



# OBSERVER

## Search for New CFO Narrowed to Five

### Socol's Future at Yeshiva Still Unclear

By Rachel Horn

Yeshiva has entered the final stages of securing a new Chief Financial Officer to fill the vacancy left after President Richard Joel reassigned long-time Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol. The recently commenced search has

produced five strong candidates, and Joel hopes to fill the position by January 1, according to Director of Public Relations Peter L. Ferrara.

The search had been narrowed down to three candidates just two weeks ago, but two new promising candidates have emerged subsequent to that time, according to SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "The candidates are [Yeshiva] outsiders with university experience," said Bacon.

While the search for a Socol replacement has progressed with encouraging deliberate efficiency, the fate of the outgoing Socol remains unclear. The creation of a new position of CFO, without an accompanying decision to eliminate the post of Vice President for Business Affairs, has fueled much speculation about the complete departure of the unpopular administrator. Yeshiva's Public Relations Department refused to clarify the role that Socol will play, if

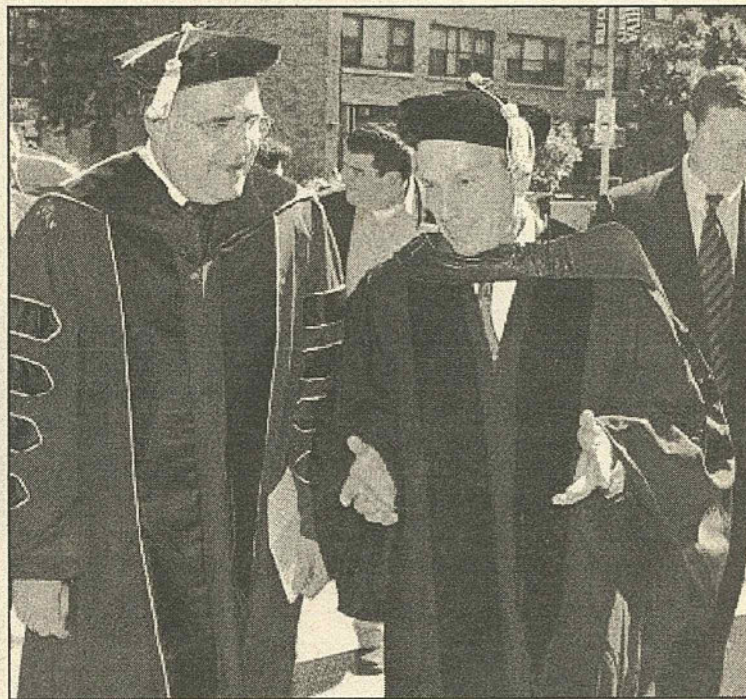
any, following the hiring of the new CFO.

What is clear is that the new CFO will join Morton Lowengrub and Hillel Davis as the third member of a triumvirate that seems set to dictate policy under the Joel administration. "There are three operating vice presidents," said Yeshiva Vice President for Academic Affairs Morton Lowengrub. "The CFO, vice president for academic affairs and vice president for university life." Statements like that of Lowengrub have led many to claim confirmation of prevalent suspicions that Socol's reassignment to a new position in actuality indicates the termination of his autocratic grip on the university.

Nonetheless, Yeshiva's sheer refusal to publicly acknowledge the severance of a Yeshiva-Socol relationship has left a cloud of confusion over Socol's future ties to the univer

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## Richard M. Joel Investited as President of Yeshiva University



President Richard M. Joel chats with Mayor Michael Bloomberg before the ceremony.

By Shayndi Raice

Richard M. Joel was invested as Yeshiva's fourth president on Sunday September 22, 2003.

After much anticipation, Joel laid out for the first time his vision for Yeshiva's future in the Lamport auditorium on the Wilf campus.

Along with the mayor of New York City, Michael R. Bloomberg, and Israel's ambassador to the United States, Daniel Ayalon, 31 university presidents and delegates attended the momentous event.

The former president of Yeshiva, Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, now the chancellor and rosh hayeshiva of RIETS, also spoke, recalling his own investiture ceremony 33 years ago.

When Lamm was appointed as the third president of Yeshiva in 1976, it was after the death of former president Belkin, as was Belkin's investiture sans his predecessor, the

first president of Yeshiva, Dr. Rabbi Bernard Revel. "I have the rare privilege to pass on the torch, with great respect and great affection, to Richard Joel," said Lamm. "You were meant to devote all your many talents to the sublime leadership of YU." Lamm further encouraged Joel to "lead us fearlessly and courageously."

However, it was Joel's address that garnered the most enthusiastic response. He walked to the podium accompanied by whistles, cheers and applause from the audience, most noticeably the student body, the majority situated in the balcony of the auditorium.

After thanking his predecessor, Joel described his vision for Yeshiva's future. "We all know the significant accomplishments of Yeshiva," said Joel. "We also know that Yeshiva University is a wonderful work in process. No longer threatened with fiscal fragility, we can dream future dreams."

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## Single Elevator in 215 Lexington Building Causes Traffic Jams

By Arie Staller

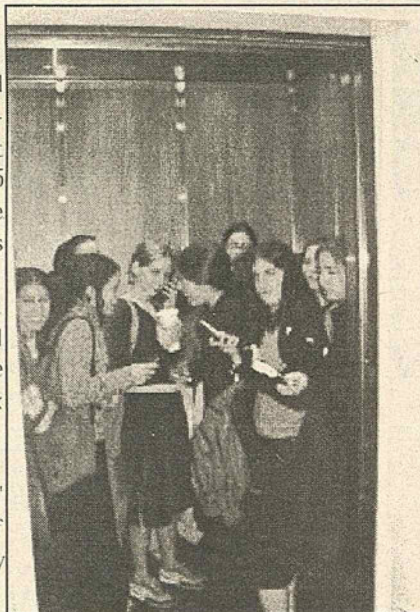
Students, faculty and even deans have become irritated with the traffic jam that plagues the floors of the 215 Lexington building. Only one elevator services the four floors where SCW holds classes.

The troubles began last spring when the Barnes and Noble bookstore moved to the 8th floor and the art annex opened simultaneously.

"Pandemonium broke loose," said Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Jeffrey Rosengarten.

In attempts to ameliorate the situation, it was decided that a staircase between the seventh and eighth floor would be opened and the bookstore would be moved.

After the initial weeks of school, Facilities Management authorized the opening of the Y staircase on the left side of the elevators between the seventh and eighth floor in efforts to ease the build-up.



Students cram only available elevator in 215 Lex

However, students are now demanding that the second and third floor staircases open as well.

"If they open the staircase all the way down to the second floor I'd never have to wait for the elevator and wouldn't be late," said SCW senior Sabrina Ferster, an art major whose class meets on the eighth floor.

According to Rosengarten, there are two impediments that stand in the way of opening the fire stairs.

Safety and security are different in 215 Lex than in the other school buildings, he explained.

Because the building is shared with non-Yeshiva tenants, there is concern that any passerby can enter the SCW building without proper Yeshiva identification via the staircase. "Anybody can come in," said Assistant Director of the Department of Security and Safety John Gorman. "That's the problem."

"We're very security conscious," noted SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "Facilities and security were worried."

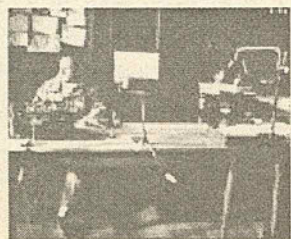
The other problem Facilities Management faced was with the fire plan. "Every high rise building has to comply with fire department regulations, including a detailed plan that has to be drawn up and

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## I N S I D E



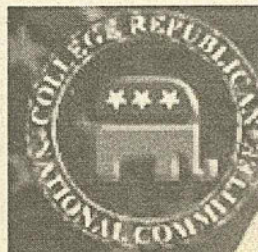
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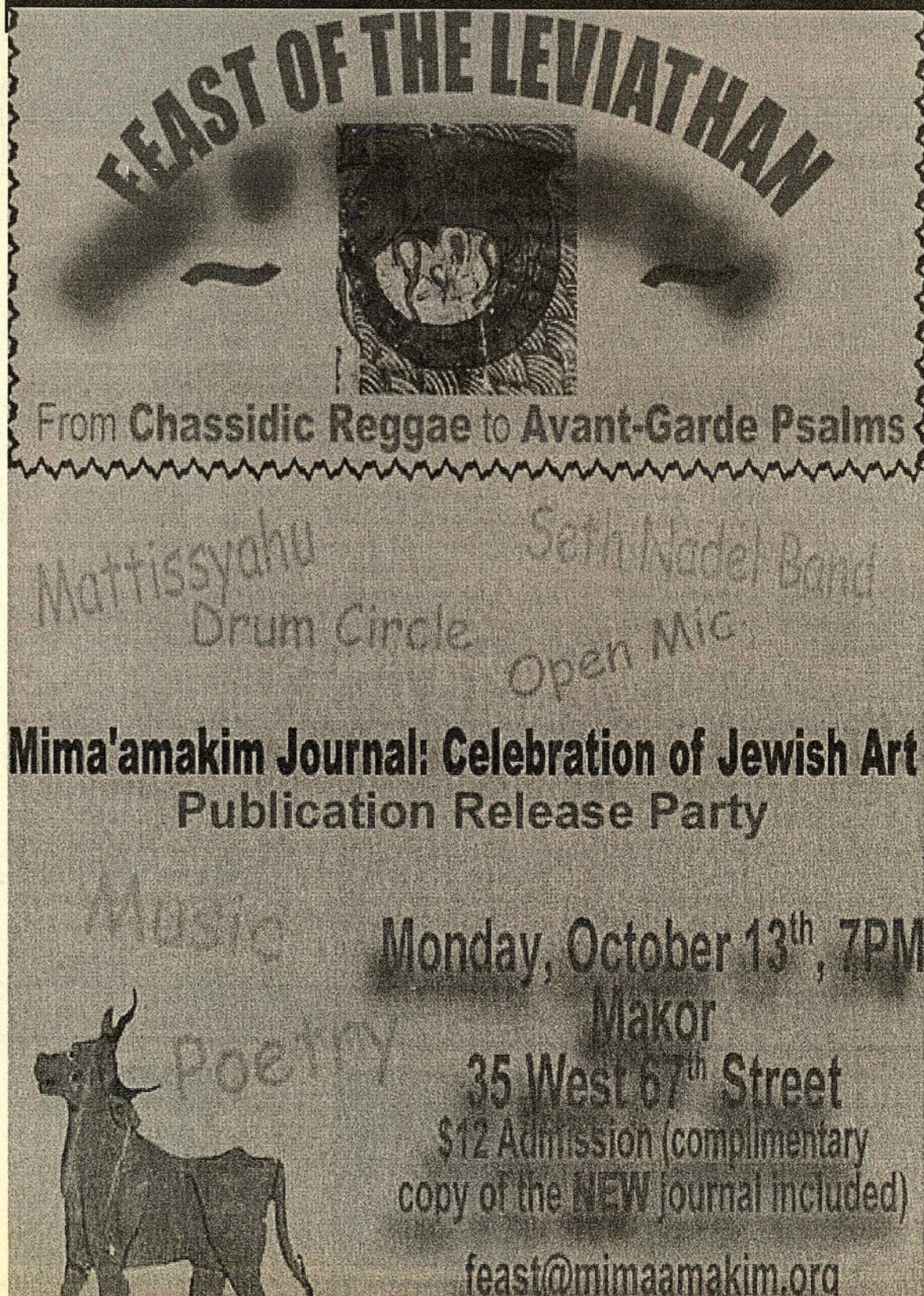
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# A Message from the Editors



## Shayndi Raice

ber of the government said "I can't explain it. I just don't feel comfortable on the Midtown campus."

Whether that feeling originates from fear or shyness of women or from pleas from certain Roshei Yeshiva to remain on the Wilf campus for Shabbat, is unclear. Regardless, student leaders have responsibilities to their constituency. Most important is their relationship with the incoming administration.

To be fair, the investiture Shabbaton was the Shabbat before *selihot*. Certain Roshei Yeshiva claimed they wanted their students on the Wilf campus as has been the custom in previous years.

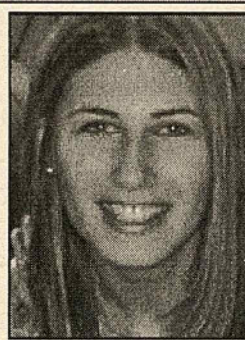
However, it still seems odd that in the 117 year history of this institution, the one Shabbat a president decides to journey to the Midtown campus, certain members of the Yeshiva community refuse to attend.

Politics on the Wilf campus are usually not of interest to this paper. However, when student leaders refuse to visit our campus, we must ask why? If student leaders decided against the visit to the Midtown campus because of more important responsibilities, by what criterion did they judge each event's importance?

The values held by various student leaders, ultimately a representation of the student body, highlights the deep polarization on our campus. Spending a Shabbat with women is deemed unacceptable despite the relative importance of the weekend's events. Diversity is good, but at what point do certain choices of leaders turn into political statements.

Joel has prepared himself for the battle ahead. He is aware of the grueling tasks that come with being the chief executive of a university. The Yeshiva executive's stances have severe implications for the future of modern Orthodoxy. These implications are what made the task of finding a president so difficult.

Joel has not shied away from his other challenges. One hopes he won't get scared of this one.



## Rachel Horn

in modern times, who dies by starvation and thirst, by water and fire, by strangulation and stoning?

But the same liturgy seemed to apply so relevantly to our own epoch this year. I thought of Israeli soldiers brought to despicable deaths through lynching and strangulation, of hundreds of people trapped in two infallible buildings raging with smoke and fire. The image of the Nava Applebaum, the young woman who died way before her time, on the night before her wedding, came to my mind when I read "Who before their time."

As these tragic and calamitous events slowly inched their way into our world, our lives have changed and adjusted.

Although we may not realize it, our lives have changed as a community of students as well. It is evident that these tribulations are foremost in our minds. SCW students organized *shmirra* at Ground Zero after September 11. Flyers for student-organized Israel events and Israel club initiatives flood the bulletin boards on campus. The trend has even been reflected in *The Observer*, which now boasts a complete Israel section. Our student body has spearheaded two missions to Israel since the Infitada began.

I point this out not only to illustrate the activism and opti-

mism of the Yeshiva student body, which has taken distress and used it for *tikun olam*, improving the world, but to underscore the existence and significance of a community of Yeshiva students.

Albeit easier to identify personal growth and change, or even to track the development of a geographical Jewish community, students at SCW and Yeshiva must realize the strength we hold as a community. I believe that the power our student body possesses, as young, vibrant, committed and educated Jews, has the ability to be stronger than any adversarial community across the globe.

Our unwillingness to see our capable community for what it is only impedes our potential to disseminate the values in which we believe so fiercely to the world. When we stratify ourselves into camps, whether they are ideological, social or intellectual, we also fragmentize the capability of our student body.

On a smaller scale, the students at SCW must stop perceiving our college as simply a place where they take classes and fulfill their requirements for graduation. The women around you will be the ones who will make a difference in our communities now and in the future.

As we continue through the New Year season and the year following, we must reaffirm our commitment to fortify our Yeshiva community, which will further the greater spheres of community in turn.

Richard Joel's inaugural speech had all the brilliance and emotion to move even the most jaded members of Yeshiva's community. While some people were quick to avoid jumping to conclusions regarding Joel's future as president of Yeshiva, most admitted that his efforts thus far have been surprising. Basically, things are changing a lot faster than we thought.

Besides Yeshiva's new emblem and the obliteration of ymail, Joel has made some breakthrough decisions. Some of these breakthroughs have been eagerly anticipated for some 30 years. From various plans for new construction, to the change in position of Yeshiva's vice president for business affairs, Joel has proved that he is not only a man of eloquence, but also action.

The palpable excitement over Yeshiva's future is due in large part to Joel's ability to articulate his visions while at the same time, back his dreams with action. For example, his inaugural speech hit all the major points where Yeshiva needs to change. All, except one.

Among all his talk of outreach to the community, pledging to scream Yeshiva's name far and wide among universities the world over, Joel never spoke about bridging some of the deep gaps among our own community.

His appointment was a prime example of the warring values among the Yeshiva constituency. While some applauded the decision to bring a proven leader to the post of president, others chose to pray for Yeshiva's future.

Joel has already been confronted with the polarization of Yeshiva by both students and faculty. While he seems to have great courage in tackling tough issues, he has so far ignored this challenge. Members of YC student leadership were absent from Joel's investiture Shabbaton on the Midtown campus. When asked, one mem-

Comments? Questions?  
Email The Observer  
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**The Observer  
would like to  
wish a  
Shana Tova  
to the entire  
Yeshiva  
community.**

# EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

## Letters to the Editors

### The Customer's Always Right

With yet another hike in tuition and a new president that speaks of *kavod habriot*, it is rather surprising that so many bumps and hassles have greeted SCW students back to campus this semester.

Granted, some glitches in a large institution are to be expected. For instance, although more than half of SCW's students were without Internet due to the Welchia worm, MIS ameliorated the situation by offering both information sessions and software to resolve the problem.

However, the most irksome of these annoyances indicate the strong presence of red tape, bureaucracy and inflexibility that have unfortunately become known as hallmarks of everyday procedure at Yeshiva

One elevator for an entire campus is unacceptable. Aside for being a tremendous inconvenience, the current situation presents a serious fire hazard. Much of the building is leased out, leaving students unfamiliar with the layout of the staircases and the location of other serviceable elevators.

If the Department of Security is so concerned over strangers entering SCW premises by way of the staircases, security staff should guard the stairwells, just as they watch all other necessary locations on campus.

The construction planned for the expanded lobby of 215 Lexington which was supposed to be complete when school commenced, has not only been delayed by over a month, but students requests for a lounge has been denied in favor of creating a space for lectures and faculty meetings.

Change takes time and patience is a virtue - but in moderation.

### Teacher Knows Best?

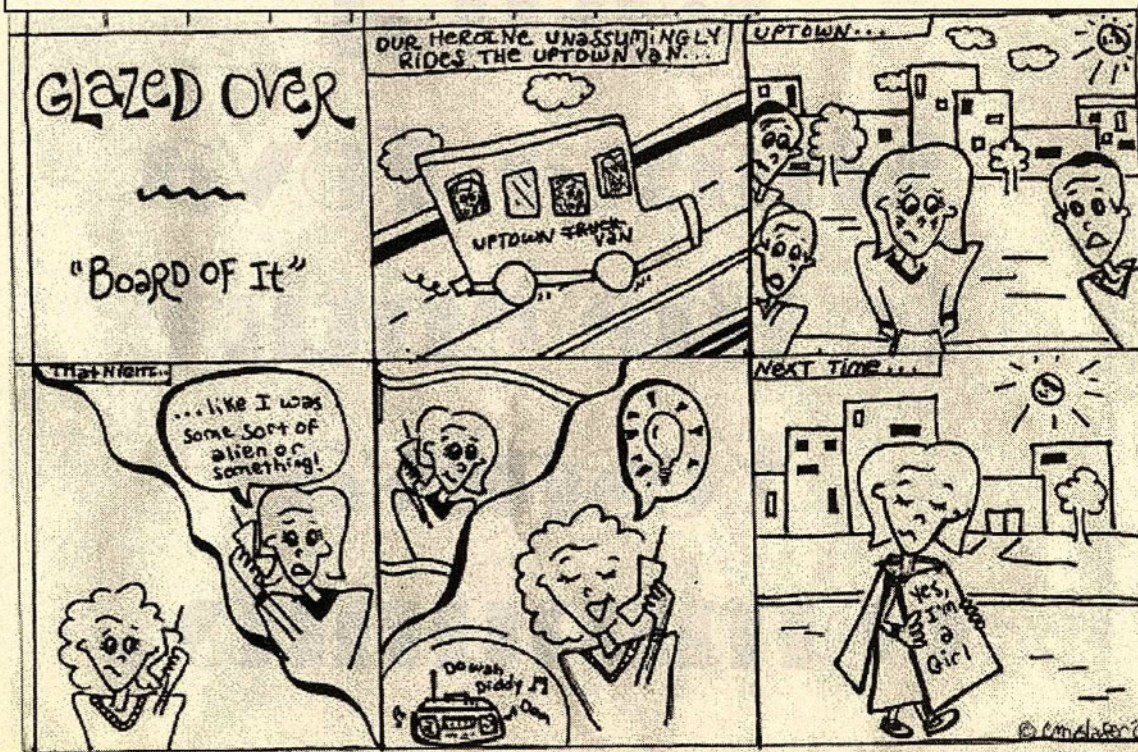
SCW faculty enjoys almost exclusive discretion over policy within their own classes. While this method grants professors academic freedom and the ability to orchestrate classes as they see fit, inconsistencies invariably abound concerning grading and requirements when comparing the policies of each class. Professors have the ability alter students' grades through the institution of their own severe absent and tardiness penalties.

Additionally, the norm for each class is based solely on the particular instructor's opinion. For example, if a professor deems a student's wedding or sickness as a reason to exempt a student from a test, other students are put at a disadvantage. The playing field is not equal.

Furthermore, the administration has left little option for students who find their professor's policies unreasonable. Aside for dropping the course, a student's only course of action can be to broach their concerns to the professor.

Understandably, the Academic Standards Committee tries not to intervene on policies enacted by professors in an attempt to safeguard the academic freedom bestowed upon faculty by the administration. However, the committee should consider instituting general guidelines to ensure some semblance of unity. Giving teachers free-ranging autonomy is unquestionably dangerous.

### ARTITORTIAL BY CHAYA GLAZER



### Not a Fitting Memorial

To the Editors:

As a new student at Stern College, I eagerly picked up copies of the latest editions of both *The Observer* and *The Commentator*. I read through both and something struck me as strange. *The Commentator* had an entire article, written by managing editor Alan Goldsmith, dedicated to Ruthie Ephron a"h, describing who she was and allowing the Yeshiva community to have a glimpse at the sweet, kind, brilliant young woman whose life was taken away so quickly and so tragically. The article could not describe the feelings of those who knew her during the time immediately after her accident. All I can remember is how I felt when I asked what hospital she was in and the response from my friend was, "They are only allowing family to be with her now." But at least *The Commentator* put in some effort. Shockingly, *The Observer* barely made mention of the event. I was incredibly disappointed when I found the only reference to this tragedy was a small box announcing her passing. How sad that the College that Ruthie called home could not spare three short columns to honor her in her death.

Sarah Nelkin SCW '06

### Won't You Stay With Us for Shabbos

To the Editors:

First let me introduce myself. My name is Wayne Feder. If you have been in town for Shabbos, then you know who I am. I make the announcements at Adereth El--I am both the *Gabbai* and currently a Board Member as well.

I have to tell you I was QUITE shocked, when I read your article, specifically the Quote "and Rabbi Shloush of Congregation Aderet El has decided that as long as the congregation is notified in advance, Aderet El is pleased to have Stern students attend services." That quote is out of context and very misleading. Rabbi Shloush made a VERY formal presentation to the entire administration and student leaders regarding making our relationship more formal with Stern.

