



The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

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Center for the Jewish Future Established

Rabbi Kenneth Brander Appointed Dean

By Esther Flaschner-Berko

President Richard Joel has announced the establishment of YU's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), to be headed by Rabbi Kenneth Brander, effective July 1, 2005. "The Center for the Jewish Future is the first of what I envision as a series of centers," remarked Joel. "The goal of the center is to transcend disciplinary boundaries...and create synergies between the schools and different constituents."

According to Brander, the Center will have three main goals: bolstering Yeshiva's Division of Communal Services (DCS), aiding professional devel-

opment of rabbinic leaders, and establishing a dynamic Jewish think-tank. Brander will be visiting YU shortly to meet with student leaders and administrators about direction and initiatives of the center.

"The goal of the Center for the Jewish Future is *Klapei Pnim* and *Klapei Chutz*," remarked Joel. "*Klapei Pnim*, how do we create synergies that can optimize the educational, co-curricular experience for students to really create graduates of *klei kodesh* and *lay-kodesh*. *Klapei Chutz*, we need to break down walls and serve as the educational fountainhead of the Jewish community."

To that end, the CJF will broaden the current Max Stern



Rabbi Kenneth Brander

Division of Communal Services. "We need to take DCS and really crank it up, to the point in which it really becomes a center through which we exchange ideas and programs," commented Brander. "The first thing is to take the Division of Communal Services and develop its potential...to develop future lay and

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President Joel Appoints Advisor on Israel Affairs

The Observer has learned that President Joel appointed Howard Weisbard as Senior Advisor to the President on Israel Affairs. The president is expected to announce the appointment later this week.

Weisbard made aliyah over twenty years ago and currently resides in Israel. He has exten-

sive experience in major Jewish organizations and in working in a university setting.

Although details were not available at press time, it appears Weisbard will manage Yeshiva's Gruss campus in Israel, and advise the president on Israel affairs.

Beren Campus Hosts Major Business Conference



John Malindretos, PhD, visiting professor of finance (L) and Charles Snow, PhD, Sy Syms dean (R), present Dr. Papadakis with a plaque recognizing his participation in this year's NBEA conference

By Sarah Katz

While Stern students were enjoying their vacation on September 26 and 27, 2004, the Beren Campus stayed busy, hosting the 31st Annual Northeast Business and Economics Association (NBEA) Conference. The purpose of this annual conference is to promote research pertaining to business and economics, and to advance communications and the exchange of such research. Several prestigious universities have hosted this conference in the past, such as University of New Hampshire, the University of Vermont and Bentley University. Participants range from teachers from our own SSSB to Professors from colleges in many other countries, including Mexico, Switzerland, Brazil and more.

The two-day conference, coordinated by SSSB's visiting Associate Professor of Finance John Malindretos, included presentations of over 125 papers, mostly by professors about various topics in business and economics. These topics ranged from "The Relationship Between Financial Distress and Restatement of Earnings" to "Post Asian Financial Crisis Day-of-

the-Week Effect and Volatility in Stock Returns: Evidence from East Asian Financial Markets." The conference also included "Kaptive Media: The New Age in Advertising," a presentation given by current SSSB students Isaac Shaer and Aaron Safier about their new business venture. A highlight of Sunday's sessions was the keynote address, "What the Role of Academics Should Be in Creating an Ethical Business Environment," given by Dr. Constantin Papadakis, president of Drexel University. Other presenters included SSSB Professors Lawrence Bellman, Avi Giloni, Joshua Krausz, Frederick A. Palumbo, Moses L. Pava, Stuart Radin and Richard D. Williams.

Because the event was held during vacation only a few students were involved. Safier believes that students could have benefited by attending the conference and speaking to professors. "This would have given the students a more diversified look of what answers their questions," he said.

According to Safier, not just Sy-Syms, but many SCW and YC students would have found the lectures interesting, since the speeches covered a wide range of topics.

While the conference has increased recognition of SSSB in the business college community and offered the university good publicity, participants did not have the opportunity to see the true heart and soul of Yeshiva: its students. However, the conference did help signal the growing importance of Sy Syms as a center for economic and business study. It also allowed attending students to network with powerful people in the business world.

Jewish Soldiers in Iraq: A Wife's Perspective



Jewish Soldiers Celebrate Hanukkah in Iraq

By Aviva Balk

Malka Goldstein* sounds a bit frazzled as a child's wail is heard on the other end of the telephone. "Oh, just hold on one second," she says. And then, "Its okay, Kivi," she soothes the whimpering child. "Tonight Daddy will help you fix it and it'll be just right again."

While these words may seem commonplace, to the Chicago-residing Goldstein family they are precious symbols of a husband and father's presence. Dr. Jacob Goldstein, father of four-year-old Rachel, three-year-

old Akiva and infant Ariella, was deployed in August 2003 as an American army base doctor. While originally his position was only to last for 90 days, he returned—most likely only temporarily—in December. "We're hoping that he won't have to go back, but it's a very real possibility," Mrs. Goldstein said.

For a country that has thousands of men across the globe risking their lives for the hopeful betterment of society—and some not making it home—the war in Iraq seems somewhat removed from the day-to-day routines of most Americans. This can be partially attributed to the media-

dominated aspects of the war, as television, despite bringing the outside world into the homes of civilians, creates a barrier between the reality of the average human being and the "glamour" of what makes it to the screen. Many Jewish students at SCW might especially feel a distance since there are fewer cases of Jewish men (and all the more so, women) fighting in Iraq, especially those who are Orthodox.

The unfortunate recurrence of violence numbs civilians to the harsh realities of the battlefield. "You look at what's going on and you think, 'I know that's happening but it's for other people; it won't happen to us,'" contemplates Laura Pravansky*, also of Chicago. "Then it happens to you."

For three women whose husbands are directly involved with that treacherous war zone, as doctors, chaplains or part of the air force, the war is closer to home than they ever would have wished.

The risk of being on shaky Iraqi grounds escalates with the

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The Undergraduate Student Councils Of Yeshiva University Presents:

Battle of the Bands ³

Thursday Night November 18, 2004
Lamport Auditorium – Yeshiva University
187th Street and Amsterdam Ave.
Doors open at 7:30 Show begins at 8 pm
Admission \$10

Az B'Yachad
Emek Davar
Jeremy Gaisin's Midnite Remedy
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Ari Cukier, Lev Tahor

Lou Shapp, Teknoy
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Danny Berkowitz, Menucha
Ari Boinagiu, Neshomah Orchestra
Dov Katz, Neshomah O.
Nachum Segal, JM in the AM
Avi Newmark, Top 10 Productions

A Message From Your Editors



Esther Flaschner-Berko
Editor-in-Chief

A few weeks ago, in the middle of schedule dilemmas and complaining about Observer computer problems, I got a phone call from my brother-in-law. He had been drafted into the Israeli army a few weeks earlier, and had been accepted into one of the most elite infantry units. This particular unit demanded extensive weeks of training, and my brother-in-law was calling from his base before Shabbat to say hello.

I nonchalantly asked him how his week had been, if he had done anything interesting. Well, he began, the commanders took his *plugh* (unit) on a four day scavenging exercise in the Negev desert. For four days, each group of twelve men was given army rations that were marked for four men. For those four days, they were fed a third of what normal people eat daily, simultaneously engaging in strenuous physical activity. The exercise was obviously meant to teach them how to deal with hunger. When I asked my husband's brother if he had been hungry, he acknowledged that he and his fellow soldiers were all starving.

Needless to say, when he then asked me how my week had been, I felt more than embarrassed in mentioning my class schedule problems.

It is often hard to keep perspective. In the daily hassles of classes, papers, exams, dorming and social issues, it's easy to focus on the mundane and lose sight of the greater picture. We're all guilty of getting caught up in our own bubbles, and forgetting the people and the world around us.

College life is especially conducive to the selfish lifestyle, and rightfully so. The four years of university are the only years when one is encouraged to focus solely on one's own education, dreams and ambitions. It's a great four years to take advantage of any and every opportunity that presents itself.

But even in this time, we do ourselves a great injustice by losing sight of the big picture. These four years, we should be asking ourselves not only how to get the best grades to get into graduate school, but "How can I

better myself so that I can make a difference? How can I build myself up to be the best I can be and really matter?"

In the wonderful Shabbat we spent with President Joel on the Beren campus, the president encouraged students to engage diversity. He told us to care about the world around us, about different Jews and Gentiles, and not simply group everything outside our social bubble as unimportant. He told us to care about the genocide in Darfur, and not turn our heads from the many problems that need solving.

To this end, The Observer is proud to introduce a new Israel section, under the auspices of Malky Rosenthal. The section will highlight important issues in Israel as well as provide technical resources for those seeking to make *aliyah* or become Israel activists.

We've also begun to incorporate more articles that encompass larger global matters, and encourage student feedback and critiques. We're committed to exploring the world view through the eyes of our student body, and hope to somehow contribute in unifying the diverse elements and informing our readers.

I want to end with a story that to me unifies the various themes I've tried to weave together in this piece. Two months ago, on the morning of my wedding, I was privileged to go and pray *shacharit* (the morning services) at the *Kotel*, the Western Wall. I went with my mother and good friend Gila, and after praying we headed to the adjacent taxi stand and tried to hail a cab. It was a busy hot day at the *Kotel*, and it was impossible to get a taxi for quite a while. Tourists shouted in a multitude of languages, scrambling for any car that approached. I was beginning to grow frantic when finally, a car with two empty spots pulled up. I scrambled for the cab but when the driver saw we were three people he immediately refused to take us. Frustrated, and about to cry, I desperately wailed "But I'm getting married today!"

Suddenly, the Moroccan cab driver turned to his French and Israeli passengers, and explained, "I'm sorry, but I have to take the bride." The two commuters, one a Haredi woman and the other a Parisian tourist, nodded their agreement and silently exited the cab. The secular driver serenaded me with traditional Jewish wedding songs the entire drive back to my hotel, stopping only to remind me that it's very important to go to the mikveh before one's wedding.

Only in Israel, and only with considerate and compassionate Jewish people, who never lose sight of their fellow person.



Rebecca Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief

Heading toward this election year there has been an interesting political shift in the Jewish community. Many Orthodox Jews who have traditionally voted Democratic are voting for President George W. Bush primarily because of his position on Israel. Many prefer Senator John Kerry on domestic issues and even acknowledge this as one friend did to me, "Why am I voting for Bush when I don't agree with him on a single domestic issue? He has been the most supportive and protective of the security of the State of Israel, and I've always been a die-hard Zionist."

This attitude raises an ethical question in regard to an individual's obligations to their country of citizenship. If you live in the United States and benefit from its social services and its Constitution, shouldn't your first allegiance be to America? The answer should be Yes. This is not to say that people cannot have sympathies for other countries, such as Mexican-Americans concerned about amnesty for illegal aliens or many African-Americans in their desire for a candidate committed to the resolution of the crisis in Sudan. However, difficulty arises when sympathy for the secondary country's goals clash or are at the expense of the primary country.

In a situation where persons disagree with all of a candidate's domestic policies and are casting their vote for the sake of a country in which they do not reside, they are betraying the welfare of their homeland. Voting for Bush is voting for pollution, big business favoritism, tax cuts for the wealthy, the violation of civil liberties, inadequate health-care, anti-abortion policies, dishonesty and belligerence - issues extensively documented in several sources and neatly summarized in the October 17th issue of the New York Times. My purpose is not to explain Bush's disastrous policies - this has been done thoroughly in many reputable

newspapers and magazines. My goal is to criticize the behavior of Jews who vote for a president that they know to be detrimental to their own country, solely because of his policies toward Israel. For those Jews for whom Israel rates highest on their list of priorities and are willing to compromise the integrity of America to ensure that support, then maybe they need to move there.

Personally, I am an avid supporter of Israel, but I'm not willing to forego the strength and health of the United States for a candidate who might be slightly better for Israel but is undeniably worse across the full spectrum of foreign affairs, lacking the diplomacy to facilitate any kind of progress in the Middle East. Senator John Kerry has announced his unwavering support for Israel on numerous occasions, even when it has not been in his best political interest to do so. Kerry, like Bush, believes, as quoted by the New York Sun, "The right of return is contrary to the viability of a Jewish state, and that's what Israel is." Again, agreeing with Bush "completely," he stated on national television on NBC News' "Meet the Press" (2004 April 18th) that Israel should be allowed to keep part of the land seized in the Yom Kippur War. On this same broadcast, Kerry also asserted Israel's right to defend itself: "I believe Israel has every right in the world to respond to any act of terror against it...And I support Israel's efforts to try to separate itself and to try to be secure." On Kerry's campaign website, he expresses unequivocal support for Israel. As a senator, since 1990, he has voted in favor of Israel on every policy, resolution or authorization of monetary aid.

In action and speech Kerry has proven that he is an enthusiastic friend of Israel. However, Kerry has something extra to bring to the bargaining table of the Middle East conflict: diplomacy. He is able to relate more effectively than Bush to other world leaders, who he has a better chance of swaying to the side of Israel. If Kerry can improve America's image in the eyes of the world, he can improve Israel's image too.

So it is important for Jews to not only consider their contribution to Israel but their contribution to the country they live in; a country that has been better to Jews than any other country in the history of the world.

The Yeshiva University

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EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

The Observer welcomes all submissions. Letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of Observer staff. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and content. Letters should be emailed to Observer@yu.edu

The Official Newspaper of SCW Excluded from Major Jubilee Event

The Observer is disappointed with the administration's lack of consideration and cooperation toward the Observer staff, student leaders, and the general student body in regard to the YU Museum's exhibition/ Gala Dinner held October 21st. The Observer wanted to cover this important event for the student body since, after all, the exhibit entitled "Five Decades. One Dream," traces Stern College's history through photos and artifacts. Ironically, we were not invited, and when we inquired as to whether this was an oversight, we were rebuked for having assumed our presence would be valued. In all fairness, the dinner was extremely expensive; therefore, we asked Director of Development Joan Apple whether the editor in chief could attend only the exhibition. This request was refused. Hoping that the Dean's Office would be more accommodating, we inquired further only to be denied again. It is also unfortunate that the reception was not open to the student body, as the exhibit celebrates fifty years of successful Stern College women. The Gala was well-attended by university philanthropists, who we are quite sure would be delighted to meet students who profit directly from their wonderful generosity. Unfortunately, YU is the greatest loser in this situation having not benefited from our publicity and the goodwill of our staff.

The Observer wishes to thank The Commentator staff for gracious use of their office, computers, and layout equipment.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

The New Cafeteria: Worthwhile or a Waste?

By Esther Genuth

Walk into Le Bistro, Stern College's new cafeteria, and you will wonder if you have taken a wrong turn into a trendy Manhattan café. Located in the 215 Lexington Avenue building, the state of the art cafeteria perfectly blends a retro and modern style that boasts originality.

Decked with color and shine, an exciting ambiance is felt by the many students who enjoy the comfortable and relaxed setting. "The food's basically the same but the atmosphere is much nicer," remarked Talya Fruchter, SCW senior. "And that does a lot for me." The chic environment and technological additions have been welcomed enthusiastically by students. "It has cool couches, flat screen TV's and a sushi bar," remarked Penina Davis, SCW sophomore. "We're hooked up!"

The duty of any university is to continually be astute to its students' needs and be willing to make changes when appropriate. The busy urban SCW campus feel often leaves the students lacking a central 'hangout' location. The numerous and comfortable seating arrangements in the new cafeteria provide an ample amount of room to study with friends or unwind after a long day. The 'caf' is an ideal place to meet with a teacher or host an event.

Every student has their own opinions on areas that need improvement; however, rarely do initiatives benefit the whole student body. Le Bistro is accessible to every student and adds to the dynamic of the entire campus.

"We were able to get the job done very economically considering what was necessary" stated Dan Forman, the Associate Vice President of Administrative services. "We wanted to really make a statement about the type of place we are, to be able to say we are proud."

It is exactly the quality and décor of Le bistro, which will keep it vibrant and in first-rate condition for current and future Stern students. To cite a favorite quotation of teachers "If you are going to do a job, do it well."

Job well done.

By Shoshana Fruchter

While most students are reveling in the luxuriant atmosphere of Le Bistro, (the new cafeteria on the Beren campus) many are wondering if the posh frills, such as flat screen TVs and a fresh sushi bar, are necessary.

"I think it's ridiculous," commented one SCW student anonymously. "There are many facilities at Stern that need to be improved, and investing so much money on one room was impractical."

This student, like others, is noticing that more important projects have been pushed aside, and over two million dollars were spent to provide a more stylish place to eat. Stern desperately needs more dormitories. The university is actually paying rent for deluxe apartments in Midtown to house students. Many upper-classman cannot get into the dorm of their choice because of the shortage. "I wanted to live in Schottenstien, but I didn't get it," said SCW junior Devorah Dickstien. "I think the University should have bought another dormitory."

"We're here for an education, not sushi," stated junior Elana Goldmintz, asserting that "many of our departments need more teachers and a greater variety of classes. We need more teachers to work full-time so that they can be around to give academic and career advice."

