



The Yeshiva University

OBSERVER

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Giuliani Safety and Security Begins Work at Yeshiva

By Esther Flaschner-Berko

Giuliani Safety and Security began security consulting services at Yeshiva University last week, initiating a two-month period of observations to result in an official review of Yeshiva's security system. The firm's consultants will spend the next few weeks interviewing and researching YU's security procedures to provide comprehensive recommendations on improving campus safety. "At the end, they'll give us answers to our questions," explained Jeffrey Rosengarten, associate vice president for administrative services. "They can best help us by taking their knowledge and information they'll glean and turn it into an objective recommendation, with their findings geared to helping

us say what we need to do differently."

Giuliani Safety and Security is an affiliate of Giuliani partners, an organization headed by former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Although the company wouldn't divulge specific client information, the firm has worked with major corporations in the past. Sunny Mindel, spokesperson for Giuliani Partners, confirmed "that Giuliani Safety and Security has been engaged" by Yeshiva University. Due to the sensitive nature of security matters, she could not provide further information about the project.

According to security guards on the Beren campus, Giuliani personnel have already begun interviews and observations. At the university's behest, the con-

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MSDCS Launches Midreshet Yom Rishon



Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Herschel Schachter addresses participants of first Midreshet Yom Rishon learning initiative.

By Ilana Levin

In an effort to expand the Torah education that Yeshiva University provides for its students to the greater Jewish communities of New York and New Jersey, the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) recently introduced Midreshet Yom Rishon, a Sunday morning learning program for women. Following the successful implementation of Kollel Yom Rishon

for men, the Max Stern Division of Communal Services sponsored a parallel program for women that began on February 6th. "There were requests for and interest in having a similar program for women who are looking for more serious participation in women's education," explained Robert Shur, the coordinator of Midreshet Yom Rishon.

The opening event at the Wilf Campus Schottenstein Center drew a crowd of nearly two hundred women, who were

what Shur called "an even mix of married women and students." Many participants were Stern students and alumni from the Beren Campus and Washington Heights, as well as women from surrounding Jewish communities such as Monsey, Queens and Teaneck.

The program consists of two consecutive *shiurim*, one in *Halakha* and one in Bible. The first event featured Rabbi Hershel Shachter of RIETS and Dr. Michelle Levine, assistant professor of Bible at Stern. Shachter gave a *shiur* in the *halakhot* of Shabbat dealing with issues of the time difference between Israel and America. Levine spoke of "The Creation of Woman in Relation to Man," noting that the first week of the women's learning program *should* appropriately deal with the first woman.

The schedule of future *shiurim* can be found at www.midreshetyomrishon.org; sources for the classes are posted

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SCW Mental Health: Eating Disorders

By Shoshana Fruchter

According to receipts obtained from the cafeteria in 245 Lexington, during a busy lunch hour more than 20 percent of women at SCW ordered salad. Just salad.

Healthy eating, unbeknownst to too many, is not the exclusion of carbohydrates from a diet. It is about balanced meals. In the era of fat-free, sugar-free, (and taste-free) foods, confusion about the "healthy diet" is ubiquitous. These fad promotions, combined with the entertainment industry's unattainable "ideal body" image, create the perfect breeding ground for eating disorders. The term "eating disorders" includes anorexia nervosa,

bulimia and obesity. Clinically defined as the loss of more than 15 percent of one's body mass, anorexia and bulimia are serious illnesses whose prisoners, 95 percent of them women, usually suffer from depression as well.

Stern College for Women, like all other colleges, faces the problem of eating disorders. "Eating disorders afflict 8-10 percent of women of college ages," explains Dr. Victor Schwartz, new director of the mental health staff at Yeshiva University, adding that the statistics obviously vary depending on the inclusiveness of the term. Schwartz's arrival at Yeshiva was greeted with much enthusiasm from the mental health services of SCW. His previous experience includes more than a decade at New York University's

Student Mental Health Service.

Many have wondered about the high incidence of eating disorders in the Orthodox Jewish community. One study shows that as many as 1 in 19 Jewish girls in the Orthodox community in Brooklyn, ages 14-16, have eating disorders. Theorists have suggested varying explanations, ranging from the culture's generally closed environment to its obsession with achievement, and of course, food.

The truth is, however, that little information is available about the Orthodox Jewish community in America as it relates to eating disorders in the general population, and statistics are hard to verify. Schwartz maintains that the high incidence of eating disorders in the Orthodox community is not dis-

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Conflicts in Remembering

By Rachel Adina Borg

"When we got off the trains they separated the men and the women. Then they separated the young women from the old. We thought we were going to be taken away for prostitution, but we had horrible diseases. The Germans wouldn't touch us except with sticks and clubs to beat us."

—Fradel Fuhrer.

As the granddaughter of an Auschwitz survivor, I am familiar

with the reticence a survivor experiences. My grandmother does not openly speak about her past. She was born in Czechoslovakia and arrived in Auschwitz in 43-44, so there is no tattoo on her arm as a constant reminder. It is easy to forget that lurking behind the adoring family and idyllic life she has built anew are experiences so macabre she chooses not to speak of them.

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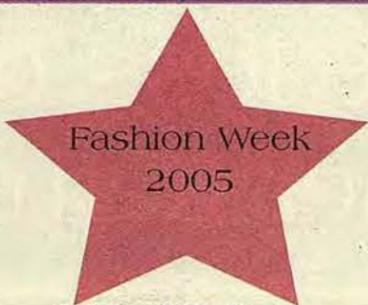
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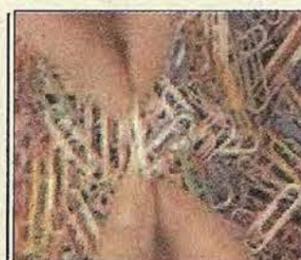
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Esther Flaschner-Berko
Editor-in-Chief

Picture this. A wintry Sunday morning in Washington Heights, cold winds blowing through the Belfer Hall wind tunnel, and streams of Jewish students and middle-aged professionals teeming the streets to learn Torah. Sound unlikely? Well, head up to the Heights on any given Sunday, and you'll witness this improbable sight.

Since initiating the Yom Rishon program, YU has drawn hundreds of men and women to Torah classes every Sunday morning. The Kollel Yom Rishon for men began months ago and attracts anywhere from 50-100 men on Sunday mornings to hear *shiurim* from prominent Rabbis, including some visiting scholars from other yeshivas. The Midreshet Yom Rishon began only three weeks ago, and is already unparalleled in its success. Attracting 170 women the first week and over 300 participants in the second week, the achievement highlights the serious need for such programs in the Jewish community.

Yeshiva University, particularly its Max Stern Division of Communal Services, is to be commended for providing such an enriching service to the larger Jewish world. Yeshiva staff involved in the program run it extraordinarily well, offering free parking, complimentary breakfast, and even posting computerized sources to the *shiurim* online days before the event. The dedication to such a noble cause is laudable, and the enthusiastic response testifies to the potential of such efforts.

