

Yeshiva University Observer

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Daniel Pipes to Deliver Commencement Keynote Address

By Anat Barber

Yeshiva University officials have announced that Dr. Daniel Pipes, founder and director of the Middle East Forum, will deliver the keynote address at this year's 72nd annual commencement, scheduled for May 22 in the theater at Madison Square Garden. Following the tradition of selecting a student speaker by alternating between the valedictorians of the various schools, this year's student speaker will be SSSB valedictorian Ariel Theil. Theil is one of the three SSSB valedictorians, which include Albert Jacobson from the Wilf Campus and Lisa Misher from the midtown campus.

After delivering the keynote address at the May 22 graduation ceremony, Pipes will also receive an honorary degree at the graduation, along with Leon R. Kass, Chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics, Julia Koschitzky, a member of



Daniel Pipes will deliver the keynote address

the executive of The Jewish Agency for Israel, and YC graduate Nathan Lewin Esq., a distinguished trial and appellate attorney and an educator who is known as a champion of religious freedom.

This year's graduation may include some variances in light of the retirement of Yeshiva's third president Rabbi Dr. Norman

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Joel Hires Vice President of University Life

By Rachel Fyman

In one of his first major acts as president of Yeshiva, Richard Joel has appointed Rabbi Dr. Hillel Davis to the newly created position of Vice President of University Life. The official announcement is expected this week, as Davis will assume the responsibilities of his new role on May 19.

The appointment is part of Mr. Joel's plan to give increased attention to students at Yeshiva. Joel stated in an exclusive interview this week that he plans to bolster "issues of mutual respect, caring and service" at Yeshiva. "One thing I look forward to focusing on is giving special emphasis to a *kavod habriyot* [respect for people] agenda," he said. "We need to emphasize that Yeshiva is a people business."

He created the new position in order to achieve this goal. "It was necessary to gather several portfolios that deal with serving the students," he explained.

The role of the new vice president is still to be defined. He will be involved with the day-to-day operational affairs of the University, together with the other vice presidents. Specifically, student life and enrollment management will fall under the rubric of his responsibilities.

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"We have very capable people running those departments, but they currently report to one or another of the vice presidents," Joel asserted. "We would like to put them together." He explained that the position would be similar to that of the late Dr. Israel Miller, who was the vice president of student affairs.

Joel has full confidence in Davis's qualifications. "He is a

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Student Bill of Rights Completed Minor Changes To Be Made Before Document Published

By Anat Barber

Yeshiva officials have finally released a document outlining disciplinary protocol and procedures, concluding ten months of prolonged discussion, arbitration and legal fine-tuning. The disciplinary committee, consisting of Yeshiva administrators, students and a lawyer, was formed at the beginning of this year to draft a document outlining Yeshiva's disciplinary procedures. After several meetings, the committee also formed a sub-committee to draft a student bill of rights. The only stage left to complete the process is the final approval of the document by the complete joint committee on disciplinary action, which will include both the sub-committee members who framed the bill of rights and those who dealt with more general disciplinary matters.

The official title of the document is The Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Its name reflects the dual nature of the document, according to Assistant Dean of Students, Andrew Leibowitz. "We constructed the document to let the students know that we respect them and recognize what rights they are entitled to here at Yeshiva," said Leibowitz. "However, we felt it is equally important that they recognize their responsibilities as students at Yeshiva University."

These ideals are contained in the preamble to the Bill of Rights, "Membership in the Yeshiva University community entails certain rights and responsibilities. All members of this community are accorded these rights, and are equally accountable to uphold their responsibilities."

Contained within the document are the many rights to which students assume they are entitled, and many that students already take for granted. The Bill of Rights and Responsibilities codifies these assumed rights and responsibilities into official school policy.

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Yeshiva Students Caught Illegally Downloading Students Asked to Sign Admission of Guilt

By Alisa Rose

In recent months, the Record Industry Association of America (RIAA) has become increasingly vigilant in its crackdown on the downloading of copyrighted files, specifically targeting college students. Since the beginning of this academic year, students from all Yeshiva campuses were among millions of college students nationwide who have been caught violating copyright infringements for downloading files from the Internet onto their personal computers through the University network.

The RIAA, which manufactures 90 percent of the legal sound recordings sold in the United States, has cited a total of approximately 25 Yeshiva students, mostly from the Wilf, midtown and Resnick campuses, over the course of this year. Approximately eight of those stu-

dents were from the midtown campus.

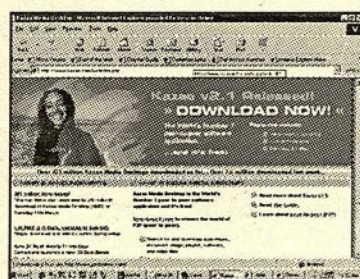
After being notified of their infraction, the SCW students who were cited for downloading copyrighted files were required to sign a statement that they accept "full responsibility for any copyright infringement that occurred or may occur as a result of my actions" in order to have their Internet connections restored. The students were further required to "indemnify and hold harmless the University, its officers, trustees, employees, students, and faculty from and against any and all liability." This admission of guilt could put the signer at risk of being sued by the record industry for copyright violations, according to an attorney who is the father of one of the accused students. The student wished to remain anonymous.

Most SCW students were

unaware of the possible legal ramifications of the document. But if the student refuses to sign, her network privileges will not be restored.

"There is ambiguity latent in the document that suggests that it might be deemed as a broad-based admission of guilt," the attorney said. He warned that the record industry could sue the student for copyright violations based on the letter though he admitted, "there are many potential defenses."

Of the SCW students who were cited for copyright infractions, almost all of them signed the letter, unaware of the possible legal ramifications. "A student on another college campus was sued for millions and they took away his parents' home and are seriously pursuing him," warned the accused student. "Students should know that they need to protect themselves and



Many college students frequent music downloading sites, like kazaa.com

their families." Yeshiva University lawyers could not be reached for comment.

When the RIAA detects an offense, the organization sends a notification to the registered technical contact of the university network that a copyright infringement has occurred on its network and instructs the university to inform the offender that she must remove the material

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I N S I D E

Meet the New Student
Leaders



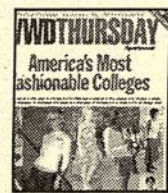
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With Rabbi Lamm



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Women's Wear
Daily Includes SCW
in College Survey



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EDITORIALS

The Year in Review

"I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday" – Abraham Lincoln.

Yeshiva has come a long way in the past year. With all that has been accomplished, however, there is still much to be done.

The dress code letter released by student leaders at the beginning of the year spurred discussions about the polarization on campus. Over the course of the year the debate has dissipated and disappeared, leaving no lasting impact. While the attempt to alter the dress code was a bold initiative on the part of the student leaders, it was largely ineffective. Perhaps it is time for the administration to step forward and deal with this divisive issue.

The administration did show progress in its commitment to students with the drafting of the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, which was recently completed after a year's effort. The document, which solidifies rules and protects students' rights, is a step in the right direction toward ensuring greater respect for the students. At the same time, the document raises a possible conflict of interest—Student Services officials who double as disciplinarians. The administration must continue to display this same commitment to students by hiring additional staff members to take up the role of student defender.

The year started with Yeshiva in flux. Although initially there was vociferous opposition to Mr. Richard Joel's presidency, the controversy has largely fizzled, and it seems that these predictions were overreactions. In his first week on the job, Mr. Joel has already begun introducing changes to strengthen Yeshiva in many different areas.

Still, while our new president has demonstrated a commitment to improving student life, only time will tell whether he will succeed in maintaining Yeshiva's significance in the Jewish world and its adherence to its mission of Torah U'madda.

A Glaring Omission

In a recent interview with the *Observer*, Rabbi Lamm acknowledged an ongoing problem in the relationship between Stern College and Yeshiva University. "There is a great deal to be done in getting the Stern students more aware of that fact that there is a University as well as getting the University to know that there is a Stern College," he said. Physically separated from the "main" campus by 150 blocks, most SCW students feel psychologically even more distant from the greater Yeshiva University community.

It is true that both Yeshiva administrators and SCW students must work to mend this rift, but administrators must take the first step. In a recent edition of the *Shofar*, a Yeshiva publication that highlights accomplishments and milestones of Yeshiva faculty and students, the new student leaders of Yeshiva College were congratulated. However, there was surprisingly no mention of the newly elected student leaders of Stern College. If the administration is really committed to making SCW feel more a part of the University, it should begin by putting an end to such glaring omissions. It's definitely not the first time this had happened, but maybe it could be the last.

The Observer

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Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 11	12 Reading Day	13 Reading Day	14 Finals	15 Finals	16 Finals	17 Finals Week Shabbaton
18 Finals	19 Finals	20 Lag Ba'Omer Finals	21 Senior Class Dinner Wax Museum, 7 pm Finals	22 Commencement The Theater at Madison Square Garden, 11am	23 Dorms close for the summer	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30 Yom Yerushalayim	31
June 1 Salute to Israel Parade Rosh Chodesh Sivan	2	3	4	5	6 Shavuot	7 Shavuot

From The Editor's Desk



CARYN LITT
Editor-in-Chief

Over the past several months, I've lived part of my life in 19th century England. I've traveled to the marshlands and the mill towns and surveyed the slums of London.

I've observed young orphans lying on their deathbeds, street urchins falling sick and plaintiffs arguing their cases in interminable lawsuits. I've visited a debtors' prison, mysterious homes and a Victorian circus ground.

These travels, observations and visits were not the result of scientific time-travel or highly sophisticated hallucinations. They were simply part of my research into the world of 19th century novelist and social reformer Charles Dickens—the subject of my senior Honors thesis.

Many readers today dislike Dickens for his lengthy writing (although it is just a myth that he was paid by the word) and a lack of what post-modern readers have come to regard as realism. Many scholars, too, find his plotlines convoluted, his characters to be merely exaggerated caricatures and his sentimentalism to be inflated.

Even in his own time, Dickens's status as a high artist was questioned. For instance, the great author Henry James, a young contemporary of Dickens, called Dickens "the greatest of superficial novelists" in an 1865 review of Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*. James wrote in that generally scathing review, "It were, in our opinion, an offense against humanity to place Mr. Dickens among the greatest novelists...."

Indeed, Dickens in his time was known as a popular writer—an author who wrote for the masses rather than for the elite, and who paid indelicate attention to the number of copies his serials sold. While millions of students today are subjected to reading the "classic" Dickens, Queen Victoria wrote in her diary that her mother admonished her for reading such "light" material as *Oliver Twist*.

Before classifying Dickens as the beach reading of the Victorian era, however, it is necessary to consider this prolific author's achievements. For, in fact, Dickens was a serious social reformer. He wrote numerous non-fiction essays and delivered many lectures regarding various social problems, such as sanitation problems, and he collaborated with philanthropists on social reform projects, such as the building of schools.

Dickens's fiction was not excluded from these efforts. Virtually all of his pieces of fiction contain some social criticism, most often attacks on specific societal ills, such as the infamous poor laws in *Oliver Twist* and prison reform in *Little Dorrit*. My research revealed that, while Dickens certainly targeted specific abuses in his writing, his main concern was to propel the public to a sentiment of reform.

Through comments in his letters and prefaces to his novels one can see the importance Dickens attached to reaching out to his readers and forging bonds with them. In his preface to *Bleak House*, for instance, Dickens wrote to his readers that he was "deeply sensible of the affection and confidence that have grown up between us."

What makes Dickens great, then, is that he had the unique ability to create personal connections with his readers through his writing, specifically through the literary technique of sentimentalism, and he used that talent to effect change.

As editor of a newspaper for the past year, I could not help but feel a bit envious when I read of Dickens' apparent closeness with his readers. Among the various written media, journalism seems to be the most difficult through which to affect people. After all, marks of good journalism are objectivity and the presentation of cold, hard facts. In a field where the addition of a single extra word, such as "only" or "finally," can be construed as editorializing, there is little room for an emotional appeal.

This limitation recently hit home when a Jewish Studies professor of mine criticized an article I had written. His complaint was that it was too dry and lacking in feeling. "If there's no fire in it," he said, "throw it into the fire."

Since the professor was not a journalism expert, I was not offended personally or professionally by his criticism. Still, that a reader would feel so disconnected from what I had written haunted me.

I suppose that, like in every area in life, there must be a balance—a balance between presenting material in an objective manner and producing an emotive response from readers. After all, if in journalism one strives to create an awareness of specific events and abuses, then prodding readers toward particular conclusions and value judgments cannot be far behind.

What my research on Dickens showed me, however, is that promoting an environment of change is ultimately a greater contribution than pointing out particular societal flaws. As John Forster, Dickens's friend, proofreader and co-worker, said regarding Dickens, "The world will grow wiser than it is, the abuses attacked by this greatest of humorists and kindest of satirists will disappear—but the spirit in which he writes, and to which he appeals, is indestructible." Abuses come and go, but the feeling of being able to make a difference is enduring.

This past weekend, I came across a small paperback book hidden on a bottom shelf in the *beis medrash*. The book, "The Greatest Miracle in the World," by Og Mandino, tells a simple story of a discontented professional, Og Mandino himself, who meets a mysterious old man. The man, who calls himself Simon, teaches Og how to live a fulfilling life.

One passage in the 100-page book particularly drew my attention. Early on Simon warns Og, "Most of us build prisons for ourselves and after we occupy them for a period of time we become accustomed to their walls and accept the false premise that we are incarcerated for life." To Simon, complacency is evil because it denies a human being's ability to form his own destiny.

SCW, and Yeshiva as a whole, has undergone many changes over the past year, and has faced challenges, both from within and without. As a college newspaper, we have tried to inform our readers and to point out the central issues surrounding our college experience. At the same time, however, we have attempted to create an environment of thought, dialogue and change. Because, just as the abuses Dickens decried disappeared and new ones arose in their places, SCW will inevitably encounter in the future new and different challenges. And if anything is to be learned from college, it is that we cannot be complacent, and that we must always strive to form our own destinies—both in college and beyond.



ALISA ROSE
Editor-in-Chief

"The rung of the ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher" -

Thomas Henry Huxley.

I'm ready to graduate. I can't sit still and study for finals or focus on the papers I still have to write because I keep getting distracted by the promises of the future.

This excitement for the future makes it hard to gripe about problems I have witnessed at Stern over the past three years. In addition, experience gives one a broader perspective. The more time I spend at Stern, the more that I see that its many strengths overshadow its weaknesses, and the more I appreciate how much I gained here. I entered Stern with a series of preconceived notions about its numerous imperfections. I have gradually shed most of them over the years.

Some of the schools where many of us learn in Israel do a disservice to their students when they set us up to believe that Stern is a dangerous place where religious growth is impossible. I expected to be confronted by ideas that were anti-Torah, by professors who harbored heretical views, and classmates who were less religious than me. I entered Stern believing that if I was happy, it was an indication that I lost some of the religious fervor that I felt when I was learning in Israel.

Fortunately, at some point along the way, my attitude changed. I understand the dangers that Stern raises in not providing one, clear Torah *hashkafah* and in not fostering a homogeneous student body. But I learned that those qualities do not preclude religious growth; in actuality, they heighten it. I achieved a certain religious maturity by not being forced to conform to one circumscribed *hashkafah*, and my religious dedication was enhanced by friendships with students who are different than I am. I learned more about religious dedication from a friend who is struggling to keep Shabbos than from my "very frum" friends from seminary. I value the diverse group of friends I made at Stern who are intelligent, thinking and thoughtful people who do not all think like me.

The dress code debate this year suggested that a great divide exists between the "pants wearers" and the "skirt wearers." It was a disheartening discussion because it established a stark contrast between the groups that is exaggerated, if not altogether imagined. I don't think we are really that different. We attend the

same school, and we share many of the same values. From the vantage point of an outsider, we are one student body, and we must try to see ourselves like that from the inside as well.

I thought I was compromising academically when I decided to come to Stern, but I met professors who challenged me and who forced me to think. I learned in small classes with professors who knew my name and were always available to talk outside of class. We have an inferiority complex, always comparing ourselves to Barnard or Columbia, and it is not entirely warranted. But at the same time, there is definitely room for improvement in the academic life at Stern. I am disappointed that over the course of the past three years, I have had several professors who did not demand excellence from their students and awarded A's for mediocre work.

I also didn't anticipate the emotional growth I experienced or the greater self-awareness that I gained at Stern, in part through exploring career options and discovering the areas in which I excelled in and enjoyed.

I was surprised to discover that it can be nice staying in Stern for Shabbos. It took me two years to overcome what I had been told by other students that "no one stays in for Shabbos." Staying in Stern for Shabbos is an option. There is life at Stern over the weekend. There should be more.

I entered Stern reluctant to participate in any school activities. My hesitance was partially inherited - most students were not involved in activities at school - and partially because I thought Stern was only a means to a goal. It was a temporary sojourn in a less than ideal place. I am so happy that I decided - albeit reluctantly - to write for the *Observer* at the end of my sophomore year. Working on the *Observer* was one of the most rewarding experiences that I had here. I learned how to put together a newspaper, while working with talented people who became real friends. Equally significant, participating in the *Observer* made me care about Stern. It introduced me to deans and administrators, professors and students, and it made me feel a part of the school. It was key to my growth at Stern.

But even as I trace my growth and feel very thankful that I was able to accomplish so much and that I reversed the false ideas that I had about Stern when I entered, I am definitely ready to move on. I don't want to be a Stern College student anymore. I want to be a Stern College graduate. My excitement to move on might be the greatest signal of my success here.

The Observer
extends its appreciation to
SCWSC, TAC and SSSBSC
for all their hard work this
year

Congratulations
to all the graduates!

Letters & Opinions

Play Review Lacking

To the Editors:

We thank the *Observer* for taking time to view our production. However, we were disturbed when we read your review ("SCDS Gives Strong Performance in *Steel Magnolias*," March 28th, 2003). The article only acknowledged one specific actress while there were five other performers that also deserved some mention, credit or feedback. Because the review went into detail about the background of SCDS, and mentioned some incidents that occurred prior to the performance of *Steel Magnolias*, which included comments from the SCDS president, Aliza Blumenfeld, we felt that the review was only a part of a whole article that was lacking information.

We believe that your article, although well meaning, lacked significant and necessary details that credit what the cast, crew, director, producer, and executive board did to put the play together. We are especially disappointed about the lack of credit given to the director, Emily Stone. Emily put her entire being into the play. She was an extremely devoted and compassionate director. She always pointed out the good things people did, and her constructive critiques were given kindly. Even with the limited time for rehearsal, which led to long hours, working in the theatre till 12 AM, Emily stayed composed, collected and still supportive. *Steel Magnolias* was a success because of her, and the *Observer* should have mentioned more than one sentence about her in the review.

We also felt that more interviews should have been conducted, and that the opinions of the other members of SCDS, the SCW Deans and student body should have been added to the comments of Aliza Blumenfeld.

Sincerely,
The cast and crew of
Steel Magnolias and the executive
board of SCDS

See No Evil, Hear No Evil

To the Editors:

I read your article on cheating with horror ("Two Students Accused of Cheating Face Investigation," March 28, 2003). To think YU utilizes "Gestapo" tactics in order to insure honesty on exams! Demanding a student to sign an affidavit, testifying she did not cheat, is

one thing; requiring her to tell on OTHER students is quite another! As I recall from my years at SCW & TIW, I was too absorbed by a test, and too relieved once it was over, to be looking over my shoulder at who was doing what. This is totally against Torah: "Do not go about as a tale-bearer among your people." (*Vayikra* 19:16) Doesn't *Pirkei Avos* (1:6) teach to judge everyone favorably, giving benefit of the doubt? Psychologically, this puts undue tension on students—the last thing desirable at exam time.

The only responsibility incumbent on a student is to do her own work—efficiently and honestly, and not to play "policeman." That is the job of the proctor (whose position in this incident is strangely absent in the article). The entire matter seems to stand on shaky legs. How such "snitch" policies can illustrate proper conduct in business is beyond understanding. SSSB should drop charges on these young ladies. It's enough their records have been tainted, possibly in their innocence. Being accused falsely is a tormenting experience no one should have to endure.

Hindishe Lee
SCW '79 TIW '82

Don't Fail Yourself

Dear Editors,

I write to protest the breach of basic ethics and honesty on our campus. I have seen too many incidents and have heard too many horror stories. I have witnessed incidents of "minor" infractions like copying assignments, doctoring lab data, and walking all over professors. I have heard horror stories of plagiarism and cheating.

And what of the infamous "YU mesorah"? I think that it is high time for a school policy to clear the confusion. I think that it is time for the leadership of the school to send a clear message of uncompromising commitment to interpersonal and academic integrity.

Yes, the pressure to make the grade may be great, but we cannot afford to let the pressure break us. There are options. Speak to your professor, e-mail for an extension, check out the writing center, take an incomplete, audit, file for pass/fail, flunk if you can't help it, but don't fail yourself. Don't cheat yourself out of your basic honesty and integrity. And the next time someone asks you to be an accomplice to her crime, do her a favor and politely refuse. There are options.

Ayda Rottman
SCW senior

Learning from Literature

By Margueya Novick

While enjoying a Friday night meal at a friend's house, her parents asked the ever popular question of what my plans are post graduation. Pleased that I actually had an answer, I informed them of my new-found position in a girls' yeshiva, teaching eleventh grade English. I went on to discuss my goal of giving advanced academic classes with strong *hashkafic* overtones. In my high school, English had been very obviously restricted to the classroom, and the ensuing sentiment from the students was one of resentment and utter lack of interest. Having developed my own love of literature as well as the lessons that can be gleaned, I was determined to revolutionize the way it is being taught.

Mulling over my point of view, my friend's mother shook her head and replied, "I think that's a fallacy. People shouldn't look to outside sources as a way to live their life; they'll start to think these baseless ideas override Torah."

I was quite taken aback by her response, and deeply troubled. Was I so misguided in my thoughts? Would my utopian classroom in fact lead to the creation of future heretics?

After three years in Stern College, it does not surprise me that I still lack an exact definition of Torah U'Madda. If anything, what I have discovered over the course of my education is that there simply is none, and that Stern itself manifests its *raison d'être* in a variety of ways that allows for each student to benefit in her own way.

My first semester here, Torah U'Madda was the pleasant feeling I had when I ran from my halakha class to Sociology, experiencing the passive kind of approach that high school gave me, of simply having the two exist side by side, acknowledging each as important, yet very distinctly set apart.

As time progressed, the two began to merge, and a symbiotic relationship developed. My psychology professor quoted *Mishlei*, in French class we read a novel that appealed specifically to Orthodox Jews. More and more I was seeing a new slant to the way I had always learned, and began to appreciate the enhancement that each facet of our academic structure could offer the other.

This became most apparent in one of my literature courses, taught by a secular professor. Without actually intending to, the works we read in class lead directly to spirited discussions about *agunos*, *tznius*, and women learning Gemara. I was amazed at how fruitful the average novel could be, and how much *hashkafic* value the simple act of exposure could provide—and all without direct guidance!

I knew the sentiment expressed from people that I spoke to was that I was there to safeguard the students from the potential evils of literature, and perhaps further the chasm between "us" and "them." But as I thought this over, I began to see this as its own fallacy, and a dangerous one.

There's a distinct school of thought that secular studies are, at best, *bidieved*. They are taught to satisfy government requirements and facilitate a degree, but nothing more. With this philosophy comes a pristine approach to Torah that

allows for few outside influences and draws one's priorities in a clear and focused fashion.

However, there is also an inherent guilt complex that develops, as a student will squelch any degree of pleasure they derive from their secular studies. More than that, they will ignore the undeniable value that can be extrapolated from what's around them, enhancing their love and understanding of Torah, G-d, and His world.

Why should it be that great men who contributed immeasurably to the written world, fine arts, and the very act of thinking be completely discredited, rather than learned from within a *hashkafic* framework? Should any source of *chachma* be shunned or treated as a necessary evil, resulting in students who either miss out on broader ways of thinking, or seek out a world and lifestyle that allows for freedom of thought which they then assume is antithetical to Torah?

A fellow teacher commented on the switch I'd be making from the *kodesh* class I currently teach once a week to the English class I had taken on for next year, implicit within her tone that I had been demoted and must be disappointed.

My initial reaction was one of defensiveness, at the idea that there wouldn't be what to gain from a secular class and that it wouldn't demand as much if not more from me. I informed her that rather than the strict *machshava* class I was currently teaching, I felt that I could be more of a service to the school, finding Torah values within the secular studies that had to be taught regardless.

"Why shouldn't English serve as an exercise beyond preparation for state wide exams and college?" I argued. "If I can make it more than that, why shouldn't I?"

In no way would a Torah outlook on *madda* material overtake the former. Realistically speaking, while one can certainly resonate with Thoreau's views on society and Rousseau on child rearing, no student with a firm Torah background and genuine curiosity will let secular philosophers predominate what they already know to be true, and engage in daily. When one takes the chance of expanding their minds, the benefits that can be accrued will often surpass the myopia that can dominate a more segregated classroom.

I face a number of challenges as I leave Stern, a structure that has provided me with shelter in a multitude of ways. However, few preparations would serve me better for not only my vocation but my daily living as a healthy approach to the world around me. Having spent three years confronting the struggle of a Jew in modern society in an honest and idealistic way, I look to next year as the practical to the theory I have contemplated and the lessons I have absorbed.

Bridging the distance between Torah and *madda* is a bold and at times risky endeavor, and certainly a separation seems safest. But a student who has seen education as more than just a passive response to society, but rather a seasoning to all components of her life, will surely have that much more to offer her community, as well as herself.