Another simpler project that should be undertaken, that would also greatly aid students' academic pursuits is better computer services at Brookdale Hall. While both the main Beren campus building (245 Lexington Ave) and the SSSB building boast beautiful computer labs complete with high-speed internet connection, Brookdale's computer "lab" has five computers and not even one printer. "I tried doing work there," said sophomore Miriam Goldman, "but the computers are really slow. And the other time I tried, they were broken." While many students have their own personal computers, those that don't, find the state of current facilities frustrating.

Even those that have their own laptops, like SCW sophomore Elisheva Levine, have complained. "It would be better if Brookdale had wireless internet connection services," said Levine.

While a new cafeteria was in order, creating such a lavish hangout, while ignoring other important projects, is not.

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Psi-Chi Event	2 FRIDAY SCHEDULE	3 - Speaker: R' Lerner - Stress Workshop with Dr. Garmorah	4	5 English Dept: David Elstein, 10:30AM.	6 Midreshet Lindabaum Shabbaton
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Kulanu Shabbaton
14	15	16	17 Israel Club: Walid Shoebat	18 BATTLE OF THE BANDS	19	20 MMY Shabbaton
21	22 Psi Sci Club: Movie	23 Psi Health Club: Speaker	24	25 Thanksgiving NO CLASSES	26 Thanksgiving NO CLASSES	27
28	29	30				

2004

**FEELING LIKE A FISH
OUT OF WATER?...
THEN VISIT US AT THE
OFFICE OF STUDENT
AFFAIRS**

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Visit our website at
www.yu.edu/studentaffairs

A Message From Your Presidents

Molly Fink
SCWSC President

Hey everyone,
Welcome back! Since we've resumed classes the events have been coming fast and furious. Just to name a few: the Israel club had Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, come and speak uptown; P2P, peer counseling, had a "toss your own salad" welcoming party; basketball intramural tryouts were held; the J (no P) Dunner Society political science club has been nonstop action with round table discussions, or

just simply offering a place to eat pizza and watch the presidential debate; Cookie decorating was such a huge success that SCSCW plans on doing a monthly variety, always yummy food just different cookies, in honor of Rosh Chodesh, so keep your eyes open! If you missed club fair it is NOT too late to get involved! Please email me at Nams182@aol.com, and I will send you a list of all the clubs and their contacts.

This past Shabbat was a special treat. We were honored to host President Richard M. Joel and family, along with Karen Beacon, Dean Himber, Rabbi Karnafogel, Vice President Rosengarten and their spouses

and families. Thank you all so much for coming! Saturday night the school sponsored bowling and pizza, it was a blast! I want to specifically thank Beth Hait, Dean Braun, Sherene Nili and the SSSB board, Mr. Singer and the waitresses, the Mayevsky's, Aliza Abrams and the TAC board, my board (Lea, Rivka and Miriam you are lifesavers) and my counterparts uptown, specifically Ayal Frist and Josh Goldsmith. Without each of these people this shabbaton would not have been the success that it was.

We still have so much to look forward to ... Freshman student council elections, Battle of the Bands, a town hall meeting with President

Richard M. Joel - mark your calendars - Nov. 3, at 2:45pm in 215 Lexington at the Le Bistro Café - this is an opportunity to make your voice heard! If you have not already received your free glow-in-the-dark pillow case from SCWSC please pick it up at 245 Lexington in the lobby, someone from SCWSC will be there in the afternoons - we made them just for you!

Here's a reminder. There is a committee which is dedicated solely to the needs of the student body called the Student Life Committee. The Student Life Committee is co-headed by Liora Klein and Caryn Freedman and meets monthly. Dean Braun, Dean Himber, Dean Nulman, Vice

President Rosengarten, Beth Hait, Rachel Kraut, Shana Glasser, Food Service, Security Aliza Abrams, Sherene Nili and I are just some of the attendees at these meetings. This committee's purpose is to address issues within student life and make the voices of the students heard. If you have any suggestions to better Stern College for Women please email studentlife@hotmail.com, so your issues can be addressed.

On a final note - good luck to everyone on their midterms!

Sincerely,
Molly

Aliza Abrams
TAC President

I have had the privilege of being in Israel for the last three years for Yom Kippur and Sukkot. This year unfortunately I was unable to continue that tradition. I decided that I was going to try and make the best out of the situation. I began asking around where I could find a nice minyan to daven (pray) for Yom Kippur. Quite a few people gave me the same response- the Schottenstein Shul on the Wilf Campus. Everyone said the same thing- that it was a really nice minyan. So I decided to try it out. I must say it was truly a beautiful daven-

ing, it provided me with a great environment in which I could daven and really be able to concentrate on my own tefillot (prayers). In addition it was spiritually uplifting in numerous ways, the singing and kavanah (concentration) in the room was astounding. I have to admit why I was so picky about where I davened. You see my standards are quite high, as I had the merit of davening in Chevron in Ma'arat Hamachpela, on Yom Kippur of my Shana Bet, and in Yeshivat Otniel the year after. The Schottenstein Shul was nice because it hosted many people close in age to me, and there were no crying babies or talking congregants like there are in my shul at

home. Everyone who was there was very serious about their davening.

After I figured out what I was going to do for Yom Kippur, I had to figure out what I was going to do for Simchat Torah. I decided to go on Torah Tours. This was by far one of the greatest experiences of my life. Firstly, my group was amazing, we all meshed into a unified group instantly. We traveled to Brookline Massachusetts, and davened at Rav Soloveitchik's (Z"l) shul, Maimonidies. The community was amazing, they all kept thanking us for coming and we kept thanking them for having us. You would think, that after a three day chag (holiday) we would

all be ready to leave. In fact, it was the complete opposite; they already invited us back for Purim and Shavout.

After both of these experiences, I felt this new sense of pride to be able to call myself a student of Yeshiva University. As I davened on Yom Kippur I realized how fortunate I am to belong to such a fine institution, which provides its students with such a wonderful religious atmosphere. When we set off to Brookline, we did not realize how much of an affect we would have on the community. Their Simchat Torah would have been nice, but we truly added so much, and it is because we go to Yeshiva University that we are able to

be a part of programs like Torah Tours, coordinated by the Max Stern Division of Communal Services. Don't get me wrong, I was always proud to be a Yeshiva University student, but now after seeing Yeshiva University in a different light I gained an even deeper appreciation for our University. If you are not feeling that same kind of pride, get active, and see how much our school has to offer. You have my guarantee that you will find something that will ignite that pride within you, and you will walk away a different person.

Sherene Nili
SSSBSC President

Hi everyone:
I hope the year is going well for all of you. As we all get back into the school routine, I want you to know that there are many exciting Sy Syms events planned.

The SSSB Student Council implemented a new system for nominating club boards this year. The system consists of an application process in

which each applicant has to think of three proposals for possible events for a club of their choice. The best proposals will be chosen anonymously (and therefore will be unbiased). We have already received numerous strong proposals. It is our hope that this new process will encourage club leaders to host more events and conduct meetings more regularly, creating a more dynamic and engaging atmosphere for the SSSB.

The annual SSSB club fair

will be held on Monday, October 25th in Le Bistro (the new cafeteria). Attend the club fair to find out what clubs will be hosted this year. Take the opportunity to sign up as a member of a club so that you can be informed of events. The club fair is open to all Sy Syms students, and I encourage you to attend regardless of what class standing you have. All freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors are invited and both Dean Jaskoll and Dean Snow

will be present. This is a good opportunity to get to speak with the Deans and get to know your fellow students.

Refreshments will be served and there is a free gift for all Sy Syms students who attend.

We are also planning on doing The Fashion Show this year as it has been done very successfully in the past. As we approach the event I will inform you about more details. However, if you would like to get involved in

the planning at any capacity, please contact me ASAP. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members. We appreciate your input!

Thanks,

Sherene Nili, President
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Cardozo and Stern Collaborate

A Guide to Their Program

By Sarah Katz

This fall, SCW and Cardozo School of Law will be seeing a lot of each other. The two are co-sponsoring both a panel discussing the crisis in Darfur called "Death and Destruction in Darfur, Sudan: The Human Dimension and the Moral Imperative," and a conference called "Between Rashi and Maimonides: Themes in Medieval Jewish Law, Thought and Culture." The panel on Darfur will be held on the Cardozo campus, and the conference will be split between the Cardozo campus and Stern's Beren Campus.

"Death and Destruction in Darfur, Sudan: The Human Dimension and the Moral Imperative"

1.5 million Armenians killed in Turkey; 1-3 million Vietnamese killed in Cambodia; 6 million Jews and 5 million others killed in Nazi-controlled areas; 700,000-800,000 Indonesians and East Timorese killed in Indonesia and East Timor; 500,000-1 million Tutsis killed in Rwanda; 200,000 Bosnians killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over 15 million people have been killed in genocides throughout the world. After the Holocaust we said "never again," but it is happening again. Currently, the Sudanese government is committing horrible genocide against the black African residents of Darfur. The important question here is what we can do. The best way we can help is by being informed and learning what we can do. The Dr. Marsha Robbins-Wilf Scholar in Residence Program, in

conjunction with the Program in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (Yeshiva University's law school), the Cardozo Black Law Student's Association and the Cardozo Jewish Law Students Association is sponsoring a program to help us learn more about the crisis in Darfur. "Death and Destruction in Darfur, Sudan: The Human Dimension and the Moral Imperative," will include a panel of scholars in the area discussing the crisis. The panelists are Ms. Ruth Messinger (American Jewish World Service), Mr. Gregroy D'elia (United States Mission to the United Nations), Mr. Iain Levine (Human Rights Watch) and Mr. Gerald Martone (International Rescue Committee). The discussion will be moderated by Sheri P. Rosenberg, the Director of the Human Rights and Genocide Clinic at Cardozo. This program, which will take place on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the Cardozo campus, is something that everyone should try to attend. After the Holocaust we said "never again," and we must fulfill this statement.

"Between Rashi and Maimonides: Themes in Medieval Jewish Law, Thought and Culture"

Whenever a group of great scholars gather together, there's bound to be some excitement. This conference, which will take place November 21st-23rd, will not disappoint. Two and a half days of exciting presentations are scheduled, complete with plenty of meals.

Some of the professors scheduled to present are

Professor David Bleich (Cardozo School of Law), Professor Nahum Rakover (Jewish Legal Heritage Society), Professor Ephraim Kanarfogel (SCW), Professor Moshe Idel (Hebrew University), Professor Michelle Levine (Stern), Professor Eric Lawee (York University), Professor Alfred Ivry (New York University), Professor Daniel Lasker (Ben-Gurion U.), Professor Mordechai Cohen (Stern), Professor Aviezer Ravitzky (Hebrew University), Professor Menachem Kellner (Haifa University), Professor Dov Schwartz (Bar Ilan University), Professor Robert Chazan (NYU), Professor Naomi Grunhaus (SCW) and Professor Moshe Sokolow (Azrieli Graduate School).

Many interesting topics will be addressed at this conference including "The Problem of Identity in Rashi, Rambam, and the Tosafists," "Nahmanides on the Dynamics of Biblical Dialogue in the Book of Genesis," "Philosophical and Psychological Approaches to the Book of Job: Rashi vs. Maimonides," "The Ravings of Amulet Writers: Maimonides vs. Ashkenazic Scholars on Incantations," "Peshat and Halakhah in Radak's Exegesis" and many more.

These programs are just the beginning of the interactions between Stern and Cardozo. But whether you're interested in Cardozo School of Law or not, the collaborations between the two schools seem to be working out quite well.

great community. That kind of creativity and restlessness makes him the right man."

Brander plans to remain living in Boca Raton next year, although he will constantly travel to YU and Jewish communities nationwide. Although he calls his departure from the pulpit of his Boca Raton Synagogue "bittersweet," he approaches his new position with tremendous drive. "It's not an easy thing to give up," explained Brander, referring to his decision to leave Boca. "But my belief is that because of President Joel and his commitment, I'm willing to work with him, be a partner, and create distinct portals of entry so YU can radiate inwardly and outwardly."

deal with issues on the cutting edge." Brander stressed the need to use experts from all graduate schools of Yeshiva, "so YU becomes a place where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

Brander is a YC ('84) and RIETS ('86) alum, who began his rabbinical career in a Boca Raton synagogue with 60 members. Twelve years later, Brander's synagogue now boasts membership of over 600 families. Brander has also founded a Yeshiva High School and Kollel in Boca Raton, revitalizing the community.

"The key is to bring in a dean with his own vision who can empower others to dream together," remarked Joel. "[Brander] took a shul and in partnership with others built a

SCW Creates New Forum For Students' Academic Concerns

By Aviva Balk

SCW will soon reveal a way for students to send their suggestions about classes and other academic issues right to the top with its new Student Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Morton Lowengrub, vice president for academic affairs, partnered with Yeshiva graduate fellow Marissa Parker and a selection of students from a variety of backgrounds, will hold monthly meetings to discuss student wishes about academic issues of all kinds. "You actually get to deal with the person who has the power to make these changes," Parker emphasized. "It's really a unique opportunity."

The committee, which plans to first convene in about two weeks, will be the Beren campus division of students from YC and SCW. YC formed their student committee last year at the suggestion of senior Mordechai Raskas, and have since had a number of their own meetings with Lowengrub. "We wanted the girls to have the same opportunity," Parker said.

Raskas told The Commentator in May that the primary purpose of the committee would be "to create a conduit between students and the academic administration."

In addition to the monthly meetings, the two committees will meet together twice a semester for exchanges of ideas between the groups with the Vice President.

Lowengrub, who, according to Parker, is "very excited" and a "big advocate" of the committee, expressed interest in bouncing new ideas from the administration off of the students. This allows any potential problems to be caught early on, further expanding student involvement in the academic process.

The committee will be com-

prised of fewer than a dozen students, chosen through a standard application and interview process. "The applicant pool was very good," Parker remarked. "Anyone who was interested really wanted to make a difference. It was a self selected group in that way."

The small size is intended to create an intimate and more comfortable setting for students to express their concerns. Furthermore, special attention was given to ensure diversity; students were selected from various areas of study and class statuses.

"One of the students is from the honors program, we have an English major, philosophy major, business major...there is one from Australia, some Teaneck, some LA, from Long Island and other places," she said. "We tried to make it very representative of the public. We wanted out of towners and in towners."

About half of the group will be juniors- virtually no sophomores applied - with the hope that these students will continue on next year with a year of successful meetings behind them.

The effect of the committee is yet to be seen, but students feel the necessity of having something like this on campus. "Sure there is a need," said junior Abby Schwartz. "I guess you have to wait and see, but it sounds like it could help."

"We really think this committee has the power and opportunity to bring on real changes," Parker stressed. "The whole student body should feel free to talk to members of the committee so they can bring up [their] issues to Dr. Lowengrub when we meet."

It's all for the student body; it's all for you guys to have the best possible experience at Yeshiva University."

An Academic Affairs Committee website will be coming soon.

CJF Established

continued from front page

professional leaders of the Jewish community." Brander spoke of the need to create relationships between the Jewish high schools nationwide, share information between Rabbis of different communities, and organize spiritual retreats for university students. He has already been contacted by a group of 40-50 Israeli rabbis, who are eager to learn more effective programming techniques.

Brander also highlighted the importance of generating think-tanks to study issues about the intersection of modern technology and Judaism. "There's no place in America where think-tanks deal with these issues," explained Brander. "We need to create think-tanks what people will be able to come to; YU will

The Stern College for Women Department of Biology invites the entire student body to:

Breast Cancer in the Jewish Community: Genetic and Ethical Issues

Speakers Include:

Rebecca Israel, MD

Richard Weiss, MD

and a guest lecturer from Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Wednesday, December 8th, 6:30 pm

More information to follow.

Fellows Make Mark at SCW

By Laya Pelzner

The new Graduate Fellowship program, launched this year, is designed to improve YU undergraduate schools and SCW life, and give newly graduated YU students an opportunity to gain job experience in Jewish communal work. Initiated by YU President Richard Joel and overseen by Sheldon Gelman, associate vice president for academic affairs, the program employs eleven fellows. This year, the Beren campus is fortunate to have two Presidential Fellows: Lisa Grundman, working for the Office of Student Affairs and Elysia Rothenberg, aiding the Office of the Dean.

Since the graduates are fresh out of college, they are able to relate to students on a close, personal level. Dean Zelda Braun feels that the Graduate Fellows will improve the campus, "Primarily because they are doing projects that are new...and that is very exciting."

A former TAC president, Grundman is working with new students on the Beren campus to ease their transition into college. To enhance relationships with new students, Grundman's office was strategically placed in the new freshman lounge in

Brookdale Hall (Room 19C). "I am in the midst of planning programs for new students on campus," stated Grundman. She is working on a residence life newsletter, which she hopes will come out on a monthly basis, and is also organizing a delegation of Yeshiva students to attend the General Assembly in November. Grundman believes that the program is "a great opportunity to get hands-on experience in the working world and get a better sense of exactly what career path to choose."

