



Yeshiva University Observer

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Yeshiva Sends Mission to Israel

Students Organize Torah Shield III in Less Than a Week

By Alisa Rose

With the threat of impending war looming in the Middle East, 100 Yeshiva University students traveled to Israel for one week to express their solidarity with Israel and to lend their support to its citizens. The mission was designed to coincide both with Purim and with the date set for the US to begin the war with Iraq. The hastily organized mission, Operation Torah Shield III, combined *chesed* activities such as visiting hospitals, donating blood, packing food packages for the poor, visiting terror victims, and learning Torah. "Our main goal was to incorporate themes of Torah Shield I and Torah Shield II," explained Yummy Schachter, one of the organizers of the mission.

According to Schachter and the other students who organized the mission, Eli Renov, Yaakov Green, and Ephraim Shapiro, conversations about the mission began on Tuesday March 11th. The students departed the following Sunday March 16th. "We thought it would be awesome [to go to Israel] but didn't think it would happen because we didn't have any money," Green said.

On Tuesday, Schachter began talking with Rabbi Ari Rockoff of the MSDCS office about ways to procure funding. Rockoff mentioned to him that



Torah Shield III participants
See pages 14-15 for more photos

Ramaz had just canceled a mission to Israel, vacating 100 seats on two El Al flights. Schachter called the Ministry of Tourism, which was very involved in organizing and funding last year's Torah Shield. The Ministry helped with safety issues, arranging for students to receive gas masks and ensuring organizers that they would take care of the mission participants in case of an attack while the students were in Israel. "Obviously one of our biggest concerns was safety," Green explained. Schachter also contacted Ariel Tours about finding flights, and they were able to work with El Al to put all 100 students on the same flight to Israel. "Ariel Tours turned the world over for us," Schachter said.

With the help of Dr. Joseph

Fragar, the president of the Jerusalem Reclamation Project (Ateret Kohanim), who was also involved in Operations Torah Shield I and II, the organizers received funding from the same private donor who funded the last two YU missions.

By Tuesday night, the mission organizers posted signs around the midtown and Wilf campuses informing students that they could sign up online for a mission to Israel that would be departing the following Sunday. "By 2 AM, we had 200 applications," Shapiro said. Students were accepted on a first-come first serve basis.

"I look back and it amazes me how quickly we got everything mobilized," Shapiro recalled. The following night, all

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Rabbi Kanarfogel

Accepts Penn Fellowship

By Shayndi Raice

Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Jewish History and the Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies at SCW, has accepted a post-doctoral fellowship for the academic year of 2003-04 at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Kanarfogel will continue, however, to devote the same amount of time to SCW.

The goal of the fellowship is to increase interdisciplinary studies, particularly in the field of Jewish history and anthropology. "What it boils down to essentially is religious norms and practices," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "In other words what is the halakha and how did people conduct themselves." Rabbi Kanarfogel, who has been a member of the SCW faculty for more than 20 years, is thrilled with the oppor-



Rabbi Kanarfogel

tunity to work with many prestigious world-class scholars, including David Rubens, the director of the fellowship, at the University of Pennsylvania.

"This will certainly enrich me and I will certainly bring it back here," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "This is a very important feather in the cap of Stern College. This gives us exposure; this gives us recognition, in addition to content. It's a win-win."

Other professors at SCW who have participated in the fellowship in past years include

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Yeshiva Commemorates Tenth Yahrzeit of Rav's Death

By Malka Zeiger

Yeshiva University is currently commemorating the 10th yahrzeit of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, or the Rav as he is more commonly called, with a two-week long series of speakers. The Rav's yahrzeit is on the 18th of Nisan, April 20th, during Passover.

RIETS, under the direction of Rabbi Zevulun Charlop, is responsible for coordinating the programs, which began Tuesday, March 25th and continues to April 10th, on both the Wilf and midtown campuses.

"Although the Rav was a major influence in many communities, 'RIETS, Yeshiva University,' was his primary address," said Rabbi David Israel, one of the directors of the project. "He is the essence of this institution."

The lectures, which range in topic from the Rav's perspectives on halakha and philosophical

issues to personal recollections, commenced with a kick-off shiur in Lampport Auditorium delivered by Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm on March 25th.

Noting that the Rav was "not just a Torah leader but also a communal leader," Rabbi Lamm spoke of the tension between one's relationship with God and one's dedication to communal service. Specifically, Rabbi Lamm addressed the audience regarding what it means to be

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Einstein Holds on to Religious Identity

By Anat Barber

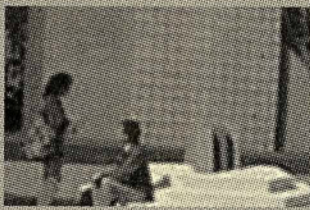
Often referred to as the 'jewel in Yeshiva's crown,' the Albert Einstein College of Medicine is highly acclaimed for its medical research in various fields, and it has been nationally recognized in U.S. News and World Report. When AECOM first opened its doors in 1955 it was especially noteworthy for another reason. It was the first medical center to be under Jewish auspices in the United States. However, forty-eight years later many are now wondering how that relationship with Yeshiva University has evolved and what exactly is AECOM's attitude to its Jewish roots.

Some have speculated that in

recent years a rift has developed between Yeshiva and AECOM, as allegations that AECOM was considering breaking ties from Yeshiva were rampant on campus. However Abe Habenstreit, director of public information at Einstein says no such talks have ever been seriously considered. "Separating would be frivolous," he commented. "Albert Einstein is an integral part of Yeshiva University as one of its constituent schools."

The affiliation with Yeshiva is limited in that the college of medicine develops and manages its own budget, according to Habenstreit. Notwithstanding AECOM's fiscal independence, there is a strong allegiance toward Yeshiva in many other

New From Yeshiva's Other Schools



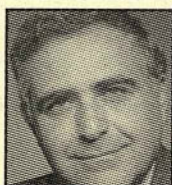
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areas. Within the academic sphere, Einstein affords Yeshiva's current students as well as graduates a number of different advantages over the general population of prospective applicants. Throughout their

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Keeping up with the president

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Life After Stern
-living
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- SCW connection
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SCDS performs
Steel Magnolias

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EDITORIALS

Sharing the Inspiration

Several hours after student organizers announced Operation Torah Shield III, all 100 spots on the trip were filled, and the waiting list was growing. It is probably impossible to find another university where so many students are so eager to travel to a region where war is imminent and terror attacks are not uncommon. It must be made clear, however, that the hundreds of students who clamored for a place on the trip were not reckless youth or naïve idealists. Rather, they represent the best that Yeshiva has to offer, students who are driven by a heartfelt commitment to Israel. These students understood the centrality of Israel in their lives. Those who participated in the mission further strengthened their connection with Israel and fostered greater personal ties with an assortment of Israelis there.

However, the many students who were unable to participate in the trip because of space constraints deserve to benefit from the experience of the 100 who did go. Operation Torah Shield III must not end now. It should continue to inform the actions of its participants, as they share the lessons that they gleaned and the emotions that they felt over the past week with their peers and with the general community.

Only 100 students had the opportunity to be in Israel physically, but everyone can be included now. Unlike applications for Torah Shield III, organizing and implementing programs to help Israel is not limited to a first-come first-serve basis. Perhaps the truer test of students' commitment to Israel comes now, when they must take use the inspiration of the last week to create programs and activities to help Israel from here, in America. These events must accommodate much more than 100 seats.

Spread Too Thin

We congratulate Rabbi Dr. Kanarfogel on his recent procurement of a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania for the coming academic year, and we are proud that one of our own professors has received recognition as a leading scholar. Whenever a professor receives such an honor it positively impacts the students of SCW, as professors are able to bring their expanded knowledge from their research back to the classroom.

However, while we are sure that Rabbi Kanarfogel's fellowship will advance his academic career and strengthen his abilities as an SCW professor, at the same time, it will prove to be a detriment to the Jewish Studies department. Although he promises that his time commitment to SCW will not be reduced, Rabbi Kanarfogel is already overextended, and we fear that dividing his time next year between SCW and Penn will only exacerbate the situation.

Furthermore, that we will technically have, in effect, only a part time Jewish studies head next year seems indicative of the general lack of commitment on the part of the administration to developing and cultivating the Jewish Studies department. As the leading Orthodox college for women in America, SCW should be attracting the top Torah scholars as professors, and its Jewish Studies courses should be rigorous, challenging and expansive. We do have many wonderful professors, yet the program in general suffers from a shortage of advanced courses and a coherent curriculum. SCW should be viewed by others as the foremost institution for advanced learning. Unfortunately, the department falls alarmingly short from fulfilling its fullest potential

The Observer

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Calendar of Events

March 23 SCW Dramatics Society: Steel Magnolias, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	24 Steel Magnolias, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	25 Steel Magnolias, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	26 Steel Magnolias, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	27 Steel Magnolias, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 8pm	28	29 Sephardic Club Shabbaton The Little Foxes 9pm
30 The Little Foxes, Schottenstein Theater 3pm	31 The Little Foxes, Ladies Night Bus leaves BRH at 7:45	April 1 The Little Foxes, Couples Night	2 SSSB/SCW Fashion Show, Schottenstein Cultural Center, 7:30pm The Little Foxes, 9pm	3 Rosh Chodesh Nissan The Little Foxes, Schottenstein Theater 9pm	4	5 Rebecca Ivry Scholar-in-Residence Mrs. Shani Taragin
6	7	8 SSSB Annual Awards Dinner, NY Marriott Marquis, 6pm	9	10	11 Last day to drop a course	12 Shabbat HaGadol
13	14	15 Pesach Recess	16 Pesach Recess	17 Pesach	18 Pesach	19 Chol Hamoed Pesach
20 Chol Hamoed Pesach Rabbi Samuel Belkin and Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik yearzeits	21 Chol Hamoed Pesach	22 Chol Hamoed Pesach	23 Pesach	24 Pesach	25 Pesach Recess	26 Pesach Recess
27 Pesach Recess	28 Classes Resume	29 Yom HaShoah	30	May 1	2	3 New Leadership Shabbaton

From The Editor's Desk



CARYN LITT
Editor-in-Chief

In Elie Wiesel's play *The Trial of God*, an innkeeper and three traveling minstrels resolve to perform a *purimshpiel* on Purim night.

The year is 1649.

The innkeeper Berish and his daughter Hannah are the sole survivors of the Eastern European village of Shamgorod, which had been struck by a pogrom. On the night of Hannah's wedding, Berish's wife, two sons and all of the guests had been massacred, and Hannah herself had been brutally gang-raped. The minstrels themselves come from villages that had been ravaged by pogroms. The bitter Berish will only allow one *purimshpiel* on this Purim night: putting God on trial.

Berish agrees to play the role of the prosecutor, the three minstrels are the *beit din*, and, after everyone else refuses, one quiet guest, Sam, agrees to serve as God's defense attorney.

Berish's charges are clear. "I—Berish, Jewish innkeeper at Shamgorod—accuse Him of hostility, cruelty and indifference," he says. "Either He dislikes His chosen people or He doesn't care about them—period! But then, why has He chosen us—why not someone else, for a change? Either He knows what's happening to us, or He doesn't wish to know! In both cases He is ... guilty!"

Sam provides the classic defense to this age-old formulation of the question of why God allows evil to befall innocent, righteous people. His defense: "Why evil—why ugliness? If God chooses not to answer, He must have his reasons. God is God, and His will is independent from ours—as is His reasoning.... Who are you to make comparisons or draw conclusions? Born in dust, you are nothing but dust."

A verdict is never reached. Before the *beit din* can rule on the case, Sam reveals himself to be Satan, and a murderous mob begins to enter the inn.

Rabbi Mordechai Cohen referred to this play in my *Iyov* [the Book of Job] class recently as a way to highlight one of *Iyov's* central messages. After *Iyov's* friends have provided no relief and no satisfactory answer to why bad things happen to good people, *Iyov* reaches a climactic conclusion: "*Gam hu li l'yeshua ki lo lefanav hanef yavo*" — He will also be my salvation, but a hypocrite will not come before him (13:16). *Iyov* arrives at the realization that God prefers honest questioning to false, empty defenses. Indeed, as Wiesel suggests, defending God with meaningless platitudes is the work of the devil himself.

Rabbi Cohen recounted in class one of the many legendary stories that have been told regarding the Rav. Someone once asked the Rav whether he should refrain from studying philosophy because it might lead him off the path of Judaism. The Rav responded that one should always get on the plane - even though there is a chance that the plane might crash.

One of the central themes of the Rav's, Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, zt"l, *Lonely Man of Faith*, is that religion is not meant to be an opiate for the masses. Religion is not easy; it is supposed to be challenging, and it may even be troubling at times. There are those who maintain that religion must be a fortress, allowing no cracks for fear the structure will crumble. This philosophy, however, implies little faith. If a religion cannot stand up in the face of intellectual honesty, then it is not much of a religion.

As the Yeshiva community begins to commemorate the tenth yearzeit of the Rav, zt"l, I would like to offer my own reflections on the legacy of the Rav.

Regrettably, I cannot claim to be an expert in the Rav's philosophy. However, as a graduate of Maimonides School, the co-ed yeshiva day school founded by the Rav in 1937, there is at least one aspect of the Rav of which I am certain - his commitment to the truth.

I have found there to be a tendency among those who have grown up in a YU-centric, New York-centric world to claim the Rav as their own and to gloss over any of his achievements that took place outside of Yeshiva. Before my classmates and I graduated high school, Rabbi David Shapiro, the principal of Maimonides for more than 20 years and a close friend of the Rav and the Talner Rav, Rabbi Isidore Twersky, the Rav's son-in-law, warned us that once we left Maimonides we would encounter people who would deny the Rav's attachment to and approbation of Maimonides—people, in other words, who feel obligated to rewrite history to suit their own purposes, to revise the truth rather than deal with it because it conflicted with their commonly held beliefs.

Atara Twersky, the Rav's daughter, addressed my high school class as part of a week-long seminar on the Rav's philosophy, and I can recall clearly her message to us: the Rav was absolutely committed to halakha and would never permit anything that he felt was prohibited, regardless of circumstance or pressure from others.

Unfortunately, I am too young to have been able to fully appreciate the Rav when he was alive; when he passed away I had only a vague sense of his significance. Yet, looking back, I can appreciate the impact the Rav had on me through my attending Maimonides. I cannot say for certain whether the Rav would be pleased with every aspect of Maimonides today, yet I know from my own experience that his spirit and legacy still breathe through its halls. More important than what I gained from history or math class, perhaps even more important than studying Talmud or Chumash, I learned a way of life from the Rav's school. I learned that, as human beings, we all have a right to think creatively and for ourselves, to demand sources and investigate them, to respectfully question authority and to confront troubling religious concerns rather than flee from them.

The Rav had, and continues posthumously to have, a major impact on Orthodox Jewry in America. Among the Rav's many achievements in his lifetime, his contribution to the Boston Jewish community should be remembered. It is well known that the Rav felt most comfortable and relaxed when home in Brookline and that he would lovingly visit Maimonides almost every Friday. During my year of post-high school study in Israel, I did, in fact, encounter such people as I had been warned about. To reassure me, Rabbi Shapiro told me that the Rav used to tell people that when he arrived in Heaven, and God asked him what he accomplished in this world, he would answer "Maimonides School."

Both Wiesel's Berish and *Iyov* embark on quests to reveal and confront the truth. While the statements and accusations of Berish and *Iyov* may seem heretical, neither Berish nor *Iyov* lose their faith in God. Just as Berish refuses to accept a priest's offer to be saved by converting to Christianity, *Iyov's* determination to reconcile his suffering with his perception of God shows just how ultimately good and righteous he believes God to be (see Amos Chacham, *Da'at Mikra*, summary after chapter 14).

As our generation faces our own challenges, we will do well to not merely commemorate the Rav's life, but to honor him by incorporating his legacy into our own lives.



ALISA ROSE
Editor-in-Chief

So much has happened in a week.

Three weeks ago I was thinking about writing a column dealing with Yeshiva's uniqueness as the only university where serious Torah-committed students can receive a college education while simultaneously continuing a rigorous schedule of Torah classes. But being the sole proponents of Torah U'madda also makes Yeshiva particularly vulnerable for settling for mediocrity. At a recent meeting with administrators, one student leader expressed her misgivings about YU, critiquing a general lack of involvement among students, but adding that she would probably send her children to the school because "There's only one Yeshiva University." Human nature is such that we have a tendency to settle for mediocrity - especially when there's no competition compelling us to strive for excellence.

Any fears of complacency or lack of initiative on the part of the student body, however, were dismissed when I woke up a week later in Israel on a hastily put together mission designed to coincide with the date set for the US to begin the war with Iraq. Organized in less the week, Operation Torah Shield III, sent 100 students to Israel for one of the most inspiring weeks of my life.

The goal of the trip was "*chazak chazak v'nitzchazak*" - to strengthen the people of Israel and to be strengthened by them. On one of the most meaningful days of the trip, we participated in a Purim event sponsored by One Family, an organization that arranges programs for families that have lost relatives to terror attacks. I ate my Purim seudah with a family from Beitar that lost an 18-year old brother and son in a shooting attack on a bus last year. The teenager's mother sat stoically for most of the meal, a palpable sense of sadness evident in her eyes, even as she interacted with one of her younger children. When I asked her how many children she had, she responded emotionlessly, "Now, I have nine." The families at the Purim seudah had lost relatives in attacks that I had heard about the news, but now the victims had faces, and the pain was impossible to dismiss. Their pain touched me, strength-

ened my *tefilot*, and heightened my understanding that events in Israel affect me, even when I'm living 6,000 miles away in New York.

Obviously the primary purpose of the mission was to strengthen my connection with Israel and its people, and it succeeded tremendously. But the mission also impacted my feelings as a student at Yeshiva University. Throughout the trip, we were escorted by publicity - journalists and broadcasters - who were eager to report on the 100 Yeshiva University students who came to Israel despite the threat of war. On Friday, as I donated blood to Magen David Adom, one journalist asked me why I came to Israel. I proudly explained to him that when other people are leaving Israel, YU students came to show that despite a possible war, this is our home, and these are our brothers and sisters. I was proud to be part of a Yeshiva University mission, as I participated in various *chesed* activities.

But now that the trip is over, pride for what we accomplished can only take us so far. The organizers of the mission deserve special recognition for putting the mission together so quickly - I was personally inspired by the efforts of all the students involved in organizing the trip, and I would like to publicly thank them. But patting ourselves on the back is useful only if it engenders a drive for greater commitment to Israel and greater involvement in programs and activities to further help Israel and her people.

Now we, as YU students, must lead to the way to take the inspiration of the past week to come up with more ways to strengthen our connection with Israel. Our return to America must not put an end to our week-long mission. The goal of the mission - *chazak chazak v'nitzchazak* - must continue to direct our actions in America. We can't let the emotions of the past week fall by the wayside.

When people say, "There's only one Yeshiva University" it should always be an expression of admiration for our accomplishments and a consistent drive for excellence. The success of Operation Torah Shield III showed how much YU students can accomplish in so little time. Hopefully, it will also serve as the impetus for bigger and better YU student initiatives.

**We join our country
in praying for
the welfare
of American soldiers
and other Allied
troops serving
in Iraq**

Letters to the Editor

Explanation of MTA/Central Split

Dear Editors:

With MTA and Central on the threshold of a new status within the Yeshiva University family that would reflect their financial independence ("MTA and Central to Separate from Yeshiva," Feb. 16), it is most appropriate that the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) report on the results of its 3-year stewardship of the High Schools, commencing in September 1999, when it took over their administration.

At that point in time, you might remember, the high schools (particularly MTA) were faced with major problems, both academic and financial. On the academic plane, the high schools, which had been the *creme de la creme* of Yeshiva for scores of years, had a declining reputation, a stark fact and one we at RIETS simply refused to accept. Looking back to that time, the first action by RIETS after taking over responsibility for the High Schools may have been the most significant. Rabbi Dr. Michael Hecht was appointed the Dean of the High Schools, with primary emphasis upon MTA. That gesture, in and of itself, restored to the High Schools instant credibility. It was the loudest confirmation possible that the High Schools were here to stay and that we were committed to bring them back to the academic pinnacle of yesteryear. This was especially true to the hundreds upon hundreds of Dr. Hecht's former students (over 30 years), many of whom were then — or would be shortly — in the position of deciding which high school their children would attend. In short, we graphically demonstrated that we meant it when we said, and advertised, that the Yeshiva University High Schools would be "schools of excellence."

Candidly, the results have been beyond expectations. Applications for admission from students of the high academic caliber we were hoping for started arriving and have accelerated over time. Moreover, requests for transfer from other yeshiva high schools by some of their better students started to flow in.

Of course, at the same time, we recognized that the financial viability of the high schools was critical, and we immediately focused on those issues as well.

The accounting records in 1999 reflected a \$3,000,000 yearly loss in the operation of the high schools, consisting of direct expenditures exceeding income to the tune of approximately \$1,000,000, plus an additional \$2,000,000 of losses resulting from the allocation by Yeshiva to the high schools of overhead for indirect expenses of the University in general.

It is impossible to go into great detail on this issue in the space allotted to a letter

to the editor, so, let me focus upon the results of our 3-year stewardship. Rather than direct expenditures exceeding revenue by \$1,000,000, now net revenues exceed direct expenditures by over \$1,750,000. This magnificent turn-around of over \$2,750,000 resulted from both increases in income, especially contributions from RIETS Board members, and substantial decreases in expenditures.

Of course, we recognized that the high schools must accept their fair proportion of the allocated costs of the operation of the University — an amount, I should add, that was worked out with the Chairman of the Board of the University. But, even then, after adding the agreed-to indirect expenses to the results, the net deficit for the last year of our stewardship, ending June 30, 2002, was approximately \$200,000 — a far, far cry from the \$3,000,000 yearly loss that the books were showing before RIETS took over.

Now that Yeshiva has decided, in effect, to launch the high schools to independent status, we at RIETS can feel proud of its achievements, on both the academic and the financial planes, within the very short period that the High Schools were under our administration.

A recent report on the high schools by Colman Genn, the Executive Director of the Center for Educational Innovation - Public Education Association, says it best: "The two Yeshiva University high schools are beautiful but delicate flowers. They require care in an atmosphere of respect and *derech eretz*. The Yeshiva University community has much to be proud of and should take on the obligation to cooperatively maintain and enhance these two wonderful learning communities."

We at RIETS are confident that, under their new leadership team, the high schools will continue to bloom and be a source of pride to the entire Yeshiva University family.

Sincerely,

Julius Berman
Chairman of the Board of RIETS

Art Review Off the Mark

Dear editors,

At its best, Reina Roth's "Universal Language of Abstract Art" (December, 2002), which addresses the current exhibit at the Jewish Museum of Adolph Gottlieb's works, provides an extremely skewed and naive interpretation of Gottlieb's works: grossly misconstruing such terms as "abstract art" and three-dimensional space.

At its worst, it stoops to the lowly level of plagiarizing. What does the *Observer* hope to gain by publishing art reviews in which posted information from the exhibit is either lifted directly or shamelessly

reworded without any real modification? I would challenge the *Observer* to honestly address this issue and use it to achieve some sort of introspective purging of its ranks, and what may emerge is an intellectually honest Arts section, which students very desperately need.

Eagerly awaiting justice and reform,

Menachem Wecker
YC sophomore

Editors' response: We appreciate your concern regarding the integrity of our newspaper. According to a spokesman for the Jewish Museum, utilizing information provided by an exhibit in a review without citation, as Ms. Roth did, is perfectly acceptable and is not considered plagiarism, nor does it constitute copyright infringement. Ms. Roth is an art history major who used the exhibit material to supplement her own opinions regarding the art she viewed.

