have the money," she said. Additionally, organizations that had money said they would sooner put it into their own missions.

This year also lacked the PR and glit-



Mission this year cancelled, following a successful Torah Shield II last year, pictured above at the hotel

ter of last year's mission, Torah Shield II. Student leaders last year raised over \$200,000 from such organizations as the Ministry of Tourism and the Jewish Agency.

Planning started in November for a winter break mission, under the leadership of the Israel Club and student councils from both campuses. However, student council officers vanished from the scene, leaving only the Israel Club presidents, as well as a YC student, Dave Weinberg. Last week, both Weinberg and uptown Israel Club President Morchechai Raskas dropped out as well. In contrast, last year, nearly a dozen students helped organize the mission.

Wimmer and Wruble continued to pursue options, devoting hours and days to the mission, yet such a large-scale project was beyond the scope of two individuals.

Besides a capable and large student leadership, this year also lacked key players of last year, notably the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS).

A new organization, the Israeli-based Yavneh Olami, was brought in this year,

with hopes of lowering land costs in Israel. While Yavneh spoke optimistically of reduced costs, they were unable to come through with anything. The connection that Yavneh Olami seemed to be counting on was the Ministry of Tourism, a main funder of Torah Shield II, which decided not to support a mission this year when approached by the students in November.

Meetings were held on both campuses last week to launch the mission and solicit registration. Most of the potential students, with approximately 50 women and 30 men in attendance, were lower classmen who had not participated in Torah Shield II.

While signs around campus boasted of reduced prices for numerous communities, students who attended the meeting discovered that the only guaranteed low cost was for students from West Orange. According to Wimmer and Wruble, the students who were supposed to secure funding from the other cities like had not done so. "Everything we previously thought was secured, was not," said Wimmer.

At the meeting and in subsequent emails to the group, the two women requested that students approach their own communities for funding. "People wanted to go, but wouldn't work on it," said Wimmer. Students expressed reluctance to personally approach organizations, and questioned the professionalism of such an idea.

Activities planned for the mission included hospital visits, meetings with top Israeli officers and terror victims, painting low-income apartments and aliyah symposiums. Wimmer and Wruble are hoping to organize day activities for Yeshiva students who will be in Israel over winter break.

TAC Presents Clothing Drive!

You know those sweaters that are taking up room in your closet but you haven't worn in years? Here's a huge chesed opportunity: Send them to righteous women and men in Yerushalayim!

Here's the scoop: Bring in ANY type of summer or winter clothing by January 2nd (must be in good, clean condition).

Or let us know if you are going to Israel in January and have some extra space in one of your suitcases to do a huge mitzvah - even if you can only take one sweater!

Bring clothing to laundry bins that have been places in the laundry rooms of Brookdale, Schottenstein or 36th St. For more info, call Elana Gross @ 917-509-8497 or email

SCWSC

Wishes You Good Luck on Finals!

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Sharon Weiss, Miryam Khavarani, Sara Brodsky,

Arie Staller and Michelle Amini

SCW Students Rally in Support of Agunot

By Anat Barber

Though the weather outside was rainy and dismal, it was no deterrent for the twenty students from SCW who awoke on Friday, December 21 with a stronger sense of social consciousness than usual. The students set out to help end the suffering of a woman whose husband refuses to grant her a *get* (Jewish divorce).

Under the newly formed Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA), SCW women organized and participated in a rally in an attempt to urge the recalcitrant husband to grant his wife a Jewish divorce. This was the first ever all-women rally that ORA has staged and according to one rally organizer, "it was more powerful than any rally preceding it."

The eager, yet initially apprehensive students gathered outside the man's place of work, a store in Brooklyn. Chants were somewhat wavering at first, but shortly became raucous. Students stood outside repeating a few different slogans in order to publicize their cause, such as, "Free your wife, give your wife a *get*" and "Do the right thing, free your wife."

Many students held signs bearing messages beseeching the husband to end his wife's imprisonment. Organizers used conversation as an educational tactic, explaining to customers who entered the store the implications of patronizing such an establishment.

In order to ensure the safety of all involved, the Police Department was notified about the rally, which was successfully executed without any difficulties.

The emotions going into the event were somewhat mixed. One anonymous student would not attend because she felt, "it is an embarrassment to the Jewish community that such a problem exists."

Despite some feelings of reluctance, students who attended the rally were pas-

sionate about the cause and realized the necessity for action. "The problem of agunot is far too widespread," said SCW junior and TAC Vice-President Dassie Wagner. "As women and students we have a responsibility to stand up for this woman."

Halfway through the rally, pages with various chapters of psalms were distributed and recited aloud for the sake of the all women who are currently trapped in this grievous state of affairs.

One of the rally's organizers spoke to the students to thank them for their presence and to encourage them to remain active in the organization. Included in his speech was an extrapolation from this week's Torah portion, which related to the plight of the agunot.

A sentiment of futility was sensed at first mention of this event, even amongst the students who participated. "It is very hard to do something like this," remarked SCW senior Atara Sendor, who attended the rally. "You don't necessarily feel like you are changing something." Despite this, Sendor concluded that in the case of *agunot* it's important for the community to be aware of the problem. "I hope that if there is anything I can do, I am doing it," said Sendor. "And [I hope] that Hashem listens to the power of our words, combined with the power of our actions."



Students protest outside a business employing a man who is withholding a *get* from his wife

Students Participate in Flatbush Teacher Training Seminar

By Tali Schwed

On Friday, November 8, future educators from SCW and the Graduate Program for Women in Talmudic Studies participated in a new teaching workshop, was entitled "Introduction to Great Teaching." The program is designed to give prospective Jewish educators the opportunity to work with experienced educators at the Yeshiva of Flatbush who would help them prepare to enter the field of *chinuch*.

Before observing classes, participants met with Rabbi Alan Stadmauer, Principal of the Yeshiva of Flatbush Joel Braverman High School. He discussed techniques bystanders should use while observing a lesson. Stadmauer focused on the classroom routine, student-teacher relationships, lesson structure and goals.

In the classrooms, the trainees observed classes instructed by various teachers in Talmud, Bible, and Halakha. Each session involved varying grades and different level classes in order to learn about the different teaching styles and classroom experiences.

"The teachers were so accommodating," remarked Ariella Tanzer, member of the Talmud Graduate Program. "They tailored their lessons to incorporate whatever aspect of teaching we were focusing on at that time, so that we could see it in action."

During the afternoon break, discussion in reaction to each of the classes ensued, and each student shared her observations with the others.

Aside from student reflection on the sessions,

insights were given from the teachers' perspectives as well. "After class the teachers would explain to us what they were doing and what was going on in the classroom throughout the lesson," Tanzer said. The educators who spoke personally with the participants included Mrs. Leora Bednarsh, a teacher of Talmud and halakha.

In addition to observing classes, students also heard a short lesson from Rabbi Raymond Harari, Chairman of Halakhic Studies, on how to approach teaching a *sugya* (new halakhic topic) for the first time, emphasizing how to anticipate the questions and problems that the students will have when first encountering a new subject.

After more classroom observations, the group again met with Stadmauer to conclude the day's activities and cite the lessons learned.

The sentiments regarding the program were overwhelmingly positive from all who participated. "It was so fascinating to be back in a high school classroom, but to be looking at it from a totally new perspective," commented SCW junior Ilana Nattel.

Student found the first-hand interaction with senior educators in the field to be the most important aspect of this program. "The interaction is essential in order to gain an understanding of what is demanded of future pedagogical professional," said one participant.

New Teaching Programs Hope to Attract Yeshiva Students

By Shifra Landowne

It's hard to miss the enticing red and white posters across campus, challenging, "If you could, would you?" This is the tagline of the Jewish Teacher Corps program, targeted at college seniors and recent graduates who are interested in servicing the greater Jewish community.

The program, founded by the modern Orthodox organization Edah and funded by the Avi Chai Foundation, held its first of series of information sessions for SCW and YC students on Wednesday night, December 18, at the midtown campus.

The Jewish Teacher Corps is recruiting 18 of the "best and brightest" college graduates to serve as Judaic Studies teachers in modern Orthodox and community day schools across America.

Rabbi Uri Gordon, a former teacher at Ramaz who now works full time as a recruiter and planner for the Teacher Corps program, led the first information session with a powerful pitch in which he criticized the overemphasis of money-making and prestige as career values in the Jewish community. Gordon stressed that teaching should be regarded as laudable, valuable, and crucial.

Teachers in the two-year program will participate in a four-week intensive training program and then head off to teach in such locations as San Francisco, Chicago, Washington DC, Ohio and Southern Florida. Participants will receive standard teachers' salaries as well as benefits.

One goal of the program is to create a community among the 18 Fellows. To that end, a number of shabbatonim will take place throughout the year to continue training as well as to foster peer support and a sense of camaraderie.

The program is modeled after the Teach for America program. Started in the mid 1980s by a Princeton graduate, Teach for America sends college graduates to teach in different schools across America. Rabbi Gordon described Teach for America as embodying *sheirut leumi*, the standard of national service that is followed in Israel. He explained that this should be a norm for Jewish American students as well and that the Teacher Corps is an ideal way to fulfill their responsibility to the Jewish community. Additionally, the Corps is hoping to train teachers who will

espouse the ideals of modern Orthodoxy.

"I think that the program is essential and Rabbi Gordon's pitch was certainly persuasive and inspiring," said SCW senior Ariella Joel. "Our generation definitely has a responsibility to further Jewish education in day schools." Despite her enthusiastic response, Joel expressed some reservations. "I hope that enough people will be able to put their preconceived notions about careers on hold in order to pursue this important cause. That's definitely a risk," she said.

The training of future Jewish teachers seems to be a popular trend. Another program that has recently recruited at Yeshiva is the Rav Soloveitchik

Institute's Teacher Training program. The Rav Institute program will train teachers for one year through a mentoring system at Boston's Maimonides School, followed by a three-year commitment by its fellows to teach at an approved Orthodox school. The Rav Institute program has more of a focus on molding long term Judaic Studies teachers than the Teacher Corps, whose goal is to train Jewish leaders. The Rav Institute will give a stipend to all participants.

The Rav Institute recently held a meeting with the students in the Graduate Program for Women in Talmudic Studies. While the program was well-received, there was one major reservation. "I think that the program sounds incredibly worthwhile, and people were definitely interested," remarked student Chavi Kahn, who is a first year student in the Talmud program. "But I think that more people would jump at the chance if they didn't need to live in Boston."

Shana Schick, also a student in the Talmud program, agreed. "That is a big downfall for some people," she said. "Not being in New York is a major consideration," she said. "That would definitely be one of the things that would hold me back."

While neither of these programs has gotten off the ground yet and their future remains uncertain, organizers are hopeful that both programs will have an impact on the community. According to them, the community needs teachers and it is up to the dynamic young leaders of SCW, YC and other colleges to make Jewish education a prevalent career choice.

If you could, would you?
THE JEWISH TEACHER CORPS

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Campus Briefs

"Door Checks" May Become History



Security at SCW has been seriously considering abolishing door checks. Numerous problems with door checks have been brought to the attention of the Student Life Committee, which is now trying to incorporate changes into the current system.

Often, door checks are at night while people are sleeping, forcing students to get out of bed to confirm that they are indeed in their room. Additionally, numerous stu-

dents have been "indecent" when security briskly enters their room. Students in Schottenstein have also been locked out of their rooms while in the bathroom.

An alternative to the complete abolition of door checks would be a time frame during which security could check, preferably during the day time hours. Other students believe door checks should be abolished completely and that locking doors is the responsibility of students. Dormitories at the uptown campus are not subject to door checks. As of yet, nothing has changed, but the issue is currently under intense discussion.

Newspaper Staff Attends Journalism Conference

SCW sponsored four students to attend the "Do the Write Thing" Conference for Jewish journalism students and young professionals, held during the General Assembly in Philadelphia at the end of November. Current editor-in-chiefs of the *Observer*, Miriam Colton and Caryn Litt, and executive editor Alisa Rose attended along with former *Observer* editor-in-chief Adina Levine.

The conference focused on issues of objectivity in the media, especially in its depiction of Israel. The students heard from major American and Israeli media figures, including Gary Rosenblatt, editor of New York's *Jewish Week*, Yaron Dekel, an Israeli broadcasting authority, and Danny Rubinstein, a journalist for *Ha'aretz*.

There were over 4,000 participants at this year's General Assembly (GA), which is an international conference held annually by the United Jewish Charities to discuss issues relating to the Jewish world. This year's theme was "Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof."

New Hours for Computer Lab

Students now have access to the 245 Lexington computer labs at 8:30 in the morning.

Originally, students were not permitted to make use of the lab prior to 9:00 in the morning. This situation presented a problem to many students who would come to the computer lab before their first class, which begins at 9, in order to print a paper or any matter of import.

The conflict was brought to the attention of the Student Life Committee, which convinced Ms. Leticia Mateo, the Coordinator for Academic Computing, to change the hours.



Security Issues Alert

The Department of Safety and Security of Yeshiva University has issued warnings throughout the midtown campus. Red fliers posted in SCW building warn of a male con artist who has been victimizing students.

The report warns of a man purporting to be an Israeli in New York with his family. He claims to be in dire need of money because his credit card does not work at ATM machines in New York banks. He has also used a variety of other ploys to entice students to go to the bank to withdraw money from ATM machines. Security is urging students to beware that any money they give him will not be paid back.

This individual has apparently been working this scheme quite successfully for a number of years in the midtown area. The New York Police Department has had many complaints about this individual from members of the Jewish community.

New Garbage Bins on Campus

The Student Life Committee, responding to the inadequate garbage cans on campus, have arranged for the installation of new, larger garbage cans that can fully respond to the garbage needs of the student body.

Originally, the Student Life Committee requested more garbage cans to deal with the excess garbage on campus. However, the Facilities department suggested that, rather than provide more garbage cans, they provide larger garbage cans throughout the SCW campus. So they did.



New Student Websites

As students brace themselves for the tidal wave of finals and struggle to organize their study habits, student leaders are anxious to provide some salvation. The result of these efforts is www.yumesorah.com, a website hosted by www.yustudents.org, the website of SCWSC and YSU.

The purpose of the website is to provide classroom notes, review sheets and old midterms and finals. Thus far the website caters only to students on the Wilf campus, but students on the midtown campus are being urged to contribute material.

All postings on the site are volunteered by the student author, and any unauthorized postings are immediately removed. Only about six hundred downloads have occurred to date, but with the addition of more courses and new materials the site's popularity is sure to grow.

Trivia Bowl Debuts at Midtown Campus

After a hiatus last year, Trivia Bowl returned this year on December 12th. Students from SCW and YC gathered in Koch Auditorium to eat pizza, receive free Rubik's cube key chains and participate in an interactive trivia game.

