



OBSERVER

Midtown Campus Undergoes Series of Renovations

Negotiations For Acquisition of 251 Lexington Building Begins

By Observer Staff

In keeping with their plans to expand and beautify the Midtown campus, YU plans to unveil the new Norman S. Levy lobby in the 215 Lexington building by September 15, 2003. Yeshiva has also begun negotiations with the landlord of 251 Lexington avenue, the building in between 2 SCW buildings that run from 35th Street to 34th street. Both are only a few of several projects intended to beautify



SCW students crowd 34th Street waiting to move in to Brookdale Hall.

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the campus, create an area where students can relax and improve academic life.

The construction on the entrance of the building has broadened the lobby area and has improved the appearance of

the space, which is now approximately 2500 square feet.

The lobby "is more spacious and elegant than what was there before," according to Yeshiva communications and public

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Reign of Sheldon Socol Comes to an End

Change in Position Implicates New Power Structure

By Rachel Horn

In what promises to be the most significant move of the Joel administration's short tenure, Yeshiva Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol will finally lose what many had assumed to be an unassailable seat of power. The Observer has learned that the University will soon announce Socol's reassignment as it begins a search for a new Vice President for Business Affairs.

was no way that anybody could or would challenge his authority," commented one Yeshiva insider. Socol's ascent to the seat of power at the University had left him in control of virtually every aspect of Yeshiva life. His business-like approach to running the University gained him few friends and left him with critics from almost every corner of Yeshiva. Appeals from all segments of the University have failed.

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"The clear implication is that he is done as the Godfather of YU, and he knows it," one Yeshiva board member told The Observer. Although his position has yet to be formally announced, Socol will serve as an advisor to the president.

Just three years ago, the prospect of a Socol-less Yeshiva was almost laughable. "There



Change in position for Vice President of Business Affairs, Sheldon Socol

SCW Kicks Off Jubilee Year With Celebrations

By Arie Staller

Fifty years ago, Max Stern and Samuel Belkin, two ambitious men, found their daughters quickly approaching college age, and felt a dire lack in the available options for continuing education for women. These two men followed their vision, and by founding Stern College, enabled thousands of women to pursue dreams of their own.

Half a century later, SCW celebrates its jubilee anniversary and honors the legacy of the sole Jewish women's college in America and its founders. According to SCW, they dreamed of a setting where Jewish women would be "intellectually challenged and spiritually nurtured," a goal that has certainly been accomplished.

"[Stern is] a haven for Jewish women from all over the world," says Jubilee Committee Co-Chair, Susan Unger, and the celebrations applaud that singular vision.

According to Sharon Hertsfeld ('88), Jubilee Committee Co-Chair, preparation for the celebration began over a year ago, and the event "has taken on a life of its own." The diverse arsenal of events will materialize throughout the 2003-2004 academic year.

The first celebration, a Family Day, is called for November 2 at the Puck Building. "It's a real carnival," said Joan Apple, Director of Development. "There will be all kinds of games, music, and food." The activities at Family Day will appeal to all ages. "A lot of Stern alumni have young families," explained Unger. "This is a great way to get people excited and back involved."

A lecture series in Judaic Studies, beginning in February, has been planned to showcase the accomplishments and erudi-

tion of Stern women throughout the United States, Canada, and Israel, who have dominated fields across the professional spectrum. The lecture series will culminate in December '04, with alumna Sylvia Fischman's discussion of women in halakha. In addition to SCW graduates, lectures will also be delivered by scholars from around the world, including senior fellow and director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute, David Makovsky. According to Lecture Series Co-chair Cali Orenbuch ('85), "we want people connected to the foreign embassy." Orenbuch also revealed that the committee is in the process of securing Foreign Prime Minister Silvan Shalom as the second presenter. Their purpose in choosing these speakers is to "raise awareness [of] Israeli-American relations and SCW."

Other potential events include a "Back to School Day," which is in the works, where past graduates will visit and "see

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Joel Administration Takes Shape Davis and Fox at the Helm

The first in a series of articles following the new president

By Shifra Landowne

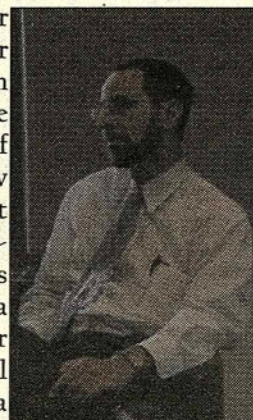
trative bureaucracy more seamless.

One of the latest buzzwords on the eleventh floor of Belfer Hall this summer has been user friendly, a term which sums up the major goals of Richard Joel's new administration at Yeshiva. Since taking the helm as president of Yeshiva University earlier this summer, Joel has brought in a new staff and is building an administration which aims to promote communication in order to increase productive problem solving and make the adminis-

"We are creating an administrative team that focuses on kavod habriot," said President Joel. The two most significant factors in Joel's equation are Hillel Davis, the Vice President of University Life, and Edward Fox, who will serve as deputy to the president. Both were appointed by Joel.

Davis, who has been in office since this past May, was coined by Joel as "Vice President of kavod habriot." He left a position at the IDT Corporation to serve on Joel's team. His administrative

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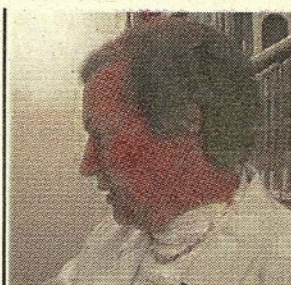


Edward Fox, in Richard Joel's Office, will serve as deputy to the president

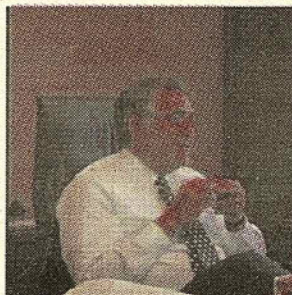
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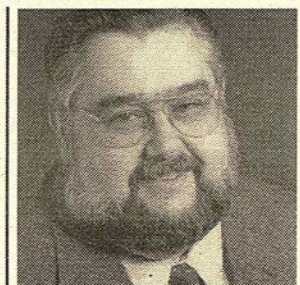
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Richard Joel Presidential Spread. Pages 14-15

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Science & Health



Student Research with Science Professor Dr. Harvey Babich. Page 25

the observer
 would like to
 welcome all
 new students
 and wish the
 entire stu-
 dent body
 good luck for
 the upcoming
 year.

The Yeshiva University
OBSERVER

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A Message From the Editors

Shayndi Raice



While freshman lined 34th street on Sunday morning, I strolled ahead of the frustrated parents and nervous students, waved to the security guards and hopped into the elevator to my office on the 20th floor. After I was safely ensconced in my office, the full meaning of my journey hit me. It was only 2 years ago that I was standing outside in the hot sun for hours, shlepping heavy bags while my mother compulsively snapped pictures to document my anxiety.

The anxiety I felt that day was due to many factors, most notably the feeling of entering a large university. I was no longer in my high school class of thirty girls, or even seminary with 100 other spiritual seekers. I felt overly conspicuous despite the fact that I probably looked exactly like every other student in line that day with a denim skirt and 3-quarter length shirt. Despite its relatively small student body, to me, this new world known as YU, was scary.

This trip down memory lane, triggered by orientation, reminded me of my pre-conceived notions about Yeshiva, and SCW in particular. During those first months it was hard for me to imagine why students would get involved in university activities. Besides the benefits for graduate school, I couldn't fathom why SCW students would volunteer a perfectly good Sunday to introduce new students to their school.

But over the past two years I have seen what this institution has to offer and would highly encourage all incoming students to keep an open mind regarding the possibilities and opportunities available.

The year leading up to my first year on the Yeshiva campus was a significant factor in my initial aversion as well as in my ultimate awareness of all that was possible here. While most people spend a year in Israel growing religiously, often returning home significantly more observant than they had been before, I had experienced just the opposite. I went to Israel ready to learn and grow.

But I came back more confused than I had ever been in my life. I had been thoroughly thrown off my moral and religious high horse. I discovered that fervently religious people tend to be extreme and when their goal is to change the way you've been most of your life it isn't fun if you liked who you were. Well, they definitely made me question who I was but not in the way I suspect they had hoped. I was more freaked out than inspired and by the end of my year I had become friends with a group of highly cynical pretentious girls who laughed at the notion of going to Yeshiva University. They were off to Princeton and Columbia and they truly felt bad for my predicament. They imagined, as I had, that my college experience would be some sort of cross between high school and our year in Israel, neither hav-

ing a positive connotation.

However, that assessment could not be farther from reality. SCW provided me with an opportunity to choose my life path, emotionally, religiously and intellectually. Prior to college, that was something unavailable to me (and I suspect many other people from similar yeshiva day school backgrounds).

In Jewish day schools or seminary, there was always an attempt to shape or change students. Here, I could enjoy the Jewish studies classes from an academic perspective. Nobody ever tried to preach or even came close to it.

Religiously, as bizarre as it sounds, there really are all sorts of Jews at SCW. I was surprised to find myself sharing a room with a girl from Romania who, by chance, ended up in SCW, but had no religious outlook or any particular interest in developing one.

I also met a student at my orientation luncheon, who took out a picture of her chassan (fiancée) and began telling me all about him. I had no desire to hear about him or her and I was mostly freaked out that all the stereotypes were true. Besides the fact that she was only one person out of thousands, now that I'm friends with her I know that she's an eccentric personality, definitely not your 'typical Stern girl.'

With the freedom of choice, I was able to develop who I wanted to be without anyone expecting anything from me. And I did want religion. While I ended up not straying much from the way I was raised, because it was my choice, I didn't feel like I was following someone else's life decisions, but rather my own.

That has been what SCW has given me - adulthood. Being in a religious environment that lets you decide your own course provides the freedom often necessary for growing up. Reaching adulthood does not merely encompass being different from your parents because a rabbi in Israel inspired you or because you want to reject their lifestyle. It means choosing your own path and living with the consequences of your choices.

SCW allowed me to choose. As I became more comfortable with the school and it didn't seem so overwhelming, I was able to take advantage of all it had to offer. I found a chevra (group of friends) for myself comprised of students, who in my mind, share my modern Orthodox values, remain open-minded, yet committed, halakhically mindful Jews. I also found a profession I was wanted to dedicate my life to in earnest.

The crux of my article is not to simply tout SCW's many benefits. But rather, it is to inform new students as well as old, that we do not deserve our stereotypes. In an exclusive interview with Richard Joel, he told The Observer much the same thing. I also want to encourage new students to open their minds to all SCW has to offer and despite what some might say, it really does provide endless opportunities for growth.

Rachel Horn



July 16, 2003. 12:05 pm. I scurry along the streets of Manhattan so that I can return to work before the conclusion of my lunch break. I recite in my head the argument I plan to make as I formulate responses to the objections she is sure to raise. 245 Lexington hits me before I'm ready. I take a deep breath and enter, willing to bet that Dean Bacon will categorically dismiss my not so modest proposal, asking SCW to fund a trip to Israel as part of my senior honors thesis.

July 24, 2003. 2:10 pm. My cell phone illuminates and rings. Dean Bacon is on the line. She informs me that the grant has been approved and advises me to go ahead and purchase a ticket. I ask her to please repeat herself; I don't think I heard correctly.

Stern College for Women has proven to me time and again that its top priority is enabling its students to accomplish their deep-seated dreams. Yet this stellar example exceeded even my own expectations. The faculty members who fought for my proposal did so with promptness and a reassuring confidence in my capabilities to locate appropriate contacts, overcome language barriers and ask the right questions.

By mid-August I was ready. I flew to Israel and traversed the country, interviewing secular immigrants, observing their lifestyles and listening to their captivating anecdotes. This trip marked off the beginning of what promises to be a year-long odyssey of in-depth analysis of immigration from the Former Soviet Union to the land of Israel. I grew to understand the unique process that characterizes their absorption into Israeli society, a process that is largely a product of the primary catalyst that motivate their Aliyah. The economic allure of the country now draws a significant stream of immigrants that would not have traveled

to the land on the basis of their Zionist ideology. This once-in-a-lifetime experience would have been impossible without the support of the SCW administration.

Too many students at SCW take for granted self-perpetuating rumors. They begin to believe that the students at Stern are monolithic; they consider our blossoming Midtown campus to be an afterthought to Yeshiva College. They assume that the time they spend sitting in SCW's classrooms cannot be worthwhile. They fear that if they contribute their original ideas to the Stern community, no one will recognize the value of their input.

But as commonplace and appealing such attitudes have become, a genuine assessment of the school's environment implores students to take note of how committed the administration at Stern is to championing its students' needs. My past two years on campus have allowed me to witness innumerable changes that benefit the student body in a variety of arenas and evidence the administration's dedication to addressing individual student development. I have seen the 36th Street dorm open its doors as an option for student housing. Summer housing has been made available for students with summer internships in Manhattan. Lecture series and the Metropolitan Experience have enhanced the cultural lives of students. Students are afforded the option of shaping their own majors and participating in Joint Programs. The most recent additions, the joint Nursing and Physical Therapy programs, indicate that SCW has its finger directly on the pulse of its student body.

Admittedly, SCW is far from a perfect institution. There are improvements that need to be made. There are demands that must be met. But we cannot forget that it is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease. The only sure-fire method of guaranteeing improvements is to ask.

As much as student leaders at Stern pine for the proverbial "YU politics" uptown, Yeshiva College administrators would do well to learn a lesson from Stern's quiet but sound administration about making student's needs the highest of priorities. In essence, that lesson is the one that students want to teach.

**The Observer joins the
Entire Yeshiva Community
in mourning the loss of
Ruthie Ephron.**

**May her family be
comforted amongst the mourners of
Zion and Jerusalem**

A Message from Your Presidents

Anat Barber, SCWSC President



It's amazing how belonging to a group and being committed to the furthering of its causes can affect someone. The high school student, scared of going unnoticed, finds comfort in the handshake of a group member or close friend. A young child of seven who knows not of lofty ideas and groups whose goals may affect world change, finds his sense of belonging in a color war team.

When the time comes and a line is drawn, each will have a definite side from which they will view any situation, an angle they believe is correct and hold near to their hearts. They will pursue to the nth degree any cause which their group is trying to further, fight any battle that involves a cohort. Their sense of commitment is unbounded, their

passion limitless.

This summer I observed many of these relationships in action. It amazed me to see the fervor with which a seven-year-old boy yelled for his teammates on a basketball court, or his willingness to be clean and tidy for a mere 5 point addition to his team. Similarly, the tenth grade camper who would disrespect his counselor only to protect a bunkmate from being punished, thus taking the fall for something which he did not do. I marveled to myself at their sense of commitment and thought, "What are the things I stand for?" Do I have that deep sense of concern and passion which would spur these types of actions? After a bit of soul searching, I isolated those ideals and goals for which I would be willing to give my all. Now, the test begins. The object of the test is not what those goals are, but rather how I will pursue them. Do I have a proactive sense of commitment or a reactive one? Do I find others who share those goals and rely on their actions or do I seize the reins and follow my heart? As Chazal encourage us "In a place where there is no man [of action], be that man" (Avot

2:5, Brachot 63a)

Each of us has certain ideals or goals for the coming years of our lives. As we approach the month of Elul a bit of introspection is natural. It is up to each of us to determine our passions and ideals, to isolate the causes for which we will give our all, not ceasing to act on their behalf. However, identifying is only the first step. We must have a plan of action. In a college where the student body has often been accused of apathy and lack of passion, I urge each and every one of you to prove the nay-sayers wrong. Find a cause, and pursue it. You need only use the massive resources at your fingertips, so readily available, and you will catapult yourself and your fellow students to action. Your student council is eager to hear you, and help you. Among the clashing din of the caf., let your voice be one with a clear message. Allow yourself to be heard and may your voice lead others.

Rachel Moss, President SSSBSC

Letter from the President of SSSB



Hey everybody!

First of all, welcome back to school! I hope everyone's summer went well. Summer is a time when we have a bit of vacation, time to deviate from our normal routines. Even those of us who took summer school had some time to relax. I hope everyone is well rested and ready to dive into this new school year. I know that I'm looking forward to it. I've had much time over the summer to think and to plan, to brainstorm and to coordinate. It's definitely going to be a fun and productive year.

Students at the Sy Syms School of Business this year can expect the same excellence from its leaders as in semesters past, events that will not only enlighten but also entertain will be hap-

pening throughout the year.

There will be some new lectures that I guarantee you'll enjoy. I personally can't wait to experience them. There are other events in the finishing stages now that I can't yet reveal, but trust me - everyone in Sy Syms will want to partake in them.

The entire SSSB Student Council is eagerly awaiting the new term. A new Student Council means new ideas and exciting brainstorming session that result in more productive activities for SSSB. I can't wait to work with them and I know that they can't wait to work for you.

Another year, another semester, different classes with different professors, different classmates, more friends... it all leads to a new yet sometimes confusing atmosphere. Even YU veterans like myself can sometimes be overwhelmed by everything that's happening. The trick, in my opinion, is to ask for direction. Regardless of your particular situation, someone else has been there before. Advisors are here to help you through the paperwork if you're having trouble. Professors can be approached if there are pertinent

issues.

Many students feel that going to student government leaders is pointless; they feel that we can't really do anything. While everyone is entitled to an opinion, I don't think that that's true. Feel free to approach me not only about the big things but about the little things too. I will try my best to help in any way possible.

Last of all and most important, please come over to say hi. I'm very personable and I want to get to know everyone. I'm afraid that someone will approach me late in the school year who I won't even know was in SSSB. I'm here for advice, I'm here to help, and I'm here just to chat. While I'm here if you need a voice in administration, I'm also here if you need an ear. If you don't know who I am, please ask someone to point me out so that we could start of the school year together as a team. Look for me please, I'm not hard to find (red hair isn't that common on our campus).

Best of luck to all in the new term.

See you all on campus!

Write for the Observer

Layout, News, Features, Arts & Culture, Science & Health, Business, Israel

Email Us: yuobserver@yu.edu

Lisa Grundman, TAC President



Lisa Grundman

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer and now ready for what will be a great year. While you all were off enjoying vacation, the TAC board has been working on making this year as fun, exciting and productive as possible. Just to give you guys a little taste for what is coming up, we are starting the year off with our annual orientation *chagiga* on Wednesday, August 27th. We strongly encourage all students to attend. It is a great chance to

reunite with your friends from last year as well as meet new friends. There is fun music, inspiring *d'verei Torah* and delicious food for you to snack on!

TAC is not only known for their famous *chagigas* (although they are famous), but TAC provides a variety of programs. We have *shuirim* every week, adopt-a-bubbie, *chevruta* learning, *tzedakah* drives, Israel club and many more ways for you all to get involved. Every year we host a TAC Club Fair, where you can come and sign up for these great clubs.

I hope that you all take advantage of all of the programs and clubs that TAC offers. Every one of you can really add a tremendous amount to TAC. I am looking forward to meeting all of you. Please feel free to come and speak to me about any ideas or suggestions you may have throughout the year!

The Observer would like to wish a hearty Mazal Tov to Rachel Horn and Jason Cyrulnik on their recent engagement.

Editorials

Joel's Challenge

They say a row of bricks is only as sturdy as the row built beneath it. Yeshiva is built upon a sturdy foundation. This presidency enters a university nested upon a sound financial base. President Richard Joel enters in the Jubilee Year of SCW, signifying Yeshiva's long and sturdy commitment to women's education. He enters in a year of physical building as well; a year in which our flourishing campuses will boast new facilities.

Yet, Yeshiva must always grow, must always be strengthened and fortified. It is evident that Joel possesses charisma and exuberance. He has charmed Yeshiva with his starry eyes and poise.

Joel's greatest assets may also prove to be his biggest challenges. The Yeshiva community has come to expect growth and improvement. Joel must utilize Yeshiva's firm basis and his talent to make changes.

While Yeshiva is considered a top-tier university according to US News and World Report, it is still lacking the recognition it deserves from its top-tier counterparts and indeed, its own students.

Joel will have the opportunity to elevate Yeshiva, particularly its undergraduate schools, from the ranks of a second-tier university, to its rightful place. In order to demand this respect from the world, Joel will have to build. He must solidify superior academics, provide students with much needed first-rate facilities and nurture the student body so that they can appreciate what has been built for them.

