



The Yeshiva University

# OBSERVER

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## Morry Weiss Expected to Become New Chairman of YU Board of Trustees

By Rebecca Rosenberg

Businessman Morry Weiss is expected to be initiated as the new YU Chairman of the Board of Trustees when the Board votes this Tuesday, September 7. The Observer has learned that Weiss plans to accept the Board's offer and replace retiring Chairman, Richard P. Stanton.

Weiss's priorities for Yeshiva parallel YU President Richard Joel's agenda. "I think the university is blessed in its current leadership with President Joel and my role as chairman would be to be supportive of his direction, his vision and his dream," said Weiss. "And his dream is to be excellent in each one of our colleges and to make sure that we rank as one of the top schools in each of our fields of endeavor."

As the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Weiss, in con-

junction with the trustees, will be responsible for the various operations of YU and head the organization to which Joel reports. For example, the Board works with Joel on major issues like expansion, building facilities and changes in budgetary requirements. These matters would be discussed at the board level and the chairman would seek approval from the board for major changes in strategy or direction. In addition, the board also provides input and direction on general and important university affairs.

Weiss is more than a businessman fulfilling a distant administrative function, but is also a concerned and invested member of the YU community, having served on the Board for 17 years and sent four boys to YC. "We [he and his family] care

deeply about Modern Orthodoxy

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## Mental Health Centers to Open Leading Official to Join Yeshiva and Direct Program

By Esther Flaschner-Berko

In a bold initiative, Yeshiva administrators have revealed plans to open three confidential student counseling centers by January 2005. The centers, which will employ licensed psychiatrists, will be located on the Beren, Wilf and Brookdale campuses, and be directed by an undisclosed official joining Yeshiva from another top-tier university. "We are as excited and happy as can be," enthusiastically said Senior University Dean of Students Efreim Nulman. "We're grateful to President Joel and the Board of Trustees for supporting this project."

Although plans remain tentative, the structure of these counseling centers hinges on four roles: director, small contingents of residents from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Ferkauf graduate students and current administrators already involved in counseling positions. The centers will provide students with

complete mental care facilities, ranging from therapeutic counseling to prescribing medication.

The proposal comes in response to increasing rates of student depression nationwide. Last December, The Observer reported on the unique stresses facing college students and the mental illness that can ensue. Students must adjust to new environments and relationships while tackling intense academic course loads and career goals. These needs, combined with the increasing rate of students entering college already taking prescription drugs for mental care, demand serious resources. Already last year, Yeshiva counselors spoke of the need to advance mental health options and improve care for students.

After months of work, it appears these dreams have finally been realized, as plans are negotiated for the opening of the mental health centers. "After working so hard in our department, it is wonderful for our student community that the student

mental health center has come to fruition," explained Zeldra Braun, associate dean of students. "It will benefit our community in only the best of ways...It's such an accomplishment."

"Dean Nulman has been a strong advocate of these centers," remarked Yeshiva President Richard M. Joel. "[The centers], with respect and *derech erez*, will make sure that we deal appropriately with the wholeness of students. I'm excited for it." Joel continued to explain that despite social insistence that Jewish students don't encounter problems, Orthodox kids can fall prey to the same issues of identity and loneliness that face all college students.

As of now, the centers will be headed and guided by a director who is a practicing psychiatrist specializing in student needs. The director must recognize the unique aspects of the Yeshiva community and special demands of the Jewish world. Yeshiva is currently close to

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The influx of RNC protestors and supporters, pictured above, caused unique challenges for SCW orientation and security

## SCW Prepared For RNC

By Melodie Balarsky and Aviva Balk

The Republican National Convention (RNC), held in New York City from August 30 to September 2, presented many obstacles for the SCW orientation and beginning of the fall semester, but the staff of the school felt well prepared to take on the event. "Although the RNC creat-

ed enhanced difficulties, months of preparation were put into organizing orientation," explained Zeldra Braun, SCW associate dean of students. "We did not expect to have any problems during residence check-in but were prepared as best as we can for the unexpected."

Though for many the convention is merely a headache, for others it is an exciting opportunity to participate in an important

and historical event. SCW alumna Shayndi Raice, former co-editor-in-chief of The Observer, and a Republican with an avid interest in politics, is volunteer on behalf of New York City in the media center for the RNC, right across from Madison Square Garden. Ads persuaded her to apply for one of the 10,000 press volunteer positions.

"It's really impressive to see

*continued on page 6*

## Resolution Reached on Printing Issue

By Adrienne Eichen

After the controversial announcement last May caused student uproar, a resolution has been brokered between administrators and students regarding the pay-for-printing proposal. Administrators had wanted SCW and YC students to pay for each page printed on school computers to curb waste and cost. After negotiating with student leaders, on July 19<sup>th</sup>, Dean of Libraries Pearl Berger and Director of Academic Computing George Sullivan e-mailed a proposal to SCW student leaders that they believed to be considerate of both groups.

"We listened carefully to the feedback expressed by students and to your suggestions, and we

believe that the approach we are adopting will address these while taking into account the University's concerns," they wrote. "We are introducing a hybrid system that will provide each student with a quota of free printing, followed by the pay-for-print option."

This means that instead of the previous 500 page threshold allotted, students will be granted 100 printed pages on a monthly basis free of charge. Printing capacity will be increased to 200 pages in the months of December and May due to finals and papers. Once a student reaches the limit she may choose to pay 10 cents for each additional page by using the same card required by the photocopying machines on campus.

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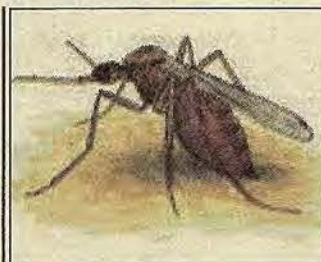
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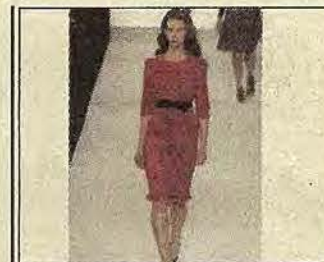
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# *Interested in Working for The Observer?*

**Come to the Recruiting Dinner on  
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**Free Pizza, Salad and Smoothies will be Served**

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# A Message from the Editors



Rebecca Rosenberg  
Editor-in-Chief

Over the summer many students at SCW had interesting and enlightening internships. My internship under Professor Carol Silver of the English Department in Cape Town, South Africa, was one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

Every day we worked in the South African National Library beside the Company Gardens, a large square covered by ancient trees, sprawling plants and lively squirrels. Inside the library, we sat at beautiful wooden tables where I annotated "Lady Trader in the Transvaal" a historical memoir of a heroic woman from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Though from an upper middle-class background, this British woman, Mrs. Sarah Heckford, lame in one leg and humpbacked, chose to travel to South Africa, alone, to start a farm. Despite her sex and her physical ailments, she pursued her dreams. Though she met with trying obstacles, her incredible bravery and persistence in establishing herself in South Africa in the midst of the first Boer War is an inspiring account.

I naturally wondered, what could I do that is courageous, how could I defy contemporary society as she did, this independent, headstrong woman who flouted the conventions of her time?

As these thoughts passed through my mind, I went on with my daily routine.

Waking up in the morning, I would walk to Professor Silver's flat under the warmth of a volcanic sun that complemented the endless expanse of bright blue African ocean. On these mornings, no matter what tugged at my mind, the rhythm of six-foot waves collapsing onto the white sand and smooth gray rocks offered a solace I've rarely felt before. It was like the balm of faith.

When I arrived at her door we would walk to the main street and flag down a comi, an old VW minibus. In a country that has had democracy for less than ten years, this bus was the most democratic experience I had seen. Two Americans who were wealthy by South African standards, we would climb into the tattered seats of the mini van, which was painted in various colors and dented generously. One day we sat beside a woman who looked eighty but was only forty, aged by poverty and manual labor, wearing a traditional

African headscarf. Her skin hung from her small frame, and several of her teeth were missing. She was probably on her way to work, where she would clean someone's house or watch someone's children. To me, she symbolized a society teetering between two worlds. This is a mother who has witnessed the oppression of apartheid but can raise her children to hope for a future in a government that truly belongs to them. This woman is everywhere in South Africa: on the side of the streets selling fruit and papers, in the homes of South African whites laundering their clothes, in the grocery stores. This entire van was full of blacks, coloreds (a South African term referring to a mixed race South African) and some white people, usually poor, who ten years before would have been arrested for sitting beside each other.

Later that evening I had dinner at Professor Silver's home with her and her husband, an anti apartheid activist exiled to England thirty years earlier. He asked me casually, "So do you have any black friends?" And at this statement the most astounding revelation struck me. "No," I answered. I struggled with the concept for a moment. I had once had black friends before I came to SCW, but we had lost touch. In fact, I realized I no longer had black friends but that I only had Jewish friends. I blushed and found that I was deeply embarrassed to confess that I live in the middle of New York City yet (maybe only subconsciously) avoid interacting with non-Jews. I live in New York and don't take advantage of its beautiful ethnic and racial diversity.

I thought of the many South African whites whom I had criticized so strongly for their passivity during apartheid and their isolationist attitude even today. Most South African whites, though living in a country that is predominantly black, only interact with other whites. Many go an entire lifetime without ever interacting with a black individual outside a hierarchical context such as server to the served or driver to the driven.

Is the Jewish community in America so different? We're like the majority of South African whites who are part of a much larger, more inclusive society but rarely interact with it. Sure, in South Africa, this separation is more pronounced, fueled by decades of government policy. But is it so different?

After thinking about this seemingly benign question posed to me by Professor Silver's husband, I decided I don't want to be just an average Jewish American; I want to be a person like Mrs. Heckford, who seeks out adventure and diversity. I want to appreciate the variations of race and ethnicity in this beautiful country as Heckford sought out the foreign land and people of South Africa.



Esther Flaschner-Berko  
Editor-in-Chief

Someone once told me that if you have a lot to say, and you don't quite know where to begin, you should start in the middle. With that in mind, (and after unsuccessful attempts at writing and rewriting this column trying to use elements of sophisticated deductive reasoning) I'm embracing the colloquial approach. So here's the middle- I hope the beginning and end fall into place.

This summer, I went from mudflats in Maine to mice at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine to my beautiful wedding in Jerusalem. I'll tell you about the wedding at a later date- it was truly incredible to be married in Israel, and I have unbelievable stories to share. But I'm going to take this orientation issue to appeal to new and returning Yeshiva students.

Many of you heard about SCW's marine biology trip to the Darling Marine Center in Maine (if not, you can read about it on page 12). Personally, it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience to trudge through mudflats and dredge up lobsters from the ocean floor. But most of you probably don't know about the meetings we students had with the deans and Dr. DeSantis to plan the trip. The administrators wanted our input on everything, including food selection and Shabbat plans. They were willing to accommodate all our suggestions - from storing cans of tuna fish from the cafeteria in

Dean Karen Bacon's office to hiring an additional van to transport us to Portland for Shabbat.

A few weeks later, miles away from the serene waters of the Damariscotta River, I sat injecting mice at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. I spent most of my summer researching Familial Alzheimer's Disease in Dr. Mark Mehler's neuroscience laboratory, a remarkable facility with the most advanced modern equipment. I worked long hard hours, often staying until midnight and returning at 2 am. My internship was part of YU's annual Roth Scholars program, which yearly provides eight YC and SCW students with remarkable AECOM research opportunities.

And right before the summer, when a problem arose with my fall schedule, (problem meaning I refused to give up Rabbi Kahn's Advanced Talmud when it conflicted with a major requirement). The deans sat down with me and made every effort to accommodate my requests.

I tell you this because, as new students, you should know of the opportunities this school offers. At the risk of sounding like a cheerleader, I can honestly say that if you respectfully pursue your projects, the faculty and deans will help you. This is probably the only school where student leaders have access to the president of the university, where grade representatives sit with the deans at Student Life Committee Meetings to dictate policy and use of university space and where faculty agree to rearrange their class schedules to benefit students.

Don't take this for granted: be proud of the university you have chosen to attend, and take advantage of these options- and both you and the school will be rewarded.

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova- may the New Year bring happiness, health and peace to *Am Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael*.

The Yeshiva  
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PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE WAS DELAYED DUE TO SOFTWARE PROBLEMS. THE EDITORS WISH TO THANK YAFIT VAANUNU FOR HER CONTINUED EFFORTS AND DEDICATION TO THE PAPER. WE ALSO EXTEND THANKS TO THE COMMENTATOR FOR GRACIOUS USE OF THEIR OFFICE.



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Molly Fink,  
SCW President

Greetings everyone,

I hope you all had a terrific summer. For those of you who are new to Stern College, my name is Molly Fink and I am your Student Council President this year. I look forward to meeting each of you! Please seek me out and introduce yourselves; I will do likewise. The Observer, keeping with tradition, has given me and your Student Council an opportunity to address the student body in every issue published this year.

Student Council and The Observer are working together to let students know about the events coming up for each month. Please scope out the paper and mark your calendars for upcoming events! ... Student Council is having a 9/11 program on Wednesday September 8, with guest speaker Mr. Richard Schierer. Mr. Schierer worked for Mayor Giuliani and was the head of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Schierer was one of the key administrators of the response to the terror of 9/11... Mark your calendars for the September 13<sup>th</sup> Club Fair. Club Fair is your opportunity to get involved. There you can join the debate team, biology club or even a chesed program such as "adopt-a-bubby." I attended an "adopt a bubby" program event last year, it was a blast. I danced, chatted, ate, and got to meet some wonderful people. This program demonstrated that you can have fun at any age! ... There are some new clubs this year. Among them, the book club and the communications club - what do they entail? At Club Fair, all your questions will be answered - hope to see you there!

This year's theme at Stern

College is FISH (Fresh Ideas Start Here). Stern College gets better every year, as new ideas are heard and new doors are opened. This year your Student Senate has been reactivated. The Student Council and I want to hear the opinions, the likes, and the dislikes of the student body. Many of these issues will be addressed by the Senate, Student Council, and Student Life Committee to the deans, faculty, and the administration of Stern College.

Student Council elections were held toward the end of last year. Since then, the Student Council and I did some brainstorming for this year. The cookie decorating event was such a hit last year, we will definitely bring it back. We hope to have a carnival this year - who knows maybe Dean Braun will agree to go in the dunker ... Don't forget that individual clubs and committees have terrific events planned as well!

College can be daunting. First arriving at Stern College was nerve-racking for me as I knew only a handful of girls. But you can look forward to many accomplishments, as you gain self esteem, knowledge and friendships. In Stern, you have the chance to be whomever you dare to be. I could not have asked for a better Student Council, a better team to work with as we embark on this year. Student council and I will give you our best and in return we ask that you give us yours as well.

On behalf of SCWSC and myself, I wish the students, faculty, administration and employees of Stern College, as well as all of *Am Yisrael* a joyous, healthy and successful New Year.

A final note: as American Jews we have an obligation to register and vote for the welfare of our country and for the welfare of the state of Israel. Presidential elections are just around the corner. We have the power and the chance to make a contribution.