Like Grundman, Rothenberg is also busy developing new ventures. "I am really happy to find a way to give back to the University," she said. Rothenberg is diligently working with Dean Bacon, Director of the Department of Communication and Public Affairs Peter Ferrara and others to create an exhibit at the YU museum on the history of SCW, which honors Stern's Jubilee. In addition, she is developing a YU sponsored academic summer program for high school students that will include classes, seminars and fun activities. The summer program was initiated, "To help prepare these students for college," explained Rothenberg. Rothenberg's tasks don't end there. She is also

revamping the school's web page by adding a section titled "Meet SCW," and performs secretarial duties such as answering the phone and filing new teacher applications.

The Graduate Fellows attend bi-monthly meetings on Tuesday mornings where they hear speakers, such as Joel and Gelman, and are able to network with successful individuals in the Jewish community. Rothenberg explained that one of the benefits of her position is "working with Dean Bacon and Dean Orlan day in and day out on such a close level."

In addition to Grundman and Rothenberg, there are nine other fellows working to improve the undergraduate experience. Jacob Agatstein (Max Stern Division of Communal Services), Anat Barber (Office of Development), Rachel Cyrulnik (Office of University Life), Debra Feinberg (Max Stern Division of Communal Services), Ouriel Hassan (Office of Student Affairs), Shoshana Butler (Max Stern Division of Communal Services), Marisa Parker (Office of Academic Affairs), Shira Rosenfeld (Office of Enrollment Management) and Joshua Ross (Office of the Dean, Sy Syms School of Business).

Alumnae In Focus

By Shoshana Fruchter

Dr. Sharon Herzfeld, a pediatric neurologist, had a very eye-opening experience studying medicine in Israel in the early 90s. The opportunity to learn from top-quality and unique teachers in a tension filled country where, as Herzfeld says, she saw "all cultural groups treated so equally, with dignity, compassion and skill," was truly a privilege.

Herzfeld, who grew up in the Upper West Side of Manhattan, chose to study medicine only after pursuing a career in philosophy. While at Stern she worked with professors David Shatz, Charles Raffel and Margarita Levin to create a philosophy major. Following her graduation in 1988, Herzfeld studied at Brandeis's graduate School of Jewish Thought. There, Herzfeld discovered that academia was not the right career for her. "[She] wanted to impact peoples' lives in a less academic and more practical way."

Courageously redirecting her career at age 23, Herzfeld applied to medical school. She chose to study miles away from home at Tel-Aviv Sackler School of Medicine in Israel, which was, she admitted, a very difficult experience that left her "isolated from her support system." Despite the challenges, Herzfeld recognized how privileged she was to study in Israel, noting that, "[I] got to see how the top global medicine is pumped into a country whose finances are strained by the military," and learned first hand that "illness

cuts across all differences," cultural and religious.

Today, Herzfeld employs the lessons she learned at Sackler by teaching child neurology and development at CUNY's Sophie Davis Medical Program, while intermittently covering the clinic at NYU Medical Center and where she is setting up a research program.

Herzfeld has successfully advanced in her field, while raising her two young daughters with her husband in Lower Manhattan. Her oldest daughter, age 5, attends Beit Rabban, an elementary school on the Upper West Side whose main focuses are, as Herzfeld described, "to teach the students the skills needed to access Jewish texts" and to instill in them the value of *chesed* (kindness). A member of the board, Herzfeld is very involved in helping Beit Rabban achieve these goals.

As chair of the Jubilee, Herzfeld, together with longtime friend Susan Ungar, formed committees and mapped out a year of events, including concerts, speakers and a reunion of SCW alums in Israel, to celebrate this great achievement. She hopes that her efforts will help women realize how fortunate they are to study at SCW. "It is very easy to not really think about, but to engage in Jewish texts while pursuing secular studies [forms] a synthesis of the two which is really unbelievable," she said. "[SCW] was tremendous vision that really changed education for observant, and all, Jewish women."

Burning Up

By Eliana Balk

While New Yorkers made their early morning trek past East 34th St. on a crisp fall day, they were met with an unusual site: several hundred Stern girls standing outside Brookdale Residence Hall in various states of dress-and undress.

Some sat on the ground and dozed, while others grumbled discontentedly to themselves. Most talked excitedly, contributing to the steady stream of chatter that seems to follow Stern girls wherever they go.

The cause of this bizarre spectacle? None other than a good, old-fashioned fire drill, one of four required per year according to Yeshiva University's Chief of Security Don Summers.

"Fire prevention is a hot issue right now," said Summers. "There have been a number of recent casualties incurred by

fires on college campuses, and we want to keep that from happening at Yeshiva."

According to Summers, there have been only a few fire-related incidents at YU in the past 15 years, one of which occurred just a few weeks ago at Belfer Hall on the Wilf Campus.

Luckily, the electrical fire, which occurred as a result of leakage from rainwater, only hurt wiring, and not lives, but it is a reminder that the possibility of a fire is a reality. That said, if we cannot control the elements of nature, we can at least be scrupulous in those areas over which we do have control.

Although Summers says that the risk of a fire is higher at Yeshiva than at other universities- after all, where else does anyone burn as many candles as we do on campus- he attributes the relatively low record of fire-related incidents on Yeshiva's campuses to both security's assiduous enforcement of fire

prevention as well as the student body's excellent cooperation with fire prevention regulations.

"The greatest danger with some students is that they get so used to 'practicing' fire drills that they don't know how to be serious in the event of a real fire. Luckily, we don't have that problem here," Summers said.

To ensure continued safety at YU, Summers stresses the importance of knowing where staircases are located and of treating every alarm like an emergency. He also encourages students to talk to their Residence Advisors, who participated in an extensive fire safety session in anticipation of the new school year.

SCW senior Elie Appleson, an RA at Schottenstein Residence Hall, found the session "very informative." "It really made me recognize the extent to which fire can be a threat to anyone," she said.

Of course, the real question

on students' minds is not why we have fire drills, but why we have them when we have them. Translation: are more early-morning fire drills to come?

While Summers cannot give specifics (yeah, that would kind of defeat the purpose, kids), his matter of fact explanation for the early morning drills may be a consolation to those who are not, shall we say, morning people.

"Most people are in the dorms in the early morning, so it's the ideal time to have a drill. We realize there's no "good" time to do it, but it is crucial that it get done," he explained. In addition, city regulations require fire drills on each security shift so it's either 1:00 am or 7:00 am.

In other words, it's not personal- it's business. So don't stress, remember the safety tips....oh, and sleep in really cute pajamas.



A Tribute to Ronald Stanton, Former Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Morry J. Weiss, Ronald P. Stanton and Richard M. Joel

By Nehama Cohen

September 8th 2004 marked the conclusion of Ronald P. Stanton's respected two-year position as chairman of the YU Board of Trustees.

Born in 1928, Mr. Stanton graduated from City College of New York. He later established Transammonia, Inc. in 1965. The company, listed by Forbes magazine as one of America's 100 largest private corporations, trades, distributes and transports fertilizer materials, liquefied petroleum gases and petrochemicals.

Mr. Stanton first joined the Board of Trustees in 1976 after being invited by late President Samuel Belkin and late trustee Charles Bendheim of YU. Mr. Stanton received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letter's

degree from YU in 1982.

On September 8th 2002, Stanton, who had been vice chairman of YU since 1992, became YU's seventh chairman of the board of trustees and chairman of YU's \$400 million Capital Campaign was launched in spring 2001. He succeeded Robert M. Beren, chairman of the board since September 2000. Mr. Stanton assumed responsibility for presiding over the board of trustees, and as *ex-officio* member of 18 affiliated institutions such as Stern.

Stanton explained that his decision to accept this esteemed position was a challenging one because "it came at a time when we had to choose a new president and make certain important changes in the University." While Mr. Stanton was chairman of the board, Richard M. Joel was identified and recruited as YU's new president. According to Stanton, his greatest accomplishments during his two years as chairman were "Finding Richard Joel and giving him the approval to lead the University, ensuring the success of the university's Capital Campaign, and opening an open dialogue with the students."

One of Stanton's gifts to the

university is a contribution from him and his wife Mei, establishing a revolving capital fund to provide the university with resources to enhance and improve current facilities, modernize infrastructure and acquire new amenities for the benefit of students on both the Wilf and Beren campuses. One can see a direct connection to Ronald Stanton down at the Beren Campus, where the Hedi Steinberg Library, located at 245 Lexington, is named after Mr. Stanton's mother.

Aside from his involvement with YU, Stanton is chairman of the ministerial committee and past trustee of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Manhattan, as well as a member of the boards of Lincoln Center, Inc., and the New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Although Stanton no longer assumes the position of chairman of YU's Board of Trustees, he continues to be a member of the Board and *Chair Emeritus*.

Morry J. Weiss succeeded Stanton as the new chairman of the board.

Acting Classes Begin at SCW

By Chaya Sara Soloveichik

Although she was involved in drama productions during high school, Katie Holmes never thought she would achieve recognition. As a child, John Travolta and his siblings performed nightly in their basement on a stage constructed by their father, infusing Travolta with a love for acting. David Schwimmer first experienced acting after registering spontaneously for a high school acting class.

This year is your chance to explore acting: Stern College Drama Society (SCDS) is offering classes instructed by director Jackson Gay at SCW. SCDS has long endorsed a cultural awareness of theatrical arts. Monthly, they send informative emails about recent and upcoming plays in the New York area. They also offer the student body discounted Broadway tickets, movie nights and a yearly production.

Gay earned a Master's of Arts degree in directing from the Yale School of Drama. Her repertoire includes "Brecht's Man is Man" for Prospect Theater Company, "Rough Crossing" for Florida's Banyan Theater Company to name only a few. She isn't new at SCW, having directed last year's production of *Wit*, written by Margaret Edson.

SCDS President Marni Rosen, together with Gay, coordinated the program, which was only realized through the admin-

istrative support of Dean Karen Bacon and Assistant Dean of Students Zeldia Braun.

The classes are free to SCW students and, although no credits are received, students are afforded the opportunity to learn from a professional director in a stimulating, but relaxed, workshop atmosphere, and of course, to have a good time.

"The goal is basically to encourage both girls with little to no acting experience and girls with much acting experience to become involved in drama," said Rosen who attends the classes.

The first class was held September 12th. Gay introduced herself and encouraged students to share their past acting experiences. The remainder of the lesson was spent outlining the structure of future classes. Gay plans to break the class of approximately twenty students into smaller groups who will discuss and select a specific scene to work on.

The students anticipate performing their individual scenes sometime in early to mid-December. The program gives them the opportunity to demonstrate skills they have practiced. Additionally, it will encourage other students to attend and even audition for the production that SCDS produces second semester. Auditions for this play will be held in late December.

The schedule for the classes is Sunday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in room 519 in the SCW building.

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Jewish Soldiers in Iraq

continued from front page

men's Jewish identities. The video release of 26-year-old contractor Nicholas Berg's beheading on the Internet May 11th, recalling the similar horrific murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, alerted people all over that Jews, like Americans, are the targets of these terrorists. Shoshana Bryn, director of special projects for the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, told the Baltimore Jewish Times in May that it makes sense that Jews would be targeted in Iraq. "There are people in these countries who are looking to kill people who are members of certain groups," Bryn said. "The two at the top of the list are Americans and Jews."

Mrs. Pravansky and her husband David, the parents of 21-month-old Ilana, anticipate soon deployment for Mr. Pravansky, a radiologist, due to comments made by overseers from the air force base in San Antonio where he was previously stationed. "His supervisors have said, 'Yes, you will be in the next draw of people who might be going,'" Mrs. Pravansky recalls. "It's unknown but at the same time it's pretty certain. They assured him he'll get his chance," she says, chuckling sadly.

She explained that the number of years of service in a certain area and if one has ever been overseas on military duty are some of the factors that determine who will be sent next.

Drs. Goldstein and

Pravansky were both able to attend medical school through U.S. Army and Air Force programs, respectively. As compensation for the reduced educational fees these programs afforded them, the men are expected to fulfill their obligation to the United States in their field of expertise should the need arise. Duties overseas are strictly medical: in Goldstein's case, he rarely left the base.

For Rabbi Mitchell S. Ackerson of Baltimore, the responsibilities reached far beyond that. For more than a year, Rabbi Ackerson, 46, served as the senior Jewish military chaplain in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was deployed April 2, 2003, to the Persian Gulf after being mobilized to Aberdeen Proving Ground for six weeks and just came home to his wife and two teenage children, Avidan and Elisheva, last April, after the Passover holiday. Besides serving as a supervisor for 10 chaplain teams and coordinating counseling and worship services for approximately 2,000 Jewish soldiers and other military personnel, he made connections with the ancient and dwindling Jewish community of Baghdad, while making headlines around the world for leading Passover *seders* and other holiday celebrations and services in Saddam Hussein's presidential palace.

Ackerson also acted as a spiritual leader for Jewish soldiers or anyone among the troops who was interested in learning

more about Judaism. "I found grotesque ignorance - good ol' boys from Alabama and Mississippi who don't know much about Jews," he told the Baltimore Jewish Times. "But whenever I led programs, there were always non-Jews who wanted to come and learn more."

As Ackerson also served in the first Gulf War, his wife Amy knew to some degree what to expect of her husband's time overseas. She is grateful for living a life of faith in G-d, something she says has been a key element in retaining her sanity.

"I don't know if at the beginning I'd have said I'm a spiritual person," she remarked in May. "But a lot of my strength comes from believing that whatever is going to happen is meant to be. It was out of my hands anyway. You put your kids in a car and let them drive. You hope for the best."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Ackerson and her family were fighting their own wars here in the States. In the year that her husband was away, Mrs. Ackerson had surgery to replace three discs in her neck; then her mother passed away in December after being diagnosed with cancer the year before. There were also the occasional financial conflicts with the house and car, as well as average teenage dilemmas for the children.

"The community really came together for us," Mrs. Ackerson said. "When my mother died, almost everyone in my department [from Beth Tfiloh High

School of Baltimore, where she teaches] came up to New Jersey to make a *shiva* call. My father couldn't believe it. My friends and family were very supportive."

A strong support system is something that Mrs. Pravansky is depending on should her husband indeed be called away to Iraq. While Mrs. Goldstein finds that the hardest times for her were on weekends and holidays ("I'm pretty much used to managing the day-to-day stuff by myself because of his work schedule," she says), Pravansky anticipates that daily activities would be very different.

"I think our families would pull together and a lot of people would visit and help out," she says. "We also have some friends in the area that would provide any support that I would need when he's there. We haven't figured any logistics out, but people would be willing to take shifts. Each of our parents would come for a decent amount of time."

The Pravanskys guess that Mr. Pravansky could be away for four to six months or longer. "That time could be extended," she says.

But the fact that her husband is Jewish doesn't aggravate her worry any more, Mrs. Pravansky says. She, like her husband, grew up in a traditional Jewish home, keeps their current house kosher, and maintains a "strong Jewish identity."

"It's something I just don't really think about that way," she states. "They would kill any American, whether or not they're

Jewish."

Mrs. Goldstein, however, instructed her husband to remain on the base at all times possible for this reason. "The idea of him wandering around over there was something I just couldn't handle having to worry about," she says.

But despite Arab animosities toward Jews and Israel, Rabbi Ackerson said he never encountered any hostility from Iraqis. In fact, he added, a group of mullahs that he met at a ceremony in Afghanistan were quite gracious.

"No Iraqis expressed any anti-Semitic feelings toward me," he said. "There were some Iraqis uncomfortable in my presence, but I didn't have any problems."

When it comes down to it, a husband away is a husband away. "All of those feelings kind of mesh into one overall sense of worrying and missing him," says Mrs. Goldstein. "We were fortunate enough to talk every day [Dr. Goldstein had a cell phone] but I can't possibly imagine how it is for wives who can't do that."

For Pravansky, the greatest fear is not being able to determine what her and her child's lives will be like with her husband gone for so long. "Not having done this before, a lot of it is unknown," she says, sighing. "You just have to take it all as it comes."

*name and location changed to protect privacy of subject

Despite Vote for Disengagement, Future of Gaza Still Unclear

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religious arguments as well. The head of the Shas party, Rav Ovadiah Yosef has always endorsed a policy of *Bituach Nefesh*, the value of human life. Therefore he and his party would normally choose human life as being more valuable than a piece of land. But Rav Yosef has said publicly, "Unilaterally withdrawing from Gaza is a present to the terrorists."

Others argue that Gaza is not necessarily a part of the Land of Israel, and thus there is no religious obligation to settle there. Therefore, giving the land back to the Palestinians is in fact necessary.

On a political facet, there are 120 members of Knesset, including members of the Arab parties. Sharon needed a 61 vote for the disengagement plan to go through. 10 MKs are Arab, and six abstained from the vote. Yossi Beilin, former Meretz and Labor party member, had formed a new party known as Yachad, a Hebrew acronym for Democratic Social Israel; they all voted for disengagement. All of the Labor

party voted for disengagement except for David Tal, who abstained. Likud was not nearly as uniform, with 17 against and 23 for.

Israel's government and political parties function as a coalition. Sharon's coalition consists of a majority (61 MKs) and thus keeps him in power. However, if members of his coalition decide to drop out due to their imposed ultimatum demanding a referendum, there is a possible likelihood of a no-confidence motion. This essentially means that if 61 MKs, the majority of the Knesset, move to remove Sharon, a new MK will form a new government with its own coalition. Sharon's coalition right now stands intact, but if the NRP, the National Religious Party of 6 MKs backs out, Sharon's coalition loses some strength. Additionally, if Sharon gets the support of the Shas party, the Shinui party has threatened to drop out of the coalition. While this is a point to consider, it is unlikely right now that 61 MKs will move for a vote of no-confidence. So for the time

being, Sharon will stay put as PM.