Midtown Minyan

Stern College for Women now faces a dilemma. By virtue of the fact that Yeshiva College enjoys a built-in Shabbat community through the feature of a minyan, SCW must rely on the arrival of males to create a full Shabbat experience.

While it is unfortunate that the SCW administration has not yet placed a second Shabbat rabbi, which would allow for the presence of minyan, our charge to the students of SCW is to view the unfilled position as an opportunity to grow. Let us contribute our presence and talents to the local synagogues that desperately need revitalization. Let us not bemoan the loss of ten YC students when we have dozens of SCW women contributing to Shabbat life on campus.

Admittedly, there are benefits to Shabbat services in our college's buildings. However, let us utilize the circumstances at hand to further the unity and vibrancy of our SCW community.

ries-guy: what is on uaeL riesmann's mind

Lots of people say that they only really learn when they are force-fed information in a classroom setting. These people are the same ones who believe that summer is for spending endless hours in front of the TV, couching the months away. And while I am the first to see the utmost value in watching all ten hours of VHI's *I Love The Seventies*, this in no way implies that the summer should be void of any legitimate learning opportunities. I have found year after year that without the stress of assignment deadlines and cramming for exams, the summer months have provided me with the greatest opportunities of all. While all summers have supplied me with some introspective epiphany on some level or another, no summer before has quite opened my eyes as this past one has.

Just two weeks ago I came to the startling realization. After nearly twenty years of being told and telling others that I was going to pursue a career in Law, it had been something that I said but forgot to believe. Although I had been enrolled in Kaplan for LSAT test prep for nearly six months (I enrolled twice) and was completing an enjoyable internship at a Manhattan law firm, the idea of law school and all things law-related began to give me a horrible unsettling feeling; a feeling that I can only describe as American Beauty-esque.

Over the past few months, visions of myself sitting in a big leather chair in some law firm, pouring over piles and piles of motions and orders went from hopes and goals that I dreamed to complete to glimpses into a future I began to dread. I struggled with these concerns and doubts for weeks, making vague comments to my parents, and then passing them off as nervous

jokes. All the while I continued studying for the October LSAT but as the test date crept closer and closer, the nagging feeling I was experiencing grew more intense. I knew that I owed it to myself to pay attention to my hesitations.

Unfortunately for me, my earth shattering declaration occurred at a *kiddush* in *shul*, which is quite possibly the worst place in the entire world to have any sort of private epiphany. Yes, nearly screaming out in horror when a family friend who is currently in law school approached me was probably not the most discrete move I've ever pulled, but once the disturbing truth was out there, I had felt better than I had in months.

For the first time in my life I was without a plan. I no longer knew what I was going to do after that fateful day in May when I was handed my B.A. in History and was sent out into the world to be a real live adult.

Without a plan, I could no longer see myself twenty years down the road. This newfound uncertainty scared me. What is worse than the unknown? Sure, I was unhappy with the whole law idea but at least it was something concrete; it was dependable.

It took me a few days to realize that the new less stable future I had before me was not something of which to be wary, but rather something to embrace. I decided that a year off would be something that would allow me to examine so many disciplines that I had overlooked for years because I had committed myself to law. I now had a huge window of opportunity to which I had never allowed myself access in the past.

While my parents and close friends were supportive of my new path, I was surprisingly met with opposition by many

acquaintances here at SCW. Many of the women responded with surprise, as if I had completely lost my mind.

Interestingly enough, they focused their concern on my major: History. What was I going to do with a degree in History? "Isn't it impractical?" they asked, over and over and over. And while their concern for my future is most probably rooted in a genuine place, some ideasthat I have been speculating since my first year on this campus suddenly became crystal clear.

While SCW is most definitely not Apex Tech nor Sally Struthers School of Correspondence, the students here do tend to be highly career focused. Law is easily understood by the students of SCW; History is not. This mentality can be seen throughout the student body. The "therapies" are huge majors here at the Midtown Campus, while a major like English or History sees just a fraction of students that the therapy majors do. The reason for this is quite simple: Many women at SCW want jobs. They do not want to learn the cause of the Vietnam War. They do not want to read the philosophy of Aristotle or Plato. The majority of the students see these things as not useful because these disciplines cannot help them get jobs.

Obviously employment is a good thing and I would never say otherwise. However, I would argue that the main purpose of a liberal arts college such as Yeshiva University is not to "prepare its students for the workforce" but rather educate its students in all the branches of liberal arts. Perhaps when the majority of the women here at SCW realize this, History majors will no longer be pitied.

Stern College Literary Magazine

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On Campus

Renovations and Expansions

Continued from Front Page

affairs. Jeffrey Rosengarten, the director of facilities management, is the chief administrator in charge of the project which started the day after Memorial Day. He worked with the deans as well as student leaders to determine the design.

The new design includes a multimedia room adjacent to the new lobby, which will also be used as a temporary lounge with couches for students. Initially, the plan was to have a larger lobby area, but as the construction process progressed, so did the designs. "At some point the plans were changed to accommodate, in addition to a lobby space, an actual usable room for lectures and meetings," said Rosengarten. He added that a lecture hall at Cardozo Law School inspired this design.

According to university representatives, the ultimate goal for the lobby and multimedia room area is to create a space that is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. "We want a feeling of

spaciousness, elegance, and ambience and something that is practical," said Rosengarten.

Rosengarten is one of many contributors to the vision of an attractive campus. Last June, Dean Karen Bacon asked that a few student leaders meet with the construction team to offer their input. According to TAC president Lisa Grundman, Rosengarten invited their ideas enthusiastically and involved them in reviewing the blueprints for the design. "They were very receptive, and they're doing the plan that we chose," said Grundman.

The student leaders felt that the multimedia room should be used as a lounge when meetings and lectures are not taking place. "It will create an atmosphere where students can spend time together as opposed to right now where we only have the cafeteria which has a strict schedule and the library

whose main purpose is not for students to hang out," said Grundman.

The lounge is only temporary until the construction of a cafeteria and permanent lounge begins on the building's lower level. The purpose of the lower level construction is to divert some of the traffic from the cur-

rent cafeteria, which according to Rosengarten is overcrowded, as well as improve the campus atmosphere. "We want a dining area and lounge that is up to date and a comfortable hang out place that will add to the campus and give it more of what it doesn't have," said Rosengarten. This phase of construction has not yet

started and is not expected to be complete until this time next year.

The new art annex on the eighth floor of the 215 Lexington building has also been completed. The annex was hurriedly prepared last year to be available to students when the lease was up for the former annex, but over the summer Rosengarten and his team brought it up to code and added two classrooms. "I think it is a major improvement, and the construction has created nice, open space that will be an improved working area for the students," said Dean Ethel Orlian.

The recent constructions at the 215 Lexington building each have their specific purposes but contribute to the overall vitality of the campus, believes Rosengarten. "The overarching objective is to really transform the midtown campus and make it a supportive student-friendly environment with the best possible academic and cultural resources," he said.



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On Campus

Aguna Organization Seeks Female Volunteers

Rebecca Rosenberg

Despite the fact that a Yeshiva University student founded the Organization for the Resolution of Agunot (ORA) last year, the organization has had difficulty garnering the participation of YU students, particularly students from SCW.

The group would like to recruit more women since the *aguna* problem is a crisis that principally afflicts women. Currently, an SCW student and a female Columbia student hold leadership positions. 'We'd love to expand as much as possible but it is really a matter of participation,' said the ORA founder and co-leader who requested that his name not be divulged, adding, 'We're really looking for more girls to be involved.'

ORA, whose mission is assisting Jewish women with husbands who refuse to give them *gets*, halakhic divorces, is overseen by Rabbi Hershel Schachter, and has letters of support from over fourteen rabbis. 'I urge students at Yeshiva and other caring young Jews to aid ORA in all ways possible, including joining the demonstrations,' wrote Rabbi Yosef Blau, YU guidance counselor and Wilf campus Mashgiach Ruchani, in his letter of approbation.

Though ORA leaders are proud of their results, they are troubled by the lack of participation displayed by the Jewish community in general. Despite advertisements in Jewish publications, they find it difficult to gather enough volunteers for some events. 'It has been very disappointing that sometimes when we advertise heavily, people in the community don't get involved,' said the founder. 'There are always things for people to do.'

The organization was founded when a community speaker made ORA's originator aware of the topic. 'When I heard lectures about women who'd gone through this and how little there was to help their cause, I decided to become as active as possible,' he said.

Shortly thereafter, he started ORA, which according to his fellow leader, offers the community a unique vibrancy that is lacking in other *aguna* assistance organizations. 'We are a young group of guys with more innovative ideas and we are willing to go out on a limb,' said the ORA leader.

According to their mission statement, ORA endeavors to educate the Jewish community about the plight of agunot in an effort to recruit more volunteers to their cause. Last year, they hosted a symposium at YU on the subject, which fea-

tured several rabbis and a lawyer.

Their primary purpose is to help women in these situations by offering different services. Most often, the organizer's job consists of making phone calls on behalf of the *agunot* and connecting them with a rabbi or a *beit din*, a Jewish court. 'We've been almost a referral service for women looking for the right people to speak to,' explained the founder.

When the conflict cannot be resolved between a wife and her husband with a rabbi or counseling, she might request that a *beit din* intercede on her behalf. The *beit din* then might summon her husband. If he refuses to come to the *beit din* by the third summons he would usually be issued a *sciruv*, which is a document that identifies him as a recalcitrant husband. Currently, ORA works in concert with many *beit dins*, such the Beit Din of

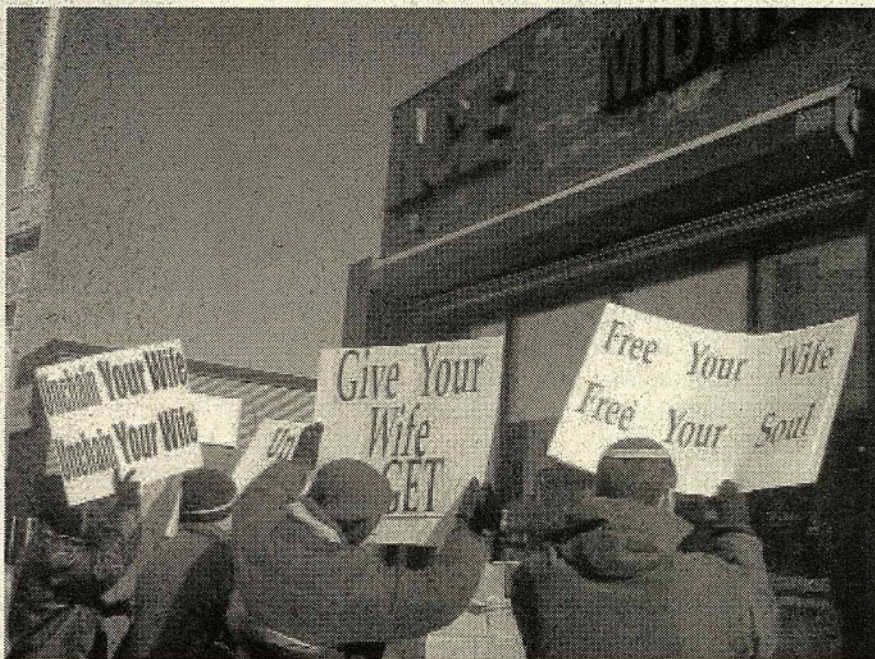
America. At this point, it is halakhically permissible for ORA to step in and use rabbinic coercion known as *kefia* with the approval of rabbinic authorities and the *beit din*. This coercion is often in the form of protests or other means of communal pressure placed on the recalcitrant husband.

As a last resort, ORA organizes rallies in front of the resistant husband's work place or home. 'We don't want to do it, we don't like to do it, but when we have to do it we need to do it with as much enthusiasm as possible because it is the right thing,' said the founder.

The rallies are gatherings involving approximately ten to 100 people in front of the recalcitrant husband's workplace or home where Psalms are often recited. 'The protests are peaceful, educational demonstrations geared towards convincing the recalcitrant spouse to go to the *beit din* to which he was summoned,' stated the ORA webpage.

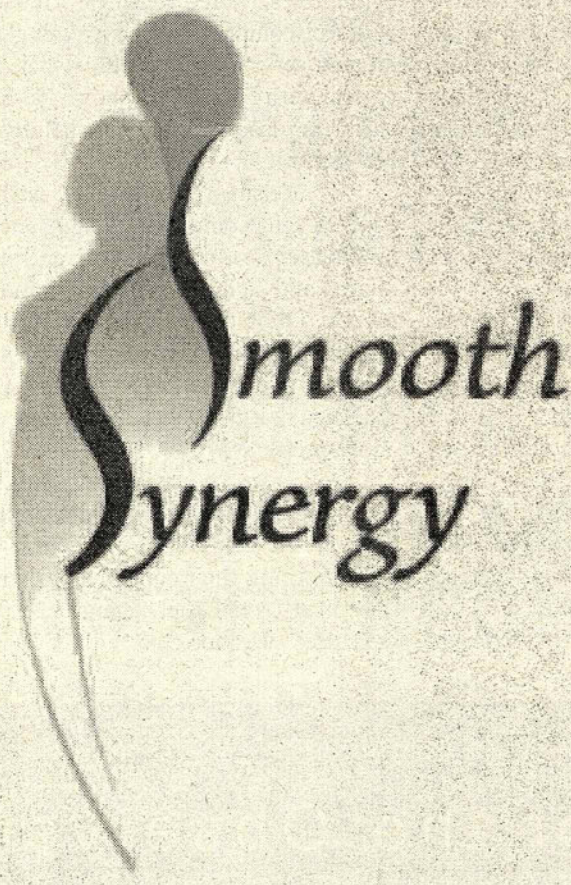
Vivian Miltz is one of the many women who have benefited from the services provided by ORA. Though she has a civil divorce and no longer lives with her husband, she still does not have a *get*. ORA organized five rallies in front of her husband's workplace and though the rallies did not lead to a *get*, ORA did give her emotional support. 'They were always there for me, despite the rain and freezing cold,' she said. 'Maybe I wasn't able to procure a *get* through them but the help, warmth, and understanding I got with this issue will never be forgotten.'

Though Vivian's case was unsuccessful, ORA's dedication and thoroughness has resulted in three different women each receiving a *get*.



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On Campus

Edith Lubetski Receives Rare Award From the AJL

By Aviva Balk

The Association of Jewish Libraries (AJL) honored Head Librarian of the Heidi Steinberg Library Edith Lubetski with the Life-Membership Award this past June. The AJL presented the award for outstanding leadership and contributions to the profession of Jewish librarianship according to AJL Awards Committee Chairperson Merrily Hart. AJL has honored fewer than a dozen individuals with this award.

Lubetski's commitment to Jewish libraries, culminating with the AJL award, began with a part-time job at the Mendell Gottesman Library in 1963. "I wanted to combine a career in library science and Judaica in an academic environment," said Lubetski. She joined the 11-year-old SCW administration in 1965 after receiving her BA from Brooklyn College and her MLS from Columbia University. Later, she received an MA from Yeshiva's Bernard Revel Graduate School and in 1969 she became the head librarian at Gottesman.

Under this title, Lubetski constantly developed and expanded the resources and departments of the library, met the research needs of the faculty and students and helped the library run smoothly on a daily basis. Under her guidance, the library has moved twice due to expansions and, according to Lubetski, will probably be moving to yet another larger facility in the near future.

However, although Lubetski has been tirelessly dedicated to library science, she stresses that it is by no means her only vocation. She is a mother to her three children, a grandmother to baby Mia Leora and a wife to her husband, Meir, a professor at Baruch College. Born and raised in Brooklyn, she still resides there and is actively involved in her Flatbush synagogue. In addition to this list of responsibilities she has an interest in making *shidduchim* (matchmaking), and looks forward to devoting time to, what she calls a "very important activity."



Head Librarian Edith Lubetski in the Heidi Steinberg Library on the Midtown Campus.

In addition to her home life and work at SCW, Lubetski has been published extensively. Her books include *Building a Judaica Library Collection* (1983) and countless articles for the magazine *Judaica Librarianship*. Lubetski has also delivered lectures around the world, given radio interviews and appeared in works such as *Who's Who in American Women*. Service to the AJL has dominated her professional accomplishments. She serves on their board, chairs their numerous events, and has held positions for them such as co-Chairperson of the First International Conference of Israeli and Judaica Librarians (Jerusalem, 1990).

SCW has gone through many changes since its commencement. For Lubetski, the sight of the Heidi Steinberg Library today with its advanced technology, is a sharp contrast to the 1960s, a time when the library was without computers. "Stern has changed dramatically since I began," she said. "The school has expanded tremendously, both in quantity and quality."

Lubetski continues to put her effort and energy into the education of the students at SCW and also maintains her impressive record of publications. "I have enjoyed working with my colleagues," she said. "I feel that there is a sense of teamwork, with each one of us sharing the goal of providing the best possible academic environment for students and faculty."

Student Life Committee Hopes for Successful Year

By Devorah Stein

The Student Life Committee, headed by SCW senior Yael Reisman, is looking forward to another successful year representing the student body and voicing student concerns about quality-of-life issues on campus. The committee does not address academic matters, but meets with deans, administrators, and student leaders to work together in trying to improve the non-academic life at Stern College.

This year Reisman intends to have a preliminary meeting with the committee members at the beginning of the semester to look at the list of goals from last year and see what still needs to be taken care of and what new issues have arisen. The goals for this semester are not yet clear, as Reisman explained, "the truth of the matter is we need to listen to what's going on in school when we get back and assess the situation."

"We met pretty much all of our goals from last year," remarked Reisman. The committee worked out the plan for summer storage last year, which had been a source of many students' complaints during the previous year. Two years ago SCW eliminated its policy of free summer storage for out-of-town students because of the expense and man-hours involved, "but they told us too late," explained Rachel Shtern (SCW '03), who headed the Student Life Committee last year. The committee made certain to inform students of the policy well before Pesach so that students could make arrangements to take things home during Pesach break. The University paid for fifty percent of the cost of storing two boxes like it had done the year before, but "basically, we just made sure to deal with it earlier," remarked Shtern.

"We also did a lot about the computer and library hours," explained Reisman. "There is no reason that a college library shouldn't be open at 9 on Sundays." The committee worked to make sure the computer lab would open at 8:30 am instead of 9:00, and got the computer labs at 215 Lexington to close when classes end in the building, instead of at 6 pm, as it had been.

"We also got rid of door checks,

which was something a lot of people found annoying," noted Shtern. "It just takes up time from security and is pretty pointless, and we brought that to their attention."

Student Life is made up of two committee heads, usually a senior and a junior, and two representatives each from the freshman, sophomore, and junior classes. Senior representatives are not necessary because TAC and Senior Council Presidents are usually seniors, and attend meetings with the members of the Student Life Committee. Last year's committee heads were Shtern and Reisman. There has been no official decision about who will be the junior head for this year.



Yael Reisman will head the Student Life Committee this year

A Student Life agenda is sent monthly to all student and administrative leaders with a list of issues that they want to take care of at the next meeting. Regular meeting attendees include Deans Orlian, Bacon, Nulman, and Himber, as well as Mr. Jeffrey Rosengarten, Director of Supporting

Service Administration and Mr. Jeffrey Socol, Associate Director of Facilities Management. Depending on the issues being raised in a given month, Mr. Arthur Myers, Director of MIS and Academic Computing, or Head Librarian Professor Edith Lubetski might attend.

The Student Life Committee initiates change through persistence and "a lot of hounding people and making subcommittees," noted Reisman. "It's just a series of compromises and often getting student services on our side, which helps to deal with Facilities." Shtern has found that "the deans are all very helpful and pro-student."

Reisman got involved with the Student Life Committee because she was looking for a way to be active in student affairs and achieve results behind the scenes. "I didn't want to be student council president and go to all the events, but this way I still feel I'm helping take care of things that need to be taken care of, in a low-profile way."

Reisman explained that students usually get to know the representatives of the committee from their class and can bring their concerns to them, or they may e-mail the committee at studentlifescw@yahoo.com.

