



## Thursday Mass Exodus Ritual Turns Grave *Student Injured As Wheelies Go Awry*

By an Embedded Journalist

On what seemed to be an ordinary Thursday afternoon, a SCW freshman from Cleveland, Ohio was trampled by a herd of students leaving Brookdale Hall for the weekend. At approximately 1:30 pm Sarah Goldstein was pushed by a throng of harried students and subsequently knocked to the ground and, as if that was not enough, then mowed down by a procession of over-zealous Samsonite Wheelie (also known as *Shlepper*) suitcases. "I was minding my own business, coming up the stairs from doing my laundry, when I was bombarded with what looked like a sea of Uug boots and overpriced French tote bags," said a shaken Goldstein.

When the scene died down, a member of the Burns Security Brigade found a battered and bruised Goldstein sprawled face



Students leave the scene of the crime with their wheelies in tow.

down on the Brookdale lobby floor. "I asked the young lady if something was amiss, but I got no response," stated Captain Jose Cuervo. "And so I proceeded to ignore her, and I continued to use my Nextel gratuitously."

While the on-site Security personnel did not concern themselves with the luggage fiasco, the frightening tale made its way

to the upper echelons of both the Security and Facilities Management departments. "Truth be told, Yeshiva has been expecting this sort of valise malfunction for years," Vice President of Facilities and Other Things Technical in Nature Jeffery Rosengarten said. "I'm only surprised it hadn't hap-

*continued on page 5*

## In Desperation, Yeshiva Launches Reality TV Show to Land CFO

By A Bachelorette

With still no CFO secured three months after its deadline passed, Yeshiva's Board of Trustees has decided to finally tackle the problem through the exceedingly popular venue of reality television this coming month. *The Obscure* has learned. *The Entrepreneur* will feature sixteen different candidates, some with business experience, and others with none whatsoever, in an intense

season of tests and competitions that will ultimately result in the naming of the final candidate with the esteemed title CFO. "We've given up on searches," declared Director of the Board of Trustees Ronald P. Stanton. "They are a mess-dragging on for months, candidates dropping out- It's just easier this way."

When questioned about this unconventional mode of hiring, President Richard Joel

*continued on page 10*



## Joel Succeeds in Ennobling Efforts for Enabling Underway



Ennoblement Progressed with Astounding Speed

By David Brody

Long before Yeshiva faculty and students expected it, the young Joel administration has succeeded in ennobling. "We

thought it would have taken longer," said Director of Public Relations Peter L. Ferrara. "Or at least we would have told *The Obscure* that we thought it would have taken longer."

At his Investiture, Joel emphasized the crucial role that ennoblement plays in an educational institution. "The challenge of being knights errant, to go forth from our university to ennoble life and give ongoing harmonies to western civilization by who, what, where, when, why and how we are, is a compelling vision for our children," he declared. "We must elevate the quality of the experience for our students, so that each one feels inspired by his tenure at YU."

That elevation took place by way of acronym: Joel's strategy

was embodied by the letters DREAM- Doing, Realizing, Excitement About Making (Changes). "It was DREAM that really moved the project to action," said Deputy to the President Ed Fox, after six months of complete silence.

According to SCW Dean Karen Bacon, this development benefits SCW students in particular. "I think this is a phenomenal opportunity for the women of Stern College," she said. "Stern College provides Jewish women with the finest education, in both secular and Jewish studies, while preparing them to be leaders," she added for some reason.

While ennobling was achieved with astounding speed, Yeshiva insiders speculate that enabling will take more time. This is for two reasons. First, a

culture of caring, an obvious prerequisite, has yet to be established. Second, scheming of ways to associate Yeshiva with Bar Ilan University and other non-Yeshiva affiliated institutions took priority, leaving enabling on the backburner.

Still, Joel remains undiscouraged. "At Hillel, I learned, among other clichés, that one must see the forest through the trees, keep your chin up and see the silver lining."

Several MYP students have already expressed discontent with Joel's enabling plan.

Its modern and co-educational elements confirm, in these students' eyes, that it was indeed a mistake to appoint Joel as president. "He's not a rabbi," pointed out yet another astute Yeshiva analyst.

Student leaders are, surprise, in full support of the president's decision. "I ask the students of Yeshiva to rally around our university's president in support and around me as well," said SCWSC President Anat Barber.

The major question that remains is the allocation of funds. Evidently, Joel and his Vice President for Business Affairs have decided to nix funding for a student mission to Israel, building student centers or raising faculty salaries and instead funnel all available monies to the enabling project. "The monies will be in the hands of the enabling board," said Joel. "This is the optimum way of ensuring that Yeshiva can continue to dream future dreams."

### I N S I D E

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Double Take  
Spread  
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African Warriors Usurp Arts Festival  
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Hindy Poupko Crowned Miss Israel  
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SCW Jubilee Spearheaded by Senior Citizens  
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Thank You  
Jon Perl  
Page 2

The Yeshiva University  
**OBSCURER**

Rachel Cyrulnik  
Married Women Can Jump

Shayndi Raice  
Lucy

Yael Reisman  
Brains Behind the Operation

Yafit Vaanunu  
Indentured Servant

Rebecca Rosenberg  
Ethel

Dodi-Lee Hecht  
Best Kept Secret

Esther Flaschner  
Least cynical staff member

Devorah Heching  
Of Dating Expose Fame

Shifra Landowne  
AWOL

Arie Staller  
Bouncer

Miriam Shapiro  
YC Liason

Aviva Balk  
Dash-Queen

Elisha Horen  
Horen the Horrible

Reina Roth  
"All medical problems can be solved with green tea" Editor

Andrea Gelnick  
Papparazi

Shoshi Butler  
"Made Editor in Record Time" Editor

Talia Zaret  
Affirmative Action Pick

Melinda Russak  
Mail Girl

Adam Steiner  
Computer Nerd

Child Labor  
Shifra Bronstein  
Adrienne Eichen  
Chaya Glazer  
Shevie Moskowitz  
Ilana Pister  
Vivi Stahl  
Devorah Stein  
Lauren Weltz  
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Thank You  
Jon Perl  
(in general)



Shayndi Raice  
Editor in Chief

I was talking with a fellow writer about a science class she was taking at SCW and was surprised to hear that our university still teaches the theory that the world is flat. I don't have to explain why this is utter stupidity or why the professor espousing such ideas is clearly an anti-Semite. That is self explanatory.

What I would like to focus on is the insistence of our university on presenting an antiquated opinion, no matter how outdated, because of a commitment to be weary of the religious students on campus. We are a Yeshiva and a university. However, being a Yeshiva does not mean that we need to ignore all the scientific truths that have been revealed over time. I understand that admitting to the global nature of the world may lead to feminism and other perversities. But let us not be afraid to draw a line, to stand up for what is right and what is wrong. Saying the world is round is within the permissible boundaries of *halakhah*. Being dumb isn't.

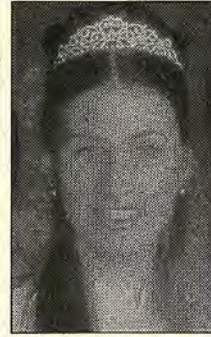
Obviously, we must be conscious of the religious sensibilities of students, but when can we draw the line and take a stand against idiocy? My great-great uncle was a strong believer that the world was flat. But he lived a really long time ago. That should be proof enough that we must come into this century. We need not superficially discard our traditional values for updated scientific facts. It is quite

the opposite, in fact. Why? I don't know but once again, we must take a stand about what is right and what is wrong, a stand for morality and a stand against moral relativism. To teach every opinion, no matter how outdated, in the hopes of appeasing all sensibilities is a type of relativism or pluralism or something else really, really bad for religious people, especially Jews.

This can be seen clearly in the hullabaloo surrounding the release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion." The idea that the Jews killed Jesus has been out of fashion, for most Christians, since the 60s. Mel Gibson insists on basing his movie on false information. Yet as Jews we feel that we have the right to ask this nice, very good-looking man to make his movie according to the latest historical research (i.e. that Jews are not blood-thirsty Christ-killers) when we don't want to teach scientific research that is barely considered debatable anymore. No, the world being round is not *just* a theory. There is conclusive scientific proof for this assumption.

All this being stated, I would like to remind everyone, on both campuses, to be open-minded. We need to be able to know what is right and what is wrong. We must be conclusive in our opinions. It is wrong for a college-level course to continue to teach that the world is flat. And don't forget that you shouldn't be dumb.

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~~Rachel Horn~~

~~Rachel Horn-Cyrulnik~~

~~Rachel Horn Cyrulnik~~

Rachel Cyrulnik  
Editor in Chief

Like most students at SCW, I have an epiphany each month, usually a lesson I learned from my college experience or a theory about some pressing issue involving the Yeshiva community. This revelation, conveniently, comes to me just as each month's issue of *The Obscure* is in its final production stages.

This month, I struggled with the question every journalist faces when working on their Purim issue. How do we maintain our newspaper's *halakhic* and moral integrity while bashing everyone who has crossed paths with *The Obscure*?

Bear with me: I know that any semblance of maturity will be shattered when you just glance at the rest of this newspaper. And honestly, regardless of what *halakhah* mandates, this issue will be in your hands before you're too drunk to read it. Nonetheless, as students of Yeshiva and poster children of Torah U'Madda, we must endeavor to discern a loophole to sanc-

tion the defamation found within these pages. Let the creativity begin.

As we all know, being happy on Purim is a mitzvah. And what greater happiness is there than laughing at another's expense? Just ask the Reis Guy, our local female Rabbi.

The harsh dissing of anyone and everyone who remotely deserves it, and maybe even those of you who don't, is for the ultimate benefit of the Yeshiva community. This is a surefire way to encourage improvement and growth on campus. Since everybody loves being criticized publicly, we are doing a service to our readership by creating an issue dedicated solely to finding faults in your peers and administration. Besides, we welcome letters to the editor. We use it as scrap paper.

The Purim issue promotes love and *achdut* among students. Sacrificing a few for the enjoyment of the many is a tenet of some derivative faith of Judaism (read: Christianity). Picture the scores of students that will bond while reading this paper together, scoffing at the unfortunate fate of the chosen victim. Just imagine how rewarding it would be if you were the lucky one to bring all those people together.

