



The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

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Yeshiva Derech Etz Chaim Lawsuit Dismissed

By Rachel Cyrulnik

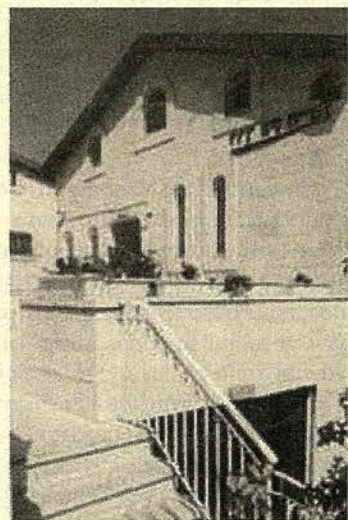
The lawsuit filed by the dean of Derech Etz Chaim (DEC), Rabbi Aaron Katz, in addition to the countersuits by Yeshiva University, have purportedly been dismissed with no settlements, according to sources close to the case. Yeshiva negotiators are in the final stages of crafting a good faith agreement between the two institutions.

"They're finished, for all purposes," remarked a Yeshiva insider. "We're not going to back down on principle. We'll take this to the end."

The case, which was scheduled to go to trial on Friday, April 30, was set to present arguments for the Jerusalem yeshiva's breach-of-contract suit against Yeshiva. DEC alleged that the University disparaged both the school's and Katz's names when a Yeshiva-conducted investigation led to allegations that a rabbi closely associated with the school had a history of sexual abuse, leading University offi-

cial to terminate the institution's relationship with the small seminary. The suit sought financial compensation for the monetary loss caused by the slander. Yeshiva had responded with a countersuit alleging that the DEC suit was a nuisance claim. "We're suing for misrepresenting reality," the close source explained.

Speculators assert that DEC's decision to drop the law-



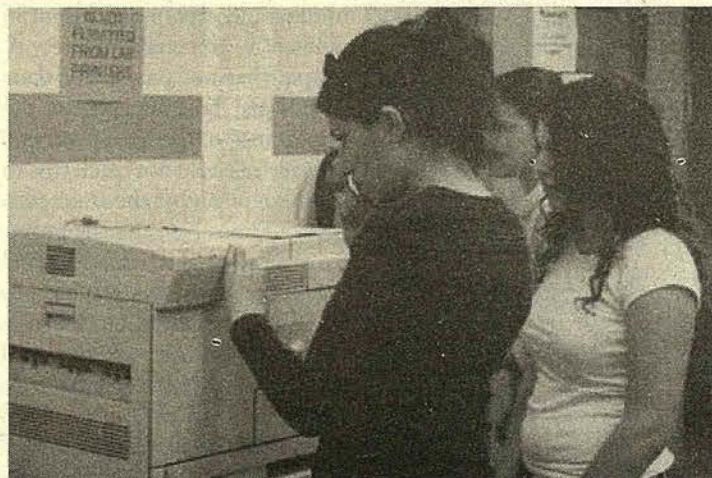
Derech Etz Chaim, above, was severed from Yeshiva's Joint Program last year

suit reflect the school's dismal prospects for the legal action's success. "[It's] an admission that they would not have won the case," an insider claimed. Both the original law firm representing DEC in the action and the suit's primary financier dropped the case.

The brief agreement, which spans no more than the length of a single page, is expected to dispense of all future lawsuits. Yeshiva's in-house legal council, along with firm Grotta, Glassman and Hoffman, and Vice President of Student Life Hillel Davis have been careful of the language employed in the document, with an eye toward preventing any further legal action. DEC was pressing for a dismissal of the lawsuits without prejudice, which would allow for future legal action to be taken, pending an amended complaint.

University administrators confirmed that the Yeshiva-DEC relationship has returned to its pre-litigation status, when Yeshiva had decided to sever the

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Students crowd around the printer, sometimes printing hundreds of pages at one time

Students Enraged Over Anticipated Pay-for-Printing Plan

By Esther Flashner and
Rebecca Rosenberg

At the last Student Life Committee Meeting of the year, Dean of Libraries Pearl Berger announced plans to introduce a pay-for-printing system at SCW to begin at the onset of the next academic year. Due to the increased costs of printing and anticipation of rising printing demands, the libraries in conjunction with MIS will implement the proposal to defray costs and minimize further waste.

"There's a good deal of waste, and costs continue to rise," explained George Sullivan, academic computing director. "The proposed system is a more fair way to manage printing for students."

According to Berger, the system would be vended out to Mac-Gray Copico, the company that currently provides photocopying services for SCW. Computer printing jobs would be sent to main printing servers where students would be prompted to insert printing cards, paying at the rate of ten cents per page. This arrangement is currently in effect at Cardozo School of Law and AECOM, and has reportedly reduced printing wastes by 70 percent.

Students reacted to the pro-

jected arrangement with vehement disapproval. "I think it's ridiculous and highly unfair," remarked SCW senior Navah Rosensweig. "I think that many students can't afford to have a printer in their room...It seems almost unethical to force students to pay for something they have to do regularly for class."

Arguing that computers often jammed and printing quality has deteriorated, MIS officials insisted that the higher printing costs have also detracted from other MIS resources. "We never really were funded for printing," explained Sullivan. "We can't add computers because of printing, and we could do more without the expense of printing."

Students offered alternate approaches, namely, reducing the current printing threshold of 500 pages per month.

"If they think 500 pages a student is too much, that is legitimate and they can cut down on the threshold," clarified Rosensweig. "But to charge students to print on all computers cuts down on everything—the amount of research students are able to do and the amount of writing. Students are going to feel reluctant to print papers."

According to MIS, lowering the threshold would not solve the printing problem. The threshold was initially imposed

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Commencement 2004

After Speaker Cancellation, Joel to Deliver Address

By Yael Saden Barach

In a surprising decision, the Department of Communications and Public Affairs has announced that President Richard Joel will be honored as this year's Commencement speaker. This development took place after the University's first choice fell through. "It was not my idea, but I happily accepted," Joel stated. "I thought it would be appropriate - I have a special relationship with this class."

Rather than returning to the original list of options, the president decided to take advantage

of the chance to "give this class a send-off. I definitely feel an extra something for this class." Joel pointed out that several other universities regularly appoint the president as the featured speaker. He divulged that the topic of his address will be matter. "What a *zechut* it is to matter," he exclaimed.

The 73rd annual Commencement Exercises will be held May 20 at Madison Square Garden. Beginning at 5 pm, more than 2000 students will receive degrees in undergraduate as well as graduate studies in a variety of fields. Honorary degrees will be

bestowed upon Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance, Dr. Ruth Roskies Wisse, Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University, and Dr. Maurice Wohlgelemer, professor emeritus of English at Baruch College.

Hier, whom Joel referred to as a "hero of the Jewish people," founded the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance in 1977. Located in Los Angeles, California, the center has become one of the most

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Governor Pataki
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350 Years of Jewish Immigration

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Shayndi Raice
Editor in Chief

After graduation on May 20, I will enter a world that is very different from the one my parent's entered. In fact, I will enter a world that is vastly different from the one I knew before coming to Stern.

I remember my first month here, lying in my bed in Brookdale Hall as my roommate clumsily (and noisily) got ready for her 9 am class. I remember my annoyance at the shrill ring of the phone when her father called. But that faded pretty quickly when he told us that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center.

It's been three years since that day and the world could not be more different. I never thought that I would live in a world where anti-Semitism was acceptable, where the death of a pregnant woman and her four girls would be commonplace, or where I would have to see gruesome pictures of American soldiers lynched, civilians beheaded, and prisoners tortured.

America always represented the epitome of freedom to me. And freedom, in my mind, was the most assured way to produce a moral society. Yet all these beliefs have been challenged over the past three years. After the initial horror and anger over 9/11 faded somewhat, I was of the opinion that if we liberated the Middle East, if we could find people who would be willing to spread democracy, we could restructure a region of hate into one of tolerance. While most people were furious with President Bush when weapons of mass destruction were not found, I remained calm. Because, although I, like the rest of the world, believed Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, it was not, in my mind, the most important reason for going to war. We were not only crushing a dictator who presented numerous threats to our national security. We were liberating an area of the world that had not changed - as we had - to understand that freedom presents people with the most effective tool for a just and ethical way of life.

And as I watched that statue crumble, I thought the world was going back to the way it had been. There was a foreseeable end to this evil.

But now, a year later, things have only gotten worse. The evil that lurks in humanity seems to have no bounds. And the hatred of Jews and America seems to have none as well.

As I watched the brutality of war, I thought of all the progress we have not made. How could our soldiers, Americans, be involved in torture? Granted, the pictures of Iraqi prisoners being humiliated does not come close to the horrific images the Arab world has forced us to witness. But how could Americans, the product of a democracy, not understand the most essential point of it: to create a society of people that not only value their own lives, but understand the importance of the lives of others. If America could not teach this to its soldiers, and if the Iraqi people could not envision the promise of democracy, then what good has come from this attempt to avoid repeating history. Injustice, torture, cruelty and dictatorships do not happen in America. That was so far from my reality that I was fooled into believing that things were different now.

Over these past three years I have felt as if I'm in a boxing ring: me against reality. There could never be another Holocaust, as Arabs parade the blood of Jews on their hands. That's a left hook. The United States is the strongest country in the world, as our tallest buildings tumbled to dust. That's a right to the chin. Democracy can cure the world, as Iraq's kill to maintain injustice. Down I go.

It seems as though humanity is not quite as civilized as I had believed. Apparently, even the best of us are capable of

Over these past three years I have felt as if I'm in a boxing ring: me against reality.

horrors, of returning to an existence devoid of rules and without boundaries of proper behavior.

So, I must reevaluate. Is freedom the answer to barbarism? Will democracy bring forth true justice? And if it won't, then what will?

And that is where YU has helped. Because amidst all the horror of the real world, there is my little Jewish world. To be clear, I am not suggesting that the Torah contains the answers to the world's every problem. It is not the Torah alone. It is what was created by God when he gave the Torah: the Jewish people. Of all the reasons to choose Yeshiva University, besides the education, the Jewish studies, the location, there is the Jewish people who can redeem my faith in mankind.

Our community has given me the strength to see what can come from people who understand that a code of morality is something to live by, to structure one's life around, not something that comes as a consequence of independence or mere "freedom." So, as I venture forth into my own independence, I hope I can remember what Stern has taught me most: that the world may change or stay the same but you, the individual, must hold resolutely to your convictions because they are so easily lost.



Rachel Cyrulnik
Editor in Chief

Ironically, since I began my stay at Stern College, something bothered me about students getting married while still in school. An article I had read in *The Observer* during my sophomore year stands out in my mind as a prime example of the intolerance

Too many students have adopted the outlook that marriage will be the panacea to their problems, the termination of their independent interests and goals and the device that will exempt them from their social responsibilities to their communities.

that I bore. The story bemoaned the fate of SCW students who were too *frum* to participate in mixed events (no, it was not this preposterous attitude that irked me most). I recall distinctly the response of one student who was asked if she knew of an appropriate place to meet a potential husband. She, being a junior in college, retorted, "If I knew, would I still be living in a crowded room in Brookdale?"

Perhaps even more perplexing is that this anecdote continues to trouble me still today as a married woman. The answer to that student's question is yes, not only because as a junior in college, there is plenty of reason to live in a crowded dormroom with friends, but because this student was way off the mark and would be in sorry shape if she jumped into a marriage sustaining that mentality.

It is not the decision to marry; it is the attitude that surrounds it that I found and still find so unpalatable. It seems that young Orthodox women are increasingly willing to compromise their dreams. Too many students have adopted the outlook that marriage will be the panacea to their problems, the termination of their independent interests and goals and the device that will exempt them from their social responsibilities to their communities. These notions are simply untrue.

One of my primary concerns with getting married this past December was my ability to fulfill what I considered my obligation as editor in chief of *The Observer* and my personal promise to fulfill the goals I had set for the newspaper early on. My commitment to these ideals acted as a major motivation for me when my load seemed insurmountable at times.

Since the beginning of the academic year, when fellow students, family and friends asked

whether I would complete the year as editor in chief, I responded that, in some way, I felt that I was a role model for other students and it was my responsibility to stay true to the commitment that I had made.

But throughout this semester, I often pondered over exactly how I was being a role model. Certainly, students did not need to be shown what it means to have a full plate or how to manage their various responsibilities and interests.

Only as I complete my term as editor in chief, have I begun to realize that I was not trying to be a role model as an editor-in-chief, or even as a student. I wanted to be a role model as a married woman.

I wanted to show my peers that your interests and commitments are worthwhile enough to still matter after marriage. Only now, you have a partner to help you accomplish those goals, as you try to help him do the same.

While circumstances may be different, life constantly grants opportunities to learn, change and improve. Whenever your life situation changes, be it because of a new job, a new community or even a marriage, staying loyal to the things about which you feel passionate, even if it means altering the way you express your commitment, genuinely enhances the significance of your dreams and life ambitions.

As I leave Stern College, I can proudly say that I let the institution play a crucial role in my formative college years. I learned, shared, gained and gave - before and after marriage.

The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

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Shayndi Raice
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The Observer
245 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10016
(646)935-6391
observer@yu.edu
www.yuobserver.com

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EDITORIALS
AND
OPINIONS

Paper Jam

The Observer strongly disapproves of Academic Computing Manager Tom Oleszczuk, Academic Computing Director George Sullivan and University Dean of Libraries Pearl Bergers' decision to implement a pay-for-print system.

Students majoring in English, the sciences, History, Jewish studies and business need to print hundreds of pieces of paper a month, all for valid academic purposes. It is wrong to add another number to what is becoming an astronomical fee to attend Stern College. This policy shows little sensitivity to students in a lower and even middle income bracket. Paying ten cents a page is prohibitive for most students and would require many to buy printers of their own. Good printers are expensive, cheap printers break down constantly, and print cartridges are pricey.

Stern College should continue allowing students the right to print the research they need, as do the majority of city colleges. In addition, Columbia University and New York University allow their students to print free of charge in computer labs.

Such a policy would also be detrimental to the university as a whole, as quality research may be sacrificed in the interests of saving money.

If the current system must really undergo modification, at least administrators should consider students requests. Most students would prefer paying an annual flat fee incorporated into tuition costs, rather than be charged ten cents a page. Yeshiva officials should feel compelled to listen to student outrage over this policy and offer alternative approaches.

Community-Wide
Campus

Being the flagship institution of Modern Orthodoxy is not easy. In some cases, it might not even be fair. Families, communal leaders and entire organizations look toward Yeshiva's policies and action when forming their own beliefs. This bequeaths Yeshiva with tremendous responsibility toward the Jewish community and places the institution under close scrutiny.

The university has been criticized from supporters of Yeshiva Derech Etz Chaim and the rabbi in question, as well as from those demanding why the University has dropped the lawsuit. This faction unfairly places the responsibility for investigations and hearings on the shoulders of Yeshiva.

The Observer supports the course of action that Yeshiva has taken in its dealings with Yeshivat Derech Etz Chaim. President Richard Joel articulated a common-sense approach to communal responsibility, in which he made clear the University's commitment to the safety of its students and devotion to the Jewish community. However, when the issue in question does not threaten impact on Yeshiva, it would be unwarranted for Yeshiva to play any more of a role in the situation than that of the rest of the Jewish community. We applaud this thoughtful and reasonable policy and are confident that it will work to the ethical betterment of the Jewish people.

Letters to the Editors

Thanks for
Listening
to Us

To the Editors,

On behalf of the students in the Graduate Program for Women in Advanced Talmudic Studies and on behalf of many others in Stern and YC, I would like to thank Vice President Hillel Davis, Cyndy Phelps, Dean Karen Bacon, Jefferey Rosengarten, and Don Sommers for their efforts in extending the daily shuttle service between campuses in order to accommodate more students. The expanded service has made a tremendous impact both in terms of creating a united community between the two campuses and in greatly improving student life. It is a wonderful to know that our administration is so attentive to student needs.

- Lauren Jerozolim
SCW '03
Graduate Program for Women
In Advanced Talmudic Studies
Azrieli Graduate School of
Jewish Education

A Job Well
Done

To the Editors,

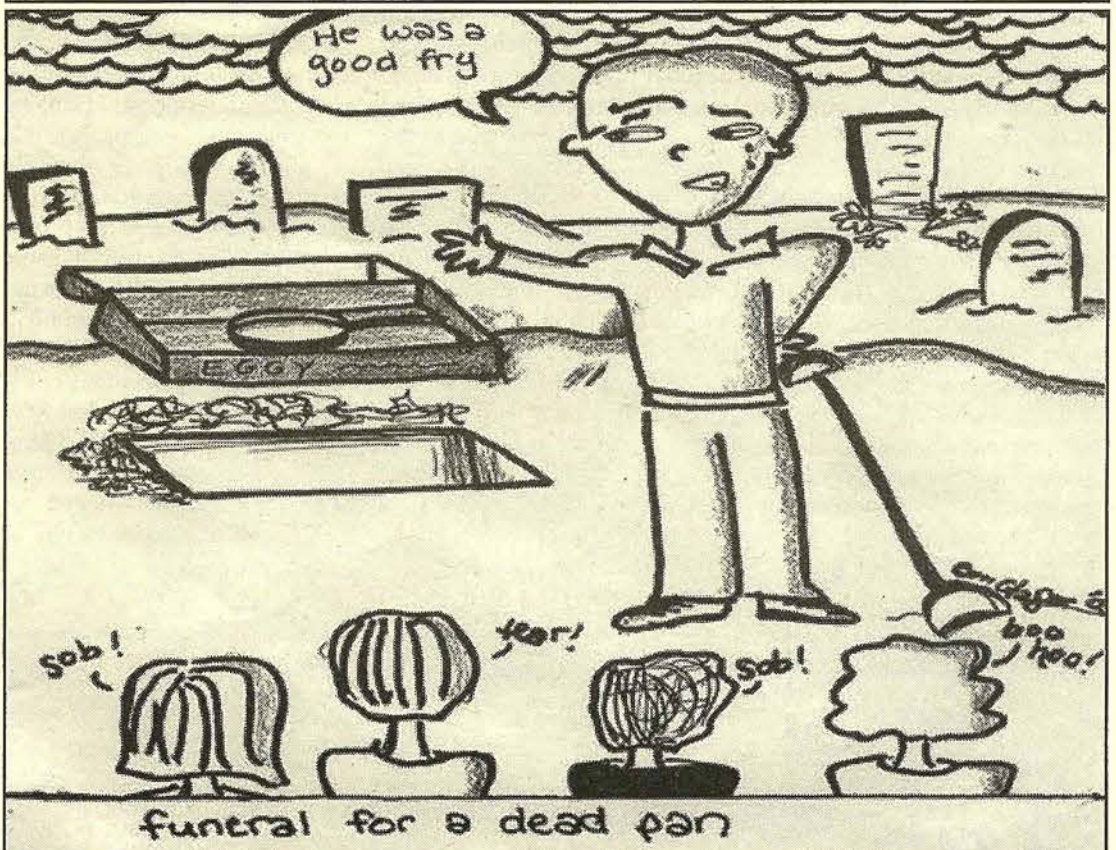
It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with all the student leaders this past year enhancing the YU experience together for students on both the Wilf and Beren campuses. I thank you for the successes on those projects and events for which we labored together, and for helping to end the madness. I would also like to welcome the incoming student leaders and hope that they follow in the footsteps of their predecessors who are a fine example of Stern's finest, most devoted, and caring students (with Nextells). Best of luck to you all in trying to make everyone happy.

To the Observer staff, I would like to humbly congratulate you on a very much improved publishing year, and for out-scooping the Commie - again. You have left next year's editors with very big shoes to fill and I'm sure they will do a fine job as well.

Wishing the entire student body a great and relaxing summer,
Yummy Schachter
YSU President

The Observer welcomes all letters to the editors. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, length and content. No unsigned letters will be printed. Letters should include the writer's address, as well as his or her school and expected date of graduation, if applicable. E-mail us at observer@yu.edu

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artitorial by chaya glazer



The Observer wishes a hearty Mazel Tov to our new Editors in Chief, Rebecca Rosenberg and Esther Flaschner. We would also like to extend a Mazel Tov to both of them on their recent engagements.

Drawing the Line: Free Speech at Yeshiva University

By Esther Flaschner

A few weeks ago, some political science students were offended by comments a professor issued in class. While various versions of the remarks have surfaced, the dialogue indisputably involved the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the midst of the second Intifada, professors' classroom discussions of Israel are not rare, and have spurred controversy on nearly every college campus while prompting a redefinition of academic freedom.

I had my own experience with anti-Israel sentiment last year, when I was still a student in Columbia University. I was walking through the sixth floor of Kent hall, home of MELAC, the Middle East Language and Cultures Department. Columbia College mandates that all graduates be fluent in a language other than English, and consequently, I entered MELAC to take my Hebrew placement exam. As I passed the rows of doors housing the offices of prominent Middle East Studies professors, I began to feel more and more uncomfortable. Posters lining the doors rabidly defamed Israel, slandering and denigrating its image. For some reason, I reached and tucked in my Star of David necklace, hiding it in my shirt.

I am not implying that those professors were in any way anti-Semitic, nor that any Jew feels uncomfortable on the Columbia campus. In fact, a rumored 40% of Columbia undergraduates are Jewish, and I found the school to be exceptionally receptive to Orthodox Judaism. But I know something is wrong when I think of how I passed the offices of outspoken professors and felt the need, albeit unwarranted, to conceal my identity.

Recently, Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger has initiated an investigation of Columbia's MELAC Department. The department is accused of presenting biased and one-sided coverage of the Middle East, namely, anti-Israel critiques. The inquiry is underway, and takes aim at the very heart of an issue facing all universities: academic freedom.

The quest to understand academic freedom is not an easy one. According to the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure,

academic freedom protects the rights of members of academia to free discourse in their classrooms, research, and publications. In the landmark 1967 Supreme Court ruling, *KEYISHIAN v. BOARD OF REGENTS*, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of four SUNY faculty who were fired because they refused to sign declarations disavowing membership in the Communist Party. Arguing that identifying with the Communist Party did not necessarily translate into illegal actions against the government, the justices explained that dismissing professors simply for adhering to a communist party was unconstitutional. The professors were protected under the First Amendment, asserting that, "[Academic] freedom is therefore a special concern of the First Amendment, which does not tolerate laws that cast a pall of orthodoxy over the classroom."