Correction

The byline of the article entitled "Yeshiva Commemorates 10th Yahrzeit of Rav," which ran on page 1 of the March 28th issue of the *Observer*, mistakenly appeared as Malka Zeiger. The article was in fact written by *Observer* staff members with additional reporting by Malka Zeiger.

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



Writing columns for the *Observer* has been a challenge the past year. What point would I like to express to my fellow students? I put much thought

into every column. The message I would like to communicate in this column is a heartfelt thank-you. All of the club heads, committee heads were so dedicated to enriching the atmosphere of the midtown campus. All of the faculty and staff always perform above and beyond their job descriptions. Specifically, student services has been and continues to be a resource of advisors, counselors, student advocates and friends. Dr. Efrem Nulman, Mr. Hember, Mrs. Braun, Beth, and Andrew, I personally gained so much from you and appreciate all that you do for the student body. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

This year, SCWSC, TAC and SSSBSC worked together to create a variety of successful programs. Lisa and Ellie were a pleasure to work with. From the September 11 memorial to swing dancing to the end of the year dessert, I knew that I was lucky to work with you and get to know you. Even without nextels, I know that we will always be in touch. The SCWSC board did such an excellent job this year. They completed their official

duties, came up with creative and innovative ideas and were in communication with club and committee heads by assisting and joining them in creating events and making a difference on our campus. Most importantly they cared. I was so lucky to be able to work with Miryam Khavarani, Sara Brodsky, Michelle Amini and Arie Staller. Thank you.

I learned, loved and enjoyed the past four years with all of the new friends I made here. I always was excited to attend and be a part of Stern College for Women. It is one of a kind. The college itself provides a foundation for us as Jewish women. The students take this opportunity and run with it and that is why I think you are all amazing. Thank you for your commitment, knowledge and presence at Stern.

Acharon acharon chaviv. My parents live for me and my siblings (and my niece). They always worked hard to provide, care and love us. My parents are always there to guide me in whatever direction they see fit, and even if I choose another direction once in awhile, they continue to support me. They believe in me, and I believe in them and love them. Thank you so much.

For all of the students who are not graduating, enjoy Stern. Participate in every aspect of Stern that interests you. The opportunities and availability for your growth at Stern is up to you. I will certainly miss you! (I will still be around as a GA in Brookdale, 11F. Come visit!)

MESSAGE FROM TAC PRESIDENT

Lisa Grundman



When I sat down to write the last column for this year, the first thing that came to my mind is "Chazak, Chazak, V'Nitchazek" – "Strong, strong, and may we be strengthened!"

The whole congregation rises and recites this phrase at the completion of the reading of the Torah. We are saying to everyone that we have just accomplished so much by finishing one *Sefer*, but at the same time we still have so much more to achieve and need to continue.

This past year we have done so much and reached greater heights. However, there is always more to be done. We can never stop and say enough. If we are not constantly moving up the ladder, we are automatically moving down. Now that we

have the summer ahead of us we can really spend time looking back on this past year and feel a great sense of pride. But we also have time to think of new programs that we wanted to see happen that did not. We can make goals for ourselves for next year and figure out ways to achieve them.

This year would not have been all that it was without the help and dedication of the TAC board members, Dassie Wagner, Shoshana Hulkower, Esther Feman and Mera Bender. You all worked hard and deserve much appreciation.

I am happy to say that this will not be my last column for the *Observer* as TAC president since I will be doing it for one more year. I am very excited to be serving this position next year. I have no doubts that TAC will only be improved and enhanced. To all of the seniors that are graduating I just want to say thank you for your advice, enthusiasm and participation. You are always welcome to our events (especially Chagigas!) and I hope to hear great things from all of you.

Where Do You Stand?

In each issue, the *Observer* has presented a different topic of importance to the modern Orthodox world. The attitudes listed on each topic are only basic outlines and do not necessarily represent the views of our editorial board. Further information and halakhic sources can be found on the Edah website, www.edah.org.

Israel recently marked its 55th year in existence. While some segments of the Jewish community celebrated the milestone with great fanfare, other segments let the day pass with no recognition. The religious significance of the modern State of Israel is clearly an issue on which the Jewish community has not reached a consensus. What do you think, and where do you stand?

ATTITUDE #1: The establishment of the *Medinah* is a step within the messianic process. The government and its laws are binding upon its citizens by virtue of their authority as *melech Yisrael*, expressed in the form of a Jewish-democratic state.

ATTITUDE #2: The establishment of the *Medinah* was fulfillment of the mitzvah of *kibbush ve'yishuv*. It is a pre-messianic political entity in which the secular government and its laws are halakhically binding upon its citizens by virtue of contractual obligation as in any modern political state.

ATTITUDE #3: The existence of the *Medinah* has no religious significance. But there is religious value in living in *Eretz Yisrael*, in studying Torah there, and in the economic support of Jews living there. The political entity of the State and its laws are binding upon its citizens by virtue of contractual obligations as in any modern political state.

ATTITUDE #4: The establishment of an autonomous Jewish state was an act of rebellion against God's will, and its continuation and support will be punished by God.

A Farewell Message from the Executive Editor

Rachel P. Fyman

I wish I were that funny guy from the *Commentator*. Alas. I am not. Therefore, being asked to write a column is an absolutely unreasonable and overly taxing request. It's a known fact that if you're not entertaining, nobody cares what you have to say. However, being amiable and agreeable as I am, here it is.

My esteemed editors (read: bullies who steal my lunch money and make me call university presidents, deans and random rabble-rousers), who prove that neither age nor size have any effect on a person's ability to intimidate, asked me to share my opinions with the esteemed readership of this quality newspaper. (Hi Mom.) I suppose that the fact that I frequently spew forth my views and perspectives in the company of my fellow would-be journalists led them to believe that I have something to share that is worth printing. Ha ha. I'll show them.

The way I understand it, a column must be based on one of two premises, and I am not capable of either. The first option, chosen frequently by my newspaper colleagues, is intended entirely to flaunt a bombastic vocabulary that will go way over the heads of the majority of the three people reading the paper. But unfortunately, I am not sufficiently keen to whip up a mini-dissertation on the fascinating subject of the common theological questions of Elie Wiesel, Iyov, and Neil Simon.

The other choice, chosen equally often by my fellow editors is to rant about the ills of society in general and Yeshiva University in particular. However, I got stuck on this one as well, due to the fact that I don't really have anything to vociferously decry—except perhaps the highway-robbery price of grapefruit in the cafeteria, which has already surpassed the weekly wages of most gainfully employed people in semi-developed countries. (Okay, maybe also the placement of the mirrors in the bathrooms of the school building. I'd like to give a piece of my mind to the nine-foot-tall mutant who hung those mirrors.) Anyway, as frightening as the imminent threat of scurvy on campus is, I am graduating next week. So when it all comes down to it, I just don't care. As my father would say, bringing about change is highly overrated if one is not going to be around to enjoy it. (Okay, he never said that. But maybe he will one day. I need someone to attribute my cynical pronouncements to, lest people think I myself am a negative person. Which, I assure you, I am not.)

That said, in a daring expose, I will give the general population of the school a glimpse at what actually goes on behind the scenes in the production of this venerated publication. I can do that now because I'm leaving. From feedback I have received from my devoted fan, it seems that people have come to count on the *Observer's* reliable publication a bunch of times each year, for breaking news about what went on campus three months previously.

I venture to guess that very, very few students have considered what is involved in producing a periodical such as ours. Fortunately, I am here to give an insider's account.

First of all, we have to find out the

scoop on what's happening in the University. Honestly, I haven't a clue how we get this information. That's the reason why I'm just a puny inconsequential editor and not one of the big cheeses. (Also, I suspect, because I am the only person on the planet without a cell phone.) Somehow, the editors-in-chief get whiff of something and determine if the news is actually interesting in any way. If it is, they will unanimously volunteer to cover the story themselves. More likely, it is yet another fascinating breakthrough regarding the prices of grapefruit in the cafeteria, and they must set about dispatching a writer to investigate the story.

This is where we come to our second impasse. You see, we don't really have any reporters. At a high point in the year, we had a pool of about three students not on the masthead whom we can count on, only one of whom is literate. They each write their one article that is sent in approximately two weeks after the given deadline. In the meantime, the editors are responsible for putting together the rest of the paper. So in the end, the entire newspaper (all six pages of it) is the product of the imagination of eight sleep-deprived students. Did I say "imagination"? Of course, I obviously meant to write "thorough investigation," "journalistic skill" and "uncompromising integrity."

The next step in the process of producing this newspaper, once all the articles have been submitted—the result of threats of bodily harm on par with almost anything the mafia could pull off—is to do layout. We do this in the *Observer* office, which, thanks to the student council of 1957, is equipped with thousands of dollars worth of broken machinery. The technical term "layout" involves consuming vast quantities of assorted goodies while having your head bitten off by humorless and grumpy editors who, once again, cannot get the computers to work. Then, at 1 am, the scanner breaks, the only functional printer goes berserk, and the computers crash, losing all information that had ever been within a 10-foot radius of the hard drive. This is what we, in the business, refer to as "unforeseen circumstances"—regardless of the fact that they happen so often we really should be able to foresee them by now.

At this point, the editors start to whimper and, always ready to help out in a pinch, I check out for the night. So I'm not really sure what happens between that stage and the part where we get yelled at by scary cab drivers while lost in a sketchy neighborhood in Brooklyn trying to find the printer. But somehow, the paper gets printed and then, piece of cake, you find it in your local newsstand. (Note: when I say a piece of cake, I am referring to the kind with globs of flour that didn't get mixed in and gooey raw parts and banana.)

The point of all this was to demonstrate how selflessly the *Observer* editors work for the lofty and noble objective of seeing their own names in print. Also, to prove quite effectively that I have nothing of value to say. I hope I have been successful. It might just be a first.

The Observer
wishes you a relaxing and
productive summer.

On Campus

Students Lament Lack of Political Debate on Campus

By Shayndi Raice

With the worst of the conflict over in Iraq, students distressed with the lack of debate or concern displayed by the Yeshiva community have brought up an issue long disturbing the SCW campus: apathy.

"On other campuses, there had been discussions going on for weeks before the war," said Aliza Blumenfeld, an SCW junior. "Here, even after the war began there were no discussions taking place."

Before the U.S. launched its first attack on Iraq, there was much debate circulating across the country, with the college campus a hotbed of protest against the war. However, while many college students have been vocal in their strong dissent, *The New York Times* reported that many college professors are leading the battle against the war in Iraq rather than the students. Some students have expressed frustration at the perceived left-leaning politics of their professors and their insistence on bringing current affairs into the classroom. However, such challenges do not seem to face most SCW students. "I wish someone would bring it up," laments Jessica Moore, an SCW senior.

However, despite these perceptions some teachers have mentioned the issue, mostly in passing, in the classroom. For example, Dr. Jacob Reiner, professor of Jewish history, mentioned to his class that "this is a moment of *geulah* (redemption) because one of the great enemies of our people, Haman, is being destroyed. As Passover approaches we remember another *sonai yisrael* (hater of Israel), Saddam Hussein."

Some students wanted religious guidance regarding the war. "I think there should have been *Tehillim*," said Jamie Miller, an SCW sophomore. Jessica Levine, an SCW senior agreed with that sentiment. "I wish we could have had a Torah perspective," she said. However, while Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel recalled students questioning him about what war meant for Israel, he said, "most students have been calm and I didn't get that kind of voltage or vibes" regarding concern for the war.

Those teachers who have brought Iraq to the classroom have had a good response and found students interested and thirsting for information. Professor Joshua Scher had students prepare a speech on the war in Iraq for his speech class. "It feels like students were interest-

ed but not really that knowledgeable," he said. Any sentiment Scher has received has been conservative and pro-Bush. "I'm not surprised that I've received that sentiment here, especially in a community so invested in Israel," he said.

Some students agree with Scher that the lack of debate stems from a lack of knowledge. "The student body as a whole doesn't like to discuss it [war] because they're ambivalent and uneducated," said Liora Kasten, an SCW senior.

Despite the complaints about a lack of debate, there was a symposium held prior to the war featuring Dr. Ellen Schrecker, Dr. Rachel Bronson, Elyon Javetz and Anthony Arno, mediated by Dr. Joseph Luders. While the symposium was a success, Dr. Luders says that student apathy is widespread, not only a phenomenon of SCW. However, Luders, in response to complaints from students about a lack of school-sponsored programming, said, "If students are upset, in minutes we could put up an event. It should be a collaborative effort. I've been working with students who say they want more but when things happen they don't show up." Luders pointed to an event held prior to Passover break where only 7 students attended a lecture given by Avigail Lightner, a lawyer bringing a lawsuit against Yasser Arafat.

Aside from frustration with the lack of political debate, students have expressed concern for safety and feel frustrated that they were not reassured or given any guidance whatsoever. In response to conversations with students who said they were experiencing stress about the war, the Director of Residence Life, Rachel Kraut, sent security notices to students explaining exactly what security has been doing to ensure the safety of students. Additionally, they provided ways to release stress, 20 stress crushers and a free half hour of studio time at Our Name is Mud. Residence Life also provided yellow ribbons to students who wished to show their solidarity with soldiers fighting in Iraq. SCWSC president Sharon Weiss said that when the war broke out she wanted to arrange for programs. "I was told that in times of war we should act normal," said Weiss. "Students Services said we shouldn't do anything. They said you have to keep things going and act normal."

Chemistry Club Travels to New Orleans, Wins Award

By Observer Staff

The SCW Chemistry Club was given an Honorable Mention Award at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society, held from March 23-25 in New Orleans, Louisiana. This was the third consecutive year that the club has received an award from the ACS.

Chemistry Club president Toby Josovitz, an SCW senior, accepted the award, which recognized the hard work and activities of SCW's club. Josovitz attended the convention together with fellow students Anya Sedletcaia, an SCW senior, and freshman Sarabeth Reingold, accompanied by Dr. Leah Blau, professor of Organic Chemistry at SCW.

The three students were selected to attend the conference, as winners of a competition held on the midtown campus in September 2002. Students were asked to submit posters explaining a research project they had completed, which were judged by SCW faculty members. This competition is held at the beginning of every fall semester, and the Office of the Dean sponsors the trip for the winners to the ACS annual meeting.

"This is an excellent way to encourage students to explore the world of research," said Josovitz, whose poster was based on research she conducted last summer under the auspices of the Roth Scholars Program at AECOM, on the subject of the mechanism of Taxol, a drug for the treatment of cancer that has been perplexing scientists for over 40 years. Sedletcaia's research on locating

the PMS2 gene was also conducted at AECOM last summer.

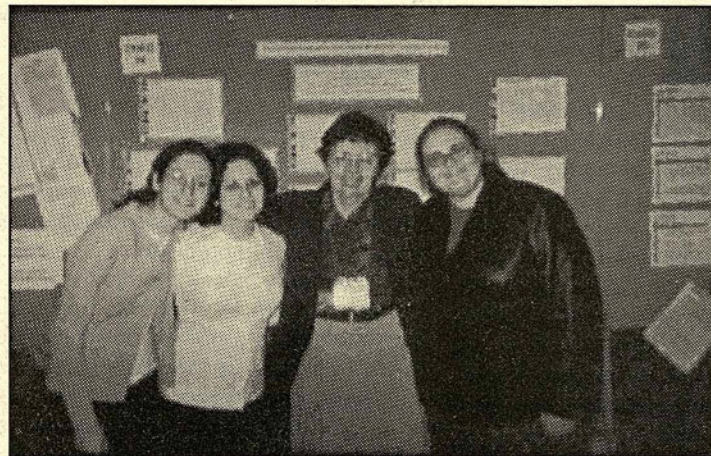
Josovitz, Sedletcaia and Reingold presented their research at the Undergraduate Poster Session on March 24.

Reingold, whose research was on the effects of cyclone B1 protein on the proliferation of mantle cell lymphoma, enjoyed the experience of attending the meeting, as well as getting to see New Orleans. "I appreciated the opportunity to go down there," she said. "It was an honor to represent Stern at the conference."

Over 12,000 chemists and scientists from around the world attend the convention each year, together with approximately 1,500 undergraduates from across the United States. At the convention, students were given the opportunity to attend sessions of the different chapters of the ACS, and hear lectures on various topics of interest. Due to the size of the convention, there were a great number of lectures and activities to choose from. "It was a very diverse experience," Josovitz explained.

According to Reingold, the science faculty was very helpful in her research. "Dr. Babich's office was always open to me," she commented. "I'm not even his student, per se. The faculty was amazingly warm and generous."

The students stayed with a local New Orleans rabbi for the Shabbat prior to the conference, and arranged for their own kosher food, subsidized entirely by the office of the dean.



(l-r) Anya Sedletcaia, Toby Josovitz, Dr. Leah Blau and Sarabeth Reingold attended the ACS conference in New Orleans

New Courses Lined Up for Fall Semester

By Shifra Landowne

New courses are being offered in almost every department next fall, ranging from English, history, and art to the social sciences and Judaic Studies.

"It should be a good semester," Dean Ethel Orlian said. "If I were a student, I don't know how I'd decide [which courses to take]."

In the arts and humanities, professor Susan Gardner is teaching a new Color course. For English students, new professor Dr. Jay Ladin will be teaching a course entitled, Narrative Poetry in English from Chaucer to Walcott. In the History department, an adjunct professor is teaching History of East Asia, a subject matter not usually taught at SCW. Another new history course, Ideas: Antiquity to Renaissance, will be taught by Dr. William Stenhouse.

New socially relevant courses include a course entitled International Terrorism, taught by Dr. Gorla. For students interested in Judaic Studies, Rabbi Aaron Cohen is teaching a new course entitled Modern Jewish Personalities; Rabbi Yitzchak

Handel is teaching a course in *Pirkei Avot*, Professor Jerome Chanes will be teaching a seminar on Anti-Semitism, and Dr. Aharon Fried will be teaching a psychology class on problems in the Jewish community.

Dr. David Glaser of the Music department has produced an exciting new course called Survey of Operatic Literature.

"We've never had such a music course," Dean Orlian noted, "This will be an interesting variety for the music majors."

Students from all majors have been pleased with the new courses offered this fall. "The color course sounds innovative," said Odelliah Amar, SCW junior and an art major. "And, I am happy to have Professor Gardner back."

SCW junior Sefi Kraut, a history major, said, "There seem to be a number of interesting courses coming into the department, and we needed the variety. I think it will be a good semester."

Ann D. Koffsky

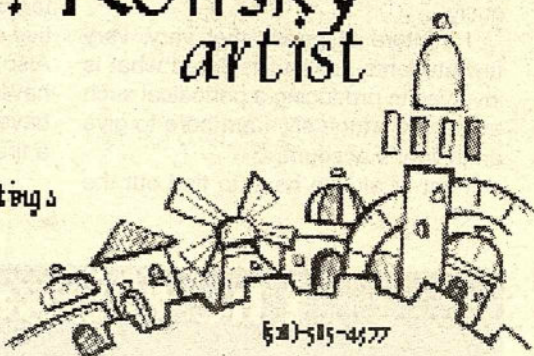
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On Campus

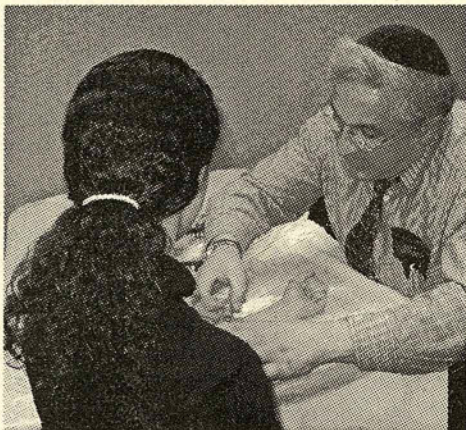
Dor Yeshorim Conducts Genetic Tests on Campus

By Rebecca Rosenberg

Dor Yeshorim, an organization for the prevention of Jewish genetic diseases, conducted genetic testing on students on the SCW campus during the week of April 7. The organization tests for five diseases, including Tay Sachs, Cystic Fibrosis, Canavan Disease, Fanconi Anemia, and Familial Dysautonomia that have especially high rates of occurrence in the Jewish Ashkenazi community.

The program is aimed at couples who wish to get married, and determines their genetic compatibility by screening the blood of each individual and testing for evidence of unexpressed (recessive) genetic diseases. If a man and a woman are both carriers of the genes that cause a particular disease, there is a 25 percent chance that their offspring will express the symptoms of that disease. If either the man or the woman tests negative, the child will not have the symptoms for that disease, regardless of the other parent's genetic status.

The testing, conducted in the gymnasium, was organized by SCW junior Ilana Nattel. She was prompted by the encouragement of a professor who had mentioned that the program had been offered at SCW a few years ago. "It's extremely important," Nattel explained. "If the only



Dor Yeshorim official draws blood from SCW student

thing stopping it from being done is that no one is taking initiative, then someone should do it."

Dor Yeshorim offered testing for a \$150 a person, which is much cheaper than the cost in hospitals or clinics. However, the cost was still seen as steep to many people. "I'm a college student and I don't have \$150 for genetic testing when I have bills to pay," said SCW junior Sarah Richstone. "I know that it's important but I'll wait until I'm ready to get married before I worry about it."

Nattel asked Student Services to subsidize it, but, according to Nattel, Student

Services officials said that the testing was not a student activity.

"I think that the cost was a deterrent, but though it may seem expensive it is much cheaper than the emotional price of having a child with these disabilities," Nattel said.

Dor Yeshorim has a unique way of delivering the results. Instead of telling the patients that they are positive or negative carriers of the disease, Dor Yeshorim puts the results in a database and only after a couple starts dating seriously do they both call and find out if they are compatible. "This method is encouraged by rabbis because it prevents stigmatization, *lashon hara* [slander], and psychologically it is more comfortable," Nattel said.

Additionally, the program spreads awareness about the existence of these diseases. "Even if everyone does not take advantage of the testing offered, it still generates an awareness on campus and if eventually students have it done somewhere else the goal is accomplished," Nattel said.

Nattel had hoped that more students would have taken advantage of the testing. "So much tragedy and heartache can be avoided by such a small effort," she asserted.

Dor Yeshorim is a not-for-profit organization started in 1983 by Rabbi Joseph

Eckstein to cope with the serious problems of genetic diseases facing the Jewish community. It has spared over 800 Jewish families from the agony of having children with severe disabilities. Leading rabbinical authorities and doctors strongly recommend that this test be taken.

Eckstein had four children born with Tay-Sachs disease, an incurable degenerative disease primarily found in Jews of Eastern European Ashkenazi descent. Tay-Sachs is a fatal disease disproportionately present within the Ashkenazic Jewish community, with about one carrier in every 30 people.

Cystic Fibrosis is an inherited metabolic disorder the chief symptom of which is the production of thick, sticky mucus that clogs the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. There is an extremely high prevalence of Cystic Fibrosis within the Ashkenazic community.

Approximately one in 37 Jews carry the gene for Canavan Disease, which affects the central nervous system, and is marked by degeneration of the brain. Fanconi Anemia causes progressive bone marrow failure, causing a life expectancy rate of only eight to 12 years. The carrier rate in the Ashkenazic community has been estimated at one in 75.

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On Campus

Summer Plans Take Students Near and Far

By Elisha Horen

Unconstrained by long classroom hours and set schedules, students are looking forward to new and exciting experiences during the hot sunny months of June, July and August. Some students will be traveling abroad, eager to experience foreign cultures. Others will be participating in various internships, and yet others are finding their ways back to summer camps.

Shuli Roditti, an SCW junior, has applied to a Spanish immersion program in San Jose, Costa Rica's festive capital. "I have been taking Spanish for the past four years and still can't speak it," Roditti said. Both she and her Spanish teachers decided an immersion program would provide her with an opportunity to learn Spanish fluently. In addition to the classroom lessons, Roditti will be working in San Jose as part of the program. "I guess I'll carry a dictionary around if I get stuck because very few people there speak English," said Roditti. "I'm not sure if the dictionary thing is allowed though."

Many students are willing to travel considerable distances to their summer destinations. Elisha Shanker, an SCW junior,

will be traveling for two days to make the trip to Sydney, Australia, where, for the second year in a row, she will be participating in the Encounter/Counterpoint Outreach program. Shanker will be among the 12 counselors who come to run camps and seminars for the 8th through 12th grade students at a non-religious preparatory school. "This year we are running a seminar for parents," explained Shanker. "Many of them don't know what to do with their kids who come back wanting to be more *frum*." In addition to her responsibilities as a counselor, Shanker expects to take advantage of being in Australia and seeing the sites.

Despite the long journey, Shanker is excited to return to the program. "Although it was one of the hardest things I have ever done, I want to give it my all because those kids don't get anything else," she said. "For most of them it is the biggest positive Jewish experience they have."

Some students are happy to be spending their summer in more local camps. Rachel Berger, an SCW junior, is looking forward to being a counselor and art assistant in Camp Yavneh, a Jewish pluralistic camp in New Hampshire. "I know a

few people going," said Berger. "My main goal was to get out of the city for the summer." In the past, Berger has worked at "real" jobs, such as an attendant at a sweltering bakery in her hometown of Philadelphia. "I just picture myself surrounded by green landscape, and stress free, or at least a different kind of stress—kids."

SCW senior Ariella Joel will also be going to camp, as a division head at the new Camp Moed, located at the SUNY Maritime College under the Verazano Bridge. "It's a new experience," she said. And unlike Berger who is eager to leave the city, Joel is deliberately sticking around. "My family is moving to New York this summer, so I want to be in the area," she said.