Encouraged by the success of such community programming, I would like to point to another gaping whole in the Modern Orthodox community in desperate need of fixing. In the past year Yeshiva has demonstrated its ambition and ability to become more involved in Jewish communal life and is equipped to address another issue.

I am referring to the lack of Modern Orthodox *kiruv* (outreach) programs. There is not one outreach organization that is geared to adults and embraces a Torah *U'Madda* philosophy. While some may argue that NCSY hinges on Modern Orthodox beliefs (one can get in trouble for making such overarching statements in the Jewish world), NCSY distinctly targets youths and teenagers. Who can the twenty-and-thirty-something professionals turn to?

I have encountered many post-college adults, in my laboratory jobs or casual meetings, who seek answers to complex questions about their heritage. These are liberal, professional adults steeped in academic education and craving judicious answers to religious dilemmas. To many, the Torah *U'Madda* approach I profess sounds ideal, and appeals to them on rational and logical levels. But when they seek formal programming in such a vein, they are at a loss.

Manhattan is full of skilled yuppies, modern adults who identify as Jews but lack any Judaic background. The Wharton MBA who works for Ernst & Young, the Harvard Law graduate, the Columbia school journalist at the New York Times—people who could ostensibly identify with Yeshiva University philosophy are denied a formal opportunity to learn about it on their level.

The standard outreach programs of Chabad and Eish HaTorah are traditionally more conservative and right-wing than the mainstream Yeshiva University philosophy. I realize I am employing gross generalizations, so please forgive my stereotypes. The bottom line though is that there are many adults whose approach does not concur with the venues of Chabad or Eish HaTorah. These are wonderful organizations that have affected thousands of lives, but they are not necessarily for everybody.

As the premier institution of Modern Orthodoxy, Yeshiva University has an obligation to make its Torah readily available not just to the rest of the Orthodox world, but to those not versed in its nuances as well. One success rides on the heels of another, and I hope Yeshiva's Torah initiatives, following the Yom Rishon programs, continue to enrich the lives of many.



Rebecca Rosenberg
Editor-in-Chief

Paid workers have strewn 7,500 bright-orange, door-like structures across Central Park's vast lawns, manmade hills and pathways. Like Tibetan prayer flags, pieces of pleated orange cloth hang from the simple, metal poles forming the rectangular shapes. This is the new installation entitled "The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005" by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, the same artists who added a pink tutu to several Florida islands and wrapped a French bridge with gold cloth and blue string.

The New York Times has run a series of articles praising the 20-million-dollar project as ingenious and uplifting, while many New York residents are relieved to know it will be dismantled after 16 days.

Regardless of whether people find the art uplifting or disappointing, there is a more fundamental problem with the concept, namely a purpose proportional with the exorbitant expense.

In A New York Times editorial, Carolyn Curiel suggested that the project has inspired a sense of humanity in visitors; However, I would argue that it has done the opposite. It has encouraged visitors to focus on themselves, their feelings and their reactions through an extravagantly wasteful catalyst. For an installation that lasts 16 days and is more a feat of excel-

lent public relations than skilled or ingenious art, it is an utter waste of time and resources better directed to the numerous world tragedies crying out for international assistance. Jeanne-Claude has said of the installation, "It has no purpose. It is not a symbol. It is not a message. It is only a work of art."

We live in a world that cannot afford to create 20 million dollar projects that have no purpose and relate no message. This is a tragic reflection of social values, in that we are more concerned about contemplating whether steel structures look like a "pleated skirt" or a "serpentine river" than helping to relieve world hunger or the AIDS epidemic or assisting those countries who suffered 225 thousand deaths from the tsunami disaster.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

has tried to justify the project, saying that his financial analysts project that the installation will generate over 80 million dollars in economic activity. This may be wonderful for some people in New York City, but ask yourself whether you would rather put money into the hands of restaurant owners, airlines and hotels, or into those of people fighting disease, civil war and starvation? How badly does the owner of the



exclusive Mandarin Oriental Hotel need additional business? For him it might simply be the difference between a Honda and a Mercedes. After all, in a little over two weeks, this project will have a minimal positive impact on the economic vitality of New York residents, while the financial resources funneled into the scheme could have meant a great deal more to widowed Sri Lankans.

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The Observer extends
condolences to Dean Karen
Bacon on the loss of her
mother, Esther Kermaier.

A Message From Your Presidents



Molly Fink
SCWSC President

Hello Ladies at Stern College,

For those of you returning for a second semester, welcome back. To those of you joining Stern this semester, welcome!

Last semester had many successes; the calendar was booked

every night with multiple events that were created by you: The talent showcase, the blood drive and the Peer counseling bag decorating are just a sample of the events. This semester new clubs have already been activated; my board and I want you to be involved, so if you have any ideas, thoughts, and goals please feel free to contact me at Nams182@aol.com. I have a 24 hour policy, which means if I do not get back to you within 24 hours I did not receive your message.

For the second semester my board and I have planned some terrific events. March is Women's History Month, so please keep your eyes open for events. A carnival is in the works, and I know some of you want to

dunk Dean Braun so here's your chance! Every Thursday, student council will be selling Stern gear in 245 Lexington lobby - so bring your wallets. Please look for posters, emails, flyers etc. While those are just a few of the many events to look forward to, the theme that my board and I have decided to create this year is that we are here to facilitate you, the student. This is your chance to get involved so please take the opportunity. I am looking forward to the second semester; new and old comers alike- if you have any ideas for a new club, event, anything - my entire board and I would love to hear feedback as well as new ideas for this semester.

Last semester Aliza Abrams, President of Torah Activities

Council (TAC) wrote about *Hakaras Hatov* (recognizing thanks) in her article and it is a topic that I would like to address. First I would like to remind everyone to thank security for doing such a wonderful job and to remember that just like our job is to go to school theirs is to keep us safe. So next time you flash your ID, smile and say thank you; it goes a long way. On a personal level, at the end of last semester I lost my notebook - (if you ask me it ran away) - regardless, that notebook contained notes for two of my hardest classes. Two days before one of my final exams I bumped into a fellow classmate in the library. We exchanged the usual hellos and as I was walking away she asked me (completely unbeknownst to

her that I had lost my notes) "I typed up an outline for the final, would you like me to send you a copy?" This good deed caused my entire class to send our notes to one another via email. I think we all nailed the final. There's a reputation in Stern that girls are stingy with their notes. Success is when we all succeed. If you see someone struggling this semester lend a hand or just lend a hand even if you don't see someone struggling. Good luck ladies, I look forward to hearing from you!

Molly Fink,
SCWSC 2005, President of Student Council



Aliza Abrams
TAC President

So here we are again the beginning of another Observer issue, and the beginning(ish) of the spring(ish) semester. I hope everyone has settled into the new semester by now, and enjoying their classes. I hope you all enjoyed the *chagigah* we just had with Aspaklaria and Naftali

Abramson, personally I thought it was great. I also hope you all enjoyed all of the different speakers and shiurim we have had over the last few weeks.