Shana Tova,  
Molly

Aliza Abrams,  
TAC President

This summer I spent six and a half weeks in Perth, Australia as the counselor on a girls' summer program called Netivot. Started by Rabbi Moshe Rothchild three years ago, it is best described as the high school equivalent of Counterpoint. We went to work with the Jewish community in Perth, with a large focus on the youth. Living in the Justin Saber Youth House, the American high school girls created and ran their own programs and Shabbatons (weekend retreats) for kids ranging from kindergarten through 12th grade. As the counselor, I gave *shiurim* (lectures) and classes on leadership and guidance to my high school girls.

I want to share my experience in Australia with all of you because of the valuable lesson I learned and the inspiration it has given me for this upcoming year as TAC President.

As I mentioned, the girls planned Shabbatons for four of the seven Shabbatot that we were in Perth. At our first Shabbaton, only ten Australian high school girls showed up. My campers were disappointed with the numbers, for they had spent the entire week trying to spread the word. They made phone calls, gave out flyers to all of the high school kids, and despite this, only *ten* kids showed up. In an effort to boost the morale of the group, I tried to understand what was keeping the kids from coming? We were not charging an exorbitant amount of money; we were not whisking the kids off to a remote campground to sing slow songs around a fire. We just wanted the kids to come over, hang out, have fun, get to know each other and experience Friday night dinner and Shabbos lunch in a religious home, and hopefully walk away with some inspiration. That is when it hit me: I finally realized after a week and a half of planning programs and no one coming that it was because the events were RELIGIOUS. They perceived us as being 'fruma freidas', or very religious; they expected our programs to just be

extra hours of learning that they were not interested in, the programs would only be related to Torah, and would not be fun.

This misconception is a common one that people had in Australia and people have in Stern about TAC and its programs. Every student in Stern College for Women should feel comfortable at every event that we run. Do not think that I am writing this article to point any fingers or to complain; I am writing this because I want to let everyone know about the goal of TAC 2004-2005. We want to make programs that everyone feels comfortable going to, but even more so, programs that everyone actually wants to go to. TAC is here to enhance every student's religious experience in Stern in addition to their overall experience.

In Australia, after the turnouts were low at the first couple of events, we decided to do something that was just fun, no 'learning' involved. We had a make your own pizza party; thirty boys and girls showed up and finally our numbers began to increase. It was at that event that they realized we were normal and 'cool' just like them. The Australians and Americans began to see how much they all had in common. Over the rest of our time in Australia more and more kids came to our events and Shabbatonim. At our last Shabbaton of the summer we had seventy kids, an all time high for us and for Shabbatons run in Perth in general. It was then that I realized we were a success. Kids really saw that you can be religious and still be cool, and you can be doing something religious and still have fun.

As TAC president, I guarantee you we will have amazing programs, speakers, concerts and shabbatons that every student will enjoy. We are open to all ideas and would love your input. As I mentioned before we are here to enhance your Stern experience - please tell us what you want - as it is your experience. May we all have a Shana Tovah Umitukah - a year full of happiness, success and only good sweet things.

Sherene Nilli,  
SSSBSC President

Welcome to a new year at the Sy Syms School of Business. We have already excitedly begun planning programs, events and speakers for this year. We have selected one main area of focus -- to more thoroughly represent your interests, our fellow students. We believe that it is this purpose that a student council mainly serves. And it is through this effort that we hope to distinguish our efforts from those of the past. Our goal is to understand and respond better

to the needs of Yeshiva University business students.

For this year, we envision Student Council as playing a slightly non-traditional role - we are not just four students working on an exclusive council. Rather we are four students creating a council, which will include each and every Yeshiva University business student. Our aim is to promote an environment of knowledge and idea-sharing so that we can improve the school and allow the school to meet our collective needs better. And how do we plan to do this? Through spending time with, and speaking to and listen-

ing to you.

With this goal in mind we are asking for your help. The only way for us to know what your interests are is if you share them with us. Please provide us with your ideas and participate in the events that we create together and most importantly give us feedback on what you think and want to see. Be a student within our Student Council. You can contact us at shdvni8@aol.com

We look forward to working with you,

Sherene, Racheli, Ilana and Aliza.

The Observer  
wishes a hearty  
Mazel Tov to  
Esther  
Flaschner-Berko  
on her recent  
marriage to Tani  
Berko

# In Defense of Kavod



By Dodi-Lee Hecht

It has been a month since the Jewish Week's Editor, Gary Rosenblatt, raised the question "when, if ever, is it appropriate to criticize the politically incorrect statements of a leading rabbinic figure" concerning a statement made by Rav Hershel Schachter which seemed to compare women to monkeys and parrots. Both Schachter and Rosenblatt have been attacked and defended for what they have said, and the arguments on both sides have become quite intense and, even, quite rude. In the midst of it all one thing has been forgotten - the question itself.

There's an old joke that, nowadays, you are not considered a rabbinic authority until someone has put you in *cherem* (excommunication). One would imagine that such a society, where every leader is decried by some percentage of the populace,

would be unable to function to its highest intellectual potential. This is sad because it's true. The trend of open discussion among Modern Orthodoxy today is so passive it's almost non-existent.

Where are the beautifully passionate and, yet, respectful debates which once defined the halls of Torah learning? My father, Rabbi Benjamin Hecht, often laments the fact that, to his knowledge, there is not a single *bais medrash* (place of Torah study) in the world where the entire spectrum of Orthodoxy is represented and where students can discuss, argue and question across this spectrum. I feel that the great tragedy is not simply the absence of such a place but the fact that, even if my father were to find his dream *bais medrash*, there would still be Jews in the world who would be unable to accept such an institution and unwilling to understand its purpose and so the cycle of *cherem* would only continue.

Rosenblatt could have simply attacked Schachter, in keeping with this pattern, but, instead, in Rosenblatt's article I found a truly inquisitive tone. He raised valid questions and presented all sides of the issue, which he appeared to have available. It is unfair to criticize him for actually caring enough about the state of his religion to raise his voice and ask the scholars of that religion how a philosophy built on Truth is crumbling to the ground.

Similarly, Schachter used a

common philosophical tool, he outlined a point by bringing an extreme example when he referred to monkeys and parrots reading the *ketuba* (marriage document), and I don't think he deserves the negative attention which he has received. But I also feel that any attempt to excuse Schachter's phraseology by calling him naive or misunderstood is completely unfair to those who were hurt or offended by Schachter's comments. I have to admit that as a woman I have rarely felt the inequality towards my gender, which many women claim to feel in Judaism. That does not, for a moment, mean that I am going to ignore their emotions. Still, I subscribe to the belief that feel-good religion is a myth; the truth isn't always pleasant. If God does not want me to do something which I want to do and which my brothers are encouraged to do, then, I see this as an opportunity to struggle and, hopefully, understand my religion better. And the only way to do this is by asking questions.

So let's start at the beginning. Why doesn't Judaism offer women a greater role in the marriage ceremony? Is there anything a woman can do to feel part of the marriage ceremony? Can she read the *ketuba*? Now here's where Schachter comes in: sure a woman can read a *ketuba*, but she should realize that the reason for this has to do with the fact that reading the *ketuba* is not a necessary step in the marriage ceremony and, technically, the *ketuba* can be vocalized by any creature

whether or not it has awareness or religious obligations. For example, a parrot or a monkey - two animals which seem to have language capabilities - could read the *ketuba*.

The questions which came to my mind, after first hearing of Schachter's statement, were not ones of political correctness (partially because I think that political correctness can often get in the way of philosophical investigation) but what the world of the *bais medrash* is going to do about its vernacular now that a whole new population is being added to the ranks. If men spoke a certain way for centuries when learning Torah do they have to change their vocabulary now that women have sat down at the table or do women have to desensitize themselves? What ripple effect will either of these alternatives have on the structure of orthodox society? Those are my questions, but I like Rosenblatt's question too if only for the fact that it is a question. We are in desperate need of real questions if we intend to do more than just survive as a religion. We need to find a way to thrive again. As long as we ignore questions and shy away from disagreement, either through blind tolerance or blind intolerance, we cannot be the nation of our ancestors, you know, the ones who saw all seventy faces to the Torah and were not afraid, the ones who would have sat in my father's *bais medrash*. This is not about naiveté; this is about stepping forward

and defending what you believe while listening to your opponents' arguments. And this is not about hiding behind political agendas; this is about showing proper respect to a Torah scholar even if he hurts your feelings. You don't call a talented doctor incompetent simply because you have issues with his bedside manner but no doctor, no matter how talented, can ignore the feelings of his patients or the opinions of his colleagues for too long. If we lose respect for knowledge then we are lost but if we lose respect for inquiry then we have destroyed ourselves at our core. Recent studies show that there are more people learning Torah around the world today than in any past era. But what good is learning without dialogue and debate? Is our place in history destined to be that of the most uneducated and ignorant Jews of all time and maybe, God forbid, the last of the questioners? If we don't feel Torah enough to fight for it and live in it, with all the struggle and emotion, then we might as well be studying any intellectually stimulating dead religion. Greek Mythology is always a good choice. Our people have withstood time and persecution and lived on through it all. Why can't we make our religion as vibrant and alive as we are? Let's start small; somebody please answer Rosenblatt's question.

## Internships Enhance SCW Students' Summers

By Melodie Balarsky

Over the summer, SCW undergraduates participated in exciting internships, from working at Warner Brothers to volunteering at a hospital in Israel. While students conceded that not all internships were equally rewarding, all students felt that they had gained from their experience.

Accounting major Brandys Geller competed against more than 1000 students for only one spot, in the Students Taking A Right Step (STARS) Internship Program. Geller won a nine-week paid accounting internship in Los Angeles, California for Warner Brothers from June 8 to August 20th. "I applied not expecting much to come of it, so I was shocked when they asked to meet me after receiving my resume," stated Geller.

Geller's tenure included assisting with accounts receivable which involved billing customers and data entry. Paying employees and companies for goods and services strengthened her skills with accounts payable. Geller learned how to improve efficiency and organize employees while shadowing supervisors and participating in staff meetings.

The STARS Internship Program arranged for motivational speakers and CEOs, such as Tad Yo, Vice President and General Manager of Time Warner Cable, Los Angeles Division- Southern Region, to discuss business related issues.

"Before I participated in the internship program I was fearful of graduating and facing the realities of a work environment," remarked Geller. "However through this internship program I have learned that it is possible

to enjoy your job and successfully accomplish your tasks. My fears of graduating and working have been alleviated through this program."

In the charged atmosphere of Jerusalem, Sophomore Yelena Kozirovsky participated in a biochemistry clinical laboratory internship program. Working at Hadassah Hospital, Kozirovsky handled blood, urine and spinal fluid. She filed and performed pH tests on blood and urine, and learned how to function an elixis, testing blood for vital antioxidants such as beta carotene and analyzing emergency blood.

The last week of the internship Kozirovsky's responsibilities increased immensely. Usually a two or three person job, she coded and filed all blood sent to the hospital. "If a person is interested in spending a summer in Israel working [mostly] minimal hours this is a great pro-

gram," suggested Kozirovsky. "Although I wanted a more challenging, structured internship I did receive an accurate, general overview of the responsibilities of a clinical biochemist."

In contrast to Kozirovsky's experience, public relations major Barrie Zigman was not ecstatic about her internship at the Jewish Community Center of Long Beach, California. For over two months Zigman worked eight hours a week assisting the Director of Membership and Marketing. Initially, Zigman was hired to arrange focus groups, create brochures and organize media lists. However as the internship proceeded, Zigman quickly learned that delegating tasks was not one of her boss's strong characteristics. "A lot of responsibilities I hoped to assume never amounted to anything due to the lack of organization and preparation in the

office," explained Zigman.

Attempting to draw more Orthodox community members to JCC events, Zigman created brochures targeting the Jewish, Orthodox population while performing secretarial duties.

Although the internship was not what Zigman expected she did learn from her experience. "I realized the importance of patience when dealing with people who have different viewpoints," clarified Zigman. "Whether it was putting a religious icon in a brochure or arranging an advertising list, I had to remain calm when explaining my reasoning behind an idea."

Interning in various fields of work, most SCW students broadened their knowledge of business, science and work environments and some developed the trait of patience.

# SCW and the RNC

continued from page 1

the people who are coming out to help the city," she remarked. "People volunteering are from all walks of life, some are clearly supporters of the President and others are not. I think [the RNC is] a great opportunity for students at Stern to be in the center of politics and see that it really affects them...this is going on right in their own neighborhood."

Though Raice is excited about the convention, she is not without reservations, feeling that the greatest threat to security comes from the estimated 250,000 protestors. "The protestors who might disrupt things and get scary or violent," she said pose the greatest risk to security. "These people don't really care about the law, so even though they have specific places they are told to protest in, they won't necessarily listen."

On the other hand, many faculty do not agree with her assessment. History professor Ellen Schrecker is one of several faculty members protesting at the event and working with activist groups to ensure all runs smoothly. "I've been working with the New York Civil Liberties Union for the past few months in order to ensure that the protests surrounding the RNC are peaceful and that the men and women who plan to exercise their First Amendment right of free speech and assembly will be able to do so without unnecessary repression," said Schrecker.

In fact Schrecker believes that the City of New York poses the greatest threat to security. "The main problem at the moment is that the City of New York has been confrontational in the extreme and has refused to cooperate with the organizers of the demonstrations," she explained. Rather than the protestors posing a risk to order and security, she thinks that it's "perhaps more probable, given what has happened at previous demonstrations in New York City -- that nervous public safety officials will overreact and use unnecessary violence against peaceful demonstrators."

With an event of such political magnitude just blocks away from the Beren Campus, security and safety are major concerns. On a higher state of alert, SCW security, following the New York



Peer Advisors ease new students into SCW

Police Department (NYPD), have increased patrol coverage and enhanced operational security. Without exposing too much information, NYC police commissioner Raymond W. Kelly met with YU staff to inform them of the extra precautions being taken. Kelly reassured the administration that safety and security measures are rigorously being enforced to protect and accommodate SCW students, NYC citizens and the 250,000 delegates, media personnel and tourists the event is expected to draw.

"There is a wonderful cooperative relationship between YU security and the NYPD," remarked YU Chief of Security Donald Summers. "A lot of planning was put into place to facilitate both events, so everyone should feel safe and comfortable."

For SCW administrators, the presence of the RNC magnified the usual challenge of easing new students into the 2004-2005 year, causing increased public security, closed streets and bridges, and an escalation of human bodies in an already overpopulated city. Faculty and staff had to deal with traffic, security issues and housing complications all while entertaining incoming students.

Consequently, numerous precautionary measures were taken to keep complications to a minimum. In order to alleviate the predicted traffic congestion on the Beren Campus, a result of multiple closed streets around Madison Square Garden, where the Convention is taking place, extra time was allotted to students to drop off their belongings.

The Office of Residence Life granted students the option of early luggage drop-off from 10:00am-4:00pm Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, and one extra hour had been designated for Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, the first day of ori-

entation.

In addition, students had the option of using Collegeboxes' Ship-to-School service, giving them the option of shipping boxes from their homes straight to their dorm rooms - an advantage especially beneficial to out-of-town students who did not have the luxury of driving into Midtown on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"Early and alternate times for dropping off luggage were arranged because the orientation committee, including students and administrators, felt [they] were needed in order to ease arrival for students at the beginning of the semester," Braun commented.

In the event that luggage could not be delivered to the correct dorms, luggage tags, labeled with the owner's name and dormitory assignment, were provided to ensure later drop-off.