Even with the freedoms rightly granted in this court decision, most academics would agree that certain acts fall beyond the line of free discourse. Canceling classes, without rescheduling, to encourage students to attend demonstrations strips them of the education they want to receive. Announcing, from its inception, that a class will be decidedly biased (as has reportedly occurred in some institutions) allows a professor to hijack a scholarly course and turn it into a ranting podium. While these scenarios may be clearly unacceptable, the subtler distinctions still beg definition.

Based on the Supreme Court decision, one could argue that academic freedom confers lecturers with unlimited rights within the realm of their discourse. According to Professor Ellen Schrecker, a world-renowned expert on McCarthyism and tenured professor at Yeshiva, no outside limits should be imposed on a professor's expertise in the classroom. Relevant ideas, even if repugnant, should be allowed in the lesson, and would only become inappropriate if students were penalized for conflicting views. Outside of the classroom, professors maintain the same rights as all other citizens, and cannot be consequently punished in their employment for actions performed elsewhere.

While I believe Professor Schrecker's views were necessary and instrumental in the period since McCarthyism, I

think the world is changing, and our new generation needs something else. Since assuming office, President Joel has often advocated the need for increased ethical direction in today's educational institutions. Universities should not be simply forums for exchange of ideas; they have a higher duty to promote idealism and morality.

My comments open a Pandora's Box of philosophical dilemmas, largely regarding the subjective nature of idealism, and most of which I cannot answer. Yet, at Yeshiva University, things are different. We already adhere to a rational set of principles, we believe in our mission, we seek to become leaders and dream. Our university has ideals, and instead of discarding them in the name of unhindered discourse, we bear them proudly while embarking on intellectual challenge and dialogue.

A few years ago, the late Edward Said, former Professor of Comparative Literature at Columbia University, was photographed in Israel throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers. The images ignited controversy over the rights of academics, culminating in a decision that Said had acted within his legal rights as a citizen and lecturer.

Technically, Said was well within his lawful bounds. Yet I am arguing for a revision of the technicality. Even the most liberal, open-minded individual must feel a twinge of discomfort when a professor in the public eye engages in a provokingly violent act for all the world to see. Something about willfully throwing rocks is blatantly wrong.

Yes, prominent professors live in the public eye. Their lectures will change students; influence serves as an inherent part of their job description. Hanging virulently anti-Israel propaganda on office doors is not simply a display of one's opinion; it generates an atmosphere that profoundly affects even a mere passerby, hardly offering a conducive learning environment. With increased public success comes increased responsibility, and with that responsibility, a call to advance morality. I have been privileged to learn from teachers that have shaped my ideals, and I hope others will be as fortunate.

Attention Teachers: Don't Cheat Your Students

By Adam Steiner

Graduation is less than a month away. Aside from having a great educational experience, my sojourn at Yeshiva taught me the importance of becoming involved in the community in which I reside. To that end, I found myself involved in a myriad of projects and events at YU. The most influential project I have been involved in is YUMesora.com, which I co-founded with Daniel Segall and Menachem Husarsky. The goal was to centralize the "floating" mesorah (a slang term at Yeshiva meaning class notes, assignments and tests) on our campuses, and we are extremely gratified that YUMesora has become a valuable and important resource to many of our fellow students.

YUMesora was not a secret project. Its development was an open affair with input invited from students, faculty and administration. Each faculty member was contacted and asked to comment and/or contribute. In meetings specifically about YUMesora with the administration on both campuses and various professors, I was pleasantly surprised to find widespread support for the site. Most of those with whom I spoke, including the cluster heads for YC, supported YUMesora. YUMesora was seen as a tool to simplify and level the playing field by giving ALL students equal access to course materials and to prior exams, which were in the public domain. As an added bonus, making past exams more readily available would "inspire" the professors to write new, updated and fresher lectures and exams and reduce any complacency that might creep in over time. Although this might require an additional investment of time on the part of the test-giver, the consequent improvement would be welcomed by all.

Apparently, not all professors realize that their students have embraced this technology. A professor at SCW recently gave an "open book and open notes" exam to his class. However, this professor saw fit to give the exact same exam he had given in a previous semester. Some of the students had procured a copy of an old exam, only to find at the time of the exam, that the test was exactly the same. After grading the exam, he found a disparity in the grades. His grading policy had been that the lowest of the three exam grades would be dropped; however, upon learning that some had a copy of the test, he cancelled the exam, informing the students that the remaining two exams would count instead. This was patently unfair as different students develop different strategies of test taking/preparation over the semester.

After receiving many complaints, the professor agreed that a new examination would be given.

Two issues arise: first why

did this professor administer a test that he knew was in the public domain, as he had released the exam when last given? And second, by what logic was the test cancelled?

When cheating is detected, I believe that a teacher has the right to cancel the exam and exact appropriate punishment and discipline. In this case there was NO cheating. Students used resources available. To force some to take another exam is unjust. The professor's own lack of diligence and/or vigilance resulted in additional hardship for the students. How can a professor administer the same exam as in years past, when it is literally floating around the campus, and then complain? The fact that there is a test bank in the SCW library should have clued him in that old exams are readily available.

One of the cornerstones taught to us at Yeshiva is the exercise of intellectual honesty. There was none of that here. Imagine a student who complained that this year's exam was more difficult than last year's or that it did NOT track last year's exam and, that, as a result he wanted a re-test. Just imagine the response.

Academic integrity runs both ways and in this case the Academic Standards Committee at SCW must act in this case in the same manner as it would respond to any other attack on the integrity of the process or of the institution.

SCW has made strides over the past few years to improve its academic reputation. The sort of sloppiness exhibited in this case can't help but tarnish that reputation.

The issue at hand is not that students had copies of an exam that had been previously released into the public domain, but rather that a professor decided to reuse a test he had released to his students the previous year. Perhaps, it is the reusing of tests and the apathy in not drafting new tests and curricula that rob the students of a more complete educational process. Students entering the university are expected to act diligently in the pursuit of their education, no less should be demanded of the faculty.

When YUMesora was formed e-mail notification was made to every single faculty member. Periodic emails have been sent since, and dozens of professors have responded with syllabi, comments, suggestions and support. This professor did receive these e-mails but did not take the time to respond. Dusting off and reusing old exams must have saved at least enough time for a response.

Academic integrity is a material ingredient in the lifeblood of the university, both by students and faculty.

Adam Steiner is a YC senior and the founder of YUMesora.com. Please send comments to ajsteine@yu.edu or observer@yu.edu.

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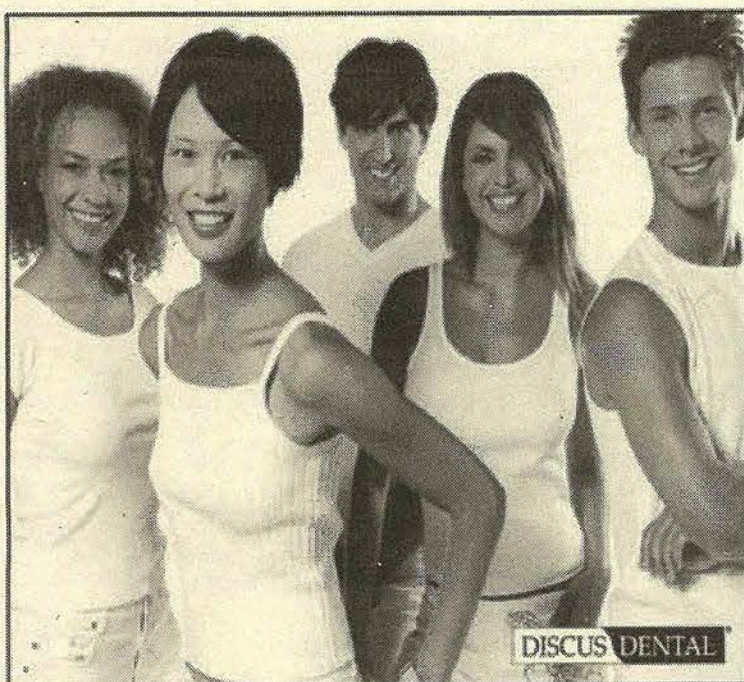
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Anat Barber,
SCWSC President

Well, its time for my cheesy good-bye column where I am supposed to leave a message for all eternity, that the graduates, underclasswomen and their children will cleave to for time immemorial. Clearly I am neither that cheesy nor that profound. So I come to you with two surprising lessons I have learned throughout my college career. Firstly, I was always cautioned to focus on the 'good times' I would have in college. "School will fly by," they said. "Make sure to learn all you can, you will never have another opportunity like this in your life." Well, throughout my college career I have been heard numerous times recounting tales of excitement and drama that have occurred to me. The most exciting of which have happened outside the classroom. Yes, it is important to delve into your studies, but if there is one thing you won't hear at orientation that you need to it's the following: "Skip Class, Stay Up Late, and don't sacrifice the important things in life for your 4.0."

Believe me, I put a high price on my education. I value my college learning as an ends in and of itself. It is not a means to a career goal or monetary pursuit. It is the intellectual drive that compels me to work diligently in all of my classes. However, despite

the intellectual drive I have not forgotten what is important in life. Thirty years from now I doubt I will remember how to calculate a regression coefficient and I may not be able to recite sonnets that I have memorized, but I will recall playing Boggle with my friends the night before a difficult final, or that time we ran around the block at 2am to keep us awake.

The second important lesson I learned is that you will only get as far as you are going. Much like sources in Pre-Socratic Philosophy would have you believe you are always only half way to your final destination. Only your own motivation and vision will take you where you are going. If you are a true visionary (like some of the people you will meet along your life) you will know that you are always only half way there. At each juncture you will realize there is a long way to go. This lesson mostly hit home as the reality of graduation was upon me. I realized we anxiously await the milestones of life, only to realize once they passed that they are more pebbles than stones and in the distance there is another mountain coming our way. [Warning somewhat cheesy message approaching:] Construct your college memories carefully so that they are worth remembering! Live your life outside the classroom as if you were being graded on it. Interact with friend and family to the utmost.

Maintain your integrity and demand respect. Enjoy the world's classroom and get used to learning outside the four rigid walls of a lecture hall. Our life lessons will be administered when least expected so keep your eyes and ears open and remember to think, listen and learn Outside the Box, because there will always be new walls forming around you.



Lisa Grundman,
TAC President

If I could change these past three years I do not think that I would want to change very much. Maybe some of the details here and there but for the most part, I feel proud of my college years. I set goals for myself and am able to look back and say that I have accomplished them. There are always situations that come up that you can not plan or anticipate, but it are those experiences that challenge you to reach the top.

As I was graduating high school a friend of mine said to me "carpe diem - seize the day." I would like to share this message with all of you. No matter what your life goals are just remember this. You will eventually get there, it is only a matter of time. The hardest part is reaching that point. There will be stumbling blocks in the way but you have to be able to move them to the side. Once you have, you have accomplished much more than *carpe diem*.

Going through life without any challenges might seem pleasant, but it would not make you nearly as strong as you could be. It is only when people are faced with problems that they discover what they truly believe in and what is

most important.

Never let yourself get lost in the crowd. Always keep your values and dreams in the back of your mind. Let these years in college help build on your foundation and strengthen yourself. If you are fortunate to be graduating this year, I hope that you are strong enough to go out into the world and show them what you have to offer. Take your energy and channel it in the right way to make a difference.

Some people that have finished this year proving this idea of *carpe diem* are my fellow TAC board members, Aliza Abrams, Riva Preil, Chavie Schwarzbard and Ariella Marcus. It is because of all of you that this year was so successful. We all pulled together and worked as a team to get the most accomplished. You should be very proud of yourselves. I know that next year, you, along with Jen Shulman, you will only impress me more than you already have.

And now as I prepare for graduation, there is not much more to say except thank you. Thank you to everyone who enhanced my past three years. Thank you to the administration, faculty and my fellow peers. You have taught me life lessons, been there as my backbone and helped me realize what is really important in life.

Seize the day- now and always.



Rachel Moss,
SSSBSC President

The last time I was sitting here writing my article for *The Observer*, I was under the impression that it was going to be the last issue of the year, which is known to be the "good bye" issue. So, I wrote my "good bye" piece. But low and behold- there is yet another issue! But I'll have you know, I'm not so keen on writing the same type of article twice.

Albert Einstein once said "If A is success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z. X is work; y is play; and z is keeping your mouth

shut." Over the past three years I've tried to learn how to best fuse these three variables. Sometimes my assessments worked; other times they did not. On May 21st however, I will not have any more of those chances to combine these three variables in poor proportions. It doesn't really hit you that you are entering the workforce until you realize that mistakes mean more than they did in college. Teachers will forgive you, friends will forgive you, classmates will forgive you, but when it comes to a job, a poor decision can mean much more.

We all know that we learn most from our own life experiences, but if we shield ourselves from these privileges we only put ourselves at higher risk to make mistakes later. Take the risk, trust your instincts, but choose wisely. At the end of the day one of two things can happen- if your decision yields a successful outcome then you are in the clear. Alternatively if your decision leads to a less than optimal result, you've still accomplished

something- you've learned a valuable lesson. You've learned a lesson about decision making, about assessing options and about considering alternatives. It's a lesson that you're allowed to learn in college and that's why it's so valuable. Where else are mistakes so tolerable? I can guarantee that as intolerable as you think professors may be, employers and co-workers will be far less forgiving.

I beseech you, take the advice that I took from those before me. Be a little gutsy, take the risks; worst case scenario, you've learned what not to do in an environment that lets you do so. College is a learning experience in the classroom, out of the classroom and in some ways a merge between the two. Don't limit yourself to learning in the classroom when there is so much more knowledge available outside the classroom walls. You'll find that you're not only more knowledgeable but that you are also better equipped to handle the world that waits for us as soon as the graduation cere-

monies are over. But don't forget the last detail in Einstein's equation: sometimes the best choice is Z- keeping your mouth shut. It's a detail that you'll only learn to employ by taking these risks. Z gives us the option not to give opinions when they are not needed. Z gives us the option to stay away from choices that we don't think will succeed. Z is really another way of saying, "I'm ready to learn the lesson." This in my opinion is the most important lesson you can take from college: remember that the world out there consists of people that know more than you. They have the experience that we lack, and thankfully Einstein gives us the option of Z - keeping our mouths shut. Take this lesson and learn from it because it's the most valuable lesson you'll ever hear. You'll learn a lot more by saying nothing and, after all, learning is what it's all about.

Learn what you can - because now is the best time.

Stern Students March in Washington for a Woman's Right to Choose

By Shifra Landowne

The April 25 march for abortion rights in Washington, DC not only caused a stir in the media and with those invested in women's rights and politics, but had an impact on the Beren Campus as well. SCW students Arielle Reich, Molly Fink and Yael Reisman, attended the rally and were vocal about their experiences back on campus.

Reich, an SCW junior and sociology major, headed the three person mission as a way of supporting the rights they believe in. "The march was very well publicized," said Reich. "It was the largest women's march ever, and I think that with the election coming up, and the threat of Roe v. Wade being overturned, I thought it was important to go and vocalize our opinions, get information, and share thoughts with other people, and it was an amazing experience."

Reich was aware that many people at SCW were wary of the march, fearful that abortion isn't an accepted halakhic practice. "I think that going to the rally, and telling people in Stern is so important," she stated. "A lot of people don't separate pro-choice from pro-abortion - we just

want the right to make our own decisions about our own bodies. Abortion should not be a legislative issue, and we don't need to get abortions to support the cause."

When Reich returned to New York, she and her friends made a point of telling her peers about the experience. Fink, an SCW junior and political science

"A lot of people don't separate pro-choice from pro-abortion - we just want the right to make our own decisions about our own bodies.

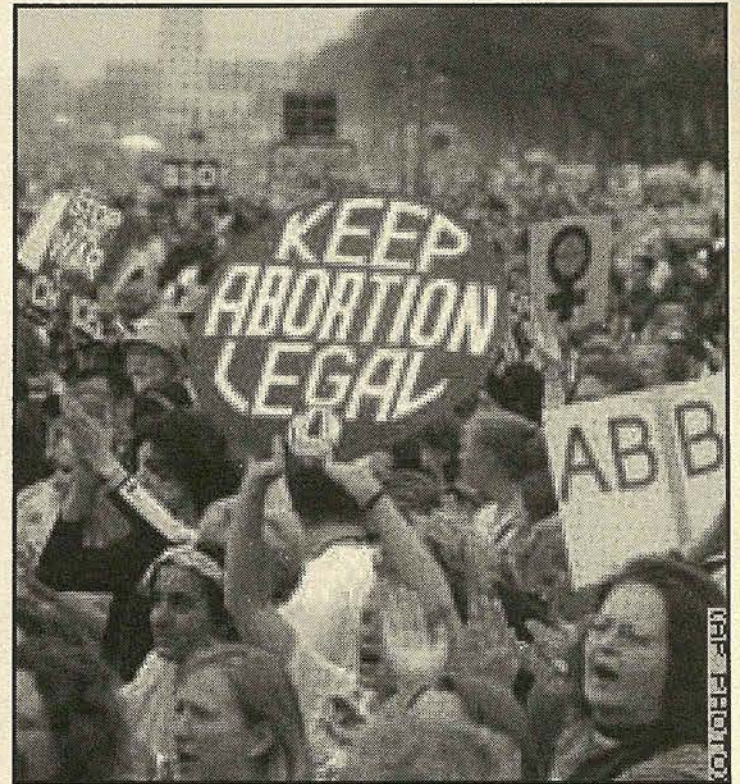
Abortion should not be a legislative issue, and we don't need to get abortions to support the cause."

major, handed out buttons and posters from the rally. "I definitely got mixed reactions," said Fink, "but I was glad to talk to people about my experience. When I explained my point of view from a constitutional per-

spective, that the government doesn't have a right to take away the privacy of women, and showed how this really didn't need to be about religion, people listened." And the students did not feel they needed to explain themselves to everyone. "Lots of people, when they heard about my trip, said how much they wish they had gone and were jealous," said Reich.

Some students attribute their decision to attend the rally to a relatively new course taught by Professor Nora Nachumi. The course, Women's Studies: Theory and Practice, which was developed as a part of the Women's Studies minor at SCW, has affected the political and social awareness of many SCW students to feminism and its causes. Both Reich and Reisman are currently taking Nachumi's class, which, according to Reich, "helped me mobilize and find others to come with me; most people in the class are pro-choice, and the class really helped people realize the difference between pro-abortion and pro-choice."

Aside from pushing her to attend the rally, Reich feels that the Women's Studies class has helped her in other ways as well. "I was all those things [feminist,



Reich, Fink and Reisman attended the packed rally, above, in Washington, DC activist] before I took the class, but I'm more active about them now," she said. "Without a doubt the class is affecting the outlook of students in only positive ways; most people in the school think of feminism as a dirty word - it's not about that. It's about women having equal rights. People should take the class just to have a place where they can voice

their opinions and talk about things that aren't usually discussed among Orthodox females. The class is a forum, yet nobody in the class pushes views on anybody else, but we look at things logically in a way that lets everyone figure out their own opinions. It's a really good environment, and it's the best class I've taken at Stern."

A Feminist Struggle at Stern: Women's Studies Minor Flounders

continued from back page

Others have suggested that the lack of output on the part of the administration is a reflection of the minimal interest on the part of the students. "I'm sure that the faculty and the administration support the idea of a Women's Studies minor," explained Nachumi. Landowne agreed. "The administration went out of their way to create it. I thought it was an excellent opportunity, and jumped at the chance to take the classes. I was really happy to have the opportunity to support and take part in a Women's Studies minor, as a student of the only all female Jewish university."

Dean Ethel Orlian explained that the administration has and will extend great efforts to accommodate students' requests and needs. According to Orlian, the Women's Studies minor was created per request from one student. On official SCW transcripts, this is the only student since the fall of 2002 that officially declared a Women's Studies minor. Orlian stressed that the administration welcomes requests from the students, and will work toward fulfilling their needs; however, administrators point out that if there is a lack of student interest there is little that can be done. "The Women's

Studies minor was not a flourishing minor that fell to the waste side," Orlian explained. "Students should let us know in a timely fashion what they need, and all legitimate requests can be worked out."

In addition, Orlian pointed to the administration's eagerness to accommodate by citing a situation in which a student needed a specific genetics course to complete her requirements and the

fields to reach specific career goals," she said. She explained that because SCW students have chosen traditional majors and minors that there is a lack of interest in the Women's Studies Minor, both of which were created at the same time, under the direction of the English department, and both on the request of one student. "It is very nice for one to study these fields and take

in the world," she said. "From my experience, that is how I perceive the lack of interest in the Women's Studies minor."

However, Landowne feels that there seems to be an equal flaw on both ends. "Women's Studies are not celebrated by the administration and the students," she affirmed. "It's just disappointing (because) I gave everyone a lot more credit than they deserve."

"Students need to get over their fear of feminism.
[The administration] needs to emphasize that it exists on campus."

university is now offering a course in Human Development - Embryology, in the fall to accommodate the student's request. Furthermore, she stated that there was a growing student interest and need for a course in nutrition, which has also been added to the course listings for the fall semester; thereby highlighting the administration's involvement and success in meeting the students' needs.

Orlian also believes that students at SCW choose to major and minor in traditional fields. "Our students choose majors that are concentrated in specific

interdisciplinary courses, and minors that are not concentrated under one area" she explained. "But it has been my experience that students do not generally choose these fields as majors and minors." Orlian suggested that because SCW is the only female Jewish university, students do not have an "ax to grind" and therefore do not possess a strong need to establish their identity and define their college careers by taking Women's Studies classes. "It is precisely because of whom we are that are students seem to choose traditional fields to go into, and make their marks

Furthermore, Landowne also expressed additional disappointment in the student body and, unlike Orlian, attributed the lack of enrollment in Women's Studies classes to student's fear of acquiring a feminist stigma. "Students need to get over their fear of feminism," she said. "[The administration] needs to emphasize that it exists on campus."

In addition, Nachumi pointed out the complications involved in the creation of major/minor(s) into the academic system, and explained that it is largely due to those difficulties that certain conflicts arise later

on.