I assume everyone would like to know what TAC has planned for this new semester. To begin with you can all look forward to the continuation of Dinner and Divrei Torah with Nechama Price. Something else exciting is happening on the Shabbos of March 4th, *Parshat Vayakel*, when we will be hosting the annual YU Yachad shabbaton. Even if you have never been on a Yachad Shabbaton you should definitely come to this one. It's a lot of fun and just a really special way to spend Shabbos. Oh, and did I mention we will be having a Blue Fringe

concert on Saturday night?? A few days later, March 9th at 7:30pm in Le Bistro, we will be celebrating The Great Women of Israel. For those of you who didn't know, myself included, March is Women's History month in both America and in Israel. The *Sochnoot*, the Jewish Agency of Israel, is sending Israeli women, all famous for their different accomplishments, on a tour of America to tell their stories and share their work. This event is being co-sponsored by TAC, SCWSC, and the Israel Club. The event will be just a few days before *Rosh Chodesh Adar II*, which is customarily a holiday for women. Even more apropos is the fact that in Adar we remember the story of Purim and of course our great heroine

Esther. We will be hosting Keren Margalit, an Israeli film maker, who will share some of her films with us and speak about her road to film making.

Shortly after that we have Purim on March 24th, which is going to be great. First there will be a *Megilla* reading on our campus, followed by the annual *chagigah* on the Wilf campus. Neginah Orchestra will be playing accompanied by a few *surprise* singers. Friday morning there will be a *seudah* sponsored by Student Affairs.

After Purim fast forward a few more weeks to Yom Hashoah, currently being planned. Shortly after that we have Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut, we will of course have the annual ceremony at

night which commemorates both of those important days on our calendars, followed by the *chagigah* in the gym. Together with MSDCS and a few other student volunteers, I am helping to plan a huge outdoor fair on the Wilf campus during the day of Yom Ha'atzmaut. There will be music, food, Israeli vendors, the works.

I think this is enough for you all to be putting into your planners for now. Keep your eyes peeled for signs about additional events. If there are any events that you would like to see happen- you know what to do- contact me either by email- AlizaAbrams@yahoo.com, or call me 917-882-6051. Chodesh Tov!

Summer stipends up to
\$2,000

Stern College Fellowships in
Public and International Affairs

Politics matters. Each day, important decisions are made about how to fight terrorism, provide adequate nutrition for poor children, control the proliferation of nuclear weapons, protect human rights, foster democracy, and much more. You can participate in the making of these decisions, large and small. Summer internships provide students with useful work experience, valuable contacts in the public and private sectors, and a better understanding of how politics operates in the United States or abroad.

To promote student involvement in public and international affairs, the Department of Political Science is pleased to offer two Public Affairs Fellowships. These Fellowships, worth up to \$2,000 each, will be awarded on a competitive basis to support volunteer or low-wage summer internships in public affairs. If you plan on doing a summer internship in public affairs or international politics and you want to be considered for a Stern College PIA Fellowship, contact Professor Joseph Luders (luders@yu.edu) to request the application form or go directly to Political Science Department website (<http://www.yu.edu/stern/politics/application.htm>).

The application deadline is March 30. In the meantime, you should find and apply for an internship that especially interests you. Some of the internship topics that you might want to consider include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Women's Health | Environmental Politics/Policy | Economic Policy |
| Human Rights | Foreign Policy | Government Service |
| International Business and Trade | International Development | Journalism |
| Law Enforcement | Peace and Conflict Resolution | Poverty/Hunger |
| Public Law | Social Change/Advocacy | |

Finding Internships: If you do not know where to start in your search for public affairs opportunities, there are numerous internships listed at the Stern College Political Science Department website: http://www.yu.edu/stern/politics/intership_opportunities.htm

* Joseph Dunner Political Science Society *

Stern College Dramatics
Society Presents

An Adaptation of

Little
Women

By Louisa May Alcott

February 20, 21, 22, 24 at 8:00 P.M.
Shottenstein Cultural Center 239 East
34th Street

Tickets: \$5 in advance \$8 at the box
office

Contact: Ariela Adler (860) 966-2514
ariela5@comcast.net

The Trouble with Transcripts

A university knows it's in trouble when seniors fear graduate school applications. In Yeshiva University's case, our qualified seniors usually don't worry about their grades, GRE scores, or letters of recommendation. Instead, they worry about having their transcripts sent to their appropriate locations.

We know of countless student whose applications have been held up because of missing transcripts. The problem is widespread: applications from medical school to physical therapy programs have been delayed, causing panic and frustration in SCW seniors.

Truth be told, there is no one to blame for the process's flaws. The SCW registrar's office is manned by only four women. These women handle the registration needs of over 1000 students, including Israel credits, transfer credits, registering for new semesters, filing for graduation, and requesting that transcripts be sent. They are unbelievably understaffed, and the location of their office- with busy students flying by- does little for their work potential.

Furthermore, Yeshiva's methods of sending transcripts are somewhat outdated. The scotch-taped, stamped envelope era has long past; yet this cumbersome, tedious approach is still employed by Yeshiva's system. Other universities have adopted a far more effective approach. They utilize special paper which has a heat-sensitive seal and unique watermarking patterns. Students can enter the registrar's office and request an official transcript, which is immediately printed and handed to the applicant. Needless to say, this method cuts working time significantly and allows students to control their own application process.

We know this technology must be expensive, just as we know that hiring additional staff incurs extra paychecks. However, as representatives of the student body we humbly ask that our request be considered seriously, and transcript services be upgraded for the benefit of students and staff.

A Lack of Communication Leaves Seniors Shortchanged

SCW, along with many universities nationwide, mandates a Speech Communications class requirement for all students. Most students, flustered and nervous about speaking in public, usually postpone this class until their senior year. Seniors are always given priority in registration, and usually succeed in registering for the classes of their choice.

A bizarre situation arose this past registration period of spring 2005. The only Speech class offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays closed out in a matter of minutes. Two days later, responding to student demands and schedule conflicts, the administration justifiably decided to open an additional Speech course on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to be given in the time slot immediately following the first course. However, because of its later date of inception, this course was initially open to sophomores and freshmen registering at that time before seniors were allowed to alter their schedules and register for the new course.

Usually, the academic advisors work superbly to maintain lists of students who are closed out of certain classes, aiming to give opening spots to those who receive priority and truly need the course. Neglecting to inform seniors of this new Speech class resulted in an unusual situation: Seniors desperately trying to enter a class filled by freshmen. One of the fundamental principles of college registration is that seniors maintain priority over freshmen who have four years ahead of them to take the very same course. Depriving seniors of this privilege, and forcing them to compromise their courses in their last semester of SCW, was an unfair oversight.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

By Shoshana Fruchter and Esther Genuth

Cheating: Personal or Communal Responsibility?