If the disengagement plan is followed through with, the Knesset will need to vote on an evacuation and compensation bill, which is expected to be brought before the Knesset in the first week of November. Those settlers who will be removed from their settlements will all be provided with some sort of monetary compensation.

Administrators will need to be designated to carry out all aspects of the disengagement plan, and a decision will have to be made whether or not to dismantle the settlements. This will be a costly bill to pass and it will most likely be difficult to decide on how much compensation will need to be given.

In the past several weeks, the Yeshiva Council has been exerting efforts to create large demonstrations in opposition to the disengagement plan. Just this week, there were 100 simultaneous rallies in various cities throughout Israel which drew over 200,000 supporters to the opposition. This past sum-

mer a human chain was formed from Gaza all the way to Jerusalem. The number of participants in the chain was almost 150,000 people. "The chain was a symbol of unity," said Batya Ross, SCW senior, who was a participant in the chain. "It showed a connection not only between the people of Israel, but to the land. By making the chain we were showing that the land is something extremely important to us."

Some major concerns are what will be the after-effect if the disengagement plan goes through. In an interview with Arutz-Sheva on October 11th, President Moshe Katzav said, "Those who incite against the disengagement decisions of the government and Knesset, and call them a danger to security, should be placed behind bars." Security is a major concern in this matter, and the necessary actions will be taken against those who contribute to any insecurity. Violent protests by settlers in Gaza may be a reality, considering the fact that many may not be pleased to leave their

homes.

While Katzav's statement seems harsh, he is not altogether opposed to protest. "Democracy is freedom of speech when the speech is considered, responsible, and restrained," Katzav said. "No one is terrorizing those who have criticism of the government. Everyone certainly knows how to wage what is, in my eyes, a legitimate struggle against the disengagement, and it must be done in a legitimate manner." Katzav speaking of the Human Chain referred to it as, "a most impressive event, and there are other efficient and legitimate methods."

Another concern post-disengagement is the Palestinians reaction to the plan. According to a document put out by the Palestinian Authority, Israel will still retain military control over the Gaza strip, which will therefore remain occupied territory. If Sharon was hoping for the Palestinians to be happy once he pulls out of Gaza, he may be disappointed. Therefore, the security risk from the Palestinians will still be a major concern.

The Yom Kippur Trend

By Judy Alkoby

The game or the synagogue? The pennant race or prayers? For most of us, taking a few days off for a religious holiday is a private choice, but for professional athletes the decision is very public and can have ramifications far beyond the playing field. Shawn Green, who is a practicing Jew and Los Angeles Dodgers' first baseman, was confronted with this moral dilemma. Two critical games against the San Francisco Giants fell out on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. The Dodgers stood only 15 games ahead of the Giants in the race for the NL West pennant, the very team they were set to play in a key three-game series. The Dodgers have not reached the playoffs since 1996, but have spent much of the season in first place, restoring hopes of the fans who have been attending Dodger Stadium in near record numbers.

Both of Shawn Green's alternatives were unappealing. Either Green forsakes his faith publicly by playing on Yom Kippur, or he abandons his teammates at a critical time.

"I've bounced back and forth and am just trying to do the right thing. It's hard to know what that is. I've really been toying with two different options: Play one of them or not play at all. I will miss at least one game," said Green. Baseball fans, religious leaders, and the media held their breath while Green wrestled with his impending collision of belief and work. "I talked to family and friends and got advice from a lot of people. When it came down to it, I realized that just had to do what I feel is right and what's most consistent with my beliefs," Green said. He finally decided to play in the Friday night game, but then sit out on Saturday afternoon to attend services. Many were critical of Green for his decision not to play



Hank Greenberg



Sandy Koufax



Shawn Green

on Saturday, claiming that he was letting down Dodger's fans and his teammates in such a tight pennant race. However, his teammates were extremely supportive. "I support him 100%," pitcher Eric Gange said. "If he would've sat out two games, that's also fine with me. You cannot make a judgment on family and religion." Added third baseman Adrian Beltre: "Everyone understands how hard this is for Greenie. He wants to help the team, but this is something that's very personal to him. He is big part of the lineup, so it's good to have him out there for the first game. We need him."

Indeed Shawn Green demonstrated he is an essential player by hitting the game-winning home run on Friday. This is not the first time Shawn Green had decided to sit out on a Yom Kippur game. In 2001, he broke his streak of 415 consecutive games, which was then the longest active streak, in observance of the holiday.

Shawn Green wasn't the only Jewish athlete unresolved between sports and religion. The Wisconsin Badgers' starting full-back Matt Bernstein decided he was going to fast this Yom

Kippur. Bernstein began the traditional 25 hour fast early, in order to compensate for his eating before kickoff. In addition, Canadian football player Noah Cantor was scheduled to play for the Argonauts on Yom Kippur. One of the co-owners of the "Argos" went to the league and Edmonton officials, and had the game moved minutes after the Holy Day so that Cantor could play.

The attitudes of these Jewish sport athletes are reminiscent of the attitudes of preceding baseball giants. Back in 1934, Detroit Tigers' slugger Hank Greenberg sat out a late season game during a tight pennant race to attend shul on Yom Kippur. This was a particularly tough decision for Greenberg since he faced an era of anti-Semitism. Detroit was a city heavily influenced by anti-Semitic attitudes of Henry Ford and radio priest Father Charles Coughlin. Despite the pressure, Greenberg didn't play, and made himself a hero in the eyes of Jews across the country. Similarly, Dodgers' Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax refused to pitch Game One of the 1965 World Series in observance of Yom Kippur. Other Jewish ballplayers

have had parallel actions, including A's pitcher Ken Holtzman and Ron Bloomberg of the Yankees.

These Jewish athletes took a tremendous risk to make a powerful statement that beliefs take precedence over sports. As much as we all love sports, for professional athletes they constitute a job, and an exclusive focus on an occupation isn't what makes someone a good human being. It's the other things, such as the people and principles that one holds dear, that makes one a better person. Although the players' decisions didn't necessarily coincide with Halacha, they had a distinct effect on other Jewish people who view the players as role models and perhaps face similar problems. The bottom line is they chose to observe faith rather than play a game, which should instill a level of Jewish pride in all of us. Steve Greenberg recalled that his father Hank's decision was heralded a year later in a poem by Edgar A. Guest that ended, "We shall miss him in the infield and shall miss him at the bat, but he's true to his religion....and I honor him for that!"



Los Angeles baseball star Shawn Green

A Summer in Israel

continued from page 17

whose aim is to strengthen solidarity and spiritual bonds between Jewish students worldwide. This organization provides various summer programs, one of which allows American and British students to spend a summer in Israel volunteering in their field of interest. Information regarding the various summer programs offered by this organization is available online at: <http://www.yavneholami.org/prgrams.htm>.

The Hagshama department of the World Zionist Organization offers a professional internship program, which is designed to offer valuable work experience in firms and institu-

tions throughout Israel. Interns are afforded the opportunity to work in a variety of locations, including hospitals, hi-tech companies and government offices and receive a small monthly stipend. This internship program requires one to commit just 20 hours per week. This same organization has an internship where one can work for Magen David Adom, as a first response provider, helping teams of paramedics. It provides priceless skills for those interested in pursuing careers in medicine or the like as it enables its participants to learn through personal experience about courage, compassion and selflessness. The program begins with a training course fol-

lowed by a five to six week internship for the ambulance service of Israel. Only a 20 hour per week commitment is required, which will leave you plenty of free time to enjoy your stay in Israel. Information about this program is available on the official website of the WZO at: <http://www.wzo.org.il/en/programs/view.asp?id=145>.

Hagshama also has another very interesting program designed for Jewish young adults who are interested in volunteering in Jerusalem called Livnot Community Service Program. It runs all year long and has a minimum commitment of just one week. Volunteers work renovating local homes of disadvantaged

families or institutions for the disabled. Volunteers also work preparing meals in soup kitchens and distributing food baskets as well as helping both elderly and youth in need.

The internship opportunities in Israel are numerous and often can be catered to the special needs and desires of the applicant. The experience is truly priceless in many aspects-not only will spending a summer in Israel participating in one of these programs serve as a tremendous professional aid to a student interested in a career in the health sciences, but a summer in Israel provides any young Jewish woman with a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual experience.

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By Ilana Levin

While "Saturday Night Live" was a poor substitute for the actual presidential debates, two of which could not be watched because they coincided with *Sukkos*, the show did effectively transmit important facial expressions that we will all keep in mind as we cast our votes on November 2: President Bush's irritated, childish face, and Senator Kerry's feeble attempts at Edwards-esque smiles. The TV program known for its biting critiques of all politicians also duly noted Bush's pathetic "hard work" mantra and Kerry's flagrantly contradictory statements. SNL did not, however, contrast the substance of the candidates' statements and endorse one of them, as this column will do. The following comparison of platforms on several important issues; healthcare, the economy and the war on terror, may help to convince undecided voters that a "regime change" is not necessary in this country.

This year's presidential candidates are not the first politicians to present plans for fixing healthcare in America. The Clinton Administration attempted a complete overhaul of the current system and failed miserably, partially because it tried to accomplish too much too fast. The same problem is true for Senator Kerry's proposal, which comes with a \$1 trillion price tag (estimated by the National Center for Policy Analysis), to be billed to the federal government and which aims to insure about two-thirds of the estimated currently uninsured 44 million Americans. How will the government pay for all this "free" health care? Kerry's ready answer seems simple; by repealing Bush's tax

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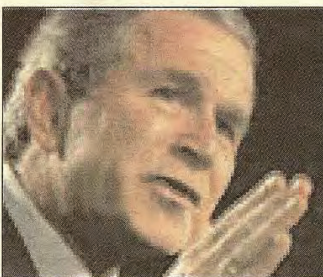
cuts. Unfortunately, coupled with other programs the Senator has suggested that will require big spending, and his promise to lower taxes for middle class families, the numbers do not balance. The remainder of the costs will be shifted to taxpayers, many of whom will be paying for their own health insurance because they will not qualify for Kerry's program.

In contrast to John Kerry, President Bush has proposed plans that do not require exorbitant government spending. And while the proposal may not affect as many Americans as Kerry's theoretically will, it is at least more realistic and practical. Instead of having the middle class pay for the lower class's insurance in addition to paying for their own, Bush has promised tax cuts for the self-insured; to *subsidize* their costs instead of *increasing* them. This tax relief would go directly to the individuals, while under Kerry's plan any money intended for the self-insured would be absorbed by the state governments, employers and insurance companies before reaching the individuals.

Regarding small businesses, for example, while Kerry promises government assistance by joining with these companies to help provide insurance for employees, Bush has suggested that several businesses be allowed to group together and deal with the insurance companies, giving them the same negotiating power as larger companies to purchase good health plans for their employees without spending federal money or unnecessarily creating government regulation.

When asked about tort reform in medical malpractice lawsuits in the second debate, Senator Kerry dismissed these lawsuits as "less than one percent of the total cost of health care," and failing to see the con-

nection between the malpractice lawsuits and rising premiums. The unreasonable amounts of money that are awarded in malpractice lawsuits cause insurance companies to raise doctors' premiums, in some cases ending physicians' practices. Another result is "defensive medicine," which doctors are now practicing to avoid these harmful lawsuits, and which in turn drives



up the overall cost of health care. Insurance companies then raise their premiums to cover the costs, and the self-insured bear the burden. Kerry's dismissal of malpractice lawsuits as unimportant, and saying that "the president and his friends try to make a big deal of it," is misunderstanding a major flaw in the current health care system. We can, however, appreciate his answer in the debate as his own running mate is one example of a benefactor of such a system. The Bush Administration, however, has recognized that the estimated \$9 billion that will be saved from tort reform of just capping damages, and the additional minimum of \$60 billion that can be saved from defensive medicine, are worth reform efforts. The bill that has been passed in the House and is stuck in the Senate proposes, for example, capping hard-to-define damages such as "pain" so that juries cannot award unreasonable amounts of money.

The Bush Administration's economic plan works under the

assumption that, during a recession, government economics should be shifted from federal spending, which provides services, to private spending, which will result in business growth and a stronger economy. Kerry's proposals include plans to lower taxes for the middle class, but he also wants to spend billions of dollars in services. These economic policies will not reduce the deficit. Bush, in contrast, has given tax cuts to all income classes to boost the economy, and not just those in the highest tax bracket, though that is what the media and outraged liberals focus on.

Another centerpiece of President Bush's economic policy is reducing government regulation. Giving businesses more freedom from federal supervision will encourage economic growth, particularly for smaller companies. Additionally, Bush's tax cuts for businesses have allowed them to hire more employees with the profits returned to them from the government.

Kerry has proposed raising the minimum wage to seven dollars which will increase lower class incomes. Bush has agreed that this is reasonable, but wants to give the option to individual states, so as not to slow economic growth by increasing businesses' expenditures.

Iraq - and each candidate's position in the war on terror in general - was a focus in all three debates. While John Kerry now criticizes President Bush's initial decision to go to war, the Senator voted to give the president the power to invade Iraq, and has stated he would have voted the same way even knowing what we do now—that no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. Kerry also characterizes the entire war on Iraq as a diversion from the "real" war on terror, against Osama bin Ladin in Afghanistan. By his definition,

the United States should only fight against a country that has first attacked us, and since Iraq had not participated in 9/11, we should not have invaded it. Yet, Kerry also declared Saddam Hussein a "grave threat" and has acknowledged that the world is safer without the dictator.

But whether this war was well-timed or not, the president-elect must have a way to win the war, yet Kerry's plan is more of a plan to *end* the war. By suggesting a withdrawal date of U.S. troops, he shows a lack of understanding of rebuilding Iraq, because the war can only end when there is a stable Iraqi government in place. Additionally, broadcasting a predetermined date can only encourage the insurgents to wait out the troops and will not serve in the interests of winning the war. President Bush's plan, however, focuses on training Iraqi security forces efficiently and stabilizing the new government by replacing the U.S. council with an Iraqi prime minister and cabinet.

Finally, it is difficult to imagine Senator Kerry as a better commander-in-chief than President Bush. As Bush pointed out in the first debate, after calling the invasion "the wrong war at the wrong time in the wrong place," Kerry cannot then ask leaders of other countries to commit troops, and expect them to agree. This ideology will not gain the trust of the world, and certainly will not encourage our own troops fighting right now. President Bush, however, has already developed a good relationship with the other countries currently involved in Iraq and with the interim government in Iraq itself. He is therefore better situated to continue rebuilding Iraq.

Whether or not these issues seem directly relevant to you personally, it is important to vote in the upcoming election. Good luck in making your decision.

Israel Emerges as Top Concern Among SCW Students

By Nehama Cohen

With the presidential elections right around the corner, political discussion tends to emerge as a popular topic of conversation. But does this political interest captivate SCW students?

According to the Center of Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, a research group based in the University of Maryland School of Public Policy, it was found that in presidential election years between 1972 and 2000 the

national youth voter turnout rate declined by 13 percentage points among 18 - 24-year-olds, primarily due to this generation's indifference to political issues and politics in general. Do Beren Campus students follow this trend?

According to SCW junior and president of the Republican Club Elisheva Krausz, recruiting students for the club has proved to be a challenge. At the club fair, held on September 20th, she found that "many Stern students are apathetic toward politics, some are genuinely confused by

it, while others just don't have any interest." Interestingly, while Dr. Joseph Luders, assistant professor in the Political Science department at Stern, agrees that in general most young people have a limited knowledge of political issues, he also commented that there is a wide range of opinions among the students. "From the small sample of students I know, I would say that opinions run from conservative to liberal. It seems that there are as many Republicans as there are Democrats," he said. He goes on to list abortion, homosexuality and the role of women as some of

the issues where the students tend to disagree.

Foreign policy, especially concerning Israel, surfaces as a common concern among these women. "[Stern College] Students are vastly more aware about Israel than students on other campuses; there is agreement on support for Israel" said Luders. Rachel Chernyak, a SCW sophomore, explained that the issues she views as most critical when considering which candidate to vote for are "the war on terror, as well as policies concerning Israel's right to protect itself and fight its enemies."

Similarly, SSSB junior Elana Katz explained that the most important issue that she focuses on during elections is foreign policy and Israel.

According to Krausz, concern for Israel has been an issue addressed by the Republican Party. "The President has been clear and unequivocal about the fact that Israel has a right to defend itself," she said.

The concern for Israel among the majority of SCW students is the most powerful force determining how they will cast their ballot.

2004

For Kerry, With Love

By Sarah Katz

It has been said that the more things change, the more they remain the same. Over the past 228 years, our nation has had 43 presidents. Each of these presidents had different policy, and different ways of running the country. President Bush has done a wonderful job leading our nation for the past 4 years. He was presented with many difficulties and has handled them admirably. However, President Bush's policies are a bit outdated. America is ready for a change, and Senator John Kerry is ready to bring us that change.