Despite all the chaos, organizers arranged stimulating social gatherings and relaxing events for students to enjoy. A meet-n-greet BBQ, a trip to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in Times Square, workshops on how to choose a major and create a schedule, a ballgame at Yankee Stadium and the infamous boat cruise are all included in the exciting orientation week.

However, due to the re-routing of buses and the vehicular closure of West 32nd between 6th and 7th Avenue and West 31st to West 33rd from 6th to 9th Avenues, events such as the boat cruise were switched to different days to avoid traffic congestion.

While SCW attempts to prepare for another successful school year, the RNC posed some difficulties that could have hindered a warm and welcoming introduction to new and former students. But with a confident, prepared staff, and patient, enthusiastic students, orientation successfully provided new undergraduates with an enjoy-

## Rick Annis, New CFO

continued from back page

pared this concept with medical organizations. "[With Yeshiva,] I must figure out how to get money and finances for activities," explained Annis, "With healthcare, you must figure out how to get money for very expensive medicines and treatments."

His work often involved financial overhauls of institutions like St. Joseph's Healthcare System, Inc. in Patterson, New Jersey and the North Shore Long Island Jewish Health System in Great Neck, NY. In these places and others, he helped bring in hundreds of millions of dollars and managed finances to put the establishments back on their feet, causing Annis to move every three to five years to save another failing healthcare facility.

When administrators first restructured the departments of business affairs last August, and began the search for a new CFO, the recruitment team expected to announce a successor by January. While Annis preferred not to disclose how long ago recruiters approached him, he described the time as "awhile."

President Joel attributes the long wait to a desire for the perfect individual and the stabilization of Yeshiva's financial situation.

"The goal was not to act with speed but to act effectively," he said. "We weren't in a crisis situation."

The university also has many variables that hindered the search. "We have a lot of things about us that make us distinctive," Joel explained. "[Yeshiva

is] an urban school, there are multiple campuses, it's a big research university with a medical school, a Jewish university that has portions that are culturally different than others, and there's a new president."

Annis echoed the President's remarks and added that all of these components furthered his interest in being part of the school. "They gave me a lot of time to see the university and I fell in love with what I saw," he said.

Although Joel mentioned that Annis would have a lot to learn having never worked for a university, his concerns did not run deep. "With Yeshiva University, there would have been a steep learning curve for anyone," he commented.

Annis will join Vice President for University Life Hillel Davis and Vice President for Academic Affairs Morton Lowengrub, both heavily involved in the search, creating a triumvirate at the top of the Joel administration and rounding out the President's cabinet.

"As Yeshiva goes to its next stage, a part of the culture that we want to build is to empower the school through deans and lay leadership to take charge of their own destiny," Joel said. "I need[ed] someone to be very concerned in how we are proper and prudent in how we expend our resources but someone who will also look forward to our destination."

Annis seemed committed to fulfilling this role. "This isn't a job, it's a life," he said. "And that's what I'm looking for."

## Mental Health Center

continued from page 1

finalizing a deal with an administrator from another New York City university. He is a YC graduate who has been involved with special Yeshiva projects in the past. "He's worked with us as a consultant for the last 15 years, and is a member of the mental health advisory board for the university," remarked Nulman. "We didn't anticipate we'd be lucky enough to have him."

"He's terrific," agreed YU President Richard M. Joel. "He'll use students from Ferkauf and Einstein."

The director will be joined by affiliates from AECOM, Ferkauf and Wurzweiler graduate schools, who will staff the centers, as well as current counseling staff who will move their offices into the center. The centers will service all Yeshiva members from high school to graduate students.

Previously, students requiring advanced mental care were referred to private clinicians off campus. The new centers will offer the full array of care in one facility. Since such progressive treatment will be offered on campus, patient confidentiality remains a top concern for project

supervisors.

To that end, administrators eagerly appreciate student input to help finalize plans for the three centers. Issues of discreet location, exact operation and staff will be discussed with students. For the SCW center, a tentative area has been suggested in the newly renovated Schottenstein Cultural Center.

SCW students involved in peer counseling embraced the idea. "I think that Stern has done a great job providing student outlets for people-peer counseling, RA's and contact with Mrs. Braun and the deans," remarked SCW senior Michal Safier, co-chair of the Peer Counseling Program. "But I think that a center of professionals available to students will make a lot of people more comfortable and provide a great outlet for students."

Additionally, Both Nulman and Braun thanked the Yeshiva administration for supporting this innovative project. "President Joel and Vice President Davis supported this since the day they came here," explained Nulman. Hopefully, the centers will provide thorough care to Yeshiva students, and echo Joel's vision of focusing on student welfare.

The Observer wishes a hearty Mazal Tov to Shoshi Butler on her recent engagement

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## Enrollment of French Students Doubles

By Eliana Balk

This year, YC and SCW welcome 40 French men and women, twice the amount of French students who attended Yeshiva last year. The significant rise is partly due to the spike in anti-Semitism in Europe.

"It's very hard to be a quiet Jew in France right now," Yonathan Arfi, 24, president of UEJF, told the Jewish Week last month. "We're always asked to explain why we are Jews, why we support what Israel does and what Zionism is. It's like we have to defend Israel every 10 minutes."

Interest in attending American universities is becoming a necessity as anti-Semitism continues to rise throughout Paris. According to Interior Ministry statistics, 135 acts of violence were committed against Jews in 2004, and judging by the recent demolition of a Jewish center in Paris, such perpetrations show no sign of subsiding.

University life in France is no exception. Students not only have to defend their religious and political views but they are essentially forced to compromise them, or fail. "You have lessons and exams on Shabbat and the Jewish holidays, and you have to negotiate with your professors all the time," Arfi said.

When professors are unrelenting, Jewish students in France have to choose between religion and academics, Danny Morris, Yeshiva's associate director of admissions, told the Jewish Week. "These constraints make it difficult for them to finish their studies in France," he explained.

In response to the steep rise in applications from French students, Morris and Associate Dean of Stern College Ethel Orlian traveled to France this past July to meet with educational and community leaders, journalists, parents and prospective students.

Interest in Yeshiva was overwhelming. Parents and students traveled many miles to apply for the fall semester, and to listen to currently enrolled French stu-

dents share their experiences of Yeshiva life, they said.

One of those students, Isaac Barchichat, has been largely responsible for the renewed interest in Yeshiva. Barchichat, sensing the imminent need for alternative options to French universities, organized an open-house symposium last January to garner interest in his alma mater and has served as emissary of the French community since then.

Yeshiva staff will continue to answer the unique needs of French students by providing access to a Paris-based English language tutor as well as special ESL courses. In addition, the university will be sponsoring a series of lectures, trips and Shabbatonim to help international students adjust to life in the United States and New York at large and within the Yeshiva community specifically.

Those with skills not up to par for admission this semester are currently enrolled in English immersion programs and hope to apply for admission this winter.

This means that more French students may be joining YC and SCW very soon, continuing and contributing to its diversity. In SCW, where spouts of French can already be heard in the elevators and across the cafeteria from students hailing from France, Canada and Morocco.

"It is sad that these students have to leave their homes under such circumstances," said SCW sophomore Tova Holowinko. "But it is also a great opportunity to band together with Jewish youth of a different nationality and acknowledge our shared belief system."

"YU offers something that colleges in France cannot provide to Jewish students," Hillel Davis, PhD, vice president for university affairs told Yeshiva staff. "They want a top-notch education in addition to an array of Jewish learning unequalled anywhere in the world. Only Yeshiva University can fill that need."

## Pay for Printing Resolved

continued from page 1

SCW Student Council President Molly Fink called the proposal, which will take effect in September of this school year, "a reasonable solution."

At the time of the initial proposal last May, students were allowed to print 500 pages per semester without paying a penny, resulting in excessive waste and high costs according to administrators. SCW TAC President Aliza Abrams expressed an attitude widespread among the student body regarding the first pay-for-printing proposal. "We are already paying so much in tuition," she said pointedly. "We should not be charged for printing out school assignments."

Another student told The Observer last year that it would be "highly unfair" to force students to pay for printing. "It seems almost unethical to compel students to pay for something they have to do regularly for class," she said.

The Student Life Committee Meeting last spring offered students and faculty the opportunity to voice their frustrations and apprehensions while hearing the side of the other party. Berger and Sullivan expressed concern about a general increase in the volume of printing on campus that would only grow with the addition of computer applications. Printing costs have increased, along with the amount of wasted paper produced each day.

"Free printing results in an enormous waste of paper, an environmental as well as financial concern, with hundreds of printed pages abandoned at the printers daily and subsequently discarded by staff," they wrote in another statement to student leaders.

They also maintained that it is general practice in academic



institutions to charge for printing. However, this was not true of most schools in the New York area.

The suggestion that lowering the threshold would take care of the problem was dismissed by the administration. They alleged that creating the threshold was originally intended to prevent the printing of thousands of pages by a few select students. With the increase of electronic resources, however, more and more students began taking advantage of their allowance, resulting in a carefree attitude toward printing in school facilities.

The administration rejected the idea of paying a flat fee for printing included in tuition, feeling that such a policy would be unfair to students who do not use printing facilities frequently.

Nevertheless, feedback from the meeting was extremely positive. Fink, who attended, said Berger was very cooperative with the students.

"[She] seemed really concerned," Fink remarked. "Out of everyone there she was truly willing to work with us."

Berger similarly reflected that the meeting was a constructive forum and "a worthwhile exchange of ideas...[that] con-

tributed quite significantly to the plan that emerged." Negotiations between students, the Academic Computing Office, and the Libraries had begun, and by July, the proposal was revealed.

"By means of the system being introduced, a combination of free and paid for printing, we are addressing student concerns as well as the issues of ever increasing costs and waste," Berger and Sullivan wrote.

For the many students who will never reach a 200 page threshold, they still may have to contribute some funds if they print from their laptops in some of the new wireless zones or from YULIS PCs. Both operations will be on a pay-for-print basis.

The wireless network is just one of the many technological advances on campus. For example, students are now able to read and print material from the library reserve straight from their dorm rooms or at home with the university's new Electronic Reserve System. "Upgrades to computer and library services are ongoing," Berger commented.

## New YU Chairman: Morry Weiss

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and we believe Yeshiva University best reflects those values," Weiss remarked. "Also I think the heart of Yeshiva University is its undergraduate schools. It makes an incredible contribution to observant Jewish life both in American and in Israel."

However, Weiss is certainly a qualified businessman, having served as CEO and chairman of American Greetings, a two billion dollar company engaged in the creation and manufacture of greeting cards and related products. The company's net worth doubled under Weiss's leadership and currently employs approximately 22,000 people. He recently retired as CEO of the

company but retains his position as Chairman of the Board.

In some ways, Weiss feels that his new role at YU is not that different from the one he had at American Greetings. "The experiences in many respects are similar in that you are responsible for many financial aspects of an institution and those responsibilities are very similar from business to business," explained Weiss.

However, he acknowledges some aspects of his position are distinctly new for him. "What is different is the commitment to grow and make sure we prosper in Yeshiva University and make sure we expand and enhance," he said. "This stems from my commitment to Judaism and Modern

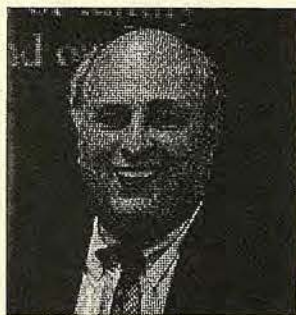
Orthodoxy."

Weiss was born in Czechoslovakia and raised in Detroit, Michigan where he attended Wayne State University and later Case Western Reserve University in Detroit studying business and economics.

His four sons hold executive leadership positions in the American Greetings Corporation. Among his many achievements is being featured in Forbes' America's Most Powerful Men. He is also involved in United Way Services, United Jewish Appeal, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.



YU Appoints Professor of Education and Psychology



David Pelcovitz, author and nationally recognized authority on parenting, adolescent development and other child-related issues, has joined the faculty of YU's Azraeli Graduate School of Jewish Education. In announcing the appointment, YU President Richard M. Joel said Pelcovitz will assume the post of professor of education and psychology and will teach graduate courses on developmental

psychology and psycho-social issues in the Jewish community. He currently teaches pastoral counseling and family education courses at the Bella and Harry Wexner Kollel Elyon and Semikha Honors Program at the university's affiliated RIETS. Pelcovitz will also serve as special assistant to the president on issues important to the Jewish community.

Henry Kressel Elected to Board of Directors of SSSB

Henry Kressel, a managing director of the venture capital management firm Warburg Picus LLC, was elected to the Board of Directors of SSSB. He joins a prestigious group of business, civic and philanthropic leaders on the board of the undergraduate college of business. Kressel, a magna cum laude graduate of YC, earned his MA degree from Harvard University, his MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and his PhD in engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. Before becoming a venture capitalist, he was vice president at RCA Corporation, responsible for research and development of electronic and optical devices. His accomplishments include pioneering semiconductor lasers, the key devices enabling optical communications and many consumer products, such as DVD players.

YU Senior Receives Award at Business Competition

Great Neck native Reuben Kerben, a senior at SSSB, received an honorable mention and \$100 for his business plan at the Palo Alto Software 2004 Business Plan Competition. Kerben presented his plan for his venture company Bionex Corp., which seeks to provide cutting-edge fingerprint recognition technology for credit card purchases. He is currently collaborating with several banks and credit card issuers across the U.S. to bring the biometric credit card to fruition. "The fact that I received an honorable mention from Palo Alto is a personal milestone," he said. "It sends a clear message to me and to my classmates at Sy Syms that the institution and professors really prepare students for writing an exceptional and award-winning business plan." Palo Alto Software develops and markets business planning software. Contestants in its business plan competition are judged by business planning experts on various criteria, including management strengths, nature of the business case, business strategy and competitive analysis.

UNIVERSITY BRIEFS

YU Music School Publishes Journal

Volume 26 of the Journal of Jewish Music and Liturgy has been published and is available for purchase, announced Cantor Bernard Beer, director of the Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music. Both religious and secular scholars and musicologists worldwide consider the publication, edited by Macy Nulman, former Belz School director, as one of the few qualitative works on Jewish music and liturgy. The current issue includes the following articles: "Psalm Nineteen: Its Coherence and Message" and "The Interrelation of Nature and Torah in Jewish Liturgy and Thought," by Rabbi Dr. Zvi A. Yehuda; "The Potentially Transformational and Special Role of the Music Teacher as Life Coach," by Shoshana Auerbach; "Commentary Yakhin Halashon on Siddur Avodat Yisrael - Part two," by Rabbi Dr. Menachem Raab; and "The Voice of Jerusalem and Zion in Our Daily Prayer Service," by Macy Nulman.

Biology Club Speaker

The Biology Club will be hosting Rabbi Natan Slifkin on Wednesday, October 15. Slifkin works at the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem.

A few years ago, Slifkin began teaching about the relationship between animals and Judaism at the Tisch Family Zoological Gardens in Jerusalem, better known as the Biblical Zoo, because of his lifelong interest in both these areas. As a result, he developed the "Zoo Torah Program," an educational enterprise that synthesizes the concepts of Torah and zoology.

At the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem, animals from around the world are displayed, although those mentioned in the Torah are emphasized, with placards citing passages throughout the Tanach referring to the given animal. This was the extent of the "Biblical" Zoo's "biblical" element. That is, until Slifkin came along.