So if you see your name mentioned in this paper, just suck it up. Take one for the team.

Read  
*The Observer*

# Letters to the Editors

## We Couldn't Make These Up if We Tried

### Dude Looks Like a Lady

Dear Editors:

I was quite intrigued by Shayndi Raice's article "Yeshiva Boys Club: No Girls Allowed" (October 17, 2002). It provided some fascinating insight into the feminist mind. But alas, there was something in the final paragraph that didn't seem quite right. Ms. Raice declares that feminism "isn't about wanting to be like men." When I read this, a thought began itching in the back of my brain. Somewhere, sometime, I learned that the opposite was true, that women, especially Stern women, had in fact wanted desperately to be men... But where?

As I always do when I have a burning question eating away at me, I turned, of course, to my ever-growing pile of Observer archives. As I flipped through these beloved publications, I glimpsed a front-page headline of an aging copy: "Surprising Lack of Feminism Characterizes SCW Campus" (December 18, 2001). This must be a sign, I thought. The answer must be in this issue somewhere! I turned a few pages and found what I was looking for. In an article by Sara Jacobson entitled "SCW and YC Students Give Their Cheek Cells and Hearts," Ms. Jacobson, in the article's opening sentence, lets us know that "On Tuesday, November 20, 2001, 247 SCW students... took time out of their busy schedules to get testes..."

"Wow!" I said to myself. "What more clear way to indicate one wants to be a man than actually going out and getting a pair of testes!" These Stern girls certainly seem to "have insecurities about being a woman," as Ms. Raice so elegantly put it. Or was this, perhaps, the very "Lack of Feminism" referred to on the front page, that was plaguing YC's sister-but-equal school a year ago? Ah, that must be it.

Now that my mind is at ease again, and lucid thoughts can once again roam free, I recall that when I originally read Ms. Jacobson's article, back in my uneducated, chauvinist days, in the year 2001 [or the year 1 B.R.E. (Before Raice Era), as I now refer to it], I had haughtily assumed

the word "testes" to be some sort of typo. However, having just been enlightened by Ms. Raice's article, I was not about to once again grow suspect of "the caliber of students and their writing abilities at Stern College" as I used to do so flip-pantly. Rather, Ms. Jacobson's article was perfect and, if anyone, I am the one who is flawed.

Geez. When I look back to those days of 2001 I realize I was such a man back then. It sickens me.

Thank you for showing me the light,  
Elyakim Deutsch.  
YC Class of '04  
(SCW, I wish!)

### Why Aren't You a Christian Theologian?

To the Editors:

I was quite upset with the review of Dan Brown's latest best-seller *The Da Vinci Code*. First of all, the author was very wishy-washy about her opinion. She said that you should expect to waste many hours on a book that she could not put down. Isn't that a contradiction? Also, she said that if you are in the mood for a light read, it's a great book to choose. Then, she said that this is definitely a book that makes you think. As my roommate pointed out, doesn't a light read imply that you DO NOT have to think too hard as you read it?

It also upset me that the author said that she wishes she could broadcast to the world that there were some misconceptions in the book about Judaism. Is she a world renowned expert on Judaism? Just because she has been born Jewish and goes to SCW does not make her the most knowledgeable about the subject. I read the book too, and yes, I was also disturbed about some of the things that were said about Judaism; but when I discussed it with people who are older and wiser than myself, I was enlightened by the fact that it is very possible that the author took a fact about Judaism and just blew it slightly out of proportion. And, on top of that, it is very possible that there was other

mis-information in the book. Did she ever consider that? Did she research everything in there?

In addition, I specifically remember that the address for the world headquarters of Opus Dei is at 243, NOT 245 Lexington. (For those of you who didn't know, 245 is the address of SCW). In the future, may I recommend to all the readers the following caveat: take everything you see/read/hear with a grain of salt, which in some cases might take an entire salt shaker. The Observer should consider getting more than one review in the future so that students can hear more than one opinion.

Thank you,  
Esther Malka Stromer  
SCW '05

Ed. Note:

Did someone really care enough to write this?

### Those in Glass Houses Shouldn't Throw Stones

To the Editors:

So this is basically a point by point critique of your latest issue, and it is not especially organized and will therefore likely ramble at certain points.

The picture of Pres. Joel on the front page and the security on the back are excellent attention-grabbers. However, be it due to the quality of the photos themselves or the paper's printing or the scanning or what have you, they look way too dark. One has to strain many times when reading the paper to determine the content of pictures. One thing I cannot say when reading your paper is that the text and photos, the overall layout, is sharp and grabbing.

On the bottom of page one, the small photo of the student at the surge meeting is of very poor quality. Very little can be made out.

While this is more of a comment than a criticism, I was really surprised by Shayndi Raice's assertion that to be anti-Zionist, one must either be ignorant, an anti-Semite, or both. While the professor in her article is an excellent straw man, I would submit that there

are individuals who are anti-Zionists, while being neither ignorant nor anti-Semitic.

Further, the beginning of her editorial was a terrible lead-in. It didn't grab the reader's attention at all, and why exactly she mentioned as an introduction that a fellow writer suggested you do a feature on the new anti-Semitism boggles the mind. It would have been far better to start by introducing the new anti-Semitism, perhaps with examples, in a provocative manner.

Moreover, the title of her column, "a message from your editor", sounds like a mix of arrogance, overformality and plain language.

Your corrections, in the Letters to the Editors section, are virtually unreadable. Bad enough that errors were made; that corrections cannot be read is ridiculous. They should be reprinted in the next issue, in readable format.

The shading you used for the corrections should be discontinued forthwith.

Reis-Guy: Is there any particular reason why there are no apostrophes with what's and Reisman's? Aside from the fact that much of the column, first paragraph especially, is overwhelmingly obvious. "I have come to realize that choosing a topic is a lot harder than it sounds. Sometimes the problem lies in the fact that I have too many subjects to rant about, but this month was quite different. Here's why." Far too many words stating very clear and obvious points.

Moreover, I cannot state enough that having a continual column of the self-absorbed musings of a girl, full with her own thoughts and self-analysis, isn't interesting. No one at Yeshiva College or Stern really wants to know about Yael Reisman's desires or her newfound cheerfulness. Avi Mermelstein's Ramblings work because they are dominated by humor, not intended to be serious in the slightest, make excellent use of satire and are more about the satire and humor than about the person making them. That is why Ramblings works, and why Reis-Guy, Observe Me and Steven Weiss's I A Tribe do not. Just because someone is smart and fun to talk to, with a

good personality, does not mean that they should write a column about themselves, their thoughts and feelings, and their views.

The last line of frame 4 of the artitorial was cut off. The picture of Anat Barber is poorly printed, to the point where it looks out of focus.

Rav Soloveitchik's picture is so dark that the picture is essentially ruined. Having seen the photo in many other printings, I cannot understand why it came out so bad this time around.

Consider changing your margins so that spaces after the end of articles, such as in the Soloveitchik and registration articles, do not occur.

The photo of the girl registering is just a picture of hair and a computer. It doesn't tell the story at all. Compare that to the picture The Commentator used in its article about wireless access in the Gottesman library.

The Francis Bok picture also came out terribly in printing. Your detailed description of each building (when it opened, how big it is and how much it cost) was excellent. The pictures, however, came out terribly and the shading on pages 14 and 15 is also very poorly done. It makes no sense to print the pictures of buildings in the first place when they detract from the newspaper's quality. The Beren and Stanton photos also did not come out well. Arts and Culture came out relatively well. Why is there an H in Da Vinci in the picture of that book?

That's it. Please do not take personal offense to these criticisms. They are meant to be solely constructive, and I have no interest in bashing the Observer. Rather, I want both your publication and mine to rise to the highest levels of journalistic and aesthetic quality. I would be delighted to discuss any of this further with anyone on your staff. It goes without saying that what I've written is not meant for publication.

Happy Hanukkah.

Love,

A Concerned Commentator  
Staff Member

Ed. Note: Thanks for the constructive criticism. Now, don't you have Arts and Culture articles to write?

The Obscurer  
welcomes all letters to the editors.

We reserve the right to mock, belittle and then completely rewrite your letters.

No unsigned letters will be printed. (We have some standards.)

Letters should include the writer's address, as well as his or her school and expected date of graduation, if applicable. Personals will not be accepted. E-mail us at [obscurer@gmail.yu.edu](mailto:obscurer@gmail.yu.edu)

Reis - Guy :

What's on Yael Reisman's mind?

Be Frum,  
See If I  
Care

Due to the nature of my responsibilities and workload for this issue, I am unable to espouse my regularly scheduled words of wisdom to you all. I will however, leave you with my latest suggestion. I know that since I began my tenure as the Reis Guy (a name I initially loathed but have grown to tolerate), every column I have written concluded with the same message: be yourself, question the status quo, and all of that liberating ballyhoo. And while I hate to be repetitive, I find it necessary to reiterate this message over and over because quite frankly, women of SCW, you are not heeding my sage advice. This being the unfortunate case, I have decided that I will not continue to beat my proverbial head against the wall any longer. I give up. I know when a battle has been lost. And so, as a kindness, I have broken down the formulaic steps which will allow all you sheep to become uber-frum in a short time as possible. Without further adieu...

- Never go uptown.
- Wash for schnitzel.
- Wear sweaters in summer months.
- Say Tehillim at 10 pm on Wednesday nights at Schottenstein Residence Hall (which is clearly only appropriate time).
- Style your hair to look like a sheitel even (and especially) if you're not married.
- Be sure to daven mincha as close to the bathroom as you can get (which ironically is the most inappropriate place to pray).
- Under no circumstances live in 36<sup>th</sup> Street Residence Hall or Windsor Court.
- Answer "Thank God" to statements like, "You look nice today."
- Forget the saying "Less is More."
- Be under the misconception that reading Artscroll's "Stories of Reb Yeedle in the Gulag" is considered learning. (Stories about Rabbis in Eastern European towns is not learning. Leaning Torah is learning.)
- And so, I suggest not troubling yourselves with Purim mitzvos, such as giving misloach manot and hearing/layning Megilat Esther, this year. Stick to this list and you're golden.