"It is difficult to coordinate courses for a minor since doing so involves different departments, each of which have to offer a certain variety of courses to fulfill the requirements of their majors, not to mention other issues like scheduling, sabbaticals, number of faculty etc," she explained. "However, we can and will work on improving coordination."

Landowne praised Nachumi for all her efforts, and expressed her hopes that improvements will be made after she graduates at the end of May. "Professor Nachumi is doing an incredible job," she said. "She is really extending tremendous effort to make this work."

Other students are becoming more aware of the Women's Studies classes being offered and are embracing the opportunity toward enriching their course load by registering for them. "I am really looking forward to the course on Women and Humor, an English literature course that I enrolled for in the fall," said SCW junior, and president of the Israel club, Hindy Poupko. "Professor Nachumi is a wonderful teacher, and I am expecting this to be a really fantastic course."

Alumnus Finds Her Niche in Women's Theater Group

By Orlee Levin

Screenwriter Amy Gordon Gutterson is one of the few graduates from SCW with a bachelor's degree in theater. Gutterson was the only student to pursue professional acting, not a popular choice for a young, observant woman. She has since founded a women's theater troupe, and become a successful director and playwright.

Embarking on her new career, Gutterson opted to approach the unknown in small steps. She first obtained an actor's equity card, the membership card to the stage actor's union. She then started acting in off-Broadway productions and was accepted to a two-year acting program. She was afforded the opportunity to study with Paul Phils, the founder of the improvisational acting schools of thought. "From Paul Phils I learned how to be an improvisational actress and his teaching has been invaluable to my career," remarked Gutterson.

While embarking on her acting career, Gutterson stopped practicing observant Judaism for a period of time, eventually returning to the fold through involvement in the Lubavitch movement. She has shared this experience in her work as a playwright and director in the women's theater group she began in Pittsburgh nine years ago.

The impetus for starting this group came from frustration she was experiencing in her life. "I didn't know what to do with my acting, I wasn't finding any outlets," explained Gutterson. "I felt like I was missing out on something." When her husband suggested starting a women's theater group in their community, Kol Isha was formed. "Kol Isha in Hebrew literally means the voice of a woman, but if spelled differently it translates to mean every woman," she explained. She describes the group as "a conglomerate of Jewish women from all different areas on the spectrum of Judaism.

"Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative, Modern Orthodox, Lubavitch women take part."

Some of their performances are for women only, "in order to give Orthodox women a place in theater," clarified Gutterson, but others are for arranged for mixed audiences, and are equally popular. The group of fifteen women, most of whom are former theater professionals or simply have an interest in theater, meets on a

"I didn't know what to do with my acting; I wasn't finding any outlets," explained Gutterson. "I felt like I was missing out on something."

weekly basis, with participants' ages ranging from twenty to sixty.

Gutterson continues to utilize her training in improvisation to start the playwriting process. In order to transform an idea into a play, members of the group do improvisation exercises while one member serves as a playwright taking notes on the acting. "It generally takes about two years to develop a play" explains Gutterson. Currently, the company is working on a piece about grandmothers.

The goal of the group is "to explore the issues that Jewish women confront in the modern world and issues of unity and disunity in the Jewish community," Gutterson explains. "We are not a women's group that just performs remakes of the 'Sound of Music.' Our performances are original." One monologue piece entitled "An Invisible Thread," allowed each woman to relate what the personal importance of being a Jewish woman is for

them. One play that Gutterson authored, "Journey Through Ruth," cast interesting modern women: a young hippie new to Judaism, a forty-year-old single woman who is the child of survivors, and an Israeli tour guide who lives in America. They are on a journey through the biblical story of Ruth. The play pits modern scenes against biblical ones; each of the modern characters meets up with a biblical character in the process who provides resolutions for their life issues.

The actress still puts her improvisational acting skills to use in the Pittsburgh Playback Theatre. "We take a member of the audience's reaction and we act it out for them" remarked Gutterson. She also pursues her creativity through screenwriting. "It was while I was working on 'Journeys with Ruth' that I decided that I wanted to try my hand at screenwriting."

Currently, Gutterson is working on developing a film, which targets middle school kids. It is a coming of age story about a young girl who is, "forced to struggle between being a child and an adult before her time." She wishes this project will extend farther than her own community. "I'm hoping it will be used in film festivals and for educational purposes," she noted.

Gutterson looks back on her years at SCW with fondness. "The great thing about Stern is that if they don't have classes that you want to take, they let you take it outside of the school and shape your major," she recalled. Gutterson remembered that Dean Karen Bacon was extremely supportive of her endeavors and encouraged her to chase after her dreams.

She warned students of the difficulty of pursuing an acting career as an observant Jew. "My advice to girls interested in theater is that it is extremely difficult to remain religious as an actress," Gutterson says. "If one is interested in theater, I recommend playwriting and directing because it is much more flexible."

SCW Students Obtain Internships Around the Globe This Summer

By Melodie Balarsky

Inevitably, some students will spend their summer swimming in a muddy pool with screaming campers or listening to a summer school professor for hours on end. Thankfully, some SCW students have found other fun-filled, unusual ways to spend their summer vacation.

SCW junior Nehama Schondorf, a Biology major, has always had a love for Israel and a desire to help people and an interest in Science. Her decision to participate in Magen Dovid Adom's (Israeli Red Cross) summer internship program combined these elements. Magen Dovid Adom encourages 18-25 year-olds with a basic knowledge of conversational Hebrew to apply to their Yochai Porat, z"l, Ambulance Volunteer Program. Volunteers accepted into the program receive ten days of intensive training on topics including basic anatomy and physiology, CPR and trauma injuries. Once volunteers have successfully completed their training they are stationed in locations throughout Israel for six-eight weeks, where they are qualified to work as ambulance volunteers under the supervision of Magen Dovid Adom staff.

Schondorf, who will be stationed in Ashdod from July 11 to August 18, is preparing herself for the gruesome sights she might encounter. "I want to do something productive for Israel," she explained. "I may unfortunately be exposed to terrorist attacks but most of what I will see will be car accidents and medical problems. It is known to be a highly emotional experience, and I hope that I will be capable of handling it."

Public relations major Barrie Zigman, who is currently completing her sophomore

year, decided to search out an internship that would facilitate an understanding of the practical applications of her major. "I wanted an internship which would provide me with the opportunity to gain experience in public relations," remarked Zigman. Working in Santa Monica, California at Bryan Farris Radio Promotion, Zigman will be given the opportunity to focus on music promotion and radio public relations. Her responsibilities will include searching music and radio reference books in order to update the company's databases, helping create web marketing through e-mail, message boards and guest books and assisting her supervisor with marketing new projects by contacting artists and describing the company's air-play campaigns.

Zigman, who is only required to work a minimum of ten hours a week, looks forward to the perks of her new summer job. "Although the internship is unpaid, I will occasionally receive free merchandise, including CDs, posters and apparel."

As someone who has always enjoyed singing, dancing and acting, SCW sophomore Rena Needle decided to apply to the Professional Musical Theater Training Program, a program in conjunction with NYU's Collaborative Arts Project, on the advice of her voice teacher. "I wanted to participate in a fun, educational program," stated Needle. From June 28 through August 8, Needle will improve her acting and musical scene study, vocal performance, music theory, improvisation and audition techniques. "I look forward to having professional guidance in the many aspects of performing arts," said Needle. "I have never had that kind of opportunity before."

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The Year in Review with President Joel

Observer Editors- We interviewed you at the beginning of the year, to get a sense of your goals and plans for your tenure at Yeshiva University. Have these goals and plans changed at all since then?

Richard Joel - It's a little too soon for a retrospective - "Joel: the early months." It hasn't been a year yet. I guess one of the lessons is you have to keep doing this reflecting back. In most rational settings, you don't do that. But this is such a public job and Yeshiva is so central to lots of worlds that a little bit, its very similar to...running a country. It's not "Leave me alone, come back in five years and you'll see how much we've grown." You have to be aware, as you are trying to grow, of all the cultural, academic and political dimensions. It's a great experience.

So what have I learned? Where am I now? I think a lot of what I probably said to you in the beginning, I would still say now. I didn't come in as a stranger. I'm enormously encouraged by students and the culture is growing in good ways. I'm enormously encouraged by the faculty and the *rabbaim*. People are very generous, are willing to get to know me and are excited about articulating a purpose.

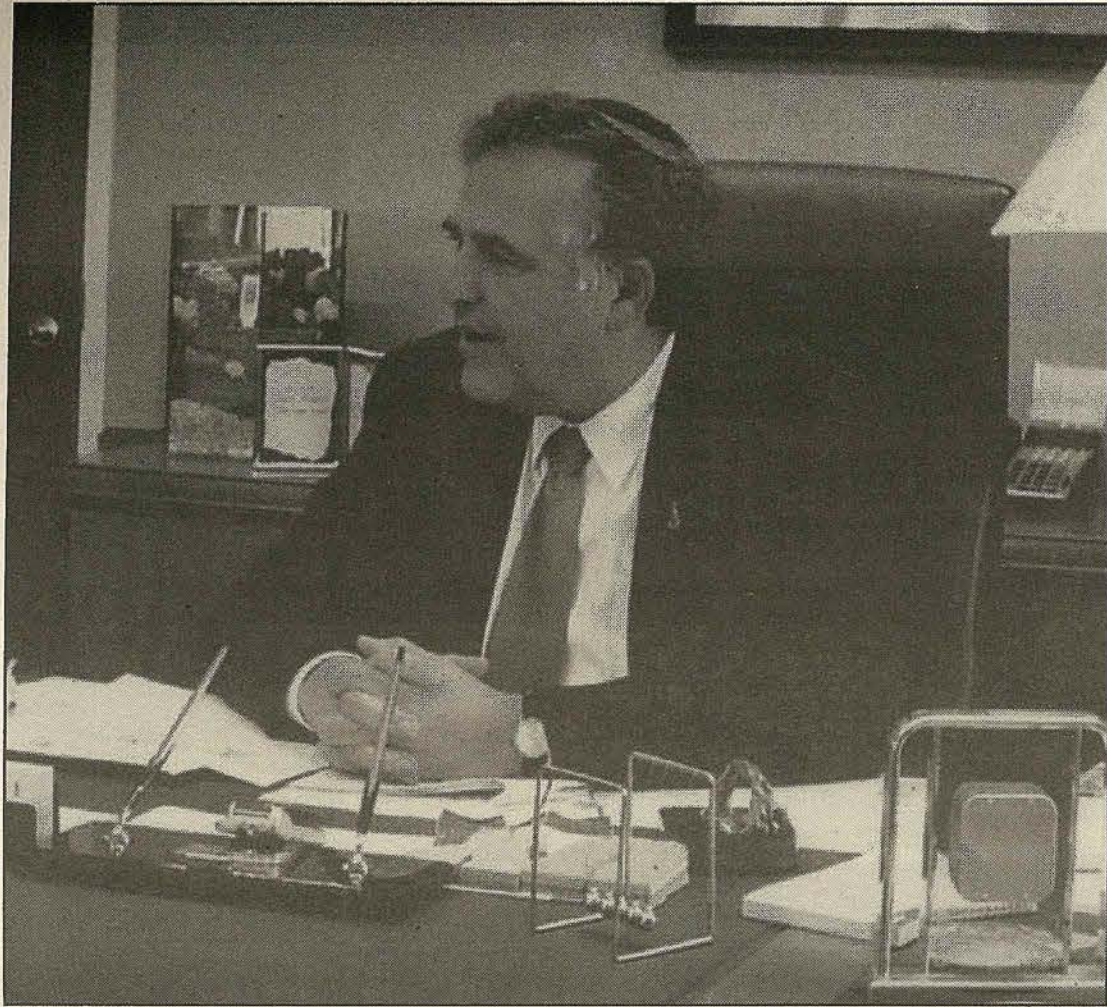
OE-Have there been any surprises?

RJ- The degree of hunger out there in community for us to move forward and do it with the community is a great and scary truth. That's one.

Number two, I've always worked hard. I'm not working harder than I ever did. But I'm more overwhelmed. I look back to my first years at Hillel were as overwhelming. It was so much less in the public eye- so it wasn't. There are just so many constituencies and everyone wants a piece of you. You are busy trying to learn and there is so little contemplative time. And everybody has an agenda. These are all good things. You have to try to find your balance.

I guess the other one is one that Esther, my wife, is teaching me a lot, which is "Sure, race forward. You can start with a sprint but leadership is a marathon.

You have to be deliberate and realize how much you want to do the things; things move slowly. When you have to move your belongings, no matter how strong you are and how quickly



President Richard Joel takes a few moments to reflect over this year's accomplishments and lessons

you can run up the steps, if you want to move your dresser to the third floor, it's going to take more than just you. You have to know if the other people want to move it to the same place you have to figure out a language in which you can agree upon to give each other directions. You have to move it up smart, because if you don't agree upon how to make some turns, you are going to break down some walls. Make sure you have the strength to get it up there. And when you get it up there, you don't want to say, "Nah, I didn't really want it up there."

I think I have met a good number of faculty members from the different schools and I have a good sense of their aspirations. I have a lot of regard for the academic aspirations for the faculty.

I think there is an enormous amount of potential here. The degree to which the agenda is urgent is a little frightening and the stakes are high. They're real. I'm absolutely sure that this place will be a place of inspiration. And I'm absolutely sure that the students here will take the Jewish world to new places.

OE- You mentioned your wife. How is your family enjoying the new role?

RJ- The great plus is that I haven't been traveling much. I get home and I'm home with my family. The other great news is that I think Esther has been a terrific first lady, a tremendous sustaining partner to me. She has been very proactive. Its great to

know that when we go into a room and we put on the smile- not a fake smile, but a "lets work the room" smile- the key is to know how to be on and to be real and she's great at that. We go into a room and boom! She works her part of the room and I worked mine. She's done some things with Yeshiva University Women and Ferkauf and spoken in my stead. We went down to Palm Beach for a week and did a lot of work for Einstein. And the kids are happy. The truth is, the house is very full, but we wanted that, both personally and professionally. The other thing you have to get used to is the fish bowl. Here, we are a very in-your-face community and I am a little bit public property and people have been great about it. But you have to get used to it.

OE- About being in the public eye- how do you respond to the recent public attacks against Yeshiva's RIETS Smikhah program?

Number one, I really do believe you have to keep your eye on the prize. Number two, I feel very strongly that we have become, as a people and a community, much too much part of a culture of slight vilification. It's interesting, because each one says, "I'm just responding. I'm the victim." We have to model a culture of non-vilification. We should be able to argue over ideas - in learning, in anything. We have to build mutual respect and trust.

Generally, I don't respond to

attacks. I don't think there is anything in that except prolonging the story. We also take the high road. I also warn not to be so defensive that it's, strike counter strike, blow counter blow. We are a proactive institution, not a responsive institution and I think we have to be very careful to listen to criticism, and to take from it the good. My father also had an expression that you don't want to be the type of person who when somebody spits in your eyes you say it's raining. Being *dan likaf zechut* (giving everyone the benefit of the doubt) is very important and also saying I don't need to be in this realm. In fact I have good relations with several of the principles in several of the areas where one could say there was tension.

But there's tension internally. How do you deal with tension? So, we brought in not an insubstantial group of Cardinals into Yeshiva. That's a controversial thing to do. How do you deal with those who disagree? If there's too big of a vilification, you don't dignify it with a response.

You do have to be strong. And you know what? You have to go home and say, I'm not going to say "how many shabbos tables are having conversations about me?" because it doesn't help. I'll also say I'm naïve enough to believe that a lot of the conversations this year have been positive ones. I think the buzz is properly good and you also have to say who are you listening to? You have to learn to listen to the right voices.

OE-Due to the recent issues that have arisen as a result of the lawsuit against Yeshiva Derech Etz Chaim, do you think that one of Yeshiva's roles is making the community aware of wrongdoings?

RJ-That's a broad question. Certainly, we will never be a part of withholding from the community issues of concern regarding how young people are treated, but no we do not see ourselves, as part of our mission to be investigating and rooting out and exposing. That's a responsibility that we all have as a community. If we are confronted with those issues, we will deal with those issues with alacrity as we have and as we will. But no, I don't think that's our role that way. I'm proud, by the way, of what Yeshiva did. It was done before my presidency. It was not my actions. I'm also proud of how we've dealt with the lawsuit and how we've dealt with this until now. Again, I think it's the same sense of taking the high road.

OE - It is clear that you have several long-term goals for this institution. However, you have also said that you do not see your term lasting as long as your predecessors. Why is this so and do you think it will prevent you from accomplishing your goals?

RJ-Well first of all I serve with pleasure on the board of trustees. They, and in a lighter sense the community that we server determines the tenor of the president. Number two, I'm 53 years old and I was younger when I started, by many years.

Esther and I entered this thing knowing it would be a major investment and a great challenge. I am hoping I get control of my life a little bit better than I have in the beginning. Certainly I have not seen this as an interim. I need to remain here, hopefully, if everything is alright and to say that just as my predecessors did, I have helped move Yeshiva University from where it happily has been to the next place that it needs to be. Change takes some time. Whether that's five years or eight years, or ten years, I don't know. I guess I'll be here as long as I still see some magic in the eyes of students, and I still think that I have a good role to play and lead.

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MSDCS and SCW Team Up for Yeshiva Torah Seminars

By Orlee Levin

Yeshiva students will get to Atlanta and Denver this summer—just not by way of road trip. Eighteen students have been selected to give classes and learn in partners in *kollels* (adult Torah study groups) across the country.

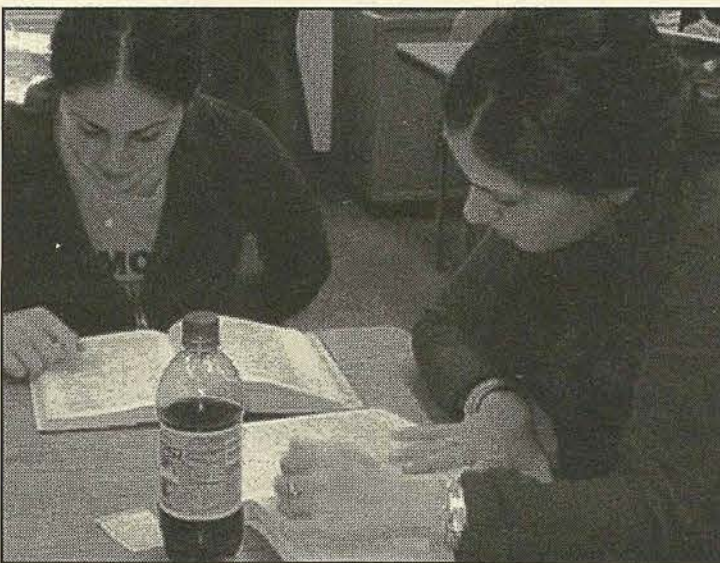
Jewish communities across the United States will benefit from *kollels* made up of men and women from YC and SCW learning in their communities through a unique program, Yeshiva Torah Seminars (YTS), organized by the Max Stern Division of Communal Service (MSDCS). "Each program has unique goals based on the communities' needs" clarified Kenny Berg, an MSDCS intern. "Some programs are more *kiruv* (outreach)-oriented while others are designed for the community to have a *kollel* sitting and learning all summer."

Although several communities request only males for the summer positions, as they assist in leading prayer services, eighteen females will have the opportunity to participate in several different programs over the course of *Shavuot* and the summer. *Kollels* will be set to take

place in Allentown, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Denver, Scarsdale and West Orange. One of the main goals of YTS is to expose communities to Modern Orthodox Jews who observe halakha and study Torah and yet are exposed to and involved in the modern world. "Many of these communities don't have the opportunity to interact with *frum* (observant) Jews that also have modern views," explained Berg.

Even communities like Philadelphia, which have large populations of Modern Orthodox Jews, are excited about the establishment of YTS. "People get excited about young, enthusiastic people coming to their communities and learning," stated Rob Schoor, an MSDCS intern. "There is a buzz around fresh faces."

The duration of the summer programs is two to six weeks,



SCW students will take advantage of YTS programs this summer

depending on the community. Over the course of the summer, the participants stay with families, an element of the program that aims to form strong relationships with these communities. "We stay in people's homes rather than in hotels in the surrounding areas so that we can be role models to the families in the communities" Berg remarked.

Schoor also stressed the importance of developing relationships with families in these communities. "The communities fund the YTS program themselves," explains Schoor. "They

are the ones responsible for the PR throughout the community and getting the community excited for the learning program."

Yeshiva participants are grateful that YTS will not only facilitate the teaching of Jewish topics, but also provide them with tools to learn on their own. According to Ilana Nattel,

the liaison between MSDCS learning programs and SCW students, organizers plan for time to be set aside each day for the participants' personal learning. "There is a *Rosh Kollel* (head of the *Kollel*) who provides the YTS participants with the material to learn and then also gives [the participants] *shiurim* (lectures)," Nattel explained. "It is also the *Rosh Kollel's* job to oversee the learning done by YTS participants and their respective communities."

YTS participants are involved in a number of different

teaching venues, says Nattel, "through *Shabbat* programs, community-wide *shiurim* as well as individual *chavrutot* (one on one learning)."

In past years, YTS communities have requested for participants to return in the future. "Often students go back on their own, and we try to arrange Torah Tours trips to the communities for *Simchat Torah*, because it's a great way to maintain a *kesher* (connection)" Berg explicated.

Each program is individually designed to meet the needs of that particular community. However, there is one underlying theme to all the programs taking place this summer. "We try to have them take place around *Tisha B'av* so that there is already a theme to the learning taking place in the community," Berg said. "In communities where the main goal is *kiruv*, we concentrate more on getting them into the mood of the day. One of the things we do to achieve that goal is sing songs from the *kinot* (lamentations)."

YC and SCW students involved have noted their anticipation toward enhancing their own learning experience as well as spreading Torah throughout the larger Jewish community.

New Courses Expand Curriculum, Bio and Poli-Sci Departments Develop Greatly

By Shifra Landowne

While most classes in the fall 2004 course catalog are familiar to most, a slew of new courses will be appearing this coming semester, most concentrated in either Biology or Political Science.

The biology department will be offering a new course by Dr. T. Weiss in Human Development, a course taught by Dr. B. Goncharoff called Topics: Forensic Biology, and another called Topics: Bioinformatics. The Bioinformatics course is "an introduction to current bioinformatics tools and databases and the theoretical and practical applications of computer science to biological science."

