



Yeshiva University Observer

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Students Remember Seven Lost Astronauts

By Caryn Litt

Several hundred SCW students and faculty members gathered in Koch Auditorium on Wednesday, February 5th to memorialize the seven astronauts, including the first Israeli astronaut Colonel Ilan Ramon, who died in the Columbia space shuttle disaster on February 2nd. The service featured an address by Dean Karen Bacon, the reading of the biographies of the seven astronauts and a special Powerpoint presentation.

"We gather together as a group to relieve ourselves of some of this sense of tragedy," said Dean Bacon in her seven-minute address. "We also gather to pay tribute...to seven exceptional men and women. It is very unlikely that any one of us in this room will walk the paths they walked, will see the things they saw."

Dean Bacon mentioned Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's explanation of the two aspects of man presented in Genesis, one that strives for majesty by harvesting nature into the service of mankind, and the other that seeks an intimate relationship with God, achieving humility. All of the astronauts fulfilled the mission of creativity and majesty, and it is known that



Israeli astronaut Colonel Ilan Ramon was among the seven astronauts who perished on the Columbia space shuttle

Colonel Ilan Ramon, at least, also fulfilled the mission of humility, said Dean Bacon. "May you in your life's work achieve majesty and humility as they did in theirs," Dean Bacon told the audience.

Following the address, biographies of each of the seven astronauts - Rick Husband, William McCool, Michael Anderson, Kaplana Chawla, David Brown, Laurel Salton Clark and Ilan Ramon - were read by students.

"We thought it was important
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MTA and Central to Separate from Yeshiva

New Plan Calls for Financial Independence

By Miriam Colton

Ending a five-year saga, which included the threat of a possible closing, the Yeshiva high schools will separate from the University at the end of the academic year. The legal maneuver will establish the high schools as an affiliate of the University, while maintaining financial and administrative independence.

The exact terms of the shift are still under negotiations. The high schools will remain in their current locations, for which a 99-year lease is being sought by the newly-formed high school executive board. "It's not a complete divorce," said Dr. Felix Glaubach, co-chair of the board. "The University has agreed to subsidize the schools for two years, up to a certain

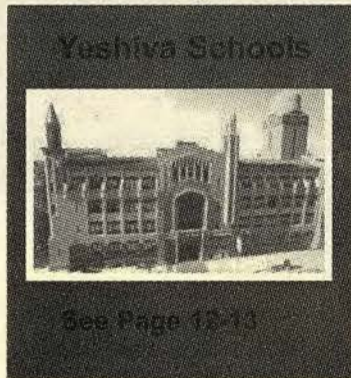
point, currently being negotiated."

The continued affiliation mainly pertains to the boys' high school, the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy (MTA), which shares the uptown campus with YC and RIETS. The high schools students will continue to learn in the RIETS *beis medrash*, take courses at YC in their senior year, and have access to special events. Additionally, the high schools will maintain an "educational affiliation" to the University, particularly in regard to Torah U'madda.

The exact legalities of the change will be ironed out in the next few months. Yeshiva officials are hoping to make an formal announcement at the annual high school dinner scheduled for March 9th.

President Dr. Norman Lamm and president-elect Richard Joel have been active in the change, marking one of Joel's first official actions at Yeshiva. "Dr. Lamm and Mr. Joel are behind the move, provided they remain schools of excellence and continue in their physical locations," said Elliot Gibber, co-chair of the board. Gibber, an energetic activist for the high

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Art Department Settles in 215 Lex

Elevator Crowding Upsets Students

By Anat Barber

After much logistical planning on the part of facilities management and Art department chairperson, Susan Gardner, the SCW art annex has settled in its new home on the eight floor of the 215 Lexington Avenue school building. The move took place during Yeshiva's intersession.

Toward the end of the fall semester, students and faculty members were concerned that the new annex would be a downgrade from the old site and that the new space would not be ready in time for the spring semester.

Similar hesitation existed when the art annex first moved to its previous home on 29th Street, and ultimately students were extremely pleased with the facility, Director of Facilities Management, Jeffrey Rosengarten noted.

In fact, most concerns have been assuaged as art students adapt to the new space, though reaction to the new locale has been varied. Since the annex is still in its transient stage, some students feel a bit unsettled. "Many things are still being rearranged," SCW junior Debbie Greene said. "We haven't completely finished setting ourselves up."

Greene did note that an advantage to the new location is that the art students are now closer to other students. The previous home for the art annex, across from Schottenstein Residence Hall on 29th Street, left art students feeling isolated from the rest of the student body.

The renovation of the eighth floor includes a new classroom that is being used for all classes, not just art classes.

However many students feel

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Talmud Graduate Program Sees Boost in Applicants

By Alisa Rose

When Stern College introduced a graduate program in Talmud three years ago, it was difficult to attract qualified applicants to fill the ten spots. But as the program's administrators begin to review applications for its fourth year, interest in the program seems to be increasing.

"Applications are coming in at a very good pace," said Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, the program's director, after a review of some of the applications that had been received before the February 18 deadline. "There are more than ten highly qualified applicants."

The Graduate Program for



Rabbi Moshe Kahn teaches Graduate Talmud Program students

Women in Advanced Talmud Studies is a two-year program, which is sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation. It is intended to afford women the opportunity to engage in Talmud study on an

advanced level, with the hope that they will use those skills to become teachers. Participants in the program receive an annual stipend of \$18,000 from the Avi Chai Foundation, and they are

awarded a certificate at the conclusion of the two-year program. The majority of the women in the program are also simultaneously enrolled in Yeshiva University's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration or the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Judaic Studies. The Avi Chai Foundation also covers the tuition costs to encourage the women to pursue Master's Degrees.

In the past, coordinators have had difficulty drawing applicants with the strong *gemara* skills that the program demands. Rabbi Moshe Kahn, an SCW professor and teacher in the program,

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Spotlight on Mizrach

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29th Street Shul Rabbi Celebrates 90th Birthday

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Lady Macs Player Scores 1,000 Career Points

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EDITORIALS

Ilan Ilan, B'Mah Avarechicha?

Last Wednesday, we gathered once again to commemorate a tragedy, the shocking loss of the space shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts. The death of the first Israeli astronaut in space, Ilan Ramon, made the national calamity hit even closer to home.

Practically every newspaper reporting on the tragedy noted the unique significance of the mission for Ramon, a son of Holocaust survivors. His strong sense of Jewish identity was apparent in his choice of the objects he brought to space - a Torah scroll that had miraculously survived the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, a mezuzah and kosher food, among other objects.

Ramon insisted that he was not religious. Yet when he flew over Jerusalem and recited the Shema Yisrael, as the media reported, Ramon identified himself with his people and produced a kiddush Hashem to a degree few could ever match. If he had a moment before his death, there is no doubt that he prayed a final Shema.

We have much to learn from a man who was not Orthodox yet was deeply religious. His example should inspire to us to live a life that is not only limited to the observance of halakha, but that includes a commitment to sending a positive message to the world about what it means to be a Jew.

When Yeshiva Doesn't Know Best

The recent opening of the 8th floor of the 215 Lexington Avenue building signaled a positive advancement in the development of our campus. At the same time, the move also highlighted the often frustrating level of security that students must endure.

The students' desire to risk mixing in the stairwell with the building's non-SCW employees rather than wait for the one crowded elevator has had no impact on administrators. They, of course, are concerned for our safety, and they presumably believe with all sincerity that they are protecting us for our own good.

However, when students actively protest the security measures, those measures cross the line from protective to stiflingly inhibitive. By the time they get to college, students do not want to be treated like children anymore. They want to take responsibility for themselves.

The promise to end door checks is certainly a step in the right direction. That security guards were authorized to enter students' rooms and lock their doors without their permission could only be described as an invasion of privacy. We hope the end to door checks will be the first of many steps toward greater liberty and personal responsibility for SCW students.

The Observer

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Calendar of Events

February/March 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 9 YU Model United Nations XIII	10 YU Model United Nations XIII	11 YU Model United Nations XIII	12	13 Lady Macs vs. St. Josephs, 7:30pm SOY Seforim Sale	14	15 TAC/MMY Shabbaton with Rabbi Berzon
16 Lecture, Rabbi Carmy and Dr. Shatz, Weissberg Commons Seforim Sale	17 Lady Macs vs. Mt. St. Vincent, 7:30pm Seforim Sale	18 JPD PSS Panel Discussion on Iraq, Ivry Student Center, 8pm	19 Seforim Sale	20 Lady Macs vs. College of New Rochelle, 7:30pm Seforim Sale	21	22 Russian Club Shabbaton Seforim Sale
23 <i>A Celebration of the World of Dr. Levy</i> , classical music concert, YU Museum, 2pm Seforim Sale	24 YU Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts: Alexandra Zapruder, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	25 Belkin/Revel Literary Awards, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 7pm Seforim Sale	26	27 Seforim Sale	28	March 1 Senior Class Shabbaton
2 Last Day of SOY Seforim Sale	3	4	5	6	7	8 Spanish Club/Canada Club Shabbaton
9	10	11	12	13 YSU Purim Concert, Lampport Auditorium	14	15 Freshman Class Shabbaton
16	17 Taanit Esther No Classes TAC/YSU Purim Chagigas	18 Purim No Classes	19 Shushan Purim	20	21	22 Scholar-in-Residence: Mrs. Naomi Grunhaus Melave Malka with Neshama Carlbach

From The Editor's Desk



CARYN LITT
Editor-in-Chief

An article about modern Orthodoxy, and in particular YU, recently appeared in the Ideas section of the Sunday edition of The Boston Globe. Written by Naomi Schaefer and entitled, "Yeshiva Divided, Orthodox Judaism's Identity Crisis," the article used Senator Joseph Lieberman's bid for presidency as a springboard for a discussion of modern Orthodoxy's viability. Using YU as a test case, Schaefer, who is currently working on a book about religious colleges in America, concluded that "the appeal (and population numbers) of the ultra-Orthodox seem to be exploding, while the centrist, outward-looking vision epitomized by Lieberman is increasingly a thing of the past."

Schaefer pointed to the increasing polarization of the student body, the extremism of some of the rabbis, the anger expressed regarding professors who offer differing viewpoints and the cheating in secular courses as evidence that Yeshiva as a modern Orthodox institution is on its way to disappearing.

Aside from the obvious public relations embarrassment – Schaefer basically undermines Yeshiva's Torah U'Mada raison d'être – the article as a research document is flawed. Schaefer's sources are questionable and few, and her manipulation of those sources to suit her purposes seem dishonest. Additionally, either some of her calculations are exaggerated, or her terminology is imprecise. (The student body, according to Schaefer, is "about evenly divided between modern orthodox and the ultra-orthodox").

However, to me, as a journalist, the most jarring and fundamental flaw of the article is that it simply misses half the story. You see, it is evident from the article that Schaefer reached her conclusions from observing only the Wilf campus. The issues she discusses are largely Wilf campus issues, such as cheating and pressure from rabbis. The student leaders she quotes are Wilf campus student leaders. The professors she cites are mainly Wilf campus professors. Through the entire article – In the whole article, Schaefer devotes only half a sentence to SCW, "the separate women's campus, Stern College, has a less extensive religious program, in accordance with tradition."

Had Schaefer visited the midtown campus, she would have observed the exposure to culture and ideas that SCW offers (through both the Honors Program and the Metropolitan Experience), the updated curricula, such as the women's studies minor, and the fairly untraditional amount and types of learning in which students are engaging. These observations would no doubt have complicated her conclusion that Yeshiva is moving to the right.

However, Schaefer did not consider the midtown campus in her evaluation of modern Orthodoxy. Truthfully, I don't

blame her. The omission of SCW from a serious appraisal of Yeshiva merely seems to follow a pattern of the failure to recognize SCW as an integral part of the Yeshiva family.

In a previous column, I argued that SCW should be valued for its own sake, and not merely for its attachment to Yeshiva. I still believe that, but I would like to refine that point. For while it would be demeaning for SCW to be considered only a vestigial institution, there are times when it is simply inappropriate for our college to be excluded from the Yeshiva community. For instance, when someone writes an article about the direction Yeshiva is headed, or a book about religious colleges in America, it is simply absurd that half of the undergraduate student body should be ignored.

Disregard such as Schaefer's serves only to increase the alienation that SCW students already feel in relation to the Yeshiva community. I would wager that the majority of SCW students lack a feeling of being associated with a higher purpose. In fact, if there is one object of envy that I have, it is that we at SCW lack the cohesion, the sense of purpose and the sense of continuing in a great tradition that, from my perspective, seems to permeate the Wilf campus.

A couple of weeks ago, several media outlets picked up on an interesting news angle – the response of Israelis and Jews in the New York area to the tragic death of astronaut Ilan Ramon. Newspapers and television stations were naturally attracted to the large and highly inspirational memorial service held on the Wilf campus. This was a meaningful occasion when Yeshiva's distinction as the only modern Orthodox university in the country and the focus on that institution during a time of national and international tragedy brought its students pride. However, yet again, half of the school was conspicuously absent, and half the students left out of the experience.

Let me not be misunderstood – our own memorial service was very moving and Dean Bacon's speech quite inspiring, and, most importantly, the service allowed us to remember the seven astronauts who died, which is really all that matters. Still, that no one felt that it was important to hold the University's memorial service in the evening when all of the students could participate is disturbing. *B'rov am hadrat Melech*, the glory of the King is in the multitude of the people, is a principle that should have guided those who planned the service. And participating in a unifying and momentous occasion could have begun to let SCW students feel that they are, in fact, a part of something bigger.

So it is impossible to blame those who look at Yeshiva University and see only the Wilf campus. As long as Yeshiva itself refuses to include SCW, whether in bad times and in good, nothing more can be expected.



ALISA ROSE
Editor-in-Chief

Practically every journalism conference I have attended in the past year and the many discussions that I have had on the subject

have left me feeling incredibly ambivalent about the place of the Orthodox Jew in the field of journalism. I cringe when I hear quotes attributed to the Chofetz Chaim that no God-fearing individual should be writing for a newspaper. I worry about transgressing the laws of *lashon hara* by writing or publishing material that may criticize or harm others. I cannot easily dismiss the general distaste for newspapers found in many rabbinic sources or my own misgivings about involvement in the media, especially because I have personally witnessed instances where Jewish journalists have betrayed a commitment to these religious precepts.

I might as well put my pen down right now.

What happens when our job to inform is in conflict with the laws of *lashon hara*? What if publishing an article would harm an administrator or a student? What if not publishing that article could cause harm to other students or administrators? Are we allowed to criticize the administration or our professors? Should we – must we – shy away from publishing anything that may generate controversy? The First Amendment right to freedom of speech is considered sacramental to the secular news media, but freedom of speech is not a Jewish concept. Halakha proscribes hundreds of laws defining appropriate speech. Good journalists are concerned with implementing justice by uncovering truth. However, merely because something is truthful does not mean that it should be published. While the legal definition of slander is concerned about the truthfulness of the charge, the halakha also prohibits speaking negatively about someone even if it is the truth.

In particular, I wonder how a newspaper should relate to respected authority figures, especially to rabbis. Should we – can we – must we – criticize a rabbi for inappropriate behavior? Some may even argue that rabbis don't make mistakes, and what we perceive as mistakes are a reflection of our lack of understanding. But, unfortunately, we have seen that rabbis can and do make mistakes. Is it the role of the Jewish press to take those rabbis to task?

The question of how a Jewish newspaper should relate to rabbis came to the forefront in a recent column in a major Jewish newspaper that criticized a prominent rosh yeshiva at Yeshiva University. I can understand the justification for publishing such an article. The editor was driven by an altruistic desire to pursue justice by calling on the rabbi to correct his alleged wrongdoing. He was serving as an advocate of the individuals that he thought the rabbi had wronged. Additionally, some argue that it is better that the Jewish press uncovers misdeeds

within the Jewish community than the secular press breaking the story.

However, I find it difficult to see how the factors in this case were enough to mitigate the halakhic issues of *lashon hara*. Although there are times when it is permissible to publish something that under other circumstances would constitute *lashon hara*, this *heter* must be applied carefully and deliberately, and probably, infrequently. Furthermore, even if the reasons to publish the column were adequate, the tone of the column, which reflected a lack of respect toward the rabbi, was inappropriate and highly offensive.

I have encountered tremendous opposition to our own undergraduate newspapers as well for showing a lack of respect toward *rabbonim*. The self-proclaimed role of Yeshiva watchdog does not accord undergraduate newspapers the right to brazenly criticize *rabbonim* when they make decisions or behave in a manner that students do not like. Not only is disrespecting *rabbonim* considered an even more severe form of *lashon hara*, but it is also especially inappropriate here because it contradicts Yeshiva's mission. Respect for *rabbonim* is the *sine qua non* of Yeshiva University, where the complicated charge of living according to "Torah U'Madda" is virtually impossible without the guidance of *rabbonim*.

Although incidents of insufficient respect toward *rabbonim* are deplorable, reflecting a lack of Jewish integrity on the part of the journalist, I am not suggesting that our newspapers should never confront issues that may be controversial or that may paint a rabbi in a negative light. There are times when it is appropriate, perhaps even imperative, upon the newspaper to take a rabbi to task for his behavior. However, we must be selective, cautious, and deliberate in our choice of material to publish, and we must ensure that fundamental to any discussion – here on campus and in the general media – is an underlying respect for *rabbonim*, even if one does not agree with a particular action or opinion.

I would be tempted to forfeit the huge responsibility of heading this newspaper if I didn't believe that a newspaper can have an enormously positive impact by informing students, getting them to think, and inspiring them to action. However, the power of the press must always be wielded appropriately. The material in our newspapers must always be in concert with the laws of *lashon hara*, and our editorial staff must always bear in mind the dialogue we may, intentionally or unintentionally, foster on campus.

This is not a simple task, nor are these simple questions with simple answers. I don't think that my identity as a religious Jew must preclude my involvement in journalism, though it must always define it. And, I can't think of a better environment in which to face this conflict, and to test out the murky waters of journalism, than from the helm of this paper.

The Observer
mourns the loss of the seven
astronauts lost in the
Columbia disaster.

The Observer welcomes Alisa Rose
as its new co-editor-in-chief.

See Page 4 for outgoing editor-in-chief
Miriam Colton's column.

LETTERS AND OPINIONS

We Want Mesorah Now

Dear Editors,

While we at YUMesorah.com would like to thank the Observer for their recent publicity regarding our website, there are a couple of things we would like to clear up. Although YUMesorah.com does link to YUStudents.org, it is not affiliated with the site, nor is it run by or maintained by any of those involved in YUStudents.org or the student government.

YUMesorah.com is run by a handful of students on the Wilf campus, and because of this, most of our course material caters to classes there. We do ask that that Stern students contribute what they can, so that the library of files becomes more inclusive. Previously typewritten notes can be emailed, while handwritten notes and tests can be scanned in.

For more information, we encourage students to visit our website at www.yumesorah.com or to email us at mesorah@yumesorah.com.

Thank you,
The Staff of YUMesorah.com

MSDCS Wants You

To the Editors,

As interns for Max Stern Division of Communal Service, Beth Meshel's letter about recharging MSDCS in the last edition of the Observer sparked our interest. We would like to thank her for the opportunity to evaluate MSDCS' role in the Midtown campus and initiate change by "supercharging" MSDCS at SCW.

SCW women are invited to take part in all programs MSDCS offers. Over 200 SCW students participated in Torah Tours this past Simchat Torah. Advertisements for Torah Tours Shabbat Across America, March 7-8, have already been posted around the midtown campus. SCW students attend Panim shabbatonim and Eimatai high school retreats and apply for summer positions on Counterpoint and Yeshiva Summer Training Seminars (YSTS) in communities across the country.

In addition, MSDCS offers job placement and leadership training services of which SCW students are encouraged to take advantage. Sha'ar Ha'avodah monthly posts Jewish communal job offers online. MSDCS maintains an extensive program bank which spans programs from over 40 years, where students can glean ideas for educational programs with which they are involved.

MSDCS operates from an uptown office. Although SCW women have become more involved with its programs and services, unfortunately, the geographical obstacle makes it difficult for SCW students to feel that they are an integral asset to the MSDCS. To this end, a proposal for a permanent MSDCS office with professional staff is being considered as a long-term solution to this dilemma. In the meantime, several venues have been instituted to make MSDCS available to SCW women. Signs are posted around campus and students can drop applications for programs in a drop-box in the Office of Placement and Career Service. Tuesday Night Learning, a monthly learning program for SCW and high school students, takes place at the midtown campus.

We understand Miss Meshel's frustration over the difficulty in attaining this information and agree that new steps must be taken. To ensure that changes to incorporate SCW women into the MSDCS network, MSDCS have taken these measures:

1) Drop boxes are now available at our dorm room doors (Rachel Horn BRH 8B

and Abby Weiss Lexington 2D). A box remains at OPCS, Room 319 of the 215 Lexington Building.

2) On a bulletin board on the 6th floor of the 245 Lexington Building, brochures, flyers and information about MSDCS programs and services have been posted. Envelopes to leave applications have also been posted.

3) "Supercharge MSDCS" questionnaires are available at the Drop Boxes as a means for students to suggest ideas that they would like to see MSDCS implement.

Thank you, Ms. Meshel for the reminder that students are truly interested MSDCS' programs. We're also all for "supercharging MSDCS" through working with the student body.

Abby Weiss SCW '02
Rachel Horn SCW '04
MSDCS SCW Interns

Do Clothes Make the Man?

