

The Observant

Growing frummer all the time

But They're Not Rabbis "Shabbos Rabbis" Really Only Accountants

By Deloitte & Douche

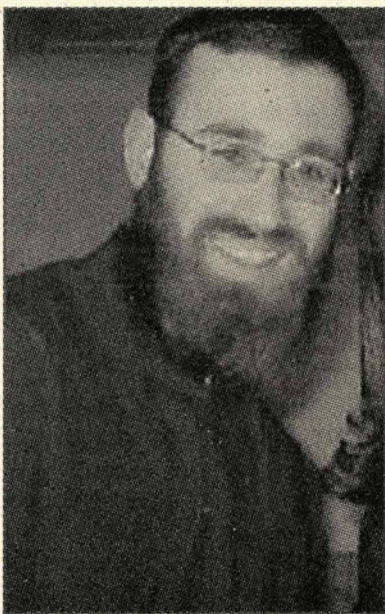
SCW students were shocked at the recent discovery that the two so-called "Shabbos Rabbis" on the midtown campus are not, in actuality, rabbis. Neither Rabbi Micah Gimpel nor Rabbi Shaya Shtern has received rabbinic ordination from any source recognized by Yeshiva or otherwise. In fact, both alleged rabbis are merely accountants.

When the startling information came to light, students hastily composed a petition. Since the petition failed to produce any results, they attempted to organize an emergency *tehillim* rally. "How can it be that they accepted someone who is not a rabbi to fill this role?" asked one concerned student. "After all, the position of Shabbos Rabbi on campus has traditionally been held by a suitable candidate who was both qualified for the job and was a recognized scholar with ordination.

"Faculty members, including the heads of the SCW Judaic Studies Department announced their disapproval of the choice of Rabbis, which came following an exhaustive search of a myriad of candidates this summer. They led a gathering of some 300 students in an

emotional recitation of Psalms on the sidewalk outside 245 Lexington Avenue. "We were not protesting the rabbis themselves, per se," explained one faculty member involved. "We are merely praying for the future of SCW's soul."

Students and faculty alike are concerned about the adverse affects this might have on the SCW campus's Shabbat atmosphere. "It's the slippery slope to secularization," one Observer editor-in-chief vociferously



"Rabbi" Shaya Shtern

erously exclaimed. "Next thing you know, there will be pluralism on campus, and accountants will be accepted as mainstream Jews. Heaven forefend!"

The heads of the Judaic Studies Department at SCW feel that rabbinic ordination is crucial for the Shabbat Rabbi. "How can anyone without rabbinic ordination sit at the helm of such an institution?" asked one SCW senior. Students are concerned that only a scholar would be qualified to fulfill the duties involved in running the Shabbat programming on campus, such as waking up the visiting YC students for minyan, and reminding students to clean up after the Oneg Shabboses in the dormitories.

The discovery of the lack of qualification of the Shabbat "Rabbis" was only made recently, after seven months of employment. The administration attributes this oversight to the fact that no Yeshiva official has spent Shabbos on campus in the past ten years.

On the bright side, students hope that the accounting skills of the current "rabbis" will help reduce cafeteria expenses, as well as raise the wages of student employees of Yeshiva to more than young children earn making shoes in third-world countries.

SCW Board Votes to Split from Yeshiva

By Ronald P. Stanton

In response to 50 years of salutary neglect by Yeshiva, Stern College for Women officials have announced that the college will be splitting from Yeshiva University.

"We want to reward the tenacious efforts of our bright young women who can and will go on to serve as true Torah U'madda representatives in their future communities," Dean Karen Bacon said, explaining the motivation behind the move. "Frankly, I think Yeshiva is stunting our growth potential."

The announcement came after the SCW board voted unanimously to split from Yeshiva.

Top Yeshiva administrators were startled by the announcement. "We have a women's college as well? Where?" asked Dean of Students Efreim Nulman.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, who said he was aware of the women's school existence, was disappointed about the split. "I'll really miss addressing the SCW student body once a year when cataclysmic events encompassing the entire nation take place," Rabbi Lamm said from his office on the Wilf campus.

According to Yeshiva insiders, the split was motivated by the appointment of Richard Joel as president of the institution. "Joel simply did not have the qualifications we were looking for," said one SCW official. "He was male."

As a result of the split, an ad hoc search committee is meeting to discuss candidates for the presidency of Stern College. "Finding a president should be a piece of cake," noted one board member hopefully. "We have a number of options under consideration. We are just looking for ways to malign them and

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Student Leaders' Dress Code Letter Deemed 'Extremely Effective'

By Karen Bacon

In efforts to deal effectively with the dress code controversy raging on campus, student leaders have recently released a letter requesting students to follow the dress code between the hours of one and two in the afternoon everywhere in the main school building and on the odd-numbered floors in all of the midtown buildings during the rest of the day.

"We believe we have found a solution that will make everyone happy," said SCWSC president Sha'ron Weiss. "So far, the letter has been extremely effective."

According to Weiss, the request that students dress appropriately between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. came after a long discussion with security personnel, who confirmed that that hour was the busiest, as the crowding in the elevators reveal.

"It seemed to us that students were very concerned about the impropriety of

students dressing immodestly in front of rabbis, so we felt that it was a good idea to make students adhere to the dress code when everyone was shmushed together," said Weiss. "And we would like to remind students that the dress code at SCW has nothing to do with *halakha* or religious practice. We think our letter appropriately reflects this idea."

The decision to limit the dress code policy to odd-numbered floors was arrived at after careful deliberation, according to TAC president Lisa Grundman.

"It's really not an arbitrary policy," said Grundman. "We found that some students wanted a dress code to be in effect in all buildings and some didn't want it all, so we reached a brilliant compromise by requiring appropriate dress on only half of the floors."

The letter has already met with extreme success. Those students who always followed the dress code are satis-

fied, and those who were accustomed to not following the dress code have all willingly complied with the letter.

"I'm very pleased with the letter," said Lisa Notfrum. "It's been really easy for me to keep the dress code. I simply carry a knee length, elastic-waist black skirt in my backpack. At 1:00 I slip it on over my pants, and at 2:00 I slip them off. The same thing goes for when I switch classes, when they're on different floors, for the rest of the day."

Even students just back from seminary this semester seem pleased with the new system. "It's just so beautiful to see all the girls slipping on their skirts at 1:00," said Holly Erthanhou, just back from Darchei Binah.

Administrators, too, were happy with the letter.

"The letter that student leaders sent out absolved us from taking any responsibility in the matter and doing anything our-

selves," said Josephine, speaking on behalf of the deans. "Now get out of this office and stop bothering the deans. You're annoying me."

There has been some confusion, however, regarding the new policy. As per previous letters from student organizations, this new policy does not apply while students are benefiting from services on the campus outside of class, such as in the cafeteria, library, computer lab, or gym, which are all, incidentally, on odd numbered floors.

Still, on the whole, student leaders are satisfied with the results of the letter.

"We had designed this really pretty letter head and we really wanted a chance to use it," commented SSSB president Elly Nyer. "I think the letter really looked great."