New courses in Political Science will be taught by both department head Professor Joseph Luders, as well as Professor Bryan Daves. Luders will be teaching a course on Race and Religion in American Politics, which "begins with the proposition that race and religion must be placed at the center of any analysis of the historical and contemporary dynamics of American politics."

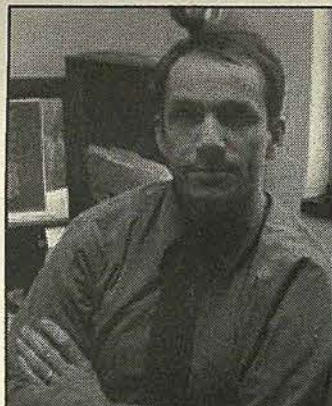
Daves will be teaching two new courses, Comparative Politics: Challenges for Democracy and Development, as well as Authoritarianism in the

Mid-East. The Comparative Politics course plans to examine various countries with questions such as "why are some countries rich while others remain poor? When and why are democracies stable systems? What is the relationship between human rights and economic development? Is a separation of religion and state a prerequisite for democracy?"

Daves' second course, Authoritarianism in the Mid-East will examine "contending approaches to explaining the democratic deficit in the Middle East" by analyzing "historical, political, economic and cultural factors that scholars and policymakers contend are important in understanding the chances for democracy in the region."

The S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program, is offering a new course in English taught by Professor Richard Nochimson titled, Topics: Studies in Drama. This course will focus on "the creative process and on the complex question of how a dramatist establishes a relationship with his or her audience," and will include works by Shakespeare, Moliere, and Ibsen, as well as other contemporary playwrights.

Students can also look forward to a new Jewish Philosophy course, Philosophy of Rav Kook, taught by



Luders, above, has added a slew of new courses to the Poli-Sci department

Professor B. Roi, a new Economic History course, and a new music course taught by Dr. David Glaser. Glaser's new course, Topics: Words and Music, will explore "what happens when words and music mix?", and investigate "the synergy between these two media and the way they interact in Broadway musicals, a millennium of settings of Psalm texts, *Shir haShirim*, the art song, and scenes from operas whose plots were derived from plays or novels." The class will also attend a performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* at the New York City Opera.

According to Dean Ethel Orlian, "we are very excited about many of the new courses, and look forward to watching students take advantage of the offerings."

Legal Conflict Ends

continued from front page

relationship in February of last year. At that time, Yeshiva officials removed the institution from its list of participants in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program, yeshivas that are approved to administer credits for study abroad under the Yeshiva umbrella. "Because YU stamps an implicit seal of approval upon the schools in its Israel Program, it was decided that keeping DEC in the program would be betraying the trust between YU and its students and their parents," *The Commentator* reported last year.

But some wonder if dropping the countersuit was stamping a seal of approval on inaction. In its May 7 report, *The Jewish Week* asked, "[w]hat, if anything, will come of the allegations of sexual abuse against...[the rabbi affiliated with the school], a leading Torah scholar and author, which were at the crux of the case[?]" The newspaper pointed out that, according to some, this case indicates the Orthodox community's inability to pursue this type of allegation. They wonder who will counter the efforts of the administration of the Har Nof yeshiva to, as a Yeshiva insider put it, "really protect this guy."

Yeshiva thinking, however, seems to focus on the fact that the rabbi in question was not even named in the lawsuit, as no concrete affiliation between him

and the institution had been drawn, thus eliminating the possibility of an investigation into his actions through this particular legal action. When asked about Yeshiva's role in ensuring investigation, Yeshiva President Richard Joel said that Yeshiva shares the same responsibility as the rest of the Jewish community. "Certainly, we'll never be a part of withholding from the community issues of concern for how young people are treated," he asserted. "But we do not have the responsibility of being a watchdog. That is the responsibility of the Jewish community." Joel added that he was proud of the University's decision to terminate its relationship with DEC, which occurred before his presidency commenced.

Other Yeshiva officials noted that with the settlement leaving unaffected the exclusion of DEC from Yeshiva's joint program, the influence of the rabbi in question and the success of DEC as an institution have become severely limited, rendering a court case almost unnecessary. "What's the point of giving them an out with a gun held over us?" one Yeshiva employee questioned. "There is no reason to go to court, spend whatever the costs are and occupy months of time."

Israel Club Holds Raffle for Koby Mandell Foundation



At the March 25th Pesach Palooza, the YC/SCW Israel Club with the help of the SOY Seforim Sale, announced that they raised over \$5,000 for the Koby Mandell Foundation. The foundation provides healing programs in the form of summer camps and other activities for family members of terror victims. It was founded by Sheri and Rabbi Seth Mandell, who lost their son Koby after he was attacked by terrorists in the settlement Tekoa. The money was raised by raffling tickets for a trip to Israel with a five night stay at the Plaza Hotel. "It was a real *zechut* (merit) to be able to be a part of such a huge act of *tzedekah* (charity)," said SCW Israel Club President Hindy Poupko.

SCW and Cardoza Plan Joint Conference for November

An academic conference co-sponsored by Cardozo School of Law and SCW's Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies will commence November 21, 2004, according to SCW administrators. Approximately 25 leading scholars from SCW, Cardozo and Israel will participate in the two and a half day event. "This conference will allow scholars from Stern College for Women and Cardozo School of Law to interact with an international array of scholars," said Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chair of the Jewish studies department and coordinator of the event. "Such a conference will undoubtedly contribute positively to the academic environment at our college." The details of the program are not yet finalized but as of now Kanarfogel, said that the sessions will be split between the Beren Campus and the Brookdale Center, the Cardozo campus. The conference comes as at a notable moment in Jewish History: the 900th anniversary of Rashi's death and the 800th anniversary of Maimonides' death. It is therefore aptly titled, "Between Rashi and Maimonides: Themes in Medieval Jewish Law, Thought and Culture." Scholars will discuss the writings of famous medieval Jewish thinkers and rabbinic figures such as Rashi and Maimonides. It will be open to academics and students and will offer some public sessions as well.

Azrieli Brings on Valuable Staff Member

The Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration has signed on Dr. David Pelcovitz, the chairman of psychology at North Shore Hospital. He will teach educational psychology. Pelcovitz recently lectured to YC and SCW students on the topic of *kiruv*. The University hopes to utilize Pelcovitz in other capacities as well, which have yet to be fully determined.

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May 2 Lecture Highlighted Democracy and Religion in Israel

SCW sponsored a lecture on how democracy and theocracy coexist. The event was held at the home of Leora and Jonathon Kukin in Teaneck, New Jersey on May 2nd. The discussion entitled, "Democracy and Religion: Fighting for Israel's Soul," is third in a seven-part series celebrating SCW's 50th anniversary. Rabbi Seth Farber, a graduate of RIETS and the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, delivered the lecture. He is the founder of ITIM: The Jewish Life Information Center, an organization which advises unaffiliated Israelis on Jewish life cycle rituals, such as marriage, conversion and burial. He received a PhD from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has taught at Maimonides School in Boston and at the graduate schools of Touro College and the Overseas School of The Hebrew University.

Senior Barbeque in the President's Yard

President Richard Joel invited the entire senior class to his home for a barbeque on Sunday May 9. Over 200 YC and SCW students attended. The president spoke, urging students to be proud of undergraduate institution and stay involved with Yeshiva after graduation. Participants enjoyed a catered barbeque, music, frisbie and other games. Dean David Himer, Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Jeffrey Rosengarten, Associate Dean of Students Zeld Braun attended as well as Joel's wife.



RIETS Pays Tribute to Roshei Kollel

RIETS celebrated advanced Torah scholarship by paying tribute to its four distinguished *roshei kollel* (post graduate professors) at a dinner on May 5th. The Eitz Chaim Award, the highest honor RIETS can bestow, was presented at the dinner to Jewish communal leader Carmi Schwartz, former executive vice president of the Council of Jewish Federations and current executive chairman of the Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor Immunology of the Hebrew University. The event, at the Grand Hyatt in New York City, began with presentation by the *roshei kollel*: Rabbi J David Beich, Rabbi Michael Rosenweig, Rabbi Hershel Schachter and Rabbi Mordechai I. Willig.

Thank You for a Great Year!

We look forward to seeing you

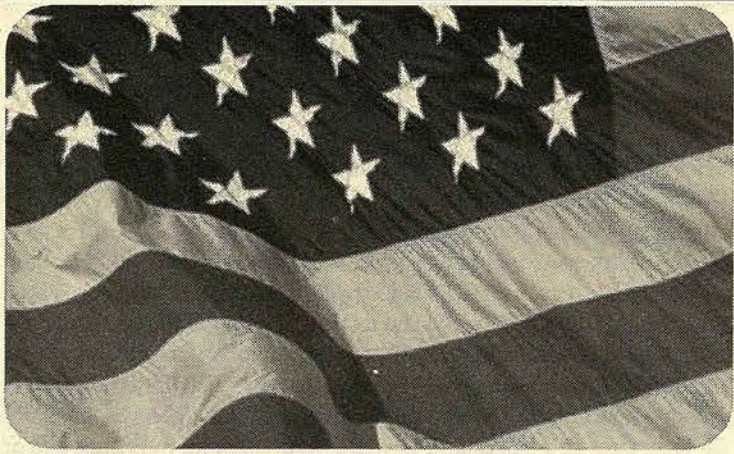
in our office next year.

Good luck to graduating seniors.

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Yeshiva Celebrates Jewish Immigration

By Talia Harris

On April 20th, over 100 people gathered in the Schottenstein Cultural Center to celebrate the 350th year of Jewish immigration to America. "Bundles, Hopes and Dreams: Jewish Immigrant Stories," organized by Peninnah Schram, SCW speech professor, blended an account of the history of immigration with the personal struggle of immigrants adjusting to the *goldena medina*, the land of gold.

Thirteen readers, drawn from students, faculty and alumni of the university, including President Richard Joel, delivered the program. The readings from Jewish-American immigrants ranged from Emma Lazarus's "The Collusus" to the humorous play "The Education of Hyman Kaplan," by Benjamin Bernard Zavin, based on the stories of Leo Rosten. They all served to emphasize the evening's theme: "We have never left behind our bundles, hopes and dreams."

The program opened with the chanting of Biblical verses which told of Jews fleeing and arriving in new locales. The verses were read according to different cantors' customs such as those of Moroccans, Eastern Europeans, Western Europeans, Syrians and *Yerushalmi* Syrians.

The program detailed the eras of Jewish immigration to America. The first Jewish community to immigrate to America arrived in September 1654. Twenty three Jews—four men, six women and fourteen children—arrived from Recife, Brazil and settled in New Amsterdam. Upon arriving, the immigrants established a cemetery, synagogue and benevolent society. In 1728, they opened the first Jewish school, *She'erit Yisrael*.

Jewish immigration to America has come in five distinct waves, but the program concentrated on the immigrants who arrived at the end of the 19th century. These immigrants were forced to abandon their homes in order to survive physically and economically; they reveled in the opportunity to seek their fortune in the New World.

These immigrants were also strongly committed to education. Excerpts from the Bintel Brief, a collection of letters to the editor in the Yiddish newspaper



Professor of speech Peninna Schram coordinated "Bundles, Hopes and Dreams: Jewish Immigrant Stories"

The Forward, show these immigrants' strong dedication to education, including education for women and children. If one reading immigrant Mary Antin recalls how proud her father was when he brought her to school the first day. Despite the new language, the immigrant children kept pace with their American peers. SCW student Chani Ozarowski read a story about her grandmother, who, at the age of twelve, after only four months in school, took a standardized test in English language and placed above the twelfth grade level.

Jewish education was also a priority to immigrants. The first day school, which included secular and religious studies, was established in New Amsterdam in 1755. In the 1840s, however, as the public school movement spread, Jewish schools only supplied supplementary education. In Henry Roth's novel *Call it Sleep*, he described an after-school cheder (a small yeshiva for young boys), dominated by a strict older rabbi who, unlike the public school teachers, discouraged all questions.

In a 1925 article, former Yeshiva president Dr. Bernard Revel emphasized the need for the "Greater Yeshiva" that will prepare students for their "duty to family, country and faith." He envisioned this Yeshiva as providing the leadership that his generation lacked. His dream became a reality when he witnessed the groundbreaking of Yeshiva University in 1927.

This program not only pays tribute to the Jewish-American immigrants who had the courage to be "strangers in a strange land," but also serves as a preface to our generation's contributions.

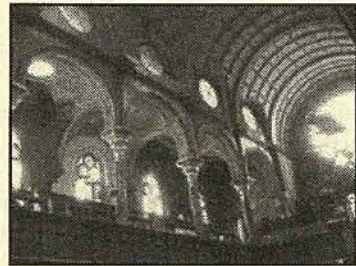
350 YEARS OF AMERICAN JUDAISM

Students Tour Lower East Side to Mark Significant Anniversary

By Elisha Horen

On a misty gray Friday morning, April 23, Professor of Jewish History Jeffrey S. Gurock led a group of his students on a tour of the Lower East Side. The students, joined by students from Professor Hadassah Kosak's SCW and YC history classes, embarked on the historic walking tour, one of the first events in Yeshiva's commemoration series of the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America.

Gurock began the tour at Straus Square, named after the Jewish immigrant family famed for founding Macy's department store. In the first section of the tour, students were brought to East Broadway Street, the avenue of Americanization. What was the hub of cultural stirring at the turn of the century in the then predominantly Jewish neighborhood, now sustains only the vestiges from that time. The Forward Building,



Eldridge Street Synagogue, above, on the Lower East Side

which housed the prominent Jewish socialist newspaper, is now draped in black mesh and buttressed by scaffolding, but the busts of Lenin and Marx are still visible on its front. This newspaper was once the primary means by which the immigrant Jews living in the neighborhood got news of their native countries and kept abreast of the current political events in America. The paper's reader base consisted of approximately fifteen thousand immigrants who paid one cent per issue.

A larger building halfway down the block, now home to the Educational Alliance and a

JCC, once served as one of the many settlement houses where Jewish youth congregated after school and learned about American culture. These programs contributed to the generation gap phenomenon which occurred between old immigrant parents and their children who were quickly becoming fluent in English and American pop culture. Stopping in front of the United Hebrew Community of New York, the group was able to hear their first piece of Yeshiva history. Rabbi Yehudah Margolis, opponent of the Agudat Harabanim, had commented in 1929 that when Yeshiva moved out of the Lower East Side (It began as a small yeshiva there in 1886) "They are going uptown to be more American, like JTS."

The first main attraction of the day was the Beit Midrash Hagadol of Norfolk Street. Most groups are not permitted inside of the building due to its current

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OPINION

What About the New American Jews?

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

"Bundles, Hopes and Dreams: Jewish Immigrant Stories" was one event among many which has been organized throughout the United States to celebrate 350 years of Jewish immigration to America. This event in particular, organized by Yeshiva, focused on the specific plight immigrants must face while being educated in a new country. I am not a United States citizen, I am being educated in the United States, and I would like to live in this country. Where was my story?

I am one of a minority at Yeshiva—a foreign student. Yet I am one of the luckier in this group because I only came here from Canada, so I can speak English (although my American is a little weak). There is a consistently growing contingent of students who do not speak English well, and despite this obvious difficulty, they come here to be educated and start a new life. Where was their story?

I understand that my story may not be exciting, whereas the Jews who came here at the turn of the century had to deal with new languages, new customs and unspeakable working and living conditions. I only have to deal with lots of paperwork and

bureaucracy. Still, it struck me as a little odd that Yeshiva, in celebrating 350 years of immigration, would choose to ignore the present. I understood this anniversary not simply to be a celebration of the Jews who came in the past but of all the Jews who have come and continue to come to this country. Yeshiva is the modern Ellis Island for a lot of us. We come to its shores and ask it to accept us. We are no "huddled masses" but we are Jews who wish to join the majority of our people in this unusual country. For many of us, Yeshiva provides this opportunity, offering a new and diverse community and giving us hope. It hurts us when our voices are left out.

At first I sat and enjoyed the stories which made up the bulk of the event. I superimposed them upon the stories of my own grandparents and great-grandparents who had come to Canada in the early part of the last century. However, as the event became more and more patriotic, more and more American (as opposed to North American), I began to experience that familiar feeling I get when I see Americans loving America. I began to feel entirely left out. It was, I believe, only after the performance of "The Education of Hyman Kaplan" that it hit me—I was the least left out. These sto-

ries were not the stories of United States citizens; they were the stories of aliens—aliens like me and the other students who still only have one foot in this country.

I was reminded of a children's book, "Molly's Pilgrim," by Barbara Cohen. In the story, every child is supposed to dress up a clothespin to look like a pilgrim. However Molly's mother misunderstands the historical context of her daughter's definition of "pilgrim" and dresses up the clothespin to look like herself, a Russian Jew coming to America in the early 20th century. When the children laugh at Molly's doll, the teacher must explain that pilgrims are still coming to America and that the pioneering spirit that epitomized those original pilgrims is encapsulated in the more recent immigrants as well.

The students at Yeshiva who have come from Eastern Europe, South America, the Middle East, and even, to some extent, Canada, are the new immigrants; we are the new pilgrims. If you want to celebrate 350 years of Jews coming to America, celebrate the fact that after 350 years of immigration there are still new stories to tell and new voices to hear.

Contest Incites Debate Over Interfaith Dialogue

By Rebecca Rosenberg

Only weeks after the historic visit from cardinals of the Catholic Church to Yeshiva and the controversy sparked on campus thereafter, students were confronted with another issue of interfaith communication.

The Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies (ICJS) based in Baltimore has teamed up with 25-year-old Boston philanthropist Elizabeth Goldhirsh to launch a \$100,000 student essay contest in an effort to improve Jewish-Christian relations in the wake of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. And students at SCW and YC are debating whether to take part.

The essay contest, *Reaching Common Ground*, was officially announced April 16th in a full length ad in the *New York Times*, and on April 19th ads ran in USA today, the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post* as well as half a dozen other papers around the nation.

The grand prize of \$25,000 makes it one of the wealthiest student writing competitions in the nation just behind the John Templeton Foundation prize of \$100,000 and the Sophie Kerr Prize of \$61,000 according to an article in *The Baltimore Sun*.

"The initiative seeks to shift the context of the traditional Jewish-Christian relationship to more openly reflect the shared history, similar beliefs and spiritual bonds of the two faiths, while also respecting their distinct differences," states the *Reaching Common Ground* website. Reflecting their mission statement, *Reaching Common Ground* offers a choice of three essays: the first one is on faith and the bible, the second on the shared history between Jews and Christians and the third discusses current events, namely the controversy surrounding *The Passion*.

The idea for the contest came

about when Goldhirsh, lamenting the heightened religious tensions after the release of *The Passion*, approached a friend who is a founder of the ICJS to discuss taking action. The next night Goldhirsh met with Dr. Reverend Chris Leighton, executive director of ICJS, in his office where they discussed ideas for an essay contest.

"We hope this will be a way to identify very talented young leaders who want to learn about how religion plays itself out not only in a democracy but how it can manifest itself in constructive, positive ways around the world," said Leighton of the essay competition's goals.

The ICJS, composed of Jewish and Christian clergy, addresses contemporary challenges of religious pluralism by helping to shape a new relationship between Jews and Christians through in-depth studies of sacred writings and traditions.

Their goal is to honor the merits and validity of each religion while creating a dialogue between them. "Often what ends up happening is saying that it doesn't matter what religion you are as long as you're sincere," said Leighton. "That ends up watering down and dishonoring religions in the long run. Then, there are those who say you can't understand us; we're so different...and in between these two extremes we'd like to make a path."

The essay contest has catapulted the image of the ICJS into the public eye, inciting discussion among SCW students about whether it is permissible to take part in this contest and the merits of the organization cosponsoring it. The issues pertaining to this essay contest echo similar concerns raised during the visit

of cardinals to Yeshiva University last January.

Dean Karen Bacon encourages SCW students to participate in the contest. "The more students spread outside their confines, they demystify the image of the traditional Jewish way of life and bring honor to everything they represent," said Bacon.

Moshgiach Ruchani Rabbi Yosef Blau also thought it was permissible for students to enter this essay contest. "I don't see anything wrong with entering an essay contest if the people entering want to create a harmonious relationship between Christians and Jews," said Blau.

However, he is concerned about whether Orthodox Jewry permits participation in the parts of the organization engaged in

of Jews and Christians engaging in theological discussions. "Our experience has indicated that Christians and Jews who have to communicate their religion to each other have a deeper understanding of their own religions," said Leighton. "Jews come away better Jews and Christians come away better Christians."

In addition, he added, "The greatest achievements in Judaism have come through creatively engaging and interacting with surrounding cultures, and the same thing is true with Christianity."

Blau did not agree with Leighton's statement. "We haven't had any indication that Judaism has grown from theological interaction with Christianity," he said. "There is also a risk factor involved."

For others, the concern is less about the halakhic guidelines of such interactions and more about the ICJS's motivations in terms of conversion. "Our view is when we come to the table our job is not to convert

each other," assured Leighton of the ICJS. "But to listen and understand. Those who are hell-bent on winning converts frequently do a better job of exercising their mouths than their ears."

However Blau remains hesitant in accepting such an affirmation, considering the many statements made by various Christian and Catholic groups emphasizing the importance of conversions to their religious beliefs. "A statement by him [Leighton] that they're not interested in this is not by itself adequately convincing," he said. "One would have to say, minimally, you have to investigate more. I think we can't make light of such a concern."

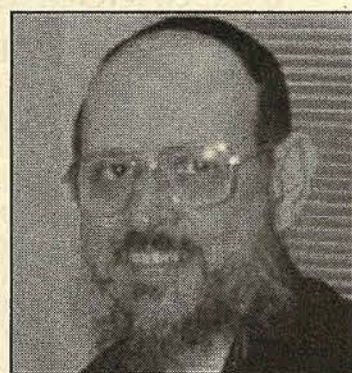
Leighton perceives the reluctance of Orthodox Jews participating in dialogue with their

"But it remains to be seen if Judaism can thrive in the midst of a Christianity that enthusiastically embraces them and is perfectly willing to love them to death." In response to Leighton's statement, Blau simply said, "We probably need a lot more evidence of Christians loving us to death before we draw any conclusions."

theological study and discussion. "One would really have to study in greater depth what this means that they meet and discuss biblical passages because that would seem to contradict Rav Soloveitchik's guidelines, which oppose theological dialogue, [guidelines] which Yeshiva follows," explained Blau.