To the Editors:

After reading the letter concerning the dress code and the article, "Student Councils Release Dress Code Letter, Little Change Noticed on Campus," in the recent Observer, I am both angry and confused about the manner in which this incident has been handled. Firstly, this issue should strictly be between the Office of Dean and students on campus. A longtime skirt wearer, I was nonetheless disturbed by the choice of words in the letter that I found sitting on my desk. All that was essential for the letter to make its point was to simply state that the school dress code had to be followed. Was it really necessary to say that this change would "alleviate tension"? Does the student council honestly believe this implementation will "unify the student body"? Please. And what exactly did stating that this change will let "individuality flourish" mean? Don't get me wrong. I understand the underlying theme of this letter and I agree that when a dress code exists, students should follow it, but the circumlocution and psychobabble just might have been the cause of the reaction of the students, or lack thereof.

Lastly, one's choice of dressing with "dignity" is subjective. If it's dignity that we are so concerned with, then let's make sure that our students act with dignity. Why is it that we are constantly so concerned with how we dress-or in this case, how everyone else is dressing. I'm tired of sitting in the cafeteria during dinner and watching the kitchen staff clean up our garbage. I'm very happy that we are helping the poor economy by employing more workers, but why is that at 19 and 20 girls can't seem to pick up their own garbage. I am flabbergasted each time I leave the dining room and I see the trash that girls leave behind. And why is it that everyone is constantly complaining about the security? It's not as if every morning I witness girls greeting them after their long night shift. Why do I constantly hear students giving them a hard time every time they're checking in a guest? Security needs to fill out the papers because that's what they're told to do. If you have a problem with it, go talk to a dean and leave security alone. And if they're not so friendly, maybe they had a bad day. Most of them juggle a few jobs and don't need attitude from girls who just came back from getting a manicure or shopping at Macy's.

Yes, dress code should be enforced but maybe it's our *midot* that we should be worried about first.

Debbie Silberman
SCW '06

You Can't Take the Torah Out of the Madda

By Rachel Horn

Every so often, the media covers a story about a Jewish businessman who laundered money, a doctor who was accused of malpractice or a rabbi who murdered his wife. Like most Jews who hear these stories, I feel a great sense of shame, since the actions of this individual reflect poorly upon our community. I also feel disappointment. How could a Jew, often 'observant,' openly disregard the moral standard to which he is expected to adhere; how could he flagrantly and knowingly violate halakha? It seems that the Jews who engage in such detestable and lowly behavior do so because they separate actions taken in daily life from the moral code that they know to be correct.

At Yeshiva University, we take pride in Torah U'Madda, a philosophy that implies the fusion of everyday life with Jewish law. Ironically, this very ideology often becomes abstract and disassociated from our lives. A gap exists between the reality and the ideal. While we should be utilizing Torah U'Madda as a tool to approaching our lives, we instead view it as an esoteric philosophy.

Because they are unable to successfully apply Torah U'Madda to their lives, students often find themselves grasping to adhere to at least one component of the two-pronged doctrine and overlook half of the philosophy. Without checking into the matter, some will not register for an art history course because they assume the content of the class will be objectionable. On the other hand, others use their Jewish Studies classes solely as a means of boosting their GPA, taking classes that require neither effort nor attendance.

Unfortunately, this problem follows students into other gray areas. Halakhic issues exist in every field of work. Yet, we somehow assume that if Yeshiva does not offer a class addressing halakhic questions that may arise in the professional world, we need not graft

Torah onto Madda. Moral dilemmas are then considered non-issues for students. Yes, students of medicine and business classes which explore halakhic answers for the ethical dilemmas that abound in those fields, but students of other disciplines either do not realize or ignore the halakhic problems that may arise in their fields.

For example, as a journalism major, I find myself considering whether my commitments to Jewish law clash with my obligations as a writer. Do I stick with objectivity even if it may portray the Jewish community in a less than positive light? How do the laws of *lashon hara* apply to my writing? Can I be honest in a review even if no foreseeable change can result from my opinion? I have yet to find guidance or even discussion of these issues in my classes at SCW.

Students confront similar moral dilemmas in almost every sector of the professional arena. Psychology majors learn the particular conditions that would override their commitment to patients' confidentiality. However, they might question whether the halakhic standards differ. What should students majoring in advertisement do when they come in contact with deceptive or immodest advertising? Could a lawyer defend a client whom he believes is guilty?

The fact that these questions have no cut-and-dry answers should not prevent us from approaching these issues through the lenses of Torah U'Madda. Admittedly, it is our responsibility to face the truth; halakhic dilemmas do exist in our lives and must be addressed. However, Yeshiva University should share the responsibility. As an educational institution, Yeshiva should offer classes to ensure that students implement halakha in all aspects of their life. Every major should feature a course addressing the halakhic and ideological issues pertaining to the field. If Yeshiva University wants to see its graduates propelling Torah U'Madda in the real world, we first must see its application in the walls of our university.

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, his or her school and expected date of graduation, if applicable.

E-mail us at observer@ymail.yu.edu

MESSAGE FROM SCWSC PRESIDENT

Sharon Weiss



Rachel is a typical Stern girl. She spends way too much time planning her schedule and obsessing over her grades. We all know that

as we progress through our years at Stern we tend to become less and less stressed during registration. A number of factors play into this pattern. The further along you are in your studies, the earlier you get to register. Additionally, students come to the realization with time that the class will be offered again and there are so many classes to take without freaking out. We come to realize that we are going to graduate, registration will end, and we will not be left without classes. In the earlier stages, however, registration is a tense two-week period in Stern.

Back in the day, Rachel, a sophomore at the time, gasped as she looked down at her registration appointment. Rachel was horrified to learn that she was still a freshman. How could this be? What happened with her Israel credits? Rachel wished she had waited in line with her friends to get a print-out of her transcript from the registrar's office. Rachel was not extremely involved in Stern's extracurricular clubs or committees at the time, yet she was determined to make a change for future students, and herself. Rachel thought it was ridiculous to have to wait on line and bother the registrar just to get a printout of an unofficial transcript to make sure that all of her credits were in order. Rachel joined the student senate and strongly urged the senate to consider a computer accessible to students

that could print unofficial transcripts. The following semester, a computer was set up and students have been benefiting from Rachel and the student senates' efforts ever since.

People often offer me suggestions to improve campus. Often times I can inform the student life committee and the problem can be solved with ease. A core group of student leaders, however, can only do so much. We are here to direct and assist fellow students in the right direction. Sometimes we can solve problems on our own, but we all have to do our part to improve our school. An example of a problem that was readily solved was finals on Fridays when Shabbos starts early. Both the deans and student leaders took the complaints to heart, and next semester there will not be a late Friday final when Shabbos starts early. There are so many problems that we cannot see. I ask you to step up to the plate and put an end to issues that plague you. If something is bothering you, in all likelihood, other students are also feeling inconvenienced. I would almost go so far as to say that one does not have much of a right to complain if she does not actively participate and contribute to the Midtown Campus.

I hope you all enjoyed our opening events of the semester, including, Our Name is Mud, Super bowl Party, Phantom of the Opera and a Piamenta Concert. Events that you can look forward to include voting for professor of the year, a magician/mentalist night with heroes, Model UN, and a 50s night with free food and swing dancing lessons. Please approach any student council member with ideas for events and improvements on campus. (E-mail scwsc@hotmail.com) It's up to us to make the rest of this year as fun and productive as we choose.

MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman



As I look back on this past month, there is one recurring idea that I saw throughout all of the occurring events both in and out of Stern College. Unity and *achdus* played an integral

role in our lives this past month. We came closer together as a college, university and a nation. We joined together to comfort, uplift and reach common goals.

The second Shabbat into the new semester, we were privileged to have Yachad with us. The shabbaton began with YC and Stern students greeting the Yachad members and escorting them to their rooms. We then all welcomed in a beautiful Shabbat davening Friday night. The Yachad staff ran an icebreaker game Friday night to help everyone get to know each other. We sang *zemiros* throughout Shabbat that could be heard by the people walking outside on the street. *Divrei Torah* were given by YC and Stern students as well as Yachad members throughout all of Shabbat. On Shabbos day we had sessions about the *parsha* and got to learn in small groups with the Yachad members. We closed the shabbaton with a moving *kumsitz* and said goodbye to our new friends at Yachad, but we knew that Shabbat had been truly exceptional and special.

After the shabbaton we all went back to our rooms and found out about the catastrophe of the Columbia Shuttle. There is absolutely no explanation that can be given for such a horror. These were seven brilliant people who all went on a mission to fulfill their life long dream. Unfortunately, the mission did not end on a positive note. However there is more to walk away with from this tragedy than just sorrow. We are able to look to these seven heroes with admira-

tion and respect. They all strived for something and did all in their power to attain their goal. Later in the week, we held a memorial service in memory of the Columbia crew. We gathered together and heard comforting words from Dean Bacon. We then had an opportunity to learn more about each of the crew members through brief biographies of their lives. We learned that each of these people had accomplished so much and never stopped striving for more. A powerful video presentation was shown in memory of Ilan Ramon which brought tears to our eyes. We joined together and said *tehillim* and mourned this tremendous loss.

Not only do we join together at times of adversity and sorrow but also at times of simcha and celebration. Last week, we were fortunate to have our *Rosh Chodesh Adar chagiga*. With Shlock Rock playing our favorite songs we danced the night away. It did not make a difference how old you are, where you are from or what you were wearing; everyone had a smile on their face and joined together with excitement. Koch Auditorium had been transformed from a cafeteria to an "under the sea" party. Students got a chance to unwind and have fun. We were able to bring in the month of Adar with the ultimate *simcha* that it deserved, and every *simcha* is magnified when it can be celebrated and shared with others.

As I was sitting down to write this column, I could not help but realize how much unity we have expressed and displayed over these past few weeks. We have the ability to unite in both times of sorrow and times of happiness. We are able to give comfort to one another and also excite each other. It is only through unity and *achdus* that we can ultimately attain the impossible. We have to work together like the Columbia team, with the attitudes and mindsets that we had at the Yachad Shabbaton and at the chagiga, and together we can reach the sky.

MIRIAM COLTON
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief

I distinctly remember the first day of Orientation three years ago. Elbowing my way through the crowded Brookdale Hall lobby, I ran into an old camp friend on her way to the newspaper office. She complained that no one on staff knew layout and implored me to stop by to help out. I enthusiastically complied. And from thereon in, I was hooked.

While all my friends moped about leaving Israel to attend Stern, I eagerly awaited the various opportunities that Stern would offer. In my excitement, I had even determined that I wanted to be editor-in-chief of the school newspaper.

Fortunately, things went according to plan. Being editor of the *Observer* has been the most valuable experience of my academic years. For the past year and a half the newspaper has in essence consumed my life, and I readily allowed it to do so. A college experience is not only about acquiring the book knowledge offered in various courses. It includes opportunities to challenge one's independence and to discover personal strengths. The *Observer* has granted me such an experience.

I have matured in my writing abilities and administrative skills. I learned about a new topic with each story I covered, such as gay housing rights or the twisted *modus operandi* in search processes. Following the protracted presidential search has been a reporter's dream story. I have learned whom to trust as a source, whom not to, and whom to humor. Now I even know which Kinko's is open at 4 am when a computer crashes for the umpteenth time. I have loved the juice of specific stories, the beat and camaraderie of newspaper life, the intensity of all-nighters, and the power of responsibility.

Mainly, through the key element of the job - meeting and working with dozens of people, and following the inner workings of a university - I have confronted the duality of human nature.

I've witnessed the amazing talents people possess. While student activists are the minority here, there always remain the select few. Students arranged busses to protest anti-Israel rhetoric in Michigan, raised thousands for terror victims, and organized rallies in support of Israel. Just in the past two weeks, the student government organized the annual teacher elections, a memorial for the Columbia astronauts, and a Thursday night M&M social event. And, along the way, some administrators and Board members have proven that they genuinely want what's best for the students.

As a team effort, the newspaper has required me to work with other staffers, particularly two co-editors. It's always difficult to unite two visions, and I was thus forced to take stock of my own strengths and weaknesses, to recognize others' talents and to compromise. Luckily, I've been fortunate with my co-editors, Caryn and Adina, who each brought unique strengths to the *Observer*, and with whom I have developed real friendships.

Simultaneously, I've confronted human weakness. Rather than adopt-

ing the defensive, it's best to be honest, particularly with reporters, who will always pursue the scent of duplicity. I feel the paper has at times been treated incorrectly when administrators forgot the necessary function that newspapers fill in a game of checks and balances. The rigidity of some school policies and the functioning of certain administrative offices still boggle my mind.

And as the Purim issue clearly reveals each year, people are highly sensitive. I still recall the profane phone call I received after Purim last year for something that I really believed to be innocuous and in good taste. I've seen sides of people I never thought existed, received flack from administrators for articles I still judge to be true, been forced into the role of "enemy" or "intruder," and learned to deal with the inevitable dislike that comes with the job. While it hurts on occasion, I've learned to pull back to objectively evaluate the situation. No one is perfect and no student, administrator, board member or rabbi can, or should be, idolized. The true law stems from the inability to admit and rectify a mistake.

Faults notwithstanding, I have incredible *hakaras hatov* to Yeshiva. The longer I have worked on the paper, the more grateful I am for what the University has granted me - the capacity to explore and challenge myself in a comfortable environment.

Yet there's a time for everything. After a year and half, I have decided to step back from the editorship. The decision, which I have been weighing for the past few months, was difficult, since the paper has been so much a part of my experience here. The limelight can be fun, but comes with its own pressures. While I still plan to be involved in the *Observer*, I need one semester free of its ultimate responsibility and time commitments.

I've devoted my all into this paper and I believe it has greatly improved. We've succeeded in keeping the community informed, and in the process proven to ourselves that we are capable of it.

Will the paper continue to be good? I know we have a good staff lined up for next year. Two years down the road I am less certain, unsure whether active students will be around.

Student initiative is not the only thing lacking at Stern. More initiative from the administration is required. By sitting back, awaiting the proactive students to step up to the task, the administration is guilty of the same apathy as the students. English literature and writing professors should actively encourage students to join the paper. Perhaps it's not such a crazy idea to grant academic credit to the editors. True, the administrators must maintain some distance to give us journalistic freedom. In fact, I'm grateful for the lack of censorship that enables us to create a product of our own making. But there is a fine line between allowing for freedom and just not caring.

Through personal initiative and prodding from others new students will volunteer for the newspaper. As I step back from my position, I only hope the *Observer* will continue to grow, allowing other students the enriching experience I have had - assuming they recognize the opportunity.

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

ON CAMPUS

SOY Gears Up For Annual Seforim Sale

By Chava Hartman

The annual Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) Seforim sale kicked off this year with a lecture by noted scholars and Yeshiva professors Rabbi Shalom Carmy and Dr. David Shatz on two of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik's posthumously published books, on Sunday, February 16th in Weissberg Commons Belfer Hall on the Wilf campus.

The hours of the sale—which opened on February 13th and continues through March 2nd in Belfer Hall, room 502—differ depending on the day of the week. A complete schedule is available online at www.soyseforim.org.

In anticipation of the event all the necessary departments worked together to ensure the smooth execution of the sale. Security will be stepped up during the sale as it has been in past years. People will enter in organized groups, and the elevators will be monitored to control traffic in and out of the sale. "Security will be checking bags upon arrival in order to keep things under control," said SSSB junior Rachel Moss, who is involved in organizing the sale. In addition, there will be a designated place to leave baby carriages.

The purpose of the sale is to provide Judaic books to the Yeshiva community. "Our goal is to encourage the study of Torah by providing books to match



SCWSC President Sharon Weiss shops at the Seforim sale on Thursday night

every interest," explained SOY president Josh Goldman. "The sale allows YU students the opportunity to run their own professional organization." The sale, which attracts hundreds of customers from the tri-state area each year, is run entirely by Yeshiva students.

Even though the sale is held at the main campus, SCW students have volunteered their time to help out. As in past years, students who help unpack and organize merchandise or staff the sale will be paid two dollars an hour toward the purchase of seforim.

Unlike last year, there will not be separate hours for the men and women. "While last year a well meaning attempt was made to address a few individuals' concerns, it was not successful," said Goldman. Since the sale is catering to a lot of people, and is only open for a short period of time,

Goldman asserted that it does not make sense to limit the time for certain people to attend.

Rabbi Carmy and Dr. Shatz's lectures also commemorate what would have been Rabbi Soloveitchik's 100th birthday and the 10th anniversary of his death. Rabbi Carmy edited and Dr. Shatz co-edited Rabbi Soloveitchik's works, *Worship of the Heart: Essays on Jewish Prayer and Worship*, and *Out of the Whirlwind: Essays on Suffering, Mourning and the Human Condition*, respectively. They will present highlights from both volumes, which were published to coincide with the Seforim sale.

The fourth annual lecture is sponsored by the Yeshiva College Alumni Association to showcase scholars and leaders in the Jewish world who are Yeshiva College graduates. Past speakers include Dr. Norman Lamm '49, president of Yeshiva University; Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel '77, E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History and chair, Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at the University's Stern College for Women; and Dr. David Schnall '69, dean of YU's Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration.



Students helped set up during the weeks prior to the sale

Committee in Final Stages of Drafting Bill of Rights

By Anat Barber

A subcommittee formed by the disciplinary committee at the end of last semester is in the final stages of drafting a document called the "Students' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities."

"The purpose of the Bill of Rights is to let students know what is expected of them and what their privileges are," said committee member Shoshana Davis. "It is important to note that we wave both sides of the banner, and that students have responsibilities as well as rights."

In order to help construct the document, committee members examined the documents that other universities have in place. Like most other universities, Yeshiva's document is expected to stipulate rules of conduct, academic freedoms and rights regarding protests and redress of grievances.

"What we hope to do is pick and choose different items from each school and then customize it to fit Yeshiva's needs," committee member Beth Meshel said. "We will then reconvene and discuss what to include in our document."

Some specific rights that the committee has considered include editorial freedoms, such as the right to a campus media, as well as the freedom to discuss with professors issues that are relevant to classroom discussions without concern for academic penalty. This right would protect every student's academic freedom while simultaneously enriching the learning process.

Aside from securing the rights of students, the document will also allow professors to demand appropriate behavior from their students, both academically and personally.

Keeping with the document's dual nature, which grants students rights at the same time that it expects students to live up to certain responsibilities, students will be required to "obtain the appropriate bulletin of the college in which he or she is enrolled and be thoroughly familiar with academic requirements which must be met before a degree is granted," according to a preliminary draft of the document. It could prove to be most difficult to ensure that students live up to their responsibility to know their rights, Meshel noted.

Once completed, the subcommittee will send the document to Yeshiva's legal department for review. Upon approval from the legal department, the entire disciplinary committee will meet for an official vote on the final draft. The meeting, scheduled to take place on February 27, will mark the culmination of an enterprising and arduous undertaking. Yeshiva has never had a student Bill of Rights, but disciplinary issues that came up last year compelled student leaders to push for such a document. The disciplinary committee was formed at the beginning of this year to outline a disciplinary procedure and to draft a student Bill of Rights. The committee completed the document outlining Yeshiva's disciplinary procedure in December.

Aside from Davis and Meshel, the subcommittee, which is chaired by Assistant Dean of Students Andrew Leibowitz, includes Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau, YC students Josh Sturm and Yaakov Green, and a Yeshiva lawyer.

Psychology Professors Conduct Experiments on Students

By Elisha Horen

This semester over 400 SCW students will turn into lab rats, figuratively speaking of course. Undergraduates at the midtown campus will have the opportunity to participate in three studies being conducted by two members of the Psychology department. Dr. Terry DiLorenzo is running a test on anxiety and another on attitudes toward seeking psychological help. Heather Von Bergen, a doctoral candidate at Yeshiva's Ferkauf School of Psychology, will research how people have responded to September 11th.

Two hundred students are needed in total over the next two years, in order to provide the necessary statistical power to support the hypothesis. Participants will be recruited from psychology classes and sign a written consent form. They will be expected to continue with the study through the semester, completing a total of four assessments. Participants will be given a short one-paged questionnaire at the beginning of the experiment, and again during the last week of classes. The questionnaires are to be completed privately and returned to the professor the



Dr. Terry DiLorenzo is researching whether psychology students are more likely to seek psychological help

next day.

Dr. DiLorenzo's research will focus on health psychology, a topic she has researched previously. "A lot of research has shown that there is a stigma in certain populations towards seeing a psychologist," DiLorenzo said. "Additional studies have been done on people who are potential clients, such as psychology students, to see if they too have this stigma." Dr. DiLorenzo, who began her experiment

on test anxiety last semester, explained, "We are seeking to identify the relationship between cognitive vulnerability factors and distress associated with an impending academic exam."

Von Bergen will study 100 subjects, 13 of whom have already undergone the approximately 80 minute-long procedure. Students must arrange for an appointment to participate and are offered a one in ten chance to win a \$10 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble as incentive to participate.

Von Bergen's study, titled "The Impact of the Current Socio-Political Environment on Cardiovascular Reactivity in Mental Health One Year Post September 11th," will focus on religiosity as a mediator. Von Bergen plans to measure the effect of severe distress on blood pressure and heart rates. Additionally, she plans to examine the possibility of religion protecting people from cardiovascular disease. "Questions will look at the different aspects of emotional functioning and the different ways to cope with trauma or distress," Von Bergen said. "Questions pertaining to subject's own religious practices are posed such as "How often do you

pray or study the Bible." Spiritual practices are pinpointed by questions such as "Do you believe that life has meaning?"