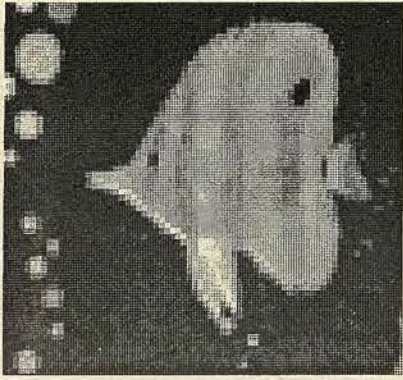
When he told friends, family and teachers that he wanted to work in a zoo when he grew up, they would laugh. "People said 'that's ridiculous'," Slifkin quips. "Good Jewish boys grew up to be doctors, lawyers or accountants, not zookeepers."

Since the development of his unique program, Slifkin has been featured on numerous TV and radio programs and has been published in many newspapers and journals in the US and abroad. His "Zoo Torah" program was developed at the Biblical Zoo, and also operates occasionally at zoos worldwide - Slifkin has been a visiting lecturer in Detroit, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Phoenix and San Diego.

Slifkin's interest in wildlife led him to Israel where he currently resides with his wife, Avital, daughter Tikva and, as you might have guessed, quite a few pets that include but are certainly not limited to rabbits, guinea pigs, parakeets, quails and fish. Slifkin has written a number of books including "In Noah's Footsteps: Biblical Perspectives on the Zoo" (The Tisch Family Zoological Gardens 2000) and "The Science of Torah: The Reflection of Torah in the Laws of Science, the Creation of the Universe, and the Development of Life" (Targum Press 2001).

The Observer welcomes SCW's new faculty members:

- Odelia Cohen, instructor of Hebrew
- Bryan Daves, assistant professor of political science
- Hilla Goldwicht, instructor of Hebrew language
- Ronit Levy, visiting assistant professor of Hebrew language
- Nachama Price, instructor of Jewish studies
- Esther Scheiner, instructor of education
- Binyamin Tabory, instructor of Jewish studies



# A Student's Guide to



By Orlee Levin

To many students, it is overwhelming starting college and not knowing where to turn when you have a question or problem. In light of this, SCW offers a variety of services intended to make the college experience a smoother ride.

#### Office of Student Health Services

The Office of Student Health Services (OSHS) is just one of the many resources that SCW provides for its students. Run by a physician's assistant and overseen by a physician, it is intended for the treatment of episodic illnesses and minor injuries on campus. The OSHS on the Beren campus is associated with the Beth Israel hospital, ensuring that students receive the best care possible. The OSHS is designed to deal with minor medical needs, such as writing a refill for a prescription. If more care is necessary, the physician's assistant or physician can advise students about a particular specialist or a hospital off campus.

If a student incurs an injury that requires outside care, the student herself is required to cover the cost of the care. Students shouldn't mistakenly believe that the OSHS is intended to replace all medical services.

The OSHS is located in

Brookdale Hall room 2B. It is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 12 noon, and then from 1 pm to 4:30 pm; on Fridays the hours are from 8:30 am to 12 noon, and then 1 pm to 2 pm. Students should feel free to drop in at the office for appointments or alternatively they can call ahead; 212-340-7792.

#### The Office of Career Services (OCS)

The Office of Career Services is another student service found in Stern, which boasts specialized staff, listed above, available to help students.

The OCS is designed to help all students, not just those who are seeking jobs. "The OCS offers a full range of career counseling and job search services to students including resume referral, job books and postings, internship development, resume preparation, interviewing strategies, career forums, majors and career counseling, vocational testing, career resource library, graduate school applications and help with the applications" explains Associate Director of Office of Placement and Career Services Naomi Kapp.

Over the years the OCS has seen a lot of development and change. The OCS began in 1987 when SCW hired an outside agency on contract to offer one day of career services. The following year Yeshiva hired that

person twice a week, one day a week for the Wilf campus and one day a week for the Beren campus. For three years career services were offered only on a part-time basis for liberal arts and science students. Then approximately ten years ago the OCS merged with the SSSB Placement Office to form a unified Office of Career Placement and Services. Recently, the office changed its name from the Office of Career Placement and Services to the Office of Career Services, and works with all undergraduate students providing a variety of services, explained Kapp.

The OCS is looking forward to hosting workshops over the course of the year to aid students including a workshop on September 22<sup>nd</sup> entitled, "How to be Successful in Landing a Job" as well as an interview workshop on October 20<sup>th</sup> and career week at the beginning of November.

Each student should take advantage of the services offered by the OCS. Approximately seventy-percent of the student body takes advantage of the services offered, and the office is always looking for more students to aid. Students can set up a meeting by calling, emailing or just dropping by. Students can also take advantage of the OCS website, [www.yu.edu/stern/opcs](http://www.yu.edu/stern/opcs).

The office is open Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm and Fridays 9:00 am- 2:30 pm.

#### Finance

Arthur Bieber  
[Bieber@yu.edu](mailto:Bieber@yu.edu)  
(917) 326 4844

#### Accounting

Ira Jaskoll  
[jaskoll@yu.edu](mailto:jaskoll@yu.edu)  
(917) 326 4840

#### MIS/Management and Marketing

Leah Stromer  
[stromer@yu.edu](mailto:stromer@yu.edu)  
(917) 326 4845

#### Academic Advisement

Academic Advisement, located in the dean's office, helps students with a variety of academic issues. Four advisors are available from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and students are invited to drop in, call for an appointment, email ([scwadvisement@yu.edu](mailto:scwadvisement@yu.edu)) or take advantage of the services offered on the website ([www.yu.edu/stern/advisors](http://www.yu.edu/stern/advisors)). Some services offered on the website include major/minor fact sheets, degree requirements, a list of important dates and techniques for calculating your GPA.

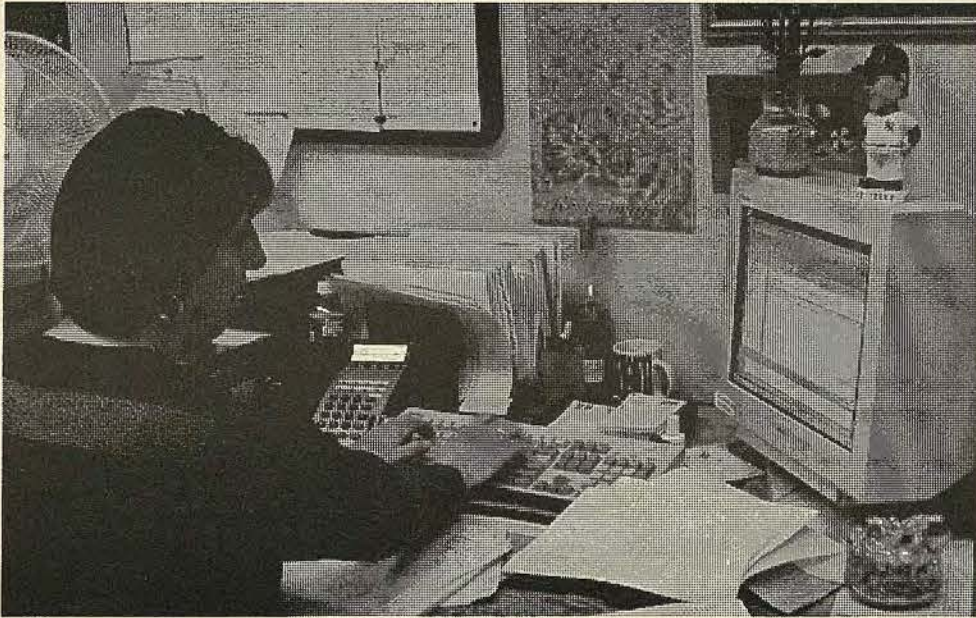
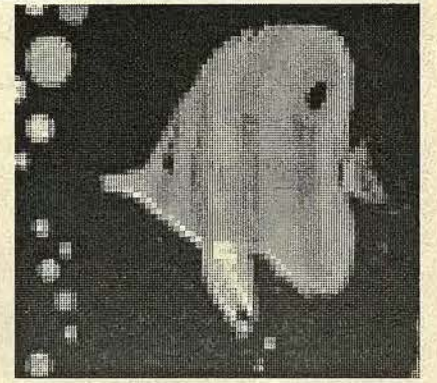
Students are encouraged to choose the academic advisor whom they feel most comfortable working with, and a student may see a different advisor each time she requires assis-

tance.

"Students should come in any time, with any questions," says Academic Advisor Miriam Schechter. "Often students assume that they can only come in at certain times. Students should come in at any time with any academic questions." Academic advisors also help students review schedules, help make schedules and help students maximize their academic opportunities on campus. Advisors view each student's situation as unique and can help develop a solution appropriate for that individual's academic issue. "I found that by talking with an academic advisor I was able to create a schedule that balanced my course load and fulfilled requirements," says one student.

Schechter suggests that in order to best take advantage of the services offered by Academic Advisement, students should come in prepared with questions and information that advisors need, for instance a transcript. "The more focused a student is in a meeting, the better we are able to target the exact problem that she seeks our help with", says Schechter.

Academic advisors are continually seeking ways to better aid the student body. They work together discussing issues, which students have raised, to determine whether it is a com-



mon issue that needs to be addressed in a more preemptive way. A new development for the coming year is a transcript form designed for students who have just returned from Israel. (This is the result of the collective efforts of the registrar, Dean's Office and Academic Advisement) The form helps the student break down her Israel credits in an easily understandable way and shows which core requirements she has already fulfilled and which she still has to fulfill.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in room 1018 in the 245 Lexington building, is another service that the school offers students. Overseen by Joy Surles, the Writing Center is a program that pairs students with peer advisors who help them with essays, resumes and fiction. Peer advisors are trained to help students target their problem areas. "When I first came to Stern, one of the first things I did was institute a rigorous ongoing training program for tutors so that the service that students receive would be the same across the board, regardless of which tutor she is working with," said Surles. The first stage in training is a two to four week course, and then the tutor observes a tutorial session. The tutor's first

few sessions are observed, and then the tutor is "released onto the masses" as Surles puts it.

"The Writing Center isn't just for 'bad' writers" stresses Surles, and the thought is echoed by Ariella Goldstein, one of the tutors. "The center is designed to help all writers, it's always helpful to have feedback," says Goldstein. The Writing Center is designed to help students at any stage of the writing process- understanding an assignment, brainstorming ideas, editing a paper. Many English majors and former editors of The Observer have used the writing center consistently for feedback on their work.

The Writing Center can also help with reading comprehension. "I always recommend that tutors find the tutee's passion," said Surles. "If it's a passionate hate for the story, then work from there. Sometimes it helps just to have someone to discuss the reading with."

Currently, tutors are providing the most help to English as a Second Language students. In addition, there is a staff member from the English department working in conjunction with the Writing Center to develop more programs to benefit the ESL students.

The Writing Center periodically hosts work-

shops when tutors find that there is a common writing issue they are continually confronting. For students who enjoy writing fiction and poetry, even when not a class assignment, and are interested in feedback, the Writing Center every so often hosts a Writers' Circle for students to read and discuss their writing with peers.

For students interested in more formal help from the Writing Center, tutors weekly one hour tutoring sessions. Students are welcome to drop in any time at any point in an assignment, even if it's twenty minutes before the assignment is due. One of the exciting new advances that the Writing Center has made for the coming year is to be more "cyber". On the SCW Writing Center website [www.yu.edu/stern/writingcenter](http://www.yu.edu/stern/writingcenter) students can access online tutoring where they can email in papers and receive a response within twenty-four hours.

In order to set up an appointment with the Writing Center students can drop by the Writing Center, call 212-340-7775, email [scwwriting@yu.edu](mailto:scwwriting@yu.edu), or sign up online [www.yu.edu/stern/writingcenter](http://www.yu.edu/stern/writingcenter). Tutors are available to students from 9 am-6 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Counseling Services

The transition into college can be extremely difficult, leaving home, facing the stresses of living in New York City, dealing with roommates, dealing with the stress of being in college and dating. SCW offers counseling to help make the transition a smoother one. Highly trained staff members are available to listen to students.

Dean Zelda Braun encourages students to come in and talk. "We reach out to a large number of students but there are always a grouping of students we don't reach," says Braun. "We hope that students on campus in general will build relationships with our staff before they need help with larger issues." Braun explains that one of the benefits of having so many people on staff is that each student can find the staff member that she is most comfortable working with. Each counselor has a different personality and a different life outlook so that students have the opportunity to find the counselor they best click with.

Although their offices are always bustling with students, Braun says, "We're not busy enough." The counselors are always interested in listening to students' problems and students are always welcome to just pop in and talk.

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# New Caf to Open at 215 Lexington Ave



215 Lexington Avenue

continued from back page

love a variety of salads will feel comfortable, and the sushi bar will be staffed in a way that will put many other ones to shame," he claimed. "There will be people rolling and cutting right in front of your eyes."

Student needs, traffic and wishes will dictate the hours of operation for the cafeteria. Preliminary hours will most likely be centered around lunch and dinner, after which administrators will monitor the situation and make neces-

sary changes.

But even when food services are closed, the room itself will be set up so that other options are available. The new dining space will offer lounge, study and entertainment areas for much of the day. In addition to the brand new televisions, a movie screen and PA system were installed in the room for those who may wish to hold small events there. And for those who can't get enough of their computers, the room will accommodate wireless internet use. Rosengarten commented that that the goal was to create a "comfortable environment... combining the need to have some nice, more modern space for lounging but also some different sort of space to eat."

The naming of the Beren Campus last year brought

many new projects to the midtown area. With the new cafeteria come renovations of the Schottenstein Cultural Center on 34<sup>th</sup> Street between Lexington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenues, including space for student and administrative offices - some of which have only previously been housed on the Wilf Campus. The presence of such offices, such as Public Relations, in the campus, may lend a new atmosphere to the SCW campus, a first step to unifying the scattered buildings that belong to the school. They are part of an intended beautification plan that may eventually involve updating the main school building along the same lines as the sleek, more contemporary designs of the 215 building.

"[President] Richard Joel has an agenda for the university," Rosengarten stated. "That ranges from academic programs, which are primarily a focus, to student comfort. We want to make it a place where people say, 'I want to go there; I want to be there.'"

According to SCW Student Council President Molly Fink, the students will determine if these goals were successful. "I think that two weeks into school we will know whether this caf was a hit or miss," she said. "The school has invested time, money and energy. The school has done its part - the only miss would be the students. [We'll see] how the students respond."

## Yeshiva Travels the World

By Melodie Balarsky

Over the past summer, Yeshiva offered unique summer courses abroad including a marine biology course in Maine, archeology/ecology exploration in Israel and a literature course in England and Ireland.

From May 31 to June 13, SCW students completed a hands-on marine biology course, held in New York City and Walpole, Maine. "Students had the opportunity to gain insights into the field of marine biology through their own observations and research," explained SCW biology and education professor Dr. Joseph DeSantis, who headed the summer program.

The week began with a series of lectures given by Dr. DeSantis at the Israel Henry Beren Campus, including a trip to the New York Aquarium. The lessons enabled the women to familiarize themselves with the terminology of animal and algae life forms they would encounter in a marine environment.