This position is not palatable to Leighton. "Frankly, that position [keeping theology out of discussions] is unintelligible to most because we can't separate our theology from our ethics," he said. "Therefore, what we value and hold as the basis for where to put our time and energy is determined through both theological and ethical introspection."

Blau and Leighton also do not see eye to eye on the benefits



Blau, above, encourages students to enter the competition but to stay wary of theological debate

Christian neighbors as ultimately hurting the vibrancy of Judaism. "Orthodox Judaism in its hesitance undermines the vitality and strength of its own religion and settles for a one dimensional portrait of their neighbors," he said. "It is an act of stupidity to settle for a stereotype rather than to encounter the full humanity of the other."

Leighton believes that this hesitance comes from a fear Orthodox Jews have of the unknown. "The Jewish community has demonstrated over time that it has the ability to exist and survive in the face of a contemptuous and hostile Christianity," he said. "But it remains to be seen if Judaism can thrive in the mist of a Christianity that enthusiastically embraces them and is perfectly willing to love them to death."

In response to Leighton's statement, Blau simply said, "We probably need a lot more evidence of Christians loving us to death before we draw any conclusions."

Unlike Blau, Bacon is more interested in the valuable assets Jews can bring to a discussion between Christians and Jews. "We are a people who represent human dignity, respect for individuals and the environment," she said. "These are all things that could be accessible to people of all faiths. These are basic values that bind human beings together."

A Class Trip to the Historical Jewish Lower East Side

continued from previous page

state of disrepair after a fire in 1998 did severe damage to its sanctuary. The synagogue, which began as a Baptist church, was turned into the first Russian-American synagogue in the US. The steeple structured sanctuary houses frescos of old scenes of an idealized version of Israel. Tel Aviv is as picturesque and old as Jerusalem, while the Galil, Tzefat and Tiberias are all depicted by the same lush green pasture. The paint is peeling and the wooden pews have been chipped by the falling plaster from the ceiling, which still lies in chunks on the floor. The disused building was once the hot seat of experiment in Jewish leadership, when New York tried to invest a Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Jacob Joseph, who

was recruited by the immigrants to help drum up religious observance in the community. He was unable to garner much power or authority, but is reputed for being the first to put a metal tag on a chicken to mark that it had been killed under his supervision. In an attempt to raise money for the badly needed repairs, the Beit Midrash Hagadol has embarked on a matching system with the city of New York designed for restoration projects of historical sites.

Despite the fact that it is no longer a predominantly Jewish neighborhood, Jews today are coming back to the Lower East Side. A newly opened Noah's Ark restaurant around the corner is tangible proof that the area has seen a Jewish revival in the last number of years. The basement

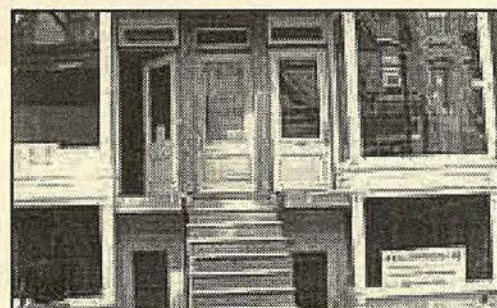
of the Beit Midrash Hagadol, redone in linoleum and fluorescent lighting, attracts a daily *minyan* for *shacharit* and *mincha* prayers and hosts frequent Jewish lectures.

The Eldridge Street Synagogue, which is in the national registry of historical landmarks, was another treat for the group, since this site is usually not open on Fridays. Gurock explained that although the students could not go in and see it due to construction, there was a collection box for the boys' religious school, *Etz Chaim*, the forerunner for Yeshiva, in the basement. This shul was "a rich man's synagogue," with a lot of money poured into the dark maple wood interior and stained glass window. The ornate *ahron kodesh*, holy ark where the Torah

scrolls are placed, was imported from Italy for the hefty price of twenty thousand dollars. The affluent Jews in the community who had emigrated together from

Romania in 1869, wanted a shul to reflect their wealth and built it in 1887, making it the first shul built with the original intention of becoming a synagogue. The congregation soon succumbed to Americanization. The synagogue also served as a meeting place for major community events, such as mourning the passing of Theodore Herzl.

Although time and neglect have taken their toll on this site, it also symbolizes the restoration of the neighborhood. Concerned



The Tenement House, above, was a stop on the tour

locals have been entrepreneurial in conducting regular tours of the sanctuary and have enlisted the help of youth groups to do repair work. The main sanctuary is beginning to take on a double appearance, where cracking walls are visible yet centralized frescos have been repainted. A visitor has much more ability to move around inside, and there has even been a wedding performed here. The Lower East Side may have decayed, but it is certainly looking at a revival.

As Anti-Semitism Skyrockets in Canada, Some Yeshiva Students Worry About Home

By Shayndi Raice

Jewish tombs desecrated. Yeshiva's and books burned to the ground. Swastikas. It was only half a century ago when these occurrences pronounced the coming destruction of European Jewry. However, these images are reappearing throughout the world, many occurring only next door, in Canada. B'nai Brith Canada reported last month that anti-Semitic incidents went up by more than a quarter since 2002 and nearly 600 cases of violence, harassment and vandalism against Jews were reported in 2003.

As Canadian Yeshiva students made their way home for Pesach break, they were horrified by the bombing of the United Talmud Torahs elementary school, the oldest Jewish day school in Montreal, Quebec. Only a month later, a Montreal Jewish cemetery was desecrated with swastikas, SS signs and "Hiel Hitler," according to the Canadian Jewish News (CJN). The latest attack was similar to a spate of attacks against the Jewish community in Toronto, Ontario where Jewish graves were desecrated and homes were vandalized with anti-Jewish graffiti.

The attacks have worried many Canadian Yeshiva students, not only for their own safety, but for their families back home. "People were really very very nervous," said Dave Weinberg, a YC senior and Toronto native. "All the shuls had security. People weren't letting their kids out at night." Weinberg also fears for his parents, both Jewish day school

teachers.

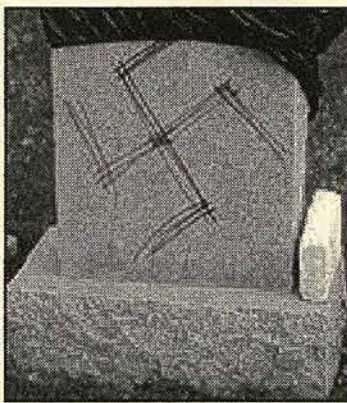
Hindy Poupko, an SCW junior and resident of Montreal, said that when she visited home recently, everyone was constantly talking about the attacks and the next likely target. "It's the hot topic now," she said. "People are concerned and people are scared."

The question then remains, as to why attacks are surfacing now. B'nai Brith of Canada has suggested that the recent release of Mel Gibson's "The Passion," which came to Canada only a short while before the attacks occurred, according to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).

Others have suggested anti-Zionism as the cause of the recent attacks. Canadian universities have been battling anti-Israel activity - most notably a riot at Concordia University upon a visit by former Israeli prime minister and current foreign minister, Benjamin Netanyahu - that has blurred the line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

"It's obvious to everyone that it's a Muslim group," said Poupko. It appeared that this assessment was verified when the bombers of the Montreal Talmud Torah left a note which was signed the "Brigades of Ahemed Yassin," according to Poupko. The last significant attack on the Jewish community that Poupko remembers clearly was back in the early 90s around the time of the Persian Gulf War. Those attacks were believed to be committed by skinheads.

Poupko's father, Rabbi Reuven Poupko, is the co-chair of the Jewish Security Coordinating Committee and a notable rabbi in the area. He too,



A Jewish cemetery in Montreal was vandalized with swastikas and anti-Semitic symbols (CJN)

had agreed with his daughter's assessment, but after the most recent attacks on the Jewish cemetery, he told the CJN that "it's becoming clear that this incident can't be dismissed as isolated." Rabbi Poupko added that, "it's part of an ongoing pattern of attack, a new era of anti-Semitism."

While current events in Israel may provide some with an excuse for violence, Weinberg believes that "the Palestinians will never have an effect in the States but in Europe and Canada, there's an anti-Jewish climate. It's right under the surface." Officials are agreeing with Weinberg's assessment, more and more convinced that the anti-Semitism in Canada is far more deep-rooted than a fiery response by a small group. B'nai Brith Spokesman, Joseph Ben-Ami, told the JTA that the recent attacks are "symptomatic of a more insidious undercurrent that exists in our society right now." How to deal with this undercurrent is a question Canadian leaders are facing right now. "Everyone thought that this could never happen in Canada," said Poupko. "It's given everyone a heightened sense of awareness and sensitivity to anti-Semitism."

MIS and Libraries Endeavor to Limit Student Printing

continued from front page

to curb the excessive printing of a few individuals who printed thousands of pages per month. However, as academics and research have become more computer based, the overall level of printing has risen, necessitating a change in the current system. MIS officials assert that lowering the threshold would generate different problems. "If we would lower the threshold, more students would come on a regular basis for more pages; that could become labor-intensive for us," explained Sullivan. "We don't want to be in a position to decide. We manage the infrastructure and don't care what students print as long as it's part of the academic program - we don't want to make judgments."

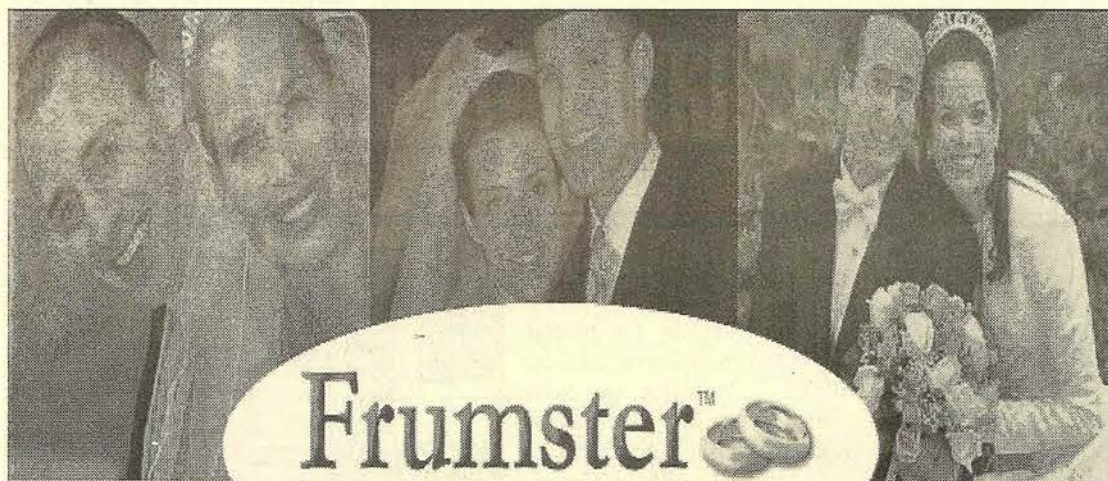
Students additionally suggested paying a flat printing fee

to be added to tuition costs. However, some administrators felt that such a policy would be unfair to those students who don't use printing facilities frequently.

According to Berger, the printing problem will be compounded next year by the addition of electronic based course reserves onto library computers. Subjecting library computers to threshold rules requires the installation of the log-in system. However, she explained that log-in systems compromise privacy policy by recording the sites library patrons visit.

President-elect of SCWSC Molly Fink is working with students, MIS, and Berger to consider alternate approaches. MIS has indicated they are receptive to new ideas, and administrators have urged student involvement.

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Yeshiva University Graduate Fellows 2004 – 2005

As of Press Date

Anat Barber, Development
SCW (Philosophy)
Brooklyn, NY

Rachel Cyrulnik, University Life
SCW (English Communications/Journalism)
East Windsor, NJ

Debra Feinberg, MSDCS
SCW (Psychology)
Teaneck, NJ

Lisa Grundman, Student Life
SSSB (Marketing)
Fair Lawn, NJ

Ouriel Hassan, Student Life
YC (Psychology)
Valley Village, CA

Marisa Parker, Academic Affairs
SCW (Psychology)
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Shira Rosenfeld, Enrollment Management
SCW (History)
Mount Vernon, NY

Joshua Ross, SSSB Dean's Office
SSSB (Marketing)
Rochester, NY

Elysia Rothenberg, SCW Dean's Office
SCW (American Studies)
Englewood, NJ

Graduate Fellows Announced

continued from back page
acceptance eagerly await their positions for the coming school year. SCW senior Anat Barber is enthusiastic to begin working in the office of development. "I'm really excited for this opportunity. I think it's a great profession-

al experience and I feel lucky to have the ability to give back to the university and community. Being that it's the first year of the program I'm sure there will be some kinks, but I'm confident that it will be a worthwhile experience and I'm along for the ride."

Commencement 2004 Honorary Awardees Chosen; Valedictorian Announced



continued from front page

important human rights agencies in the world. Hier has also established the center's film division, Moriah, and has written and produced several films on holocaust education. Two of his films have won Academy Awards: "The Long Way Home", which he co-produced, and "Genocide", which he co-wrote and co-produced.

Roskies Wisse is the Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish literature in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University. She also directed Harvard's Center for Jewish Studies from 1993 to 1996. Wisse has written extensively on Yiddish literature and Jewish culture. She received the National Jewish Book Award for Scholarship for her book *The Modern Jewish Canon: A Journey Through Literature and Culture*. Joel noted the importance of honoring women and noted that Roskies is "a very serious Jew."

In addition to teaching English at the Baruch College of the City University of New York, Dr. Maurice Wohlgelemer directed Baruch's Religion and Culture Program from 1972 to 1982. He has taught at YC and the New York Institute of



This year's valedictorian, Yael Gamss

"It is an honor to be a part of this institution and to join in the legacy of fifty years of excellence."

Technology as well. He also held visiting and adjunct positions at several universities, including SCW. Dr. Wohlgelemer has written books and essays on a variety of subjects. The university decided to bestow the honor upon him to "remember and honor those who have been builders here," said Joel.

SCW valedictorian Yael Gamss and Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies valedictorian Aliza Saltzman spoke at SCW's award recep-

tions ceremony at the Schottenstein Cultural Center on May 3. Gamss, who spoke about 50 years of strong women pursuing their dreams, noted, "It is an honor to be a part of this institution and to join in the legacy of fifty years of excellence."

Sy Syms valedictorian Tara Rabinowitz was honored at the Annual Awards Dinner of the Sy Syms School of Business.

Approximately 75 awards were presented to SCW graduating seniors at the ceremony, including awards for excellence in the various academic departments, outstanding school service, and for the winners of several essay and writing contests. Among the awardees are four students who have been elected by the members of the senior class for outstanding character and service to the college: Anat Barber, Lisa Grundman, Diana Benmergui, and Ilana Nattel.

Faculty awardees include Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, receiving the Lillian F. and William L. Silber Professor of the Year Award, Dr. Joseph Luders and Professor Laurel Hatvary, receiving Dean Karen Bacon Faculty Awards. Dr. Ephaim Kanarfogel has also been elected by Senior Class as professor of the year, as has Dr. Aharon Fried, associate professor of psychology.

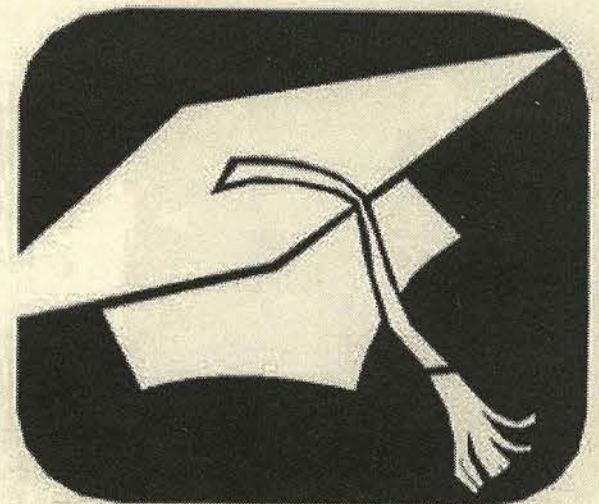
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Governor George Pataki accepts plaque from Israel Club Presidents Hindy Poupko, left, and Shaya Lerner, right

Yeshiva Students Invited to Governor Pataki's Office

By Rebecca Rosenberg

New York State Governor George E. Pataki invited representatives of Caravan for Democracy (COD) to his office April 29th, including YC Israel Club President Shaya Lerner, SCW Israel Club President Hindy Poupko and SOY Vice President Shmulik Rosenberg to commend them for their success in generating constructive dialogue about the Middle East on college campuses. In turn the COD presented a plaque to Pataki, delivered by Poupko, which said a garden had been planted in the governor's honor in Israel "for his commitment to the Jewish people and the land of Israel."

"I felt very privileged to be part of this experience," said Poupko. "It reminds us of how important it is to build alliances in support of Israel. It's comforting to know that support for Israel in the United States is broad and deep and when we speak for Israel we speak not only as Jews but as Americans

who cherish democracy."

COD is an initiative of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), Media Watch International (MWI) and Hamagshimim to bring speakers to 20 college campuses per semester to encourage critical thinking about the issues affecting Israel, how it is covered in the media and its role as a democracy in the Middle East.

This event and the award arose when Pataki's office called COD. "Pataki's office invited us over to meet with him for fifteen minutes...it's just something that they do meet with different constituencies," said Spencer Stone, COD campus coordinator. "We felt that would be an excellent opportunity to honor his commitment to the Jewish people in general especially college campus students."

Lerner and the other Yeshiva students present were invited the day before to participate. "Caravan for Democracy contacted me the day before the event and said that they were presenting Governor Pataki with an award and wanted to know if myself and some students could

attend so it would be a more student based event." Lerner, in turn, invited the other Yeshiva students to join him at Pataki's office on 3rd Avenue.

Spencer approves and commends Pataki's positive attitude toward Israel. "Just inviting us to meet with him and hear our opinions meant something to us - it was as step in the right direction," he said.

Poupko agreed that Pataki's sensitivities are in the right place. "He's been very supportive politically of Israel, and has been very empathetic toward Israel's security needs," she said. Even at this meeting Hindy said when she gave the award to Pataki he said, "He views Israel security as being on par with American security."

Ultimately, for the participants, it was a chance for them to meet one of New York's most influential leaders. "It was an excellent opportunity for us and the students that were there to have some *schmooze* time with the governor," said Spencer.

Record Turnout for Independence Day Programs



Students celebrate Israel's independence at Wilf Campus event

By Esther Flaschner

Commemorating both Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut, Yeshiva hosted its annual memorial service and celebration of Israeli independence at the Wilf Campus on April 26. Chaired by Israel Club presidents Shaya Lerner and Hindy Poupko, and SOY Vice-President Shmulik Rosenberg, the event attracted a record number of over 800 students. "I was deeply moved and inspired by the enthusiasm on the part of the student body," remarked Poupko. "I thought the event was a great success." Beginning in Lampport Auditorium, the program followed the traditional Israeli trajectory of first memorializing Israel's lost soldiers, and later moving to festive celebration of Israel Independence Day. Opening the memorial service, Lerner emphasized the development of Israeli society, signifying that "the true nature of the Israeli is one of progress." Focusing on the developments Israel has initiated in medicine, hi-tech and democratic freedoms, Lerner articulated the belief and hope that "true peace will be attainable in the very near future."

Following Lerner, Poupko related biographies of six Israeli soldiers who had perished in the line of duty. Asserting that "[Yeshiva] students bridge the gap and share the burden" with their Israeli counterparts, YC students who had served in the Israeli army lit memorial candles for the six fallen soldiers. The memorial service included a moment of silence, and an emotional rendition of *el maleh rachamim*, the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, sung by YC senior Yitzi Spinner.

The transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Haatzmaut was accomplished with two video presentations. Produced by YC junior David Weinberg, the Yom Hazikaron presentation featured poignant images of

loss and grief, while the Yom Haatzmaut production invoked pride in the birth of the country. "I thought the power points were moving and beautiful, and a great aspect of the program," observed Poupko.

The program featured prominent speakers, including Rosh HaYeshiva, Rabbi Meir Goldvicht, Rabbi Mordechai Greenberg, Rosh HaYeshiva at Kerem B'Yavneh in Israel, and Rabbi Binny Friedman, director of Isralight. The three delivered addresses about the wonder of Israel and extensive importance of the Israeli state. "If you would have told a Jew in Dachau that four years later he would be dancing in Israel, he would have thought you were mad," asserted Friedman, who also shared personal stories of friends lost in battle while fighting on behalf of Israel.

Continuing the festivities, Friedman led a special Maariv prayer, joined in song by the crowd of students present. After the service, students moved to the Wilf Campus gymnasium, where Neginah Orchestra led an energetic chagigah while Israeli falafel and snacks were served in the adjacent cafeteria. "The *ruach* (spirit) and dancing were inspiring," commented SCW senior Hadassah Gorman. "The gym was decorated very nicely, with tons of Israeli flags." "I think the event served as testimony to the dedication that every YU student feels towards Israel," said Poupko. The event was also attended by leading Yeshiva administrators, including President Richard Joel, Chancellor Norman Lamm, and Rabbis Yosef Blau and Michael Rosensweig.

The success of this event promises more Israel-related programs to come. "It was a great end to a very successful year of the Israel Club," remarked Poupko. "We're optimistic about the start of next year."

Mission Israel Hosts Event Opposing Gaza Pullout

By Shifra Bronstein

Continuing in his efforts to bring more intense and politically conservative Israel education and activism to the Yeshiva campuses, Shmuel Sokol, co-founder of Mission Israel Inc. and Mission Israel Chapter President at Yeshiva organized an emotional presentation concerning Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plans to withdraw Jewish residents and Israel Defense Forces (IDF) troops from the Gaza strip.

The program, held at the Wilf Campus' Ruben Synagogue on April 21, was sponsored by Americans for a Safe Israel, an influential organization that does all in its means to aid Israel, including sending *chizuk* missions to families of terror victims. The purpose of the evening, according to Sokol, was "to educate people regarding what is going on in Gaza. People argue blindly about the situation, and we need

to lead people to make the intelligent choice."