First prize went to YC students Alan Goldsmith, Binyamin Mayefesky, Elchanan Neubauer, Josh Pollack and Ben Shlomo. The prize for first place was a check for \$120, second prize was an SCW Trivia sweatshirt and third prize was a t-shirt. The event, which drew approximately 40 students, was hosted by Josh Moser and Miryam Khavarani.

In total six teams competed, four from SCW and two from YC.

Lawrence Schiffman Lectures at SCW

On December 9th, Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman spoke at the Ivry Student Center in Schottenstein Residence Hall on the topic of "New Light on the History of Judaism: Evidence from Newly Published Dead Sea Scrolls." The lecture was presented by the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, as part of an endowed visiting lectures series made possible by a grant from the Righteous Persons Foundation.

Schiffman, the Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies Chair at the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University, spoke to an audience of about 50 students, professors and members of the board of trustees.



Mishmar Program Off to a Roaring Start

SCW students met with high school students on December 10th to initiate a joint learning mishmar program. Students from Maayanot, Flatbush, Shulamith and other high schools met to eat dinner and learn *chaburah* style, in groups, with SCW students.

Approximately 25 students from Stern and 60 students from various high schools participated. SCW Junior Ilana Nattel prepared source sheets and delivered a shiur that concluded the program.

The event was sponsored by Torah Activities Council, Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) and Yeshiva University Office of Admissions. The next mishmar is scheduled for February.



TAC Chagigah A Hit

The annual TAC Chagigah was held on Tuesday night, December 3rd. Over 150 students partook in the holiday festivities at Koch auditorium. Students danced the night away, to the music of the up and coming band, Blue Fringe, which played classic and new Jewish songs.

The evening also features performances by the SCW choir and dance club, for both, the first debut of the semester.

"I love the chagigahs at Stern," said one junior. "They're a great opportunity to hang out with your friends, and its nice to see the student body so spirited."



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UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

RIETS Revamps Website for Better Service

By Rachel Fyman

In efforts to expand its influence and preserve *shiurim*, over the course of this past year the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) has been overhauling its website. In the upcoming few weeks, the site will continually be updated to create a friendly userface and a site replete with new features.

The website, linked to the main Yeshiva site (www.yu.edu) yet run independently of it, provides a number of new features. One of the latest additions, which will possibly become the most popular, is a web page for each *rosh yeshiva*, including a short bio and audio recordings of *shiurim*. Other features include a forum of communication for RIETS alumni, information regarding job opportunities, and recent and past audio *shiurim*. Additionally, the site also has capacity for advanced customized searches, granting users access to hundreds of RIETS documents.

The website was created by Rabbi Marc Spivak, coordinator of community programs through media for the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) at RIETS. "Through Rabbi Spivak's efforts we have totally revamped the RIETS website to make it appealing to students, alumni and outsiders," said Rabbi David Israel, director of MSDCS. "We're now better able to interact and to be available to the community, which makes us more efficient and more effective."

New material and services are constantly being added to the website. For example, as of this week, the new archive section boasts a perfect quality recording of Golda Meir, before she became prime minister of Israel, addressing Yeshiva students. Spivak hopes to soon include a recording of Albert Einstein's speech when Albert Einstein College of Medicine was named in his honor.

Also new as of last week is a bulletin board for students who participated in MSDCS's outreach programs—Torah Tours, Eimatai, Panim, or Counterpoint—where they can post messages, send personal messages to other participants, or have private chats. There are also photographs from past programs on the website, as well as online applications. "We're moving to where everything can be done online," said Spivak. "It's really very cool."

The website's calendar includes a detailed list of the local *zmanim* for each day, as well as upcoming events. "This is a means for students to advertise their programs," Spivak explained. He anticipates that student organizations such as TAC and SOY will upload posters onto the calendar as a means of publicizing their events.

The site posts job opportunities for RIETS students and graduates, as well as current Yeshiva undergraduates. There are postings for faculty positions with affiliates of the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools in addition to *Sha'ar HaAvodah*, which offers jobs in various types of communal work. The new form on the website allows schools to fill out a form online, without having to go through RIETS. Spivak hopes that this function will effectively "take out the middle man," allowing candidates to contact the institutions directly.

Users can search the site and access hundreds of written and audio *shiurim* and articles, including all journals produced by



RIETS revamps its website, pictured above, for more comprehensive use

RIETS, such as the Torah U'madda Journal and Beit Yitzchak. Spivak hopes to include Hebrew documents and search options in the near future.

Through the website, users can listen to Rabbi Yonasan Sacks's *Shiur Yomi* on the Internet immediately after the actual *shiur*. "There's a man in a nursing home who listens to Rabbi Sacks everyday," reported Spivak. "It's interesting how we can reach people." Someone in Puerto Rico is currently helping Spivak to set up a similar feature for Rabbi Sobolofsky's daily *shiur*.

Spivak is in the process of compiling libraries from the lives of Roshei Yeshiva who have passed away, including photographs and video footage. He has already completed such a library for Rabbi Dovid Lifschitz, and is currently working with the family of Rabbi Moshe Aharon Poleyeff to create one for him.

Spivak, who received *semicha* from RIETS in 1998, has no formal computer training. "I wanted to take the *shiurim* from YU with me," he explained. "I wanted to save *shiurim* for my personal library, but I didn't need more tapes."

With the help of Feivel Smiles, creator of www.613.org, Spivak began digitalizing cassettes so he could save the encoded audio on his computer. He created CD ROM's of various series of *shiurim*, and together with Chaim Jaskoll, created www.shiur.net, where the *shiurim* were made available to the public and CD's could be purchased.

Spivak, who had been organizing Shabbat programs at both the Wilf and midtown campuses for two years, sent a proposal to Rabbi Lamm with the idea of enhancing the RIETS website. He was given the project, which he has now been working on for about a year. "We've been doing it slowly, one by one," says Spivak, who worked alone until recently. With a minimal budget—coming from CD sales and some private donations—Spivak mostly uses his own equipment.

In addition to support from MSDCS and RIETS, Spivak now has students helping him in various capacities. Furthermore, some *roshei yeshiva* regularly record their own *shiurim* for the Internet.

Spivak receives requests from people all over the country for CD's of *shiurim* from RIETS. He has put together CD's dealing with specific topics such as September 11th and agunot. He is very excited about future projects, which includes plans to work on a "*halakha l'maaseh*" video series for rabbis.

Other features include a forum of communication for RIETS alumni, information regarding job opportunities, and recent and past audio *shiurim*.

Azrieli Enhances Programs Under New Helm

By Rachel Horn

When Dr. David Schnall took over as Dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration in July 2001, he expressed a commitment to expanding the school and enhancing its reputation.

A year and a half later, Schnall's vision is slowly becoming a reality, but the school still has a lot of work ahead of it.

Under Schnall's leadership, the graduate school has increased the number and types of courses it offers. New courses offered include Teaching Reading, a class that focuses on the nature of the reading process and Educational Tests and Measurements, a class which explores the purposes and history of testing students. Schnall also hopes to introduce additional areas of focus to be available to students in the future, such as specialties in media and technology and in special education.

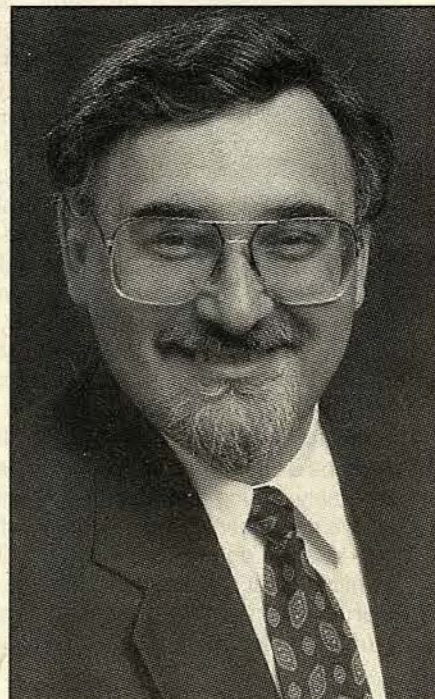
The expansion of course offerings parallels the recruitment of new regular and adjunct faculty members. Rabbi Scott Goldberg, Dr. Chaim Feuerman, and Dr. Moshe Sokolow have been added to the full-time faculty. Leading academics, such as Dr. Yaffa Eliach and Dr. Mervin Verbit, and renowned educational practitioners Dr. Gerald Kirschenbaum, Dr. John Krug and Dr. Mel Isaacs have also been brought on board. In addition, a visiting professor from Bar Ilan University, Dr. Ben Zion Rosenfeld, will join the staff in the spring.

Despite the improvements underway, students hope to act as a catalyst for further progress. In fact, Azrieli students have organized a student government to allow for more student input in the school's revamping. Organized by doctoral student Rabbi Avi Green, with the approval of the dean, the organization has had one meeting so far. Green is planning an open forum to take place in February, after which the student government will meet with the faculty. "We're probably talking a year before we see much change in the issues we're dealing with," said Adina Levine, who is a member of the student government.

The issues Levine is referring to include confusing course schedules. Many students are unsure which classes should be taken first. "I could be in the same class during my first semester with a student who is in their last semester," said Levine. "They have background information that I don't have."

To guide students, Schnall has initiated a model sequence of classes for students to follow. "It is somewhat more structured and rigid than the previous program," he said. "But it provides direction while allowing students to specialize in elementary education, secondary education or, a new area, educational administration."

The model sequence of classes also involves new requirements. Certain courses are mandatory for all incoming students as of Fall '02. The new requirements include three introductory core courses: Moral Development, Educational Methodology and Didactics and Classroom Management. Students then take 12 credits in their area of specialization. Upon completion of the elective track, students take three required capstone courses.



Azrieli Dean David Schnall

Other issues of concern include Azrieli's recent expansion to offer courses on the Wilf campus. In the past, Azrieli offered all of its courses at the SCW midtown campus. Although the expansion was intended to make it more convenient for students living near the Wilf Campus to take Azrieli classes, women have found the expansion inconvenient. "Everyone is required to take a Foundational course," said Levine. "The only Foundational course being offered this spring is being taught uptown."

Azrieli student Julie Pianko agreed. "It is not helpful that things are uptown, because now options are limited at midtown," she said.

For the past two semesters, Azrieli has doubled the number of courses it offered to 14, but some of these are doctoral classes. This makes it difficult to take classes at only one campus. However, Schnall asserted that the expansion to the Wilf campus does not decrease the number of course offerings at the midtown campus. "I want to make it very clear that whatever we have done has not been to the detriment of the Stern campus," he said. The classes given at the Wilf campus are not in place of, but in addition to, those offered at SCW.

Schnall also moved the main Azrieli Office to the Gottesman Library building on the uptown campus last semester.

In addition to trying to develop the school's internal needs, Schnall has also broadened the graduate school's focus to offer services to the greater Jewish community. To this end, Azrieli sponsors a summer seminar for high school educators in June. "We bring teachers to our campus for enrichment," he said. Furthermore, an intensive summer training program funded by the Avi Chai Foundation is offered to principals and school heads.

Azrieli also intends to pursue a program of scholarly publication on the topic of Jewish education. With the support of the Rothman Foundation, the school hopes to put forth *The Azrieli Papers*. "This will be a series of presentations, monographs and anthologies," Schnall said.

Azrieli offers a joint program with Yeshiva's undergraduate schools. Seniors at SCW have the opportunity to begin their Masters program and complete twelve credits toward their Masters degree while still enrolled at SCW.

UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

Cardozo Moves Up

continued from front page

the rankings is remarkable," said Schwartz.

The rankings, in general, are not completely reliable in determining the strengths of a school. Forty percent of the rank calculation is determined by reputation, based on surveys sent out to law school deans and faculty members, as well as lawyers and judges, throughout the country. The surveys are often sent to people in localities geographically distant from New York where Cardozo's name is not necessarily known.

The recent renovations can impact Cardozo's rank in several ways. Fifteen percent of the rank calculation is based on the school's expenditure per student, which has obviously gone up with the renovations. Additionally, better facilities can improve its reputation as a competitive law school. Cardozo has, in fact, invited other law schools' deans to its library opening in efforts to spread the word on its facility expansions.

"While moving up in *U.S. News* is an important goal, it doesn't drive everything we do," insisted Schwartz. "On the other hand, it's important to the extent that if we can do something to move up, we do it."

Cardozo has also become more competitive in admission standards, acceptance rates and placement rates, elements that also get factored into a school's rank. The number of law school applications has markedly increased nationally due to the economic downturn. Still, while the national increase is around 15 percent, Cardozo has seen a 40 percent increase in its applications each of the last two years, according to Davis.

Last year Cardozo received 4,000 applications, up from 2,800 the year before. (In comparison, Fordham had approximately 7,000 applicants and Columbia had approximately 8,000.) In part because of Cardozo's relatively new residence hall, applications from throughout the US have increased.

Cardozo has therefore become more selective. While two years ago the law school had an admittance rate of 35.6 percent, last year its admittance rate dropped to 27 percent. With its increased selectivity has come a rise in median LSAT scores and GPA's. Over the past several years the median LSAT score has risen from 157 to 160 and the median GPA has been raised from 3.33 to 3.47.

Some have speculated that as premier law schools in New York City, such as NYU and Columbia, have become harder to get accepted into, Cardozo has gained in appeal.

Whatever the reason for its increased popularity, Cardozo has also remained competitive with regard to its success at job placement. Graduates are often sought after by top law firms, and according to the school's brochure the median starting salary for graduates entering private practice is \$104,526.

That Cardozo is becoming more of a national name is evidenced by the faculty hiring, said Davis. In its current faculty search Cardozo has seen a very positive response.

"We're kind of a hot school right now," said Davis.

Although long overshadowed by Einstein, Cardozo has actually been slowly gaining in reputation since its founding. When it was only 10 years old, Cardozo was acknowledged as the best of the new law schools, and it has risen in repute since then, said YC and SCW pre-law advisor Dean Michael Hecht. Though when it first opened Cardozo was equitable with Brooklyn Law School, it is now considered basically on par with Fordham Law School and probably fourth among the city's 15 law schools, said Hecht.

Cardozo itself seems unconcerned with the second-place status it is usually awarded in relation to Einstein.

"We're 20 years younger than Einstein, and all things being equal we're right up there," said Davis. "It's a friendly family competition." Davis noted that Einstein is obviously a different type of school, with a much larger budget.

While Einstein has expressed desires to distance itself from Yeshiva, Cardozo seems content with its relationship to the University, perhaps because it has not yet achieved the same level of prominence as the medical school.

For instance, Cardozo actively reaches out to Yeshiva undergraduate students and views the fact that students attended Yeshiva as a positive in the application process, said Schwartz. The law school actually offers a program to Yeshiva students whereby undergraduates can obtain a B.A. and a J.D. in six years by attending Cardozo during the summers before and after their senior years, although only a handful of students have taken advantage of this program over the past several years. Additionally, Cardozo maintains the David Berg and Family Scholarship, a scholarship reserved especially for YC graduates.