Wheelie Trouble  
at Beren Campus

Continued from page 1

pened sooner." The reported calamity occurred just a short fifteen minutes after the L slot commenced. Head of the Physics Department Dr. Anatoly Frankel said that this sort of immediate departure on behalf of the majority of SCW students was done with speed that defies the laws of physics. "As I see it, the L slot ends at 1:15," he said. "Students then dash to the elevator and exit the 245 Lex building no sooner than 1:20. The LIRR train to Cedarhurst leaves at 1:45, leaving students a twenty-five minute window to either print out an Aish.org d'var torah in the computer lab, grab a final serving of frozen yogurt or get a manicure and arrive at their Brookdale dorms to pick up their luggage and race out to the train." While science cannot even calculate the velocity at which these students were traveling, the social science faculty at SCW is still hard pressed to find a reason for the mass exodus. "While Weber and Marx both espoused the doctrine of familial responsibility, I cannot imagine that Marx himself would countenance the pugnacious manner in which these students run home



Weapon of choice

to their families, putting their own lives on hold until late Sunday night or early Monday morning," asserted Dr. Ellen W. Schrecker, head of Yeshiva's history department and official Yeshiva scapegoat. While the departments of Security and Facilities Management have washed their hands of this dangerous incident, the Offices of Student Affairs and Residence Life have joined forces in combating future Wheelie rage. In a multi-pronged attack,

signs informing students of the dangers of Wheelie abuse will be posted on bulletin boards on the Beren Campus, most of which are nearly obstructed by flyers advertising SCWSC events from the Reagan era or used books. Also included in the plan, is a campaign to encourage students to seek the esteemed and professional advice of their Resident Advisors. "Although your RA might be younger than you, and most probably has as little life experience as you do, seek advice from her anyway," counseled Director of Residence Life Rachel Kraut. The final element, which will be sponsored by Student Affairs, will be the distribution of plastic placards which highlight the dangers of Wheelie misuse, designed to hang in dorm room showers. "We feel that shower placards are a perfect way to raise awareness about this particular issue on campus given the success we have seen with the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign," commented Associate Dean of Students Zelda Braun. "Hopefully together we can ensure that the Beren Campus remains a safe and nurturing place."

artitorial by chaya glaser

PORTABLE JUKEBOX...  

 ...user friendly

NEW BOX OF PENCILS...  

 ... (somewhat) user friendly

NEW SYMBOLS...  

 ... (highly) user friendly

EMAILS THAT CAN'T BE UNSENT...  

 ... not very convenient

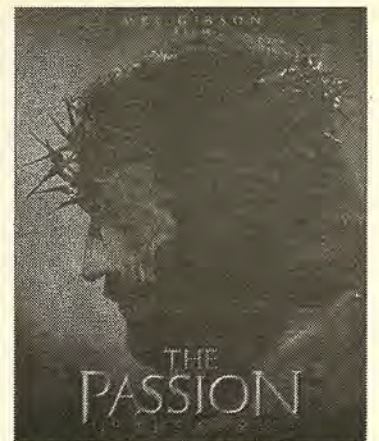
FOR EVERYTHING ELSE\* THERE'S PRESIDENT JOEL...  
 ...to make everything user friendly.  
 (\*those things that are not user friendly)

Brought to you by RJ's Personal Hacker coalition for a more user friendly campus

Jesus Christ Superstar

continued from page 13

the implication of possible undertones of anti-Semitism. This writer has taken the opportunity of heading out to the streets to see how the public feels about this issue. "What, anti-Semitism? Oh no," says Jennifer Washington, a junior at a nearby ivy-league institution on 116<sup>th</sup> Street. "Jews are nothing like the backstabbing blood-thirsty zealots they were in ancient times," she goes on to explain. "They're smart - especially with money. Great actors, too." Our Hollywood insiders tell us that Gibson himself strongly denies any anti-Semitic feeling. "What kind of an idiot do you think I am?" Gibson asked. "Everyone knows Jews run the media. I thought they'd like to see a movie about one of their own."



All in all, we'd say that *The Passion* has its artistic merits (the blood looked so real) but we're unsure that Mel can make it in today's cutthroat movie business. It's clear to us that the film didn't take sufficient account of the lifestyles and values of today's modern audience. Perhaps a more Modern Orthodox slant would have done

Disclaimer: While all contents of this newspaper were obviously created with nothing but love and affection, there will inevitably be a handful of whiny cry babies who will nevertheless be offended. Email [reisman@yu.edu](mailto:reisman@yu.edu) with all gripes and grievances.

## A Message from Your Presidents



Anat Barber,  
SCWSC President

This month there was a big controversy over what we should do with something having to do with this campus. I can't tell you what it was about or who was involved because, as you all know, not everything is meant for the ears of the masses.

Speaking of the masses, they love me, as they love our university's other president, Richard M. Joel. Although he must have talent to have landed a gig this big, is he a philosophy major? Did he go to *Shana Bet* at Midreshet Lindenbaum? I don't think so.

Does he have a NexTel?

Furthermore, why does Joel get a Deputy to the President and I don't? It's definitely not because of his relationship with Dean Bacon, because everyone knows she likes me more. Therefore I would like to propose the following: I think that in light of my immense number of responsibilities as president, I should have several assistants who can interact with the little people on my behalf. I simply do not have time to fulfill all my responsibilities and listen to every whiny student's suggestion of what frozen yogurt should be served at lunch. I need to reserve my time for meetings with the Board of Trustees, last minute and gratuitous trips to Holland and Israel and most importantly, combating absurd allegations against other student leaders and myself.

President Joel hit the nail on the head when he remarked, "Being president is a very important job." I couldn't have said it better myself. I must have thought it first.



Rachel Moss,  
SSSBSC President



Lisa Grundman,  
TAC President

Hey guys!!! This month was awesome! We did so much chessed and there were so many worthwhile learning programs. Next month will be awesome, I"YH and there will be lots of chessed and learning programs.

The holiday of Purim is a happy time for the Jewish people. We overcame our fiercest enemies. Therefore, I would like to encourage each of you to stay in school for shabbat. Not only will it enrich your shabbat experience, but it will benefit all of *Klal Yisroel*.

# Maybe Next Time

## ANYONE BUT SOCOL IN '04

-OR-

## SOCOL: 4 MORE YEARS

*Get your bumper sticker today and  
take a stand on the issue!*

*Mail in orders to Board of Trustees*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Aversion to Shelly: \_\_\_\_\_

# of times you've been offended: \_\_\_\_\_

Send in your check or money order by January 2004

"Office" of Business Affairs  
500 West 185th Street  
New York, NY 10033-3201

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

How Socol got you your job: \_\_\_\_\_

How you are related to Socol: \_\_\_\_\_

Send in your check or money order by January 2004

"Office" of Business Affairs  
500 West 185th Street  
New York, NY 10033-3201

### SCW Student Engaged

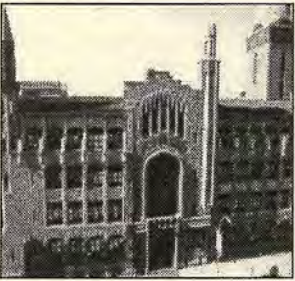
An SCW student became engaged last Saturday evening, a monumental incident in the history of SCW. Sources close to the student say that her now fiance took her out to a romantic dinner at Prime Grill, ordered the double chocolate mouse, placing the ring inside. The student refused to allow her picture to be posted on onlismchas.com for fear she might make less fortunate students jealous. However, she did disclose crucial information about her princess cut diamond ring in a Tiffany Platinum setting, "I was shocked when I saw the ring, I picked it out...And just between you and me it cost thirty-thousand dollars."



### SSSBSC Plan Inaugural Event

The SSSBSC members have finally acknowledged that they won last year's election and have subsequently begun planning an inaugural event which Rachel Moss, president of SSSBSC, states will take place sometime before graduation. Moss was unable to give any details as it has yet to be given any thought.

### Joel Embarks on Fact Finding Mission to America



President Richard Joel recently embarked on a trip to the United States to explore the options for a Yeshiva/USA relationship. While there, he visited Yeshiva's satellite campus in Washington Heights. "The prospects are exciting," he stated.

At the Wilf Campus, Joel was given a tour of the primary facilities and met with top administrators and student leaders in efforts to brainstorm means of affiliation. "We are very enthusiastic about these discussions," said YSU president Yummy Schachter.

Joel's primary objectives in his most recent trip to the States were solidarity and, as he put it, "Making sure that the Wilf and Beren campuses feel that they are a priority."

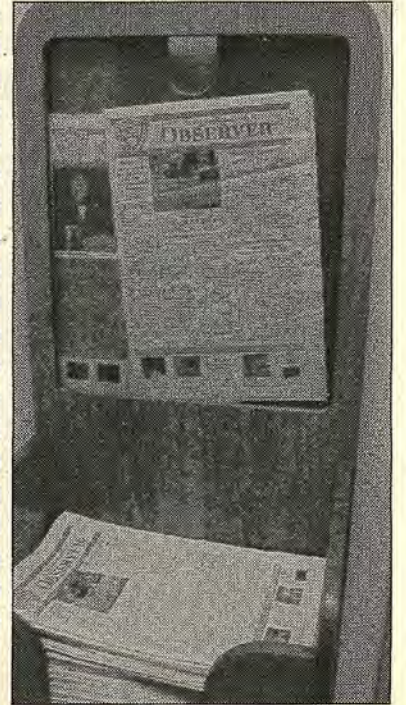
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### Yeshiva Adopts a Highway (for real)

Not long after Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol announced the bleak financial situation at Yeshiva, the administration adopted a stretch of the I-90 highway. This came as a huge surprise to many faculty members. "We've been in meetings for five years in an effort to raise our salaries to a level comparable to other universities," said Professor Diane Cooper. "It is a slap in the face that the university has pleaded poverty; however, has enough money to adopt a highway." Not everyone agrees with Cooper. Sophomore Yael Keaton feels that it is a nice gesture. "I think that it is lovely because that highway is really dirty," she said. "I'm glad my university has its priorities straight." When *The Obscure*r asked for a response from the Public Relations office, Hedy Shulman, director of Media Relations said that she did not feel it was her place to comment.