Hoping to boost their resumes, a number of students are participating in internships this summer. SCW junior Sefi Kraut will be participating in the Orthodox Union's-IPA Summer Internship Program in Washington, DC, where she will be working in a political office and attending seminars and lectures. "I have a strong interest in history and government, and I think the two are tightly connected," she commented. She looks forward to learning

principles of lobbying, what goes into public policy making and "getting a small taste of being involved in politics" by experience rather than from text books.

Daniella Halstucht, an SSSB student, will be returning to her internship of last summer through Hillel's CLIP program. Halstucht will be involved in the planning of the annual Bike Ride hosted by Chazon, a Jewish environmental Organization dedicated to raising awareness in the Jewish community. "I've had experience there and know how it works so I was the right person to help them." She appreciates the small informal work environment, which she described as "laid back and team oriented." She sees this as good experience on the path to her desired career in Jewish non-profit organizations.

SCW junior Yael Reisman has applied to the Everett Fellowship, which supplies stipends to work in a wide range of non-for profit organizations. A pre-law student, Reisman hopes to deal with education reform of New York City public schools. Last summer she worked as an urban planner in the Times Square Business district under the Everett Fellowship.

Dr. Miriam Grosf Retires After Decades of Service

Continued from Page 28

the Director of the SCW Writing Center since 1985. "It's been very rewarding," said Grosf regarding the Writing Center. "It's certainly helpful to put thoughts into words."

Grosf explains that she had a great

aversion to writing (although she was very good at it) until she realized its importance. "Writing isn't separate from what you do," she said. "It's your formulations." She credits her success as Director of the Writing Center to her close familiarity with the organizational techniques necessary for writing, which is useful in helping stu-

dents organize their own writing, and to her supervising skills. "I'm a very good administrator, I must say immodestly," said Grosf. Although Grosf is retiring from her full time positions as Director of the Writing Center and Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences, she will be returning to teach two courses in Foundations of Arithmetic in the fall semester, and in the spring, a Teaching Elementary Math Course, as well as Honors Statistics. By retiring, the highly respected professor is both relinquishing tenure and renouncing certain obligations.

Although Grosf's doctorate is in Mathematics, she has held the title of Professor of Education and was elected Division Chair for Social and Behavioral Sciences for SCW in 1985. The Social and Behavioral Sciences include Education, Economics, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, and Speech Pathology and Audiology. There are four divisions within the University, one focusing on Jewish Studies and three on General Studies. The chair takes recommendations from faculty and advocates within the division, oversees younger colleagues and speaks with the deans.

Grosf admits that she will miss being Division Chair. "As Division Chair one feels they have an opportunity to affect events and effect change in certain ways," said Grosf.

Grosf describes the environment at SCW as being very positive for faculty. "There's a large amount of tolerance and a lot of mutual respect," said Grosf. Furthermore, Grosf enjoys working in an all-female environment. "I really like the students and my colleagues," she said. "The Dean is demanding, but supportive." Grosf believes that there is a definite place in the American spectrum for all-female colleges.

Over the years, Grosf has experi-

enced much resistance to being a woman in the field of mathematics. Although her position in mathematics education has been a fulfilling one, she maintains this to be the reason she was not originally placed in charge of the Mathematics Department. "I'm cursed with being interested in a whole lot of things," said Grosf. "I come from a family where everyone is interested in everything." Grosf's father, a former professor at Columbia University, published several hundred works before he passed away, and her mother, now nearly 101 years old, was a physician.

"It was assumed that one would do what one was capable of," said Grosf.

"What I tried to transmit to my children was that they were very intelligent and talented, and had an obligation to make the most of it." Both of Grosf's sons have doctorates and have always been mathematically capable. One son describes his mother as "relentlessly a perfectionist."

Although she says she is not sure this is exactly true, she admits to her relentless pursuit of excellence. "I'm always hopeful, but not optimistic," said Grosf. "Everyone has to assume there is a little bit more one can do. It says in *Pirkei Avot* [Ethics of the Fathers] 'You're not obligated to finish the task, but neither are you excused from beginning it.'"

This motto appears to be the doctrine of both Grosf's personal life and career. However, Grosf does not only attempt to accomplish, but rather to exceed the limit of anyone's expectations. For the first time, Grosf has come to the realization that she can take a break from her hectic schedule. "Maybe I don't have to work this hard," she said. "But it's hardly worth knowing something if you don't want to tell someone else."

Next Year's Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence Not Yet Known

Continued from Page 28

felt that it was important to have someone with a well-known name speak to bolster the reputation of the school.

"My first year at Stern I went to hear her speak, and I was impressed that the school found someone so famous with a unique ethnic background," SCW senior Tova Shmalo said. "Her stories were

poignant and genuine and really made me think." Like Shmalo, many students were equally enthusiastic about Angelou's speech and presence in the school. In the spring, SCW offered a course in Asian American Literature taught by author Susan Choi to continue the pattern of ethnically diverse speakers and professors.

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On Campus

Students Commemorate Yom Hashoah with a 'Seder'

By Observer Staff

YC and SCW students gathered on the Wilf campus for a Yom Hashoah "seder" on April 29. The event, held in the evening, took place after the Jewish calendar date of Yom Hashoah, and the delay allowed students who may have returned from Passover vacation late to attend.

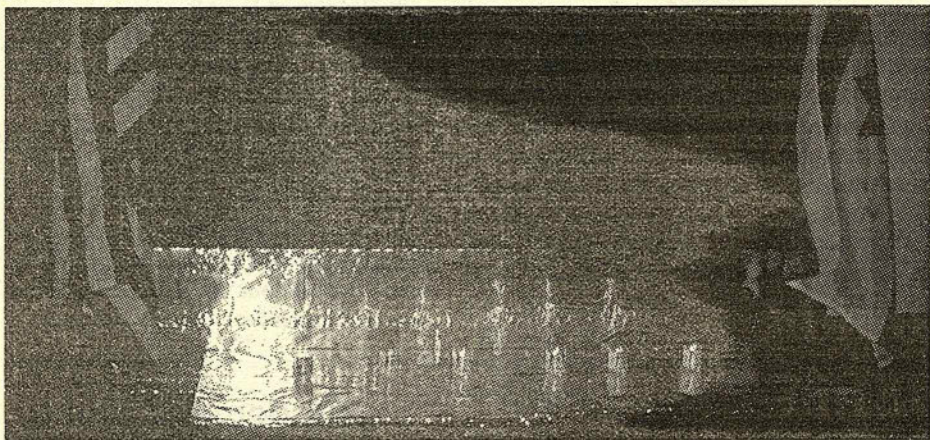
Close to 300 students followed along in the "haggadah" written by Rabbi Avi Weiss three years ago. Rabbi Weiss wrote the haggadah with the hope that the next generation would adopt a ritual, similar to Passover, to memorialize the Holocaust. "When the only ones left to tell the story are those who did not go through the Holocaust themselves, they will be able to repeat the narrative and experience it as if they themselves were there," wrote Rabbi Weiss.

Those assembled sat in a circular formation with the lights dimmed and read through the narrative aloud in unison. "It was a powerful experience," said one SCW student. "I felt like the words surrounded me."

Although no survivors were present, students read testimonies of survivors in each of the four sections of the haggadah; *Hurban Gashmi* (Physical Destruction), *Hurban Ruchani* (Spiritual Destruction), *Hurban Banim U'Banot* (Destruction of children) and *Gevurah* (Resistance). In addition to the narration, each section included a song, a reenactment and a time for reflection.

Organizers felt the program was well received. Bini Borenstein, an SCW senior, Anna Rachel Krakowsky, an SCW senior, Elisha Horen, an SCW junior and Yaakov Green, a YC senior adapted parts of the text to fit the student crowd.

The hour-long program concluded with the singing of Hatikvah. The Zachor club plans to run the seder next year and is looking forward to having more student participation. They also hope to include Holocaust survivors in future programming.



Six yahrzeit candles were lit at the Yom Hashoah ceremony in memory of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust

Student Journals Fail to Publish

By Shifra Landowne

Due to lack of student participation, several student-organized and written publications have delayed publication. *Hamevaser*, one of Yeshiva's leading publications, and *Not Illustrated: A Strictly Literary Journal*, a newly revamped SCW literary journal, have pushed off publication until next semester.

Although *Hamevaser*, a journal of Jewish intellectual thought, usually aims to come out at least once a year, it has published once over the last two years. *Hamevaser* was aiming to come out sometime after Passover but editor Yoel Oz made no promises.

"You set your goals high and try to produce as much as you can," he said. "We hope to have 12 articles, but many issues have arisen."

Problems that *Hamevaser* has faced include solicitation difficulties as well as editing and organizational obstacles. "We are in the middle to end of the editing process," Oz said. "Our editors have been working all year."

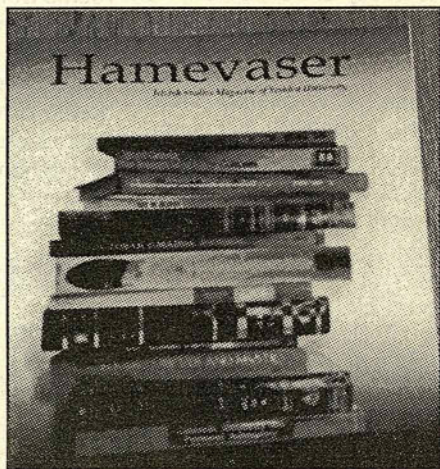
In October 2002, Oz told the *Observer* that he hoped to come out with several issues this year alone, covering topics related to *Torat Chachmah*, the Rav's understanding of Majesty, medical ethics and the Jewish approach to the study of

history, among others.

Aside from the disorganization and somewhat unclear objectives, *Hamevaser* also began this year with some controversy. While the *Hamevaser* editorial staff has traditionally consisted of one editor-in-chief from YC and one from SCW, this year the journal was headed by only one YC student and no SCW students. It is unclear whether this controversy, which was denied as being a gender biased decision, has contributed to the delays in getting the journal off the ground.

The literary journal, *Not Illustrated*, was planning to publish at the beginning of next year, and had never intended to publish this term, according to editor Bella Tendler. Tendler says that *Not Illustrated* collected submissions to be edited and collated during the summer and then published in early fall.

However, the editors have been forced to cancel editorial meetings due to lack of submissions, and it seems that the publication will now be delayed until next spring. "Its frustrating and difficult,



After beginning the year with high hopes, *Hamevaser* failed to publish this year

Department in Focus: Math

By Arie Staller

With only three faculty members and approximately the same number of student majors, the Math department is the smallest department at SCW. The small number of students works as both an advantage and a disadvantage, according to faculty and students.

One draw of the Math department, a very difficult major, is that there is a lot of time for personalized attention. Yet, it is also impossible to offer a multitude of classes. "They don't have a variety of classes to offer," says Michelle Faber, an SCW mathematics student, "So we don't get a choice." Because there are so few math majors, and each is on a different mathematical level of ability, courses must be offered to accommodate everyone, Faber explains.

The Mathematics department, headed by Dr. Morton Lowengrub, who is also the Vice President of Academic Affairs for Yeshiva University, offers a total of eight courses. However, of those eight, only three are offered each semester. Of a possible three courses per semester, most math majors are only able to take one or two math classes a semester which on their level, because of conflicting schedules and the difficulty of the courses. It would seem impossible that the 45-credit major could be completed within four years, however, there are co-requisite classes available, such as computer science, economics, and statistics, that enable students to fulfill the necessary requirements.

In addition to Dr. Lowengrub, Dr. Michael Dalezman, a full time professor who teaches most of the higher math classes, and Dr. Zucker, an adjunct who teaches one class, are on the math faculty. Although Faber enjoys her math courses, she admits that with so few teachers, "If you have a problem with one, you're stuck." The same is true for students who are interested in taking

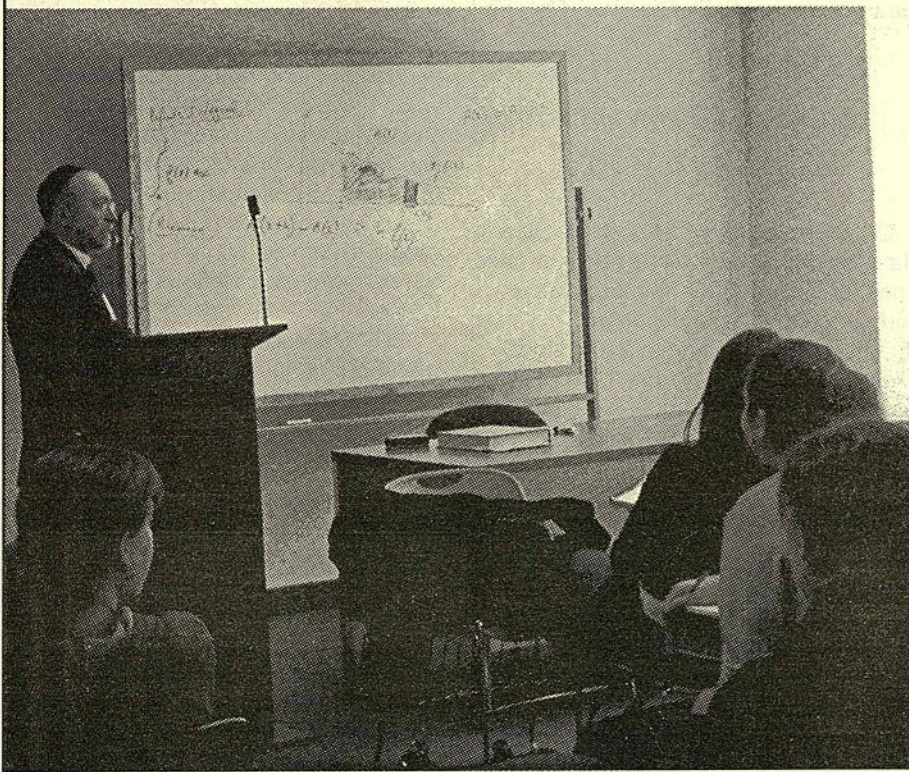
different types of math courses. For instance, a particular student may be more geared toward theoretical math, however, only practical math courses may be available. "You have to take what they offer," says Faber.

SCW math students are encouraged to pursue whatever professions interest them. "Within Stern, I've only received positive reinforcements," says Faber, a sophomore who plans to attend medical school, and is majoring in chemistry because of the pre-med requirements. There are many requirements medical school admission that may not be available to students in the math track, simply due to lack of time, Faber explains.

Required courses to fulfill the Major include Calculus I and II, Multivariable Calculus, Linear Algebra, six courses in advanced math, including statistics, and three correlated courses approved by the department.

Mathematics majors usually go on either to receive a PhD in math or to become actuaries. An actuary is a specialized accountant used by companies to recall products and help with cost effectiveness. Many students who excel in math do not usually major in the field because they feel there are few professional options. According to the SCW website, the Math department has had graduates that receive doctorates from schools such as Columbia, MIT, Princeton, and Yale and serve on the faculties of the universities in the United States and Israel. Aside from students who work as actuaries, other math majors have gone on to work in business, government, and industry.

Faber has heard that only geniuses have the ability to pursue the major. "I like math and I'm good at it," says Faber, "But I definitely don't think I'm anywhere near genius." However, she adds, any student interested in math has the ability to do well. "If you work hard, you'll be able to do fine," Faber says.



Dr. Dalezman teaching a Calculus I class

but not that surprising," she noted. "Only a certain percentage of students write creatively, and it's difficult to put yourself out there." Yet Tendler expressed her commitment to the journal as an important creative endeavor and affirms that she has no plans to abandon the project.

Although it is difficult to produce student work in a small school with a limited number of students who consider themselves writers, students expressed disappointment at the lack of publication from their peers. "I really enjoy reading

Hamevaser," said SCW junior Shoshana Chanales. "It is generally an intelligent and very interesting publication, and I like seeing what those affiliated with YU are writing about." As for *Not Illustrated*, she hopes it will see success soon. "The literary journal seems like a very important publication for Stern," she commented. "I really hope it succeeds."

Campus Briefs

Political Science Students Speak Up

SCW senior Miriam Stramer and SCW sophomore Tovah Toltzis tied for first place in the recent Langfan Family Constitutional Oratorical Contest, held in the Ivry Student Center on April 8th. Stramer and Toltzis each won a prize of \$750, and SCW senior Beth Meshel took the second place prize of \$500.

Contestants were asked to prepare three-minute long speeches on the subject of American civil liberties in times of war. Ideas and opinions were to be backed up with factual evidence, with mention of the post-September 11 Patriot Act, which gives the government the right to monitor conversations on cellular phones and on the Internet.

A panel of three judges judged the speeches: political science professor Dr. Joseph Luders, political science professor Dr. Howard Schiffman and English professor Dr. Nora Nachumi.



Students Welcome Shani Taragin as Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence



The first E. Billy Ivry Scholar-in-Residence, Mrs. Shani Taragin, spent Shabbat with students at the midtown campus on the weekend of April 4. Taragin, who teaches at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel, gave three

shiurim over the course of Shabbat. Approximately 75 students spent Shabbat with Mrs. Taragin, including many alumnae of Midreshet Lindenbaum.

Senior Class Hosts Skin Care Party

On the evening of May 6 the Senior Class hosted a Skin Care Party to raise funds for the yearbook. Kimberly Sayer, a skin care expert who developed her own organic skin care line, offered students free skin care advice. Students were given the opportunity to sample and buy her

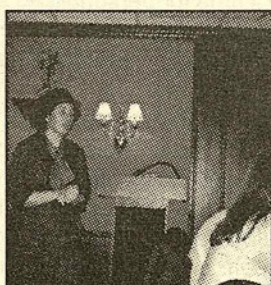
products at a discounted rate, with a portion of the sales going to the senior class yearbook. A raffle was held and SCW senior Mirat Strobel won a free gift basket of skin care products. Senior Class President Esther Glazer organized this first-time event.

Sayer's products are available on her website www.kimberlysayer.com. All Yeshiva students will receive a 10% discount on their first product order or treatment.

Junior Class Dines at Abigail's

Over 50 students attended the Junior Class and SSSB Israel Investment Club's dinner at Abigail's on May 1.

Students paid only \$10 for dinner at the high-brow restaurant, a major enticement for many. The event featured guest speakers Chavi Eisenberg from Tehilla Organization and Miriam Ganz from the Orthodox Union speaking on the subject of "Exploring Opportunities in Israel."



YU to Sponsor Float in Israel Day Parade

For the second consecutive year, Yeshiva University will be marching in the Israel Day Parade on Sunday June 1, and this year Yeshiva University officials are planning to have a float for the first time.

All YU students, faculty, and friends are invited to march in this annual event that draws thousands of Israel supporters to New York City to show their support for Israel. Participants march up Fifth Avenue, ending in Central Park, where a concert with Jewish music is traditionally held.

SCWSC Holds End of Year Dessert

On April 30, SCWSC and TAC hosted their annual end of the year dessert. This year, however, instead of dessert, hors d'oeuvres were served, prepared by popular local restaurant Circa NY. The theme of the evening was Mexican, and the food and décor reflected it well, complete with cactus balloons, sombreros and various hot climate decorations adorning the tables.

SCWSC and TAC gave gifts to faculty members who have been particularly helpful over the course of the year, and

recognized students who contributed to school life. A ceremony followed to induct the new boards of SCWSC and TAC.

(See pages 12-13 for pictures.)

Grunhaus Earns Ph.D.

Bible instructor Naomi Grunhaus recently completed her doctorate in medieval biblical exegesis from New York University, and she is expected to be promoted to assistant professor next year. Her doctoral thesis deals with Radak's use of rabbinic interpretation in his commentary.

Although Radak is generally considered a *pashtan* [literalist], Grunhaus proved that he was much more influenced by rabbinic interpretation than most people assume. Grunhaus began the course work for her doctorate 11 years ago, and began working on her thesis four years ago, while she was working full-time as a professor. She hopes to turn her research into a book.

YU Revamps Website

Yeshiva University officials are in the process of revamping the www.yu.edu website. The website

should be up and running within the next few months. The goal of the overhaul is to update and modernize the site, make it more professional, and to provide more services and information. Aside from being more aesthetically pleasing, the new website will also include new features, such as a "History of YU" link and an ability to make credit card contributions to YU online.



Shaare Zedek Honors Dean Bacon

Dean Karen Bacon was honored by the American Committee for Shaare Zedek Medical Center, a hospital in Jerusalem.

During Shaare Zedek's Annual Spring Luncheon and Reception on May 5, Dean Bacon was presented with an Educator's award.

Incoming Seniors Register Online

For the first time, SCW offered online registration for the Fall 2003 semester. Students with senior status could begin registering online at 6:00 am on April 30. The incoming seniors were used as a pilot

group to assess the efficiency of online registration.

Although several students had difficulty registering online - especially those registering for science or psychology classes and labs - most students were pleased with online registration.

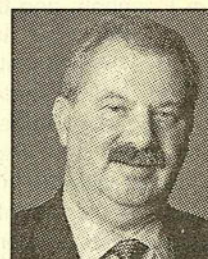
New Board Members Elected

Several new board members were recently elected to the Board of Directors of Stern College and to the Board of Directors of Sy Syms School of Business.

Toby Gottesman Schneier, a painter and artist, was selected as a member of the SCW Board of Directors. Schneier was involved in building the Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, and has been recognized as a leading figure in the Jewish community by the State of Israel Bonds, WIZO and Nishmat, among other organizations.

Isaac Corre of Manhattan and Philip Friedman of Livingston, N.J. have been selected to the SSSB Board. Corre, a YC graduate, is managing director of Scoggin Capital Management, and he has worked as an attorney in the past.

Friedman founded Computer Generated Systems (CGS) in 1984, and serves as its president and CEO. Friedman recently kicked off SSSB's Entrepreneurship program, in which he came to campus to advise students on how to launch their own businesses.



Philip Friedman

Students Object to Security Procedures

After several complaints from students regarding Security's entering their rooms and moving personal property over winter break, Facilities Management has agreed to consider leaving a notice attached to doors of rooms to inform students that their rooms have been entered.

Often Security enters rooms without students' knowledge for maintenance and safety reasons, such as fixing leaks. However, a number of students returned from winter break to discover that their rooms were in disarray, with beds unmade and personal items misplaced.

Earlier in the year Facilities eliminated Security door checks at the request of students, although Security is still allowed to lock doors they find unlocked while on maintenance visits.

Interested in graphic design?
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The Observer

is currently seeking people to fill several positions, such as layout, sports and copy editors, for the 2003-2004 year.

If interested, please e-mail
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This Month in SCW History

... In 1971, Yom Hazikaron, May 6 that year, was proclaimed Solidarity Sunday for Soviet Jewry. Stern College students were among the 100,000 Jews who marched down Fifth Avenue in protest of Soviet policies.

... In May, 1978, Stern College students and professors Rabbis Saul Berman and Avi Weiss were among 1,500 students who marched on Washington to protest President Jimmy Carter's recently passed Arms Deal.

...The Max Stern Scholarship was established in memory of Mr. Max Stern, founder of Stern College, to increase the "intellectual vibrancy" at Yeshiva University,

reported the May, 1983, edition of the *Observer*. The scholarship was awarded to five men and five women who excelled academically, showed a strong commitment to Judaic Studies and displayed leadership qualities.

...In a May, 1994, editorial, the *Observer* decried the conditions of the art department, located on the 10th floor of the 245 Lexington Avenue school building. "Only one fan expels the large amounts of unhealthy dust. A veritable dust cloud fills the hallway and women use masks and goggles to protect themselves from the hazardous cloud," claimed the editorial.

On Campus

Canvassing Committee Maintains and Monitors Student Elections

By Devorah Stein

Voting has been hailed as the highest expression of democracy. At SCW, students on the canvassing committee are dedicated to ensuring that the student council elections run efficiently. The canvassing committee, chaired by SCW junior Jill Friedman, organized the SCW elections that took place at the end of March for the 2003-04 academic year. This semester's elections had the largest voter turnout ever.

Elections take careful planning, which begins several weeks prior to the event. "Our job is to notify the student body of the upcoming elections," explained Friedman. Members of the committee plaster the halls with election posters several weeks prior to elections, informing students of the date of the elections and whom they should e-mail if interested in running for one of the numerous positions.

The constitution, which has clearly enumerated rules regarding election procedure, is upheld by the canvassing committee, which then ensures that SCW elections follow the delineated guidelines. "It is our responsibility to make sure that the procedures of the constitution are followed,"

Friedman said.

The members of the committee make sure that all the candidates submit signed petitions with no overlapping or repeated signatures in addition to monitoring regulations regarding how candidates may campaign. Furthermore, the committee ensures that all participating candidates meet appropriate requirements, such as the requirement for class board candidates to be entering the class they will be representing or ensuring that all candidates have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. In order to provide a smooth election day, the committee meets several times to prepare and plan for the final election which takes place in the Koch auditorium. The final responsibility of the committee is to count the ballots and notify the candidates of the results.

Friedman, who was appointed as chair last April by Sharon Weiss, the then-incumbent SCWSC president, explained that the success of this semester's elections was due to the combined efforts of many individuals. "I had a lot of help from Rachel Shtern [co-chair of the Student Life Committee] last semester and Elysia Rothenberg [Junior Class president] this semester, but there were many

women who helped me along the way," Friedman remarked. "The Office of Student Services plays an integral role in the planning stages of the elections and is always available to lend a hand."

As a possible explanation for this semester's unprecedented large voter turnout, Friedman suggested persistence. "When you walked into Koch, we attacked you." Although this semester students showed greater interest in the elections, Friedman said that she would still like to see more students run for board positions and more students voting in the future.