SCW Hires New Assistant Director of Residence Life

By Shifra Landowne

Last month, SCW hired Shana Glasser as the new assistant director of residence life. Glasser, who started work two weeks before the fall semester began, will be replacing Shani Nissel, who left the position over a year ago. SCW did not comment on the reason the position was not filled earlier.

After graduating from SCW in 2000, Glasser went on to earn her social work degree in casework from Wurtzweiler School of Social Work. She was hired last month to help bear the burden currently shouldered exclusively by Rachel Kraut, director of residence life.

Glasser's office will be located in the Schottenstein Residence Hall at 29th Street. Her responsibilities will include supervision of residence staff, student counseling, and the administrative jobs of housing placement and solving housing issues. "Rachel has been dealing with a huge burden on her own, and I am looking forward to sharing some of her

job," said Glasser. "This job is perfect for me as a social worker. It's a balance of supervision, programming, and clinical work, both in formal and informal settings."

Kraut is happy to welcome Glasser to her staff. "It was exceptionally difficult not having an assistant because I had to do the job of two people," said Kraut, "the job encompasses so many things. It entails programmatic and clinical responsibilities, as well as staff training and supervision, and it's hard to really focus on any one of those things when you are responsible for all of them. Shani is a very energetic, enthusiastic woman, and she has a lot to offer this university."

Glasser will be on campus five days a week this coming academic year, and will be in Schottenstein one evening a week. She encourages students to come to her office and introduce themselves as she is looking forward to getting to know the student body.



SCW finally finds replacement for Shani Nissel

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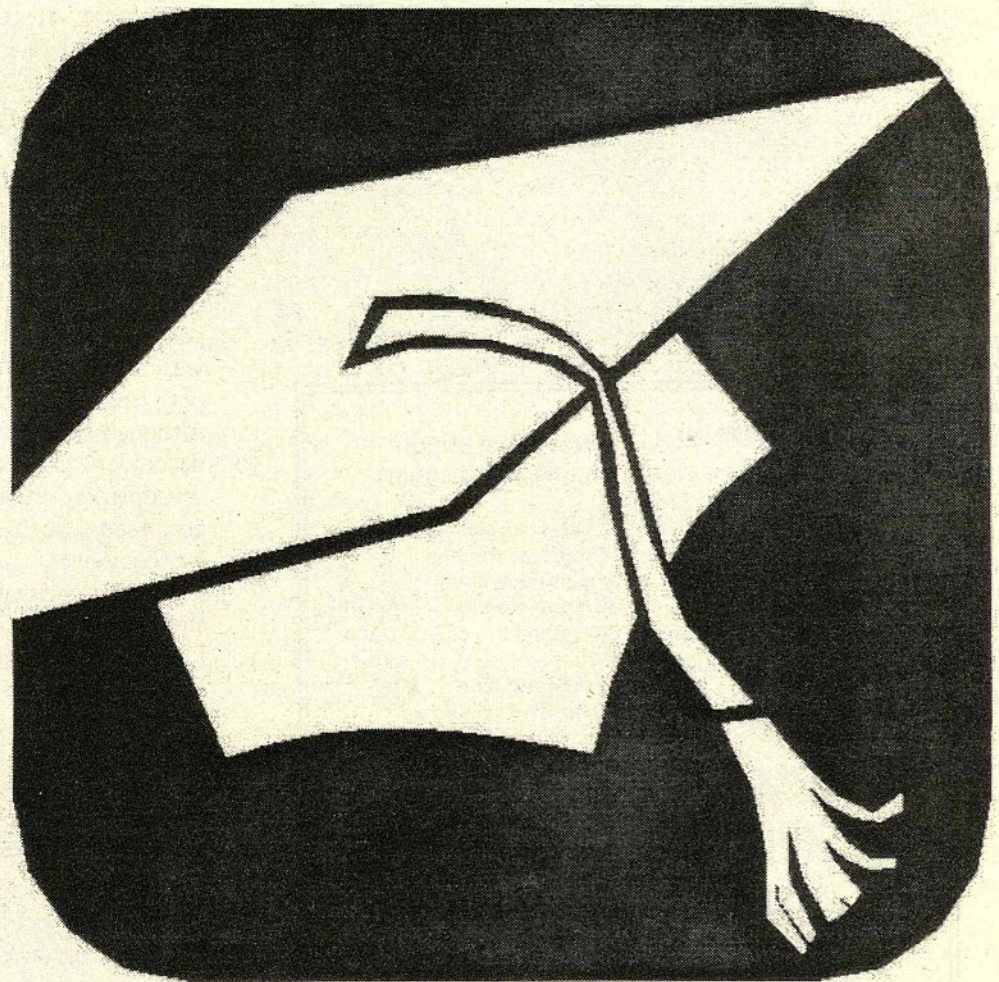
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On Campus

SCW Hires New Faculty Writing Center Revised

By Michelle Amini

A new school year has arrived and with it comes new faculty.

The staff at the Writing Center has been largely restructured. Dr. Jay Ladin was recruited as a replacement for Dr. Miriam Grosf as the new full-time director of the Writing Center. Grosf, director of the Writing Center at SCW for the past eight years, has retired from her full-time position. She will continue teaching in the Education Department.

With a BA from Sarah Lawrence College and an MA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Ladin joins SCW with impressive credentials. A Fulbright scholar, Ladin is an expert on Emily Dickinson and previously taught at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Ladin received his PhD from Princeton where he focused on poetry and modernism.

Joy Surles also joins the Writing Center this semester; she will serve as Ladin's full-time assistant. Surles is replacing Bart Cameron, former Assistant Director of the Writing Center, who recently received a fellow-

ship to spend the semester in Iceland.

A North Carolina native, Surles attended North Carolina University, where she majored in English and minored in Creative Writing. She decided to move to New York for a change of pace. She recently earned an MA in Creative Writing with a focus on poetry from Long Island University.

"I felt that this was a great opportunity," said Surles. "Especially for someone like me, just graduating and trying to find a job with our economy today."

Numerous members of the SCW faculty will be returning from sabbaticals as well. Rabbi Saul Berman, an SCW Judaic Studies professor, is returning from a two year sabbatical spent researching Jewish Law.

Other returnees include Dr. Carol Silver, returning from a semester in South Africa researching South African female writers, Dr. Hadassah Kosak is returning after a year of researching the social history of the United States, and Dr. Lea Blau, of the SCW Chemistry department, who spent a semester working with technology and teaching chemistry.

S. Daniel Abraham Honors Programs Expanded this Summer

By Devorah Stein

This summer, the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program offered two very different and unique traveling courses. Art and the Jewish Experience in Medici Florence, has been a successful summer course twice before, while Experiments in Modern Physics, was the first course of its kind from the program.

Both courses were open to any student on the Dean's list. "[This] is our way of making sure that they are high-achieving students," explained Dr. Cynthia Wachtell, Director of the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at SCW. The physics course was the first honors course opened to both SCW and YC students. Both courses consisted of students pursuing a variety of majors, not necessarily related to the coursework.

Art and the Jewish experience in Medici Florence, taught by Professor Evelyn Cohen, took twelve students to Florence, Italy for an intensive, fast-paced course that took place over ten days. The course was comprised of 45 hours of instruction, in which students visited museums and sites, and heard speakers. The Art History course was also opened this year to three women outside of SCW as well.

Chai Romanoff (SCW '03) explained that the course was more effective than any course she'd taken on campus. "Basically, you're walking in your textbooks, she said. "You get to see the actual size and texture of the paintings. You can't get that from a slide."

Professor Cohen noted some highlights of the trip, including visiting a pre-emancipation synagogue in Siena, and watching people on a street parading in medieval dress. Although most of the trip was devoted to the rigorous course schedule, the students were also given some free time to explore for themselves.

The students ate their meals at the sole kosher restaurant in Florence, which served Italian/Israeli style dishes. There is also a kosher butcher and bakery for the 1000 Jews living in Florence. Despite the small

Jewish community, they maintain an enormous synagogue, observed Cohen. "Rabbi Joseph Levi welcomed the students at a *kiddush* on Friday night," she remarked. Cohen noted that the Jewish community was very accommodating.

Each student was required to keep a journal throughout the course, to be handed in after the trip, along with a paper based on the painting of her choice from the Uffizi Museum in Florence. Professor Cohen considered the course a success, as she noted, "I really think that in addition to learning a lot, they also had a really good time."

At a location a little closer to home, Experiments in

honors course in science," said Dr. Wachtell. "We want to continue developing the Honors courses and we've done a lot in the humanities in the past, but it is also important to offer sciences."

The class, consisting of nine YC and three SCW students, did six experiments at YU laboratories and five experiments at Brookhaven, all concerning laws of nature discovered in the last 100 years. The topics included Quantum Mechanics, Special and General Relativity, Kinetics of Chemical Reactions, Radioactivity, and Annihilation of Matter and Antimatter.

SCW senior Adina Katzman, majoring in biology, found her experience at Brookhaven to be the highlight of the course. "I don't think I want to do it [research] as a career, but I wanted to see what the life of a scientist is like," remarked Katzman. "I would walk around and see other scientist doing their research and experiments and I felt like I was one of them." She also enjoyed having access to the technologically advanced equipment at the National Laboratory.

Katzman found that residing in the Brookhaven dormitories enhanced her experience. "It wouldn't have been the same if we commuted," she stated. "Living there really did it." Also, students received a \$4,000 stipend.

Whereas several advanced Science courses are designed for students majoring in the field, the Honors program allowed for students of diverse backgrounds to participate. "Some people in the class are English majors and some are majoring in a science," noted Katzman. The students were split up into three teams of four, according to their level, and were assigned a project at Brookhaven, the results of which they presented in the last week of the course back at YU. The students were evaluated on this presentation, their lab reports, tests, and participation.

Students were afforded the opportunity to see their professors in a different light. "They were still our professors, but we had a more relaxed relationship with them. They barbequed for us one night."

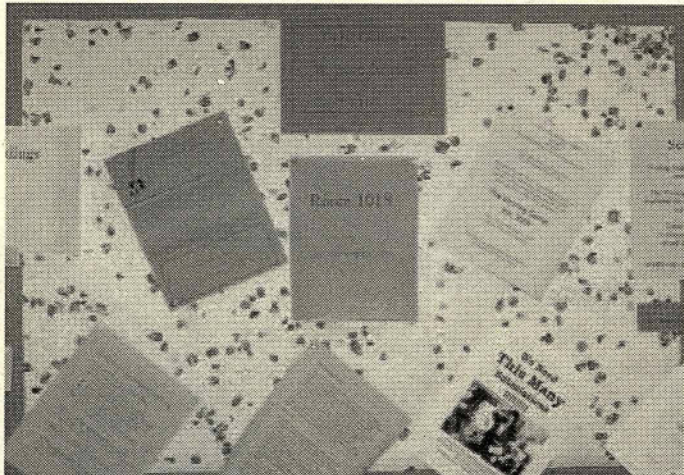


Dr. Cynthia Wachtell is the director of the honors program.

Modern Physics was a longer course, running from May 27 through June 26, consisting of three weeks spent on campus at YC, followed by a week-long stay at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, home of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physics, and ending with a final week back at YC for the students to analyze the data they collected in Brookhaven and present their research to the class.

The course, taught by Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, and Dr. Fredy Zwipman, was conceived by Dr. Frenkel, who wanted to give Yeshiva students a course that would give them an idea of what it is like to do research and experiments at a national laboratory. "I have had a long, ongoing collaboration with them [the scientists at Brookhaven] for the last eleven years," explained Frenkel. He worked with the staff there to create a program for university students that adjusted the facility for educational purposes.

"[The course] is very exciting for us because it is the first summer



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University News

Cardozo Completes Renovations

By Observer Staff

Five years and some \$40 million later, the renovations to Cardozo's Brookdale Center have been completed and a newly expanded campus awaits this year's incoming class.

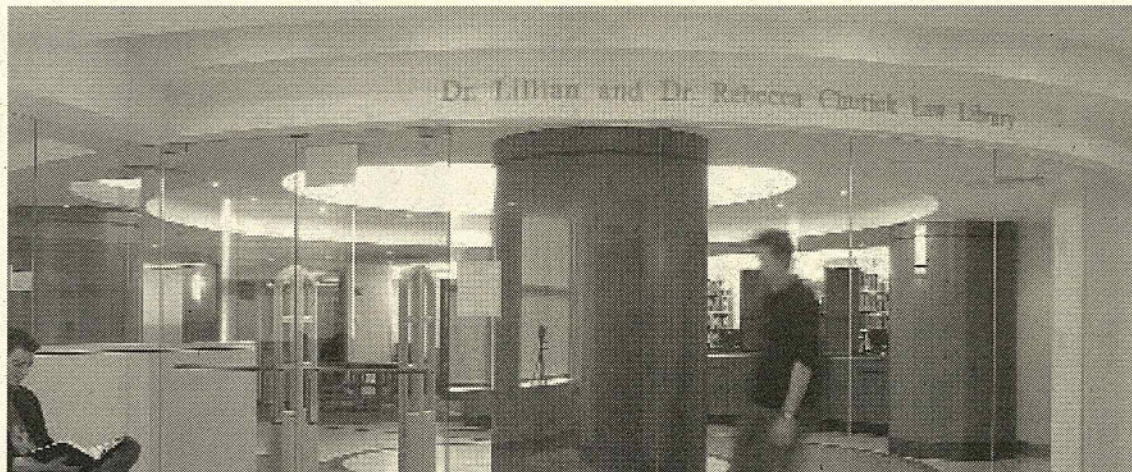
The plans included expansions and improvements of the law school's library, residence hall, offices, classrooms, and conference rooms, as well as the design and building of the Jacob Moot Court Room.

Upon the completion of the undertaking, it has become apparent to faculty, students, the entire Cardozo community, and the public at large that the law school has undergone a tremendous transformation.

"In order to be a first rate institution you need to have a first rate facility," said Cardozo graduate, Menashe Shapiro (2000). "The renovations will enhance Cardozo's reputation, and its improved physical plant will rival other law schools in the city."

Each of the law school's eleven stories has received some measure of upgrade or adjustment as part of greater expansion plan. In addition, new heating, ventilation, air conditioning and technological enhancements have also been included in the project.

Cardozo and the University hired the internationally renowned architectural firm of David Brody Bond to design the ground floor. With the reacquisition of the



Cardozo's newly renovated library has been highly anticipated.

space at the buildings southern end, the mission was to restore, yet maintain the buildings neo-classical façade, as well as expand the lobby and add a new seminar room.

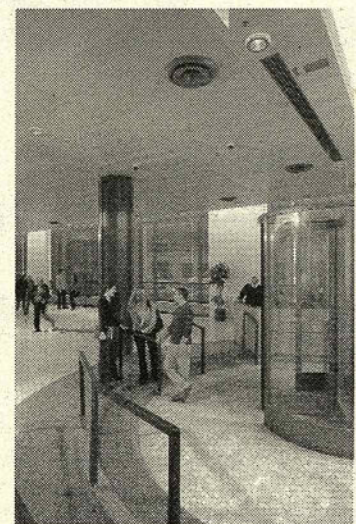
A feature renovation is the Jacob Moot Court Room. This summer, the two hundred and fifty-seat room that exceeds four thousand feet (that is double the size of the law school's original moot court room), has received a state of the art audio/visual and production studio. The limestone outer wall proudly displays quotations from Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo's writings and the names of the law schools major donors as part of its final enhancements.

"The new moot court room will enhance the experience of all students and even alumni who return to the school for events and to conduct research," added Shapiro, after a recent visit to the campus. The spacious lobby surrounding the courtroom serves as a lounge and setting for Law

School banquets and receptions, and the floor to ceiling windows facing both 5th avenue and 12th street allow for the optimal use of the backdrop Greenwich Village provides.

In addition, the Dr. Rebecca and Lillian Chutick Law Library has been redesigned to better serve its visitors and is now a true showpiece. Reading rooms feature luxurious furniture and a technologically advanced computer lab that boasts over 30 new internet-connected work stations, with flat screen monitors.

"The expanded library will not only foster scholarly research, but provide current students with more individual study rooms," said Shapiro of the improvements. Cardozo graduate Nathan Lamm (2000) agrees and notes, "Accrediting and ranking bodies, for example, often use the size of a law school's library to measure its stature, so the greatly improved and enlarged library will be a great boon to the school."



The expansion project also included the construction of new and modern classrooms. The main lecture halls have been rewired, and newly decorated. Advanced multi-media instructional equipment enhances the larger lecture halls, and the offices for student journals and organizations on the ninth and eleventh floors have been

improved as well. The Office of the Registrar, Financial Aid, and Office for Student Services have also been reconfigured.

The Alabama Residence Hall on East 11 Street now houses more than one hundred students and includes both studio and one bedroom apartments. Students can now attend Cardozo without having to struggle with the hassle of New York's residential housing maze.

Costs for the renovations totaled approximately \$40 million, and Cardozo Life reports in its 2003 publication that funds were made available through donations by the Board, alumni, parents, and friends. With the philanthropic support of donors such as former Board Chair Robert M. Beren, whose gift included \$1 million, and the generous donations from the Alumni ranging from \$2,500 to \$500,000, the project was able to meet its completion.

"As an alumnus, while acknowledging the importance of student life, I'm most concerned with the school's reputation, which helps us all," said Lamm. "And I feel that that reputation will be greatly enhanced by these improvements." The renovations are just a step in the continued development and growth of the law school's unique character. "I trust and hope that these improvements will lead to greater heights for school and students alike," says Lamm.

Socol's Change of Position

Continued from Front Page

ments of the Yeshiva world - from administrators to faculty to student leaders - fell on deaf ears among the upper echelons of Yeshiva's leadership, a group that was beholden to the powerful Vice President and fearful of challenging his stronghold as Yeshiva czar.

Only the advent of a new president and administration would reopen discussion of stripping Socol of his power and leaving his position vulnerable to change. "A new president, in order to establish control, has to have his people in powerful positions," one Yeshiva insider maintained. "Someone else [other than Socol] would have to be making these decisions." President Richard Joel apparently agreed.

Despite the marked impact that Socol's reassignment will have on the Yeshiva world, those responsible for the change are attempting to downplay its significance. President Joel insists that he "is not doing anything without Sheldon Socol," while admitting

plans to amending Socol's position. "He will remain a vice-president...even as I change administrative positions as any president does," Joel averred. Yeshiva Public Relations has yet to release a formal statement acknowledging or explaining the move as well.

Yet this change in position indicates a much more significant shift in the landscape of key figures involved in the institution's decision-making. Removing Socol's title as vice president amounts to "reducing his power," maintained one Yeshiva administrator. "Everyone knows that his power has been cut down."

Socol was credited with staving off financial disaster in the late 1970's under the presidency of Dr. Norman Lamm. "Rabbi Lamm respected him because he played a major role in a crisis at a crucial time for Yeshiva University," explained the Yeshiva insider from the time. Socol's fiscal prudence brought Yeshiva out of near-bankruptcy. "Shelly Socol had the ability to deal with Yeshiva University

creditors," said one former student leader. Discretion over policy became the method in which the indebted university repaid Socol.

Since then, Socol has mustered power in virtually every area of decision-making at Yeshiva. "He became the most powerful figure in Yeshiva," explained the insider. Non-financial decisions gradually began to fall under Socol's jurisdiction as well. His influence trickled down to the nuts and bolts of Yeshiva's daily operation. "The faculty every year was up in arms about the annual rate of increase," recalled the former student leader. Socol had his say in resolutions concerning the University's Joint Israel program, the hiring of key administrators and the proceedings at Yeshiva's graduate schools. His reign oversaw such minutia as control over Yeshiva parking lots and procedure to follow in the case of a blackout.

Socol has retained autocratic domain over Yeshiva's financial decisions as well. His critics have griped that he managed

Yeshiva's moneys as if he were operating a "business for profit." The severe critique found support in independent evaluations of University operations. In the most recent report by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, Yeshiva's administration was sharply criticized for its "penurious approach to the funding of the University's undergraduate programs." The report attributes nearly all responsibility to Yeshiva's Vice President for Business Affairs.