"We are obviously happy to have YU undergraduates enroll," said Schwartz. "It's painful to us to lose YU stu-



Ribbon cutting ceremony, pictured above, marks the beginning of the library renovation, part of efforts to expand Cardozo's facilities

dents to other law schools."

Last year, Cardozo accepted a total of 39 students from YC, SCW and SSSB, out of 65 applicants.

Cardozo also offers joint degrees with Yeshiva's Wurzweiler School of Social Work and will count courses taken at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology toward the J.D.

However, beyond joint degrees, not holding classes on Jewish holidays and providing kosher food services, Cardozo has little more than other law schools to offer Yeshiva undergraduates. While a Yeshiva graduate school may be expected to provide a greater number of Jewish-related courses, Cardozo, in fact, does not have a major comparative Jewish law presence and does not offer more in the way of Jewish content than other schools. The fact that Cardozo is a Yeshiva graduate school, therefore, rarely factors into students' decisions regarding which law school they will attend.

While he has never been pressured by anyone at the University to send students to Cardozo, Hecht does encourage some students to consider Cardozo, not for its connection to Yeshiva, but for its respectable, quality education and well-recognized faculty, Hecht said.

"Cardozo likes to view itself as the Yale of New York City," said Hecht. "It's not Yale, although they have aspirations of becoming a great law school. I wouldn't tell everyone to go there."

Hecht noted that, while faculties and courses are comparable, schools like Columbia and NYU have more money and a tremendous tradition which exceeds that of Cardozo. Given that job placements and salaries largely depend on which law school one attends, Hecht will generally recommend a student attend Columbia or NYU over Cardozo if that student has the option.

The Observer

Wishes All
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An Enjoyable
Winter Break

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Debate on Tenure Process

continued from front page

basis without constant contract renewals. Barring urgent circumstances, a tenured professor can never be fired or forced to retire. Roughly half of the professors at the undergraduate colleges of Yeshiva are tenured and dozens more are tenure-tracked, meaning they are on the way to being reviewed for tenure.

The Process

When a tenured position becomes available in a department, Yeshiva conducts a national search to find an appropriate faculty member. "Every tenure-tracked position is open to the entire country," said Dr. Morton Lowengrub, Vice President of Academic Affairs. Most departments have a limited number of tenured positions available, and such openings are highly competitive. Upon hire, the professor becomes tenure-tracked for a period of seven years, following which he is either granted or denied tenure.

Professors may at times receive credit for prior years of instruction at another university, at the discretion of Yeshiva.

In the beginning of his sixth year of instruction, the professor comes up for review by the divisional tenure committee of his department. There are four divisional committees for the undergraduate schools, excluding Sy Syms: Judaic Studies, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural and Mathematical Science.

The heads of each division respectively are: Rabbi Dr. Manfred Fulda, SCW and YC Associate Professor of Talmud; Dr. Miriam Grosf, SCW Professor of Education; Dr. Ellen Schrecker, SCW and YC Professor of History; Dr. Thomas Otway, YC Associate Professor of Mathematics and Physics.

Each committee consists of approximately four tenured professors in that field, who ultimately prepare a recommendation. That recommendation is presented to the Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub, who consults with the respective dean and then makes his own recommendation to Yeshiva President Norman Lamm. The Board of Trustees then signs off on all tenure decisions, generally in May.

"Historically, the vice-president has over-ridden a decision in both directions," said Dr. Miriam Grosf. She did note that such an occurrence is unusual, especially if the committee recommends withholding tenure.

According to sources, the divisional tenure committee recommended Brill's tenure 4 to 1. Higher-ups, including Lowengrub and Revel Dean Arthur Hyman, pressed to withhold tenure.

At times, personal bias and competition between key figures in the department are said to be at play when a popular professor is denied tenure. Such well-liked professors often attract large enrollment, detracting from the classes of other professors in the department. When Zucker was denied tenure in '99, such competition was often referred to.

Both Zucker and Brill attracted an intellectual cadre of devotees on the uptown campus, many of whom labeled themselves "Brill students" or "Zucker students." Senior members of the department, are said to wield a lot of power. In Brill's case, Dr. Haym Soloveitchik, a key member of the Revel faculty, is said to have staunchly opposed Brill's tenure.

Just last week, *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* featured a story on a popular and scholarly history professor at Brooklyn College, denied tenure because of a lack of "congeniality" and cooperation with his fellow professors.

A tenure decision is reached at the end of the seventh year. According to the Faculty Handbook, which is considered the "black book" for faculty protocol, "Appointment of such faculty member to an eighth year shall carry with it tenured status..."

If a professor is denied tenure he is normally asked to leave. "In six years if

the professor couldn't make the necessary commitments why would we expect him to do so in next six years," said Dr. Harvey Babich, SCW Biology professor who serves on the Science tenure committee.

Most universities have a "up or out" policy when a professor is denied tenure. Instead of retaining the professor in a regular full-time position, the department would rather hire someone who can become tenured. According to SCW Dean Karen Bacon, while this policy is not "iron clad at Yeshiva, it's generally the principle." Additionally, many professors would rather seek out tenure at a different university, though their record may be tainted by a tenure denial.

Requirements

The main requirements for tenure, aside from a PhD, are three-fold: scholarship, teaching and participation in the University. Participation, such as serving on various faculty committees, is less important than research, according to Lowengrub.

Teaching ability is established by student evaluation forms completed at the end of each semester, as well as peer evaluation by other professors who sit in on the professor's classes. When questioned as to whether student opinion is truly considered, Lowengrub insisted that he personally reads the evaluation forms. Many others, however, maintain that such forms often sit in boxes in University offices for months.

At times, personal bias and competition are said to be at play when a popular professor is denied tenure.

Scholarship is determined by outside scholars in the professor's academic area. "We send their [published] materials to people in the field to review," said Babich.

An unspoken tenure prerequisite generally includes publication of a book, often leaving tenure-tracked professors scrambling to publish as often as possible during those crucial few years.

The research requirement is a source of conflict between Yeshiva administrators and faculty, since lack of scholarly publication has often been cited as the reason for a denial of tenure. Yeshiva professors can teach four courses a semester, compared with the two usually taught by their counterparts at other universities. Time constraints preclude the fulfillment all three requirements. "It's hard to do good research and teach properly in this college because professors are teaching a really full load," explained Babich.

Thus, vigorous scholarship often conflicts with assisting students, since popular professors often devote a lot of their time to counseling and assisting students.

Lowengrub insisted that as a research university, Yeshiva must hold to a high scholarship standard. "Teaching informs

scholarship and scholarship informs teaching," said Lowengrub. He added that research promotes an active mind, making for a better instructor. "A professor may be well-liked by students, but his ability to provide state of the art education may be short-lived," he explained. "There is a lot of evidence that it happens." Yeshiva is classified as a research university by the Carnegie Foundation, a leading national research center.

Bacon, however, insists that the difficulty of the workload is considered and extensive scholarship is not as vital as it would be at other universities. "It doesn't mean the quality is lesser, but certainly the quantity," said Bacon.

The requirement of a PhD for tenure also disenfranchises many Judaic Studies professors, particularly those who teach halakha, since they usually lack such a degree.

Professors at SCW who are currently tenure-tracked, numbering approximately a dozen, include Bible Professor Dr. Michelle Levine, Political Science Professor Dr. Joseph Luders, English Professor Dr. Nora Nachumi and Psychology Professor Dr. Terry DiLorenzo.

Tenure Debate

Tenure has been the subject of national fiery debate in recent years. Some believe that such security shouldn't exist in any profession for the obvious reason that people need an incentive to be productive. With the security of a job for life, professors can become lazy or incompetent, and some stop publishing after receiving tenure. Certain state legislatures, such as Texas and Florida, have mandated post-tenure review for faculty, and some colleges have instituted a non-tenured faculty.

Others argue that the rationale for tenure still prevails. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which helped establish tenure over fifty years ago, writes on its web site, "Freedom and economic security, hence, tenure, are indispensable to the success of an institution in fulfilling its obligations to its students and to society."

Historically, particularly during such times as the Cold War or the Vietnam War, professors needed the freedom to teach unpopular views without fear of being fired. Furthermore, since education traditionally pays less than industry, tenure devotees claim that the security is the pay off.

Tenure also creates a loyalty and stability among faculty. "I do think faculty who go through tenure develop a kind of loyalty to a university," said Bacon. "It tends to stabilize the faculty."

The security of tenure means that professors can never be fired, barring emergency circumstances, such as misconduct or inability to teach; financial exigency, such as the closing of a department or school; or departmental reorganization, permanently eliminating the position held by the faculty member. In the event of departmental reorganization, efforts to reassign a tenured professor to "new duties if practicable" are recommended by the Faculty Handbook.

A 1986 federal amendment forced uni-

"A professor may be well-liked by students, but his ability to provide state of the art education may be short-lived. There is a lot of evidence that it happens."

versities to abolish mandatory retirement, asserting it constituted age discrimination against professors. Most universities offer retirement incentive packages to encourage professors to retire after a certain age. Additionally, universities often utilize such incentives for faculty deemed no longer competent or who are acting inappropriately.

Termination can often involve legal procedures and bad publicity for a university. For example, the recent firing of Sami Al-Arian, a professor at the University of Florida who was accused of having ties with Arab terrorists, exploded into a national debate last spring.

Faculty Structure at Yeshiva

Despite the debate, universities have generally continued with tenure. Yet, Yeshiva, like other universities, wants a balance. "Generally, a university doesn't want an entire faculty that's tenured," said Bacon. "We need some professors who are secure, aren't threatened and can share knowledge, and we need some professors with the edge to prove themselves."

In this regard, the faculty consists of three types of professors: full-time, either tenured or tenure-tracked; full-time non-tenure-tracked; and adjunct. While the first two types are paid a yearly salary, adjunct faculty is paid per course and positions are renewable on a yearly basis. The full time faculty holds different titles, such as assistant professor, associate professor, and professor, increasing in salary respectively.

Adjunct professors are hired if the department doesn't need or warrant a full-time professor. Generally, the smaller departments, such as Political Science and Art, have a number of adjunct faculty.

Paradoxically, while tenured faculty holds ultimate income security, adjunct faculty occupy the bottom of the financial totem pole. The average salary per course at the undergraduate schools is a couple of thousand dollars, which many view as measly for the time and hours demanded. Lowengrub acknowledged adjunct faculty's salary complaint. "We have to address salary in general," said Lowengrub. "We're certainly going to work on it."

While tenure is often a professor's financial dream, such status can be hard to achieve and requires an elaborate process. "It's a judgment that the person, material and attitude will always make sense," said Bacon. Whether that judgment is always objective is debatable.

Ann D. Koffsky

artist

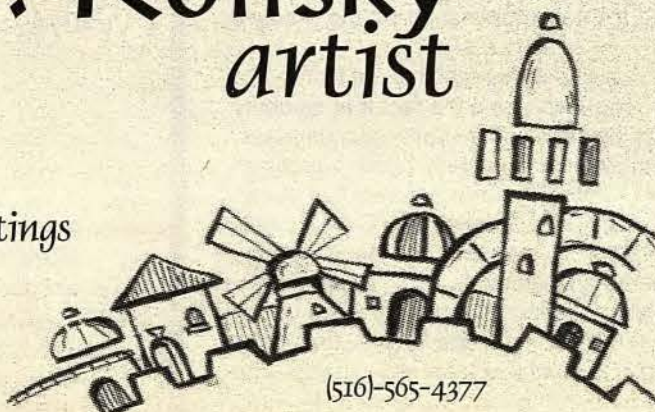
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New Courses Take Shape for Spring Semester

By Shifra Landowne

Some exciting additions have made their way into the spring '03 course schedule. The new American Studies and Women's Studies minors have begun to make an impact, with many new courses in those areas being offered, especially in the English department. Additionally, a fair number of new courses will be offered in the Political Science, Psychology and Music departments, as well as a few others.

The spring 2003 course book is the first to contain designated sections for the new American Studies and Women's Studies minors. Despite minimal student response, professors are enthusiastic about the minors. "It's all set up, next semester its really happening, though I haven't heard from any students yet," stated Professor Laurel Hatvary. "People must show interest in order to make this work."

Hatvary stressed that to ensure that the 15 credit American Studies minor is completed and requirements are fulfilled, it is necessary that students meet with her to choose their American Studies focus. There are four focus areas within the minor: Arts in America, American Spaces: Urban/Rural/Regional America, Minority America, and American Self: American Society. A student must first take two foundation courses and then three focus courses. Within each department that offers American Studies courses (Art, History, English, Political Science and Sociology), the courses are divided by which focus they fulfill.

While the American Studies minor is being sculpted mainly out of existing courses that can be applied to American Studies, a number of new courses are being offered for Women's Studies, such

as Dr. Nora Nachumi's Women's Studies: Theory and Practice, Dr. R. Levy's Psychology of Women and Dr. Joseph Luder's Gender and Public Policy.

Other new courses include a Computer Science class entitled Topics: Modern Info Retrieval, taught by Dr. Jacob Shapiro, a professor from Baruch College, as well as a new course in the Music department, entitled History of Jazz.

There are also some interesting new courses in the Political Science department, including Comparative Politics: The Search for the Perfect Government, Globalization and Its Critics, and Social Movements and Political Change: Race, Class and Gender in America.

There are several never-been-taught-before English classes, including two honors courses, Topics: The Villain in Literature and Chicago/ New York at the Turn of the Century. Students are also looking forward to an intriguing new course being taught by scholar-in-residence Ari Goldman on Topics in Journalism: Covering Religion.

These new additions come at a time when several key professors will be taking sabbaticals. Dr. Carole Silver, English professor and Professor Susan Gardner, Art professor, will not be at SCW for the spring semester. None of Professor Silver's trademark courses are being offered in her absence. So, too, no new art classes are being offered in Gardner's absence, although several new teachers have been hired to teach Gardner's standard classes. Ginger Levant will teach Principles of Design, Casey Ruble will teach Intermediate/Advanced Oil Painting, and Sarah Hirzel will teach Beginning Painting.

Ari Goldman Hosts Panel on 'Religion in Crisis'

By Shayndi Raice

Ari Goldman, noted journalist and Columbia University professor, hosted a timely panel discussion on "Religion in Crisis: Scandal, Terrorism, and Truth" at the Schottenstein Cultural Center on November 25th.

Goldman's appearance was part of the Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence Program. Robbins-Wilf, a member of the Stern College Board of Directors, founded and funded the program that brings top scholars, authors, artists and opinion-shapers to SCW, offering students unique perspectives on the academic and cultural world.

Goldman, who covered the Crown Heights riots in 1991 for *The New York Times*, began the program by asking probing questions about a journalist's responsibility to cover religion and explained the quandaries reporters often face on the job. Goldman opened the program by asking "Can a reporter be truly objective? Do we have to bury emotions? When you write about your own community, should you cut them slack or should you be harder on them?"