Let's Not Hang Separately

To the Editors:

As I read Caryn Litt's editorial in the February edition of the *Observer*, I was struck by how accurately she portrayed an issue that, until that point, I had never consciously recognized. She made an excellent point that "it is simply absurd that half of the undergraduate student body should be ignored." But that is exactly what I have been doing. For example, as I prepared to attend the memorial for the Columbia taking place at the Wilf campus, it never even occurred to me to wonder what program (if any) YU would put together for the midtown students; I was exclusively concerned that YU had actually decided to do something. This is just one drop in the sea of the times when our sister school has seen the short end of the stick of opportunity.

Benjamin Franklin's words ring true now just as they did at the signing of the Declaration of Independence: "We must all hang together, else we shall all hang separately." If the sister school of the Men's Campus can be dismissed out of hand by the administration, that does not bode well for the future of any school within YU, excepting its crown jewel (and Wilf is nowhere near the jewel that Einstein is).

But now that Ms. Litt has brought the issue of inequity to the forefront of our attention, we must ask what can be done? How can we raise awareness and make Stern more prominent in the YU family? The Honors Program has definitely been a step in the right direction, as has the joining of the yearbooks. But more action is required. I believe that a good place to start is from the bottom up. The undergraduate student body, includ-

ing the women and the men, need to change their attitudes and consider each other equals. At least half of the school events should take place at Stern, forcing the men to travel for a change. This will help show the administration that a parity exists between the men and women, and that they should extend that equality to all aspects of the school, from academics to events.

David Rabin
YC senior

Belz is Still Ringing

Dear Editors:

In the February issue of the *Observer*, there appeared an article entitled "The Belz School Struggles To Attract Aspiring Cantors." While the article gives a brief history of the school and enumerates some of its courses and projects, the theme of the article seems to dwell on a negative misconception that Belz is bemoaning the dearth of positions in Orthodox synagogues and that the school is struggling to attract cantorial students. In reality, the Belz School has for a long time been focusing on the needs of future synagogue laymen by teaching all students the necessary skills to lead religious services. This is evidenced by the numerous outreach programs being offered in various communities and the revamping of its curriculum in creating courses more comfortably suited for all students.

I invite the writer of the article to come to the Belz School and view all the classes and observe the manner in which 140-150 students as instructed. She would be quite surprised to see classes in Voice, Piano, General Music, Sephardic Liturgical Music, Safrut, Cantillation and Nusah filled with students genuinely enthusiastic and anxious to learn according to their individual level and potential.

I would like to make a few additional corrections, as well. The article implies that the Cantorial Training Institute was set up by the Belz School. However, the fact is that the original name of the Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music was the Cantorial Training Institute and was renamed for its benefactors in 1983.

Furthermore, Cantor Eric Freeman was referred to as "Dean of Belz." However, the title Dean does not exist in this school, and Cantor Freeman's exact title is Administrative Assistant at Belz.

Sincerely,

Cantor Bernard Beer
Director, Belz School of Jewish Music

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



I was sitting in a chumash class in Stern. We were discussing Miriam's death which is followed by the well ceasing to provide water.

Commentaries explain that the well had given water to *Bnei Yisroel* for all of these years in the merit of Miriam. Because the Jewish people did not properly mourn her death, the water stopped. Students began raising their hands offering different perceptions of this topic. A number of students empathized with *Bnei Yisroel*, because Miriam was not really a leader like Moshe and Aharon because of her quiet demeanor and submissive role. It is difficult for me to explain in words the sentiment that I was tuning into. Basically, Stern students seemed to be saying that the female role is not significant in regard to the Jewish community. My teacher agreed that there is a tendency to recognize male figures. She asked us if we remembered the last funeral for a rebbeztzin or a female leader. We all know of rebbeim who were niftar.

Later in the school day, I heard that busses to Rabbi Willig's public apology were cancelled. Students kept asking me if they would be allowed to hear him speak. I had to respond, "I don't know." After much advocacy, a small number of spaces were set aside for any women that came; however, this was done last minute and as a result, few were able to attend. It was wrong that there was even a question whether Stern students should be at the very least permitted to attend such a "lecture." Why was it a question that Stern students would not be allowed to attend when journalists, who are not members of the Yeshiva University community, were invited?

In the interim, between the time that students came to learn of this ground-

breaking statement and the apology itself, I was forced to provide my peers with the same lame excuse that was given to me by the Wilf campus, "There is no room for you in the *beis midrash*." These words, as painful as they were, ring true in the Wilf as well as the midtown campus. I could not help but reflect on my chumash class earlier in the day. As women, we are forced to convince an entire world of our competence. We should not have to convince ourselves, fellow women, of our potential.

Because of these recent experiences, I have been faced with a phenomenon that has existed since man first stepped on earth. It begins with the fact that the world began with the first man. We live in a male-dominated society. I'm basically getting over this reality. The main obstacle that stands in the way, is the sentiment amongst Stern students that we should continue to allow this reality to exist in our midst. In a number of my classes, students discussed the subject of women's role in the community and society.

My fellow classmates insisted that women should play submissive, quiet, behind-the-scenes roles. I argue that people, men and women, should play the roles that fit their personality. Some people work well as behind the scene characters while some stand out of the crowd. We are in Stern College for women. I admit that women may have a more difficult and challenging experience in accomplishing our goals in the future. Nonetheless, we can accomplish them. We can speak out in whatever venue we see fit. In a time where the world is finally open to our gender, we should not perpetuate chauvinist ideology.

DISCLAIMER: This was not meant to offend anyone or to create a new Stern stereotype. This common sentiment was one that I felt needed to be addressed, and because I get to write a column every month, I sought out this venue. Some points were exaggerated in order to create an impact.

Taking Pride in Our Mission

By Shayndi Raice

When thinking about what to write for this opinion piece, some suggested I write about our county's war with Iraq. Contrary to popular belief, I am not a knee jerk liberal and in fact, I have rather hawkish views regarding Iraq. While I haven't conducted an official poll, I'm fairly certain that most students at Yeshiva agree with my pro-war stance, if not for the safety of our own country then for the benefits of a newly constructed Middle East for Israel. However, when considering the pro-war argument I would make, I became mystified as to how I could enlighten an already enlightened group. Essentially, why write a piece where I would preach to the converted?

To the outside world Yeshiva students are looked at as a monolithic group of religious violently pro-Israel radicals. Many think politics outside of Israel don't concern us. In fact, many would go so far as to say that even political action regarding Israel is outside our realm of concern. While other college campuses are struggling with violent pro-Palestinian propaganda, we get together and recite psalms and collect charity. The deep and complex world of the "real" college campus is outside our realm of understanding.

A representative from the North American Jewish Students Alliance (NAJSA) informed me that while she was pleased with the large numbers of YU students involved in the organization, she was concerned that we didn't properly understand the conflicts on college campuses across the country. Apparently that would somehow hinder our ability to lend support to Jewish college students. At the NAJSA conference in Michigan, during a voting session, a young man suggested that the voting was not fair due to the fact that there was a large representation of YU students. He added that since YU students are not an accurate depiction of college students their votes were not fair.

I find this attitude reprehensible. The notion that our ideas or votes ought to vanish into thin air because we tend to have a unified ideological stance is preposterous. As Americans we know that every person has a right to vote in this country. Do we say that because certain areas are made up of groups that don't accurately represent the rest of

the country we will not count their vote? Is the New York Times liberal cabal an accurate representation of Middle America? Probably not. Does that mean that their newspaper is not worthy of being read or promoting political positions? Clearly not.

When I realized that my attitude about writing a piece on Iraq was the same as the NAJSA participants I decided that my initial assumption was equally invalid (I decided against writing about Iraq because I thought this was more important-maybe next time). Many times people on our campus shy away from joining into the marketplace of ideas because they think they have nothing new to offer, however such an opinion could not be further from the truth. Perhaps we have even more to offer. We ought to take pride in our unique position as a religious university. It is not, like many think, a setback that induces ignorance. The opposite is true. While we understand, with an often more objective clarity, the secular college campus or issues facing the world at large, we choose to take part in our religious atmosphere because we alone are uniquely aware of our supremely correct opinion. We are right and in at a time when we can begin using words like good and evil again, thanks to our president, it is important that we recognize the truth in our mission and take pride in it.

When the young man objected to allowing YU students to have an equal vote at the NAJSA conference, he was trying to dismiss the inclusion of the promotion of Zionism in the organizations mission. Because of the large presence of YU students, Zionism was voted into the NAJSA mission. Without this stipulation, students could technically request help or support from NAJSA for an anti-Zionist cause. Because of our presence at this conference such an atrocity will never occur. This is a clear case where our unique vision and understanding contributed to an ultimately correct decision. YU students need to take pride in their opinions and views, despite the fact that they may be contrary to the views of the world at large and despite the fact that we may be accused of being a monolithic group of like-minded individuals. It is irrelevant where we come from and how we formed our opinions as long as we have total confidence in the correctness of our beliefs.

MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman



As we slowly approach the end of the year we hopefully can all look back and feel a sense of great accomplishment and pride. We have grown, learned and experi-

enced new and exciting stages in life that will at some point probably help us out somewhere in the future. We have met new people, friends and role models. However, it is very easy to say at this point that we are finished; to close up our books and pack our stuff. We are about to have a break and then return with only one week of classes.

While some of us will say to ourselves that we feel accomplished there are also those people that will feel depressed and disappointed. They have let the whole year slide with nothing to gain or show for themselves. They have let themselves down.

Both these people have something in common. Although, one is happy and proud and the other feels a sense of disappointment they both have to realize that the year is not over. Although we are going to be on break soon for Pesach, there is still much to be done. Elections

for next year are taking place at this very moment. You can still get involved and take advantage of so many opportunities. Yom Hashoa, Yom Ha'Zikaron, Yom Ha'aztmaut and Lag B'Omer are all coming up soon.

There are some students that showed this very clearly through the mission that took place in Israel over Purim. Even though it was not during winter break and there was not much time left, students saw that there was a need and then acted. They took the initiative and got something accomplished. One hundred Yeshiva University students went to Israel and made a statement. They showed their support for Israel and uplifted the Israeli citizens. This is something to be proud of.

Not everyone has to plan a mission or do something huge to make an impact and feel accomplished. Very often it's the little things in life that make the difference. The important message to take away from this though is that something was done. It wasn't looked at with the attitude of just thinking about it, or complaining that nothing was being done. They worked together and were able to pull it off.

I hope that as the year ends we only look at it as another opportunity to continue to accomplish, achieve and learn.

Where Do You Stand?

As SCW students, we are privileged to spend our college years within a huge Jewish community. However, life will not always be so insular, and it is necessary to determine what role non-Jews play in our Jewish society and what our attitudes should be toward them, both in theory and in practice. What do you think, and where do you stand?

ATTITUDE #1: Non-Jews are created with the same *tzelem Elokim* as Jews. The major religions are not to be classified as pagan idolatry. Rather, all non-Jews are to be viewed as *gerei toshav* (observers of Seven Noahide Laws) toward whom our obligations in all economic and ethical matters are the same as those we have toward fellow Jews. While social interaction is limited in favor of Jewish society, exposure to non-Jews creates an opportunity for Kiddush Hashem.

ATTITUDE #2: Non-Jews are created with the same *tzelem Elokim* as Jews. However, idolaters (including Christians, Buddhists and many other religions) are to be avoided - contact with them should be minimized both socially and economically to prevent our being influenced by their culture. In the interest of maintaining peaceful relations, we extend to non-Jews substantial equality in regard to economic and ethical duties imposed by Jewish Law.

ATTITUDE #3: Non-Jews were created with a different form of soul than Jews. They are different both in regard to providential governance, and in regard to halachic duties resting upon Jews towards them in economic and ethical matters - including duties of rescue of life and property.

The Observer Welcomes

All Comments

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On Campus

Yeshiva Goes High Tech

By Goldie Simon

Yeshiva's Banner Web Team has recently completed the first stages of updating the university-wide online services. Aside from online registration, the new "Student and Faculty Web Services," which can be accessed through Yeshiva's website, www.yu.edu, offers many features, including the ability to view midterm grades, as well as view and print unofficial transcripts, schedules and financial information online.

The most anticipated improvement in Yeshiva's technology use is that registration for seniors for fall 2003 will be done online. Yeshiva has already tested this feature with Cardozo students, and it has worked well, according to administrators.

"These new services are fantastic," said University Registrar Lea Honigwachs. "Students will be able to go to the Bahamas and register from there."

The Team is in the process of enter-

ing all course prerequisites so that students will be notified at the time of registration if they have not yet taken the required prerequisites. Closed courses will be indicated by a "C" printed next to them.

As of now, there are no plans to activate the add/drop system online.

While there are still a few glitches in the system - some students have complained that they have been unable to gain access to the site - employees working for the Banner Web Team are hopeful for the future. "This is cutting edge, the best of what technology can offer," Honigwachs said. "We are still tinkering with the website, and we welcome students' comments."

Students are currently able to view their official transcripts, term-by-term financial account summary, a financial aid and award summary and schedules. All the screens are printable. Students are also able to update their personal

information, such as their addresses and telephone numbers.

Students will not, however, be able to submit transcript requests online, as such requests require signatures.

Faculty will be able to utilize the site, as well. For instance, faculty can insert grades online, which will enable students to retrieve their grades sooner.

The new site will eventually provide services for prospective students, allowing them to apply online, and for alumni, who will be able to update their personal information.

"These improvements are a big step forward in using technology," said Jon Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management. "Students who have started using the website have found it very valuable."

One major advantage to the upgraded technology that administrators noted, aside from convenience, is that academic advisers will no longer have to focus

on the mechanical part of registration and will have more time to help students with selecting their majors as well as mentoring.

In efforts to spread the word on the new services, Yeshiva has sent out e-mails to detailing the new information to students' ymail accounts. The administration also plans to post bulletins as well as give this new information a more prominent place on the school's website.

SCW students have reacted positively to the changes. "The changes will make everything more accessible," said SCW junior Jodie Shrager.

Although she is graduating from SCW in May, senior Estie Savitsky noted that the new additions to the site will make getting transcripts and final grades easier to retrieve. "I'm looking forward to utilizing these features," she said.

Roman Catholic Priest Speaks to Journalism Students

By Rachel Horn

Father Wilfred Tyrell sat in front of a chalkboard bearing remnants of a course taught during the period beforehand. A chart delineating the cycle of tithes brought to the Holy Temple served as the backdrop for his reverend's collar and black garb. Although Father Tyrell's presence in a Jewish university might have seemed out of place, it was actually an integral component of the course "Topics on Journalism," which explores the convergence of religion and journalism.

"The course is about religion writing," said scholar-in-residence Ari Goldman, who teaches the course. "The first few weeks we concentrated on Judaism. Now it is time to branch out and look at how to write about other faiths." Goldman has had years of experience as a religion writer for *The New York Times*.

In this effort, Goldman invited Father Tyrell, Director of the Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the Archdiocese of New York, to speak to the class about the relationship between Judaism and Roman Catholicism. After his lecture, Tyrell fielded questions from the class.

Discussing the progress that has been

made by their leadership since the Holocaust, Tyrell contended that the Catholic Church has made steady strides toward a productive relationship with Judaism. He discussed the Church's former intolerant approach towards Judaism and the recent changes in its attitude. For example, the Church abolished the description of Jews as "perfidious" in Roman Catholic liturgy in 1959 and subsequently constructed the document "Nostra Aetate," meaning "In Our Times," which asserted the rejection of anti-Semitism and recognized its own Jewish roots. He noted monumental steps such as Pope John Paul II's historic visits to an Orthodox synagogue in Rome and the Kotel and the establishment of diplomatic relationships between the Vatican and Israel ten years ago.

"It was valuable for our students to meet someone so committed to his faith and not afraid to talk about its successes and failings," said Goldman.

Several key issues discussed during the lecture were raised through questions and comments by the students. "There were wonderful questions from the class," Goldman said. "The students were respectful, attentive and honest." Questions about the sex abuse scandal in the Church, the church's claim that it

has abandoned efforts to convert Jews, the continued closure of the Vatican's archives from the Holocaust period and Tyrell's initial inspiration in clergy life made for a fascinating dialogue. "I thought our students asked tough but respectful questions," Goldman stated.

Although it was his first visit to SCW, Tyrell is not a stranger to Yeshiva University. Earlier this year, he visited the Wilf Campus with a commission of priests and scholars hosted by the World Jewish Congress in an effort to gain insight into the Torah U'Mada philosophy. The archbishop of France, Cardinal Lustiger, led the group.

"It's a unique institution," Tyrell observed. "There is no real parallel of it in the world."

During his visit, he observed students studying in the Beit Medrash. "It was great to see the institution at work as a yeshiva and place of secular learning," he said.

In a similar course on Religion Writing that Goldman offers at Columbia University's School of Journalism, students visit a church. Goldman reached an understanding with SCW administration that opposed taking students to a church but allowed a priest to speak on campus. "I saw no reason why the

church couldn't come to us," Goldman offered. "At least in the person of Father Tyrell."

Although his expertise lies in interreligious work with the Buddhist and Hindu faiths, Tyrell has been intrigued by Jewish-Catholic relations since he joined the clergy. He belonged to the National Council of Christians and Jews, where he would join other Catholics, Protestants and Jews at retreats to learn about each religion throughout his years in seminary and has been involved in Jewish-Catholic relations in his years as a Franciscan and a Priest. Tyrell still exhibits particular interest in the goings on of the Jewish community. "I subscribe to *The Jewish Week* faithfully," he said.

Although Tyrell's appearance deviated from the standard at SCW, students found that the priest shared several common values with them. "It was interesting to see someone of a different religion living an observant lifestyle," said SCW Junior Meryl Feldblum. "There was a common understanding. It was nice to see that other people value the same issues that we do."

Writing Center Position Filled

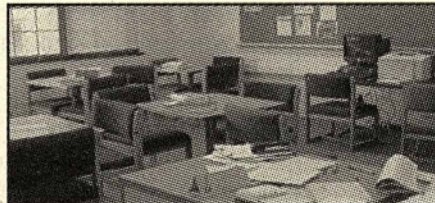
By Shifra Landowne

After much consideration, the English department has made the long awaited appointment of new professor and head of the Writing Center. The department has chosen Dr. Jay Laden from Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

Laden has done most of his scholarship in the area of poetry. He holds a PhD in poetry from Princeton in American Poetry and Poetics, and an MFA in poetry from University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has recently returned from a Fulbright at the University of Tel Aviv and has a book of poetry currently being published.

"I don't think we have ever had anyone on faculty who specializes in poetry," said Professor Laurel Hatvary, head of the English department. "We are very excited about the new courses that we will now be able to offer."

Laden has also had considerable experience with college writing centers, and the English department feels that he will be able to make significant contributions to the Stern



Dr. Laden was hired as the new director of the writing center, shown above

Writing Center.

"He was certainly the most qualified," said Hatvary. "Although it truly was a difficult decision, we had always felt he was tremendous. He has incredible credentials, lengthy experience at writing centers as well as all sorts of experiences beyond being a writer - teaching, etc."

Hatvary was impressed with Laden's model lesson.

"He taught a Freshman class and he displayed a sincerity, a sterling character and a real dedication to what he does," Hatvary said. "We really are thrilled."

Ann D. Koffsky

artist

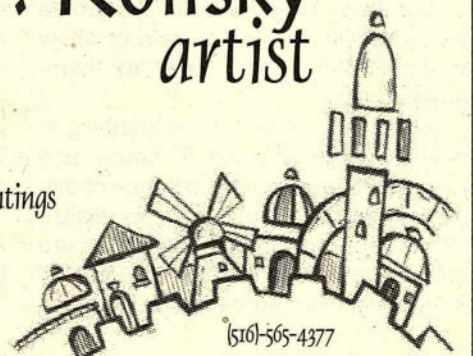
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On Campus

Following Our New President...

By Miriam Colton

Around Campus

Since his appointment on December 4th, president-elect Richard Joel has been spending approximately half the week at Yeshiva campuses. Joel has become a noticeable figure at the Wilf Campus, where he sleeps two or three nights a week in the Morgenstern Residence Hall, in the same apartment once occupied by the Rav. He davens in the Morgenstern *beit medresh* and eats in the cafeteria, and also has been learning daily halakha with Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, an MYP rosh yeshiva. "I'm learning so much just walking the campus and meeting students," said Joel. "People have been really kind and gracious."

While "acclimating to the culture" here, Joel has attended numerous meetings with Yeshiva Board members, administrators and faculty. He also meets regularly with President Dr. Norman Lamm. "If I'm smart enough to listen, there's a lot to hear," he said.

Meeting with other Presidents

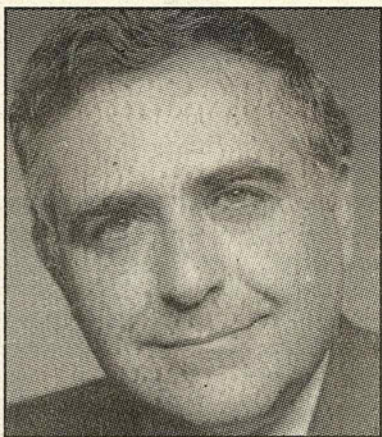
Joel has also met with some national university presidents, many of whom he knows from Hillel. "I went to them and said tell me how to run a university," said Joel of his discussions with the presidents, including those of Brandeis, Tufts and George Washington. He also conversed with Georgetown president John DeGioia, the Jesuit University's first lay president.

Meeting with Roshei Yeshiva

Joel has been meeting with the *roshei yeshiva* of RIETS, with hopes of establishing a collegial and working relationship. Joel mentioned one discussion with Rabbi Moshe Tendler, who recently spoke at the End the Madness symposium and who solicited Joel's participation in encouraging students to attend coed events and "cut the nonsense." Joel said he is also concerned with finding appropriate methods of meeting for young men and women. "We've probably come too far in terms of taking away some of the natural ease to forming relationships," said Joel. "It will be wonderful if key *roshei yeshiva* lead a movement to a more rational and warm approach."

Listening to Students

At the urging of the Chairman of the Board Ronald Stanton, Joel arranged a meeting of student leaders, called a Student Life Enhancement Meeting. Two separate meetings were held on both the YC and SCW campus. Students were encouraged to share their positive and negative experiences at Yeshiva and their recommendations for improvement. The meeting was attended by Dr. Efreim Nulman and Andrew Leibowitz, as well as several Yeshiva alumni. Some of the issues the students raised included the need for psychological counseling that is independent of



Richard Joel has begun acclimating himself to Yeshiva.

Student Services and the need for improved academic advisement.

In His Home

As part of his effort to cultivate a student-friendly environment at Yeshiva, Joel recently invited eight student council presidents to his home in Silver Spring for Shabbat. "It was very nice for us," said Joel emphatically. "It's important that we can learn to trust each other."

The students were enthusiastic about the opportunity to get to know Joel personally. "We spoke about everything and anything," said Sharon Weiss, SCWSC president. "It's clear that YU is going to be more student-orientated, which is a new concept here." Joel plans to continue to invite students to his home for informal meetings and discussions.

At the Inauguration

Plans are underway for the official presidential investiture, which will take place on Sunday, September 21, 2003 at Lamport Auditorium. A committee has been formed to plan the weeklong extravaganza, which will likely include a shabbaton at the midtown campus and other social events for students. "It will be an opportunity for headlines to be written about Yeshiva, as well as for people to be excited for *chadesh yameinu*," said Joel. Dr. Lamm will step down as president on June 11th.

At Hillel

Hillel is continuing its search for a new president and international director. According to Joel, the search committee received many applications, now narrowed to a few candidates. Hillel is hoping to name its new appointee by the end of April. Qualifications for a new leader include devotion to the Jewish renaissance, ability to fundraise nationally, and "commitment to a pluralistic approach to the Jewish community." An international organization, Hillel has developed astronomically under Joel's tenure, with a current budget of \$50 million and over 500 regional centers.