It was the beginning of a multiple-choice final when I heard the possible answers to one of the questions being discussed by two students, sitting right next to me. I was glad I had already answered that question. Yet I sat there for a moment unsure of what to do. Tell the professor? "Ssh" the students?

I have since been contemplating what a student's reaction should be in that situation. Cheating is wrong without a doubt. It is against school rules and unethical, and the issue must be assessed on each of these grounds.

According to the official school rules, "Cheating on an examination will subject the offender to disciplinary action including possible expulsion from the University." But whose job is it to enforce that policy? Like all other school rules, the responsibility is that of the teachers and the administration. If only a matter of school policy, a bystander's interference would certainly be out of place.

In terms of ethics, it is wrong for students to use outside sources while taking an exam. All of their answers should be teased from memory. Students who cheat are liable and responsible for their dishonesty. They must be taught what cheating is and why it is inexcusable. However, this lesson is not the job of their peers.

There should always be a student-teacher alliance: the two groups should work together to create the best learning environment possible. Teachers should speak to the students about the curriculum and students should give feedback. Students should probably even tell teachers that there is a cheating problem in the class; nonetheless, they have no right to give specific names to the faculty. "Telling the teacher" is crossing the line. As in any social situation, informers are seen as traitors to the group, and rightfully so. "Tattle-taling" is a notorious characteristic of third graders, not the approach of university students.

This is not an opinion held exclusively by students; some teachers agree with this rationale as well. One teacher interviewed said that if a student came to her to say that another student was cheating, "I would say, 'Thank you, I will check it out, but next time don't tell me.'"

Approaching the cheater personally is also out of the question. It only creates tension, because the person doing the reprimanding is obviously not telling the cheater something he doesn't know already. Regardless of how kindly the criticism is given, cheaters will not learn their lesson because someone self-righteously tells them it is wrong. To effectively learn the lesson, they need to come to an understanding on their own. Principal Mark Strakbein of Eagle Valley High School in Colorado received a letter from a sixty-five-year-old woman confessing that she and a friend had stolen the answers to a Shakespeare test in 1957. She wrote, "I know it makes no difference now...conscience never lets you forget."

So when I heard cheating going on next to me during that final, I simply got up, changed my seat, and hoped that the offenders will come to realize on their own how immature and detrimental their actions really are.

The ethical dilemma of how to respond if one witnesses an act of cheating has puzzled many. Instinctively, most people do not wish to be the "tattle-teller" in any given situation. Reporting an individual's violation, specifically in regard to academic cheating, can be seen as a breach of friendship or camaraderie. Yet despite these natural feelings one may have, there is a moral responsibility to notify the proper authority of any cheating incident.

On the most basic level, if a professor employs a curve system, failing to report an act of cheating can negatively affect the grades of other students. It is necessary in this situation to bring the episode to the attention of the professor so that each student can receive proper recognition for her work and effort. It would be unfair for a student to receive a lower mark because of the dishonesty of some and the failure of a witness to report the incident.

Even if the professor does not use a curve system, a student who is aware of cheating should nevertheless report the act. Inaction only helps to spread cheating. Failure to report dishonesty is an act of legitimization and acceptance of the act.

As a member of society, it is one's duty to report acts that are untruthful and could set negative precedents. Simply ignoring an uncomfortable situation is not an appropriate response if rules and fairness are to be maintained.

It is extremely difficult to disregard natural emotions and tell a higher authority of a cheating incident. However, if one truly believes in a form of ethical behavior, one must look beyond reluctance and act in accordance with one's beliefs. As Martin Luther King Jr. believed, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."

Uneasiness is no excuse for moral inaction.

Ideas for Point-Counterpoint? Email
Observer@yu.edu

Thoughts on Black History Month

By Adinah Wieder

When I first sat down to write this piece I was unsure of the direction I wished to take, since there are many different facets to African American history. I thought about the abolitionist movement, segregation, lynching and the slave trade in comparison to the freedoms that exist today. Evaluating the juxtaposition of the past and the present is surely a worthwhile endeavor; however, I wanted to do something more.

I decided to begin by searching the internet to enlighten myself on what New York City has to offer in commemoration and celebration of the month. Search after search turned up nothing unique. I thought that if I visited all the websites of the museums in New York City, then they would individually list all the special events occurring throughout this month celebrating the Civil Rights Movement. I was expecting the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art to take pieces created by African American artists and move them into their lobbies, or at the very least, to photograph the works, enlarge them, and then hang them in the lobby. My search left me with two museums that listed the festivities taking place: the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Television and Radio. Throughout the month of February, every Saturday from 1:00-4:00 the American Museum of Natural History is hosting an assortment of performances by African American singers. The performances include music from gospel, jazz and hip-hop genres.

The Museum of Television and Radio is showing a 90-minute movie every day at 3:00 pm depicting the Civil Rights movement. With the exception of a few performances by African Americans, this is what New York City, renowned for its wealth of culture, has to offer in commemoration of Black History Month.

I decided to expand my search to ascertain if this was a national phenomenon or one that was limited to New York City. I began with colleges across the country. Special mention must be made of Columbia University and Florida Atlantic University. Both universities sponsored extensive programs and seminars in celebration of Black History Month. Most other universities sponsored a speaker or two and that was it. This being so, I realized that it seemed to be a national phenomenon. I listened to the news more often in hopes of hearing something about the reason behind the celebration of black history in the month of February. But all this effort was to no avail.

There seems to be a complete indifference to the commemoration of the history of the African American struggle. After polling people, I realized that the majority did not even know why the celebration falls in this month. Therefore, I feel it is incumbent upon me to inform the public of the significance of the month of February. There are two leading reasons for the choice of this month. The first African American Senator, Hiram Revels, took oath of office in February of 1870. The second reason is due to a brilliant African American scholar, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson. Woodson received his PhD from Harvard. He then

dropped out of mainstream academia to educate people about black history throughout the United States and the world. He began by instituting a "Negro History Week" which took place in February. He made an effort to dispel the notion of the "ignorant Negro." Eventually, the designation of this week extended to the entire month of February.

While Goodwin worked toward these efforts, academic books and theory believed that African Americans "were a race of men which has never created any civilization of any kind." The academia of the time viewed African Americans as unknowledgeable and unable to contribute to society. Ever since then, February has been used as an opportunity to combat this attitude through African American lectures at universities and schools.

As a people, African Americans have suffered through many generations. The intention of this article is not to cite various tragic instances so that the reader could shortly harbor a sense of grief and then turn the page. It is written to alert students to the indifference toward this important month that resonates throughout our country. What does it say about a society that fosters such apathy? The road to tragedy always begins with indifference. If we examine history, we see that it is replete with instances in which passivity to world occurrences leads to tragedy. It is up to students to take a stand and make a difference. Students are the world's future leaders. It is in our hands to end this apathy instead of abetting it.

A Message From Your Sy Syms Representative

What's All This Hype About China?