The fact of the matter is the women of Stern love our shul and love davening there. I

would easily say that the overwhelming majority share the feelings of Ms. Amini (quoted in your article.) It seems that certain administrators as well as some student leaders see it differently. Why should Stern need to hire a Rabbi and to run a joke of a *minyan* in Koch Auditorium. Blame your student leaders and representatives, as well as some administrators for not representing their constituency properly.

The women of Stern College have been and ALWAYS will be welcomed with open arms to Adereth El, without any advanced notice. What Rabbi Shloush requested of Mrs. Braun was that he would be informed when a large group was due to stay in for Shabbos, so that we could coordinate accordingly. For example, ordering enough food for the *Kiddush*, properly honoring with *kibbudim* any of the *Rabbanim* or VIP's that would be there for that given Shabbat, as well as incorporating the community into such an event, and vice versa, sharing our events with you.

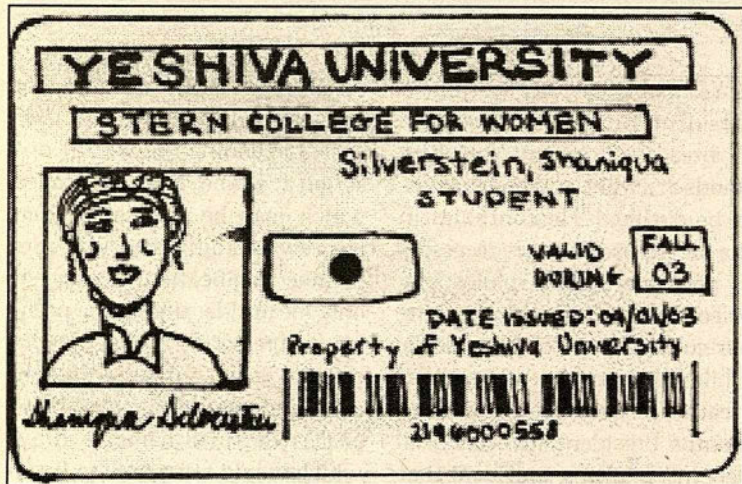
There are tremendous opportunities to do a lot of *kiruv* and *chesed* right down the block--in our shul and our community. This is something that should be promoted by your administrators and leaders and not something we should have to convince them of. You have the OLDEST living (till 120) *Musmach* of YU who is still practicing, Rabbi Kleinman. And you have one of the new dynamic Rabbis from YU, Rabbi Shloush. It is a historic, almost 150 year old Shul.

What is *Yiddishkeit* about?? It should be about being part of a *kehilla*.

Sincerely,  
Wayne Feder

### Corrections

In the Special Investiture Issue of *The Observer*, Richard Joel, A Biographical Glance, said Joel attended the Benjamin N. Cordozo School of Law. Joel attended NYU for Law school and was later the associate dean of students at Cordozo.



## Show I.D. and Identify Decency

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

Wandering through the many buildings which make up the Midtown campus, a familiar image is found. Burns Security guards stand by every entranceway and ask for students' identification. Fortunately, students often respond courteously and promptly. Unfortunately, some students respond rudely or not at all. It is important to stress that this comment is directed at a handful of students at SCW because it is important that the guilty parties recognize themselves here and do not think that they can hide behind the adage that "everyone does it."

Security guards have, on occasion, made mention of the rudeness that the students frequently exhibit. Why shouldn't they complain? Their job is strictly to protect the students of SCW and make their lives safer and more comfortable. Still, they are just as often the advocates that most students are extremely polite. It should not be such a victory for SCW students to be thought of as, for the most part, polite young ladies. SCW students should, without exception, be polite and respectful to all individuals. It should be an unquestionable reality that security guards are treated as they deserve.

Please remember that security guards may know an SCW student but she still must show her identification. Having a bad day is not an excuse; security guards can also have bad days but they are courteous and respectful to all who approach. This is college - the students who attend SCW are adults and should behave as such.

As human beings alone, all employees of SCW warrant acknowledgement and proper attention.

However, a special case must be made for the security guards because not enough students seem aware of their purpose. Security guards are not constantly asking for identification because it amuses them or because they have nothing else with which to occupy their time. Security guards, by asking for identification, are ensuring that SCW students are safe in their educational environment. In the heart of Manhattan, continuous safety is a precious commodity; the security guards provide it as best they can. By acting inappropriately, SCW students not only insult other human beings, but succeed in weakening a wall of safety that many individuals have worked hard to build.

Finally, SCW students must constantly recall who exactly they represent. An SCW student stands, not only for herself but, for women, this generation, and Torah. As Jewish women, SCW students should show respect and basic human decency to any and all individuals with whom they come in contact. It is ironic that this argument will, most likely, be the strongest. When one represents oneself, one feels a freedom to do wrong but, upon being reminded of one's greater global place, one will immediately rethink these actions. If all that compels an individual to be polite is the call to remember her status as a member of a time, gender and nation, then so be it.

Yet, it would be ever so much more a victory if an SCW student would be polite to a security guard because, upon the meeting of two people, two members of the same species, it is a tragic moment if the basic tenets of humanity are not present.

By Yael Reisman

Since beginning my college career at SCW just three years ago, I have been fortunate to experience what my doctor calls "low grade insomnia." This basically means that every few nights or so I am presented with the fabulous opportunity to fill the late night through early morning hours with as much TV as I possibly can. However, my TV here at SCW is sans cable (a serious Yeshiva facilities issue that I will be sure to address at a later point in time), and so, I am faced with quite the limited viewing menu.

After Conan is over, I am left with the following options: yet another sports recap, the still entertaining RONCO Showtime Rotisserie Oven infomercial, or one of the many reality dating shows. Blind Date. Eliminate. Change of Heart. The list goes on and on. As I flip through the channels, this is all I see. It's everywhere. If you've seen one of these shows, you have seen them all. These shows basically consist of men and women going out with other men and women, participating in a variety of silly and/or inappropriate date activities with the obvious camera crew in tow. It is a place where one can show the entire nation just how garish one will act to be on television and just how awkward a first date can be. The last time I checked first dates were unpleasant enough without the cameramen, let alone those silly little pop-up cartoons. But I digress.

These reality dating shows are just one example of the pop culture genre we have come to know as "Reality TV." However, after some careful examination I have come to the conclusion that the label "Reality TV" is truly a misnomer; one that severely limits the expansive effects it has on our culture.

It is a genre that reeks of total exhibitionism and in turn, voyeurism. Obviously, this trend can be seen dominating all of contemporary popular culture. From MTV's The Real World to CBS's Survivor, people are suffering through massive casting calls in the hope that they will be lucky enough to endure yet more embarrassment and awkwardness for months to come on national television.

What kind of person wants this, you ask? Just a few years ago I

would have answered that the person who craved to live their lives on TV for all the world to see is a sick person, albeit one sick person in a majority of relatively healthy minded people. These days however I would have to respond differently. The minority has become the majority. Our society has become one that is based on a foundation of serious exhibitionism. Everyone now wants to put their dysfunctional lives and idiosyncratic personalities on public display and they are using a variety of mediums to do so.

Take the blog, the latest thing to hit the internet since downloading music for the sole purpose of irritating Metallica's Lars Ulrich. A "blog" which is short for a web-log is essentially a website where someone posts their day's events for the entire virtual community to read. Blog posting, though, is not limited to simple schedules. To further exploit themselves, these blog users post their personal thoughts and feelings.

A friend of mine constantly posts his innermost fears, loves, and existential crises. One blog website, Livejournal.com, boasts that they have 1,334,946 current active members. This basically means that Livejournal.com has found close to one and a half million pathetic people who derive some sick joy from putting their most intimate details of their life on the Internet for public consumption. While the blog users are twisted and demented in their own special way, the people who love to read them are worse.

Just as Reality TV would not be the cesspool of entertainment it is today without its millions of inane viewers, blogging would not be all the rage without the readers who visit these websites obsessively. Small town Southern girls would not want to live with angry urban Black men in a gorgeous house for six months unless they knew that there was an audience watching them. The exhibitionist society we have created for ourselves cannot function without the critical voyeuristic aspect.

While there might not be too many Real World applicants gracing the halls of Stern College for Women, there are hundreds of voyeurs lurking, encouraging and fostering the exhibitionist society we have monstrously creat-

ed. For some reason, one which is unbeknownst to me, the Orthodox community, which includes the majority of SCW students, have fallen head over heels in love with Onlismchas.com. I would describe the purpose of this site, but I believe that would be waste of your time and mine. Unfortunately we all know it well. (Yes, even I have visited the site; obviously just for research purposes.) And I know we know it well because I cannot enter any of the various computer labs here on the Midtown Campus without seeing at least one student enthusiastically navigating the website, trying to get to as many *smachot* possible.

One would be incorrect in assuming that these Onlismchas patrons are only looking at *smachot* of close friends and loved ones. It seems that these people simply do not discriminate. They'll look at anyone from anywhere. My old roommate would sit for hours on end examining pages and pages of pictures of people she didn't know. Rachel from Teaneck? Sure. Zwika from Antwerp? Why the heck not? It is just this mentality which furthers the exhibitionist behavior we have come to accept as normalcy. It is not normal to be that interested in complete strangers' lives. Nor is it normal to want to be posted. Your nearest and dearest confidantes will be sure to know about your *simcha* when you tell them about it. What a novel concept.

And don't even bring up the argument that posting your most personal moments on the Internet informs old camp friends, former seminary (or in my case, yeshiva) roommates, and the like, for if they were that essential in celebrating the particular *simcha*, you would inform them yourself.

Onlismchas.com is also quite influential in preventing the coming *geulah*. Between comments such as "Oh God. How did she get engaged?" and "Eww. Is that even considered a dress?" the amount of *lashon hara* derived from Onlismchas.com is astronomical. I hope you all like *galut* because with the number of hits Onlismchas.com receives daily, we are going to be here for one heck of a long time.

## Reis-guy:

What's on Yael Reisman's mind?

## Not Your Simcha.com

# A Message from Your Presidents

Lisa Grundman, TAC President



the hard work and effort was well worth the time. It wasn't all the planning that made this such a great success but all of the people that were there that made the Shabbat so magnificent.

As I walked into the Cultural Center on 34th street, which is where the *minyanim* took place, a feeling of community and pride came over me. I was able to say to myself, THIS is what Yeshiva University means to me. This is what it is all about.

This past Shabbat we, Yeshiva undergraduates, joined together and reached our potential. We brought Shabbat on campus to a new level. We were just like other colleges on Shabbat yet we were the only ones on campus. It was just us, Jews, being Jewish, celebrating Shabbat.

There is an idea in Judaism of *"b'rov am hadrat melech"* - the more people you have fulfilling a *mitzvah* together, the nicer it is. This past Shabbat I think we were able to accomplish this ideal. We were no longer two separate campuses or colleges, but rather one university. Not only were we a university but we had our President, administrators and faculty with us to lead us to our next point.

I hope that the Inaugural Shabbaton was not only an inauguration for President Joel, but was the inauguration of a new level, one to create an even stronger feeling of community and pride for each one of us.

Like many of you, I was privileged to experience something very unique to the Yeshiva University campus. Although every Shabbat at Stern College is special, this past Shabbat definitely belongs in a category of its own. For months we had planned how the weekend would go. From logistics to programming to entertainment and even food, we had gone through the schedule from start to finish trying to address each and every detail that would arise.

Now that all the planning had been done, it was time for us to sit back and just see what would happen. The shabbaton had been announced, signs were plastered all over the walls of both undergraduate campuses. It was up to the students to sign up and participate in this momentous occasion. By the time Shabbat arrived we had an attendance of over 360 people spending Shabbat at the Midtown campus.

Now that the Inaugural Shabbaton is over and I look back on this past week and am able to say that I don't think I would have changed a thing. All



Anat Barber, SCWSC President

as Yeshiva University welcomed President Richard M. Joel into its breadth. President Joel now stands at a frontier which has yet to be outlined. He continues in the footsteps of his predecessors in perpetuating the philosophy of Torah U'madda and refreshing our commitment to these ideals, while recognizing the need for creation as well. In the few short months President Joel has been here in Yeshiva, it is evident that a change has overcome and will continue to ripple throughout the entire Yeshiva University community.

During a meeting with President Joel last week, and through many other conversations with him it has been made clear that Pres. Joel's vision for YU and specifically Stern college is one inundated with creative energy as well as focused on perpetuation of past endeavors.

Finally, as a people and as a world community we have endured a difficult year filled with much tragedy yet much hope. As we embark on the New Year let us remember that each constructive action we take in our own lives which seems only to affect our destinies has the potential for worldwide ramifi-

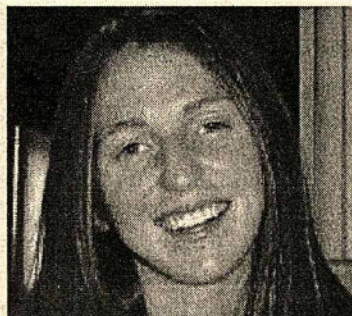
cations. We must as a student body commit ourselves to *"tikun olam"* (amending the world) one action at a time. The verb *litaken* which may be translated from Hebrew as "to fix" has a broader halakhic ramification. Fixing not only means identifying the problem and restoring an object to its original form but according to our understanding of *hilkhot Shabbat* a final hammer blow which would serve only to fix an object is considered a creative act. It is not merely a restorative action but rather a creative force. So too our actions which seemingly only affect our immediate surroundings in fact have global ramifications. Each simple process can 'recreate the world'.

Therefore may this year be one filled with blessing for the Jewish people and the world, endowed with a commitment to renewal and creation in a world where serenity will ensue. May our year be imbued with the spirit of our heritage and the vision of our future. Let us pray that this year heralds the coming of the redemption and the return of God's presence to the House of God and God's people to their land.

A time for new beginnings is upon us. As individuals we are renewing ourselves in anticipation of the New Year. Each of us refreshes our previous commitment and devotion and looks forward to enriching ourselves and our surroundings with new awareness and dedication. The timing of Rosh Hashana our sages have taught is also the time of the culmination of the creation of the world. This fact is an ever present reminder that any effort on our part to revamp our characteristics is not merely an amendment to our current selves but a creation of a new self as well. We must build upon a foundation we already have as we concurrently create new facets and depth to our understanding of ourselves and our relationships both with man and God.

As a community a new era ensued this past week as well

Rachel Moss, President SSSBSC



dents from both campuses (and get their free umbrella, of course) Each club was represented: Marketing, FMA, Accounting Society, Max Stern Investment and others. Students were also encouraged to participate in the Tutoring Program, to either be a tutor or receive tutoring in the different subjects. I am confident that students will take advantage of the clubs and be involved!

Also, there are various projects that we're trying to get off the ground: *The Syms Business Review*, a semester publication; the fashion show, which will take

place in the spring; and fund raising. We are in need of help so please feel from to get in touch with me if you're interested in getting involved!

Something to keep in mind- If you're a junior or a senior looking for an internship or even a job, you should be making an effort to get your resume in to OPCS. They are very helpful and are there for you. So it's to your benefit that you establish a relationship with your career advisor. Until next time, hope all your classes are going well! *Shana Tova!*

It's so nice to see the year starting off of the right foot! Last week, we hosted our welcome reception uptown. It had the largest attendance in 5 years with 250 people! Students were invited to Weisberg Commons for an opportunity to meet their professors in a formal setting and get to know fellow Syms stu-

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# On Campus

## Survivor Speaks to Students at 9/11 Memorial

By Rebecca Rosenberg

Cantor Fitzgerald Executive Ari Schonbrun, the keynote speaker at the September 11, 2003 commemoration ceremony at SCW, is looking toward the future. "It used to be that my job and money were the most important things to me," he recalled. "Now the two most important things in my life have become my family and my faith."

Over two hundred SCW and YC students and several faculty members attended the event at the Schottenstein Cultural Center.

Recounting his memories of the day, Schonbrun recalled his narrow escape from the flaming building and remembered the horrified faces of those around him. "The one common denominator for all the people in the street was an absolute look of disbelief," he said. "These things [World Trade Center Buildings] were massive, they were huge, and I couldn't fathom them collapsing."

According to SCW President Anat Barber, Schonbrun's speech contributed to the theme that student council had planned for the event. "I think that last year we were focusing on the magnitude of the attacks and people's suffering, while this year it's about survival and moving on," she

said.

Many students however, still felt that the most significant portion of the commemoration was recounting the tragedy that occurred. "I thought that the speaker was amazing," said SCW senior Aliza Blumenfeld. "I cried. I was sitting there while he was telling the story, and I was thinking about what I did that same day when I watched the buildings fall down." Several students and faculty were crying in the crowd; some sniffled during the program and some wept loudly at its conclusion.

SOY President Yakov Agatstein and SCW Vice President Diana Benmergui read *Tehillim* responsively, and Barber followed with remarks encouraging the audience to look towards the future. "Let's focus on the heroism of the day and the grace with which the city has overcome decimation and loss," she said.

Yeshiva Student Union President Yummy Schachter led the auditorium in the recitation of the National Anthem, and blew the *shofar*, requesting a moment of silence to reflect on the horrific events of the attacks. SSSB President Rachel Moss gave the closing remarks followed by a slide show presentation by YC junior, David Weinberg.

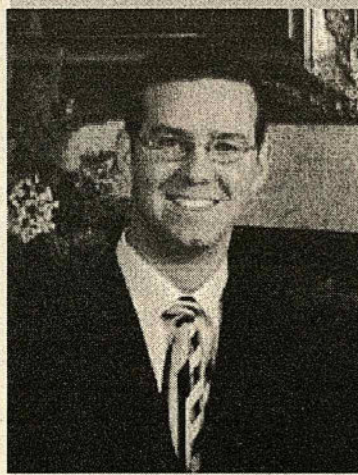
The first half of the

twenty-minute slide show cast images of the devastated and bewildered faces of the thousands of victims that were struck by the attacks. The latter portion focused on the global reaction to the tragedy, displaying photographs of mourners from all over Europe and the nation's leaders at Ground Zero. "The PowerPoint presentation was very moving and the upbeat song for the second part felt hopeful," said SCW junior Sarah Richstone.

Though most students were pleased with the presentation and commemoration, many were disappointed with the lack of attendance. "It's only been two years, and I feel like people should have taken the time to come," complained Blumenfeld.

Last year, the Wilf Campus' Lamport Auditorium was filled with nearly 1,100 Yeshiva College students, Yeshiva High School students, administration and faculty. SCW held a memorial service separately, drawing over 300 students, compared to this year's 200 for the campuses combined.

Most of the student council members who began organizing the event at the beginning of last summer were pleased with the number of attendees. "I think it was an excellent turnout," said SSSB President Eli Renov.



Rabbi Mayefsky will fill the second position of Shabbat rabbi

## Office of Student Services Breathes Sigh of Relief as New Shabbat Rabbi is Found

By Sarah Rindner

Now is a time of new beginnings: a New Year, a new university president, and finally, a new Shabbat Rabbi. SCW administrators were relieved when they secured Rafi Eis (YC 03) as Shabbat Rabbi just days before school began. But as the position of Shabbat Rabbi is a bi-weekly one, SCW was still left stranded without a rabbi for every other Shabbat of the year. Fortunately, the situation has been remedied as, in a rapid turn of events, a second Shabbat Rabbi has recently been found.

Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun reported the search for a rabbi has been trying. Just as administrators

began to look into alternative options to a second rabbi, Chana Rosenblatt-Mayefsky (SCW 01) and current phys-ed instructor walked into the Office of the Registrar and the match was made. Rosenblatt-Mayefsky's husband Rabbi Moshe Mayefsky, has been selected for the job. Mayefsky, a YC graduate and a practicing actuary, was described by Braun as "a lovely human being to get to know."

Students will be sure to agree as they discover how eager Mayefsky is to make the most of his position. "I want to do what I can, not only to help create an environment for those out-of-towners who need to stay in for Shabbat, but to build a Shabbat community for all the students of Stern College," he remarked.

"It's easier for someone who's learning all week to find something to teach," Mayefsky said, while for him, as practicing actuary, it may be more of a challenge. But for Mayefsky, who clearly has the know-how, it's a challenge he is willing and excited to take.

"When I first heard about the job, my first reaction was that it would be a cool job, if I had the time," he noted. "But as I got to thinking about it, I realized that this would be a great opportunity to push me to learn more, by having to prepare *shurim* and *divrei torah*, and I decided that it was too good of an opportunity to miss."

A lover of challenges, Mayefsky posed a challenge of his own. "Spread the word," he offered. "Tell your friends to stay in for Shabbat often. We can make it a great experience."

## SCW Welcomes Largest Moroccan Contingency Ever

By Devorah Stein

The steadily increasing Moroccan contingency at SCW has become the largest group of international students on campus this year. With a total of 17 Moroccan students, including six freshmen, SCW has become a popular choice for Jewish Moroccan women, most of which are from Casablanca. The increase is due, in part to "a result of the political climate and attitude towards Jews and Jewish observance in Morocco," noted SCW Associate Director of Admissions Helen Moskowitz.

SSSB freshman Laura Revah explained that Morocco used to be a country where Moslems and their Jewish neighbors got along "like brothers." But many students feel that is no longer the case. "Since 9/11 and the Intifada, it has become harder living in a Moslem country," said SCW sophomore Miryam Benichou. "It is not our home. It's not our place anymore."

One Friday night last May, there were terrorist attacks on a number of businesses in Casablanca, four of which were owned by Jews. The attacks killed 28 people, though none of the victims were Jewish. Since then, Moroccan Jews have been "on guard and not as free-moving

as they used to be," noted International Student Adviser Marga Marx.

Revah finds life in the US to be drastically different from life in Morocco. "Jewish men can wear *kippahs* on their heads, and we can show that we're proud to be Jewish," said Revah. SCW sophomore Guila Tordjman finds that SCW is "so much better than being in a school full of Arabs." Though she had Moslem friends in the non-Jewish high school she attended in Tangier, "the relationships weren't so genuine because I wouldn't discuss politics or my feeling about Judaism with them."

Not only are the Moroccans adjusting to new relationships with non-Jews in the US, but they are confronted by cultural differences with fellow Jews at SCW. "I've never been surrounded by so many Ashkenazim," exclaimed Tordjman. She explained that as a Sephardic Jew, she is used to singing more loudly on Shabbat. "In general, I guess we make a lot of noise," she said.

For most of the Moroccan students at SCW, adjusting to the U.S. includes taking an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) course. Most students speak French in Morocco, but they also learn English in school or with tutors.

However, two of the students went to English-speaking schools in Morocco.

There was not always a prominent Moroccan community at SCW. "One student came from Morocco a few years ago, and after her a whole slew of girls came," said Marx. Most of the students from Morocco heard about SCW from friends. "There are basically two or three Jewish schools in Morocco, and everyone knows each other," explained Moskowitz. "It's not like the Jewish community in California or New York. If you live in Casablanca and go to a Jewish school, you know about Stern from word of mouth."