Department in Focus: History

By Shifra Landowne

"The study of history prepares its students to make intelligent decisions, to appreciate the characters of the common human experience and to avoid the limitations of provinciality." This quote from the SCW History department pinpoints the broad functions of a history education.

In addition to being the recommended major for pre-law students, "persons planning to pursue public service, journalism, diplomatic careers, and work in government, museums or archives find history to be fundamental." It is true that history can have immeasurable relevance to one's career as well as life, and while the SCW history professors certainly achieve the goal of giving students a "sense of the past, and acquaintance with the social, cultural and institutional developments that have produced the world of today" on an intellectual classroom level, SCW's history program on the whole has trouble rounding out this liberal arts major for its students.

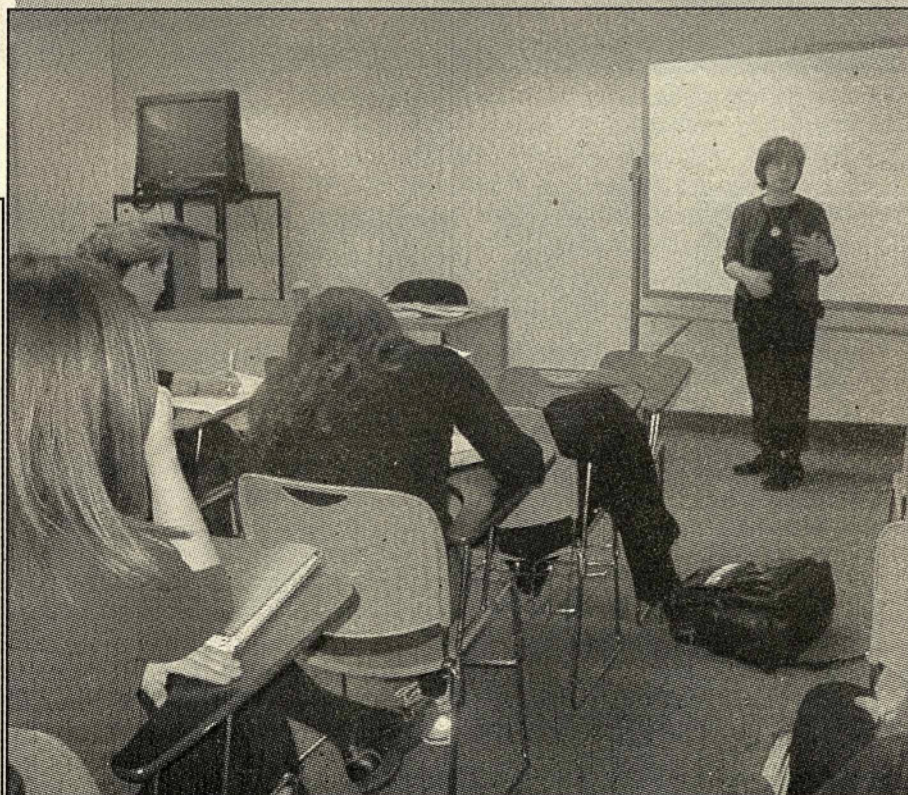
The SCW History department employs six professors, and this semester offers seven courses. A history major is required to take two semesters of Western Civilization, in addition to a senior seminar and 21 history credits, 6 of which must be in American history. The student may take up to six credits in Jewish history toward her major. To minor in history, one must complete nine credits in history as well as two semesters of Western Civilization. While this appears to be a map for a complete history education, some students have found difficulty in completing the course of study.

Sefi Kraut, an SCW junior majoring in history, says that she "really enjoys the subject of history," as it, "gives perspective on the modern day, viewing the world from the past gives valuable insight into the present and future." Yet Kraut was disappointed with some of the professors. "I have felt very limited at times," she says. "While I have been very satisfied with some professors, others have not been my style. Having a limited number of courses combined with professors teaching in tricky time slots leaves me with a lot of juggling to do and very little room to maneuver. I have found myself in some very frus-

trating situations trying to find history classes." Lauren Pick, a senior history major, agrees. "I have a very specific interest, Intellectual History," she says. "I happen to be fortunate that Professor Freedman appeals directly to my interest, but as a result I am pretty much majoring in him. He has provided the bulk of my exposure."

Everyone agrees that the professors on the whole are an impressive group. "Everyone is very involved both as teachers and scholars," says Dr. Ellen Schrecker, head of the History department. "Everybody has published or is working on at least one book, and everyone is engaged in giving our students as broad a historical education as possible." Yet given the immense range of areas of history, a broad history education can be a difficult thing to come by with a six professor staff. "We are too small," Schrecker acknowledges, "we probably don't have anybody who centers in nonwestern/European history. When we were reviewed last year the historians who looked at our program noted that lacking as well as a lacking in research - It's been hard for our students to get that, as we have a limited library and they have difficult schedules." Schrecker says that efforts have been made to find adjunct professors who can teach subjects that the full time professors don't specialize in, and she says that next fall the department hopes to offer a course in Chinese history. While many history majors do not plan on pursuing a career in history with their degree, those who do find a daunting challenge ahead of them. "You have to really love it and be incredibly dedicated," Schrecker notes. "It's very hard to find jobs. We have had trouble getting our students into graduate schools and fellowships - even very good students, mostly because we are competing with much stronger students and universities."

Despite the limitations, history majors are very enthusiastic about their studies. "I am so happy that I chose this major," says Kraut. "I so much enjoy the stimulation of the History department and my peers in the major. I think that the information that I have collected and the critical thinking skills that I have acquired here are things that I will always carry with me and employ."



Dr. Ellen Schrecker teaching History class

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On Campus

Student Seeks Seminary Experience at SCW

By Arie Staller

Beth Alexander proves there is no such thing as a stereotypical "Stern girl." At age 19, having just graduated Yavneh, the girls' section of King David High School in Manchester, England, she is currently spending a semester here at SCW, rather than at a seminary in Israel. "People told me, 'you're coming here for an Israel experience and it's college,'" says Alexander in her charming Manchester accent, "but I'm finding my spirituality."

Since her parents did not feel comfortable sending her to seminary in Israel for the year before beginning college at Cambridge University, Alexander decided to attend SCW as an alternative. She has filled her schedule to its maximum capacity, enrolling in seven classes and auditing several more. "I was just desperate to learn," she says. She will not be receiving any college credits for the classes she is currently taking. "I'm doing it only *l'shaym Torah*," says Alexander. "This is the first time in my life I'm able to learn just for the sake of learning. I'm taking the tests for my own benefit rather than the ultimate grade."

The teaching style at SCW is different from any type of learning she has ever experienced. "I'm taking two Gemara classes with Rabbi Kahn, and I've never learned Gemara before," she says. Her medieval Jewish history class with Rabbi Kanarfogel puts the time period of the Gemara into perspective. Alexander is also happy to be learning Parshanut (Biblical exegesis) on such a highly intellectual level. "I've picked up skills," she says, "so I'll be able to learn independently, which I plan on doing when I get back."

In addition to Rabbis Kahn and Kanarfogel, she is taking Judaic studies courses with Dr. Michelle Levine, Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, Mrs. Naomi Grunhaus and she's also taking Topics in Journalism: Journalism and Religion with Mr. Ari Goldman. "'Journalism and Religion' puts the Judaic studies I am learning into a broader context," she explains. "It is the chance to view Judaism in contrast to other religions. This has had the result of affirming my religious beliefs and committing me even more strongly to my own faith."

"I see this as a solid basis for next year," explains Alexander, "when I'll be taking Hebrew and Arabic in a secular environment at Cambridge." She feels that the teachers are very dedicated and she admires their ability to balance and integrate the secular world and Orthodox Judaism. "I would definitely recommend this experience to everyone."

Alexander's learning experience here not only takes place within the classroom. "I'm learning so much from all the different kinds of girls," she says. "People tend to stereotype Stern girls yet I can truly state that I am constantly amazed at the amount of individuality that I witness across the spectrum and I feel privileged to have met so many unique and inspiring individuals." Part of the diversity she enjoys encountering take place during Shabbat on campus. "It's nice how every Shabbos has a different theme," she says regarding the various club and committee Shabbatons.

While many students at Stern feel that Shabbat in New York City doesn't really feel like Shabbat, Alexander disagrees. "It feels like Shabbos here," she explains, "you feel it even more here, because everyone around you is carry-



Beth Alexander of Manchester came to SCW to learn for the year

ing on their hectic schedules, and you've come to a halt for the weekend."

"Stern offers so many wonderful cultural activities," says Alexander, referring to the Metropolitan Experience program. "I've become very attached to New York," she says, "I want to stay in New York till the last possible moment I can."

Although Alexander is looking forward to college next fall, she says she will miss the SCW community. "The whole American culture is so open minded and friendly," she notes. She feels that SCW reflects this open mindedness and acceptance of diversity. She also hopes to be setting a precedent for young women in England to come to SCW and have a similar Jewish experience and a rich spiritual enhancement. "I came here to learn and I've learned so much," she enthusiastically attests. "I'm just so appreciative of everyone here."

IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Would you give money to Stern after you graduate?



Dina Malca, SCW freshman

I feel that a merge of secular and religious education functions in the most productive way in shaping a wholesome person

capable of meeting life's challenges head on and with full confidence. Stern College provides this sort of education and allows its students to thrive most successfully in today's world. For this reason I would definitely donate money once I graduate.



Talya Fruchter, SCW Sophomore

I would donate money to Stern after I graduate. There are so many activities and programs funded by the school that need financial backing. Students

shouldn't have to pay for special things on top of tuition.



Jessica Stub, SCW Sophomore

I probably would not donate money to Stern after I graduate. I don't like it here that much and I could find better

causes to give my money to. They have enough money already.

Hundreds Participate in L'Man Achai Siyum

By Observer Staff

The formidable feat of finishing Talmud, Mishnah and Tanach in a few months time was celebrated by college and high school students from all over the country, on Thursday night, March 13th in Lampton Auditorium. Project L'man Achai, which was in memory of Israel terror victims, featured a stirring address by keynote speaker Rabbi Stuart Weiss, an American-born rabbi, whose son Ari, an Israeli soldier, was killed last September in the city of Shechem. For approximately 25 minutes Weiss addressed the over 700 attendees, describing the emotional turmoil of losing a child while still maintaining devotion to the ideal of living in Israel. He concluded by displaying a picture of his son and a fellow soldier, taken 10 minutes before Ari was killed. He noted the camaraderie between his religious son and the friend, a thoroughly secular Israeli, emphasizing the belief of Jewish unity that his son possessed.

"Weiss really brought the whole thing closer to home," said SCW senior Michal Bistricher, who participated in the siyum. "I read about the family in the newspaper, and the speech made it a lot more real and personal." The night featured other speakers, including President Dr. Norman Lamm, who commended the Israel activism on campus, and a Boca Raton high school student, Batsheva Davis, who flew in specifically for the event and expressed what it meant for her to participate in the siyum.

A highlight for many participants was a special video presentation, featuring images of the terror attacks and its victims, as well as students learning on their behalf. "It was really powerful, as images tend to be," said Rivky Borg, an SCW senior. "I don't think there was a dry eye in the room." Following the video presentation at the beginning of the event, the actual purpose for the evening - the siyumim on Mishnayot, Tanach and Talmud - were held. They were led respectively by TABC student Uri Shechter, IBC President Elijah Shiloh and Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Hershel Schachter. Immediately afterward, the crowds broke out into impromptu dancing and singing.

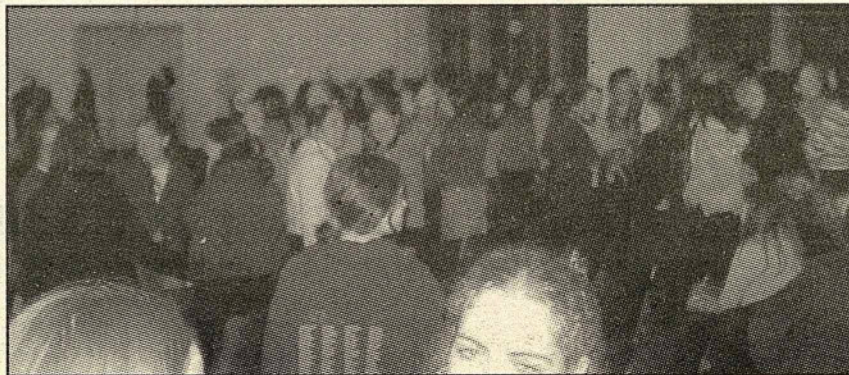
Yeshiva's MTA and Central high schools participated in the event, as well as TABC, Flatbush, Mayanot, Columbus Torah Academy and Ida Crown Academy of Chicago. Communities that participated included Boston, Columbus, Detroit and

Toronto. "I was impressed that students at

Yeshiva, as well as the high schools, rallied so strongly behind the project," said Miriam Colton, SCW senior, one of the student organizers of the project. "The event truly demonstrated the enthusiasm."

L'man Achai was organized by RIETS student Naphtali Weisz, who has been active in numerous projects on campus in support of Israel. He, along with other student organizers from YC, SCW and RIETS, sent over 13,000 wallet-size cards with the names and pictures of terror victims to communities and schools across the country. Each participant signed up to learn in memory of the person on his card.

"The goal of the event was to show that those who were lost will not be forgotten," said Weisz. From the enthusiasm and dedication revealed that night, it seems the goal was achieved.



Students erupted into spontaneous dancing at the L'man Achai Siyum

YU Students Join NAJSA to Help Jewish Students Nationwide

By Shayndi Raice

On March 6th, 35 YC and SCW students loaded a bus to spend a Shabbat at the University of Michigan for the first conference of the North American Jewish Student Alliance (NAJSA). The conference focused on ways to for students to expand their sphere of influence, particularly regarding Israel. NAJSA's goal is to coordinate national campaigns and events, entirely run and directed by fellow students, which result in empowering Jewish students on campus.

"We saw that there were students who were pro-Israel on campus but they had no network," said Rick Dorfman, co-founder of NAJSA and a junior at the University of Michigan. "Something needed to be done."

The idea for a student-led organization sprouted at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly that took place this past November. Barnard student Avigail Appelbaum, co-founder and chairperson of NAJSA, was appalled at the lack of a student-led sessions on the current issue of Palestinian violence that has been spreading on secular campuses across the country. "They didn't ask a single student to address the assembly," said Appelbaum. "We needed help."

Unfortunately, Appelbaum and her fellow students were turned down by the director of Hillel, Richard Joef. The students were told that Hillel was not there to fulfill their needs. At that point Appelbaum decided that an organization to help

continued on page 16

University Schools

Revel Attracts Dozens of Yeshiva Grads, But Few Ph.D. Candidates

By Rachel Fyman

While not one of Yeshiva's better known schools, the Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies takes seriously its purpose of teaching Jewish subjects on a post-graduate level. Despite some controversy within the Yeshiva community, the school is proud of its large Master's program as well as its small Ph.D. program.

However, it has been pointed out that while the M.A. program at Revel is strong, the Ph.D. program is not very popular. The school accepted only two new Ph.D. students last year, bringing the total to about seven candidates.

Dean Arthur Hyman admitted to being selective regarding doctoral students. "The financial and time pressures for Ph.D. candidates are very real," he explained. "Students must be committed. It is not something that can be done on the side."

Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Jewish history professor at Revel, is currently working with two Modern Jewish History Ph.D. students at Revel. He also acknowledged that he is very careful about admitting students due to "careerist concerns." He explained that there are relatively few jobs in Modern Jewish History, for example, on a university level. "I don't think it's fair to accept students unless they have a fighting chance," he asserted.

Gurock considers the number of Ph.D. candidates at Revel in proper proportion to the opportunities available. "Selectivity is meritorious based on a realistic assessment of the field," he said. "Why should students go for four, six or seven years to end up teaching in a yeshiva where they could teach with a Masters?"

In addition to its primary concern for students' prospects upon completing their Ph.D.'s, Revel must also consider its own interests in assessing potential students. "Getting a Ph.D. has got to be their prime pursuit, to the exclusion of everything else," Gurock noted. "Otherwise, people



Dr. Arthur Hyman is the dean of Revel

don't finish, which is a tragedy for the school that spent so much money on them." The fellowship support offered by Revel is competitive, according to Gurock.

According to doctoral student Aaron Koller, fellowships at Revel are in fact better than most other schools. A YC alumnus who got his Masters at Revel, Koller returned to the school to study Bible with Dr. Richard Steiner, after beginning his PhD studies at University of Pennsylvania last year.

In response to assertions that Revel is "too picky" with its doctoral students, Koller points out that he was the only one of 10 applicants to be accepted to the Bible program at Penn last year. "The community is small so everyone knows who applies to Revel," he suggested. "It makes them seem more picky."

Koller has "academic aspirations," and appreciates Revel's good track-record for finding full-time positions for their Bible Ph.D.'s.

Others have asserted that Revel should be more open and accessible, and

that the number of Ph.D. students does not adequately reflect the large pool of potential candidates in Yeshiva's undergraduate and Revel's own Master's programs. It has been noted that the Judaic Studies department at New York University seems to attract many more candidates than Revel.

For a number of years, suggestions have been made to broaden the scope and course offerings at Revel to appeal to more potential students. Dr. Gurock, who received his Ph.D.

from Columbia University, explains that if there is any weakness in course offerings at Revel, it is because Yeshiva is not attached to another graduate school. "We farm students out to take courses at other universities," he explains. "It is not an unbridgable weakness."

According to Hyman, there are currently approximately 130 students enrolled at Revel. The exact number of students is difficult to determine, he said, as students sometimes relocate to Israel and therefore do not register for courses for even years at a time. While the student population continues to fluctuate, it has grown significantly from some 80 students when Hyman became the school's dean 11 years ago.

Hyman in part attributes Revel's growth to a "very good board of directors, chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Mordechai Katz, who have been enormously supportive." He pointed out that the school used to offer a total of seven scholarships, but due to increased endowment now offers over 50.

The composition of the student body at

Revel is varied, Hyman said. Approximately one-third are also students at RIETS, which requires rabbinical candidates to pursue another degree concurrently. About 45 percent of the population is women, a number that has increased recently.

The students at Revel are Orthodox, with occasional exceptions. The program is "self-regulatory," according to Hyman. Orthodox students choose Revel over other graduate schools because "the environment is more in harmony with their thinking," Hyman asserted. The majority of students at the graduate school are Yeshiva graduates.

The vast majority of students at Revel are taking courses towards their Masters degree. To achieve this, they are required to complete 30 credits, a written examination in their field of concentration and prepare a Master's thesis. Areas of concentration include Bible, Medieval or Modern Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy and Talmudic Studies.

A large number of the Master's students are in the joint B.A./M.A. program, whereby undergraduates at both SCW and YC begin taking graduate courses in their senior year of college. To participate in this program, students must have a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 and be approved by both the undergraduate and graduate deans. They are then able to take up to six credits per semester that count toward both their B.A. and M.A. degrees, and their undergraduate tuition covers all courses.

A number of Revel's professors are familiar to the students on the midtown campus, such as Dr. Jeffrey Gurock, Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, Rabbi Haym Soloveitchik, and Dr. Joshua Zimmerman.

While Revel does advertise some, Hyman asserts that most students arrive at the school by word of mouth. "If the quality is good, students talk and more students come," he said.



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University Schools

Wurzweiler Boasts Diverse Student Body

By Arie Staller

The Wurzweiler School of Social Work boasts a unique educational experience. This is largely due to its being the only graduate social work education program in America that is under Jewish benefaction in a university setting while attracting a very diverse student body at the same time.

"We have students from all over the world," said Delores Burlack, an assistant in the Admissions Office, at the school's open house in Koch Auditorium on March 9, "and this is something that makes us very unique."

Although the school is comprised of students from varying ethnic backgrounds, the curriculum combines courses in social work and Jewish communal service. This particular connection with the Jewish community is evident in courses related to ethnicity, history and communal service.

Wurzweiler operates in accordance with the philosophy by which it was founded in 1957, by then President Samuel Belkin and its founding faculty, that there was a need for a school of social work that would be dedicated to academic excellence and performance in both Jewish communal service and the wider world of social services.

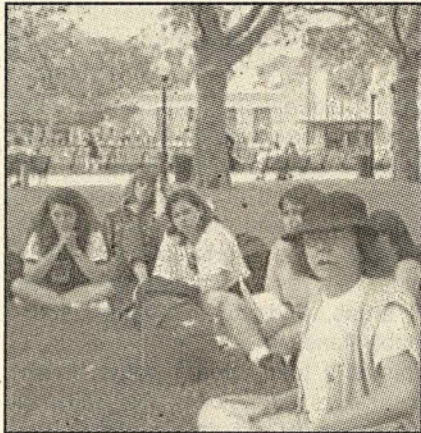
The school offers a course entitled Jewish Social Philosophy, which focuses on the essential values of Judaism as a paradigm of other religions, compared with the values of social work. These values include the nature of man, time, good and evil, the Holocaust, sin and repentance, and social justice. "Some non-Jewish students find it very interesting," said a representative of Wurzweiler. "Others initially feel like 'Why do we have to learn this?'"

According to Dena Sweifach, an SCW graduate who earned her Master of Social Work from Wurzweiler in 1995, although there are some Jewish-based classes, there is also an emphasis on all religions and breaking down the barrier among them.

"It was the most culturally diverse setting she had ever experienced," said Sweifach, a yeshiva student all her life. "It really helped me to be sensitive to the differing communities I'd be working with." Sweifach initially began Wurzweiler hoping to learn more about other people and wanting something other than working within the Jewish community. "So, of course for my first year of field work I was placed within a Jewish Community Center," said Sweifach, "but then the following year I was placed to work in a psychiatric hospital." Through the various placements Sweifach claims to have gained "a really well-rounded experience."

The school offers both a master's and a doctoral program, and over 4,500 students have received their master's degrees in social work from Wurzweiler since its inception. Over the years, it has reached out to an ever-widening constituency. A number of the school's alumni teach and head departments of social work at colleges and universities throughout the United States, Canada and Israel.

Initially a school of social work for group workers reflecting the need of Jewish communal agencies, Wurzweiler rapidly evolved to offer the full casework sequence. In 1974, with the aid of a demonstration grant from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, the school launched the community social work sequence. This grew to be an essential



Wurzweiler students come from all over the world

part of Wurzweiler's regular offerings, with courses in administration and research specifically designed for its students. In 1984, the curriculum was reorganized to meet emerging needs in the field and to enable students to become familiar with the utilization and application of computers in social service agencies. Additional curriculum changes reflect increasing accreditation standards.

Special to this curriculum is the attention paid to each student in the program. "I was able to become a very integral part of the social work field," said another Wurzweiler alumnus at the school's open house.

Students and faculty alike at Wurzweiler regard the atmosphere in which learning takes place positively. "I really enjoy Wurzweiler," said Dr. Vicki Lens, an assistant professor at Wurzweiler School of Social Work for the past two years, who also earned her doctorate there in 2000, in a YU Today interview. "It is a supportive place to both work and learn."

The school is dedicated to education, research, and service and this is reflected in the ongoing scheduling of meetings with faculty advisors who conduct field visits to agencies and monitor classroom performances. The goal of the master's program, according to Wurzweiler's mission statement, "is to educate students for advanced professional practice in social work in a variety of organizational settings that seek to enhance the social well-being of individuals, families, groups, and communities."

The doctoral program aims to assist students to become social work practitioners with a scholarly orientation and sensitivity to professional ethics, rather than simply theoreticians. This desire to produce receptive practitioners is reflected in the small practice classes, use of students' own field process recordings in class, ongoing faculty advisement, and close collaboration between the school and the field agencies that enable students to enhance their own abilities to the maximum capacity.

The students have established student organizations and committees within the graduate school. Their elected officials carry out the business of the organizations, conduct studies and make recommendations to the faculty. "Wurzweiler students are eager to learn. They are enthusiastic and sincere in their commitment to their fields," Lens said in YU Today. "They are also a diverse group, which makes classroom discussions very interesting and challenging."