The second week of the program was spent analyzing organisms at the Darling Marine Center (DMC) in Walpole, Maine. Students searched for specimens at the Intertidal Zone, a place where the highest and lowest tides reach the shoreline in any given month. They observed the effects of environmental influences, such as the amount of wave motion, on the types of animal and algae species present in the area. Students also collected specimens in the mudflat, a stretch of deep muddy land left uncovered at low tide. They went dredging in the Damariscotta River, which feeds into the Atlantic Ocean off Maine, examining shrimp, sea stars, sponges and mussels. "I had no idea how amazing the ocean was and how many assorted life forms live there,"

remarked SCW junior Sara Weinerman. "At first the mudflats looked like one big swamp. However, after a lot of digging we learned that there are several sections of a mudflat each containing unique organisms."

"The staff of DMC was extremely impressed with our Stern students' excellent work ethic. Dressed in regulation long skirts and tops the students were splashed by waves, bespattered with mud and tossed aboard ship," exclaimed DeSantis. "However, they did not allow their garb to interfere with their studies. The marine center personnel enjoyed working with our enthusiastic women and is looking forward to future trips by SCW faculty and students."

Across the world, from July 6 to August 6 three SCW and nine YC students joined over 100 international students and professors to participate in an archeological dig in Zafit, the biblical city of Gat and hometown of Goliath. While excavating Zafit, participants hoped to enhance their knowledge of the Philistine culture. The summer course also incorporated ecology into the program. "I was interested in taking summer credits but the prospect of sitting in a classroom all summer did not appeal to me so this seemed like a perfect fit," stated SCW junior Sarah Rindner.

In Zafit, an Arab village and cemetery until 1948, excavators had a difficult time sorting the debris in order to reach the deeper layer of ground. Some students dug on the acropolis while others explored a trench around the city. Frequently, elite residences such as houses of worship are expected to be found on the high part of a city or slopes. However, excavators did not find items such as cookware, which typically signify a domestic living area. Instead, program participants encountered olive oil presses and

textiles suggesting that the slopes were an industrial area of the city.

Around 800 B.C.E., Hazael of Damascus invaded and destroyed Zafit. Excavators of the trench found a berm (dirt pile), which prohibited villagers from escaping the city and small figurines, which represent ritual activity.

Through their explorations, students and professors learned a great deal about Philistine culture. According to YC adjunct and program organizer Dr. Jill Katz, the Philistines were able to maintain their distinct material culture for the first 200 years they resided in Israel. However as time progressed the Philistines no longer had distinct urban layouts and material culture. Instead, they acculturated and began to adopt characteristics common to the land of Israel, including paleo-Hebrew writing.

After excavating, Yeshiva undergraduates attended lectures and participated in field trips. Students visited Old Stone Age sites, Revadim and Latrun, the battle location of many wars between Israel and Philistine. Program participants crawled through Bar-Kochba's caves at Midras and visited the elaborate tombs at the Idumean city of Maresha.

YC professor Dr. Vincent Chiappetta headed the ecological studies incorporated into the program. To fulfill the environmental science component of the course, students were instructed to study the native plants and trees of the region. Visiting Ein Gedi, touring the Dead Sea area and bird watching in the Negev emphasized and highlighted ecology lectures.

"It was a terrific experience. I learned a lot about Biblical Archaeology, Israel and about myself," exclaimed Rindner. "The actual digging was very challeng-

ing, and honestly a little boring at times, but field trips and lectures made it educationally well-rounded."

Eleven YC students traveled to London and Dublin from June 22 to July 5 to enhance their understanding and cultural knowledge of the cities. This was the first traveling honors English course offered at YC. The program was initiated by Dean Adler, who later commissioned full time lecturer Dr. Gillian Steinberg to prepare the lesson plans and arrange the trip. "Dean Adler is very committed to offering our students new opportunities for learning and exploration, and he really made this program happen through his dedication to our students' academic growth," said Dr. Steinberg. English professor and Director of the Honors Program, Dr. Will Lee, and rabbinical student Dani Rockoff also participated in the course.

Subsidized by YC, the tour was only offered to YC students. The trip commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blooms Day, June 16, the day that James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" takes place.

Learning Torah daily with the men, Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt, who holds a doctorate in Joyce studies, also accompanied students on the trip. "I feel that we came not only to see two great world cities, but to show solidarity and friendship with the Jews who live there," stated YC senior Yechiel Robinson. "Rabbi Rosenblatt, a man of many colors, delivered speeches at *Seudah Shlishit* to both communities. He also taught passages from James Joyce, a central figure in Dublin's cultural history."

For the first three weeks, Dr. Steinberg taught two courses at the Wilf Campus. "Understanding the City" analyzed different literary concepts, from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the

1930s, explaining the philosophical visualization of London and Dublin. The second course, "Creative Writing," enabled students to enhance their fiction and poetry skills. "We had a really good group of guys, a real mix of backgrounds and viewpoints. It made for interesting class discussions," remarked YC senior Oren Litwin. The last two weeks were spent overseas traveling London and Dublin. Upon successful completion of the courses students received six honors credits.

While in London students had the opportunity to visit the National Gallery and see a Renaissance style production of Romeo and Juliet. The play was performed exactly how it would have been presented during Shakespearean times, without microphones, fancy lighting or female actresses. Trip participants also toured the Jewish east end of London. In Dublin students had the opportunity to tour the Guinness Factory, visit the National Museum of Ireland - Museum of Archaeology and History, and visit important sites that are found in James Joyce's "Ulysses," such as O'Connell Bridge and Nelson's Pillar.

"Although we all suffered from 'museum burnout' by the end of trip, we saw a great deal of beautiful art at the various museums," explained Litwin. "It gave me a better appreciation for the aesthetic in all things. Exploring the cities really helped enhance my knowledge of the material I learned in class. I had an amazing experience and recommend the trip to anyone who wants a deeper understanding of literature than words on a page."

Whether searching for marine specimens, digging in Israel or traveling throughout London and Dublin, Yeshiva offered diverse, educational summer options to enhance students' learning experiences.

## Strange But True: Mosquito Mania

By Shevie Moskowitz

To itch, or not to itch? Summertime is full of outdoor activities, like biking, jogging and barbecues. But along with the high temperatures, warm summer breezes and long summer nights, come many visitors: namely, the Anopheles. No, the Anopheles are not a large family visiting from Greece or Italy, as their Latin-sounding name may imply, but rather, the "generic name" for a genus of insects better known to most individuals as mosquitoes.

When a female mosquito "bites," or pierces someone's skin with her needle-like mouthpart, she injects her saliva subcutaneously. This saliva is filled with digestive enzymes and anticoagulants. The first time an individual is exposed to these foreign bodies by being bitten, no reaction occurs. However, subsequent bites stimulate an inflammatory response, since the person has now become sensitized to the foreign proteins. As a result, a round, pale red bump or "wheal" forms atop the skin. This bump will eventually go away, as will the desire to itch.

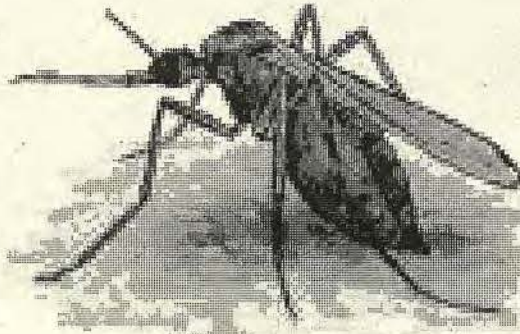
In addition to minor itching, mosquitoes can also have more

deleterious effects and cause serious illness. The symptoms of malaria, a mosquito-borne protozoan disease affecting more than 1 billion people annually, include fever spikes, chills, headaches and generalized weakness. Also common are nausea, vomiting and orthostatic hypertension. The infection may also cause anemia and jaundice due to hemolysis (damage to red blood cells). Yellow fever is another disease transmitted to humans by mosquito vectors. A hemorrhagic fever, it is accompanied by prominent necrosis of the liver. Jaundice, inability to urinate, and delirium occur, possibly due to extensive hepatic involvement; kidney failure usually ensues.

Another disease, West Nile Virus, is viral encephalitis which appeared in the US first in 1999, predominantly in New York City, resulting in dozens of deaths. In 2003, West Nile virus was responsible for one of the largest viral encephalitis epidemics in American history, with a majority of the cases occurring within the state of Colorado.

Picture this: physicians from the Departments of Medicine (divisions of General Medicine

and Infectious Diseases) and Pathology reported a very interesting case recently in the New England Journal of Medicine. In November 2002, a 57-year-old woman with rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes presented with a six-week history of fatigue, muscle and joint pain, weakness and fever. After weeks of pain, she was barely able to get out of bed



in the morning. She was HIV-negative, and had never received an organ transplant, leading doctors to conclude that she was not immuno-compromised. As a diagnostician, such symptoms in a normal, middle-aged woman can indicate dozens upon dozens of illnesses - for starters, anything from a regular case of the flu to TB to lymphoma - the list goes on and on.

A muscle-biopsy specimen from the left anterior thigh con-

tained a strain of protozoa that is not often seen in humans. PCR (a technique used to copy a part of DNA in order to produce enough DNA to test for the presence of a certain viral or bacterial strain) confirmed the results of the biopsy. She was immediately placed on a number of antimicrobial agents in order to treat her infection. Her pain over the next few weeks increased dramatically. The pain was so debilitating, she could not move. Following four weeks of hospitalization, she succumbed to the infection.

The causative agent of the infection was identified as *brachiola algerae*. It was found to have infected her muscles and other tissues, causing the infection and her terrible pain. What is strange though, is that *b. algerae* is generally thought to infect insects and amphibians. It is very rare in mammals, and when it does cause illness in humans, the infection has always been very mild, such as eye infections that rapidly clear up upon administration of antimicrobial agents. In fact, since it can cause such terrible disease in insects, it has

been investigated in the past few years for use as a pesticide. It is also interesting to note that *b. algerae* did not cause infection in laboratory experiments on mice unless injected deep beneath the skin, as it can only grow and proliferate at very specific temperatures.

So, the question still remains: why did this poor woman get so sick, and eventually die, from an infection from an agent that is so rarely seen in humans? How did it become embedded so deep under her skin, allowing for this strange fungus-like protozoan known as *b. algerae* to grow deep inside her muscles? The authors conclude that it is "likely that infection was a consequence of crushing an infected mosquito while it was feeding," which allowed the protozoan to proliferate deep under her skin. When we are bitten, only mosquito saliva is transferred. This protozoan, which is not carried in the mosquito's saliva, entered the body in this bizarre scenario - not your regular run-of-the-mill mosquito bite. So next time you consider swatting a mosquito that settles on your arm to feed, think twice!

## A Journal Club Jolt

By Nathalie Lamet

The SCW Department of Biology is offering interested students the opportunity to participate in two new exciting and stimulating classes, organized in a "Journal Club" format. This semester, "Current Topics in Neurobiology" will meet on Monday evenings. The sessions will be led by David Mintz, an MD-PhD at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Friday mornings, a session on stem cell research will be led by Debby Greenberg. These classes bring cutting edge issues to the forefront and are critical for those students who wish to pursue a career in medicine or related fields.

A Journal Club is a gathering designed to train students of the medical sciences to become aware of issues and developments in fields of interest. It is truly critical for students pursuing careers in medicine or related fields, as it focuses on developing skills required to monitor progress in the scientific community. The Club meets regularly and discusses a journal article. A different student prepares the article for discussion each time, offering an ideal way for students to stay on top of current issues in technology and find out what's "hot" in science. Questions generally addressed in the presentation include: is the theory in this scientific paper presented clearly? Does it have

any errors? Are the experimental methods clear? If not, how can they be improved? Are the results presented in a clear and concise fashion? If not, how can they be clarified? And, perhaps most importantly, are the conclusions of the authors justified by the results of their experiments? It is truly an ideal forum which affords students the opportunity to read the current scientific literature, analyze and critique articles, practice their presentation skills, assert their opinions and utilize critical thinking skills. Students often encounter science as a set of facts to be drilled. Yes, to many, the facts are interesting, intriguing and indeed captivating. However, through the conversations and analysis in journal club, many students find that science is finally faced as a creative endeavor. Students can use the information they have garnered from years of study to discuss, scrutinize and evaluate new developments.

Senior Malkie Krupka, a biochemistry major, is joining the neuroscience Journal Club, and stated that she is "excited to learn about the new advances in neuroscience. I look forward to applying the knowledge I gain to my profession," added Helen Nissim, SCW student, who has also joined Monday night's Journal Club. "Being able to stay on top of what's new in the field of neurological research, an area I have taken great interest in, truly excites me."

## Twins Conjoined at the Head

By Helen Nissim

Siamese twins are indeed quite a rare occurrence. Only one in every 40,000 pregnancies, and one in every 200,000 live births are Siamese. The first successful separation of Siamese twins occurred in Basle, Switzerland, where two sisters joined at the sternum were separated surgically over a century ago. Last fall, Carl and Clarence Aguirre made history. The successful Siamese twin separation took place at Montefiore Hospital, the University Hospital of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where a team of skilled surgeons and professionals performed four different surgeries, beginning last October, which eventually led to their complete separation last month.

To prepare for the surgery, Dr. James Goodrich, Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and Dr. David Staffenberg, Director of Pediatric Plastic Surgery, both at

Montefiore, "read every paper" they could find about twins conjoined at the head, some dating back to the fifteenth century. Goodrich explained that they opted against the performance of one marathon operation and instead chose to perform four operations over an eleven-month period because he wanted to give the toddlers enough time to adjust to the massive changes occurring in the way their blood was circulating, as well as to avoid keeping the boys on anesthesia for a substantial period of time.

Although in many ways, the procedure involves what vascular and neurovascular surgeons perform regularly - dividing and reconstructing blood vessels, and the reconstruction of bone and tissue, procedures done quite often by plastic and reconstructive surgeons, it is, nevertheless, a dangerous and complicated procedure with very high morbidity and mortality rates.

Indeed, it was "a very difficult procedure," noted Goodrich. There were numerous complications involved. For example, just as surgeons were about to complete the last of the four operations, they discovered a 13-square centimeter area of conjoined tissue within the brain. As a result, this final surgery took over 17 hours. Despite this and many other challenges in this most interesting and intriguing case, the surgery was a success. The doctors and nurses in the operating room, all of whom donated their services, broke out into applause after realizing the difficult separation had been successful. "Certainly, up to this point, things have gone extremely well," Dr. Goodrich said. Mazel Tov to the countless physicians and surgeons who donated their time and knowledge to make history! The 27-month old Filipino twins are now recuperating at their home in the Bronx.

The Biology and Chemistry Clubs of SCW invite the entire student body to attend their annual Shabbaton Shabbat Parshat Nitzavim-Vayealech September 10-11 2004 Surprise guest speaker!

# Modigliani: The Man Behind the Exhibit

By Observer Staff

The exhibit "Modigliani: Beyond the Myth" at New York's Jewish Museum has attracted large crowds interested in his work who might be more intrigued knowing background information about his life. This Jewish Bohemian artist, one of the last of his kind, was born Amedeo Modigliani in 1884 to a Sephardic family in Italy. In 1906 he moved to Paris's infamous Montmartre; the center of the bohemian way of life. There he took to heavy drinking and hashish. His first mistress; a Russian poet by the name of Anna Akhmatova, said that none of his better works were under these influences. Modigliani continuously struggled with religion and the philosophy behind it. He believed Judaism was an umbrella religion that encompassed all other religions. In his drawing *The Cellist*, the cello is held by the musician as if he is holding a cross, a very Judeo-Christian like idea akin to those of the day. He was not trying to become Christian, in fact, he identified strongly with being Jewish, so much so that he was known to have introduced himself as "I am Modigliani, Jew." This became necessary in his eyes when peo-

ple would mistake him for either an Italian or Parisian for his Italian and French were flawless in addition to the absence of an Eastern European accent like those of his Jewish contemporaries such as, Marc Chagall and Chaim Soutine.