The Moroccan students are a tight-knit group and spend most of their time together. "Obviously there is a bond because we're all from the same country," noted Tordjman. Benichou added, "They [other Moroccans at SCW] are like my family here."

After they graduate, many of the Moroccans hope to stay in the US or immigrate to Israel. Revah wants to stay, but she is concerned about her visa. Yeshiva handles the immigration papers for their students, but after graduation it is difficult for many students to stay in the country.

## Pipes Speaks to Yeshiva

continued from Back Page

anniversary of Oslo, Pipes decried the public's blanket acceptance of Oslo's worth and castigated the authors of the agreement. At this point in history, Pipes noted, "No one, but no one, sees [Oslo] as a great epoch."

Pipes attributes Oslo's failure to its authors, who were blinded to the Palestinian's refusal to accept the existence of the State of Israel. The Israeli concessions throughout the '90s were viewed by Palestinians as weakness, he stated. "This reduced the Palestinian view of Israeli might," said Pipes.

To counteract the damage done by Oslo, Pipes believes Israel should not engage itself in any form of diplomacy, including President George Bush's road map to peace, but rather, Israel must wait until the Palestinians truly give up their rejectionism of the State of Israel. "Diplomacy is premature until the Palestinians give up their anti-Zionist dreams," he said.

Pipes also addressed

the surge of worldwide anti-Semitism. While American Jews have remained basically untouched, he warns of a possible surge in anti-Jewish sentiment, and even activity, against American Jews. Pipes warned that anti-Semitism is a "primary and urgent concern of American Jews."

The evening was arranged by Rabbi David Israel, the director of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS). "The evening was meant to be *tachlitic* (action oriented) as we say," said Israel. "It was meant to deal with the realities that Dr. Pipes laid out."

Joel played an integral role in preparing the evening's activities, as was evident by the selection of a Hillel official for the sessions. "One of the things I know about is activism," said Joel. "But I don't think one day makes us *yotzeh* (fulfill our requirements)."

# On Campus

## Expansion of ANGEL Technology Enhances Learning Experience

By Karen Feit

This semester, SCW students and teachers are encountering exciting new teaching tools in their classrooms as Yeshiva University expands its use of ANGEL Technology.

ANGEL Technology, developed by CyberLearning Labs, is a web-based course management software system designed to enrich the learning experience as it affords its users a multitude of easy-to-use, interactive features.

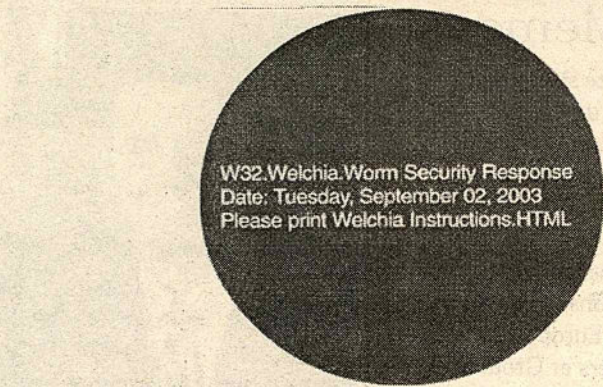
"This is a significant movement towards a modern approach of implementing technology [in education]," said George J. Sullivan, director of Academic Computing at Yeshiva. "The university recognized a need in course management software and chose ANGEL Technology for its striking features."

Web-based course management software is a term that most students are unfamiliar with; however, it is a term that is becoming increasingly relevant in universities throughout the country. "In order to run a course, a teacher needs to manage a lot of things: rosters, grade books, communication with students, lecture materials and much more," explained SCW physics Professor Anatoly Frenkel. "So without this software, all of the components of the class are scattered throughout one's PC and not portable. A course stored online with ANGEL technology is best because all course-related information is stored in a single web tool."

The new technology contains an impressive array of learning and teaching tools for Yeshiva educators. Within the classroom setting, professors can use multimedia to complement their lectures, making the course material more dynamic and interactive for students. Outside the classroom forum, professors can use ANGEL to post their lectures, syllabi, exams, and homework assignments online.

The scope of features available through ANGEL is expansive. "ANGEL has wonderful applications," said Dr. Don Estes, SCW physics and chemistry lab instructor. "It's very easy to use and can be accessed anywhere, anytime."

An important advantage of this technology is its ability to improve communication between teachers and students. ANGEL provides an e-mail sys-



Students had to cleanse their PC's with anti-worm disk.

By Esther Flaschner

Yeshiva University computing officials have found the source and remedy for the Internet problems that have inundated SCW residence halls since the semester's inception. According to Director of Academic Computing, Networking and Support Services (ANS) George Sullivan, the Internet difficulties were due mostly to an outbreak of the Welchia computer worm, as well as to the recently discovered faulty equipment boxes in the dormitories.

For the past three weeks, students in Brookdale, Schottenstein, and 36th Street Residence Halls have functioned with little or no Internet service. Officials discovered the presence of the Welchia worm that had spread quickly through the network. "The worm ran rampant at Brookdale," remarked Sullivan. He explained that 21 rooms in Brookdale were found infected, causing Verizon to shut down all Internet service to those dorm rooms. Since the discovery, the rooms have been fully cleaned of the worm and reconnected online. Now Verizon can begin work on the broken equipment boxes, a problem that had been previously masked by the worm situation and unnoticeably neglected.

ANS computer technicians clarified the hazard posed

by the Welchia worm. Unlike computer viruses, which can be deterred by anti-virus software, computer worms are constantly produced and require continuous preventive updates. Last year, ANS sent repeated alerts to students urging them to update their Windows operating systems with automatic "patches" that protect against new worms. While most students ignored the warning, Sullivan called it, "a wake-up call."

The Welchia worm itself is mainly a benign worm, posing no real danger to individual computers. According to George Sullivan, the worm probably entered the Brookdale network from students who brought it back to SCW on their computers, from circulation on the network, or directly from the Internet. Once on the network, the worm spread quickly and put a tremendous amount of traffic through the network, causing an unworkably slow Internet connection in the dorm rooms.

Brookdale Residence Hall was particularly affected, showing the largest number of Welchia worm infections. According to university computing officials, while most other dorms and buildings utilize the university Internet network, Brookdale Hall functions on a network outsourced by Verizon-Avenue. George Sullivan explained that Brookdale was previously outsourced because in

## Computer Worm Plagues Dormitories

### Residents of Brookdale Hall are Hit Hardest

the past it had to be wired exceptionally quickly. "It was a huge undertaking that had to be done quickly," he explained. "Verizon pulled a miracle to wire that building over one summer."

However, university systems had blocked a certain port 135, the port used by the Welchia worm to enter the network system. According to Sullivan, while this block was purely an act of luck, it was probably responsible for the decreased spread of Welchia worm in Schottenstein and 36th Street dorms. Still, once on the system, the worm spread inside the network and the port may have had nothing to do with the worm's proliferation.

Sullivan and his staff have been working relentlessly to ensure the network returns to proper function and speed. However, they explained that any presence of the Welchia worm at Brookdale, even one infected computer, will dramatically slow down the network for the entire building. Each student must check her own computer with the software distributed by ANS. Even if students do not find the worm on their hard drive, they must set up Windows Update to install automatic patches that protect against worms. Students can access this at the ANS website, [www.yu.edu/infosecurity/protect\\_your\\_desktop.html](http://www.yu.edu/infosecurity/protect_your_desktop.html).

Additionally, although

Windows '98 proves immune to the Welchia worm, Sullivan advised students should update their systems now, as Windows '98 patches will no longer be available after December 31, 2003.

Only now that the Welchia worm has been tackled have technicians unmasked additional equipment problems. Some Internet hubs in Brookdale dorms remain damaged and require the attention of Verizon technicians. Last week, Verizon employees circulated Brookdale, repairing most equipment faults.

"This has been a long hard trip, and everyone's been working together," commented ANS Director George Sullivan. He remarked that these computer woes prevailed also on other Yeshiva campuses, most notably the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, which suffered a large-scale computer infestation. Another ANS official urged all students to take personal responsibility in cleaning and maintaining their computer.

Sullivan described the process as an ongoing effort, and mentioned that in the future Verizon-Avenue will run scans to specify and pinpoint students who lack the anti-worm patches. However, as of now, ANS is working to disinfect Brookdale of Welchia, speed up the Internet, fix the equipment, and deal with the weary students.

## OPCS Offers Mock Interviews for SSSB Students

By Liana Biniashvili

In an effort to help students attain greater job opportunities, the Office of Placement and Career Services (OPCS) hosted their first set of mock interviews for SSSB seniors during the week of September 15.

Mock interviews are designed to target and resolve interviewing difficulties that many students face with recruiters. Many are common difficulties such as uneasiness, nervousness, pressure, body language and clear intelligent speech.

Mock interviews target these problem areas by video taping each session and giving a copy of the tape to the student, whereby the student can analyze and identify problems and proceed to correct his/her mistakes.

This semester, the interviews were held in the Office of the Dean at 215. "Informational interviews are great," said Dean Ira Jaskel, associate dean of SSSB. "They prepare students for actual interviews. Accounting students who participated in the mock interviews afterwards greatly impressed Accounting recruiters."

A small television set was placed outside the OPCS office showing interviews in session. Inside the office, cameras, lights and microphones were set up, creating a professional atmosphere that above all used a creative method to approach an otherwise uncomfortable experience.

Each interview lasts for approximately 30 minutes and is followed by a behavioral approach in interviewing.

Behavioral interviews focus how the applicants have already dealt with difficult work place situations, instead of giving them theoretical scenarios to respond to.

Another distinctive approach about this interviewing technique is the recruiters ability to write down notes throughout the interview; something that is not done in traditional interviews.

Overall, the general of those interviewed was positive.

SSSB senior Hilla Balas, majoring in accounting, was among the students having an interview session. "I have interviewed in the past and having a mock interview is reassuring that you will do just fine when a real interview arrives," said Balas. "It is good to have

Continued on Page 14



# On Campus

## SCW Participates in Tri-State Bone Marrow Drive Campaign

By Elisha Horen

YC and SCW recently participated in a tri-state Jewish community based emergency bone marrow drive. Almost 600 people, including students, teachers, and people who worked in the areas, were tested at the SCW and YC campuses. The goal was to find a donor match for Bracha Naomi Mandelbaum, a four-year old girl living in Israel, who is suffering from acute Leukemia. A few weeks ago, a match was found, but the potential donor backed out of the surgery.

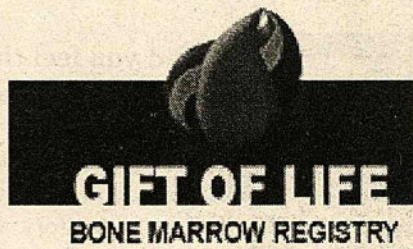
There were some students who expressed fear of making a commitment that could possibly entail a surgery, but many willingly came to be tested, recognizing the importance of this selfless act.

Daniel Rosenfield (YC '96) and his wife Hlana (SCW

'98) also parents of a daughter plagued with cancer, began the bone marrow campaign. The family made *Aliya* three years ago, and upon meeting Naomi and her family last year in the Pediatric Oncology center of Hadassa Hospital, where their daughter Chana Liora was receiving treatment, they found the inspiration they needed to establish the drive.

"We decided to run as many drives as we could in just one week, because it takes two weeks for the testing to be completed in the labs, and Mandelbaum's doctors have said that only three weeks remain for transplant to still be an option," Rosenfield explained. "If there is no match found within this time they will have to turn to less promising methods.

In total, nine drives took place in a week and a half in Riverdale, The Upper West



side, Lakewood and Farockaway. As a way for guests to give a meaningful wedding gift, a couple in Williamsburg had a drive set up in their wedding hall. During the dancing that followed the ceremony the groom announced that he and his wife were going to be tested, and he asked all of their guests to join them.

The organization Gift of Life pays for the \$78 charge for the tests and keeps a registry of potential donors. The painless test requires filling out a short form, then spending approximately three minutes

while long Q-tips swab the four quadrants of the mouth for cheek cells. These samples are then sent to a lab for analysis. The simplicity of the test allows volunteers without extensive training to help run the drives. An organization coordinator from the Gift of Life oversees each drive, but the tests are mostly administered by volunteer community members. Over the years, there have been numerous matches through the Gift of Life.

The surgery is not as painful or debilitating as it is rumored to be, according to YC student Zev Steinberg, who volunteered to donate three years ago on Purim. "I was under general anesthesia for the whole procedure," he reported, though it can be done under local anesthetics.

During the surgery, a large syringe was used to extract

the marrow from his hip bone. "I wasn't able to get out of bed on the day of the surgery," Steinberg recalled. "By the next day I was able to stand up but had limited mobility. On the second day after the procedure, I was able to walk around with a cane, and the day after that was pretty much back to normal." He cautioned that those planning on following through with procedure, will need to take at least three days off for the surgery.

In total 1,800 people were tested at these drives and the organizers are still attempting to raise \$14,000 in a short amount of time. SCW students generously gave what amounted to over \$300.

Contributions can be made on line at [www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org) or send checks to Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, 7700 Congress Avenue, Suite 2201, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 USA

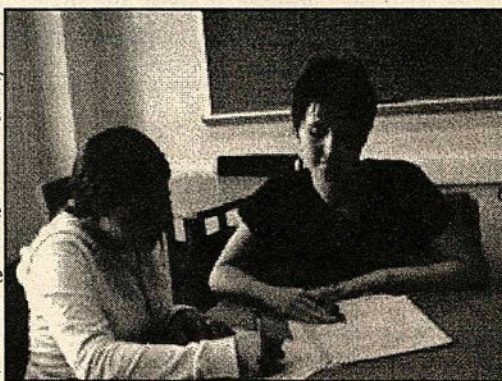
## Changes on Horizon for Writing Center

By Devorah Stein

Under the new leadership of Dr. Jay Ladin, SCW's Writing Center is gearing up for a year of expansion and improvement. Ladin and the new assistant director, Joy Surles, aim to make the Writing Center, located on the tenth floor of 245 Lexington, a haven for writers on all levels. "We want this place to be the center of the writing community; a place for all writers, not just writers who are struggling," explained Surles.

SCW senior and Writing Center peer tutor Bella Tendler explained that the new directors do not want the Writing Center to be used exclusively for remedial purposes. "That's why they're having the Creative Writing Group," she explained. In affiliation with SCW's literary magazine, the group meets during club hour on Wednesdays for an informal discussion and workshop led by Ladin, a published poet. The goal is to "create a creative writing community at Stern," noted Tendler.

The new directors also plan to offer electronic tutoring to SCW students. Students will be able to discuss their work with Writing Center tutors via e-mail conversations. This focus on the text, rather than the student, will hopefully lead to dialogue about the approach to



Writing Center's Assistant Director Joy Surles assists student

writing, and will encourage students to think about the writing process. "We have a long range goal of being a part of the growth of student writers," explained Ladin. "We want to support students in the writing process."

The Writing Center is not only helpful to students, but to the tutors themselves. "Working in the Writing Center has made me a better teacher and a better writer," remarked Surles.

With intensive training sessions and hands-on experience, Writing Center tutors learn how to interact with and teach students in a way that leaves the control in the writers hands and helps them become better writers on their own. "Our goals for this year are centered around two things," noted Ladin. "We want to train tutors to make sure we provide a high level of service for the students, and we want to give the tutors

all of the tools they need to do a good job."

"I got involved [with tutoring] because I love writing," explained Tendler. "I had been helping friends with papers and I figured I'd make some money from it. It has really improved my writing." Tutors improve their writing skills by tutoring others and bringing their own work in to be reviewed by fellow tutors. "Sometimes you just need to bounce your ideas off of another person," noted Tendler.

Tendler, a second-year tutor, found that although there are new plans and goals for the Writing Center, the new directors share many of the same objectives as the previous directors. "[The previous directors] also wanted to work on global issues, instead of emphasizing grammar," said Tendler. "I went to the Writing Center last year and it was really constructive," remarked SCW junior Danya Mermelstein. "If I go back again this year, I hope it will be just as effective."

Ladin replaced Dr. Miriam Grosf, who has retired from her position after eight years of serving as full-time director of the Writing Center. Assistant Director Surles replaced Bart Cameron, who received a fellowship to spend the semester in Iceland.

## The Post-Socol Search: A New CFO

Continued from Front Page

Some have gone so far as to claim that Socol will remain a vice president at Yeshiva, with a role that remains to be delineated. "He is definitely a vice president, but I don't know what will come after that," acknowledged Davis. "I don't know if he will be involved in Business Affairs."

Although the arriving CFO will be laying claim to a title distinct from the previous designation of Vice President for Business Affairs, the job description will essentially remain the same. "The CFO handles all financial matters of the institution," Davis continued. "This includes investments, besides budget allocations that are discussed in conjunction with the president and other vice presidents." SCW Dean Karen Bacon attributed judgments concerning payroll, purchasing, budgets for each Yeshiva school and food services to the CFO.

What has changed, however, is the scope of the new financial chief's influence. Whereas Socol retained control over decision making in virtually all spheres of Yeshiva, according to Yeshiva insiders, Lowengrub made clear that non-financial decisions now will be more strictly allocated to their respective departments. "Responsibilities have been split up," he asserted. Citing his department as an example, Lowengrub affirmed that his

responsibilities include "all academics and the budget that goes with that — deans, faculty, [and] presentation to the Board of Trustees."

Davis further delineated how the responsibilities are being carved up between several key players. "Dr. Socol's position is being split," he declared. Although the University was buzzing with word of Socol's

position change, and with it the predicted termination of his domineering regime, Joel officially announced the move on September 1 through an inter-office memo stating Socol's new position and defining the role to be filled by Vice President of Student Life Hillel Davis.

Both Lowengrub and Davis are spearheading the search for the CFO and overseeing the recruitment and interviewing processes. Respected search firm Korn-Ferry has been hired to assist Yeshiva in its search. Korn-Ferry has identified candidates, who in turn have come to the preliminary search committee to be formally interviewed.

Applicants under consideration have been or are being interviewed by several persons from both the Yeshiva and AECOM administrations. Once the search is narrowed to two, the remaining candidates will be interviewed by the Yeshiva Board. The final decision, however, rests on Joel's shoulders.

*Yeshiva's sheer refusal to publicly acknowledge the severance of a Yeshiva-Socol relationship has left a cloud of confusion over Socol's future ties to the university.*

# YUSTUDENTS.ORG

# Spotlight on SCW Women

## Life After Stern:



### SCW Alumna Rochelle Krich Keeps Readers on Edge with Over 13 Published Mysteries

By Sarah Nelkin

Many years ago, Rochelle Krich took an English Composition course at SCW. That was before she earned an M.A. in English from UCLA and chaired the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles High School's English department for 18 years. It was also before she published her first novel in 1990, *Where's Mommy Now?*, which was produced as a film titled *Perfect Alibi*, the first of eleven books Krich has written. She is in the process of publishing two more books.

The mother of six children and the grandmother of seven did not plan on being a writer. She admits that balancing a career and a family was difficult, "I made my share of mistakes. You can't have it all. In an ideal world you would divide your time emotionally. My kids emotional needs always come first."

After considering law and medicine while attending SCW, she eventually became an English major. Her life-long passion for books inspired her to make the change. Krich has written *Fertile Ground*, a medical thriller and *Speak No Evil*, a legal thriller. Krich's works have been published in Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Holland, and Israel

Solely a mystery writer, Krich has imaginatively found ways to explore Jewish issues through this genre. Krich wrote her first book titled *The Get* (the title was changed to *Till Death Do Us Part*) as a response to the difficult situation faced by Orthodox Jewish women whose spouses are recalcitrant and refuse to give them Jewish divorces, without which a woman can never remarry.

Krich's two current mystery series feature female detectives as the main characters. Jessica Drake is an LAPD Detective who recently discovered her Jewish roots. Her Jewish mother was hidden during the Holocaust. Krich is the

daughter of Holocaust survivors and has woven Holocaust issues into a number of her books. "I didn't know my grandparents, so I try to create in some of my characters what I think they might have been like."

In *Angel of Death*, Drake must face her own prejudices and feelings about the Holocaust when she investigates a lawyer Barry Lewis who represents neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers. In *Blood Money*, Krich incorporates a documented interview with a Holocaust survivor. It is important to Krich to expose her readers to Jewish issues.

Molly Blume, the character in her newest series, is an Orthodox Jew who is a crime writer and tabloid journalist. She is dating a man who broke up with her in high school and has since become a rabbi. Molly is frustrated because she "wears shorter skirts than what her family wants, and what a woman dating a rabbi should probably wear." She deals with issues from an insider's perspective and presents the sometimes exotic world of religious life to readers.

Rochelle Krich speaks fondly of her days at SCW. "I loved being at Stern, I loved dorming there," she said. "I've kept up friendships with people from Stern." She even modeled a minor character in one of her books after a woman who worked in the Registrar's Office. She loved her anatomy class and remembers many wonderful English classes with Professor Hatvary. Even though it was a relatively sheltered existence, she did not feel limited at all, she said. "The courses I took had both depth and breadth," she said. She advises current SCW students to take advantage of the opportunities both SCW and Manhattan have to offer.

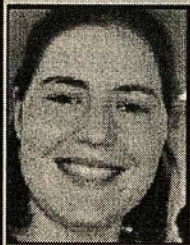
She offers advice to the current writers at SCW. "Write about what you're passionate about, what you feel impelled to write about" said Krich. "Don't try and write about what is hip and current because times change and you're going to be spending a lot of time with your characters."

Rochelle Krich's latest novel in the Molly Blume series, *Dream House*, is due out in October. It aims, "to explore the conflict between protecting the rights of property owners versus the value of preserving the historical integrity of neighborhoods and buildings." She will be speaking at the Hevesi Library in Forest Hills on October 21st, and at Congregation Beth Sholom in Lawrence on October 22nd. For more information on her novels check her website: [www.rochellekrich.com](http://www.rochellekrich.com).

## In Your Own Words

### On Your Campus

Did you feel that the investiture events were well publicized and did you plan on participating in them?



Sheera Hefter, SCW Senior

"I plan on being at the investiture on Sunday. I think it is a significant event in the University's history, and I'm excited to be a part of it."



Jessica Levine, SCW Senior

"The events have definitely been well published, I got an invitation in the mail. I would participate if I had more time, but I'm not putting it high on my list of priorities. I think there will be a lot of University support without me and I need to do my school work."



Yehudit Pressner, SCW Sophomore

"It's a good decision because he hasn't been straight up about anything he has talked about. I don't think he is helping the process, if anything he is slowing it down. I don't know of a solution though there might be one."



Shoshi Gelula, SCW Sophomore

"It's a little frightening because I'm sure the Palestinians won't be happy about it, which has serious ramifications. In some ways getting rid of him is a good move, something that probably should have been done long ago but now we are in a more vulnerable position to the Palestinians taking their anger out on us. Arafat had controlled the terrorism, without him there will be more havoc. I don't know if the result will be a good enough solution, only time will tell."

### In Your World

How do you feel about Israel's decision to exile Arafat?