The event began with a video presentation of the Gaza strip featuring everyday scenes filmed in their homes, yeshivas and businesses. Interviewed residents all had similar messages - they are aware of the 2,000 attacks that have been committed in their area, but because of the love they feel for their homes and communities, they are all determined to remain where they are. As one father explained, "Israel took away my son, but now they want to take his grave."

Helen Freedman, the executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel, took a few minutes to speak about the coalition's missions to Israel, and added a few words about why such public events were necessary. "We make the effort to come because we believe that if enough of us make the effort, and educate those who do not know, then we can stop Sharon from carrying



Moshe Saperstein, above, spoke about an imminent withdrawal from Gaza

out his plan," she said. "And if terrorism can grow in Israel, then it can grow here too, and if we defeat it there, then it can be defeated here too."

The next speaker was Dr. Yossi Ben-Aharon, the former Director-General of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, whose experiences in international relations give him

continued on page 21

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KOL HANESHAMA

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM IN ISRAEL



BEN BLUSTEIN Living Song and Harmony

Ben Blustein lived a life of song and harmony. His commitment to Jewish education and his strong love for children, Israel and the Jewish people guided his action. While pursuing a graduate degree in dependency counseling Ben worked as a counselor assistant in a drug and alcohol treatment facility. A gifted musician from youth, Ben found an outlet for his talent in the Israeli club scene. As a student at the Hebrew Institute in Jerusalem, his nights were often spent playing Benny the B, a rising star in the local music scene. When playing with his band "Women, Slaves, Minors", Ben enjoyed sharing the stage with an Arab and Jew; secular and religious. At Pardees, famous for animating each event with his unique flair. He constantly worked to keep his life expanding and inspiring. In a letter to his grandfather before Thanksgiving Ben wrote: "I want to bless that we should have strength to continue doing things we know are right even when others might say we're crazy... And that all of us should continue to grow."

BEN WAS KILLED ON JULY 31, 2002 WHEN A TERRORIST BOMB EXPLODED IN THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA MOUNT SCOPUS

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT AT QUEENS COLLEGE IN NEW YORK



DR. DAVID APPELBAUM Healing Heart

Warm and nurturing to all he encountered, Dr. David Appelbaum left no one excluded from his caring touch. He was often the first to reach and treat victims of terrorist attacks. As the head of the emergency room at Shaarei Tzedek Center, he strongly believed in the importance of giving special attention to every patient. He spoke to every patient in an effort to make him feel more comfortable. Conscious of the need for medical improvement, Appelbaum founded branches of his emergency clinics and was in the process of opening Shaarei Tzedek's ER to be more efficient and organized. Yet his deep consideration for everyone was illuminated through his unpublicized acts of kindness. Appelbaum opened his home as a comfort for his family, friends, or students. Appelbaum's niece described family gatherings where "Uncle David would talk with each kid no matter how young, and ask about school or what they did that week." "Uncle David" coined "Uncle of the Party" was always active in organizing games for all the kids. Above all, Dr. David Appelbaum was a dedicated husband and father. "All of his children have parts of their father in them," his niece explains.

DR. DAVID APPELBAUM AND HIS DAUGHTER NAVA WERE KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2003 BY A SUICIDE BOMBER THE DAY BEFORE HER WEDDING

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN HOLLISWOOD NY



NEHEMIAH AMAR A Smile on Rollerblades

Nehemia Amar could make anyone laugh. Loved by all who knew him, Nehemia seemed to wear a permanent smile on his face. Growing up in Ginot Sivan with four siblings he was known for his love of rollerblading, and especially rollerblading. He was the one who persistently tried to make peace among his siblings and many friends. In his desire to help others, he spent time to learn with a first grade boy who had difficulty paying attention in school, a problem Nehemia himself had had to overcome in the past. A teacher described Nehemia as a boy who loved to play and had a charismatic personality. He was a leader always surrounded by friends. "Another teacher described him as student who "...constantly initiated ideas and things forward and progress." In his memory, Nechemia's family wrote a poem about his life. The transliteration reads as follows: "You were an angel who came to us below, you were taken in a split second, why you? You were a gift from the heavens, you brought laughter with light in your eyes; Now we understand you is quite clear- you left us because G-d was missing an angel."

NEHEMIAH AMAR, AGE 15, WAS KILLED ON FEBRUARY 16, 2002 IN A SHOPPING MALL WHILE HE WAS EATING WITH HIS BEST FRIENDS. ONLY ONE OF THE FRIENDS SURVIVED THE BOMBING

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT FROM HANTR HIGH SCHOOL IN LONG ISLAND



EYAL YOEL Lover of the Land

Eyal Yoel grew up on Kibbutz Fik, near Rachel where he learned the importance of community and family relationships. The ideals which guided Eyal's life and reinforced his strong ties he had with his family. He built strong relationships with his uncles through a shared love of hiking. They frequently climbed the mountain and enjoyed the Judean Desert together. Eyal loved exploring the land and wanted to know all its secrets. Before serving in the army he joined the youth movement Hanoar Haoved where he was a counselor. He met Lilach, the woman he would later marry. He spent ten years they knew each other they were never apart. Eyal put his full heart into his every action. Wherever he did he excelled in, and wherever he went he was loved by all.

EYAL YOEL WAS ONE OF THIRTEEN SOLDIERS KILLED IN AN AMBUSH BY PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS IN JERUSALEM REFUGEE CAMP

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT AT BRILAN UNIVERSITY RAMAT GAN ISRAEL



NAVA APPELBAUM Always Wanting to Help

Helping people was something Nava Appelbaum was an expert. Whether working in a shelter house for distressed patients, Nava was always there with an outstretched arm and a smile on her face. It was while she worked as a counselor for children that she met her soul mate, her beloved fiancé Chanan, whom she dated for two years. When she wasn't helping out a friend Nava was found dancing and singing. When Nava was at school she would visit all of her younger siblings and during recess, bringing food and her infectious energy. "Her most frequently used word in the Hebrew Language was betach or certainly," said her mother. Her extended family was extremely close and they got together, especially on holidays. During a family gathering at a hotel, when all the girls of the family went into the sauna, Nava, true to character, started singing and dancing. "She was the perfect daughter, close with everyone, and not a single person I know like her," said her cousin.

NAVA APPELBAUM WAS KILLED THE NIGHT BEFORE HER WEDDING IN THE HILLEL CAFÉ SHE DIED ALONG WITH HER FATHER DR. DAVID APPELBAUM ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2003.

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT FROM CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN HOLLISWOOD NY



YORAM SAKURI Passion for Music and Life

Yoram Sakuri was a gentle and outgoing man. "My father was always smiling," his daughter, Betsy, explained. Although Yoram earned his living as the manager of a cable company his true passion was music and poetry. A talented songwriter and pianist, Yoram wrote music for over twenty years and published a song book. The flavor of his music reflected his Moroccan roots, however his beloved Chana, who is of Yemenite ancestry, assisted him in blending other cultures into his songs. Yoram captured the deep and emotional fervor with which he embraced life. His family has framed several original hand-written poems which now hang in their home. He was an extremely devoted husband and father of four. "I was crazy about my father," his daughter said. She remembers his beautiful voice which constantly filled the walls of their home. Yoram's music will continue to reverberate in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

YORAM SAKURI WAS MURDERED AUGUST 2, 1994 AT AGE 31 WHEN AN ARAB TERRORIST BROKE INTO HIS HOME IN THE EARLY MORNING AND STABBED HIM TO DEATH

WRITTEN BY A STUDENT OF THE FRISCH SCHOOL IN PARAMUS NJ

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

- 5 Towns Jewish Times
- American Jewish World
- Blueprint
- Boston Jewish Advocate
- Buffalo Jewish Review
- Cleveland Jewish News
- Connecticut Jewish Ledger
- Deep South Jewish Voice
- Detroit Jewish News
- Illiana News of Northwest Indiana
- Indianapolis Jewish Post & Opinion
- Intermountain Jewish News
- Jewish Herald-Voice
- Jewish News of Greater Phoenix
- Jewish Press
- Jewish World
- Kentucky Jewish Post & Opinion
- Las Vegas Israelite
- Las Vegas Jewish Reporter
- Lehigh Valley HaKol
- Long Island Jewish World
- Los Angeles Jewish Journal
- Memphis Hebrew Watchman
- Miami Jewish Herald
- Nashville Jewish Observer
- New Jersey Jewish Standard
- New Mexico Jewish Link
- New York Jewish Week
- Ohio Jewish Chronicle
- Reading, PA Shalom
- Rhode Island Jewish Herald & Voice
- Rochester Jewish Ledger
- Rockland Jewish Reporter
- St. Louis Jewish Light
- Stern College Observer
- Texas Jewish Post
- Washington Jewish Week
- Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle
- Yeshiva University Commentator



Kol Haneshama, a project of the students of Yeshiva university, would like to thank One Family for their help in remembering these victims. If you wish to contact the families of the victims, please visit www.walk4israel.com

To contact us, please write to: kolhaneshamah@hotmail.com or call us at 212-946-1940.
*Kol Haneshama would also like to thank all of the kids on Eimatai for their hard work and enthusiasm.

Yeshiva Students Remember the Holocaust

By Adrienne Eichen

Gathering at Belfer Hall, approximately 200 somber Yeshiva University students came on Monday night April 19 to commemorate the tragedy of the Holocaust. SCW senior Elisha Horen and SCW sophomore Caryn Friedman composed the memorial service for Yom Hashoah with the help of Vice President of SOY, Shmulik Rosenberg, and President of the YC Israel Club Shaya Lerner. The ceremony was modeled after the Yom Hashoah Seder at Yeshiva last year which was led by Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale. The program consisted of two Holocaust survivors and two Yeshiva students who relayed personal stories of their experiences in connection to the Holocaust.

Horen explained that one of

the essential components of the program was the effort to bridge the experiences and feelings of the survivors with those of the students. She stated that the current generation must relay the stories of the Holocaust as if they themselves were there, similar to the way we relay the story of the Exodus from Egypt each year on Passover. "We've been going to Yom Hashoah ceremonies our whole lives," Horen reflected. "We have to begin taking a different approach. We really must listen to the stories because we are going to have to tell these stories to our kids as if we were there ourselves. That's the way our generation will have to fight Holocaust deniers and carry on the message of *zachor* (memory of the Holocaust)."

The first speaker, Henry Schnitzer, articulated his perspective on the *churban gashmi*, the physical anguish suffered

during the Holocaust. Schnitzer relayed the tale of how he survived Auschwitz, a Nazi death camp, and how he posed as a German soldier after he escaped one of the notorious marches, which would lead to almost certain death for the participating Jews.

Following Schnitzer's address, Avraham Roth emphasized the *churban ruchani*, the spiritual destruction he witnessed in Europe. Refusing to be imprisoned in a ghetto by the Nazis, Roth ran away from home and adopted the mission of saving as many people as he could by relaying the story of his own family's unfortunate fate. When he was eventually sent to a concentration camp Roth was saved by two men that he has never heard from again; men who he believes to be heaven-sent angels.

Following Roth, SCW sophomore Sarah Winkler illustrated

the notion of *churban banim u'banot*, the destruction of the lives of countless young boys and girls throughout this tragic time. Having visited concentration camps as a student on Heritage, a program which takes students to sites of various concentration camps and destroyed Jewish life in Eastern Europe, she contemplated the valuable lives that were lost and the priceless power of each individual. She recalled turning over a gravestone in a cemetery to find her complete Hebrew name inscribed upon the stone. This raised the question in her mind of what it means to be alive: how does someone whose life was spared discover his own place and purpose in the world?

The final speaker, YC senior Yonatan Wiesen, focused on *gevurah* (strength). He spoke of his great grandmother's vigor and courage displayed in the way

she saved herself and a group of women by breaking the window of a barn-turned-gas chamber in which they were confined.

Newly elected TAC President Aliza Abrams reflected that Yom Hashoah programs similar to this one are essential in students' educations. "We have been privileged to grow up in America and not know of such horrors our grandparents and great grandparents suffered in the Shoah," she said. "Only recently have we begun to understand what it means to experience terror and be a target of violence. By remembering the Holocaust we are reminded of our responsibility to extricate hate and to tolerate others."

SCW junior Devorah Stein saw the program as a success. "The survivors and the students told amazing stories and I thought the program was really affective," she commented.

Is Unilateral Withdrawal the Answer? Mission Israel Says No

continued from page 18

unique insight into the political sphere. Ben-Aharon claimed that there are many reasons why a pullout from Gaza should not take place. The idea, he feels, is irrational and unlikely to succeed, being that many Israelis do not support Sharon's decision. "There were doubts about the Oslo agreements and we have paid the price in thousands. Now we have learned that we do not take on ideas that are doubtful," Ben-Aharon argued. Explaining why such public events are necessary, Ben-Aharon reasoned that Sharon would consider the judgments of the Likud party regarding this issue in a referendum that would take place on May 2. Results of that vote indicated that Likud opposes the Gaza pullout and seeks to prevent such action.

The reason that Sharon has given for the pullout, remarked Ben-Aharon is "to enhance the security of Israel." Ben-Aharon believes however, that clearing the area of Jews and replacing

them with Arabs would be opening Israeli borders to the Arabs, making it thereby much easier logistically for Arab terrorists to smuggle suicide bombers and weapons into Israel.

The former general claimed that there is a moral element at work as well, because of the fact that the plan involves forcing 8,000 Jews out of their homes and livelihood.

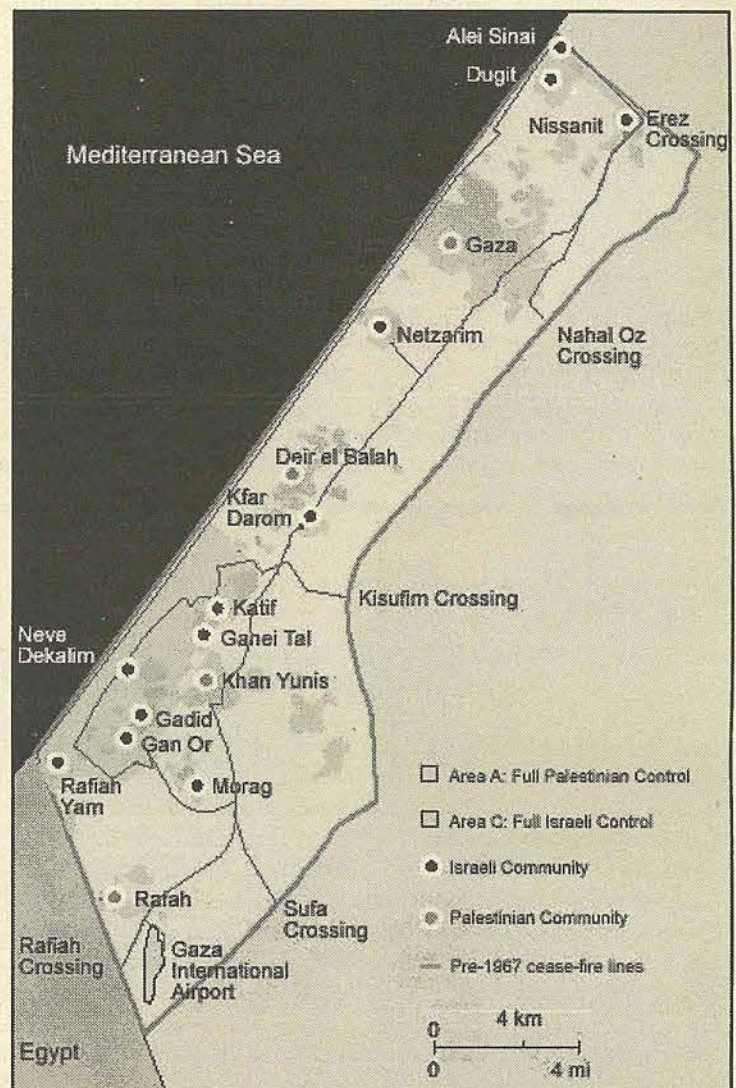
Such a plan of retreat, "would signal to the terrorists that they are winning the battle," according to Ben-Aharon. The confidence that would be given to the terrorists could be devastating to even the United States as well because, "if the terrorists get a victory in Gaza, then they will get support from Iran, Syria, and Al Qaeda, and this is not good for the U.S."

Moshe Saperstein, a resident of Neve Dekalim, a settlement in the Gaza strip, was the final speaker of the evening. Saperstein told personal stories of how he miraculously survived being attacked numerous times.

Though he has lost an arm and some of his fingers in different attacks, Saperstein maintains that he is alive because there is a *hashgacha*, (Divine Protection) over the residents of Gaza.

"It defied the laws of physics that a missile did not kill me when it destroyed my machine gun and the pillar I was leaning on," he shared. "It is impossible unless you believe in Divine Protection." Gaza cannot be viewed as an isolated event, he emphasized. "If Gaza goes, then Chevron can go, and even Jerusalem."

The inspirational evening was concluded with a lively question and answer session directed at Ben-Aharon and Saperstein. The audience made clear through their questions that they were concerned over the plight of the Gaza communities close to their and were ready to take positive steps in supporting their brethren in Israel.



Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs

A Message from your Israel Club President: The Passion of the Day



By Hindy Poupko

Teddy Roosevelt said, "He who does not participate in the passions of his time is as if he has not lived."

Over the course of this year as your Israel Club President, I have gone through many different stages in my perception of YU students and their commitment to Israel. At times I honestly felt frustrated by what I thought was a lack of enthusiasm or dedication to the land of Israel on the part of the student body. However, as the year went on and I began to gain a better understanding of the diverse student body that exists here in Stern, I realized that this is far from the truth. Over time, I start-

ed to truly appreciate my role and realize the unique opportunity I have been given, serving as Israel Club President for students who know what it means to believe in a common destiny and dream. Israel, the passion of our times, is at the forefront of our hearts and minds. And I think the success of the Israel Club this year, is due to you, the students, who never ceased to inspire me with your constant devotion, and meaningful commitment.

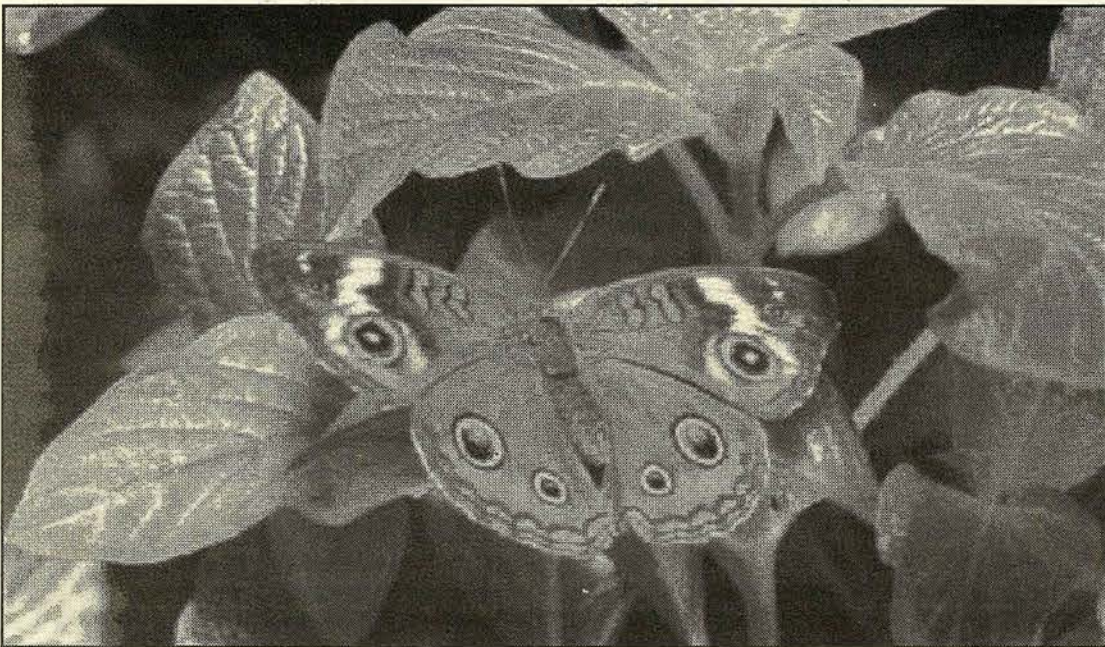
As we depart on our separate

ways for the summer, I ask that before you go, you take on one more mission, one more goal. On May 23rd, we have a great opportunity to show the world, but more importantly ourselves, that we care and we are doing something about it in the Israel Day Parade. By marching with our fellow students, we can make a statement that is unparalleled to any other. Carrying the banner of Torah U'mmada while walking through the streets of New York, we can demonstrate that the

State of Israel is top on our agenda, and an intrinsic part of our tradition.

I hope to walk with all of you on that great day and wish you well on each of your summer experiences. I hope that when we return, we come back to school with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and dedication to our great institution and to the passion of our day, so we can truly look back and say that we were part of something spectacular.

Bihatzlacha.



The Biology Club observed butterflies at the Museum of Natural History

A Flighty Aspect of Science: Biology Club Visits Butterfly Pavilion

By Avigayil Rosen

Capitalizing on an exhibit which will only be at the Natural History Museum for a few more weeks, SCW's Biology Club hosted a trip to the exhibit "Tropical Butterflies - Alive in the Winter" on April 23. This was the first official event sponsored by the club this year.

Despite the overall anticipation, Dr. Joseph DeSantis, assistant professor of Biology at SCW, had mixed feelings about the event. "I've seen butterfly exhibits held indoors," explained DeSantis. "The best one was presented at the Bronx Zoo by the

New York Conservation Society. Once you've seen [an outdoor butterfly exhibit] with such a large assortment of butterflies in natural light, you're spoiled [from indoor exhibits]." However, being that he worked at the Museum of Natural History for sixteen years before joining the SCW faculty, he stressed that he thought the event was very educational, describing the museum's exhibit as being "as good as you're gonna get indoors."

Since that Friday was a cold and windy day that the exhibit was indoors did not seem to perturb the fourteen students who attended.

They were amazed by the brightly colored butterfly wings all around at the butterfly exhibit. An interesting part of the exhibit was a glass cage where one could watch the butterflies at various points in their metamorphosis: egg larva, in which the caterpillar grows and sheds its skin; pupa, when the butterfly is in a resting phase in the chrysalis; and as an adult, when the butterfly emerges from the cocoon.