I N S I D E



Heart to Heart with Richard Joel

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Art Annex Moves Again

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Students Demand Tighter Security

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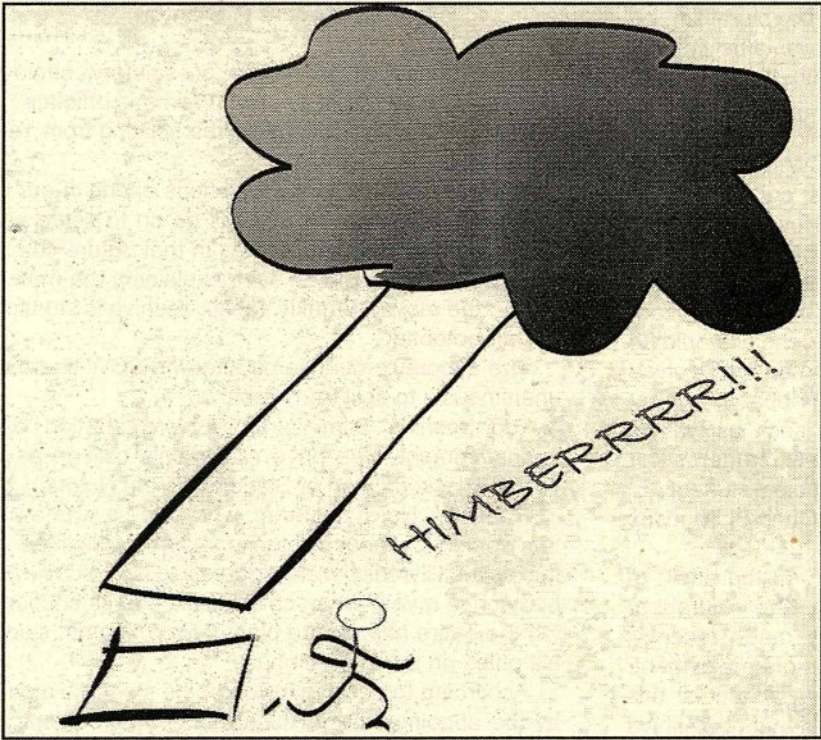
Editorial

To Be or Not to Be Observant

Now that SCW has split from Yeshiva, and the search process for a new leader has begun, SCW must introspect and decide upon which path it wants to embark. We could be an institution that wears skirts, or one that wears pants. Students could demand that their Shabbos rabbis be rabbis, or they could be satisfied that they have accountants who know how to make *kiddush*. As the editors of the student newspaper, we feel it is not our role to express any opinion or endorse any particular viewpoint. Indeed, our role is merely to reflect the concerns of the average SCW student, and we must strive to achieve that aim.

After holding an open forum to affirm our own opinions and to assert our own importance, we have decided to start achieving our goals by renaming this paper. Beginning this month, the name of the paper will alternate between "The Observant" and "The Non-Observant." We want to make sure to represent all parts of the student body. And we are sure that by delineating the opposing viewpoints carefully and heightening the polarization on campus, we will be contributing in a positive way to the growth of SCW.

Artitorial



The Observant

119 East 29th Street, Apts. 437 and 319, New York, NY 10016
www.hasidicnews.com

Caryn Litt
Benevolent Despot

Alisa Rose
To The Challenge

Rachel Fyman
Reluctant Accomplice

Shayndi "Racy" Raice
Gofer

Shifra Landowne
A.W.O.L.

Rachel Horn
MSDCS Leak

Andrea Gelnick
Blackmail Editor

Anat Barber
Wilf Campus Correspondent

The Observant is the official newspaper of 8 undergraduate students at Stern College for Women. It is published sporadically throughout the academic year. We reserve the right to spew forth our own ideas as though they were factual and uncontested in unsigned editorials, regardless of whether anyone cares to hear them or they make us look foolish. Other opinions contained herein do not necessarily reflect what we think or what any self-respecting individual thinks. This goes for our regular issues as well, but we're only allowed to admit it here. As our Sages said, "*nichnas Purim, yatza sod.*"

Office of Student Services

Student Services Wishes Everyone
A Happy and Healthy Purim!

Need someone to talk to?
Looking for a listening ear?

We provide private and confidential counseling in our office,
located in the middle of the lobby of 245 Lexington.

Please feel free to tell us all of your secrets.

But if you have a drinking problem, don't come to us for
sympathy because we also act as disciplinarians
and we might kick you out of school.

Have a nice day!

Letters to the Editors

Saddened by Stapler

Dear Editors:

I was deeply disturbed to read of the trouble the Stern College Student Council has been having in procuring a stapler for the computer lab. This kind of treatment seems characteristic of the administration's attitude toward the students. Hopefully our incoming president Mr. Richard Joel, who promises to be more student-friendly, will be able to get you your stapler. We should not rest until the Stern students get their stapler!

Sincerely,
Humorless YC student

A Brief Complaint

To the Editors:

I am highly offended by the section of your newspaper you have indelicately dubbed "Campus Briefs." First of all, the innuendo implied in such a title is entirely inappropriate for a publication belonging to a religious establishment. That this flagrant breach of traditional Jewish modesty has persisted in issue after issue of the newspaper is insufferable. I shudder to consider what the reaction would be of the founders and esteemed Roshei Yeshiva of this venerable institution if they understood the clear implication of this title. The obvious and repeated reference to undergarments in your newspaper undermines your journalistic integrity.

Furthermore, in addition to the tastelessness of your choice of title, it is in flagrant violation of the rules of English grammar. Every child knows that the plur-

al of "hoof" is "hooves" and "leaf" is "leaves." Therefore, as "thief" in plural becomes "thieves," it follows that "brief" should be "brieves." If you insist on persisting with your vulgar and indecent choice of title for the above-mentioned section of the observer, at least have the decency to pluralize it properly.

Sincerely affronted,
Shayna Kleinberger
SCW '03

Visit My Website

To the Editors:

I was dismayed by the announcement that the senior class yearbook this year will be coed. This endeavor will lead to a proliferation of singles judging each other by appearances, rather than asking superficial questions about personality. Visit my website which will remedy all of the ills of society through a bulletin board where every disgruntled and marginalized member of society can post.

Sincerely,
Chananya Weissman

My Name in Print

Dear Editors:

Let me be the 118th person to comment on the Schrecker/Silver controversy. I have nothing to say and nothing new to add. I just like seeing my name in print.

Sincerely,
Ari Friedmiller

MESSAGE FROM COMMENTATOR SENIOR EDITOR Avi Robinson

Strolling through the monolithic hallowed halls of my beloved Yeshiva, a gemara lovingly tucked beneath my arm, I was struck by nothing. But nonetheless, it did not escape my brilliant mind that while the shirt colors and kippot of those around me vary as the numerous complex atoms in a test tube, my heart felt incomplete (The Lonely Man of Faith). I am at one with my brethren, and surely a leading paradigm for the younger students in Rav Rosensweig's *chazarah* shiur, yet I yearn for a greater struggle.