Thirty minutes following the questionnaire, the subject's blood pressure and heart rate is measured every two minutes. For ten minute segments before and after being interviewed, the subject must sit still to gather a resting heart rate. "They will be guided to talk about their stressful experience to allow them to identify how they were feeling," Von Bergen said. "The goal is to get the students to recreate and visualize the event as if they were re-experiencing it." A period of debriefing will conclude the procedure enabling subjects to ask questions or recover from an emotional interview.

Both studies had to be approved by Yeshiva University's Internal Review Board (IRB) which oversees and approves all of the experiments run on campus. Those interested in participating can contact Dr. Terry DiLorenzo by email tdil@optonline.net or office 310 and Heather Von Bergen at 212-340-7770 or in office 305.

ON CAMPUS

Legendary Rabbi Has Reason to Celebrate 29th Street Shul Rabbi Turns 90

By Shayndi Raice

When Rabbi Sidney Kleiman was on his way to an interview for the position of rabbi at Congregation Adereth El 64 years ago, he got a little distracted. "As I was walking towards 29th Street I noticed there were some people playing stick ball and they needed one more person," recalls Rabbi Kleiman. "I offered to play and I got a home run. Later I realized I had forgotten about the interview and as fast as I ran for that home run, I ran even faster to the interview."

The role of "a man of the people" is not unusual for Rabbi Kleiman. For his 90th birthday, celebrated by the synagogue only a few weeks ago, Rabbi Kleiman told his congregation he didn't want them to do anything. "Ninety is *tzaddik* (a righteous person) and I'm no *tzaddik*," says Rabbi Kleiman staunchly. "Yeshayahu HaNavi (Isaiah the Prophet) said '*v'amech kulam tzaddikim*' meaning all the people are *tzaddikim*. I'm with all the people."

Rabbi Kleiman is the oldest RIETS graduate still practicing as a rabbi, a significant and honor worthy status. However, Rabbi Kleiman did not always plan on joining the rabbinate. As a young man at Yeshiva University, he chose to study medicine. "It was too tough," says Rabbi Kleiman. "My instructor told me I would have a nervous breakdown so I decided to cure the soul."

Rabbi Kleiman has fulfilled his goal of "curing the soul." Throughout his tenure as rabbi, there were instances when factions of the synagogue urged him to change the denomination to Conservative Judaism. "When I first came here there were no Orthodox Jews living here even though it was an Orthodox shul," recalls Rabbi Kleiman.

Many, particularly members of the board of trustees, did not feel that the membership would relate to Orthodoxy, and they suggested that Conservative, or possibly Reform Judaism, might be more palatable to a greater number of people. "With God's help we kept the shul Orthodox, and I hope to keep it Orthodox until *moshiach* [the messiah] comes," says Rabbi Kleiman.

God's help in keeping the synagogue Orthodox came in the form of women from SCW. Rabbi Kleiman began to invite women from SCW to daven in the synagogue. "That way I would tell the board of trustees 'how can you make it Conservative when we need it for the Stern College girls?' I would tell them 'the future leaders of Jewry are the Stern College girls, not you, you're finished,'" he recalls enthusiastically. When Dr. Belkin wanted to create a synagogue on the midtown campus for the women of SCW, Rabbi Kleiman begged him not to do so, afraid that his shul wouldn't be able to maintain a heavy Orthodox presence without the SCW students. "Dr. Belkin was a very smart man and a very kind man," says Rabbi Kleiman. "He saw the justice in the argument, so he agreed. They helped us then, and they continue to help us today."

Rabbi Kleiman considers his ability to foster Orthodoxy among his congregants as one of his major lifetime achievements. "I was able to convince them mostly through my sermons," he says. "My motto in my sermons is '*k'i b'or panecha natata lanu torat chaim*' I never preached a sermon unless it had to do with a problem people were facing." In fact, Rabbi Kleiman attributes the use of that theme with the reason that he was hired as the rabbi of Adereth El. "In my first sermon I spoke about Chamberlain who had just gotten back from Munich meeting with Hitler," recalls



Rabbi Kleiman still delivers sermons at the 29th Street shul

Rabbi Kleiman. "He said 'peace in our time' and I said 'peace not in our time.' I showed how he is trying to destroy the Jewish people with the Final Solution but not only that, he wants to destroy the whole world." Rabbi Kleiman's answer to the problem facing the Jews today remains the same. "We must raise the prestige of the Jewish people in America," he says. "That was my motto all my life, and that still is my motto." Rabbi Kleiman says he has been privileged to see that prestige rise tremendously.

That prestige has risen to the point where upon his 90th birthday Rabbi Kleiman received letters of congratulations from Governor Pataki, Mayor Bloomberg, and Senator Hillary Clinton. In fact, January 25th was named "Rabbi Sidney Kleiman day" by the borough of Manhattan. Perhaps the greatest testimony to the rabbi is the admiration and love with which his followers speak of him. "He's a legend," says Rabbi Gideon Shloush, the current rabbi of Adereth El. "Everybody just loves him."

IN YOUR OWN WORDS Should the US go to war against Iraq?



Professor Joseph Luders

"This is a difficult and controversial question. There are profound uncertainties embedded in either course of action and therefore, it is possible to make a persuasive argument for both going and not going to war."



Beth Katz, SCW sophomore

"I think that the US should not go to war. Going to war would not necessarily solve the problem of Hussein's totalitarian regime."



Devora Whitman, SCW sophomore

"The US should go to war with Iraq. It's clear that Iraq is hiding something and the United Nations isn't doing anything about it. We're a world superpower and we shouldn't need the approval of the UN Security Council. But of course, we should try to ensure that there are as few civilian casualties as possible."

Exit Requirements Baffle Seniors: MFATs Demystified

By Rachel Fyman

Since the first day of the semester, notices have reminded seniors to register to take their exit examinations, required by Yeshiva for graduation. The deadline to register to take these tests was February 5th.

Every major at SCW has an exit requirement determined by the academic departments. Most departments use the Educational Testing Services' Major Field Achievement Tests (MFATs), offered at SCW this semester on February 21st. Other majors, such as Speech Pathology/Audiology and Judaic Studies, where no MFAT is available, are required to take departmental examinations, scheduled for March 7th. All exams have a fee of \$27, as charged by the ETS.

Students have the option of taking the Graduate Record Examination Board (GRE) subject tests in their field instead of the standard required exit exam. A minimal score on these tests, placing in the 33rd percentile, is required by the university before a student may graduate, though no grade or indication of scores appear on students' transcripts.

"Students must show a reasonable proficiency in their subject matter," says academic advisor Miriam Schechter.

Because exit requirements are under the jurisdiction of each department, the departments decide what measures to take if a student fails the examination. According to Schechter, most departments require students to attempt the test at least twice.

"Our experience has been that a

student who studies and prepares will pass the exam," says Dean Ethel Orlan, though she admits that occasionally a student does not meet the minimum standard.

Faculty members may request a copy of the MFAT to see before the test, and some departments, such as biology, offer review session for students during club hour or in the evenings.

Though students may take the test whenever they choose, most students opt to do so during their last semester. The MFATs and departmental exams are offered in the fall for January graduates and again in the spring for May graduates.

With all the matters to attend to before graduation at the end of the semester, many seniors are not particularly concerned about the examinations. "I haven't had much time to think about it," says Kirsten Hyman, an SCW senior majoring in sociology. "I'm just a little nervous because I don't know what to expect."

Because exit requirements are a departmental decision, students in some majors must meet other standards. All majors at SSSB are required to complete a senior project, under the guidance of a faculty member. Education majors must pass the New York State licensing test for teachers (NYSTCE), and English literature, history and art history majors must complete a one-credit senior thesis as their exit requirement. Studio art majors must complete a senior project and students majoring in English communications and creative writing are required to submit portfolios of their work.

According to Dr. Laurel Hatvary, head of the English department, the test for English majors was abolished due to flexibility in students' major requirements. Instead, students must submit their work to be reviewed by a number of faculty members. Though no grade is given for this project, students are often required to revise their work before it meets the passing standards.

Students have pointed out disparities between the various departments' requirements, noting that majors requiring a senior thesis receive credit for their work while others do not. Hatvary defends the discrepancy, claiming that senior theses are more serious than other exit requirements, mandating a 20-25-page research paper in conjunction with a three-credit senior seminar, as well as regular meetings with a faculty member.

Students are reminded frequently about their exit requirements, according to Schechter. In addition to notices which are placed on the bulletin board at the beginning of each semester, exit requirements are mentioned on the checklist distributed to all seniors with their registration packets. Furthermore, the registrar sends notices after students file for graduation, reminding students to meet their specific exit requirements.

"Invariably, someone comes after the deadlines and says 'I didn't know,'" Schechter reports. She recommends that students regularly read the notices on the bulletin board outside the dean's office to avoid this problem.

It is uncommon that a student will not complete her requirement, according to

Dean Orlan. "Every now and then a student doesn't do it," she notes. "They'll come back years later to finish the requirement." As an example, Hatvary recently received a call from a woman interested in writing her senior thesis now, though she completed her coursework at SCW ten years ago. Until exit requirements have been met, a student will not be granted her degree.

Yeshiva began to require its students to complete exit exams in 1982 on a trial basis, in response to a suggestion by the Middle States evaluation. Since Yeshiva is a small university, it was recommended that it institute the tests to provide a means of evaluation of graduates relative to national norms. Other colleges at the time were asked to do the same, and the prevalence of such internal exit exams at universities led to the introduction of MFATs in 1989.

MFATs, constructed according to specifications similar to those of the GRE subject tests, are designed by committees of experts in each field to be objective, end-of-program tests in many major disciplines. They are intended to assess the mastery of concepts, principles and knowledge expected of students completing an undergraduate curriculum.

Though exit examinations are not required of undergraduates of all universities, many smaller colleges require them. For example, Yeshiva is listed among 184 colleges across the United States where students took the MFAT in biology at the end of the academic year 1999-2000, according to the ETS's report for that year.

ON CAMPUS

50th Anniversary Plans Solidified

Celebrations to Spread Across the Country

By Miriam Shapiro

Over the past couple of months, plans for SCW's fiftieth anniversary celebration have been translated from ideas, visions and dreams into more concrete programs, dates, dinners and special events.

The celebrations will begin with "Family Day," held in the Puck building on Sunday, November 2, 2003, said Director of Development Joan Apple. Families will be able to enjoy an afternoon of activities, games and projects for children of all ages.

The special events continue with a museum retrospective, which will be held at the YU Museum beginning in mid-February, 2004. The exhibit will display items of sentimental value, including pictures of Eleanor Roosevelt with SCW officials and of the ground breaking for the first SCW building. In addition, letters are being mailed out to alumnae requesting

them to send in memorabilia from their days at SCW to add to the exhibit. The exhibit will remain on display for roughly three months, giving a chance for alumnae, some of whom may need to travel, and current students to come and view a part of history.

The committee is also planning to extend the festivities across the country and to Israel, said Apple. A lecture series with keynote speakers, including some SCW graduates, is scheduled to continue throughout the year in such locales as Miami, Los Angeles, Boston and Washington, D.C. This will allow alumnae all over the United States to join in the massive celebration. In addition, the committee is planning to take its celebration to Israel, and will hold a special event in the Biblical Zoo in Israel. The program, which is being co-chaired by Sandy Quinn, the founding chairman of the board, and Esther Zuroff, will also include

a carnival for the children to enjoy.

Other plans include a "Back to School" day, where alumnae can attend classes and enjoy a brunch with their favorite professors. Alumnae will also receive a tour of the buildings that did not exist when they were students at SCW.

Apple is currently working on a budget proposal to cover all of these plans to place before the budget committee. She hopes to receive adequate funding for the events.

"This is a huge celebration, we are going all out," said Apple when being questioned on the cost of the project. "It has to be done right."

Apple predicts that the museum exhibit will be the most expensive project, consuming 50-60% of the budget costs.

The SCW dinner, usually held every 18 months, will take place next May. It is hoped that donations by dinner attendees will increase with the installment of the

honorees, said Apple.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2004, SCW marks a highly significant point in its history. With over 300 graduates each year, SCW has grown dramatically since its first graduating class of 26 in 1958.

Apple is trying to encourage all students, and particularly those who are currently juniors, to participate in the celebrations and in the planning.

"This is a fabulous project. This is the students' school, and we really want everyone to be involved," said Apple.

Apple has also been urging students to "get the word out" about the anniversary celebration in their synagogues, schools and neighborhoods.

"Word of mouth is the key," she said.

Committee Works to Enhance Shabbat On Campus

By Rivka Gerber

While most students may prefer to leave campus for Shabbat, the Shabbat Enhancement Committee is doing its best to make Shabbat at SCW an attractive option.

The Shabbat Enhancement Committee generally consists of representatives from SCWSC, TAC, and SSSB, and is overseen by Beth Hait, coordinator of Student Services on campus. The group works to improve the weekly Shabbatons at SCW by responding to student feedback.

Jessica Levine, representing TAC, and SCWSC representative Malka Sadoff meet regularly to discuss Shabbat programming for the midtown campus. The committee is still in the process of finding an SSSB representative.

"We want students to see that staying in for Shabbos can be something other than a last resort," Levine said.

The main goal of the committee is to heighten SCW students' Shabbat experience through applying student feedback to actual Shabbaton planning. The committee has seen recent success with the Moroccan and Yachad Shabbatons, both of which attracted large numbers of students. "The Yachad Shabbaton was amazing," said Levine. "There was so much *ruach*."

Levine and her committee are considering ways to make every Friday night *davening* as inspiring as it was at the Yachad Shabbaton.

The Shabbat Enhancement Committee does not directly plan all the Shabbatons during the year. The process of planning a Shabbaton is open to the student body at large, and all student groups and organizations are welcome to sponsor a Shabbaton. To reserve a weekend, the club or organization head must meet with

Hait to plan the weekend. The group sponsoring the Shabbaton is responsible for choosing the menu and inviting any special guests for Shabbat.

This year, Shabbatons have been sponsored by each class, as well as most active clubs on campus, ranging from the Russian club to the chemistry club. Many seminaries have hosted Shabbatons on campus, inviting rabbis and teachers from

Israel as guests. In the coming weeks, the Shabbat Enhancement Committee, with the help of other sponsors, is bringing scholars-in-residence, such as Shani Taragin, to spend Shabbat on campus.

The students who stay in for Shabbat have an influence on the atmosphere of each Shabbaton as well. Shabbatons attract between 50-150 students,

depending on the week. Many students enjoy the relaxed atmosphere on the campus on Shabbat. Most weeks, there is a *minyan* in Koch Auditorium and a *shiur* given by the "Shabbat Rabbi."

Micah Gimpel and Shaya Shtern spend alternate weekends at SCW with their families, ensuring that the weekend runs smoothly and lending a "Shabbosdik" feeling to the three Shabbat meals.

"I really like staying in for Shabbos," said Chanie Angster, SSSB senior. "After a hectic week it's so nice to be able to relax, sleep in my own bed and have time to hang out with friends."

According to Hait, staying in for Shabbat affords the opportunity to meet students from many different places who have different Jewish traditions and cultures. The long meals over Shabbat and the *Oneg Shabbat* on Friday night are especially conducive to socializing.



SCW senior Jessica Levine heads the Shabbat Enhancement Committee

Honors Program Expands Its Summer Course Offerings

By Chava Hartman

For the first time, the Honors Program is offering a summer traveling course in physics, expanding its course offerings to two classes this summer. The five-week, three-credit course, called "Experiments and Modern Physics," will run from June 1 through July 7, and is open to SCW and YC students. It includes three weeks of lectures and conducting experiments at Yeshiva's laboratories to prepare for a one-week stay at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island. The fifth week will include an analysis of the data the students collected in Brookhaven, presentation of the research, and writing a course paper.

"The trip is the main attraction of this course," said Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, who will be teaching the course. Brookhaven is a "unique national lab," which recently won the 2002 Noble Prize in physics, Frenkel noted. Living at the laboratory for the week will give students a taste of life as scientist. "This will expose students to the real conditions under which science experiments are conducted." At Brookhaven, students will conduct experiments on such topics as Gamma-Decay and the Photo-Electric Effect.

The cost of the course reflects the price of summer tuition at Yeshiva. Brookhaven Laboratory has offered to offset the cost of room and board for the students for the week the students stay in the Brookhaven dormitories. According to Frenkel, who developed the course, Brookhaven officials are excited about this pioneering program.

Besides for the physics course, SCW is also offering a three-credit art history course, "Art and the Jewish Experience in Medici Florence," which will take place in Florence, Italy from May 26 to June 4. The same course was offered in 1999 and 2001, and it was very popular, said Professor Evelyn Cohen, who will be teaching the course again. "It filled up very fast," Cohen said. "Students were very interested." The ten spots for the

course are currently filled, but Cohen has begun forming a waiting list in case any of the students back out.

Students participating in the course will visit museums, viewing original



The students who went to Florence in 2001, pictured above, gave the trip rave reviews

pieces of art, including Michaelangelo's David, and meet with speakers in Italy. Students are required to keep a journal throughout the course and write a research paper at the conclusion of the course.

Although they are both honor courses, the courses are open to any student with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Each course also has its own prerequisite. Students should have taken a full year of any science prior to taking the physics course. For the art history course, students must have taken Art 1050, 1052, or Art 1302.

The purpose of summer travel courses is to allow students to learn a subject of interest while studying it in the natural environment. "These courses provide students with an opportunity to take honors courses in another setting," said Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Honors Program. "The setting usually complements the course." In addition, Wachtell noted that SCW offers its own program to enable students to study abroad, while not having to worry about attaining kosher food or keeping Shabbat.

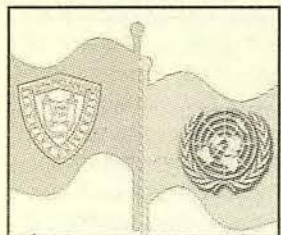
Campus Briefs

Career Fair for Jewish Educators

OPCS hosted a Jewish Education Career Fair in Koch Auditorium on February 12th. The fair, open to both SCW and YC students, attracted approximately 100 people, including many not affiliated with Yeshiva.

Most of the schools represented were from the Greater New York Area, though some came from as far as Boston. Participants were pleased with the event, and are looking forward to being gainfully employed in the near future.

Yeshiva Students Run 13th Annual YUNMUN



Yeshiva University held its 13th annual Model United Nations from Sunday, February 9 to Tuesday, February 11. Five hundred delegates from 36 yeshiva high schools throughout the United States gathered in Kutscher's Country Club in

upstate New York to represent the nations of the world in UN committees. SCW senior Bini Bornstein was this year's Secretary General. SCW junior Rachel Chudnoff and YC seniors Jason Koslowe and Elias Maicovici served as Under-secretary Generals.

During the conference, delegates worked together in their committees, to pass resolutions regarding international agendas. The three days of intense debate and discussion culminated with an awards ceremony at which Yeshiva students conferred various honors on the high school students. The Shalhevet high school in Los Angeles won this year's best delegation.

YUNMUN, which is sponsored by Yeshiva's Office of Admissions, is Yeshiva's largest recruitment program.

Request for Stapler Denied

Administrators denied a request by SCWSC president Sharon Weiss to put a stapler in the 245 Lexington computer laboratory at the most recent Student Life Committee meeting.

Weiss recalled the convenience of having a stapler in the room in previous years. Administrators, however, pointed to the difficulties in maintaining the stapler. According to the manager of the department of academic computing, there have been problems in the past in ensuring that the stapler remained in the room and that it always contained staples. Interestingly, administrators noted that a similar request was issued at a Cardozo Law School Student Life Committee meeting.

Administrators encouraged students to buy their own pocket-sized staplers.

Students Nominate Professors for Professor of the Year

On Wednesday, February 5th, students selected Dr. Harvey Babich, Dr. Aharon Fried, Dr. Dennis Hoover, Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, and Dr. Charles Raffel from among all SCW professors as candidates for the annual Dr. William L. and Mrs. Lillian F. Silber Professor of the Year Award. As of press time, the final winner had not yet been elected. The winner will be awarded a prize of \$1,800.

The final voting was begun in the lobby of 245 Lexington, on February 12th. However, after some juniors voted for the senior class awards, which were being voted on at the same time and for which only seniors are allowed to vote, administrators halted all of the voting. Ballots were recast the following day on February 13th.

Back to School Events

SCWSC hosted several back to school events to make the transition from vacation more smooth and to welcome new students. During the first week of the spring semester students were invited to paint their own pottery in Koch Auditorium. The pottery, from Our Name Is Mud on Manhattan's Upper West Side, brought various articles to be painted that were then returned to their premises for firing. Also included in this semester's 'kick-off' events was an evening out at the theatre. Tickets for Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera" were made available to students at the discounted price of \$20. More than one hundred students attended, making the evening a huge success.

Rabbi Sobolofsky Appointed Rosh Yeshiva

SCW professor Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky (YC/MYP '87 and RIETS '90) was appointed rosh yeshiva (professor of Talmud) in the Mazer Yeshiva Program of Yeshiva University.

In addition to having been a teacher in the Stone Beit Midrash Program for seven years prior to his appointment, Rabbi Sobolofsky has also taught Jewish Ideology and Jewish Law on the midtown campus.