Both butterflies and moths belong to the order Lepidoptera. Lepidos is Greek for scales and ptera means wing. These scaled wings are different from the wings of any other insects.

Lepidoptera is a very large group; there are more types of butterflies and moths than there are of any other type of insects except beetles. There are an estimated 150,000 species of butterflies and moths known to man. Of these, 28,000 species are butterflies, while there are over 120,000 species of moths. Many girls were shocked to learn that while butterflies may be beautiful and attractive indeed, they are actually insects. When students were afforded the chance to view a butterfly up close, they observed that the abdomen of a butterfly in closely resembles that of a bee. It was also interesting to learn that both butterflies

and moths can only sip liquid food (mostly nectar) using a tube-like proboscis, a long, flexible tongue.

After the students viewed the butterflies, there was free time to look at other exhibits "I had a great time learning about butterflies and seeing how many different types there are," said Tamar Belsh, president of the club. "The trip was a not only a learning experience, but it was an opportunity to have fun with our peers as well." The cost of the trip was subsidized by SCWSC.

It's Only Natural: Eighth Edition of Derech HaTeve Published

By Shevie Moskowitz

This year's edition of Derech HaTeve, the SCW Journal of Torah and Science, has arrived on campus. According to the academic journal's co-editor Tamar Epstein, SCW senior, this year's volume, the eighth to be published, is one of the largest issues to date. It contains eighteen articles, all written by SCW students. "This indicates increased interest in science on the part of many Stern students, which is really quite exciting," remarked Epstein.

The new Derech HaTeve, published by Tova Press, is even more of a student organized than ever. While the editing and writing were completed by SCW students, even the layout and formatting were prepared by graphic arts major Rahel Lowey. Along with Epstein, Aliza Frohlinger and Diane Liebman, both seniors, served as co-editors.

Since the journal's founding in 1997, articles in Derech HaTeve have covered a variety of

issues that explore contemporary science through the lens of halakhah. Topics vary from "Embryonic Stem Cells and Halakhah" (Weisman 2002) and "Genetic screening for the BRCA genes: halakhic implications" (Alpert 2002) to various review articles such as "Biblical Bones" (Schenker 2000), and "Tumors in Tanach and the Talmud" (Reisman 1999).

The brainchild of Dr. Harvey Babich, chairman of the department of biology, Derech HaTeve is currently distributed to SCW students and faculty, as well as to certain high schools. Additionally, members of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, individuals who are involved in B'or Hatorah, groups involved in kiruv and scientists that have published in the area of Torah and science often request copies of the journal. Presently, about 200 issues are sent out worldwide each year. Head Librarian at the Hedi Steinberg Library Edith Lubestski has ensured that Derech HaTeve is listed with the National Library of Congress, where all seven vol-

umes can be found.

"Although science students of SCW may not realize it, they are a unique group within Orthodox Jewry," clarified Babich. "They are, for the most part, the only women within Orthodox Jewry both with a solid grasp of Torah and a sophisticated knowledge of the sciences. Thus, they alone can make a significant contribution to Torah U'Madda; their articles in Derech HaTeve are most unique and serve as a synthesis of their education. Upon examining books on Torah and science in any seforim store, you will soon realize that the quality of the articles in Derech HaTeve is equal to, if not better, than most published books in this area."

Any students interested in becoming involved with Derech HaTeve next year should contact next year's co-editors: Malki Krupka, me844@aol.com, Shevie Moskowitz, emoskow2@yu.edu or Helen Nissim.

Getting Into Med School: Tips From an NYU Professor

By Shevie Moskowitz

Approximately 30 SCW students attended a detailed lecture given by Joel Oppenheimer, PhD, and the senior associate dean for biomedical sciences and director of the Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences on April 28. In his lecture, Oppenheimer delivered an "insider's view" on how to get into the medical school of your choice.

Before one chooses to invest so much time, effort and money into becoming a physician, Oppenheimer warned, she should investigate every aspect of a physician's work and obtain some clinical experience. He suggested that students interested in attending medical school might want to speak to physicians from different specialties, volunteer in a medical setting, shadow a physician or spend time with medical students to find out about their lifestyle.

Oppenheimer also emphasized the importance of research experience. Although initially students placed in labs may be stuck with performing much of the "scut work," with more time

and experience in the lab, the student may assume more and more responsibility. It is important to have a strong grasp of what exactly you are researching; it is not uncommon for students to be asked about the various research projects they completed during interviews.

It is also crucial to establish good relationships with faculty, he asserted, as they will be writing your letters of recommendation when the time comes. Along with your interview, letters of recommendation (generally from science faculty members, faculty members in other departments, employers and mentors) serve as testimony to your academic capability, your personality, and your activities in the past few years. Your transcripts may prove your worthiness as a student, but the recommendation letters establish your worthiness as a good physician, as they indicate whether you possess desirable qualities such as leadership, the ability to integrate information, integrity, and most importantly, a passion for science, medicine and learning in general.

Today medical schools are placing more and more emphasis

continued on next page

Chemistry Club Recognized by American Chemical Society

By Miriam Grinshtein

SCW's Chemistry Club received recognition at the American Chemical Society's National Meeting, held from March 28 to April 1 in Anaheim, California. The awards were distributed on the basis of an annual report submitted of activities and lectures for the 2002-2003 academic year. The recognition was awarded at a meeting of just over 13,000 scientists and exhibitors in Southern California.

Three SCW students were selected to attend the conference in Anaheim. They each performed scientific research during the summer prepared professional posters of their studies. The posters were displayed on the chemistry laboratory floor during an open house held earlier this year. The scientific merits of the posters were then discussed and evaluated by the science faculty and winners were selected from each discipline of science offered at the Beren Campus—biology, chemistry and physics.

The three winners of the competition, Elisheva Douglas in biology, Nomi Ben-Zvi in chemistry and Dana Glasner in physics, were provided travel and hotel accommodations to present their data at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society. "It was a wonderful experience, and I am very thankful to have been given such a chance to present my research," remarked Ben-Zvi, who presented her research on



Faculty Advisor for SCW's Chemistry Club Dr. Lea Blau

the unfolding and refolding of the mini-protein TC5b in a confined, cell-like environment. Ben-Zvi performed her research last summer at AECOM.

The conference's theme was nanotechnology, and it featured some of the nation's leaders in the field. It provided thousands of students from across the country a wonderful opportunity to hear from these science leaders. "The convention was great," Ben-Zvi remarked. "There was literally an unlimited amount of things to do, from attending lectures, to viewing presentations, to meeting with today's leaders in the chemical world."

Job seekers and graduate students listened as four leaders in the nanotechnology business,

Harris A. Goldberg, president and CEO of InMat; Margaret L. Blohm, manager of GE's nanotechnology program; Charles Z. Hotz, director of R&D at QuantumDot; and James C. Romine, director of materials science and engineering at DuPont, described the adventurous and unusual paths that led them to successful careers at the forefront of nanotechnology. Although each leader took a different route, all agreed that a strong, multidisciplinary scientific background, coupled with the courage to take risks, were key to getting them where they are today.

Research Reveals Incidences of Shabbat Accidents

By Malkie Krupka

It's a Friday morning. Everyone is preparing for Shabbat, when my family receives a call from a friend. There is a newly admitted Jewish patient in the nearby hospital that could use some kosher food. As the closest Jewish community to Saint Barnabas Medical Center, which houses the leading burn care unit in New Jersey, this is not a rare occurrence.

The hazardous nature of some of the household items used on Shabbat can produce a dangerous situation. Two recent clinical studies published in scientific journals documented some of the dangers to be avoided.

Drs. A. Shoufani and J. Golan, of Shaarei Tzedek Medical Center in Jerusalem, called attention to the increasing incidences of Shabbat burns in the February 2003 edition of *Burns*. A Shabbat burn is described as "a common burn that occurs amongst Orthodox Jewish families." They are the result of an accident involving boiling water of the familiar Shabbat urn. The urns, or water heaters, are commonly used by Orthodox families as source of hot water throughout Shabbat. Usually made of stainless steel, they have non-protected and easily accessible handles in addition to relatively loose fitting tops. In an ordinary scenario, a child climbing onto a counter to reach a higher shelf knocks over the urn, and becomes seriously burned.

Shabbat burns accounted for a full 12 percent of all scald burns admitted to the Shaarei Tzedek Medical Center during the dates of the study, January 1990 to January 2000. Data indicates that the vast majority (85 percent) of those who suffered these burns were children, most of them ages three to six. The burns covered an average of 25 percent of the body, requiring a mean hospital stay of about eleven days. While most of the burns were superficial, healing within two weeks, a number of children have required skin grafts to heal the injury. Interestingly, 80 percent of the children admitted were female.

In order to decrease the risk of small children receiving such burns, the authors called for use of an urn with more safety features. Additionally, if the urn could be attached to a supporting wall, the chance of the scalding water falling on vulnerable children would be greatly reduced.

The second recent study, published in the April 2004 edition of *Pediatrics* by Drs. Robert



Hoffman, Solomon Morgenstern and Lewis S. Nelson, addressed the risks associated with liquid paraffin oil. Liquid paraffin oil, a low viscosity hydrocarbon, burns easily. In an increasingly popular move, Jewish households are opting to use liquid paraffin lamps when kindling Shabbat lights, replacing the traditional candles. Liquid paraffin lamps are considered to be both cleaner and more aesthetic than candles, accounting for their increased popularity. However, they are also toxic.

Ingestion of liquid paraffin, like most hydrocarbons, may produce respiratory stress, and in severe cases cause respiratory failure. 87 percent of the admitted cases reported coughing, 20 percent lethargy and 13 percent vomiting. As in the case of the Shabbat burns, the majority of cases were children, with a mean age of 21 months. Additionally, the calculated risk of Orthodox Jewish children ingesting paraffin oil compared to non-Orthodox children was considerably higher—approximately 374 percent. This figure takes into account that many liquid paraffin ingestions go unreported or undocumented, because of the prohibition of using telephones on Shabbat.

While packages of liquid paraffin are required by US law to have child safety features, many families transfer the liquid paraffin into containers from which they can more easily dispense it into the small lamps used when lighting. A typical container features a long thin nozzle for inserting the liquid paraffin through the hole in the lamp. This nozzle looks very much like a straw and may be misconstrued as such by an unknowing child. It is these containers, and perhaps the oil lamps themselves, that are the source for child access to the liquid paraffin.

When first published, this article was prominently displayed on the web page of the Orthodox Union, highlighting the important need for safety education about such matters in the Jewish community. There is no obligation, despite the trend, to use liquid paraffin oil to light for Shabbat and holidays. If it is used, adults should be extremely careful about keeping both the storage containers and the lamps completely out of the reach of children.

Shabbat should be a time of rest and peacefulness in the Jewish week. The vast majority of these incidents can be avoided by being aware of the possible dangers in the household, keeping dangerous objects out of the reach of children and educating others to do the same.

A Lesson For Med School Applicants

continued from previous page

on a liberal arts education, according to Oppenheimer. They want students, whether they choose to major in a science, to take courses that span many disciplines. Aside from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, and physics), medical schools like to see students with a wide range of courses in the social sciences (sociology and psychology), as well as the humanities (philosophy, music, and art history). This commitment to liberal arts in the premedical curriculum is backed by recent changes in the admissions practices of medical schools: believe it or not, it is the student with a philosophy major, not a biology major, who has the greater chance of acceptance to medical school.

Most medical schools in the United States use a centralized application service, the American Medical Colleges Application Service (AMCAS), for what is known as the primary medical school application. Most American medical schools, with the exception of the University

of North Dakota and all medical colleges in Texas, participate in the AMCAS application process. AMCAS serves as a sort of intermediary between the applicant and participating medical schools. The application requests basic information such as the schools you've attended, extracurricular activities in which you have been involved, employment, summer activities, awards received, your GPA and a personal statement. This process makes applying to medical school easier for the applicant as it eases the burden of filling out applications to nearly a dozen medical schools (the average medical student applied to 11 schools in 2003).

Oppenheimer stressed the importance of sending in AMCAS applications early. "We accept approximately one percent of the students whose applications are Fed-Exed to us on November 15 [the AMCAS deadline]," he stressed, as opposed to around twenty percent of those students whose applications are received in late summer to early

fall. After the primary application is received, the school chooses to offer some students a secondary application, which is more detailed in nature, and asks for a personal statement. This application is reviewed by the medical school admissions committee, and upon approval by the committee, satisfactory students are invited for an interview. A few weeks after this interview has taken place, the student will receive notice of her status at that school—acceptance, waitlist or rejection.

SCW students in attendance enjoyed the lecture immensely. "I felt like the information Dr. Oppenheimer provided us with took a great load off my shoulders, commented Avigayil Rosen, SCW 05. "I now know so much more about the application process and so many of my questions were answered."

MOVIE MADNESS

How to Survive Summer Movie Overload: There Might be a Parallel at Work

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

The best way to survive summer movies is remarkably similar to the best way to survive college. There are five steps involved. Unlike the decisions you make in college, which have minimal effect on your life, summer movies will shape your future as a moviegoer and thereby change the entire foundation of your life as a twenty-first century, actualized individual. So, pay attention.

1. Always remember how much you are paying to be where you are. Whether it's \$25,000 per year for a college education or \$10 for a movie, money is too precious to be wasted. Think before you decide to see that rehashed teen comedy that is a feeble attempt to bring back the genius of John Hughes' yesteryear classics. Do you really need to watch another impossibly sexy fifteen-year-old girl swoon over yet another young Tom Cruise look-alike? I didn't think so. So, do the community college summer speech class

thing and get the better deal for less. "The Breakfast Club" is just sitting there waiting to be rented and Blockbuster is so much cheaper. Also, remember the comfort of your own home and that beautiful modern miracle: the rewind button (and that its twin, the fast-forward button is suspiciously AWOL in the theater).

2. Take the course for the professor, not the course description. We've all been there before. The movie blurb is just so enticing. You think "I always wanted to see the story of a blue mermaid who falls in love with a Martian and must fight the evil pizza delivery boys for the rights to a dilapidated old universe three dimensions over from ours." But, if the screenplay is by that guy who you hate and the director is one of those pretentious "let's see how many vomit inducing angles we can get away with and call this art" filmmakers, then you are better off making up the story in your head. (Hint: always include a plot and, if you are feeling ambitious, a plot-twist. Do not, I repeat, do

not attempt character development if your brain starts to smoke.)

3. Only take a course with a friend who is actually interested in the course too. We aren't in high school anymore. There is simply no excuse for spending an entire semester in a course you hate just because your best friend, who is graduating in January, simply had to take one more class with you before she moved to Thailand for graduate school. And for those of you who are the Thailand-bound seniors, do you really want your best friend whining to you constantly while you're trying to catch every word of that special unit on "Quantum Mechanics and the Feminist Movement"? Yeah, so it's the same thing with movies. See what you want to see, not what your friends want to see. Life is too precious to waste a non-social social outing on people who you actually like. If you must see a movie with others and none of your friends want to see your blue mermaid and Martian concoction, save it for a date that you know is going to go bad. You

get a movie and no annoying conversation. If you actually like the guy you're dating, grow up and go it alone.

4. When you are in too deep, coast. Sometimes, for some strange reason, most often know as procrastination, you just don't drop a course in time and you are stuck with it. It is going to wreak havoc with your GPA but there is nothing you can do. You are faced with two options: a) just grin and bear it, work hard and show yourself that you can find the good in a horrendous situation or, b) way to go, you just bought yourself some naptime; everyone gets a D or two in college, right? So, sometimes the previews and the opening credits conspire against you and you just don't get back to the ticket stand in time for that full refund. Why struggle trying to find the good in a movie that is so obviously bad? Think of it this way, you just paid for the unalienable right to bash this movie for the rest of the summer. Way to go. Oh and by the way, you can sleep through the movie too - bashing it does not presuppose actually

seeing the thing just as long as you are in the theater while it's rolling.

5. Everyone says this is the best time of your life. Who is this everyone? He sure says a lot of things. Most of it is unsubstantiated, but it helps to enjoy the illusion a little. Every summer movie line-up should feel like the best collection of movies ever and, I guess, college should feel that way too. However, we all know the truth. The best time of your life isn't college; it's those years right after college when you are independent and intense with a brooding, ironically quirky outlook on the future of humanity. Hey, wait a second, that sounds just like the autumn movie line-up.

Have a great summer and enjoy the movies. (I almost forgot that part - you should enjoy the movies...just like you should enjoy college. There's a theme at work, in case you missed it.)

"Mean Girls:"

Think "Clueless" Meets "Heathers"

By Lea Almo

You thought you had a bad high school experience. You thought you had enough *Sweet Valley High*. Think again.

In the new comedy, "Mean Girls," Cady (Lindsay Lohan) discovers public school. After being home-schooled in Africa for her entire life, Cady finds herself out of the wilderness and into an urban culture shock. On Cady's first day of school, she befriends the 'art geeks' who introduce her to all the cliques in the school: the stereotypical jocks, drama geeks, the 'math-letes' and finally, the 'plastics.'

The Plastics (Rachel McAdams, Lacey Chabert and Lizzy Caplan) are the three meanest, most beautiful and intimidating girls in school. These girls are not simply mean, they are downright ruthless. The plastics are amused by Cady's naivete and welcome her into their clique. It's not long before Cady starts to pull the group apart, affecting all of North Shore High.

"Mean Girls" was written by Tina Fey, the head female writer on "Saturday Night Live." Fey writes dialogue that is sharp, witty and hysterical. The movie

is a satirical look at high school cliques, which comes off as smart and entertaining.

Fey uses her "Saturday Night Live" resources well, having the "Saturday Night Live" cast pop up frequently, all well cast in their roles. Lindsay Lohan proves herself as quite the comic actress, displaying a fine balance between innocence and a cut-throat competitive drive. But the real breakthrough star is Rachel McAdams who plays Regina George, the head of the plastics, the meanest of the mean clique. She is so believably conniving, she makes Omarosa look like Mother Teresa. Tina Fey portrays her role as the cool and understanding math teacher, Ms. Norbury, with perfect comic timing.

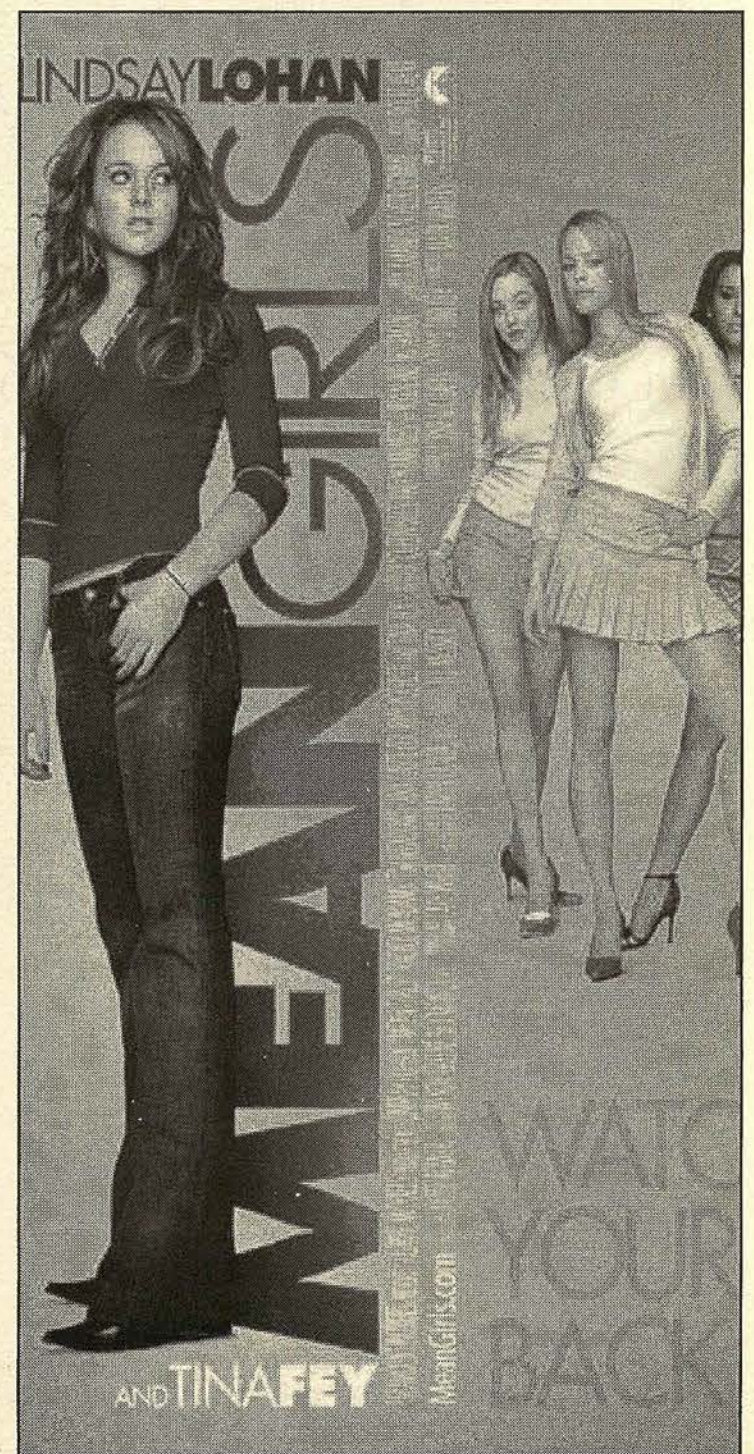
Mark Waters, the famed director of "Freaky Friday," directed this film. Waters worked hard to avoid the standard high school movie clichés, even poling fun at overused scenes. When the mean girls strut their stuff in slow motion, a classic teen movie scene, the cool strutter, Cady, ends up in the garbage can. Whereas the typical Saved by the Bell-esque teenager gets caught and grounded for throwing a party while his parents are out of town, Cady

throws a 'small' party while her parents are away, the party turns out to be not so small but she gets away with it. Now, isn't that refreshing?

However, like most movies, "Mean Girls" is far from perfect. The movie's plot points seem to be rushed, allowing the characters to move faster than they are ready for. When Regina finds out Cady gave her weight gaining bars, Regina decides to take her anger out on the entire high school, sabotaging the students' egos and teachers' careers. North Shore High turns into the teenage African jungle. The pace is accelerated to an extreme, much like a bumpy amusement park ride.