By Lauren Goldglantz

Lately, China seems to be what all the newspapers, magazines and news stations talk about. The globe has been captured by an extraordinary Chinese hype in such a short amount of time. It has become common knowledge that the world's next economic superpower is none other than China. It seems that after thousands of years of continual tradition-like history, the world has now been revealed to China. There are endless possibilities and the global leader status of the United States may very well shift to Asia. China has emerged as a major player in world trade. The world is starting to take notice of the rise of this new economic powerhouse. Given another decade, analysts believe that China will produce more manufactured goods than all of Europe put together.

China's flourishing economy is being fueled by the billions of dollars it receives each year in foreign investment. It seems that Americans have become infatuated with all the cheap goods produced by China's factories. The mainland is being bombarded by new production technology with wide varieties of telecom equipment, electronics, machinery and chemical manufacturers. The world can no longer try to ignore the sweet aura of low wages and production costs, as well as the growth and size of the domestic market in China.

Real gross domestic product in the Middle Kingdom has averaged almost 10% over the past 20 years, largely surpassing other major economies in the same period. As far as export growth, China has become the fourth-largest exporting nation, trailing behind the United States, Germany and Japan. In regard to imports bought from Australia, Japan and many other Asian economies, China has now become the second-largest customer.

This growth is being fueled by the rapid movement toward a market economy, which includes the privatization of thousands of state-owned businesses that were once central to the Communist Party rule. In the start of 2003, private and foreign investors were permitted to purchase majority stakes in big enterprises that the Chinese government had refused to sell in previous years. As a result of this, there have been extremely large amounts of foreign direct investment (FDI) in China. It has been a tug-of-war with the United States for global leadership in the category of FDI.

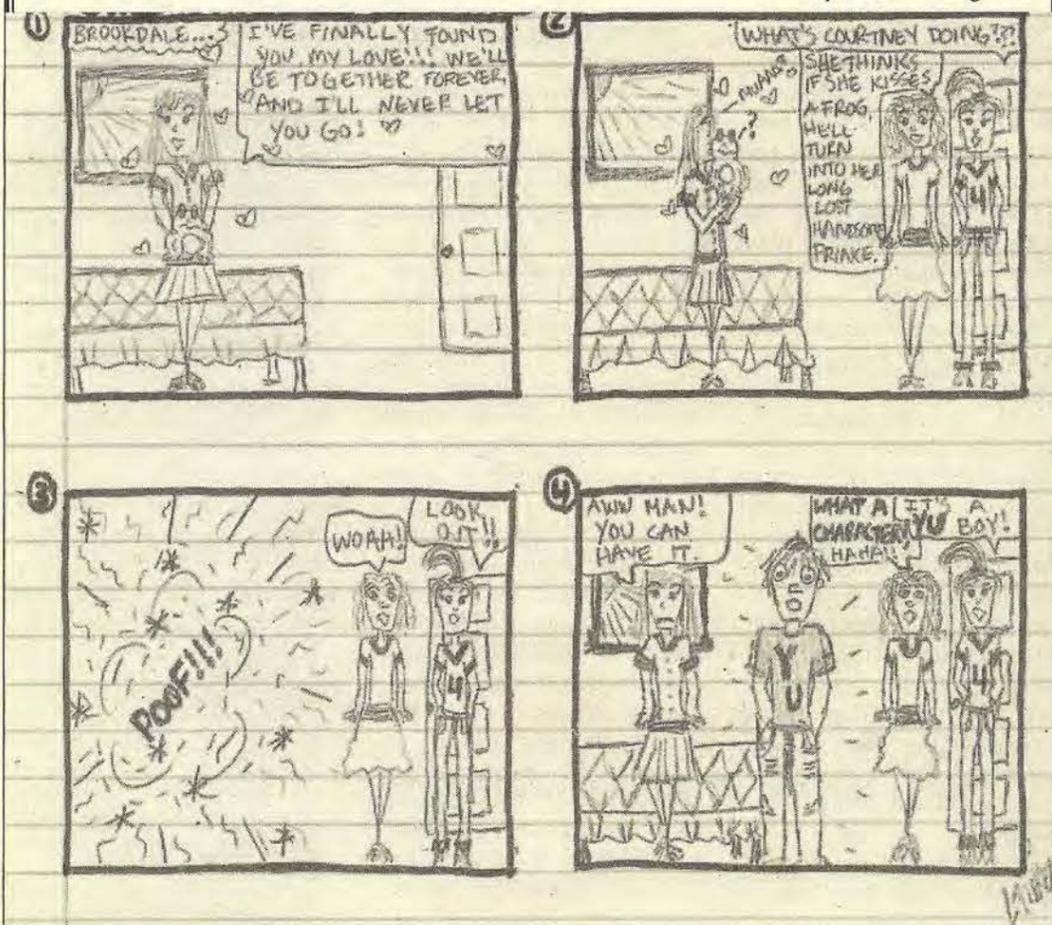
China's currency, the Yuan, has also attracted much attention this year, with China's extremely large purchases of dollars in the currency market. China is now only second to Japan as the largest holder of dollar reserves, thanks to their foreign-exchange reserve holdings. The whole world is keeping its eye on China, and markets have started treating China's policy moves and economic data just as they would any other global economic powerhouse.

Looking at the aforementioned evidence, China is a powerful emerging marketplace. However, on a deeper level, things aren't always what they appear to be. Not many seem to be taking notice of China's ecological wasteland that has been quickly developing. China has become home to some of the world's dirtiest and murkiest cities with uncontrollable water shortages, acid rain and soil erosion. Respiratory diseases and other major public health concerns are taking a serious beating during China's power growth. These public health problems have been acknowledged by many Chinese officials, although they seem to agree that it's a natural and necessary side effect to China's economic growth and rapid industrialization. Almost 75 percent of China's domestic energy needs rely heavily on coal, which tends to be high in sulfur and extremely filthy. They are also a net importer of oil and desperately need to attain a cleaner domestic energy source, like hydroelectric plants and possibly nuclear power. Societal repercussions can be expected if China continues to push aside these environmental concerns and simply focus on their economic growth. Recently, China's State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) just suspended 30 major projects because environmental standards had not been met. However, it is not quite clear yet whether this environmental challenge is being given enough attention.

Many believe that it's also important that China pull back from its dependency on coal for energy. Like Japan and the West, China should invest in cleaner coal-burning technologies. Because of many inefficient factories, primitive coal-mining techniques and light building-construction codes, there is a large amount of energy waste. It has been noted by many economists that this brisk growth period China is going through may possibly last into the next decade. Because of this, the living standards of millions of modern Chinese families will rise. This would be great, although economists truly hope that more attention will be paid to the environment. If not, even though China could become quite wealthy, people will not want to live amid dangerous pollution. Even so, it seems that China has become the newest place for investment opportunities, posing a major threat to the United States. Only time will tell how the latest series of events will unfold, as the world tends to be keeping both eyes on China's next move.