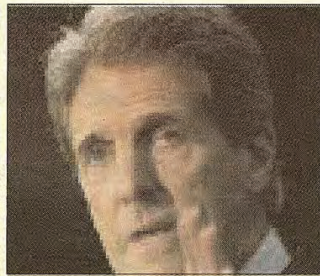
Over 3 years ago, terrorists attacked and destroyed the World Trade Center towers here in New York City. In these 3 years, President Bush has done an amazing job making our nation more secure. However, what he has done is not enough. If Kerry is elected president, he and his Vice President John Edwards, will work harder to make America safe. Kerry believes that we need to better secure our borders and better equip the people that protect us, such as our policemen, firefighters, etc. We should really be focusing on protecting our country from the inside, not randomly killing people just because the countries they live in harbor ter-

rorists. Yes, it is a very noble and important goal to rid the world of terrorism, but America's first priority should be America. Once we have guaranteed the internal safety of our country, which we have not yet done, then we can move on to the rest of the world.

One of the major problems that makes our country vulnerable to terrorism is our dependence on MidEast oil. Bush has tried to drill for oil in Alaska in order to lessen this reliance on foreign oil, but many environmentalists object to Bush's plan. Kerry plans to end our dependence on foreign oil while still protecting the environment.

Finally, detaching ourselves from MidEast oil is especially important for us as Jews. Many of the MidEast nations that the United States relies on for oil are supporters of Palestinian terrorists. As Jews, we should hate in any way to encourage those who promote killing our brothers and sisters. If the United States is no longer dependent on foreign oil, we will no longer feel a need to protect these terrorist nations, and we will be able to fully support Israel, our only democratic ally in the MidEast region. John Kerry and his running mate, John Edwards, have said that they are committed to the securi-

ty of our ally Israel, and the creation of a lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors. As Jews, we are morally obligated to help stop the killing of our brothers and sisters, which is why we



should support John Kerry's plan to end our dependence on MidEast terrorist nations for our oil.

In addition to improving our foreign policies, Kerry also plans to improve our domestic policies. One of the most important issues facing us as Stern students is discrimination against women. Despite the fact that women and men have supposedly had equal rights for many years, women still only earn an average of 77 cents for every dollar earned by men. We must make equal pay for equal work a reality, which is something that Kerry believes in very firmly. Kerry believes that all people, whether white or

black, male or female, American or foreign-born, deserve equal rights, and he will push his hardest to make this dream a reality.

When I first agreed to write this article, I thought it would be relatively easy. All I would have to do is write down the reasons why I plan on voting for Kerry (assuming the NYS Board of Elections ever processes my registration form), and address Kerry's views on a few issues that I personally was not interested in but that other Stern students might take into account when deciding their vote. As part of my research, I looked at other college newspapers' websites to see what issues they mentioned in their election coverage. I was very disappointed to come across an article about Kerry in a newspaper from a school very similar to our own that basically bashed Kerry and only mentioned his faults, not his good policies. My first instinct was to write anything negative I could think of about Bush. But then I realized that an article like that would not only be immature, it would also be pointless. I do not want to stoop to the level of saying *lashon hara* to make a point.

Instead, I decided that the best form of protest would be to write an article outlining Kerry's positive policies rather than



focusing on his infamous "flip-flops." This article is my protest against that article.

Kerry is not perfect. Many people have criticized his policies for various reasons, and a lot of those criticisms are true. But we must realize that nobody is perfect and that expecting our president to be perfect would be unreasonable. But Kerry can help bring America closer to perfection, and in turn, help the rest of the world better itself. Kerry will do his best to make the world a better place with as little damage and bloodshed as possible, so how could it possibly hurt to vote for him? Let's help the world change and keep America the same by continuing to dominate the free world and lead it in the best possible way.

I could sit here and continue to list the reasons for you to vote for Kerry, but honestly, I have better things to do with my life. I will leave you with one piece of advice: be informed and vote. No matter who you vote for, it's important that you get the facts and, if you're eligible to vote, that you vote for whoever you think should be the next president on November 2nd.

Do You Know Who You're Voting For? An SCW Student Takes on the Candidates

By Tova Stulman

In an age of media advertisements, political blogs, telephone polls and televised debates, it is hard to find one venue that has not been constantly bombarding citizens with slogans and propaganda, urging them to vote for one candidate or another. Yet it seems that so much emphasis has been placed on trivialities, and a lack of attention given to the real issues at hand.

I set out in the halls of Brookdale to find out what people felt about this election's candidates; their images, issues and the hope that they offer for the future of this country. As the majority of Stern students have grown up with both TV and Internet access, and have both means of information at their fingertips on the Beren campus, I expected to find a general knowledge of the candidates and what they each represent, if not a detailed analysis of their political careers and agendas. Imagine my surprise, when I found out that the majority of students I spoke to had only vague notions of what the candidates represented.

Worse still, a couple of students informed me that they were not really "into this politics thing." I doubt that this was the political future Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony had in mind for America's women. Therefore, I have taken the liberty of providing a general overview of both the Democratic and Republican main causes and campaign pledges.

The incumbent President, Republican candidate George W. Bush, has made homeland security his primary campaign focus. Bush has come under a lot of fire for going after Saddam Hussein, a man who many people say was not the main threat to American safety, rather than Osama bin Laden.

Since September 11th, a vast number of Americans admire Bush's tough stance not just on terrorists, but those who sponsor or reward them. Bush has been a loyal supporter of Israel, showing unwavering support even in the face of public ridicule and criticism. Sophomore Shoshana Fruchter feels that Bush's actions have led to greater approval of Israel. "Bush's fight against terrorism has shown the world

more of what Israel faces on a daily basis, and thus eased up critique of Israeli actions," she said.

Some of that support no doubt stems from his very public status as a born-again Christian, which probably also serves as the motivation for his controversial support of a partial-birth abortion ban. Bush is also in favor of tax breaks for the wealthy corporate class, suggesting that the tax cuts will serve to encourage consumers to buy stocks and invest in the nation's economy. While this theory does have legitimacy, many people, especially struggling middle-class workers, feel resentful to what they deem as a benefit of being in the same echelon of society as Bush. Some of Bush's strengths include his consistency and loyalty to his cabinet; some of his weaknesses, public debating and his dubious National Guard service, for which he has taken a lot of flack in recent months.

John Kerry, the Democratic candidate, has gained notoriety for being a flip-flopper. Once a benign term for footwear, a flip-flop is now a term for one who changes their position on things frequently. But many people

counter this accusation saying that it's unfair. "People call Kerry a flip-flop, but at least he's willing to openly state his new opinion when it changes," said freshman Sarah Katz. "Most people would still publicly stick to an old opinion, just because they're stubborn."

What's clear about John Kerry is that he has expressed a lack of support for the war in Iraq. He would have preferred to specifically target Osama Bin Laden, rather than Saddam Hussein, and has accused Bush of confusing the war on terror with the war on Iraq. Though publicly he takes a definitive stance in support of Israel, he has suggested he would employ the advice of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, an infamous anti-Israel politician, in discussing the Middle East peace process.

Although Kerry is a religious Catholic, he has stated that he believes in the separation of church and state, and would thus not pursue a partial-birth abortion ban or a federal constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage. He is against tax cuts for the wealthy, and instead, prefers to offer tax breaks to

those families who make less than 200,000 dollars. Kerry's strengths include his articulate speaking ability and his distinguished war record - three admirable purple hearts for his command of a Swift boat during the Vietnam War.

Besides his aforementioned reputation as a flip-flop, many political analysts have suggested that John Edward's lack of experience in the arena of politics could also harm Kerry's chances. "At first I was an undecided voter, but after I watched the Vice-Presidential debate, I decided that Edward's inexperience in politics is too dangerous for the next four years, which will prove critical in our war on terror," said freshman Jessica Feig.

Now you have it. Hopefully, this article has inspired you to care enough to go out and vote, which will probably not take more than a half an hour or less out of your day. Maybe it has even spurred you on to check out several websites that delve further into the political histories of Bush and Kerry and their current campaign promises. The information's out there: you just have to be motivated enough to find it.

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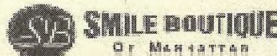
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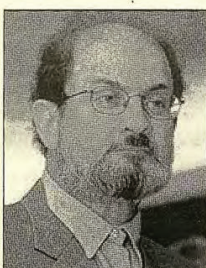
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Annual Leadership Shabbaton

On October 22-23, Shabbat *Parshat Lech Lecha*, President Richard M. Joel and his wife, Mrs. Esther Joel along with their daughter joined YU undergraduate students from SCW, SSSB, and YC on the Beren Campus for the Annual Leadership Shabbaton. Together with David Himber, dean of students; Karen Bacon, PhD, The Dr. Monique C. Katz Dean of Stern; Ephraim Kanarfogel, PhD, chairman of Stern's Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies; and Jeffrey Rosengarten, associate vice president for administrative services, President Joel shared his ideas on shaping the Jewish future, the importance of activism, and community-building efforts, while exploring the theme, "Diversity in the Jewish Community." Students had the pleasure of being addressed by President Joel on two occasions, as well as the unique opportunity to participate in discussions with other members of the administration, and with fellow students. The shabbaton hosted 250 students, and attracted some students from other colleges as well.

Salman Rushdie



Yeshiva University students will have the opportunity to interact with author Salman Rushdie during his visit to campus on November 10. Mr. Rushdie will participate in a class as well as give a lecture at the university's Wilf Campus in Weissberg Commons in Belfer Hall.

Mr. Rushdie will conduct an afternoon class along with YU professors Elizabeth Stewart, PhD, assistant professor of English and director of the Yeshiva College Book Project, and Ruth Bevan, PhD, the David W. Petegorsky Professor of Political Science and director of the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs. Mr. Rushdie's 7 pm lecture will be followed by questions, and a reception and book signing at 8:30 pm.

"During the class, students and faculty will discuss with Mr. Rushdie his work, migrant and post-modern literature, and the East-West encounter in literature, as well as the relationship between religious and secular texts," Dr. Stewart said.

Born in Bombay (now Mumbai), Mr. Rushdie is the author of numerous books, including *Midnight's Children*, winner of the Booker Prize for Fiction, the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, the Arts Council Writers' Award, the English-speaking Union Award, and the "Booker of Bookers" in 1993; *Shame*, winner of the Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger; and *The Satanic Verses*, winner of the 1988 Whitbread Novel Award and cause of the issuance of a fatwa against him in 1989. He is Honorary Professor in the Humanities at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Mr. Rushdie's visit is sponsored by the Yeshiva College Book Project and the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs, which, inaugurated in March 2004, seeks to promote international understanding and cooperation by providing an educational forum for the exchange of ideas related to diverse critical issues in our increasingly interdependent world. The annual Book Project is aimed at fostering a spirit of tolerance as well as providing an opportunity for dialogue between students and faculty, and for developing a broader sense of intellectual community.

Warren Eisenberg Elected to Board of Trustees

Warren Eisenberg, chairman and co-chief executive officer of Bed Bath & Beyond was elected to the board of trustees of Yeshiva University (YU).

Mr. Eisenberg became involved in the university's leadership in 2000, when he joined the board of YU's Sy Syms School of Business. He has spoken about his company's management philosophy as part of the business school's Dr. Ira and Doris Kukin Entrepreneurial Lecture Series and, with his wife, Mitzi, endowed a major scholarship fund to assist students to attend the SSSB.

Mr. Eisenberg founded Bed Bath & Beyond with Leonard Feinstein in 1971. Today the home furnishings retail company operates more than 600 stores in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

A resident of Short Hills, NJ, Mr. Eisenberg is a leader and supporter of several charitable endeavors. He is a director of Berkshire Hills Emanuel Camp and a founder and director of the "I Have a Dream" program of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, NJ, which provides subsidized college expenses and support services for approximately 50 students from Plainfield, NJ.

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SSSB Jewish Law Forum

On Oct. 17, SSSB kicked off its innovative new series on ethical dilemmas in the workplace with a program at Torah Academy of Bergen County in Teaneck, NJ.



"An Interactive Forum: Case Studies of Halacha in Workplace Predicaments" was the first of three series programs, and featured discussion by Rabbi Mordechai Willig, Rosh Yeshiva and the Rabbi Dr. Sol Roth Professor of Talmud and Halakhah at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, on halachic ramifications on employees involved in each case. Dr. Charles Snow, dean of SSSB, moderated.

Each participant in the cases presented was Jewish. The cases included an employee who witnesses an illegal act by a colleague that must be reported to the supervisor and to regulatory authorities—does Halacha permit him/her to do so; an employee who spends too much time surfing the Web—can a supervisor ask MIS to monitor and report back on the employee's Internet use; an employer who hires a programmer from a rival firm and asks him/her to divulge intimate knowledge of the competitor's product, and other relevant and significant situations.

After Rabbi Willig offered the halachic interpretation of each scenario, audience members asked questions related to the cases. Dr. Snow said he hopes a series of such forums might be presented every two or three months at various locations. Additional programs are slated for Oct. 24 and Nov. 7.

The Oct. 17 program was videotaped and is available through SSSB (sssb@yu.edu; 212-960-0845). Ultimately, Dr. Snow said, these sessions may lead to a book published SSSB on these halachic business dilemmas.

All sessions begin at 8 pm. The schedule for the remaining programs in this series is as follows: Oct. 24 at Young Israel of Woodmere, 859 Peninsula Boulevard, Woodmere, NY; and Nov. 7 at Congregation Ohav Zedek, 118-24 West 95th Street in Manhattan.

YC student Research

Oct 6, 2004 — Scientific research conducted by Alex Kushnir, a Yeshiva College junior and Monsey, NY, native, was featured in an article in *The Journal News*, a Gannett daily newspaper serving Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland counties.

Mr. Kushnir's research in the molecular cardiology lab of Dr. Andrew R. Marks, professor and chair of the department of physiology and cellular biophysics at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, began when he approached Dr. A.K.M. Mollah, assistant professor of biology at YC, about research opportunities. The two teamed-up with Dr. Marks, and Mr. Kushnir spends about eight hours per week during the school year — and full-time during the summer — working directly under Dr. Xander Wehrens. Mr. Kushnir has presented his research at international conferences in Israel and Scotland. His research will also appear in *Ryanodine Receptors: Function and Dysfunction in Clinical Disease* (Kluwer Academic Publishers), a textbook edited by Drs. Wehrens and Marks that is set to be released in November during the Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association in New Orleans.

Torah Tours



Over the holiday of *Shemini Atzeret* and *Simchat Torah*, students and alumni of Yeshiva University and its Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), enriched their holiday celebrations in more than 65 Jewish communities.

As part of the annual Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours, and sponsored by RIETS' Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS), groups of four to eight men and women visited Orthodox congregations across North America infusing *ruach* (Jewish spirit and passion) into the holiday celebrations.

This year, more than 400 students and alumni joined the tours, organized by MSDCS' Robert Shur, and spent the holidays away from their families singing, dancing, and sharing Torah ideas with members of other Jewish communities from Portland, OR, to Springfield, MA. They also hosted activities for youth and offered Torah learning sessions on timely Jewish topics.

Roth Scholars Conduct Research at AECOM

By Yardanna Platt

This past summer, eight exceptional students from YC and Stern conducted cutting-edge experiments at YU's Albert Einstein College of Medicine through the Roth Institute Scholars for Undergraduate Summer Research Program. Under the guidance of some of Einstein's top-notch biomedical scientists, these impressive undergraduates participated in the uncovering of some of science's latest discoveries. During the nine-week session, students worked in various fields, performing complex and sophisticated experiments that ranged from deciphering a treatment for multiple sclerosis to investigating adenoviruses, the cause of the common cold. "It not only gave me the opportunity to develop my own research project, but also gave me a glimpse into the exciting research being conducted to better understand our world," remarked SCW senior Pesi Porat.

This program endows its participants with front row exposure to science's most recent findings; it also provides a glimpse of what lies ahead for those who may pursue careers in biomedical research. According to Dr. Harvey Babich, Chairman of SCW's department of biology, "this program gives students the opportunity to do research in professional labs with high standards." Babich also noted that the Roth Scholars program truly

"opens doors" for students interested in pursuing MD, PhD and MD-PhD degrees.

Interestingly, Dean Karen Bacon demonstrated with actual figures drawn up by Dr. Lea Blau, chairwoman of SCW's chemistry department, that the number of SCW undergraduates interested in such fields has increased exponentially. According to Blau's statistics, the number of women enrolled in organic chemistry since 1987 has increased by 146%.

As more students consider professions in the biomedical fields, Bacon reflects that this, "program is a model for our attitude toward science education," and "solidifies" students' choices to pursue a biomedical vocation. Furthermore, Bacon is "pleased" that YU's "close working relationship" with Albert Einstein College of Medicine has allowed for such a "direct impact on students' choices."

This program may be impressive in what it has to offer, but what truly is remarkable is the caliber of its participants. Blau, a member of the Roth Scholars reviewing panel, explained that each student's coursework and previous research experience is carefully scrutinized. Furthermore, students are thoroughly interviewed in order to ensure that they warrant placement within this rigorous and noteworthy program. It is a credit to YU and the aptitude of its students that such an outstanding opportunity exists for aspiring researchers and physicians.