In the over flooded genre of teen movies, this movie stands out as the anti-teen-movie-teen-movie. It is a witty and original comedy that wasn't written specifically for teenage girls. "Mean Girls" is for all of us who have gone through the high school experience and are proud to call ourselves survivors. Or for anyone in the mood for a good *Sweet Valley* sequel.

Mean Girls: Starring Tim Meadows, Ana Gasteyer, Lindsay Lohan, Amy Poehler, Rachel McAdams, Tina Fey. Directed by Mark S. Waters. (PG13, 97 minutes).



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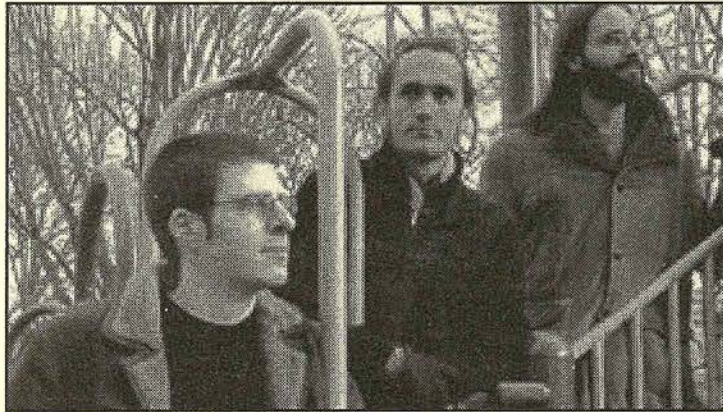
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Pharaoh's Daughter, above, and Rashanim, below, will play at The Bowery for a Mima'amakim even celebrating Midrash (Mima'makim)



Jews Rock and Rhyme and It's All About the Midrash, Baby

By Observer Staff

Offering an eclectic assortment of Jewish performers, Mima'amakim will be hosting "Counting Sheaves: Def Midrash Jam," a night of music and poetry. On May 23, at the Bowery Poetry Club, the event will include such artists as Pharaoh's Daughter and Rashanim. Musicians will play, poets will read and everyone there is encouraged to join in the open mic portion of the evening.

The theme of the night will be Midrash, and each of the artists intends to incorporate this theme into their performances. "I think any artist working within a Jewish context deals with the basic idea of Midrash," elaborated Jon Madof, Rashanim's guitarist. "[It is] the relationship between what we've received and what we ourselves

create."

Both Rashanim and Pharaoh's Daughter reflect a new wave of Jewish music, despite their differences. Basya Schechter, the leader of Pharaoh's Daughter, has, with her band, fused Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino lyrics with traditional and original music often tinged with a Middle Eastern flavor. The result is an intense and popular sound quickly gaining renown in the music world.

In contrast to Pharaoh's Daughter's blended stylings and large band, Rashanim's music is most aptly described as a mixture of jazz and rock. In contrast to Pharaoh's Daughter's size, Rashanim consists only of the trio: Madof on guitar, Shanir Blumenkranz on bass and Mathias Kunzli on drums and percussion. Still, Rashanim, like Pharaoh's Daughter, has become a band to be recognized. The

Village Voice recently commented that Rashanim was "one of the best things to happen to Jewish music since Andy Statman or the Klezmatics."

Although this is Rashanim's first opportunity to work with Mima'amakim, they are eager to be involved and highly recommend the show. "I've only recently learned about Mima'amakim, so I'm not sure exactly what the event will be like," said Madof. "But it sounds like a really exciting mix of Jewish poetry and music. So if people are into that, they should come on by. We love to perform, so we're excited about being part of the event."

The Bowery Poetry Club is located at 308 Bowery Street, between Houston and Bowery. The show begins at 7:00 pm and there is a \$10 cover charge. For more information, check out Mima'amakim's website at www.mimaamakim.org.

The Jewish Museum Centennial Exhibit: Five Step Plan for Making an American Artist out of a Jewish Immigrant

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

When one first enters the new exhibit at The Jewish Museum, "My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900-1955," one is struck by the contrasting styles which fill the hall. However, despite the disparity, these artists each speak of the same subject and bring to their canvases and sculptures the same powerful theme. They are all immigrants or the children of immigrants, Jews who began a relationship with America in the first half of the last century.

"My America" is a thorough tribute to these Jewish American artists and to their patrons who, together, quickly succeeded in establishing a very influential cultural footing in the artistic realm of their new country, while simultaneously forming and accepting this new cultural identity itself.

The Jewish Museum has organized this exhibit to commemorate two different anniversaries associated with 2004. Firstly, this exhibit joins the list of countless other events scheduled throughout the country in celebration of 350 years of Jewish immigration to America. Secondly, the exhibit, comprised entirely of art from the museum's own collection, is also a commemoration of The Jewish Museum's Centennial.

The exhibit focuses solely on those artists who worked during those years when the greatest wave of Jews arrived in the United States. All of these artists faced a similar struggle; they attempted, through their art, to not only mature as artists, but to mature as Americans. To most accurately convey their journey, the exhibit is divided into five

sections. There is a loose chronology at play, but the primary focus of the order is to capture the development of the artists and their work as a cultural phenomenon.

Despite the decisive divisions between the sections, the architecture of the exhibit allows the visitor to move fluidly through all five parts. There are no doors and few stark physical separations; one can most easily tell the shift from one section to the next by the change in the compositions themselves.

The first section, "Becoming American," introduces the visitor to the artists' desire to feel and be seen as completely American in this country. The paintings in this first section greet the viewer with a sense of the hope and anticipation that must have coursed through the bodies of these new Americans. Of particular note is Alfred Stieglitz's 1907 photograph, "The Steerage," which endorses the romantic image of America prevalent in Jewish art of that time by focusing on the tragic circumstances awaiting those who could not remain in America. In this first stage, the artists could only see the brightness and goodness of America.

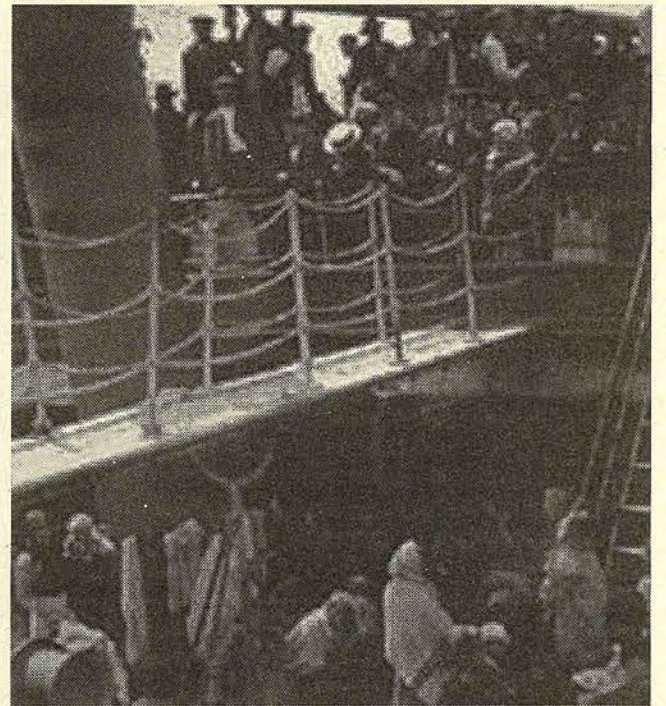
The second section highlights the artists' shift away from this fantasy to the imperfections in American society. "Striving for Social Justice" is comprised entirely of visual calls to action. From Theresa Bernstein's 1917 feminist statement against female unemployment, "Waiting Room Employment Office," to Chaim Gross' abstract wood sculpture of the Lindbergh kidnapping, "Lindbergh and Hauptmann Trial," the artists, all members of the John Reed Club, strived to use their artistic capacities to rally the public against social

oppression and injustices.

This dedication to the plight of the downtrodden is most aptly expressed in a trio of pieces arranged just before this politically charged section ends and one enters the more familial-oriented third section, "Picturing Ourselves." The oil painting, "The Hundredth Psalm" by Philip Evergood, the crayon sketch "Bondage" by Nathaniel Kaz, and the bronze sculpture "The Necklace" by Aaron Goodelman were each done in the 1930s and address the prejudice and violent discrimination against African Americans in the South. The movement from this image to the images of the next section is the most drastic in the entire exhibit.

The next section returns to the inner world of the artists but, instead of the focus being on hope, the paintings and photographs of this section represent actualization. "The Lover of Books" by Moses Soyer is a portrait of a citizen, not an immigrant; Soyer captured the image of his father, a professor at Yeshiva, against the backdrop of a room filled with books to emphasize his father's educated status. It is the image of the American Jew, an educated and modern member of United States society. Each of the portraits in this section captures the equilibrium achieved by the artists and their families; the early struggle with alienation and de-idealization has faded.

However, American Jewish artists had just settled into the comfortable cultural world they had created when the reality of the Holocaust came to their attention. In the fourth section, "Reacting to Tragedy," and the fifth section, "Moving Toward Abstraction," the visitor is wit-



"The Steerage," above, by Alfred Stieglitz is on display at The Jewish Museum

ness to these artists' creative responses to the horrors of the Holocaust and to their subsequent transformation as artists because of the event.

In "Reacting to Tragedy," artists such as Albert Bloch and William Gropper use humorous and satirical art to convey their anger and hurt at the events in Europe. In contrast, Saul Baizerman beats the image of a man into a life-size piece of copper and his work, "Crucifixion," hovers in the center of the opposite wall as testimony to the torment of one historical figure multiplied by millions. It is in the midst of this mix of artistic messages that one may sit and absorb the artists' futile attempts to capture in metal or on canvas the many thoughts and feelings which absorbed them during and after WWII. In fact, many artists felt that the art which had been done before WWII was no longer appropriate or, even, possible after the Holocaust, and so, in the later 1940s and 1950s, shifted toward abstract, cubist and more symbolic styles. The last section is comprised of this art.

Unlike the fourth section,

"Moving Toward Abstraction" contains primarily art which generates an elated, vivacious mood. However, there is a strong awareness that art changed because the world had changed. Just before one exits the exhibit one is forced to confront this sad truth of the American Jewish artist. To one's right is a small abstract painting entitled, "Charred Journal," by Morris Louis. This 1951 work is testimony to the truth behind the art; the artist wished to show the paper burning but the letters and symbols surviving. Although the American Jewish artists of the post-war era had abandoned the art they had done prior to the war, they would not abandon art itself. Once again being Jewish had become about survival and being a Jewish artist had changed into a quest to protect a new tradition from the flame.

"My America" is showing at The Jewish Museum through to July 25. The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue, at 92nd Street. For more information go to www.thejewishmuseum.org or call (212) 423 3200.

Up and Coming In The Big Apple

HBO Sneak Peek: Something the Lord Made
92nd Street Y
May 25
7:00 pm and 9:00 pm
Steinhardt Building
35 West 67th Street
Admission: Free (must RSVP)
Website: www.92ndsty.org

Come to the Cabaret: An Evening of Viennese Songs and Festivities
Yeshiva University Museum
June 3
7:00 - 9:30 pm
15 West 16th Street
Admissions: adult-\$6, students and children-\$3, with valid YU ID-free.
Website: www.yumuseum.org

From the Classroom to the World: Hine, Ulmann, Strand, Arbus and the Ethical Culture Fieldston School
New York Historical Society
April 6 through July 18
2 West 77th St.
Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10-6
Website: www.nyhistory.org

Christo and Jeanne-Claude: The Gates, Central Park, New York
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
April 6 through July 25
1000 Fifth Avenue
Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday 9:30 am-5:30 pm, Friday-Saturday 9:30-9:00pm
Admission: Free
Website: www.metmuseum.org

"The Winter's Tale" by William Shakespeare
New York Classical Theatre
June 3 through June 27
7:00 pm
West 103rd Street (near The Pool in Central Park)
Admission: Free
Website: www.newyorkclassical.org

Kol Zimra: They've Got Ruach, Yes They Do

By Observer Staff

Alex Katz, YC '01, realized that Jewish celebrations were often missing two key components: "Simcha and Ruach." Five years ago, Katz joined with Jonathan Teitelbaum, YC '98, and Benny Amar to change this. The result was Kol Zimra, an all-male acapella ensemble. Now, five years later, Kol Zimra has reached astounding heights of popularity and enjoys a rapidly growing international audience. YC senior Zalman Abramchik, member of Kol Zimra, attributed Kol Zimra's attractiveness across a diverse spectrum of Jews to the fact that it, "appeals to everyone," he said. "You have five guys just making sure that there's music going on, that people are singing ... it adds to the affair."

To respond to all the bookings, Kol Zimra employs approximately forty performers, one quarter of whom are Yeshiva students or alumni. All of these singers have either had formal vocal training or prior vocational experience; the list ranges from Miami Boys' Choir alumni to men with graduate degrees in music. On any given weekend, Katz elaborated, Kol Zimra can have ten to twenty-five singers at work with one group generally consisting of anywhere between six and twelve men. Historically,

Kol Zimra has not had more than four groups performing at any one time but this could easily change as the organization continues to develop.

Although Kol Zimra chose an acapella arrangement to cater to the Orthodox community and Shabbat simchas, it has also caught the attention of Conservative and Reform Jews who are looking for a more spiritual accent to their festivities. Additionally, the ensemble is flexible concerning its acapella format and will gladly share the stage with musical instruments, when halakha permits. Katz commented that, while Kol Zimra has its own musicians at its disposal, it has also developed professional relationships with some of the top bands in the Jewish music world. Still, it would seem that it is Kol Zimra's novel style which has contributed the most to its appeal. The lack of musical accompaniment generates the most conducive environment for Katz's intended, "unique form of interactive entertainment."

In line with this philosophy, Kol Zimra performs almost exclusively for Jewish events and rarely performs in concerts. Similarly, despite the recent release of its second compact disc, Katz maintains that the organization's focus remains their original goal to infuse

Jewish celebrations with more energy and joy. The released albums were more an opportunity, according to Katz, for Kol Zimra to advertise its abilities. Both CDs feature a capella renditions of popular Jewish songs. Also, the second CD, a tribute to Abie Rotenberg, provided Kol Zimra with a chance to pay homage to the composer whose music is so often featured in their repertoire. Included on that CD are three original compositions, which Rotenberg wrote specifically for Kol Zimra.

Still, whether Kol Zimra ever performs in concerts or not, it is quite clear that it has made its mark on the landscape of modern Jewish music. What may have begun as a quiet gesture to enhance Jewish celebrations has quickly become an international phenomenon, and it doesn't appear that Kol Zimra intends to slow down as long as it can single-handedly test the limit of how much simcha makes a simcha.

Kol Zimra has specifically not restricted itself to the traditional bar/bat mitzvah crowd and performs regularly at circumcisions, weddings, corporate events and various synagogue functions.

For more information, check out the website at www.kolzimra.com or contact Alex Katz at (201) 247-9351.

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215 Cafeteria To Open in September

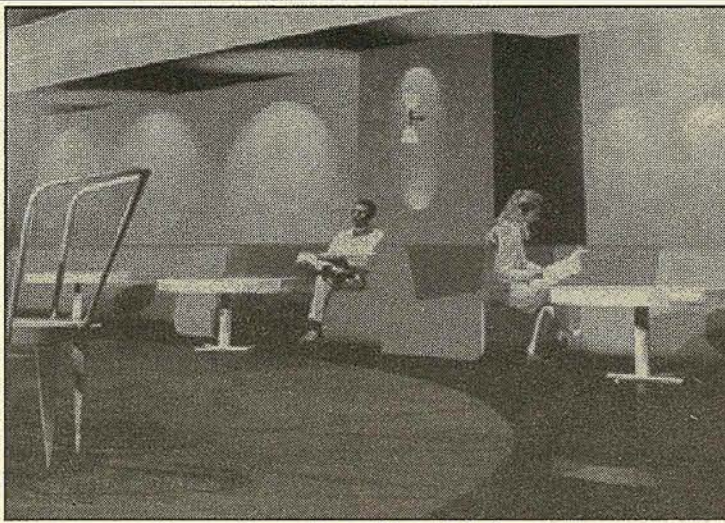
Construction Delays Allow For Student Input

By Observer Staff

At the Student Life Committee Meeting on April 30th, the architect for the 215 Lexington Building cafeteria updated student leaders on the progress of construction. The construction team has already demolished the basement space but is waiting until the building closes for the summer to start heavy construction to prevent noise from interfering with classes held in the building. They plan to complete construction at the end of August.

"The design which has been presented and seen by many people already is a design for a 150 seat dining area/lounge," explained Associate Vice President of Administrative Services Jeffrey Rosengarten. However, Rosengarten explained that the room will also be used as a multipurpose room. "It jointly serves as a dining area and as a lounge because people don't eat all the time.

There will be times when it is being used for other things.



The new cafeteria, above, will be ready by September

For example, dinner is over and at 8:00. Then the facility can be used as a lounge or study area or maybe sometimes there will be entertainment there."

The opening of the new cafeteria will precipitate the closing of the cafeteria in the Koch Auditorium, which was originally meant to be a temporary solution to the lack of cafeteria space on campus, some ten years ago. "I think that very often temporary and short term turns into long term if not permanent," claimed Rosengarten. "In this particular case, we're pleased that we have been able to design develop and now build a much better facility for student use and therefore we're able to show that Koch indeed was temporary."

Although the construction was intended to have been completed this past September, Rosengarten noted that the extra time allowed for better planning and input from student leaders. "Since really last summer when we started to conceptualize this we've done our best to get feedback ideas so it wasn't developed in a vacuum," he stated. "We had close communication with the

student life committee and lay leadership and administrative leaders."

That extra planning has taken the original idea to a completely new place. The goal of the new facility is to resemble the trendy clubs in Manhattan and some of the more trendy cafes in other colleges. Instead of cafeteria tables, café bistro type of seating and couches will occupy the room. Administrators are toying with the idea of a round column bearing flat screen televisions that can be used for entertainment. Interior designers as well as a committee of students and board people have decided on a lively, bright and youthful color scheme. The committee is working on innovative solutions to make the space look its best. "To compensate for no windows there will be as many as seventeen different light fixtures," Rosengarten offered.

With no cooking facilities being planned, the space will be used as a warming cafeteria similar to Koch Auditorium. Students can expect sushi, wraps, choices of soups and custom pizzas.

Graduate Fellows Chosen for Upcoming Year

By Adrienne Eichen

At commencement ceremony this year, ten students will probably be of the few rare graduates not bidding a teary farewell to Yeshiva. However, the grounds for their dry eyes should not be misunderstood as apathy in concluding their term at Yeshiva. On the contrary, these students will be returning for more next year.

These alumni have been selected as the University's first Graduate Fellows to work hand in hand with the faculty and administration of a number of the University's departments in a unique opportunity for former students to give back to the university while gaining valuable leadership skills.

The just launched Graduate Fellows Program which is being organized through the office of academic affairs and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Morton Lowengrub, was initiated by President Richard Joel a few short months ago. Since that time, Joel has secured funding through donors and has signed onto the project Deputy to the President Ed Fox as well as Dr. Sheldon Gelman, Dean of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Gelman has been extremely impressed by the interest students have been displaying. "We were amazed by the quality of the applicants and what they

had to offer," he exclaimed. "All the applicants were extremely positive and enthusiastic. They have all had a phenomenal experience here and in Israel and they all genuinely want to give back and be a part of this phenomenal program." Gelman will be creating the curriculum for the graduate seminar element of the fellowship, where fellows will gather every other week in a forum to offer feedback to the administration and learn about communal administration. He also intends on bringing outside speakers to address the fellows about Jewish communal leadership.

Fox explained that the goal of the Graduate Fellows Program is to "provide an outstanding learning and work experience for graduates of YU undergraduate schools while providing them with the opportunity to provide service to their alma mater." He trusts the program will be a positive and successful new perspective not only for the fellows but for the university itself to be working with people who are close to students themselves.

Because of the short planning time available to the administration involved, several of the deadlines for the application process were pushed back, allowing for more students to apply late into the process.

Applicants who have already received letters of

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Women's Studies Minor Struggles to Stay Afloat Despite Lack of Offerings

By Miriam Shapiro

As the only all-female Jewish university in the United States, it would seem appropriate that the SCW administration continue to make efforts to enrich its Women's Studies courses. Over the last two years, students had the opportunity to register for courses instituted as part of a growing Women's Studies minor. Yet, it has become increasingly difficult for students enrolled in these classes to complete the set minor due to a lack of course offerings.

"I was a Women's Studies minor until the fall of my senior year," said SCW senior Shifra Landowne. "At that point I realized that there just weren't enough classes for me to complete the minor." Landowne, having already taken four out of the five classes necessary to complete the minor, was disappointed that she could not take the final class because none were offered.

Professor Nora Nachumi, an active member in creating the

minor and seeing to its success, under the direction of Professor Laurel Hatvary, echoed Landowne's words, and shared her disappointment with the rising problems. "I think that the lack of appropriate course offerings is making it impossible for students to fulfill the requirements of the minors (even though those minors continue to exist)," said Nachumi. "That is a serious problem indeed. I think that a Women's Studies minor is essential given Stern's status as the only Jewish all-female university."

According to Nachumi, the two-year-old minor seems to be attracting more students now than it did at its inception. Introduction to Women's Studies: Theory and Practice, a course taught by Nachumi, and required for the completion of the minor, enrolled 16 students last year. This year, twenty-five registered before Nachumi capped the course. At least two of those students are completing minors in Women's Studies. However, the increase in enrollment is still not enough for the

administration to justify the creation of more classes. Therefore, students' ability to fulfill the requirements of the minor is in jeopardy given the "dearth of courses that fit their schedules," explained Nachumi.

Some have suggested that there is an inherent flaw in the administration: sufficient courses are not being offered, and many SCW students feel that Women's Studies are not encouraged by the faculty and administration. SCW senior Yael Reisman, who is currently completing Nachumi's introductory course to Women's Studies, explained the frustration of students unable to complete their minor. "It's ridiculous," she said. "There needs to be more options available." Nachumi sees a plausible answer to minimal course offerings. "One strategy I'd recommend for students interested in pursuing the minor (or any minor) is to do so earlier, rather than later, in their academic careers so that they can take courses when and as they are offered," suggested Nachumi.

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Nachumi, above, stands by collages that portray society's standards of beauty, created by Women's Studies students