The consequent bitter sentiments toward Socol were reinforced by the strong stance he took on two of the most memorable and vilified events in recent Yeshiva history - the threatened closing of the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies in the early nineties and the potential closing of Yeshiva's high schools' doors later that decade. "There were no endowments and he thought there was little student interest," said one former student leader of the Revel decision. "But people still felt that YU should have a Judaic

Studies graduate school on campus." Socol clashed with most Yeshiva Board members on this issue. The result was what many describe as "a very big uproar on campus."

A similar argument arose concerning Yeshiva's high schools, MTA and Central Yeshiva High Schools. "MTA was running a deficit," the former student leader stated. "Sheldon Socol was the only one who pushed closing down MTA and Central. The issue was, is MTA an institution worth saving?"

After more than three decades of dominating Yeshiva's decision making, Socol's transfer will open the path for new administrators to make their impact. Many see Joel's bold move as indicative of his commitment to addressing perennial problems at Yeshiva, with little fear of political consequence. What that commitment means for other changes in Yeshiva leadership, if any, remains to be seen. Details of the search process for a successor to Socol have yet to be released.

Yeshiva University Midtown Campus Office of Student Services

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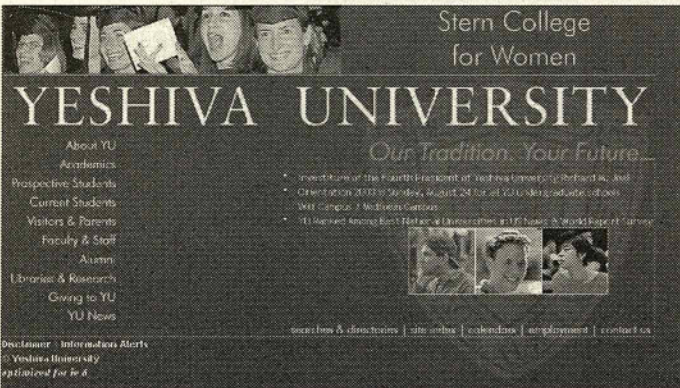
Campus Briefs

Library Acquires New Books

The Recent Acquisitions' shelves in the Hedi Steinberg Library have been expanded this summer to display 400 new books, on topics in both general and Judaic studies. The new acquisitions, paid for by school funds, include books chosen by the librarians, headed by Edith Lubetski, and books suggested by faculty members. SCW professors are sent reviews and catalogs of books in their disciplines so that they can request books to be added to the library's collection.

To help SCW student better use the library as a resource, the new books will be on display at the beginning of the semester so that students can see which are the new acquisitions before these books are integrated with the rest of the library's collection.

Yeshiva Website Redesigned



A new University website was installed this past June. Web coordinators developers constructed the project over the course of the year with the input of the Public Relations department. The various Yeshiva schools also helped by giving the designers the necessary content needed for the individual pages. The new site provides an updated design that is similar to that of other universities. This change provides an easier, more comprehensive and more accessible site.

SSSB Launches Israel Business Program

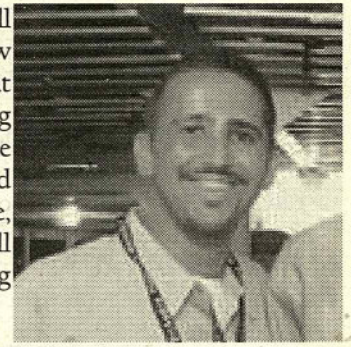
For the first time, SSSB sent students to Israel over the summer to experience the Israeli business environment through internships. Three students from the Wilf campus, and one student from the Midtown campus participated in the program. In addition to the internships abroad, the program will offer one-credit courses to educate students about business in Israel. Courses will include an overview of the Israeli tax system, the hi-tech industry, and entrepreneurial capitalism. The program hopes not only to secure internships for students over summer but to help place students who have graduated in full time jobs in Israel.

Rabbi Levi Mostofsky to Fill Rabbi Ari Rockoff's Position as Rockoff Spearheads New MSDCS Initiative

The Max Stern Division of Communal Service (MSDCS) of RIETS has hired Levi Mostofsky to replace Rabbi Ari Rockoff as Director of Youth and Outreach Services. Rockoff will lead a new division of MSDCS whose title has yet to be defined. Coordinating community kollelim and year-long Beit Medrash programs as well as assistance in the development of new communities will fall under Rockoff's auspices. Mostofsky has begun working in mid-August. His responsibilities include overseeing programs such as Torah Tours, Panim, Mishmar on the Wilf and Midtown Campuses and Eimatai and Counterpoint. Mostofsky was previously employed as a rabbinical intern at the Beth Din for the Rabbinical Council of America and was a Head RA at the Wilf Campus. He recently obtained Smicha from RIETS.

Karasik to Replace Leibowitz at YC

Yeshiva College has hired Brad Karasik to fill the position of Assistant Dean of Students. Andrew Leibowitz has resigned and will begin work this year at Magen David Yeshiva High School. He will be leaving his position as the Director of Youth Services at the National Council of Young Israel. Karasik has held Student Service positions at Audrey Cohen College, Queensboro College and Pratt Institute. His job will include coordinating student activities and counseling students. He will begin on September 2.



Yeshiva Manuscript featured at Museum of American Financial History

A document from Yeshiva archives, displaying the signature of Albert Einstein, was on view at the Museum of American Financial History this summer. The letter was signed by Einstein when he chaired the Committee of Sponsors of Yeshiva's scholarly mathematics journal *Scripta Mathematica*. The manuscript was part of an exhibition entitled, "The Noble Prize: Celebrating 100 Years of Creativity and Innovation."

US News Ranks Yeshiva # 40

According to *US News & World Report*, Yeshiva University is now ranked among Columbia and NYU in the New York area as number forty in the category of National Research Doctoral Universities. This category has Harvard at the top followed by Princeton and Yale. This is the eighth consecutive year that Yeshiva has been in the top tier of national universities.

Reasons for Yeshiva's strong ranking include high SAT scores, faculty resources, faculty to student ratios, small class sizes, significant science and medicine research funding, in addition to sound financial resources.

Schottenstein Cultural Center Dedicated

The Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center on the Midtown campus has recently been officially dedicated in honor of Geraldine Schottenstein Hoffman of Columbus, Ohio. The university dedicated a plaque in tribute to Mrs. Hoffman in the lobby of the center and she affixed a mezuzah to its entry door.

Mrs. Hoffman gave a gift of three million dollars which enabled the university to convert a former movie theatre on 34 Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues into a cultural center for use by students and faculty. She also donated funds for the 29th Street Schottenstein dormitory.

Ymail Improvements

MIS has recently implemented an abbreviated version of the current e-mail address for users of the Yeshiva e-mail server. While the name of the server remains ymail.yu.edu, the name of e-mail addresses will be @yu.edu. MIS hopes the change in address will be easier to use and simpler to distribute. The new address is effective immediately and may be used by all Manhattan e-mail users who use ymail.yu.edu as their current e-mail address. The ymail.yu.edu address will continue to work as well.

The Barnes and Noble bookstore will not be in the 215 Lex building this year. Instead you can buy all books for school at the Schottenstein Residence Hall.

President Richard Joel

The Observer was privileged to get to know President Richard M. Joel in an exclusive interview.

OE: What specific preparations have you been making over the summer for the upcoming year?

RJ: This is a \$400 million plus university. This is a major research institution that is also a reflection of modern Orthodoxy with enormous potential and enormous present achievement and enormous demands. I have to learn a lot because the presidency is a serious position. During the summer, I spent 5 days at a seminar that Harvard University's School of Education sponsors with forty presidents from universities around the world. It was a very important experience just for the bonding and knowing that I'm not alone. I learned that it is not rocket science but that it is very challenging. We dealt with all kinds of issues including academic leadership, student life and development, and dealing with external constituencies and fiscal management and how you budget your time. I brought in some new people and I'm working on listening to all of you, the faculty and the leadership to think about what kind of vision the president is expected to set forth in his investiture. Dr. Lamm, through his heroic leadership, has provided a launching pad for me to position Yeshiva University, and it has a firm foundation of a launching pad and there is fuel in the tanks of the rocket. It is just a matter of what we want to reach for so I'm doing a great deal of thinking and a great deal of listening about what that is. I've learned that I have to be able to raise aspirations while managing expectations because in 3 months you'll say 'he speaks nicely and he sounds very good and he's talking to my heart but, you know, what is going on here? I don't see where the tangibles are.' The truth is some of the tangibles happened yesterday, some happened today and some will be in distant tomorrows. Dean Bacon can tell you already that we've had serious conversa-

tions about what directions we want to go. I've been working with her, among others, to think about how to make the jubilee at Stern College something really exciting and not just one where we say happy birthday, but rather, we do it the Jewish way. What do you do when you wish someone a happy birthday you say *ad me'ah v'esrim shana* (may you live until 120). You don't look back at how great the last fifty years were but you have to say what about the next seventy

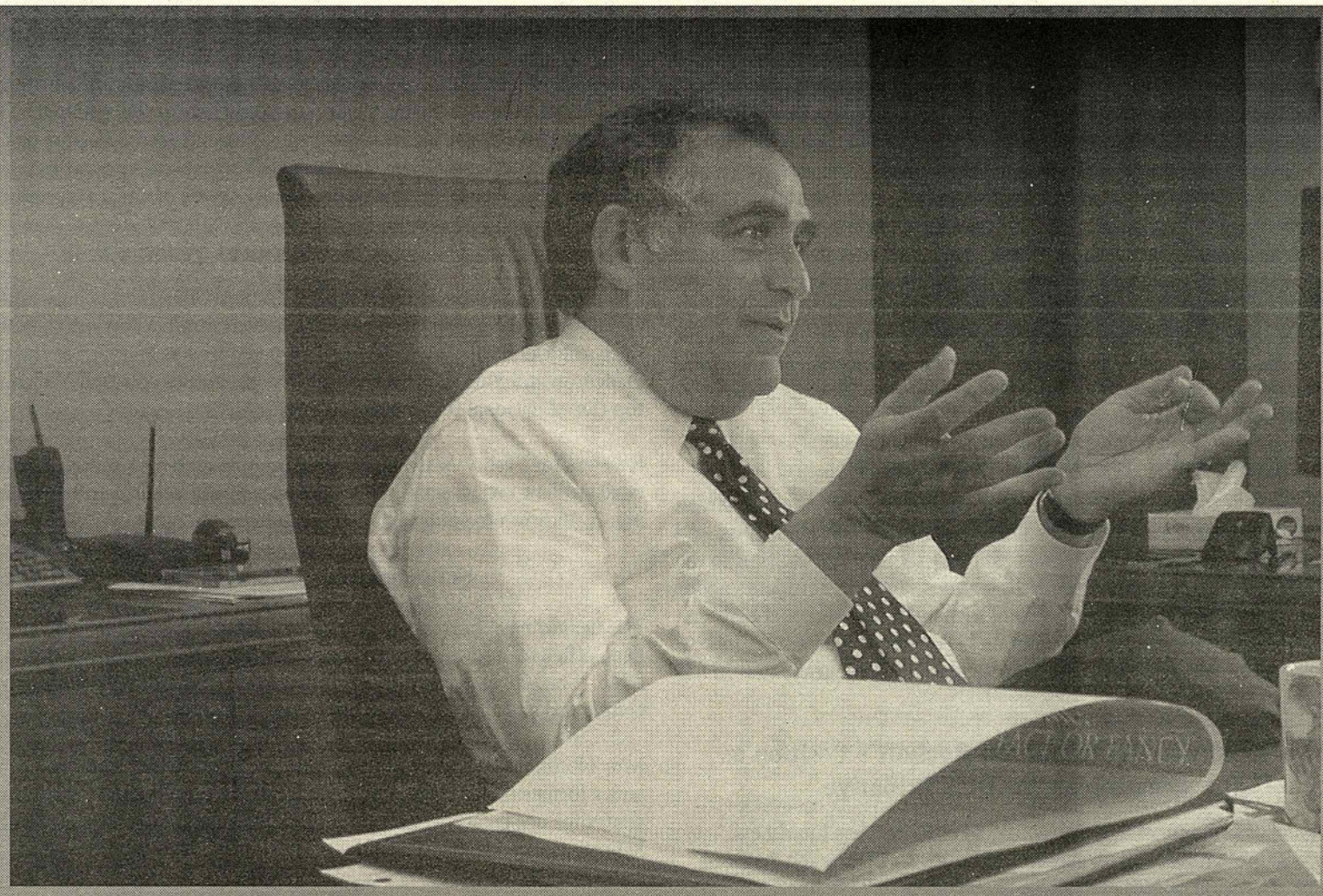
context to your inspirations. You are a generation, thank God, that looks and says how are we supposed to build a life that makes sense and how are we supposed to matter. And I think universities have not addressed that for the last thirty years. In the forefront of those universities had to be Yeshiva because that is our purpose.

OE: Rabbi Lamm was both the president of Yeshiva and the Rosh HaYeshiva of RIETS. Your

think is defining. I think that he has been the primary proponent, espouser and conceptualizer of Torah U'madda and I think that continues to be a really important role as far the Rosh HaYeshiva is concerned. The only faculty at Yeshiva University that I have met with each member, is the faculty at REITS. I've met with each of the Roshei Yeshiva individually. I think that they are just an unbelievable enormous resource for the Jewish people. I think that

apparently.

OE: SCW is lacking in a vital Shabbat life, partially because we have no Roshei Yeshiva and many of the leading Rabbi's or administrators have shown no interest in helping to create that atmosphere, which is why we are very excited that you will be spending your Investiture Shabbatone at SCW. What kind of relationship do you envision between the two campuses?



RJ: I must tell you that Rav Tendler has taken the lead in this concept of 'end the madness,' particularly in terms of a kind of openness in relationships between men and women within the perimeters of halakha. There were obviously problems before I'd come on the scene. There had been a sense that things had gotten a little bit out of kilter, that we have to always be careful and zealous of halakha but also mindful. I think that the Roshei Yeshiva want to take a leadership role in this problem

and I think that there are all kinds of ways that we have to come together to think about how we can do that. When I was privileged to be at the Yom Ha'atzmaut chagiga. There, I saw an enormously healthy environment and I think we can provide other venues for that matter.

years. I think that this is a time for those kinds of aspirations. I think the foundation stone of all of this is to proclaim *Kavod Habriot* (respect for human beings). We have to decide together as a community that we're going to treat each other with respect and that we're going to take that radical risk of trusting each other. We're going to make sure that there is a focus on being a more personal institution. We have to act like we're a small, intimate institution where everybody counts. That means that we have to make sure that we're really responsible. Responsible doesn't mean that you get everything you want. In fact, that is irresponsible. It does mean that we engage with the students and we think carefully about how we can make more things possible. How we can facilitate responsible dreams. How we can make sure that you come out of your experience as a deeply educated bat Torah (daughter of Torah) equipped to move forward in the world and to make it a better place. This should be about your being inspired by your college years, by receiving an education and opportunities so that you have a

presidency will not include the position of Rosh HaYeshiva. How do you view the division of power between you and Rabbi Lamm, particularly regarding Yeshiva's future relationship with RIETS?

RJ: I think we are all in this together. Dr. Lamm is the Rosh HaYeshiva. I am the chief professional executive officer of REITS. I am responsible for REITS. It's my job. The dean of REITS and the administration of REITS reports to me directly. Dr. Lamm will continue to be my guide. He is the final halakhic authority as he has been for twenty-seven years. He hopefully will take a serious role in the ongoing functioning of RIETS. He will hopefully continue more so to teach and to speak out. We have lunch once a week and overtime we're going to define his role as chancellor of the university. Together, it's both in terms of giving me guidance and it's in terms of being Rosh HaYeshiva and it's in terms of representational ways to deal with different constituencies of Yeshiva University and I hope it's to continue to speak out *hashkafically* [philosophically] in a way that I

they very much want to move forward. I think the caliber of the learning at Yeshiva is nonpareil and I think that the Roshei Yeshiva, individually and collectively, want to be an important part in moving forward Yeshiva University because their primary role is to learn and to teach.

OE: Why did you decide to host the Investiture Shabbaton at Stern?

RJ: I know nothing about the Investiture Shabbaton except that I wanted it. Before my investiture, I wanted to spend a shabbat with the students. I wanted to spend it with all the undergraduate students. I thought it was very important that we do it at Stern. I'm going to start speaking more and more about Yeshiva University undergraduate education. I'm not going to diminish the importance of Stern and Yeshiva as colleges but I think there is much more that we share than that is separate and I really believe that we should be speaking about the YU undergraduates and always ascend it. You're YU, Yeshiva University undergraduates, and I think it's time to wear that more

OE: What changes do you see on the horizon for SCW?

RJ: I think growing is the right word, not changing. I think Stern has really had some remarkable growth over the last several years under the heroic leadership of Dean Bacon and the engagement of a board and students who constantly grow and demand more. I think the honors program, the ongoing seriousness of the student body, and the demanding nature of the student body is really important. I think Stern has so outpaced its stereotype. It's a real disservice that it lives too much with its stereotype because it's not real. I think that when you look at our campus it's a real urban campus, it's not a classroom building in a dormitory.

The First 180 Days

Investiture Shabbaton to Take Place at SCW

By Rebecca Rosenberg

In a departure from standard procedure for major Yeshiva events held at the Wilf campus, the Investiture Shabbaton for the new University President Richard Joel will be held at SCW. "I want to spend time with the students, all undergraduate students," said President Joel. "It is very important that we do this at Stern."

In fact, many administrators would like to see the Midtown campus play a more central role in Yeshiva's future monumental occasions. "We should work to move more events here because the women are part of YU as much as the men," Nulman said. "We're one institution," Nulman said. But, he added, that for larger venues SCW simply does not

have facilities comparable to those available on the Wilf campus

The Investiture Shabbaton is part of a series of inaugural events at Yeshiva campuses, targeted at offering Joel an opportunity to interact with students and faculty. "It's a similar goal for all inaugural activities," said Efrem Nulman, Senior University Dean of Students. "To give the president an opportunity to visit with the various constituents of the university."

A network of faculty and students has been established to plan and coordinate the event. Nulman, Zeldi Braun, Assistant Dean of Students and Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services will oversee a committee and several sub-committees.

The sub-committee com-

posed of students made most of the decisions about the event, according to TAC President Lisa Grundman. "What students wanted was what happened because it is our Shabbaton, but we still had to go through a whole process," she said. SSSBSC President Rachel Moss, SCW president Anat Barber and students from the Wilf campus are involved in preparations. They began organizing the event last March and had to present a schedule to a committee for approval and comments, said Grundman.

Alterations are still being made to the schedule for the Shabbaton, but tentatively, a nearby hotel will hold Joel and his family, Rabbi Kanarfogel and his family and possibly additional families as well as up to forty

boys from the Wilf campus.

Instead of at the Koch auditorium, where services are usually held, Friday night *Tefillah* will take place at the Schottenstein Cultural Theatre to accommodate the large crowd. Afterwards, students and guests will split into two groups for dinner; half will eat in the Stern cafeteria and the other half in the Koch auditorium. Joel will alternate rooms for meals to maximize the number of students with whom he can speak.

The theme of the Shabbaton is leadership. Friday night, groups of students will break off into sessions. "They're going to focus on topics of leadership within YU and the Jewish community at large," said Grundman. The groups will then reconvene and Joel will conclude the program.

Saturday afternoon, some forms of entertainment will be offered, added Grundman. There is discussion of having a *bikkur cholim* event at NYU. Saturday night there will be a *slichot* concert for men and women. Plans for additional activities are underway.

The Shabbaton's itinerary is intentionally patterned after the typical Shabbat schedule at SCW so that Joel can observe and take part in Shabbat life on the SCW campus, asserted Braun.

"We're going to make it a beautiful Shabbos," she added. Grundman agreed on that objective. "We want everyone to enjoy themselves at a co-ed shabbaton where men and women can have a nice Shabbaton together," she said.

New Administration for Joel Presidency

Continued From Front Page

functions span from handling issues relating to general quality of life on campus to student life and faculty considerations. "The concept is to make this a more user friendly environment for students as well as staff," said Davis.

Fox hails from the Moriah School in Englewood, New Jersey, where he served as an administrator for eighteen years. He crossed paths with Joel working in the Registrar's office at Yeshiva twenty years ago when Joel served as assistant dean of students at Cardozo Law School. His job as advisor to the president includes helping to "guide the president in scheduling his life and focusing on his goals here. There are many people anxious to spend time with him, and he needs to prioritize," said Fox.