## SCW Basketball Player Participates in South American Maccabi Games



Shayna Greenwald Prepares for Competition in Chile

By Melodie Balarsky

This December, SSSB senior Shayna Greenwald will have the unique opportunity to travel to Santiago, Chile to compete in the 10th Pan American Maccabi Games. Greenwald has been active in athletics all her life, and has been a member of SCW's basketball team for the past two years. Representing the Canadian Basketball Open Women Team (CBOWT), Greenwald looks at her participation as, "an amazing opportunity to get to go to Chile and represent my country. It's pretty cool."

More than thirty girls competed for twelve spots on the CBOWT. "Tryouts were really hard," recalled Greenwald. "You have to give the coaches a reason to take you. You have to play your heart out and really want it."

At only 5 feet and a half

inches tall, Greenwald is happy in the position of point guard. As point guard, Greenwald is responsible for the team's offense, making sure the players fulfill their roles on the court, and creating scoring opportunities for the team. "She's a great teammate, as well as an all around great basketball player," remarked SCW junior and teammate Lillian Almo. "She is extremely talented on the court." In preparation for the Maccabi Games, Greenwald attends practice twice a week for SCW's basketball team and works out as much as possible.

In high school, Greenwald was active in basketball, volleyball, softball, and track and field. She has played basketball for the Jewish Community of Ontario since the seventh grade, and participated in the 1997 Summer Youth Maccabi Games, where she partially tore her Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL). Only a year later, Greenwald suffered a major injury to her knee, completely ripping her ACL. Her injury required surgery followed by a six-month recovery. The "surgery made me appreciate basketball more because I couldn't play," explained Greenwald.

For years, the Maccabi Games have been providing Jewish athletes from all over the world the opportunity to compete in a wide range of sports

including basketball, volleyball, swimming, and golf. The non-profit Maccabi Association encourages Jewish youth and adults to become more aware of their Jewish identity and culture through participation in athletic activities. Famed athlete Mark Spitz, the first Olympic contender to win seven gold medals in an Olympiad, competed in the Maccabi Games.

Mr. Sy Herling leads the Canadian Open Women Team (COWT). After coaching the COWT in the 1997 Maccabi Games in Israel and assisting the 2001 Canadian Open Men Team, Herling is prepared to lead the women to victory. "By participating in Santiago, Chile I will [hopefully] be able to form the team that competes in 2005 in Israel," remarked Herling. "Shayna is very likely to be an integral part of that team."

An experienced player, Greenwald is not affected by the cheering crowds and is accustomed to the competitiveness of sports. She finds basketball relaxing. "I love to play and coach basketball," remarked Greenwald. "Everyone who knows me knows I have a passion for the game."

"The Maccabi Games are a great way for her skills to shine through," noted Almo. "I know she is going to do great."

## Joel Emphasizes Importance of Students at Investiture Ceremony

By Arie Staller

President Richard Joel addressed Yeshiva University at his investiture on Sunday, receiving a standing ovation and thundering applause. Among those clapping loudest were students.

"Students," began Joel, then pausing and allowing applause. "Students," he continued, the cheers growing louder. And finally, "students," Joel reiterated, exemplifying his promises to make Yeshiva more student-friendly.

"Let's treat the students as the gifts that they are," stated Joel. "Every student counts' must be our mantra."

With an obvious drive to engage students, as well as enhance all aspects of the university experience, Joel laid out his plans to create "opportunities for students to feel valued and valuable."

"We must elevate the quality of the experience for our students so that each one feels inspired by his tenure at YU," said Joel. "We simply must enhance the quality of the student experience in every interaction. In terms of guidance and counseling opportunities, students need to feel valued and valuable beyond what we offer today."

Excellence, according to Joel, requires building upon aspects of Yeshiva that are already great, and making them better. It should not be a difficult choice for students to choose Yeshiva over Ivy League schools, declared Joel. "The quality of the secular experience

has to rival the quality of the Torah experience."

Students who attended the investiture were moved by Joel's attention to their needs. "I wanted to give Richard Joel a big hug," said Joey Small, a YC junior.

Some students were moved by his openness regarding his personal life. "I cried when he spoke about his father," said David Weinberg, a YC senior.

Other students were more taken by Joel's promises to change the atmosphere at Yeshiva. "I'm very excited for the new administration," said Chair of the SCW Student Life Committee, Yael Reisman. "As student life chair, I've seen the school become very user friendly, and very optimistic as to what we can do."

It seems that Joel's openness to the students is not just a vision for the future, but has already begun with the implementation of his plans. "He has made himself available and accessible to students day and night," said Yummy Schachter, Yeshiva Student Union President in his speech at the investiture. "His open door policy represents the openness of YU."

Student, past and present, were thrilled with Joel's vision. "He has a good vision for the university," said Tania Tulcin, Cordozo, '86. "He'll really put Yeshiva University on the map."

"He hit home," said Joseph Ringle, a third year RIETS student. "Especially with the 'improving academic standards"

part. I'm hopeful for the future." Along with students, Joel has inspired faculty in their attitudes towards the student body. "Tomorrow we're beginning implementation," commented Dr. Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs. In addition to enlightening the student body, Joel plans on creating social events for faculty and administration to become better acquainted and foster a strong sense of community.

Following the presidential invocation, a gala event in the gymnasium on the Wilf campus was held. Blue and white crepe paper decorated the ceiling, enormous buffets of food wrapped around the perimeter of the room, overflowing with a vast array of food. The center of the room held large spreads of fruits, vegetables, and desserts arranged under large ice sculptures of the Yeshiva emblem.

Throughout the room, small round tables seated faculty, students, alumni and board members, still discussing Joel's words and their own visions for the university. "He hit all the important points to be dealt with," said Saul Epstein, a second year RIETS student. "Hopefully, he'll be able to deal with them."

Appearing as a close knit family, the Joels remained together as the crowd eventually died down. "I think we're both ready for the challenge," said Joel's wife, Esther. "I'm happy to support him in his endeavors and he has all the skills and then some to do the job right."



Joel meets and greets students at banquet after the Investiture ceremony.

## Inaugural Celebrations in Honor of President Richard Joel

Continued From Front Page

Joel's dreams for the future were specific. He spoke of the need for more faculty, higher levels of academic standards, greater emphasis on inter-disciplinary studies, as well as Yeshiva's responsibility to the greater Jewish community and Israel.

Joel received his most effusive response from the student body, when he called for a drastic change in Yeshiva's policy and attitude towards its students. "Let's treat the students as the gift that they are," said Joel. "A culture of caring must be the hallmark of Yeshiva."

Most notable was Joel's goal, which he described in his speech as that of "ennobling and enabling."

"Young people yearn for lives of nobility, but don't know how to attain them," Joel stated. "The challenge of being knights errant, to go forth from our university to ennoble life and give ongoing harmonies to western civilization by who we are and what we are, is a compelling vision for our children. We must elevate the quality of the experience for our students, so that each one feels inspired by his tenure at YU."

"Inspired" was a word used by almost everyone after the investiture ceremony. "His passion, his commitment, his heart, his vision are all so exciting, stimulating, inspiring and very moving" said Penina Schram, professor of speech at SCW.

With hopes to enhance curriculum and faculty, the president explained that the small size of Yeshiva's undergraduate schools lends opportunities for communication within the university as well as the Jewish community at large; most which would be otherwise unavailable to larger schools.

Additionally, Joel called for interdisciplinary efforts between all graduate and undergraduate schools. "We must see ourselves as a universi-

ty without walls," Joel explained. Yeshiva University lives throughout the world, according to Joel. He pointed out that globally, there is a longing to be connected to Yeshiva, and it is the job of all those affiliated with Yeshiva, including alumni, to extend a hand to the community in the form of Torah education. "If it takes a village to raise a child," acknowledged Joel, "it takes Yeshiva University to inform the global village."

Joel's appointment seemed to draw hope of a new epoch among many faculty members and students. "I think that the values of the university will be expanded and applied in new and creative ways, both for the benefit of the students and the Jewish community at large," said Rabbi Saul Berman, a professor of Jewish law and ethics at SCW.

Faculty members were particularly pleased with Joel's recognition of their plight. "It's important to reduce the teaching load on faculty for a broader range of course offerings," said Dr. Jeffrey Freedman, professor of history at both SCW and YC. "We have a situation now where departments consist of two professors. That's not fair to students majoring in those disciplines because they don't get a wide range of perspectives."

Although most were excited by Joel's vision, some were cautious to give undue praise before the new president had a chance to prove himself through his actions. "He had a giant plan and everything was on target," said Rabbi David Pahmer, a professor of Talmud and Jewish Law at SCW. "Let's see how he will prioritize and break down big projects."

After the ceremony, guests were led in a procession down Amsterdam Avenue to a banquet where Joel, surrounded by family, acknowledged his need for action to back up his words. "I put forth a lot of serious challenges," he said. "It's my responsibility to fill my words with meaning."

## College Republicans to Debut at Yeshiva

By Tamar Warburg

After noticing a shift in favor of Republican policy in the Orthodox Jewish community, SCW junior Rachel Avner and SSSB junior Yoni Perl collaborated to establish an organized group of college republicans on campus. "There are numerous republicans at YU, and there is a need for an organized voice and forum for these students," said Avner. "Jewish support for the Republican Party is increasing more than ever and YU is jumping on the bandwagon," said SCW junior Sarah Richstone.

Avner and Perl hope that their group will raise awareness of republican and conservative views, increase the number of Jewish Republican votes, and in general help republican campaigns. Though there are currently only twenty

active participants from SCW, and thirty from YC, Avner and Perl claim that there are over three hundred registered College Republicans in total from both campuses.

Professor Joseph Luders, head of the political science department at SCW, is pleased with the efforts of the students involved, and says that Yeshiva needs many more such organizations on campus. "Only about eighteen percent of college-age individuals voted in the 2000 elections, a figure dramatically below the national average," said Luders. "I applaud the formation of new organizations that will incite, provoke and challenge students to think a bit more about the political world around them and to get them involved in the urgent matters of our time."

The Yeshiva College Republicans plan to achieve

their goals by organizing speaking engagements, and actively campaigning for both congressional and presidential elections by raising pledged hours among Yeshiva students. A comedy club night is also being arranged.

Under the auspices of the College Republicans National Association (CRNA), Yeshiva's College republicans join over one thousand chapters of the CRNA in an effort to revive the Republican movement on college campuses.

It is no secret that American Jews have traditionally voted democratic. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton received a whopping 85 percent of the Jewish vote in 1992. The highest percentage of the Jewish vote ever achieved by a republican presidential candidate was Ronald Reagan's thirty-nine

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# University News

## To Ennoble and Enable: An Inaugural Vision

Richard M. Joel

President, Yeshiva University  
September 21, 2003

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Ambassador, Members of the Boards, Roshei Yeshiva, members of the faculty, students, alumni, presidents and delegates of universities, family and friends. I want to thank Michael Jesselson, Dean Efrem Nulman, the Investiture Committee and so many extraordinary members of the Yeshiva University family for creating this wonderful celebration.

Forty years ago on this day, September 21, 1963, a young boy took his place as a bar mitzvah in the presence of two loving parents, in a room filled with hope for the future. Today, those parents are gone, the bar mitzvah stands before you, older and enriched by a blessed life, and hopes fill this chamber to overflowing. I will refrain this day from delivering my bar mitzvah speech, or playing my accordion. This is my gift to you. I will, however, speak to the hopes of the parents of that young boy. We gather in the shadow of the Days of Awe, in the bright sunshine of a new generation to reaffirm our confidence in the future, in the majesty of learning, in the spirit of humankind, in the informing power of our wondrous story, and in the guiding hand of God.

For me, this is a moment of hope and joy, of fear and trembling. For you have entrusted to me the destiny of Yeshiva University, a unique life force whose very existence represents a yearning for all that is sacred in our humanity and all that is human in our sanctity. I come before you standing on the shoulders of giants, who persevered in dreaming dreams, and willed them into reality.

That I have been given such an opportunity is in so many ways due to the historic and heroic efforts of my wonderful predecessor, Dr. Norman Lamm. His legacy is a university of strength and security, constantly challenged by him to live by standards of Torah U'Mada, the sacred confrontation of Torah and secular wisdom. He would have me tell you that his work was the continuation of the life labors of our two revered predecessors, Dr. Samuel Belkin and Dr. Bernard Revel, of blessed memory. And Yeshiva would not be Yeshiva without the profound impact of the mind and soul of the Rav, R. Yosef Ber Soloveitchik, zecher tzadik livracha. We all know that their success would not have been realized without the very real partnership of legions of extraordinary leaders, with names of Samuel Levy, Max Stern, Max Etra, Herbert Tenzer, Ludwig

Jesselson, Herman Merkin, David Gottesman, Robert Beren, Ronald Stanton, and the passionate people who shared their dreams.

The prophet Joel, in chapter 3, tells of a time when your elders shall dream dreams, and your young shall see visions." What are our dreams, for ourselves, for those we love, for our family, for civilization? As others seek to paint the future in nightmarish hues, how do we create, on the canvas of our lives, a world of color and light, where elders can share dreams, and children can realize visions?

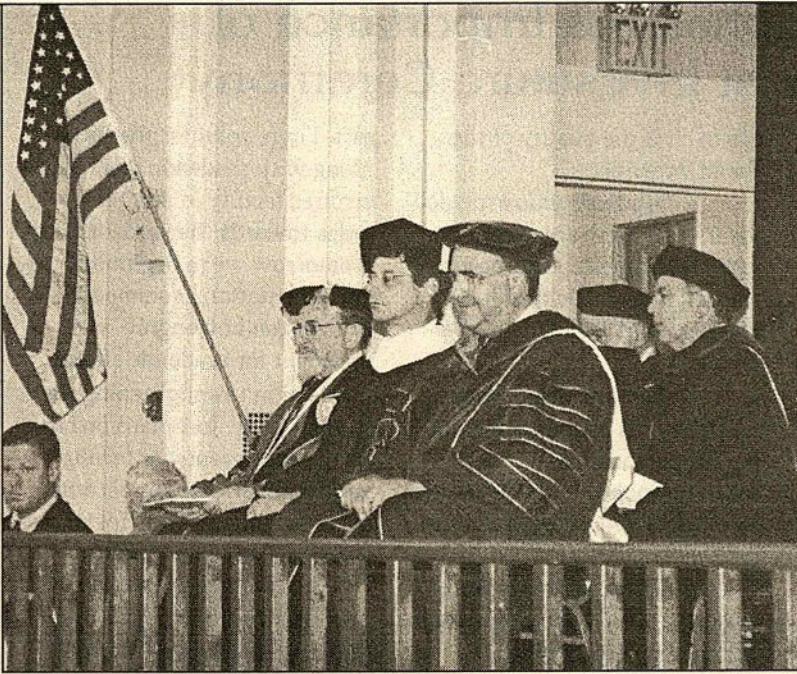
A University must be a dream incubator, provoking visions and strategies for the future. It must be committed not to change, but to purpose. In 1946, Britain's poet laureate, John Masefield, wrote of the gift to civilization that is a university:

There are few earthly things more beautiful than a university. It is a place where those who hate ignorance may strive to know, where those who perceive truth may strive to make others see, where seekers and learners alike, banded together in the search for knowledge, will honor thought in all its finer ways, will welcome thinkers in distress or in exile, will uphold ever the dignity of thought and learning and will exact standards in these things.

They give young people that close companionship for which youth longs, and that chance of the endless discussion of the themes which are endless, without which youth would seem a waste of time.

There are few earthly things more splendid than a university. In these days of broken frontiers and collapsing values, when the dams are down and the floods are making misery, when every future looks somewhat grim, and every ancient foothold has become something of a quagmire, wherever a university stands, it stands and shines; wherever it exists, the free minds of men, urged on to full and fair inquiry, may still bring wisdom into human affairs.

Ladies and gentlemen, we gather at a time when universities have been in retreat for a generation. While pursuing achievement and proficiency, the university has turned from Masefield's poetry, and has become too much a place of prose. Whether still fearful of the upheavals of the 60's, or paralyzed by the correctness of relativism, the academy has retreated from shaping our civilization. A new generation comes of age, longing for what William Raspberry calls a life that makes



From right to left: Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Israeli Ambassador to the US, Daniel Ayalon and Newly Investited President Richard Joel.

sense, feeling profound existential loneliness, while living in a shrinking world that, paradoxically, produces feelings of anonymity. Our children long to matter, yearning for an informing vision of values that makes life work. They confront a madness of license on one hand and extremist, hateful fundamentalism on the other that seeks to extinguish the light of ideas and the lyric melody of values.

A great university must refocus on the exploration of the value of values, must expose the young to the freedom of commitment, to the nuance of ideals firmly held, while protecting the rights of others to subscribe to ideas we believe to be incorrect. A great university must rebuild a spirit of free inquiry, while embracing the immutability of life values that are non-negotiable. It must teach the skills of navigating the terrain, while reaching for the cosmos. Its challenge is not to defend western civilization, but to advance western civilization. A great university is great scholars and great students.

We are a great university. We are a great university because the Jewish people and its sacred story inform us. These values are our values. At this time, in this place, Yeshiva University stands poised to lead.

We are a strong university, with well-developed schools and programs, functioning successfully. We all know the significant accomplishments of Yeshiva. We also know that Yeshiva University is a wonderful work in process. No longer threatened with fiscal fragility, we can dream future dreams. As with any new administration, there is now a moment to reflect, to listen and learn; to build on and renew the vision that is Yeshiva. I have spent six months as president-elect and 100 days as president listening to a chorus of voices. I've been seeking guidance and asking questions, and fashioning dreams into what I believe is a collective vision. William Butler Yeats teaches us that "In dreams begins responsi-

bility." On a more personal level, I recall dozing in front of the television, with my son Noam. He startled me awake saying, "Dad, they just said something you would say." I said, "what's that." He said — "The only way to make dreams come true is to wake up." It's time to awaken and make dreams come true.

The time is now to reemphasize our commitment to a community of trust and caring. The time is now to re-emphasize our commitment to quality and excellence in education, sacred and secular, to challenge the Yeshiva, the undergraduate and graduate schools to take ownership of Torah U'Mada — to view the world of ideas, of the arts and sciences, of the needs of a troubled humanity, through the prism of Torah and timeless values that have formed the bedrock of civilization. We must not only espouse Torah U'Mada, we must live it, and challenge our students, in whatever school, from whatever place, to live it. We must take time to ask hard questions, of how we teach and model integrity, how we provoke leadership, service, and learning.

While president-elect, I lived in the dorm for four months. A remarkable time. One thing became clear — in a profound way, at this university, the

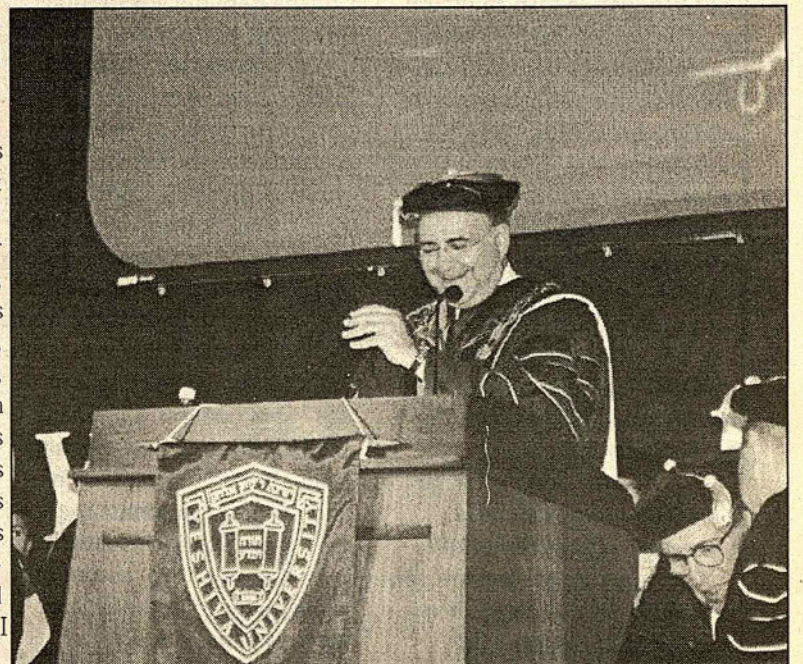
experience is so much more than the classroom, so much more than the subjects, so much more than the campus. The combination of these students and this faculty, these values and these times, creates a YU experience that is incomparable. Our challenge, yours and mine, is to strengthen that experience, to build on it, to ensure that our students' stay at any part of Yeshiva is life shaping.

Let us resolve to fashion a Yeshiva University that ennobles and enables — that ennobles students in purpose, and enables them in capacity to dream and to fulfill those dreams for self and humankind. I believe that to make that real, we must commit ourselves to four areas of concentration — nobility, excellence, Israel, and community. And let these concentrations be our signature.

Nobility should be the driving aspiration of our academy. A master principle in our tradition emerges from a verse in Leviticus — it is translated as "Be holy, for I the Lord am Holy." We are commanded to emulate G-d, to model our deeds after G-d's deeds. We think the word holy does a disservice to the concept of Kedusha. I think kedusha translates as nobility.

One of the most eminent Torah scholars of the generation before the Holocaust, who distinguished himself as Rosh Yeshiva in RIETS, Rabbi Shimon Shkop, interpreted Kedusha in this way. According to Rav Shkop, Kedusha, means dedicating all of one's abilities to noble and exalted goals. Kedusha challenges us to use the best of our energies and mental capacities, not to improve ourselves, but to work for the betterment of the community and the advancement of humankind.

Young people yearn for lives of nobility, but don't know how to attain them. The challenge of being knights errant, to go forth from our university to ennoble life and give ongoing harmonies to western civilization by whom we are and what we do, is a compelling vision for



President Richard Joel laid out his vision for Yeshiva's future in his Investiture speech on Sunday, September 21.

# University News

our children. We must elevate the quality of the experience for our students, so that each one feels inspired by his tenure at YU.

We are a small enough school to be personal. Somehow, sometimes, we make ourselves impersonal. We too much mirror the anonymity of society. We need to strengthen our culture of nobility. To improve civilization, we must model civility. We must tear down walls between the people and institutions that are Yeshiva University. There is joy in nobility. Let us posit a recommitment to a Yeshiva family, where people risk trusting each other, where "we can" is the operative term. We will find social venues for the faculty and administration to know each other, and learn from each other. Let's make sure every employee feels part of the community. Let's treat the students as the gifts that they are. "Every Student Counts" must be our mantra. This agenda is elevating and liberating. Being student-friendly does not mean being student-pandering. Our students deserve standards, and rigor, but delivered with a smile. A culture of caring must be the hallmark of Yeshiva. That requires a commitment of resources and attitude. We simply must enhance the quality of the student experience in every interaction, and in terms of guidance and counseling, opportunities for students to feel valued and valuable, beyond what we offer today.