Modigliani refused to align himself with any movement or manifesto, but was searching for "Nor the real nor the unreal but the subconscious, what is

we are all victims of subjectivism; we can never disassociate ourselves from ourselves. The majority of his paintings are portraits which at first glance seem to be all very much the same with elongated features and enigmatic gazes. But upon closer examination they each convey a distinct individualism. Modigliani was a great admirer of Pablo Picasso and Cubism, as seen in his painting of Max Jacob the nose looks

as if it was fashioned out of stone. It is a tribute to his love of Cubism as well as his stint with sculpture from 1909 to 1915. The majority of his sculptures were busts influenced by African and Egyptian art following his painting style in its elongation and pronunciation of specific features. When his failing health and poverty stricken state made it too difficult to continue sculpting he returned to painting.

At the end of May 1919, Modigliani returned to Paris. After several successful exhibitions in England, English collectors started to buy his paintings. But by

the end of the year Modigliani became seriously ill with tuberculosis. On January 24 1920 he died. Today his works are lauded and sought after. It is sad and ironic that many artists, such as Modigliani, are only posthumously appreciated.

instinctive within the human race." His drawings were always a silent conversation; this was how he judged us and saw us. The artist is always talking about himself through his subjects and Modigliani is no different. Nothing and no one is objective -



Max Jacob, 1916  
Kunstsammlung, Dusseldorf  
oil on canvas

## Dear Tik

### Because Even We Perfect People Need Advice

It's a new year at Stern and that clean fall spirit is sweeping us all up in its determination. This is going to be the year. You know, that year where everything works just right. The papers are handed in on time, the boy you want to be calling is calling, the one you don't want to be calling isn't, the roommates have dedicated themselves to your sleeping patterns and somehow your room will smell at all times like home baked chocolate chip cookies... low-carb of course. You see yourself walking through the Stern College halls with that youthful stride of relaxed importance and when you smile your teeth will actually reflect the light and do that shiny TV thing. Ah, good times are straight ahead. And just before you begin this fantastic journey into the-first-day-of-the-rest-of-your-life-seize-the-moment-making-lemonade-out-of-lemons-paradise-on-earth, which is going to be your SCW existence, remember one thing.

Nothing is perfect.

Not even close.

In about three weeks when you wander into those densely packed elevators, dazed by your halo of conscientious objections, raise your head for a moment to discover that everyone but you looks like she has a team of personal assistants camping out in her closet, and the glare of engagement rings half blinds your sorely tired eyes, you will (after a moment of doubt over whether an essay on your uncle's dog constitutes an in-depth analysis of inter-family relationships in post-9/11 urban communities) realize sparkling teeth are a fantasy not even worth aspiring to and you can, as difficult as it may seem now, you can survive without an oven fresh aroma to comfort you in the early mornings. What you really need is me.

"What?!" you're thinking. It's really simple: when things get tough who better to turn to for advice than an indecisive freshman. I have one semester of college experience under my belt, and with my credit requirements, I'm not even close to a college degree. As you can plainly see, I'm perfect to answer any and all your queries about school, love and life. Sure, you could go to a wise old friend or, say, a guidance counselor, to navigate your way around the sharp curves of your academic career and young adulthood,

and I'm not saying they can't be helpful, but here's the problem with those people who think they've seen it all and are prepared for everything: they think they've seen it all and are prepared for everything. There you are not even close to the climax of your problem and they've already empathetically sighed, cautiously advised, sternly inspired and moved on. I, on the other hand, will actually think your problem is as unique and deserving as you do. My advice will be tailor-made and genuinely personal. Even better than that, if it's bad, you have every right to blame me. There's no way I'm really an expert so you don't have to think that if you mess up it's because you didn't follow my advice well. If you mess up there's a 99% that it's because I didn't know what I was talking about. That's a guilt-free existence for only about ten minutes of letter writing time. And, hey, unlike your lifelong friends, we don't really have anything of value riding on this communication- so brutal honesty doesn't come with small print. Oh, in case you're deftly sensitive, don't worry about me feeling like a failure if my advice is worthless - I'm still naive enough to believe mistakes build character. Basically, we can't go wrong.

But if that's not enough for you, consider this: if you write me a letter you get to sign it with one of those pathetically corny, bad-pun excuses for a name. Or you could sign your real name... Although, I can't imagine why when you could be making up one of those aforementioned pathetically corny, bad-pun excuses for a name.

By this time next month I want to know the troubles of each and every one of you. Until then, remember what Sartre said: "To choose to be an inferior artist is of necessity to wish to be a great artist." Good luck with life. Send e-mails to [observer@yu.edu](mailto:observer@yu.edu) with attention to Dear Tik.

THE OBSERVER  
WISHES ALL  
STUDENTS, FACULTY  
AND STAFF A SHANA  
TOVA U'METUKAH

# Ali G: From the Kibbutz to Hollywood

By Rebecca Rosenberg

In hardly intelligible Caribbean British slang, a tall white man wearing a yellow tracksuit, a FUBU cap and excessive gold jewelry around his neck and on his fingers interviewed Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former UN Secretary-General. He looks like a dark featured Eminem dressed for a MTV rap video, and his attitudes and demeanor parallel those stereotypically associated with American hip hop culture. This man, known as Ali G, is definitely not the kind of journalist people expect to interview high profile world leaders. This becomes most apparent and humorous when Ali G asks his wonderfully ill-informed questions.

In an episode entitled "War," Ali G asks Ghali in a preposterous accent, "Is Disneyland a member of the UN?"

"No," Ghali responds patiently, "because Disneyland is not an independent state."

"Do you think in a hundred years time Disneyland or Disneyworld could have a seat?" Ali G persists.

"No, Disneyland is not doing politics," a frustrated Ghali responds.

Ali G also suffers from an identity crisis: he's white but he thinks he's black and when the show doesn't seem to be going his way, he'll often say to a confused guest, "What, is it caus' I's black?" or "Isn't that racist?" In this HBO series "Da Ali G Show" this moronic wanna-be gangster has interviewed other high profile public figures such as Donald Trump, Newt Gingrich, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, writer Gore Vidal, Green Party leader Ralph Nader and former Director of Central Intelligence R. James Woolsey to name only a few. What the interviewees don't know, at least until the show airs, is that they are being duped by a "nice" Jewish boy from London whose real name is Sacha Baron Cohen. He is a Cambridge graduate who contemplated pursuing a PhD in history before starting his career in comedy. His show has been immensely popular in the US and its third season begins shortly. Whether any seasons will follow depends on whether the thirty-three year old's name remains obscure enough to still recruit unwitting guests. Ironically, the more successful the show, the lower the chance is that Cohen can continue it since its entertainment value depends on access to high profile guests who are unfamiliar with his character.

In England, the show came to an end after only a few seasons because of its widespread popularity.

It is difficult to believe Ali G will last long when his shows are this entertaining and novel. In one scene, Ali G takes a UN Security Council Chamber tour. When he sees a seat with the name Jordan inscribed on it, he asks, "Is that Jordan? Ain't it stupid letting one sportsman have his own seat no matter how powerful he is?" The official tries to explain that the seat belongs to the state of Jordan not Michael Jordan. Then Ali G asks, "Well then is it named after Michael Jordan?" A few moments later Ali G points at a placard with Guinea written on it and asks the official, "Is that a real country?" The official looks up at him baffled and replies, "Yes." Then Ali G asks with a truly inquisitive expression, "With full respect why do you give crap countries a vote?" Later, Ali G aggressively questions the official as to why Africa is not represented while standing beside placards that say Nigeria and Guinea.

However, Ali G's humor is usually not as tame as the examples presented above. His questions and comments are frequently crass and his attitudes intensely homophobic and misogynistic, usually offending his guests who perceive him as an uneducated baboon as they silently curse their agents for setting up the interview.

For example, in an interview with Richard Thornburgh, former U.S. Attorney General, he asks, "When is it legal to murder someone?"

"Never," comes the reply. "But what if they call your mama a hoe, is it alright to murder them then?"

"You can't use as a defense any kind of verbal provocation, no," Thornburgh explains.

Ali G persists, "But what if they say it about your nana?"

Throughout these interviews, Ali G maintains a clueless and naïve expression while his guests struggle to deal with what appears to them to be their host's mild retardation. However, these interviews raise the question in most viewers' minds, how does he persuade high profile guests to appear on his show? Cohen and his producers are not sharing; however, those who have been victim to the prank say that everything was arranged

professionally. Many said that they were told this was an educational program for disadvantaged kids and that Ali G had a unique ability to communicate with this



Comedian Sacha Baron Cohen's three personas clockwise from left: Bruno, Ali G and Borat



audience. Amazingly, nearly all the guests so far have admitted to never questioning the character's authenticity until they watched the show air, suggesting that the ready acceptance of such a damaging stereotype has its roots in elitism and racism. Occasionally, a guest will walk out as Trump did or decry that Ali G is "stupid" to his face as former Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop did after they had an argument over basic anatomy. And who can forget the frustration of British physicist Heinz Wolff when Ali G hopelessly tried to pin down the size of infinity. But most guests remain patient as they condescendingly explain the errors of his judgments. Cohen explained his take on the guests' reactions in a recent interview with *The New York Times*, "It's weird," he said, "for that time they're in the room with me, sometimes they totally forget who they are, and they come out with a totally different side to themselves. Some try to appear cool with Ali G and down with the kids...They're in the room with a total idiot, and yet they're seeking his approval."

It is after the guests discover the true aim of the show, to produce laughs, that they become irate. One of Nader's aids threatened a lawsuit after the former Green Party leader humiliated himself when he rapped at the request of Ali G these lyrics, "Me name be Ralph Nader, Me going to make an appeal, Homies save the Rain Forest, Irite, Keep it real."

Not surprisingly, the other roles Cohen plays on his show receive more condemnation, especially from the Jewish community. For example, Bruno, a conspicuously gay Austrian fashion commentator with a thick accent, elicits shocking opinions from eminent designers on issues ranging from the impeccable fashion sense of Osama Bin Laden to comments that the fashion industry is more important than medicine

because, "it saves more lives." He also has provoked violent reactions such as when he asked neo-Nazis at a rally whether they use moisturizer or cheerlead at an Alabama football game where he was booed off the field as the crowd aggressively yelled for him to leave.

His most controversial figure to some is Borat, the television interviewer from Kazakhstan who pretends to explore America as the host of a travel program. This character exploits the stereotype of immigrants as primitive, vulgar, misogynistic and anti-Semitic. Recently an episode aired with a scene of Borat in a rural country western bar in Arizona donning an ill-fitting straw hat as he merrily sings this chorus to a "traditional" Kazakistan song, "throw the Jew down the well." At first the audience looks shocked but after a few minutes they eagerly sing along, one even making little horns when the word Jew is said.

Of course, the richest irony in this image is that Cohen is a Jew who grew up in an Orthodox household, who still keeps kosher, is an avid Zionist and has an Israeli mother. In his teens, he spent a year on a kibbutz and belonged to several Jewish youth groups. However, this episode drew fire from the Anti-Defamation League and the U.K.'s Jewish Board of Deputies.

Many Jewish groups feel that this kind of behavior promulgates anti-Semitism and stereotypes more than discouraging them. "While we understand this scene was an attempt to show how easily a group of ordinary people can be encouraged to join an anti-Semitic chorus, we are concerned that the irony may have been lost on some of the audience, or worse still that they simply accepted Borat's statements about Jews at face value," said Abe Foxman of the ADL to a reporter.

According to Cohen, in acting the role of Borat he has a clear purpose. "Part of the idea of

Borat is to get people to feel relaxed enough that they fully open up," he said. "And they say things that they never would on normal TV. So if they are anti-Semitic or racist or sexist, they'll say it."

Many rabbis object not only to Borat's skits but to the show in its entirety. Some British rabbis even went so far as to demand that Cohen end his "offensive and immoral" show. Rabbi Shaul Rosenblatt of England told the British publication *The Age*, "I would guess his parents are not too happy with what he is doing; it's not the kind of thing we would want a nice Jewish boy to do." And another rabbi in the same article said, that Ali G might be giving "people with malevolent intent a further excuse to go around bashing Jews."

However there are many other viewers who think that in addition to the comedic value of the show, it is also healthy to hold a mirror up to society and remind people how far our country has to go to reach equality and obliterate racism, anti-Semitism and misogyny. However, many Jewish leaders, especially those who are more right wing, often disapprove of Jews drawing any kind of controversial attention to themselves for fear it will lead to an increase in anti-Semitism. And even if many rabbis agreed with this goal, few would condone Cohen's methods.

Though the "Ali G Show" is hysterically funny and amusing and at times quite intelligent in exposing the latent biases of our culture, his program is usually too boorish for the Jewish community to proudly acknowledge Cohen as one of their own or as an admirable leader for today's Jewish youth.

However, Harvard had no difficulty inviting the character of Ali G to speak at last year's commencement.

## Lord of the Rings Finds its Yiddishe Neshama Writer Uses Fantasy to Subtly Tackle Jewish Issues



By: Dodi-Lee Hecht

In November 2003, the already healthily stocked shelves of the science fiction and fantasy sections of libraries and bookstores in Ontario, Canada gracefully squeezed together to make room for one more addition. "The Curse of Garnel Ironheart" is the debut novel of Dr. Michael J. Schweitzer and the first in an exciting and original fantasy trilogy. At first glance, however, the uniqueness of this book can easily be lost among the surge of post-Harry Potter mania, which has seemingly overwhelmed the fantasy genre in the past few years. Schweitzer downplays his special contribution to the genre by

crediting his teenage days of playing Dungeons and Dragons (D and D) as the main inspiration for his novel and future novels. Schweitzer defines his goal audience as primarily current and former D and D players (although he did add that he tried to "make the storyline general enough as to appeal to anyone who enjoys a good story.")

Truth be told, "The Curse of Garnel Ironheart" is much more than a "good story;" it is a piece of writing which is filled with metaphors of major Jewish themes, both theological and cultural-political, successfully couched in a complex and self-contained fictional world. Schweitzer, an Orthodox Jew and active member of the Hamilton Jewish community, readily acknowledged his conscious placement of such important issues but stressed that he refused to make the themes too obvious. He would prefer that his readers, after completion of his book, be forced to "sit back and think 'ok, how does that apply to us?'"

There is quite a lot to think about. As previously mentioned, the idea for the world of Paskanah, the mythical setting of the trilogy, dates back to Schweitzer's youth, so his story contains hints of what puzzled

him as a child. One piece of Jewish history that he said really effected him at that time was the fact that Zionists in Palestine during WWII debated whether to help the Jews of Europe emigrate or concentrate their efforts to develop their own country. As a teenager, Schweitzer found the nature of this debate shocking and quickly incorporated it into the history of Paskanah. One of the main characters of the book, Don-Zee, plays a member of the universally persecuted race of Qilivs (the similarity to the Hebrew word for "dog" is intentional) forced to confront the fact that some of his people have found shelter in one of their ancient homelands, Arnodon, but have not opened the doors for the rest of their race. "Don-Zee doesn't even know about Arnodon and he's from it, his ancestors are buried there," emphasized Schweitzer.