Sobolofsky is the rabbi of congregation K'hal Adath Jeshurun in Paramus, New Jersey. In addition to teaching, Sobolofsky has authored a commentary on Tractate *B'rachot*, and he has had many articles published in RIETS' Torah Journals.

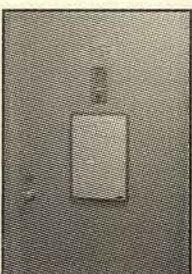


Dean's Office to Communicate via Ymail

Effective March 1, the Dean's office will begin to communicate with students via their ymail accounts. Information concerning upcoming academic deadlines, such as P/N dates, exit exams, and announcements to schedule junior and senior checks will be done via ymail. Officials hope that ymail will provide for more efficient communication with students. All SCW students receive a ymail account upon enrollment, though many students do not use their accounts. Students can forward their ymail to their preferred email account. Instructions are available in the SCW computer room.

No More Door Checks

Responding to student requests, Facilities Management has agreed to stop all security door checks. Although security guards will no longer randomly check doors, they will still be authorized to lock the doors if they happen to find them open. For instance, if maintenance is called to fix something in a room and finds a door unlocked, a security guard may lock it.



Yachad Spends Inspiring Shabbat at SCW

Yachad, a division of the Orthodox Union that services the developmentally disabled Jewish population, brought 35 people to spend Shabbat with the YC/SCW community at the midtown campus on Jan 31-Feb 1. Female Yachad members were housed in Brookdale Residence Hall and males were put up at a local hotel.

TAC president Lisa Grundman and SCW Junior Rachel Horn spearheaded the efforts to bring the shab-

baton to SCW. There had been Yachad shabbatons at SCW in the past, but they had stopped a few years ago because of insurance reasons. The Office of Student Services and Dean of Students Zeldra Braun played a large role in organizing the event.

The weekend was enhanced with dancing, singing and Yachad programs as well as a Saturday night *kum-sitz*.

Verizon to Remove Pay Phones from Campus

Verizon will be removing several pay phones from the midtown campus shortly, according to Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol. The phones are not generating enough money to make it worthwhile for Verizon to keep them here.

Residence Life has expressed the concern that some students, particularly the foreign students, do use pay phones and that certain pay phones are used more than others, such as the pay phone in the back of Brookdale Residence Hall. Residence Supervisor Rachel Kraut emphasized that attention should be paid to which phones are removed.



Administrators Employ New System for Metropolitan Experience

This semester, Student Services administrators composed a new system to raffle off Metropolitan Experience events to students. Students were allowed to sign up for any two events over the course of two days. After the sign-up booth closed, a lottery drawing took place for each event. The new system afforded all students an equal chance at gaining a slot, avoiding the chaos and confusion of previous semesters. Sponsored by the Offices of the Dean of Students, Student Services, and the SCW Office of the Dean, Metropolitan Experience affords students a terrific opportunity to get to know New York City while forging relationships with their professors outside of the classroom. Last semester's events included tickets to Beauty and the Best, Little Women at the New York City Opera, and Carmen at the New York City Opera.

Shlock Rock Rocks the House

Shlock Rock played to an enthusiastic audience of over 150 students at the TAC Rosh Chodesh Adar Chagiga on February 4th. Koch Auditorium reverberated with the sounds of popular music made-over to Jewish themes.

The band took requests, playing students' favorite songs, such as "We've Got a Strong Desire," "Minyan Man" and "Rashi." In between dances, students enjoyed fish-themed foods (in honor of Adar's zodiac sign Pisces), including fish-shaped cookies and gummies and even sushi.



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ISRAEL NEWS

SCW Students Plan and Participate in Mission Day in Israel

By Rachel Horn

A group of Yeshiva students spent a day of their winter break in Israel demonstrating solidarity with the country. On Tuesday, January 16th, students participated in a special "Mission Day."

The Mission Day, planned and executed by SCW seniors and Israel Club presidents Rebecca Wimmer and Kaila Wruble, took place as a back-up plan to the full Mission to Israel that fell through at the end of last semester.

"We were disappointed with the cancellation of the mission, but we felt that this was a good compensation," said Wimmer.

Participants in the mission day packaged food for needy Jerusalem residents at the charity organization Yad Eliezer. They also packaged boxes with supplies and treats for Israeli soldiers and visited Har Hertzal, Israel's military cemetery. They listened to a briefing about politics in the Middle East, a *shiur* about the Jew's responsibility to *Am Yisrael* and the testimony of the mother of 19 year-old Gila Kessler, who was killed by terrorists.

The Mission Day drew from students who were visiting in the Jerusalem area for vacation. An e-mail was sent to all students who previously applied to the cancelled Mission to Israel program informing them of the event.

Whereas last year's mission featured trips to show support to residents of settlements and patients in hospitals, this year's event focused on charity and



SCW and YC students package food for the needy on the Israel Mission Day

becoming politically educated about the situation in Israel.

"We wanted to give back to the country," said Wimmer. "We also wanted to do something to be part of what's going on over there."

Students who attended found the program extremely worthwhile.

"I think it's crucial for Americans visiting Israel to dedicate our time to help out and show the people of Israel that we are with them," said Ami Avraham, YC senior said.

SCW junior Rachel Gross was thankful

for this venue to volunteer. "It is really important that we came together to do chesed," she said.

The event attracted more SCW than YC students. Out of the 50 students who attended, less than ten were male. "The boys' turnout was a little shocking," said Wimmer.

YC students who participated said many students were unaware of the event.

Even so, several thought that more YC students should have attended. "I thought that a few more boys could have

shown up for this meaningful event," said Avraham.

The reason for the low attendance may have been the lack of publicity - there were no signs posted on campus and the e-mail was sent very close to vacation.

"I thought the program was great but there could have been more publicity," Leora Blumenthal, an SCW junior commented.

Yavneh Olami, an organization which promotes Aliyah and Israel awareness to Anglo students, assisted Wimmer and Wruble in organizing the Mission Day. Yavneh opened its headquarters in Jerusalem to the group to eat dinner and hear speakers. Yavneh directors Mikey Cimmering and Michal Porath assisted in planning the itinerary.

Yavneh was also responsible for contacting the Israeli radio station, Arutz Sheva, which reported on the event.

Monetary restraints prevented students from launching a mission to Israel this year. According to Wimmer, all possible methods of subsidization were consulted. "Nobody had the money," she said. "It wasn't like last year where people got \$1000 off."

Students were disappointed that the full mission did not come to fruition but were greatly appreciative for the opportunity to volunteer. "So many people showed interest," said Wimmer, who hopes to bring other Israel solidarity and awareness programs to campus.

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Grassroots Organization To Run Shidduch Symposium

By Observer Staff

For the first time, EndTheMadness, a grassroots organization devoted to reforming the shidduch system, is sponsoring a symposium on dating on Wednesday, February 26 at Weissberg Commons. The forum will feature talks by Rabbi Moshe Tendler, YU Rosh Yeshiva, on the "Halakhic Myths and Realities of Dating," and Mrs. Sandy Gross, a New York-based *shadchan*. Rabbi Alan Schwartz, the rabbi of Ohev Zedek, was invited to speak, but he has yet to confirm his attendance.

"The symposium will bring [EndTheMadness] to life," said Chananya Weissman, a RIETS student who singlehandedly began the organization. The forum will help realize the goal of the organization - to end the judgmental attitude prevalent in the Jewish community, especially as it relates to the dating scene. Singles who do not adhere to the rigid rules of the shidduch system are considered renegades, Weissman said. EndTheMadness is aimed at reversing the stigma. The event is expected to draw singles as well as married couples from both the Yeshiva and general community. There will be a bus to the event from the midtown campus, which is being sponsored by YU student council.

Weissman lamented that today, singles, especially at YC and SCW, can no longer meet at kosher co-ed events, like they had in the past. But he admitted, "I understand from Jews [today] would feel uncomfortable." Weissman did, however, encourage limiting the added barriers that singles and others often erect. When asked whether there would be separate seating at Wednesday night's forum, Weissman said, "There's no need to put up more barriers."

Though he has consulted Rabbi Tendler through every step of planning the organization and has incorporated many of the rabbi's ideas, Weissman believes that the reliance on rabbis to answer dating questions is sometimes excessive. "I don't think you need a rabbi to know you shouldn't chase after money or looks," Weissman said.

EndTheMadness has drawn national interest for addressing a growing problem in the Orthodox community. Its website includes signatories from across the world, and Weissman has been contacted by newspapers including the Boston Jewish Advocate and the New York-based Blueprint.

The forum was originally scheduled to coincide with the SOY seforim sale, but it turned out that the sale was closed that day, Weissman said. "If this goes well, maybe we'll have more events," Weissman said. "Maybe we can have something on the Stern campus."

For students who will be unable to attend the event, an audio link will be available on the YU students website.

ISRAEL NEWS

L'Man Achai Plans Large Siyum for March

By Chavie Schwartzbard

A large-scale siyum is planned for March 16th as the conclusion of project L'man Achai, a grassroots student campaign to memorialize Israel's terror victims by increasing Torah study in Jewish communities nationwide. Organizers hope the event, which will be held in Lamport Auditorium, will draw over a thousand participants.

The list of speakers for the event has yet to be confirmed. Currently, Rabbi Hershel Schechter will be giving a *shiur* in conjunction with the completion of the *siyum* on Talmud, while students will lead the other *siyums*.

The keynote address of the evening will be given by Rabbi Stuart Weiss, father of soldier Ari Weiss who was killed in Nablus on *Sukkot*. Weiss recently established Ohel Ari, an outreach center to spread Torah learning in Rana'ana. Students will also recite *tehillim*, and a short video presentation will be shown.

"We're really excited to have Rabbi Weiss address the students," said Naphtali Weisz, who initiated the campaign. "As an American he will be able to relate to the audience and make the Israeli situation hit closer to home."

While the crowd will mainly consist of RIETS, YC and SCW students, a number of local high school students are expected as well. According to Weisz, high school students from Memphis, Chicago and Baltimore are planning to travel to New York for the event Thursday night. The project, launched by students at Yeshiva and its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), will end March 15, just before Purim.

Hundreds of YC and SCW students, together with RIETS students, plan to collectively complete all of Tanakh, Mishna, and Gemara in time for the *siyum*. Schools and synagogues in Boca Raton, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Montreal, Pittsburgh, Toronto, New York, and New Jersey have also joined the

effort.

Participants in the project received a card displaying the name and picture of a terror victim on whom they can focus while learning Torah. Victims' families will be notified that Jews everywhere are learning in memory of their loved ones. L'man Achai is affiliated with the Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund (IESF), which provides victim information.

"By dedicating their time and energy to this special project, thousands will increase their own personal commitment and connection to Torah and the Jewish people," said Rabbi David Israel, director of RIETS' Max Stern Division of Communal Services. "We are impressed and encouraged by our students' vision and effort in establishing this community-wide project."

Students are excited about the project and were eager to become involved. "I am happy that I am doing something that unites me with Am Yisrael," said SCW sophomore Miriam Bardi. "It's great that

everybody has been so enthusiastic."

L'man Achai was originally project Nefesh B'Nefesh when organizers initiated the campaign at the beginning of the school year. Nefesh B'Nefesh's objectives included "increasing Torah study within community schools and shuls, reviving awareness of the situation in Israel by dedicated learning, and highlighting *kavod hatorah* (honor for the Torah) at a large *siyum hashas* (completion of the Talmud)."

Other programs organized by students with the help of the One Israel Emergency Solidarity Fund include "Cookies for Israel," "Diet for Israel," and "Adopt a Family." "Kol Haneshama," is a student-initiated and student-operated publication, which memorializes victims with a biography describing their lives.

The L'man Achai website is www.lmanachai.org.

Memorial Service

continued from front page

to focus on the fact that this was an American and Israeli tragedy and to pay tribute to every member of that flight," said SCWSC president Sharon Weiss, who moderated the service.

SCW senior Beth Meshel, who read Ramon's biography, recited "Ode to Ramon," a poem by author Tzvi Freeman and spoke briefly about the significance of Ramon's flight and subsequent death.

"Ilan was a role model ... a sign of hope for Israel to return to a state of normalcy," Meshel said.

The eight-minute Powerpoint presentation was prepared by YC junior David Weinberg and focused primarily on Ramon. "The presentation was really beautiful and moving," SCW senior Jenny Richmond said.

Weinberg, who prepared the presentation for the Wilf campus memorial service at the request of SOY president Josh Goldman, said time constraints prevented him from presenting each of the astronaut's lives in-depth. Weinberg also noted that Yeshiva students were most interested in Ramon and that he felt it was appropriate to highlight the significance of Ramon's life.

The solemnity of the occasion was reinforced by the singing of the Star Spangled Banner and Hatikvah at the start of the service, and the recitation of Psalms, led by TAC president Lisa Grundman and freshman class president Pamela Goldfagen, at the end of the service.

YSU president Shai Barnea extended an invitation through SCWSC to students of SCW to attend the Wilf campus memorial, which was held in Lamport Auditorium on Monday, February 3rd, according to Weiss. Assuming that students would prefer not to miss class, Weiss declined the invitation. The SCW service was held during club hour, rather than at night, so that faculty members could attend, Weiss said.

The memorial at the Wilf campus, at which Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm spoke, was attended by more than 1,000 students and faculty members and attracted media attention.

Through letters posted around the midtown campus on February 3rd, SCW student leaders requested that students pause for a moment of silence at 12:00 pm, the time of the memorial service at the Wilf campus.

Students have also been encouraging the planting of trees in Israel, as Ramon had suggested to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a message from space.

Dean Karen Bacon's Columbia Space Shuttle Memorial Address, February 5th, 2003

Many years ago we used to tell our students that we would gather only twice during their stays at Stern College, once at orientation when we would greet the new students, and again during senior year when we pay tribute to the graduating students. For many years that really was the case. We didn't gather for other occasions. But in recent years, more times than I can even remember, we have gathered together in this room, to recite Tehillim, to say Psalms, to comfort each other, and to give tribute to people who have died in tragedies. Here we are again, today, doing just that same thing.

I think we do this for at least two reasons. One, is in the words of Job, "*adabrah vyivach li*," I will speak that I will find relief. We gather together as a group to relieve ourselves of some of the sense of tragedy and doom and gloom and hopelessness and depression and despair. But that's not the only reason we gather. We also gather to pay tribute. In this case, to pay tribute to seven exceptional men and women. I say exceptional because it is very unlikely that any of us in this room will walk the paths they've walked, will see the things they saw. They were exceptions, they were exceptional.

Rav Soleveitchik, ZT"L found in Sefer Bereishit, in Genesis, indications of how man is to live his life. In particular, these indications are rooted in the story of the creation of man, of Adam. First, we hear about the creation of man that he is created "*btselem elokim*," in the image of God, and he is instructed "*piru urivu*," you are to multiply and fill the earth, "*vikivshuha*," you are to dominate the world. You are to control the world, you are to rule the world. From this the Rav learns that one of man's goals in life, one of his missions, is to be creative; to explore, to push the boundaries of knowledge, to go places where people haven't gone before, to be intellectually alert, to search, to seek, to try to find answers, to understand the unknown, to harness nature in the service of mankind, to move from feeling helpless to feeling empowered. According to the Rav, in man's search to fulfill this mission in life, this mission to be creative, to reach, man achieves majesty.

I believe that the astronauts who died aboard the space shuttle Columbia fulfilled this mission of man, to be creative, to search. When they went into space to explore the cosmos, to expand the knowledge of science and technology, it was with a quest to be creative, and in that process, they achieved majesty.

But there's another aspect to man according to the Rav. *Vayipach b'apav nishmat chaim vyei adam l'nefesh chaya* - When man was created god breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. This man, this other

aspect of man is not one who seeks mastery over the universe. He seeks an intimate relationship with the creator, to understand why we exists, not how the world functions. He seeks the meaning of life, not his mathematics, and in his search God and meaning, man, this man, achieves humility.

I don't know enough about the other astronauts, but I know things about Ilan Ramon A"H that suggest to me that he also fulfilled this second mission of man, this second mandate for how we are to live our lives. When Ilan was traveling in the shuttle over the world, and the shuttle passed over Jerusalem in a flicker of an eye he said the Shema Yisrael, the traditional way in which the Jewish people accept the transcendence of God. Among the personal things that he took along with him, he took a sefer Torah, a small scroll that was saved from the Holocaust. He chose to take with him a Sefer Tehillim, a Book of Psalms, and he chose to take with him a picture drawn by a young child during the Holocaust who dreamed of a better day and perished in the Holocaust.

Ilan Ramon was a man who sought to master space, and came prepared to experience holiness. The Gemara in Taanya tells us the following. A man is wondering through the desert. He's thirsty, he's hungry, he is absolutely oppressed by the heat and the sun and he sees a tree, an ilan, in the distance. And the tree has fruit, and the tree has water, and the tree has shade. The man finds with that tree the respite and the solace he is looking for, and he is filled with gratitude. And he wants to thank the tree and he wants to bless. He says "*ilan, ilan, bameh avarechecha*." How can I bless you tree? I can't bless you that you should be fruitful. You have fruit. I can't bless you with plentiful water. You have plentiful water. I can't bless you with wonderful shade. You have wonderful shade. How can I bless you? And the man says "*yehi ratzon sheyihiyu tze'etzaeh maecha kamotcha*" I bless you with the following words: That those that spring from you should be just like you, as blessed as you are.

I think this is the greatest tribute we can give to the seven astronauts who lost their lives five days ago. May their biological children, and all of you, symbolically their children, follow in their footsteps in the sense that you will be creative. You will explore. You will reach beyond the boundaries of knowledge. You will harness the forces of nature in order to better mankind. And, at the same time, you will imbue your strivings with a sense of holiness and intimacy with the *Kadosh Baruch Hu*. And, may you, in your life's work, achieve majesty and humility, as they did in theirs.

Transcribed by Shayndi Raice

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ON CAMPUS

YU Libraries Revamp Computer YULIS System

By Arie Staller

The newly revamped version of the Yeshiva University Library Information Systems (YULIS) is now available to students at the various YU libraries. Fully updated and running, it catalogues the information found in all libraries on Yeshiva's midtown and Wilf campuses, as well as the book collection in the Yeshiva University Museum.

Although the system had gone through minor adjustments in the past, students seemed especially pleased with the recent changes. "YULIS is extremely helpful," Kamelia Yadegari, a SSSB senior, said. "I found everything I needed on the web through the YULIS search engine." This is largely due to the clarity in which the system is displayed. Icons, clearly displayed on a new blue background, and pull down menus are available on most pages, easing the search process.

YU was a pioneer in the mid 1990s for VTLS-Web Gateway, a program that incorporates Hebrew into its database.

Prior to Web Gateway the library systems had been kept on a card catalogue. According to Dean Pearl Berger, Dean of Libraries at Yeshiva University, from the time YU initially began using this VTLS system, it was known that upgrades would be necessary as time went on. "We're a beta-site for Hebrew integration," says Berger. "They [VTLS] work with us." Now, when typing Hebrew or conducting a Hebrew search on YULIS, the correct portrayal of Hebrew characters and letters with accent marks appears.

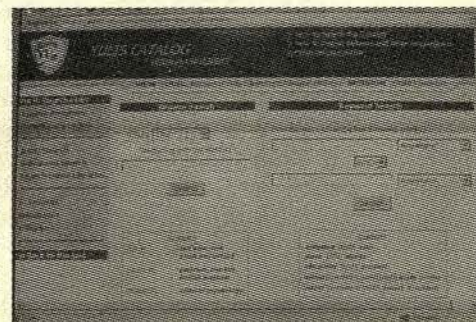
Central to the updates is easier accessibility, which explains why Yeshiva librarians have worked with VTLS to make improvements, notably an updated, streamlined web interface. In particular, the improvements are expected to help students and faculty involved in research.

Upon opening the YULIS CATALOG, the directions for the search engine are posted on each page as well as "how to" examples. "I've never used an online catalogue before to coming to Stern," Aliza Frohlinger, an SCW junior said. "The

instructions and examples given on the website make it very easy to use."

The YULIS update is one of many improvements Yeshiva campuses have innovated to enhance educational. Members of the Yeshiva community now have access to their personal library account via the Web. Step by step instructions are provided. To enter into the library system, the numbers of the bar code on the library card (YU ID) and a password are required. Immediately, a screen appears listing a summary of current circulation activities and account information occurring under one's library account. Under the account, pull down boxes are provided to view details on any of the checked items.

The search links provided connect to course reserves in the reserve library and interlibrary loans. This allows for users checking out books from the various campus libraries to renew materials online. Additionally, library catalogs of other institutions, E-Journals, and E-Books are searchable via a single YULIS search. The E-journal database provides a list of



The new YULIS screen, pictured above, includes, among other features, a more

journals and their availability information.

Students and faculty members have welcomed the updates. "YULIS was okay before," says Rachel Berger, a SCW junior, "But these updates have definitely made it better." Librarians at SCW agree that the new system is a definite improvement. "I'm very satisfied," said Edith Lubetski, SCW head librarian.

Professors Bring Technology into the Classroom

By Malka Zeiger

The use of technology in SCW classrooms seems to be at an all-time high as professors in departments ranging from physics to music consider new ways to improve the quality of their curricula. The science departments are at the head of the innovations, using programs such as "Angel," a Web-based teaching software that allows students to upload course material from the Internet, and "WebAssign," a site that enables students to receive and submit personalized homework. After utilizing "WebAssign" for over three years, professors such as Drs. Anatoly Frenkel, Chaya Rapp and Lea Blau all took advantage of Angel software in a pilot program this past fall. If successful, Tom Oleszcuk, manager of the department of academic computing, hopes to acquire funding to make the software available to other SCW departments.