Fox describes himself as a "vehicle for getting information from the YU community to the president, and out to the constituency." He is also involved in making sure that the president's projects move along on schedule and are followed through, managing the office, and helping to project an image of "professionalism and warmth to the YU community and beyond."

Joel's new cabinet has been working on a number of projects over the summer and anticipates that students will reap the benefits of some of the more physical efforts as soon as they arrive on campus in the fall. "Students will see a fresh look in certain areas," says Fox, "there has been construction at the uptown campus, as well as at Stern and Cardozo."

Most of the projects that have already begun are illustrations themselves of the focused, productive agenda that Joel's administration is being born under. A chief complaint of YC

students has been the elevators in the Mendel Gottesman library, which limit easy access to all parts of the library, and Joel's team zeroed in on the problem. "We have worked on increasing the access to the Gottesman library, making the stairs more available, creating more study space," said Davis. Other projects have included wiring the Independent Housing Program for Internet access, and the con-

struction of a new lobby in the 215 Lexington building on the Midtown campus.

The renovations of Joel's office on the eleventh floor in Belfer Hall have also been designed to impress the message of warmth that is so vital to the new administration. Joel has put in a multimedia conference room, added a small student cafeteria nearby on the twelfth floor, and hopes to decorate the bare walls

with some student work and testimonials to student achievements. He also explained that since September 11, the halls in Belfer has signs that read "entrance only," and "exit only." Joel has had the "only" removed from the signs, a gesture that he feels is indicative of his tenure here, making his space more open as a symbol of his open administration.

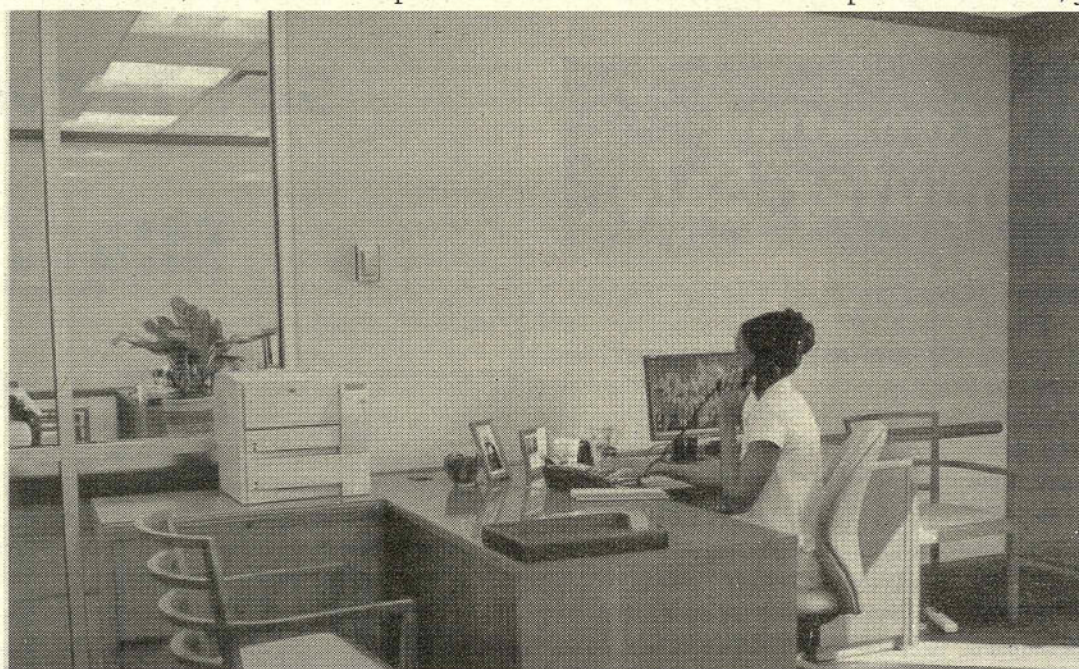
As part of this vision, Joel

hopes to spend time in his office on the seventh floor of the 245 Lexington building. He plans on holding periodic town meetings, as well as make time to sit down to lunch with students and sit in on classes. He is also encouraging students to attend his investiture on September 21st.

More than anything else, the new Joel administration is working on feeling out their new surroundings and learning as much as they can. Both Fox and Davis note that they have been working closely with many of the senior administrators and gaining insight from their past experiences. "My short term goal now is to learn a lot," said Fox, "We want to try to build on the warmth that already exists in the University." Davis agrees; "Mine is a new position," he said, "and the concept is to work with the president, the vice president for academic affairs, the business and finance office, senior staff. We should all be a team that together manages the university on a day to day basis. We want to create a team across the disciplines to manage the university, and we plan to spend a lot of time together."

Joel noted that he is working closely with the existing administration to reach his goals, and that Dr. Lamm is an active participant in the creation of a new administration. "Dr. Lamm and I are working on fashioning his chancellorship as well as my presidency."

President Joel plans to outline more of his vision and some of his long term goals at his September nineteenth investiture, but for now, says Davis, "I want enhance the management of the university, I want to make it better, to help people take more pride in the school."



Joel's Presidential Suite is Ready for the New School Year



O r i e n t a t i o n 2 0 0 3



By Elisha Horen

While most SCW women were asleep in their beds at 9 am on Sunday morning, the incoming class lined up on 34th Street, with parents and luggage carts in tow, waiting to move into Brookdale Residence Hall. Security directors and personnel milled around as students went through the process of financial clearance and proceeded to collect their keys from Orientation Committee volunteers positioned under a tent on the sunny morning. Among the various Student Council and TAC members, President Richard Joel also sat on the welcoming committee.

"What an amazing change this year's crowd was, with registration opening at 8:30 am,"

said Beth Hait, Coordinator of Student Services, who greeted students. "By 9:15 there was no line at all. Last year it stretched all the way around the block. I have had upperclassmen come over to me today and complain that the new students are missing out on the three hour waiting experience."

Judy Saden-Barach, who had helped her son move in last year to YC, found that experience more difficult than assisting her daughter at the Midtown campus this year. "There was only a small street corner to stand on," she said. "Here you have a whole open side walk

and a very helpful staff who helped us take our things out of the car."

Students then headed off to a luncheon where Joel and various committee heads would address them, with an entire week of enjoyable activities and informative workshops to look forward to. Concurrent workshops include How to Choose a Major, Keys to Success in College, An Intro to Using the Library as a Resource, and Tips on How to Plan Your Academic Schedule. Most exciting are the nightly activities aimed at acquainting students with SCW and Manhattan. Students will have the opportunity to enjoy a Yankee game, a casino-themed boat cruise, a trip to Madame



Tussaud's Wax Museum, a Rosh Chodesh Chagigah, and the ever-popular double decker bus tour. SCW senior Jill Friedman, head of the Orientation Committee,

planned activities this year that she hoped would provide a more sociable atmosphere. "Madame Tussaud's was something new that we picked since you can't really socialize at a Broadway show," she noted. "We figured this was a place that you can." She is also focusing her efforts on the Orientation Shabbat, which she plans to utilize as a chance to encourage

students to take part in Shabbat life on campus. "We hope to encourage students to return to the various Shabbat programs through out the year," she said. While Orientation offers an opportunity to meet and make new friends, several students found it comforting to see familiar faces from high school and schools in Israel. "Its so weird that I know everyone here," said SCW newcomer Lauren Miller. When Beth Hait addressed the students at the Orientation Luncheon, she encouraged them to make the most out of their experience at SCW "What you put into Stern is what you get out of it," she advised. Similarly Joel encouraged students to "make the Stern building their bayit, take ownership and control of it."

Students wait in long lines with a years worth of luggage strewn out down 34th street. Some get bored, some play ball.



YU '03

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Fifty Years of Stern

Jubilee Celebrations

Continued from Front Page
 how we've changed and grown," said Orenbuch. This particular event will be utilized as an opportunity to garner alumni involvement. "I'm hoping it will wake up the alumni and remind them of their experiences here," she explained.

Other events planned with this intention include a day at the Tisch Family Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem for those 2,000 plus alumnae living in Israel, as well as for students in yeshiva who plan on attending YC or SCW.

SCW will also host a Jubilee Dinner to be chaired by Renata Marcus in May 2004. The jubilee will culminate with a historic retrospective photography exhibition at the Yeshiva University Museum in the Fall 2004. The exhibition will highlight the past, present, and future of SCW through photographs, literature, memorabilia and video testimonies. Photographs taken over the past 50 years will feature current and past Stern students involved in various academic activities, as well as photographs of deans, faculty, graduates, and the original SCW groundbreaking. It will also explore a theoretical world of Jewish women's education without the contributions of SCW and speculate where SCW will be in the next 50 years.

In addition to celebrating the anniversary, jubilee festivities hope to fulfill several other

objectives. One of the aims is to imbue a sense of pride in alumnae and students. "I was always proud I went there," said Hertzfeld, "and I want others to feel that way too." According to Edward Fox, Deputy to President Richard Joel, "The focus is to bring attention to Stern College." Gaining publicity in the media and awareness to those "who don't even know about the existence of SCW," said Fox, is necessary "to show the importance of Stern and what they've accomplished." Hertzfeld agrees. "This is a wonderful opportunity to share our accomplishment with the world," she said, referring to jubilee events as a whole. "And to reach out to alumnae and the Jewish community at large," she added.

Orenbuch stressed that the committee (although it has some student leaders already) would appreciate student input. "We're encouraging student involvement," she said. Although she has encountered a "lack of pride and willingness to participate" from students in the past, she has already seen student interest and hopes progress will continue. The alumni involved with the event harbor positive memories of their SCW education and they share Orenbuch's hopes that future students will share their affirmative vision.

Life After Stern

Two SCW Alumni Co-Chair Jubilee Festivities

By Aviva Balk

The SCW administration was in search of the perfect people to create a 50th anniversary year that everyone would remember. Sharon Hertzfeld and Susan Ungar-Mero fit the bill. Although neither Hertzfeld nor Ungar-Mero have been extremely involved in previous alumni activities, they have shown unparalleled enthusiasm and dedication to SCW.

Alumni who met as undergraduate students and remained remarkably close ever since, they believe that students at SCW should have a sense of pride in their community. "The Jubilee is a good way for everyone in Stern to feel good about their university," says Mero. "I believe that everyone should leave Stern with pride." With that in mind, Hertzfeld and Mero have undertaken overseeing the entire Jubilee program.

Pride and a sense of accomplishment are qualities that exude from Mero's and Hertzfeld's very persons. While both practice medicine, Mero in dermatology and Hertzfeld in pediatric neurology, the road to medical school

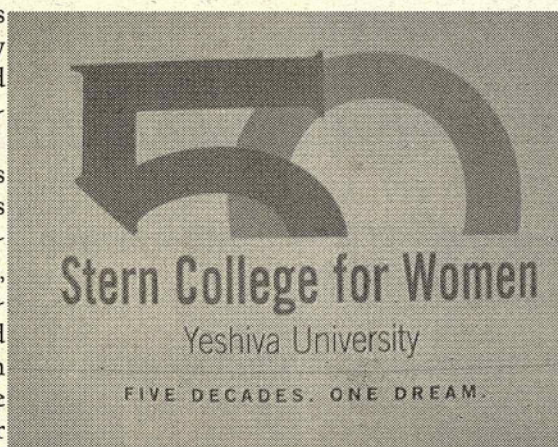
did not always seem an obvious one. Hertzfeld, now living on the Lower East Side with her husband and two children, was one of SCW's first philosophy majors and was very involved in science and literature as a student. She wrote for *Hamevaser*, edited the literary magazine *Bsamim*, participated in student writing groups and wrote the science column for *The Observer*. She was also active in the Pre-health Science Society and Health-Science Week, though it wasn't until working on her masters in philosophy at Brandeis University that she decided to pursue a career in medicine.

Science Society, Mero came out of Downstate Medical School with certifications in pediatrics and dermatology. She now focuses on adult dermatology, working with skin procedures and skin cancer. "I find it like an art, to remove something and help someone's skin look better," Mero says.

Her interest in art carries itself into other arenas of Mero's life, such as making a scrapbook for her newborn baby or by single-handedly renovating the bathrooms in the Upper West Side apartment she shares with her husband and daughter.

Mero is quite accomplished professionally. She has lectured at the prestigious Canyon Ranch Spa in Arizona and conducted skin cancer screenings for many high-profile businesses in New York City. Such screenings, she says, often lead to the detection of skin cancer early making successful treatment more probable.

These two women both enjoy participating in their communities, hosting numerous guests, and spending personal time at the gym, but their families come before anything, professional or otherwise, they say. Both women speak proudly of their husbands and children, as well as each other. They embody the character of the quintessential Stern alumna: active, successful professionally and personally, and all the while, they succeed in maintaining a strong connection to the Jewish community and Torah.



Today, as a neurologist at NYU Medical Center, Hertzfeld feels fulfilled by helping children and their families. She also gives much credit to her background in philosophy. "There isn't a day that goes by without facing difficult situations," she says. She acknowledges that her undergraduate studies are a tool she uses to complement her role as a doctor, mother, wife, and friend.

After holding leadership positions in SCW's Pre-health

Orientation Events

Cruise NY

Tuesday, August 26th 8:00 PM
 Buses Depart Brookdale Hall 7:00 PM

Madame Tussaud's

Wax Museum
 Thursday, August 28th 8:00 PM
 Buses Depart Brookdale Hall 6:45 PM

Stern Chagiga

Wednesday, August 27th
 Koch Auditorium 8:00 PM

Six Flags Great Adventure

Sunday, August 31st
 Buses Depart Brookdale Hall 9:00 AM

FREE!

Each Event is \$5 payable to SCWSC

Sign Up As Soon As Possible!

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
PRESENTS
MIDSIZE ACCOUNTING FIRM
CAREER NIGHT

MEET WITH RECRUITERS OF ALL TOP TWENTY
 MEDIUM SIZE PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRMS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2003
 245 LEXINGTON AVENUE, KOCH AUDITORIUM
 8:15 P.M.

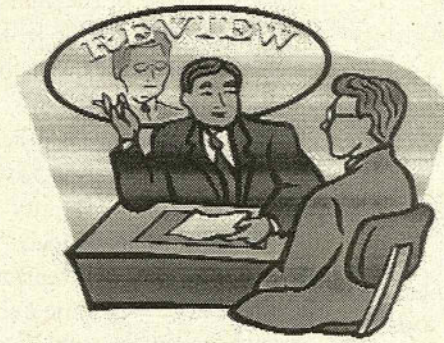
ALL ACCOUNTING MAJORS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND

VAN LEAVES 186TH STREET & AMSTERDAM AVENUE
 @ 7:10 PM

BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED

BH-415/419 OR 215 LEXINGTON AVENUE ROOMS 319/320
 212-960-0845/917-926-4844/45

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
PRESENTS
BUSINESS PLACEMENT ORIENTATION



THIS WORKSHOP IS REQUIRED FOR
ALL SENIORS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
 SEEKING FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT IN
BUSINESS AFTER GRADUATION

MIDTOWN CAMPUS
 WED., AUG. 27, 2003
 CLUB HOUR: 2:40-3:35 P.M.

LOCATION: 215 LX- ROOM 313

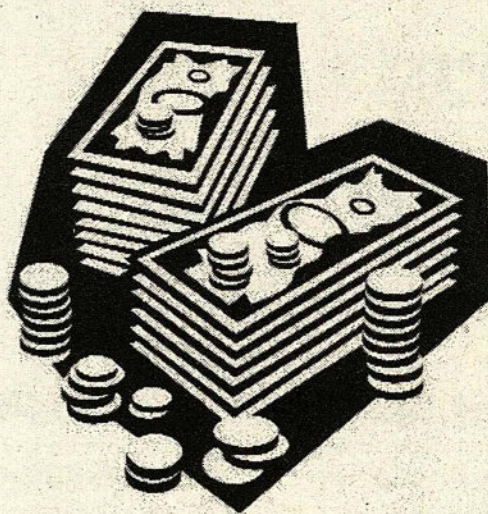
WILF CAMPUS
 THURS., AUG. 28, 2003
 CLUB HOUR: 2:45-3:45 PM

LOCATION: BH- ROOM 218

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OPCS:
 BH-415, 417, 419/MID-215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 319
 960-0845/917-926-4844/45

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES

PRESENTS
FINANCE PLACEMENT ORIENTATION



FINANCE SENIORS MUST ATTEND IF SEEKING
 FULL TIME OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN TO ALL UNDERGRADUATES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2003
 AT 215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 313
 CLUB HOUR: 2:40 P.M. - 3:25 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2003
 AT BELFER HALL, ROOM 411
 CLUB HOUR: 2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
 BH-415/419 OR 215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOMS 319/320

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
PRESENTS

TOP TIER
ACCOUNTING FIRMS NIGHT

MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

DELOITTE & TOUCHE, ERNST & YOUNG,
 GRANT THORNTON, KPMG,
 & PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPER

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2003
 BELFER HALL - WEISSBERG COMMONS AT 8:00 P.M.

REQUIRED OF ALL ACCOUNTING MAJORS

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE REQUIRED

VAN LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM AT 7:15 PM
 & SCHOTTENSTEIN AT 7:20 P.M.

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
 BH-415/419 OR MID-215 LEXINGTON AVENUE, ROOM 319/320
 960-0845 OR 917-926-4844/45

Israel News

MACPAC Flounders Without Leadership

By Arie Staller

MACPAC, Yeshiva University's official Political Action Committee, lacks leadership at the Midtown campus for the upcoming year.

This year's liaison at SCW should be Adina Rohatner, according to last year's SCW liaison and current SCWSC President, Anat Barber. However, Rohatner will be in Israel this semester, attending Nevei Institute, according to Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun.

Rohatner had told Barber that she would take responsibility and so Barber was surprised to learn that she will not be on campus this semester. "We just have to find someone else," Barber asserted.

The Wilf Campus liaison will be YC Senior Yoni Perl. "The tradition in YU has been for the AIPAC intern from the previous summer to head it," explained Kevin Cyrulnik, MACPAC's 2003 president and former AIPAC on-campus liaison. "And this year that would be Yoni Perl."

Perl has been working on forming a band of student leaders, according to the Barber. Perl thus far has been unavailable for comment.

Since the campus liaisons are traditionally students who have spent a summer working for AIPAC, Barber hopes to contact

the SCW student who interned in AIPAC's Washington office this past summer once the fall semester begins in an attempt to offer her the reigns of the committee.

MACPAC endeavors to involve students on campus in political activity through supporting the relationship between the United States and Israel. MACPAC brings a unique presence to campus by adding a political spin to the Israel Club. Previous leaders had lofty aspirations to make history and change the course of Yeshiva's role in the Israeli political epic.

Event organizers were unable to fully accomplish the complete set of goals they had laid out for themselves at year's beginning. In large part, they chalk this up to having to contend with an apathetic response from the student body as well as having to navigate complex legal restrictions on their funding efforts.

Despite this, however, the committee enjoyed a relatively successful term in which it invited speakers, held open forums, raised funds and signed petitions in support of Israel.

MACPAC circulated a petition throughout both campuses this past year, asking for students to sign and declare their "unconditional support for the State of Israel." Sixty college campuses across the nation signed similar petitions and to

date more than 40,000 students have signed their names.

The ultimate vision was for the various university AIPAC liaisons to present their petitions to congressmen and senators from their respective states. It was estimated that by the petition campaign conclusion, 140,000 college students would have participated, actively affirming their support for the state of Israel and its relationship with the U.S.

On the SCW campus approximately 400 signatures were collected, according to Barber. No one from the Wilf campus was available for comment on how many signatures their campus garnered.

Last year Cyrulnik planned to raise close to \$20,000 to give to congressmen from states with small Jewish populations. "Money buys access to the table," Jonathan Kessler, Director of the AIPAC Political Leadership Program told The Commentator last spring. A long-term plan had been construed to award the collected money to Congress. The planned donation hoped to guarantee a place for Yeshiva's voice to be heard in Congress.