The challenge of being a ben Torah in a homogeneously gendered environment, surely pales to rising in *yiras shamayim* in a different environment – alongside my beloved female acquaintances. Just as the sruget and velvets have joined in unity as they engage deeply in *hasmadah*, so, too, our feminine counterparts can only increase our growth in Torah U'madda. As Isaiah said, to every man a woman, to every woman a man. (Dead Sea Scroll, fragment one. Can be viewed at JTS – ask for my friend Nati Helfgot.)

In keeping with the unity of all the branches of Yeshiva, we should look to the future doctors of tomorrow and follow their lead in creating joint housing for those in "dependent relationships." You see, we too are in such relationships, dependent on the graces of the fairer sex. In a move both bold yet frightening, we must rid ourselves of the shackles of tradition, rabbinic authority and clear-cut halakha, and be true to our modern orthodox selves.

The other day, after an intense day of being a talmid chacham and a *kofer*, I greeted my roommate with the usual casual salutation. I put down my bags. I realized that if my roommate were a woman, how much greater the struggle

of halakha would be. This was reminiscent of the story of my hero Paltiel of Samuel I 14 who withstood the *tayva* of cohabitating with Michal, and then wept when the challenge was no longer existent. I too, with tears streaming down my cheeks, cried out to the heaven, "Surely, I will serve you better with such a schism!"

The better scenario: returning home that same day with those same bags, my focus would have shifted had their been a pair of stockings to trod on in my path to the door. The stockings, black and swarthy, would draw my eyes wily nily to the amazing craftsmanship of the maker of such fabric.

Such a union as roommates would be as beneficial as one of my more bizarre *chavrusahs* with the Catholic priest I befriended while he visited the main beis medresh. Additionally, by being one of the top scholars at YU I can only imagine the rays of wisdom I can bestow upon a female counterpart. My expertise in writing, as well as my sensitivity to the master strokes of painting, will all come in handy in imparting knowledge. For example, a *chavrusah* over *Shir Hashirim* could have only been meant to be had between a man and woman. Indeed, men and women were created as one and should remain as such, in this idealized union.

So, while YU is my home, how complete can a home be without the feminine dialectic. The next time I visit the marbled halls of Schottenstein, my home too, to inquire if there is "room in the Inn" (Book of Mathew II). Fellow yeshiva *bochurim*, join me in my journey while I warmly greet my lascivious female friends. I will say, "Let's not just be friends, but also roommates."

COMMENCEMENT 2003
is STILL

Thursday May 22

It is STILL
11 am
and it is STILL
at The Theater
Madison
Square
Garden

You will **STILL NOT** receive your tickets and cap and gown if you have not filed for graduation with the registrar on your campus!

Where Do You Stand?

As the representatives of modern orthodoxy, Yeshiva University students like to believe that they serve as models of that community in all aspects of their lives, including their social lives. In this issue, we examine the differing approaches to dating. Marriage holds a central place in Jewish tradition, but the ways one finds an appropriate marriage partner are up for discussion. What do you think, and where do you stand?

Attitude 1: The concept of dating is based on a fallacy in Halakhic interpretation. It is bitul Torah and bitul zman, and it should be replaced with arranged marriages.

Attitude 2: Dating can be halakhically permissible but it must always be undertaken with the utmost care. It is an investigative process, which is always arranged through a shadchan from Brooklyn. Every prospective date must be thoroughly researched to avoid situations in which a date is arranged with a partner who wears weird shoes or a hat with earflaps. Every aspect of the prospective date's life must be known before the date. (After all, you'd never dream of going to an interview without knowing all about the company first!) Speaking to his/her kindergarten teachers and conducting Internet searches are recommended research methods.

Attitude 3: The Orthodox community has set up too many barriers to prevent singles from meeting each other. Tefillin dates are perfectly acceptable ways for singles to get to know each other in a relaxed setting. Storm the barricade!

The Observer is currently seeking

Recognition

If interested, please contact us at
observer@ymail.yu.edu

MESSAGE FROM SCWSC PRESIDENT

Sharon Weiss



I hope everyone is gearing up for our Purim celebrations. This Shabbos there will be an exciting shabbaton at Stern, in honor of Purim. A special dessert of hamantaschens will be served. Everyone is invited to stay in! On Monday night, there will be a megilah reading and break-fast at the Wilf campus. We're getting really good food this year, and we hope to see everyone there. Following the break-fast will be our annual chagigah, which will also take place at the Wilf campus. Religious students shouldn't fear coming - the Stern students will be in a separate room. Guaranteed everyone will enjoy

themselves. If you don't come, you'll surely miss out on a great time.

Stay tuned for more exciting upcoming events at Stern!

The Observer Responds

Obviously because they have nothing better to do and clearly have no lives, the editors have taken issue with SCWSC president Sharon Weiss's column. Below is a line-by-line critique which we are sure our readers will find enlightening.

I hope everyone is gearing up for our Purim celebrations.

This introduction is clearly meant to be a subliminal message to SCW students to get them to buy "Stern Gear." Weiss is constantly hawking these wares, and there is overwhelming evidence that she is pocketing at least half of the profits, namely our hunch. We cannot ignore the corruption in our student council any longer.

This Shabbos there will be an exciting shabbaton at Stern, in honor of Purim.

Weiss is way off target here. She can have no way of knowing whether the shabbaton will be exciting or not, so this statement is completely dishonest.

A special dessert of hamantaschens will be served. Everyone is invited to stay in!

Here we have a gross misuse of the exclamation point. Student leaders in general have a tendency to overuse the exclamation point because they want to make what they say sound exciting. If anything, the exclamation point should have been used to end the previous sentence, after the word, "served."

On Monday night, there will be a megilah reading and break-fast at the Wilf campus. We're getting really good food this year, and we hope to see everyone there.

Weiss consistently underestimates the student body. Here she implies that students will turn out for this event because of food. Shame on Weiss for being so vulgar.

Following the break-fast will be our annual chagigah, which will also take place at the Wilf campus. Religious students shouldn't fear coming - the Stern students will be in a separate room from the YC students.

As evidenced by our dress code forum, our student body is already very polarized. Here, Weiss simply adds fuel to the fire by isolating "religious students" and holding them up to ridicule by the more modern students.

Guaranteed everyone will enjoy themselves.

Weiss ignores the most elementary of grammar rules. "Everyone" is, in fact, singular, so instead of writing "themselves," she should have written "herself."

If you don't come, you'll surely miss out on a great time.

Aide from the glaring switch from a third person subject to second person subject, this statement is logically fallacious. Weiss first states that if students come, then they are guaranteed to enjoy themselves (if X then Y). Then she writes that if students do not come, they will miss a great time (if not X then not Y). This is an illogical conclusion. The only logical conclusion would have been that if students do not have a good time, then they could not have been at the chagigah (if not Y then not X).

Stay tuned for more exciting upcoming events at Stern!

"Tuned" is the wrong word here since Weiss does not orate her column. We again take issue with her use of the exclamation point.

Stern to Split from Yeshiva

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besmirch their levels of religious observance before dumping them and moving onto the next."