### Study Shows Observer is Scarcely Read

A study conducted by outside contractor, Philly and Shwartz, revealed today that the official newspaper of SCW, *The Observer*, is never read. "It seems to our agency that the newspapers mostly accumulate on the stands until the next issue comes out and the old ones are discarded," said analyst William Daniels. He added that the occasional papers that were picked up were used for scribbling notes when paper was not handy or one faculty member took home a stack to use as starter in the fireplace. They did conclude, however, that Miriam Reisman, proud mother of the Reis Guy, reads *The Observer* religiously.



# So Absurd We Had to Print It Again

The presidency is a serious position," said President Richard Joel.

*Ed. Note: Nice point.*

"We don't want a massage parlor moving in [to 251 Lex]," said President Richard Joel.

"Some people just need an ear to listen, and that's what we do," said YC senior Yitz Glass, of his Peer Counseling program. "If they wanted real advice, they would read a book."

*Ed. Note: We're confused. So...do you want people to come to your program?*

"That is what SCW has given me- adulthood."

*Ed. Note: The women of SCW would like to thank Shayndi Raice for including us her in maturation process.*

## In Your Own Words

### On Your Campus

Which event is more socially awkward and Why: SOY Seforim Sale or Metropolitan Experience?

Batya Ross, SCW Junior



"For sure SOY Seforim Sale, because with the Metropolitan Experience you don't have to speak to anyone - actually I change my mind. Metropolitan Experience, if you're going to a meal. Buy your own meal.

by the way. Why wait for the school to take you out? Anyway, a meal is awkward because you're with people you don't know and some random professor. What's with that? If it's the opera, not awkward. Done that. Meal with strangers? Awkward."

Alison Brokowsky, SCW Sophomore



"Seforim Sale because of those who go for the social scene, but it's not a social scene, so it makes the people who go to buy books feel awkward."

### In Your World

What do you think of the collapse of the Berlin Wall? Do you believe it will really end the Cold War?

Anonymous\*, SCW

"Wait, the Berlin Wall wasn't for the Cold War was it? The Cold War ended before World War Two, didn't it?"

Tamar Warburg, SCW Junior



"Not if it's still snowing."

\* For good reason.

## Jubilee Celebration Revealed to be Alumni Celebration of Nothing Better to Do; Student Body too Busy to Care

By Obscure Staff  
Seventy Years Her Junior

This year SCW is in the throes of celebrating its Jubilee. Fifty years ago the Yeshiva community was blessed with a new addition, a women's undergraduate college. This year, alumnae of this illustrious institution have come together to celebrate this anniversary and each other (not necessarily in that order). These alumnae range from the middle-aged to the ones who are so old that they could not have actually attended SCW but want to party anyway. All, however, share one special characteristic that bonds them to the Jubilee - none attend SCW today.

When first organizing the year-long activities, the coordinators considered including SCW students in the program planning. "We were even, at one point thinking of inviting SCW students to some of the events," commented Dean Karen Bacon. "But then we came to our senses. Why should we bother the student body? Don't they have enough to think about without contemplating how old their college is?"

Bacon's consideration for the SCW students' contemplations has left most SCW students completely unaware of 2004's auspicious place in SCW history. In fact, if not for the obscure clues scattered around the Beren Campus, SCW students would probably think that SCW is commemorating this year because it has broken its record for engaged and married seniors.

A small survey of random SCW students was conducted in the 215 Lexington school building's elevator between the J and K classes and the following is a summary of the results. 27 percent of students, when asked if they knew about the Jubilee, responded "I saw the sign in the



Adopt-a-Bubbie Bubbie Sylvia Spearheaded the Jubilee Celebrations

caf so I knew that the school was fifty but I didn't know Jews celebrated jubilees." 43 percent responded that they, "knew that there had to be a better explanation for the pictures in Koch than the theory that it was a tribute to the photographers at SCW." 29 percent felt that, "Somebody better get off my foot, right now; if SCW is so cool that it's celebrating turning fifty why can't they open up another elevator?" 0.7 percent of students (all the Canadians) mentioned that "Jubilee makes me think of the Queen of England." 0.3 percent were well informed of the Jubilee and attributed their knowledge to *The Obscure*.

All the students in the elevator fainted from lack of oxygen before being able to answer the rest of the survey, so a new random group was accosted in the same location during the next break, between the K and L classes. When asked about the relationship between the SCW Jubilee and SSSB students, 74 percent of this group felt that "SSSB should have been involved because it would have looked good on a resume, and SCW students are not professional enough." In contrast, 26 percent believed that, "it's an SCW Jubilee, not an SSSB Jubilee. Anyway, the SSSB students are too busy putting on their make-up." In response to

the next question, which asked if students would like to know more about the Jubilee, 74 percent responded, "well, SCW students are too busy getting married and pregnant to do something in the real world [like the Jubilee]." 26 percent of the students used their engagement rings to scratch the makeup off the faces of the other 74 percent of students and then, thankfully, the elevator doors opened.

Obviously, both SCW and SSSB students on the Beren Campus would have preferred to be a part of the Jubilee or, at least, to have been aware of it. Still, there is the comforting realization that, fifty years from now, when SCW students have finally thrown out the remnants of the engagement decorations from their dorm room doors, and SSSB students have retired from their first career, the alumnae of the Beren Campus will gather to throw SCW another anniversary. *The Obscure*, always one step ahead, took pictures of the survey participants in anticipation of the year 2054 so that the tradition of obscure clues and women's Jewish collegiate education continue to march hand-in-hand into future generations.

## SCW's Best Kept Secret: The Biology Department

By Reina Roth

In a shocking discovery, *The Obscure* has learned that SCW's Biology department, often neglected by students and ignored by administration officials, boasts an extraordinary faculty. According to a high-ranking official close to the dean, the Biology department has managed to build itself into a credible body, despite little publicity and student support.

Pushed into an obscure corner of the SCW building, biology professors have launched

advanced laboratories and are urging students to become more involved. "Currently we have only a few majors each year," clarified Dr. Joseph DeSantis. "We would like to expand to become a full-fledged credible department."

Although students have tended to avoid biology and psychology studies, professors insist that both offer tremendous potentials for later careers. "It's a shame girls don't study biology," explained Dr. Babich, Chair of the Biology Department. "We should have more from women in

health fields like physical, occupational and speech therapies."

Indeed, the Office of Pre-Health Advisement has often complained of the lack of Orthodox women seeking to work in the therapies. "My office is always empty, my schedule is open" objected Dr. Loewy. She ascribed the decline in the therapies appeal to the dearth of graduate programs in the tri-state area.

Students explained their avoidance of these studies as a consequence of their studies at SCW. "Who wants a practical

nine to five job when we could be learning?" stated SCW junior Lisa Shmidt. "I'm planning on attending the graduate Talmud program next year."

Similarly, psychology instructors complained about the lack of interest in their classes. "There's no reason Girls shouldn't take psychology," remarked Dr. Bacon. "I have no classes to teach-we can barely fill our lab sessions."

Departments boasting high numbers of student majors, such as Math, History and Physics attributed their success to

expanded course offerings and a diverse faculty. "We have two professors in the physics department," exclaimed one physics instructor. "How can the Psychology department even hope to compare?!"



# Masters of Disguise



Former Presidential Hopeful  
Dov Zakheim



Our Very Own Rav Golwicht



SCW Alumna Leah (Schachter)  
Knapp

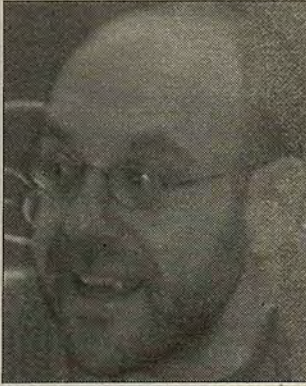


English Professor Melissa Bloom

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Former Spokesperson for the  
President Ari Fleisher



YC/SCW Professor of Political  
Science Jeremy Zilber



Scooby Star Matthew Lillard



YC Heartthrob Ariel Davis

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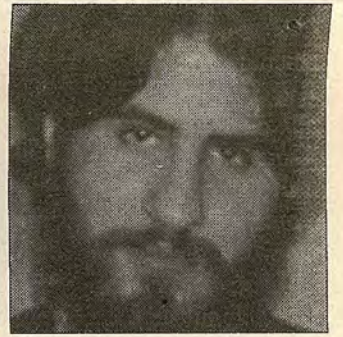
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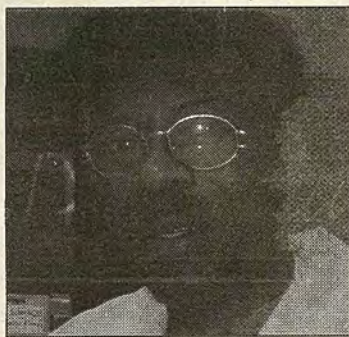
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Eddie Murphy



"How sweet it is to be  
loved by you"

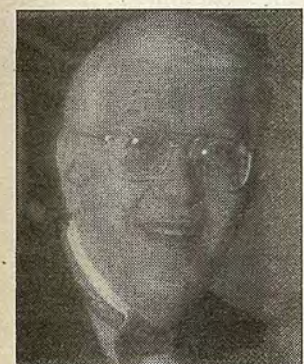


Pepe le Pew

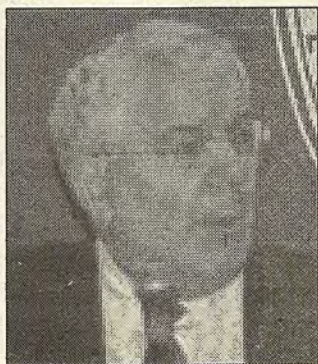


Dean David Hember

o



Rachel's Dad  
Arthur Horn



Vice President of University  
Life Hillel Davis

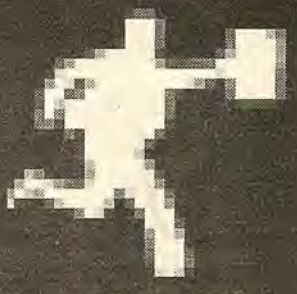


Former YUNMUN  
Czar Aliza Fox



Current SCW  
Dictator Anat Barber

# THE ENTREPRENEUR



## The Contestants

Let's See What They're Made of



**Jeff Socol**  
following in Dad's footsteps



**Joyce Jesonowski**  
YC Dean believes she can fill the position since she is used to saying no



**Norman Lamm**  
always wanted control over Yeshiva



**Andrew Leibowitz**  
(another) raise in salary



**Rabbi Carmy**  
biggest asset- daily announcement of his attendance



**Zelda Braun**  
(another) raise in position- and this time her job description would change



**Rav Herschel Schachter**  
throw his black hat into the mix, following in son's footsteps



**Dov Zakheim**  
Nuclear War Expert

AND



**Cardinal Innocent X**  
believes Yeshiva and the Catholic church share common values



**Karen Bacon**  
Advocate for SCW

### BLASTS FROM THE PAST PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH, UP AND RUNNING AGAIN

## "My Big Fat Obnoxious CFO"

*continued from page 1*

firmly asserted that this was the most natural step in the process. "I mentioned that we will be broadening our search base and thinking out of the box," he said defensively. "And this was what came to mind as the most obvious path through which to proceed."