Physics professor Dr. Frenkel, who prepares for his class with PowerPoint on a computer and uses a projector to display it in his class, also uploads his presentation on the Web in the classroom. "The advantage of the system is not only that students can access material and homework, but that presentations can integrate movies, animation, and other Websites. This is the advantage over handouts," he explained. Frenkel also pointed out that he saves classroom time by not writing everything out on the blackboard, and believes that having prepared the material in advance allows him to convey the information better to his class. Another professor in a science department, however, claimed that "the time required to prepare these presentations is not worth it."

One advantage of the Angel software is that students can access it on the Internet from any computer. Another way of communicating with students is through SCW's F drive, but it can only be accessed from a Yeshiva computer. Reserved for faculty members, the F drive allows professors to post assignments or articles. Students cannot add or modify anything on the drive. Currently, about a dozen professors have taken advantage of this system. "It's proven very useful for a lot of the faculty," Oleszcuk said. "We encourage faculty to use it."

Smaller departments are also spearheading new projects to improve their curricula. Dr. David Glaser, head of the SCW music department, hopes to get a computer that has software enabling students to compose electronic music and practice ear training. Although no initiatives have been taken yet to purchase the software, the advance is essential to developing the music department, according to Glaser. One of the few humanities professors who regularly makes use of technology in the classroom by playing music on a stereo, Dr. Glaser agrees with his colleagues in the science departments that "we wouldn't have a problem getting anything for the class that we requested, as

long as the Dean would understand a need for it."

Both professors who do and do not use extensive computer software seem to be equally pleased with SCW's supportive provisions of technology. "I have taught computer science at Queens' College and physics at the University of Washington, but this is by far the best and fastest support anything has ever offered," Dr. Frenkel enthused. "Unfortunately, not all the professors are taking advantage of it."

Updating the computer systems has been proven beneficial for students beyond the classroom itself. In SCW's Writing Center, new computers have given students quick and easy access to Internet resources like the New York Public Library online, and research databases. Also, since students can type and edit their papers after or during a session, it is easier to convince them to write multiple drafts, according to Bart Cameron, assistant director of the Writing Center. "Almost every client that walks in here uses the computers," Cameron said. "I am immensely satisfied with what Stern has provided."

In another reflection of SCW's desire to take advantage of developments in technology, the Dean's Office and the Office of Academic Advisement announced that they will begin using Ymail to communicate with students. Communicating through Ymail should ease the amount of fliers the offices currently circulate, as well as provide for more effective and timely communication of academic deadlines.

Although every student and faculty member is given an account on Ymail, Yeshiva's email system, few use it, opting to use their preexisting email accounts instead. Students can have mail sent to their Ymail accounts automatically forwarded to their favored email accounts.

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ON CAMPUS

Biology Department Scrambles to Replace Professor

By Rachel Fyman

The termination of a biology professor in mid-semester has caused some mild conflict, pleasing the biology majors and indirectly disappointing the non-majors.

In response to student concerns, physiology professor Dr. Lloyd Kahn was asked to leave and was replaced with Dr. Jay Weisburg. As a result of the change, Dr. Brenda Loewy has assumed the responsibility of Weisburg's Biology Essentials course, the class for non-majors.

While physiology students are pleased with the change, students in the general biology course have expressed displeasure at losing Dr. Weisburg mid-semester.

New to SCW this semester, Kahn missed the first day of the semester due to prior commitments, and taught three classes of the physiology lecture.

"It became clear that he and the students were not connecting," said Dean Karen Bacon.

Students expressed concerns to other biology faculty members and academic advisors, as well as to Dean Bacon. The dean, together with Dr. Harvey Babich, senior faculty member of the Biology department, decided it would be best for another faculty member to take over the course.

"We trust the faculty in the department," Dean Bacon noted. "They know what students need and have come to expect."

According to Dean Bacon, Kahn understood that the course was not going well and agreed that he should not continue teaching it. Weisburg, an assistant professor new to SCW this year, was chosen to replace Kahn, having the most extensive background in physiology in the department. Babich taught the course for a week after Kahn's departure, giving Weisburg time to prepare.

"To find a qualified replacement from the outside with such little notice would have been virtually impossible," explained Dean Ethel Orlian.

According to Dean Bacon, Kahn was originally hired as an adjunct professor with the understanding that he would teach both the physiology lecture and one of the lab sections, as well as coordinating the content of all the physiology labs. However, just a few days before the start of the semester, Kahn informed the Dean that he was not able to be involved in the labs in any way and was not certain he could commit to the lecture either. It was decided that he would teach the course, and, at the last minute, Mr. Jeffrey Mollin agreed to teach the lab.

"Dr. Kahn gave the impression he didn't want to be there," said Meira Stepansky, an SCW junior who is enrolled in the course. Stepansky noted that quite a few students dropped out of the class in



Biology Essentials students were upset to lose Dr. Weisburg as their professor

the first week. However, many students had no choice but to remain in the class since it is a requirement for most pre-health fields.

Students in Weisburg's Biology Essentials course were upset to lose their professor. Some students had arranged their entire schedules around Weisburg's Biology section, and others expressed the concern that their class had been compromised for the sake of Biology majors. One student started a petition to retain Weisburg as the Biology Essentials professor.

"Dr. Weisburg's approach to presenting material wasn't typical," explained Esther Stern, an SCW sophomore who is in the Biology Essentials section. "He is very good-natured and enthusiastic about it. He made students enjoy biology."

According to administrators, there was no real reason for concern.

"Students panicked," explained Dean Bacon. "They were connecting well with the instructor." Dean Orlian said that the students may have reacted so strongly because they were not prepared for the change.

Efforts have been made to ease the transition of a new professor three weeks into the semester. Before taking over the course, Loewy visited with the Biology Essentials class to introduce herself and "alleviate any concerns" students might have had.

Dean Bacon asserted that the switches were made to best accommodate all students involved. "I have every confidence that the students will connect as well with Dr. Loewy," she said. "Both courses now have outstanding faculty members. Nobody is disadvantaged."

Dean Bacon could not remember any time in the past when a professor had to be suddenly replaced in the midst of a semester, and she apologized for the situation. "We made a mistake and so did Dr. Kahn," she admitted. "We acknowledge this and are correcting it. Now we have to move forward."

Department in Focus: Speech Pathology/Audiology

By Ariella Goldstein

It's not difficult to encounter a speech pathology/audiology major. The department is consistently one of the most popular departments in SCW. There are currently 54 SCW students majoring in speech pathology/audiology.

The Speech pathology/Audiology department may be so popular because it is a pre-professional program. "Two years after graduation, with a Master's degree, speech pathology/audiology students are very employable, almost guaranteed a job," said Orlian. Another motivation for choosing the speech pathology/audiology major is the flexibility of the career. Speech pathology/audiology allows one to work in various settings, such as in early childhood or with elderly people.

Unlike most majors that permit students to take their required courses in any order, there is a rigid course outline for speech pathology/audiology majors. "There is a lock-step sequence of classes that should be followed," said Dean Orlian. "Majors should move on together." Every student majoring in speech pathology/audiology begins with the same Survey of Communication Disorders in the spring of her sophomore year and continues to follow a set order of classes throughout all her semesters at Stern.

Although the schedule is strict, sticking to the speech pathology/audiology curriculum has its rewards. "We have the highest acceptance rate [into graduate schools] of any undergraduate program I know," said Professor Danto, head of the Speech Pathology/Audiology department. "Our students are really sought after."

Most students agree that their courses at SCW adequately prepare them for graduate programs in speech pathology. "Graduates have verified that they were well prepared both for graduate school and to enter the speech pathology/audiology field after Stern," said SCW senior Tova Strahlberg. However, some SCW students are concerned about competition between SCW students for acceptance into graduate school due to the popularity of the major.

Speech classes are very specialized. "Any one given course doesn't give you an idea of the field," explained Orlian. "All the classes focus on very specific topics within the speech pathology field." However, students still acquire a complete understanding of the subject. "When you put all of the classes together,

you get the whole picture of speech pathology," said Aviva Zupnick, an SCW senior, majoring in speech pathology/audiology.

Due to the specific focus of each speech pathology/audiology class, few non-speech pathology/audiology majors take speech pathology classes, though a few education and psychology majors sometimes take the Survey of Communication Disorders and Development of Language classes.

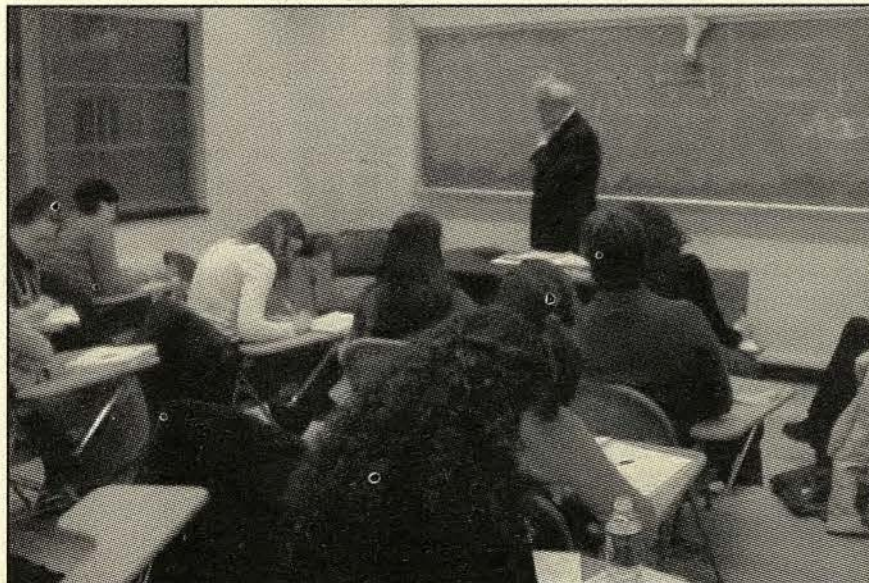
Since most speech pathology/audiology instructors are adjunct professors who currently work as speech pathologists during the day, most classes in the department are offered in the evenings, often to the regret of students. "Last year, we all had to stay until 7:45 pm twice a week," SCW senior Sarabeth Needle. "We understand that the professors work during the day, but the schedules are still frustrating." Despite the instructors' busy schedules, however, students have found them to be accessible. "In terms of having questions and needing clarifications, the teachers are always available," noted Sarabeth Needle. "The teachers are very good," Zupnick agreed.

Students are required to take Clinical Observation at the end of their SCW careers to supplement the major. "This resembles the education major's fieldwork," says Dean Orlian. "Speech pathology/audiology majors observe exactly what a speech pathologist does." In addition to observations, students are advised to work in summer internships to learn more about the speech pathology/audiology field.

Unfortunately, there are few extracurricular activities on campus geared to the speech pathology/audiology major. "Students sometimes put out a journal with

research articles," says Dean Orlian. In fact, SCW students are currently trying to revive a speech pathology/audiology journal, according to Zupnick.

Despite the lack of group activities for speech pathology/audiology majors, there is a sense of camaraderie among the students of speech pathology/audiology. The students are a "very tight-knit group," Zupnick said. "Everyone helps each other out." "I really think it's a great program," said Professor Danto, "and I think it's because of the excellence of the students - they are serious, bright, hard-working and very special women."



Professor Danto teaches a Speech class

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UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology Receives Prestigious Grant

By Rachel Fyman

Yeshiva's Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology was one of only fifteen training programs across the country chosen recently to receive a federal training grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services. The funding is intended to provide specialized instruction and clinical practice to graduate students in the area of gerontological psychology.

This significant accomplishment demonstrates the national recognition that Ferkauf has garnered for the quality of its training programs.

The grant establishes Ferkauf as the only institution in the New York metropolitan area to provide such training, according to Assistant Professor Dr. Richard Zweig, who was instrumental in putting the grant application together and is overseeing the program.

For several decades, the field of psychology was ineligible to receive these funds—designated for pre-doctoral, internship, and post-doctoral programs—from the federal government. However, Ferkauf approached the federal government for funding in recognition of the rising demand for mental health services among older adults and a dearth of clinical psychologists with training in this area.

Thanks to the grant, standard graduate courses and symposia at Ferkauf now include content on mental health and aging, and Ph.D students with an interest in working with older populations can enroll in specialized courses. The courses and symposia have an interdisciplinary focus, drawing on faculty from the fields of

psychology, social work, internal medicine, and neurology.

Graduate students gain practical experience assessing and treating older patients in primary care, clinical research, and traditional outpatient settings. Training is provided on four sites: Ferkauf, the Adult Primary Care Clinic at Albert Einstein College of Medicine's affiliated Jacobi Hospital Medical Center, the Einstein Aging Study Research Clinic, and the Max and Celia Parnes Family Psychological and Psycho-educational Services Clinic at Ferkauf. Zweig believes Ferkauf is uniquely positioned to be one of the leading centers for training gerontological psychologists in the nation because of its ability to offer an interdisciplinary approach.

Dean Lawrence J. Siegel said the grant showed the federal government's foresight in planning for an imminent, rapid rise in the geriatric population. "The federal government's awarding of this grant to Ferkauf is a timely acknowledgment of the importance of training psychologists to work with elderly populations," he said. "The baby boomer generation is hitting retirement age, causing an unprecedented surge in the number of older adults in the United States. Both the government and the psychology profession need to anticipate their mental health needs."

Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology is located on Yeshiva University's Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. Due to its specialized and unique programs, admission to

the graduate school is highly competitive. The school offers a Masters degree in general, experimental, developmental and social-personality psychology, as well as a PsyD track with programs in clinical psychology and school-child clinical psychology. The school's PhD track includes programs in developmental psychology, and its clinical-health program is one of the few such programs on the east coast.

Ferkauf developed from the Yeshiva's School of Education and Community Administration (1948-1957) and Graduate School of Education (1957-1965). The School was named in 1965 to honor the vision and generosity of Eugene and Estelle Ferkauf. It later became Ferkauf

Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (1966-1977), and Ferkauf Graduate School (1977-1982). Development as a school of Psychology began in 1975, with the joining of the Departments of Psychology and Educational Psychology to form the University-wide Department of Psychology. The School of Professional Psychology was established at Ferkauf Graduate School in 1979 in response to changing patterns of training in psychology, and new patterns of student demand for such training.



Ferkauf Graduate School on the Jack and Pearl Resnick Campus at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. It is the only institution in the New York metropolitan area to provide specialized instruction and clinical practice in the area of gerontological psychology.

The Belz School Struggles to Attract Aspiring Cantors

By Elisha Horen

One of Yeshiva's lesser known schools, The Philip & Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music, an affiliate of the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), is a cantorial training school, designed to provide men with the opportunity of attaining a professional degree in hazzanut. In addition to students who plan to make a profession of *hazzanut*, YC undergraduates with an interest in Jewish music are permitted to take courses at the school for credit. Even qualified high school students are permitted take courses here as electives.

Renamed for its benefactors in 1983, the Belz School opened in 1946 as a music education program, which included musical activities for prospective cantors, rabbis and teachers. In 1989, it moved into a state-of-the-art-facility that houses four soundproofed classrooms, sophisticated sound and recording equipment, and an acoustically designed 60-seat recital hall. Since its inception, more than 6,000 students, the majority of which have been YC undergraduates, have attended the school, which is considered to be one of the nation's foremost centers for the professional training of cantors.

The array of classes offered span Sephardi, Temani and Ashkenazi traditions. In addition to learning elementary music skills, men are trained to lead regular Shabbat and High Holiday prayers. The Belz School focuses on synagogue service and community activities.

At the conclusion of the program, students receive a Cantorial Diploma (full-fledged cantor) or an Associate Cantor's Certificate (*ba'al tefilah*). In conjunction with the Cantorial Services of the Max

Stern Division of Communal Services, the Belz School assists students and alumni in obtaining music teaching and full or part-time cantorial positions. Sponsored by Belz, the Cantorial Council of America (CCA) provides graduates of Belz, RIETS, and practicing cantors around the world to keep abreast of current trends and happenings in the cantorial scene. Additionally, the CCA puts out an annual Journal of Jewish Music as well as other publications relating to the fields of hazzanut.

The Cantorial Training Institute (CIT), set up by the Belz School to allow for networking between practicing cantors, has traditionally been very helpful for students hoping to become cantors. However, it has become increasingly difficult for the school to place cantors in Orthodox synagogues. "Most people today think they know how to be a *shaliach tzibur* so there aren't many positions available for full-time cantors," Cantor Freeman, Dean of Belz, said "The problem is that they aren't doing things properly. *Ba'al Habatim* try to save a little money but they aren't getting a *shaliach tzibur* who is using the right *nusach*."

In fact, while the school has almost 150 students enrolled in classes, only ten are planning on attaining a cantorial diploma. "The priorities of synagogues have changed," said Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, the Libby M. Klapperman professor of Jewish history at SCW, YC, and BRGS. "Today Jews want to see their shul as a *beit midrash*, and it's more important for them to have a rabbi who can learn rather than perform."

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High Schools

continued from front page

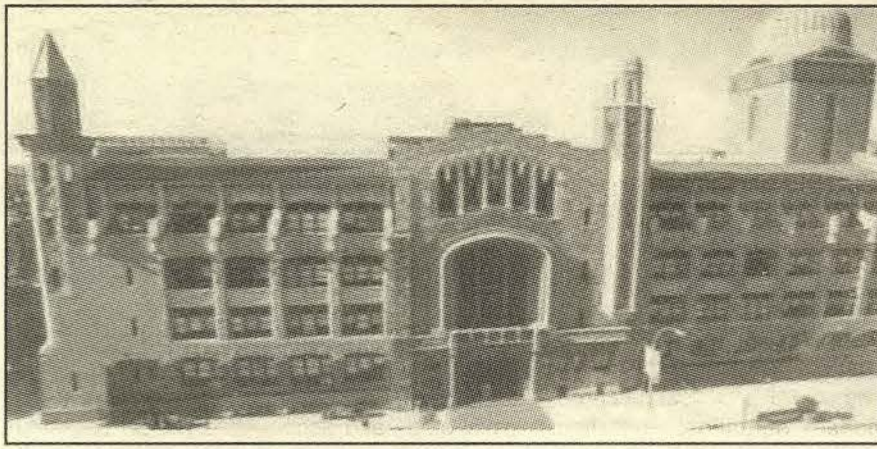
schools since assuming the position of high school board chairman in 1995, has continuously pushed for independence.

The decision to financially separate is being hailed by both parties. The key advantage to the high schools is freedom to the threat of closure by the University. "It guarantees the existence of the schools despite any changes in the board of the University," said Glaubach, who is active on a number of University boards. Many board members and administrators have over the years consistently maintained that a university should not be in the high school business.

Additionally, the schools will no longer suffer the complex bureaucracy of a University, an unnecessary hassle for a smaller scale high school operation. "We'll only pay specifically for services that we need," said Glaubach.

From the University's perspective, the high schools will continue as a key feeder to the colleges. The move will also allow Yeshiva to remain loyal to its history. The boys' high school was started in 1916, eventually leading to the establishment of the men's college in 1923. The girls' high school, now called the Samuel H. Wang High School (Central) opened in 1948. Each school has an enrollment of over 300 students.

The debate about the high schools reached a tumultuous pinnacle in January 1999, when plans to shut down the schools became public. The reason for the decision was threefold: the high schools, with an annual deficit of approximately \$3 million, were a steady financial drain for the University; the uptown college campus was experiencing a space crunch and needed more room for classrooms and dorms; and enrollment in the high schools was dwindling due to the proliferation of alternative schools in major Jewish sub-



Despite new independence, MTA will continue on at its current location in the Main building at the Wilf Campus

urbs like Teaneck and Lawrence. While the decision included Central, it mainly focused on MTA.

Hoping to keep the decision under tight wraps, University administrators, particularly Lamm, instead found themselves under intense communal pressure, when The Jewish Week and The Forward published articles in January unveiling the plans. Following protests and petitions in support of MTA and its venerable eight-decade history, Lamm announced in March that the high schools would remain open. Though the high schools were already loosely affiliated with RIETS, its board would now take the school under its wings and assume financial responsibility. The board of the high schools was disbanded.

While independence was also an option in 1999, according to Gibber such a move would have appeared as if the University were "throwing away the high schools." Gibber pointed to the need to be financially sound and educationally stronger before the option was feasible. "It's like buying a bankrupt company - why would anyone want to be a part of that?" he explained.

RIETS, however, did not fulfill its financial responsibility to the schools, leaving the burden on the University. Recognizing by now that the communi-

ty would never accept shutting down MTA or merging it with another high school, University officials decided to shift toward independence. Since this past August, the high schools are no longer an affiliate of RIETS.

According to both Glaubach and Gibber, the time is ripe for the move since the high schools have been on a "steady path of improvement" in the past five years. Both Central and MTA hired new principals and have attempted to raise school standards. "We've never had the caliber of the student we have now," said Glaubach, who pointed out that many top YC and RIETS students are MTA graduates. Additionally, the annual deficit has decreased to \$600,000, due to a reduction in financial aid, as well as the forgiving some of the allocated debt by Yeshiva.