Einstein Maintains Religious Identity

continued from page 1

summer session AECOM runs an undergraduate research scholarship program. The Roth scholarship, affords students from any university the opportunity to conduct research in various fields of medicine. AECOM reserves a significant portion of these highly coveted position yeshiva students, as a matter of course. In a group of about 50 students awarded the scholarship, 10-12 slots are held for students from the Wilf and midtown campuses. (still waiting to hear back about exact numbers)

During the general admissions process this preferential treatment holds true as well. Eighteen to twenty places are held for Yeshiva applicants, out of the 180 who enter in each class. Additionally every potential candidate from Yeshiva University's affiliated schools, are granted an interview. This type of action however is not unique to Yeshiva, it is common practice among many other undergraduate universities and their graduate schools.

AECOM's deference to YU is not confined to academic practices alone. The college also has a strong sense of the religious ideals set forth by Yeshiva University as well. According to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Edward Burns, AECOM takes the religious nature of their institution into account when considering any research projects. "At present we are not currently doing research that in outward appearance would involve halakhic problems," Dr. Burns commented. "However in anticipation of such research projects we do consult halakhic authorities."

Dr. Burns cited a potential research project that Einstein may sponsor which would involve pre-implantation genetics. The goal of the research will be to prevent babies from being born with the top nine Ashkenazi Jewish diseases. "On a project such as this, that involve big issues, the college of medicine does report to Rabbi Lamm," Dr. Burns said. "He, in turn, consults his halakhic authorities and gets back to us."

Dr. Burns also noted that every research project suggested must be formally presented to the Committee on Clinical Investigation. The thirty-three person committee is made up of clinical researchers, professional ethicists, scientists and members of the community who are in touch with the "real people," as Dr. Burns explains.

The decisions of the committee and what halakhah mandates, he says, is almost always the same. "Anything which presents a problem from a non-halakhic aspect would most probably present a problem for non-religious, general ethics."

AECOM's association with Yeshiva impacts campus life as well. The adminis-

tration of the college of medicine has made available a kosher cafeteria on campus, and has arranged the academic calendar in accordance with the Jewish holidays. Additionally, the student health facilities close early on Fridays in the winter and are not open at all on Saturday in the summer. During the actual hours of Shabbat all the school facilities are closed including the library and computer room.

The only facilities open on Shabbat are the research laboratories. According to fourth year medical student and shul president of the on-campus congregation, Yehuda Burns, this is not contrary to Yeshiva's ideology. "Medical labs can not feasibly close on Shabbat," he contended. "We can't advance science if research labs are closed on Shabbat. Science is constant. However, no medical student is required to be there."

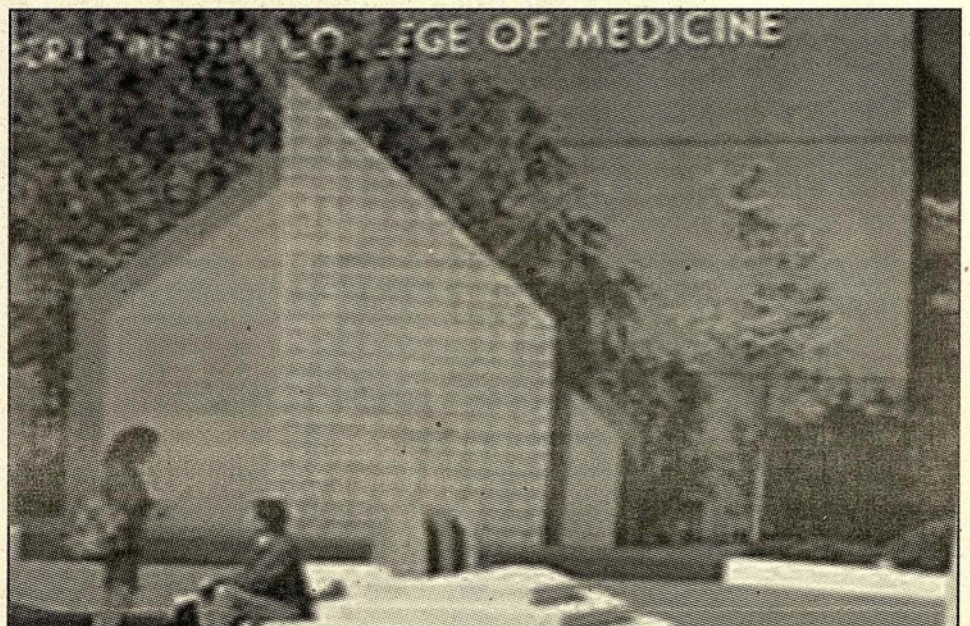
When asked how the administration interacts with the Orthodox community on campus, Burns only had positive responses. "They are very supportive of us, and help solve most problems we encounter," he explained.

Weekday services on campus take place on the top floor of a duplex apartment in one of the dormitory buildings. The administration donates the apartment, which, in addition to serving as the shul, houses a beit midrash on its ground floor. Furthermore, the larger cafeteria is reserved, almost without question, every weekend for Shabbat services, which attract a larger crowd than during the week. "If there is a problem in reserving the room for us," Burns noted, "an alternate arrangement is always made on our behalf with almost no effort on our part. Also the administration has the chairs and tables set up for us."

Lest AECOM be considered an uncomfortable environment for students of other denominations, Burns clarified, "Though they are very considerate of the community on campus the shul is like every other club. We are the synagogue club. We just happen to have a bigger budget than other clubs."

The college also allows the congregation to rent an apartment for the rabbi from the college's student housing facilities, usually restricted to medical students. Aside from the rooms the college provides, theirs is a community like any other. The rabbi is paid for by the congregants and the standard shul politics exist.

"Being Jewish at Einstein is obviously easier than in other schools," said Burns. "We have a thriving community, which is expected. We are like-minded individuals, all here for the same reasons. Ours is an association of coincidence."



Many Jewish students are attracted to Einstein

Life After Stern

Moving On Up

By Shayndi Raice

While not generally regarded as a trendy hangout, Washington Heights has been growing in popularity among young Jewish singles as a place to live.

"I used to look out my window on Friday night and nothing would be going on," said Jen Carre, a former SCW student who has been living in the Heights, as it's called by most, for the past five years. "Now on Friday nights I can see young people standing outside of shul."

While the scene in Washington Heights hasn't reached the social level of the Upper West Side, many young people, particular YC and SCW graduates, have been opting to live there.

There are many reasons why recent graduates would choose to live in the Heights. Perhaps foremost is that the Heights present them with a realistic financial option.

"It's so much cheaper than the Upper West Side," said Daniel Frankel, a YC graduate. "If you're just out of college and you don't have the money to afford an apartment on the Upper West Side, Washington Heights is a cheaper alternative."

Price is a primary consideration, particularly when many singles living in Washington Heights are graduate students.

Moreover, a large number of Heights' residents are graduate students at Yeshiva. Remaining part of the Yeshiva community is much easier when living in its midst. "You have the YU shuttle to take you around," noted Naomi Friedman, an SCW graduate currently enrolled in the Graduate Program for Women in Advanced Talmud Studies for women. Both convenience and location make the Heights a primary option for students.

However, while a significant number of the young singles living in the Heights are either currently enrolled in a Yeshiva graduate program or merely graduates of YC or SCW, most don't choose to live on the YU side, or East side, of the Heights, opting instead for the somewhat safer Breuer's, or West, side. In fact, there is little mingling between the YU side and the Breuer's side.

"I'm in RIETS so it makes sense for me to be living in Washington Heights," said another YC graduate. "But I don't really have any interaction with any scene on the other side."

In fact, Frankel, who originally lived on the YU side after graduation, opted to move to the Breuer's side primarily for social reasons. "On Shabbos I would always be walking to the other side to have lunch at my friend's apartments," he said. "Eventually it just made sense for me to move there."

There are other draws to the West side of the Heights. In general it has been growing more popular among young urbanites. The opening of a Starbucks on 181st and Fort Washington signifies a shift from a once highly dangerous area

of the city to a somewhat more upscale neighborhood. It's not only Yeshiva singles moving to the West side of the Heights for its benefits. A significant number of Broadway actors own apartments in the Heights, primarily for its cheapness while still within the borders of Manhattan. A small gay community has also sprung up in the Heights, adding a young and hip air to the area.

While neither the gay community nor the Starbucks are primary pulls for Yeshiva graduates, they are a sign of the transformation the community is experiencing. As far as the Jewish community, many find it warm and welcoming. "It's just a really nice community," said Friedman. "All my friends from Stern were living there so it made sense for me to live there too."

As more and more Yeshiva graduates have begun to populate the West side of the Heights, it has, like the Upper West side, created its own bout of singles rituals. Shabbat meals draw crowds of guests, allowing young singles with like-minded outlooks to meet one another in a relaxed yet "kosher" setting. On Friday nights most singles pray at the Sinai synagogue, while the Bridge shul is the preferred option for Shabbat day, providing a Kiddush afterwards were singles can mingle and chat.

Besides the Shabbat atmosphere, singles in the Heights frequently have events geared towards their genre of people. Learning drives, various shiurim, and charity benefits attract the young Yeshiva crowd, while even private get-togethers allow for religious singles to interact.

Some see the Heights as becoming the "frummer" Upper West side.

"When I went to the Upper West side for shabbos I found they were more likely to talk about business at the shabbos table," said Frankel. "In the Heights you're more likely to hear *divrei Torah*."

Not all singles choose to take advantage of the social possibilities arising in Washington Heights. "I lived right across the bridge," said Nechama Price, a former Washington Heights single. "I just never checked out the scene."

For some, living in Washington Heights is a continuation of their lives at YC or SCW. Even those who opt not to stay in for Shabbat take advantage of the various activities available to singles during the week.

"People who weren't very involved in Stern are the same way when they get to Washington Heights," commented Julie Pianko, an SCW graduate who has many single friends living in the Heights.

While the Heights can't compete with Upper West Side in the numbers of young Jews, its slow but steady growth may create a new type of singles community. "It's hard to compare the Heights to the Upper West side," said Frankel. "But maybe because it's smaller you have a more self selecting group."

2003 Graduates Face Tough Job Market

By Rachel Fyman

Innocent questions regarding future plans can be the cause of major panic for many SCW seniors at this time of year. Due to the current economic recession, jobs are scarce and more students than ever are applying to graduate schools in all fields. As a result, competition is fierce in all areas, and students are, understandably, tense.

"This is a tough year," notes Naomi Kapp, assistant director of the Office of Placement and Career Services on the midtown campus, referring to students' job prospects after graduating. "[It's] even more tough than last year."

Jenny Hersh, an SCW senior, is waiting to hear back from the various Social Work schools in New York to which she applied. "I'm worried about choosing the right school for me," she explains. The schools have different deadlines, so Hersh might not find out until June what her options are. "I'd like to be able to make a decision," she says. "It's definitely a nervous time."

SCW senior Aliza Fireman does not plan to go to graduate school, and is not yet worried about finding a job. "Give me a month," she adds with a nervous laugh. Fireman has made up a resume and is looking for employment options, but has not yet applied for jobs. "I basically know what I'm looking for," she comments, "But I don't have expectations."

Kirsten Hyman, an SCW senior majoring in sociology, hopes one day to get a Master's degree, but is looking for a job for next year. "[Graduate school is] very expensive," she explains. "I want to take some time off to make money first." She has not yet started looking for employment because many places want to hire immediately, but she is confident that she will get a job. "I'm flexible," she notes. "I would be willing to take something I wasn't originally interested in."

Kapp recommends this attitude. "Leave open an 'option B,'" she advises. "You might not find your first choice."

April and May are the busiest months for Kapp, who is the OPCS's representative responsible for liberal arts students. She works with individuals to devise plans of action for themselves in their particular area of interest. She estimates that she sees about 65 percent of graduating seniors, helping them make resumes and cover letters, as well as conducting mock interviews with students.

Kapp maintains books of job postings for students, gleaned from sources such as the Internet and professional contacts. Companies sometimes call OPCS looking for suitable candidates from SCW, and Kapp often refers students' resumes. "In previous years, liberal arts students have been very successful at landing

jobs," Kapp notes.

While most SCW graduates are planning to attend graduate schools or look for jobs in the greater New York area, Jessica Moore hopes to attend law school closer to her home in California. "I came to New York for college," she explains. "I'm ready to go back."

In fact, that the vast majority of SCW students plan to stay in New York may limit students' opportunities for both further schooling and employment, according to Kapp. She explains that the northeastern states were the most hard-hit by the difficult economic situation, with New York City feeling the reverberations last. However, staying in the city is a reality for SCW graduates, and therefore most of the Yeshiva's alumni and OPCS's contacts are, in fact, here.

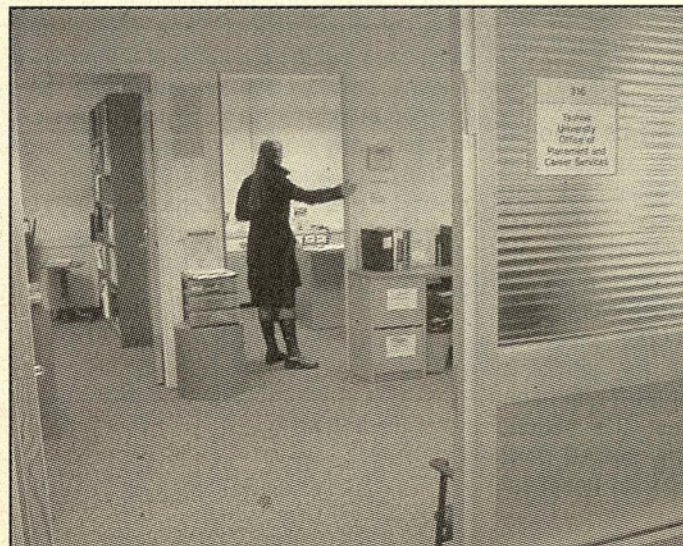
According to Kapp, networking is more important than ever in a slow economy. "That's how you find out about leads," she asserts. The OPCS often tries to help students make contacts through Yeshiva alumni and at career fairs.

Unfortunately, not too many companies looking to hire liberal arts graduates are interesting in actually recruiting on campus at Yeshiva due to the small numbers of students in each field. Kapp points out that - with a few exceptions such as Jewish day schools looking for teachers - it is more worthwhile for companies to come to SSSB to recruit. "At Sy Syms, they might have 50 or 60 students in one specific major, while there might be only five or 10 in each major at Stern," she says.

Some students have been disappointed about OPCS's inability to help them build the contacts necessary to find a job. Tamar Ellman graduated from SCW in January and has been temporarily working in a law office until she finds a job in publishing. She agrees with Kapp that knowing people in the industry helps to secure a job, and feels that Yeshiva is not helpful at generating connections.

The function of OPCS is to help students find suitable jobs or careers upon graduating from Yeshiva. According to Kapp, people - both students and their parents - want to see that their degrees can earn them money. "They consider the jobs they can get reflections of the education they received," she says. As such, it is in the university's best interest to help students find appropriate careers, and the OPCS works full time, even throughout the summer, to secure jobs for both graduating students and alumni.

Ellman admits that she is "feeling a little discouraged" about job hunting, although Kapp warns that it can reasonably take two to three months to secure a full-time position.



The Office of Placement and Career Services, shown at left, assists students in finding jobs

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Life After Stern

Alumni Association Struggles to Increase Involvement

By Alisa Rose

At a recent alumni awards ceremony, three SCW alumnae and several YC and SSSB alumni received awards for their contributions to their communities in the professional and communal realms. The recipients from SCW, all impressive women who have maintained a relationship with their alma mater, are unfortunately not representative of the vast majority of Stern College alumnae who, overall, are surprisingly uninvolved in the school. At the same time, the alumni association is struggling to attract greater involvement from graduates and in cultivating relationships with current undergraduates.

Only between one-fourth and one-third of all graduates are active in the association, according to the director of the alumni association, Robert Saltzman. "These figures are lower than other liberal arts women colleges," Saltzman said, owing the low involvement to lack of resources in developing programs. In addition, at most private liberal arts colleges, 40 to 50 percent of alumni make contributions, but Saltzman estimates that at SCW, only about 25 percent of its graduates donate money.

Part of SCW's poor numbers is the

association's lack of resources, according to Saltzman, whose job entails overseeing the alumni of all of Yeshiva's undergraduate schools, a job he does almost single-handedly.

SCW's alumni director, Toby Weiss, retired in December 2001, and a hiring freeze has prevented officials from replacing her. Weiss's job included helping to organize ways to keep SCW's graduates involved in the school after they graduate by encouraging them to contribute by making monetary donations, donating their time, or donating skills or resources.

"We're trying to promote pride and community on the midtown campus," Saltzman said. With that goal in mind, the alumni association tries to organize activities, lectures, and programs on the midtown campus to attract alumnae back to the campus. "I'm convinced that most Stern alumnae aren't even aware of how the Stern campus has grown since they've been here," said Saltzman.

To strengthen the connection between current SCW undergraduates and alumnae, the president of the Stern College alumnae association, meets annually with student leaders to find out what the students needs are and to assist in improving campus life. The president for the past two years, Linda (Kuhl) Stock, met

with student leaders at the beginning of the year, and as a result of the meeting, the alumnae association donated a laptop computer to the SCWSC.

In addition, Stock and the association are currently attempting to launch a Shabbat hospitality program in which SCW alumnae would host current students for Shabbat. Stock, a 1981 graduate who is the assistant principal of Yavne Academy in Paramus, NJ, points to the fact that the alumni association is largely dependent upon the work of volunteers as preventing it from accomplishing as much as she would like.

"The failure to fill the position of SCW alumni director is a great detriment," Stock said. In the past, if a student club wanted an SCW alumna to address them, club leaders would contact Weiss, and she would arrange a speaker. However, now such arrangements would have to go through Saltzman.

The relationship between the current study body and the alumni association is also reflected in the fact that SCWSC and TAC representatives are invited to the alumnae's board meetings. However, when asked if she had attended, SCWSC president Sharon Weiss said she was unaware that she was invited. "We're all volunteers," noted Stock, explaining the

difficulties in working full-time and working on the alumni association.

But despite the association's lack of resources, it has seen some recent changes. "We've restructured our missions and goals in the past few years," Saltzman explained, highlighting two recent innovations, including the organization of YU GOLD – graduates of the last decade – and a new online alumni community.

YU GOLD consists of recent graduates of SCW, YC and SSSB. The purpose of the organization is to arrange events, such as business card receptions to enable alumni to meet and to network.

The alumni online community, which is linked to the YU website and was set up about a year ago, enables YU graduates to locate each other, and it has mentoring capabilities. All alumni from all YU schools are eligible to join. Though most other universities charge for similar online communities, joining Yeshiva's online community is free, sponsored by private donations.

"Those who are in it are pleased by it," said Saltzman, "and they are surprised that YU's offering for free."

Currently, the website has about 1,500 registered users out of a possible 40,000. "We're trying to promote the online community," Saltzman said.

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Israel Mission

'Why Are You Thanking me?'

A Personal Reflection

By Aliza Abrams

Landing in Ben Gurion Airport is one of my favorite things to do. When you get your passport stamped, and the Israeli officer sitting in the little glass box says "Baruch Haba" you know you are home.

I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to go to Israel with Operation Torah Shield III. It was an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I have gone to Israel before. I was actually in Israel for the last year and a half of the intifada. However on this trip I saw Israel in a different *matzav*. For the last year and a half that I was studying in Israel everyone was always nervous about terrorist attacks. I remember well the tense feelings shared by passengers on busses. Every time I was in a cab I would receive a whole political analysis of what was going on in the country, what Prime Minister Sharon was doing wrong. This time whenever I would ask a cab driver what they thought was going to happen with Iraq, they were much calmer. No one seemed to be acting as though a war was about to break out. All of the Israelis made fun of us, the American tourists, for schlepping our gas masks around. They felt as though there was nothing to fear. They all gave the same answer- religious or not- it's all in Hashem's hands.

One of the goals of our mission was to give *chizuk* to the Israelis, to let them know that even though we are in America we always have them in our hearts and mind and we are doing whatever we can to help our brethren in Israel who are suffering. On the third day of our trip we went to a party

organized by One Family, an organization which raises money and runs programs to help families in Israel who have been affected by terror. In my opinion, that day was the best day of the trip. The day included a carnival, music, and games for the hundreds families who attended. There was also a beautifully catered meal, which everyone was invited to. While at the meal we had the opportunity to talk with the adults. I realized that these people are the true heroes of Israel, if they have the strength to wake up every morning in Israel and continue living their lives even after they have lost loved ones, then who are we to say we are too afraid to go to Israel, that it isn't safe? By sending my annual \$18 check to JNF to plant a tree, am I sufficiently showing my support for Israel? Yet despite those ideas which kept running through my head, and the tears running down my cheeks, they kept thanking us and telling us how amazing it was that we came. I kept responding by saying, "You live here, why thank me?" These people as well as everyone else who lives in Israel, are there, keeping Israel ours, enabling us to come and visit and be able to spend a year or two learning in yeshiva.

I really hope that I was able to give some *chizuk* to the people I met. The truth is that they were *michazek* me, they strengthened me, in more ways than they can imagine. As great as Torah Shield III was, I hope that there will never be a need for a fourth mission. Hopefully, some day soon Israel will return to be a peaceful place, and it will be filled with all of Klal Yisroel.



Rabbi Lamm dances with Torah Shield III participants at a farewell party at JFK airport



Students visit Jerusalem-area hospitals to bring patients some Purim cheer.

Students Organize Week-Long Mission to Israel

continued from page 1

students who were accepted to the mission attended a meeting about the trip. Thursday night, each student paid the \$300 cost of the mission, and by Sunday afternoon, 100 students were on a plane to Israel. Rabbi Hershel Reichman, a YU Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Daniel Feldman, who gives shiur in the Stone Beis Midrash Program, Dov Hikind, a New York assemblyman, and Dr. Joseph Frager, accompanied the students on the mission.

"Everyone just wanted it to happen so badly," Schachter recalled. "It was an overwhelming success."

The night before the trip departed, Rebecca Wimmer, co-president of the Israel Club, and Naphtali Weisz, a RIETS student who is involved in organizing programs for Israel, began organizing activities for the mission participants to do in Israel. With the help of organizations in Israel, including Livnot U'lihabanot, Kedma, and Yavne Olami, Wimmer and Weisz arranged various activities that put students in contact with various segments of the Israeli population. "We had a little time, but we wanted to cover all the bases," Weisz explained. Activities put students in touch with terror victims, soldiers, new olim, the poor, and the handicapped.

As soon as the students arrived in Israel on Monday afternoon, they traveled to the Kotel for mincha followed by a welcoming ceremony from Minister of Tourism Rabbi Benny Elon, who praised the students for coming despite the situation. "Not everyone is on the same *madraiga* as you to come here with gas masks," Elon told the students.

After Elon's welcome, students traveled to the yeshivot and seminaries where they would be spending the week. Because of the mission's focus on learning Torah in Israel, for most of the week, mission participants stayed at the yeshivot or seminaries in which they learned in when they came to study for a year in Israel after high school.

For many participants, the most powerful day of the trip came on Wednesday when students traveled to Be'er Sheva to participate in a Shushan Purim program, sponsored by an organization called One Family. The families at the event had all lost relatives to terrorism. Students helped run activities, played with the children at the program and mingled with the adults, listening to their stories about family members they had lost to terror. At the conclusion of the day, students ate a festive meal with the families. Many students exchanged addresses and phone numbers. "How many people have heard these stories?" wondered Shapiro, who called Wednesday "the most moving part

of the trip."

"I'm saying kaddish now for one woman's mother for a month," Green noted.

As students departed from Be'er Sheva Wednesday night, the Israeli government announced that all citizens should open the box containing their gas masks and prepare it for use. "That was the only time I was scared," said SCW senior Aliza Fireman.