Our commitment to Excellence must be real. Excellence must be nourished, or it becomes pedestrian. Every university president speaks of excellence. What do I mean in a YU context? Through years of struggle, Yeshiva labored heroically to provide a fine education for each student. And yet, over time, we have become risk-averse. We are too cautious to reach, to attain what Dr. Lamm has called The Royal Reach. As we look forward, we need to ask, how do we make our constellation of schools places of choice for the serious student. And how do we play to our strengths in doing that? We must look at academic excellence, and at all aspects of what we do. Let me offer a few examples: Our undergraduate schools are quality institutions. Yet our faculty is overburdened with high courseloads and inadequate research support. We have unmet curricular needs.

It's too often a difficult choice for students to turn down the Ivy League for Yeshiva. We have so much at YU, that for students who seek an experience in a Torah U'mada context, that ennobles and enables, coming to Yeshiva should be, as they say, a "no brainer." I believe that to model Torah U'mada, the quality of the secular experience has to rival the quality of the Torah experience. We should make the fact that we have three relatively

small undergraduate schools into a great strength. These gems must be polished to shine. We must build on what we have. What would it take to enhance the faculty, the curriculum, and the academic environment so that our undergraduate schools are schools of choice – treasures of teaching and research excellence. Let's decide which disciplines must be our strengths or need to be and ensure that they're excellent. How do we use the resource of New York to attract master teachers and more faculty who embrace the challenge of Torah U'mada? Our curriculum should be so rich that our students look to stay for additional years.

How do we strengthen the professional training components of RIETS so they complement the quality of the learning, even as we support and strengthen our outstanding Yeshiva? What's our plan for making Azrieli the premier school of Jewish Education? How do we encourage the continuing achievement of Cardozo and its premier faculty?

At the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, we are just now embarking on an historic project to build a center for research in genetic and translational science, a key building block in the incredible scientific research being conducted. As we expand the Resnick Campus, we are also concentrating on enhancing the quality of student life.

We are strong enough to offer challenges to all of our graduate schools, Jewish Studies, Social Work, Psychology, to chart a course of excellence.

We have hardly begun to think in interdisciplinary terms. How do we encourage interdisciplinary efforts among and between the schools? What an intellectual and teaching resource we have if we collaborate, if we envision centers for Ethics and Leadership, within our walls, and in the community. Imagine focusing the educational resources of the university on the increasingly fine Yeshiva University High Schools. What a laboratory they can be. The YU Museum is an educational resource waiting to be tapped. The whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. Our faculty and administration are ripe for the challenge; our students are deserving of its success.

The land of Israel and the State of Israel are central to the future vision of the Jewish people, and have always been central to the reality of the Yeshiva University community. Over 2000 alumni now live in Israel. We have a philosophy of life — an approach of Torah U'Mada that is unique, and could contribute significantly to bridging the corrosive gaps in Israeli society. It is time we concretized our commitment in terms of the university's agenda. Over 600



President Richard M. Joel, center, with Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm to his right

students enrolled as Yeshiva undergrads spend their first year studying at Israeli institutions. We offer a first-rate graduate Talmudic Institute on our Gruss campus in Jerusalem. Here, in New York, our undergraduates constitute the largest body of pro-Israel students on any campus outside the State of Israel. And yet, we have not articulated a coherent Israel agenda here or in Israel.

So let's be serious about YU and Israel. Let's review our curricular offerings dealing with Israel and enrich them. Let's make YU the address in New York for Israel events and Israel conversations. Let's work to offer more internships in Israel, more extracurricular support for Israeli programming, and appropriate relationships with Israeli Universities and educational institutions. How do we envision the full use of the Gruss Campus? What vision do we have for the Gruss Kollel, and for the educational presence we should be. Let's take a serious look at the one year program in Israel and see how we can add value. Dr. Lamm and I will shortly spend time on a fact finding trip, engaging key constituencies in eliciting their ideas, so that we can fashion the agenda that should be ours.

Finally, we must address the key role of community in building YU's future. If we are serious about being a premier educational enterprise that ennobles and enables our world, we must see ourselves as a university without walls. Yeshiva University lives throughout the world. It lives through its network of alumni who are pervasive and strong. It lives through the network of communities that have been informed by the Yeshiva University vision. It is shaped by the presence of YU professionals who guide the professions. It thrives through the network of synagogues and communal institutions that are led by Yeshiva lay and professional leaders. We are the people who have defined the concept of "a lifetime of learning." This global community hungers for an ongoing relationship with us. And we owe the community to serve as its educational resource.

Therefore, we must plan

to fill those needs. We will explore how we offer continuing educational opportunities, though distanced learning, through an educational speakers' bureau, making accessible the great Torah knowledge and wonderful scholarship that resides in our faculty. We must develop the ability to offer valuable in-service programs to support the educational institutions and communal agencies. We must partner with the global communal organizations to offer our resources. We will invite the community to our campuses to share in the great celebration of learning that is Yeshiva.

Our student body participates in an unbelievable array of community service projects worldwide. We must be better partners with them, encouraging community service, and offering students the clinical skills to serve the community, even as they learn the enormous fulfillment that comes from service. We must serve the rabbinate that provokes our agenda in the community, and support the network of educators that inspires our day schools and yeshivot. What's our role in ensuring the excellence of the synagogues and day schools that so need an ongoing educational home, and are also the source for our students? We must assume responsibility for the ongoing inspiration of both the Jewish community and the professional networks that emanate from Yeshiva University. That's what it means to advance civilization. That business must be our business. If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes Yeshiva University to inform the global village.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are challenges worthy of our efforts. We speak today of an expansive agenda that can enoble and enable our children to build lives worth living in communities worth living in. The aspirations are real. But expectations must be real as well. The goals we set forth today are ambitious. They will take many years to realize. They will require our good will, and our great effort. Dreams and visions must be accompanied by choices and commitments. We will formulate the plans, school by school, division by division, and will

present them to our Boards and then the community at the end of this academic year. We will offer you our best efforts joyously. Will you join in this historic effort? Dare we dream? Dare we not?

I stand before you with hope and commitment, because my life has been informed by the loving guiding force of my best friend, Esther. Her family has inspired me. Our friends have been my teachers. And our children, Penny, Avery, Ariella, Noam, Nachum and Kira illuminate our lives and inspire our tomorrows. So many of you have added immeasurably to our journey to this point. So much of this we owe to Yeshiva, for educating our parents and our children.

The first time I visited this room, I was twelve years old. My mother and father brought me here, for my induction into the B'nai Hillel Honor Society. After the ceremony, we walked through the halls of this building. For one of the only times in my life, I saw my father cry. He told me that in his life's journey from Vilna to South Africa to America, he never believed he would see such proud Jewish purpose fulfilled. He told me then that I would study here. Later that year, he was gone. Today, that pride and joy resides in his only child. My wife and I have raised our children to be a credit to their grandparents and their people. This president's firstborn has just made Aliya, planting herself in Israel. His next child will be ordained by this house of learning later this year. All the others will find their paths with equal value and joy. Such should be the paths of all of our children. It is for us to guide them to their future, to enoble and enable them, together.

The Torah reading of this past week puts our challenge in perspective: "I call heaven and earth to witness today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore choose life, that you and your children may live."

May we choose wisely. And May it be G-d's will. V'cheyn yehi ratzon.

Thank you.



## MACPAC Finds Leadership After Slow Beginning

By Esther Flaschner

After some initial uncertainty, a new leader to take the reigns of MACPAC at the Midtown campus, Yeshiva's official political action committee, has finally been disclosed. SCW student Tiffany Khalil will head the group this semester. She is expected to spearhead exciting initiatives for pro-Israel advocacy. "[Khalil] has the drive and the commitment for the job," stated Anat Barber, SCWSC president.

MACPAC leaders had been under the impression that SCW student Adina Rohatner was to assume leadership of MACPAC this semester. *The Observer* reported that Rohatner had decided to spend the fall semester in Nevei Institute in Israel, leaving MACPAC struggling without an SCW liaison.

Despite an inauspicious start, MACPAC leaders have already undertaken large-scale projects aimed at improving Yeshiva students' political activism, said Perl. "We have new leaders with new initiatives, and we're going to accomplish a lot this year," asserted Yoni Perl, YC MACPAC liaison.

MACPAC is already currently conducting a voter registration drive. "We're going door-to-door, mapping out the Wilf and Midtown campuses," explained Perl. "We want to get people registered to vote."

Future plans for MACPAC include a comprehensive survey to be distributed to all undergraduate YU students.

The survey will pose questions about political and foreign policy, aimed at establishing a clear student demographic. Results will be tabulated and used to best plan new political initiatives for MACPAC.

Although not an official AIPAC group, MACPAC does maintain a strong relationship with the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. Perl himself served as an intern in the AIPAC Washington DC offices last summer, as has several of Yeshiva's past MACPAC leaders.

"AIPAC trains students to channel their love for Israel into political activity,"

### Republicans on Campus

*Continued from Page 11*

percent in 1980.

In general, political analysts cite previous strong democratic support of Israel and historical association between more liberal parties and minority rights as reasons for this democratic Jewish trend.

explained AIPAC spokesperson Rebecca Dinar. "We train student activists, and AIPAC serves as their resource."

Indeed, Perl acknowledged that AIPAC had given MACPAC one of its largest initiatives both last year and this, the pro-Israel petition circulating both the YC and SCW campuses.

The petition is part of a national effort by pro-Israel campus leaders to sign more than 150,000 students stating their "unconditional support for the State of Israel."

The campus AIPAC liaisons will ultimately present these petitions to high-ranking members of government, imparting a powerful pro-Israel sentiment.

In addition, the Yeshiva PAC program is unlike other campuses which are forced to contend with on-campus anti-Israel propaganda, Perl explained. "Other college Israel Pac's are often forced to be reactive," remarked Perl. "We can be strictly proactive- urging people to work in campaigns, raise funds, get together, and become a real major force."

Such political tactics include encouraging students to become involved in their own political parties.

A new College Republican clubs exist on both the Midtown and Wilf campuses, headed by Rachel Avner and Yoni Perl respectively, while YC student Josh Shpayher recently initiated the College Democrats.

"These projects are conducted with the ultimate goal of strengthening the US-Israel relationship," said Perl. "We want to involve people in the democratic process and put them in touch with their senators and congressional leaders."

"YU students are a strong rooted group with a connection to Israel," observed Dinar, commenting on the unique test posed to Yeshiva students. "The challenge is to channel that love into getting involved in political campaigns and making sure that their voice is heard in America's political landscape."

It is now up to MACPAC leaders and Yeshiva students to rise to that challenge.

However, President Bush's war on terror and awareness of Yassir Arafat as an obstacle to peace, apparently have an effect on American Jews. Others speculate that the fast growth of the Orthodox Jewish movement might be a contributing factor, noting similarities between Orthodox religious practices, communal tendencies, and Republican policy.

## Sole Orthodox Woman in Knesset Addresses SCW

By Emilia Cataldo

Gila Finkelstein, the first woman to be elected to the National Religious Party in 21 years, recently visited SCW under the sponsorship by the Religious Zionists of America and the SCW Israel Club.

Students were eager to hear from Finkelstein, the only religious MP in the Knesset. "I'm really excited," said Jodi Shachar, an SCW senior. "I can't wait to go because not only is she a role model for any Jewish woman, she has found a way to encompass all of my interests into one."

Professor Joseph Luders, head of the Political Science department at SCW, was hopeful that Finkelstein would encourage women to take internships in the New York area.

"If anything, far more women are needed in politics and public affairs," said Luders. "This is why I am expanding the offerings in Political Science and encouraging Stern students to get even more involved in the numerous exciting internship opportunities here in New York City. Women in politics have the capacity to change the world and, increasingly, we are seeing their remarkable impact."

While Yeshiva has hosted famous Israeli politicians like Benjamin Netanyahu in the past, many hope Finkelstein will serve as a different kind of role model.

Organizers of the event are hopeful that her achievements will provide a sense of encouragement for women, particularly women at SCW who are trying to understand their role within the ideology of Torah U'maddah.

"I think it's important for women in Stern to realize that they can be proud of their Jewish/religious life and be active in the world at large," said Hindy Poupko, President of the Israel Club.

Finkelstein spoke of her commitment to tradition by

stressing in her speech that, coming from a family who has been living in Israel for seven generations, she follows the tradition of her mother.

Politically, Finkelstein follows the ideals of traditional Judaism. "Our goal is to preserve the Jewish legacy," said Finkelstein of the goals of the National Religious Party.

Whether Finkelstein is viewed as a progressive religious woman, concerned parent, educator or Zionist, students are finding many faculties through which she may be respected. "She has a multifaceted personality and lends herself to inspiring many types of careers," said Poupko.

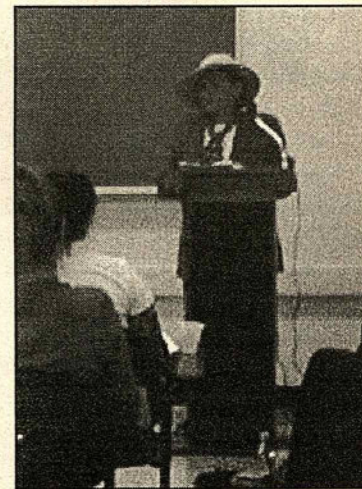
Finkelstein serves on various committees in the Knesset, most notably the Committee for the Advancement of Women and the Education and Culture Committee. Both are issues Finkelstein takes seriously.

Professionally, she is both an English teacher and school principal who holds a teaching certificate and an MA in educational management. "My motto is education, education and once more, education," said Finkelstein, in her lecture to SCW students.

Following a string of sexual harassment lawsuits in the orthodox community, Finkelstein chaired a special session in the Knesset. Many educators, including heads of prominent religious institutions, focused on the need to establish acceptable codes of conduct between rabbis and students, in large part due to Finkelstein's efforts.

Finkelstein has also worked diligently to pass legislation to help soldiers. "Gila Finkelstein has sponsored a bill seeking to redefine the army's guidelines for declaring a soldier 'disabled,'" reported Arutz Sheva Israel Broadcasting News, in July.

Finkelstein fought against the status quo which



Gila Finkelstein speaks to SCW students

awards no benefits to anyone injured during military duty if they are classified as having less than a 20% disability. Finkelstein sees this as discriminatory and "seeks to recognize all disabilities occurring during military service," reported Arutz Sheva.

Finkelstein did not become politically active until much later in her life. After her three children were grown she began to involve herself, through her job, in political discourse.

After unexpectedly being elected, Finkelstein said, the fact that people believed in her abilities gave her the strength to pursue politics despite her lack of experience. "If so many people believed in my ability to be a politician, this was my signal to become active," said Finkelstein.

Dean Karen Bacon was hopeful that Finkelstein's speech could have an impact on students at SCW. "I hope that her presence inspires women to see that they can change the world in a public, as well as private sector," said Bacon.

Talia Greenland, an SCW senior, felt differently, however. "It's tempting to look at the profiles of women such as Ms. Finkelstein and say, 'Wow, look at what she managed to accomplish as a woman,'" says Greenland. "But what we should really be saying is 'Wow, look at what she accomplished as a person.'"

## Interviews for Business Students

*Continued from Page 8*

someone constructively criticize you, before a real interview because it helps you learn what you should improve on."

Leah Korosteshkaya, an SSSB senior, also majoring in accounting, stated her deep gratitude for the session. "The interviews were very helpful, provided us with feedback on our errors and allowed us the advantage of a third person viewpoint," said Korosteshkaya. "This was my first interview and it prepared me for what is to come during recruitment."

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## Rutger's Israel Shabbaton Draws Yeshiva Students

By Rachel Margalis

Rutgers students plans to organize a multi-campus "Israel Inspires" weekend to counteract the anti-Zionist presence on campus, sparked by the planning of a Palestine Solidarity Conference that was to be held on the Rutgers University campus on October 9-12. Although the conference has been moved to Ohio State University, as determined by the conference's sponsor, New Jersey Solidarity, Students United for Israel, a coalition of Israel activists at Rutgers, have decided to continue in their planning the weekend as part of a year-long "Israel Inspires" campaign to celebrate Israel. The YC and SCW Israel Clubs are currently organizing a delegation of students to attend.

While the conference will no longer be held at the Rutgers campus, the signs of fierce anti-Semitism are still quite present on campus. Rutgers University student Abe Greenhouse, a founding member of Central Jersey Jews Against the [Israeli] Occupation, attacked Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky when he spoke as part of the "Israel Inspires" events at the Hillel on Thursday, September 18. He hit Sharansky in the face with a cream pie. Also, the Hillel and a predominantly Jewish fraternity house were attacked on Saturday morning, September 20. Swastikas were painted on the facades of both buildings.

Highlights of the upcoming weekend include a community-wide Israel

Peace and Pride

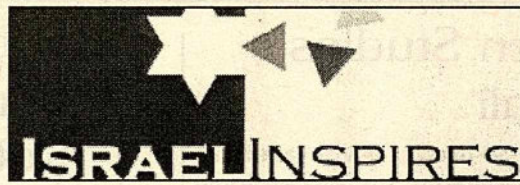
Rally with several thousand Israel supporters from nearby cities, an "Israel Inspires" block party with food, Israeli vendors, live music, and finally the "Israel Inspires Weekend gathering: The Largest Campus Israel Gathering in America," as it is being titled, which officially begins Friday October 10.

Over 700 students from universities across the country are expected to attend. The weekend will feature workshops and presentations on Israel, nationally known speakers and a giant *sukkah*.

Because the weekend chosen for the event coincides with the beginning of Succot, President of the SCW Israel Club Hindy Poupko is not optimistic about a large Yeshiva turnout. "At every student conference it is important to have a strong turnout from the Yeshiva University community," said Poupko. She urges students to attend. "I think it's our responsibility as a pro-Israel powerhouse to be unified with other college students to create a strong pro-Israel voice."

Several SCW leaders in Israel advocacy students feel that most students do not show enough interest in Israel advocacy, perhaps due to the lack of a Palestinian presence that exists at other universities. "Yeshiva University students have shown somewhat of an interest in being out there," said Poupko.

"However, the numbers do not reflect nearly the amount of potential that we have. I hope we live up to our reputation of being



The logo for the "Israel Inspires" Shabbaton.

leaders of the Jewish world."

Flyers have been posted on both the SCW and YC campuses. If there is sufficient interest, Yeshiva University will provide transportation and accommodations for students who wish to attend the event. The Max Stern Division of Communal Services will provide transportation to the conference.

Only once before have Yeshiva students participated in an Israel event of this magnitude. Last October, students demonstrated outside a Palestinian conference held at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Approximately 50 Yeshiva students attended the event, and over half hailed from SCW. The Israel Club arranged transportation to the event.

At the rally, students held signs and Israeli flags while singing Jewish songs and chanting anti-hate slogans outside the conference. The event was organized by Allied for Freedom and Equality (SAFE), a group that supports campaigns that push for corporate and university divestment from Israel.

"The rally in Michigan was an incredible experience that brought students together for a common purpose," SCW senior Estie Friedlander noted. However, she was disappointed about the turnout. "Although there was much spirit and solidarity, the number of students who actually came was disappointing. For the number of students who claim they love Israel, they should do more to actually counteract anti-Israel sentiment on campuses."

## After Slump in Donations, Project One Percent Hopes to Garner New Contributions

By Michelle Amini

Project One Percent, an initiative established last year on Yom Ha'atzmaut by Uri Miller (YC 03), has not seen as many donations this year as it did in the last. The project entreats students to donate one percent of their summer earnings to support victims of terror in Israel primarily through the One Family Fund.

Miller attributes the decrease in donations to the fact that the project is currently in its third year and it has almost become "normalized that there are terrorist attacks, it is not as moving anymore," Miller said. The result is that students do not necessarily feel the importance of this kind of charity.

However, SCW senior Sephie Kraut, who currently heads the organization for both the Midtown and Wilf campuses, is confident that this year Project One Percent will overcome the slump in pledges. "We're planning on contacting all of last year's contributors as well as recruiting new ones so that the two combined will help us exceed last year's donations," Already, the organization received pledges, and soon they will begin the collection process. This year, Chairman of Bed Bath and Beyond Warren Eisenberg announced that he will match the first \$10,000 to be raised.

Kraut hopes to garner more contributors by sending a mailing to students that have given in the past and alerting them of this year's opportunity to donate. "We will thank them and tell them that this is a chance to repeat their action and give a new contribution," she said. SCW junior Fruma Horowitz is assisting Kraut in her endeavors.

"The fund provides every type of care in every capacity for victims of terror and their families," said Kraut. "They [the fund] try to find out the needs and try to anticipate needs of that individual and their family." This can include financial and emotional support, medical intervention to provide the best possible medical care, food, and emergency attention.

The program has courted international involvement. "Jewish summer camps from throughout the US, Canada and the UK have participated in the project on a group level," reported Arutz Sheva.

In addition to online advertisements with [www.OnlySimchas.com](http://www.OnlySimchas.com) and [www.pledge4israel.org](http://www.pledge4israel.org), a website where people can pledge money and learn more about the

organization, signs are posted around both campuses.

Last spring, former SCWSC president Sharon Weiss (SCW 03) saw signs in Brookdale Hall imploring students to donate to Project One Percent. "I think it's a good idea," said Weiss. "I have to give ma'aser anyway, and this is an easy way, just click online." Weiss donated from the money she earned as a camp counselor at Camp Stone.

At the recent Israel kick off event, flyers for Project One Percent were set out on tables, and Kraut has been sitting in the lobby of the 245 Lex building, publicizing the organization. "It's a two-step process for students to donate," said Kraut. "I take down their e-mail addresses and log it into the website, and then they get an email from website, on when and where to send money to be collected."

"It's very easy to pledge on the website," said Kraut. She plans to send the e-mails after the High Holidays.

The concept for this project originates from a program at the Wharton School of Business called Summer Public Interest Fund said Miller. There, the students donate one percent of their summer earnings to support fellow students who opt to work for non-profit organizations.

## Skirts on the Court

*Continued from Back Page*  
decision. "Although I wear skirts off the court, I have always just worked within the uniform," said Debbie Ginsberg, an SCW senior. "I am excited about the new opportunities that this decision will bring to the team. Girls who never before thought that they could be on the team now have this great opportunity and are coming out for the team. It allows a lot more talent to be brought to the game."

With the season beginning with their opening game on November 23rd, the Lady Macs are hoping for a good year. "We joined the conference two years ago and were in the top four," said Green. "The team has really been gaining."

The Lady Macs finished their last season in second place in the Hudson Valley Conference and were last year's champions at the Medger Evers Dr. Betty Shabaz Tournament in Brooklyn.

With dress code changes and new players, the already successful Lady Macs are looking forward to this year's 22 scheduled games. "We had a good year last year and I love being on the Lady Macs," said Ginsburg. "I think its going to be a great season."

## Israel Club Off to Strong Start Speaker's Message Angers Some Students

By Observer Staff

Rabbi Ari Kahn, director of the overseas program at Bar Ilan University, spoke before an audience of over 300 YC and SCW students, as the Israel Club held its largest ever kick-off event on the Wilf campus' Belfer Hall on September 9.