The high schools will have a new board of directors that will work in consultation with the University Board of Trustees. Currently, Judah Feinerman is the chairman of the board and Glaubach and Gibber are co-chairs. The board will be responsible for raising funds for the school, and is confident that it will be successful. "The high school is now in the position to pull off the move," said Gibber. "It's more capable of standing its own."

This Month in SCW History February 1969

On February 11th, student leaders threatened a school-wide strike if administrators did not immediately begin construction of a new school building. Plans to construct a building adjacent to the 253 Lexington Avenue school building had been stalled for years due to lack of funds. A special issue of the Observer on February 12, 1969, declared, "Until these demands are met, Stern College is in a state of crisis. At the emergency meeting Tuesday night, which was attended by 90% of the student body, Council voted to boycott classes Thursday. Ours is not a strike against the ideals of the establishment, but to uphold these ideals, threatened by the inadequacy of our facilities."

Dr. Samuel Belkin visited Stern and averted the strike by promising students that groundbreaking ceremonies to construct a new building would take place within six weeks. At groundbreaking ceremonies exactly six weeks later on March 24, 1969, Dr. Belkin said, "I have attended many groundbreaking ceremonies, but never have I experienced a greater joy than I have today."

The February 24, 1969 edition of the Observer announced the establishment of a new program called "Torah Tours" by Yeshiva University's Youth Bureau. "In this program students from Stern and Yeshiva will be sent to communities on request to spend a weekend there and help spread Torah spirit," the article said.

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Arts & Culture

Two Jews, Three Websites

By Rachel Horn

The abundance of Jewish sites that have recently cropped up on the Internet present the savvy Jewish surfer with almost as many options for Websites to visit as for synagogues and kosher restaurants. With a few clicks of a mouse, one can obtain breaking news in Israel from Arutz Sheva, order an online gift certificate for a friend at Eichlers.com, and watch a cousin wave from Israel on Aish HaTorah's "Window on the Wall."

The Internet has also created new outlets for a thriving Jewish culture to express itself. *onlysimchas.com*, for example, has become a household word. One needn't search farther than SCW's computer lab to see how checking *onlysimchas.com* has become a standardized part of people's daily routine. The website was established in 2000, when then college student Dov Katz began taking photographs at friends' engagement parties with his digital camera. He was managing a web development company at the time and began posting the pictures on the Web.

The notion spread like wildfire, according to Vice President of Marketing and Business Development Yossi Markovitz. "The site got thousands of entries right away," Markovitz said. "We decided it might make for a good community service and business." With the help of Markovitz and his brother-in-law, Katz launched a Website that, as of December 2002, has received over five million visits a month.

Onlysimchas.com posts announcements of engagements, weddings, bar mitzvahs, births, individuals and families making aliyah and other momentous occasions. Friends can view pictures of the event and write congratulatory messages.

The vast popularity of the site was noted when the site crashed on

December 29, 2002. When *OnlySimchas.com*'s hosting company went down, all the pictures were lost. Although it was supposed to have been backed up, the Website lost all of its information.

"We received so many letters of support saying we had to rebuild it," Markovitz said. "We were considering ending on a high note but because of the tremendous support we got, we decided to rebuild." During the time it was out of commission, the website received over 400 e-mails asking for it to be reinstated. When the site was up and running again, *OnlySimchas.com* received an additional 200 e-mails of thanks.

When twin brothers Isaac and Seth Galena launched *bangitout.com* as a joke between friends at work, they had no idea that the website would quickly become the talk of the Upper West Side. Originally, the website posted jokes from Galena's office. "It became much funnier when we started writing about Jewish stuff," Isaac Galena said. *Bangitout.com* now parodies various aspects of modern Orthodox life. The Website's motto is "a place where Jews can laugh at themselves." The Yeshiva University graduates wanted to create a venue for "people to laugh at stuff only Jews get," Galena explained. "This is good Jewish comedy for the whole Jewish world."

Bangitout.com offers a large array of Top 10 Lists, a "dating dictionary," and a collection of humorous Jewish forwards. Aside from that, it features listings for jobs, roommates and apartments, Torah commentaries and movie reviews.

The Website is often used as a monitor of hot topics in the Jewish community. "People say 'I wonder if this will get on *bangitout.com*,'" Galena said. "It's really a good social commentary on our community's idiosyncrasies." The Website sati-



Bangitout.com has become the hot humor site for young Jews

rizes the Upper West Side synagogue "OZ," the Passover social scene at Florida's Eden Rock Hotel and Dougie's Barbeque and Grill. *Bangitout.com* has become so popular that other websites have created spoofs of it. "You know you've made it when people are mocking your mockery," Galena commented with a laugh.

While most viewers feel that the website is in good humor, there has been some resistance toward the concept of Jews mocking their own. "We get mail telling us that we're totally against halacha," he said. Whenever a question of halacha arises, Galena makes sure that he looks into the matter. "If they make a good point, we'll edit the site," he said. "It's good criticism. It keeps us on our toes."

Galena seeks other opinions when it comes to determining material that should be posted on the Web. "When I get rarer articles, I send them to my staff," he explained. In no way is the Website meant to be taken offensively. "Everyone [on the staff] is hard-core frum," he professed. "We're writing out of affection."

Others have taken advantage of the strong Jewish interest in the Internet to encourage social change. RIETS student Chananya Weissman set up *endthemadness.org* as a catalyst to spark reform this past summer. According to its mission statement, *endthemadness.org* is as "an ambitious and unique effort to combat the angst and hardships associated with dating in the religious Jewish community. *Endthemadness* calls for courage and commitment in solving the "Shidduch Crisis."

Although the Website is mainly associated with the dating scene, Weissman hopes to spark change in several areas of social concern. "*Endthemadness.org* is meant to be about how people treat each other in general," Weissman said. The Website encourages a shift in what it calls the judgmental attitude of the Jewish community.

Weissman is sometimes criticized for his openly active stance. "People say 'Who do you think you are to change the world, a gadol or a rabbi?'" he said. Weissman pointed out to his challengers the difference between *paskening* halakha and initiating social change. "People don't know where to draw the line, when you need a *psak* and when to make a decision for yourself," he commented. "That is a main point of the Website."

The Internet has become a vital mode of communication in the structure of the Jewish community. "The Internet is the best way to reach a lot of people," said Weissman. Whether you are looking to find out if that girl in your English class is engaged, enjoy some humorous commentary on the Jewish social scene or change the Orthodox community, there is a sight to suit your need. Your answers might just be a few clicks away.

Arts Festival 2003 In the Works

By Rachel Berger

Yeshiva is an institution that prides itself for its excellent business school, strong science department, and of course, its unique dual curriculum. Unfortunately, the more artistic programs at the university are often overlooked. The annual joint SCW-YC Arts Festival belies this tendency.

The Festival demonstrates that a strong artistic community that is creative and energetic exists on Yeshiva's campuses. "There is a huge artistic community at Yeshiva in both campuses, but it is mostly underground," said YC senior Akiva Fischman, who is co-director of this year's event together with SCW senior Jessica Moore. "They do not often have the opportunity to promote their work. This is the opportunity to show the Yeshiva community how artistic they are." He added further that the festival was not limited to those active in the arts; all students will enjoy participating in the arts festival.

"The arts are not really pushed in the Jewish community, so this event is very important to promote artistic creativity," commented Moore.

The Festival will take place this year from March 23 through April 3, and the 10 events that comprise the festival will be distributed between the Wilf and midtown campuses. They will span the range of artistic expression, including literary, visual, musical and dramatic performances, both live and filmed. Moore and Fischman have appointed department heads for the various different media

Highlights of the festival this year will be performances by YC bands, a gallery night and the Yeshiva classical orchestral. The Arts Festival will host both a poetry and prose night, both of which were very successful last year, with over a hundred people in attendance.

Moore hopes the festival this year will differ from those in the past. In her past years at SCW, the Arts Festival always attracted the same crowd. A small group of student was responsible for planning the event and has since graduated. She hopes to develop a new set of student leaders to bring the arts to the attention of the Yeshiva community at large. "This year we are really trying to open our festival to the entire student body," she said. She hopes that this will get many people to "blossom their artistic talents—whether they know they have them or not."

Both leaders stressed that they hoped to draw a larger crowd than just people who are usually interested in the arts. They hope this year's festival to be an experience for the entire student body. "Whether or not you use them as an occupation, the arts are still necessary to develop," said Moore, who is starting law school in the fall. "These are skills that people will use for the rest of their lives, and they can look back and realize that they found and developed that creativity at YU."

Works are being solicited for the arts festival. Students are encouraged to submit their ideas and creations to YUartsfestival03@yahoo.com.

The Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies

is pleased to announce

The E. Billi Ivry Essay Contest in American Jewish History

To PROMOTE greater understanding and appreciation of American Jewish history, the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at SCW is awarding cash prizes for the best essay written on a theme in American Jewish History.

To qualify for the award, students must be currently enrolled at SCW. Any essay on an American Jewish historical or sociological theme written during the academic year 2002-2003 or during summer session of 2002 may be considered. For more information contact Dr. Jeffrey S. Gurock at gurock@ymail.yu.edu.

The deadline for submissions in May 1, 2003.

Arts & Culture

An Ingenious Exhibit: Einstein on Display

By Rena Roth

The American Museum of Natural History's exhibit on Albert Einstein examines the life and theories of a Jewish genius who is arguably the most brilliant scientist of all time. The exhibit shows the legacy of Albert Einstein both for his scientific genius and for his engagement in the social and political issues of his era.

The beginning of the exhibition tastefully assesses the life of Albert Einstein touching on his family, education and his greatest achievements. The exhibit includes many pictures and objects that belonged to him, including the Noble Prize Medal which he received in 1921 for his distinguished career in physics. His most notable accomplishment was his 1905 theory of light and electrons called the Photoelectric Effect, not, as is commonly assumed, for his more controversial theory of relativity. Other personal items on display include family mementos and his magnetic compass. Albert Einstein's lifelong passion for physics was sparked at the age of four or five when his father showed him a small compass. The one shown in the exhibit is similar to the one that originally intrigued him as a child.

After this brief overview of his life, the exhibit features a short film presenting other scientists and friends who attest to the genius of the man, offering interesting tidbits about Einstein's personality.

The next section extensively details the scientist's theories and discoveries. Einstein viewed the world as a puzzle that could be solved with the imagination. He presented theo-

ries on light, time, energy, and gravity. Yet, his most revolutionary contribution is considered to be his General Theory of Relativity. Here he revealed a new theory of gravity that overthrew the Newtonian view of gravity as a simple force between objects. This theory states that the sun's gravity acts like a lens and deflects light from distant stars, making them appear in new locations.

The museum marvelously portrays Einstein as a social activist as well as a scientist. The exhibit reveals the significance of Einstein's extensive political activities. Although he was a reluctant celebrity, Einstein recognized his fame and used it to campaign for his ideals. He was a passionate humanitarian, speaking out against segregation, anti-Semitism, McCarthyism, and arguing for the protection of human rights around the world. One of his earliest concerns was the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the Middle East. In 1952, he was offered the presidency of Israel but graciously declined.

The greatest challenge of a curator when presenting an exhibition is making sure to capture the essence of the subject without too much detail. This exhibit succeeds by dividing Einstein's life into two major parts. The first is Einstein's physics and the second is Einstein as a man. The exhibit is an elegant portrayal of an unassuming genius who described himself as, "neither especially clever nor especially gifted... (But) very, very curious."

"Einstein" is showing at the Museum of Natural History until August 10th.



Bookworm:

If A Place Can Make You Cry

*If A Place Can Make You Cry:
Dispatches from an Anxious State*
By Daniel Gordis
Crown Pub, 2002
Price: \$24.00

By Devorah Heching

In the summer of 1998, Daniel Gordis, along with his wife and three children, took what was expected to be a one-year sabbatical to Israel. Gordis and his family were living in Los Angeles where he was very busy as founding Dean of the Zeigler Rabbinical School, the newest Rabbinical school in the U.S. A permanent residence in Israel was the last thing on his mind. But after being offered a position as a fellow at the Mandel Institute in Israel, he and his wife decided to accept the offer, hoping that it would provide the family with a much needed vacation.

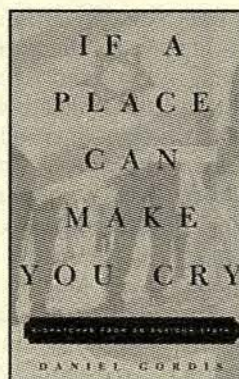
Thus begins the tale of the Gordis family's arrival in Israel and the story of his book, "If a Place Can Make You Cry: Dispatches from an Anxious State". The book is a compilation of e-mails that Daniel Gordis sent to friends and family concerning the welfare of his family and their progress in what soon becomes an increasingly dangerous country. Through these e-mails, Gordis grapples with his decision to move his family - initially for a year and ultimately on a permanent basis - to a land which promises his children a true Jewish legacy, but at the same time, threatens their very existence. This is a chronicle of a loss of innocence - that of the Gordis parents and that of their children.

When Daniel Gordis, an American Jewish liberal, arrives in Israel in 1998 it is a time of relative peace, a euphoric time in what has been a war-torn country. The economy was thriving, and the Oslo Accords were expected

to herald an era of peace. During their first year in Israel, Gordis expresses the sentiment that life in Israel is safer than in their old neighborhood in West L.A. This feeling of relative security is soon coupled with a sensation of truly belonging to a place and culture. Gordis recalls his grandfather's tears of joy in 1977 when they received news that the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had finally visited Israel and acknowledged its existence. He finally understands the message

behind his grandfather's tears. Gordis realizes that, "If there's a place in the world that can make you cry, isn't that where you ought to be?"

After making aliyah with his family the relative peace in Israel quickly breaks down. This element of the author's experiences is reflected in the second half of the book's title, "Dispatches from an Anxious State." Gordis's e-mails then began to capture the fear, confusion, and anger of many liberal Israelis as their faith in the Oslo Peace Accords shattered, and their sense of imminent danger intensified with no plausible solution in sight. But while the author chronicles the danger and uncertainty of the years leading up to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's 2002 declaration of war, Gordis is careful not to overlook the struggle of every Israeli to make their lives and the lives of their children meaningful and manageable despite the surrounding chaos. He attempts to reconcile their love of Israel with the horror of living in a country at war. In the process, he teaches himself and his readers what it is that really matters.



The Museum of Natural History provides a comprehensive look at Albert Einstein's life

Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

The Top 100: The Great Books of Modern Jewish Fiction: Franz Kafka's The Trial
Lecture by Dr. Jeremy Dauber
February 26, 7:30-9:00 pm
92nd Street Y
Lexington Ave between 91st and 92nd St
212-415-5500

Anne Frank Center USA
Photographs and excerpts from the famous diary tell Anne Frank's story from her birth in Germany to her death in Bergen-Belsen
Mon-Fri, 10 am-4 pm
584 Broadway, Suite 408
212-431-7993

Three Bronx Utopia at Judaica Museum
Pre-war labor housing and the socialist vision
Mon-Thurs 1:00-4:30 pm, Sun 1:00-5:00 pm
Hebrew Home for the Aged
5961 Palisade Ave, Riverdale
718-581-1787

Time Capsule
Twelve artists from Colombia, Mexico, Greece, Israel and America explore the theme of archaeology as a political and social force in this exhibition
Through March 15 Tues-Fri noon-6 pm
Art in General
79 Walker Street
212-219-3523

A Portrait of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life
Exhibition on Jewish life in the South; features ritual and domestic objects, paintings,

Feb 9- July 20
Yeshiva University Museum
15 W 16th Street
212-294-8330

Children of the Lost Tribe of Dan: Portraits of Ethiopian Jewry by Win Robins
Photographs of Ethiopian Jews taken in two contrasting worlds: Ethiopia and Israel
Jan 16- August 3
Yeshiva University Museum
15 W 16th Street
212-294-8330

Tribute to Al Hirschfeld
Selected drawings by the famed chronicler of the performing arts who died January 20, at age 99.
Through February 23, 2003 Wed-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm
Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue
212-543-1672
Donation recommended

Sephardic Kosher Cooking Class with chef Carole
Basri featuring Sephardic Kosher Cuisine of Egypt March 13, 2003 7:30 pm.
American Sephardi Federation
her home, 8th Street and Waverly Place (West Village) \$30 Members, \$40 Non-members RSVP 212-294-6170

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OK Glatt

Arts & Culture

Three Brothers Make Music Spotlight on the Mizrach Band

By Shayndi Raice

When Ami Weinberg was driving across the Tappan Zee Bridge he was trying to think of a name that would suit the band he had formed with his two brothers. As he passed a sign saying "9West," the thought of calling the band east, Mizrach, fomented in his mind. "It expresses that our hearts are in Israel," explained Meir Weinberg, at 20 the youngest of the trio. "That and Mizrach.com wasn't taken."

The band, formed only very recently, came out with their first CD, Mizrach, this summer. They've only recently gained recognition, mostly from their performance at YU's Battle of the Bands. However, the brothers are slowly gaining fans and have been steadily performing at synagogues, NCSY Shabbatons, and in a few weeks, they will perform at the YU seforim sale where their CD will be available. The guys are pleased with the responses they've garnered. "People who have the CD come up to us and tell us they love it," says Yoni, 23. "We get feedback from all ages, and we think we can appeal to the gamut of Jewish music listeners."

However, they are quick to point out, that one aspect of Jewish music which eludes them is the recent popularity of boy bands. "We aren't a boy band," says Yoni. "We write our own music and we don't dance." "We're a man band," adds Ami jokingly. Yoni, no stranger to the Jewish music scene, played in the original ensemble of the band Aspaklaria. Aside from music, the brothers are also involved in other ventures. Ami, who designed the bands website, www.mizrach.com, has a Internet company, Pixelondesign. Yoni, a recent YC graduate, is preparing for the MCATS, and Meir, currently enrolled in YC, is majoring in English with a minor in art. "It's really fun to do when you're young," says Yoni. "We hope it goes far, but you have to do other things as well."

Ami, Yoni, and Meir, originally from Sharon, Massachusetts, have been playing music together since they were children. "Ami and I started doing local gigs when we were little kids," said Yoni. The



Ami, Yoni and Meir Weinberg are creating a buzz in the music world

three were taught music classically and grew up listening to Shlomo Carlebach, Dveykus, and the early work of Mordechai Ben David who they credit with having "created some of the most beautiful melodies."

"It's arrogant to say that you're doing something completely different from those who came before you," says Meir, crediting their musical inspiration. "But we like to think we have an original sound that's all our own," adds Yoni.

The secular music whose influence they acknowledge are bands like U2 and

the Canadian band Rush. Ami, wearing a Rush baseball cap, explains, "They play progressive rock which is more complex in structure than the standard rock." However, the band has yet to venture into that territory. "To start out we just want people to get used to our sound," adds Ami. For now, the band describes their sound as "Jewish rock but with an emotional side." "Our pieces are slower, more melodic," says Yoni. "It's a very basic rock set up, we don't have horns or focus heavily on instrumentation."

The beauty of the band's music is their soft voices blending in harmonies. "The good thing about being brothers is that we have similar voices, and they blend well together," says Ami. They also credit their family relationship with allowing them to escape many of the conflict other bands face. "We fight sometimes but it never means we break up," says Yoni. "There's a certain level of safety and trust."

Mizrach will be performing live at the Seforim sale on February 16th, at 3pm. Free! Check out www.mizrach.com

Midtown Hotspots: These are the Places in Our Neighborhood

By Devorah Heching

You don't need to run across town, hop on a bus, or even step foot into a subway station to find something to do in Manhattan. Following are just a few of the many activities in midtown. Most are within walking distance.

The Morgan Library

The Morgan Library, located just around the corner at 36th Street and Lexington, is the ideal getaway for those gray and wet days. It is an unassuming library which you have probably overlooked many times in the mad rush to get



New Hershey's Store

to class on time. But a stop in the library will be well worth your time.

Aside from the various collections and exhibits covering a wide assortment of cultural interests, the library periodically hosts concerts. There are two concerts coming up in April featuring the music of classical musicians adapted to various themes like "Winds of Romance" and "Fish and Fowl." The library's newest exhibit, which just opened in February is entitled "Flora and Fauna in Drawings, Manuscripts, and Printed Books." It displays the wonder and beauty of nature, richly documented for over nearly a thousand years. This show highlights the variety and splendor of some of the Morgan's most celebrated collections.

Unfortunately, the Morgan library will only be available for public viewing through May before it closes for two years to undergo an extensive expansion project - so hurry and go while there's still time. For more information about the library see Morgan's website at www.morganlibrary.org.

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site

History buffs will be interested to learn that Teddy Roosevelt was born and bred in midtown Manhattan. Visit the boyhood home of TR, the 26th President of the United States, at 28 East 20th Street.

Roosevelt lived in the home from 1858 until 1872. In 1916 it was demolished, but after his death in 1919 an authentic reconstruction was built as a memorial which contains five rooms furnished as they were when Roosevelt was a boy. Visitors can view the parlor room, the library, the family room, the living room, the dining room and the master bedroom of the brownstone. The parlor room, furnished in the Rococo Revival Style, is the most elegant room in the Roosevelt home. The dining room contains the horsehair chair seats that used to scratch Teddy Roosevelt's legs. A portrait of Teddy Roosevelt's mother hangs over the mantel in the master bedroom. Two galleries are displayed in the home, which feature an extensive collection related to all phases of Roosevelt's life.