The Fantastic World of Physics



Professor Anatoly Frenkel

By Ilana Pister

Dr. Anatoly Frenkel, associate professor and head of the department of physics at Stern, and someone who is currently involved in research that is at the peak of modern science, has recently received a large grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for his research of nanoparticles and other physics research.

Nanoscience has become one of the most popular fields of study for biology, chemistry and physics. The tiny 10^{-9} m scale offers those interested a glimpse at a world that was only recently discovered by scientists across the field. As substances get smaller and smaller they are found to be useful in a variety of areas. For example, nanoparticles have a property that allows them to enhance pigmentation in makeup, creating an interest in this science by many cosmetic companies.

As particles get smaller and smaller, they tend to undergo structural changes. The properties of the particles also tend to change at these small sizes. Everyone knows what bulk gold looks like. Most people would probably think that cutting a chunk of gold into smaller and smaller pieces would eventually

result in merely a "miniature" piece of gold that looks and acts the same as the bulk sample. In reality this is not the case. Not only does the color of the sample change from gold to yellow, blue and red, but it actually reaches a point where it is no longer considered a metal.

How do scientists know what such samples look like? How are such samples analyzed and observed? There are a variety of methods employed by different scientists worldwide. One method, which has received a great deal of attention lately, is the method used by Frenkel. His method, dubbed x-ray absorption spectroscopy, or XAS for short, is quite amazing. "It allows me to measure the distance between atoms and actually count the number of atoms surrounding a specific element in a sample," he explained. "This technology has tremendous implications as it is used to study metal nanoparticles that can be used as catalysts in chemical reactions." Frenkel is currently working on a project, entitled "Reactivity and structural dynamics of metal nanoclusters" in collaboration with University of Pittsburgh and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The three institutions (YU, Pitt and UIUC) share the \$900,000 grant that was received in September 2003 from the U.S. Department of Energy for three years. At UIUC and Pitt, the particles are synthesized and analyzed by electron microscopy before being sent to YU for further studies at the synchrotron.

Another effort, a collaboration with two scientists (D. Pease and J. Budnick) from University of Connecticut, is aimed at solving one of the most interesting puzzles in solid state physics: how some materials can be insulators at low temperature

and then suddenly become good conductors as temperature increases. These materials, exhibiting the so-called metal-insulator transition, have been the focus of debates for over 50 years. To study the problem systematically, the group submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Energy where they proposed to use a combination of the novel x-ray detector developed in the laboratories of the University of Connecticut, as well as XAS expertise. This proposal was approved by the Department of Energy, with the total funding of nearly \$400,000 shared between YU and the University of Connecticut for three years.

Both physics department grants provide funds for summer internships for students who are interested in joining the nanoparticle research group that is based in Stern College. This past summer, four SCW students, Talia Harris, Sarah Nemzer, Ilana Pister and Louisette Soussan, took advantage of this program. The selected students make a few trips to the prestigious Brookhaven National Laboratory, located only an hour from Manhattan on Long Island, and participate in all stages of the experiments, including trips to the synchrotron, data collection, analysis and interpretation of the results.

According to Frenkel, the group's most exciting achievement was beginning nanoparticle synthesis at their home base at Stern. There, they enjoyed enthusiastic support and advice from chemistry department colleagues, Dr. Lea Blau, Dr. Donald Estes and Mrs. Firuzeh Victory. Stern College is lucky to have professors such as Frenkel who are able to bring their current research into the Stern community and classroom.

Leading Women Scientists Are Not a Myth



Dr. Jacqueline Barton

By Jessica Feig

When thinking about outstanding women chemists, the only one that comes to mind is Marie Curie, the only person to have been awarded two Nobel Prizes in science. In popular culture, the image of a scientist is usually the male scientist hovering over a boiling beaker. Although that may seem stereo-

typical, it's true! Exceptional women scientists who have productive careers in chemistry are a rarity indeed. At an all-female college, it is truly crucial to acknowledge those women who have jumped the hurdle to achieve success in such fields.

This year's Ira Kukin Chemistry Lecture was delivered by Dr. Jacqueline K. Barton, the Arthur and Marian Hanisch Memorial Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology. She delivered her lecture "DNA Charge Transport: Chemistry and Biology" on October 11, 2004 at the Wilf Campus of Yeshiva University in front of a crowd of over 100 people, which included students (most of whom were female), researchers, distinguished faculty, deans and even Dr. Ira Kukin himself.

A born and bred New Yorker, Barton received her

bachelor's degree from Barnard College of Columbia University and completed her doctorate in inorganic chemistry at Columbia as well. Before moving cross country to take up a professorship at Caltech, she served as a faculty member for eleven years at her alma mater in both the departments of chemistry and biology. She is the first woman to have served on the board of directors at the Dow Chemical Company. She also served on former President Clinton's Commission on the Future of the National Science Foundation.

Barton's lecture was centered on her DNA research, which focuses on the electrical characteristics of this macromolecule. She explained that the central structure of DNA is pi-stacked and that conductivity and electron transport through the DNA's pi stacked center depends heavily on the mobility

of the structure. The primary goal of her research is to understand what happens when base-pairs become mismatched due to free radical charge transport. Free radicals possess the ability to migrate down the DNA double helix and wreak havoc on the molecule even from far away. Various proteins and metals that bind to DNA can help prevent these so-called "electron attacks." Barton is currently working on synthesizing metal complexes with an aim at targeting specific sites on DNA molecules to prevent them from becoming damaged by free radicals. Her research has tremendous applications in the fields of cancer prevention and treatment.

Barton is the recipient of numerous awards. Among them are the Alan T. Waterman Award of the National Science Foundation in 1985 (awarded to

outstanding young scientists in the United States), the American Chemical Society Award in Pure Chemistry and the 1998 Weizmann Women and Science Award.

Dr. Lea Blau, chair of the department of chemistry and coordinator of the annual lecture series, explained that her choice for this year's lecturer was based on the fact that "Dr. Barton is a world renowned chemist and has done extremely interesting work in research." It is very appropriate that Blau chose her to address SCW students since Barton is certainly a role model for future young women with an aptitude for science. Barton's words of advice to Stern students thinking about pursuing careers in the sciences: "It's hard work but it's definitely worth it!"

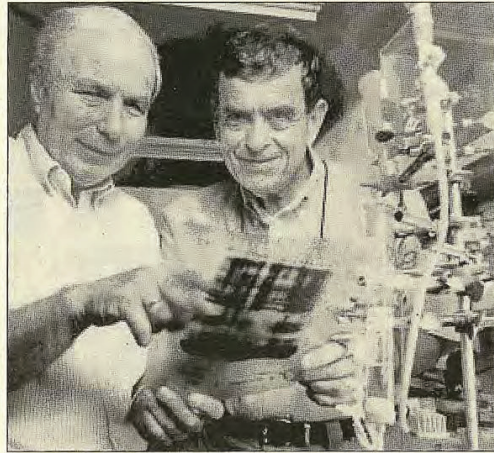
Two Israeli Scientists Win Nobel Prize in Chemistry

By Shvie Moskowitz

Two Israelis, Aaron Ciechanover, MD, and Avram Hershko, MD, both of the Rappaport Family Institute for Research in Medical Sciences at the Haifa Technion, as well as American Irwin Rose, MD, of the University of California-Irvine, have been awarded the 2004 Nobel Prize in chemistry. The actual prize, which includes 10 million kronor (equivalent to \$1.3 million), will be awarded annually on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death in 1896.

The scientists were acknowledged for their fundamental breakthroughs in understanding the protein ubiquitin and how cells and their parts are degraded. Ubiquitin is a very small protein, composed of a 76-amino acid chain. Yet despite its diminutive size, it actually plays a very central role in numerous cellular processes. Ubiquitin mediates protein degradation and also intercedes in many cellular processes including proteolysis, immune response, cell division and DNA repair. Proteolysis is the process of destroying proteins that have finished serving their function. When faulty proteins are not destroyed as they should be, the results can be disastrous; excess buildup of these proteins often leads to diseases such as cystic fibrosis and cancer. The ubiquitin discovery, according to Ciechanover, has already "led to the development of numerous drugs for degenerative diseases and malignancies that big pharmaceutical companies are busy working on."

Both Ciechanover and Hershko were shocked to learn that they had won the Nobel Prize. Ciechanover received a phone call informing him that he had won as he was on his way out making some "last arrangements for the holiday [of Sukkot]," while Hershko found



Hershko and Ciechanover in their chemistry laboratories

out the next morning. "I did not expect the message, as it was [Sukkot] in Israel...I heard it from...somebody [who] heard it on the radio."

Ciechanover, Hershko and Rose will split a \$1.3 million dollar award three ways. "I have never thought of the money...we earn very small salaries in Israel," quipped Ciechanover.

Ciechanover pointed out that, "Israel...focuses on important, innovative and groundbreaking things." Both Hershko and Ciechanover are ardent Zionists and mentioned over and over how "happy" and "proud" they were of their country. Although this is not Israel's first Nobel Prize, Hershko and Ciechanover are the first Israeli recipients of the prize in the field of science. Among other Israeli recipients are Menachem Begin (1978-Peace), Shimon Peres and Yitzchak Rabin (1994-Peace), and S.Y. Agnon (1977-Literature).

Other Nobel Prize recipients for this year are Americans Richard Axel and Linda B. Buck for Psychology or Medicine, who were selected for their work on the sense of smell. Axel and Buck made important discoveries

about the olfactory system and helped clarify the detailed pathway from the nose to the brain that enables humans to sense smells. This year's Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to Americans David Gross, David Politzer and Frank Wilczek for the advances they made in aiding our understanding of the interactions that take place between particles within the nucleus. This year's Nobel Prize in literature was awarded to Elfriede Jelinek of Austria. The prize in economic sciences has been awarded to Finn Kydland of Norway and Edward Prescott of the US, and the coveted Peace Prize has been awarded to Kenyan Wangari Maathai.

Finally, Hershko advises, "try to find something novel, and open up new problems which is not yet reached a big level at this time, not yet interested, but you think is important." Ciechanover agrees, "Don't run into the mainstream, because you are doomed to lose...the idea is to choose something original." Most importantly, he notes, to succeed in science, or in anything in life, "Just believe in yourself and do it."

Summer Internships in Israel

By Frida Fridman

Obtaining admission to the graduate school of one's choice is becoming increasingly difficult these days, as programs become more and more competitive. A good GPA is no longer enough; graduate schools look for students who are not only smart, but also interesting, versatile and compassionate. For most Stern students, visiting Israel involves a family vacation, usually for the holidays or for summer break. Some girls opt to spend their summers in Israel learning in various seminary programs in

Jerusalem, while others choose to tour the country. Most students, however, are probably not aware of the multitude of research internships as well as community service volunteering opportunities available in Israel. For those students who are interested in the health sciences, would like to spend some time in Israel and have free time on their hands this coming summer, read on.

Weizmann Institute of Science has a wonderful summer internship program, and they accept a small number of undergraduate foreign students. These students are given the opportu-

nity to take part in a research project in their field of interest for a period of 10-16 weeks. Most participants receive a stipend which helps cover living expenses. The application deadline is in January and applicants are asked to submit official transcripts as well as letters of recommendation along with an application form, which will be available at <http://www.weizmann.ac.il/acad/sec/kkiss.shtml> later this month. SCW students who have participated in this program in the past enjoyed it tremendously.

Yavneh Olami is a religious, Zionist student organization

continued on page 11

Career In Focus: Optometry

By Pearl Mandel

Many people do not understand what exactly an optometrist does, and what it takes for them to obtain their "O.D." degree. The job an optometrist encompasses far more than merely asking "which looks better to you dear, one, or two," scribbling some notes on a piece of paper, and helping decide which contact lenses are best for you. On the contrary, doctors of optometry are independent primary health care providers who examine, diagnose, treat and manage disease and disorders of the visual system. Yes, vision therapy is one aspect of treatment optometrists perform, and their education but nowadays, with the help of technology, optometrists do much more than write you a glasses prescription. A well-trained optometrist is able to detect retinopathy, which often accompanies diabetes, as well as various types of brain tumors.

Admission to optometry school varies from school to school, however almost all require one year of biology, chemistry (inorganic as well as organic), and physics. A year of English and mathematics are also required. Other courses, including biochemistry, microbiology, physiology, and social science courses, are also highly recommended. All students applying to Optometry School must take the OAT, or Optometry Admissions Test, which is offered in October and February every year. Most students take this test in their senior year, and apply for entry to optometry school for the following academic year. While a high GPA and good scores on the OAT are desirable, it is important to keep in mind that optometry schools, like most professional schools these days, look for students who are "well rounded," in that they have reached great heights not only in the classroom, but outside the classroom as well, via volunteering, shadowing, extracurricular activities and school involvement, and research.

There are only 17 schools of optometry in the United States, and only three in the northeast: The New England College of Optometry in Boston, MA, Pennsylvania College of Optometry Elkins Park, PA, and State University of New York, NY (SUNY), right here in midtown Manhattan (42nd Street).

A doctorate of optometry starts with a four rigors education. In general, the breakdown is as follows. The first year consists of basic science courses, such as anatomy and microbiology.

Second year courses, taught in virtually all optometry schools, are physiology, optics of the eye and pathology. In the third year, students master the "technicalities"—contact lens fitting, and the handling of various optometric machines, while fourth and final year consists almost entirely of clinical study.

As Jewish women in twenty first century, a career is one of our major focuses, however, so is maintaining a lifestyle compatible with being a good wife, mother, and community member. Ncha Sheth, a fourth-year optometry student at SUNY, hailing from New Jersey, quipped that she has found optometry to be a "wonderful career for women" due to the flexible hours. Dr. Shoshana Bell, an optometrist at SUNY's vision therapy clinic, pointed out yet another wonderful feature of the career. She explained that there are many different opportunities for work. Specifically, one may work in a private practice or a group, a hospital, or even in a community health center.

"There are so many exciting career options in the health-care professions," commented Dr. Bracha Lowey, pre-health advisor and biology professor at Stern. "I encourage students to explore the various opportunities."

Lowey explained that optometry provides students interested in pursuing careers in the health sciences with a flexible work schedule, few emergency calls, and a prestigious professional career. Lowey also pointed out that the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry depicts some of the appealing aspects of the rewarding career of optometry on their website, located at

<http://www.opted.org>. For more valuable information, Lowey also recommends that students consult the following websites: <http://www.aaopt.org>, <http://www.oaonet.org>.

Working in the field of optometry will enable you to put all your education to work. The scientific aspects of optometry, the ongoing research opportunities and the constant clinical interactions, will be sure to keep your mind sharp, while still allowing you to have time to enjoy all other aspects of life.

NY Public Library's Exhibit on Jews: So Much to See, So Much to Read, So Little Space, So Worth it to Go

By: Tali Berger

The current exhibit in the Wachenheim Gallery of the New York Public Library, "Jews in America: Conquistadors, Knickerbockers, Pilgrims, and the Hope of Israel," can be initially overwhelming with its 98 pieces all featured in a very small space. The exhibit traces the contributions of Jews while on their journey from Spain to Portugal and Amsterdam and, finally, to what later became the United States of America.

The exhibit brings all sorts of different media to demonstrate the significance of the Jews, despite their small numbers, during the Colonial and Federal periods. Not only are there correspondences, which include the original letter Columbus wrote back to Spain, but there are also etchings by famous artists, such as Rembrandt, and rare manuscripts from over 300 years ago. It is difficult to believe while walking through this small but impressive room that one is in a library and not in a museum; however, one is quickly reminded of this truth when presented with two written guides, which are intended to aid visitors (only a library would think to provide reading material).

One of the guides contains the title of each work, the author, the medium and the source for the display. The other more useful guide elaborates on the source of each work and how the piece relates to the Jews in each of the different locales. These notes, which seem unnecessarily long at first glance, turn out to be a fascinating well of historical, social, religious and political background. Most importantly, they help

place each exhibit in its historical context and in close physical and chronological proximity to other relevant pieces.

Although the reading can get tedious at times because of its sheer volume, the information is generally conveyed in an attention-grabbing and engaging way. There is an element of discovery in reading the guide because, after learning about the Inquisitions in both Spain and Portugal, one tends to forget that the Jews were still involved in the exploration and settlement of new lands, despite their diminished population and oppressed spirits.

Despite the captivating notes and unusual exhibits, having 98 pieces to examine and learn from can still be overpowering, and the compactness of the room does not help. Thus, while trying to concentrate on reading, the visitor might find that she is gently propelled away from the piece of interest by the procession of people waiting to ogle at an original Rembrandt.

Nevertheless, this exhibit is worth the discomfort; it is a valuable event to experience. Not only is it an opportunity to discover where the library is located, but it is also a chance to understand more about how the Jews of the 21st century have gotten to where they are today. To maximize one's gain from the exhibit, it is wise to choose a few pieces from each section - one from the Conquistadors, one from the Knickerbockers, and so forth - on which to focus. To avoid the overcrowding, go earlier in the day or later in the evening.

For more information on the exhibit visit the New York Public Library's Website at www.nypl.org.