Each of the panelists faced such dilemmas while covering their own communities. Tom Farragher, a devout Catholic, is one of the writers for the *Boston Globe* who reported on the scandalous cover-up of abusive priests serving in the Catholic church. "Proximity to religion gave me a sense my peers lacked," said Farragher. Yet he was criticized by his community when the story broke in the *Boston Globe*.

He related a story about his pastor's response to the *Globe's* expose on the scandal. Rather than suggesting that Cardinal Bernard Law's cover up of abusive priests in the church was an immoral decision, his pastor felt that the *Boston*



Ari Goldman discusses his experiences covering religion for *The NY Times*

Globe was wrong. In church, his congregation was asked to pray for accused priests. "I would sadly shake my head," said Farragher.

In fact, Farragher discovered that the priest who officiated at his marriage and the marriages of his eight siblings was accused of being a child molester. Although the incident greatly troubled Farragher, he said his faith in Catholicism has not been shaken. "My faith has nothing to do with Cardinal Law," said Farragher in his presentation. "I answer to a higher authority."

Tara Barampour, an Iranian born, non-practicing Muslim, spoke of her experiences reporting for *The NY Times* on the Muslim community in New York. It was difficult for Barampour to gain the trust of the Muslim community which she needed for her first piece documenting the lives of Muslim teenagers. However, when they discovered she was Iranian and spoke Farsi, many people opened up to her.

After 9/11, when asked to do another piece on a Muslim school in New York, nobody in the school would talk to her. "They felt I had gained their trust and then betrayed them," recounted Barampour. "I

Department In Focus: Computer Science

By Chavie Schwartzbard

If one were to take a survey questioning SCW students as to what their intended majors are, one would possibly have to ask hundreds of students before finding even one Computer Science major.

The Computer Science department at SCW is one of the smallest and least recognized departments. With only a handful of students majoring in computer science and only one full-time professor, Dr. Michael Breban, who splits his time between the Wilf and midtown campuses, most students think twice about taking computer science courses.

"They hear computer science, and they run," said Dr. Bhaskar Sengupta, head of the Computer Science department. Sengupta, who was hired this past September to oversee the department, is working with faculty and students to introduce computer science to those unfamiliar with it, and to strengthen the department as a whole.

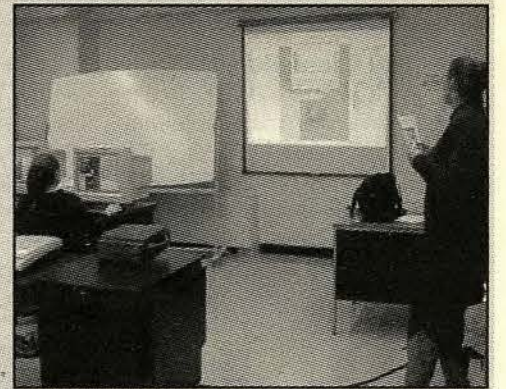
"Dr. Sengupta's goal is to take this project under his wing and bolster the department by helping its organizational structures, and addressing the needs of the students to make computer science a strong department," said Dean Ethel Orlian.

It seems hard to understand why a field that is growing in popularity elsewhere remains one of the worst departments at SCW. Some students have pointed to the shortage of courses, a surprisingly low number given the usefulness of the field, the lack of a full-time professor devoted solely to SCW as reasons for the lack of majors.

The paucity of students involved in the department has not gone unnoticed by administrators and faculty members. Recently, Sengupta held a meeting with faculty and students to discuss ways to attract more students to computer science.

The students and faculty agreed that most people are not aware of or are not interested in computer science. "Computer science can be applied to almost any field, and people who are either good analytically, are creative, and have a mind for biology or math should take interest in this major," said Sengupta. "People familiar with computer science can bring about innovations which will help our society to achieve significant economic growth."

Another issue that was brought up at the meeting, was that students often do not realize how enjoyable computer science can be. The computer science club itself is in the process of organizing



Students have class in special computer science lab

events to familiarize students with computer programming and techniques, including an "HTML tutorial," which will teach people how to create web pages.

"Most students don't realize how fun computer science can be," said Leah Kohn, a senior majoring in computer science, and president of the Computer Science Club. "The reason I enjoy it so much is because it's so intellectually stimulating and a person is able to immerse himself in it."

Since most classes in the Computer Science department are designed for students majoring in computer science, Dr. Sengupta suggests that someone interested in computer science should begin with an introductory course (such as class 1115C). More advanced classes offered include Theory of Computation, Computer Organization & Assembly Language Programming, and Operation Systems. New courses offered next semester include Modern Info Retrieval, and a class that will be taught by Dr. Jacob Shapiro, a professor currently teaching computer science at Baruch College.

So far, students feel the new direction the department is taking is a positive one. Dana Glasner, a freshman majoring in computer science, believes that the department is making every effort to assist the students. "It's very personal, the teachers really care about each and every student," said Glasner.

Because the department is so small, students' requests are taken into consideration and are usually met. "If we ask for a specific teacher, or class, the administration listens and tries their best to be accommodating," said Kohn. In addition, a room dedicated solely to students majoring in computer science has been established, and equipment and software have been upgraded.

didn't realize how much it resonated with them. They remembered quotes from the article. One woman asked if she would be quoted and when I responded that she would, she told me 'too bad, I thought we could be friends.'"

For this article, written after 9/11, Barampour was conflicted over whether to include a quote from a fundamentalist Muslim who she believed did not reflect the opinions of the Muslim community at large. Barampour eventually decided against using the quote. "I was afraid it would color the entire article and people were very skittish after 9/11," she said.

Last to speak was Goldman. Goldman's dilemma was somewhat different than that of his colleagues. While the other panelists had difficulty portraying their religions in a negative manner, Goldman was forced to do the opposite. When the Crown Heights riots broke out in 1991, Goldman, then a reporter for *The New York Times*, described the riots as a pogrom. The editors at *The New York Times* were uncomfortable with that characterization and required Goldman to write the article with an African-American reporter covering the riots from the other perspective which claimed that the riots

were provoked by the Hassidim.

"We fought over every single word in that article," recalled Goldman. Despite his best attempts, Goldman was forced to give in to certain parts of the article with which he did not agree. "There is one line that refers to the Jews as 'haughty Hassidim,'" he said. "I felt like I had betrayed my own."

Goldman offered some conclusions on how one should portray his community. "You should be fair and constructive," he said. "You can never be objective but you can be fair." Additionally, one must stand up for his community although "at times it may be dangerous, but if you don't, who will?" challenged Goldman.

During a question-answer session students asked Goldman about issues of *loshon hara*, particularly the *The Jewish Week's* exposure of Baruch Lanner, a prominent rabbi who was convicted of sexual misconduct.

Goldman was particularly pleased with the audience. "I was really happy with the turnout," said Goldman. "I was worried that students wouldn't be able to relate, but the audience seemed engaged."

Gimme A Break

Students Head to Sunny Spots

By Elisha Horen

As the crunch of finals draws near, many students eagerly await the day it's all over and they can finally begin for their well-earned vacation. Plans this winter include the usual Israel and Florida trips, as well as a few more exotic destinations.

Despite the troubling situation in Israel, an overwhelming number of SCW students will be spending their mid-winter break in Israel. Yet the Israeli beaches and shopping plazas are not the main attractions. Most will be spending the duration of their vacation learning in the seminars they attended after high school.

"I'm basically just going to learn, because I'm probably not going to be able to travel around the country," said SCW senior Rose Blynn. Other students plan to divide their time between learning and volunteering. SCW Junior Aviva Keller will be volunteering with a program called Livnot at an army base in the Negev for a week and learning at Machon Gold in Jerusalem for the following week.

SCW students are planning to visit other parts of the globe as well. Florida still remains a popular spot for those seeking a short plane ride, a sunny beach and an economical vacation. SCW Senior Penina Lieber will be traveling with a group of ten friends to the Florida Keys. "I wanted someplace other than Miami," she said. She plans to spend the time soaking up the sun in this quiet tropical setting before heading back to New York.

Lieber says the trip was a last minute pull-together, but it fulfilled her requirements of being relatively cheap (\$400 for airfare and hotel stay all together) and providing a pleasant atmosphere in which to unwind. When the sun goes down the group plans to check out the local nightlife, relax



Miami Beach, above, is a popular vacation spot for many SCW students

in their hotel and catch up on some movies.

Many out-of-towners seek the comfort of their own homes as a respite from a busy semester. SCW junior Atara Rubin, who will be flying home to Chicago, is looking forward to seeing her family, eating home-cooked meals and having a clean bathroom to herself. "I'm excited," she remarked. "It's nice to see your family once in a while and be in a comfortable environment." Rubin will relish the two weeks hanging out with her friends from other colleges and sleeping in.

Some native New Yorkers will be enjoying the Big Apple. Shifra Landowne is looking forward to being in her own neck of the woods after spending the past two winters in Israel. "I've missed ice skating in Central Park's Wolman Rink," she said. "I miss

snow." She looks forward to other seasonal city pleasures such as special museum exhibits and hot chocolate at Starbuck's Coffee Shop.

Some adventurous students have planned trips to more exotic destinations. One senior is "living out a dream" by sailing on a cruise to the Caribbean Islands for seven days. Traveling with a friend, she will be stopping at four different ports, including the Mayan Ruins in Mexico, which she will tour by jeep. "I can't wait to swim with sting rays," she exclaimed.

SCW junior Bella Tendler's plans to hit colorful New Orleans. "I am most excited about the music," she exclaimed. Attractions such as the famed street performers, abundance of live Cajun Music and magic tours in the city famous for its witch-hunts are were key in Tendler's decision to tour the city. She plans on visiting a swampy region on the outskirts of the city called the Bijou. "I hear it's filled with alligators and other wild-life," she said.

If two weeks seem like a short amount of time for vacation, consider that some RAs will only have one week off since they must be on duty in the dorms for part of the vacation. SCW junior Marisa Parker, an RA in Brookdale, hopes to squeeze in a tan in her Miami hometown before she has to return to New York for RA duty. However, she hopes to do some sight-seeing in New York when she returns to SCW, an activity she doesn't usually have time for during the semester.

SOY Begins Seforim Sale Preparations

By Observer Staff

Preparations for the annual SOY Seforim Sale are underway. This year's sale, which will run from February 13 through March 2 in Belfer 502, marks the 31st year of the sale.

The purpose of the SOY-sponsored sale is to raise money for student activities, yet it has grown in recent years to a much-anticipated event, typically drawing thousands of customers from across the metropolitan area. The organizers of this year's sale have begun ordering roughly 30,000 books, which constitute 8,000 to 9,000 different titles, according to YC senior Ari Erdfarb, chairman of this year's sale.

Lisa Grundman, president of TAC, expressed interest that TAC play a role in the sale, which has always been a SOY organized event. "We'd like to have some input," Grundman said, though she has not yet heard from the SOY organizers. "Financially we have nothing to do with it, but obviously we'll help them," said Grundman. In prior years, SCW students have assisted in setting up for the sale the week before the event. Grundman also noted that if there are particular *seforim* that SCW students want, she will recommend that the organizers order them.

Organizers would not postulate on which books they expect to be the "hot books" this year. Erdfarb did note that last year, David Berger's book, *The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*, was probably the most sought-after book.

Last year's sale caused a stir in the Yeshiva community when the organizers scheduled separate hours for men and women to visit the sale. This year's organizers are not planning such an addition.

"There's no need for separate hours," said Erdfarb. "Does Eichler's have separate hours?"

Sale organizers dismissed rumors that SOY was considering not holding a sale because last year was unprofitable.

As in recent years, the sale will open with a lecture, which is sponsored by the Yeshiva College Alumni Association. Dr. David Shatz, professor of philosophy at SCW, is scheduled to be this year's speaker at the first Sunday of the sale. In previous years, Dr. David J. Schnall, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm and Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel have delivered the opening lecture.

Besides *seforim*, Jewish music will also be available for purchase.

Joel Presidency

continued from front page

Keynote speaker of the evening was Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who delivered the convocation address. Bloomberg called Yeshiva "an integral part of New York City's growth and diversity and one of its leading academic and cultural institutions," and congratulated Joel on his recent election as the new president.

Besides the lengthy convocation, which consisted of Bloomberg's address and the conferral of honorary degrees, the dinner was relatively short for an institutional dinner, lasting only three hours.

On the presidential front, the last few weeks have marked a quiet lull following weeks of intense activity. Having secured Joel as president, the Yeshiva administration is taking its time in ironing out specific details. The fierce opposition posed by the RIETS faculty to the splitting of the rosh hayeshiva from the presidency has died down.

Nonetheless, a few decisions have been made, including the location of Joel's office. Rather than occupying Lamm's exclusive presidential suite on the 5th floor of Furst Hall, Joel will share Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub's real estate on the 12th floor of Belfer Hall.

The move, which could be the result of available space, seems to represent Joel's desire to take a firm control of University policy. Besides the proximity to Lowengrub, the new presidential office will be in the same building as most of the key Yeshiva administrative offices.

Rabbi Lamm will remain in his suite as the chancellor and rosh hayeshiva.

So, too, Lamm will continue to reside in his Yeshiva-owned apartment on the Upper West Side, a Central Park duplex valued at a few million dollars. Joel will be moving to a house in Riverdale, which is more suburban and community-oriented than the West Side.

Joel has already begun to visit Yeshiva to slowly ease into his role. He will continue to visit approximately once a week, according to Lowengrub. Meanwhile, Hillel has initiated its own search process to secure a successor for the soon to be vacated role of president and international director. It has organized a search committee of 12 members, representing its philanthropists, staff and student activists, and hopes to find a new leader in the next few months.

Joel will prove to be a hard act to follow. Since Joel's appointment in 1988, Hillel has experienced an intense revival on college campuses boasting of a new Jewish renaissance. Under Joel's tenure, Hillel has become economically secure, with a budget that rose from \$15 million to over \$50 million. Nevertheless, Hillel officials staunchly believe that Joel has created a firm organization that can stand without him.

At Yeshiva, his Hillel past has already labeled Joel as an administrator who will make Yeshiva more student-friendly. Long after most guests had left the Waldorf Grand Ballroom, Joel was basking in his element, talking with the student leaders invited to the dinner. "You can tell he was already interested in us," said one SCW student leader. "He's one of the first administrators who wants to hear what we have to say."

After Delays, Guide Part II Expected to be Ready Shortly

By Rachel Horn

The *Guide Part II*, a directory of contact information for students at YC, SCW and SSSB, is expected to be completed within the next few weeks after a long-delayed process. "We can guarantee it by this week," said Gennady Gelman, who has been overseeing the project. "We might be able to give it out by the end of this semester. If not, definitely by next semester."

According to Gelman, however, a copy of *Part II* will be available online and possibly even palm file form before winter break. The committee is in the final stages of combining the lists with the help of a database system designed by YC student Chanoch Goldfeder. Final names of all students were secured this past Tuesday.