The Princess Diaries

By Lauren Goldglantz



Professor in Profile: Bryan Daves

By Laya Pelzner

Political Science Professor Bryan Daves has only been at Yeshiva University for a little over a semester, but his dedication and ability to challenge his students is already evident.

Daves joined the YU staff this past Fall semester as a full-time member of the Political Science department. He currently teaches two courses at Stern College and one course at Yeshiva College, and is organizing a twelve speaker lecture series for his State Sovereignty and Human Rights course that will be open to all students. Professor Joseph Luders, head of the Political Science department, commented that "After only one semester, I have no doubt that his appointment was an excellent decision."

Daves, who holds a master's degree in Political Science from George Washington University and a graduate degree from Columbia University, enjoys teaching and research. He likes the fact that teaching enables him to help students to "look at the world with a critical eye and open doors for them that they may not have looked at otherwise." Daves hopes to help his students develop their education and improve their writing skills. He also likes to expand his students' horizons by playing devil's advocate and challenging their comments, forcing them to analyze their ideas on a deeper level. According to Luders, "[Daves] possesses a rare combination of expert knowledge, a passion for his material and a genuine devotion to his students."

Daves' area of expertise is Middle East Politics and he is currently finishing his doctoral dissertation, comparing the economic reform programs in Morocco and Jordan to explore the reasons that some developing countries reform their economies while others do not. To accomplish his research, Daves has lived in Morocco, Jordan and France; he is fluent in Arabic, French and Hebrew. Before joining the YU staff, Daves taught at Princeton, Rutgers, and Carlton College, and was a visiting fellow at Oxford University.

"In addition to his teaching and scholarship," remarked Luders, "his commitment to Stern College is breathtaking. This year, he has thrown himself wholeheartedly into organizing a high-profile speaker series...very soon, students as well as the broader community will benefit from his labors."

This lecture series will have an array of dynamic speakers such as Samantha Power, who won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize in



Professor Bryan Daves of the Political Science Department

non-fiction for her book about Rwandan genocide, "A Problem from Hell." In addition, Patricia Wildermuth, the former prosecutor for the international criminal tribunal of Rwanda, and Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch, will also address the audience.

Hiring Daves is part of the Political Science department's goal to advance their academics, making it the type of curriculum "one would find at any of the top undergraduate programs in the country," explained Daves. In recent years, there has been an upsurge in the number of students enrolled in Political Science courses at SCW. In response to this interest, the department started a Social Science Journal and is more dedicated than ever to offering unique classes that will challenge and broaden students' horizons, according to Political Science professors and students.

This semester, Daves is offering an honors course at Stern entitled Israeli Politics, the first honors Political Science course offered in recent years. SCW Junior Sara Chamama, a Political Science minor, chose to take this course because, "It's a topic that hits home and it's just fascinating." Additionally, Chamama is appreciative that Daves is offering this course because "it's a really necessary class at a place like Stern."

"The faculty has been incredibly supportive of building a high-quality program," said Daves. He is also experimenting by having a class open to both Stern and YC students that is video conferenced between the Wilf and Beren campuses. On Monday night he lectures uptown, and on Wednesday night he teaches in midtown. Whether or not this new form of class becomes permanent remains to be seen, but one thing everyone is certain about, from fellow professors to scores of students, is that Daves is a great addition to the YU community.

Nanni J. Kaps, Beloved Teacher, Passes Away

By Chaya Sara Soloveichik

Nanni J. Kaps, adjunct art professor at Stern, had been working on her dissertation for many years under Professor Barbara Novak. Referring to the lengthy duration, Novak said with a twang of seriousness and humor, "She was busy teaching you guys."

With that one sentence, Novak succinctly encapsulated the character of Professor Nanni J. Kaps, who died on Sunday, January 16th from cervical cancer. She was a teacher first and foremost.

Growing up in New Jersey, Kaps received her bachelor's degree in art history at William Paterson University and minored in studio art as well. She later obtained a master's degree in philosophy at Columbia University. She assisted the College Board as an Advanced Placement art history reader and specialized in American Art and late 18th and 20th century painting. This interest led to her dissertation under Professor Barbara Novak, entitled "Similarities of Form and Concept in American and German 19th Century Landscape Painting."

Novak is certainly no stranger to art. Many of her publications are honored with national book awards, and she received the Distinguished Teaching of Art History Award from the College Art Association in 1998. Novak proved an ideal mentor to encourage Kaps in the progress of her dissertation, which often took her to Germany to conduct research. "She was very enthusiastic about her work

and she had taken on a difficult topic," Novak remarked. "Previously, no one else had taken on such a topic. It would truly be valuable to American art and culture."

Dedication and fervor manifested themselves in all areas of Kaps's life, much of which she directed toward her students.

Kaps began teaching at Stern College in the fall of 2001 as an adjunct instructor in art. Over the years, she taught Introduction to Art for non-majors, Art History I and II for majors, and the electives in 18th Century Art, American Art and Architecture of New York City, an honors course.

Jamie Stern, a senior at SCW and a studio art major, recalls the first day of her art history class. Kaps positioned two slides on the board, looked directly at the students and asked for their opinions of the pieces. "People weren't sure what to do - does she really want to know? Yes, she really did want to know," Stern said.

Kaps cared greatly about what her students thought and encouraged their comments and questions. She also felt the significance of transmitting a part of herself - her knowledge and love for art - to her students.

"When studying for the midterm, she had us know about twenty to thirty slides," said Shifra Cooper, a student of Kaps during the spring 2004 semester, the last semester Kaps was able to teach at Stern. "A student actually commented on the small number of slides, and she [Kaps] said, 'I'm not a teacher just out of graduate school, who's here to make you memorize a hundred slides.' She wanted us to really

know it and love it like she did."

Many non-art majors or minors felt inspired by Kaps. "Even someone who's a Bio major who dreads taking humanities and only takes it for a requirement, could still enjoy it [Kaps's class] - that really says a lot about her," said Jessica Gilson, a science major. "She really made an impact."

Stern did not expect to enjoy Kaps's art history class. "I thought it would be boring and I wouldn't learn anything," Stern commented. "Little did I know this class would be the most rewarding of my life... I will never forget her or the way she influenced me."

Atara Fuchs, an art major, was "blown away" by Kaps's course. She not only described her as, "by far one of my favorite teachers in my life," but also said, "If she was my age, she'd be my best friend."

Teaching for Kaps was not just a means of conveying information, but a way of transmitting a part of herself. She did so by respectfully treating her students exactly as she felt they were - fellow students of the arts. "She cared so much," said Fuchs, summing up Kaps's special touch in a mere sentence, "that one time, I walked out of class with her, and we ended up walking for blocks."