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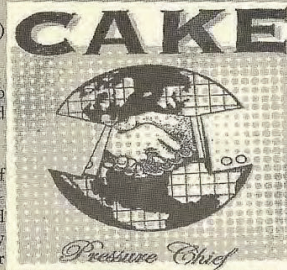
Dancing About Architecture

By Esther Lam

"Writing about music is like dancing about architecture - it's really a stupid thing to want to do." -Elvis Costello

Sometimes Stale Cake Doesn't Taste that Bad: The New Cake CD

CD Pressure Chief (Capricorn)
Band: Cake
Released: October 5, 2004
Notable Tracks: "Wheels," "No Phone," "The Guitar Man" and "End of the Movie"



There's a fickle world of music out there that never ceases to threaten the existence and popularity of each and every musician. What does it take for a band to battle the mighty one-hit wonder clichés and the power of the public's ever-changing music tastes?

The factors that contribute to a band's degree of staying power remain somewhat of a mystery. Sure, there's the basic premise that a band that doesn't suck will maintain a steady fan base, but within a band's quest for a style to call its own, there exists an anomaly. The very element that enables entry into the music business is commonly the factor that causes an artist's quick departure.

Despite a widespread reliance on the music of our parents' generation, there is an enormous amount of music being made out there each and every day. There are countless aspiring musicians attempting to get in on some of the action and to become members of our CD collections. To accomplish this, a band must stand out among the rest. Its style, or at least something about them, must be unique in order to grab the attention of the music industry, the critics and the fans.

Some may claim that this is not true. The one time ubiquitous boy-band and the wave of rap music disprove the concept that an artist needs to be completely original to be successful. So while there seems to be room to spare in the music industry for carbon copies and unoriginal performers, it is only for a limited amount of time. The radio is chock full of one-hit wonders (or in this case 4-5 hit wonders) and short-lived popularity. To ensure an everlasting place in the music industry, an artist needs to bring something new to the table.

This "something new" becomes a band's signature. It is what defines it and what will continue to define its musical career. No matter what innovations are applied to the creative process there will always be that something that remains. Fans will turn to an established band, trusting and finding comfort in that it will provide a particular element that no other band possesses.

But just as it requires some-

thing new and fresh to make a significant dent in the music industry, a band too must continue to keep the audience on its toes. To possess staying power is to be on a continuous mission to hold the attention of those who are listening. And the only way to do this is by incorporating new and innovative components to an already existing sound.

Cake is a clear depiction of the inherent difficulty in staying true to a certain style while holding the attention of fans and music critics. It is apparent that the notions of theme and preservation of style are essential aspects to Cake's career. All five of its albums feature similar artwork and almost identical packaging. Its music is characterized by its sarcastic social commentary accompanied by rhythmic guitar riffs, trumpet solos and lead singer John McCrea's sardonic tone that makes you question whether or not his voice actually qualifies as singing.

Cake stayed true to these conventions on all four of their past albums, and they stay true to it once again on their current release, Pressure Chief. 1995's Motorcade of Generosity, 1996's Fashion Nugget (featuring the popular, "The Distance") and 1998's Prolonging the Magic can be described as a trilogy of sorts. They provide their fans with catchy tunes while essentially sticking to the same formula in all three. There were no major surprises in those albums (perhaps with the exception of their cover of the karaoke favorite "I Will Survive") yet the alternative pop melodies continued to find favor in the ears of music fans. With their fourth album, Comfort Eagle, Cake accomplished what so many other bands do not. They remained true to their signature style while throwing in some surprises. Though it is not my favorite Cake album, Comfort Eagle impressed me with its synthesis of tradition and innovation.

Pressure Chief, Cake's newest compilation, seems to revert back to their first three albums. The album is a mix of

some notable and some annoying tracks but almost all of them conform to the established sound of Cake. This is not necessarily a negative thing. Like the others, this album possesses what made us perk our ears in the first place. So we thought we were going somewhere, it seemed that their sound was evolving to some degree, and though this album is in that sense somewhat of a failure, it still fills the void Cake left three years ago.

Pressure Chief took me a while to get into - much longer than any of the previous albums. I was annoyed at first because I anticipated hearing a more mature, more modern Cake but after about the tenth listen, I changed my mind. I began to appreciate Cake's strong loyalty to the sound that started it all. As opposed to seeing it as a sudden retardation in the expected evolution of Cake, I was thankful and happy to have the band back with me. I found comfort in their return.

A long time ago I saw a piece on MTV about a Jewish twelve-year-old about to enter into manhood, who wrote Cake a short letter and requested that they come play at his bar mitzvah. The band did just that. Cake played their funky songs as the Jewish preteen guests attempted to dance in whatever way they could. Everyone loves this, a band who never forgets the little people who make their career possible. And a band that doesn't forget those creative tools that got them where they are is also something to be spoken for.

Pressure Chief is an appropriate album for those devoted Cake fans who will appreciate hearing more of what they love. But for those of you who are first time listeners, I would suggest purchasing Fashion Nugget or Prolonging the Magic beforehand. Think of it as an introductory course to Cake. These prerequisites will help you to become familiar with basic Cake so that you can move on to the slightly inventive Comfort Eagle and the less impressive Pressure Chief.

The United States of Leland: A Perfect Portrayal of Imperfection

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

At first glance in a video store one might be justifiably compelled to return "The United States of Leland" to the shelf and not give it another glance. However one would be making a monumental mistake. This film may appear to mimic that most cliché-driven genre of human drama dominated by the dark side of humanity and oozing with troubled urban youth but it is, in fact, that which this genre has always aspired to be but never so perfectly accomplished. "Leland" takes the viewer deep into the psyche of human suffering without being forced to fill the film with the underbelly of human existence, as so many recent movies have felt it necessary to do. The result is a beautifully touching movie about sadness and love that simultaneously wakens the viewer to the harsh reality of heartache and softly comforts the viewer with the thought of true human compassion.

"Leland" tells the story of an intelligent, soft-spoken young man, Leland P. Fitzgerald, who murders a mentally challenged boy but professes to be unable to explain or justify this act. The very talented Ryan Gosling brings such a soulful flare to Leland that the viewer cannot help but watch, with bated breath, as Leland's philosophical musings lead the movie in search

of the elusive "why." A less talented actor would have difficulty keeping the beat of this film, which relies so heavily on monologues and rapid scene shifts, and is so strongly controlled by the title character but Gosling succeeds with an ease of motion that makes his every scene a pleasure to watch despite the lack of serious plot development.

In actuality, the downplayed significance of the plot only allows the entire ensemble cast a greater opportunity to excel, which they all readily embrace. Don Cheadle, who plays Pearl Madison, the teacher intent on solving the riddle which his Leland, is especially noteworthy as a confused and mildly flawed man trying desperately to get a story from Leland so that he can be a writer. Cheadle's character is forced to reconcile his desire to exploit Leland with his growing concern for the teenager's seeming indifference towards his own future.

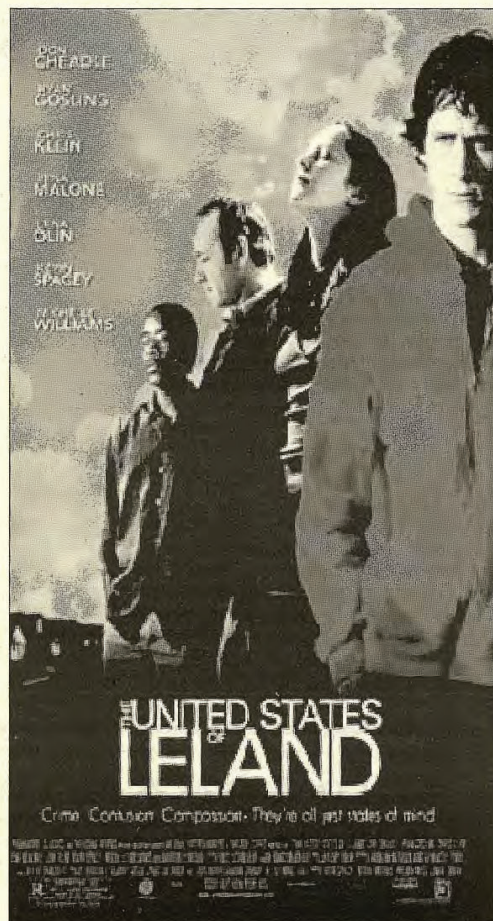
In the background of Madison's emotional turmoil is the pressing image of his idol, the famous writer Albert T. Fitzgerald, who also happens to be Leland's estranged father. The elder Fitzgerald, a minor role, is played by Kevin Spacey, who also produced the film, with the grace one has come to expect from such a marvelous actor although the viewer may wish that there had been at least one scene shared by Spacey and Gosling. Still, in return for this missing

element, the viewer is treated to two brilliant scenes in which Cheadle and Spacey verbally battle over the soul of Leland. The scenes are so filled with the pungent aroma of regret and imperfection that it is clear that both actors pushed every muscle of intensity to the limit to accomplish that single flicker of honest resignation in which the second scene culminates.

Jena Malone and Michelle Williams, as the sisters of the murdered boy, and Kris Klein, as Williams' character's boyfriend, also turn in excellent performances. All three actors manage to rise above their tendencies, towards a WB-inspired teen angst style in this film and Malone, specifically, exceeds all expectations to give, what could easily be called, her best performance to date.

"The United States of Leland" does have moments where one feels that emotion is placed on too high a pedestal and that morality is, perhaps, sacrificed for an attempt to comprehend the human condition but the movie never deviates from a tone of sincere humility. It never claims to have the answers but it does not shy away from asking the questions. The result is truly magnificent and, more importantly, magnificently true.

"The United States of Leland" is now available for rent on DVD and VHS.



The Curator Behind the Exhibit



By Orlee Levin

"Five Decades. One Dream," the new exhibit at the YU Museum (YUM) celebrates fifty years of Stern women by displaying student memorabilia including books, souvenirs, photographs, essays and artifacts. The

exhibit, which opened with a gala on October 21, 2004 and will run through January 9, 2005, is designed based on a *mishnah* in *Pirkei Avot* which says "The world stands on three things: Torah, *Avodah*, *G'milot Chasadim*." Dr. Jill Vexler, curator of the exhibit explained, "This *mishnah* was chosen as the motif for the exhibit

because the Torah is the basis for how a Jew lives in the world and how Stern prepares its women." The exhibit creators translated Torah as Judaic studies learning, *Avodah* as study and *G'milot Chasadim* as social justice according to Vexler.

Vexler, a graduate of UCLA with a doctorate in anthropology, has been designing museum exhibits since 1978. As a non-observant Jew she approached this project with an open mind.

The exhibit began to take form in April 2004. Vexler started her research by sending out a mass email to alumni from the past fifty years asking them if they would be interested in sharing their experiences at Stern. Then, she made phone calls to alumni, often spending over two hours speaking with an individual to gather information for the exhibit.

"By talking to different people you begin to get a sense of what campus life was like; what social groups exist in Stern," Vexler explained. One alumna recalls, "It was different for those of us who dormed than for the

girls who commuted and went home on Thursday afternoon. On Shabbat we all used to walk in Central Park. We became close friends." Vexler also interviewed current students in Stern to get a sense of how the Stern experience has evolved over the past fifty years. One of the most drastic changes is the decline in freshman. Most SCW students begin college as sophomores, having earned a year of credit in Israel.

One of the largest challenges that Vexler faced in putting together the show was finding truth. "How do I find integrity if I am only looking at the good?" is a question she posed to herself. The exhibit was self-select; people that took the time to respond to the questionnaire were women who had a positive experience in Stern. Another challenge that Vexler faced was working with her modest budget for the show. She explained that the most challenging aspect was trusting that the information and everything placed in the exhibit was accurate. Unlike other museum exhibits, there is no hard evidence to check and make sure the

information is correct, and one has to trust that the interviewees were honest.

"I found the most fascinating part of researching for the exhibit was the conversations I had with Rabbi Kanarfogel [chairman, Rebecca Ivy Department of Judaic Studies] about the *mishnah* in *Pirkei Avot*," Vexler said. In addition, she took great interest in the interviewing process, gaining a bird's eye view of an individual's life. By speaking to graduates of different classes, Vexler was able to get a sense of how Stern has evolved over the past five decades.

The exhibit is located at the YU Museum, 15 West 16th Street between 5th and 6th avenues, on the north side of the street. Admission is free for Stern students with valid Stern ID.

BERRY PICKING: POETRY AND PROSE

BY SCW STUDENTS

An Out Cry

A tiny word stepped forward
 And nodded to the crowd
 I am the voice of all those
 Who flash their art aloud
 I am the precious messenger
 Of all SCW
 The literary creators
 Who are, alas, so few
 The poets who concoct heartache
 But from a single phrase
 The storytellers who lead us
 Through imagination's maze
 A new home stands ready
 For all I represent
 But "Berry Picking" lies empty
 No submissions have been sent
 I gape at the blankness I encompass
 And feel a dreadful shame
 At Stern College I am the voice of all the writers
 But *silence* is my name

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 berrypickscw@yahoo.com. Please include your name, college and year. Also indicate whether you would like your piece to be published anonymously.

DID YOU KNOW THAT..... THE OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES..... AT STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.....

- Has Job Search & Grad School Resource Rooms
- Can help Seniors with the Graduate School Application Process
- Assists all undergraduates with Resume Preparation and Job Search Techniques
- Works with students to discover Internship Opportunities
- Offers guidance and counseling in Career Exploration, Selection, & Planning
- Publishes a weekly e-mail on Fridays highlighting internships, jobs, and special events distributed to all Ymail accounts at SCW & YC.

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917-326-0845.....
opcs@yu.edu.....

Up and Coming in the Big Apple

China: Dawn of a Golden Age, 200-750 AD

The Metropolitan Museum of Art
October 12 through January 23
1000 Fifth Avenue
Website: www.metmuseum.org

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America

New York Historical Society
September 10 through February 28
2 West 77th St.
Website: www.nyhistory.org

European Bronzes from the Quentin Collection

The Frick Collection
September 28 through January 2
1 East 70th St.
Website: www.frick.org

Georges Bizet's Carmen

Metropolitan Opera
October 23, 27, 30, November 4, 9, 12
Lincoln Center
Website: www.metopera.org

Banned! The Anti-Hero in Yiddish Drama

92nd Street Y
November 17
92nd St. at Lexington Avenue
Website: www.92y.org

Shul Hopping with Shifra Lincoln Square Synagogue: A Beacon of Torah and Chesed in the Heart of Manhattan

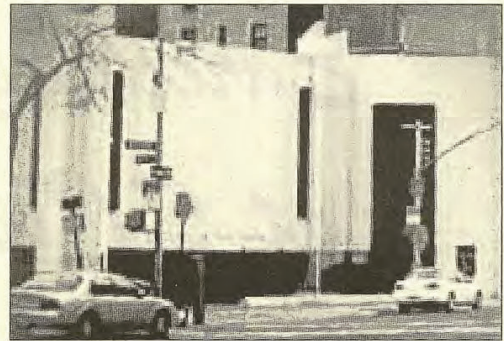
By Shifra Bronstein

The Lincoln Square Synagogue (LSS), located at 200 Amsterdam Ave on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, names itself "The Flagship of Modern Orthodoxy." This is an appropriate claim considering the many classes, programs and of course, everyday prayer services that this shul has to offer. The myriad events are geared toward the various different age groups, religious backgrounds and marital statuses of the synagogue's members. However, what makes this shul truly a cut above the rest is its extensive *kiruv* work (Jewish outreach programs) based on the philosophy of Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, the original founder of the LSS.

This shul caters its *kiruv* programs to all age groups. The LSS sponsors the Feldman Hebrew School (FHS), which was created in 1965 for children up to 7th grade. The FHS boasts a one-to-five ratio of teachers to students, ensuring individual attention for each student. "The purpose of the school is for *kiruv* purposes," commented Ruth Riemer, educational director of FHS. "Many of these young students would receive no other formal Judaic schooling since they attend public school."

Riemer insisted that each child who wants to learn can learn. "The children do not even have to have a membership with the LSS to join the school," she remarked. "They can come to class whenever they want - they do not even have to pay for classes if they are not able to do so."

Riemer is responsible for hiring inspirational teachers, creating the curriculum and suggesting class materials. When asked about what is most rewarding about her profession, Riemer replied, "When I see a mother



and child on Shabbat who were not able to read from a *siddur* or really know much about Judaism, who are now able to open the *siddur* and pray." The school wants to ensure that these secularized children do not remain ignorant of Judaism by providing them with a rich knowledge of their Jewish heritage. "The teachers are all *frum* and they know how to teach what is important," stated Riemer.

But their *kiruv* efforts do not end with the children. The shul has a beginner's segment, headed by Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, which focuses on education for adults recently introduced to Judaism. Buchwald, not a stranger to *kiruv* programs, is the originator of the popular "Shabbat Across America" and is also the director of National Jewish Outreach. Each week Buchwald conducts classes for beginners during the weekday and on Shabbat afternoons, additionally hosting holiday events and Shabbatons. Buchwald personally leads the services for the beginners in Hebrew and English.