Essentially, the candidates will be divided into two teams that will be assigned tasks to perform. At the conclusion of each show, contestants will be escorted by Joel into the Board Room adjacent to Joel's office in the Presidential Suite at Belfer

Hall. There, Joel will have final say over which team member will be dropped.

Joel is currently drawing up plans with Vice Presidents Hillel Davis and Morton Lowengrub. He insists that Vice President for Business Affairs Sheldon Socol will play an important role in the production of the show. "Dr. Socol will remain as a close advisor to me, even as I blatantly look for someone to



Contestants wait in Joel's office before being escorted into the board room

replace him," he affirmed.

While the development of the show is still in its early stages, the Board of Trustees, along with top Yeshiva administrators, has already determined tasks for the teams. Solutions for the faculty salary and tenure problem, lack of student centers at both

the Wilf and Beren Campuses and lack of anything resembling athletic facilities at SCW will be demanded from the contestants. "We have serious issues for these people to look into," said one board member. "We're not just talking about selling lemonade here."

The show is scheduled to begin on April 1, in between *American Idol* and *Big Brother*.

# Poupko Crowned Miss Israel amid Accusations of Sexism

By Beth Meschel

Amongst protesters crying sexism, Hindy Poupko, YC/SCW Israel Club president won the Miss Israel beauty contest that took place in the Rubin Shul on the Wilf Campus February 15. "I am so honored by this," said a teary-eyed Poupko. "This award will allow me to continue to use my beauty to attract people to the cause of Israel and allow us to charge ahead in defense of the Jewish People."

Approximately three SCW students attended the protest on the Wilf Campus, holding signs of women forced to wear make-up. Accusations of sexism had abounded after the SCW Women's Studies class at SCW, taught by Professor Nora Nachumi, discovered the all-female competition was set to take place. "We just felt that if you are going to objectify women, then you must objectify men," said Anat Barber, president of SCWSC, who protested along with Shayndi Raice and Yael Reisman, one of the organizers of the SCW/Brovender's-Femme Nazi Club.

Rabbi Yosef Blau, mashgiach ruchani at YC and one of the judges of the contest, agreed with the Femme Nazi Club and after careful consideration with

halakhic authorities, decided that men would be able to take part in the beauty contest.

Poupko held her own against a slew of worthy contestants, according to the Miss Israel Pageant coordinator Yummy Schachter. Shaya Lerner, Poupko's co-president of the

*"This award will allow me to continue to use my beauty to attract people to the cause of Israel and allow us to charge ahead in defense of the Jewish People."*

YC/SCW Israel Club came in second place. "I think the swimsuit competition really hurt me," said Lerner. "I'm starting to believe that this really is a sexist competition."

After Poupko's win, Lerner joined the SCW protest. "I think that this is the most contemptible type of slander, aside from the Naomi Ragan fiasco," said President Richard Joel of Lerner's traitorous accusations.

The Yeshiva administration was fully supportive of the students' decision to hold the con-

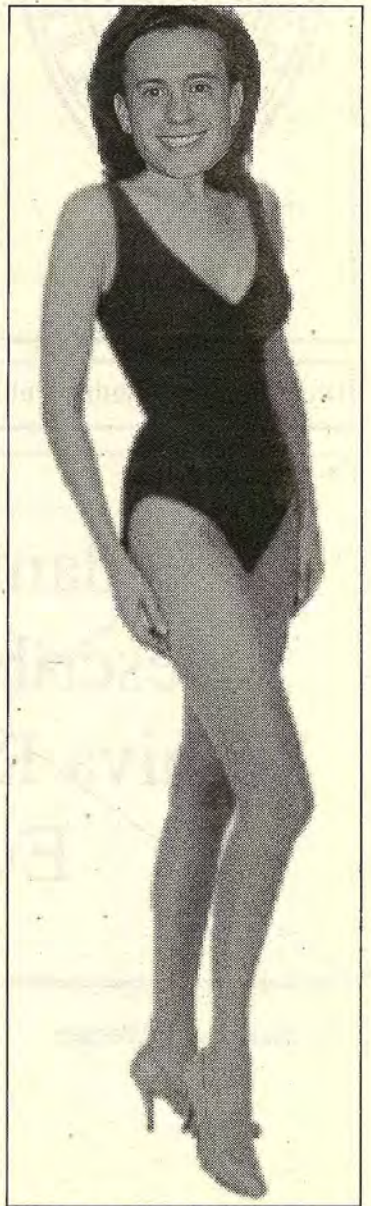
test, the first of its kind on the Yeshiva Campus. "I think this was a long time in coming," said SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "The women of Stern are capable of holding their own in any beauty contest. I've seen them do it in private forums and I applaud the opportunity to allow them to grow in a public forum as well."

The contest was divided into three competitions; talent, date wear and modest swimsuit attire, according to pageant organizers. "I think the idea was to show the world that Jewish women can succeed in beauty," said Poupko. "This competition is not sexist but rather is against the traditional anti-Semitic notions that Jewish women are not as beautiful as their *shiksa* (non-Jewish women) counterparts." For the talent competition, she held a mock-date, allowing the audience to witness her finesse with the opposite sex. "I think many women at Stern don't realize how important appropriate modest flirtation skills are," said Poupko. "My goal as Miss Israel will hopefully include furthering the dating abilities of Jewish women, fighting for the State of Israel and defending the Jewish People."

Poupko later added that she was in support of world peace as well.



Poupko, above, after her victory in the Yeshiva Miss Israel Competition.



"I think the swimsuit competition really hurt me," said Lerner

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# The Common Paper

Blueprint for Monthly Publication

Volume LXVIII

Issue \_\_\_\_\_

~~Pedantic Title  
Describing non-  
Yeshiva Related Arts  
Event~~

By Menachem Wecker

~~Welcoming of Newest  
Inconsequential Teacher~~

By ~~Kevin Cyrulnik~~

~~Jamie Hirsch~~

Tzvi Kahn

~~Student (*Choose Verb*)  
Harassed/Stabbed/Shot on  
Wilf Campus~~

~~Either  
Enrollment Up/Down  
or  
US News and World Report Ranking~~

### To Read About...

**CFO Search**  
See *The Observer*

**Presidential News**  
See *The Observer*

**Student Initiative**  
See *The Observer*

**Any pertinent,  
Yeshiva-related  
news**  
See *The Observer*

# Arts Festival not Kosher: African Warriors Responsible

By Absu Hmxb

From February 12 until February 25, both the Beren and Milf Campuses appeared to be infested with a ridiculous amount of artistic Jewish SCW and YC students for the annual Arts Festival. However, students throughout SCW and YC have become increasingly aware of the lack of artistic talent among their peers during the rest of the year and the disproportionate talent displayed during the two week tint of the festival.

"All I want to know," exclaimed SCW sophomore, Rachel Goldsmith, "is, where are all these people after the festival? I mean, I'm in some of the larger classes at this school, and I've looked at a lot of notes over the years. The doodles in the margins are awful. Sometimes they even look as if the student was actually paying attention to the teacher and doodling absentmindedly."

Evidence has surfaced that very few of the participants of the festival are actually a part of the Yeshiva world. In fact, it has been confirmed that the entire festival is generally conducted by the warriors of a small African tribe. The warriors, who take a break from protecting their kin every mid-winter, have in the past few years devoted their two week vacation exclusively to the Yeshiva University Arts Festival.

They organize every event but refuse to actually participate in anything except the classical concert, which was held this year on February 19.

The warriors are also mostly responsible for recruiting new artists. Although they have in the past, tried to restrict themselves to Yeshiva students and faculty, the number of students who are able to resist their mind control and torture has grown with the popularity of *Shana Bet*. So, the warriors have been forced to look elsewhere.

This year the opening concert featured not a single Jewish band, although the dancing guy at the end was most definitely all Yeshiva. The warriors traveled deep into the heart of the South American rainforest and captured as many tropical birds as could be found. To achieve the desired effect for the evening, the warriors merely played an early Diaspora Yeshiva Band CD to the birds moments before the performance.

Other events featured child laborers from Asia and witch doctors from Australia. Only one event in the entire festival featured actual Yeshiva students. However, the warriors were so successful at finding creatures that could mimic the way one would imagine an artistic Jewish university student to appear that it was nearly impossible to detect which event it was. When asked



From Left to Right: Jascha Rubin, Mike Chiert, Rachel Burger, Chaya Glazer, Dodi-Lee Hecht

for a clue, the warriors threatened to dismember every *Obscure* writer and curse the *Obscure* office's printer, so the question was politely abandoned. Of course, the difficulty in spotting the real artistic Jew from the fake stems primarily from the fact that the artistic Jew is exceedingly rare.

Still, not all students were fooled entirely by the warriors' illusions. Beth Miller, SCW junior, and an anonymous YC student, whose name must be withheld for medical reasons, were involved in a brawl over one painting during the art gallery event on February 24, and both expressed suspicions over the origin of the painting.