Though disgruntled by the late debut, students will be pleased by the inclusion this year of every student's information, which will make the compendium more comprehensive. As opposed to previous years when students' information was only included if they registered, this year students were automatically included in the list unless they specifically requested their name be deleted. *The Guide* staff worked with the Office of the Registrar, Residence Life and Student Services to collect every student's names, school, dorm address and y-mail accounts.

The only legal problem was collecting phone numbers, according to Gelman. Therefore, students are required to register at yustudents.org to include their phone numbers.

Time spent collecting all the information appropriately accounted for the delays. "We expected to come out a month ago, but were delayed because we were waiting for the information from the various departments and wanted to give students time to opt out," said Gelman. "I'm not happy about the delay, but I understand why it occurred."

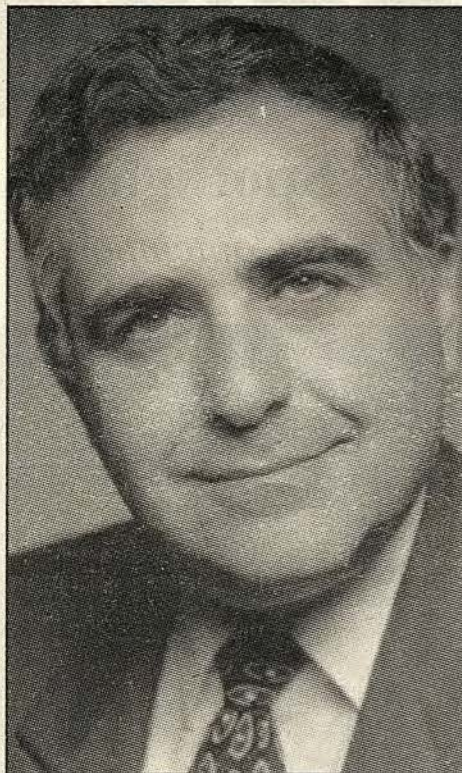
Students were informed about *The Guide's* new policy via mailboxes and signs on dorm rooms. These notices informed students to contact *The Guide* if they wanted to request withdrawal. "Only four girls and one guy backed out," noted Gelman.

The layout and cover design of *Part II* are already complete. The cover includes a background of both the Wilf and midtown campuses interlocked in a jigsaw puzzle. The letters that spell out "The Guide" will be formed from pictures of Yeshiva University students. SCW student Sabrina Ferster helped design the cover and collect pictures.

Last year, *The Guide Part II* was available through Internet access as an Acrobat File but was never published.



In His Own Words



good things and if you don't savor them, then it's a waste. That's the whole concept of *brachos* [blessings] - it's a self-awareness of our blessings.

I think Stern has improved a great deal. The only magic I can bring is to sit down with them, find out their goals and move forward with it. One of my jobs is to be the chief fundraiser and I accept that. I need to be armed with the mandate of what we are trying to raise money for, and then figure out with the dean and the Board how we can move forward with a plan.

OE: Speaking of celebrations, next year is Stern's 50th anniversary and it could be a good catalyst for growth.

RJ: Anniversaries are great, if you use them as a tool to accomplish something. Always ask the question: At the end of the 50th year how will we be better off - not just what parties will we have had. What will we achieve through it. You mark time so you can learn from it and grow forward.

OE: You mentioned fundraising as a duty of the president. What do you feel will be your other responsibilities of the president?

RJ: I am the chief professional charged with advancing Yeshiva University forward in its mission. Its primary mission is to be committed to the concept of *Torah U'Madda* and to be a great Jewish university that contributes to

the world in unique and distinctive ways. Primarily among that is educating students to better the world. That's what they are going to pay me for.

I do that by fulfilling several different functions. One is to lead a professional team of faculty and administration who are committed to meeting the goals in their respective positions. Another is to serve as the chief executive officer to a Board of Trustees, who are the lay people charged with the corporate responsibility of keeping YU on mission. Lastly, I will serve as the spokesperson, the cheerleader, the inspirer, the developer and the promulgator of the language of Yeshiva University in such a way to have all the partners, alumni, trustees, benefactors, students, professionals and educators moving in the same direction, each one feeling that they are critical to the future of the institution.

OE: As a spokesman for the university that espouses *Torah U'madda*, how do you define the rather elusive ideology?

RJ: I think that one of the great issues of YU throughout its history is its struggle with the great endless discussion of what is *Torah U'madda*. Great discussions will continue as long as it motivates and doesn't paralyze.

To me, *Torah U'madda* means the great gift of being able to view all the wonders of life - of science, the arts, philosophy and other ideas - through the prism of Torah. The whole notion of *lilmod lalmeid lishmor u'laaos* [to learn, teach, keep and do] is what makes Yeshiva unique. It's looking at the world through the prism of Torah and saying "boy, look what's out there, look how good it is, and look how, when armed with the values of Torah, I can live a valuable life and make a difference."

That challenge is a different one for the school of medicine and a different one for the school of law and a different one for the school of education, and I think the challenge is valid for all of them. The opportunity for each of them to feel pride in that, is something we should value together.

Each school has to look at that challenge and its meanings from different dimensions. It doesn't mean a different thing for each school. It's like looking at a diamond - when you look at a diamond from different dimensions, you see different facets. The schools should look at that diamond of *Torah U'madda* from their own perspectives.

This week, *Observer* Editors discussed with president-elect Richard Joel his experiences since his appointment and his plans for the future. Joel shared his viewpoint on a number of issues, including communal service, SCW's role at Yeshiva and the ideals of *Torah U'Madda*.

Observer Editors: Over the past few weeks you have been visiting the different Yeshiva campuses to get a feel for the place. What can you say about the atmosphere you've encountered and changes needed.

Richard Joel: What's impressed me the most is how excited people feel about going to the next step of the story of Yeshiva. It's natural to say that as Dr. Lamm's stewardship comes to an end people are anticipating that there is a newness. I hope what makes some people happy and excited is that they thought that my stewardship would bring with it a sense of renewal - a sense of *chadesh yameinu k'kedem* [renew our days as of old]. That's part of the sense here - an anticipation of new possibilities.

OE: While the *roshei yeshivas'* opposition toward splitting the roles of president and rosh hayeshiva has died down, how do you see RIETS, which has largely been interested in maintaining tradition, fitting into this picture?

RJ: Initially, some *roshei yeshiva* were opposed to the split. I know that there were members of the RIETS faculty, *rabonim*, who had a different vision of what qualifications the president should have. They expressed themselves and the trustees selected who they selected. I think that the *roshei yeshiva* will want to move on and be part of planning, anticipating and implementing the next steps of Yeshiva. I look forward to really partnering with RIETS to help them in every way possible. That's my job.

I come from a political environment, and I think unanimity in anything probably means that people are asleep. I probably have more knowledge of more universities than most human beings do - and differences of views and differences of opinions can give an administrator a headache. Yet, it is why it's worth having a university and what makes it exciting.

While certainly I would like it that everyone would applaud everything I do as president - it won't happen, and I don't think that it should.

The real question is how can there be a sense of shared purpose, a sense of trust so we can build together. *L'hagdil torah u'leha'adira* [to raise up and glorify Torah] is not a throwaway line, it's an aspiration. I find it hard to believe that the vast majority of people at YU can't gather under that banner and work together.

OE: You've said before that you envision Yeshiva taking a more active role in the greater Jewish community. What kind of programs do you have in mind to improve Jewish communal leadership at Yeshiva?

RJ: I think that Yeshiva is blessed, at the undergraduate level, with an enormous resource in terms of the student body. You are extremely well educated as a group. You have the greatest Jewish education investment of all populations - a serious Jewish day school education and a year of Torah study in Israel. The vast majority of students come from homes and communities where both the notion of community is critically important and where *shmirat mitzvot* [keeping commandments] is important. And, I believe, where acts of *chesed* are important.

So the question is, how can we best challenge the student body and give you opportunities to contextualize that into a broader vision.

One of the great things is that you are tremendously resourceful without anyone telling you. Just an example, if you look at the counterpoint program in Australia - what is exciting is not only that it's done by Yeshiva University students but that they're doing it under the professional auspices of RIETS. You could almost call it undergraduate clinical programs.

OE: Actually, it seems that many students are concerned that Yeshiva is not involved enough in the greater community.

RJ: I don't want to start sounding like "Mr. Hillel comes to Yeshiva," but the truth of the matter is, there is an array of national programs where students from Yeshiva can and should participate in. They don't have to compromise their views or on halakha, they don't have issues with *shabbos*, with *kashrus*, with *tefila b'tzibur* [prayer with a quorum of men]. For example, why shouldn't they be a strong presence when Hillel has its forum on public policy in February?

I understand there is the issue of people missing both class and missing *shiur*, we make those choices all the time, and I don't think students should do it cavalierly, but I'd like to encourage involvement.

OE: How much should of that involvement should come from student initiative, like Torah Shield or other programs, and how much should stem from the administration?

RJ: Like with most things there should be a balance. In college, you're not supposed to be taken by the hand every step of the way. Part of what you should do is to be self-promoting activists.

On the other hand, there are university offices to help students. Educators should take advantage of the penchant for activism and ask, how do we foster it? How do we teach it? How do we help enable it?

OE: We'd like to switch gears a little and discuss concerns at our campus. SCW students, and sometimes even administrators, feel removed from the hub of University activity. At times, it's almost as if Stern is viewed as a secondary school of the University. How do you plan on addressing that?

RJ: To me it's very important that I be a presence with some degree of regularity on the different campuses, so I have an opportunity to listen to students and to hear concerns. I hope you will see me at Stern with some regularity, even after my daughter graduates.

There is an Office of the President at Stern. I hope it will be used for more than just dropping in for meetings. If I'm going to be an advocate of Stern, I have to learn more about what's happening at Stern. I would like to work with Dean Bacon to see how my presence can be a positive force. You have a very gifted dean. One of the great attractions for me at Stern is being able to work with Dean Bacon.

I also want to hear from the faculty what's going on, what their needs are.

I want to see a wish list of what the priorities are for growth at Stern. The University is really struggling to maintain a balanced budget. Unfortunately, I am not independently wealthy, and I am not assuming the presidency with a burst of new funding. And the economy is not being kind right now to non-profit institutions. I think we can focus together on what the priorities are and work with the deans, faculty, students and the Board of Trustees and see how, in a systematic way, we can keep growing at Stern College.

OE: It might be hard for SCW to keep growing, especially in its facilities, when Yeshiva is known to be tight-fisted when it comes to money.

RJ: There's a little problem - you can't spend more money than you have. All these new facilities and new buildings require funds to make things happen. I don't think anyone's looking for magic. Part of the problem with the culture at Yeshiva is it seems we don't savor the victories we have. We don't enjoy the successes, we don't celebrate a new building, we don't celebrate when the classes improve.

There tends to be a mood at Yeshiva much too often that there's a little bit of cynicism - we're quick to point out the things that are broken, and there's not a lot of "boy that's great, look what they're doing now." But I have to tell you, mindset is part of progress also. You can have

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Cultural Arts

Spotlight on Blue Fringe

Bands Mixes Contemporary Music with Jewish Themes

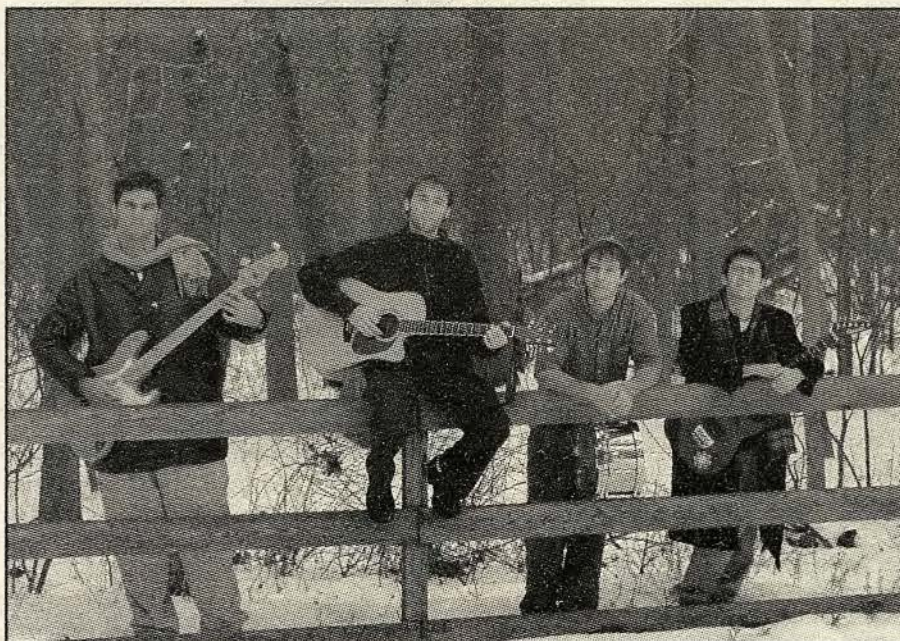
By Shayndi Raice

Blue Fringe has only been together for a little over a year. That may seem shocking to some because of the band's widespread popularity, particularly among young people interested in contemporary music with a Jewish twist.

What is the secret to the band's success? Dov Rosenblatt, lead singer, attributes it to the unique niche the band has found for themselves in the Jewish music scene. "We're playing Jewish music with a rock/pop feel," he said. "I get to sing the popular rock music that I like, but I'm still thinking about the words because it's Jewish."

The band first played together when Jon Perl, now their manager, asked Rosenblatt if he would be interested in playing at the University of Pennsylvania for a Yavneh Olami shabbaton. Rosenblatt asked his friend, Avi Hoffman, now the lead guitarist, if he would be interested in playing. He also asked Hayyim Danzig, a friend from Yeshivat Har Etzion, if he would play bass. Danzig and Danny Zwillenberg, who joined as the drummer, had a band in high school in Philadelphia. The band assembled for the first time.

That was last October. Now the band has a steady stream of performances, from yeshiva high schools to clubs in Manhattan. The band has been steadily climbing the ranks of the Jewish music scene and they hope to come out with their first album, "My Awakening," this spring.



The Blue Fringe Band Members, pictured from l-r: Hayyim Danzig, Dov Rosenblatt, Danny Zwillenberg and Avi Hoffman

They have played their own version or "cover" of the popular song "Hafachta," but the band mainly writes and plays original music. While some bands in the new generation of Jewish music have been trying to play off of the popular surge of boy bands, Blue Fringe doesn't consider themselves part of that trend. "It's like comparing U2 to the Backstreet Boys," says Rosenblatt, who grew up in Teaneck and has been personally recording music for years. "Not that we would compare ourselves to U2," he adds reverently.

However, U2 isn't a far cry from the band's influences. The Beatles, John Mayer, the Dave Mathews Band, and Elliot Smith are only a few of their popular influences. From Jewish music, the band sees themselves as a continuation of the Diaspora Yeshiva Band.