The LSS also offers classes on a more advanced level. Currently, LSS has a four-man *kollel*, all graduates of *hesder*

(yeshivas that combine Torah learning with army service) programs in Israel, and are also part of a worldwide *kollel* organization: Kollel Torah Mitzion. This program sends participants to international and national schools and shuls to help educate other Jews. "The Kollel fellows bring a taste of *Eretz Yisroel* to the shul and have made a great impact on the community," emphasized Rabbi Nasanayl Braun, senior rabbi of LSS. In the LSS, the *kollel* members give Torah classes and may even manage up to a hundred *chavrutas* (partners in learning) each week.

In addition, the LSS is highly involved with *chesed* (acts of kindness). There is a *Bitur Cholim* (visiting the sick) group of volunteers who visit the ill of Roosevelt Hospital. The Lois Lazar Benevolent Fund provides free meals to people recovering from illness, childbirth or sitting *shiva* (mourning). The Lea Segre Tomchei Shabbos Fund helps provide poorer families with full Shabbat meals.

LSS provides too many programs and services to be mentioned here. To obtain a more information on these programs or others not mentioned, drop by the LSS in person or visit the shul virtually at www.LSS.org.

The Torah U'Madda Corner: Art and Life Priorities

By Chani Ozarowski

I take two studio art courses at Stern. In one, we have been discussing the various elements at work in a piece of art, such as line, color, shape, and texture. When lines, shapes, and color come together to create an image, we learned, a positive and negative space emerge. "Positive space" is the name given to the focal point of the picture, the image or images taking the spotlight or foreground. "Negative space" is the other area - the contour of the rest of the picture - everything but the central fig-

ures.

In a regular, logical picture, it is clear which part serves as the positive space, and which is the negative. For example, in a portrait of a person's face, the face is positive, and the space between the face's outline and the picture's frame is the negative (the negative is obviously not extremely important, except to serve as the context within which the portrait is placed.)

But this last piece about negative space not being important goes out the window when applied to my design class. This is because in my design class, we don't study nicely composition

pictures. Design is abstract. And in design, positive can be negative and negative, positive. Take our most recent assignment, for example. We had to create a pattern out of black and white where each color's part of the pattern could serve as the positive space just as well as the other. In such a case, the white part which appears as positive space may be a mere background for a black pattern, or maybe the black is background for the white pattern. All segments are equally important: there is no focal point and background scenery. Thus, the resulting image is a mere abstraction.

Who cares? So what? I'm a bio major, you say, I don't need to read The Observer to learn design techniques! There's nothing important for me to learn from art! (Or if you're really into Judaic studies, maybe you're even trying to remind yourself why certain secular subjects such as art are important in G-d's world at all!)

Wrong. This entire interplay reflects a crucial insight into how we go about living our lives. What are our priorities? What is our focal point and what is mere background scenery?

Sometime there is an illusion. Our vision is warped and

we see black as white and white as black. Things we once believed to be our life's goal get shoved on the backburner or overlooked. It's hard to keep our eyes on the ball!

This is the challenge: can we remember to keep our daily occupations in perspective, or will we let the little things get us down and distracted? Each one of us can learn something from art, because we make our lives into a piece of art. The question is, will it be a clear, focused, masterpiece of a picture, or will it be a mere abstract design?

*Do You Have an Idea for
Enriching Student Life
at SCW but Lack the
Necessary Funds?*

Then write a proposal to the President's Circle. This organization provides clubs and individual students with funds for ideas they feel would contribute to the vibrancy of student life. Further information and a proposal request form can be obtained at the Office of Student Affairs next door to the Registrar. All proposals are due by November 15th 2004. Feel free to contact Dean Zelda Braun at zlbrown@yu.edu or Dean David Himber at himber@yu.edu.



FASHION

SCW Checks Out Fashion Week

By Shoshana Jacobov

You might have walked by Bryant Park in September or March and noticed dozens of tents, beautiful women and many limos. Or perhaps you were on your way to a movie in Times Square and watched camera crews photograph celebrities, guests and designers. I bet you've even wondered what really goes on at Fashion Week here in New York City. Well, now you've got your very own spy with all the details you've wanted to know.

You've probably watched a runway show or two on cable or caught a glimpse of one in a designer boutique, but once you're at Fashion Week the fashion world becomes a different place.

First things first: the models. Are they as thin they look on TV? The answer: yes. Practically two-dimensional, they are so petite it's a wonder how they can stand and walk. In addition, most of them are nowhere near as tall as they appear to be. Standing near a couple of them after the Alice Rio show, many were my height or even shorter and I'm 5'8. By the way, designer Alice was proposed to by long time boyfriend Mark Beckman after the show.

Beckman sent the models out for the post-show wrap-up with big cards that read "Will you marry me?" Then Alice came out as all designers do after their shows and totally freaked out. Very Sweet.

Another thing about models—just because they're really thin doesn't mean they have perfect bodies. That's right, you can't see it on TV, but a lot of them have cellulite! Many have spider veins and stretch marks, and some of them don't even shave.



Marc Jacobs

Spending a week of my life practically living in the tents, I experienced quite a bit of the strange world of high-end fashion society. There were the stereotypical double-cheek kisses as eyes wandered through the room searching for the important people; the all-too-loud hissy fits by very impatient fashionistas; and of course the hoards of celebrities.

At Estaban Cortazar, named for the Miami-bred 20-

year-old designer, I sat near very handsome Simon Rex with publicist Lizzie Grubman. Two words: Yum me. Rosa Cha by Amir Slama, a swimwear line for the young and rich, turned out to be another celebrity hangout. With Nicole Richie on my left, Sean Puffy Combs directly across the runway and watching supermodel Naomi Campbell strutting past me,



DKNY

the show was a star-fest. Mandy Moore & Ashley Olsen shared lip gloss at Oscar de la Renta while Gina Gershon strutted her stuff at Buddhist Punk. Marc Jacobs was the setting for a ridiculous celebrity reunion with Winona Ryder, Kate Hudson, Liv Tyler, the Olsens, Mandy Moore, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony. Jack Nicholson came out to support his daughter Jennifer Nicholson at her debut show. But, the coolest celebrity sighting in my book would have to be meeting Janet Jackson at Baby Phat.

Now down to business: the fashion. This spring season there are two major themes

every shopper should keep in mind. Bright colors and lots of feminine detail. Inspired by the resort cities of the world, some big name designers like Tommy Hilfiger and Michael Kors went for bright 'beach chic' casual-wear. Other designers like Luca Luca focused on mastering detail. As Vogue put it, "heavily, sometimes overly embellished pieces—petal dresses and beaded and embroidered lace skirts—were reminiscent of fifties Italian design...The collection was a modern take on sweetness."



Marc Jacobs

Narciso Rodriguez incorporated vivid colors such as turquoise, coral, pink, and light green dancing amid crisp white and inky black. Donna Karan delivered a very hip, colorful and versatile DKNY show. The line played with street trends like vintage, layering, and rule breaking (sequins for day, khaki for night, stilettos at noon, and so on).

Marc Jacobs, one of my personal favorites, showcased super saturated, eye-delighting

tones like parrot blue, azure, yellow, hot pink and royal purple, often in the same outfit. And in a season of hues that sometimes border on the anemic, it felt like a trip to the tropics. One delicious accessory on the Jacob's runway was the very high, very round-toed strapped pump in a variety of bright colors.



BCBG Max Azria

In this something-for-everyone spring season, it won't be hard for you fashion-loving gals to shop. If there's anything you've now learned from my experience at Spring 2005 Fashion Week, it's that there's definitely plenty to look forward to in stores this spring.

Fashion Week, held biannually at the tents of Bryant Park, has been sponsored this Spring 2005 season by Olympus and featured more than 100 designers in the tents alone. The week held September 8-15 featured designer staples such as Carolina Herrera, Bill Blass, Ralph Lauren, Oscar de la Renta, Calvin Klein etc...Other designers like Nicole Miller, Anna Sui, Zac Posen, Michael Kors and Betsey Johnson, familiar to many of you, showcased their Spring 2005 lines as well.

Try Out Tweed This Season

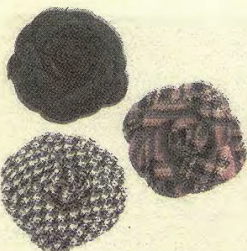
By Shoshana Jacobov

The tweed look isn't just for Chanel suits and jackets anymore. This season tweed takes on a whole life of its own showing up on all our favorite accessories. From coats and shoes to handbags and hats, tweed is this season's got to have trend. From very affordable tweed-wear to some not-so-much designer pieces, there's definitely something for every fashion-conscious shopper.

Adding one tweed piece to any outfit in your closet can create a fresh textured look for the winter. Macy's, the affordable department store next door, is one shop with some great steals this season. Check out this charcoal Bandolino pump on sale from below \$45 or this Enzo Angiolini tweed for \$79. Visit Nine West where you'll find two tweed pumps - high and low heeled- in a variety of colors for \$69.

But shoes aren't the only tweed accessories in stores this season. Liz Claiborne features some really inexpensive tweed bags for fall. From prices lower than \$35, these tweed bags are selling themselves. There's even a very sweet little black/white number for only \$12.50! Go to www.lizclaiborne.com to check them out.

Other great accessories include tweed flower pins from Delias.com, Burberry tweed hats at Saks and a variety of eclectic tweed belts at www.minutiae.com.



Delias \$3.99



GAP \$9.99



Liz Claiborne \$12.50



Enzo Angiolini \$79

THE ISRAEL SECTION

Understanding Gaza

By Malky Rosenthal

One of the major issues standing on the front lines of Israeli politics today is the Gaza disengagement plan. The disengagement plan states that the Jewish settlers living in cities such as Gush Katif, will be required to pick up and relocate to some other portion of the country. Gaza will be returned to Palestinian control, and most Israeli Defense Force positions will be removed. On October 27th the Knesset passed the plan by a margin of 67-45.

Immediately preceding the election, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Zevulun Orlev (National Religious Party) presented Sharon with an ultimatum, demanding a national referendum on the Gaza unilateral pull-out. If Sharon refuses, Orlev, the NRP, and various Likud members including Ministers

N Netanyahu and Livnat, will resign from Sharon's coalition.

President Moshe Katzav has also voiced his support of a referendum. In addition, the Yesha Council, which is the council of Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza strip, has supported the idea as well. However, a referendum will take at least a year to conduct, which will delay the disengagement. Sharon may fear the disengagement will not pass if given to the people to decide.

Sharon is believed to be supporting the disengagement plan for mainly two reasons. The first reason is due to cost, both of money and human lives. Because of the security risks involved in Gaza, the IDF has suffered many

casualties. Citizens of the Gaza area have also suffered casualties, Jews and Palestinians alike. The second reason is based on Israel's territorial portion of the State of Israel, it then includes all the Palestinians in the region. Israel by definition is a democratic and Jewish state, so removing Gaza

think that Israel is prepared to transfer territory without anything in return... if such a withdrawal takes place, we shall very quickly be faced by new demands that will force us to go back, always in the name of peace, to the borders of 1947 or 1948."

Others that oppose disengagement argue that this effort is not enough. The Israeli government should dismantle the settlements and return to the pre-1967 borders. This opinion argues that if disengagement goes through, Sharon will return Gaza, but it will end there. Israel will still keep control of the rest of the settlements, a majority of which are in the West Bank. In an interview with Ha'aretz newspaper on October 8th, Dov Weisglass, senior adviser to the PM, said, "Arik [Sharon] doesn't see Gaza today as an area of national interest. He does see



from its jurisdiction changes the demographics significantly. Israel's goal is to retain a large majority of Jews.

While Sharon's argument is about security, the opposition also uses security but in a slightly different vein. The opposition argues that keeping Jews in the settlements in the Gaza strip will in fact be better for security. The IDF can continue to monitor those traveling into Israel in an effort to thwart any attempts at terrorism. Staying in Gaza is a means to control the activities of the Palestinians living in the region. Knesset speaker Ruby Rivlin said in an interview with Shalom magazine. "By evacuating just one Jewish village in [Yesha] ... The entire world will

Judea and Samaria as an area of national interest." This claim supports those who are suspicious of Sharon's intentions. The areas of Judea and Samaria are apparently too vital to the State of Israel to hand back to the Arabs. "The significance is the freezing of the political process," said Weisglass. "Effectively this whole package that is called the Palestinian state, with all that it entails, has been removed from our agenda indefinitely." The following day Sharon responded to the Weisglass' interview declaring, "That is not my position and not the government's position."

While there are many political issues encompassing the disengagement plan, there are many

continued on page 10

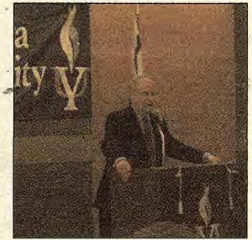
Israel Club Kicks Off Year with Malcolm Hoenlein

By Rachel Jacobson

The Israel Club, one of YU's most active student organizations, held its kickoff event featuring Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, as the keynote speaker with opening remarks by YU President Richard Joel, on Tuesday October 12th. With over 200 students from both the Wilf and Beren campuses in attendance at Weissburg Commons that evening, Hindy Poupko, SCW senior and president of the SCW Israel Club, said, "I felt encouraged by the presence and support of the student body."

Students were engaged and interested during Hoenlein's address, which warned students of the growing threat of Islamic Fundamentalism to the world and, specifically, to the Jewish people and the State of Israel. "He opened the eyes of the student body to the realities of the situation today," commented SCW junior Karen Feit. He also urged students, "to realize that this is not somebody else's battle," and that to avoid repeating history we must take a stand as Jewish leaders and activists. Hoenlein stressed the need for young people to take action. He also asserted that the antidote to current rising threats of anti-Semitism is a concentrated effort for unity among Jews, education for ourselves and others, as well as involvement and activism.

Hoenlein's remarks were both captivating and educational. "He has a strong grasp on world politics, and his message was strong, eye-opening and informative" commented SCW junior Sharona Bloom. The theme of activism resonated through Joel's opening remarks as well. He encouraged students to take a stand as educated



Hoenlein addresses YU students

and aware Jewish leaders to build a better world. "The event made me appreciate the importance of my voice as a concerned Jew and activist," commented sophomore Aaron Steinberg. Another important message emphasized in Hoenlein's speech was that, "the strongest weapon in the world is education." Appropriately, Poupko and YC senior Menachem Menchel followed his speech by presenting YU's Teach for Israel program, a new initiative by the Israel Club in affiliation with MSDCS and supported by the President's Circle. The program plans to train a select group of Yeshiva and Stern college students on various subjects concerning Israel. The group will work with a team of educators to create and conduct an educational program for Yeshiva high school students in the New York and New Jersey area. The program developed from a conversation Poupko had with President Joel in January and she is, "excited and confident that it will be most rewarding."

The kickoff event closed with remarks by Dovid Wildman, YC senior and President of the YC Israel Club, and announcements of upcoming Israel Club events.

Poupko appreciated Joel's presence at the event. "President Joel has been a long time supporter of the Israel Club and his presence demonstrated his willingness to come forth for this valuable cause," she said.

The Aliyah Guide: Online Resources

By Malky Rosenthal

Anyone who has seriously considered making Aliyah knows what an overwhelming process it can be. There are many details to be taken care of and many questions to be answered. Thankfully, there are various organizations that make it their business to answer these questions and help with the details. If you are trying to figure out how you will possibly make it all work, check out these helpful online resources.

- 1- The Jewish Agency- <http://www.jafi.org.il/>
This is the official website of the Immigration and Absorption

Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Within the website, there is a section called "Aliyah and Klita" where information can be found regarding absorption options, Hebrew language study and different issues of concern for the new immigrant. There is also a link that will provide you with the addresses of the agency's representatives in Israel and abroad.

- 2- Nefesh b'Nefesh
<http://www.nbn.org.il/>
Nefesh b'Nefesh is an organization that helps immigrants in various ways. They provide a certain amount of financial assistance and pay for charter group flights to Israel. Officials from the

government's Ministry of the Interior are on board these flights, processing the immigrants' citizenship forms. There is a section of the website where answers are provided to frequently asked questions regarding Aliyah. Nefesh b'Nefesh also organizes many activities, seminars, events and workshops throughout the year. They have Aliyah representatives all over North America whose contact information appears on the website.

- 3- Association of American and Canadians in Israel
<http://www.aaci.org.il/>
The association provides various services to its members,

such as pre-Aliyah information to potential olim. Trained professional counselors are available to discuss different absorption issues such as employment, health services and housing.

- 4- Hagshama Department of the World Zionist Organization
<http://www.wzo.org.il/en/>

Although most of the website is set up to provide articles on different topics pertaining to Israel, Zionism and Judaism in general, there is a section called "Merkaz Meida- Information Center for Young Adults." You can access an online form through which you may send any questions concerning Aliya. The center also provides seminars,

lectures and workshops free of charge. You can e-mail the center at the following address: meida@themerkaz.org.

- 5- Ministry of Immigrants Absorption
http://www.moia.gov.il/english/index_en.asp

This is a detailed, government-run website dealing with many aspects of Aliyah. Use this site to find out about the rights and benefits a new immigrant would receive from the government of Israel. There is a special section for students detailing services offered by the Student Authority.