"I was really impressed by YU's turnout," said SCW Israel Club President Hindy Poupko. "It shows that this year YU students are more determined than ever to be proactive and involved in the Israel club."

Kahn encouraged students to become politically active, addressed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and discussed its relationship to the recent anniversary of September 11.

Kahn angered several students when he indicted America for their lack of morality and asserted that the Jews have more morally in common with Al-

Qaidā than Americans. "Al-Qaida sees the horror America is doing, and to them Israel is the same," said Kahn.

Additionally, Kahn implied that the attack on the WTC provided Jews with various benefits. "I found his claims to know the purpose of the WTC bombing, which he claimed was necessary to help Israel by getting world sympathy, offensive," said Sefi Kraut, an SCW senior. "While I agree that it may have been one consequence, we should never ascribe a reason to such a catastrophic event, because we just don't know the reason."

Kahn is the author of *Emanations*, an in-depth analysis of Jewish holidays, and *Explorations*, a commentary on the Bible. Kahn's well-known lectures for Aish HaTorah weave theology, history and ideology with his personal experience of aliya.

According to Poupko,

the Israel Club wants YC and SCW students to become passionate activists for the Israeli cause.

The Israel Club took advantage of the opportunity to initiate a new project, adopting the Kessler family, who suffered the loss of their daughter Gila at the hand of terrorists. Shaya Lerner, the YC Israel Club president, briefly spoke about the Kessler's daughter at the kick-off event. In a video presented at the event, the Kessler family spoke of their need of both emotional and financial assistance.

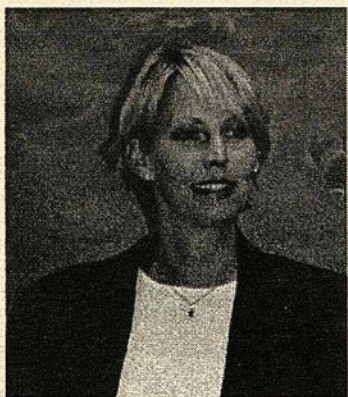
The Israel Club was satisfied with the event, despite some student's displeasure at Kahn's comments and looks forward to the upcoming programs.

The Israel Club are in the midst of organizing a lecture by activist Rabbi Avi Weiss, a Shabbaton with Natan Sharansky

*Continued from Page 11*

# On Campus

## Getting to Know Middle Eastern Studies Professor Eichner Cinali



Cinali hopes to tackle Middle Eastern Politics in Political Science

By Adrienne Eichen

If the qualifications for teaching at SCW were to include having traveled to 52 countries, and speaking six languages fluently, much of the school's administration would be out of a job.

One professor who would undoubtedly be guaranteed a position under such circumstances is, new comer to SCW, Professor Gina Eichner Cinali.

Originally from Denmark, Cinali has lived in Spain, Iran, and the US. In addition to having been published extensively, she has also made numerous appearances on television.

Cinali has come to SCW this semester to erase any preconceived notions or prejudices students may have regarding the Middle East.

"It is true that the Arab-Israeli conflict gets a lot of front-page coverage," Cinali admitted. "But it is not the only concept addressed and studied in the class. I want the students to get an honest perspective of what's going on in the Middle East."

Cinali speaks from an incredible wealth of knowledge, but more importantly, from her own personal experiences. She served as a member of the Foreign Danish Ministry in Denmark, and the Danish Embassy in Iran, where she lived for one year.

Cinali's class entitled, "Politics of the Modern Middle East," which is listed both as a History and a Political Science class, examines the history of the region from the time of the establishment of Islam until present day. Cinali hopes to present an objective study of the history and politics of current conflicts and to reveal the historical roots of such conflicts.

"I want to reach out to students to help them understand what drives these conflicts," she said.

This class is different from many other courses on the Middle East taught in a solely Jewish environment because it is not presented through a Jewish lens and not limited to the controversial borders of Israel.

"People know a lot about Israel but not necessarily about other countries," said Cinali. "There are many stereotypes that people have. I want to teach students to see the nuances; Jews are not persecuted in every Arab country. For example, Iran has an extremely vibrant Jewish community. The country is perhaps against Israeli policy but not necessarily against the Jews."

Although she has extensive teaching experience in prestigious Universities such as Fordham, NYU, SUNY, CUNY, and Columbia, Cinali wasn't sure what to expect coming in to

an all-female, Jewish academic environment. She has discovered that the classroom setting at SCW is remarkably similar to that at other institutions she has taught.

"Everyone in the class is at a different level," noted Cinali. "Some students have a lot of background in the subject, and some have no background at all. I present the material the same way I do in every other class I teach. The students come in with an open mind and I always emphasize that people can say whatever they want as long as they are civil and don't insult each other."

Cinali acknowledges that although Yeshiva University is a Jewish institution upholding certain values, "no matter what, I will not hide history and I won't make it up to appease people."

Even within her own family, Cinali wishes to impart the importance of taking an active position in world politics. In two weeks, she leaves for Kuwait with her daughter to assess the plans for a future university there—the first to be modeled after an American structure with undergraduate studies, a bachelor's degree and master's program. She is also co-founder of GULF 2000, a forum for authorities of the Middle East to discuss political and economic developments in the Persian Gulf.

Perhaps SCW isn't as exotic as Kuwait or Spain, but Cinali is still excited about her first teaching experience here. "I look forward to a good semester," she said. "I can learn a lot from students here."

Noble book store, English department classes and snack machine moved to the eighth floor creating a lot of congestion, according to Bacon.

It was suggested that if students could just use the staircases, the congestion would clear up, which in turn would allow both students and professors to reach their classrooms on time.

"I've had problems with students showing up late, blaming the elevator," said Speech and Drama professor Josh Scher, whose class meets on the eighth floor. However, the recent opening of the staircases have alleviated some of the lateness, he averred.

The elevator quagmire does not cause students to be late to the classes on the seventh and eighth floor, but having to take the single elevator disturbs many students' schedules for the rest of the day.

"I wait 15 minutes for the elevator on the eighth floor," stated Ferster. "Then I get to my next class late and have to

stay after class to tell my professor not to mark me absent, and that makes me late for my next class," she said heatedly.

Last year Facilities Management brought in Van Deusen, an elevator consultant Company that was brought in last year to "help make the [elevator] situation less horrendous," said Rosengarten. They suggested relocating the bookstore to the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center to ease the pedestrian traffic flow.

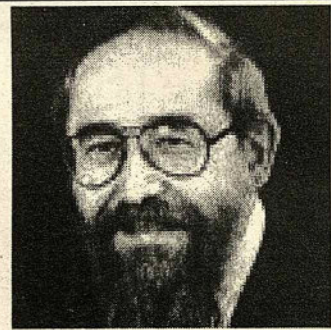
Despite the opening of the staircase and the move of the bookstore, there's still a crowd each day waiting for the elevator.

The consulting company has been called in again and Facilities Management continues to search for solutions to the elevator predicament.

However, unless Facilities Management and Department of Security and Safety agree to open the staircase, it seems that students will continue to wait.

## Rabbi Saul Berman Returns

By Elisha Horen



Rabbi Berman returns to SCW

While Rabbi Saul J. Berman was on sabbatical from SCW for the past two years, he has split his time between working on his own learning and writing and advancing programs at Edah, a Jewish organization that he founded.

"I reconnected with ideas and issues I haven't had time for in my busy schedule," said Berman. "The time I would have spent preparing for teaching, I spent learning and renewing my connection to literature that has come out recently that I have not had time to read."

He worked on a series of halakhic articles about the way Jewish law relates to non-Jewish legal systems and has completed a volume of essays on all the weekly Torah portions.

Edah has an office in a building tucked in between the wholesale stores that run along 36th Street. It is appropriate that an organization that strives to enhance the community's understanding of its place in the secular world is in the hub of Manhattan's business district.

One of the programs Berman has been developing with Edah is the Jewish Teachers Corps, modeled after the secular Teach for America program.

Jewish Teacher Corps places postgraduates in Jewish community day schools throughout the U.S. for a two year teaching opportunity. "We want to get young men and women who've been the benefactors of Jewish education in places where modern Orthodox voices are not heard," said Berman. "There is a desperate need for an open approach to be heard in these places."

This year the program has secured three participants, two are in Phoenix, AZ, and one is in El Paso, TX. The two year commitment required has been a deterrent to a number of people interested in the program. "In the first year of the program we felt it was worth trying to get a two year commitment," said Berman. "But found it was an insurmountable barrier, and will now make it a one year option." The one year commitment is less desirable to day schools, who want a longer commitment from teachers, but they are willing to accept Jewish Teacher Corps participants for one year due to shortage of teachers.

Berman has also been closely involved in the development of the Edah website, which now features web-casting of the Manhattan Jewish Community Center's lecture series.

An average lecture typically draws 200 to 1500 web viewers. The website receives an

average of 3,000 hits a month from countries all over the world such as Australia, Israel, and South America.

"It has become a major resource for learning about Modern Orthodoxy," said Berman. They began archiving the lectures to make them more accessible to people all over the world.

Berman is excited to be at SCW this year. "It's wonderful to be back," said Berman. "I love teaching. I always find the students to be outstanding."

Berman noted a decline in the number of students studying in Israel their freshman year. "After the year in Israel their basic text skills are substantially improved," But overall he does find that the students' level of inquisitiveness and inquiry is really good."

Berman is starting fresh this year, just like YU President Richard Joel. Berman is hopeful that Richard Joel will bring an invigorating quality to the undergraduate community. "I certainly think that the emphasis Richard Joel has placed on *menschlichkeit* (uprightness) as a foundation stone is a critically important step, one long overdue, and has the potential for great impact on both the students and faculty."

In commenting on the Edah slogan, "The courage to be modern and Orthodox," Berman reflects on the contrast between the current culture in America, and that prevalent during the 1950s when he was growing up, which he describes as much more accommodating to the Orthodox lifestyle. "I Love Lucy was the hit show then, now it's *Sex and the City*," observed Berman.

For someone to maintain the standards of Orthodoxy and live in the real world, they face a culture with values and priorities sometimes antithetical to a religious lifestyle, said Berman. He acknowledges religious Jews' tendency to withdraw into a cocoon, but he urges the community not to take that path, a decision he believes takes courage.

"We are facing a time when the Jewish community needs the teachings of Torah," said Berman. "We live in an era in which narrow conformation has become a powerful drive that has replaced individual thinking, even in the Orthodox community, which is destructive because it denies the reality of the diverse opinions which exist within the halakhic realm."

## Elevator Debacle

continued from Front Page approved by the fire department" Rosengarten said.

The plan outlines which fire stairs are unlocked and what floors are open for reentry in the advent of an emergency.

Although SCW bought the entire 215 Lex building in 1998 from the basement to the eighth floor, all floors besides the second, third and most recently seventh, were leased out to businesses, leaving only one elevator and no staircases accessible to SCW students.

According to an insider Observer source, all the floors leased out were done so by former Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol, who was against buying the building originally.

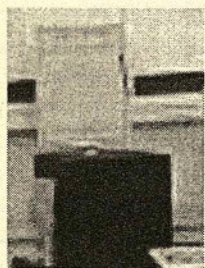
Recently, SCW opened the eighth floor of the building after the tenant's lease ran out. The art annex, Barnes and



### Peer Counseling Program to Be Initiated at SCW

After the holidays, Juniors Michal Safier and Tamar Warburg intend to establish a Peer Counseling Program at SCW. Right now, the two psychology majors are actively recruiting peer counselors for the program, which was modeled after the one implemented at YC last year. According to Safier, Assistant Dean of Students Zelda Braun perceived a need for such a program at SCW and asked her and Warburg to head the program. This program allows students to turn to their peers for help with their problems; ranging from class schedules to frustration with roommates. "This is established for students to have an opportunity to turn to other students instead of the administration if they need advice on anything," said Safier.

### Suggestion Boxes Placed at Yeshiva Undergraduate Schools

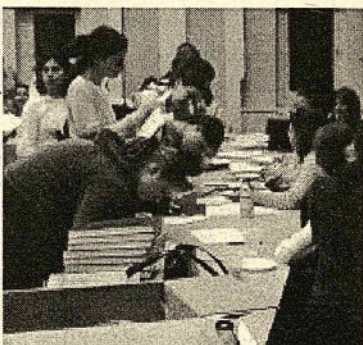


In an effort to improve the undergraduate experience, Vice President of University Student Life Hillel Davis has added suggestion boxes to both the Yeshiva and Midtown campuses. Right now, the boxes are being used on a trial basis while the administration decides whether they are an effective tool to improve campus life. Special cards in the SCW Office of the Registrar ask three questions, which are answered by rating the service

between a one and five, five being the highest. For example one question reads, "How courteously were you treated?" The student might respond by circling a three, if they were treated better than average.

### Multitude of Clubs Fail to Attract Students at Club Fairs

This year's SCW and TAC club fairs appeared to have smaller turnouts than in previous years. Some clubs offered food incentives to convince students to sign up. At the SCWSC fair, the French club gave out chocolate while the psychology club humorously dispensed mixed nuts. Stations at the SCW fair included YUNMUN, the Biology club, the Chemistry club, the premed club, SCW Dramatics Society, the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, WYUR, *The Observer* and the Sephardic club. At the TAC fair, the various TAC publications held stations attempting to draw in more members, as well as the Zachor Club, Adopt-a-Bubbie, Bikur Cholim, and the Chabad Club.



### Israel Club brings New Year Joy to Mourning Israeli Family

The Israel Club, in an intense two-day campaign, raised \$400 to send Rosh Hashanah cards to the Kessler family. As part of the Adopt-a-Family campaign, YC and SCW students have adopted the Kessler's, who recently suffered the tragic loss of their college-age daughter in a suicide bombing. The cards sold for a dollar a piece and will be delivered to the family by students traveling to Israel for Sukkot.

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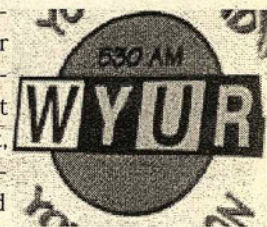
### Square Dance a Success

Approximately thirty SCW students were present at the Howdy Square Dance held in Koch Auditorium. The goal: to learn how to square dance and to have, as one SCW student described, a "hootenanny" of a time. Two instructors taught the square dance and after the lesson, students enjoyed the opportunity to put their knowledge to the music. The ambiance was enhanced by suitable food for the event, chicken wings, nuggets, and fries. Green, pink, blue, and yellow bandanas featuring the words "Wild, Wild West" were distributed.



### WYUR is Revived After Three Year Hiatus

WYUR, Yeshiva's student-run radio station, is about to be revived after a three year hiatus by its new station manager, YC senior David Weinberg. The station was shut down in 2000 due to a lack of equipment, governmental legislation and financial trouble. However, WYUR should be up and running in a matter of weeks and plans to broadcast over the Internet. The station has 40 YC and four SCW students signed up to host shows planned to air between the hours of 6 pm and 2 am, five days a week. Stay tuned for details.



### TAC Holds Siyum in Memory of Applebaums

In memory of victims of Palestinian terror Dr. David Applebaum and his daughter Nava, TAC Vice President Aliza Ebrams and junior Pesi Porat held a siyum in the Koch Auditorium September 24th. To an audience of over a hundred people, Applebaum's brother, Sandy, and Joy Balsam, his colleague at Midreshet Moriah, a seminary in Israel where Applebaum used to teach, spoke at the siyum in addition to five of his former students. For three semesters, Ebrams and Porat studied in Midreshet Moriah where Applebaum taught. "As soon as I learned that he was killed in the bombing, I said we have to do something and it has to include Torah because that was so important to him," said Ebrams. She then gathered several of his former students into a room to pray and to decide on a date for the siyum.



### Freshman Class Representatives Elected

The results of the freshman elections for SCWSC was announced on Tuesday, September 30th.

President: Melody Balarsky  
Vice President: Elissa Kempin  
Treasurer: Aliza Weg  
Secretary: Myriam Malca



Melodie Balarsky, new freshman president.

Check out the observer online

@

www.yuobserver.com

## SCW Strives to Accommodate Students with Diseases and Disabilities

By Miriam Shapiro

For most incoming students at SCW, it is a given that they will most likely be placed in Brookdale Hall and are lucky if they are housed with the roommates of their choice.

This known fact generally applies to any first-time on campus student, and could even pertain to most students until they reach their junior year.

Considering that the registration process at SCW is based on seniority, it is possible that a freshman or sophomore might struggle with constructing her ideal, or perhaps not so ideal, schedule for the semester.

Melinda Russack, an SCW junior, is one of a handful of students who was not effected by these specific nuances of student life that have become standard for everyone else.

Diagnosed with Juvenile Diabetes on December 24, 2001, Russack was faced with more than just the challenge of her upcoming final exams. After spending some time in the hospital due to a seizure, Russack had to learn the ins and outs of her diagnosis and familiarize herself with the changes her body was going through.

"Finals were in a week and I was stuck in the hospital because I had a seizure in my face," Russack recounted. "I hadn't registered for classes for the next semester, which was Spring 2002, and I was freaking out. I thought I wasn't going to get any of the classes I wanted

and needed because I couldn't be at Stern for registration."

Anxious to register for the classes she wished to take, Russack called Dean of Students Zeldra Braun and Academic Advisor, Miriam Schechter in order to make special arrangements to accommodate her registry. "They were so helpful," said Russack. "I was able to get all the classes that I wanted, and that is amazing for a freshman," she reported.

"Our goal is to see students be successful," said Zeldra Braun. "It's wonderful to be able to make the road to success a smooth one."

Yet, it was not always smooth sailing for Russack. Obstacles and challenges presented themselves constantly. Coping with a chronic disease is not a simple manner, both for the student with the illness and for the university that needs to accommodate her.

"I had a difficult time with my finals," Russack continued. SCW policy dictates that if a student misses a final, she can makeup the exam before the next semester begins. The administration informed her that she must discuss her situation with each teacher individually and arrange a different plan with each one, a rather tedious assignment.

"I was just learning to deal with diabetes, which is no easy task," she said. "My mind was in so many different directions and the last thing I could do at the time was study for seven

As for living in the dorm, Russack was encouraged to remain in Brookdale Hall for the duration of her freshman year by Director of Residence Life Rachel Kraut and other administrators, but soon realized that she needed a full sized kitchen to cook her own meals, since she was unaware of the ingredients or nutrition facts of the food served in SCW's cafeteria.

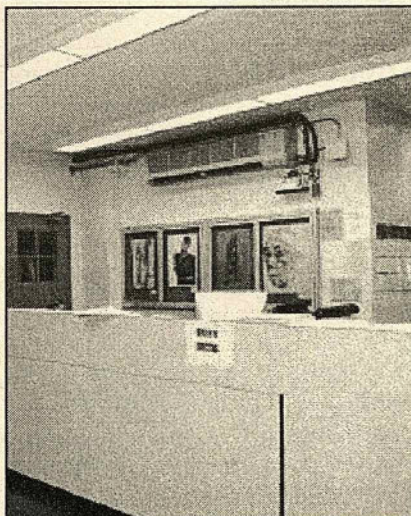
"I stayed in Brookdale but I realized that I wasn't able to eat a lot of the food in the caf," she said. Russack was offered the option of moving to Independent Housing midyear. "Rachel was very helpful and she put me in an apartment for the next year," she recalled.

For most SCW students living on campus, the mandatory meal plan is a pleasant convenience. For students like Russack, however, it becomes a tremendous hassle. Due to her diabetes, she rarely found herself eating in the cafeteria and found her pre-paid caf card a waste.

To be removed from the meal plan, students must submit a doctor's note explaining the personal situation and the note must be approved by the administration. "My doctor's note was of course approved, but the semester after, they treated me as though I had never given them a note," she stated.

Each semester Russack must resubmit a doctor's note, wait for it to be approved and then wait for her money to be returned.

"I have diabetes and it



Students with disabilities must speak to Student Services to arrange special accommodations

isn't going away any time soon," she remarked with irritation. "Why should a doctor have to approve my doctor's note every semester? I actually feel insulted. I have a disease and this is how I have to deal with it?"

Yet, Russack is not the only student at SCW who faces the challenge a disability might present. In fact, the forms it might manifest itself stretch from students who need to make use of our buildings' side entrance ramps to students who might need a little extra time on an exam.

"The university is required by law to present a student with reasonable accommodations," said Dr. Chain Nissel, psychologist in Yeshiva's Review Department of Evaluation. "Across each institution it would be different, depends on the resources that are available."

Students with a learning disability must be evaluated by a psychologist outside the university who is then required to present the university with documentation of a specific diagnosis. The documentation cannot be more than three years old, and upon receiving it, the Department of

Evaluation reviews and formulates the best possible plan of action that will be most beneficial to the student. The most common accommodation requested and provided is 50 percent extra time on a test.

Sometimes a student is given the option of having enlarged photo copies of handouts, special seating in the classroom, or perhaps a separate location for taking an exam. "It really depends on the documentation of the student with the disability," Dr. Nissel pointed out. "We want to make sure that students with disabilities are on an even playing field with other students. Providing extra time on an exam allows them to demonstrate this knowledge on an equal standing point with other students."

The only exception that arises is when the accommodation would significantly impact the essence of the course. For instance, a student who has been psychologically diagnosed and documented with anxiety to the extent that she is disabled by it might receive an exemption from the course.

Being excused from addressing the class in a semester of public speaking would nullify the fundamental nature of the course; allowing her to write a paper in place of a speech would be counterproductive to the courses purpose. Therefore, she might be obligated to take another course in its place.

However, students are responsible for identifying themselves to the administration as a disabled person if they wish to receive assistance. "When students do not identify themselves, legally the student did not do what he or she was suppose to," Nissel explained. "But we generally help above the law."

## Chemistry Club Plans to Involve Non-Science Majors

By Cheryl Donath

This year as the chemistry club starts fresh, a movement to involve non-science majors has taken shape. "Most students do not realize how relevant chemistry is to their everyday lives," said SCW senior Tova Fischer, the chemistry club's assistant president. Chemistry can play a role in everyday activities such as washing dishes, or heating food, she noted.

The new board, lead by SCW seniors Fischer, Nomi BenZvi, Yael Gamms and Elana Weinberg, hopes to convey this message to the students of SCW.

The faculty advisors for this year will be Dr. Lea Blau and Dr. Cecily Dobin. They are both looking forward to guiding the student leaders to put together ideas and events aimed at

attracting a diverse group of students.

To this end, the chemistry club is looking forward to planning entertaining activities for the upcoming year.

These social activities will include a tie-dye night and magic shows at local high schools. The club will also host trips to Pfizer and other pharmaceutical companies as well as to research facilities at AECOM. They hope to bring students to the Nuclear Resonance Facility, which helps determine chemical structures and compounds. They are also planning on inviting many speakers to further educate students about chemistry related issues.

The Shabbat of September 13, the Biology Club, Chemistry Club and YC Science Society held their first shabba-

ton of the year. The guest speaker, Rabbi Dr. Richard Weiss from the Upper West side spoke about bioethical issues Friday night. The rest of the weekend included many divrei torah from SCW and YC students. The shabbaton as a whole seemed to be a success.