One reason for the separation is the financial burden of being associated with Yeshiva College. "We have enough of our own money, thanks to Anne Scheiber's hefty endowment," commented Joan Apple, director of development and new vice president of the treasury at the independent SCW. "We don't want to share with the boys. They would just fritter away the money hanging flags on their campus, while we will use it productively - to throw lavish parties for our major donors."

To ease the transition, especially for Yeshiva College students, the midtown-uptown shuttles, formerly intercampus, will continue to run, albeit less frequently. "It was hard for us to cut back on the van services," explained Jeff Socol, no longer our problem. "We didn't have much left to cut, but we managed valiantly. Now the vans run every other Tuesday."

In order to make the break definitive,

a committee is being organized to expunge the Yeshiva emblem from the midtown campus. "This is going to be a challenging undertaking," explained the committee chairperson. "After all, that emblem is everywhere. We're starting off erasing it from notebooks, clothing, mugs, pens, umbrellas, paperweights, and little cakes."

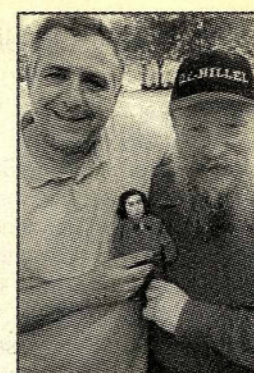
Students at Yeshiva College have displayed varying reactions to the move. "Baruch Hashem!" exclaimed one MYP student. "Without girls, we are on the road, I'choyra, to becoming b'ezras Hashem a real Yeshiva."



Bacon and Lamm during happier times

Heart to Heart with Richard Joel

In honor of the three month anniversary of Richard Joel's appointment as president of Yeshiva, Observer editors sat down with Mr. Joel to challenge him on a number of important issues.



Joel, standing next to his spiritual advisor, accepts his voodoo doll of Sheldon Socol

Hello, Mr. Joel.

Please, call me Rick.

Okay, Rick, tell us, what do you think about the Talmud Program?

Oh, I think its super that boys learn the Talmud. In my heydey I did some *shteiging* and occasionally went to a shiur.

No, no, no... we meant the Talmud Program for women.

Oh, yes, of course. Its very important that women feel a part of the Yeshiva home. In fact, how else could Rabbi Suzie have gotten her smicha if not for such programs? She has served Hillel faithfully, and I'm proud to write her paycheck.

How do you think your experience at Hillel will assist you in your role here?

Well, Hillel is a complex organization of people, like YU. I am sure that I can rise to the challenge of effectively managing such an institution. But really I ask, what is Hillel? What is YU? Who are its leaders? Where is it located? Who am I? I don't want to sound like Mr. Hillel comes to Yeshiva, but, indeed, I am Mr. Hillel, this is Yeshiva and by golly, here I come.

Rick, what does Torah U'madda mean to you?

Nothing. (Quickly consults palm of hand). Oh, oh course, it means a prism for you, for me and the entire Jewish race. But it can also mean different things. Gee, its like saying "Boy, look what's out there and what's in here." And so I don't get anyone mad at me, let me add that it means something different for everybody.

How do you feel about the Rabbi Willig scandal?

I have a lot to say about that, but I promised the RIETS board I would stop saying controversial things.

What's your top priority of things to fix at Yeshiva?

It's obvious what needs the most fixing. I'm going to set an example by going to all of the Mac games.

Thank you for your time, Mr. Joel. Any parting words?

I can't wait to be part of the Yeshiva family and get started doing a lot of things for the school and making a lot of changes. And I'd like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to make some extremely vague and evasive comments.

Classified Ads

The Observer has started a new classified service where seniors and others who are looking for jobs can post their qualifications and the types of jobs they are looking for.

Dr. Alan Brill

Seeking employment as pseudo intellectual. Can provide insight into mysticism, chasidism and new age exegesis. Please call Hamevaser office to leave a message with one of his assistants.



Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm

Looking for employment as registrar - loves dealing with people, great memory for names.

Jean Belmont

Capable of extorting large funds from weak and defenseless individuals. Especially good at finding creative ways to make people cry.

Elly Nyer

Looking for job that requires wearing fancy outfits. Very skilled in matching shoes to dresses.



Zack Streit

Special knack for creating controversy. Seeks environment of limited freedom of expression, except his own.

Shai Barnea

Looking for position of power. Any position. Especially one in which able to present Torah U'madda to the world, like role model Joe Lieberman.



Yoel Oz

Misogynist seeking leadership position in intellectual environment. Looking to gain first publishing experience. Team player, works well with others.

Sharon Weiss

Seeking job at Stern. Prefers Student Services, but will settle for anything that provides a free Nextel.



Beth Meshel

Seeking job as rabble rouser, preferably in Israel. Can offer enthusiasm, loud voice, opinions. Slight political leanings.

Josh Goldman

Looking for job as hairstylist. Specialty is curling.

Ari Erdfarb

Good at controlling crowds and lifting heavy boxes. Seeks job that requires a lot of cell phone use.



ON CAMPUS

Art Annex Relocates to 245 Lexington

*Art Students to Compensate for
Yeshiva Hiring Freeze*

By Jeffrey Rosengarten

In an effort to ease Yeshiva's strained budget, SCW administrators announced that the Art Annex will be relocating to the 245 Lexington Avenue school building, and art students will perform some of the tasks of Yeshiva's painters. A continuing hiring freeze has prevented Yeshiva from hiring the painters it desperately needs.

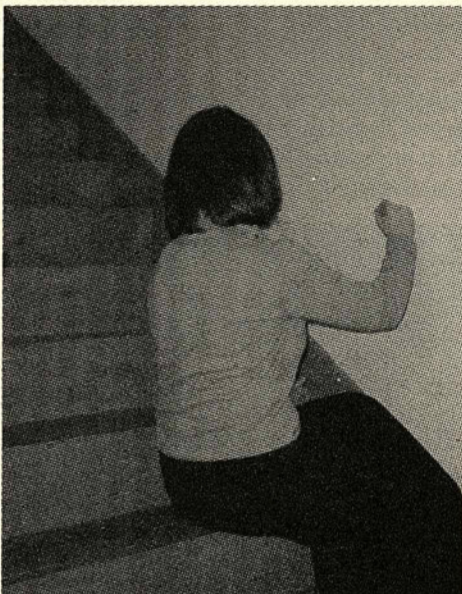
"Some of these walls haven't been painted in nearly three weeks," commented an administrator, as he pointed to the "regulation eggshell" walls in the stairwells, which emitted only a very faint smell of paint.

Although administrators toyed with the idea of purchasing larger paintbrushes for the Yeshiva painters, after an examination of the issues involved, officials decided that relocating the art annex would solve both the problem of the overcrowded elevators in 215 Lexington Avenue building and ease the strain on the overworked painters.