Participants never had to use their gas masks, though the government advised citizens to carry them with them if they went out. For the rest of the week, school children carried their gas masks with them to school.

After spending Friday donating blood, visiting hospitals, distributing CD players to soldiers and hearing a talk from Gideon Block, who lost his cousin, Yoni Jesner, in a suicide bombing, mission participants spent Shabbat together at the King's Hotel in Jerusalem, joined by Mrs. Shani Tarragin and her family.

Ministry of Tourism officials wrapped up the week with a *hasbara* session, encouraging students to come up with creative ways to promote Israel. Unlike last year's Operation Torah Shield, which required students to fulfill ten speaking engagements, this year participants were strongly urged to talk about their trip to Israel to encourage others to come.

"As much as we all appreciate your

coming here, it's your obligation," said Ministry of Tourism official Chaim Silberstein.

Mission organizers and participants were all thrilled about the success of the trip. "Without a doubt I knew this trip was going to be a success and it is all due to the devoted and professional guys I was working with," Schachter said. "What I did not know, however, was how successful it would actually be. It surpassed any of our expectations."

"We're all incredibly ecstatic that we were able to do this," agreed Green, who called the mission a "life-changing" experience. "Each mission has own special thing. What this mission did very well we came into direct contact with people," he said. "There was a real *kesher* [connection]. Most missions can't do that in such a short amount of time."

Wimmer agreed: "I always wonder do they really care, and they really do. I really feel like we accomplished something."

"It was really important for people in Israel to hear that our hearts are with them. I felt lucky to be sitting at a table with a mother who had lost a son," said SCW junior Rivkie Rose. "I learned so much from her. It touched her that we were there, but she had a profound effect on me."

Israel Mission

Brief Intermission

A Personal Reflection

By Margueya Novick



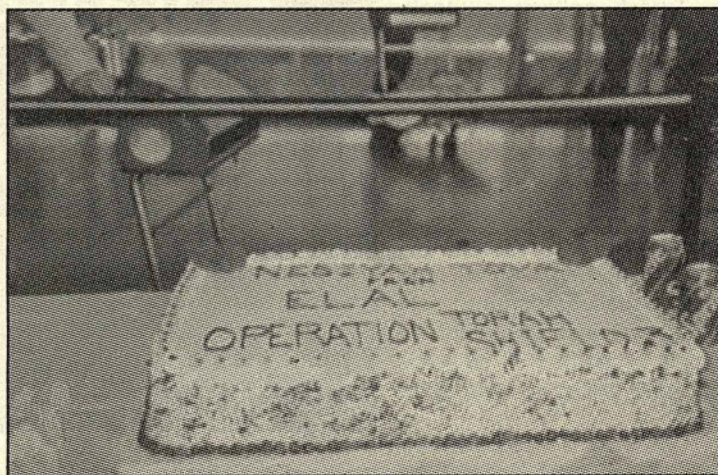
Mission participants gather for a group photo after painting houses in Jerusalem



Tova Gozdzik dances with a child at a Shushan Purim event in Be'er Sheva for families who lost relatives in terror attacks



Tourism Minister Rabbi Benny Elon greets Torah Shield III participants at the Kotel.



El Al bid the group a nesiah tova with a cake at JFK airport

Students will envision extravagant trips to Europe for vacation, only to hear of a string of anti-Semitic acts, and promptly drop their plans. These same students hear of all out war hitting the Middle East, and plan a trip to Israel.

What is it about a country that compels thousands of people to shell out inordinate sums for the sheer pleasure of roaming its streets, a place that not even life threatening intifada proves daunting? A week in this hotly contested area spelled it out quite clearly: we were in the safest place on earth.

Slings gas masks over our shoulders, slipping cell phones into our pockets, we got the mistaken impression somewhere along the way that what we were doing was heroic. We were sent off amidst excessive accolades and pride, intent on living up to our mission's theme of "l'chazek u'l'hitchazek." For some, the feverish bon voyage helped belie the very uncourageous feelings beginning to insinuate themselves. A seed of doubt was planted as we faced a week of uncertainty and precarious times, as more and more people commended us for our bravery and questioned our safety.

There was an unspoken calm when we landed in Israel. All around us, life was as usual; the country was in full swing, preparing for Purim festivities, this year being no exception. Instantly, the trip's focus began to shift. Suddenly there was a strength discovered not from the brazen Americans, but the stoic Israelis. We approached the week with an inflated sense of purpose coupled with pangs of anxiety. We were met with expressions of bitachon, both in words and action, and a country that refused to let their lives be disturbed.

Strength came from seeing bus drivers accept shaloch manos from masquerading passengers, hearing a person mention sealing their room with the same gravity as picking up their dry cleaning. I began to see that Israel did not need us as much as we need them. What other place brings your very existence so much into question, not just in the threat of war, but back in America, in a more perplexing avirah, as a Jew?

Learning in Israel, walking through the Old City, and watching the sun dip into distant hills made me question just what this mission was for. Certainly I was gleaning a depth of emunah and menuchas hanefesh that I could in no way impart to the people around me. Was this endeavor purely selfish?

Moreover, my entire perspective began to shift as war went from theoretical to actual. False bravado gave way to unadulterated panic as the government advised that we open our gas masks and adjust ourselves to using them. With shaking fingers and shallow breaths, I tightened my mask and wondered how on earth I'd manage to keep my calm if danger were to present itself.

"I can't live through this," I said hoarsely as my friend, who is studying Israel for the year, helped me assemble my mask.

She looked at me sympathetically. "Do you know that I'm not going back to America for Pesach because I'm too scared? We're only safe here."

The preparations for a scud attack began to seem soothing rather than unnerving. In fact, weren't we much safer not only in ir hakodesh, but in a country that had a plan for survival?

Lying in bed that night, having whispered a shema that I thought might be my last, I began to reevaluate not just my life, but my feelings on life, death and hashgacha pratis. Time in a potential war zone ceased to be reckless living and became a strengthened reminder of God being on our side, and even tragedy being for the best. While I didn't know what to expect, and feared the worst, there was an unbelievable solace unique to a country that lives as a daily testimony to being the chosen people, a feeling of peace that can only come with the strength Israel offers.

Heroic? Hardly. Heroic is the eleven-year-old child who patted my arm and told me in her thick Israeli accent that I shouldn't worry, the sealed room would be fine and we'd all be together. Heroic is the families who refuse to leave, refuse to feel anxious, who contribute to palpable calm permeating the country.

The first morning of the war dawned with buses running and people running to work, this time with a gas mask as natural to their apparatus as a briefcase. My friend asked me what my plans were.

"Oh, I don't know, crouching in a miklat somewhere and saying tehilim?"

She rolled her eyes. "Give me a break," she said, and we went off to run errands. My initial plan of staying in the sealed room "just in case" for the duration of my stay was promptly discarded, and I began to see how much more natural it felt to let sechel- and God- run your life.

What, then, was our mission? It was not just standing by Israel when so many others chose to flee, giving them our presence rather than just our voices at a rally. Our true mission began when we returned to the States. Equipped with the chizuk of seeing a country progress despite intense danger, it is crucial to inform a world that chooses to feel safer in America that this may not be the case.

And how different our tefillos will be, having experienced a taste of the fear Israel always has as its backdrop, punctuating the most ordinary of days. How could anyone truly stand with Israel without having properly felt the threat of danger, and seeing the strength thus acquired to live each day?

A week in Israel can very often be lived as break from reality, a sort of parenthesis to everything else we do, the routine we adopt as life. Certainly if we felt our job began and ended in Israel, then a homecoming seems to mark the end of our mission, and invite a recommencement of life as usual.

However, the rejuvenation offered to Israel is not the extent of our week. Instead, the powerful impact of a people's celebration of Purim as well as each day of its survival, the determination and conviction in a land where God is put first, and our own realization of not only who is in charge, but who are our heroes- this must be our message, this must be our mission.

On Campus

Making Sense of Club Funding

Questions Raised After SCDS Money Stolen

By Rebecca Rosenberg

There are roughly 40 clubs on the midtown campus SCW – all of which fall under the fiscal jurisdiction of the SCW Student Council. In addition there are some clubs that fall under the jurisdiction of TAC or SSSB Student Council, both of which follow similar guidelines similar to those of SCWSC regarding funding.

Yeshiva gives SCWSC a quarterly budget that comes partly from students' activities fees as well as an additional amount of money determined by a complex formula. SCWSC is responsible for distributing it among the clubs as fairly as possible according to the needs of each. "It depends on past years and whether there is a [student] publication," explained SCWSC president Sharon Weiss regarding the allotment of money to clubs.

Each of SCWSC's executive board's five members is responsible for ten clubs. "This maintains communication with all the clubs," Brodsky said. Every club president is therefore accountable to a familiar and involved authority, making it harder to take advantage of the system, she explained.

Much attention has been drawn to the handling of funds on the part of Student Council and other student clubs, after monetary mishandling has led to missing funds in the past. Last year \$1,600 was found missing from the Stern College Dramatics Society's funds last year, SCDS members have taken measures to prevent the possibility of future incidents. Though the money has been restored, the issue of funding has been propelled to the forefront of SCDS concern.

"Recently, we changed our private account into a business account so that when money gets taken out two people have to sign for it," president of SCDS, Aliza Blumenfeld said. According to Blumenfeld, SCDS was the only club with a private account, and it was consequently more difficult to monitor. Over 12 years ago, SCDS was given several thousand dollars, rendering it financially independent.

Neither members of SCDS nor SCWSC know who originally donated the approxi-

mately eight thousand dollars in their account. "SCDS has its own account and doesn't fall under our jurisdiction," said SCWSC treasurer, Sara Brodsky. According to Brodsky, it is the only club that does not rely at all on Student Council for its funding.

Of the many clubs on the midtown campus, only SCDS and the Observer have their own accounts, independent of Student Council. However, the Observer's funds do originate with SCWSC. "Because the Observer is a publication it needs more money than the other clubs so it's allotted its own budget," said Brodsky.

According to Blumenfeld, SCDS does not know what would happen if the money in their account ran out. "I'm really scared and have no clue what we would do," Blumenfeld said. SCDS tries to make back all the money they spend on plays in ticket sales each year but they are not always able to completely. "I feel like we'd lose our financial independence under student council," she said. "If I need money I can go to the bank and get it immediately whereas under student council the paper work takes time."

All other clubs must fill out a general budget request form at the beginning of the year, and before each event fill out a subsequent detailed budget request form. This allows SCWSC to closely track the flow of money through the clubs.

This year, SCWSC has been stricter about certain practices than it has been in the past. "We're really into [collecting] receipts this year. For most events we encourage students to pay first and then be reimbursed, and for larger events we work closely with the clubs," Brodsky said.

Though the council tries to keep close track of their finances, Brodsky explained that it does not detract from their ultimate purpose. "We're not into being stingy. We're not a family that wants money left over for next year or a business that wants to make a profit. We want to plan amazing programs for students and ideally spend all the money the school gives us," she said.

Food Committee Allows Student Input into Caf Menu

By Avigayil Rosen

As Israel's economy continues to suffer as a result of more than two years of intifada, Americans are making an extra effort to buy and sell Israeli products. Concerned SCW students expressed an interest in joining this informal campaign to the food services committee, which organized to bring Israeli delicacies to the SCW cafeteria. Students can now buy muffins and Danishes imported from the famous Angel's Bakery in Jerusalem.

This is just one example of the changes implemented thanks to the efforts of the food services committee, chaired by SSSB senior Chanie Angster. According to Angster, who was asked by SCWSC president Sharon Weiss to head the committee, it is intended "to be the advocate and voice for what the students are interested in eating." It in turn brings students' concerns to the attention of Mr. Moshe Singer, director of food services at the midtown campus.

Angster reports that, as food services are intended to serve the students' needs, Mr. Singer is very responsive to the committee's ideas, meeting with it whenever an issue arises. "Mr. Singer is extremely open to variance and change," Angster explains. "He comes with a pen and writes down all that we say, asks question to better gauge what the root of the problem is. He's excellent."

The main problem the food services committee faces, Angster laments, is "most students don't know we exist.... People [should] know there is a committee they can voice their food concerns to." Students are encouraged to speak to Angster and her committee members, Aliza Rosin, and Miriam Sadres.

The food services committee has been successful in numerous areas this year. For example, it has obtained disposable plates as an option in the

cafeteria instead of the standard Styrofoam containers, and has arranged to "trim [decorative] plants that were hanging onto the tables and hitting people in the head," as Angster noted.

One major issue the committee has been working on this year is overcrowding in the main cafeteria. Though the International Café in Koch Auditorium was originally opened a number of years ago to help alleviate this problem and offer more diverse choices for students' meals, it has apparently not solved the problem. Students still complain of insufficient space in the basement cafeteria, during prime dining time. According to Angster, the food services committee is discussing several possibilities, including opening the mini-café in Schottenstein Residence Hall for dinner. The facility is currently open only for breakfast four days a week, and is tremendously popular among the residents of that dormitory. At a recent Student Life Committee meeting, facilities officials presented the possibility of opening the mini-café in Schottenstein Residence Hall. Opening the mini-café in Schottenstein, however, would force SCW officials to close Koch for dinner because of a lack of workers.

An unofficial poll found that most students prefer the food in the caf to the food in Koch, though almost all of those interviewed preferred eating in the less crowded and more pleasant ambience of Koch. Many students noted that the salad bar could use some additions, such as tuna, better dressing, red onions, plain noodles, and nuts. Other students requested more peanut butter and butter pecan frozen yogurt. Some wondered why Snapple is not available for sale in the caf, and out of towners lamented the fact the caf is not open on Sundays until 4:30 PM.

Financial Aid Office

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exploring ways to expand work-study to include options like conducting academic or scientific research under professors. "We're currently talking to deans and faculty to consider areas of expansion," Fisher said.

With Farrior's promotion, the Office is now looking to hire an assistant director of finance to fill her former position. "The candidate must possess managerial skills and relate well with students and parents," noted Fisher, who said that he intended to include deans, faculty, administrators, and students on the final selection "The person we hire is key."

As her first official interaction with students, Farrior is planning an open school night near the end of April or beginning of May, where she and other officials will be available to talk to students and address their concerns.

Harvey Spolansky, associate director of finance, oversees the office of student accounts division of the Office of Student Finance. "We're always looking to improve," he said, praising the promotion of Farrior and the innovations underway.

Students Join NAJSA

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Jewish student groups on campus was necessary, however, with the stipulation that it be an entirely student-led enterprise. Once voted into the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), NAJSA became an official organization.

The first conference in Michigan was aimed at discussing that exact problem.

Hindy Poupko, an SCW sophomore, hoped that Yeshiva students could play an especially important role in this type of activity. "I think that YU should take their rightful place among the student's activists of North America," she said. "We have the ability to bring a unique perspective on the cause of the State of Israel and the Jewish people."

Because Yeshiva does not suffer from a campus ridden with pro-Palestinian activity, organizers at NAJSA hope to use that to their benefit. "Because YU doesn't have to deal with that they can feel free to

help other campuses," said Applebaum. "However, they need to be educated and made aware of the issues other students are facing."

However, some at the conference felt that Yeshiva students were not a fair representation of the typical college student. Despite that minority opinion, the Yeshiva students were welcomed and are looking forward to joining in the many NAJSA activities aimed at

helping Jewish college students across the country.

The next NAJSA event is a memorial day planned for April 14th to commemorate the terrorist attack on Hebrew University.

"Hearing from other students and understanding the seriousness of the situation on other campuses that we many not experience on our own campuses is really important," said Poupko. "It was also important for other people to see that YU students are ready and willing to help other campuses."



The
Observer
wishes the
Yeshiva
community
a happy
and
healthy
Passover

Campus Briefs

Students Get a Dose of the 50's

On Monday night, March 10, Students Services and Student Council hosted a Fifties theme evening at Koch Auditorium. The event, which had a large turnout, featured two professional swing dancers who taught a line dance and a couples dance. Hamburgers and french fries were served and Dean Himber, who made a special appearance for the event, donned an apron and served the pareve ice cream for dessert.



MSDCS Sends Students on Shabbat Across America

On the weekend of March 9th, dozens of SCW and YC students participated in a nationwide program, Shabbat Across America, in 15 different communities in the New York/New Jersey area, including Paramus, NJ, Brooklyn, and Ellenville, NY. Shabbat Across America is an annual program run by the New York based National Jewish Outreach Program.

MSDCS merged its Torah Tours program with NJOP for the outreach weekend, which had student participants giving shiurim and divrei torah and organizing youth programs in the communities where they spent Shabbat.

Student Council Organizes Security Appreciation Week

SCWSC officially designated the week of March 17th Security Appreciation Week, publicizing it in signs all over school. The purpose of the week was to encourage students to express their gratitude to the guards for their efforts in keeping the midtown campus safe for students.



Flyers in the style of Mastercard ads listed prices of caf cards and books, implying that regardless of campus costs, the feeling of security is priceless.

Neshama Carlebach special guest at TAC Shabbaton

Neshama Carlebach was the featured guest at a TAC Shabbaton shabbat March 22. Neshama led a very spiritual tisch on Friday night, with more than fifty women in attendance. Bible professor Mrs. Grunhaus and her family and Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol and his family were also on campus for Shabbat.

On Saturday night, Koch Auditorium was transformed into a jazzy nightclub as Neshama gave a concert.

Author Alexandra Zapruder Speaks on Campus

Alexandra Zapruder, author of *Salvaged Pages: Young Writer's Diaries of the Holocaust* spoke at SCW

on Monday evening, February 24. Sixty students attended to hear Zapruder speak about her research on young people's Holocaust diaries, read excerpts from her book and answer questions.

The event, which took place at the Schottenstein Cultural Center, was organized by Professor Peninah Schram.



Junior Class Dinner in the Works

Plans are underway for a Junior Class Dinner, tentatively set to take place on Wednesday night, April 29th, at Abigail's restaurant in midtown Manhattan.

The dinner is partially funded by a scheduled speaker whose name is not yet available but who will talk to students about Israel Bonds. The dinner is open to thirty men and thirty women from the SCW and YC campuses, and after subsidy the cost will be \$10 per student.

Sign-up for the dinner is on a strictly first come, first serve basis.

International Students Celebrate at Annual Dinner

More than 30 students attended the annual international student dinner, held on March 3rd in the Ivy Center at Schottenstein Residence Hall. The group was addressed by Blima Dalezman, an SCW graduate who escaped from Czechoslovakia before coming here a number of years ago.

The event, much anticipated by the members of SCW's international community, was organized by international student advisor Mrs. Marga Marx. The evening ended with a performance of songs in various languages from different countries represented by SCW students, most significantly Canada. Students left the event with full stomachs and flags from their respective countries.



Elephants March Down 34th Street

The annual arrival of Barnum and Bailey's circus elephants was the cause for celebration in Brookdale Hall on March 18th. After the success of last year's Krispy Kreme event, Student Council President Sharon Weiss arranged for a circus theme cotton candy machine, popcorn, and helium machine to blow up Student Council balloons. Students crowded the Brookdale lobby eagerly awaiting the elephants' arrival at an undetermined time on Tuesday night. The event began at midnight, and Stern revelers, who joined a large crowd of civilians on 34th Street, did not have to wait long. The elephants marched through before 1 am, allowing students to get back to their rooms after only an hour's wait.

Dr. Aaron Fried Voted Professor of the Year

Dr. Aaron Fried, associate professor of psychology, was chosen by SCW students to receive this year's Lillian F. and William L. Silber Professor of the Year Award. Fried will be presented the award, a cash prize of \$1800, at the annual awards assembly in late April. Fried, a highly respected as a teacher, researcher, and practitioner, is one of the most popular psychology professors at SCW.

The results of the senior awards are as follows: Professor Nathaniel L. Remes Memorial Award to Sharon Weiss, Ghity Stern Award to Beth Meshel, the Lisa Wachtenheim Memorial Award to Rachel Shtern and the Ramie Kertzner Memorial Award to Hadas Wagner.

Dormitories Feud in Game Show

The Office of Residence Life hosted "Dorm Feud" in the first week of march. The series of games, modeled after the popular game show "Family Feud" was an opportunity for the various dormitories on the midtown campus to engage in some healthy competition.



Over three nights Brookdale Hall, Schottenstein Residence Hall, 36th Street Residence Hall and Independent Housing Program students competed against each other. Each round was played in front of a small but enthusiastic audience of supporters for each side, with floors 2-6 of Brookdale Hall winning the grand prize.

Roommates Fundraise With Snapple Wrappers

Several roommates in Brookdale Hall have launched a campaign to raise money for Magen David Adom and the Save Our Soldiers fund by collecting Snapple wrappers, which they have plastered on the walls of their room. For every wrapper collected, the students will donate ten cents to the Israeli-based charities. The



impetus for the fundraising efforts came as a result of an attempt to decorate their dorm room early this fall. The sophomores, Sarah Horowitz, Ilana Lieberman, Shani Aron, Chavi Schwarzband, and Nechama Gottlieb, starting hanging up the wrappers from their colorful Snapple bottles on the walls, intending to completely cover their walls. Toward the end of the semester, they realized that they could not do it alone, and Horowitz came up with the idea to collect wrappers for Israel.

The roommates record the wrappers on a chart, and their numbers reached the thousands a few weeks ago, prompting Lieberman to start a website. Room 12B has collected wrappers from as far away as Canada, and local organizations including Frisch High School, Ma'ayanot High School, Columbia University, Rutgers University, Fairlawn High School, BBYO, NCSY, and Yachad have also donated wrappers. You can check out the Snap Wrap roomies at <http://snap.to/snapforisrael>.

This Month in SCW History

...In the spring of 1973, The Observer announced the dedication of the Yeshiva University Museum. The museum, endowed by Erica and Ludwig Jesselson, was located at the Mendel Gottesman Library in Washington Heights. Admission to the new museum was \$1.00 for adults and \$0.50 for children.

... In the spring of 1981, the Observer announced Yeshiva's new joint program with seminaries in Israel, to be initiated in September of that year. Included in program were Orot Beit Midrash L'Nashim (Sharfman's) and Michlelet Bruria (Brovender's). The article noted that no such programs existed with Neve

Yerushalayim or Michlala.

... In the same issue, the Observer printed an interview with Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League and head of its Israeli counterpart, Kach. Kahane, having recently finished serving a 10-month jail sentence in Israel, addressed overflowing crowds at

both YC and SCW about the need for Jewish identity and physical defense on college campuses. In the interview, Kahane stressed that it was a time of Milchemet Mitzva, requiring all Jews to fight—physically if need be—against their enemies.

Arts & Culture

Arts Festival Attempts to Bring Fine Arts Under Umbrella of Torah U'Madda

By Rachel Horn

This year's annual Arts Festival has a unique drive. In addition to displaying student's works and encouraging art on campus, Arts Festival chairs SCW Senior Jessica Moore and YC Senior Akiva Fischman hope to introduce art as a component of the Torah U'madda philosophy to the festival, which is currently taking place, from March 23-April 3. "We are hoping to prove that in Torah life, there is room for artistic creativity," said Fischman.

Whereas other disciplines of secular studies have infiltrated into Yeshiva's mainstream accepted fields, the arts have not been fully integrated, according to Moore. "In the Jewish community, the arts are very downplayed," she claimed. "We believe there is a swell of underground creative ability," added Fischman. "We hope to give those interested an opportunity to come forth and share."

However, the chairs have encountered a negative response by some students who claim that the Festival is not in accordance with a Torah lifestyle.

"Unfortunately, there is an element at the Wilf campus that would prefer for the Arts Festival not to proceed," Fischman remarked. "They see it as an example of Bitul Torah. We hope the festival will be

viewed as a creative outlet and not a waste of energy."