The YC student, who had attempted to grab the painting, commented afterwards, "I can't help myself when I see such an absolutely stunning painting. I must have it for my dorm room;

it makes me think of wildflowers in a field and blue skies. My roommate tried to decorate the room with posters to block out the Washington Heights ambience but he sucks at interior decorating. He's a computer science major. Everybody here is - I can't take it anymore." Although the YC student's sudden nervous breakdown prevented him from continuing his train of thought, it appears that he was on the verge of concluding that no YC student could have painted that work.

Miller's assessment of the situation, unclouded by a nervous breakdown and even, perhaps, enhanced by a psychotic clarity, was inherently more telling. After being prevented from burning the painting, she cried out, "It is *goyishe narishkiet* [trans. from Yiddish: better than anything a Jew could come up with] that has corrupted our artists. A painting like this doesn't belong in a

Jewish school. It deserves to be burned as does most of this garbage. If Jews must take time away from learning Torah and doing acts of kindness to paint, they should be painting spiritually fulfilling things like the *Kotel* or the Lubavitcher Rebbe, not this."

Miller, whose concern that the warriors might cause the religious integrity of the institution to be violated, obviously slept through the major issues in the past few years in which both SCW and YC finally decided that religious integrity was overrated and traded it in for "religious diversity." Whether the warriors actually intend to bring about the collapse of Yeshiva's religious infrastructure cannot be determined until their return to New York next year. As of now both Miller and the warriors have been unavailable for further questioning.

## Jesus: God to Some, Religious Icon to Others and Now International Celebrity

By Haysoos Christianson

This year's biggest blockbuster so far, Mel Gibson's infamous film *The Passion of the Christ*, has been subject to much analysis and debate. This writer does not claim to purport any new ideas but is simply bringing to you an overview of - in case you haven't heard yet - criticism of *The Passion of the Christ*.

As we all know, the work has been most criticized for its grossly unrealistic plot. Francis O' Toole, home-naker in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, comments, "In today's world of reality television, does the world really want to see a bunch of men in helmets and loincloths pinning another naked man to a cross? I don't think so." Unfortunately, many concur.

This *Obscure* writer has obtained an off-the-record statement from the Pope, which

reads, "This picture has all of the ideas but none of the va-voom ra-ra sassy attitude we here at the Vatican like to see." Carson Kressley, token fashion guru for the hit TV series, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," agrees. "I just made a statement about Bush's highlights last week, and I'll say it again but this time about Jesus," he asserts.

**Does the world really want to see a bunch of men in helmets and loincloths pinning another naked man to a cross?**

Highlights notwithstanding, Gibson clearly has a goldmine on his hands. Celebrity Pamela Lee admits, "You can't go wrong with a Jesus movie. I mean, we tried scantily clad women running on a beach but in my next project, I am definitely going to play Jesus." Marketable as Passion Plays are, one has to admit that it is not exactly a unique idea. "Seen 'em once, seen 'em all," complains Senator and Presidential hopeful John Kerry, a noted Passion critic.

The final problem with this movie, as some critics have already tentatively suggested, is

continued on page 5

## WYUR More Like WnotYUR

Radio Station So Much Better Than This Headline, Leads To Suspicious

By Obscure Staff

Over the past few months, Yeshiva has mysteriously developed a radio station. It has grown from an obscure project into an obscenely popular nightly event. WYUR boasts approximately 6000 regular listeners and followers and sacrificial virgins on any given night.

This kind of success has been unheard of on any Yeshiva campus in the entire history of the University. Not since that fateful day when Yeshiva leaders decided to use the impressively vague slogan "Torah U'Madda" has one topic been so much discussed throughout YC and SCW hallways (except for what that new young music professor will be wearing today).

The speculation that WYUR is just "much better at existing than any other organized club or endeavor here," according to SCW junior Beth Schwartz,

heads of the "We Love the Radio Station Almost As Much As Israel" groupies, has led some students to think that it may have nothing to do with Yeshiva in actuality. "It's really just too good to be a YU produced media outlet," commented Malka Bar Ilan, head of a rival groupie clan, the "We Love the Radio Station But We Are Making Aliyah" groupies. "Have you seen some of the stuff this university passes off as acceptable student media?" Bar Ilan continued. "I mean, I have read the SCW paper

and it is nothing compared to the radio station. Even though I'm still making Aliyah."

A certain unnamed editor-in-chief of a certain unnamed SCW paper concurred with Bar Ilan's sentiments but added that "you don't get fun typos on the radio like you do with the Osbever and isn't that what college media is all about?"

Typos aside, the question still remains, did Yeshiva manage to birth the radio station and does this bode well as a sign that the new Yeshiva can do things well, like for example have a working radio station? President Richard Joel was unavailable for comment, so his secretary commented for him. "I have no idea what you are talking about," she affirmed. The full investigation is still pending, but it appears that even at the top of the administrative hierarchy there is no evidence of Yeshiva involvement in WYUR.

Despite the fact that Joel denies any knowledge of it as do most of the upper level administrators, through their secretaries, SCW and YC students who are involved in the radio station are very quick to affirm their affiliation. "We are obviously from Yeshiva," commented SCW senior (who is technically a freshman with a lot of years in Israel) Shoshana Silverman, one of the newest recruits at WYUR. "If we weren't part of Yeshiva why would we waste our time in Chutz L'Aretz?"



Her point was clear and the protective bunch of WYUR personalities who had crowded around her in support, and just in case lynching became a possibility, nodded their heads in unison. When asked if any of them wished to speak the response was once again in unison (something they do very well, which only adds to the suspicion that Yeshiva could not possibly be their foundation). "We must save our voices for the radio. The radio is our life. Let the new blood speak - her voice is not as important."

Such devotion and synchronicity was the last clue; even WYUR was finally aware that the gig was up. No Yeshiva students, even in the throes of an anti-anti-Semitism protest could ever pull off such organizational talents. Although they all still claim that they are as much a part of Yeshiva as a psychology major, the signs are there for those who wish to know the truth. However, for those who want to preserve the illusion that Yeshiva can be successful - feel free to make WYUR's ratings jump to 6001. That would probably work much better than trying to actually contribute to Yeshiva and make it a place that doesn't have to step outside of itself in order to look good.

## AECOM Dean Attends Town Hall Meeting at SCW New Efforts at Collaboration with Undergraduates Indicated

By Reina Roth

President Richard Joel is in the initial steps of attempting to forge a stronger relationship between SCW and AECOM. Now that the Anne Scheiber scholarships have finally been put into effect, the schools are exploring ideas for academic collaboration. "I believe it is natural to look at Stern's relationship with Einstein and enrich it and make it stronger," said Joel.

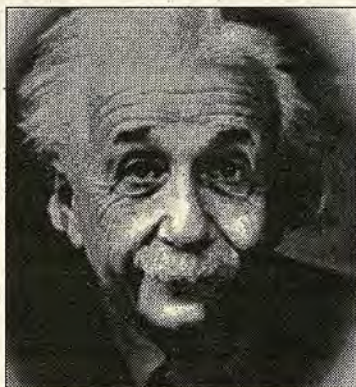
Before the Town Hall meeting on November 4, Joel invited the various deans of Yeshiva schools to attend the meeting and address questions of the SCW students. Only one dean, Dean Dominick Purpura, the

dean at AECOM, joined the president at the forum.

The dean suggested that the students come prepared with questions to the next town hall meeting. "I hope the student body takes his invitation seriously," Joel noted.

Purpura seemed to extend himself to SCW students. "We can answer questions about your professional interest," said Purpura. "It would be very useful and meaningful for me to come and be involved. I want to be involved."

This meeting proved to be an important step towards the beginning of the new relationship between the two schools. Even the faculty at SCW was impressed. "To have the dean of



the medical school commit himself now is unbelievable," said Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies at SCW.

"The more Einstein sees of the Stern community, the more impressed they'll be," said Joel.

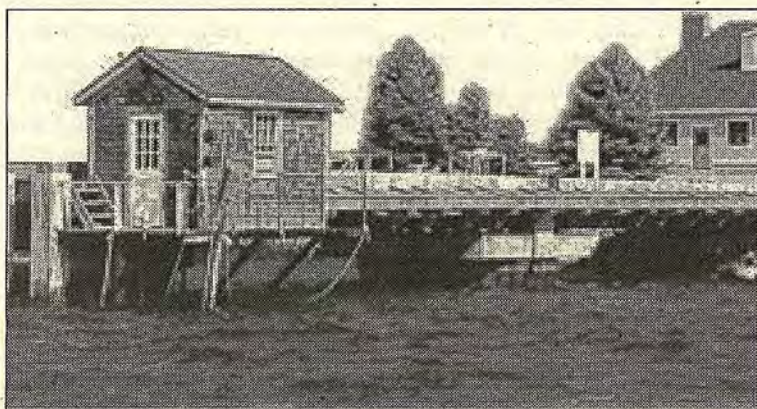
## Honors Program Heads to Maine Marine Biology Set as Summer Course

By Reina Roth

For the first time ever, the S. Daniel Abrams Honors Program will be offering a two week Marine Biology course this summer. The two-week course will be split between lecture in class and field work at the University of Maine.

Dr. Joseph De Santis, the professor organizing the trip, has already set up the curriculum for the course. The course will begin with a week on the Midtown campus where De Santis will lecture about oceanography and marine biology. During this time, De Santis plans to take students to Jacobs Reís Park and the Coney Island Aquarium. This week will include intensive lectures necessary to prepare the students for the second week of lab work and research.

The second week will take place at the Marine center at the University of Maine. "This is an ideal honors course where the location serves to enhance the material," Dr. Cynthia Wachtel, director of the honors program exclaimed. This locality facilitates field work includes trips to the intertidal zones, where the students will collect specimens for study. Some of the collection will be done by foot, but a research vessel is available for students to venture out onto the water. The facilities include wet labs, labs that have tables with water being pumped into it from



The Darling Marine Center, where an S. Daniel Abrams Honors course will be taught this summer

the ocean waters. In such conditions, students will be able to take their outdoor work indoors by keeping their field collection alive in the lab. The students will then conduct behavioral observations in the water tables provided.

Not only will the students be able to use the facilities of the university, but they will also take advantage of hearing from graduate students and faculty. This will give students exposure to the experts who are familiar with that particular station.