Some students have complained that the election process as it exists does not provide enough information regarding the candidates. Debates are not held, for example, and there is little campaigning beyond the posting of fliers. According to canvassing committee member Ali Lederer, the committee felt there was no need for debates, especially since few races were contested.

In Your Own Words

What do you do to relieve stress during finals season?



Talya Kook, sophomore

"I'm calm up until a certain point and then it builds up and I have a mini-breakdown. I usually call someone who will help me through my hysteria and I try to go to a park or to a nice dinner—somewhere away from Stern."



Jennifer Feldman, sophomore

"If I find myself not concentrating and stressed, I'll take a break for an hour or so and then get back to what I have to do."



Mirat Strobel, senior

"To relieve stress, singing and dancing to music does it every time. But now, during *sefira*, I only sing."

The Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies
Stern College for Women

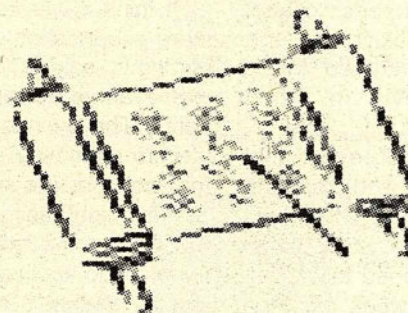
June Learning Program

June 9 - June 26

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Schedule

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Selected Topics in Hilkhhot Shabbat

Each session consists of two hours preparation and one hour of shiur.

If you are interested in the program, please see Rachel, Jewish Studies Secretary, in Room 423.

Israel News

Hundreds Gather For Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut Events

By Observer Staff

Hundreds gathered in Lamport Auditorium last week for a solemn commemoration of the thousands of Israeli soldiers who died defending the State of Israel, and then headed to the gym in the Max Stern Athletic Center for festive dancing in celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

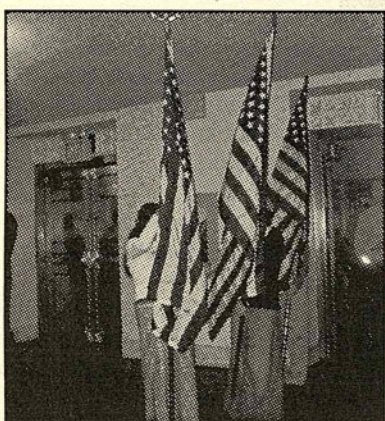
The Tuesday night Yom Hazikaron program included a slide show presentation, talks by Israeli Cantor Yehuda Rosner, Yoni Miller, a YC student who

served in the Israeli army, and Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Meir Goldwicht. Rosner recalled his years growing up in Israel in the 1950's and his army service in the 1960's and 70's. "On Yom Hazikaron I remember people I lost," Rosner said. "I lost people I lived with and fought with."

Miller also spoke about his army service, describing how it felt to lose someone in his unit. "All too often our first reaction when we hear there was an attack is 'How many people were killed?'" Miller said. "We reduce people to mere numbers."

The moving program began with the singing of Hatikvah and the Star Spangled Banner by YC student Daniel Pollack and concluded with *Maariv*, led by Lou Shapp.

"We wanted to create an atmosphere of both Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron," said SCW senior Rebecca Wimmer, explaining the reasons the organizers chose to present slide shows which included images of Israel's beautiful landscape and footage of the beginning of the state juxtaposed with images of recent terror attacks. "The slide show was meant to show that we're still fighting to survive in Israel," Wimmer said. "Our goal was to make people cry - to feel the pain."



Students prepare to proceed through Lamport during the Yom Hazikaron ceremony



Students toss a frisbee during the Yom Ha'atzmaut party in Central Park

Wimmer, co-president of the Israel club, began organizing the event three weeks before Pesach along with co-president of the Israel club, Kayla Wruble, Hindy Poupko, who will head the club next year, and presidents of the Israel club on the Wilf campus, Mordechai Raskas and Shaya Lerner.

"It was an inspiring event," said SCW sophomore Aliza Abrams. "For so many of us who are in America but wish to be in Israel, this program reminded me of how much I miss being in Israel."

At the conclusion of the Yom Hazikaron program, students danced for hours to the music of Shevach orchestra. President-elect Richard Joel was on hand at the event, socializing with stu-

dents.

"The *chagiga* was terrific," said Wimmer, who hoped that people would go from feeling the pain of the victims of terror to feeling empowered. "We should feel empowerment and jubilation that this is our country."

In a Yom Ha'atzmaut event organized by all student councils of SCW, YC, and SSSB, along with TAC and SOY, hundreds of students gathered in Central Park on Yom Ha'atzmaut enjoying the warm weather as they played sports and socialized.

"There was great student turn-out, and a diverse group of people attended," said SCWSC president Sharon Weiss, who was very pleased with the event.

Students Compete in Israel Jeopardy

By Rachel Horn

The YC and SCW Israel Clubs hosted their first inter-collegiate event on Sunday, May 4. Participants from Queens College, Columbia University, Brooklyn College and Yeshiva University gathered to try their hand at Israel trivia in Israel Jeopardy.

"We wanted the kind of event that would attract other colleges and create an atmosphere of fun and learning," said sophomore Hindy Poupko, SCW Israel Club member. The club hoped to capitalize on the Israel-minded week of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut to garner involvement in the club and raise Israel awareness on campus.

"It is hard to compare what YU can do for Israel and the Israel support on other campuses," said junior Ari Davis, YC Israel Club member. "YU doesn't have a Palestinian element of anti-Semitism to contend with." Nevertheless, the Israel Club endeavored to unify Israel support on local college campuses through this event.

The game, which was hosted by YC senior Moshe Kopstick, consisted of two rounds of Jeopardy and Final Jeopardy. First round categories included Early Modern Zionists, Sports and Culture, Geography, The Knesset, The Six Day War and The *Irgun*. The second round sections consisted of Israel and its Neighbors, Israel in the Fifties, Political Parties, Jerusalem, Israel Through the Ages and Brought to You by the Letter M, a category whose answers all began with M.

Columbia student David Ribner won the first round. YC student David Druce

won the second round as well as Final Jeopardy, making him the recipient of the Grand Prize, two tickets to a New York Yankees game.

"I think it was an interesting idea, but more people should have been here supporting it," said YC Junior Yitz Glass. The event attracted approximately 60 students. The low attendance rate was attributed to upcoming final exams as well as the fact that the event took place on a Sunday night, according to Davis.

SCW senior Beth Meshel was the only female who applied to be a contestant. "It just shows that SCW women are apathetic and cannot take the time out of their busy day, time way from writing a paper, to play Jeopardy for Israel," she said. Only a handful of SCW students sat in the audience.

YC Israel Club President Mordechai Raskas and member Shaya Lerner oversaw the whole production. Naftali Taubenfeld and Shmuel Honeg researched the questions and acted as judges along with Queens College student Ezra Hershkowitz. SCW sophomore Sarah Shapiro coordinated the event with the other schools.

Israel Jeopardy was planned in part by the club's leaders for next year. Poupko, the incoming SCW Israel Club President, was involved in organizing the event. "We have big plans for next year," said Shapiro, who noted that the club is already meeting about events for the coming year, including a walk-a-thon and a shabbaton. The YC Israel club has yet to announce their upcoming president.

Service Held in Memory of Hebrew U. Bombing Victims

By Shayndi Raice

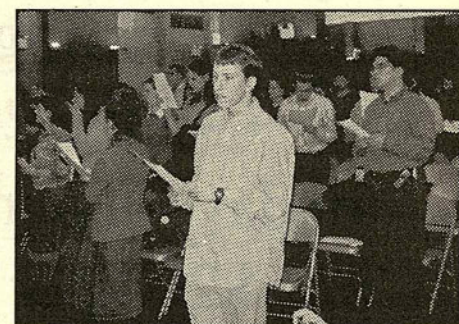
Nearly 100 Yeshiva students gathered at the Wilf campus to participate in a service in memory of the nine Hebrew University students who were murdered in a terrorist attack on July 31, 2002. The service, which was held on April 10, included video presentations, guest speakers and prayer vigils.

The service was conducted as part of nationwide memorial organized by the North American Jewish Student Alliance (NAJSA). Simultaneous services were held on 30 college campuses across the country, such as Brandeis, Harvard, Concordia University in Montreal and the University of Michigan.

Founded in December 2002, NAJSA is an undergraduate organization dedicated to encouraging Jewish students to promote Israel and other Jewish interests on campuses across North America. The Hebrew University memorial service was one of their first coordinated events for Jewish students.

The speakers at the event included Katherine Baker, the mother of Benjamin Blustein, a 25-year-old student who was killed in the attack. "Ten thousand Palestinians cheered when my son was killed," said Baker. She also spoke of her son's love for Israel and how he told her "it was the first time he felt he was where he belonged." Additionally, Baker leveled heavy criticism at the United States for not taking severe actions against Palestinian terrorists and said that for the situation to improve "outside pressure is needed in order to reconstruct the Palestinian Authority." Without that, Baker said she was "unsure a lasting peace was ever possible."

In addition to Baker, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, a well known radio personality



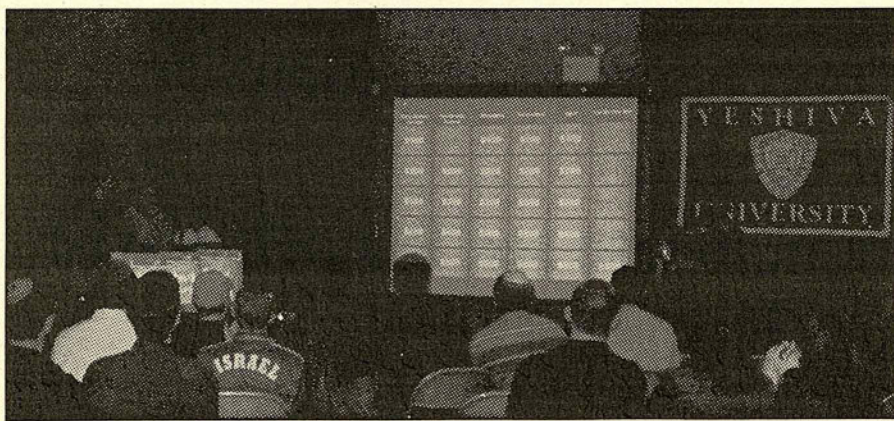
Students recite Tehillim at the service

from New York's Z100, who counseled both faculty and students after the attack-through subsequent to the attack, yet also brought with her a message of healing and hope. "Students wanted to stay," said Kuriansky. "They were unique and defiant. They went to Israel despite the terrorists and they would not be afraid to walk in the streets."

The memorial also featured a Hebrew University overseas student, Rebecca Stone, who spoke of the traumatic psychological effects the bombing inflicted on her. In addition to recalling her own traumatic experiences, Stone spoke strongly of the responsibility and obligation to support Jews in Israel.

The program concluded with the recitation of *Tehillim*, along with a song composed in memory of Marla, a terror victim.

Hindy Poupko, an SCW sophomore and the Stern College NAJSA representative, helped organize the nationwide memorial as well as the one at Yeshiva. "I hope to increase awareness and sensitivity about the attacks," explained Poupko. "And enter Pesach with renewed commitment to the State of Israel."



The Israel Club hosted a night of Israel Jeopardy

**Support Project
One Percent.**

KOL HANESHAMA

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM IN ISRAEL



Menashe Regev Love for Others

Life brings us individuals whose love for the people around them knows no limits. Menashe Regev exemplified this trait and filled his short life with acts of kindness. He created a Gemach, or communal charity fund for his fellow students at the Brand

School in Herzl Yaacov, where needy children could receive subsidies for school and other related costs.

Forced to commute several hours to school each day, Menashe 14 never complained about the hassles of travel and woke each day with his usual cheerfulness. Known affectionately as "Meni" by his friends, Menashe could be found helping his classmates in areas big and small. He never became discouraged by a bad day at school or an argument with a friend. Meni saw the goodness in people and worked hard to cultivate strong relationships with everyone he knew. As a tribute to Meni's unusual kindness and sensitivity, his family continues the Gemach that their son created in love and compassion.

Menashe Regev was killed on November 4, 2001, as he traveled home from school.

Written by students at the Hill of Dallas, Texas.



Hanit Arami By the Numbers

Blessed with a knack for numbers, Hanit Arami used her considerable talents in math to help those around her. She tutored under-

privileged children in her neighborhood free of charge since her concern for others exceeded her financial concerns. Her students and family remember her as one of the beloved members of her community. "Hanit both grew up and raised up others in Zichron Yaacov," said her mother, Carmela.

With only eight months left before completing her army service, Hanit 19, had begun to make preparation for her future. "Hanit always wanted to be a lawyer," recalled her mother. "She was going to enroll in the law program at Tel Aviv University but first wanted to complete her army service." Hanit served as a corporal in the IDF Intelligence Corp despite her understanding of the risks involved. "When news of terror attacks came over the radio she often worried aloud, 'What will we do if we are hit by an attack?'" her mother noted.

The second in a family of all girls, Hanit made a lasting impression on those closest to her. Her three sisters, aged twenty-two, fourteen, and ten, often recall the happiness she brought them. "I light candles in her memory every Friday night. We all miss her dearly and will always remember her," Hanit's mother said.

Hanit Arami was killed in a suicide attack while waiting for a bus near the town of Be'er Yaacov on July 16, 2001.

Written by a student at BEIS (NJ), NYC.



Linnat Dvash Dreamed of Being a Hotel Manager

Linnat Dvash studied hotel management and one day hoped to open up a hotel of her own. This desire to accommodate others spread to other facets of her life as well and Linnat could always be found helping

friends and family in various tasks.

Outside the classroom, Linnat 23 enjoyed karate and soccer both of which she quickly mastered. Described as youthful looking and energetic by friends, Linnat seemed to brighten a room simply by entering it. Quick to laugh and ready with a smile, she was looked upon as source of support and encouragement. Her broad

smile lit warm the hearts of those who knew her best, and she continues to comfort others long after she has passed away.

Linnat Dvash was killed in the Moment Café bombing in Jerusalem on March 9, 2002.

Written by students at (Magen David) Brooklyn, NY.



Nir Borochov Fun and Friendly

Always ready to help, Nir Borochov spent his days helping others. He went out of his way to make sure that others had all they needed. "He was a fun, kind and amiable person," said Nir's mother, Kochava.

Nir 22, also possessed a serious wit and enjoyed making his friends and family laugh with his array of tricks and jokes. "He used to take a black piece of paper and put it in his tooth and pretend his tooth fell out," recalled Nir's mother. "He was always someone you could count on to make you happy when you were feeling down."

Nir served in a combat engineering unit and completed his training proudly. After the army he went to school to continue learning. In honor of his memory, his family endowed several study halls and synagogues with Judaic texts with the hope that Nir's passion for learning will persist through the study of others.

Nir Borochov was killed when a suicide bomber blew up the Moment Café in Jerusalem on March 9, 2002.

Written by students at (Magen David) Yeshiva High School, Tzarefat, NJ.



Natanel Kochavi A Unifying Leader

Natanel Kochavi managed to perform a lifetime of work and make hundreds of friends during his short lifetime. After studying at the Hariv Meir Yeshiva in Jerusalem, Natanel served five years in the IDF as a Golani soldier, where he showed signs of compelling leadership. "Wherever he walked, his friends felt safe," said Natanel's mother, Rivka.

At Bar Ilan University, Natanel 31, earned a computer degree and was a month shy from completing a law degree as well. He guided his fellow students as the head of the Student Association.

Politically active and interested in the world of politics, Natanel worked for Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's reelection campaign. In private moments, Natanel cherished his Yemenite heritage and could be seen singing and dancing to old-time Yemenite classics in family videos. Friends recall his potent love for all Jews, evidenced by the many hours he spent working hard to forge bonds between the various religious factions of the student body at Bar Ilan.

Natanel Kochavi was killed when a suicide bomber blew up the Moment Café in Jerusalem on March 9, 2002.

Written by a student at BEIS (NJ), NYC.



Sima Franko: Natural Born Teacher

Sima Franko showed exceptional understanding of children. Born in Beit She'an, Sima developed early signs that pointed to a career in education. As a young girl she was often called upon to care of her little sister Tali, whom she loved

and nurtured like she was her own daughter. A future in counseling or education seemed certain for Sima.

Opting for education, Sima 24, pursued a career that would eventually land her a position as a kindergarten teacher. She studied for four years at the Gordon Teachers College and began to

teach children aged three to five at the school in Kibbutz Gilgal. "She always wanted others to smile," explained her sister Tali. "She would act as the peacemaker between the children, and always reminded them to smile." Sima's legacy of kindness and compassion continues long after her death, embodied by the children she touched in such profound ways.

Sima Franko was killed on September 9, 2001, in a suicide attack in the Moment Café.

Written by students at (Magen David) Brooklyn, NY.



Yaniv Ben-Shalom Man of Kindness

Yaniv Ben-Shalom gave selflessly of himself to others. Everyone who interacted with him and knew him received personal attention from Yaniv who forged extraordinary bonds with his family in particular. "He was the foundation of the household," remembered Yaniv's mother, Esther. "He gave us a smile and always asked if there was anything he could do to help."

Yaniv 27, attended Ariel University, where he met his wife. Born in Petach Tikvah, Yaniv moved to Modi'in where he worked as a Torah scribe and also showed interest in studying the laws of ritual slaughter. When he was not engrossed in learning, Yaniv taught the local children in his neighborhood and also delivered daily lectures to the adults as well. A student of alternative medicine, Yaniv applied his considerable knowledge of the field to help the sick in his community.

Unusually sensitive, Yaniv, as an eighteen year-old, offered his very first paycheck to his parents with the following sentiment: "You have given so much to me, and now I want to give something back to you." His parents refused, so Yaniv used the money to purchase brand new toys and games for the children in a nearby hospital. Even at a tender age, Yaniv seemed to value the welfare of others more than his own.

Yaniv Ben-Shalom was killed on his way home from Jerusalem on August 23, 2001.

Written by students at (Magen David) Yeshiva High School, Tzarefat, NJ.



Elazar Leibovitch Passion for the Land

Elazar Leibovitch had an incredible love for learning and the Land of Israel that was apparent to everyone that he knew. Elazar lived in the Avraham Avinu neighborhood of Chevron for most of his life, and despite the danger, he loved every

day that he spent there. After learning in a yeshiva until eleventh grade, Elazar decided to manifest his love for Eretz Yisroel with actions. He moved to the small yeshiva of Itamar, where he lived in a caravan with a family whom he did not know in order to protect the Land that he loved. Elazar spent every day in Itamar working to beautify the Land. He planted trees and helped to build a small playground for the children living in the yeshiva.

Elazar was always the first one to volunteer to help anyone to do anything. Friends remember that even on strenuous army hikes, Elazar stayed cheerful and never complained. His mother Etta described him saying "Elazar helped everyone, whether they were unaffiliated or ultra-Orthodox. He just loved to help others."

Elazar's friends made a CD with all of his favorite songs on it in his memory. Most songs are about a love for God and the Land of Israel, because those were Elazar's passions and what he devoted his life to.

Elazar Leibovitch was shot by a sniper while driving to his home in Chevron. He died on the day before his 27th birthday.

Written by students at (Magen David) Yeshiva High School, Tzarefat, NJ.

KOL HANESHAMA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING NEWSPAPERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION:

- B' Towns Jewish Times
- American Jewish World Blueprint
- Boston Jewish Advocate
- Buffalo Jewish Review
- Cleveland Jewish News
- Connecticut Jewish Ledger
- Deep South Jewish Voice
- Detroit Jewish News
- Illiana News of Northwest Indiana
- Indianapolis Jewish Post & Opinion
- Intermountain Jewish News
- Jewish Herald-Voice

- Jewish News of Greater Phoenix
- Jewish Press
- Jewish World
- Kentucky Jewish Post & Opinion
- Las Vegas Jewish World
- Las Vegas Jewish Reporter
- Lehigh Valley HaKai
- Long Island Jewish World
- Los Angeles Jewish Journal
- Memphis Hebrew Watchman
- Miami Jewish Herald
- Nashville Jewish Observer
- New Jersey Jewish Standard

- New Mexico Jewish Link
- New York Jewish Week
- Ohio Jewish Chronicle
- Reading, PA Shalom
- Shade Island Jewish Herald & Voice
- Shechter Jewish Ledger
- Rockland Jewish Reporter
- St. Louis Jewish Light
- Stern College Observer
- Texas Jewish Post
- Washington Jewish Week
- Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle
- Yeshiva University Commentator

KOL HANESHAMA, A PROJECT OF THE STUDENTS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY, THANKS THE ISRAEL EMERGENCY SOLIDARITY FUND ONE FAMILY AND EMATAI FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT. IF ANY HIGH SCHOOL OR NEWSPAPER WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE, EMAIL KOLHANESHAMA@AOL.COM OR CALL (212) 946-1940. TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP THE FAMILIES IN ISRAEL OR TO VIEW MORE SKETCHES, LOG ONTO: WWW.KOLHANESHAMA.COM

Student Leaders

Compiled by Miriam Shapiro

Stern College for Women Student Council

SCWSC President Anat Barber



Anat Barber, a native New Yorker, has been elected the new SCW student council president. After spending a year in Israel studying at Midreshet Lindenbaum, Anat continued her education at SCW majoring in philosophy.

Anat, who will be a senior next year, envisions a year filled with exciting programming both in and out of the classroom. "More importantly," explained Anat "I hope to make advances for the Stern College students in regard to available facilities, including a student center for hanging out, some food and, one that doesn't close at 3pm. Also, I hope to encourage an expansion of different class offerings where the resources are available and a dearth is evident."

SCWSC Executive Board

Vice President: Diana Benmergui
Recording Secretary: Ali Lederer
Corresponding Secretary:
Caryn Friedman
Treasurer: Nechama Gottlieb

Torah Activities Council

TAC President Lisa Grundman

TAC Board

Vice Presidents: Aliza Abrams
and Riva Preil
Secretary: Chavie Schwarzbard
Treasurer: Ariella Marcus

Sy Syms student Lisa Grundman, will return this fall to serve her second term as president of TAC. Lisa, a junior, from Fair Lawn, New Jersey, plans to continue improving the Shabbat program which was a high priority during her first term as TAC president.

For the coming year, Lisa aspires to advance TAC's current agenda. "I am going to try to take TAC one step farther than this past year," said Lisa. "[I plan to] attempt to raise more tzedakah for Israel, as well as make TAC and our office available to our students on a weekly basis, for students to feel free and visit."

Another priority for Lisa is to encourage more student involvement with the TAC board in order to improve programming.



Sy Syms School of Business Student Council

SSSB President Rachel Moss



After spending a year in Israel at Michlelet Esther and Neve Yerushalayim, Rachel has been a student at SSSB for the past two years. Rachel, a marketing major with a minor in art history, hopes to work in a marketing firm. "I would love to move onto entertainment marketing," said Rachel.

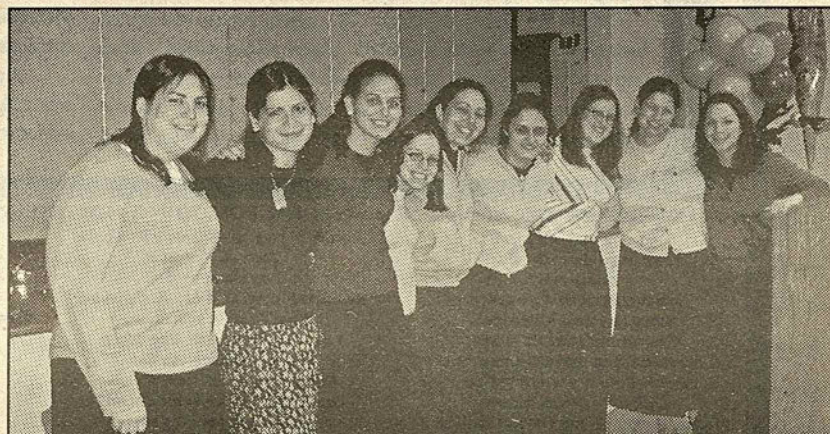
Rachel is determined to institute a variety of changes as president of SSSB. For example, she hopes to improve academic advisement at SSSB. "I hope to implement a system where a student has an assigned advisor that can follow the incoming student throughout their college career." Rachel would also like to enhance SSSB's involvement in SCW activities, while simultaneously providing more programs exclusively for SSSB students.

SSSB Board

Vice President: Jessica Strick
Secretary: Elana Twerski
Treasurer: Cynthia Rosenkranz



SSSB Executive Council past and present (l-r): Ellie Nyer, Jessica Strick, Rachel Moss, Elana Twerski, Cynthia Rosenkranz



TAC Executive Council past and future (l-r): Aliza Abrams, Chavie Schwarzbard, Ariella Marcus, Riva Preil, Lisa Grundman, Esther Feman, Shoshana Hulkower, Dassi Wagner, Mera Bender

2003-2004

Sophomore Class

Sophomore Class Board

Vice President: Shira Stepen
Secretaries: Rebecca Ackerman and
Talia Brown
Treasurer: Elisheva Roszler

Sophomore Class President Guila Tordjman

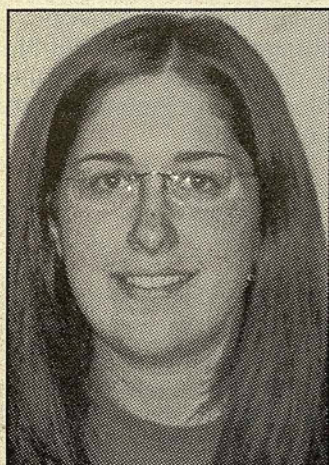
Guila Tordjman, from Tangier, Morocco, will serve as sophomore class president beginning in the fall. Born in Casablanca, Morocco, Guila attended high school in Tangier and is completing her first year at SCW. While planning to major in English Communications/Public Relations and Economics, Guila has not yet made any definite decisions about a future career. "I just know that I see myself working in a business where many people are involved, but where I make the last decisions."