Their lyrics, often in English with Jewish themes, enable people to relate to familiar tunes and fills an area popular music can't fulfill. In fact, the title song of their upcoming album, "My Awakening," is about the religious awakening young

Jews experience after a year of study in Israel. It is a prime example of the band's ability to take issues on young Jews minds' and put it to the popular rock music they have grown up with.

One of the Blue Fringe's most requested songs is "Flipping Out," a parody of the Israel experience, which Rosenblatt wrote after spending two years at Yeshivat Har Etzion.

However, their appeal isn't only to young people. The band performed in Maryland three weeks ago to a crowd of 900 hundred. The audience ranged from young children to adults. "It was really exciting for us to see because it wasn't just a shabbaton," said Perl. "People were coming out to see us and it was such a diverse age group." The band is also looking forward to performing with Soul Farm in Florida during Pesach.

Blue Fringe has even made its mark on SCW. The band played at the Hanukkah Chagiga on the SCW campus. They described it as an interesting experience since "we've never played behind a mechitza of balloons before."

Lisa Grundman, president of TAC, said, "We got great feedback. Some people didn't know who they were but everyone thought it was amazing." The chagiga was considered a success in part because of the talent of the band. "I would definitely like to bring them back," said Grundman.

The band has its own website at www.bluefringeband.com.



Bookworm: Behind Enemy Lines

Behind Enemy Lines:
The True Story of a Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany
Publisher: Harmony
December, 2002
Price: \$24.00

By Devorah Heching

Marthe Hoffnung Cohn is living in war-torn France during the start of World War II when she is approached by members of the French Resistance movement and asked to act as a spy on their behalf. Thus begins the book, *Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany*, a poignant memoir written by Marthe about the brave contributions she made to the French Resistance and European Jewry while still in her teenage years.

Marthe begins her journey in the Alsace-Lorraine region of France, a territory that has gone back and forth between France and Germany since World War I. As a result, Marthe is fluent in both French and German and is later able to use her bilingualism when she acts as a spy deep in the heart of Nazi Germany. Her ability to speak German, coupled with her small stature and blonde hair perfectly disguises her as a young German nurse cycling through Germany pretending to be in search of Hans, her fictional fiancé.

Before becoming a spy, Marthe had been subjected to countless hardships, including personal traumas such as the loss of her sister and best friend, who was sent to die in the fires of Auschwitz, and finally the disappearance of her beloved fiancé Jacques who was tortured and shot to death after joining the French Resistance. While these events traumatize

Marthe, she refuses to despair and instead uses her anguish to fuel her revenge against the Germans.

Hoffnung displays an ability to depict the brutal and random nature of this war-torn period in history, though she does not fail to recognize the humanity of countless French citizens who were willing to help a small Jewish girl at great risk to their personal safety. She relates a story that occurred when the French government decreed that all Jews must sew large yellow stars onto their clothing to be worn at all times: "By wearing the (Jewish) star, we were supposed to be ostracized by others, but walking in the street with our yellow badges, whole families from the local Catholic community would often cross the street (towards us) deliberately, the men to raise their hats, the women to say hello, all of them voicing their strong disapproval of the discrimination to which we were subjected."

Behind Enemy Lines is Marthe's memoir of a time and place that has mesmerized the world for more than half a century. But at its core it tells the story of an ordinary Jewish girl who, under extraordinary circumstances, becomes the heroine her country and her people need her to be. This book reads like gripping fiction, yet every word is true.



Sephardi Club Lends Spicy Flavor to SCW

By Danielle Yunatanov

There's a rumor circulating that Sephardim are known to be extra fun, extremely exciting and especially spicy. It's true. That is why the Sephardi Club Dinner on the fifth night of Hanukkah, December 4, 2002, was such a popular event. Even Ashkenazim made it their business to attend.

"We were very impressed with the turnout and were especially grateful for the warm and humorous environment," said Shirly Dayan, SCW Sephardi Club President, who worked with YC Sephardi Club president Josh Malka to make the evening at Café Classico on 57th Street a success. Twenty-five students from SCW and 35 students from YC attended the dinner, which was sponsored by Yeshiva.

The ambiance was pleasant, the lights were dim and the people were friendly at the Hanukkah dinner. Waiters circled the tables, offering the students samples of classical ethnic Sephardic dishes, which ranged from hot and spicy poppers and platters of humus and tehina salad, to steamed chicken and sweet and sour meatballs.

"It was a pleasure to dine on such delicious food while being entertained by such exceptionally stimulating company," said SCW junior Lisa Sutton.

The international flavor of the event was underscored by the Arabic, Persian, Israeli and Turkish music which played throughout the evening.

Students engaged in conversations in several languages, including Russian, French, Hebrew, English, and Persian.

The Sephardi Club serves as a means for Sephardic students to identify with their heritage. Events sponsored by the Sephardic Club enable all Sephardim at YC and SCW to know where they came from, and most importantly, where they are going. "We want to show that even though we attend an Ashkenazi school, our culture is very important to us, and even though we are all Jewish, we do have some differences in our everyday activities," said Sephardi Club Vice President Joe Rahmani. "It is essential for the Sephardi community to participate in these events."

The assortment of students who attended the dinner was representative of the nature of the Sephardi club, which is open everyone who is interested in Sephardic culture. The club makes an effort to ensure that Ashkenazim also feel comfortable at Sephardi club events.

After dinner, YC student Ronnie Ben-Ishay delivered a *d'var Torah* about Hanukkah, and students happily indulged in the elegant platters of fruit and pastries for dessert.

Sephardi Club events are a great way to meet people, according to Dayan. Club presidents Dayan and Malka encourage all students at YC and SCW to participate in future Sephardi Club events.

Cultural Arts

K-Pax: Striving to Raise the Bar

By Rachel Horn

The Yeshiva College Drama Society (YCDS) prides itself in on making "each show better than the one before," according to its playbill.

The Society did, indeed, outdo its predecessors this semester in its production of K-Pax, in part due to the creative use of lights and sound in the show. The show, however, ultimately suffered from poor choice of production and overacting.

"K-Pax" is set in a Manhattan mental hospital, where a new patient, Prot, puts on a convincing display that he hails from the distant planet K-Pax. As time progresses, the other patients, and even the medical staff, begin to consider the possibility that Prot really is from K-Pax. Meanwhile, Prot builds relationships with the people in the hospital, raising questions about modern civilized society.

The show's new light system, part of a recent renovation of the Theater, lighting manipulated shapes and colors to create a dramatic effect. The sound system, another area of original input, was used to evoke the memory of a young girl who died; a chilling recording of a

young girl's voice resonated throughout the theater. Tunes from various shows and artists were selected and used through the play.

YCDS possesses several assets, among them a firm foundation. The Society opened in 1965 and has since conducted over 80 productions. It operates under the expert leadership of drama guru Dr. Anthony Beukas, who has been with the Society for over 35 years.

YCDS is considered a respected establishment on campus. "I think students look forward to the play," said YCDS Executive President, Pinky Shapiro. "It's the only thing you know will happen on campus. People expect a certain level of quality."

The production is the end result of a two-credit course, which is a component of the YC Speech and Drama major. Students dedicate hours each week from the beginning of the semester until the performance of the play. The students' dedication paid off. The actors were both gifted and well cast, and the play was skillfully adapted to accommodate an all-male cast.

However, I beseech the Drama Society: take heed from the many characters in classic literature who were ruined by a tragic flaw, who let their best characteristic get the worst of them. The Drama Society's constant desire for excellence should be spent on solid acting and not on over-dramatization. There were instances where the hyper-dramatics made the otherwise top-notch performance seem somewhat overdone. Acting should be about being as realistic as possible.

The honorable goal to raise the quality of YCDS should not be mistaken for outdoing the previous year's produc-



Mental patients perform song in K-PAX
photo credits Dov Medinets

tions with fluffy additions. For the relatively small theater that housed the production, the actors spoke unnecessarily loudly throughout the lengthy play. When the lights went out between scenes, it was needlessly pitch black for many seconds, instead of dim for a few. Although the addition of the dog was cute, it was unnecessary. Every time it was brought onto the stage, it cried and pulled to leave.

While glitz is fun, quality is more important. The path that has spanned several decades indeed leads to a glorious future for YCDS, as long as they don't allow distractions to veer them off course.



Prot (r) attempts to convince the hospital doctor that he really is from K-PAX

Ice Cafe Chills Out Students

By Observer Staff

On Monday night December 23rd, the Stern College Dramatics Society (SCDS) held its first ever open mike night, entitled "Ice Café" in Koch Auditorium.

The evening's events, which drew over one hundred SCW and YC students, opened with "café owners" SCDS co-president Aliza Blumenfeld and cultural development organizer Shaina Cohen discussing in playful banter the acts scheduled to perform in their café that evening. The performances of the evening were mostly monologues and poems written by each of the participants; one YC student, however, performed a rendition of "Music of the Night" from Phantom of the Opera.

The ambiance in the room was that of a quaint café perhaps hiding on a small street in the lower Manhattan. In addition to round-ed tables aglow with candles, cappuccino and cakes helped to set the appropriate atmosphere. As promised, it truly was "an evening where open mike and cappuccino were at their frothiest."



The cast of Ice Cafe

Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

Hearing the Music of God: Original Hassidic Tales

January 9, 2003
92nd Street Y
92nd Street at Lexington Ave.

Through January 12, 2002
Gallery Judaica at North Shore Jewish Center
385 Old Town Road
(631) 928-3737.
Call for hours

Big Apple Circus

Lincoln Center
Through January 12, 2002
For tickets call 212-721-6500 or 212-307-4100

Stories of Untold Jewish Women 1850-1910

Exhibit of media works by Santa Fe artist Andrea Kalinowski. Works interweave text, photography and quilt patterns to highlight stories of Jewish women in American West.
Yeshiva University Museum
Through January 12, 2002
15 West 16th Street
212-294-8301

Between Heaven and Hell: Etgar Keret in Conversation

Leading young Israeli writer Etgar Keret will be reading and talking about his work and the state of contemporary Jewish writing. Etgar Keret has been called "the Amos Oz of his generation" and he has received the Prime Minister's Prize for Literature and the Ministry of Culture's Cinema Prize.

January 28, 2002, 8:00 - 11:00 PM
The JCC in Manhattan
334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th St.
\$8 members/\$12 non-members

State of anti-Semitism Address by Alan Dershowitz

January 30, 7:30 PM
92nd Street Y
92nd Street at Lexington Ave.

Questions?

Complaints?

Something to Say?

Email us your Letters to the Editor at
observer@ymail.yu.edu

Port Jefferson Station
Exhibit featuring the paintings of Leni Friedland in watercolor, acrylic and mixed media.

Cultural Arts

The Many Faces of Lubavitch Exhibition of Steve Hoffman's Photos

By Liana Biniashvili

The Lubavitch of Brooklyn, An Intimate Portrait," currently on exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, takes its viewer into the lifestyle and rituals of the Lubavitch tradition. The exhibit is comprised of a compilation of photographs taken by photographer Steve Hoffman; the photographs are a result of Hoffman's three years spent observing and photographing the Lubavitch community.

Lubavitch is a sect of Hassidism that originated 250 years ago in Lubavitch, Bellarussia, and whose main headquarters today are located in Brooklyn, New York. Their most noted organization is Chabad, a group that spreads Lubavitch Judaism around the world.

The photographs in the exhibit depict the Jewish rituals and everyday life of the Lubavitch community, known for its outreach through emissaries all over the world. One picture shows a young boy saying the *Shema* with his eyes closed. The photographer deftly hints to the viewer that the Lubavitch community believes in educating its youth from an early age and infusing its youth with an enthusiasm for Judaism and Jewish culture.

A poignant set of pictures details a Lubavitch wedding. Emotion is captured in the image of a bride being walked to the huppah by her mother. The bride's dress is pure white, and two women holding candles escort her, as is the Hassidic custom. The light beams across a veil that covers the bride's face. This scene is imbued with tradition. Another picture portrays the happy dancing at the wedding. The photos selected show the care the Lubavitch take in weddings and the passion that they bring to their events, emphasizing the importance of happiness and joy in their community.

The exhibit is a patchwork of photos that illuminates interesting aspects of the Lubavitch movement. A series of pictures details the work of Chabad emissaries in different countries. In one photo, Male emissaries in the community are shown around a large table looking at various documents.

Unique photos of the Lubavitch Rabbi, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902-1994) and his celebrated gravesite can be viewed. Another picture shows women praying at the Rebbe's grave, reminding the viewer that the Lubavitch consider women as having responsibility in *tikun olam* improving the world.

One photo portrays shoes



The exhibit includes photos on Jewish education, such as the one pictured above of a young boy reciting the shema

placed at a wall near the Rebbe's grave. The symbolism in removing the shoes represents Moses' removal of his shoes before the presence of G-d at the burning bush, and this photograph powerfully captures the Lubavitch's enchantment with the idea of messiah. It also captures Chabad's immersion in Torah study and admiration for the Rebbe's love of Torah.

There is also a short video of a minyan shows men praying, wearing the black suits and black hats that are customarily worn in the community. A cantor who had donned phylacteries, is immersed in great concentration and passion, leads the service.

Although the Lubavitch movement has been criticized for its apparent belief that the Rebbe is the Messiah, this exhibit remains apolitical, painting a positive and spiritual image of the community and endowing the visitor with an appreciation of the Lubavitch way of life.

"The Lubavitch of Brooklyn, An Intimate Portrait: Photographs by Steve Hoffman" is being shown at the Museum of the City of New York until February 3rd, 2003.



Hoffman captures the solemn grandeur of the marriage ceremony with his shot of a young Lubavitch woman being escorted to the huppah

Dining Out: Baruch's Deli and Grill

By Marisa Parker

At the corner of 28th Street and Lexington Avenue, Baruch's Deli and Grill is at a prime location for SCW students. It is rare to find authentic Israeli food in the heart of the city, but Baruch's pulls it off. Everything from the Israeli staff to the babaganush makes you feel like you are sitting in a restaurant in Israel. Enclosed by stain glass walls and decorated with colored tiles, Baruch's provides an enjoyable atmosphere.

The restaurant, which opened a year ago, boasts Israeli style cuisine. Dinner entrees are characteristically heavy. Dishes range from grilled chicken steaks to fish. The portions are extremely generous and the service is prompt and pleasant. The waitress that attended me and my friend even offered to let us taste the soups. A highlight of the meal was the fresh pita bread brought straight from the oven.

Extremely reasonable specials are available from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for lunch and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm for dinner. The Baruch Grilled Chicken Platter, which is a grilled chicken steak that comes with soup, fries, pita bread, Israeli salad and a drink, is priced at only \$10.95. Another excellent deal is the Rotisserie Chicken Platter Dinner Special. It comes with

two large pieces of white chicken and comes with the same sides as the Grilled Chicken Platter. Though the specials are practically priced, there is no student discount. Furthermore, as of yet, they are not open Saturday nights. However, during the week they close at 11 PM, just in time for a late-night study group snack.