Donations can be made in memory of Professor Kaps to: American Hospice Foundation 2120 L Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20037 Tel: 202 - 223 - 0204 Fax: 202 - 223 - 0208 Email: ahf@americanhospice.org

*Chani Ozarowski contributed to this article

Eating Disorders in the Orthodox World

continued from front page

proportionate to other groups, saying, "[the disorders] are not specific to the religious community, it has more to do with the sociology." Schwartz explained, "Traditionally [there is a] notion that eating disorders are more common in higher socio-economic functioning, so if you look at the Orthodox Jewish community in that socio-economic level, it is proportionate."

All agree however, that although the major causes of eating disorders affect all Americans indiscriminately, each community has its own specific pressures that lend themselves to the disease. For Orthodox Jews, the current *shidduch* (match-making) system, which places a lot of pressure on first impressions, is just one more stage where women face unrealistic demands and often fear "the possibility of being evaluated badly," notes Schwartz.

Whether the numbers are higher than usual in the

Orthodox Jewish community is irrelevant when it comes to dealing with the issue; the prevalence of anorexia, bulimia, and obesity is astounding and must be tamed.

Tackling eating disorders is incredibly complicated. Unlike many medical issues, there is no panacea drug or injection available. Immediate concerns include physical stability and weight gain. Usually, anti-depressants are prescribed to combat chemical imbalance in the brain, but perhaps the most important tool for regaining control is counseling. With professional help the appropriate social construct can be molded for the recovering anorexic. Family and friends are indispensable. Sadly, it is often very difficult for family and friends to be completely supportive of their loved ones because they are pushed away, paradoxically, by the patients themselves. Some personal advice to friends of anorexics: be persistent. Very persistent. Eventually you will be "allowed

in" and be able to help.

Dr. Schwartz's arrival and the creation of a new mental health center, with offices on both the Wilf and Beren campuses, will allow for these sensitive types of student concerns to be approached by "just a counseling center, for mental health, not mixed with the administration," explains Zelda Braun, associate dean of students. Previously, the deans and administration handled mental health matters, and treatment was sometimes misinterpreted as punitive rather than strictly supportive. This center, continues Braun, will "offer true confidentiality - in a non-complicated way," paving the way for appropriate mental health counseling and the road to a smooth recovery.

YU Targets Substance Abuse in Modern Orthodox Community

By Orlee Levin and Observer Staff

One month ago four American students studying in Israel for the year were arrested for selling marijuana to other American yeshiva students and Israelis. Later, a student at Neve Tsion Yeshiva died from a drug overdose in an unrelated incident.

These events sent shock waves through the Modern Orthodox community, as they discovered that substance abuse is not exclusive to the non-Jewish world.

Dr. Joshua Lamm, a psychiatrist who runs a private practice in Queens and Manhattan, and is the medical director of the Yatzkan Center, which offers comprehensive rehabilitation services for alcohol and substance abuse to Jewish teenagers, comments that the widespread concern is long overdue. "The only surprise is that this didn't happen twenty years ago," he said.

"We [Jews] celebrate the ability to be in control," Lamm remarked, explaining why the Jewish community has been in denial for such an extended period. "There is an old expression in Yiddish which translated means *goyim* are *shikkurs*, non-Jews are drunks. We have deluded ourselves for generations that we don't have the problem—we have it."

The Seedlings of Substance Abuse

Both Lamm and Dr. Victor Schwartz, a psychiatrist who heads the new Mental Health Center at Yeshiva University, agree that the number of Orthodox substance addicts has risen in the last twenty years, a growing problem parallel to the

trend in the general community. "There is more money and therefore more access to drugs and alcohol," Schwartz said.

Lamm explained some of the factors that lead teens to become hooked on drugs. He cited the increasing number of broken homes in the Jewish community, as well as negative cultural influences. "We live in a hedonistic, pleasure seeking society," Lamm explained. "Kids are trained to expect instant gratification. For instance, if you can't get a hold of someone on their home phone line, you try their cell phone, and email and instant message—we lack patience and we need everything fast!"

The result, he added, is that, "When the time comes for kids to face the world, a place where one has to be patient and doesn't always get everything he or she wants immediately, they feel uncomfortable and don't know how to deal with it, so they experiment as a way to escape the harsh reality of life and the world."

Teens who are not a part of the Orthodox mainstream are another group at risk for addiction. Lamm identified the Modern Orthodox community as one "that values the intellectual process," sometimes resulting in exclusion of those who do not fit the mold. "A boy who can't learn *Gemara* or is unable to sit and learn in a *Beit Midrash* all day is looked down upon, and they suffer terribly from self esteem problems," Lamm said. "A lot of guys feel unsuccessful at a young age. They need to find peer groups and often the common denominator that they have is that they all are poor at something and so they turn to drugs and alcohol."

According to Lamm, drug and alcohol abuse can develop

when students are in Israel for the year or when they start college, because they then encounter greater freedom. "Freedom is very enticing and often students come to Israel or enter a dorm and suddenly they have a freedom they never felt before," he said. "They feel that no one is watching what they do so they are free to do what they want."

How to deal with Teenagers and Substance Abuse

Lamm believes that the Modern Orthodox community has undergone a tremendous evolution in addressing drug problems over the past twenty years. Since both Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous were once mistakenly linked with Christian undertones, Lamm attributes Orthodoxy's original hostility to rehabilitation centers as stemming from religious suspicion. Though both these organizations include a spiritual element that involves expressing belief in a higher power, neither professes a deity.

To help fill the gap of effective preventative measures in the Orthodox community, Dr. Efram Nulman, senior university dean for student affairs at Yeshiva University, joined with a team of trained psychologists specializing in substance abuse to create a pilot program entitled Substance Abuse and Alcohol Prevention. They hope to initiate the program in schools, and teach parents, educators and students how to prevent drug and alcohol problems.

Nulman's proposal encourages schools to design prevention programs "as early as the preschool to address risk factors for drug abuse, such as aggressive behavior, poor social skills, and academic difficulties." The pro-

posal includes detailed instructions on specific skills that should be taught at various stages of education. For instance, at the elementary school level "self-control, emotional awareness, communication, social problem-solving and academic support especially in reading" should be stressed. The proposal even includes guidelines for parents of college age students to aid their children in the transition into adulthood. The program covers the individual's entire student career, from childhood into adulthood.

Additionally, the experts provide advice for parents in addressing substance abuse outside of the school's realm. Lamm, Nulman and Schwartz all agree that one of the keys in prevention is a good relationship between parents and children, one where the parents openly talk to their children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Nulman said that children from families "that don't address the issue, parents who don't provide a nurturing environment coupled with limits, and families that don't talk, or don't stress values, have a higher risk for alcohol and substance abuse."

Some of the tips offered to parents are to be honest about drugs and alcohol and not to over-dramatize the dangers of these substances. Threatening that a "joint" or drink can "kill" can be easily refuted. Nulman remarks, "if you're not truthful it's a flop." Furthermore, parents should be models for their children by living a lifestyle of moderation, such as avoiding *kiddush* clubs.