One decision that is final is her plan to move to Israel after graduation if not sooner. Tordjman, who enjoys being a camp counselor, writing fiction, and spontaneity, hopes to create a stronger connection between foreign and American students on campus. "I notice that those who are ethnically different tend to keep to themselves," she said. "Why? It is so much fun to know about others!" Guila also hopes to organize more programs and activities for the sophomore class particularly over holidays when many students remain on campus.



Junior Class

Junior Class President Devora Whitman



Devora Whitman, incoming junior class president, attended Manhattan High School for Girls and MMY before arriving at SCW this fall. Devora was very active in high school extracurricular activities; she was on the yearbook staff and a member of the debate team. For two summers, Devora served as an intern in the Mayor's Office for the City of New Haven, gaining valuable experience and perspective on the workings of local government. Majoring in English Literature, Devora plans to attend law school after SCW and hopes to eventually pursue a career in public service. "During my time as president I will serve as a voice for the junior class allowing their concerns to be addressed and their ideas to be implemented," she said. "I look forward to this responsibility and challenge."

Junior Class Board

Vice President: Avigayil Rosen
Secretary: Molly Fink
Treasurer: Adina Wise

Senior Class

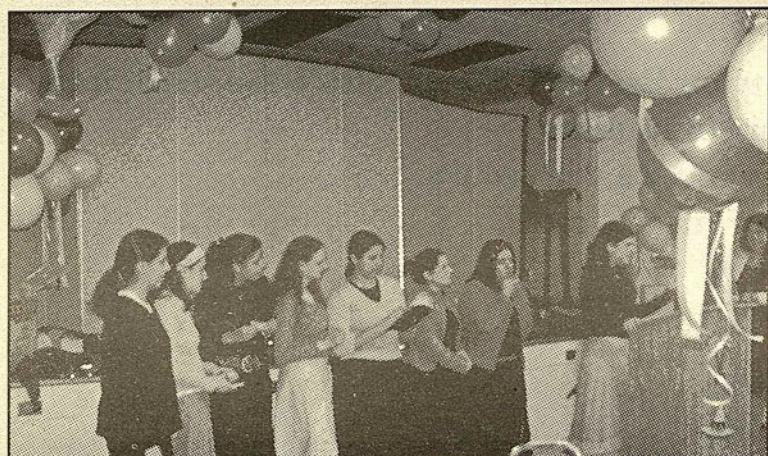
Senior Class President Sharona Korn

Senior Class Board

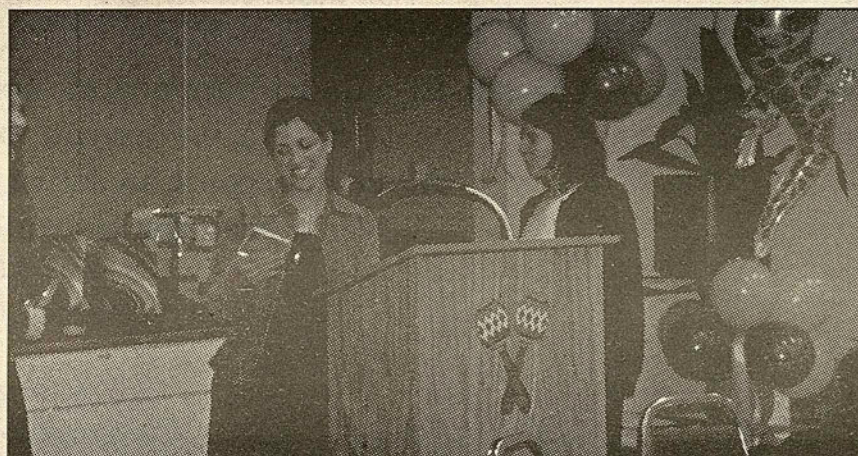
Vice President: Masha Igel
Secretary: Sheri Malka
Treasurer: Alyssa Block

Completing her second year at SSSB with a major in marketing, Sharona Korn, was voted senior class president in recent elections.

A Machon Gold alumna from Teaneck, New Jersey, Sharona graduated from Bruria High School. She plans to encourage more students to stay in SCW for Shabbat and hopes to create an atmosphere where students will enjoy a "meaningful and fun experience."



SCWSC Executive Council past and future (l-r): Miryam Khavarani, Nechama Gottlieb, Caryn Friedman, Ali Lederer, Diana Benmergui, Michelle Amini, Arie Staller, Anat Barber, Sharon Weiss



2002-2003 Corresponding Secretary Michelle Amini receives an award at the SCWSC end-of-the-year dessert

Daniel Pipes To Keynote Commencement Exercises

Continued from Page 1

Lamm. According to SCWSC President Sharon Weiss, the joint student councils of the midtown and Wilf campuses will be honoring Rabbi Lamm with an award on behalf of the students of Yeshiva University.

While the graduation at Madison Square Garden will include graduates of all Yeshiva undergraduate and graduate schools, SCW honored its own graduates at its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 30 in the Schottenstein Cultural Center. Two students, who both achieved a 4.0 GPA, Devora Shreck and Shira Schwartzberger, were selected

as the general studies valedictorians. Yael (Strauchler) Goldfisher was selected as the Jewish Studies valedictorian. All three students spoke briefly at the ceremony, in which some 60 seniors were recognized for academic achievement and service to the school.

Dean Karen Bacon opened the ceremony by admonishing the graduates for not having enough pride in their accomplishments. "Recognize your accomplishments. Do not lessen their value," she said. "You have come far and as you continue on in life do not be humble, be proud."

Shreck, a Psychology major who has applied to law school, spoke about her

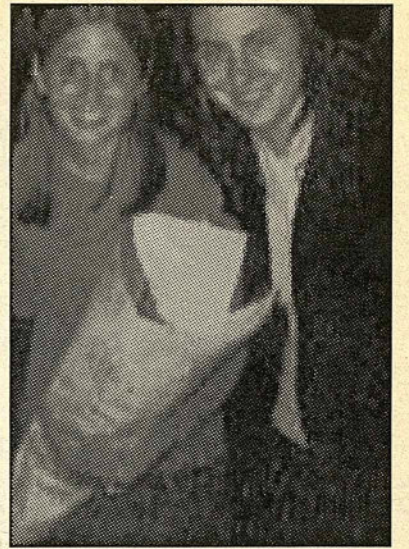
positive experiences at SCW, while Schwartzberger, a Biology major who finished SCW in two years, spoke about the counting of the *omer* and the importance of making each day count.

A Jewish Studies and philosophy major who will be participating in the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies for Women next year, Goldfisher drew on the Bible portion of the week's command to "be holy" to encourage all SCW graduates to accept their responsibility of being educators, even if they are not going into that field professionally.

Each year, discussion mounts regarding the process through which the valedictorians are selected. Unlike at YC, where the student body elects its valedictorian from among the college's top students, SCW valedictorians are chosen strictly based on academic record. This year's two valedictorians each received A's in all of their courses taken at SCW, including their Jewish Studies core classes, and the Jewish Studies valedictorian received A's in all of her Jewish Studies classes.

Many students feel, however, that in a college where the level of difficulty of different classes varies greatly, a system that takes into account other factors, such as the number of honors classes a student has taken or her extra-curricular achievements, is more fair. This year, some students were also surprised that a student who had only attended SCW for two years could qualify as valedictorian.

According to Dean Ethel Orlan, the



Valedictorian Shira Schwartzberger (l) poses with her friend, Batsheva Frank

administration is considering revising the system.

Several professors were also honored at the awards ceremony, including Dr. Miriam Grosop, the recipient of the Dean Karen Bacon Award for a senior faculty member, and Dr. Anatoly Frankel, the recipient of the Dean Karen Bacon Award for a junior faculty member, both newly created awards endowed by E. Billy Ivry. Psychology professor Dr. Aharon Fried was awarded Professor of the Year, and Biology professor Dr. Harvey Babich was voted Senior Class Professor of the Year by the senior class.



Deans Bacon (l) and Orlan (r) congratulate valedictorian Devora Shreck

Disciplinary Committee Finishes Student Bill of Rights

Continued from Page 1

The document entitles students to freedom of citizenship including the rights to vote or run for student government, club head or committee chairperson. Students are also afforded the right to "interact freely with other individuals, groups of individuals, organizations and institutions in a manner which does not infringe on rights of others or interfere with the mission of the University."

Aside from rights which the committee members have outlined, the document also includes a commitment to federal and local regulations regarding privacy such as the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, The American Disabilities Act and general laws regarding discrimina-

tion.

Included in the students' responsibilities is that they comply with all of Yeshiva University's student handbook requirements as well as federal and local law. Students are also required to respect each other's rights in terms of property, both physical and intellectual, and display mutual respect in dormitory environments.

Although listed fourth in the students' list of responsibilities, the responsibility to familiarize oneself with all of Yeshiva's policies, rules and rights may prove to be the most important factor in the execution of the newly constructed document.

Notwithstanding the many social, educational and environmental rights granted to the students, many are skeptical as to

the ambiguous nature of the stipulations. "For instance, I am entitled to a quick reply from University officials," noted SCW junior Aviva Schuman. "If I haven't heard back from them in a week is anything really going to happen? What recourse do I have if I feel by rights have been violated?"

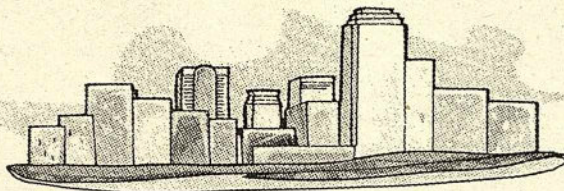
In addition there has been much speculation regarding who will be the arbiter of potential rights violations. Students are encouraged to seek redress of grievances through the administration. However, there exists a potential conflict of interest since the administrators also serve as disciplinarians.

Despite the few speculative questions, many seem to be very excited about the

promising new addition this document will be into the Yeshiva environment. "I am happy that something like this finally exists," noted SCW senior Fruma Farkas. "It really makes students feel as though they are being treated as equals in an environment which can potentially feel authoritarian."

Officials are waiting for the document to be approved by the new Vice President of Student Life, Hillel Davis, who will assume his position on May 19, before releasing it to the public. Leibowitz hopes to see the final draft ready in time for the coming school year. "We are meeting to finalize the document and hope to have it passed by May of 2003," Leibowitz said.

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Celebrating a Life at Yeshiva: An Interview With Norman Lamm

As this marks Rabbi Dr. Lamm's final year as president of Yeshiva University, the Observer editors spoke to Rabbi Lamm about his accomplishments as president of the University, how the University has changed, where he sees the University is headed, and what message he would like to leave the students.

Observer Editors: What do you view as your greatest accomplishment as the president of YU for the past 27 years?

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm: From one point of view, considering the difficult earlier years, the greatest accomplishment was survival—for me and for the University. The colleges and RIETS are on a much more firm financial basis. There is no comparison to where we were when I came in and we were talking about chapter eleven, going bankrupt. *Baruch Hashem*, we were saved from that disaster.

There are things that I did that, while I am pleased that I did them, I wish I could have done more. I think the improvement of the undergraduate colleges is important. The Honors programs have added to the intellectual level of conversation in the classroom. They have been able to attract more gifted students. We have more students coming in now than ever before. I am pleased with the *kollelim* we have established at RIETS. I am pleased with Stern College, especially with the strengthening of the school as the years go by—and the same is true of Yeshiva College and Sy Syms.

"There is a great deal to be done in getting the Stern students more aware of the fact that there is a University as well as getting the University to know that there is a Stern College."

Other than that I consider my most significant accomplishment is a much greater awareness of and commitment to Torah U'madda on behalf of the student body.

OE: Can you describe the greater commitment to Torah U'madda that you've witnessed over the years?

NL: It is a more explicit one. It is more articulated. Before I came in, people didn't talk about it. They questioned it, but didn't look for or wait for any answers. They called it a "synthesis" in those days. They didn't talk about it. No one really knew what it meant, except in a very general way. Today we have the Torah U'madda project, Torah U'madda publications, and there's a great deal of talk about it. Students debate it, they criticize it, they approve of it. Whatever it may be, they are more aware of what we are all about, and that is terribly important to the identity of the University.

OE: Considering all of the recent talk of polarization on campus, it's interesting that you see a greater commitment to Torah U'madda. How would you respond to claims, such as those of journalist Naomi Schafer, that YU as a symbol of modern Orthodoxy will cease to exist within 20 years?

NL: I quote the Talmud. "From the time the *Beis Hamikdash* was destroyed, prophecy was taken away from the prophets and given to fools." So, on the contrary, of course we have problems. We are a living institution. People who are alive have problems. People who are dead have no problems whatsoever. We

are a live institution...Of course we have problems, because we are a school that stands for something. We have a clear idea—or several clear ideas—of what and where we are. There does not have to be only one *peirush*, one interpretation of Torah U'madda, but Torah U'madda is basically what we are all about. That's what Dr. Belkin stood for, that's what the Rav stood for, and that's what most of us here stand for.

OE: You mentioned problems. What do you see as the greatest challenge for Yeshiva University in the next five to ten years?



Rabbi Lamm at a recent farewell party organized and attended by students leaders

NL: To maintain the integrity of the university. The graduate schools and the undergrad schools should be working more in tandem. RIETS and the University should be working more in tandem, and it's very important that the student body should feel a sense of unity in recognizing that it's not monochromatic, that it's not homogenous, but that doesn't matter. You can have people with different perceptions, but we're all part of one organism. And that is a problem, not so much at Stern as it is uptown, and that has to be conquered, and it has to be dealt with deliberately. I think there are social problems that need to be taken care of. I am not pleased with the current social setup of young men meeting young women...I think the new ways of doing things are not necessarily the best. We have to encourage different kind of systems, which will be more natural, of course, always in keeping with halakha, unquestionably. A lot of changes have to take place because we always have to improve.

OE: What kind of changes?

NL: The present system leaves a lot to be desired. Some of the rules that someone has made up—and no one knows where they came from—are utterly ridiculous. Some of the conduct is unbecoming. For example, you go to a wedding and you invite your friends—single men and single women—and you seat them at tables at opposite ends of the wedding hall. So here is the perfect place to meet each other, and you blow it away.

OE: Some people think the Roshei Yeshiva are responsible for encouraging this kind of behavior. Would you agree?

NL: On the contrary. I thought so until I talked to them and they actually agreed

to give shiurim and invited boys and girls. But the better boys didn't come—the boys who think they are better didn't come—and the girls who think they're better didn't come, and so the whole thing deteriorated. We have to stop this attitude. The Roshei Yeshiva have tried to do it but they have been unsuccessful. The Roshei Yeshiva want to be the hosts of having boys and girls together for good purposes, for a lecture, for Torah and *chessed*. That's the natural way of doing things instead of following some arcane rules that are both irrational and unreasonable.

OE: We know you're staying on next

year as Rosh Hayeshiva, as part of a momentous split between the presidency and the position of Rosh Hayeshiva. How do you envision your relationship with Mr. Joel?

NL: That remains to be seen. He will be the president—that is clear. I will try to help out as much as I can. As I told him, I will give him as much help as he wants, not less, but also not more. It's his show. But I'll be around to help, to offer guidance to whoever wants it. I hope to have more time for interacting with the students.

OE: As students at Stern College, we have not had much interaction with you over the years. How do you view the president's relationship with Stern College?

NL: There is a problem. Geography does count, after all. It counts psychologically. When I first came to the presidency I decided I was going to give time to every school. Sooner or later, I discovered that there is so much to do for the University as a whole that I can't be with students as much as I want to. Mr. Joel has said that he will be with students, and I wish him well. But as time goes on, one has to prioritize his time in accordance with the urgency of the things that are making demands on him. I don't know how much Mr. Joel will be able to do in terms of getting closer to Stern. I hope he can. I hope to do whatever I can to help in any way. I have come down to speak at Stern every now and then, and the number of people who came was not terribly significant. But I agree that there is a great deal to be done in getting the Stern students more aware of the fact that there is a University as well as getting the University to know that there is a Stern College.

OE: Perhaps the poor attendance

serves as an illustration of the problem. Students at Stern College don't even know who the president of their university is.

NL: That is true. But then again, I asked my wife, who is a graduate of Hunter, who the president was in her day, and she didn't know. At most schools they don't know. Yeshiva is a much more intimate school so we expect to be on a first name basis, but it really can't be done quite as much as students like and quite as much as they deserve.

I am enormously fond of Stern College. Dean Bacon was the first dean appointment I made when I became president and I am very very pleased with her performance. You have a very good faculty, better than ever before. You have a vibrant student body, which always complains that there is not enough volunteerism. We sometimes forget that many of the students are from New York or the metropolitan area so there is generally not that much participation, but there should be much more...It's a great school, and we're very proud of it.

OE: Is there one fond memory or funny story that stands out in your mind during your tenure as president of the University?

NL: August 1976, the beginning of my tenure as president. In September school started and I decided I would eat lunch with the students, so I went down to the cafeteria, took my tray and went to the cashier. There were three levels of price—student, faculty and outsider. The cashier looked at me and said, "You're not a student, are you?" I said "No." "Are you a faculty member?" I said, "No." She said, "Then you're an outsider." I said "No." She cried

"There's a creative tension at Yeshiva. I would be very unhappy if everyone agreed with everyone else."

out, "Oh, so you're a nobody?" The manager of the cafeteria came running over, he was so upset. I pacified him. That was a funny incident that I always recall with pleasure.

OE: Do you have a parting message you would like to leave the students?

NL: Be proud of your school. We're not perfect, but no one is perfect. We are proud of you, you're not perfect. We all are there for a common cause. It's a sacred cause. Torah U'madda is a *derech of avodas Hashem*, and we all ought to be fond of each other and supportive of each other even if we have different opinions. Let's not worry about these different opinions: having them makes this place much more alive. If everyone is of the same opinion, it's deadly boring. We're alive. There's a creative tension at Yeshiva. I would be very unhappy if everyone agreed with everyone else. It means we have to have a sense of unity even though there is disagreement. We have to agree to disagree agreeably. That's what makes us a different kind of school, a different kind of institution, and a very important one for the Jewish world and the Jewish future.

Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm's retirement culminates his over 50-year involvement with Yeshiva University, which began in 1945 when Dr. Lamm entered Yeshiva College as an 18-year-old freshman, majoring in chemistry. He received his rabbinical ordination from RIETS in 1951 and a Ph.D. from the Bernard Revel Graduate School in Jewish philosophy in 1966.

"[Yeshiva University] was a home—intellectually, spiritually, academically, and psychologically," Dr. Lamm said in March

2001 when he announced his retirement.

Since assuming the position of president of Yeshiva University in 1976, Dr. Lamm has been integral to the University's academic development and physical growth. Dr. Lamm saved the school from bankruptcy in 1980, and under his leadership YU's endowment increased from \$25 million in 1986 to \$930 million in 2002.

Staunchly committed to the cornerstone of the university, Torah U'madda, Dr. Lamm often stressed the primacy of

the University's philosophy. "The beauty of Yeshiva, the source of its uniqueness, lies in its planned and deliberate diversity. We are both Yeshiva and University, both Torah and *Madda*. And the encounter of one with the other is what sends off sparks—dynamic, creative, fiery sparks, sparks that illuminate and enlighten," Dr. Lamm said at Yeshiva's annual Hanukkah Dinner in 2001.

Aside from his accomplishments at Yeshiva, Dr. Lamm is internationally recognized for his many published books and

dozens of articles. His writings and teaching on Jewish law have been cited in two landmark decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1966 and 1967.

Dr. Lamm and his wife Mindy have four children and 17 grandchildren.



Rabbi Lamm, 1949 YC yearbook photo

Arts & Culture

A New Spin on Jewish Music

Spotlight on Aspaklaria

By Marisa Parker

Four years ago, five yeshiva guys studying in Israel combined their musical talents to form the band Aspaklaria. *Shana bet* students from Yeshivat Shaalavim and Yeshivat HaKotel began to play Jewish music together and perform in Israel. The members of the band included lead singer Benjamin Epstein, guitarist Eli Pollak, composer of "Mi Adir," Yoni Tiberg on lead guitar, Yoni Weinberg - who is currently in the band Mizrach - on piano, and Yochai West on the drums. Pollak and Tiberg, who had been acquaintances in high school brought the band together.

After receiving a positive response and accumulating a fan base during their first year, Aspaklaria decided to take their band to the next level by recording their first CD entitled "Aspaklaria." Hoping to set a trend in Jewish music, the band members were motivated by a desire to fill a void in the Jewish music industry by combining great music and important messages, according to Epstein. For example, the song "Temple Mount," which the band recently performed at Battle of the Bands and Pesach Palooza, illustrates the group's strong connection to Israel, a common theme in their music.

They wrote "Temple Mount" last Succot, when the second Intifada began after Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount. "It was outrageous to think that a Jew was being denied the privilege of visiting our Temple Mount," Epstein explained. "The chorus of this song is 'We will never leave you,' showing our commitment and dedication to the Holy Land."

While "Mi Adir" is their most acclaimed song, one of their most requested songs is "Shana Alef," a song that spoofs some of the stereotypes of the post-high school year of learning in Israel.

The band's name actually reflects Epstein's understanding of the spiritual power of music. "Music is an amazing form of *avodas Hashem*," he says. "It goes straight to the heart." The band's namesake comes from the phrase "Aspaklaria Hameiri." Every Jewish prophet was granted *aspaklaria*, the ability to "view," or relate to God, but every prophet was granted a different degree of *aspaklaria*. Only Moses had "aspaklaria hameiri," which is the most direct and lucid way of viewing God aside from seeing him face-to-face, an impossibility for man. Moses was on the highest level and therefore received the clearest and closest connection with God. By using this name, the band wanted to indicate the power music has in forming a relationship with God. "We see the power of music all



Aspaklaria performed at Pesach Palooza

over Tanakh from the Jews singing after the splitting of the Red Sea to King David," said Epstein.

Consistent with their namesake, Aspaklaria may call their second CD, which they plan to begin recording after Lag B'Omer in late May, "Hameiri." Their next album will have between ten and 12 tracks, and it will feature the songs "Temple Mount" and Epstein's personal favorite, current member Elly Buchman's "Of a Long Road Rack." But Epstein will be the only original member of the band on the new CD. "Despite the constantly changing members you might not know who is playing, but you are guaranteed to get good, soulful music," Epstein says, referring to the numerous changes that have taken place in the band since the conclusion of the *shana bet* year of its original members. Despite the transition in its members, Aspaklaria's newest CD

promises to be a more serious effort than the first album and much more musically layered.

Despite their mounting popularity, Aspaklaria members do not experience stage fright before performing. They "love feeding off the energy of the crowd." According to the band, their best concert was a performance at the Frisch School two years ago on Shushan Purim. When the time allotted for the concert ran out, the principal had to kick Aspaklaria off the stage and send the reluctant students to class. However, the band went into a classroom and began jamming, and then the teachers relented and brought their students into the classroom to enjoy the music. A similarly enthusiastic audience greeted the band at Yeshiva's recent Pesach Palooza, where they performed the opening act. Their performance was packed with energy, and enthusiastic fans jumped from their seats to dance in front of the stage.

What started with five yeshiva boys jamming together in Israel has been evolving and maturing ever since. The main force behind their success has been the positive feedback from the fans, according to Epstein. Aspaklaria has proven to be more than a one hit wonder. Hopefully, their next CD will reaffirm that assessment.

Bookworm:

Women of the Wall



Women of the Wall: Claiming Sacred Ground at Judaism's Holy Site
Edited by Phyllis Chesler and Rivka Haut
\$34.95
Jewish Lights Publishing

By Devorah Heching

At first glance, the book *Women of the Wall* seems to merely document the 11-year struggle of the group of women who, in 1989, try to form an all-female "minyan" at the Kotel. In reality, the editors of the book, Chesler and Haut, attempt to address a wide range of religious issues that affect the contemporary Jewish community. The book *Women of the Wall* has become a tool to raise awareness about issues of women's rights, religious freedom and separation of religion and state.

A multi-denominational group of women met in December of 1998 in Israel at the first International Jewish Feminist Conference

to discuss the topic of "The Empowerment of Jewish Women." At the conclusion of the conference, the women decided they would form an all-female prayer group in the women's section of the Kotel complete with prayer shawls and a Torah scroll.

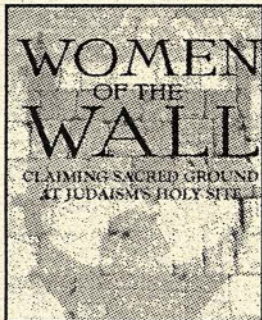
In their first attempt to *daven* there, the women become embroiled in political, legal and religious struggles with the Israeli government. The Haredi community who believe that an all-female davening group is not halakhically permissible become outraged. They lash out against the women's group, collectively called WOW (Women of the Wall), using verbal abuse and, at times, physical attacks. In response, the women of this group relate their struggle to that of the daughters of Tzafchad in the Bible, who come before

Moses to request their father's inheritance, essentially asking if a woman can adopt a traditionally male role if there are extenuating circumstances. Using halakha and Torah sources, the writers attempt to offer objective support for their position throughout the book.