One of the best things about Baruch's is its free delivery. "[The delivery is] extremely quick and efficient," said SCW senior Ilana Flatow. "I order from there on a regular basis."

The bottom line is that convenience is everything. Between hectic class schedules and appointments, you can't go wrong with choosing Baruch's. It has great sandwiches for lunch, which are quick and easy to pick up if you are on a tight schedule. Although students can usually be spotted dining at Baruch's sushi bar, Chinese food and

Indian food, which are due to debut in a week, are sure to draw even more students from SCW. They will also be making pita in an "eish tanur," which is a huge oven. So keep your eyes open on this up and coming hot spot. As Ilana Flatow put it, "Baruch Hashem for Baruch's."



Baruch's, shown above, offers middle eastern cuisine to midtown customers

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Annual Chanuka Concert A Success, Despite Snow

SCW Students Stranded Uptown After Security Cancels Shuttles

By Rachel Horn

Although the first severe snowstorm of the winter took place only hours before it commenced, the annual Chanukah Concert on December 5th attracted over 1000 people. "We thought the snow would affect the turnout, but thankfully it didn't," said YC President Shai Barnea. Tickets were sold out and every seat in Lamport Auditorium, the location of the concert, was filled, according to Barnea.

While though the concert was not canceled due to the weather, Yeshiva shuttles were, leaving many SCW students stranded at the Wilf campus. While Yeshiva did provide buses after the concert at 11:30pm, several students were unable to stake a seat on the few cramped school buses. Additionally, any student who

missed those buses had no alternative travel option except the subway or a taxi.

Yeshiva Facilities department arranged for one local van to transport students, yet many SCW students were left to find their own mode of transportation.

"I took a cab back to SCW because there was no other way," said Margueya Novick, SCW senior. Novick, like others, couldn't understand why it was safe enough to ride on school buses on the highway, but not on shuttles. "Students were going to be traveling and they needed to accommodate that no matter what," said Novick.

Student leaders were not informed of the decision to cancel shuttle service. "I am aware that there were some Stern girls who were unable to get a ride back and were forced to find alternate means of transportation," said Barnea, who helped find cabs for students. "I told them that YSU would reimburse them for the cab[rides]."

Despite the weather and transportation problems, both SCW and YC students enjoyed the annual concert. In addition to performer Dedi, Shwekey debuted for the first time at Yeshiva. The organizers of the concert decided to recruit Dedi and Shwekey this year for a change of pace. For the past four years, Avraham Fried has been a regular at the annual event. "I just thought we needed some change," said Yummy Schachter, who was the producer of this year's concert. "Shwekey is the hottest thing in Jewish music now, and is someone who I think everyone was interested in seeing in concert."

Another new star this year was Shlomo Simcha, a popular singer who is heavily influenced by Shlomo Carlebach. "He is

relatively new on the scene," said Schachter. "He has one of the most gorgeous voices out there."

Some students thought that in past years the audience received Fried better than this year's artists. "I missed Avraham Fried," said YC Junior Yitz Glass. "I think he's the best Jewish performer." While she believed the concert was a good publicity opportunity for Shwekey, SCW Junior Sarit Wenger thought the concert was not as lively as it could have been. "Since people don't know him, it was a little dead," she said. "I've been to Chanukah concerts in previous years that have been more energetic. The crowd has been more into it."

Other students, not as finicky about the performers, enjoyed the opportunity to take a break from studying and to socialize with their friends. For them, the environment is more important than the singers. "At the beginning, I thought people would not buy tickets to hear Dedi and Shwekey," said SCW ticket manager Nechama Gottleib. "I never heard of Shwekey. But it turned out really great. Everyone came to enjoy the atmosphere." Students who might not have experienced the holiday atmosphere on campus throughout the week, were able to at the concert, she explained.

Takaseem, winner of the Battle of the Bands, opened with two original songs. Jesse Asher, David Asher and Ben Antelis played "B'lila" and "Gam." "It was an honor to have the opportunity to perform," said Jesse Asher.

Highlights of the concert also included YC Senior Jeremy Neiss' rendition of "Hatikvah" and former YC President Lou Shapp's dance on stage.

The concert also provided an opportunity for young singers to debut. Aspiring singer Baruch Avitai sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the concert, and "V'atah Bonim" and "Ilan Ilan" with Shlomo Simcha. Thirteen-year-old Avi Begun, who is releasing an album before Pesach sang with Shwekey.

The current dire situation in Israel did not go unrecognized at the concert. Dedi expressed his appreciation for the support that the Yeshiva student body gives to Israel. "I see at the Kotel and in Chevron boys and girls from YU," said Dedi. "Thank you for coming to learn and support us." All concert proceeds will go to the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund. Still tallying the ticket sales, the concert staff is unsure if the concert was profitable.



Jesse Asher of Takaseem, which made its big debut at the concert photo credits, Stanley J. Weiss



Dedi sings popular Jewish songs photo credit Stanley J. Weiss

Student Life Committee Works to Improve Life on Campus

By Arie Staller

The issues range from the garbage cans to van service. No matter what the problem, there is a committee at SCW that is devoted to improving all areas of student life on campus.

The Student Life Committee, chaired by Rachel Shtern and Yael Reisman, serves as the liaison between students and administrators. "We discuss topics that directly affect the students like local vans, scheduling problems and school policies," explains Shtern. "We'll always try to work out [issues]."

The Student Life Committee gathers monthly with administrators from the Dean's Office, Student Services, Security, and Facilities to discuss current concerns. All the student councils, as well as the *Observer*, have seats on the committee. Two student representatives from each class- except for the senior class that is represented by the student councils- report to the student life committee about challenges facing the student body. "We base our issues on the feedback we get from the student representatives," says Reisman. "They are like our ears."

According to Shtern, the deans and faculty members that comprise the committee are usually receptive to hearing the problems of the students. "They listen to what we say and respond accordingly," she says.

In past years the Student Life Committee has dealt with a variety of issues ranging from security, van service, and even laundry. "Think of it as everyday quality of life issues," says Reisman. "That's what we're here for."

This year, the Student Life Committee has worked to find a solution to the problematic local van service. In past years, students needing transportation locally could call for specific pick-ups.

Beginning this year, a regular schedule is in place for local vans.

As a result of the committee's efforts, the schedule has been modified and improved. "There used to be only one local van," explains Shtern. "Now there are two. Although they still run like a bus route, it is still more efficient than it was in the beginning of the year."

Although students are still quick to complain about the current van service, Shtern insists that most students are just used to the past system, but because the transportation vehicles are different, a different system has to be in place. The Student Life Committee insists that students are often unaware of the reasoning behind a decision.

Additionally, though the Committee is constantly working on improving services and conditions for students, many students are not aware of its efforts on their behalf. For example, Shtern and Reisman were responsible for the new extended hours in the SCW computer labs.

At SCW, SCWSC president chooses the chairpersons of the Student Life Committee. Additionally, while the Student Life Committee at SCW is a separate entity from the Student Council, Shai Barnea, president of the Yeshiva Student Union, chairs the YC Student Life Committee. The Student Union uptown feels that their approach provides the president with greater authority.

Both Shtern and Reisman enjoy the opportunity to affect change. "Even though we may not get everything we ask for," says Shtern, "there are tons of things that get done, and we should be appreciative to the administration."

Students are encouraged to bring relevant issues and concerns to the Student Life Committee (studentlife03@yahoo.com).

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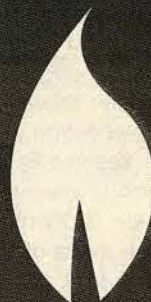
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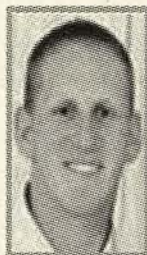
YA'AKOV HATZAV THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE

For Ya'akov Hatzav, knowledge was a tool for personal growth. Naturally curious and possessing a strong mind, Ya'akov trained at the Technion, an elite science institute in Haifa, Israel. Though he was born in Israel, Ya'akov mastered the English language in only two years while studying in Boston, Massachusetts.

Combining his intellectual talents with a deep love for Israel, Ya'akov, 42, became a licensed tour guide. "He knew all of Tanach [Scriptures]," said his wife, Aya. "He used to read it every night before he went to sleep." Ancient sites and archeological locations came to life under Ya'akov's guidance. His tours became so popular that he was often sought out by visiting Christian tours groups.

Known as Kobi to family and friends, Ya'akov met his wife Aya while attending a preparatory course at the Technion. Aside from his passion for the Tanach, Kobi loved to read in general. An avid dancer, Kobi devoted himself to the care of his two young boys, and instilled in them a love for Israel and its history.

YA'AKOV HATZAV WAS KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2001, IN A SHOOTING ATTACK 300 METERS SOUTH OF THE ADAM JUNCTION IN THE JORDAN VALLEY.



CHAGAI LEV PASSION FOR THE LAND

Chagai Lev dedicated his life to family, friends, and Israel. Modestly and quietly, he went about ensuring the well being of all those he encountered. His mother, Noa, recalled that the family discovered how highly respected Chagai had been in the army only after his death. He had never bragged about his accomplishments, nor did he speak of them.

Friendly and giving, Chagai, 24, always offered to help out whenever he could. From a simple get together to a Bnei Akiva program, Chagai would always volunteer to organize various activities. After devoting more a year to religious study at Atzmona, a yeshiva in Gush Katif, Chagai developed a strong love for the land of Israel and its people. He had even asked permission from his wife, Nurit, to allow

him two more years to be in the army. "He was big on Zionism. He really believed in what he was doing," said his mother.

On his own initiative, he would go back to his high school and speak to the students about the importance of going to the army. In his free time, Chagai loved to hike across the landscape of Israel and took a strong interest in science, especially the area of electricity. A devoted husband who was beloved by his young nieces and nephews, Chagai made a lasting difference in the lives of those who knew him.

CHAGAI LEV WAS KILLED ON JULY 10, 2002, WHILE CONDUCTING A SEARCH FOR WEAPONS NEAR RAFAH IN THE SOUTHERN GAZA STRIP.



ASSAF AVITAN SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING

"A day without, laughter is a day without sunshine."

Assaf Avitan was the laughter and the sunshine in the lives of everyone who knew him. Amongst his many incredible talents, one that stands out in the minds of his family and friends, was his incredible ability to connect with his peers. With a smile that never left his face, Assaf was able to bring happiness and laughter to everyone around him. His constant jokes and great sense of humor led him to be known as the "neighborhood clown."

A constant source of cheerfulness to his friends, Assaf even had a special sensitivity to those with whom he was not particularly close. Once, in a school play designed to show how Israelis and Arabs might one day coexist, Assaf played the part of an Arab. He played the role outstandingly, showing exceptional sensitivity to both points of view. Assaf clearly had an extraordinary way with people, and was so well liked by everyone who knew him.

ASSAF AVITAN WAS KILLED AT THE BEN-YEHUDA PEDESTRIAN MALL IN THE CENTER OF JERUSALEM ON DECEMBER 1, 2001.



TEHILLA MAOZ TREMENDOUS LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Tehilla Moaz had an extremely difficult childhood. At the age of six, her parents divorced, forcing Tehilla to

deal with more stress than most kids her age. Perhaps her own childhood experience led to her special closeness with children later on. Her exceptional love for children, was very clearly seen through her special connection to her nieces and nephews.

As a student on a kibbutz, Tehilla, 18, was required to take on a job as well. She worked in the children's house where she took care of young children ranging in age from 2-4. The joy that she received from working with these children was tremendous, and her love for them grew even stronger. "As a result of her difficult childhood, Tehilla was determined to make the lives of other children happier. She wanted every child to smile and be happy," remarked her mother.

TEHILLA MAOZ WAS KILLED IN THE SBARRO'S PIZZERIA ON AUGUST 9, 2001, TWO WEEKS BEFORE HER NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY.



YISROEL YIHYE RESCUE EFFORTS

Yisroel Yihye saw the value in every life. As a medical emergency volunteer, Yisroel came face to face with tragedy, but never lost his sense of hope and optimism. "He had an amazing perspective on life," recalled one friend who worked alongside Yisroel.

Born and raised in Bnai Brak, Yisroel, 28, devoted his time away from work to religious study, first at local yeshivos, then at Yeshivas Mir in Jerusalem. During his years of study, Yisroel volunteered to serve Magen Dovid Adom as well as ZAKA, an organization in charge of rescue and recovery efforts at sites of terrorism. "Many people owe their lives to him," noted Yisroel's friend.

When his father passed away, Yisroel took care of his many siblings, seeing to it that all of their needs were met. A warm and kind-hearted person, Yisroel left behind a legacy of heroism and responsibility for others to follow. **YISROEL YIHYE WAS KILLED ON MAY 3, 2002, WHILE TRYING TO RESCUE VICTIMS OF A SHOOTING NEAR NETANYA.**

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WWW.KOLHANESHAMA.NET.

Katzenstein and Yeshiva Reach Financial Settlement

By Caryn Litt

Ms. Susan Katzenstein, former Office of Student Finances employee who has been alleging age discrimination against the University, has opted to settle with Yeshiva rather than take her case to court. Yeshiva has agreed to pay Katzenstein five months' and three weeks' pay, a value of approximately \$20,000.

"I'm not thrilled with it, but I don't want to fight anymore," said Katzenstein.

Katzenstein, who was fired abruptly from her position as Assistant Director of Financial Aid last May after 24 years of service, had originally sought five years' pay and then reduced her claim to one year's pay. At an October meeting between Katzenstein and Yeshiva officials mediated by the New York State Division of Human Rights, Yeshiva offered Katzenstein around three months' pay, but Katzenstein rejected the offer.

Yeshiva returned with an offer of five months. Katzenstein, 64, asked that Yeshiva pay her medical insurance until she becomes eligible for Medicare next

year. In November, Yeshiva added an additional three weeks' pay to its offer.

Based on the DHR mediator's assessment that a court case could take five years or longer to be resolved, Katzenstein opted to settle.

"I didn't want to be bothered," said Katzenstein. "I probably gave in too easy."

Mark Potel, Yeshiva's lawyer involved in this case, declined to comment.

Katzenstein, who has been having a difficult time finding a new job because of her age and lack of a college degree, has been living off of her unemployment checks. Those checks are about to be stopped, as she is approaching the federally regulated 26 week limit for unemployment.

Yeshiva has not yet paid Katzenstein, although she has requested that the payment be made before the end of the year. Next year, Katzenstein will most likely ask for early social security, which is a little less per month than regular social security, and she would have to pay the social security amount back if she receives the \$20,000 next year, Katzenstein said.