The chemistry club is a student-affiliated chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS). This society is composed of top scientists in the chemistry world. They hold large conventions and research competitions. The club encourages students to attend these seminars and participate in these competitions.

Chemistry Awareness Week will take place during the month of October. The club plans on utilizing this week to heighten students' consciousness to the role of chemistry in their lives. The club will post signs on campus and plans are in the works for a chemistry seminar as well.

## Science Health Professional Group

continued from page 19

"There was no one to point me in the right direction," she recalled. "I feel that having experienced people to turn to will make it a much easier and less stressful situation for all pre-health students. I think the alumni program will be not only useful but necessary."

The alumni group was formed by Mero and her jubilee co-chair, Dr. Sharon Herzfeld, who is a pediatric neurologist. A subcommittee is comprised of Cheryl Frankel, a dentist, and Rochelle Palace, an endocrinologist, who will assist in organization of the group's events.

The meeting this past May featured Dr. Gila Leiter, obstetrician-gynecologist, as the keynote speaker, who discussed sexual and domestic violence as well as the role of women's health in her community.

Representatives from several fields attended, including

a dentist, midwife, and a physician's assistant.

Mero also averred that this is just one example of the possible professional alumni groups that can be formed. As part of the jubilee, she hopes to see other groups of professional women in areas like law, business, and accounting reach out to current SCW students looking to pursue such careers.

SCW students can contribute to these programs by arranging their own events and inviting speakers to lecture on a given topic. Currently, four alumni health professionals are available for guidance: Mero, Herzfeld, Gila Leiter (ob/gyn), and Roberta Strauchler (ophthalmologist).

These women can be contacted via Assistant Dean of Students Zeldra Braun. Mero commented that the next event is being planned for December/January and will include current students.

# Science & Health

## Returning Faculty Member Rabbi Dr. Weiss Joins Biology Department

By Reina Roth

Last spring, Rabbi Dr. Richard Weiss rejoined the SCW Biology faculty as a reinvented man.

He originally began teaching at SCW in 1991 as a professor of biology essentials. After serving two and a half years as an assistant adjunct professor, Weiss went back to finish his medical degree with a residency in general medicine.

But Weiss knew this was not his calling. From the time he entered medical school Weiss recognized his individuality.

"I was more interested in the academic side of medicine, not the clinical side," he said. With time, he did get accustomed to the practice of medicine.

Meanwhile, he developed two major outside interests, the first being in the rabbinate, which took shape when he gave a class at a local synagogue.

His positive teaching experience turned his ambiguous interest into a definitive goal. His

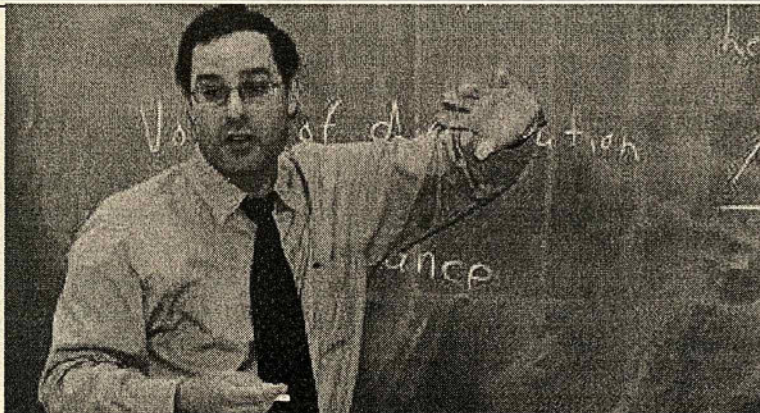
other interest, bioethics, developed more seriously when he attended the Georgetown Kennedy Institute of Ethics for a seminar.

After finishing medical school, Weiss returned to Yeshiva, where he received smicha. His interest in the rabbinate became a reality. He gained experience in a few synagogues as an assistant rabbi and is presently a full time assistant rabbi at the West Side Jewish Center on 34th street.

Weiss has also incorporated his interest in bioethics into his career. "The field of bioethics is a difficult field to enter due to its lack of structure," he explained. "There are very few positions in the field and there is no real degree in it."

The two main fields in bioethics are academia, where research and lectures are the focus, and clinical bioethics, which includes seeing patients, consulting, and teaching clinical ethics.

Weiss would still like to get more involved in the academic side of this field, but for now he consults and sits on



Rabbi Dr. Weiss teaching biology.

bioethics committees in certain hospitals.

The multi-tasked man did notice one common denominator that runs through all of his jobs. They are all people oriented. All of his efforts entail working with people and solving problems. Weiss has managed to master three careers with different hours and different structures. Yet, Weiss still says, "When I grow up I will figure out what I want to do."

During his early years at SCW, Weiss worked with students who did not major in Science, which he described as a positive experience. Now upon his return last spring, Weiss again found the student body to be "intelligent and serious minded."

He is now teaching more classes for Science majors, where he says the students are highly motivated and very attentive. He feels that the students

keep him in line with challenging and stimulating questions.

For Weiss, the classroom provides an occasional opportunity for him to incorporate Jewish learning in the classroom and bring student's attention to the interface between science and religion. It is important that the two subjects are integrated and endeavors to combine them when possible, he said.

Weiss considered an alternative career when a resident commented to him that when choosing a profession people should pretend that money has no bearing and chose a job they would do for free. "No person should ever feel locked into what they initially wanted to do," he said.

Although Weiss finished his medical degree, he realized it was not for him and now enjoys his other professions. "The Rabbinate or Bioethics is more me," stated Weiss.

## SCW Alumni Launch Professional Group

Plans to Advise  
Undergraduate  
Students First on  
Agenda

By Aviva Balk

Although they met for dinner last May to plan SCW's jubilee celebration, a group of SCW alumni in the health and science fields began brainstorming then the notion of an alumni professional group focusing on Health and Science.

"There [will be] several goals of the group," said Dr. Susan Ungar-Mero, jubilee co-chair and long-time dermatologist. "It is a great way of sharing ideas among Jewish women who have active careers and are juggling having a family while being involved in a community."

Mero remarked that the alumni anticipate building various events for Stern undergraduate students into the organization's agenda. A Health Awareness Day, for example, would include several alumni lecturing on topics related to their field of medicine. "There would be doctors speaking about [issues like] breast cancer, I could speak about skin cancer, someone else about diet and nutrition, and managing stress," she explained. "We would also like to open it up to social workers and psychologists."

Another initiative that the group hopes to establish is a career guidance program for current SCW students. SCW senior Diana Benmurgui, SCWSC Vice President and a pre-dentistry student, stressed the urgency for this type of program. "I think many of us feel lost and confused, and it would be beneficial to hear from alumni who have been through the process and to have them help us through it," she commented.

Another pre-dentistry senior, Elana Weinberg, noted the positive effect of the presence of admirable role models. "I think that a lot of people don't know what kind of professions are out there," she said. "They need advice on how to go about and find your profession. A mentor is the best thing. I would definitely see myself going to an event about dentistry."

The types of programs that the professional group is planning will be especially helpful to those who are shaping their own health major. When senior Temima Spetner decided to pursue the field of nutrition, she was unsure about what classes would be most beneficial.

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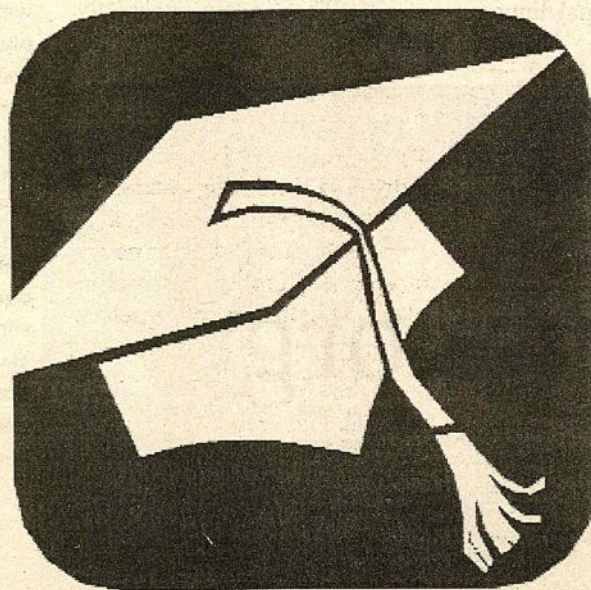
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## Blue Fringe: Not on the Fringe, But That's OK

By Yael Reisman

As pretentious as it might be, I pride myself largely on the fact that I am a devout fanatic and follower of bands that most people aren't too familiar with. In fact, it would be fair to say that most people don't even know that my favorite bands exist. I listen to the radio rarely; only enough so I can be in touch with what "the kids" are listening to these days. Sure, I know the new Dashboard Confessional single and I even like the new Beyonce song. I can appreciate all kinds of music so long as it is fresh and innovative.

Therefore, I made a conscious decision during my year in Israel to stay away from all things Blue Fringe. Word on the street was that they were a Jewish kid's Dave Matthews Band mixed with every other typical jam band you might find sprawled out on a college campus lawn after a weekend of hardcore partying. No thanks, I said. Years have since passed and I managed to keep to my word until a few weeks

ago when I was asked to review the Blue Fringe show at The Lion's Den. To be honest, at first

I declined the job because I was not sure I would be able to get my musical snobbery in check, but I eventually accepted the proposal, albeit with hesitation. I would have to leave my preconceived notions and iPod at the door.

I entered the venue and immediately saw that this was not the audience I was used to. There would be no hipster posing at this show. However, there would be hours of unabashed teenage adoration. Throngs of high school girls held their open cell phones in the air for their friends who were crying on the other side of the Hudson, lamenting their parents' curfew rules. There were also many YC and SCW students in attendance as a Blue Fringe concert provides YU students with the mirage that they're in a real-life, secular college.

While I was not familiar with their songs, the crowd most definitely was hundreds of high school kids mouthed each word, song after song. It was almost cult-like, but there was nothing teeny bopper about it. Blue Fringe performed a long set list full of creative, evolved songs, in both English and Hebrew. This is not your parents' Jewish music. Blue Fringe's Hebrew songs are just as good as their English ones. There are no shrill (and ever no unnecessary) trumpet solos. Heck, there isn't even a horn section at all.

Singer and guitarist Dov Rosenblatt is the perfect front man; he is tremendously affable and maintains a casual dialogue with his audience with ease. His vocals compliment his lyrics in all ways; John Mayer and Jason Mraz wish they could sound as sincere as Rosenblatt. Lead guitarist Avi Hoffman is simply put, a guitar giant. Hoffman possesses the rare ability to compose his guitar work in a way that brings their songs together and not splinter the song in the way that most overbearing (and yes, ever so unnecessary) guitar solos do. A large part of Blue Fringe's success lies in their bass section. Bassist Hayyim Danzig has been clearly influenced by the great bassists of the music world and successfully fuses his influences with his own personal impression. Drummer Danny

Zwillenberg is the backbone of the four-man outfit. His jazz influenced drumming and penchant for the singer-songwriter genre make him truly a musical powerhouse. Zwillenberg owns that drum kit.

The band gave one hundred percent of themselves throughout their set and the crowd responded accordingly. A large amount of the set list came from the band's latest release *My Awakening*.

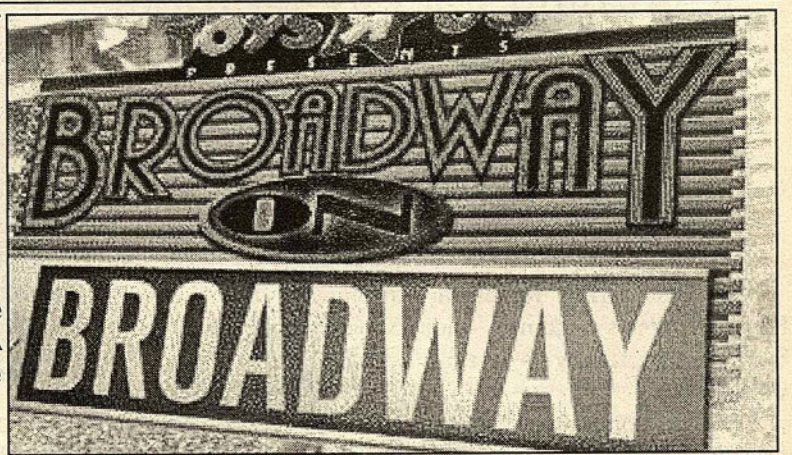
My personal highlight, however, was the band's performance of their most well known song "Flippin' Out". While many of their other songs are deserving of true musical acclaim, "Flippin' Out" has to be the most relevant song I have heard in years. It is literally The Manifesto of every frustrated post-Israel kid who has come back to the same life they had before their year abroad. (Yes, I am speaking to all three of you.) Rosenblatt has managed to articulate every hypocritical and fraudulent move our generation has come to embrace and yet does so in such a tongue in cheek manner that it is not remotely offensive.

While Blue Fringe have stayed true to their earlier work, they are also a band that is focused on progressing and taking it to the proverbial "next level". The band reached out to the more musically inclined with a great cover of Coldplay's "Yellow" and are currently rehearsing other more mature covers, including "High and Dry" by Oxford, England's art rockers Radiohead.

Blue Fringe's recent show at Makor on Sunday, September 21st was also another step in the right direction; one that is sure to widen their already powerful fan base.

Blue Fringe are not Radiohead; they do not have to be. They are not here to make some grandiose political or artistic statement. Blue Fringe strives to make quality Jewish music for those who do not like Jewish music and that is exactly what they do. Perhaps I would not be the cynical music critic I am had Blue Fringe been around when I was one of those high school kids.

Then again, probably not.



## One and Done

By Devorah Heching

We just wanted Broadway tickets. Well, for the sake of accuracy, we just wanted to get Broadway tickets for the maximum price of 20 dollars in seats that would guarantee us a first class view of the new hit musical *Hairspray!* Was that really too much to ask for?

Alas, we learned the answer to this question the hard way. Instead of admitting defeat after a humiliating rejection in the box office of *Hairspray!* (i.e. come back in three years when the word salary no longer means free candy at Milners) we crawled along Times Square and offered up our 20 dollar bill at any Broadway (or at our very lowest point Off-Broadway) box office we stumbled upon. Our efforts were to no avail, our money might as well have been stolen from a box of Monopoly for all the attention it received. And that's when we found it.

It was in a crumpled newspaper smashed in the corner of the bench we finally collapsed on. On the third page in the upper-right corner of the newspaper was an advertisement for "Broadway on Broadway" a musical medley of the best songs from all the hit shows currently being performed on Broadway. And get this; it was one hundred percent, absolutely, positively, free! We knew, beyond a doubt, that this was a show created and orchestrated with the prototypical penniless student in mind and as the embodiment of that image we had to attend. We made plans to rise early on Sunday the sixth and drag our still-comatose bodies to the corner of Broadway and forty-seventh in an effort to garner the best seats in the house.

Sunday arrived and we found ourselves stumbling through the eerily quiet streets of Midtown at an ungodly hour, yes, it was nine AM. After a quick stop at Eee's for some refreshments we headed straight over to join the

mass of people already congregated for Broadway on Broadway. In the distance we spotted rows of empty seats lined up stadium-style and immediately dashed toward them.

Unfortunately, we soon realized that we had overlooked the barriers erected around the afore-mentioned rows. A "friendly" officer immediately informed us that those seats were for Broadway people only, a term that we later learned translated into "the people who were smart enough to bring donuts to bribe the police force".

We found ourselves roughly three miles away from the actual stage leaning against wooden barriers that had been erected to contain the masses, 20 minutes later. And finally when we began to feel faint in the sweltering heat, the show began. The performances featured popular songs like "We both reached for the gun" by the *Chicago* troupe, as well as, lesser known numbers by more recent musicals like "Suddenly Seymour" by *Little Shoppe of Horrors*. The entire show lasted about three hours and was relatively enjoyable, but, taken together with the crowds, the heat and the limited view, it became an experience that I would never want to repeat.

Much better options for students who want to see Broadway, are the student tickets available when the box office opens on the day of show. The sale of "student rush" tickets for twenty dollars each has grown in the past year to include shows like *Mamma Mia*, *the Producers*, *Chicago* and even *Hairspray!* The only catch is that you have to be at the box office by 8:30 AM because only the first ten people can score tickets.

On the bright side, you can often meet actual Broadway performers while standing in line. Actors, in between shows, attempt to get student tickets in order to research the parts for which they will be trying out and, in their enthusiasm, often offer free tickets to you and a friend if they do get the part. Okay, so this only happened once, but a girl can dream, can't she?

yustudents.org

## Stylin' in the city

"Leggs 'In"

By Lauren Weltz

Slowly but surely, the summer season is coming to a close. It will soon be time to put away your Chinese slippers and airy peasant tops, in favor of wear a little less playful and a bit more substantial. It will be a time to put the sunscreen back into the cabinet below your bathroom sink, while reaching for your respective bronzers and extra large powder brushes.

Fall is approaching and you know what that means. There's a sudden draft on your legs, but you're not quite sure if you are ready to make the tights commitment just yet. Every SCW student knows that once you go tights, you never go back. Once you commit, its tights until the end of the season, at which the non tights commitment takes place once again.

So what is a chilly, but fashion-savvy student to do? Do not fret; perhaps you may have never considered knee socks. I discovered this novel idea last year around this time. It bought me a few extra non-suffocating, tights-free weeks at the start of the colder months. Not only did I find that they served the same purpose as tights, but I found that they allowed me to become more daring. Prior to my knee sock affair, I would have never dared pick up a pair of argyle tights. For some reason, though, only committing to an argyle knee sock seemed less scary. I know to the public it's all the same, but it gave me an inner freedom.

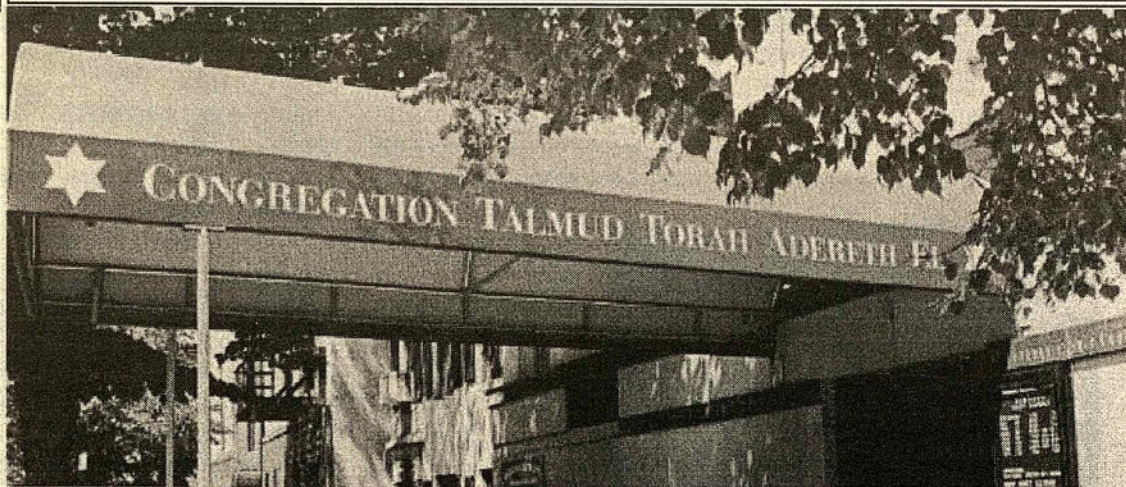
However, I must put a warning on the label. Use with caution. If you are going to set yourself free in the knee sock section of Macy's, be practical. If you want to try argyle, or stripes, or polka dots, do not buy stark colors. In theory, black and white may sound good, but

it is not. The contrast is too great and may possibly make you look clown. Instead, try a gray and black pair. While experimenting with patterned knee socks, also try to keep your outfit simple. The goal is "dress to impress," not "dress to distress."

You might be curious where you can find subtly stylish knee socks for wallet friendly prices. I have noted that Urban Outfitters, which has several locations throughout Manhattan, has a wide variety of knee socks and, truth be told, tights, that are not too pricey. Not only does Urban Outfitters have a large selection, but they have a style of knee socks called "just above the knee" socks, which prevent the possibility of the top of your knee socks making a public appearance.

Another option is the consumer-treasured Target (pronounce it anyway you like). I am aware of and distressed over the lack of Target locations in the Manhattan area (it's a real shame), but Target.com can do the trick as well (since knee socks only come in one size). And last but certainly not least, hit up your local department store and check out the new Hue brand styles.

Now that I've divulged the beginning of my deepest darkest fashion secrets, I'll let you return to your reviewing of the latest school happenings. May all your fashion escapades be fabulous findings, not fashion faux pas.



"The 29th Street Shul" is a favorite amongst SCW students

### Shul Hopping

#### Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El

By Shifra Bronstein

Courageously founded during the depression of 1857, Congregation M'Adereth El, later to be known as Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El, was established by a small group of German Jews on the holiday of Shavous. It was a time of great unrest: economic depression, high-cost living, and local rioting. However, this small synagogue was determined to survive.

Today, Congregation Adereth El serves much more than the small number of Jews it once did. Not only does the synagogue serve the Midtown area, but also the Manhattan neighborhoods of Murray Hill, Gramercy Park, and Kip's Bay. Its congregants no longer consist of only German Jews, but are now a mélange of individuals from different origins and sects belong to the synagogue. Each week there can be anywhere from 100 to 200 worshippers in attendance.

Due to its popularity, the synagogue possesses the longest running *minyan* in Manhattan. In its 146-year history, with 140 years in the same location on 29th Street, this synagogue has never missed its

requirement of ten men for prayers three times a day, on Shabbat and weekdays.

The synagogue's unique location has given it a very central role in the Manhattan community. Proximity to many hospitals makes Adereth El the perfect place for the visiting family and friends of patients to pray. Jewish businessmen on trips to the city, particularly the Midtown area, have found a welcome haven in the synagogue. Jewish students at various Manhattan universities have the singular opportunity to pray at this orthodox synagogue.

Even though the synagogue has been renovated three times throughout its 146-year longevity, it has maintained its original European flavor. Simply walking in and observing the immediate surroundings imbues the visitor with a sense of history; it feels like stepping into the past itself. The very pulpits and stained glass windows (all but one) are the originals from the 1800's. Attendees enjoy the services, Torah reading, and shiur by Rabbi Gideon Shloush, the synagogue's rabbi for the past eight years. All of these aspects add a palpable sense of spiritual atmosphere to the Shabbat or weekday services.

Ever since his appointment as the synagogue's rabbi, Rabbi Gideon Shloush has believed in an open door policy towards all types of Jews. This priority is reflected in a myriad of successful programs designed

for the very young to the very old, from the novice to the advanced scholar. A pre-school operates during the week for children, as well as Shabbat oneg groups, which educate as well as entertain during the morning Shabbat services. Included in the Shabbat services is a program for those new to traditional davening. A one-on-one Tuesday night study group in conjunction with SCW helps those inexperienced in Judaism learn about their heritage.