Almost half of the Teddy Roosevelt Birthplace's furnishings are from the original house while another twenty percent come from Roosevelt family members.

There is an admission fee of \$3.00 for visitors age seventeen and older. For information about programs, tours, and special events, call (212) 260-1616, or visit the web site at: www.nps.gov/thrb.

Times Square

Looking for a chance to see yourself broadcast on live television? Well look no further than the Times Square Studios. ABC's "Good Morning America" broadcasts every weekday morning from 7 am to 9 am at the corner of 44th and Broadway. You can be part of their live audience for various musical performances, special guests and much more.

For those of you who prefer a more gastronomic form of entertainment, Hershey Food Corporation will be opening, as part of the Crown Plaza Hotel, an interactive candy wonderland. This candy wonderland mimics the design of the company factory inside Hershey, complete with smoke stacks, giant chocolate bars and their famous large Hershey Kisses.

If that doesn't compel you to brave the winter cold, maybe student discount Broadway tickets will do the trick. Rush tickets offer an opportunity to see top quality performances at bargain prices. Rush tickets are normally available when the box office opens at about 9 am or a few hours before the show. The tickets run at about 20 to 25 dollars each for seats that could be located as close to the stage as the front row. Because the correct time to get the tickets and the amount of money the tickets cost varies from show to show, the most accurate information about rush tickets can be obtained by calling the box office of the show itself about a week before you plan on obtaining tickets. They may even tell you which nights it would be easiest to get tickets. A few shows that definitely offer rush tickets are: 42nd Street, AIDA, Bat Boy The Musical, The Full Monty, and The New York City Ballet. For more information see www.timessquarebid.com

The Museum of Television and Radio Located on 52nd Street just west of 5th Avenue, this museum is unlike any other you have ever seen. The Museum of Television and Radio has a collection of over 100,000 TV and radio shows. For the suggested contribution of 6 dollars, you can pick any selection from the library and watch it at one of the many video consoles. In addition to the video consoles, the museum has six floors of exhibit and activity areas, including art galleries, screening rooms, and two theatres making a visit to this museum a very special experience.

Two current exhibits on display at the museum are Antagonism Over the Airwaves: A Look at Controversy on Television and Radio, and O Canada! A Salute to Canadian Broadcasting

Corporation. The first exhibit presents a screening series exploring six controversial moments on television and radio and the latter is a program highlighting exceptional radio and television programming, created by or featuring many of Canada's most important artists. The museum is open until 6 pm and, for those of you who are concerned, there is no time limit. For more information see their website at www.mtr.org



The famous needle in the heart of the fashion district

The Fashion District

Though many of you may never have gotten beyond the shopping available on 34th Street, we are in fact located just a few blocks from Manhattan's garment district, the section of New York which guarantees New York's position as fashion capital of the world. In addition to the year-round Fashion Center Information Kiosk, which can provide you with information about the apparel industry locally, nationally, and internationally, the fashion district also often hosts fashion shows and trade shows. These shows are open to anyone and, best of all, attendance is free. There are about three shows held every month, and the next available event is the USA International Fashion Show is a runway event featuring women's apparel. Check online at www.fashioncenter.com for times and locations as they are subject to change.

Arts & Culture

YU Museum Attracts Crowds to Center For Jewish History

By Rachel Horn

The relocation of the Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) to the downtown Center for Jewish History in June 2000 was a monumental step in its thirty-year history. The institution, which was previously located in the Gottesman Library on the Wilf Campus, has recently emerged as a leading Jewish museum in the Metropolitan area.

The museum moved to the newly constructed Center for Jewish History to increase its number of visitors, according to Assistant to the Director, Mary Kiplok. The move has proven worthwhile.

Officials of the Center anticipated that YUM's presence in the building would draw greater crowds to the Center when they invited the museum to relocate there, said Director Sylvia Herskowitz. "When the Center was being discussed, there was a question of who would visit," she said. "The founders did not want it to be only for scholars and researchers. The people on the Board who were shaping the Center for Jewish History suggested inviting the YU Museum."

Since it is a small establishment, the Center can specialize in art and humanities. "We have carved out a niche for ourselves," Herskowitz said. "We show work of modern artists working on Jewish projects who haven't made it to the top yet." In addition, the museum sometimes displays exhibits that more established museums, such as the Jewish Museum, would not consider. "We have a much broader eye in terms of what we take," said Herskowitz. For example, YUM is now featuring an exhibit called, "Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life," which explores the lineage, history and

accounts of Jews who lived in the American South. The Jewish Museum would not display such an exhibit, according to Herskowitz.

The museum hosts historical and community-related exhibits and possesses an expansive collection of over 65,000 artifacts. It hosts exhibitions on subjects pertaining to Jewish culture. It is currently displaying "Children of the Lost Tribe of Dan: A Portrait of Ethiopian Jews," by Win Robins. The photo exhibit captures the stark contrast between the dire situation of Jews currently in Gondar, Ethiopia and the rich lives of Jews who immigrated to Israel. The moving photos illustrate the importance of making *aliyah* possible for the remaining Jews in Ethiopia.

Yeshiva University first expressed interest in developing a museum under the leadership of President Dr. Samuel Belkin. Belkin, who graduated from Brown University, wanted Yeshiva University to possess the same resources as other fine institutions, explained Herskowitz. "Dr. Belkin saw that other universities had excellent business schools, medical schools, social work schools, and museums," she said. "He set about building those things at YU." Along with the formation of SCW and Einstein School of Medicine, a museum was founded. Endowed by the Jesselson family, it opened its doors in 1973.

A branch of the YU Museum containing an exhibit gallery and educational facilities still remains at the Wilf Campus. Classes at both YC and SCW have arranged tours to see particular exhibits, and Yeshiva University students receive complimentary admission.

Movie Review: *Amen*

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

Amen is filled with the power of the most fleeting images. It opens with a Jew executing himself before the League of Nations in order to imprint an ignored truth upon their hearts — Jews are being massacred in Nazi Germany. He dies with the hope that the powers of the world, if informed, will stop the atrocity. This flickering hope and the sacrifice of the innocent are themes that resonate throughout the movie. The movie opens with a Jew who died a hero, and it is filled with the ghosts of Jews who died as victims. However, the heroes of this movie are not Jews, and the list of Holocaust victims includes a number far greater than six million.

This movie centers around two men, a Catholic priest, played by Mathieu Kassovitz, who was stationed in Berlin, and an SS officer, played by Ulrich Tukur, who was involved in the shipment and use of Zyklon B. in the gas chambers. The eyes of these two men undergo heart-wrenching transformations as the movie progresses. A loyal soldier is forced to betray his country and a devout priest must question his faith. They fight the silence and hypocrisy of Germany and Christianity, but they do not indict either. Rather, they denounce the cruelty of the Nazis and the blindness of the Vatican.

Anne Frank wrote, "In spite of everything that has happened, I still believe that people are really good at heart." This movie both confirms and refutes her assessment. As Jews, we often wonder where the rest of the world was during the Holocaust. This movie answers that question. The rest of the world was waiting, weighing, and watching. Their minds were already occupied with more seemingly practical issues: Who is worth more, the Christian citizens who surround the Vatican or the Jews of Poland? Who is the greater enemy, Communist Russia or Nazi Germany? These questions plagued a world that had no concrete proof and few who spoke out to inform the world of the Nazis' atrocity.

At the same moment that a Catholic

Cardinal denies the possibility of the gas chambers, he expresses his most desperate fear of the Nazis. Feelings of helplessness and fear can tear even a good man apart, but the heroes in this movie see no other option but to take this risk. Two men had such conviction that against all odds and despite every bureaucratic argument posed, they would not sit by and watch Jews be murdered. As Jews, we often feel alone in this world and wonder who will stand with us. *Amen* shows us the ones who stand even more alone are on the battlefield. They are the ones who must look in the mirror and know that their nation is committing grievous wrongs, and they as individuals are powerless to prevent them. But one SS soldier cannot ignore the image of a Jewish family being gassed to death. One priest cannot ignore his tale. The images of empty cattle-cars returning from the death camps haunt these men; they search for the salvation that they could not instigate.

This movie, which is based on a true story, is of monumental importance. It is a depiction of the few who tried. It is the hope of those who gave when it was impossible and felt when ice had coated the hearts of so many. "Where was the world?" is not the question of the Jew; it belongs to the world. This movie addresses that question and the guilt that must accompany its utterance. It is now our turn to see.

Amen was written and directed by Costa Gavras and it is playing at the Quad Cinema and Paris Theatre in Manhattan.



MORRIS EPSTEIN FORUM ON THE ARTS

PRESENTS

AUTHOR

ALEXANDRA ZAPRUDER

Salvaged Pages:
Young Writers'
Diaries of the Holocaust

Ms. Zapruder, winner of the 2002 National Jewish Book Award in Holocaust Studies, will speak about her project to research, gather, translate, and publish *Young Writers' Diaries*, and will read excerpts and discuss their historical and literary significance to the Holocaust.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003 • 8:00 P.M.

Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center
Midtown Campus • Yeshiva University
239 East 34th Street, New York
(between 2nd and 3rd Avenues)

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Writing Center

continued from back page

specializes in compositional theory and literature, and her areas of interest include both modernism and postmodernism and feminism.

Dr. Jay Ladin is scheduled to give his lesson on February 18th. A poet, Dr. Ladin teaches at Reed University in Oregon, and has recently returned from completing a Fulbright fellowship at the University of Tel Aviv. He holds an M.F.A. in poetry and a Ph.D. in poetics of American poetry. According to Professor Hatvary he is very highly regarded and has a lot of writing center experience. The final candidate, whose lesson date has not yet been announced, is Dr. Gillian Steinberg, who is currently a tutor at the Wilf campus Writing Center. "She is young, lively and dynamic," says Hatvary, "very committed to ideas of the Writing Center."

The decision will probably be made in early March, and it will certainly be interesting to see how the department chooses between all the qualified academics. "They are all perfect for what we want in different ways," says Hatvary, "It won't be an easy choice."

Whoever is hired, both the English department faculty and its students are looking forward to the added strength the new professor will bring to the department. "Everything we've done has been for the students and the English department," says Hatvary. "I was under the impression that the women found our last few appointments - including Dr. Nachumi's - truly exciting and that they want an enriched department."

Bella Tendler, creative writing major, agrees. "Whoever they hire is going to be working for the creative writing department, English department, and the Writing Center. I really think that the English department has so much potential, and adding another Ph.D., someone who brings something fresh, can only be a good thing. I'm really looking forward to seeing what comes of the appointment."

Professor Hatvary encourages all students to observe Dr. Ladin's lesson on Tuesday, February 18th, and to share their input on the decision.

Sports

Lady Macs Player Sets Record

By Chavie Schwarzbard

Daniela Epstein, SCW senior from Silver Spring, Maryland, became the first female basketball player in the history of SCW to score 1,000 career points, as the Lady Macs, holding a 12-9 won-loss record so far this season, continued their hot streak.

"Daniela's accomplishment is symbolic of our team's spirit and drive," said Karen Green, head coach of the Lady Macs. "It is a testament to her unselfish play that she did not achieve the milestone earlier in the year, because she certainly could have done so. Daniela is a team player and that is reflected in our team's success."

Teammates were equally happy for Daniela.

"It's pretty exciting," said Lady Macs captain Lisa Mischer. "She's the first one to score that many points, and we know she won't be the last."

Epstein's personal success comes at a period of gradual improvement for the Lady Macs.

Last season the team finished above .500 for the second year in a row, and this past December the team took first place in the annual Betty Shabazz Memorial Tournament at Medgars Evers College. At the tournament, Lady Mac Stephanie Aaron was named to the All-Star team and teammate Shayna Greenwald was named as MVP of the Betty Shabazz Tournament.

"This is our best year ever," said Mischer. "In terms of games we've enhanced our performance, and our image

as a team has drastically improved."

The family-like atmosphere and supportive setting is one aspect of the basketball team that keeps players excited and devoted to the sport. Team players feel that the positive attitude displayed by each individual player is conducive to a healthy environment. Players often spend Shabbat together at teammates' homes and hang out together outside of practice.

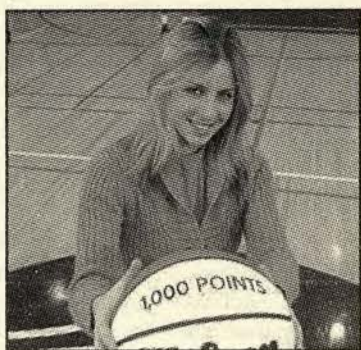
"I love being on the team because I feel like I'm part of something significant," said player Adena Rohatiner. "It's not only about the games that are being played, but the people I'm playing with and what we take out of the game."

The Lady Macs have eight games remaining in

the 2002-2003 season. They are scheduled to play against Suny Old Westbury, Marymount College and Polytechnic University in upcoming weeks. They look to end their season above .500 for the third year in a row.

The twelve-member team is coached by Green and assistant coach Jessica Villaplana. They belong to the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference (HVWAC). Other colleges in the league include Baruch College, Suny Farmingdale and Bard College.

The team began practicing September 3rd to prepare themselves for the upcoming competitive season. They recruited four new players at the start of the season.



Daniela Epstein surpasses 1,000 points in basketball

Students Turn out for Superbowl Party

By Shoshana Herman

Dozens of SCW students gathered in the 36th Street Residence Hall to watch the Superbowl, as they enjoyed free food from Koshers Delight, provided by SCWSC. The Superbowl atmosphere pervaded Stern College in the days leading up to the Superbowl with the cafeteria cooking up its annual "superbowl dinner" on Wednesday, January 22nd. The fans at 36th Street were not nearly as rowdy as the ones in San Diego, and the seats were a lot cheaper, yet many of the SCW fans seemed just as devoted to football, sitting there until the minute the MVP trophy was handed to the Buccaneer's Dexter Jackson. Many were truly hoping for a magical Raider comeback in the last quarter...or not.

Superbowl Sunday has practically become a national holiday in America. Many people celebrate the big game with parties. While men sitting around getting drunk and high-fiving each other as the hostess runs back and forth serving the nachos and dip may be the picture that comes to mind, I'm sure most people realize that this is an inaccurate, stereotypical picture. Many women actually do enjoy watching the Superbowl, and some even follow the game action.

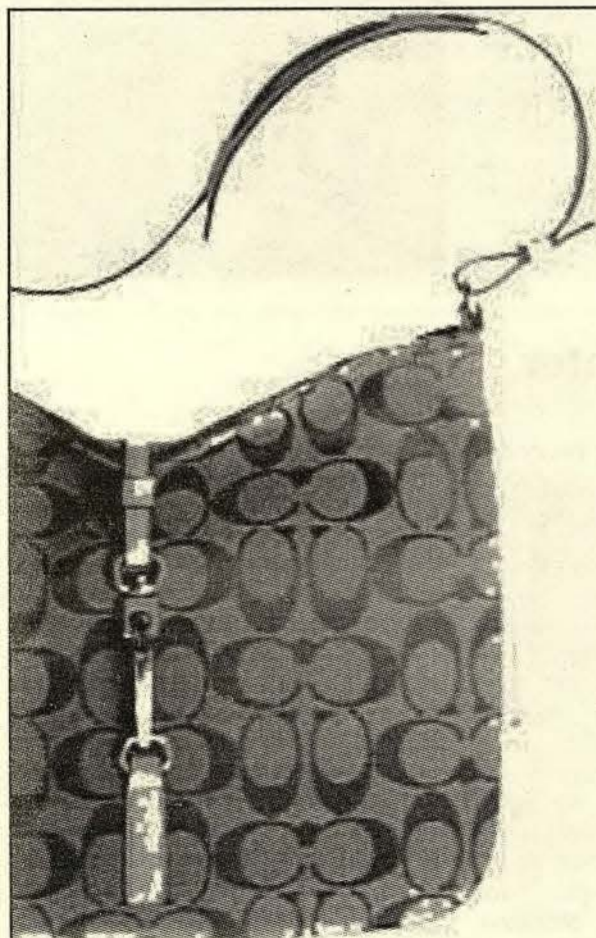
One may wonder if there are a large number of SCW students who watch the Superbowl, and if so, is it the successful marketing tactics of companies buying commercial time that draws Stern students to the TV screen for five hours? The display of entertainment pop culture during half time? Sincere enjoyment of the game?

An unofficial poll was taken this year at SCW to determine if the number of students who prefer Joe Millionaire to Joe Jurevicius is really as high as one would expect. Out of the SCW students asked before the game about their intentions to watch, forty five percent said that they were planning to watch Superbowl XXXVII, forty five percent said that they weren't and ten percent said that they weren't sure. Of the forty five percent of SCW students that were planning on watching the Superbowl, sixty one percent claimed that they followed sports at least part of the time. Other reasons for watching the Superbowl included the classic "for the commercials," family or friend's parties, the half time show and even because of an NCSY event.

Out of the forty five percent of students asked who said that football didn't score a touchdown with them, two claimed that they generally do follow, or try to follow sports. Reasons for lack of interest in watching the Superbowl ranged from not having enough time in the day to the claim that football is nothing more than running and tackling.



Students enjoy the Superbowl in the 36th Street Dorm



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COACH

Business

SSSB Students Show VITA-lity

By Devorah Stein

Dozens of SSSB accounting majors are gaining valuable job training and experience while performing a service for the community by working for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA).

For years, students have been participating in VITA, an IRS program that trains students to prepare the income tax returns of low- to moderate-income taxpayers from the local community of Washington Heights. The population they help often includes senior citizens, people with disabilities, and non-English speaking people in the area.

The IRS, which brings the VITA program to colleges throughout the country, provides the books and teachers required to educate students in the proper procedure involved in preparing these income tax returns. The training for the program consists of two intense eight-hour ses-

sions on the Wilf Campus on consecutive Sundays in February, taught by a volunteer from the IRS.

"It's basically a crash course in doing standard income tax returns," said Dr. Joel Hochman, SSSB professor acting as the faculty advisor for the program. The course is followed by a take-home federal exam that the students must pass in order to continue participating in the program.

After the training, fliers are posted in banks and stores throughout Washington Heights publicizing the tax sessions that are scheduled to take place on Wilf Campus in March and April. There is also a phone system set up in order to provide information on session hours.

During tax sessions, if students run into any problems or are confronted with any unfamiliar or foreign types of income, Dr. Hochman, as the faculty advisor, is available to assist them. However, VITA

is essentially a student-led program.

The participants in the program do not receive any school credit, though there are numerous advantages to the program, according to Robert Weissbrot, SSSB junior who is coordinating the project. "They get great experience for the future, a chance to build up their resumes, and the pleasure of doing a chessed for the local community," he noted.

Some students find that the program gives them the chance to feel a certain sense of fulfillment that is rarely associated with the accounting profession.

"The stereotypical view of accountants is that they are boring and introverted and not necessarily concerned with helping the community in the same way that, for example, social workers or psychologists are," commented SSSB junior Masha Igel. "That's why when I heard about VITA I was so eager to get

involved. It brings out the *chesed* aspect of the accounting world."

Preparing income tax returns is not always a clear-cut procedure. Dr. Hochman explained that participating in VITA gives students good experience in dealing with the frustrations involved in doing "real live tax returns."

SSSB sophomore Jessica Strick volunteered in last year's program and appreciated the challenge. "It was a real experience to interact with the people and sympathize with their difficulties in filling out their tax returns," she said.

Dean Ira Jaskoll stated that he is proud of the program and its success in past years. He remarked, "There are a lot of important benefits to the program. It is wonderful experience and a great Kiddush Hashem."

Message from the SSSB President



In light of recent current events our nation mourns yet another national tragedy. In my tenure at Yeshiva University Stern College for Women/ Syms School of

Business, I have experienced two horrific events. First, the terror faced in the destruction of the World Trade Center and now the episode with the space shuttle, Columbia, which left seven of its passengers dead. It is in response to incidents such as these that cause us to reflect on life's meaning. We begin to wonder who we are and who we want to become.

I would like to take time out to discuss the importance of college years. College is the time to have fun and meet new people. The hope is that in these 3-4 years you will probably meet the friends of a lifetime, I know I did. College is also the time to experience new things, learn about different topics and most importantly to grow. It's the time to mature. At the end of your tenure here at Syms you will have to make a career choice. You will graduate with a major and maybe even a minor and you will need to begin the job search process.

Graduating seniors are faced with the task of finding a job. The economic situation complicates this process. Therefore, College students are deciding to further

their education in graduate programs. Maybe the job hunt scares them. Maybe it is difficult to choose a career at such a young age. Most people have several different career paths in their lives. Who is to say you will have the same career for the rest of your life?

Here is where my advice comes in. It is important to pick a career path that you love and enjoy. If you have an interest, you will excel. This is a known phenomenon (for the most part). Do something you love and something you are good at. In this tough job market this is the way to go. Now, granted there are other considerations (i.e. salary). But imagine yourself doing something you always aspired to do. For example, if you always wanted to teach kindergarten class and instead you decided to major in finance, you may be miserable for the rest of your life. You would be making more money, but you would have to push yourself to go to work day after day. Soon you will have no motivation left because you lack a love for finance. Instead, your passion is to teach kindergarten...and you quickly become unhappy. Your job performance with your financial position becomes disappointing. Your motivation fades away, soon you don't enjoy work and you are ready to quite. Don't let this be you. Love what you do and choose the career path of your dreams. Try it. You never know when you might just reach for the stars and actually touch one!