It is unclear exactly where in the building the art department will be located, but initial reports indicate that students will sit in the stairwells and paint. Faculty and students were surprised by the announcement, which came after the Art department had just become comfortable in the 215 Lexington Avenue building. "We don't want students to get too used to being in one place for extended periods. Moving around a lot builds character," explained one administrator. However, many students welcomed the move because it would ease the elevator crowding that had plagued the art annex's new home on the 8th floor of the building. "I sometimes have to wait 20 minutes to get an elevator," lamented one art student. "Now I don't have to worry about cramming into the elevators—or walking up the stairs either, for that matter."

"This is a brilliant plan," asserted SCW Dean Ethel Orlan. "For the first, and maybe only time in their lives, fine arts students will feel as though they have a job."

Professor Susan Gardner, the head of the Art department, wondered how all



*An art student in the new art space,
painting the stairwell walls*

of the art department's supplies would fit in the stairwells and worried that the space did not compare to the office space in 215 Lexington Avenue. "There are no windows in the stairwells," she said.

"We're looking at ways to make the new space adequate," Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of supporting services, said. He is currently working on receiving the necessary permits to allow students to occupy the stairwells and to install sinks for student use there.

Some students worried about the hours they would be allowed to sit in the stairwells. The former art annex was opened until 2 AM, allowing students to work late into the night. Rosengarten said that the hours of the building could be extended, however, he expressed concern that if students would fall asleep in the stairwells, they may not have overnight guests.

"No other university has a provision like this," said Yael Reisman, co-chair of the Student Life Committee when she heard about this stipulation. "Why should we?"

Department in Focus: Women's Studies

By Nora Nachumi

With the establishment of a Women's Studies major this year, administrators were shocked at the overwhelming interest in the new department. Despite growing pains, the program has attracted over 450 SCW students this semester alone.

The new major has more required hours and credits than any other major at SCW, but students have not been deterred. The administration is thrilled that the new program has been so enthusiastically accepted, especially because it has not mandated the hiring of any new faculty members.

"The major is an experiment possible in a small, relatively homogeneous college like Stern," the Dean noted. "Being in an environment surrounded by women enables the courses to be very hands-on."

Students in the Women's Studies major have the benefit of a wide array of areas of study outside the classroom. For example, some of the requirements involve spending a certain number of hours per semester in the back lounge of Brookdale Hall, observing the behavioral patterns of female college students. Students are also required to make frequent trips to manicurist and beauty parlors to experience and make note of the habits of American women.

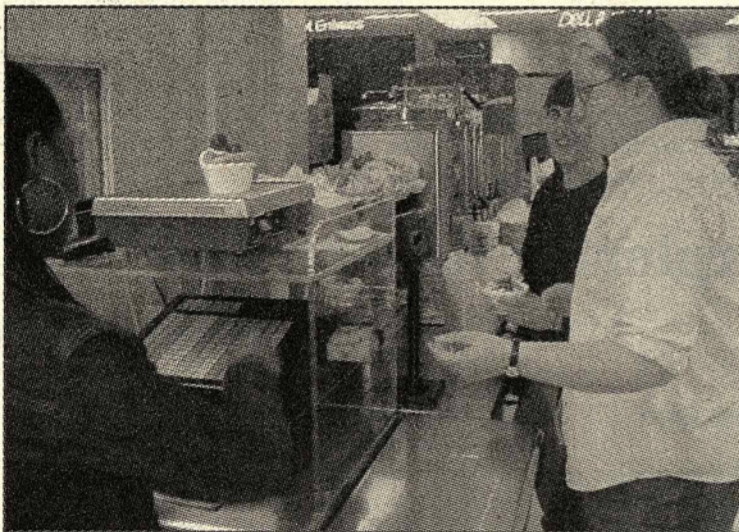
The course that has stirred up the greatest interest is one entitled "Women and the Mating Ritual." This course is considered valuable fieldwork, as students are required to experience a certain number of actual dates during the course of the semester.

"We hope to enable Women's Studies Majors to graduate with a real understanding of women," commented the head of the department. "That means first hand knowledge of their experiences, struggles and habits. What better place for this study than Stern College for Women?"

Faculty members were very excited about planning the requirements of this major. "We tried to make it as diverse as possible," said one professor, who was in responsible for organizing "Women and Nutrition" which is being offered as a self-study course in the cafeteria. "Students will have to watch the eating habits of women and interview them," she explained.

Students have expressed much satisfaction with their coursework thus far. "I have never loved my courses as much as I do this semester," said SCW junior Shira Dork. "I find I am putting more time and effort into doing all my work and going to all my classes than I ever have before." She noted that she has not missed a single observation period yet.

According to Dork, the most popular course in the program is "Women and Men," which is closed-out with a waiting list of over 45 names. Administrators expected the course to be less popular, as it requires students to travel to the Wilf Campus to interview and observe YC students and their attitudes regarding women. "Fascinating," one SCW senior announced. "I wish I could have taken this class three years ago."



Students, pictured in the cafeteria to the left, gain hands on experience in the eating rituals of women in the new women's studies major

EndtheMadness.org

is pleased to announce its second event

Dating Symposium Part II

Featuring

Richard Joel, "Maximizing the number of Jews doing Jewish with Other Jews"

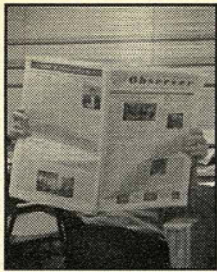
Shayndi Raice, "Solving the Madness: No Men Allowed"

Chananya Weissman, "Dating Tips from the Pro"

April 1st, 8:00 pm Koch Auditorium, Midtown Campus
Buses will be leaving the Wilf campus at 7:15

Campus Briefs

The Observer Doubles its Midtown Readership



The editors of the Observer were pleased to note that the newspaper's circulation on campus doubled as of last Wednesday, when a student was seen reading the most recent issue in the cafeteria.

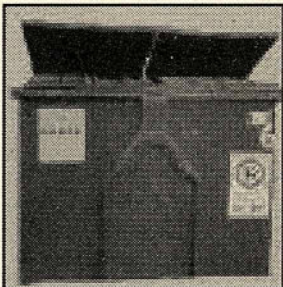
Until this breakthrough, it was assumed that approximately one SCW student actually read the Observer. This information was based on an unofficial poll of the student body that indicated that 96 percent of students on the midtown campus were not aware that a newspaper existed, while 4.8 percent responded that reading newspapers is absolutely prohibited, based on several biblical injunctions.

The Observer staff encouraged more SCW students to follow suit, joining the two students on the midtown campus and 700 on the Wilf campus who regularly read the Observer.

The newest reader, an SCW freshman who asked not to be named in the newspaper, was humiliated to have been seen with a copy of the paper. "I was only looking at it so I'd know what the guys uptown are talking about," she explained.

Dumpster Placed in Lobby

To fulfill the garbage needs of the students, Facilities Management has agreed to place a full-sized dumpster in the lobby of 245 Lexington.



Recently, the Student Life Committee obtained larger garbage cans to help combat the garbage problem at school. At the most recent meeting, however, Student Life Committee heads Yael Reisman and Rachel Shtern complained that the students' garbage needs were still not being met. Director of Facilities Management Jeffrey Socol graciously agreed to provide a dumpster.

Plans are being considered to move the SCW campus to Staten Island to solve the garbage crisis entirely.