Both the administration and the students at the university have expressed much excitement about the upcoming course. "I am very conscious of offer honors courses across the disciplines and this course is offering something new that normally could not be done in such a small school," said Wachtel. She is confident in De Santis' ability to make the course a valuable experience. "He has been amazingly efficient," said Wachtel of De Santis.

Dean Ethel Orlian, associate dean, is currently thinking of joining the program on their one week adventure. "When I first heard about the program, I wished I could have had such an opportunity when I was in school," said Orlian. The dean, if

she accompanies the group, will travel with her husband and will help to organize kosher food and Shabbat through the Rabbi in Portland, Maine, Rabbi Sydney Green.

Even now at its early stages, students have become excited by the course. "This course offers something new to the Stern experience, allowing Orthodox women to experience field work without the religious complications," Leah Benguigui, SCW senior, stated. Even with all the excitement the course is still in its early stages of planning and there are many details that still need to be organized.

DeSantis has done field work in Arizona, this would be his first course outside the classroom and lab. "This is my first time going out in the depths, therefore it is just as exciting to me," said De Santis.

The honors course will be open to all students at the university who have taken a year of biology and whose GPAs made the Deans list. Students will be accepted on a first come first serve basis; there will be no preferential treatment for honors students or biology majors.

## Students Research Green Tea's Ability to Eradicate Cancer Cells

By Keren Nat

In the SCW biology department, two teachers and two students have been working together for months to find a cancer killing agent. The group has been studying green tea as a predator of cancer due to its ability to generate peroxide that kills cancer cells.

Dr. Weisburg, SCW professor of biology is working closely with Deena Weisman, SCW senior, and Tannaz Sedaghat, SCW junior and Dr. Babich, head of the biology department, worked with the students over the summer and is now overseeing the project.

Weisman, a biology/chemistry major, is scheduled to give a presentation on the effects of this agent on normal and cancer cells at the Yeshiva University Student Undergraduate Research Group Exchange.

The group was studying nutraceuticals. "They are foods, which provide health benefits and prevention from disease" says Dr. Weisburg. The nutraceutical they have been working with is green tea. Green tea contains a chemical with therapeutic value to it called epigallocatechin gallate, also known as EGCG. EGCG was tested on oral cavity cells because they are good specimens. When one drinks green tea one's oral cavity cells are exposed to higher concentrations of EGCG as compared to the cells of the rest of the body.

"They specifically tested their effects on two malignant human cells lines and the normal cell line" noted Weisburg. This chemical generates hydrogen peroxide. The peroxide then, enters the cancer cells and kills them off. This occurs only in the cancer cells and not in all cells since there is a chemical in our healthy cells called glutathione, a tripeptide bond made up of the amino acids Cysteine and Glycine. It prevents oxidative stress in most cells and helps to trap free radicals that can damage Deoxyribonucleic acids



Green tea may have the power to kill cancer cells.

(DNA) and ribonucleic acids (RNA). This molecule is used to protect the cell against hydrogen peroxide thereby guaranteeing the cell's safety. "However, cancer cells do not have excess amounts of glutathione making them more susceptible to damage by the peroxide" commented Weisburg.

The team used a killing curve to analyze their data. A killing curve is used to ascertain the amount of EGCG needed to kill a cell. ED50 is the effective dose that will kill 50 percent of the cells in this experiment. This experiment shows that it will take four times as much EGCG to kill a healthy cell than it will to kill a cancer cell. The rapid death of the cancer cell is due to its lack of glutathione, the molecule described above. The peroxide level of the dead cells was then determined to be higher in the cancer cells that were exposed to green tea as opposed to the healthy cells that were exposed to green tea.

After these tests, the group was able to confirm their hypothesis. Green tea does destroy cancer cells in the oral cavity. "However, everything must be taken with a grain of salt" said Weisburg. Too much of anything can be harmful. If green tea is taken in excess the hydrogen peroxide created from the EGCG may effect and hurt healthy cells. The research team is hopeful that this information may soon be able to help in the eventual discovery of a cure for cancer.

Weisburg has a PhD in pharmacology, but has spent time researching cancer and its resistance to treatment. Babich is a microbiologist who has studied agents that cause toxicity in cells.

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## Second SURGE Meeting is Hailed as a Success

By Jessica Chernack

At the recent SCW Undergraduate Research Group exchange (SURGE) meeting, two students presented their summer research projects before members of the student body. SCW junior Simone Suttner, who spent her summer working at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada, focused her presentation on the research she did in a dental research lab. SCW senior Nelli Fromer also entered her presentation on the research she did in the Neuroscience lab at SUNY Health Center.

Suttner spent most of her time at the lab searching for osteoclasts, multi-nucleated cells that function in remodeling bones in the body. She was able to identify them by the trapping technique; a method that involves an enzyme that reveals multi-nucleated cells. She subsequently treated the osteoclasts with cytokine interleukin IL1B in order to enhance osteoclast activity. After a summer of research, she concluded that the cells containing IL1B did have an increase in the amount of osteoclasts as opposed to the control group.

They also added anti-IL1B in different concentrations and ones with the most anti-IL1B showed the least amount of osteoclast formation. The group performed a similar experiment in human umbilical cord blood (HUCB). The lab received donations of HUCB from babies who were recently born. The team



The SURGE meeting included presentations on students summer research projects.

chose to use HUCB as opposed to adult blood because adult blood is too differentiated. The result of IL1B on HUCB was inconclusive. "I never realized the amount of time and patience that is needed in order to do research," Simone said. "And most of the time, conclusive results are not obtained."

When Nelli Fromer started her summer research, she knew nothing about neuroscience. By the end of the summer, she learned a significant amount about neuroscience. In her research, she used the rat brain to learn more about the Hippocampus.

The Hippocampus is part of the limbic system that is involved in spatial setting and memory. Place cells are located in the Hippocampus in two regions, CA1 and CA3, and by fire action potentials; they help animals solve spatial problems.

Therefore, when a rat is exposed to a new environment, he creates a map in the brain. If the environment changes then the Hippocampus creates a new map of the changed environment and fires different place cells. Nelli used her physics background to make electrodes that she planted into the brains of the rats to see amplitudes and waves from the different cells. In the experiment, she would begin by

placing the rat in one environment for two weeks after which the electrode was implanted. She used different computer programs to sort out the different wave forms. These programs used color identification having specific colors correspond to different areas that the place cells were firing from. She blocked the receptors of neurotransmitters being fired by giving them two drugs, scopolamine and mecamylamine. The drugs significantly blocked the receptors and affected the rat's memory. "My summer research allowed me to learn about neuroscience in a new way outside the classroom setting," Nelli said.

At the end of the presentation the floor was opened to student questions. SCW senior Elisheva Douglas asked, "How long did it take to implant the electrodes into the rats?" Nelli answered, "It took 5 days to implant them, and one week for the rats to recover." This interactive approach to learning about the students' research projects will continue next semester with the next SURGE meeting.

## Nutrition Corner

By Cheryl Donath

A new trend has developed in the past few years among many universities such as Princeton, Fordham, Binghamton, Yale and Harvard who have been revamping their cafeterias by offering healthier choices and making the foods' nutrition facts available. Students out of their homes for the first time encounter many new challenges, including what to eat for dinner.

Many students come from environments where dinner is prepared by their mothers who make nutrition decisions. Since coming to SCW many students might feel that eating healthfully is a challenge. They decide what to eat, when and with who, which puts food into a new perspective. Unfortunately, SCW has failed to follow the trend of other universities; many students are unsatisfied with the food options available due to their lack of nutritious value.

Students on a daily basis complain of the food selections. "Oil is not part of the four food groups," said Devorah Whitman sarcastically, an SCW junior. Even the SCW faculty complains about the eating habits of their students. "The number one foods consumed in the cafeteria are french fries and frozen yogurt," said J.McEwen, an SCW gym instructor. "Stern should educate students more about proper nutrition, offer gym classes throughout the day, and nutrition facts should also be given, especially since it has just become an FDA requirement." However, not everyone agrees with McEwen. "I think the food is pretty healthy, we try not to fry any of our foods" said a cafeteria worker.

"You are what you eat,"

holds true. Most college students don't eat as well as they should, according to research being compiled at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. The study says 66 percent of freshmen don't consume the recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, and 60 percent eat too much saturated fat. Nutrition experts at the university blame college students' poor eating habits on the lack of education about nutrition, and the media's strong influences. Today, students care about what they eat. They have grown up in homes where health consciousness is part of everyday life. A nutrition newsletter should be published and distributed quarterly on campus including healthy eating tips, upcoming menus and special events, including current national trends. Nutritional information cards should be given for each item on the menu, or at least posted in places where they can be viewed by the students.

The definition of wellness includes the physical, emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual and occupational aspects of life. Nutrition plays a large role in all aspects stated above. Healthy eating is about eating well, feeling good and enjoying the food that you eat. Clearly, it might appear that eating healthfully should be easy, and yet it is often quite difficult. If knowledge were the motivating factor, then many Americans would be eating the right foods. It is often not a lack of information that prevents change but rather the lack of action to change that limits us. In SCW this is the motivating factor for this ongoing problem. It is the responsibility of the student body to not simply complain but become motivated enough to make a change.

## Summer Internships

continued from page 22

PhD after obtaining an undergraduate degree. Students in this program work side by side with graduate students and faculty members on supervised research activities. The stipend for this ten-week program is \$2,500 and housing is provided if necessary. The application deadline is February 1st. For more information regarding Mount Sinai's program, contact grads@mssm.edu, or see the website [www.mssm.edu/grad-school](http://www.mssm.edu/grad-school).

Lastly, Albert Einstein College of Medicine offers a summer undergraduate research program. Approximately 40 students are chosen each year to participate, many of whom are students at SCW and YC. The nine-week program begins in mid-June. Students are matched with a faculty member depend-

ing on area of interest and work side by side with that researcher in one of the ten basic science departments.