But this book is by no means objective. The members of the Haredi community who attempt to oppose the women's minyan are portrayed as close-minded and ignorant of halakha. In addition, while the various contributors to the book attempt to prove that their stance is halakhically feasible, they ignore a basic tenet fueling the disapproval of the members of the Haredi community that oppose them: The majority of the rabbinical authorities who are asked whether the women's group at the Kotel was permissible respond that it is a halakhic impossibility.

In addition, the very structure of the book causes any messages of real importance to be downplayed. Each section of the book represents the personal account of one of the members of the WOW organization.

As each member describes her personal experiences, any important messages concerning, for instance, the lack of unity in the Jewish nation or the objectionable and sometimes violent responses of bystanders to the women, are lost in the repetition of basic information with each accounting. While *Women of the Wall* was composed with the primary intent of "ensure(ing) freedom of religion and a just future" it seems to become instead a vehicle for the various women of WOW to air their personal grievances against the halakhic authorities that oppose them and highlight their perceived deficiencies of the Israeli legal, political and religious systems that did not support their struggle.



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Arts & Culture

Exhibit Showcases Whistler's Work

By Rachel Horn

James McNeill Whistler has been described as a talented landscape painter, a master designer of dresses, frames and interiors and an immaculate printmaker. Although these traits are all true, Whistler's most unique gift was his desire to create beauty. The Frick Collection's "Whistler, Women and Fashion" emphasizes the driving force behind the artist's work: his ability to capture beauty.

Whistler, an American artist who spent the bulk of his 50-year profession in Europe, primarily in London, painted at a transitional moment in art history. Europe was moving forward from the age of Realism. He joined a group of artists who believed in sheer Aestheticism. These painters would forego identities of their subject matter in favor of abstract beauty. Whistler soon was at the forefront for promoting "art for art's sake."

The exhibition consists of eight portraits that belong to the museum's permanent collection, several sketches, watercolor etchings and lithographs. Additionally, four authentic period dresses are on display. The portraits are located in the Oval Room of the main museum while the other works are on display in the basement of the museum. This arrangement somewhat disrupts the unity of the exhibition.

All of the works on display attest to Whistler's preoccupation with beauty. He demonstrated a keen knowledge of contemporary fashion and had an eye for detecting beauty in all scenarios. While he worked in Venice and Paris, he would often stop to sketch simple yet elegant scenes he observed on the street. On display are his depictions of a seamstress bent over a dress, a laundress hard at work or nursemaids conversing.

His sensitivity to Aestheticism is reflected in his portraits. Even the titles that he chose reflect his interest in balance and beauty. "Harmony in Pink and Grey: Portrait of Lady Meux," exudes a sense of calm. As in several of his works, the background color is similar to the hue of the subject matter itself to create an appearance of harmony. The long train of the subject's dress is reminiscent of cascading waves. The brush strokes work together to give an appearance of shiny and matte finishes melded together.

Considering his concentration on Aestheticism, it is interesting to note the women that he selected as subjects. The exhibition provides details about their history and relationship to Whistler. He exclusively chose women of intrigue. Lady Valerie Meux, the subject of "Harmony in Pink and White" and "Arrangement in Black," was known for

being "mysterious and bizarre." After he finished his masterpiece "Arrangement in Black," Whistler himself coined her his "beautiful black lady." There was a time when much controversy about a court case involving libel clouded Whistler's name. Lady Meux disregarded his reputation and daringly stood beside him.

Whistler also had a period of time when he became obsessed with the lovely Birnie Philip sisters. The exhibition features sketches of the sisters in various action poses, both entertaining publicly and relaxing in their private chambers. In "Black and Red: The Fan," Whistler depicts a deliberately mysterious and sensual Ethel Birnie Philip. The clothing, style of dress, and brush strokes are reminiscent of the red and black fan she holds in her hand. After working with the sisters for several years, he married Beatrice, one of the sisters.

Maud Franklin, his mistress for almost ten years, occupied several of his sketches. His mistress and soon-to-be fiancée, Joanna Hifferman, was the subject matter for Whistler's more unique paintings that veer from his typical style. Hifferman demurely peers into a mirror wearing a flowing white dress and a wedding ring in "Symphony in White No. 2: The Little White Girl." Donned in bright oranges, purples and reds, she paints pottery in "Purple and Rose: The Leizer of the Six Marks."

Although his distinguishing mark as an artist was Aestheticism, Whistler incorporated important contemporary developments into his work. Several of his women reflect the historical Progressive Movement, a period of reform, and the newest craze over trade with the Orient. Fans, pottery and plants from the Far East adorn his portraits and sketches.

The exhibition is inclusive and informative. The varied collection attests to the talent Whistler possessed and his sharp eye for beauty.



Harmony in Pink and Grey: Portrait of Lady Meux, 1881-82

Many Words, Many Lives

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

The New York Historical Society has opened an exhibit on the history of women in business over the past two and a half centuries. This task taken by society to present a topic of such unbelievable proportions is indeed a brave one.

The exhibit, entitled "Enterprising Women: 250 Years of American Business," features separate displays for each of the numerous women it showcases. The specific women that the exhibit pinpoints represent many more women who remain faceless. For example, the display on Mary Katharine Goddard, the woman who printed the first copy of the Declaration of Independence, includes a setup of her printing shop. But at the same time that it captures her life, it also reflects all the women who are known to have worked in similar printing presses alongside husbands, sons and daughters.

The many different faces of the exhibit reflect the diversity of American women. There are women of privilege like Eliza Lucas Pinckney, a southern belle who ran three plantations by the time she was 16, and women who belonged to the first generation of freeborn African Americans, like Madam C.J. Walker, a revolutionary hair stylist and instructor, and Maggie Lena Walker, the first female bank president in the United States.

Several famous names are included in the exhibit, such as Elizabeth Arden and Mary Pickford as well as women who have created famous products such as Ruth Handler, creator of Barbie, and Martha J. Coston who invented the night flares used by the United States Coast Guard into the mid-twentieth century.

Among these women there are various stories of husbands who betrayed them and husbands who entrusted them with empires of commerce. For some, true family was inevitable, but for others it was unattainable. Still, each woman set the singular goal of victory against all odds and succeeded, at the very

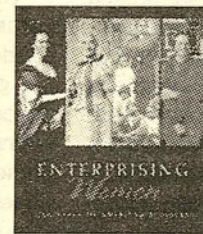
least, in obtaining a place for her name in the history books and in shifting the perception of a woman's role.

It is this truth that the exhibit represents and honors. Unfortunately, the presentation itself is somewhat lacking. For the true seeker of knowledge, there is a wealth of information. Each woman is given a fair space and the displays are brimming over with tidbits of trivia and personal histories. A warning, however, for the casual explorer. Although the displays are colorful and may make a fine afternoon activity, one should be prepared to read; the information is the true essence of the exhibit.

To maintain the theme of powerful women into the present day, women of our time are also represented. However, instead of blurbs and conventional displays, the Society employed a video collage of these women's lives. Visitors can listen to them tell their stories in their own voices. This section includes Martha Stewart, Julia Child, Oprah Winfrey and Katharine Graham, publisher of *The Washington Post*. Ending the exhibit with these modern examples reminded me that a world waits for any of us who wish to venture out there and join these figures on the pages of time.

The message that reverberates throughout the exhibit is that these women were not special because they overcame gender stereotypes. They were special because of what they accomplished. Their lives deserve to be celebrated and commemorated, not just as women, but as leaders in their respective fields. It is disappointing that the ambience of the exhibit is not optimal since it is a testament to a great collection of lives and an echo of a powerful voice in the development of the American economy.

The exhibit is at the New York Historical Society, 2 West 77th St., Central Park West from March 25 until June 1, 2003. For further information check out the website at www.nyhistory.org or call (212) 873-3400. Their hours are 10 am to 6 pm, Tuesday to Sunday and Wednesday



Art Majors Scramble to Finish Creative Senior Projects

By Observer Staff

Students majoring in Art are scrambling to finish their Senior Projects before Graduation. SCW requires seniors to complete some variation of an exit exam. The Art Department has decided to meet this criterion by means of a project.

The Senior Project is intended to challenge students to produce an original piece of work that draws from the knowledge and skills they acquired throughout their years at SCW. "The project is all encompassing," said SCW senior Mirat Strobel. "It is not something that should be taken lightly."

The project is often useful for students who are applying for graduate schools and jobs. "It is a chance to 'strut their stuff' in a last glowing project," said Art Department Chair Professor Gardner.

Students consult with Gardner during their senior year, and they are able to focus on any area of art they choose. Usually the projects are a culmination of

the skills they have learned at SCW.

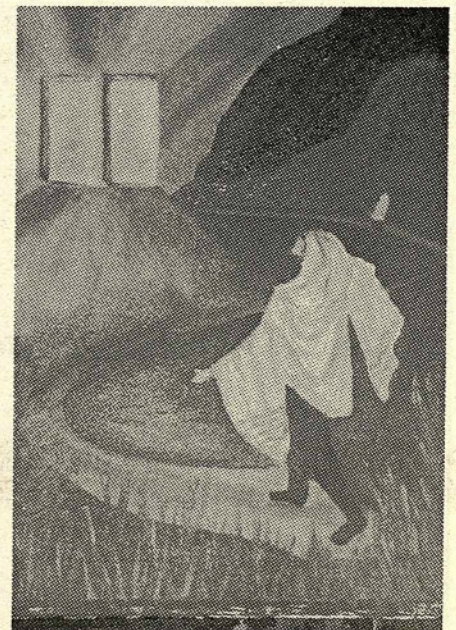
SCW senior Gila Lempel used the information she learned in a Sy Syms class for Web Design to create an online portfolio of her projects from the Joint Program with FIT and paintings that she created at SCW. Using the program Front Page, she created a website featuring her works and resume and posted it online. The website is sure to be useful for securing jobs. "When I'm applying to jobs, I can send my portfolio online and they can see all my work," she said.

Others students chose to focus on an area in which they had limited experience. SCW senior Elisheva Menchel designed a corporate identity including a logo, business card and letterhead. "I found an area that was a little weak in my portfolio and strengthened it through the Senior Art Project," she said.

In some cases, Gardner even encouraged students to work in areas that are not their strengths. Strobel, who is creating both a drawing and painting of

Manhattan scenes, confessed that she dislikes urban art. "Professor Gardner told me to do it to challenge myself," she said. "It's not my style. She wants people to think outside of the box." Strobel, who plans on going into Art Therapy, needed more portfolio pieces. She took pictures of Manhattan in the snow and is in the midst of using them as a reference for her works.

Rachel Ehrlich is submitting an oil painting as part of her senior project. "I started it for an acrylic painting class, but then I decided to use it instead as my senior project," Ehrlich said. Her painting is based on the cover of Yosef Karduner's CD "Simanim B'derech." "It reflects the techniques that I learned in the different art classes that I took at Stern," Ehrlich explained. The projects count for one credit and are due on May 20.



Art major Rachel Ehrlich is submitting her oil painting, which is based on the cover of Yosef Karduner's CD, as part of her senior art project.

Arts & Culture

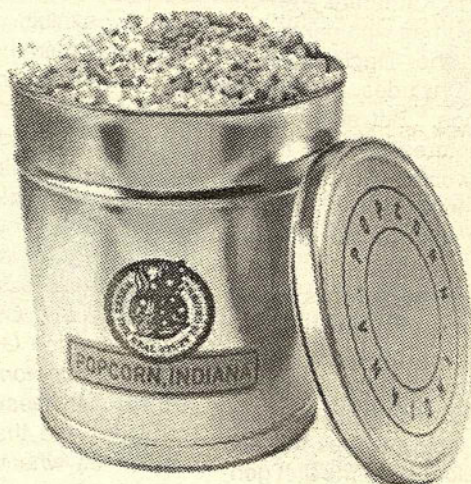
Popcorn Store Delivers Gourmet Snack

By Devorah Heching

"They say it was hot that Fourth of July. Maybe the hottest it ever was in Indiana. It was the summer of 1881 and the rain had been right and the sun had been perfect and the wind had been just so and no one had ever seen the corn grow so large."

So begins the fictional account of how popcorn was first discovered in a little town in Indiana called Popcorn. Surprisingly, the town actually exists and boasts a proud population of 42 people in addition to "some of the world's best popping corn." Luckily, these days you do not have to travel all the way out to Indiana to sample the city's popcorn because a specialty popcorn store has opened in the Upper West Side on 76th and Broadway.

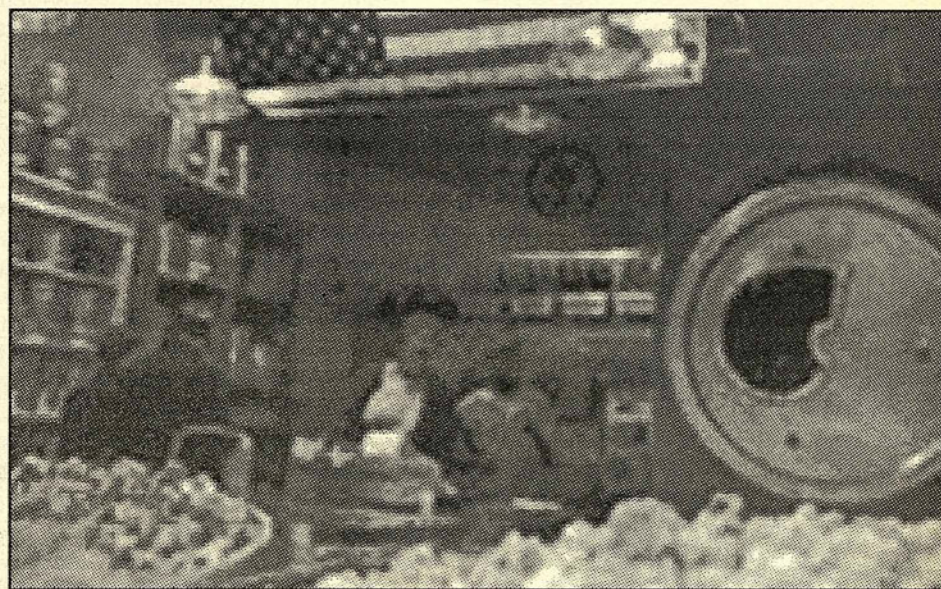
Walking down Broadway, the store, also called Popcorn, Indiana, would be relatively easy to miss were it not for



the enticing aroma of flavored popcorn luring passers-by into its cheerful interior. Once inside, you find yourself in an imaginary cornfield with stalks of corn painted in sunny colors on the wall and an array of sprinkler pots and other farm paraphernalia lined up on wooden shelves. To your right are large vats of popcorn each filled with one of the four flavors popcorn available for sale.

The available flavors are plain and caramel, which are both pareve, and cheddar and chocolate caramel, which are dairy. My personal favorite was the chocolate caramel variety which is not overwhelmingly sweet and emits a loud crunching sound when chewed. For the popcorn eaters out there that prefer to experiment with their flavor, Popcorn, Indiana offers a small area with hot butter and various other spices to season the popcorn according to customers' whims.

While the price for a bag of popcorn is a little off-putting at first, ranging from \$3.00 to \$4.50 for a small, the size of the "small" bag of popcorn turns out to



Popcorn, Indiana serves up a variety of popcorn flavors

be very generous and is large enough to feed three people easily. In addition to the four popcorn flavors, there are drinks available for sale and, unless you have water on your person already, the purchase of a drink would be a wise choice as the popcorn can leave you a little dry in the mouth. So next time you are on your way to a show or even just in search of a relatively inexpensive snack don't forget about Popcorn, Indiana, a restaurant that offers a healthy snack and a gourmet treat in one bag.

Popcorn, Indiana delivers fresh popcorn within a three-block radius of the store with a minimum order of \$15.00. Popcorn can also be ordered online from their website www.popcornindiana.com.

Popcorn, Indiana is located at 2170 Broadway between 76th and 77th. They are opened 7 days a week from 11 am to 11 pm. They are certified kosher by Rabbi Aaron D. Mehlman.

Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

Divine Intervention

Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman's comedy/tragedy about everyday violence in the Middle East. 90 minutes. Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles.

Makor, 92nd Street Y
92nd St. and Lexington Ave
May 12-14, call for times
\$9.00

Trembling Before God

Makor and NYU's Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life present special screening of this film. Post-screening discussion with director Sandi Simcha Dubowski, following early screening

Makor, 92nd Street Y
92nd St. and Lexington Ave
May 27, 2003
7:30 and 9:45 pm
\$10.00

Camels and Caravans: Daily Life in Ancient Israel

The Jewish Museum
1109 Fifth Avenue at 92nd St.
between Fifth and Madison
Through June 2003

Lives Remembered- A Shtetl through a Photographer's Eye

A Houston photographer has located hundreds of his grandfather's

images of his life in Szczuczyn, a Polish town where nearly all 3000 of the town's Jews were murdered. Museum of Jewish Heritage
18 First Place, Battery Park City
Through August 5, 2003

New York Israeli Film Festival

JCC in Manhattan
334 Amsterdame Ave and 76th St.
June 12-26

The Believer

Makor and NYU's Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life present a screening of Bean's controversial film about a Jewish neo-Nazi skinhead.

Post-screening discussion with writer/director Henry Bean.
Makor, 92nd Street Y
June 30, 2003
7:30 and 9:45pm
\$10.00

Manet/Velazquez: The French Taste for Spanish Painting
Presenting 150 paintings, this exhibit explores the impact of Spanish painting on French artists.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Special Exhibition Galleries, The Tisch Galleries, 2nd Floor
March 4, 2003-June 8, 2003

Finding Culture in the Summer

By Reina Roth

Summer is finally around the corner, and while some of us are running back to our home towns, others are continuing their year here in the city. If you are going to be in the city over the summer, you can take advantage of the several cultural activities that will take place in Manhattan this summer.

If you are pressed for cash but love the theater, take advantage of the free Shakespeare shows in Central Park. On the day of the show, get to the Delacorte in the park. Come early- at one o'clock they give out tickets on a first-come first-served basis. The Public Theatre in the park also gives out tickets from one to three. Each year a different play is performed at the Delacorte Theatre, which has entrances at West 81st Avenue or Fifth Avenue and 79th Street. The play for this year will be posted soon.

If you love the silver screen, check out Movie Night in Byant Park on 5th Avenue and 40th Street. Movies are screened on Monday nights throughout the summer. Bring a blanket, sit on the grass and enjoy the movie.

Central Park has many other enjoyable outdoor summer activities. Boats on the lake can be rented for just ten dollars an hour. (A \$30 deposit is also required for rental). The boats are located at the Loeb Memorial Boathouse. The Central Park Zoo is also fun and not too expensive.

Many museums have new exhibits opening this summer. The famed Metropolitan Museum of Art will be hosting "Goddess" from May 1 to August 3, an exhibit that will present clothing, prints, photographs, and decorative works of art from the 18th century onward to reveal the impact and timelessness of classical dress. There will be more than 200 items on display, including clothing from the Directoire

and Empire periods. Loans of vintage and contemporary designs from international couture houses and private collectors along with works from the permanent collection of The Costume Institute will also be displayed. Many designers, such as Yves Saint Laurent, Alexander McQueen, Gucci, Issey Miyake, Christian Dior, and Roberto Cavalli will have pieces on exhibit.

If you are looking for a Jewish activity, The Jewish Museum has a permanent collection as well as a very interesting exhibit on the Jewish impact on show business. For those who like to dance, visit Midsummer Night Swing in Lincoln Plaza. Visitors can dance outdoors in the plaza under the instruction of professional dancers. Both beginners and experts can move their feet to the rhythms provided by the world's leading dance bands and top-drawer artists. Styles range from swing to salsa. Make sure to check the calendar for the style of your choice at Lincolncenter.org.



Central Park is a popular destination during the summer - above, zookeepers feed a seal at the Central Park Zoo

Arts & Culture

Women's Wear Daily Features SCW in Annual College Issue

By Rachel Horn

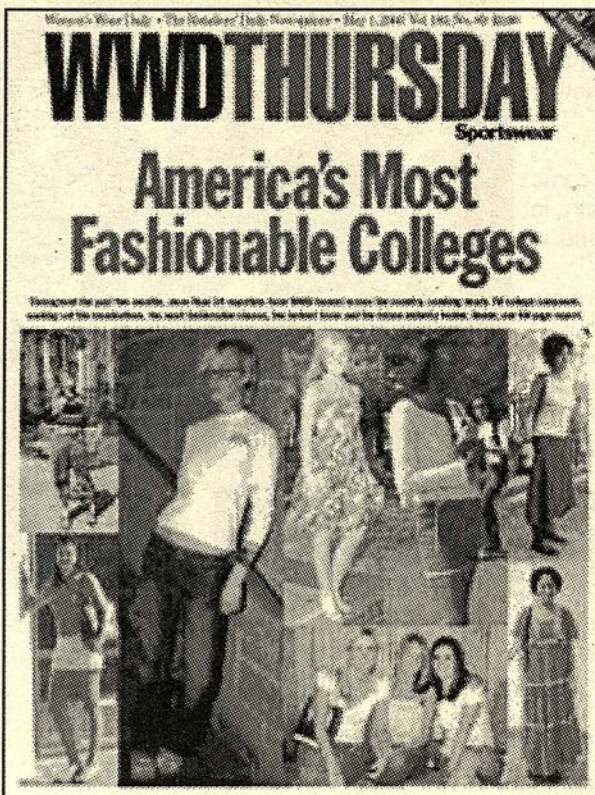
In its annual study analyzing sense of style in American colleges, *Women's Wear Daily* featured SCW among almost 70 other schools nation-wide. A directory of all the schools studied over a two-month period was published on Thursday, May 1, describing each school's "look" and ranking their fashion knowledge.

Although the magazine is primarily a daily trade publication serving the retail and fashion industries, *Women's Wear Daily* conducts and publishes in-depth survey studies that assess style in America today.

Located only a few blocks from the midtown campus on 34th Street, *Women's Wear Daily* decided to investigate the understanding of fashion at SCW. The staff there had a misconception about the style at SCW before the survey, said reporter David Caplan. "There was this perception that everyone would be wearing frumpy clothing and long denim skirts," he admitted. "I was a little surprised by the creativity of the pieces."

Caplan was impressed by students who bought clothing at local H&M stores and altered the clothing to fit their own particular style.

The dress code, which has been a topic of much controversy on campus this year, actually distinguished SCW from other schools. SCW remained the sole institution in the study that imposed dress code indicating the University's religious ties. "The policy is very extensive," said Caplan. "Many students didn't feel the rules were restrictions per se. It is a lifestyle choice to adhere to these rules that most students would adhere to in non-Stern time as well."



The dress code affected the overall style of SCW students, Caplan observed. "There was a polished and refined look at SCW," he said.

The article quotes the school's student handbook, which stipulates that students should wear dresses and skirts and blouses with sleeves while in the college buildings. "This policy forces students to be creative with their wardrobes," according to the magazine.

"The image portrayed was that Stern is diverse," said Yeshiva University Media Relations Writer Esther Finkle. "Each woman is able to express her individual

style in a community of shared values." The write-up made sure to draw attention to the "few rabble-rousers who challenge the dress policy by sneaking in an inappropriate hem length here and a slit up a skirt there."

Caplan questioned a group of 30 SCW students, interviewed the Dean's office, the Office of Placement and Career Services and faculty and conducted a focus group in which students voiced their opinions on fashion and career goals. Finkle provided *Women's Wear Daily* with information regarding SCW's student body, facilitated relationships between Caplan, students and faculty and organized the focus group. SSSBSC president Ellie Nyer was involved in coordinating the study as well.

The top ten schools were selected based on taste, quality and individuality in fashion as well as retail programs offered in the schools. New York University, Howard University in Washington, DC, and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, were the top three colleges chosen. A directory of the remaining schools was composed of a brief write-up describing each school's take on fashion as well as a picture portraying the school's image. Information listed includes enrollment and location information.

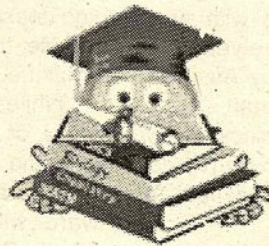
Caplan attributed SCW's fashion savvy in part to the University's Manhattan location. Urban schools, he observed, exhibited a larger working knowledge of brands and new trends. "Located in midtown, SCW students knew about upscale brands that others wouldn't be familiar with, like Tahari and BCBG," he said.

"Contrary to popular belief, the overall fashion aesthetic at Yeshiva University's Midtown Manhattan all-female offshoot is not characterized by dowdy denim skirts that hang to the knees and equally matronly blouses. Sure, Stern has a dress policy that could make for a staid-looking student body—'Students should wear dresses or skirts of appropriate length and blouses with sleeves at all times in the college buildings,' the student handbook reads—but this policy simply forces the campus' style-savvy young women to be creative with their wardrobes. Several glamour gals, many of whom shop at Tahari, Banana Republic and even H&M, said they tinker with pieces by embellishing skirts with embroidery and fringing hemlines and waistlines. But, of course, there are a few rabble-rousers who challenge the dress policy by sneaking in an inappropriate hem length here and a slit up a skirt there. But even skimpier items can be worn with creative layering. An interest in fashion shows up on the academic side as well. While Stern offers no fashion or retailing programs, students can take up to 14 credits at nearby FIT."

--*Women's Wear Daily, Thursday, May 1, Page 50*

SCWSC

would like to thank everyone for an
AMAZING year and wish everyone the
best of luck on finals!