More Old People to be Interviewed

In efforts to fulfill the apparent quota of one old person profile per issue, the Office of Student Services has agreed to supply the Observer with a list of retired SCW



employees. Upcoming exciting features will include profiles of Doris Egbert, SCW's first physical education teacher who still does sit-ups in her wheelchair; Rose Kaufman, a retired music professor who regales her assisted-living mates with her piano playing; and Henry Jones, one of SCW's original custodians who uses his walker to wash floors.

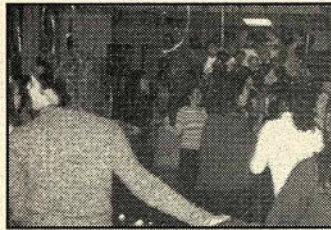
Shayndi Raice has been appointed as the Observer's senior geriatric correspondent.

Second Tuesday of the Month TAC Chagigah a Hit

TAC held yet another chagigah this past Tuesday night, in celebration of the second Tuesday of the month. Students danced to the music of superstar Uncle Moisse and noshed on cookies that had the word "Tuesday" written on them in icing.

The chagigah, which was held in Koch Auditorium and attended by more than 20 students, was hailed as a great success.

Other chagigahs being planned include the St. Patrick's Day Chagigah, the Third Wednesday of the Month Chagigah, the Midterms Chagigah, the Nisan Chagigah, the Pre-sefirah Chagigah and many other exciting chagigahs.



Students celebrate Tuesday in the latest TAC chagigah

Schottenstein Crumbles

The façade of Schottenstein Residence Hall began to fall off last week as a result of unexpected weather last week. After ascertaining that it was, in fact, dislodged chunks of the building hitting the sidewalk, and not the sky itself, security took emergency measures and closed the front entrance of the dormitory for an entire weekend.

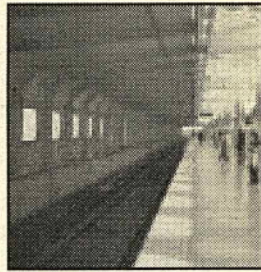
Students who insisted on entering or leaving the building despite the obvious danger to their persons were allowed to use side doors. However, in order to confuse the deadly downpour of debris that was bound to hurt an unsuspecting student, security systematically alternated accessible entrances to the building every half hour. Fortunately, nobody was hurt and a hideous scaffolding was erected indefinitely to shield students.

(It's funny because it's true.)

Newark Metropolitan Experience

In order to reduce costs of the heretofore-successful Metropolitan Experience program on campus, SCW administrators have shown an unprecedented bout of creativity. "Nobody ever specified what metropolitan area we were referring to," Student Services said, justifying changes in this semester's program. "Most students have not had the privilege of experiencing metropolitan Newark. This will be a wonderful opportunity to take in the sites."

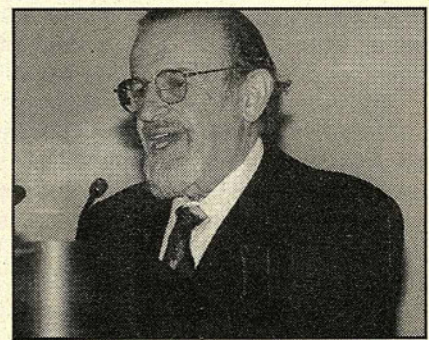
Buses will be provided to transport students to the nearby New Jersey city to a number of exciting activities, such as touring the airport, listening to performances by panhandlers in PATH stations, and possibly even witnessing live gang fights.



Students visit the PATH station

Rabbi Lamm to Retire to Florida

According to an insider Yeshiva source, who requested to remain anonymous because he doesn't really exist, Rabbi Lamm will be retiring to Florida at the



end this year. The announcement, which came at a dinner paying tribute to Rabbi Lamm's numerous years of service to Yeshiva, surprised many officials.

"I think this marks Rabbi Lamm's desire to sever his connection with the university," said a concerned administrator who refused to be quoted.

However, Rabbi Lamm consoled concerned individuals by informing them that he will keep his offices in the presidential suite. While in Florida, Rabbi Lamm plans to work on a new book called, "The Faces of Seventy Years Old."

"Florida is the perfect venue for such an endeavor," he said.

Exploring the Spiritual Side of Purim: A Call To Teshuva (Note: This is Real)

By Alisa Rose

On the surface, Purim seems to have one of the heaviest emphasis on the physical world of all the Jewish holidays. The mitzvot of the day, giving gifts of food to friends and tzedakah to the poor, and eating a seuda, are all located in the physical realm, (with the possible exception of the reading of the megillah). In addition, the fact that there is no issur melachah on Purim underscores this focus on the physical world. As a holiday to commemorate the military triumph of the Jews over their enemy Haman, who sought to annihilate the entire Jewish nation, perhaps it is fitting that our celebration is purely physical.

But to view Purim only in this light is to overlook the deeper meaning as well as the great potential for growth on Purim. These physical mitzvot have an underlying spiritual meaning, which reveals some interesting parallels between Purim and Yom HaKippurim.

Pointing to the *passuk* at the end of Megilat Esther (9:23) – The Jews accepted what they had already begun to do – Chazal explain that in the days of Ahashverosh the Jews "fulfilled and accepted what they had already accepted at Har Sinai." In the aftermath of the war that Haman waged against the Jewish people, the Jewish people re-accepted the Torah, reaffirming their connection and

commitment to Hashem. On one level, the story of Purim is the story of the Jewish people's return to Hashem.

One of the customs of Purim day - to get drunk to the extent that one does not know the difference between bless Mordechai and curse Haman seems like a strange method to use to reaffirm a commitment to Hashem and His Torah. If anything, this would seem to create the opposite of the intended effect.

One of the main messages of the megillah is that Hashem will never abandon the Jewish people. Haman, a descendent of Amalek, questioned this belief. Amalek attacked *Bnei Yisroel* after they had left Mitzrayim where they experienced many obvious miracles. Amalek boldly attacked *Bnei Yisroel*, claiming that the events were mere happenstance and not the result of a connection to Hashem. Amalek passed this view of world events to his descendent Haman. Not only did Haman deny the existence Hashem's intervention in every day life, but he also tried to convince the Jews that Hashem had removed themselves from their lives. He tried to show them that their lives are run by chance, by lotteries.

Though in the end, it becomes clear that Mordechai should be blessed and Haman should be cursed, ultimately, both of their roles were irrelevant when compared to the role of Hashem. Rav Yitzchak

Mirsky in *Hegyonai Halacha* explains that the meaning of getting drunk until you don't know the difference between bless Mordechai and curse Haman is that a person should understand that ultimately it doesn't matter what Mordechai did or what Haman did, but that salvation of the Jewish people was because of what Hashem did. The message of Purim is that Hashem directs all events in the world, and that he will never abandon the Jewish people. This understanding of the presence of Hashem in the world was the *teshuvah* of the Jews in the days of Purim, and it continues to be the message of Purim today. (It does not matter what President Bush, Saddam Hussein, Hans Blix or the UN says – Hashem is controlling everything!)