Both the signing of petitions and fund-raising were expected to continue into the fall semester. However, due to the lack of leadership, prospects look doubtful as does the aspiration of a strong political presence that MACPAC could have offered.

Israel Clubs Sponsor Family Victimized by Terror

By Hindy Poupko

Yeshiva University will become the first university to participate in HEALA's Adopt a Family program this year. In a joint effort, the SCW and YC Israel Clubs will adopt the family of 19-year old Gila Kessler who was killed in June 2002 in a terrorist attack at a bus stop in Jerusalem's French Hill.

Many communities and synagogues have already taken part in this extraordinary program. Through its participation, Yeshiva University hopes to serve as a model for other colleges.

HEALA's goal is to create and maintain strong ties between families victimized by terror in Israel and communities across North America. HEALA, which means "to lend a hand" in Hebrew and also contains the English word "heal," indicates the organization's expectations that both parties will benefit through this connection.

The adoption of the Kessler family was the result of consultation with Sharon Evens, director of HEALA. After learning about the makeup of the SCW/YC student body, she found a suitable match for Yeshiva in the Kessler family. Gila's mother, Brigitte Kessler, considers herself modern Orthodox, and feels a strong connection to the Orthodox community in America. Additionally, Kessler lectured YC/SCW students in Israel on the Mission Day organized by SCW students last January.

The Israel Club plans to distribute booklets, including pictures of the Kessler family to the SCW/YC student body and there will be a showing of the video-interview with Kessler during the kickoff event for the Israel Club on September 8th. Throughout the academic year fund-raising events will be held and SCW/YC students are encouraged to visit the Kessler

family in Israel.

Kessler is a single mother, currently raising Gila's three surviving brothers and sisters on her own, Shalom, 18, Chana, 13, and Klila 8. "Nothing can prepare you for such an unnatural occurrence," said Kessler, who prior to the attack, cleaned houses to support her family. Now, however, paralyzed by depression, she cannot find the motivation to work. The family's financial situation is dire. Funds are needed for everyday necessities, and the Israel Club plans to do as much as possible to help them.

"I was talking to my daughter on the cell phone only two minutes before she was killed," Kessler recalled. "I could never have possibly imagined that I would never talk nor see my daughter again."

The family still has a difficult time coping with the tragedy. "The reality of her death still has not sunken in," she said. "I live between two worlds now. Sometimes I catch myself functioning like the attack never occurred, and Gila is still alive. But the reality is that she is not." On what would have been Gila's 20th birthday, Kessler went to the scene of the attack with a bouquet of flowers.

Kessler now uses her loss to give back to her community. Gila had always urged her to make their home a center or learning for the children of their moshav who did not have access to books and other needed materials. Brigitte used the money given to her from the Suchnut and the Jewish Agency to purchase shelves upon shelves of books so that children can come to her house and take advantage of the library.

"She is one of the bravest, courageous and Zionist people that I know," said Evens of Gila's mother. "I admire her spirit, her optimism, and she is someone who is truly inspiring to all."

New Leadership for Kol Haneshama

Exciting Changes Anticipated

By Miriam Shapiro

After acting as Kol Haneshama's leader since its inception, YC graduate Tuly Weisz will hand over leadership to SCW senior, Bella Tendler. Kol Haneshama is a national newspaper which seeks to memorialize Israeli terror vic-

tims.

Although still in the preliminary planning stages, Tendler has begun recruiting new writers to ensure the organization's success. "I'm interested in finding more serious writers and artists," claims Tendler, who hopes to revamp the project with a more literary slant. "It would be really nice to create quality literature and art to memorialize these heroes. I'm still brainstorming, but if we had a spectrum of emotions, genres-poetry, prose and art-and interesting anecdotes, we could give readers a sense of the person instead of than the usual, 'he was incredible...' We might be able to create something really special for these victims, for their families, and for the world."

Conceived two years ago by YU and Stern participants of Operation Torah Shield-Yeshiva's solidarity mission to Israel in January,

2002-Kol Haneshama emerged as students, after a week of interacting with Israeli families, sought a suitable project that could impact the Israeli and American community in a long term fashion.

Kol Haneshama features personal biographies of Israeli terror victims. Written by high school and college students, it is printed monthly in dozens of Jewish newspapers across America.

Each page contains approximately eight, short biographies with photographs of victims of varying ages, sexes, and religious affiliations. Additionally, Kol Haneshama has developed an extensive web site to house these biographies and links directing viewers to sites that provide other ways to assist families of terror victims. An apolitical project, it does not officially affiliate with any institution.

"Kol Haneshama it not only a very exciting national project, but is an important local initiative as well," explained Naphtali Weisz, Project Coordinator from Columbus, Ohio. "It provides a

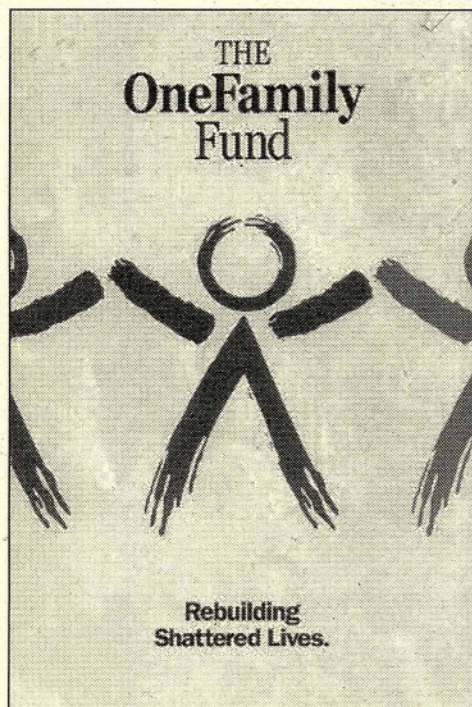
way for every community to do something for Israel."

Weisz remains confident that the project will continue to run smoothly and successfully under Tendler.

"I am pleased to commend and congratulate the students who initiated and executed Kol Haneshama to memorialize the victims of terror in Israel," said Dr. Norman Lamm, former President of Yeshiva University, when informed of the project. "Their activism, following their return from the Torah Shield mission, is truly admirable as an inspiration to the Jewish community, and a source of 'nachas' to the university and their families."

Kol Haneshama needs volunteers, and Weisz strongly encourages students to participate in this crucial project. "We are always looking for people to help out, especially Hebrew speakers. Anyone who wants to volunteer should get in touch with Bella," said Weisz in a recent interview.

Stressing the importance of "direct interaction with families in Israel," Tuly described how actual family interviews allow for the inclusion of personal elements to each printed piece. Further, they comfort the victimized family with the knowledge that people across the globe share of their suffering.



Business

SSSB Administration Restructures OPCS

Tarron Karron Resigns From Post

By Liana Biniashvili

Dramatic changes in the structure of the Office of Placement and Career Services have been made this summer, due largely to the resignation of Tara Karron, Assistant Director.

In previous semesters, Yeshiva University's student job seekers would schedule an appointment with Naomi Kapp, Arthur Bieber or Tara Karron of OPCS to discuss resumes, placement and job opportunities in their perspective fields. However, beginning this September, the job placement system is about to be taken to a whole new level with additions in staff, innovative career workshops and early resume deadlines that are sure to improve placement for those graduating in the year of 2004 and thereafter.

Early in the summer, Tara Karron, a long-time and integral part of the team at OPCS, announced her departure from the office. She recently married and cited a difficult commute as the reason for her resignation, according to Dean Ira Jaskoll. Following this news, the Office of the Associate Dean hurried to fill her absence so as to assist the 2004 seniors in job placement, and help other students looking for work in the career areas Tara headed; namely Marketing, Management and Management Information Systems (MIS).

In the ensuing period, two new members have joined the OPCS team. Leah Stromer was appointed the recruitment head of Marketing and Management and Sylvia Hyden was appointed to oversee recruitment for Management Information Systems. Both newcomers are graduates of SSSB. Stromer majored in Accounting and previously worked for the prestigious account firm KPMG. Hyden majored in Finance and went on to open her own executive firm.

"The reason OPCS hired two people to the previous position of one, was to improve the efficiency of OPCS operations," Dean Charles Snow commented excitedly on the additions in staff. "The augmentation in staff was needed to improve the caliber of OPCS service because of its importance."

Beginning this fall, OPCS plans to offer new and enhanced services to improve student resumes, interviewing techniques and placement. The office is planning to offer resume building workshops and mock interview sessions for students, which will include video taping. The office will also strive to obtain more visits from firms to the Midtown campus for recruitment. Whereas students used to take part in recruitment events sponsored by Yeshiva University, OPCS hopes to send students to various recruitment events outside of Yeshiva.

Finally, OPCS has gotten firm on students handing their resumes in on time and before deadlines. Seniors who plan to graduate in May 2004 and are looking for positions in Finance were expected to have their resumes in by the second week of August. This measure was put into effect due to the early recruitment of Financial firms and the office's eagerness to have the graduates get a head start in recruitment. All other students graduating in May 2004, were notified and advised to complete their resumes and send their resume to Kapp as soon as possible and then follow up by scheduling an in person meeting with an appropriate OPCS staff member to discuss job opportunities as well as graduate school.

The new efforts employed by OPCS will greatly facilitate its operations, improve the quality of placement for all undergraduate students, and better the recruitment opportunities at Yeshiva University.

Sy Syms Receives Generous Grants for Classes

By Liana Biniashvili

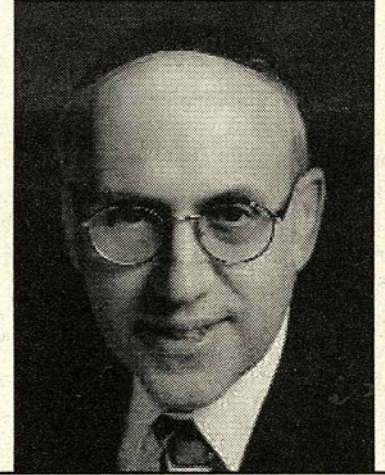
The school year of 2002- 2003 has proven to be a very bountiful one for Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business. Along with the recent election of Dr. Charles Snow to the position of Dean, the improvements and modifications in the current curriculum and the new additions in faculty, the prospering business school was endowed with two educational grants for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Snow explained that these awards are a step in efforts to attain higher excellence in the caliber of academic curriculum at SSSB. "These grants are the beginning of a process," he noted. "We will be looking for various grants out there, in order to increase the educational programs for Sy Syms students. That is the reason we applied for these grants in the first place."

Interactive Advertising, taught by Dr. Deborah Cohn received a \$1, 200 educational grant from the Direct Marketing Day Foundation. Interactive Advertising introduces students to digital media, marketing on the Internet and how consumers can be reached through digital advertising.

The grant was bestowed to Dr. Cohn after she made a request to the institution for funds to help her supplement the curriculum taught in her class. In her request, she had asserted that the money would be used to purchase different types of educational materials including business trade books, videos and online resources.

Students enrolled in the class can now use the newly bought business trade books on interactive marketing to help them in projects. They can take advantage of an online ads archive called Ad Critic, which can provide students with examples of real ads. Also, an educational video from PBS called Cool Hunting can teach students how to determine the next popular trends in culture and how to market



Dean Snow plans to apply for future educational grants after SSSB benefited from initial grants them to consumers.

Dr. Cohn, Assistant Professor of Marketing, commented enthusiastically on the grant she received. "I think that the Direct Marketing Day Foundation is a wonderful foundation," said Cohn. "They really try to facilitate the Direct Marketing and Interactive Marketing education. I am really appreciative of all they've done." Sy Syms obtained an additional and generous grant from The Griffith Foundation for Insurance, which donated \$5,000 to the Robert P. Ashlock Risk Management Insurance Program Principles of Insurance course taught by Peter Lencsis. The Griffith Foundation funds grants to universities with fledgling Insurance programs.

These grants proved to be a step in the right direction. "In the beginning we had an idea to start running something successful; after our primary achievement we are looking for other opportunities," said Snow. The grants awarded to SSSB show that the school is able to maintain its growth, continuity and advancement every year.

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES

LIBERAL ARTS SENIORS

Any senior who is undecided as to their plans upon graduation, or who is interested in graduate/professional school after graduation, or who is interested in a full-time position in business, law, health care, communications, research, psychology, politics, social services, or teaching (to name a few) should take notice of these important dates:

- BUSINESS PLACEMENT ORIENTATION**-(Required for Liberal Arts Seniors Interested in Full Time Jobs in Finance, Computers, Marketing, Management)
Wed., Aug. 27, 2003-Midtown Campus-Club Hour-215 LEX, Room 313
Thurs., Aug. 28, 2003-WLF Campus-Club Hour-Belfer Hall, Room 218
- LIBERAL ARTS PLACEMENT ORIENTATION**-(Required of all Others, Graduate School & General Job Placement)
Thurs., Sept. 11, 2003-WLF Campus-Club Hour-Belfer Hall, Room 218
Wed., Sept. 17, 2003-Midtown Campus-Club Hour-245 LEX, Room 718
- FINAL COPIES OF APPROVED RESUMES DUE:** Tues., Oct. 21, 2003 (Except for Those Students Interested in Finance Positions due date Mon., Aug. 4, 2003 and Information Technology Positions due date Mon., Sept. 15, 2003.)
- GRADUATE SCHOOL FOLLOW UP WORKSHOP**
Thurs., Sept. 18, 2003-WLF Campus-Club Hour-Belfer Hall, Room 430
Wed., Sept. 24, 2003-Midtown Campus-Club Hour-245 LEX, Room 718
- SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEWING STRATEGIES**
Wed., Oct. 22, 2003-Midtown Campus-Club Hour-215 LEX, Room 313
Thurs., Oct. 23, 2003-WLF Campus-Club Hour-Belfer Hall, Room 430

Note These Deadlines for GRE/LSAT Registration
Wed., Sept. 3, 2003-Postmark Deadline for LSAT on Wed., Oct. 8, 2003
Fri., Sept. 5, 2003-Receipt Deadline for Written General GRE test on Mon., Oct. 27, 2003
Fri., Sept. 19, 2003-Receipt Deadline for Subject GRE test on Mon., Nov. 10, 2003
Fri., Oct. 24, 2003-Receipt Deadline for Subject GRE test on Mon., Dec. 15, 2003
Wed., Nov. 5, 2003-Postmark Deadline for LSAT on Mon., Dec. 8, 2003

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES

PRESENTS



HOW TO INTERVIEW FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTING WITH YOSEF LEVINE OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2003
AT 8:00 P.M. B11-411

VAN LEAVES BROOKDALE DORM @ 7:15 P.M.
& SCHOTTENSTEIN DORM @ 7:30 P.M.

ALL ACCOUNTING MAJORS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND

OFFICE OF PLACEMENT & CAREER SERVICES
B11-415/419 OR 215 LEXINGTON AVENUE ROOMS 319/320
212-960-0845/917-326-4844/45

STERN COLLEGE ATHLETICS

www.yu.edu/athletics

TENNIS

Tryouts: Aug 27th & Sept 3rd

At the Binghamton Tennis Club in Edgewater, NJ

Vans leave at 7:15pm from
Brookdale Hall.

Tryouts from 8-10

- Experienced players only
- Earn PED credit
- Head Coaches: Randi Greenberg & Debbie Schwartz

FENCING

Tryouts: Sept 3rd & Sept 8th

Held in the 11th floor gym.

Wed: 7:40-8:55

Mon: 7:25-8:40

(Period 'H')

- No experience necessary
- Earn PED credit
- Head Coach: Judy Cummins

VOLLEYBALL

CLUB TEAM

Tryouts: Sept 7th & Sept 14th

Vans leave at 6:30pm from
Brookdale Hall.

Tryouts from 7-9

- Experienced players only
- Earn PED credit
- Head Coach: Vicky Kui

BASKETBALL

Tryouts: Aug 27th & Sept 8th

Meet Coach in 11th floor gym on Aug
27th for pre-tryout info.

Vans leave at 6:30pm from Brookdale
Hall on Sept 8th for tryouts.

Tryouts from 7-8:30

- Experienced players only
- Earn PED credit
- Head Coach: Karen Green

Anyone trying out for a team must have a valid medical form (specific to Athletics & stamped by the Student Health Center) on file in the Athletic Office before she will be allowed to participate. The Form and the instructions can be found on our website, www.yu.edu/athletics.

For more information please call the Athletic Office at (212) 960-5211 or email jbednrsh@gmail.yu.edu.

Science & Health

SCW Boasts New Joint Programs in Nursing and Physical Therapy

By Reina Roth

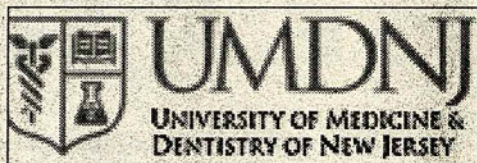
This fall two new additions will be added to the array of already existing Joint Programs at SCW. A program with Johns Hopkins University will offer students the opportunity to complete a bachelors and masters degree in nursing. SCW is currently in the final stages of establishing a program with UMDNJ in the popular field of physical therapy.

Students must complete three years at SCW filled with a variety of science courses, and at least two years at Johns Hopkins, completing their schooling with both a BA and an MA in nursing.

The details regarding the UMDNJ program have not yet been finalized.

These new additions join the extensive list of joint programs in the field of science, including dentistry, optometry, podiatry, occupational therapy and programs for physician assistants.

Yeshiva's first joint programs in science began in 1994 due to the high demand on campus. Thus began a dentistry program with NYU, an optometry program with SUNY College of Optometry and a podiatry program with New York College of Podiatric Medicine. The joint program with Johns Hopkins is not the first joint nursing program that Yeshiva has undertaken. SCW's joint program with the NYU Nursing School was discontinued after the school terminated all joint programs. SCW implemented the Hopkins program in its



stead.

Accelerated programs save students a year in their undergraduate studies since their senior year counts towards their undergraduate and graduate degree. Consequently, those who are enrolled in these programs are expected to fulfill a considerably lighter Judaic Studies load. These students are required to take four semesters of Core, as opposed to the standard six semesters, in addition to fourteen extra Hebrew elective credits.

After three years of undergraduate studies, students go directly to graduate school. However, these programs are geared towards a unique group of students, according to Dean Orlian. "Joint programs are not for everyone," she said. "These programs are made for individuals who are strong science students and don't need the time to develop in other areas."

If a student is confident she wants to pursue a certain area of study and excels in a particular field, an advisor will guide her in entering the program of her choice. There is a minimum grade point average of 3.0 to 3.2 depending on the joint university's requirements. Most schools also require an admissions test such as the MCATS, DATS, or OATS. The final admissions decision is made by the graduate school.

Biology Professor Brenda Loewy Heads Pre-Health Advisement

By Reina Roth

Dr. Bosworth, the pre-health advisor for both the Midtown and Wilf campuses, has recently resigned, and Dr. Brenda Loewy has been appointed to the position. The pre-health advisor works closely with science and health career-minded students and offers advice on matters such as required courses for specific health related programs and extracurricular activities that would help in their acceptance.

Loewy will begin some aspects of her role as pre-health advisor even as Bosworth remains until January. She will have complete ownership of the position in the Spring semester. Loewy is making efforts to revamp the pre-health department. She has already begun improving online advisement.

"By creating a more elaborate website for pre-health advisement, Dr. Loewy will have more time for one on one guidance," stated Dean Bacon.

Dr. Loewy's new position is being anticipated with optimism. Tova Fischer, SCW senior has already traversed much of the pre-health terrain during the previous year, but still looks forward to interacting with Loewy.

"I'm very excited about the transition," said Tova Fischer, SCW senior and Biology major. "I have a good relationship with Dr. Loewy. She's a woman and mother; she understands concerns that girls will have. She went to school for her PhD, she and her husband both teach and have PhD's. She knows what its like to go through this and can use her life experiences to guide the students."

As an Orthodox woman, Loewy has established personal relationships with students and several students look to her as a role-model. Rachel Rothenberg, SCW senior and Biology major, received advice from Loewy even before she accepted her new role. "I have gone to Dr. Loewy for help before as a pre-health student," she said. "It was good because she is reli-



Students eagerly anticipate Loewy's appointment

gious and a woman. She incorporates the religious and academic goals of students."