This synagogue is especially significant to the women of SCW and over the years, a strong bond has been forged between the two institutions. On any weekday morning, as early as 6:45 am, SCW women can be found at Adereth El. Several students make an extra effort to attend for selichos and Shabbat services. The synagogue provides the SCW student with the benefits of davening in an actual shul with a holy atmosphere, a unique opportunity for fulfilling *chesed* projects, and a place to hear inspiring lectures.

Upon entering, visitors immediately feel a sense of warmth, no matter what day of the week. But the welcome extends beyond the *shul*. The congregants are extremely hospitable to students looking for a warm Shabbat environment. A wonderful synagogue in the midst of a caring community is truly a blessing.

### Book Worm:



#### Seven Blessings

By Devorah Heching

From this book's title alone, the reader might imagine a plot detailing the quest for marriage in the Jewish world and a storyline that is no more intricate than the stereotypical romantic fiction novel. A blameless girl cannot seem to find a worthwhile partner, she search-

es long and hard for her elusive Mr. Right, and finally, the Prince Charming appears at the close of the book. In Ruchama King's debut novel, *Seven Blessings*, she breaks this one-dimensional mold and, in doing so, takes the genre of Jewish fiction to a different playing ground.

The book begins with an introduction to one of the story's pivotal characters, Beth, an older single with no living family who ekes out a quiet existence in the hills of Jerusalem. While Beth grapples with her seeming inability to find a mate she, at the same time, is struggling to come to terms with what she sees as the steady erosion of her spiritual belief system. This spiritual decline ulti-

mately compels her to drop out of the learning program that had so enriched her life until that point due to religious questions which she finds herself unable to answer.

When she finally begins to date a man whom she can see as a potential life partner, Beth is forced to recognize what the measure of a man truly is and that the search for her *bashert*, intended, as well as the answer to her spiritual dilemmas all boils down to a leap of faith.

As can be seen by the example of Beth, King's novel is not one to be taken at face value. There are underlying messages conveyed through each character and it is through these messages that the author connects the

reader with the struggles of every persona. Instead of relating to one key character, the reader will find that each personality represents a spiritual conflict that, at one time or another, is experienced by any thinking person in serious pursuit of religious guidance. From the *Rebbitzin*, in title only, who seeks to attain a level of spirituality on her own merit, to the aging *shadchan* who attempts to reignite the passion of her marriage, this is a story that allows the reader to explore the intricacies inherent within relationships, religion and Orthodox society.

Although the book's plot is enhanced by the many characters and the messages they

represent, the book disappointed in that some of the interesting characters introduced were not explored in greater depth. Early on in the book, a character named Dina is introduced, but regrettably remains on the peripheries of the novel as a mere acquaintance of the more important personalities.

Additionally, while some aspects of characters are explored at length, other aspects, such as Beth's relationship with her deceased parents, are merely brushed over. Luckily, these are problems that can be easily remedied by a follow-up novel, one that will be eagerly anticipated by anyone who reads King's valiant first work.

## Taking Sides: an Imperfect Portrayal of an Imperfect World

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

The movie industry has such a fascination with World War Two and the Holocaust that movies focusing on this era are numerous enough to birth a new genre of film. *Taking Sides* is the latest such film to grace the theatre. It is not the best.

That said, *Taking Sides* is an informative movie. It is based on the true story of a German symphony conductor, Wilhelm Furtwängler, who was investigated by an American soldier in post-war Germany. Major Steve Arnold's task was to link the conductor to the Nazi party. His superior officer, in the first poorly executed scene of the movie, makes it clear that all American values ride on finding this man guilty whether he is guilty or not. Although this scene is the first to seem amateur, it is certainly not the last and many subsequent scenes cause the viewer to, at best, wallow in confusion and, at worst, fidget with frustration.

Major Arnold is played by Harvey Keitel and it is difficult to say which is more appalling—Keitel's acting or the character he plays. Most of the unbearable scenes feature Keitel and force the viewer to wonder how utterly uncouth Americans have to get before one begins to like the idea of a world under German rule. Major Arnold drinks and swears constantly and shows no understanding of the subtle nuances at play in a demolished Europe.

To save this oblivious, albeit passionate, officer, the filmmakers kindly provide us with three more intelligent and complex characters. Firstly, there is Furtwängler himself, played brilliantly by Stellan Skarsgard. Every scene with Skarsgard is a pleasure and almost compensates for Keitel's unfortunate presence. One cannot help but pity the man who truly believed he was decent until the outside world dictated otherwise. Still, the movie will

not let the viewer completely embrace the tragedy of this musician and Major Arnold's only saving grace is his ability to pinpoint, however repugnantly, that



Against Taking Sides

Furtwängler is not a heroic, or even righteous, person.

Neither Arnold nor Furtwängler stand as heroes in the movie. It seems that both were fed the same brand of propaganda. The Nazis blamed the Jews for all that was wrong in their country; the Americans blamed the Germans for all that was wrong in the world. The viewer is forced into a disillusioned state where the line between good and evil is irrevocably blurred.

Still, all is not lost. Two characters in the movie, faced with the prism of reality, do not

ignore it but, instead, force themselves to continue in a tarnished world. Moritz Bleibtreu and Brigit Minichmayr gracefully portray Lieutenant David Wills and Emmi Straube, respectively. Both characters are German-born although their perspectives on their sinful and devastated homeland is inherently opposing. Wills is a Jew who escaped to America before the war but is an orphan because his parents were not as fortunate. Straube is a non-Jew whose father was executed after participating in a plot against Hitler and who, herself, spent some months in a concentration camp.

Neither character can forgive the Nazis and yet, neither character can fathom Arnold's intense hatred for all that is German. Straube and Wills represent the youth who must rebuild a broken world and who are naive enough to recognize that pointing fingers will not help. The complacency with

which they accept the prejudice against them is, at once, admirable and lamentable. They are too passive to be heroes although each display brief moments of heroism.

In conclusion, although this movie has appeal in its depiction of that uncertain time after evil was thought to be defeated, it is not worth it. Stay home and read a book. However, when *Taking Sides* comes out on video, rent it and, armed with the ability to fast-forward, catch a glimpse of the questions the world wanted to ask after being witness to the unthinkable and take note of how many questions were locked away in the desire for a simpler world, the world Furtwängler and Arnold never psychologically left.

*Taking Sides* was directed by Istvan Szabo and is currently playing, in Manhattan, at the Lincoln Plaza Cinemas.

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## Visa, American Express, Caf Card: How to Maximize Your Most Important Asset

By Marissa Parker

A few weeks have gone by since school commenced and after a frenzy of adding and dropping courses, you are settled into a daily routine. You have finally grown accustomed to your roommate's snoring and, inevitably, discovered the most essential element of the SCW experience. That's right ladies; I speak of none other than the awed and respected Caf Card.

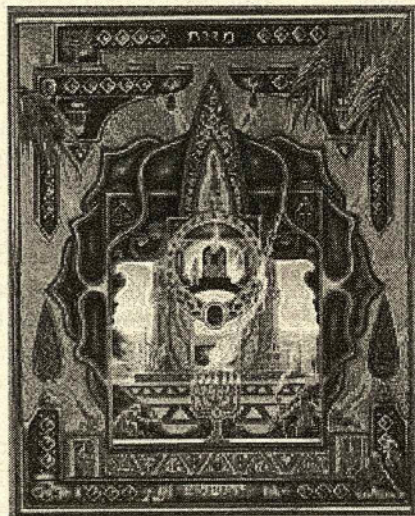
By now you have realized that students spend most of their time in the cafeteria, a habit whose origin probably traces back to their seminary year in Israel. Spending the majority of one's day in the Caf means that the amount of food consumption that occurs therein is above and beyond that of average human capability. In order to lounge about the cafeteria without going broke, there are a few tactics you must master. I enlisted the advice of a number of experienced upper classmen who attempt to be of service by drawing from their own experiences to help you in this struggle.

SCW Senior Sharonna Korn says that she saves some bucks by loading up on cereal and staying away from the pricey salad bar (the demise of most students). Junior Shira Biber, on the other hand, likes to refill her water bottles with tap water instead of dishing out over a \$1 every time she wants a drink.

After speaking with several upperclassmen, I compiled a list of seven tried and true eating habits that will successfully conserve Caf cards dollars for countless fiscal semesters:

1. Limit your sushi intake - treat it like gold
2. Befriend New Yorkers who come in Monday morning and leave Thursday afternoon leaving tons of extra cash just waiting to be spent
3. Don't discover the gargantuan store at Schottenstein
4. Learn to love plain bagels
5. Remember that Styrofoam weighs less than plastic
6. It is more financially sound to buy a box of Entenmann's doughnuts than a big salad
7. Do not hesitate to remind your fellow students that the Caf card money is not refunded after second semester.

As you strategize and think up your own individual saving plans for the upcoming year, above all, do not lose sight of the fact that, despite what your parents tell you, the caf card is not real money. So when you see an out-of-towner or a married student, take the initiative and offer your card, because sharing is caring. And for those of you who don't care, there is one more relevant cliché to contemplate- what goes around comes around.



Mima'amakim's Fourth Journal

## Mima'amakim: A New Community Rises from the Heights

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

Mima'amakim, a self-proclaimed "international network of contemporary artists," will host a night of artistic expression marking the transition of what began as just another literary venture on Yeshiva's undergraduate campuses to an organization reaching out to the artistic world in the greater Jewish community. The event marking the release of their fourth annual journal will take place on October 13 at Makor, located at 35 West 67th Street.

October's event is expected to be an exciting indication of this growing community and a worthwhile opportunity for new people to become involved. "In terms of venue, planning, guest-list contingent, this event is the most professional thing we've done so far," elaborated Marmer. "We're very proud."

The event, entitled "The Feast of the Leviathan," has been asked to be a part of the Second Annual Daniel Pearl Music Day, in memory of Daniel Pearl. It is an impressive statement on the prominence of Mima'amakim that it will be a

part of this international memorial event. Two featured performers will be Mattisyahu, a reggae musician, and The Seth Nadel Band, a folk rock group. The event will feature poetry and art by various contributors. The fourth annual journal will be unveiled as well. The festival is scheduled to run from 7:30 pm until midnight.

Mima'amakim's participants are not limited to YC and SCW students and graduates. Current Editor-in-Chief David Druce pointed out that age and educational similarity are not what drive this

community but the connection shared by being Jewish artists. An example of this is found in an active contributor named Patricia. Druce mentioned that Patricia is a poet in her sixties who not only contributes to the website but also comes to events and, on one occasion, even brought her grandson with her. Other participants come from as near as Washington Heights and as far as Israel.

Although Mima'amakim began as a Yeshiva funded society, it has recently achieved a greater level of separation from the university. It continues to receive some funding from Yeshiva but has branched out and intends to accept donations from various other sources. The website has always been funded privately and not by Yeshiva. When asked about this desire for independence, Druce commented that Mima'amakim will continue to feel a close affinity for Yeshiva but wishes to have more freedom from censorship. "We are very appreciative to the Dean's office and SOY for cultivating Mima'amakim," emphasized Chaim Strauchler, founder of the publication. "It would not

have advanced as it did without their support."

In the previous year, Mima'amakim has registered itself, with the state of New Jersey, as a non-profit organization. Its mission statement reads: "The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized are educational purposes, including but not limited to, the advancement of the arts and their place within the public sphere by encouraging literary, musical, and visual expression of the Jewish religious experience."

Four years ago, YC graduate Chaim Strauchler first developed the idea of a yearly publication and open forum intended to address an artistic need in the Jewish community. "Mima'amakim's intention was to create a community of artists," explained Druce. Druce went on to say that Strauchler was witness to a lack of a place in which Orthodox Jewish artists could discuss and develop their work. In an attempt to fill this void, Mima'amakim was first introduced.

Strauchler also felt that art had the power to effect social change and hoped that Mima'amakim would foster more critical thinking in the entire Jewish world.

About a year after its inception, Jake Marmer, then a student at YC, joined the endeavor and developed an interactive website. The website, [www.mimaamakim.org](http://www.mimaamakim.org), rests at the core of the organization today. A monthly magazine is posted on this website in which specific artists, writers and poets are featured. "Now [the magazine] gets between 8000 and 10000 hits a month," reported Marmer.

There is also the continual opportunity for various creative individuals to post their work on the site and receive feedback and critiques by other artists. The website displays poetry, prose, visual art, photog-

raphy and music. Bella Tendler, SCW senior and member of Mima'amakim's board, says that her work has received anywhere between five and 15 hits and that the information is always helpful. "I have done rewrites based on what people respond," said Tendler. "I've met some of the most interesting people I know through these dialogues."

Mima'amakim's website is constantly open to new artists and/or critics. "We welcome new voices to speak and listen," said Strauchler. Currently, Strauchler is in the process of improving the visual art section of the organization which he feels has been kept secondary, in the past, to the poetry and prose.

However, Mima'amakim is determined to foster more than a paper or computer community. Mima'amakim also hosts various events which they refer to as New Moon Festivals. Druce explained that these festivals are a chance for musicians and poets to perform and also allows participants to approach the microphone and share his/her work with the crowd. In keeping with Mima'amakim's theme of melding the Jewish and artistic worlds, these festivals take place at various synagogues and are always associated with Rosh Chodesh.

The sheer number of contributors who have become involved in Mima'amakim are testament to the need for such an organization. Tendler and Druce agreed that the Jewish artist suffers a unique form of loneliness; the artistic world cannot understand the art that comes from being an Orthodox Jew. "I never expected to find such a supportive Jewish artistic group," mused Tendler. "They understand me better than my writing professor could. They share my experiences and come from a similar place as artists and as Jews."

## Up and Coming Events in the Big Apple:

**Petra: The Lost City of Stone:** The American Museum of Natural History located at Central Park West and 79th Street. The exhibit begins October 18th and the Museum is open daily, 10:00 am-5:45 pm Admission is \$9.00 for a student with ID.

[www.anmh.org](http://www.anmh.org)

**Reel Jews Film Festival:** The 92nd Street Y's Steinhardt Building at Lincoln Square located in the Upper West Side. The performance will run from October 26-November 2 during the hours of 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Admission is \$9.00 for all performances.

[www.92y.org](http://www.92y.org)

**Watercolors by Kandinsky:** The Guggenheim Museum located at 5th Avenue and 88th Street. The exhibit will end on October 22nd. Museum hours are Saturday-Wednesday 10 am-5:45 p. Admission is \$10.00 for students with ID.

[www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)

# RIETS Hosts Middle East Scholar Daniel Pipes

By Shayndi Raice

Middle East scholar and new presidential appointee to the US Institute of Peace Dr. Daniel Pipes, spoke to Yeshiva students on September 23 as part of the Lena and Harry Cabakoff annual lecture sponsored by the Bella and Harry Wexner Semikha Honors Program.

The lecture was part of a week of celebrations and lectures in honor of President Richard Joel. The evening's event, in addition to Pipes's speech, included activism sessions led by specialists in the field of combating anti-Israel activism. Dr. Mitchell Bard, executive director of the American-Israeli enterprise and



Daniel Pipes Addresses  
Yeshiva students

Dr. Wayne Firestone, director of the Center for Israel Affairs and the Israel on Campus Coalition. "People will try to convince you that there are two sides to the story," said Bard in his session. "They will say you have to factually and morally equivalent. It's not true."

The evening was titled "Activism for a New Middle East" and it centered around Yeshiva students rallying for Israel in the public eye, rather than an intellectual analysis of the region. "I'm a specialist on these topics," said Pipes. "Not an activist."

However, Pipes did give a brief overview of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Noting the recent passing of the tenth

continued on page 7

# With Skirts in Hand, Lady Macs Gear Up for a New Season

By Shifra Landowne

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has approved skirts as acceptable dress for players in their league. This new change in policy opens new possibilities for the SCW basketball team, the Lady Macs.

In the past, the Lady Macs wore the official NCAA uniform, which consisted of shorts and a sleeveless jersey. Some players opted to adjust the uniform, wearing t-shirts under their jersey or leggings under their shorts. Players never had the option of wearing skirts, a rule that discouraged many women at SCW from joining the team.

Last year students interested in joining the team, but had reservations about the uniforms, began inquiring about the possibilities of changing uniform regulations.

Rivkie Pianco, an SCW sophomore, wanted to join the team but didn't feel comfortable compromising her religious observance regarding dress for the NCAA's uniform requirements. "I always liked playing

ball," said Pianco. "Last summer I went to IBA (basketball camp) and had a really positive experience. I wanted to continue playing ball more seriously at Stern, but I didn't want to wear the uniform shorts."

Dr. Richard Zerneck, Director of Athletics at SCW, along with the team's coach Dr. Karen Green, contacted the NCAA and obtained approval for players on the team to play in skirts.

They have yet to devise an exact agreement of what will be considered acceptable clothing.

Playing basketball in front of men brings up numerous religious issues for many students at SCW, the most serious being dress requirements.

"You are playing in front of men, no ifs, ands or buts," said Green, who admits to the highly sensitive nature of compromising religion and a students desire to participate in athletic opportunities. "That needs to be comfortable for the girls. We are going to come up with something together with the NCAA and the players that works."

Both Zerneck and Green are mindful of all potential issues connected to skirts. "There are important considerations, such as balancing religious needs with team safety," says Zerneck. "I would doubt that long skirts would be considered safe for playing in. My best guess is that we will come up with something like tights and sweatpants with short skirts, but no matter what, these girls are being accommodated."

Zerneck is enthusiastic about the player's initiative. "This is the first time this issue has come up in my seven years," he said. "It can only help the team. I wish the young ladies luck."

The acceptance of skirts into the dress code is expected to bring a new wave of SCW students to the team. Already, many have joined because of the new allowance. However, they are not the only ones excited about the change.

Players who have been on the team in previous years are also excited about the

Continued on page 15

# Policy of Faculty Autonomy Sacrifices Uniform Academic Standards

## Students Left Without Expectations for Grading, Attendance Requirements

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

In what has proven to be one of its most controversial policy statements, Yeshiva's most recently printed SCW undergraduate catalog delineates its stance on student testing and examination attendance.

According to the school's official guidelines, "[a] student who is absent from an in-class test due to illness or an equally compelling cause must consult with the instructor about exam requirements."

This policy, applicable to all of Yeshiva's undergraduate colleges, underscores a general deference that characterizes SCW's approach to faculty preference on academic policies germane to their classes.

The consequent academic freedom afforded to SCW's professors manifests itself most clearly in the range of individual policies prescribed by given instructors in response to a student's absence from a test or midterm exam.

Jewish Studies professor Rabbi Kenneth Auman, for instance, is known for his policy of completely exempting a student from one test a semester given extenuating circumstances, such as the student's wedding.

In defending his *unique* policy, Auman argues that "the

final is cumulative. A student will have to know the subject matter, it's just a question of later versus sooner."

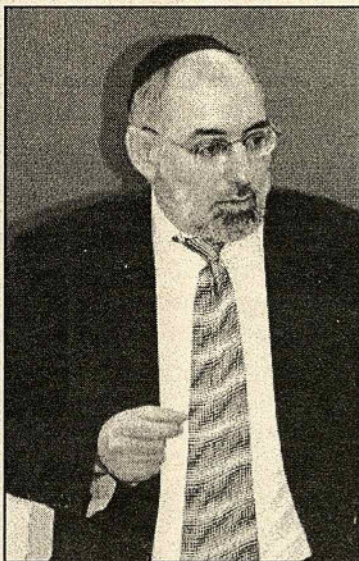
Conversely, Dr. David Shatz generally refrains from allowing students to take any makeup examinations, regardless of circumstances.

Although the catalog's literal policy statement implicates only midterms and tests during the semester, SCW administrators' decision to read it broadly effectively confers upon professors complete autonomy to designate their own grading policies in their individual classes.

The result is that "all in-semester work is in the hands of the professor," according to an explicit Dean Orlian. "The faculty highly values its academic freedom. We [the SCW administration] encourage professors to schedule midterms so that students can assess, before the final, their ability to succeed in a course; but it is not mandatory. What is required is that the teachers have some way of assessing students' grasp on the material."

The confusion that results from the absence of uniform policies on these matters has given way to challenges from a concerned student body.

"Presumably, an instructor should be basing a



Rabbi Kenneth Auman is known for  
his lenient exemption policy

student's grade on her work," commented SCW junior Shifra Elman. "When teachers have so much freedom, it is possible for this not to be the case. A lenient professor could be marking more leniently and thereby give certain students a higher grade than the work deserves. Conversely, an instructor may grade a student based on the instructor's presumptions of how the individual student should be doing as opposed to equal expectations for every student."

Most controversial is the impact the hands-off administrative approach has on attendance policies. The official policy of the school prescribes mandatory attendance for freshmen and students on probation. Apart from the underclassmen requirements, only performance classes, such as Speech

Communication, carry obligatory attendance policies. However, school rules afford an instructor the discretionary authority to deem attendance

mandatory in any given class as well.

Many students feel that strict compulsory attendance detracts from the nature of university and the higher level of independence associated with a post-secondary education.

"I'm a university student; it's my prerogative if I want to go to class or not," said Ariela Sherman, SCW sophomore. "It should have no effect on my grade. At this level of education the point is to know the information."

Moreover, students often register for classes unaware of their new professors' policies.

The result is heightened disappointment, as students learn of the diverse sets of rules that their instructors may employ in both the grading and attendance realms.

Complaints aside, the alternative to the present policy is not necessarily more appealing. If the faculty were to hand over authority to the Dean's office, most students agree that this would undermine the intellectual nature of each class and compromise a professor's position.

"If a teacher has no authority over his course material, it isn't good for the class," averred SCW junior Pesia Soloveitchik. "Each class is different and shouldn't be subject to the same rules."

Currently, the Dean's office presides over only one aspect of a student's evaluation the final examination. "Many years ago, the faculty requested that the Committee on Academic Standards oversee the scheduling and administration

of final exam," recalled Orlian.

She explained that professors were unwilling to deal further with students' excuses and, therefore, turned to the Dean's office to handle any and all issues pertaining to the execution of and attendance at final examinations. The Committee on Academic Standards, chaired by Dr. Hadassah Kosak, reviews all requests and determines whether or not a student has a valid excuse warranting rescheduling of an exam.

Although the administration has demonstrated continued reluctance to intervene in issues between the student and professor, having only formed the Academic Standards Committee after the explicit petition of instructors, students are presented with some options to challenge a questionable grading scheme or incident they believe to be unfair.

Orlian advised that the best way to change an instructor's policy is to speak to the professor directly. If students complain often enough, an instructor may be compelled to change his policies. Beyond this, however, a student can drop a course.

"This school has a significant enough drop-add period for students to decide if they like the grading," commented Chaya Melton, SCW junior.

Nonetheless, some remain steadfast in their call for a more centralized and uniform approach to academic standards policies, in hope of eliminating what they view as the underlying problem in SCW academic standards procedure.