They have the opportunity to conduct research in their chosen field of interest, learn many laboratory techniques in state of the art facilities, interact with world renowned scientists, and attend weekly seminars. The Roth Institute Scholars Program also involves social programs including attending a Yankees game, a Broadway show and participation in many on campus luncheons. Students wishing to apply to Einstein's summer program should have a strong background in biology, biochemistry, or chemistry. Participants are granted a \$2,500 stipend for the nine-week period. Pegah Rabizadeh, a SCW senior majoring in Biochemistry, spent last summer at Einstein's Resnick

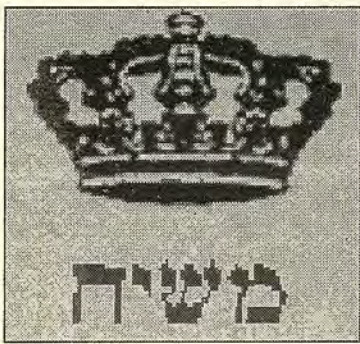
campus.

"The opportunity to work in a laboratory as well as exposure to medical school are factors that will help prepare me for a career in medicine," she remarked. For further information regarding the Roth Program, contact pre-health advisor Dr. Barry Potvin at [potvin@yu.edu](mailto:potvin@yu.edu). A more comprehensive listing of summer research opportunities can be found on Dr. Babich's website at <http://www.yu.edu/faculty/babich/Summer%20Internships/Summer%20Internships2003.pdf>

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# Lubavitch Students Taken Captive

## Dr. Berger Allays Fears of Brainwashing



Both want Moshiach Now

By Goldie Calf

On February 28, 2004 SCW students were reported missing, never returning from what was first perceived as an extremely long Lubavitch Shabbaton luncheon. They were last seen by fellow students rushing toward the school cafeteria in a frazzled state at around one pm. Witnesses claim that the students had slept through most of the morning exhausted from a never-ending bacchanalian frabrenge (drunken spiritual songfest).

"They were trying to make it to lunch in time for the cholent," explained a concerned roommate of one of the missing girls. "Everyone knows that's the first thing to go at these events."

Evidently, the students never made it to the cafeteria. Not being out-of-towners, they had never stayed in for a weekend prior to the Shabbat of their disappearance. Authorities are speculating that the girls, in their food-driven madness, mistakenly entered the wrong building. Unfortunately for them, the SCW building is located next door to

the headquarters of the Opus Dei, an extremist Catholic cult with a penchant for self-flagellation (Also known as NCSY for the non-believers). 243 Lexington is speculated to be the home of the cult's female dormitory - something akin to Brookdale for religious psychopaths.

"You never see anyone going in or out of that building - its almost like there's no one inside," said Juanita Friedman, SCW senior. "I mean don't they ever want to order in a pizza or something?"

Frighteningly, no.

It is assumed that, at first, the students actually thought they were at the Lubavitch Shabbaton due to the predominance of facial hair among Opus Dei members - male as well as female. Waxing is not encouraged. In addition, the concept of the arrival of a savior who would bring with him redemption was probably all too familiar. Hopefully, the disturbing absence of the popular ditty,

"We want Moshiach now," alerted the students that all was not as it should be.

A best-selling novel was recently published detailing the whereabouts of the Opus Dei as well as their, sometimes, violent nature. Pleasure, in all forms, is something this religious cult abhors, and authorities can only hope the kidnapped student do not desire to remain inside the building's confines any longer than absolutely necessary. Authorities have yet to decide upon the most effective method to extricate the girls from their current predicament without inadvertently offending the volatile Opus Dei members.

Although a predicament such as this would normally elicit concern on behalf of the university faculty and administrators, Dr. David Berger allayed the fears of the Yeshiva community. "In the first place, we need not concern ourselves with the possibility that these girls will fall prey to idol

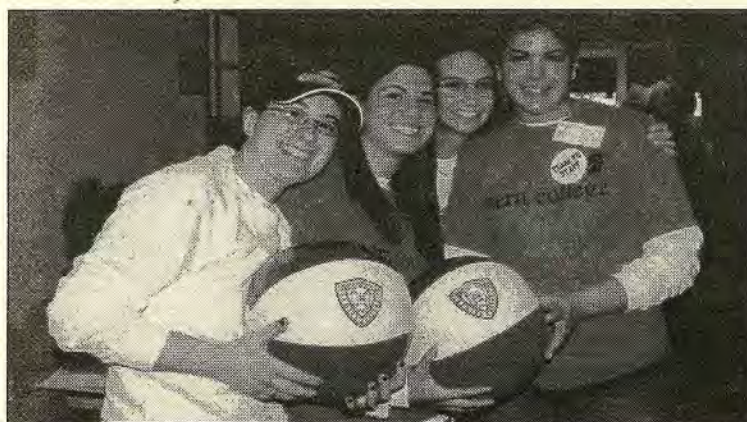
worship and other heretical influences," he averred. "They have already been programmed irreparably by another cult. Rather, we should be concerned with their first allegiance."

Instead of just speculating about their friends' whereabouts, concerned students had formulated what was called "An Elaborate and Intricate Plan," to reclaim the missing students, but the plan was ultimately terminated. However, sources report that the intricate and elaborate plan involved several trips to the numerous and mysterious spy shops located across the street from the SCW building.

"We did have an elaborate and intricate plan," mumbled Chaya Mushka Leibowitz, one of the worried friends. "But what's the point? We *taka* couldn't be bothered with times and details. We're not good with details. Along with the rest of us, they'll have to await the coming of *Moshiach Tzedkein*."

## Enrollment Spikes Due To Inundation of Paraphernalia

### Nulman accused of Selling Out for Yeshiva Gear



Students Who Enrolled in SCW for its Free Stuff factor

By Lexicon Staff

The Office of Admissions has seen a dramatic rise in undergraduate enrollment for both SCW and YC this year. Being that Admissions has not changed their strategy in conning impressionable high school seniors to this esteemed university, a call to explore the reason for the increase was proposed. After some investigation, *The Obscure* has learned that the mysterious rise in enrollment is due to the enormous amount of free Yeshiva- emblazoned paraphernalia that Admissions doles out to its applicants in copious proportions.

"Everyone loves free stuff," said Helen Moskowitz, associate director of Admissions. "It would be foolish to not exploit this weakness for its worth."

Before Admissions implemented this strategy, Yeshiva devoted funds to improvements

on campus, educational quality and student life to attract new students, according to Michael Kranzler, director of Admissions. The office reasoned that the former method of luring prospective students to Yeshiva was neither time nor cost efficient. "We were investing in buildings and genuine improvements for Yeshiva University when we could have been simply buying pens and thermostats by the bulk."

While many Yeshiva administrators have condemned this new approach, Senior University Dean of Students Efram Nulman met the strategy with enthusiasm. "I think it's just great," glowed Nulman, as he nervously clicked his Yeshiva University branded pen.

However, undisclosed sources have said that Nulman's motivations have been less than upstanding. "He asked me to get his day planner from the closet in his office and all of this Yeshiva stuff came pouring out," said one

student. "And I don't mean just pens. I'm talking about sweat-shirts, scrubs, mugs, Frisbees, messenger bags, wipe-off boards- the works."

Although Admissions refused to comment on the veracity of the Nulman incident, they have asserted the legitimacy of its chosen method by referencing the shockingly large number of students, who insist that their decision to attend Yeshiva rests on paraphernalia alone. "At this year's Model UN, I got a butt load of free stuff. They gave me a CD case, a thermostat and get this- a flimsy, paper Yeshiva folder. I mean, is there really even a question?" said Sweden, a senior at MTA.

Admissions asserts that their plan is so far reaching that it is influencing the decisions of students who had never before considered Yeshiva. "I never heard of Yeshiva previous to the inundation of the university's name on gear all over the city," said Xiu Chang, senior at Stuyvesant High School in lower Manhattan. "I was having difficulty choosing between Brown and MIT, but after scoring a ton of Yeshiva magnets, my decision was made for me."

## Student Leaders Accuse Facilities Management of Being Imposters

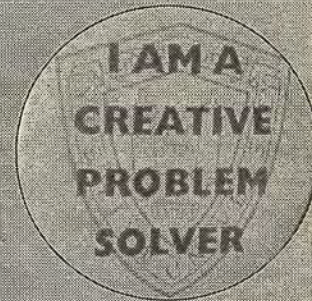
### Student Life Committee Meetings Terminated Due to Lack of Conflict

By Yael Reisman

A Student Life meeting scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> has been called off, along with all future meetings due to lack of necessity, reported Yael Reisman, chair of the SCW Student Life Committee. "The purpose of the Student Life Committee is to resolve pressing issues that are non-academic in nature on our campus," I reported. "However, the monthly meetings with Stern deans and Facilities administration are simply no longer necessary."

The obliteration of these meetings are attributed to the dramatic about-face Facilities Management has undergone in its approach to dealing with students. "Honestly, working with Facilities in the past was a real hassle," admitted Dean Karen Bacon, better known as the Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean. Students concur. "Student Life meetings were the bane of my existence," this writer stated. "We would come to a meeting with a list full of issues that needed to be addressed, but we never got anything accomplished because of the pernicious nature of Facilities Management."

In the past, Facilities had been unwavering in their commitment to ignoring basic student needs. Case in point, Jeffs Socol and Rosengarten had both been completely insistent that the library would close specifically during Reading Week, a Student Life Committee member disclosed. At this past meeting, however, they conceded to student requests with remarkable



and uncharacteristic ease.

Student leaders suspect that in fact, the personalities of the Jeffs have not improved; rather, imposters have taken their respective places. "The community of student leaders has tried tirelessly to understand this perplexing phenomenon. I, for one, am indeed troubled, existentially so, by the ontological reversal of Jeff<sup>2</sup>," said SCWSC President Anat Barber. "The only conclusion we can arrive at is that these persons really aren't them."

Co-chair of the committee Caryn Friedman agreed. "The real Rosengarten used to have a twitch in his left eye," she reasoned. "This Rosengarten has none."

Bacon has not accepted the theory. "I can't account for the changes in personality of the Jeffs, but I can say that their cooperation has been extremely helpful to the advancement of the women of Stern College." An undisclosed source has noted that in truth, the dean has indeed confirmed the supposition, but will not admit to it so that searches for the missing administrators do not commence.

While regular attendees are nostalgic for the memories of eating cheese with Deans Himer and Nulman as they sport their stylish winter sweaters and get-