The belief that Hashem is involved in and controls all aspects of the world is fundamental to the concept of *teshuvah*. Only one who believes that Hashem is involved in his everyday life and cares about his actions can do *teshuvah* to become closer to Him. In addition, *teshuvah* is a transformative process that is not really understandable by human intellect because it involves a complete reversal of fortunes. Why and how can someone who deserves a punishment gain a reprieve from what he deserves? Chazal tell us that the power of *teshuvah* is so great that intentional sins can become merits. This

sounds similar to the concept of "*v'nahapach hu*" that pervades Megilat Esther. Ahashverosh invites Esther into his chamber, even though he didn't call for him. Haman is hanged on the gallows he prepared for Mordechai. We cannot always understand Hashem's ways, but *teshuvah* is capable of instantaneously turning the circumstances around.

Interestingly, Rabbi Shmuel Pinchas Gelbard in *Rites and Reason* connects the custom of shaking the grogger at the mention of Haman's name on Purim with blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Both are intended to awaken in the listener a desire to do *teshuvah*.

Rav Kook (Midat HaRaya, Ahavah 6) makes an interesting comment on the commandment to wipe out Amalek "*m'tachat hashamayim* – from under the sky." Rav Kook notes that the Torah purposely said "*m'tachat hashamayim* – from under the sky" because "*ma'al hashamayim*" – above the sky – if we look at the big picture and understand the message of Purim – Amalek's *kefira* can lead us to do *teshuvah*.

We should all be *zocheh* to take the message of Purim of Hashem's control of even the most inexplicable world events to motivate us to strengthen our connection with Him through *teshuvah*, so we may merit the rebuilding of the Beit Hamikdash, speedily in our days.

Max Stern Division of Communal Services
is pleased to announce

Purim Torah Tours

Below is a sample application.

Department of Youth & Outreach Services

Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, an Affiliate of Yeshiva University

500 W. 185th Street, New York, NY 10033

PURIM TORAH TOURS

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Torah Tours program! Please fill out the application below and return it to MSDCS as soon as possible.
Please note, we do not take responsibility for any negative experiences but we will take all s char offered in the World to Come.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION (Note: All Information is mandatory)

1) Name: _____ Email (if not against email use) _____ Phone () _____
School in Israel _____ Interested in Aliyah? _____
Color of Shabbos table cloth _____ Height: _____

Check off the qualities that you are interested in:

- Learner
 Earner
 Learner/Earner
 Revel intellectual
 Revel intellectual who is also in Cardozo
 Revel intellectual who is in Cardozo who watches movies and says things like Teleological axiological existentialism
 RIETS Smicha Student
 RIETS Smicha student who won t talk to you
 RIETS Smicha student who won t talk to you, won t look at you and says things like Say better, and Veiter
 YU Hocker who works at the Sefarim Sale
 YU Hocker who works at the Sefarim Sale and wears a black hat for davening
 YU Hocker who works at the Sefarim Sale and wears a black hat on Torah reading days

Part II: Transportation

- My date needs access to a car to drive to Torah Tours and subsequent dates.
 I m ok with a cab
 I'll even walk

PART III: SKILLS & INTERESTS

Torah Tours requires skills in the following areas-please check all that apply to yourself:

Please check all activities which you practice:

- Tehillim during free time or inappropriate classes
 Carrying around a sefer
 Reciting Asher Yatzar in Shemoneh Esrei style

For more information about Torah Tours and Youth, Outreach and Shidduch programs, please visit us on the web at

www.b-shert4u.com

Applications due: 6 weeks before preferred date of engagement.

Students Demand Tighter Security

By Jose Morales

Students are outraged at the insufficient security on the midtown campus, and are demanding that stricter measures be taken to ensure the safety of students, especially in light of the recent security alerts in New York City.

The Student Life Committee will meet later this week to discuss the pressing issue. Due to student concern and frantic phone calls from worried parents, the subject has been placed at the top of the agenda, bumping the much-debated black plastic tablecloth discussion off the list altogether.

"The situation is unacceptable," said SCW freshman Rachel R. Rachelson. "I got into Brookdale the other night after showing my ID to only four different guards."

Students are concerned that the lax standards of security will make SCW a prime target for criminals. "The way it is now, any random man can walk into the building, leave his ID with the guards, and have free access to the front lobby," exclaimed an irate SSSB Sophomore. "Who knows what that could lead to!"

One student expressed indignation that only five security guards accompanied her boyfriend to the bathroom when he visited her in Schottenstein Residence Hall recently. "It would have been so easy for him to sneak into the hallway and up the stairs into other girls' rooms, especially since only five of the doors are alarmed," she said. "I don't know what security was thinking - at least seven security guards should have gone with him to the bathroom."

The most recent change to the overnight guest policy in the dormitories has also been a particular concern to students. The overall sentiment among the student body is that, rather than change the policy, it should be obliterated entirely.

"How can we allow outsiders to infiltrate our dorms?" asked SCW senior, Shira Goldenbergstein. "The fact that someone signs a form in triplicate is not sufficient. There should be a more stringent screening process before so-called guests are admitted. I think FBI background checks are definitely in order."

Student leaders have also suggested

that no daytime guests be admitted either, since the additional people in the building may violate building codes and prove to be a fire hazard.

"We must be vigilant," said SCWSC president Sharon Weiss. "More people means more danger."

In fact, parents have appealed to the administration for tighter security for residents of the dormitories as well. "My daughter witnessed another girl enter the dorm with scissors in her bag," asserted Mrs. Bernice Fishhead. "If that kind of potentially lethal weapon escaped the notice of security, who knows what else might evade their notice?" A committee of concerned students and parents has petitioned the university to install metal detectors at the entrance of each building on campus.

"The system currently in place in airports should be our model," said SCW junior Aliza Fleafayce, chairperson of the committee. "Anything less than two pieces of photo ID and a thorough full-body search is intolerable." She added that three or four German Shepherds would be an asset to the midtown campus as well.

The Student Life Committee has also received numerous e-mails from students requesting that door checks be reauthorized.

"I just don't feel safe without security guards checking up on me every five minutes," complained SCW junior Shayna Maidel. "Plus, it gets so quiet and lonely sometimes without the guards interrupting me."

Administrators are surprised at the sudden attention being focused on campus security. They attribute the movement to step up security to recent feelings of vulnerability felt in New York in the wake of September 11th, as well as to rumors circulating on campus.

"Word somehow spread that there are only half as many security guards as there are students at Stern," a member of Student Council noted. "This one-to-two ratio would of course be unacceptable. I assure you the rumor is unfounded, and I am proud to say the ratio is closer to one-to-one."

Commentator to Print Only News

By Rabbi Mordechai Willig

In a dramatic shift in policy, the Commentator has announced that beginning in its April issue, the newspaper will print only news. The paper is expected to be reduced from the current 136 pages to four.

"I think this a great step forward for our newspaper," said Commentator co-editor-in-chief Yehoshua Levine. "Now our students won't be toppled over by the sheer weight of the paper."