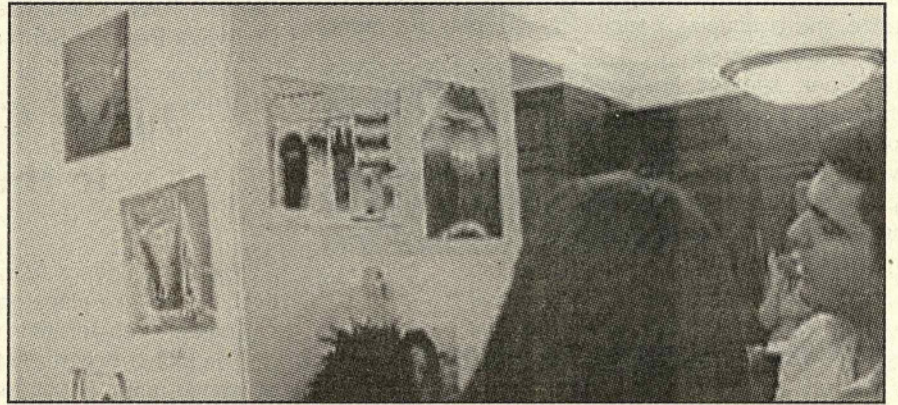
While there are no evenings dedicated to a particular Jewish theme, Jewish themes will be inculcated in events throughout the Festival, insisted Moore. "Religion is a part of our lives," she pointed out. "We expect literature, prose, photography and painting representing Jewish themes. There is no night for a Judaic event, but Judaism is part of every event."

The viewpoints of rabbinical authorities at the Wilf campus appear to be mixed. "There has been resistance from certain roshai yeshiva, but there are also those who appreciate the role of art in a modern Orthodox lifestyle," Fischman stated.

Rabbis Carmy and Blau, as faculty committee members, are overseeing the project. "They are there to make sure the events run in coordination with the interests of a Torah institution," he said.

In addition, all submissions are reviewed by student committee heads to ensure appropriate content and language. "As a yeshiva, there are certain lines that we have to make sure aren't crossed," Moore said.

The festival is sponsored by the YC and SCW Deans' offices. The deans' roles include offering financial support,



Students view photos at the Arts Festival Photography Exhibit, March 25th

coordinating events with the university's department of Facilities Management and helping in guiding the student coordinators. Deans Jesionowski, Adler and Bacon have been especially helpful in planning, according to the chairs.

Committee heads are currently planning events, collecting submissions and reviewing content for the rapidly approaching Arts Festival. Two committee heads oversee each department of the festival, one at YC and one at SCW. The Annual Arts Festival is a dual campus event, with events scheduled at both the Wilf and midtown campuses.

For two weeks, events will be held almost nightly ranging from a night of

One Acts and Drama to a Poetry Slam. The opening event, a Rock and Jazz Performance by homegrown Yeshiva bands drew hundreds of students. A "Kol Shira Night," where SCW students will sing for a female audience only, will take place at SCW.

No Arts Festival events will take place on March 27, 29 and 30 to encourage students to support the Yeshiva College and SCW Drama Societies who will be performing during those weeks. "We decided to have Drama Appreciation nights to give people time to see the play," said Moore. "We are promoting this event because it is promoting art on campus."

YU/SCW ARTS FESTIVAL '03

OPENING EVENT • SUNDAY MARCH 23RD • 7 PM
ART JAM - ROCK/JAZZ PERFORMANCE
WEISSBERG COMMONS - BELFER HALL

MONDAY MARCH 24TH • 8 PM
PROSE NIGHT
FURST 535 - WILF CAMPUS

TUESDAY MARCH 25TH • 8 PM
PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY
IVRY CENTER (SCHOTTENSTEIN MIDTOWN)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH • 8 PM
ART GALLERY
SCHOTTENSTEIN 3RD FLOOR LOUNGE (WILF)

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH • 7 PM
ONE ACTS - DRAMA - IMPROV NITE!!
KOCH AUDITORIUM (STERN)

MONDAY MARCH 31ST • 8 PM
POETRY NIGHT
IVRY CENTER (SCHOTTENSTEIN MIDTOWN)

TUESDAY APRIL 1ST • 8 PM
CLASSICAL PERFORMANCE
SCHOTTENSTEIN MUSIC HALL (WILF)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2ND • 8 PM
KOL SHIRA NIGHT - WOMEN ONLY
36TH STREET LOUNGE

CLOSING EVENT • THURSDAY APRIL 3RD • 8 PM
ART SLAM - POETRY SLAM, ART STUDIO
WEISSBERG COMMONS

THE ARTS FESTIVAL ENCOURAGES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ATTEND THE SCDS PERFORMANCE OF "STEEL MAGNOLIAS" ON MARCH 22 AND 27, AND THE YCDS PERFORMANCE OF "LITTLE FOXES" ON MARCH 29 AND 30. ALL WILF PARTICIPANTS ARE FURTHER ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE YCDS PERFORMANCE ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 2.

sponsored by the yc and scw deans offices

Course Explores New York Architecture

By Reina Roth

Every Friday morning, a group of SCW students meet despite the frigid weather to get to know the story of their neighborhood. They registered for an Honors Art History Seminar offered this semester, lead by Professor Kaps to take advantage of their surroundings and learn about the structures that compose New York City.

The class has been offered every other spring since 1999. Art History Department Head Professor Cohen was inspired to form a course dedicated to utilizing our own environment when she was charting out the curriculum for a summer course being taught in Europe. "I was planning the curriculum for a course exploring the architecture in Europe when I realized that what we could do with the resources we have right at our fingertips," she said.

A variety of different architectural structures merge to form the cornucopia that makes this city a work of art. Each week, a group of students go out into New York to examine and study the buildings that make up the city. The class is a seminar style course in which students prepare material beforehand. No time is spent in the classroom; the class is wholly composed of visits to buildings around Manhattan.

Each week, students examine another neighborhood. From the Financial district up to Columbia University, the city is filled with modern and classical style buildings. Some structures resemble other cities architectural style while other follows fashions from foreign countries. The class also designates significant time to the study of New York's very own style and unique

skyline. "I especially enjoy researching and presenting buildings; I feel a stronger bond with the city in which I live," said SCW Senior Dina White. "New York City offers much more than most civilians wish to know but I am proud that I have the opportunity to take full advantage of all that it offers."

"I expected a mediocre class because of its Friday slot," White confessed. "But, the very first meeting proved me completely wrong. The professor is fluent and knowledgeable in architecture and is passionate about teaching the material."

One of the interesting experiences of having an off campus class is the opportunity to interact with the people in the city. Every week students gain exposure to interesting personalities. One week, the class met a tour guide who told them interesting tidbits about the building that houses Cooper Union. Another week while visiting the Lower East side, an important place in Jewish American History, two elderly women directed students into the Bialystoker Synagogue. The students were taken on a tour of the Synagogue. This building was originally a church and was later made into a beautiful synagogue with an ornately decorated interior. The community on the Lower East Side is currently involved in the restoration and preservation of this landmark.

"I like the class because it breaks from the norm of the standard classroom setting of lectures and slides," said SCW Freshman Lauren Ratzker. "It remains intellectually honest and true to today as we experience existing and functioning buildings throughout the City."

Arts & Culture

Brooklyn Film Festival: The Voice of the Movies

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

The curtain will rise on the first film of the third annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival on April 5th at 7:30 pm. Although it is a newly created institution, this year's festival will gather together some of the great minds of the cinematic world. The list includes Arthur Miller, Walter Bernstein, and Arthur Laurents, authors of *The Crucible*, *The Front* and *The Way We Were*, respectively. These famous men will present their movies to represent the festival's theme: Artists and Activists.

In eight days, spanning from April 5th to April 12th, the BAM Rose Cinemas, in Brooklyn, will transform into a place of conspiracy and revolution. Twenty-five movies, coming from Israel, France, Germany, Argentina, and the United States, will come together in this one location in order to celebrate the power of the medium to allow artists to be activists. They will transport the viewers to the blacklisting Hollywood of the 1950s; the pre-Intifada tensions of Israel; the Jewish experience during the Holocaust; the fictional realm of Yiddish Folklore and even to the witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts.

The first movie is entitled *Taking Wing*. The showing of this French movie will be its New York premiere and it will be followed by an opening night party. On average, each night will feature three or four films or pairs of films depending on the lengths.

While many of the movies are new and this will be their debut in New York, there are a few old cinema classics that will be returning to the screen for the festival. These include *The Front* (1976), *The Crucible* (1996), *The Way We Were* (1973) and *Talking to the Enemy* (1985). This showing of *The Way We Were* will feature a new print in honor of the film's 30th anniversary. In contrast to the classics, the festival will also feature a selection of student films created by students of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Almost half of the 25 films at the festival will be documentaries. Included in this list is *The Klarsfelds*, a documentary of a Jewish family in France who devoted their existence to the preservation of French Jewry and to the prosecution of Nazis and French sympathizers who have survived without consequence since the Holocaust. This showing will be the world premiere of the film.

The festival will close with a film about Joshua Nelson, a black Jewish American gospel singer and the boundaries over which he chose to reach. After the show Joshua Nelson is scheduled to do a live performance.

Every film in the festival offers something unique; to find out more about the festival and the films in it, the official website is www.brjff.org. Schedule, directions and any changes or updates can also be found online.



A film about Joshua Nelson, a black Jewish American gospel singer, will play at the festival, and Nelson is scheduled to give a live performance

Bookworm: Burnt Bread and Chutney

Burnt Bread and Chutney
One World/Ballantine Books
\$22.95

By Devorah Heching

As Pesach looms right around the corner, we are once again confronted with the various themes and ideas that accompany this oft-repeated story of the Jewish exodus. Ultimately, it is the story of a nation finally united and prepared to face any conflict or enemy as one unit.

Centuries later in exile we gather together with family and friends to remember this time of unity and to pray for the return of this idyllic period of Jewish history. But in the book "Burnt Bread and Chutney" by Carmit Delman our sincerity in the desire for a unified nation is put to the test as a young author examines her past as an Indian Jewish girl growing up in America and later Israel.

Although the author was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, she was always aware of the great differences that existed between her parents' backgrounds. Her mother descended from the small Jewish community which survived in India from somewhere in the final centuries before the common era often referred to as the Bene Israel, and her father was a man of American and Eastern Europe descent. Her memoir captures the rich experiences of a life influenced by the traditions and cultures of western India and the United States, but at the same time they reflect the feelings of a young, adolescent Jew who feels alienated from mainstream society and from the Jewish community as a whole.

Carmit's decision to record her memoirs was initially spurred by the discovery of her Indian grandmother's diary, a woman she refers to as Nana-bai. Nana-bai's diary records her unpleasant life in India where she struggled to survive as the second wife of a violent tyrant while raising Carmit's mother. Quotations of her grandmother's diary set the stage for each chapter leading the author into introspection about the various stages of her life and the obstacles she confronts due her dual heritage and brown

skin tone.

Her parents first meet on a kibbutz in Israel and attempt to raise their family there. After a few years, however, legal problems force them to return to her father's birthplace in America and leaving suddenly from the kibbutz leaves the family rather destitute. In America, Carmit finds herself set apart from the rest of the Jewish community by her Indian heritage and her relative poverty. In her words, she is not a "Lower East Side of Yiddish and bagels and lox" kind of Jew, and the lax observance of her family relative to the Jewish community they are situated in only serves to reinforce her differences. When in synagogue, the other children, after studying her brown skin tone and foreign mode of dress, ask her, "Why don't you look Jewish?" Carmit wants to respond, "What does Jewish look like?" but was trained to be polite

by her Indian culture and therefore restrains herself from responding.

As a child she feels like she doesn't quite "fit in" and these feelings of rejection and alienation ultimately cause her to abandon her Jewish heritage altogether in the turbulent years of her adolescence. Instead she attempts to become immersed in the American culture, but finds herself again an outcast never wearing the right clothes or even smelling the right way. The author juxtaposes these memories of an awkward adolescence alongside stories recording mythical tales of her female ancestors living in the Indian-Jewish community. Throughout the chapters the reader can observe the unique evolution of Carmit's identity. Ultimately, she attempts to escape to Israel in an attempt to maintain a Jewish identity without feeling like an outsider, but in Israel she finds the racial strictures are only exacerbated.

It is only when the author is in college that she is finally able to come to a sort of understanding of her dual heritage and her place within Jewish society, but her story is one which holds an important message for our generation. Carmit's memoirs uncover the lack of unity in the Jewish community in the throes today's exile.



Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

Not For Myself Alone

An exhibit on American Jewish authors which features rare books, first editions, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia of some of the most celebrated Jewish authors of the 19th and 20th centuries. Yeshiva University Museum/ American Jewish Historical Society

15 W 16th St

Opens March 18, 2003 11:00 am

Gan Eden Hadash-A New Paradise

Acclaimed artist Lillenthal uses abstracted forms to evoke the essence of archetypal symbols such as Adam and Eve, the Serpent, the Trees of Life, Love and Light.

Yeshiva University Museum

15 W 16th St

Opens March 30, 2003 11:00 am

Poor Liza

Film directed by Slava Tsukerman, explores contradictions of the Russian émigré experience to the screen. Adaptation of Nikolai Karamzin's tragic love story between a peasant girl and nobleman. Followed by a Q&A with director Tsukerman & special guests.

The JCC in Manhattan

334 Amsterdam Ave. at 76th St

April 3, 2003 7:30 pm

\$8 members/\$10 non-members

Jewish-Christian Relations in the New Millennium: From Contention to Cooperation

Panel by Cardinal Avery Dulles, Bishop Frank T. Griswold and Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm. Moderated by Dr. Eugene Korn.

92nd Street Y

92nd Street at Lexington Avenue

April 3, 2003 8:00 pm

\$18.00

The Soul of Einstein: A Dialogue on the Moral, Religious & Philosophical Life of Albert Einstein

Alice Calaprice, Prof. Freeman Dyson and Prof. John Stachel. Moderated by Fred Jerome, in conjunction with current exhibit at the Museum of Natural History

92nd Street Y

92nd Street at Lexington Avenue

April 7, 2003 8:15 pm

\$18.00

Brussels-Transit

Mostly autobiographical film directed by Samy Szlingerbaum. Yiddish with English subtitles. Portrays

travails of a Polish Jewish family of displaced persons searching for a new home in 1947 Brussels. Speaker: Joseph Berger, New York Times reporter, author of *Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust*.

April 7, 2003 7:00 pm

Forchheimer Auditorium, Yeshiva University Museum

15 W 16th St

\$3.50 for students, Box Office-917-606-8200

New Horizons: American Jewish Composers Concert

American Jewish Historical Society

Forchheimer Auditorium, Yeshiva University Museum

15 W 16th St

April 27, 2003 3:00 pm

\$4.00 for students, Box Office: 917-606-8200

Stages and Pages: Jewish Theater and Book Designs by Emanuel Luzzati

An exhibit of original artworks including animated films by acclaimed Italian theater artist and book illustrator Emanuel Luzzati

Yeshiva University Museum

15 W 16th St

Until August 17, 2003

Arts & Culture

Music Meant for the Soul Spotlight on Neshama Carlebach

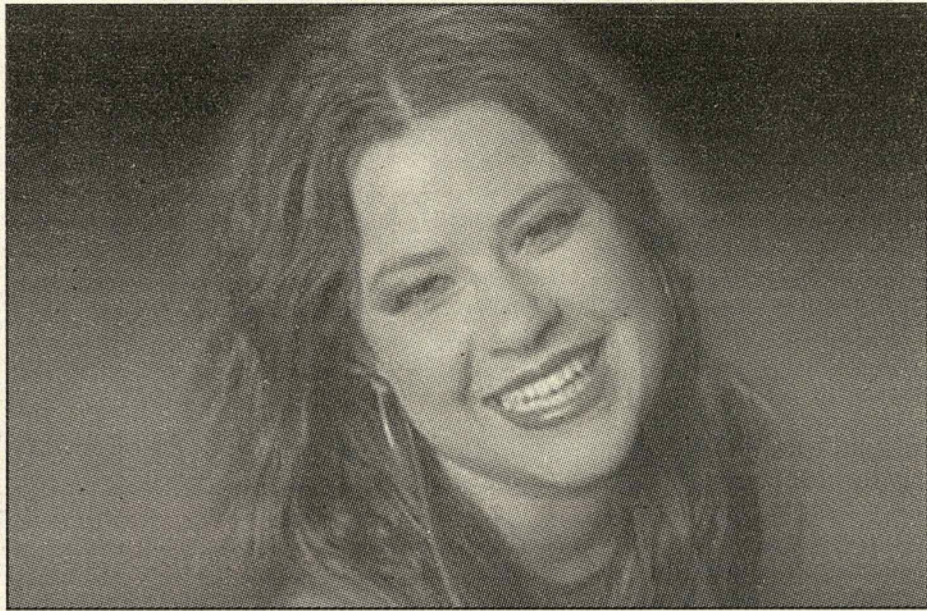
By Rachel Horn

Little did she know at the time, but when Neshama Carlebach produced the album "HaNeshama Shel Shlomo," or "Shlomo's Soul," music she recorded with her father shortly before he passed away, she was carving out the image she would assume as a singer. Indeed, when Carlebach sings and tells stories, she is a haunting personification of her father Shlomo's soul.

Raised on her father's music and love for the Jewish community, Carlebach felt that it was her responsibility to carry on her father's message when he passed away nine years ago. Shlomo Carlebach is considered the father of soulful Jewish music. She noticed that people missed her father's unique dose of spiritual renewal. "I started just because he died," she said. "There was a need so I stepped in. He was the only reason I began."

Pointing out the recent grim and difficult times, Carlebach emphasized the importance of remembering her father's message of hope and love. "People want to get together to remember my father," she noted. "To remember there is a reason to celebrate. We need *chizuk* [strengthening] in times like this for the Jewish people." Through music, anecdotes about her father and stories that were close to his heart, she tries to remind her audiences to remember her father and his message.

Although Carlebach performs for the memory of her father, music was a passion in which she took a personal interest throughout her entire life. "I wanted to perform my whole life," she said. "It was



Neshama Carlebach keeps the music of her father, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, alive

my dream always." She plays her own original music in addition to her father's.

Carlebach emphasized her commitment to pleasing her audience and thus performs for anyone interested in remembering her father's gift, including audiences of mixed gender. "I don't have any issues with it," she quipped. "I am happy with who I am and what I do. I have an issue with people who look at other people's lives and judge."

Carlebach spent Shabbat at SCW on March 21-22 in which she led a *tisch* and performed at a concert after Shabbat. "The concert was awesome," she noted. She felt that the shabbaton was an enjoyable experience. "I like singing for women," she said. "There is an amazing feeling at Stern."

As a child, Neshama Carlebach traveled with Shlomo to cities where he would perform, often missing school. One time she neglected to study for a test because she was away with him. Her father popped his head into her classroom with a guitar in hand. "The teacher would say 'Reb Shlomo,' and there would be no test," Carlebach recollected. "When he was around it was so amazing. He was so much fun and so loving."

Carlebach's childhood overflowed with recollections of her father. She insists that every experience shapes an individual's personality and her childhood experiences greatly impacted her personality today. "It was a different kind of upbringing," she said. "But for me it was very normal."

One unusual facet of her childhood was her family's connection to what has endearingly been coined, "The Carlebach Moshav," a small yishuv in Modi'in, Israel. Today, residents of the community espouse a distinct lifestyle. They are known for conducting prayer services using Shlomo's tunes, addressing each other as "Holy Brother/Sister," and adhering to New Age notions such as vegetarianism and Hippie-style clothing. The family still has a house on the Moshav, she asserted. "We used to go in the summers," she recalled. "My father went all the time. I go as often as I can. I have great memories of it."

Although her childhood was filled with happy memories, Carlebach's family experienced hard times over the past few years. "Our family is used to being depressed," she said. "We are used to funerals." Fortunately, times have changed as both of Shlomo Carlebach's daughters have recently gotten engaged. Neshama will be married to Steven Katchen. "It's an amazing new experience to be happy all the time," she declared.

Neshama Carlebach lives her life by a valuable lesson she learned from her father: the importance of continually being inspired by everyday occurrences. "If you want to come to life with a new attitude, with an open heart, there are beautiful things happening every day," she professed. "Every day people there are people falling in love, children who are discovering things for the first time. People forget to look."

SCDS Gives Strong Performance in Steel Magnolias

By Rachel Horn

At the start of the year, a small but dedicated core of SCW students were determined to redefine the very structure of the Stern College Drama Society. Through determination and innovative events, SCDS accomplished its primary goal, which was to involve students in a cultural venue of which they could be proud.

Once that foundation was firmly established over the first semester, the Drama Society boldly ventured out to stake a claim at a personality.

Two decisions were sure to mold the identity the Drama Society would take on, namely, the decision to produce an official play and the specific choice of *Steel Magnolias*.

It is true that drama has been a central component of cultural life at SCW since 1968 when the Society produced its first play and has been a member of the dramatics fraternity Alpha Psi Omega since 1981. Yet, drama on campus saw a

decrease in popularity in recent years. Although other performances were produced, the last official play, *The Odd Couple*, was conducted two years ago this spring.

The decision to attempt a full play this year serves as an indication of the reestablished prominence of drama on campus and the persistence of the Society. "The school deserves a real play just like any other college," said SCDS President Aliza Blumenfeld. "Our board felt that it was time to try again."

Steel Magnolias, a hard-hitting drama that explores the friendship of six small-town Louisiana women who congregate at Truvy's hair salon was an ambitious and unabashedly feminine choice.

The setting was demanding. There was no change of scenery as each scene brought the characters several months ahead of the previous act in the same location, the salon. All six characters were on stage for the majority of the play. Although there were times when the acting seemed a little stiff, the actresses suc-

cessfully expressed both their individual characteristics and the friendship that existed among the women.

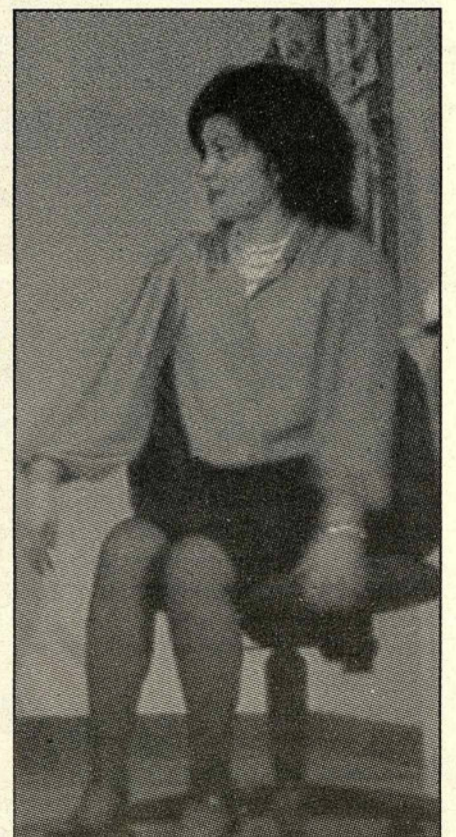
The actresses carried off emotional scenes with passion. M'Lynn, played by Lea Almo, was brought to tears as she relayed the story of her cherished daughter's death, which was brought about by the birth of her son which exacerbated her diabetes, to her friends at the salon.

Each of the roles required a Southern accent. Some of the actresses slipped into this guise comfortably while others did not attempt an accent or wavered between their Southern drawl and their actual dialect.