Members of the Yeshiva community

were shocked when Katzenstein was dismissed last year. Katzenstein, who worked at both campuses, was generally well liked and had received numerous promotions, raises and commendation letters over the years. Just last week, Katzenstein received a phone call from a student asking her to return, said Katzenstein.

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

Having been given no reason by Director of Student Finance Jean Belmont for her dismissal other than that her work was "unsatisfactory," and noting that two young employees who had been hired shortly before her dismissal were promoted to her position, Katzenstein enlisted the aid of the New York State DHR to pursue a complaint of age discrimination.

Belmont has announced an early retirement and will be leaving within the next few months, although whether her leaving is connected with the Katzenstein case has not been confirmed.

Student Employees

continued from back page

This slow payment problem has only arisen for students in the work-study program. Students working for Yeshiva in other capacities, such as the writing center, and waitresses who are not enrolled in the work-study program have not reported any problems. The purpose of work-study is to provide students with the opportunity to alleviate their financial situation, by providing an on campus job for up to fifteen hours a week. There is usually a lot of paperwork involved.

Singer is responsible for both work-study and standard student employees. Since the non-work-study students have received payment, it seems as though sole blame cannot be placed on Singer. Some have suggested that higher-ups in Food Services should remedy the problem. Jacob Lieberman, Associate Director of Food Services, declined to comment.

So far, the shifting of blame has not been enough to help the students get paid. "We are perpetually being given the run around," one student said. "It is unfair and we have no recourse."

The failure to pay the students in a timely fashion is actually against the law. "Clerical and other employees must be paid at least twice a month," said a spokesman for the office of Attorney General Elliot Spitzer.

Fencing Begins Season with a Bang

By Shoshana Herman

Fencing season officially began for the Lady Macs on Thursday, December 12th, with a 14-13 win over Hunter College. The Lady Macs went 5-4 with both the sabre and foil swords and 4-5 with the epee sword.

Despite the team going 4-5 in epee, SSSB senior Sarah Brodsky won all three of her epee sword bouts.

The game was relatively evenly played down to the last match. Hunter and SCW were tied at 13. The deciding bout was being fought in foil between Chani Angster, an SSSB senior, and Hunter College's Tassamai Sawetpibul. They were tied 4-4 when Sawetpibul backed Angster down the strip. With one foot out, Angster quickly rebounded, executing a parry riposte on Sawetpibul. A parry is the term for when a fencer blocks an attacker's blade from hitting a target area; a riposte is the defending fencer's attack after he successfully parries his opponent's attack. Had Angster allowed both of her feet to step out of the strip, Sawetpibul would have earned the point, allowing Hunter to win all three of the foil rounds, and the game.

Although the game at Hunter was the first official game of the season, members of the team also competed in an individuals competition on Sunday December 8th.

The team practices twice a week, Monday and Wednesday evenings, from 7:30- 9:30pm. They are coached by Judy Cummins, who was sabre coach for two years before becoming head coach last year. Coach Cummins is United States Fencing Association (USFA) certified, was a nationally ranked sabre fencer for eleven years and has won a silver medal in the Veteran Women's Sabre Competition at the USFA Championships. Cummins has also taught fencing at NYU, Borough of Manhattan College, Yeshiva of Flatbush and the Carroll School in Brooklyn. She was also on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Section of the USFA for seven years.

The assistant coach, Zheniya Kamyshanova, is in her second year coaching at SCW. Kamyshanova was a member of the Ukraine National fencing team and served as Head Master of the Specialized Children and Youth Sports School of Olympic Reserve in Kiev before immigrating to America in 1999.

The Lady Macs will compete against City College on January 30th, followed by three multi-school games in February.

Last season the Lady Macs also began with a 1-0 record and ended the season in 4th place with a 6-8 record. The odds are now in favor of SCW, since they beat City College the last time the two teams met. Now that they've proven they can win in a tight situation, the rest of the season looks optimistic.

Dress Code

continued from front page
homogeneous student body.

Notwithstanding their loud presence on campus, students who breach the dress code are still fewer than those who do not. Some students on campus feel the letter was necessary. "I am happy they are addressing this issue," said SCW junior Estee Schiffman. "Though I haven't noticed a change in the way people are dressing, it is reassuring to know something is being done."

According to SCWSC president Sharon Weiss, there has been both negative and positive feedback. "I am not sure if things have changed, but I am glad we went through with it and hope to see some improvement," said Weiss.

SCW's long-standing dress policy, which is generally unenforced, became the object of much contention, after a discussion at the Student Leadership Shabbaton. The issue mushroomed into an open forum on October 22, which was substantially attended by students on both sides of the argument and consisted of heated debate. The

content of the letter was based on the opinions expressed at the forum.

Dean Karen Bacon opposed the letter because it presented a clear contradiction to the current dress policy. But leaders were allowed to issue the letter, with the caveat that the letter does not reflect a change in policy. "We were told they cannot change the policy, but that they would allow us to send out the letter," said Weiss.

According to the status quo as reflected in the 2002 orientation booklet, "Dresses and skirts of appropriate length, and blouses with sleeves must be worn at all times in the college buildings [not including dormitories]."

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 increasing violations of the policy, the administration feels they have reached a threshold of tolerance and a response is imperative. "We need to enlist people's compliance, or else we will end up with a police state," said Bacon.

Dress Code Letter to Student Body

To Our Fellow Students,

As a result of the student open forum on October 22, 2002, and as a means of creating a comfortable environment within the Stern College for Women/ Sy Syms School of Business community, a "common ground" has been reached. We, the joint executive student councils, are asking that our fellow students take a step toward alleviating the tension in regard to the current dress situation.

Stern College for Women and Sy Syms School of Business both have the status of a yeshiva l'banot. We encourage all students to wear skirts and shirts of appropriate length during primary school hours, being Monday thru Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM in the 245 and 215 Lexington school buildings. This standard of dress is reflective of the prime class hours that take place during this time. Students also feel, however, that an element of dignity and modesty should be apparent at all times in the school building. Students recognize that this is a way of unifying our student body while allowing for a comfortable environment where individuality can flourish. The respect and open-mindedness that we will illustrate in this endeavor will further strengthen our campus community.

Thank you in advance for understanding the importance of this matter. We appreciate your support in enhancing campus life.

From the Midtown Student Council Boards,

SCWSC

Sharon Weiss
Miryam Khavarani
Michelle Amini
Arie Staller

TAC

Lisa Grundman
Shoshana Hulkower
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ON CAMPUS

Yeshiva Enforces Guest Policy, Despite Protest

By Anat Barber

After a private meeting with an expert in the field of technical assistance and buildings department consulting services, Student Life Committee co-chairmen SCW senior Rachel Shtern and SCW junior Yael Reisman have been convinced of the legitimacy of the new, controversial guest policy. The emphasis has now shifted to devising creative ways to accommodate guests lawfully.

At the behest of the Student Life Committee, Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management, invited an expert in the field of building codes to explain the intricacies of the codes. Sergio Ghiano, Vice President of Design at 2147 Limited, spoke with the students regarding the new policy on campus, which forbids overnight guests in single occupancy rooms, and validated its legal basis. Ghiano's fees were covered by the Office of Facilities Management as a courtesy to the students.

The purpose of the meeting, held on Friday, December 13th, was three-fold, Shtern and Reisman said: to ascertain whether the occupancy code is indeed a law or merely an arbitrary Yeshiva policy, to understand the legal implications of the term "occupancy" and to devise creative means of dealing with students' desires to have guests on campus.

After nearly two hours of amiable discussion, the Student Life Committee chairs became convinced that there are indeed laws regarding occupancy.

"We spoke about the policy, and the conversation was very positive," Shtern commented. "[Ghiano] went to great lengths to make the law clear to us."

Despite the justification of the law, many logistical issues are still left to be resolved, according to Reisman and Shtern. At the crux of the argument is the definition of the term occupancy, which legally connotes a stay of twenty minutes or more in a given area. The implications of such a code would pose an even greater problem for students living in single occupancy rooms.

"The most difficult aspect of this situation is how we, as a student advocacy committee, explain to the student body why we are the only university that abides by the law," commented Reisman.

Among the many other reputable universities in New York City, those with similar housing facilities have not been found espousing a similar "no guest policy." Ghiano was quick to respond that while



The guest policy is being enforced, particularly in single-room dorm like Schottenstein, pictured above

this may be true, the failure of other universities to comply with the law does not deny the legitimacy of the law. He also stated that were these violations on other campuses to be exposed, there would be grievous consequences.

Several ideas have been suggested in order to deal with the students' desires to house guests on campus. One of the options suggested was leaving a potential guest room vacant on each floor. However, due to increased enrollment and already brimming dormitories, this solution seems highly unfeasible.

Since the policy was first revealed, a flyer has been posted on every door in both the Schottenstein and 36th Street Residence Halls and the Residence Hall informing students, "It is your responsibility to pre-arrange an empty bed for your guest...and to arrange access to this agreed upon space." Students have been complying with this rule since the appearance of the flyers, but the policy has been heavily criticized.

"This is my home for the year, and I want to have guests," said SSSB junior Rivki Malyzner. "If the school is going to make such a rule, let them at least accommodate us by providing a room for our guests."

Many students also resented the abruptness of this rule. "Had I known that this was the policy, I would not have chosen to live in 36th Street," added Malyzner.

Though some progress has been made in understanding the theoretical conception of the law, SCW administrators must still deal with the logistical reality. "We will certainly try to be as helpful as we can," said David Himer, University Dean of Students.

Student Employees Complain of Paycheck Delays

By Shayndi Raice

In a violation of New York State's Labor laws, many of Yeshiva's work-study program participants are not being compensated for services rendered.

The Office of Student Finances contends that students who take part in the program are paid every week. However, many SCW students have reported time lapses of over a year throughout which they were not remunerated. They have also complained that not only is payment being received extremely late or not at all, but that checks that are finally received often contain errors in the sum.

"I didn't get paid for a very long time, and when I finally did get paid it was a fourth of the amount it should be," said SCW sophomore Rebecca Rosenberg, who works in the Schottenstein store. Aside from what students view as unprofessionalism, the problems in payment



Students who work at university operation, such as Milner's Mart, above, complain of pay check problems

have also left many students with bills they are unable to pay.

Arie Staller, a junior at SCW, worked at Milner's Mart convenience store during her freshman year. Though she had all her paperwork done properly, she never received a payment due her, an amount totaling one hundred dollars. She has approached Moshe Singer, manager of

Senior Class to Publish Co-ed Yearbook

By Rachel Fyman

For the first time in Yeshiva's history, plans are underway this year to publish a joint yearbook for the SCW and YC graduating class of '03.

Under the direction of three editors-in-chief--SSSB senior Penina Lieber, SCW senior Estie Silver, and YC senior Eli Selblum--the large yearbook staff made up of students from both campuses has had several meetings already and is confident that the project will be a success.

In order to ease the transition of the merger, the yearbook staff has decided to maintain the traditional yearbook titles from both colleges. As such, this year's yearbook will be called Masmid-Kochaviah 2003. The book will include graduates from YC and SCW, as well

as separate sections for events on each campus. "We are separate but together," Lieber explained. "There have been lots of events over the past four years that have affected all of us, on both campuses."

The idea to have one yearbook for both colleges has garnered both positive and negative feedback. "Some people are skeptical, but a lot of people seem to want the yearbook," said Lieber. "We've had many responses from students who want to help out." According to Senior Class President Esther Glazer, even many sophomores and juniors have volunteered to assist in production.

No yearbook has been published at YC in several years and at SCW since 2000, despite efforts at both schools each year to create one. Students point to the tremendous work and expenses involved in such a publication as the cause. However, the two undergraduate colleges hope that by working together, the yearbook can become a reality this year. "By joining forces, we can really make it great," Lieber asserted. "It will be easier to get one budget than two."

The yearbook is not receiving funding from the University this year. However, according to Lieber, the senior class presidents have spoken to the Alumni Association, which is willing to lend support. Talks are underway with the President's Circle as well. Lieber hopes that by selling advertisements and enlisting sponsors for various sections of the yearbook, they will be able to cover their costs.

The joint yearbook will be significantly larger than past yearbooks in order to accommodate twice as many graduates and events. Editors are estimating that the hardcover book will contain over 300 pages, half of which will be in color. Though it will cost over \$40,000 to pro-

duce a book of that size, editors hope to raise enough money to keep the price of the yearbook down, under \$40 dollars.

The yearbook will be published in August, and will therefore include senior dinner and graduation. Students who purchase a copy will receive it in the mail.

Due to the unimpressive turnout for graduation pictures in past years--only about one-third of graduates sat for pictures--students

involved this year hope to lower the photographer's sitting fee to encourage more seniors to take pictures to submit to the yearbook. Because the committee started planning late in the semester, graduation pictures will not be taken until the end of January. In order to accommodate January graduates, however, those students will be



SCW Senior Penina Lieber takes the reigns of the class yearbook, along with two other students

allowed to submit their own photographs as well. "We want to get at least 400 seniors," Lieber stated.

In addition to graduation pictures, the editors hope to include in the yearbook a directory of all graduates and their e-mail and permanent addresses. The office of the registrar will provide this information, as well as students' major and co-curricular activities that will accompany the individual pictures.

Currently, there is no precise count available of how many students are graduating in 2003, though the yearbook staff is working with an estimate of about 500 graduates from both campuses. The registrar cannot determine exact numbers until after January 28th, the deadline for students to file for graduation in May.

The idea to make a joint yearbook for both colleges originated with YC senior class president, D.T. Jacobs. He approached Glazer at the student leadership shabbaton in the beginning of the semester, and both agreed to undertake the endeavor. "It's a small school and it's silly not to have a yearbook," said Glazer. "It's something we need to bring back and revive."

Last year, SCW's graduating class compiled a yearbook on CD ROM instead of hard copy. They hoped that students would be excited about the use of modern technology allowing for video clips of students, rather than just photographs. However, the CD cost students \$80 and was not as well received as anticipated.

"We're going back to the old ways with a published book," said Lieber. "It's more fun, and it's something you will want to have on your shelf to look at in 20 years."

Food Services at the midtown campus, numerous times. "Every time I broach the subject with him, I am told to redo my paperwork," said Staller. "Now, as a junior, I have still not been paid."

Rosa Harmon, the associate in the Office of Student Finances responsible for students in the work-study program, admitted that when a student first applies for work-study, the initial paycheck is often delayed or late. "It usually takes a month or so for everything to get straightened out," Harmon explained. "But if there are problems beyond that, it means the employer is not sending things in a timely

fashion."

Most students in work-study are employed through Singer, either as Shabbat waitresses or in one of the convenience stores in the residence halls. However, Singer has told students that any mistake in their paycheck was the mistake of the payroll office located on the Wilf campus.

The payroll office vehemently denied Singer's accusation. "A late paycheck is usually the fault of the direct employer," said Harmon. "The employer is probably slow at filling out the paperwork or the paperwork isn't correct."

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