While the pre-health advisor is often the gatekeeper for students in their application to graduate programs, it is usually the teachers who encourage students to enter specific fields. Through education in the sciences, students begin to espouse interests in these related fields. As a teacher, Loewy has enthusiasm for her material and excites her students to pursue career in the science field through the knowledge they gain. It is therefore appropriate that SCW has now appointed her the new pre health advisor.

Whereas Bosworth was located at the Wilf Campus, Loewy, an SCW Biology professor, is easily accessible to science students at the Midtown campus. "Having limited office hours made Dr. Bosworth hard to reach," Fischer commented. "She's accessible, you can find her around the building, and she is so easy to talk to."

During Bosworth's tenure at Stern, the student acceptance rate to graduate schools has remained consistently high in the areas of medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry, physical therapy and occupational therapy. He was considered talented in motivating students to continue the path of pre-health. "He really pushed me to decide to go to medical school," said Fischer.

After Bosworth's resignation takes effect, Dr. Potvin, a Biology and Biochemistry professor, will assume the position at the Wilf Campus.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

AECOM Research Determines Leisure Activities Decrease Alzheimer's and Dementia Risk

By Arie Staller

Older adults are the fastest growing population in the country today. With this in mind, a research team at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, led by Dr. Joe Verghese, Assistant Professor of Neurology, recently released findings from a 21-year long study concerning the reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease and dementia in seniors who participate in mentally challenging leisure activities.

Participants in the study engaged in cognitive activities, such as reading, playing cards, solving crossword puzzles, dancing, and playing a musical instrument. "[The study] suggests that increased participation in these activities might have an increased role in reducing the risk," said Verghese.

The Einstein study began in 1980 with 469 men and women from the Bronx, all of whom lived nearby Einstein Medical Center. Participants had varying levels of education, were age 75 or older, and screened for early signs of dementia.

Previous research has proven that memory loss begins seven years before the onset of dementia. To prevent the study being tainted by participants already declining into mental disease, any seniors who showed signs of memory loss in the first seven years of the study were removed.

It was concluded that the greater amount of time spent on cognitive activities aided in reducing the risk of dementia. For example, older adults who did crossword puzzles four days a week had a risk for dementia

that was 47 percent lower than for seniors who worked on puzzles only once a week. Additionally, those participants in the upper third of the cognitive-activity scale showed a 63 percent lower chance of developing these diseases when compared to those in the lowest third of the scale.

The study "suggests areas where further research can take place," according to Verghese. These findings confirmed previous inconclusive studies that had been conducted for only short periods of time. "This is probably the longest study that's been done for this medical issue," said Verghese. Additionally, this study suggests areas where further research can take place, according to Verghese.

By the end of the study, only 124 of the study's 469 partici-

pants had succumbed to Alzheimer's disease or vascular dementia.

This study comes as a ray of hope for those who suffer from Alzheimer's or have a family member coping with the disease. "Alzheimer's is one of the most feared things," said Sheila Dorman, Vice President of Hebrew Community Services of West Hartford, Connecticut. Dorman is an expert on aging and Alzheimer's. "People are terrified of it."

According to Pam Atwood, Director of Dementia Care at Hebrew Health Care, dementia is not a mental illness, but a neurological disease which causes the deterioration of brain cells and may take anywhere from two to twenty years or more. The loss of brain cells leads to a loss of memory. By forgetting

memories, we lose our sense of self, as our memory functions to make us who we are. "It's called the longest goodbye," she noted. "We lose our person-hood."

Verghese clarified that Alzheimer's disease is a type of dementia. Dementia is memory loss in fragments and vascular dementia is memory loss due to strokes. "Most common in the elderly is Alzheimer's," he explained, "but it's only one type of dementia."

While Einstein's study is well supported by similar studies, the findings are definitely innovative. "It's pointing the way to actual clinical trials," concluded Verghese. "In some ways this is just the beginning."

YES! SOMETHING ABOUT CROHN'S YOU CAN ACTUALLY BE HAPPY ABOUT.



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Adverse events occurring in 5-20% of patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (total daily dose) with an incidence of 5% and greater than placebo (n=10) are listed below by body system.

Adverse events occurring in 25% of patients treated with ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (total daily dose) with an incidence of 5% and greater than placebo (n=10) are listed below by body system.

Glucocorticoid Adverse Reactions: Summary and Incidence of Symptoms of Hypocorticism.

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Entocort EC (budesonide) Capsules

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

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Table with 4 columns: Adverse Event, ENTOCORT EC 9 mg (n=25), Placebo (n=30), and Entocort EC 3 mg (n=16). Rows include Dyspepsia, Diarrhea, Abdominal Pain, Headache, Back Pain, Fatigue, Rash/Itch, Constipation.

*Adverse events of clinical interest from hair growth, hair loss, and hair growth in women, general.

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Science & Health

Roth Research Provides Exposure to Advanced Scientific Study

By Tova Fischer

The research that I did this summer was entitled "The Expression Levels of GSTs and Tumor Suppressing Genes following DADS Treatment." I worked in the lab of Dr. Irving Listowsky, a professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.

Dr. Listowsky's laboratory studies the structure and biological functions of a class of enzymes called glutathione S-transferases (GSTs) and their role in chemo-prevention of diseases. This super-family of enzymes is regulated in a developmental, sex, and/or tissue specific manner, which makes it interesting, yet difficult to study. There are eight classes of GSTs that are commonly referred to as the Mu, Theta, Alpha, Pi, Sigma, Zeta, Kappa and Omega classes. They catalyze the detoxification of harmful substances and toxins in the cells. Some phytochemicals (plants and the like) induce GST protein expression, thereby functioning to protect the cell from various cytotoxic agents. When the GSTs specifically protect the cell from substances that can damage it or cause the cell to grow in a disorderly fashion, they act in a chemo-protective manner.

Garlic's antioxidant property has been reported to have such a beneficial effect in the prevention of pathophysiological processes, such as hypercholesterolemia (heart disease), cerebral vascular disease and cancer. Diallyl disulfide (DADS) and allicin are two antioxidant compounds found in garlic that are thought to act in this type of protective manner because of their unique chemical structure.

They both contain disulfide linkages, two sulfur atoms that are bonded to each other and can undergo conjugation and sulfhydryl-disulfide exchange reactions with other compounds. It is believed that after these initial exchanges, a multi-step cascade of reactions leads to the induction of the transcription of many cellular protective genes, including the class of GSTs. Therefore, garlic can elevate the levels of GSTs and act as an indirect chemo-protective substance.

Dr. John Andorfer, a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Listowsky's laboratory has previously analyzed the effects of DADS treatment on the expression of GSTs in the mouse gastrointestinal tract. He initially concluded that following DADS treatment, the GST class of enzymes was significantly elevated in the duodenum (small intestine), liver, stomach and colon of the mouse- not in any of the other organs. After beginning to analyze the changes in the duodenum more carefully (he conducted a microarray study), he found that the transcription of many metabolic, tumor suppressing and cell signaling genes were either up-regulated or down-regulated significantly following the treatment. My summer project further analyzed the effects of the DADS on specific levels of

tumor suppressing genes in both the duodenum and liver after treatment.

Initially, nine-week-old black male mice were force fed corn oil or DADS at time 0 and 24 hours. Tissues were harvested at 48 hours and stored at -80°C. Dr. Andorfer purified the total classes of GSTs from all tissues by a biochemical technique known as glutathione-agarose affinity chromatography. This technique allowed him to purify the specific enzymes of interest from any tissue based on the affinity of the enzyme to another substance, in this case a compound that it uses in many reactions. The purification was followed by reversed phase HPLC (high pressure liquid chromatography) which allowed for separation of each specific class and subclass of GST. These protein fractions were identified by electrospray-ionization mass spectrometry (ESI MS) which allowed him to identify each specific GST according to its molecular weight. The data obtained from this experiment allowed Dr. Andorfer to determine that there was an elevation of GST levels in the GI tract following DADS treatment.

To analyze many of the other genes that changed from this treatment and verify some of the data from Dr. Andorfer's the previous study, I conducted two separate experiments. Both



SCW student Elisheva Douglas, a Roth scholar, does research at an AECOM lab.

involved the initial step of isolating the mRNA from the duodenum and liver with a special kit. For the first experiment, The mRNA was reverse transcribed to cDNA. Serial dilutions of cDNA were used in quantitative RT-PCR, (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction) which allows for the amplification of a small amount of DNA. The PCR was done with specifically ordered probes to amplify the segments of DNA of specific tumor suppressing genes in order to see if they changed quantitatively with treatment. PCR products were observed on agarose gels and developed using sophisticated imaging software. The changes in gene transcripts from the control vs. DADS treated samples were analyzed with the software by densitometry.

A portion of the mRNA that was isolated from the liver and duodenum was used in a second experiment, northern blot analysis. This technique allows the transfer of mRNA to a membrane, which can be probed for specific mRNA transcripts of certain proteins. RNA probes for a specific set of tumor suppressing genes were made using a specific component that can emit light after a long detection process, allowing the amount of probe-specific mRNA bound to the membrane to be visualized. The membranes were hybridized with these probes so that the probes can bind to their specific mRNA matches on the membrane, and then detected using a common detection protocol. The light that was emitted during the final step was visualized with the same imaging software as before and the changes in the mRNA transcript levels of the control vs. DADS treated were calculated by densitometry as well.

New Yeshiva Summer Science Program Brings Students to Their Teachers' Labs

By Deena Weissman and Adina Katzman

A new undergraduate scientific research program offered SCW science majors the opportunity to engage in hands-on laboratory experience under the tutelage of their professors this past summer. The program was promulgated by Yeshiva University Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Morten Lowengrub and developed as an enrichment supplement to the academic education students receive during the school year.

"The experience that students gained from participating in research activities with faculty is

invaluable," said Lowengrub. "Immersion in an in-depth study focus on problem solving provides a superb learning environment."

Lowengrub secured in-house grants for summer interns both at Yeshiva College and at Stern College for Women. Students at SCW worked with Dr. Chaya Rapp, Chemistry Department, Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, Physics Department and Drs. J. Weisburg, H. Zuckerbraun and H. Babich of the Biology Department.

SCW students Tannaz Sedaghat and Deena Weissman worked with Dr. Babich during June and July as participants in the professor-guided summer internship program. Their experience is recounted below.

Dr. Babich researched the chemotherapeutic effects of EGCG, a component of green tea, on malignant cells and normal fibroblasts from the human oral cavity and co-authored an academic paper on the subject on the website of the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Previous research, including epidemiological studies, has shown that EGCG has both preventive and therapeutic effects on various types of cancer. For example, the Chinese and Japanese populations, who are known to be large consumers of green tea, have lower instances of certain types of cancer. "Although a lot of research had been performed on malignant cells, few studies have focused on the response of normal cells," explained Babich.

The small research group at SCW worked with Babich this summer endeavored to show that normal cells are much less responsive than malignant cells to the toxic effects of EGCG, green tea extract and black tea extract. The question that is yet to be resolved why a difference exists in sensitivity between normal and malignant cells.

Studies have shown that EGCG produces free radicals, which damage the DNA, and cause the treated cells to die. Babich will continue his work by studying the intracellular level of glutathione, a free radical absorber, in both the malignant and normal cells exposed to EGCG.

This fall semester, Dr. Weisburg

and Dr. Zuckerbraun will approach the study from another direction. Cells treated with EGCG, die in an apoptotic, or suicidal, manner. Weisburg will analyze the death of EGCG-treated cell through the use of the comet assay and by flow cytometry. Zuckerbraun will complement this work by using gel electrophoresis to detect fragmented DNA. The research team has already written a rough draft of this comprehensive study and they plan to publish an article when the research is completed.

The internship experience went beyond a mere summer job. The knowledge and competence gained by students in Babich's research group will facilitate their careers in science. Students in the group were taught the basics of in vitro cell culture techniques, cytotoxicity assays, photomicroscopy, and cell cloning. The interns will have the opportunity to present their research at an upcoming SURGE meeting and plan to enter the research poster contest in November.

Additionally, participants found the internship was rewarding. Working with fellow peers was enjoyable and interacting with a professor in a different environment was a unique experience.

Similar sentiments were expressed by faculty. "I enjoyed working with my students. In fact, it's not just a student-teacher relationship; we became colleagues," said Babich.

This summer internship was an important stepping stone to success in the field of scientific research. It has provided the students with both the confidence to continue in graduate level labs and with the necessary tools for future scientific work in the biomedical sciences.

The laboratory was curious about the expression of two specific genes because of Dr. Andorfer's previous work that had shown dramatic changes in their duodenal levels following treatment with DADS.

As expected based on Dr. Andorfer's previous work, and verified from myT-PCR and northern blot analysis, the Mu class of GST was significantly elevated in both organs following DADS treatment. A down-regulation of the and of the apoptosis (cell death) inducing gene LKB1-STK11 and the cell signaling gene LIM-SH3 in the duodenum analyzed by RT-PCR was consistent with results obtained from previous data as well. However, the lab had not yet studied the expression of these selected genes in the liver. Northern blots and RT-PCR analyses showed evidence of a previously unknown up-regulation of the LKB1-STK11 transcript in the liver after administration of the DADS, whereas the LIM-SH3 transcript remained unchanged. It was interesting

for the lab to learn that GST elevation in both organs is not necessarily followed by a similar up and down-regulation of some tumor suppressing genes across the board as well. It is possible then that the DADS treatment can be enhancing rather than suppressing tumorigenesis in the duodenum (as was previously thought because of the elevation of the GSTs) but suppressing it in the liver. Analysis of the expression profile of other relevant signal transduction and tumor suppressing genes in these and other organs, and pathological and histological tissue studies of the effects of DADS treatment on the GI tract can further clarify the mechanism by which DADS may act as an anti-cancer agent. Such studies could then possibly demonstrate the potential use of DADS and other similar organosulfur compounds in the prevention and treatment of cancer.

Tova Fischer was a Roth Scholar at Einstein Medical School. Below she recounts her experiences.

Arts & CULTURE



The sanctuary of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue is a destination for tourists seeking America's oldest congregation.

SHUL HOPPING: The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

On West 70th Street stands a building rich in history. It is not intentionally a museum or monument to the past, although it is inherently both. It is a house of prayer and the most recent home to Congregation Shearith Israel. Otherwise known as The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, this particular building was built for the congregation in 1896. The congregation was founded in 1654, making it the first Jewish congregation in

North America. As implied by its name, the congregation was, and continues to be, predominantly comprised of Sephardic Jews. However, it has always welcomed Ashkenazic Jews into its fold. Until 1825, this was not merely a gesture but necessary - no other synagogue existed in New York prior to that year.

Much like the Jewish people who sought spiritual refuge in its arms, Congregation Shearith Israel was a wanderer. 8 West 70th Street is the congregation's fifth building, not including the rented locations that housed the congregation from its inception until 1730.

That first building sat on Mill Street as did the second synagogue, which was built in 1818. Both of these synagogues are commemorated by the two large mill stones, taken from this street, which stand outside the present synagogue. These first and second homes are further preserved in a small sanctuary within the present building; this sanctuary, referred to as the Little Synagogue, is situated in the heart of the congregation.

The Little Synagogue was constructed to capture the flavor of both Sephardic and Colonial architecture. Its very construction therefore reflects the unique heritage of this three hundred and fifty year old congregation. The synagogue is filled with artifacts from all of the previous buildings. The list includes fifteenth century brass candle-

sticks and two Torah scrolls which barely survived the Revolutionary War.

One might think that this sanctuary's sole purpose is its beautiful form of preservation. However it is also a fully functional sanctuary and a well-used part of the building. It is most often used for wedding ceremonies and baby namings. Beyond these times of joy, the Little Synagogue is the personal sanctuary to any who feel a desire to pray. It also houses the women's Tefillah group and women's Megillah readings on Purim.

Just as the building has been influential in the history of Manhattan, so have the synagogue's congregants. Throughout the past few centuries, the congregants of Shearith Israel have been bastions of American and New York society. They have fought in various battles on and off American soil. They have founded and supported various institutions in New York, including Mt. Sinai Hospital. Shearith Israel Congregation is a founding member of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Shearith Israel Congregation remains and it continues to offer a home of prayer to any who wish for one.

Shearith Israel Congregation pre-dates all other synagogues on this continent and only one remains the proud beacon, flashing the message that a New World can be a home for an Ancient People.

How to Decorate Your Dorm Room: A Guide to Single Dorm Living

By Devorah Heching

As you open the door to what will be your new home/box for the next nine months of your life, you might think the first step is to unpack your suitcases.

You are wrong.

No matter what the layout of the room, the first step when decorating a dorm room is always to rearrange the furniture. The bed, desk and drawers, while they seem innocuously placed, are in fact positioned to take up as much of your two-by-two "home" as possible. Unless you have a penchant for spending most of your down time asleep, the furniture must be moved. While the decision in regard to the placement of the furniture appears to be a personal one, there are some basics that apply across the board.

Firstly, the bed should be located underneath the window. This is done to ward off boredom on the nights that you cannot fall asleep and have used up your cell phone minutes for the month. Instead of logging on to the Internet for the tenth time that day, use this time to make friends with your "window neighbor." A window neighbor is the person who lives in the high-rise directly across the street and who seems to spend excessive amounts of time gazing out their window into yours. Don't worry: they are just trying to be friendly.

Next, the chest of drawers is generally placed perpendicular to the foot of the bed, thus cutting off access to the bottom drawer. While at first you might panic at the perceived drawer shortage, you will soon learn that the bottom drawer is just not used. An enormous amount of clothing can be crushed into the top three

drawers, and the surplus can be placed in the big pile of clothes in the laundry room. Do not overlook the storage potential on the top of the chest of drawers. There clothing can be piled up endlessly, that is, until it encounters the ceiling.

The desk, acting as the room's nerve center, will be given the place of honor. It is on the desk that you will find your computer, stereo, lamp, food supplies, and phone. In case of emergency (e.g. finals week) always take shelter at the desk. The desk serves another purpose - as the dorm room's formal reception area. If you do hazard to unlock your door and a visitor gains entry, they can be seated and entertained at the desk. If, on the other hand, you have commandeered your desk chair for use as a laundry basket - make sure to keep your door locked.

After rearranging your furniture and unpacking your clothes, the next step is décor. It is at this time that you allow your personality free range in the decision making process. Students often use décor to declare their allegiance to a particular country (Israel), or a really attractive person. If you decide to choose a theme that is a little less mainstream (close-ups of leftover cafeteria food) please remember to lock your door- nobody wants to see that.

If you find that even after all the renovations you are still feeling a little claustrophobic in your dorm room, do not panic, simply head to your mirror and stand in front of it. At specific angles the room will appear double its usual size. Remain in that position until you can no longer hear the wild palpitations of your heart.

Silverscreen Review: Uptown Girls

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

Let's examine the superficial reasons. It takes place in Manhattan. It's about two girls coming to grips with their lives and neuroses. There's no gratuitous violence or sex. And it's about growing up which, let's face it, is what college is about.

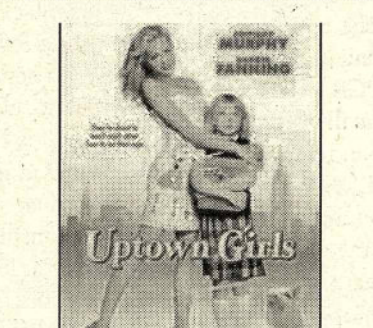
The movie opens on Molly Gunn, an orphan from the age of eight whose rock-star father has left her a sizable chunk of cash. Brittany Murphy plays Molly and captures each scene with her every childlike move. She flits through the movie with the perfect poise of a child, frozen in the body of a woman, never offered the opportunity to grow up. However, this is not a movie about the joys of having fun and feeding the pure child spirit within. When the trustee of Molly's money disappears, she is forced to get a job and learn about responsibility. But don't for a second think that this movie is another moralistic tale.

In walks eight year old Dakota Fanning. Ms. Fanning could not quite steal the show from Ms. Murphy, who is the

actress to see here. However, Dakota Fanning does not fall at all behind step and complements Brittany Murphy beautifully. Both actors manage to perfectly show the angst and pent up despair that is mostly left unspoken throughout the film. Dakota Fanning plays the hygiene-obsessed child, Ray, who is placed under the destitute Molly's care. Like her nanny, Molly, Ray suffers from a tragically lonely childhood. Both her parents are alive but her father is in a coma and her mother, played by Heather Locklear, is a workaholic. Although her mother indulges her daughter's every material whim, she is not there to spend time with Ray.