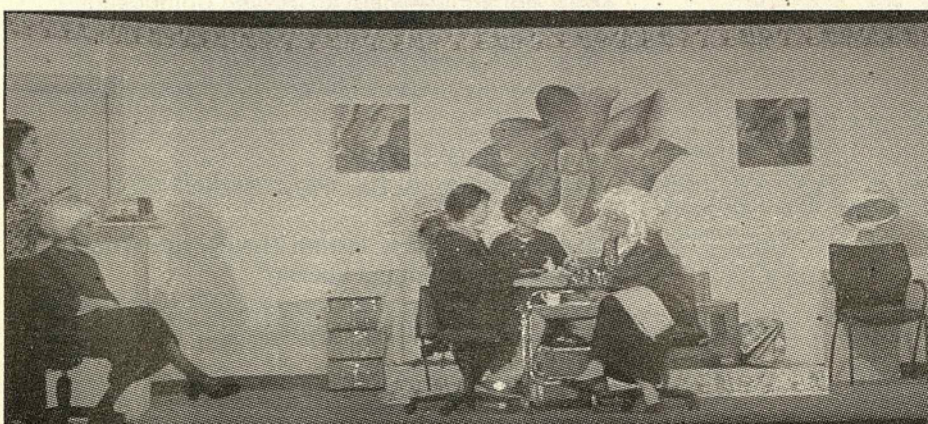
The Society has been practicing for the production since January under the guidance of Director Emily Stone. Practices have lasted as long as eight hours in the weeks preceding the production. Countless hours were spent, among other things, on set and costume design. The set accurately depicted a pink hair salon in an unmistakably '80s style motif. The music chosen were befitting the era and the authentic costumes conveyed an attention to detail.

A play about the strength of female bonds was certainly an apropos choice for an all women's college. Producer Joshua Scher offered seven scripts and the board unanimously decided on *Steel Magnolias*. The essence of the play was very palpable for an entirely female cast and crew. The beauty salon acts as their source of strength and stability in times of sorrow. "Their loves, trials and tribulations all relate to hair," said Blumenfeld. "There is laughter and hair, sadness and hair, even spirituality and hair."

Overall, SCDS proved itself capable of pulling off an emotionally charged and



Lea Almo was convincing as M'Lynn



Each of the four scenes of *Steel Magnolia* was set in a hair salon

professional production while remaining attuned to the natural capabilities of female artists.

After building a solid base last semester, *Steel Magnolias* acquired a unique name and style for SCDS. The Drama Society has shown itself to possess charisma and talent- in signature pink.

Arts & Culture

There's No Business like Show Business

By Reina Roth

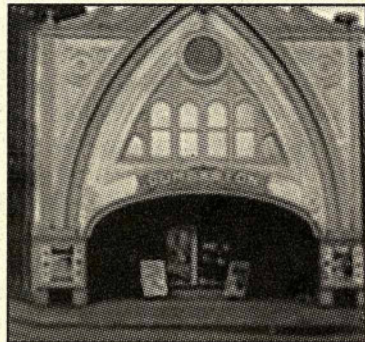
Ever since Jews began immigrating into America, there has been a strong connection between America's entertainment media and the Jewish community. Jewish involvement in entertainment has always been a significant issue of identity and culture. (Case-in-point: Adam Sandler's Hanukkah Song.)

A current exhibit being shown at the Jewish Museum presents a thorough history of Jewish involvement in the entertainment industry through installments. Each installment focuses on different topics such as institutions, works of media and personalities. This exhibit explores the questions of who is Jewish in American show business and whether this industry can be called a "Jewish Empire."

The exhibit doors open into a circular room with a dark red carpet. This room throws the viewer into the Hollywood frame of mind of the proverbial red carpet strewn with star shaped lights shining down. In the background there are voices of Jewish media icons talking about experiences they had within this industry. One voice, for example, discusses the need for Jewish actors to change their name to be in the business. Along the walls there are pictures of people sitting in an audience as if to invite the viewer to come see the show.

Each section of the exhibit presents a different theme, ranging from the Nickelodeon to the Seinfeld. The Jewish involvement in entertainment begins with the Nickelodeon. The Nickelodeon is a theatre that used to cost five-cent admission to see a half hour showing of short moving pictures. On the floor of this section is a map of the Lower East Side nickelodeon cinemas. Although these cinemas were found all over the country, they were a trademark of the Lower East Side. This form of entertainment drew in the immigrant working class; this is why it flourished in that area.

Other sections include "The Story of a Jazz Singer," a famous movie based on a cantor's son who runs away from home to



Nickeloden Studio, featured in the exhibit

become an American entertainer and an installment about the Yiddish entertainment industry, which were mostly Yiddish radio shows that incorporated both English and Yiddish within its humor. There are cases along the side of the room portraying memorabilia from different Jewish celebrities. In each case there is also a description of the actor and his or her contribution as a Jewish entertainer. One example is Marilyn Monroe who converted after she married Arthur Miller. The last part of the exhibit is a room set up like a dinner; this section details the hit sitcom Seinfeld. A television plays a movie called "Nine Jews discussing Seinfeld," in which Jewish people talk about how they relate the Jewish aspects of the show.

Every installment presents further insight about the recent history of the Jewish people within America. Issues such as the blacklisting in the communist era and anti-Semitism are presented in the exhibit, showing that Jewish involvement in this industry has had its downside as well. The Holocaust is also portrayed, as it became a prominent theme in the movies. Newsreels from the camps liberations were shown to give the American people an idea of the atrocities that took place. Today, the Holocaust has become the theme of many historical movies in the entertainment industry.

The format of the exhibit is creative and innovative. Jews in America should find the exhibit both informative and entertaining.

Restaurant Review: Dougie's Dairy

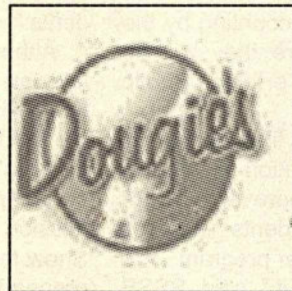
By Devorah Heching

Dougie's has done it again. After moving its popular meat restaurant to larger quarters across the street from its original location at 222 W. 72nd Street, Dougie's Dairy has opened in that location. The renowned Dougie's has surprised New York City by venturing into a whole new genre of cuisine. Dougie's has gone dairy and in doing so, transformed its very atmosphere.

The name Dougie's generally conjures the image of a family-friendly, energetic environment, but this new restaurant, although located in the in the same location as its old fleishig counterpart, has been completely transformed into an upscale eatery replete with dimmed lighting and a soft music backdrop. Visually just about everything has changed. The candlelight lends a warm glow to the dimly lit dining room and the new table settings have an almost Zen-like quality with squared-off plates and other spare geometric patterns all neatly displayed on a white linen tablecloth - definitely not the kind you can color on.

When my group of four was first seated, we were immediately greeted by a friendly waitress dressed in the restaurant's uniform of all black and she presented us with the menu to peruse at our leisure. While there was an elegant - albeit meager- display of sliced rolls laid out on the table, I found myself nostalgic for the spicy taco and salsa appetizer which graces the tables of the fleishig Dougie's. To ward off these unpleasant reflections I quickly began browsing the menu and was pleasantly surprised at the numerous options it afforded, an element that I have found lacking at other upscale dairy restaurants I have frequented in the past. In addition to the ever-present salad and soup options there were many different types of entrées available ranging everywhere from personal pizzas to gourmet wraps. There was even a listing of Lower East Side Favorites like blintzes, pirogens and matzah brei. My table began by ordering an appetizer of Dougie's Nachos - perhaps others were feeling the same nostalgia - described by the menu as being a bowl of nachos "baked with scallions, olives, peppers, tomato salsa and spiced three-cheese sauce". It arrived a short while later, the service being sufficiently prompt, and we were pleasantly surprised to see it satisfied all expectations. It was warm nacho chips cov-

ered in a spicy cheese sauce and, while the presentation was eye-catching, the taste was apparently not compromised as it was consumed in about five minutes flat. The other appetizer we ordered, the Sweet Potato Chips, was received with mixed reactions. What the menu describes as being "fried sweet potatoes, drizzled with



marshmallows and sweet southern dipping sauce" some of us felt actually turned out to be a terra chip substitute squirted with marshmallow fluff and suspiciously lacking the sweet southern dipping sauce.

Luckily, we were then interrupted by the arrival of our meals that

were very artfully arranged on squared-off china plates. The presentation was a combination of design and color that was very arresting and something not usually observed in traditional kosher dairy restaurants - in short, we were very impressed. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed her entree; a surprising hit was the Portobello Apple Wrap, which seemed like a strange grouping, but in fact turned out to be a very complementary food combination. The personal pizzas were also popular especially for those of you who prefer to stick to a more traditional fare.

The entrée portion sizes were generous so we were feeling quite full by the time the dessert menu arrived, but I implore you at this restaurant make sure to leave room for dessert. While my table only sampled the brownies, a relatively traditional choice, they turned out to be amazing - chilled on the outside while still gooey on the inside. I also ordered a Strawberry Shortcake smoothie from the menu's long list of smoothie options and it was delicious. The Apples 'N' Cream a La Mode variety sounded tempting as well.

The new dairy Dougie's offers diners a totally different fare and a whole new experience than the famous fleishig Dougie's we have enjoyed until now. While the atmosphere may not be as energetic, it satisfies what was until now a latent desire for an upscale dairy restaurant with moderate prices and a more polished atmosphere. With plenty of meal options and impeccable presentation, dining at the new dairy Dougie's is an altogether enjoyable experience.

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Sy Syms

SSSB Announces Accounting Graduate Program

By Shifra Landowne

In response to a New York State Board of Education ruling that, starting in September 2004, all accounting majors are required to take 5 years of business education, SSSB is currently planning a BF/MS program in accounting. The program will be fully implemented by 2008.

The Board of Education recently ruled that accounting majors should have 5 years of business education and should accrue 150 credits for their M.S. degree in addition to a B.F. in Accounting by the end of that period before they will be allowed to take the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Exam.

Yeshiva University has filed a program with the Board of Education in Albany, N.Y., and has received approval to award the M.S. degree to students who will complete the new five-year program. "We are very excited about it," said SSSB Dean Charles Snow. "We got the license

approval about a month ago, which means that the State Board of Education recognizes the quality of our program."

Although the prospect of five years may alarm some career-oriented students, this program is actually highly efficient. "Every student who elects to take the accounting major will stay for five years, but this will not change the nature of the Israel program," Dean Snow explained. "For just one extra year here they receive a graduate degree. That's the beauty of the program for our students."

Although the State has granted permission to launch the program at any time, Yeshiva does not plan to implement the graduate studies until 2008. Although Yeshiva has filed proposals that have been approved and therefore has permission to initiate the program, Dean Snow feels that there is "no real rush." In preparation for the program, SSSB will begin developing graduate level courses

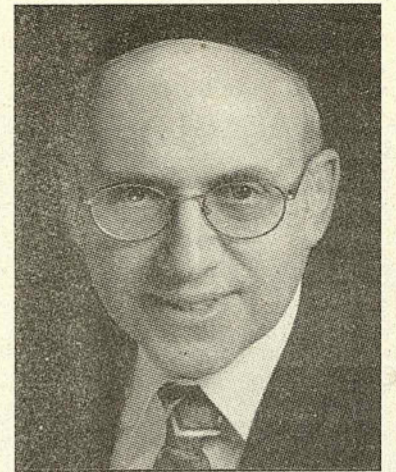
and seeking new potential faculty.

According to Dean Snow, part of the proposal includes hiring one full-time professor and one or two adjunct professors. Professors in graduate school are required to hold a PhD. "This is the first foray of the Sy Syms School into graduate level offerings," he said. "It will be exciting to see where it goes."

The program will be instituted at the same time on both the midtown and Wilf campuses. The same faculty will be employed at both places and the programs will be of equal caliber, Dean Snow assured.

The program is appealing to many students in the business school. "I would definitely love to do this program," said Masha Igel, an SSSB junior majoring in Accounting. "As of now I don't have plans for graduate school, I might go for my M.B.A. but I am not completely sure what I want, and knowing that I could do it through Stern in a five year program

would be so great. I only wish it were starting now."



Dean Snow, shown above, has expressed enthusiasm about the new joint program

Sy Syms To Host Dinner

By Shoshana Weinberg

Sy Syms School of Business will hold their annual dinner this year at the Marriott Marquis on April 8th. The dinner will serve as a networking event for both SSSB and YC students and alumni.

"It's not about fundraising," said Ellie Nyer, SSSB president. "The dinner is to benefit the students and serve as a tool for public relations." Subsidized largely by the student council, the covert for current students is \$30 and \$65 for alumni.

This year's dinner will be the first awards dinner for many current students. According to Nyer, there were "funding issues" that prevented SSSB from having a successful dinner in the past few years. However, to ensure that this year's dinner would take place, SSSBSC has dedicated itself to amassing funds in order to avoid such a problem.

"None of the current students have ever even been to a SSSB dinner," said Eli Renov, the dinner chairman and an SSSB junior. "But we were committed to making one, so we fundraised tremendously."

In keeping with the dinner's purpose, this year's honorees, Ms. Zahavit Lazar, SSSB '95, and Mr. Ezra Lightman, SSSB '95, were chosen because they are role models for the students, rather than for their potential spending power, influence, or for their ability to bring guests. The honorees will receive plaques at the dinner as tributes to their contribution to Yeshiva and to the business world. In addition to Lazar and Lightman, awards will be presented to students for entrepreneurial marketing.

The honorees, recommended by

SSSB Dean Charles Snow, are held in high esteem by the dinner's planners. "Dean Snow says they're excellent people, and when Dean Snow says something, you know you can trust him one hundred percent," said Renov.

The honorees were chosen based on several criteria. "What we were looking for was two alumni who were out of the school a few years and who have been making somewhat of a mark for themselves in the professional world and representing the ideals of what the university stands for, Torah U'Maddah," said Dean Snow. "Clearly by what they have done so far they show the right balance of professional pursuit and personal lives which encompasses family and mesorah. That's the ideal role model for our students."

The students echoed Dean Snow's requirements for honorees. "We wanted to pick honorees that haven't been out of school 15 years," said Renov. "They were successful when they were in YU but now they are out a few years and they show that they can do it. Ezra just got a managerial position at Jeffries and Company and Zahavit is working for Deloitte and Touche, one of the big four accounting firms. We just want to say that we recognize what they are doing."

For Sy Syms students, the dinner is an exciting prospect, one that was heretofore available to them. "I think the dinner will be a unique experience for students and alumni and give us a preview of the professional and business world," said Daniella Halstuch, an SSSB junior. "It's exciting because I've never been to a dinner like this before and I'm really looking forward to it. I think school dinners are important to the overall experience of college."

MESSAGE FROM SSSB PRESIDENT Ellie Nyer



Public speaking. This is the most dreaded phrase to a student. Most students here at Sy Syms and Stern College are afraid of public speaking. At first, you are nervous and terrified.

The thought of getting up in front of many people is frightening and traumatic. You experience sweaty palms, dry mouth and shaking. Performing in front of the mirror is one thing, but in front of a number of fellow students, a sea full of strangers or at a simcha is paralyzing to many.

Speech 1010, otherwise known as Speech Communication, is a required class at the Midtown Campus. It does not matter if you are in Syms or not, you will eventually have to take this class. I am currently taking it. The class consists of a mixture of Syms and non-Syms students. In the beginning of the semester I noticed that my class on the whole is afraid of public speaking. I realized that overall there is no difference between a business student and a liberal arts student in regard to their attitude toward the class. Everyone despises the thought of speaking in front of others, even fellow students. Personally, I think the class is very helpful. It gives the students a chance to practice public speaking through various forms and methods of speaking. For instance, one can speak from the podium, through PowerPoint presentations or just by standing freely.

Public Speaking is one of the most important and attractive qualities an employee can have. One who is able to deliver a thought, presentation, or proposal clearly, chronologically and coherently will "move up the corporate ladder." Therefore, it should be especially noted that it is extremely useful for a business student to master the art of public speaking. Whether you are spontaneously called upon to voice an opinion in a meeting or you have made a presentation for your colleagues, the ability to be a great public speaker is what may differentiate you from your peers. It is an asset that all business students as well as liberal arts students will benefit from learning.

With this in mind, I encourage, both in Sy Syms and Stern College to be eager to take Speech 1010. Do not look at it mere-

ly as a required class, view it as a tool that can only help you. Remember that you are speaking before fellow students and not a sea full of strangers, this should be a comforting thought. So register for speech class and learn a skill that will give you an advantage in the job market.

Please don't forget about our upcoming events:

* The SSSB and SCW Fashion Show is this Wednesday night, April 2nd. It will be held in the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Arts Center. Doors open at 7pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. Women only are welcome and it is FREE of charge. Feel free to bring your family members and friends from other schools. The show will be featuring some Stern graduates who are now designing their own lines as well as many other designers. The lines that are shown are all modest and are in stores now. Accessories as well as hats and belts will also go down the runway displayed on models. Kaituz makeup artists will be making up the models and there showing their new line of makeup as well as selling their new line of Pesach and Shabbos makeup after the show. Most of the clothing samples will be available for sale after the show so bring your checkbooks and cash. If anyone is interested in modeling for the fashion please contact Becca Glass at (917) 699-1335 or Sara Berman at (732) 754-7006. Model "try-on's" will be held at the Cultural Arts Center Monday and Tuesday nights prior to the show. If you are interested in trying samples on to see if they fit, feel free to join us. We are looking for models sizes 2-16, so everyone is encouraged to come and try on a few samples and become an official Stern Model.

* The Sy Syms School of Business Dinner will take place on Tuesday night April 8th at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel on 46th Street & Broadway. Cocktails will be served at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. There are still availabilities for the dinner so if you are interested please contact the Syms office at (212) 960-0845 or any student council representatives. We welcome SSSB, SCW, and YU students. The dinner is honoring two Syms alumni from the class of 1995 and it features representatives from many firms who are in good standing with the school. It is a great opportunity for you to network with representatives and get your "foot-in-the-door." I hope to see you all there and I encourage you to attend.

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S y S y m s

Two Students Accused of Cheating Face Investigation

By Caryn Litt

In the first incident of its kind this year on the midtown campus, two students were accused by fellow classmates of cheating on a fall semester marketing final. The two students are currently under investigation and a final decision regarding their fate is expected within weeks.

The SSSB administration was alerted to the alleged cheating when two students handed in their finals for a Sales Promotion course without having signed the honor code. The code, which was implemented for spring 2002 finals last year, includes statements that the student herself did not cheat and that she did not see anyone else in the class cheating.

After winter break, SSSB associate dean Ira Jaskoll contacted the students who had not signed the honor code, and they informed him that they had, in fact, observed cheating during the exam. The students were asked to describe what they saw and provide the names of the students they claimed they saw cheating. The students alleged that they saw three students giving each other answers to multiple-choice questions and working together on an essay question, although they could only identify two of the students.

Jaskoll also conducted interviews with the accused students, who were assigned Incompletes on their transcripts, have maintained their innocence.

Jaskoll has since prepared a report based on his interviews and delivered it

to Dean Charles Snow, along with his recommendations, and Snow is now in the process of conducting his own interviews.

"We've proceeded slowly and methodically to protect the identity of everyone," said Snow.

In addition to interviewing the students, SSSB has asked the professor of the course, Professor Deborah Cohn, for her cooperation. Cohn has handed over copies of the completed tests and the students' grades for the semester and has answered a few questions, Cohn said.

"I don't know whether there was cheating or not, but it would be very disappointing to me if there was," said Cohn. "I feel personally offended by cheating — students come to class, interact with me, ask me for recommendations. It's disrespectful to me and to the other students."

Cohn herself was not present at the final exam, which was overseen by a proctor.

The administration has also sought legal counsel to ensure that the students' rights are not being violated and that they are receiving due process, said Snow.

After Snow finishes conducting the interviews, he will meet one final time with Jaskoll and legal counsel before making a decision. If the students are found guilty, the final punitive decision will be made by Snow.

"There are a lot of factors that go into what the response should be," said Snow. "It depends on how egregious the cheating was—what fashion and form it

was in, what prior warnings there were."

The standard punishment for cheating ranges from receiving a failing grade in the course to expulsion from the school. Dean Snow is confident that, if the students are found to be guilty of cheating, a fair punishment will be determined.

"We're not here to punish people," said Snow. "We're here to provide a lesson of educational value to students so hopefully as they go on in life they will understand better what's appropriate behavior in business and even non-business affairs, as well."

SSSB does not have a committee that investigates cheating episodes or decides punishments. If the students are found guilty and given punishments they feel are unfair, their recourse will be to challenge the decision in the Academic Standards Committee.

When the students were first notified of the accusation against them, they did approach SSSBSC president Ellie Nyer to assist them by speaking on their behalf. Nyer spoke with Snow, who informed her that the administration was conducting an independent investigation and was not in need of her involvement.

"As student council president, I stand as a student advocate, and when I was approached, I got involved to help ease the process," said Nyer.

This case is the first time the new honor code has been used to discover and investigate alleged cheaters. There was a cheating incident last year, said Snow, but in that case the student was caught with a crib sheet, making the testimony of other students unnecessary. In

that case, the student received a failing grade in the course.

"It's too early to say how effective the honor code will be," said Snow. "Even if someone sees cheating, it's not certain that she will not sign the code."

Snow also noted that the process of investigation is much more complex since it must be determined whether the student making the accusation actually saw what she claims to have seen.

The administration and faculty are already planning ways to avoid cheating in the spring 2003 final exams. SSSB will use larger rooms, so students will be sitting farther apart from one another, and will provide more proctors to discourage cheating. Snow issued a memo to all SSSB faculty in February, before midterms, warning the professors to be vigilant and promising to hold the professors responsible if the academic integrity of the examinations were not upheld.

While some see this latest incident as indicative of a "cheating epidemic" in SSSB, according to Snow cheating is not a major problem at either campus. Snow noted that any cheating incidents over the past few years have been isolated, and he estimated that there are 15-20 students, out of 700, who cheat.

"If I knew who those 15-20 students were, I would expel them today," said Snow. "We see the value in aggressively pursuing such individuals. We're committed to having an environment where there is no cheating."

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Sports

Basketball Intramurals Continue with Small But Determined Group

By Shoshana Herman

It's that time of year again. It's March Madness and although SCW isn't involved in the real hype, SCW Basketball intramurals normally have a tournament hype of their own at this point. This year, however, things seem to be a little less organized. It is common that not all the students who sign up for intramurals will show up, but when intramurals began in September with an average of eight students per team, the coaches should have been worrying about their own final four - the final four players who would show up consistently.

Students initially sign up for intramurals rather than join the Lady Macs for a variety of reasons, ranging from difficulties with time commitment to religious issues with league uniform policy. As the season goes on however, students get busier and less enthusiastic about playing. "The first rule of intramurals is that if you want to join it's a commitment for every week," says Bersson. "Unfortunately, people forget that rule so the captains have to find someone to substitute." Oftentimes, students who show up for the first game end up playing the second game also.

Unlike other years, there was no set schedule planned out at the beginning of the year. Every Tuesday morning, head coach, SCW senior Yonina Bersson makes her rounds hanging up signs around the SCW building at 245 Lexington, notifying the players of that night's games. In addition, each of the four team's coaches, Bersson, SCW senior Jill Siegel and SCW juniors Sefi Kraut and Dina Lichtenstein e-mail their respective players telling them details about the upcoming game. The teams meet every Tuesday night and play one shift from 8:40 until 9:40 and one from 9:40 until 10:40.

Though there is no standard regarding

the formality of intramurals, this year it has evolved into something even less formal than it has been in previous years. For over 20 years, there have been official scores and records kept. Teams have traditionally been given their own colored t-shirts and awards were given to star players. This year, there are no t-shirts and no tournaments as of yet. In another deviation from the norm, the rule of backcourt was abolished this year, since the court is less than half regulation size and players were misjudging the distances between spaces, often injuring themselves and others as well. The lack of formality may be a reason that students who sign up do not feel obligated to show up at games.

Bersson claims that the games do get intense at times. The coaches are also in the midst of planning a 3-on-3 tournament that will take place some time in the near future. They are trying hard to revive the appeal of intramurals at SCW.