Enjoy your
summer vacations and mazel tov to
the graduating seniors!

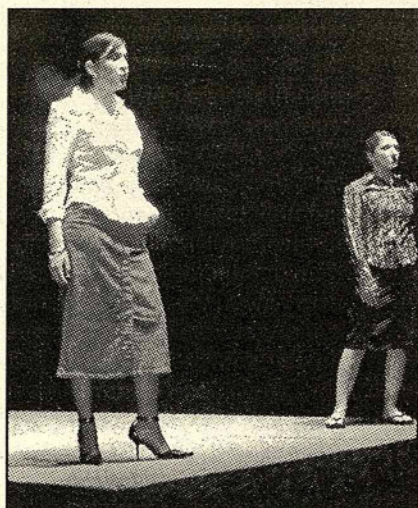
Sy Syms

SSSB Fashion Show Sends Students Down the Runway

By Chavie Schwartzbard

Fashion kicked off in high gear at the SSSB fashion show on April 2. The event, sponsored by both SSSBSC and SWCSC, drew a large crowd of students to the Schottenstein Cultural Center to check out the latest fashion styles modeled by their peers.

The show, which was organized by SSSBSC president Ellie Nyer, together with students Becca Glass, Sarah Berman and Rachel Moss, featured SCW and SSSB models outfitted in the season's latest clothing. The styles highlight-



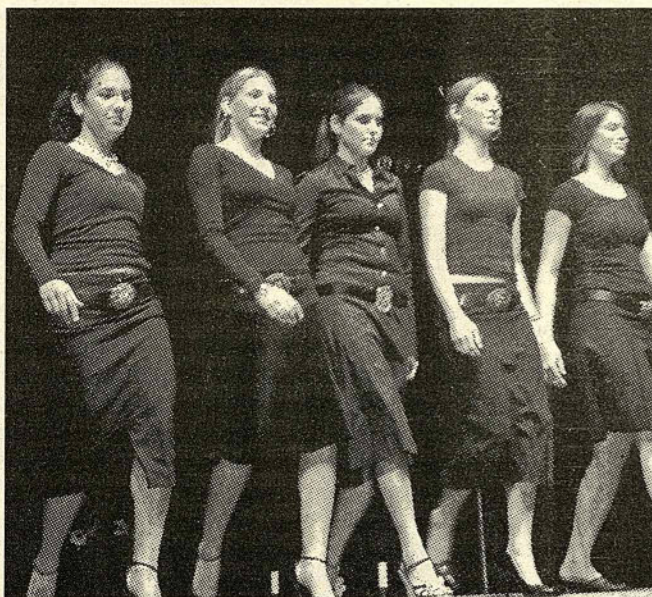
ed were those of nine designers, including designer Olivia Marino, SCW alumna Abigail Kate, SCW shaped art major Bini Bornstein and SSSB marketing major Michal Levy, who designs "The Sirly Collection."

"It's a way for Stern students to come out and see clothing that is both in accordance with halakha, funky and in style for 2003," said Nyer.

Weeks before the show, ads were placed online looking for designers who would be interested in participating. Approximately ten designers responded including "For Joseph" designer Allison Lyers, and Erin Comyns who designs for "Little Mac."

Organizers hung flyers around the midtown campus advertising positions for student models. On the day of the show, the models were outfitted in the designer clothing ranging from sizes two to 14. Kaituz, a company which develops makeup, including Shabbat and Pesach cosmetics, offered to make the models' faces up before they strolled down the runway.

The models did not receive any benefits for participating in the event but enjoyed the experience immensely nevertheless. Sophomore Jamie Gluckstadt, one of the 15 SCW students who modeled for the event, found it to be "great



fun." "It felt like a real fashion show—the lights, the catwalk, the professional aspect of it," she noted. "I had a great time and I would do it again any day."

The models walked down the Schottenstein stage, which had been converted to a runway, to trance music that was organized by music coordinator Moss.

Most students who attended the show enjoyed the evening. SCW junior Dikla Carmel, who was initially skeptical about

the show, left delighted. "I had a great time and thought all who were involved did their job really well," she said.

In addition to students, the audience included a reporter from *Women's Wear Daily*, a well-known trade publication (see story on page 17). The publication came to cover the show for their next issue, which featured SCW among 60 other universities in a special "campus style" section.

Glass highlighted the success of the night. "It was extremely fabulous and the designers were especially pleased," she

asserted. "Overall I'd say it was an enjoyable and exciting night."

The SSSB fashion show is an annual event, which is much anticipated by many students. In previous years organizers charged admission for entrance to the show but this year's event was free of charge.

Students Accused of Cheating Cleared of Charges

By Observer Staff

Two students who were accused of cheating during last semester's final exams have been cleared of the charges due to insufficient evidence. The investigation has been officially closed.

Administrators were made aware of a possible cheating incident after two students accused two other students of cheating. One student did not sign the honor code that says that a student has not seen anyone else cheating during an exam and one student stepped forward to verbally charge the two students with cheating.

However, each of the accusers reported a different type of cheating—one claimed that she saw the students using a crib sheet, and one claimed she saw the two students talking to each other during the exam. After a lengthy investigation, including interviews with all of the students involved and reports submitted by Associate Dean Ira Jaskoll, Dean Charles Snow decided that since the two pieces of testimony did not corroborate, he could not find the two students guilty.

"Based on all that was presented, we didn't have enough to go forward with a decision to discipline the students," said Snow. No disciplinary measures are being taken against the students, and the investigation is officially closed, although it may be reopened should further information come to light.

Snow concluded that although the two student witnesses were credible, accusations of two different types of cheating amounted to only one witness per action, and he did

not feel comfortable taking action against the alleged cheaters based on only one witness. Snow noted that any time disciplinary measures have been taken in the past, decisions of guilt have always been based on at least two witnesses corroborating the same testimony.

"We're not out to get people," said Snow. "We have to be fair to the people accused."

Had a professor or proctor accused the students, said Snow, he would have been satisfied with him or her as a single witness.

The administration did not notify the accusers of its decision, and one of the students who came forward was shocked when the *Observer* informed her that the students would not be punished. "This is ridiculous," said the student who says she observed the students talking to one another. "If the administration doesn't do anything to these people, the the cheating will just continue."

While admitting that ruling in favor of the alleged cheaters over the accusers may discourage students from stepping forward with information in the future, Snow is hoping to deal with the cheating problem through preventative measures, such as more vigilant proctoring. In February, Dean Snow issued a memo to all SSSB professors warning them that SSSB would hold them personally responsible if the academic integrity of the examinations were not upheld.

"I think that everyone, students and faculty alike, know that we're serious about stopping the cheating," said Snow.

Professor Brings Ethics into the Classroom

By Goldie Simon

Though she blends in quite well with the student body at SCW, marketing professor Dr. Deborah Cohn is an anomaly in the business world. Dressed in a long skirt and a wearing a hat, Cohn's appearance immediately sets her apart. However, it is much more than her physical appearance that distinguishes Cohn, who recently won the professor of the year award at the annual Sy Syms School of Business dinner.

In a world that is not usually known for its commitment to ethics, Cohn's business classes incorporate discussions about ethics. "Many marketers and consumers behave in unethical ways," Cohn said. "I try to stress to my students that they can be successful and still maintain their standards."

An assistant professor of marketing, Cohn admits that it is difficult to teach marketing in a yeshiva environment. "There is a lot of sexual content in marketing because sex sells," she said. She strives to negotiate a balance where she is able to be successful at marketing without compromising her own ethics.

Cohn, who joined the SSSB faculty six years ago, teaches Advertising Management, Sales Promotion, Consumer Behavior, Principles and Interactive Advertising. "I developed the Interactive Advertising course to expose students to advertising in digital media," Cohn said.

Before joining the SSSB faculty, Cohn taught as an adjunct professor at New York Institute of Technology, Baruch College and Hofstra University, but her first job involved research in psychology. Interestingly, Cohn sees a connection between her experience working in psychology and her current work in the advertising industry. She worked for a psychologist conducting research about children who survived the Holocaust hidden by non-Jews. Many of the children survivors whom Cohn studied weren't told that they were Jewish until after the war, and she studied how this revelation affected them as adults. "I loved that job," Cohn said. "I was doing research on a topic that I felt was important."

Though nightmares forced Cohn to quit that job, she uses the background in psychology in her marketing research. "We were studying identity construction and what happens when you are not who



Deborah Cohn was recently voted SSSB professor of the year

you think you are," Cohn said. "I am currently involved in research about consumer identity construction. Many of the same psychological concepts come into play."

In fact, Cohn has been recognized for her market research and business acumen outside of SSSB as well. She was accepted to the Visiting Professor Program of the Advertising Education Foundation (AEF) this summer, which means she will be

working with an ad agency as part of a special program for professors. The program, which Cohn describes as "an internship" for advertising professors is fairly competitive. This year 60 professors applied, and 14 were accepted.

Aside from teaching popular courses at SSSB, Cohn also helps her students gain real life experience and make contacts in the business world by bringing students to advertising conferences, and she helps her students acquire internships. In school, she has arranged for guest speakers, such as Barry Keßel (President of Wunderman Advertising) and Philip Sandler (VP of Wunderman Advertising) to meet with students.

"Dr. Cohn is an excellent role model because she genuinely cares about her students," SSSB junior Chanita Friedman said.

At her home in Long Island, Cohn is involved in another balancing act: juggling the responsibilities of family with her career. "Not only does she put so much effort into her classes but she is also so dedicated to her family," Friedman pointed out. She jokes about how her young children have grown accustomed to her schedule. "I know that I have been successful at my job when my two daughters, ages 5 and 2, put on hats and toy briefcases and pretend to be 'mommy' going to work," Cohn said.

Winning the professor of the year award is also a sign of Cohn's success in the classroom.

"She's animated and friendly and fun," Jodie Schragar, an advertising major said. "She really challenges her students." Like many of her students, the SSSB junior is impressed with Cohn's innovative ideas. "I take her classes time and again because she's a great teacher," agreed SSSB senior Yaron Karl.

Sy Syms

SSSB Inaugurates Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program

By Rebecca Rosenberg

SSSB initiated the Entrepreneur-in-Residence Program on May 8 by bringing Philip Friedman, president and CEO of Computer Generated Solutions Incorporated, to campus to meet with students. The program, sponsored by the Rennert Entrepreneurial Institute, allows students to meet with leading business executives.

Dean Charles Snow sent a mass e-mail to all SSSB students informing them about Friedman. Snow explained that Friedman started his business from scratch. Today the company, which develops and analyzes software for risk characteristics, has offices in cities across the country, such as New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Seattle and Tampa, and in countries worldwide, such as Canada, Bangalore, India and Singapore. Friedman is the only resident this year, but over the summer SSSB plans to schedule others for next year.

According to Dean Snow, many

SSSB students have ideas that could be turned into business opportunities or are in the process of formulating a strategy to open their own businesses in the near future. He believes that advice from an expert can assist students in the preparation of effective and persuasive business plans, and the first steps necessary to launch those ventures. "The entrepreneurs in residence can come in and offer their value of experience over the years to help students conceptualize and execute the structure of their business," said Dean Snow of the program's goals.

Friedman was available to meet with all student entrepreneurs from YC and SCW for several hours on May 8 at the Wilf campus. Students brought with them information about the productions or services they wanted to provide, the markets it would serve, and revenue possibilities. They also discussed management teams, what outside help and funding would be needed, as well as reasons they feel it would succeed.

Students seemed pleased with Dean Snow's decision to invite Phillip

Friedman. "It's good that the school is offering guidance in this area, and Philip Friedman is very qualified to fill this position," said SSSB student and senior class president Esther Glazer.

"I think that it's a great idea because it will find young entrepreneurs and will mold their undeveloped ideas into what someday could become a multimillion dollar corporation," said SSSB sophomore Danielle Yunatanov, who was excited about the new program and the possibilities it represents.

The program will not only help individual students, but it will also help boost SSSB's reputation. "[Friedman] helping the students will definitely benefit SSSB's reputation," Yunatanov said.

The Rennert Entrepreneurial Institute has launched many other programs aimed at supplying SSSB students with the resources and guidance necessary



Philip Friedman, left, meets with a student

to launch their business ventures. Most of the programs have started at the Wilf campus, but Dean Snow envisions greater involvement of the midtown campus. "We've piloted all ideas on the uptown campus because there is more of a student body physically there, but we've begun to bring in the midtown campus as well," he explained.

SSSB Offers Internship Opportunity in Israel

By Devorah Stein

This summer, ten SSSB students will get the chance to gain valuable work experience by participating in a summer business internships pilot program in Israel.

The eight-week program will begin on June 9 and end August 8. The students participating in the program will work 40 hours a week at Israeli businesses and may receive up to three credits for their work.

"We see this as the beginning of a larger, broader program of connecting with Israeli businesses," explained Dr. Charles Snow, SSSB Dean, who is overseeing the project. Snow hopes that if the program is successful this year, it may expand to include more students and more Israeli companies in coming years.

SSSB students were informed of the internship program in an e-mail from Dean Snow describing the program. "The second I got the e-mail I replied that I was interested," remarked SSSB junior Talia Zaret. "I thought that it was a really interesting opportunity because I would obviously love to go to Israel and I needed to get a summer internship to gain experience. The fact that I am able to combine both works out perfectly."

In early April, representatives from the Jewish Agency came to the Wilf campus to interview the applicants for the program. The five to ten-minute interviews screened the students interested in the program. In addition to the interview, applicants were required to

submit a letter of recommendation from either a former employer or a faculty member of SSSB and a personal statement explaining why he or she wants to work in Israel this summer.

In addition to the internship, there will also be an optional one-credit course offered at Yeshiva's Gruss Institute in Jerusalem. The six-session course, Introduction to the Israeli Business Environment and Institutions will be taught by Samuel Cuback, a managing director at an Israeli venture capital firm. It will offer field trips to Israeli businesses and a few guest speakers from the Israeli business world.

Dean Snow explained that the internship and course are ideal for students who anticipate making aliyah down the road, helping them "better understand the business environment and culture in Israel and giving them Israeli business experience on their resumes." Zaret remarked that one of the draws of the program for her is that she may be interested in making aliyah in the future and an opportunity to gain work experience in the place where she might be living was very appealing.

Although it is ideal for students with an interest in looking for long-term employment in Israel, Dean Snow remarked, "We hope to make the experience strong enough that even if people don't intend to make aliyah, it will still be a valuable experience for them."

MESSAGE FROM SSSB PRESIDENT Ellie Nyer



As the school year comes to a close, I would like to take this last opportunity to address the student body in my column.

I was excited to begin this year and eager to "right the wrongs" and make this school a better place. The Sy Syms School of Business was created to service its students, just like a company caters to its clients and a store to its customers. We are the customers and the school, specifically the Dean, Faculty and Administrators work very hard to make sure we are satisfied customers.

I know sometimes students complain and demand more classes, an increase in teacher selection, better scheduling hours and much more, but you do not see the countless hours that the Syms "upper level" puts in to try and accommodate student requests.

I have had the pleasure this year to represent the students on many different occasions dealing with a wide variety of issues. I have personally witnessed the hard work and effort that is put into our education.

We are all here to learn and absorb the knowledge available to us so that we are adequately prepared to enter the corporate world. Request the classes that you want, let the Dean get to know you and your concerns, problems as well as your positive feedback that you may have about this institution. Search for the internship and jobs that you desire. You are your best advocate so be proactive. "If you will it, it will come!"

The SSSBSC board this year has worked hard to make changes in our school. I as well as my board hope that we have fulfilled the expectations that a board has to offer and we hope we have done our job well. I feel that the only way to measure success is by asking the student body. If they feel that we have done our job in the best possible way and lived up to previous standards then we have done our job well.

Next year the board must live up to our standards. The 2003-2004 board is comprised of Rachel Moss as President, Jessica Strick as Vice President, Ilana

Twersky as Secretary and Tzilia Rosencrantz as Treasurer. I am confident that Rachel Moss will be able to lead the board and the student body next year. She has already displayed leadership skills in the areas of editing the Business Review, organizing concerts, and playing a key role in the organization of the Syms Dinner. She will work well with Eli Renov, the President of the SSSBSA on the uptown campus and she will make a fantastic team player. Jessica Strick was Secretary this year and will be a great V.P. next year. She will be an asset to the board since she already knows the "in's" and "out's" of the school and the activities. She has the ability to work well with anyone and she has great ideas. Ilana Twersky and Tzilia Rosencrantz are both newcomers to the board and they have already displayed their interest in making this school a better place than it already is. So on that note, I would like to wish the 2003-2004 SSSB Student Council much luck, and may you be able to do all that you want and hope to accomplish.

I would like to take the time out to thank my board who have each helped me at one time or another. Daniella, Jessica and Shayna....Thank You!

Of course I could not have done it without Mayra and Natalie, you two are the best and if there is room down on our campus the girls would love to have you. Thank you for all of your time and help you gave me. I apologize for bothering you so much but it is true what they say, you two truly are "Charlie's Angels."

Gabe, it has been a long year but when we finally got the hang of it, it was pretty much smooth sailing! Thank you for your help and good luck next year.

Last but not least I would like to thank Dean Snow. He has shown me true leadership qualities and he has given me advice the whole way through. Dean Snow thank you for everything you have taught me this year, it has been a true learning experience.

I would like to close by wishing everyone good luck with finals. For all those who are doing an internship this summer I hope it proves to be a great success. Take advantage of the on-site knowledge you will not gain in the classroom. For all my fellow seniors, good luck next year in wherever life's path takes you, and congratulations!

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Sports

SCW Athletes Recognized at Annual Awards Ceremony

By Shoshana Herman

Yeshiva University honored its outstanding athletes, including several SCW students, at its annual Athletic Awards dinner on the Wilf campus on Monday May 5. Members of the intercollegiate athletics program staff, Dean Karen Bacon, Assistant Dean Ethel Orlian, Assistant Dean of Student Services Zeldia Braun, and students attended the program.

After dinner and remarks from Dr Richard Zerneck, director of Yeshiva's Athletics department, each team member was given a souvenir item commensurate to the number of years they had been on the team. Additionally, team members were given a large Y-shaped pennant with their respective team printed on the bottom. Second year team members received a framed letter, third year team members received a commemorative plaque and fourth year team members received a Yeshiva University watch.

The awards were then presented in areas such as career scoring, coach's award, academic all-star and player of the week. The Tennis team, which is a member of the Skyline Conference, finished the season with a 2-4 record under coaches Randi Greenberg and Debbie Schwartz. The recipients of the Women's Tennis Coaches Award were senior Shira

Schwartzberger and freshman Sheri Wolnerman.

Although the SCW fencing team, coached by Judy Cummins and assistant Coach Yevgeniya Kamysanova, finished with a 1-5 record this season, there were a number of players who deserved awards of excellence in a given area. Among the recipients this year were Epee fencer junior Esther Zitter, who received the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference All-Star Plaque, Sabre fencer senior Sara Brodsky, who earned the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference All-Star Plaque, Women's Fencing Coaches award and the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association Academic All-Star. The fencing captain and Sabre fencer, senior Ellyn Mauner, also received the Women's Fencing Coaches award in addition to the Eastern Women's Fencing Conference All-Star Plaque.

The 2003 basketball team, which finished this season 14-7 under Coach Dr. Karen Green, also boasted players who received numerous achievement awards. Freshman Guard Shayna Greenwald received the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference Player of the Week and the Women's Basketball Coaches Award. The second Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference Player of



The fencing team at the Athletic Awards Dinner

the Week Plaque went to senior guard Daniela Epstein. Epstein also received the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference All-Star Plaque and the Career Scoring Plaque. This past season, Epstein became the first 1,000 point scorer in SCW history, finishing the season with 1034 points. Epstein also received the SCW/SSSB Athletic Award for most outstanding graduating female athlete.

Senior guard Lisa Misher also won several awards. Misher received two Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference Player of the Week Plaques and a Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference All-Star Plaque. Misher, who also has the distinction of being the SSSB valedictorian, received the ECAC Merit award for most outstanding graduating female senior.

Crazy About Fencing

By Shoshana Herman

SCW sophomore Malka Lipetz has been fencing the foil sword for less a year, but she is already beginning to stand out as one of the Lady Macs' finest.

Lipetz joined the elementary fencing course in September and considered fencing for the Lady Macs. With her brother Daniel's encouragement, and the option of dropping the team if it proved too time consuming, Lipetz finally decided to join the team.

This decision seems to have paid off. On Monday, April 7, an informal intermural was held up town against the Yeshiva College Macabees. One of the rules was that a fencer couldn't fence his own sword, so Lipetz chose to fence Epee. At the end of the tournament, Lipetz and YC Junior Shmuel Singer came out on top, each with a 3-1 record. Pitted against each other to determine the winner, Lipetz beat Singer for the Epee title.

Taking into consideration a game that was cancelled this season and two bouts where she sat out, Lipetz's 3-16 match record (which includes individual and team competitions) could potentially be 8-16.

Not only is this Lipetz's first year as a fencer, but it is also the first time she has participated in organized sports. The high

school she attended did not have any sports teams.

For Lipetz, the most enjoyable game that the Lady Macs played this season was a tournament at Hunter College in which CCNY, Drew, and Stevens Tech also participated. All four foilists were there. "You would think my most enjoyable game is one that I won, but it's not," Lipetz said, stressing the importance of enjoying the game. "Even though we weren't doing so well, we just kept cheering each other on." Some of the SCW fencers who were heading toward nationals were taking the game too seriously, Lipetz explained. "Judy [Cummins], our coach, and Ellyn Mauner, our team captain, always told us to just have fun... if you stop enjoying the game... the sport loses its meaning."

Lipetz is a big fan of teamwork and it bothers her when her teammates cannot make it to a match. "It's upsetting because I also have a busy schedule, but I made a commitment and so did they." Lipetz, whose attendance record per match is perfect (and the only competition she did not compete in was the Hunter College tournament) does take into consideration that people may have a valid reason for missing a game.

Lipetz recalls an incident when she participated in an individual's match, and although most of the team showed up,

Lipetz was the only foilist. "I was a first year and all these other girls were varsity... so I was really scared and upset to be alone." But with the encouragement of Coach Cummins and the support from the other college fencers, Lipetz approached the strip with confidence.

The commitment displayed by Lipetz is no fluke. Though she is aware of the option of dropping the team if it proves too much, Lipetz knows in the back of her mind that this will situation will



Malka Lipetz practices for her next match

Volleyball Club Still Struggling to Become Team

By Rebecca Gerber

At the beginning of the year, the volleyball club had high hopes of finally establishing itself as a volleyball team, culminating several years of such attempts. In order to qualify as a team, a club has to exist for at least four consecutive semesters. Unfortunately, the volleyball club has been unable to realize that goal this year.

In 1999, intramural volleyball games began at Stern, commissioned and led by SCW students Cara Brown and Racheli Rubin. Tamar May took over in 2001 as volleyball commissioner, although Rubin stayed with the club. Dr. Richard Zerneck, the Director of Athletics, and May tried to turn the more advanced players of the group into a formal team in September 2002.

"It was hard to maintain a group of students who were really committed to volleyball," Rubin said.

The volleyball club began having a two-hour class on Sundays at the Sol Goldman Y on 14th Street. Between eight and ten players attended every week, offering hope that the club could establish

never arise. "I thought about what I would do on an average night and fencing seemed like more fun," says Lipetz, "and I would get a great workout." The class is two hours long, and Lipetz usually arrives an hour earlier to eat and workout before class.

In addition to the regular fencing games, occasional tournaments make the fencing team an especially time-consuming hobby for a college student who is working toward a double major. "I am majoring in Judaic studies and history...but I do plan on staying on the team if I can handle it," says Lipetz.

Throughout this past season, Lipetz learned a lot in particular from former teammate and foilist, senior Chanie Angster. "She taught me that when fencing a lefty, you should always stand on the left side of the strip so their whole target area is open."

An outside source of inspiration for Lipetz has been her brother Josh who

passed away. "He was very athletic, always going outside to play and taking me and my siblings along with him. He got us rollerblading among other things. He was a lifeguard, which inspired me to become a lifeguard."

Lipetz's unwavering commitment will hopefully allow her to keep building on her skill and continually improve her record. So what pushes this zoo-going, swim-loving *Readers Digest* fan to be so passionate about a medieval fight club phenomenon?

"We have our coaches [head coach] Judy and [assistant coach] Geniya [Kamysanova] and our teammates to just encourage us and tell us to have fun," she says. "It's something I'm going to miss over the summer."

The goal is for the volleyball team to be playing against other teams next fall or spring semester and to be able to elevate the team to full varsity status in the fall of 2004 or 2005.

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ENOCORT EC is not for everyone. The most common side effects of ENOCORT EC are headache; respiratory infection; nausea; and symptoms of hypercorticism, such as an increase in the size of the face and neck, acne, and bruising. Most symptoms of too much steroids in your body occur less often with ENOCORT EC than with other steroids. Turn the page for important Product Information and ask your doctor if ENOCORT EC is right for you.

*ENOCORT EC is indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate active Crohn's disease involving the ileum and/or the ascending colon.

Talk to your doctor. Call 1-888-ENTOCORT or visit www.EntocortEC.com for more information.



As soon as your Crohn's acts up.

If your doctor prescribes ENOCORT EC, you can get 2 weeks of FREE medication from your pharmacy with this offer. Just follow these steps:

1. Call or visit your doctor to find out if ENOCORT EC is right for you. ENOCORT EC is available by prescription only.
2. Present both your prescription for 42 ENOCORT EC capsules and this certificate to your local retail pharmacist to receive your free trial.