Even more impressive than his cleverly placed historical allusions are Schweitzer's subtle attempts to address philosophical issues, which have since occupied his thoughts. In this first book he tackles the issue of *sinat chinam*, senseless hatred, which is cited in the Talmud as the reason for the Second Temple's destruction.

"Everyday we pray for the rebuilding of the Bais Hamikdash [the temple]," exclaimed Schweitzer. "But if you look at society today, there is more *sinat chinum* than ever." To maintain his rule about "not beating people over the head" with a message, Schweitzer cleverly used 'selfish xenophobia of the Qilivs as reminiscent of the *sinat chinum* of today. His conclusions of how the Qilivs repent, he believes, parallel the way we should repent today.

Schweitzer also introduces a character in this first book, Oa-neth, who undergoes a crisis of faith. Schweitzer explained that the final book in the trilogy will focus on this issue completely, but Oa-neth's doubts provide a chance to begin the analysis. Regarding the primary religious question of 'why do bad things happen to good people,' Schweitzer borrowed heavily from his learning of the Ramchal (Jewish philosopher). One particular passage in "The Curse of Garnel Ironheart" outlines the Ramchal's understanding that evil must exist to emphasize good. Schweitzer again, adhering to his rule of subtlety, said that the passage's allusions could be missed if the reader isn't careful. Regardless, Schweitzer promised that this dilemma will

be studied much further in the third book.

Besides the more in-depth references to Jewish themes, Schweitzer also included little details to alert his readers of his own background. The story is riddled with Hebrew puns ranging from the names of certain races to the name of one main character, Khazav, which in Hebrew means "deception." Schweitzer recounted that this little innuendo immediately led one reader to be on the lookout for the character's secret.

In adherence to Jewish Law, Schweitzer made all of his characters monotheists although he did introduce certain semi-deified elders, which he compared to the role of Jesus in Christianity. Yet, despite the religious proclivities of his characters and, as a final courtesy to his Jewish readers, "The Curse of Garnel Ironheart" does not contain the actual word "God." Schweitzer did this so the book could be taken into the bathroom.

"The Curse of Garnel Ironheart" is available internationally on Amazon.com. The next installment of the trilogy is due out later this year. For more information on the book or its author check out [www.garnelironheart.com](http://www.garnelironheart.com).

## The Manchurian Candidate: Everything You Already Knew About War but Were Afraid to Say

By: Dodi-Lee Hecht

No one (ok, maybe more specifically, no one with any cultural knowledge or a tenth grade education) goes to see a performance of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" with any intention of being shocked by the twist at the end. Everyone (ok, again, with the above qualification) knows that they both die in the end and everyone knows the real tragedy in "Romeo and Juliet" goes far beyond the deaths of these 'star-crossed lovers' -- the great tragedy is the corruption of such noble emotions as loyalty, love, honor and trust which lead to the bloodbath. So too with "The Manchurian Candidate." The only distinction is that we are not in Shakespeare's antique world of feuds and apothecaries; we are in a post-9/11, "war on terror" world of fear and suspicion. "The Manchurian Candidate" hits us where it hurts: right in the center of our 6 o'clock news updates. That should terrify any potential audience member, terrify to the point of ticket purchases.

Movies with unforeseen endings serve a valuable purpose when a filmmaker wishes to alert the public to a dangerous development in society. In the 1950's an all-white audience might have

been made to see that a black man is a human being if the filmmaker led them through the movie with no hint that this message awaited them in the last reel. However, what "The Manchurian Candidate" reveals is that a movie with no hidden agendas can still elucidate an issue for a public who may see but who may not be ready to acknowledge.

In "The Manchurian Candidate," Denzel Washington brilliantly portrays Major Bennett Marco, a gulf war soldier/survivor, who is the unwitting victim of a huge conspiracy by a corporation and a patriotism-crazed senator (played by the always impressive Meryl Streep) to seize control of the most powerful country in the world, the United States. It bears mentioning that, despite the fact that Washington is a consistently powerful performer, it is in the role of the desperate Marco that he reaches new heights of believability, and his presence on the screen is at once familiar and awe-inspiring. Marco is not alone in being betrayed by his government, but he seems to be the only one in a position to act

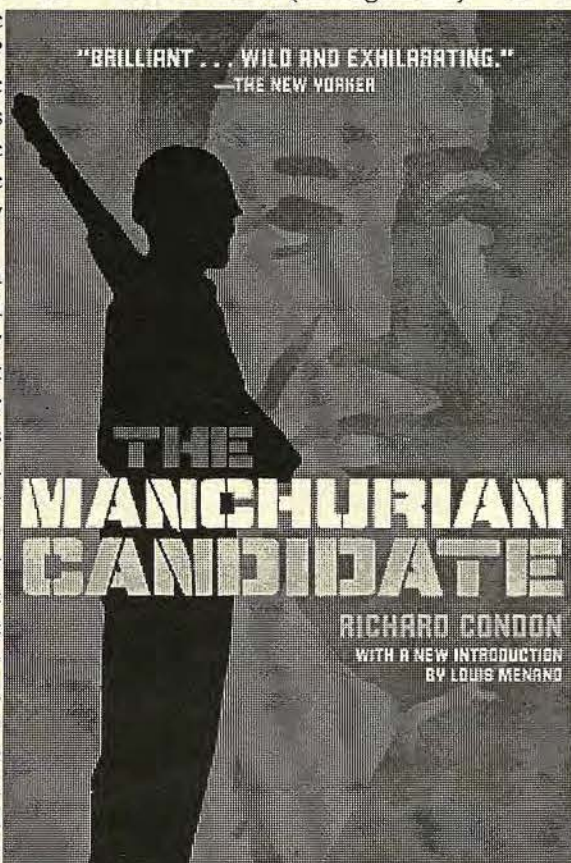
against his aggressors and alert the American people to the plot against them, since the rest of his companions have each been murdered in various (and ingeniously

sions of history are false.

The plot of the movie is as predictable as you might expect it to be. If you're thinking that the conspiracy has to be true then you are right. If you're thinking that Liev Schreiber's character, Raymond Shaw, the manufactured vice-presidential candidate, is a tragic figure in all of this then you're right again. If you think that he grows a backbone under Marco's tutelage then you are on a roll. If you think that the conspiracy goes deeper than you first are led to believe then you would be right yet again. But did you realize that this conspiracy had nothing to do with a lust for power? Did you know that Senator Eleanor Prentiss Shaw (Streep) only wanted to make a better America? Did you know that even the good guys (who, by the way, win in the end but you knew that already) have to resort to the same sort of sneaky cover-ups and conspiracies as the bad guys in order to succeed? If you didn't know this then you must have been asleep since 9/11 or maybe you were just thinking that filmmakers have been.

The world we live in today is supposed to be the most civilized of our history and yet the country which is supposed to represent the best of this new era, the U.S., has been involved in some type of war every single decade since the beginning of the twentieth century. The message is clear - you have to break a few eggs to bake a cake. In the meantime though, people are watching individuals suffer, the subterfuge of societies and the deception of whole populations. It is quite ironic that people today are most afraid of the enemy from without and the enemy from within at the exact same time, despite the fact that one is most often the only thing to stand against the other.

So, "The Manchurian Candidate" asks us a simple question: how many lies are worth it to save the world? How many lives are worth it to save the world? Because, in this era, that number is going to mean more than funerals; that number is going to mean the souls will be shattered but the hearts are still beating and the faith might be ravaged but they'll still have voting rights. Casualties have a whole new meaning now and so "The Manchurian Candidate" steps forward to tell us what we already know, "In war there are always casualties."



obsure) ways. Marco's only hope is to get to the sole remaining man from his group, the candidate for vice-presidency who also happens to be the son of the senator behind it all, and convince him that both their ver-



# Up and Coming In The Big Apple

## Modigliani: Beyond the Myth

The Jewish Museum  
May 21 through September 19  
1109 5th Ave at 92nd St.  
Admission: adults \$14, students \$11.50  
Website: [www.jewishmuseum.org](http://www.jewishmuseum.org)

(Modigliani extended hours: Sundays, September 12th and 19th, 10 am - 9 pm)

## If Elected: Campaigning for the Presidency

New York Historical Society  
June 29 through November 3  
2 West 77th St.  
Website: [www.nyhistory.org](http://www.nyhistory.org)

## The Games in Ancient Athens: A Special Presentation to Celebrate the 2004 Olympics

The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
June 29 through October 3  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
Website: [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)

## Jewish Bohemian Party at the Bowery

Mima'amakim @ The Bowery Poetry Club  
October 3  
6:30 pm  
308 Bowery at Bleeker  
Admission: \$10  
Website: [www.bowerypoetry.com](http://www.bowerypoetry.com)

## Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust

92nd Street Y  
September 7  
7:30 pm  
Steinhardt Building  
35 West 67th St.  
Admission: \$15  
Website: [www.92ndsty.org](http://www.92ndsty.org)

## Forbidden Broadway - Summer Shock

Douglas Fairbanks Theatre  
May 24 through September 15  
432 West 42nd St.  
Admission: \$49.50, \$55, \$57  
Website: [www.forbiddenbroadway.com](http://www.forbiddenbroadway.com)

# Rosenstrasse Movie Review

By Orlee Levin

Over the past few decades Hollywood has spent millions of dollars ensuring that the public remembers the terrible tragedy of the Holocaust and making sure that the survivors' stories are told. Some of the less publicized aspects of the Holocaust are the stories of the courageous gentiles who risked their lives to betray the Nazis and save Jews. "Rosenstrasse" is a newly released film by German film director Margarthe von Trotta that explores the true story of a group of German women who risked their lives demanding that their Jewish husbands be released from the building where Germans were holding them rather than be sent to concentration camps.

The film opens to a woman of sixty named Ruth preparing her home for *shiva* (seven day Jewish mourning tradition). Her children believe that she has gone mad; they never practiced religion in their home. Her eldest daughter Hannah even inquired, "Since when did religion become so important?" During the *shiva* period a cousin comes to visit and peaks Hannah's interest into her mother's past which sends her on a journey to Berlin, and spiraling into her mother's history as a child who was saved by a valiant German woman, Lena Fischer.

The film flashes back to an eight-year-old Ruth hiding behind the bathroom door as the Gestapo rounds up her mother and searches for other people in the house. Ruth follows behind the army truck that stole her mother away to a building on a Berlin street called Rosenstrasse where the Jews are being held until deportation to concentration camps. She courageously sneaks into the building where she defies the Jewish keeper and

runs to her mother who tells her that a woman on the outside will care for her.

Ruth convinces Lena Fischer, a German Baroness by birth who is desperately searching for her husband, to care for her. Together they stand outside the building on Rosenstrasse waiting for the Nazis to return these men who were originally protected from persecution under the Nuremberg Laws, which stated that a Jew married to an Aryan is protected by marriage. For seven days the women stood in the cold demanding that their husbands be returned. "Give me my husband back" was the chant echoing through the streets. Despite the Nazis intimidation techniques, such as driving through the street with guns pointed at the women, the women bravely stood their ground, demanding that what was rightfully theirs be returned. On the seventh day, miraculously, the men were released.

The film depicts a contingent of Germans during the war that is often ignored in history books: those gentiles brave enough to stand up and rebel against the Nazis. When Hannah asks Lena about taking her mother, Ruth and ultimately saving her life, Lena replies, "Of course it was dangerous to take her in... but what was I supposed to do, leave her on the street?"

Another aspect of the Holocaust which the film brings to light is the idea that the Nazis were not only anti-Semitic, but rather anti anyone who did not agree with their agenda. When Lena, an Aryan with noble roots, is searching for information about her husband, the Nazis refuse to give her any information saying, "We don't give information to Jew-loving whores." The courage that it took for these women to remain married to their husbands when it would have been much easier to divorce



them is remarkable in and of itself. The fact that they faced the Nazis head-on is commendable.

The film draws the viewer into the story, forcing the viewer to sympathize with some Germans and understand the hardships that the war imposed upon these German citizens. The film shows the rubble left behind from bombings, the barren houses and the nomads' struggle to get food. The only time that prosperity is seen during the war is when Lena and her brother go to a Nazi party in order to try and get help. The film emphasizes that the Nazis were not willing to help anyone who wanted to help the Jews. Even Lena's connections and aristocratic status could not provide the help she sought. In the end it was fear of public opinion that led to the victory on Rosenstrasse in March 1943.

"Rosenstrasse" tells the incredible true story of the strike that German women lead against the Nazis from February 27 through March 6, 1943. It depicts the courage that the women possessed in fighting the Nazis by defying them and staying married to their Jewish husbands.

The film is now playing at the Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, Broadway and 62nd St., and the Cinema Village, 22 E. 12th St.

# BERRY-PICKING: POETRY AND PROSE BY SCW STUDENTS

## Untitled

By: Anonymous SCW freshman

Shy clouds are burying the night  
Charred expressions of after-  
anger  
Blues and bright blacks  
Filtered to just softer  
Slicking their empty wholeness  
Over the leaves  
Grasping for each other on the  
branch  
Like something unaware of life  
Soft as harboring moths

## In wild moss hair

It is too easy to say  
I am the hole in the sky tonight  
I am ill at ease  
Not like a hole at all  
There isn't even a sky tonight

Just some shadows  
Hushing the world with dark  
breezes  
And maneuvering around  
unwanted screams

## Streetlamp Spotlight

By: Anonymous SCW senior

Park Avenue apartment  
Very skinny dog  
Urinate on  
City-caked  
Off-white snow  
Hot pink leash  
Attached to  
Very skinny lady  
Short walk back  
Skinny posteriors  
Sashaying in rhythm

## To the haughty beat

As if to say  
We are  
Much better than the service  
entrance  
We walk through  
As if to say  
We own this city  
And  
Its off-white snow

Berry-Picking is an ongoing page of the Arts and Culture section which will feature poetry and prose from SCW and SSSB students. If you would like to submit either a piece of poetry, a short piece of prose or an excerpt from a longer piece of prose please send a copy to [observer@yu.edu](mailto:observer@yu.edu) with attention to Berry-Picking. Please include your name, college and year. Also indicate whether you would like your name published with your piece or whether you would prefer it be published anonymously.

# 2004 Law School Forums <sup>SM</sup>

Sponsored by the **Law School Admission Council** and Participating LSAC-Member Law Schools

If you're considering law school, come to a **Law School Forum**. Admission is free. Registration is easy. Register at the forum or avoid the wait and register online at [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org). At the forums you can:

- talk with representatives of LSAC-member law schools from across the United States and Canada;
- obtain admission materials, catalogs, and financial aid information;
- view video programs about the law school admission process, legal education and careers, minority perspectives on legal education, and gay and lesbian issues;
- attend informational sessions on the law school admission process, financing a legal education, issues of importance to minority applicants, and what lawyers do;
- review LSAC publications, videos, software, and LSAT<sup>®</sup> preparation materials; and
- visit the prelaw advisors' table if you want general advice about the law school admission process.