Last year Bersson was appointed as head coach by former-head coach, SSSB senior Hope Abraham. This past September, Bersson appointed Kraut, Siegel and Lichtenstein to coach the other three teams. The first session was played in order to assess people's talents and divide the teams fairly, but it wasn't until about two months ago that they were finally able to work out the teams so that there wasn't one constant underdog.

Despite the lack of commitment displayed by some players, many do come on a weekly basis. "It's kind of like survival of the fittest," says SCW junior Emily Turetsky, an intramural regular. "The girls that ended up showing up every week are the more competitive ones." Kraut agrees, stating that intramurals are "a perfect balance between competitive and fun." And it comes in handy that the court is undersized, a full court four-on-four is not nearly as strenuous.

Students Find Lifeguarding a Useful Skill

By Shoshana Herman

Rivka Gerber represents a common trend among SCW students in the choice of her extracurricular involvement in sports. Like many students, she is learning to become a lifeguard in a course that she takes every Thursday night. According to Gerber, it is important for Jewish women to learn lifeguarding because many Jews spend their summers either in bungalow colonies or vacationing by sunny beaches with separate swimming facilities. In fact, a mishna at the end of Gemara Kidushin states that it is a requirement for a father to teach his child to swim in accordance with the commandment that one must guard his body.

Gerber, a junior at SCW, began taking her course at the Boro Park Y in early March. The course consists of roughly ten two hour classes. In order to become certified, one must be certified in CPR and first aid as well as master swimming and rescuing techniques. A person must also be physically fit and in good health.

"Lifeguarding pays well and is very rewarding," says Esther Shoshani, a SCW sophomore who became a certified lifeguard when she was fifteen. "But at the same time there are risks," she adds. Shoshani says that although it may seem like all fun in the sun, a lifeguard really must be on constant alert. Surprisingly, many mothers think that a lifeguard's eyes can be everywhere.

Shoshani recalls a situation when a mother had her back to her two-year-old daughter who was playing in the kiddie pool at the Bungalow colony where she worked. The mother was busy talking to all her friends and did not realize that her two-year-old child had begun to drown. Esther reacted quickly and pulled the child from the water. When talking to the

mother later that day, she told her that it wasn't the first time that her this happened to her daughter.

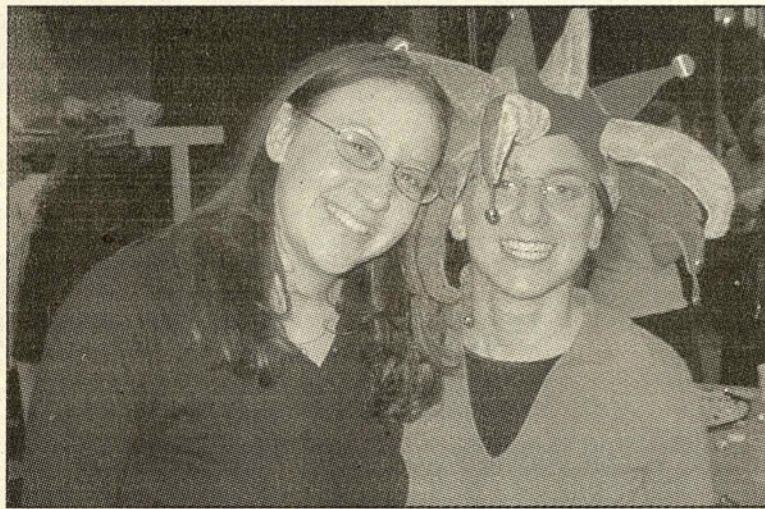
In order to become certified, a person must also display knowledge of poolside equipment. A properly equipped pool has a spinal board, a lifeguard tube, a pocket face mask for sanitary reasons, and a complete first aid kit containing gauze pads, bandages, and rubber gloves. Aluminum blankets trap in heat when a victim goes into shock.

Lifeguarding goes deeper than just water though. Lifeguards must be able to differentiate between assorted medical conditions and injuries and treat them accordingly. The one catch about lifeguarding is that one must renew her certification every three years, and her CPR and first aid every year.

"Many people carry around their CPR masks for emergencies even if they're not working as a lifeguard," notes Shoshani. Shoshani is now studying for WSI certification, or head lifeguard. This certification will allow her to instruct both children and adults on how to improve their strokes. Many pools require WSI certification from their lifeguards. WSI courses teach Olympic swimming strokes on top of the basics. Lifeguards who are WSI certified also have the option of practicing swim therapy with disabled people. This is very therapeutic and helps align their spine.

The summer is just around the corner and with its approach many day camps and bungalow colonies are looking for certified lifeguards. With the seemingly increasing interest in becoming certified, it should not be as big of a challenge as it once was to find certified women. "It's just too bad that SCW doesn't have a lifeguard certification program," says sophomore Ellie Berkower. "More students would be aware of its importance."

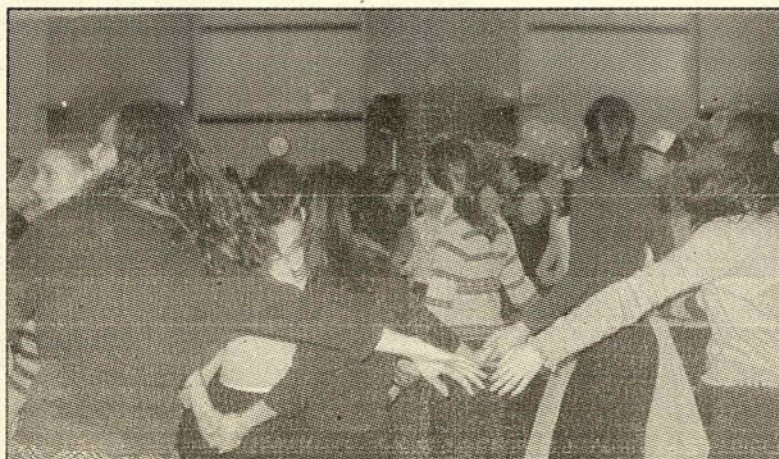
Purim 2003



Racheli Rubin and jester friend smile for the camera



From left, Elysia Rothenberg, Ally Lederer and Susanne Goldstone, at Weissberg Commons



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On Campus

Honors Program To Accept Current Students

Some Confusion Regarding Who is Eligible

By Devorah Stein

The S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at SCW is accepting applications from current students. While most candidates are accepted to the program before arriving at SCW, the opportunity is being extended to on-campus students as well.

Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, director of the program, explained that there are some students in SCW who are very talented but for an assortment of reasons did not enter the program when they started college. "For example," she remarked, "they might not have known about the program or might not have been strong high school students." These students can fill out special applications that are due in April.

Although current students are welcome to apply to the program, students must be in the program for four semesters, automatically excluding juniors and seniors. Dr. Wachtell strongly suggests that qualified students consider application even after

enrollment at SCW.

"Some people didn't have confidence in their prior performance, or they simply didn't know about the program. They should still have the opportunity. I hope that women will take advantage of the second chance being offered."

Recently, some confusion about the admission qualifications has sprung up on campus, specifically regarding the SAT qualifications. Some students have been under the false impression that no score under 1400 will be considered for application to the honors program, causing considerable hesitation in applying. The reason for this confusion has been that the application for both the honors program and the academic scholarships are the same, and while a score of 1300 is recommended for Honors Program applicants, a score of 1400 is required to be considered for academic scholarships.

To be considered for admittance to the program, a candidate must fulfill the usual requirements for admission

to SCW, complete a special application, submit two essays and two nominations, and have an interview. The essays are assessed for their content, the writing skills that the student exhibits as well as the world-view that they present. The program does not officially allow students to defer their acceptance, so high school seniors who plan on spending a year in Israel are advised to wait to apply until the semester before they plan on entering SCW.

The application and interview is not only for the honors program but for academic scholarships as well.

Students who are awarded the top academic scholarships are automatically admitted to the honors program.

Dr. Wachtell commented that the program is "quite competitive but also self-selected because people don't apply unless they envision themselves entering the program." She said that the applicants are usually very strong and she rarely encounters an application that she can immediately recognize as a definitive rejection.

Yeshiva Remembers the Rav

continued from page 1

involved in communal work and what the halakhic status of prayer is.

After explaining the Rav's philosophy on tefillah, Rabbi Lamm chose to disagree with the Rav's interpretation. "To disagree with the Rav is the best way to pay tribute to him," he said. "The Rav would always say 'I want talmidim, not hasidim.'"

Also addressing the audience was Rabbi Aharon Lichtenstein. He delivered a simulcast lecture from Jerusalem's Gruss Institute and was able to participate in a video conference with other YU Roshei Yeshiva.

Most in attendance were rabbis; however there were also approximately 200 students who joined to pay tribute to the Rav. Although nearly all lectures of this kind are given in Belfer, due to the unusually large audience expected for the event, its coordinators planned appropriately, estimating

an assembly of about 500 people.

In addition, Dr. Lamm's shiur was broadcast on web cast from www.yu.edu/riets.

Delivering a different lecture every weeknight at the Wilf campus, the speakers are various Roshei Yeshiva, most notably Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Zevulun Charlop and Rabbi Hershel Schachter. Rabbi Lamm addressed the midtown campus on March 26th, and Rabbi Moshe Lichtenstein, Rabbi Yaakov Neuberger and Dr. David Shatz will be delivering lectures on the midtown campus, as well. All of the lectures are open to the public.

The Rav succeeded his father, Rabbi Moshe Soloveitchik, as Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS in 1941, and retained the post until his health began to fail in 1985. Born in 1903 in Belarus, Russia into an illustrious family of Talmudic schol-

ars, the Rav adopted the analytical method of study of Rabbi Hayyim of Brisk, combined with a focus on Maimonides' philosophical presentation of Jewish religious law. Earning a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Berlin in 1931, the Rav later settled in Boston in 1932, becoming the Chief Rabbi of Boston, where he lived until 1993. In 1937, he founded the Maimonides School in Boston.

The Rav influenced thousands as Rosh Yeshiva of RIETS and in the leadership roles he held in the Religious Zionists of America and the Rabbinical Council of America.

Additional organizations are planning events including the Soloveitchik Institute in Boston, AMIT magazine, the OU and the RCA surpassing past commemorative events for the Rav and perhaps for any other Orthodox leader of American Jewry.

Kanarfogel To Split Time Between Penn and SCW

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Rabbi Mordechai Cohen and Dr. Haym Soloveitchik.

Many scholars Rabbi Kanarfogel has worked with in the past are in enamored in his ability to teach his research findings to his students. Because students at SCW have a high level of Jewish education they are able to study more advanced text than an average college student. This too, lends prestige to SCW, a hope of Rabbi Kanarfogel. "What they do in their deep research they can't teach," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "The students just don't have the background."

However, despite the excitement, Rabbi Kanarfogel faced obstacles in being able to accept the position. As chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies, a position he has held since 1984, Rabbi Kanarfogel has a long list of responsibilities including overseeing the activities and development of more than 45 full-time and part-time faculty as well as the 85 courses per semester offered to the students of both SCW and SSSB. All this is in addition to the three courses per semester Rabbi Kanarfogel teaches himself in the fields of Jewish history and

rabbinic literature. In fact, due to his long list of responsibilities Rabbi Kanarfogel stepped down from his pulpit position in Teaneck, NJ a few years ago.

Currently, Rabbi Kanarfogel is available at SCW on Monday, Wednesday, and part of the Thursday each week. He works on research for his third book, which is on the Intellectual History of Medieval Ashkenazic Jewry, during his remaining free time.

The fear of Rabbi Kanarfogel being spread too thin was a threat to his ability to accept the position at the University of Pennsylvania. However, because of their strong desire for Rabbi Kanarfogel to take part in their fellowship they worked closely with him to allow him to remain at SCW. "I don't know that they've ever done anything like this before," said Rabbi Kanarfogel.

The University of Pennsylvania, having courted Rabbi Kanarfogel intensely, will be viewing him as the "anchor of their medievalist group."

"They were very solicitous," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "They wanted me to come but they also wanted me to be able to keep doing what I'm doing so we worked out what I think is a wonderful

arrangement."

Because of the importance of his position at SCW, Rabbi Kanarfogel has worked out a schedule that will not differ greatly from his current one. "Nothing is going to have to give," says Rabbi Kanarfogel. "The only thing that will give is my time." Rabbi Kanarfogel will continue to be in SCW on Mondays and Wednesdays. The remaining days, currently used for research, will be used for his participation in the fellowship.

Additionally, the University of Pennsylvania has allowed for Rabbi Kanarfogel to remain in SCW for the full week during the periods of time throughout the year when the administrative duties are most heavy. Dean Orlian and the academic advisors will help to fill in gaps that may be left by Rabbi Kanarfogel's absence. However, as Rabbi Kanarfogel stressed "I'm never more than a day away." The University of Pennsylvania will also provide an office for Rabbi Kanarfogel so that he can stay in constant contact with his office at SCW, either through e-mail or his cell phone.

It is not only the University of Pennsylvania who is excited for Rabbi

Endthemadness Expands Activities

Event to Be Held at SCW

By Observer Staff

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to the dating symposium run by EndtheMadness.org, the organization has decided to expand its activities. In the current dating crisis that has been sweeping through the religious world, EndtheMadness is attempting to spread their message to Jewish communities throughout the country.

On March 29th, Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald and Hilly Gross will be discussing EndtheMadness and problems facing Jewish singles on their radio program, NJOP. The program will air on 620AM in the NYC area and will be broadcast from 10 to 11pm. Rabbi Allen Schwartz of Congregation Oheb Zedek will be joining the program. Rabbi Schwartz was on the panel at the first EndtheMadness dating symposium that took place on the Wilf campus.

In addition to their exposure on radio, EndtheMadness will be holding an event on the SCW campus. They are currently working with Sharon Weiss, president of SCWSC, to arrange the program. "It's a new idea," said Weiss when speaking of the importance of attending such a program. "We keep talking about all these problems and here's someone who is finally doing something about it." Set for April 7th, the event is expected to take place in the Schottenstein Cultural Center.

Rabbi Shlomo Hochberg, the mashgiach ruchani of SCW, is expected to speak about the current dating crisis. Rivka Blau is also expected to discuss the current social practices regarding dating in comparison to the way dating used to take place. She will explain how changes in the dating process have effected the Jewish community. Additionally, Chani Braun, a single woman who has experienced great turmoil over the dating process including having experienced two broken engagements, is expected to speak on having a positive attitude in the face of adversity.

Chananya Weissman, founder of EndtheMadness, is hoping that this next event at SCW will help to continue to spread the message of EndtheMadness as well as encourage more people to get involved. "I'm trying to get people to branch off," said Weissman. "I want to expand to having programs in Riverdale, Teaneck and spread the message throughout the Jewish community."

Kanarfogel to take part in the fellowship. Both Dean Karen Bacon and Dr. Mort Lowengrub have helped Rabbi Kanarfogel to arrange his schedule in order to allow him to remain at SCW while at the same time be a part of the fellowship. "There is recognition that this can only increase our stature," said Rabbi Kanarfogel. "That's why, arduous or not, I'm very pleased to do this."

Besides the prestige the fellowship will bring to SCW, Dean Bacon is thrilled at the opportunity presented to Rabbi Kanarfogel. "I think this is one more step in Dr. Kanarfogel's growth as an international scholar who is sought by University's throughout the countries to enrich their programs," she said. "We are very fortunate this is his home." Dean Bacon also stressed that students should view Rabbi Kanarfogel's energy and passion for his studies as an example and should learn from his drive and ambition. "I have watched Dr. Kanarfogel over the years and if anything he has more energy than before and I have seen him do wonderful things," she added.

Hopefully, this fellowship will do wonderful things for Rabbi Kanarfogel and SCW despite the fears involved. "I'm

ON CAMPUS

Financial Aid Office Revamps Under New Leadership

By Alisa Rose

With soaring tuition charges, the Office of Student Finance has the difficult task of both ensuring that students can afford to make those payments by putting together financial aid packets and that students pay their tuition on time. In the past, the office has been notorious for poor communication with parents and students. But with the recent promotion of Lori Farior as director of the office, after Jean Belmont retired several weeks ago, some of these issues are beginning to be addressed.

"I know there have been complaints about certain issues in the past, and I want to address them," said Farior, who has been working at Yeshiva since 1998.

Farior's promotion coincides with a desire to restructure the office. "There have been some changes but there need to be more," said director of enrollment, John Fisher, who oversees the financial aid division of the Office of Student Finance. "We have to take a look at the entire department and refocus our mission and our goals."

Farior accounts for the accusations of financial officials being unhelpful by explaining the makeup of the office. The Office of Student Finance is made up of two sub-offices, the office of financial aid and the office of student billing. "You might be asking the wrong person," she said. But Farior does not dismiss these student concerns. "My door is always open to students," she said. "If a student has a problem, she should come talk to me."

The problem of poor communication has also been reflected in mailings of billing statements. One SCW student, Rachel Shtern, said that in the past she has received several bills, each detailing a different payment amount. "There's a huge lack of communication, and when there is communication, it's usually wrong," said the SCW senior. In addition, some students never even see their bills because they are sent to their homes. However, since the Office of Student Finance receives all of its mailing addresses from the Registrar's office, Farior urged students to file a change of address form with that office if they would like their bills to be delivered



Lori Farior is the new director of the Office of Student Finance

to their dorm addresses.

Farior also brings with her an understanding of the midtown campus, as one of the financial aid workers who frequently worked out of the SCW office. "One of my primary goals is to make it open full-time," said Farior, who expressed disappointment that she will no longer work out of the office. "There should be someone there all the time."

Both Farior and Fisher highlighted the recent introduction of the Banner Web System as key in the office's ability to serve the students better. "It will enable us to communicate much better with students," Farior noted. Currently, students can access their financial aid information online. By July 1, 2003, Farior hopes to post billing statements online, and eventually enable students to pay their bills online by credit card.

"I think the website will help us become much more effective," Farior said.

Fisher would also like to expand the focus of the office to work more closely with the Office of Admissions in assisting prospective YU students. "We have to work with families while their kids are still in high school," Fisher asserted. "An appropriate candidate for Yeshiva shouldn't be turned away because he can't pay for it."

Fisher maintained that the office must come up with "innovative and creative ways" to make YU affordable when putting together financial aid packages, which consists of grants, academic scholarships, and loans. In addition, after months of intense lobbying, YU officials have procured more federal money to go toward work-study. Fisher is now

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SCW Gets Prepared

School Forms Safety Committee, Stores Provisions In Case of Terrorist Attack

By Rebecca Rosenberg

In the first week of March, Dean Karen Bacon initiated the establishment of a safety committee to address the weaknesses of Yeshiva's procedures for handling emergencies on the midtown campus. The five faculty member committee met for the first time on March 12th.

"It was formed based on the events of September 11th where we saw gaps in our preparedness," said Dr. Marcel Perlman, SCW psychology professor and expected chair of the new committee. He headed an ad hoc committee set up directly following the terrorist attacks last year. After the members completed a report that identified ways to strengthen the university's handling of crises, his committee dissolved.

It was apparent that SCW was unequipped to handle the crisis situation of September 11th. "We were unprepared along with the whole city, but considering the circumstance we did fine," said Dean Bacon. Similar to many businesses and academic institutions, Dean Bacon explained that SCW was ready for a fire and evacuation but not for a terrorist attack.

The primary objective of the safety committee will be to actualize the ad hoc committee's suggestions. One of its suggestions was that the loud speakers be reactivated in the classrooms so that the administration will be able to communicate with students and faculty in the 245 and 215 Lexington Ave. buildings all at once. According to Dean Bacon, during last year's attacks there was not an effective mode of communication between administration and the classrooms or buildings. "There was no one to tell everyone in the building what was going on and how to handle it," she explained. "We were getting faxes and pasting them onto the doors." As a result, there was a lot of confusion about whether classes were supposed to resume or be dismissed.

"This is all about communication," said Dean Bacon. This is precisely the reason that she selected faculty to serve on the committee. She would like to facilitate communication between faculty, students, and administration in the event of a crisis. "I want the faculty to have a leadership role because the faculty are in command of their rooms, they're our first line of organization," she explained.

Dean Bacon decided to resurrect the committee after a year because the prospect of war pushed certain concerns to the forefront, such as the possibility of renewed terrorist attacks and chemical warfare. "We got lulled into moving on with our lives instead of addressing the problem," she explained.

Perlman shares Dean Bacon's concerns. "We'd like the meetings to address what to do if poison gas was in the building," Perlman said. Yeshiva has been working on equipping itself to deal with the possibility of war and terror attacks on New York by organizing teams of security personnel trained as first-responders in a crisis situation. The university has also purchased supplies, such as cases of water and plastic for covering windows, in case of emergency, which it is storing in various locations on both campuses.

The safety committee plans to work with facilities management and security to open a line of communication among Yeshiva employees to address concerns and consider suggestions. The committee would like two students to participate to give the student body a voice. Currently, the committee consists of Perlman, physics professor Dr. Anatoly Frankel, biology professor Dr. Harvey Babich, and economics professor Dr. Dennis Hoover. "I want people to know there is a system in place that works," Dean Bacon says of the committee's ultimate goal.

In addition, the chaos and tragedy of September 11th precipitated a stronger need for student counseling services. The safety committee would like the student body to be aware of services such as psychological counseling available both within Student Services and by referral to qualified professionals off campus.



Security has been heightened since the war against Iraq began

Schottenstein Residence Hall Slated for Summer Housing

By Rachel Horn

After three years of existence in Independent Housing, this year June housing program will almost certainly be moved to Schottenstein Residence Hall.

Several factors led to a joint effort by Facilities, Residence Life and the Student Life Committee to consider the move. First, the number of students requesting the service has grown. "The number of applicants more than doubled each year," said Residence Supervisor Rachel Kraut.

Fourteen students took advantage of the option when SCW offered June housing for the first time in Lexington Plaza. Last summer, SCW housed about 90 students in both Lexington Plaza and Windsor Court Apartments. This summer, the amount of students expected to request housing for June calls for a larger housing facility.

In previous summers, groups with

uncommon interests were clustered together in large apartments. "Students had serious disagreements with each other," said David Himer, Dean of Students. Residence Life received negative feedback from last year's participants. "There were up to seven strangers in an apartment filled to capacity," said Kraut. "When you live with a complete stranger, your patience is shorter and you are less willing to compromise. There were arguments, roommates would wake each other up or religiously they didn't match."

Additionally, it was tedious for Residence Life to oversee groups of students moving in and out. "It will be easier to sort the housing in Schottenstein," said Student Life Committee co-chair Rachel Shtern.

The Department of Facilities decided to entertain the Schottenstein proposal in efforts to avert this problem. Each student would have her own room. "Every

person will have space to study and set up," said Kraut.

In addition, SRH offers features that IHP lacks including Internet access, a gym and full-time security.

The proposal was brought before the Student Life Committee at their March 14 meeting. "The overall consensus was that is a very good idea," said Shtern. SCW President Sharon Weiss concurred. "Once we were told the pros and cons, we thought Schottenstein was the better option," she said.

The chief objection raised was the lack of cooking facilities available in SRH rooms. "The cafeteria is closed, leaving the students on their own for meals," said Shtern. One solution being considered is opening Milner's Food Mart for the month of June.

A cost analysis conducted by Facilities is in its final stages now, said Himer. This study will determine whether housing in SRH will be more expensive than

housing in IHP. "As soon as we know this information, we will determine the location," he asserted.

Although the majority of internships and summer classes span throughout the summer months, SCW only offers housing in June. Housing in July and August cannot be made possible, according to Kraut. Resident Assistants return to the campus in late August and Facilities needs the interim six weeks to prepare the dormitories for the coming year.

To be eligible for summer housing, students must be enrolled as fulltime undergraduate students at the Midtown Campus. Applicants must plan to take YU summer classes, classes at the FIT Joint Program or work at an accredited internship.

It has not yet been decided whether payment will be required of students. In the past, June housing has been free of charge.