They are an unlikely pair: a grown woman who never matured past eight and conceals her emotions behind frilly clothes and parties, and an eight year old who is going on forty and conceals her emotions behind dark sunglasses and Mozart.

This movie's plot could easily have made it a flop. Poor, little rich girl spends a lot of money just to find out that money doesn't buy happiness. But even with that against it, this movie still got to me. It cut through the



clichés as if they weren't there at all.

So, while it is true that these girls' lives were made easier by their uptown bank accounts, they successfully reaffirm the possibility of the poor little rich girl. The ending wasn't perfect but neither is life. Throughout this movie, amid laughter and tears, these two heroines find out that life is about those thoughts that can't be put explicitly on film (kudos to Murphy and Fanning for capturing the unsaid) and, yes, can't be bought. I'm just grateful that Molly and Ray took me along with them on their journey. But for the child in you, it is a lot of fun. And for the adult in you, it uncages emotions with its elegance and its old-fashioned air. Why should you see this movie? Because it is classic and refreshing. Because the melody, quite simply, works.

Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple

Fathers and Children: Loss and Remembrance, September 11
New York Historical Society from June 13 through September 28
2 West 77th St.
hours: Tuesday - Sunday 10-6
admission for students: \$5
website: www.nyhistory.org

Vietnam: Journeys of Body, Mind and Spirit
American Museum of Natural History
from March 15 through January 4
Central Park West and 79th St.
hours: Daily 10 - 5:45
website: www.amnh.org

From Picasso to Pollack: Classics of Modern Art
Guggenheim Museum from July 4 through September 28
1071 Fifth Ave.
hours: Saturday - Wednesday 10-5:45, Friday 10-8
admission for students: \$10
website: www.guggenheim.org

A Town Called Kishineff: The Pogrom of 1903
Center for Jewish History through September 28
15 West 16th St.
hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 - 4:30
website: www.cjh.org

Central Park: A Sesquicentennial Celebration
The Metropolitan Museum of Art through September 28
1000 Fifth Ave.
hours: Sunday 9:30 - 5:30, Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 - 5:30, Friday - Saturday 9:30-9
admission for students: \$7
website: www.metmuseum.org

Central Park in Blue
Museum of the City of New York from May 9 through September 28
1220 Fifth Ave.
hours: Sunday 12-5, Wednesday - Saturday 10-5
admission for students: \$4
website: www.mcnyc.org

Arts & CULTURE

Restaurant Review: Talia's Steakhouse

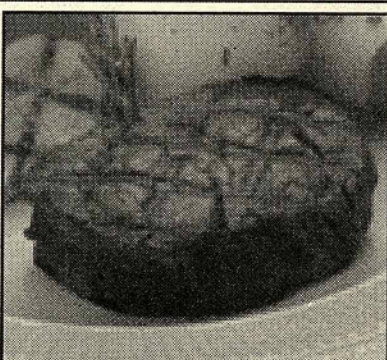
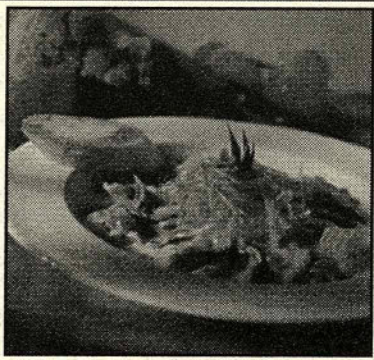
By Shoshana Jacobov

Joining the array of upper-scale Upper West SidShabbat at Sterne eateries is a charming fine-dining establishment. Located between 92nd and 93rd street, Talia's Steakhouse is nestled amongst the hustle and bustle of Amsterdam Avenue and is the perfect answer to the sophisticated diner with a big check-book and a bigger appetite.

Upon entering the restaurant sits a full mahogany bar, which lines the walls around the entrance. The bar seats about 10 people comfortably and provides patrons with a location to relax and enjoy a cocktail or blush wine while waiting for their tables. When weather permits, the steakhouse's outer wall can be opened, providing diners with a refreshing breeze.

The walls adjacent of the restaurant are composed of hazelnut brick and others were made up of fall oranges, browns and deep reds. Taken together, the walls are reminiscent of an inviting fireplace and the yellow fixtures lining the walls along with the low-hanging dimmed lights only served to reinforce that impression. The mood would have been entirely romantic, if it hadn't been somewhat jarred by the animated conversation coming from each table and the periodical honking of cars from across the sidewalk.

A jovial maitre-de escorts the establishment's patrons to their seats where bread and a margarine spread are rushed to the table. Forget the steak; you might very well be coming in



Talia's Steak House provides sumptuous gourmet food.

pursuit of their Thai Beef Salad. I've never been a real fan of beef/salad combinations but this dish is exceptional. The cubed beef has been slowly seasoned to perfection and offers a remarkably succulent effect, while the mixed greens salad in a mild balsamic vinaigrette dressing is topped with sweet thinly grilled layers of Holland peppers. The combination is euphoric.

Unfortunately, the Mushroom Ragout on Grilled Focaccia Bread turned out to be mildly disappointing. Other possible appetizers included various vegetable salads, sweet breads and a few fish dishes.

The waitresses describe the restaurant's strawberry daiquiri as one of the best mixed drinks in the city. To my delight, she was right on the money. This daiquiri was the best I have ever tasted. Strawberry iced drinks are often too sweet to enjoy with food, but this 'fruit treat in a wine glass' was the perfect balance of strawberry and rum. They also had a diverse selection of bottled wines.

Naturally, no trip to a steakhouse would be complete without a hardy cut of steak. It was juicy, but, in my opinion, lacked the necessary seasoning that makes a good piece of meat a great one. But it did come with these thin and crisp salty french fries that I could not stop eating (absolutely no ketchup needed). It also came with a side green

salad dressed with balsamic vinaigrette. The menu also offered steak filet, lamb, and prime rib. For lovers of fish or fowl, Talia's offers two really interesting chicken entrees along with Salmon, Red Snapper and Dourade as potential fish mains.

After the appetizers and the entrée came the dessert menu and no meal would be complete without dessert. I thought nothing could rival Les Marias' delicious hot fudge and vanilla ice cream combination. After spotting a similar dessert on Talia's menu I decided to see how this variation of that beloved dessert measured up. A wide china plate arrived with a tall china cup and, in it, a thick brownie filled with melted chocolate topped with chocolate ice cream and whipped cream. On top of that, was sprinkled a few blackberries and strawberries. I've got two words for this dish...YUM MEE.

Talia's steakhouse has earned its reputation for excellent food during the two months since its opening and has already drawn crowds that book the house out almost every night of the week. The eclectic styles of dishes varying anywhere from Indian to Thai and Moroccan and the cozy atmosphere make this new hot spot the perfect place to spend a fall evening. Bon Appetite.

And P.S. - good luck finding parking.

150th Anniversary of Central Park Provides New Opportunities for Urban Dwellers

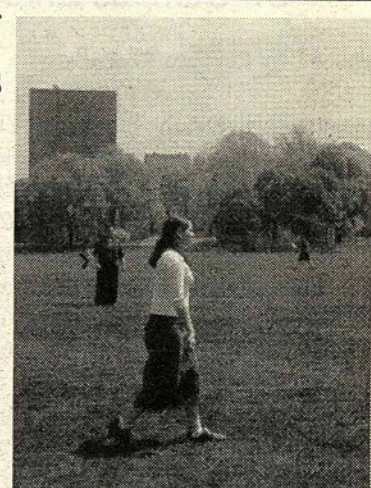
By Devorah Heching

Welcome to New York, the Big Apple, the city that never sleeps - sounds pretty exciting, right? Whoever made this statement was visiting the city during its endless winter season. Personally, I don't care if the city is awake when its 20 degrees outside and the subway is six long and icy blocks away from the dorm. The city can party all night - I'm not leaving the 90 degree furnace I call home.

Perhaps I am exaggerating; however it is necessary to point out the importance of exploring New York while the vestiges of summer remain. One location, whose potential is often overlooked, is Central Park. While most people tend to view Central Park as a place to picnic or jog, in reality the Park has far more to offer. 2003 marks the 150th anniversary of Central Park and the warm breezy weather brought in by late August and September could not provide a better opportunity to revel in all this unique site has to offer.

For instance, The Charles A. Dana Discovery Center is offering classes on fishing with bamboo poles. Technically these classes are called 'catch and release fishing,' a synonym for throwing everything you catch back in the water. This may seem like a drawback to some but bringing your catch-of-the-day back to the dorm probably isn't the best idea. Save that act of desperation for the end of the year when your cafeteria card runs out.

After spending a day in the sun you can sit back and enjoy some serious down time at the Central Park Film Festival. Every night at eight, from September 3rd through 7th, Central Park is teaming up with the American



Yeshiva students enjoy Central Park.

Museum of the Moving Image and featuring a free movie relevant to the significance of Central Park. Free movie does not connote a never-ending film that showcases, say, 'The Friendly Animals of Central Park - Parts I, II & III'. The Park will showcase popular favorites like The Producers, Hair and even Ghostbusters.

And even if you don't take advantage of the 150th anniversary specials, oldies at the Park can certainly be characterized as goodies. One oft-neglected activity is the row boating offered at Loeb Boathouse on Central Park's 22-acre lake. Rowboat rentals cost \$10.00 for the first hour and \$2.50 for each additional 15 minutes. There are up to five people allowed per boat and no reservations are necessary.

To make the experience even more exhilarating, gather a group and stage boat races - or otherwise known as the game whereby your paddles splash a girl wearing a white shirt. Be forewarned that your arms will be useless for the three following weeks; note-taking during class will be out of the question.

The above activities are a drop in the bucket when compared to the plethora of activities being offered this summer. You don't have much time to take advantage of the warm weather so on your marks, get ready, get set and go.

sex life thereby presumably proving Firestone's thesis that Malkah of Belz was a mystical archetype for the notion of joining the sacred and the mundane or physical and spiritual. The deficiency is not that Firestone makes up stories, but rather that she does not delve into the heroine's lives in any meaningful sense. For example, How does she conclude that because Malka and her husband had a happy marriage that they maintained specific sexual practices?

Rather than come away with an appreciation for the unique gifts these women's lives contributed to Judaism, the reader is perplexed by Firestone's conclusions. Despite its shortcomings, The Receiving is an important contribution, not only to feminist writings on Judaism, but

also to the overall study of Jewish history. However, a better researched book could have produced greater depth. 280 pp.



The Receiving: Reclaiming Jewish Women's Wisdom
Tirtzah Firestone
Harper San Francisco 2003
\$24.95

Pieces of this article first appeared in Jewish Book World.

Book Worm: The Receiving



By Shayndi Raice

In her latest book, *The Receiving*, Rabbi Tirtzah Firestone explores mystical Jewish values by using notable women from Jewish history as examples of a laudable mystical way of life. Firestone recounts the stories of seven women, mostly popularly unknown figures, such as Hannah Rachel of Ludomir, Beruriah, Leah Shar'abi and Francesca Sarah. Firestone maintains a strong conviction that Rabbinical Judaism, held firmly in male hands throughout history, has caused the loss of

feminine wisdom. It is this wisdom that Firestone attempts to reclaim. Furthermore, Firestone believes that the mystical tradition known as Kabbalah, translated as "receiving" in English, allows for a uniquely feminine view of God, particularly the notion of the Shechinah, the feminine aspect of the divine.

While Firestone's goal is highly commendable, there is a baffling lack of proof for her thesis. Readers with knowledge of these seven women will ask, why didn't she include the other various sources regarding these women that could have furthered her point? For example, it is perplexing that in her study of Beruriah, the Talmudic scholar and wife of the famous Rabbi Meir, Firestone excludes important Talmudic passages about Beruriah that could clarify her thesis. Firestone posits that the

mystical notion of yichud eluded Beruriah; however she fails to give solid sources for this assertion. One might conclude that the source does not exist.

In fact, in the case of Beruriah, there are significant Talmudic sources that could prove Firestone's point. Yet Firestone doesn't plum the depths of the women's lives with credible evidence or any documented historical sources.

Those readers unfamiliar with these seven women will be left wondering how Firestone reached her conclusion? Another example of Firestone's jumping to conclusions is in her study of Malkah of Belz and her husband the Belzer Rebbe. Extrapolating from stories regarding their happy marriage, she assumes certain things about their sexual patterns; primarily that they had a highly fulfilling

Israel Enrollment Skyrockets

On Campus Enrollment Suffers Drastically

By Rebecca Rosenberg

This year, the number of YU students enrolled in the S. Daniel Abraham Joint Israel Program is larger than it has ever been at 675 students compared to last year's 487. The program allows students to study at roughly 35 affiliated institutions and receive up to 36 YU credits. In the midst of increased violence and volatility in Israel, many faculty members and students wonder why the numbers have risen so high now.

"There is a real sense that this is the year to go to Israel and there is a commitment and dedication," said the Director of Enrollment Management, Dr. John Fisher. "Why it happened this year and not last year I have no idea," he added.

In 2001, the Joint Israel Program had 580 participants, the largest number it had up to that point. However, last year the number fell to 552 students. Many students believe that the previous year's decline is related to that year's heightened violence.

"I went to Israel in 2000 and only stayed for a semester," said SCW junior Sarah Richstone. "I thought about going back in 2002, but the situation was too crazy and dangerous and many of my friends who wanted to go didn't because of it."

To address the difficult circumstances present in Israel in the last three years, YU has worked with its office in Jerusalem to take precautionary measures. The official name of the office is the YU Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute, which has a staff of approximately four people who work with students, parents, and the affiliated schools.

The Jerusalem office has worked with the affiliated schools to set up a consistent curfew policy for students and effective ways to communicate with students when they are off campus, explained Fisher. For instance, the Jerusalem office has worked with schools on how frequently students must check in if they are off campus to ensure their safety.

In addition, other efforts have been made to minimize the need for extensive off campus communication. "Over the last three years security has been a big topic," said Fisher. "As violence has increased schools have realized that it is important to have more activities throughout the day and week on campus so that students have less of a need to travel."

Ultimately, the goal of the Joint program is to make the situation as safe and productive as possible given the difficult circumstances, said Fisher.

However, he admits that no matter what is done, it will not change the reality that Israel is in a hostile war and many parents are reluctant to send their children. "Whatever we say it may increase levels of safety a bit but the situation is what it is and parents are concerned," said Fisher.

He noticed that often parents are far more concerned than their sons or daughters who he says are usually eager to participate. According to TAC President Lisa Grundman, having an office that parents can contact in Jerusalem offers them some comfort. "It is good to know that while we were in Israel we were part of YU because if our parents had any concerns while we were there they were able to contact the [Jerusalem] office," said Grundman, who spent time on the Joint Israel Program herself.

Overall, the faculty is pleased about the growing participation in the program and believes that it reflects positively on YU. "I think that it's wonderful that the number of students studying in Israel is increasing and it is an indication of the support the students feel towards Israel," said Dean Karen Bacon.

Agreeing with the faculty, many students believe that the Joint Israel Program's augmenting enrollment is an indication of positive forces at work in YU. "It's nice to go to a university that accommodates students who want to spend a year abroad which is why YU is such a special place," said Grundman.

SCW Faces Difficulties in Filling Position of Shabbat Rabbi

By Observer Staff

SCW has hired RIETS student Rafi Eis (YC 03) to fill one of two positions of Shabbat Rabbi and is still scrambling to fill the second position. Many students feel that the absence of a second rabbi to oversee Shabbat programs twice a month would greatly change the face of Shabbat life on campus.

One role of the rabbi is to oversee the YC students who create the *minyan* on Shabbat. Without a rabbi or host family on campus, SCW would be unable to accommodate a *minyan*, thus eliminating the option of services on school premises.

There are those who feel that the lack of a *minyan* diminishes the Shabbat atmosphere. "It doesn't feel like Shabbos without a spiritual presence on campus," said SCW junior Sarah Richstone. "If there is no *minyan*, I'll probably choose to go elsewhere."

However, other students prefer to attend services at nearby synagogues such as Congregation Aderet El rather than remain on campus. "When I do stay in for Shabbos I enjoy going to Aderet El and being part of the community and whether there is a *minyan* on campus doesn't matter to me," said SCW senior Michelle Amini.

A committee has formed to establish alternate plans for students if there is no rabbi on campus. Braun, the Shabbat Enhancement Committee, the deans, and Rabbi Shloush of Congregation Aderet El have decided that as long as the congregation is notified in advance, Aderet El is pleased to have Stern students attend services.

In the event that a rabbi is not found, the administration is

confident that the Shabbat atmosphere will not lose its vibrancy. "If someone isn't found, the administrators in the Office of Student Affairs are creative problem solvers and we'll find a solution that will be in the best interest of the Shabbat community," Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun asserted.

The absence of a second rabbi has not dampened eagerness for the Eis's arrival. "We're

ward to developing personal relationships," he said. "And I'm not there to be a chaperone."

Yeshiva looks for a variety of qualities when interviewing potential rabbis. "We're looking for someone who has excellent rapport with people, has experience with communal work, is excited about the potential the job has to offer," Braun noted. "He has to be comfortable in Torah learning because he gives



More students will attend Shabbat services at nearby Congregation Aderet El if a second rabbi is not found

delighted to have hired Rafi Eis," said Braun. "Being the Shabbat rabbi on campus is an exciting, dynamic opportunity for a person starting in the rabbinic field because it gives them a chance to learn a whole array of skills that will be helpful to them."

Eis and his wife are also enthusiastic about their new role in the YU community. Eis is twenty-three and is studying in REITS' Smicha program. His wife, Atara, graduated SCW last May and will study in the Talmud program at SCW this semester. They feel that they will be successful in interacting with students because they are so close to their age group and wave length. "I'm looking for-

shiurs on a weekly basis," said Braun.

Finding a rabbi has been a challenge since SCW staff does not often interact with rabbinical students at RIETS or other theological institutions. "It can be difficult to fill positions because we don't have contacts at the Beit Medrash," said Braun. "But we look forward to annual assistance from REITS and communal services offices as we look for rabbis."

Administrators remain hopeful that they will find a second rabbi soon and are currently conducting interviews.

Anne Scheiber Scholarships Finally Awarded

By Shifra Landowne

After much delay, the Anne Scheiber Scholarship and Loan Fund, established before Anne Scheiber's death in 1995, has finally become available to Yeshiva University women attending both SCW and Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM).

The scholarship was held up by numerous legal problems raised by the late Scheiber's family which were finally settled a year ago. According to John Fisher, Director of Enrollment Management, the award money became available in June 2002. The process of selecting the recipients only begins in January or February, causing last year's committee a late start. "This is the first year that the awards are available for the academic cycle," said Fischer. "And we are making full use."

The funds have matured from \$22 million to \$36 million. Fisher estimates roughly \$2 million dollars will be awarded each year. "The fund is primarily for financially and academically deserving women studying at Stern College and Albert Einstein College of Medicine," according to the Yeshiva Public Relations department. Scholarships were awarded to women who "have indicated their desire to assist in the development of humanity, and to alleviate pain and suffering."

According to Fisher, the selection of most scholarship recipients is handled by the Distinguished Scholar committee, headed by Professor Joanne Jacobson. The Schreiber scholarship is unique in that parts of it will also be decided in conjunction with the administration of the AECOM.

Loans and scholarship

awards will be reviewed annually. Recipients may receive renewed scholarships until graduation, if eligibility criteria continue to be met. An SCW who receives an Anne Scheiber award while an undergraduate and is subsequently enrolled in the Albert Einstein College of Medicine may renew her Schreiber award each year until she graduates from medical school, as long as she meets eligibility requirements."

Considerations for scholarships, aside from financial need, include high school average and SAT scores. According to the committee, they will also be considering "commitment to YU's philosophy of Torah U'Madda, leadership potential, initiative, or creative excellence through extracurricular activities and community involvement."



Anne Schreiber, above, left millions of dollars for SCW students to pursue careers in medicine.