The new format will consist of only news stories, cutting out the 30 pages of letters, 36 pages of opinions, 46 pages of features and 20 pages of "arts and culture."

"Although now not every YC student will be able to voice his opinion on important matters such as students' not flushing the toilets, by focusing on news I feel we will be better able to preserve the ethos of the institution," said Commentator co-editor-in-chief Zack Streit. "And by the way, let me take this as another opportunity to publicly announce my disapproval of Rabbi Willig."

Not everyone is happy with the downsizing. According to Observer sources, associate Arts and Culture editor Menachem Wecker is extremely upset that his section has been cut. When Wecker was approached for comment, however, he answered questions in a string of incoherent quotations.

Similarly, Features editor Jamie Hirsch has expressed regret that the Commentator will no longer be running any features.

"I still had several more installments

of my mammoth medical school treatise to print," said Hirsch, who is planning to attend medical school. "I guess I'll have to find some other way to get on the good side of the admissions representatives."

Understandably, News editor Kevin A. Cyrulnik was elated that the Commentator will be printing only news.

"Levine and Streit clearly felt that I was the most competent editor and that my articles are the best ever," said Cyrulnik humbly.

Upon hearing Cyrulnik's reaction, Levine and Streit quickly dispelled the assertion that the news section was remaining due to Cyrulnik's competence.

"That can't be true," insisted Levine. "I'll give you the clues, the evidence, and the decision - Kevin doesn't write news, he writes editorials thinly disguised as news."

The announcement that the Commentator will print only news has been met with widespread approval among the greater student body, with the "oreo" students, as they are apparently called, being the most happy.

"Now our rabbis might not tell us to burn the Commentator anymore, and we might even be able to read it outside of the bathroom," enthused YC senior Yeschi Vishgai.

The Commentator is hoping to rake in a fortune with its expanded readership, as readers are expected to take more than one copy of the revamped paper. As everyone knows, the first copy of the Commentator is free while each additional copy costs \$1.

Note: This is Real

Yeshiva University-Midtown Campus
Office of Student Services
Office of the Dean of Students

Purim 2003 Schedule

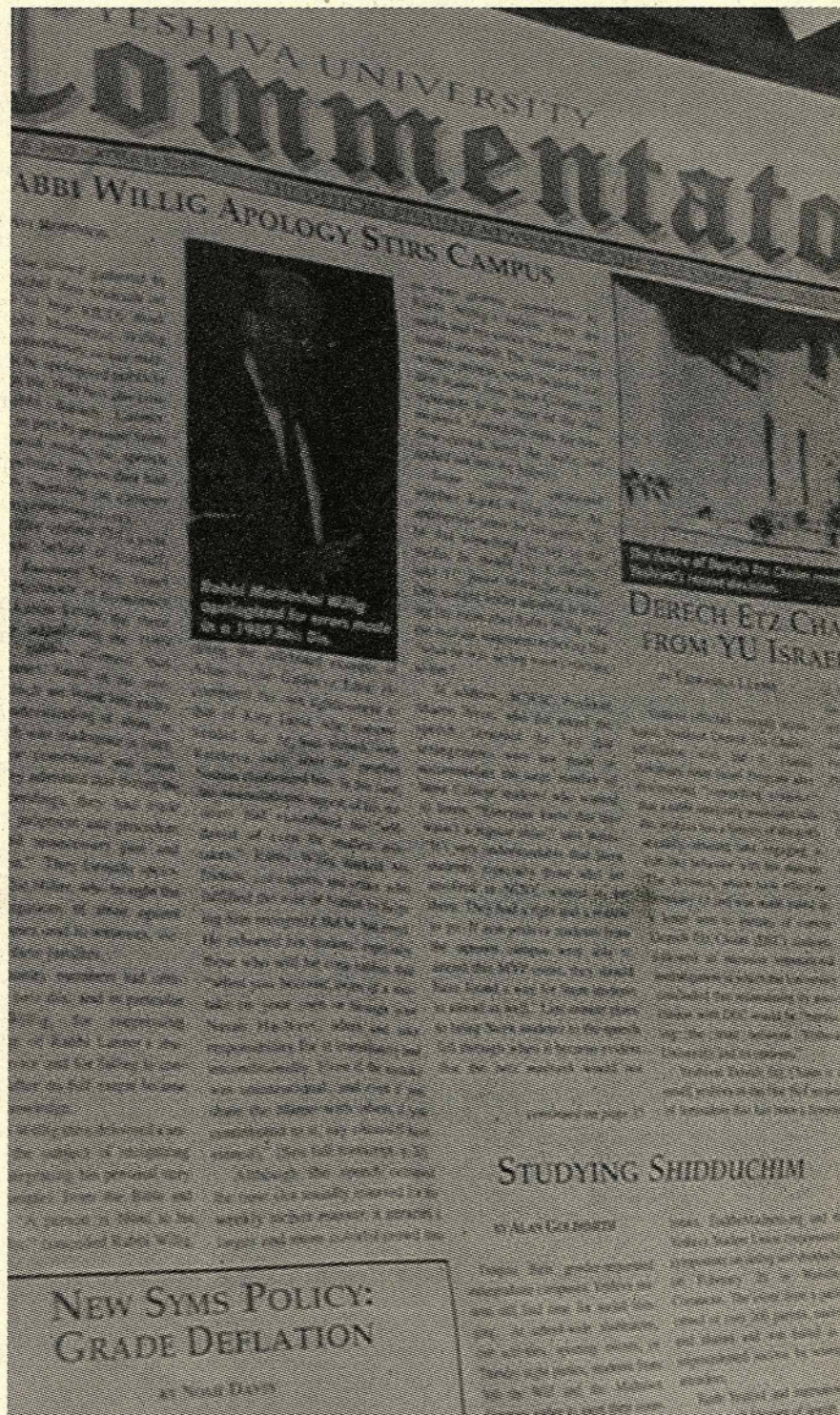
Monday, March 17

- 5:00 PM** Two buses will depart from Schottenstein Residence Hall to Wilf campus for maariv, reading of Megilat Esther, dairy meal and chagigah
- 6:00 PM** SHIUR - Micah Gimpel, "Party in Servitude" - Koch Auditorium
- 6:45 PM** Maariv and reading of Megilat Esther - Koch Auditorium
*Visit NYU Medical Center to read megilah, visit the sick
- 8:15 PM** One bus and one van will depart from 245 Lexington Ave. to Wilf campus for chagigah
- Midnight** Two buses will depart from Wilf campus for Brookdale Hall, Schottenstein Residence Hall and 36th Street Residence Hall
- 1:00 AM** One bus and one van will depart from Wilf campus for Brookdale Hall, Schottenstein Residence Hall and 36th Street Residence Hall

Tuesday, March 18

- 10:00 AM** Reading of Megilat Esther ONLY - Koch Auditorium
*Visit NYU Medical Center or JCC Bronx elderly lunch
Brunch will be served
Sponsored by the Office of Student Services and the Office of the Dean of Students

*Contact Gennady Gelman (ggelman@usa.com) for more information



The Commentator will begin printing only news (photo courtesy of the Commentator)