CEO Lectures to SSSB Students

Approximately sixty students from both SSSB campuses were honored to hear a lecture from Dorothy Roberts, President and CEO of Echo Design Group, who has received FABB's "Lifetime Achievement" award. Mrs. Roberts recalled the founding of the company by her parents, Theresa and Edgar Hyman on their wedding day in 1923. What began as a simple scarf company has blossomed into an international conglomerate. Echo's inventory includes clothing and accessories, bed and bath products, printed and woven fabrics, and Home Design books to

name a few. Friday's weekly management class, run by Dr. Lawrence Bellman, had heard multiple lectures from prominent members of the business community. Future speakers include CEO of Jet Blue Airways, David Neeleman, CEO of Bed, Bath, & Beyond, Warren Eisenberg, and Chairman and CEO of NASDAQ, Wick Simmons. The management class is a setting that doesn't concentrate on academics as much as it focuses on allowing its students to receive a hands-on and realistic view on what they can expect upon entering the business world.

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Talmud Program

continued from front page

attributed the difficulties in attracting qualified applicants to the level and amount of gemara offered in girls' high schools. "If we start [teaching gemara] in high schools, the program can perpetuate itself," Rabbi Kahn said.

Julie Pianko, a first year student in the program, echoed Rabbi Kahn's sentiments on the connection of the graduate program to the education of girls in modern Orthodox high schools. "Learning gemara is a catching trend in girls' high school," said Pianko, who is optimistic about the program's growth. Rabbi Kahn was also excited about the program's future, noting that many qualified applicants have emerged from the SCW student body, many of whom were students in Rabbi Kahn's undergraduate advanced gemara shiur. Continuing to learn in the program after graduation, is a natural transition from his undergraduate course.

Aside from the problem of finding women with the requisite gemara skills, the program has also grappled with lack of interest even among those who have the skills. "There aren't so many women who want to learn gemara all day," one second-year student noted. Although it is designed as a two-year program, in the past, coordinators have accepted students who have not completed the two-year course. There are women in the program who plan to enter medical school or law school, after spending one post graduate year in the program, an apparent deviation from the program's primary intention of a two year program to train teachers. "Obviously, we want them to complete the two years, and we expect them to do so," Rabbi Kanarfogel said, "In a few instances, professional commitments of spouses or other educational opportunities in different venues may

interfere. Any graduate program must be sensitive to these issues." In addition, women in the program who do not intend to become teachers in Yeshivot will impact their families and communities, no matter

*Now that I know
people in the program,
I don't think it's
so controversial."*

their choice of profession, Rabbi Kanarfogel said. "They will be able to teach and to offer instruction within the community in formal and informal ways. Although it is hoped that the program will have a positive impact on the community as whole, the simplest purpose of the program is to provide the opportunity for women to learn at a very advanced level," Rabbi Kanarfogel explained.

There are few comparable programs in the United States in their rigorous schedule and focus on Talmud study in an Orthodox setting, a fact that the programs coordinators often highlight when recruiting possible candidates. "We are looking for the widest group of students that we can attract," Rabbi Kanarfogel said, noting that the program also seeks to recruit students outside of Stern College. Since its inception, advertisements for the program have run in Jewish newspapers across the United States and in Israel. "We're trying to be inclusive as possible," Rabbi Kanarfogel said. "Obviously students here know us best." It is not surprising that the majority of the 18 students (which includes two non-stipend students) in the two years of the program are Stern College alumnae. However, there are a

handful of students who did not attend SCW as undergraduates.

"There are qualified applicants in all universities," said Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh. Rabbi Bednarsh, a teacher who recruits candidates for the program, has also noticed increased interest in the program for the coming year. In fact, many of this year's applicants are from outside of Stern College.

The increased interest in the program may signal the program's growing acceptance within the modern Orthodox world, according to Rabbi Kahn, who takes pride in the program's existence. "It's being looked upon seriously," he said. However, the pioneering program also continues to contend with the controversy that heralded its inauguration three years ago. Many of the program's coordinators and participants downplay its impact on the program today. "There was some concern when the program started, but this has abated," Rabbi Kanarfogel said. "Now that the program has been running successfully for almost three years, we look to an even brighter future."

"The controversy is still out there," agreed Rabbi Kahn. "But within YU it has died down a bit...it's becoming more acceptable."

"All new things are controversial," Pianko said. "It's just weird to see a woman with a Baba Kama, but perhaps as it goes on, it will become less of an oddity," said Pianko, who calls the program "a fellowship in Jewish education" as a tacit response to its detractors.

"There are some sources that say that it's *asur*," Pianko admits. But at the same time, she points out, there are rabbis who allow, and even encourage, women to learn gemara. "If you don't flinch at the idea of women learning organic chemistry, why should the Judaic realm be any different? It's a sad fact that it's considered better to be in Harvard Medical School

than the Talmud program."

While many SCW students expressed hesitancy about the program, at the same time, they admitted their original reaction to the program has been modified now that they have seen the program. "I had certain impressions of the women in the program when I first heard about it," admitted one SSSB senior. "But now that I know people in the program, I don't think it's so controversial."

Surprisingly, many SCW students did not even know of the program's existence. The graduate program has no presence outside of the sixth floor Beit Midrash, and there is little interaction between SCW undergraduates and women in the graduate program. During the school day, the program transforms the Beit Midrash into a loud, bustling room. "The Beit Midrash would be dead without the learning program here," Pianko noted.

Some SCW students suggested that in order to publicize the program beyond the Beit Midrash walls, its participants should offer occasional *shiurim* or *chaburot* to undergraduates. "They are taking up space in the Beis Midrash," noted SCW senior Yael Zelman. "It would be nice if they could offer occasional shiurim to students." Many participants in the program were supportive of such an idea, but noted that there is no extra time in their daily schedules for greater interaction with undergraduate students.

While it is still too soon to tell where the program is headed and how long it will continue, an increase in interest may signal the emerging success of the innovative program. Though it has died down, the controversy surrounding the program lingers, even as it gains interest and stability as it prepares for its fourth year. "Now that [the Talmud program is] here, I would hope that no one would look askance at someone who wants to join the program," Rabbi Kahn said.

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Art Annex

continued from front page

the new building is stifling. The 8th floor of the 215 Lexington Avenue building is essentially office space. Its charcoal carpets, gray walls and artificial lighting do not compare to the loft-like expanse of the 29th Street art annex, where art students used to sit in one large room which was divided into different sections for each genre of art. Art work of previous students and paint stains spotted floors and walls. Now students are confined to standard classroom-like areas with posters on the walls.

"It's different than the old annex," commented an SCW art major. The ceilings are low, and you can't just hang out and make your own space."

A Principles of Design class still awaits a classroom. The students in the class are anxiously awaiting the departure of Barnes and Noble Booksellers, so that the store can be converted into an art studio.

Though there may be aesthetic differences from the old location, many of the amenities have been updated. The new location has two senior research rooms and an art library, both of which were lacking in the prior locale.

An additional concern on the part of students and faculty was the hours the art annex is open. The 215 Lexington Avenue is currently opened until 1 am., but the former location afforded students the option of working on their projects until 2 am, which many art students were apt to do.

In addition, many students are distressed about the inadequate elevator

service given the influx of students in 215 Lexington. SCW only operates one elevator in the building, which services four floors. Though there are escalators between the second and third floors, the seventh floor and the eighth floor are only reachable via elevator.

It has been taking students more than ten minutes to travel from the eighth floor to the seventh floor because of elevator crowding. One student started a petition to open the stairwell between the two floors, and the petition has already attained several hundred signatures.

Director of Supporting Services Jeffrey Rosengarten has expressed a desire to open the staircase between the seventh and eighth floors, however this action would not alleviate elevator traffic between the second and seventh floor. At the most recent Student Life Committee meeting, however, Associate Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol intimated that opening the stairwell just between the seventh and eighth floors would not be feasible.

Opening the entire stairwell, between all floors, would create a potential security risk because floors four through six are currently leased by Yeshiva to other companies, and there would be no way to prevent non-Yeshiva people from entering SCW's floors, according to Rosengarten. Currently, the doors to the stairwell are alarmed.

Other ways of dealing with the problem are being considered. However, administrators are waiting for the bookstore's departure to ascertain the true volume of traffic between the floors before addressing the issue.

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New Literary Journal Takes Shape at SCW

By Shayndi Raice

A literary journal that will focus on the experiences of being an Orthodox Jewish woman attending Yeshiva University is in the planning stages. Unlike other journals, such as the joint collegiate literary journal Spires, this new literary journal would only accept pieces from current undergraduate women enrolled in SCW.

Bella Tendler, an SCW junior and the driving force behind the literary journal, has set clear goals for the journal. Tendler, a creative writing major, hopes that the journal will expose students to the possibilities in the creative writing department at SCW. "There are so many closet poets and people who keep journals or diaries or write short stories but don't take it to a serious level," said Tendler.

Tendler has enlisted the aid of Professor Laurel Hatvary, head of the English department, in procuring funding for the journal.

In addition to revamping SCW's creative writing department, Tendler also hopes to bring students together through this journal. "People at Stern move around and do their own thing," she said. "You don't have a department that makes people stop and think about where they are at in life and asking themselves 'What am I as a student at Stern thinking and

feeling?' It would give us an opportunity to get to identify our similar struggles and relate to each other."

The purpose of the journal is to give a voice to SCW students. "It wouldn't be a feminist literary journal but more of a feminine literary journal," said Tendler. "We want to capture the experiences of women here." The lack of opportunities available to Orthodox women in literature is one that the journal seeks to fill. The editors hope to help develop and encourage strong Orthodox women to speak out about the issues facing them. "There aren't many Orthodox female role models," said Tendler. "We thought this journal would lend the opportunity to develop such a person."

However, while one of the major goals of the journal is to lend a voice to Jewish Orthodox women, the journal will not have a Jewish or religious theme. It will accept pieces written about religion though they will not be the focus. "Part of being a young woman here is what you're going through religiously," said Tendler. "For that reason, we expect to get pieces about religion but we are certainly not viewing that as our primary goal."

Above all, the hope is to create a community of writers. "We realized that there are students who would be interested in writing but aren't enrolled in English

courses and fell outside of the creative writing community," said Bart Cameron, director of the writing center and journal faculty advisor. "We hope that with this journal people will feel more comfortable getting involved."

In order to keep the journal open to as many people as possible, editors are considering accepting pieces of literary analysis. "While it isn't typically an aspect of literary journals, an analytical piece about a new work or a new piece of criticism could be featured in the journal," said Cameron.

Additionally, both Tendler and Cameron hope to create a process of expression free of academics. "We want people to feel comfortable expressing themselves in a way they may not feel comfortable doing with guys or an inter-collegiate journal," says Tendler. "We want writing that isn't tied to academics and that can free people to say what they're thinking. I really want this to be about exploration." Because of this, students hope to keep as many faculty members out of the process as possible. The goals is to have a completely student run operation. Even Cameron describes his role as "not personally setting goals as much as helping them meet their goals."

Despite the desire to keep the journal independent, some concerns have been

raised about the content the journal may contain. Since the journal will be funded directly from Yeshiva University, censorship is a possibility. Dean Bacon intimated, however, that censorship should not be a problem.

"There's no policy but that everything the students do here should be formed by the mission of the University of Torah U'madda, and within that there's a lot of leeway." Currently there is no faculty member in charge specifically of ensuring that possibly offensive material not be published, however the Dean hopes that if the students have material that may be questionable they will bring it to her for proper guidance.

Neither Tendler nor Cameron are concerned with the possibility of censorship. "Although it is said that whoever pays the bills gets the final say, you really have to look at the extremes journals go to," said Cameron. "It gets to the point where it's just bleeding on the page and it can be unreadable." In fact, Cameron hopes that if students are aware of the limits of the journal they will feel more comfortable submitting their work.

Ultimately, Tendler is most concerned with the journal achieving its goals. "What I really want is for people to feel comfortable expressing themselves," she said. "It's time to give Stern College a voice."

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ON CAMPUS

Concert to Honor Memory of Dr. Levy

First Time Performances of Works by Famous Composers

By Rachel Fyman

Yeshiva, in conjunction with the Stefan Wolpe Society, is hosting a memorial concert for Dr. Edward Levy, SCW music professor of 34 years who passed away last April. The concert will take place on the afternoon of February 23rd at the Yeshiva University Museum in the Center for Jewish History on 16th Street.

The concert will feature a number of world premiere performances, including a piece by Wolpe, who died in 1972, and a recently discovered untitled fugue fragment by Arnold Schoenberg, considered by many the most important composer of the first half of the twentieth century. According to Dr. David Glaser, visiting assistant professor of music at SCW, Schoenberg was not in the habit of dating his compositions unless he attached significance to the date; this fragment is dated November 10, 1938, the day of Kristallnacht.

The concert, billed as "A Celebration of the World of Edward Levy (1929-2002)," will feature several freelance musicians, including a new string quartet, Talea, whose appearance at the concert will mark its premiere performance. It will also include performances by several artists who are well-known in new music circles, according to Glaser, who is almost single-handedly organizing the event. One of the musicians, David Holzman, has recently been nominated for a Grammy Award for his latest release, "The Piano Music of Stefan Wolpe."

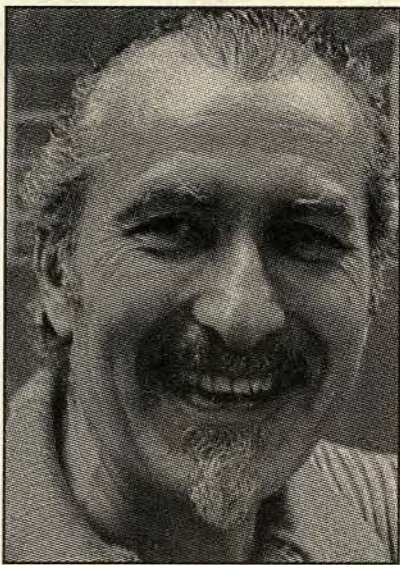
The performance will open and close with pieces composed by Levy. The first composition, "West of Nepal," was first performed in the United States at Merkin Hall two years ago. His SCW students accompanied him to the performance. According to Glaser, the unusual title of the piece may be explained at the memorial concert.

Dr. Noyes Bertholomew, head of the music department on the Wilf Campus and longtime colleague and personal friend of Levy will perform the final piece.

Other noteworthy sections of the program are a world premiere performance of a piece by Glaser, entitled "gold-vermillion," pieces by Milton Babbitt, one of Levy's teachers, and a composition by Levy's friend, Ralph Shapey, who also died in 2002.

With the program including works by Levy and Shapey, together with Schoenberg's "Kristallnacht," the event will have a "heavy memorial aspect to it," Glaser noted.

The concert is part of the year-long centenary celebration of the birth of Wolpe, the highly influential composer who was Levy's primary teacher. Levy was a member of the board of the Wolpe Society, and the idea for the memorial concert was a combination of the initiative of Glaser and the society. Glaser, who has been involved in concert management for 15 years, has been planning the event since September.



A memorial concert for Dr. Ed Levy will be held on February 23rd

The concert will be open to the public, and will be free of charge for students with Yeshiva ID. The event has been publicized in the New Yorker, as well as Time Out New York and the Calendar for New Music. Glaser expects an audience of over 200, and hopes to see many members of the Yeshiva faculty and student body in attendance.

"Although we're focusing on Dr. Levy's music, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that he was an enthusiastic and committed teacher and very active in faculty welfare [at SCW]," said Glaser. "This just touches on one aspect of who he was."

Because the music department at SCW is small, Levy's students got to know him very well. "Dr. Levy was one of the best music teachers I ever had," said Blair Chaletsky, an SCW senior minoring in music. "If we didn't understand something, he would practice with us over and over until we knew it perfectly, no matter how long it took. I developed a greater appreciation for many types of music because of him. He was not limited to just teaching us music, he always managed to share interesting pieces of literature, history and art with us also. He is truly an irreplaceable teacher."

Levy, former chair of SCW's music department died on April 2, 2002, at the age of 72, of complications related to pancreatic cancer. He had taken a sabbatical in Fall 2001 to receive treatment for his illness, and had hoped to return to SCW as soon as possible.

He was a scholar of all types of music, specializing in jazz. He trained as a jazz musician, specifically as a clarinet player. He was a composer as well as an author of many articles on the analysis of music and compositional techniques. He was published in journals such as The Journal of Research in Music Education, and The Music Educator's Journal. In addition to his passion for music, Levy also had a deep concern for the environment and offered a class in ecology at SCW. He wanted to make sure to keep the environment safe, saving it for future generations.

English Department Recruits New Faculty Member

By Shifra Landowne

The English department is currently recruiting a new faculty member who would also head the Writing Center, after Dr. Miriam Grosf announced that she will be retiring from her position as director of the center at the end of this year. The appointment is a three-pronged position, which would include directing the Writing Center, teaching a writing course, and teaching a literature course.

Dr. Grosf, an education professor, has served as the director of the Writing Center for the past eight years. She is retiring from her position as a full-time faculty member at the end of this year. Though she hopes to continue working next year, she will work fewer hours and will no longer direct the Writing Center. Rather than simply filling the position with an existing professor, the vacancy has led SCW administrators to mold a new position in the English department for a full-time, tenured track professor.

Administrators are seeking to hire someone who offers not only a subspecialty in writing or very strong experience but also someone who holds a Ph.D. in English in a field that will enhance the department. The new professor should be someone who is published with the promise of more to follow, according to Professor Laurel Hatvary, head of the English department.

Expansion and growth have already begun in the Writing Center, according to Bart Cameron, Assistant Director of the Writing Center. "We've been changing some of our practices," says Cameron, "There's more training, more progressive, technology-based work, and we've been seeing a lot more students." There were 480 formal (non drop-in) sessions last semester in the Writing Center. "That is a sizable increase from my first semester here



Bart Cameron is the assistant director of the Writing Center

(Fall 2001), when we saw 380 students. The faculty is becoming more publicly supportive, informing students about the center's availability, and students are getting more used to the idea of coming in." Cameron calls last semester's numbers a "pleasant surprise," and is hoping to keep up the increase.

While Dr. Grosf has helped develop the Writing Center and is in many ways responsible for the current success and increasing popularity of the Writing Center, it appears to be a natural time of growth for the center. All of the candidates seem to be ready to bring groundbreaking innovations to the center. The first candidate, who has already given his model lesson, is Dr. Bernard McKenna. Dr. McKenna is a modernist who is in the middle of his third book. He has written on contemporary Irish theater and about Ulysses. His current book is on Finnigan's Wake. He gave his lesson on Jane Austen, and according to Professor Hatvary, he is "very versatile and personable, he has many ideas about the writing center, and he is tremendously prolific."

Another candidate, Dr. Carol Bork, delivered her lesson last week and two more are scheduled to present in the coming weeks. Dr. Bork

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Student Senate Achieves Expanded Advisement for Students

By Shifra Landowne and Alisa Rose

SCW administrators have recently appointed three faculty members to advise students on the graduate school application process, and another faculty member to assist with pre-law advisement, after Student Senate representatives pushed for expanded advisement. Three Ferkauf fellows who also currently teach psychology courses at SCW, Robert Basile, Ronit Levy, and Heather Von Bergen, will be available to advise students about graduate schools. Professor Howard Schiffman, a political science professor, will assist Dr. Michael Hecht with pre-law advisement.

"The student population had grown, and the academic advisement office was overextended," said Jennifer Marcus, chair of the Student Senate. The Student Senate has been pushing for additional advisement since the beginning of last semester, according to Marcus.

The new appointments will alleviate the work of the academic advisement office as well as that of Naomi Kapp, the director of OPCS, who is also involved in graduate school advisement. "This is really being instituted to deal with the overflow," Kapp said. "We

are trying it on a trial basis for this semester. Hopefully this will be helpful to the students."

The graduate school advisors will work out of the room 317 in the OPCS office in the 215 Lexington Avenue building. Each professor will be available for about an hour each week. They will be especially helpful to students who are considering graduate schools in the psychology field.

Levy noted that she has already discussed questions about graduate schools with students on an informal basis. Questions that often come up include whether students should enter the field of psychology or social work, the different types of doctoral degrees, and which graduate schools are best for a particular area of psychology. In addition, Levy will be available to answer smaller questions that may arise. "Applying to grad school is very technical," said Levy, who is in the process of completing her Psy.D from Ferkauf. "It's inevitable that questions will come up."

Since Levy and the other advisors are all currently in graduate school, they have a good handle on issues concerning graduating schools, Levy said. "Graduate school is still a recent memory of mine," Levy noted.

Schiffman's role in pre-law advisement should diminish the lines in front of Hecht's office during the one day a week that he is on the SCW campus. In the past, pre-law students have complained that Hecht is not on the campus often enough. "Going pre-law can be complicated, and it really is necessary to have advisement," said Yael Reisman, a pre-law junior. "I just haven't really been getting the answers that I need."

Students requested that Schiffman in particular offer pre-law advisement, and they were pleased that the popular political science professor agreed. "I have increased my office hours in order to accommodate the students," Schiffman said. "Since there seems to be a need for this, and that law is becoming more popular, I am happy to be of help." Schiffman, a lawyer and a graduate professor at NYU, has been teaching at SCW since last spring. He has already met with Dr. Hecht to collaborate on advisement and has begun meeting with students.

Administrators and Student Senate representatives encouraged students to take advantage of the expanded advisement. "We're happy we can offer this to the students," Dean Ethel Orlian said.