Aides for persons with visual or hearing impairments will be provided with adequate advance notice. To make arrangements for accommodations for persons with disabilities or for more information about the Law School Forums, please call LSAC at 215.968.1001 or visit our website at [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org)

## locations

### Washington, DC

Saturday, July 31: 10 A.M.–5 P.M.  
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel  
2660 Woodley Road, NW

### New York, NY

Saturday, September 11: 10 A.M.–5 P.M.  
Sunday, September 12: NOON–5 P.M.  
Millennium Broadway Hotel  
145 West 44th Street

### Chicago, IL

Friday, September 17: NOON–6 P.M.  
Saturday, September 18: 10 A.M.–4 P.M.  
Chicago Marriott Downtown  
540 North Michigan Avenue

### Boston, MA

Saturday, October 9: 10 A.M.–4 P.M.  
Boston Marriott Copley Place  
110 Huntington Avenue

### Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX

Saturday, October 16: 10 A.M.–4 P.M.  
Renaissance Worthington Hotel  
200 Main Street, Ft. Worth

### Atlanta, GA

Friday, October 29: NOON–6 P.M.  
Saturday, October 30: 10 A.M.–4 P.M.  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
265 Peachtree Street NE

### Los Angeles, CA

Friday, November 12: NOON–5 P.M.  
Saturday, November 13: 10 A.M.–4 P.M.  
Los Angeles Airport Marriott  
5855 West Century Boulevard

### Bay Area, CA

Monday, November 15: 2 P.M.–8 P.M.  
Hilton San Francisco  
333 O'Farrell Street

For more information about the forums visit [www.LSAC.org](http://www.LSAC.org)



The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) is a nonprofit corporation that provides services to the legal education community. Its members are 202 law schools in the U.S. and Canada. LSAT<sup>®</sup> and LSAC are registered by the LSAC.

# FASHION



For those interested in working for Marc Jacobs, go to [www.marcjacobs.com](http://www.marcjacobs.com) and look under 'company' where you will find an extensive internship program spanning many company departments.



## Latest Fall Fashion

Watch the Fashion Channel or flip through pages of Vogue and you probably won't see too many pieces you'd actually wear. Luckily, there's one designer out there who is watching out for you.

Two words: Marc Jacobs. Originally Louis Vuitton's shining star, Marc Jacobs has wowed the fashion world with his beautifully tailored, sophisticated clothing. This fall, his line

screams Stern. As Vogue puts it, 'The 'proper' [side of Marc Jacobs] showed up as elegant fit-and-flare tweed skirts, printed and pin-tucked silk blouses, lace-covered dresses and great tweedy coats with just-so mink collars, all in superb fabrics and whispery soft colors like cream, mint, turquoise and icy blue.' Designer clothing is expensive so if there's one ensemble you're willing to splurge on this season,

Marc is definitely the way to go. To see the full fall line, check out [www.vogue.com](http://www.vogue.com). Click on "runway shows" and search "Marc Jacobs". Marc also features a less expensive casual-wear line labeled Marc by Marc Jacobs.

Both lines are only available in their entirety at Neiman Marcus.



## Want To Work For Your Favorite Designer?

By Shoshana J.

While you were lounging on West Hampton Beach and working on that tan, other SCW students were getting their proverbial feet wet in the fabulous world of fashion. Unbeknownst to many of you, SCW's Career Services office has connected quite a number of students with the crème of fashion internships, and they have opportunities lined up for this year too.

"There are a wide variety of internships available through our student resources," says Naomi Kapp, associate director of the office of career services for SCW's liberal arts division. "A lot of students have gotten positive responses through us."

This summer alone, students have interned at Kenneth Cole, Liz Claiborne and Tommy Hilfiger. SCW also maintains a longstanding relationship with Elie Tahari, who offers internship positions almost exclusively to our students in departments

such as promotions, design production, brand development, creative services and PR/Marketing. "Our students have had very good experiences there," notes Kapp. "Two girls have been offered full-time jobs after their internships." Students have also had success with Ralph Lauren's Polo Kids and Vera Wang.

According to Kapp, to start searching for your dream job or internship there's one thing an aspiring intern cannot do without: an exceptional resume. You can research how to write a resume online or you can go to Kapp who has specialized in creating students' resumes for years. Not only is a resume essential for any internship and job consideration, it's also the only way you can get your hands on SCW's internship resources. "Once you have completed an approved resume," says Kapp, "you can look through our binders."

In them, you'll find some surprisingly tempting internships for the fall. Gucci seeks one intern for their watch division.

They are also seeking interns for the special events coordinators who execute all Gucci fashion events. Another internship is available at Adrienne Vittadini, a women's apparel and accessories company. This internship is exclusively for design majors whose focus is sketching, coloring and sample layouts. And the best part is the 45 percent discount on all products. Betsy Johnson seeks interns to assist with the spring and fall Fashion Week runway shows. Interns are then invited to attend all related Fashion Week events. Additional opportunities are available with Paris Gordon Collection, Tommy Hilfiger, Liz Claiborne, Tahari, Paul Carroll NY, Yigal Azrouel and Ananda Design Ltd.

For our Sy Syms students interested in experiencing the fashion industry, Assistant to the Dean, Leah Strommer, is the woman to see. This year Strommer is helping students obtain positions at Kenneth Cole, Bloomingdales, DKNY and

Nordstrom's, to name a few. "Students should come to me when they know where they want to work or intern," says Strommer, "and then it becomes my job to promote them to the company. I look at my list of employers I've developed personal relationships with."

As to what employers look for most in resumes, prior experience and entrepreneurial spirit are the most frequent responses, according to Strommer. "That is why internships are critical and the best possible thing students can do for their future," she says. For seniors, SSSB offers an opportunity for faculty to assist in finding employment possibilities by searching for prospective jobs, contacting companies and setting up interviews. "Students need to provide five references for me to work with in helping them get their dream position," she adds.

For this fall, college juniors and seniors in the business field can apply for an excellent internship at Saks Fifth Avenue. This

paid internship (\$10/hr.) will include experience with merchandising, management and sales with special seminars hosted by Saks professionals. Note, students must have a 3.0 GPA and space is limited. Barneys New York is now accepting applicants for a ten-week program. A food and travel stipend will be included as well as a store discount and possible future employment opportunities. Other retail internship opportunities include JCPenney, Macy's, Elizabeth Gillett, Donna Maoine and United Colors of Benetton, where perks include a \$300 gift certificate for Benetton and Sisley stores.

Don't wait too long to apply though, because internships like these go quicker than stilettos at a Jimmy Choo sale.

For more Career Services information- liberal arts students call Naomi Kapp at 917-326-4845, SSSB students call Leah Strommer at 212-960-0021.

After you have written a resume, here are some tips on how to be proactive:

1. Make a list of the companies you want to work for no matter how out of reach they may seem and then go to their websites. Most well-known companies have websites searchable on [www.Google.com](http://www.Google.com).
2. Contact The Fashion Group

International ([www.fgi.org](http://www.fgi.org)) to find out about internship opportunities.

Call: (212) 593-1715 or Email: [info@fgi.org](mailto:info@fgi.org)

Here's a quick look at their advice:

I want to get experience in the fashion industry by interning, how do I go about finding an internship?

If you are looking for an internship in design, you should contact the designer's showroom to get information on their programs. Many American designers' contact information can be found through the CFDA at (212) 302-1821. Designers not listed with this association may be found with the help of the Fashion B.I.D. at (212) 398-7945.

Internships are also available at The Fashion Group International Headquarters in New York City. Please fax resume and cover letter to Beth at: (212) 593-1925. Though many internships are non-paid, this experience is the most valuable way to gain insight into the industry and prepare for a career.

3. Check Women's Wear Daily

([www.wwd.com](http://www.wwd.com)), the fashion industry's lead daily newspaper, to find job and internship listings.

4. Search general job websites to see what opportunities they might have in the fashion industry. Such websites include [www.monstertrack.com](http://www.monstertrack.com), [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com) and [www.internshipprograms.com](http://www.internshipprograms.com).

## Schottenstein Cultural Center Renovations



By Adrienne Eichen

Among a series of improvements on the Beren Campus, the Schottenstein Cultural Center, known for hosting events such as Battle of the Bands and SCW drama productions, has been undergoing extensive renovations. The construction will create new space on the building's third and fourth floors, eventually housing administrative and student government offices.

"Over the past five years, there has been a growth in the types of academic services and a growth in the quality of services the University offers," said Jeffrey Rosengarten, associate vice president, administrative services. "This leads to a natural need for more space."

When the university initially bought the building, the movie theatre company Cineplex Odeon was operating its New York offices out of the third and fourth floors until it was bought out by Sony. After meetings with President Richard Joel, the administration decided it was time for the university to use these floors.

The lobby and first floor of the center have been used to

house various special events and venues, but these occasions are too sporadic and the building does not have the activity that exists on the rest of the campus.

The second floor contains equipment such as the air conditioner and speaker systems and is, for the most part, non-usable space.

The third and fourth floors, however, are set for transformation. Work on the center began in the middle of the summer, with repair plans in two phases. The first phase, expected to be completed by late September, includes restoring the fourth floor of the center and transforming the area into usable office space. The new space will either be devoted to the development of new offices on campus or the shifting of already established offices.

The second phase of renovations, likely to begin over the second semester of this school year or the upcoming summer, will include putting the currently vacant third floor of the center into use. The area will hopefully house a student government and student counseling center. "At some point," Rosengarten explained, "the administration will zero in on the interesting and exciting ideas for what will take place on that floor to suit the needs of students."

Rosengarten believes that the third and fourth floor repairs will help the auditorium in the lobby of the center see more and more use. "When there is more traffic there, I think the mindset begins to change," he remarked. "The building becomes accepted

as being a part of campus. People will begin to understand we have much more resources in midtown."

Although which offices will be situated in the center is still not officially decided, Rosengarten, who celebrated his 30<sup>th</sup> year at the university this past March, speculated it will include a public relations office, a department for which the Beren campus has never had a full time staff.

In the meantime, the renovations on the fourth floor include essentials such as fixing the roof of the center after an especially rainy summer, installing carpeting and efficient heating and air conditioning systems into the entire building.

Additionally, a sector of the Max Stern Division of Communal Services dealing with youth will hopefully find respite in the refurbished center. Rosengarten conjectured that such an office will provide staffing for fun and important activities on campus.

SCW Student Government President Molly Fink awaits the new and improved center and hopes that perhaps these adjustments will increase the number of events on the Beren Campus. "There should be more events where the women are, and the boys should come down [here]," she stressed.

Rosengarten considers these renovations indications of an overall upsurge of activity in Midtown. "This is one of a number of exciting new things we'll see this school year," he noted.

## Rick Annis Appointed as New CFO

By Aviva Balk



President Richard Joel has announced Rick Annis as the new vice president of finance, assigning longtime Yeshiva administrator Sheldon Socol to the new position of vice president and counselor to the president. Annis joins Yeshiva after a year-long search led by Vice Presidents Lowengrub and Davis, a committee of university trustees and the firm Korn Ferry.

"My goal is to make sure that the finance department's [facilities] are state of the art and up to speed in two ways," Annis stated. "In the technical areas to make sure things get done fast, quick, soon and accurate, and to stress the user-friendliness of the area."

Creating a user-friendly environment is something the Joel administration has been stressing since the President's investiture last September, and, according to the President, Annis fits in perfectly with that vision. "He has a sterling reputation," he said. "The word on him is that he is a real mentsch, a good people person and very tough."

Annis stood out among other candidates in character and background, Joel explained, presenting a combination of qualities important to the search committee. "[Joel] had to find someone who had the right mixture of qualifications, experience and the chemistry," noted Peter Ferrara, senior director of communications and public affairs.

Since Yeshiva is comprised

of many different schools, holding affiliations with medicine, research and larger organizations, the new CFO needs to be capable of managing many different areas. With 26 years of experience with healthcare facilities, Annis has the background to operate Yeshiva, which contains Albert Einstein College of Medicine, a major component of the university's fiscal operation.

Indeed, Annis, who has worked in Chicago, Indiana, Cincinnati and various areas in New York and New Jersey, said his history with healthcare facilities would be beneficial to his new position, because medical foundations resemble academic institutions.

"From my viewpoint, it's kind of similar," he said. "If we don't have good academics, we won't have good finances, and if we don't have good finances, we won't have good academics."

Annis, who has an M.P.A. in Health Care Administration from C.W. Post College, com-

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## New Cafeteria to Open This Month

Lounge Boasts Everything from Sushi Bar to Flat Screen T.V.s



By Aviva Balk

Months of speculation and anticipation will soon be fulfilled as a spectacular new cafeteria and lounge space in the 215 Lexington Avenue building, complete with flat-screen televisions and wireless internet access, is revealed on September 13. "The new cafeteria is part of wanting to make the school more fun and nice," explained Jeffrey Rosengarten, associate vice president of administrative services and one of the key masterminds behind the project. "It's taking everything that's great and making it better."

Before the grand opening, the cafeteria, which is located on the lower level of the build-

ing, must undergo inspections from five different governmental agencies beginning August 30. Only after their culmination and final preparations can the school include it as part of regular facilities.

As part of many campus advancements taking place, made possible by the generosity of the Beren family, the cafeteria is the realization of a long-needed extra dining space. The current main "caf," as students refer to it, becomes so crowded during peak lunch and dinner hours that students must not only push through the small space around the food to get what they want, but also have to wait in long lines that take up their precious time between classes. Even the relatively recent addi-

tion of the cafeteria in the Koch Auditorium - what Rosengarten called a "quick fix" while space and money were being sought that lasted 10 years - has not significantly helped temper the pandemonium. With its fair share of hungry students, the lower level room in the 245 Lexington Avenue building is still prone to noise, crowds and a somewhat chaotic atmosphere.

While Koch will be closing with the new cafeteria's opening, the dual eating locations should alleviate some of the commotion. The new cafeteria will only accommodate approximately 150 people at a time, but the team behind it, made up of administrators, staff, alumnae and past student leaders, believed that two places, even if smaller, would still be better than one large room.

"No matter how you design a huge facility, having that many people all under one roof makes it noisy and kind of hectic," remarked Rosengarten, who has, on many occasions,

dined in the "caf" himself. "We were always hoping [to have] a couple of facilities...some sort of division of the troops." With the new location, students who have classes in the 215 building will not need to join the masses in 245 to get some lunch, making it more convenient for them and less crowded in the other building. "In between classes, we won't have to rush to get food," SCW senior and SSSB student Bruria Lieberman emphasized. "It seems like it will be an awesome lounging area to do work. It should make it a more positive, more university-like atmosphere."

While other students may not attend the SSSB, many other classes, such as English, art, psychology, and Bible take place in the 215 building. The 215 complex is also closer to the Schottenstein Residence Hall, a dorm building that is located on 29<sup>th</sup> Street, making the walk just a little shorter for students hoping to catch dinner.

Rosengarten's descriptions

of the new cafeteria evoked images of the newest modern restaurant more than the kind of space located most people expect to be in a college cafeteria. The area will boast multiple flat-panel screen televisions, contemporary seating, and the most up-to-date equipment available. "It has more of a bistro café feel than a traditional college cafeteria," he said.

In addition, the cuisine that will be served also moves a step away from traditional academia cafeteria food. While Rosengarten did not want to "give everything away," he mentioned a fast-food operation that won't sacrifice gourmet meals. The usual prepared and pre-packaged foods will be offset by aesthetically pleasing salad, soup and sushi bars, as well as many other eatery options. "For me, if the stuff looks good, I'm halfway there," he said. "The salad bar is going to be different and attractive in such a way so that those who

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