Limit one trial certificate redemption per person for the duration of the program. Subject to eligibility restrictions listed on the back of this certificate. Valid at retail pharmacies only. No mail order accepted.

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Take this certificate to your doctor and ask about a 2-week FREE starter supply of ENOCORT EC.

To the Physician and Pharmacist
See reverse side for prescribing and processing instructions.

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GBX1	0003	912003540	01
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BRIEF SUMMARY: Before prescribing, please read Full Prescribing Information.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Drug-Drug Interactions: Budesonide is metabolized via CYP3A4. Potent inhibitors of CYP3A4 can increase the plasma levels of budesonide...

Food Effect: A meal delays the time to peak concentration of 25 hours in children with Crohn's disease...

PHARMACODYNAMICS: Budesonide has a high glucocorticoid effect and a weak mineralocorticoid effect...

Pharmacokinetics: Budesonide is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract...

Contraindications: ENTOCORT EC is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to budesonide.

Warnings: Glucocorticoids may reduce the response of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis to stress...

Precautions: General: Caution should be taken in patients with tuberculosis, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, osteoporosis, peptic ulcer, glaucoma, or asthma...

Adverse Events: In 250 patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (total daily dose), adverse events occurred in 21% of patients...

Entocort EC (budesonide) Capsules

Reduced liver function affects the elimination of glucocorticoids, and increased systemic availability of oral budesonide has been demonstrated in patients with liver cirrhosis.

Information for Patients: ENTOCORT EC capsules should be swallowed whole and NOT CHWED OR BROKEN.

Patients should be advised to avoid the consumption of grapefruit juice for the duration of their ENTOCORT EC therapy.

Drug Interactions: Concurrent oral administration of budesonide (a known inhibitor of CYP3A4 activity in the liver and in the intestinal mucosa) may lead to an eight-fold increase of the systemic exposure to oral budesonide...

Adverse Events Occurring in 25% of the Patients in any Treated Group: This drug is not approved for the treatment of Crohn's disease in the United States.

Adverse Events Occurring in 20% of Patients Treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (total daily dose): Adverse events occurred in 20% of patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg...

Glucocorticosteroid Adverse Reactions: Summary of Incidence of Signs and Symptoms of Hypertension

Table with 4 columns: Adverse Event, ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (n=250), Placebo (n=250), Inhaled Budesonide 800 mcg (n=16), Inhaled Budesonide 1600 mcg (n=16)

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Entocort EC (budesonide) Capsules

decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function and decreased disease or other drug therapy.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: The safety of ENTOCORT EC was evaluated in 651 patients. The range of ages from 17 to 74 (mean 35), 40% were male and 60% were female, 28% were 65 years of age or older...

Adverse Events Occurring in 25% of the Patients in any Treated Group

Table with 4 columns: Adverse Event, ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (n=250), Placebo (n=250), Inhaled Budesonide 800 mcg (n=16), Inhaled Budesonide 1600 mcg (n=16)

This drug is not approved for the treatment of Crohn's disease in the United States.

Adverse events occurring in 20% of patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (total daily dose): Adverse events occurred in 20% of patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg...

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Entocort EC (budesonide) Capsules

laboratory, anemia, hematuria, purpura, osteoporosis, osteopenia, increased alkaline phosphatase, increased serum creatinine, decreased proteinuria, and decreased renal function.

OVERDOSAGE: Reports of acute toxicity and/or death following overdosage of glucocorticosteroids are rare. Treatment consists of immediate gastric lavage or emesis followed by supportive symptomatic therapy.

Glucocorticosteroids are used at various doses for prolonged periods. Systemic glucocorticosteroid effects such as hypertension and adrenal suppression may occur for chronic overdosage in patients of severe disease requiring continuous steroid therapy...

DOSSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended adult dosage for the treatment of mild to moderate active Crohn's disease involving the ileum and/or the ascending colon is 9 mg budesonide once daily in the morning...

For a complete list of adverse events, please refer to the full prescribing information for ENTOCORT EC capsules.

Treatment with ENTOCORT EC capsules can be tapered to 6 mg daily for 2 weeks prior to complete remission.

Patients who failed to respond to active Crohn's disease involving the ileum and/or ascending colon have been switched from oral prednisolone to ENTOCORT EC with no reported episodes of adrenal insufficiency...

Adverse Events Occurring in 25% of the Patients in any Treated Group

Table with 4 columns: Adverse Event, ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (n=250), Placebo (n=250), Inhaled Budesonide 800 mcg (n=16), Inhaled Budesonide 1600 mcg (n=16)

ENTOCORT EC capsules should be swallowed whole and not chewed or broken.

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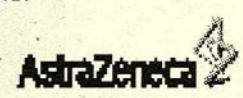
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This coupon is part of AstraZeneca's FREE Starter Supply for ENTOCORT™ EC (budesonide) Capsules.

- To the Physician: In order to use this coupon, your patients will require one prescription for forty (40) free capsules of ENTOCORT EC (9 mg). For your patients to continue on ENTOCORT EC beyond the free 4-week trial period, you must also provide a separate prescription to cover the remainder of your recommended therapy...

- Pharmacies should follow these easy steps: Transmit the claim to AdvanCPoS only. Please remove this coupon identification number from the patient profile after the claim is processed so that patient confidentiality is maintained. This coupon must be attached to the original prescription and retained by pharmacy for audit purposes...

- Coupon expiration date on reverse side. Eligibility Restrictions: This offer is not valid for prescriptions purchased under Medicaid, Medicare, similar federal or state programs, or where prohibited by law. It is a violation of federal law to trade, sell, counterfeit, or otherwise reproduce or submit this ENTOCORT EC with this coupon...



Joel Hires New VP

Continued from Page 1

person of tremendous integrity and ability with a strong commitment to Yeshiva and its ideals," he said.

Davis, 50, received his BA in mathematics from YC, and has rabbinic ordination from RIETS. Most recently, he held the position of Senior Vice President of Human Resources at IDT, a multinational carrier, telephone company and Internet service provider. Previously, he was the Senior Corporate Human Resources Officer at Republic National Bank of New York, as well as Senior Human Resources Officer at Citibank. He holds a doctorate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from New York University.

A native of Chicago, Davis lives in Oceanside, New York, with his wife, a graduate of SCW who worked at the college as an academic advisor. Their eldest daughter, Nava, is also an SCW graduate, and two of their children, Ariel and Leora, are currently Yeshiva undergraduates. Davis was the president of the Hebrew Academy of Long Beach, where his youngest daughter, Tali, is in eleventh grade.

"He is the model of a Torah U'madga personality," Mr. Joel asserted. "He has an unbelievable commitment to the Jewish people. He is a rigorous professional." Mr. Joel has known Davis personally for many years. The two worked together at Torah Leadership Seminars in the 1970's.

As such, Mr. Joel pointed out that

Davis's appointment was based on what he considered the perfect matching of the person and the portfolio.

Davis met with Yeshiva's senior leadership early on, and, according to Mr. Joel, the Board of Directors has been "enormously supportive" of his plan. "A new president means new staff in the office of the president," he explained. In assembling his administration, Joel noted that he is "not the first person to articulate a need for a new vice president."

The new appointment comes despite Yeshiva's current overall hiring freeze. "It is expensive to have a new president," Joel commented. "For example, we also have a Chancellor now. There are costs entailed."

No space has yet been designated for Davis's office, though Joel expects to assign him an office in Belfer Hall. However, he is expected to spend time on the midtown campus as well.

Joel, who officially began to work at Yeshiva last week, is expected to make several other major changes in the administration. The changes should be announced to the public within a few weeks.

"I am trying to put together a lean and appropriate team to articulate promise and product," he said. "There will be adjustments in how Yeshiva operates."

Key Professors Going On Sabbatical

Continued from Page 28

ity. "I will be looking at political ideas of people in the military, particularly the Air Force," Schrecker said. "But I have not been able to start because of my teaching. I am looking forward to having the time to dedicate myself to the research."

Schrecker is taking her leave in two fall semesters, rather than in two consecutive semesters, in order to be available to assist her students who are seniors. "It's just better for guidance and for the individuals who are writing a thesis," she said.

Another reason that professors might choose to take half semester sabbaticals rather than a full year is because of monetary considerations. A professor has the right to take either a full year sabbatical at half pay, or a half-year sabbatical at full pay, making for a good incentive to take two half-year sabbaticals.

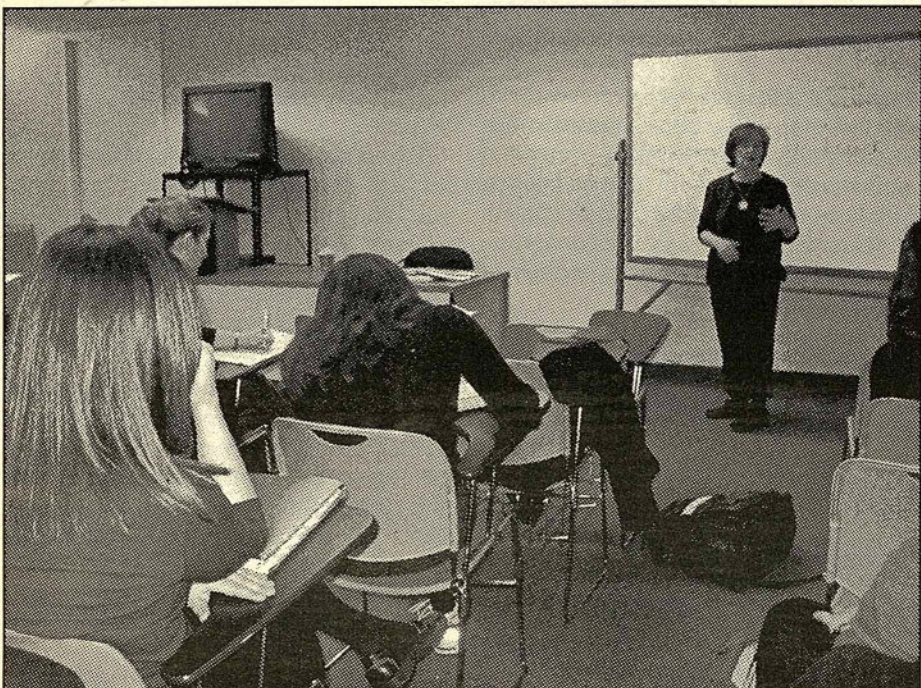
Although it is difficult for students to forfeit their favorite teachers when they themselves are only here for a limited number of semesters, the response is generally supportive of the professor's endeavors. "I think Dr. Schrecker's sabbatical is very important," said SCW junior Yael Reisman, "As a history major I respect her research and look forward to seeing what she produces. It would be

selfish of me to want her to stay - I am looking forward to sharing the wealth."

Teacher sabbaticals often create complications for the administration, but it is an accepted and necessary practice. "After a certain number of years, a professor has earned the right to apply for the time off," Dean Ethel Orlan said. "Although it has to be considered by a committee, the work of that teacher is generally recognized where it is due."

Dr. Schrecker, who also took a sabbatical a few years ago, assured her students that they have nothing to worry about in terms of finding courses to take while she is gone. There will be an adjunct professor teaching a class that Dr. Hadassa Kosak usually teaches, Survey of US History. Dr. Kosak who is returning from her sabbatical, will teach a new course she has developed, American Social Movements.

Dr. Michael Kaplan, a professor at YC, will be teaching a survey course, and there will also be an adjunct professor offering History of East Asia, a subject matter not usually taught at SCW. Another new history course, Ideas: Antiquity to Renaissance, will be taught by Dr. William Stenhouse.



Students fear Dr. Schrecker's absence will produce a void in the History department

Committee Plans a Week of Celebrations for Joel's Investiture

By Observer Staff

Plans are underway for the investiture ceremony of new president Richard Joel, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 21.

According to Dean of Student Services Efreim Nulman who is chairing the planning committee, plans are underway for an inauguration week, including a number of different receptions for students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees, as well as a shabbaton on the midtown campus. The Shabbat, traditionally scheduled as the leadership Shabbaton, will be organized by students and attended by the Joel family.

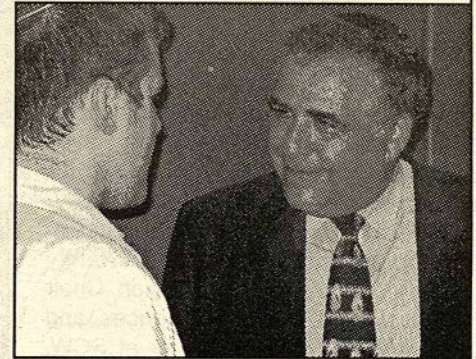
"Mr. Joel wants this to be a celebratory week leading up to the investiture," said Peter Ferrara, Director of Public Relations.

The actual investiture will take place from 2 to 3:45 pm the following day in the Lamport Auditorium. Mr. Joel will deliver an address. Additional speakers will be

confirmed with a few weeks.

Nulman is hoping for a large student turnout at the event, which will be followed by a reception for all guests and students. Buses will travel from midtown and all undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to attend.

Joel began his new job full-time as of May 1.



Mr. Joel speaking to a student at the recent Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration

Students Caught Illegally Downloading

Continued from Page 1

from her computer. At Yeshiva, the RIAA contacted Robert Berlinger, the Yeshiva Manager of Network Technology and Security, and he passed the information on to Trickey. "We've been receiving these complaints over the last year, but it seems to have stepped up in volume recently," Trickey said.

In a recent letter sent to Berlinger concerning one SCW student, the RIAA identified the IP address of the user and requested that the University "disable access to the infringing sound files via your system." If the University fails to report the system and follow through on the RIAA's request, the University could be held liable for any resulting infringement.

Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act passed in 1998, universities are obligated to help copyright holders address piracy on their networks. The university is granted immunity of liability for the copyright infringement occurring on their network in return for helping copyright holders address the piracy.

After being notified of the IP address of the user who has downloaded files, Berlinger traced the IP address to the user and forwarded the name of the user and a list of files she downloaded to Trickey. Trickey arranged for the Internet connection of that user to be disconnected, and informed Student Services on the appropriate campus to notify the student.

On the midtown campus, Trickey notified Director of Residence Life Rachel Kraut and Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun. They informed the accused students of the infraction, and provided them with the e-mail from Berlinger, which lists the copyrighted files that they downloaded. It was at this point that the letter was presented to students, admitting to their guilt and promising "to remove and never reinstall all file sharing software from my computer that is connected to the University's computer network."

After MIS officials checked the student's computer to verify that the files had been deleted, the student's Internet connection was restored once she agreed to sign the letter. The only response that Trickey's office gives the RIAA is that they have taken care of issue. "We never reveal the student's name," Trickey said. "They only know the IP address." Almost all of the students signed the letter, and their Internet connection was restored. "No one denied it," said Braun. "Everyone knew they had done it."

The University has taken some steps

to put an end to the illegal file-sharing in response to the RIAA's stepped up campaign, which began last fall when organization sent a letter to 2,300 colleges across the country. The letter outlined the peer-to-peer problem on college networks and encouraging administrators to take proactive measures to put a halt to file-sharing, according to RIAA spokesman Jonathan Lamy.

"We have made every effort to make people aware of the fact that there may be legal ramifications," said Fred Trickey, Yeshiva Information Security Administrator. Last August, Martin Bockstein, General Counsel at Yeshiva, released two letters to the entire Yeshiva community, outlining the fact that it is illegal to download any copyrighted material, not only music and video files. "You should be aware that the University's insurance will not cover you nor will the University defend you in the event of such unlawful conduct," the letter said.

The University's Computer Policy Handbook outlines acceptable use of the Yeshiva network and warns, "Copying, downloading or sharing copyrighted-protected materials without a license to do so or the permission of the holder of the copyright is both illegal and violation of university policy." "We don't care what the content was," said Kraut. "Just that it's illegal."

In light of how widespread file sharing is, it is unclear how the RIAA decides which students to cite. In addition, the volume of files does not seem to be a factor. The students cited at SCW had been accused of downloading anywhere between two and 80 files. "I don't even download half as much as other people," said one SCW student who was caught downloading copyrighted music. "Everybody does it."

In a recent case that reflects the RIAA's vigilance, four college students agreed to pay the recording industry's trade association \$12,000 to \$17,000 each for running "mini-napsters" on their campus computer networks and illegally supplying popular music for other students to copy," according to a May 2 article in the *New York Times*. Though no Yeshiva students have been cited for such severe offenses, the RIAA wants to put an end to less severe offenses as well. "Colleges should be a place for students to learn right from wrong," Lamy said.

ON CAMPUS

Professor Grosf Retires After Decades of Service to SCW

By Arie Staller

After 44 years of service, SCW professor Dr. Miriam Grosf announced her retirement. The announcement coincided with her receipt of the Dean Karen Bacon Professor of the Year Award for an outstanding senior faculty member.

Dr. Grosf looks back with a sense of accomplishment. She is currently Professor of Education, Division Chair for Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Director of the Writing Center at SCW. Grosf will remain on the faculty as a part-time professor.

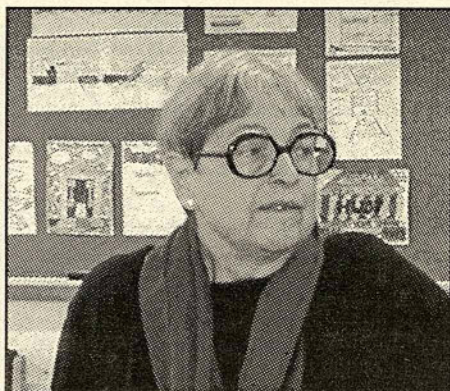
"People make decisions based on markers," said Grosf of her decision to retire. This past year, Grosf celebrated both her 50th college reunion and her 70th birthday. "I said to the dean about four years ago that I intended to retire at such a moment that students would say, 'What? She's retiring already?' and not 'What? She's still here?'" she explained.

Grosf recalls her very first teaching experience at age 12. A student in ninth grade algebra at the time, Grosf received a phone call home from her teacher with orders to come in to school early the next morning. "When she said to do something, you did it," recalled Grosf. As it turned out, the algebra teacher had an injured hand and could not write on the board. Grosf was to teach the rest of her class their algebra lesson for the next few weeks until her teacher's hand healed.

After this experience, while friends her age baby-sat, Grosf tutored. Initially aspiring to be a high school math teacher, she changed her path when she arrived at college. "I was informed by teachers that I should think of getting a doctorate," she said.

After graduating from Barnard College with a degree in mathematics, Grosf began pursuing her doctorate in mathematics at Columbia University, which she completed at Ferkauf Graduate School, the Yeshiva University graduate school of psychology.

Grosf was asked by the dean at Ferkauf to begin teaching at SCW in the



Dr. Grosf, pictured at the Writing Center, is retiring this year

fall of 1960. At the time, there was a particularly exceptional mathematics student entering SCW and the college was in pursuit of a good female role model. Grosf began teaching mathematics and continued as an instructor for six years until completing her doctorate. She was subsequently put on faculty at Ferkauf and held irregular ranks until receiving a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to become chairman of the Department of Math and Science Education to develop new curriculum. When the NSF Institute suspended funding in 1974, Grosf continued on at Ferkauf teaching statistics at the graduate level as well as acting as the principal advisor for Ed.D. dissertations.

Due to her training in mathematics, both Ferkauf and SCW requested her services to teach education majors. Grosf continued teaching in both schools until she was appointed to SCW faculty in 1982. She has remained in that role until this year when she announced her retirement from her full time position, effective fall 2003.

"It sort of amazes me," Grosf mused, contemplating her decades of teaching and advising. Grosf has taught several mathematics courses including Introduction to Statistics and Advanced Statistics, Research Methods in Social Sciences, in addition to various education courses. She has also been

Continued on Page 8

Wilf Scholar-in-Residence for 2003-4 Not Yet Determined

Columbia Disaster Sends Organizers Back to Square One

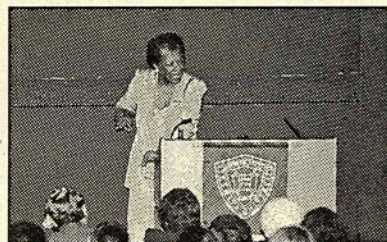
By Rebecca Rosenberg

Due to unforeseen circumstances, SCW administrators have still not chosen the guest speaker or the visiting professor for next year's Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence Program, and some are concerned that the program will not be ready for the upcoming school year.

There was a tentative plan to invite astronauts Col. Ilan Ramon and Sally Rider for a panel discussion in the fall, according to Dean Karen Bacon. "The female angle, because it is a male dominated field, and the idea of the involvement of the State of Israel were appealing," Bacon said. According to Bacon, the idea originated from Robbins-Wilf who heard Sally Rider speak and thought she was dynamic. They had planned to follow up the panel with an astronomy course in the spring.

The disintegration of the Columbia Space Shuttle as it re-entered the earth's atmosphere on February 2 postponed the planning, as Col. Ramon was one of the astronauts killed in the disaster. "When the tragedy occurred we stopped working on it, and we haven't regrouped to decide whether to do this or something else," Bacon said.

For the last two years, administrators put forth tremendous effort to organize interesting and unusual programs, which required extensive advance preparation,



Author Maya Angelou addressed students in the inaugural scholar-in-residence program in 2001

according to Bacon. Some students are concerned that the lack of a concrete plan for next year suggests that the program is floundering. "It's strange that they don't have anyone yet," SCW junior Sarah Richstone commented. "When Maya Angelou came everyone knew about it way in advance."

Though Bacon admitted that they are behind schedule in organizing next year's program, she is confident that they will arrange a stimulating event. "I would have preferred that we had this set, and it's true that we're getting a late start," she said. "But Dr. Wilf gave us enormous breadth and I expect that we can find something very interesting."

In 2001, Marcia Robbins-Wilf, founding member of SCW's Board of Directors, endowed a scholar-in-residence program to expose SCW students to diverse experiences that they might not otherwise encounter. Currently in its second year, the program consists of an interesting speaker or panel for the fall semester followed by a related course in the spring semester.

This year featured a panel of journalists, moderated by Ari Goldman, a professor of Journalism at Columbia University and former *New York Times* reporter, discussing the topic of "Religion in Crisis." The following spring, a journalism course was offered with Goldman as the scholar-in-residence professor. According to many students, the course has been received with enthusiasm. "I liked hearing from someone who had experience in the real world of journalism," said SCW senior Ariela Dworetzky who is currently taking the course.

The first year of the program Maya Angelou, world-renowned author and poet, was the guest speaker. "For the start of the program we wanted name recognition," Bacon said of the decision to invite Maya Angelou to speak. According to Bacon, Marcia Robbins-Wilf

Continued on Page 8

Officials Plan Renovations Over Summer Break

By Rachel Fyman and Shayndi Raice

Construction is slated to begin within a few weeks in the 215 Lexington building to turn the lobby area to the right of the entrance into a seminar/meeting room for students and faculty. The renovations are expected to be finished early in the fall 2003 semester.

"Many colleges have rooms like this for meetings or seminars," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, director of Supporting Service Administration, who has already begun meeting with engineers. "It will be an easily accessible, nice room on the first floor."

The lobby space is now empty except for a temporary security office in the far right corner.

Currently, most meetings and seminars are held in room 715 in the 245 Lexington Avenue building. According to Dean Karen Bacon, the new space will likely be used during the day for classes because of space constraints, but after school hours, the room will be used to give seminars or meetings.

Ultimately, the University plans to create a staircase leading to a downstairs cafeteria and student lounge, however there are no immediate plans regarding

that particular expansion as of now. Rosengarten suggested that the International Café, currently in the Koch auditorium, might be moved to the intended location for a new cafeteria in the 215 Lexington building. However, there is a possibility that an entirely new cafeteria will be opened, providing a total of three separate cafeterias between the two school buildings.

At the beginning of this semester there were plans to open the mini-cafeteria in Schottenstein Residence Hall for dinner to alleviate the crowding in the main cafeteria in 245 Lexington. However, the plan was never carried out because it would have required additional staff.

The new seminar room will be made possible by a lobby enhancement donation as part of the donor project that provided for the area approved for renovation, currently known as the Leon Levy Lobby. "There's a commitment to the donor to continue the first floor project," said Dean Bacon. "These renovations are part of that gift."

The renovations in 215 Lexington are part of a number of changes officials hope to complete over the summer. Renovations are also being made to the 8th floor Art Studio, according to Dean Bacon. Some

upgrades were made before SCW moved into the space mid-year, but due to time constraints some improvements were left for the summer, such as installing additional sinks and improving the ventilation system.

Plans are also underway to install multimedia equipment in various classrooms in 245 Lexington. The renovations are part of an ongoing project to introduce technological facilities to classrooms. "It's a question of time and money," said Rosengarten. "But unless something goes wrong things should be finished quickly."



The empty lobby area will be turned into a meeting/seminar room

Several Key Professors To Take Sabbaticals

By Shifra Landowne

When professors go on sabbatical to conduct academic research, their outside enrichment often enhances their courses, benefiting the University and the students. However, the temporary absence of popular professors, especially in small departments, can be difficult for students.

History professor Dr. Ellen Schrecker and Jewish history professor Dr. Jeffrey Gurock are planning sabbaticals for the fall. Biology professor Dr. Harvey Babich and philosophy professor Dr. David Shatz are expected to take sabbaticals in the spring. All plan to conduct research during their sabbaticals.

Schrecker is a staple of the History department, and her absence will be noted by history majors. Schrecker is planning to work on several projects, including a book about the American mil-

Continued on Page 27