One of the ways that Lamm proposes to put an end to the alcohol and substance abuse problem with students studying in Israel for the year is by re-

examining the notion of sending them to Israel at all. "98 percent of the class is not mature enough on their own," Lamm pointed out. "A lot of kids are already into bad stuff, so why are they going and if so why is their no supervision from the schools? There is a growing industry of dealing with kids off the *derech* and drug problems so why doesn't a school open with faculty who are equipped to offer drug rehab? Why isn't there any screening? We don't let everyone go to every college so why do we let everyone go to Israel?" questioned Lamm.

Schwartz agreed that *yeshivot* in Israel must provide more supervision for students. "Students have to have more consistent contact with their parents," he said. "Parents expect and assume that the role of the *yeshivot* is to supervise their children."

Furthermore, on a college level "there has to be stronger supervision in resident halls; get faculty more involved. If a professor sees that a student has changed, or looks disheveled, that's a warning sign and the professor should alert the school," said Schwartz.

The Response to Addictions at Yeshiva

This new openness and sensitivity is the first step in addressing the issue and establishing preventive measures to terminate the drug and alcohol abuse problem. Nulman maintains that it is critical that the community refrain from reacting rashly, but rather take a step back to truly examine the issue and discover the best solution to the existing problem. "The approach that is taken in the colleges and graduate schools is that we are looking to help students,"

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The Holocaust Remembered

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Without her testimony however, what will my own grandchildren have as evidence, compelling them to believe in a world that is ready to forget?

SCW student Jana Bohorodzaner said that transcribing her grandmother Fradel Fuhrer's stories from Auschwitz was one of the most powerful experiences she has ever had. "I sat down with my grandmother and typed out her story this past summer, because I feel it is important that people remember." Jana noted an interesting phenomenon when interviewing her grandmother. When Jana asked her grandmother questions about how she feels about ceremonies, memorials, or politics related to the holocaust and reparation, her grandmother responded with her experiences and memories of her hardships in the camp. "It is as if this is the most important thing that we

must remember, her actual experiences."

Another student, Chani Ozarowski, says her grandfather, Oscar Ozarowski, only began sharing his experiences in Auschwitz and his subsequent escape in recent years. After telling his relatives chilling stories about his ordeal, Chani notes, "Although my grandfather strongly asserted that the next generation needs to remember and know what happened, after he told me all this, he said, 'Forget everything I said. Forget what I just said.'" She sees it as a conflict of "Horrible horrible stuff to focus on, but it's important to remember anyway."

In many ways, this conflict explaining Ozarowski's reserve in talking about his Holocaust experience is reflected in how the politically correct world chooses to deal with the Holocaust. Should we concentrate only on the heroism and the

miracles of the Holocaust, or continue to dwell on the irksome details many feel should be conveniently laid to rest, such as Nazi hunting, protesting a Christian presence in Birkenau, and financial reparations?

The Holocaust Claims Conference continues to research survivors' rights to reparations. A caseworker for the organization and SCW alumna, Ami Flatt, feels the claims are just as relevant nowadays, 60 years since the liberation. "I definitely think that programs such as Forced Labor Fund, Swiss bank settlement and the return of the stolen art work send a strong message that Holocaust survivors' rights should not be ignored, just because the Holocaust happened so many years ago."

Despite protests of "Never again," it becomes important for each person to question his or her own contributions to the cause of Holocaust memorial.



Entrance to Auschwitz concentration camp

When reading survivors' testimonies, it is clear that a unifying feeling among many is guilt for having survived. I feel that guilt constantly, wondering if I am doing enough, and remembering enough to enable me to be a transmitter. Ironically, that is what has kept our people alive spiritually throughout genera-

tions in the Diaspora—the *Mesora*, or heritage. In this tenuous world of fresh anti-Semitism and forgetfulness, remembering the Holocaust will continue to keep all peoples of the world alive, safe from prejudice and genocide.



Identifying Jewish bodies in a makeshift morgue in Phuket

Chabad of Thailand Aids Tsunami Relief



Visiting the injured in a Phuket hospital.

By Chani Ozarowski

Steve and Sylvia Nesima searched for two days for their 11-month-old son, Mattan. He was finally found in a temporary morgue in the tragedy-ravaged country of Thailand. This is just one of the cases of human tragedy wrought by the devastating tsunami that struck Southeast Asia on December 26th.

Rabbi Wilhelm was one of many who raced into immediate action after the tsunami. The storm, which wreaked havoc across eleven countries, was caused by an earthquake off the coasts of Sumatra. Thailand was among the most heavily hit. While countries across the world are reported to have pledged a combined total of 5 billion dollars in aid, and charity boxes for the relief effort can be seen everywhere from mall kiosks to online banking sites, the members of Thailand's Chabad Houses have had a more 'hands-on' role. From the moment they started getting phone calls ten minutes after the tsunami was in the news, the Chabad was leading the way in searches for lost individuals and providing relief for survivors.

According to Thailand Chabad's website, there are three Chabad Houses stationed there, one in the capital, Bangkok, one in the northern city of Chiang Mai, and one in the southern island of Koh Samui. They are run by six different Chabad families, with Wilhelm and family located in Bangkok, and Rabbi Yosef C. Kantor directing all Thai Chabad activities, including running a shul, mikveh, and Jewish Center. In addition to their work, there are a dozen rabbinical stu-

dents working in the country. Chabad is the only established Jewish organization in all of Thailand.

Wilhelm wrote about his experiences following the tsunami in articles published in a number of new services, including Chicago's JUF News and the international Chabad website. As he describes it, he was receiving frantic phone calls a mere ten minutes after the news spread, and left to help in the areas hit hardest that same night. He writes that as Thailand is a popular vacation spot for 'backpacking' Israelis, Yakov Dvir of the Thailand Israeli Consul and Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom specifically contacted Rabbi Kantor to request that Chabad help take action in locating Israelis. Without delay, the entire team of Chabad members rushed to do whatever they could.

And what they could do was no small job. Wilhelm estimates that an approximate 100,000 Jews come to Thailand every year, an enormous number to worry about in a time of tragedy. The work was endless: First, writes Wilhelm, they were busy "fielding calls, compiling lists, and offering aid and comfort to the survivors." Though the areas where the Chabad Centers are located were not badly affected directly, all three Chabad Centers, through the work of the rabbis and their wives, soon "transformed into crisis centers for counseling, clothing, communication, food, money, transportation and shelter." They directed people with severe medical needs to cities where they could find sufficient hospital care. Their phone lines and e-

mail systems were open to the public to contact loved ones and find information about lost relatives. They even helped survivors say the *bracha* (blessing) of *Ha-Gomel* to thank God for escaping a life-threatening situation, and posted the text of the *bracha* on their website.

Wilhelm flew to Phuket, one of the most terribly affected islands, to help identify missing persons. In a December 28th letter to Lubavitch Headquarters in Crown Heights, New York, Wilhelm writes, "For three days now, I have been making my rounds of the morgues, hospitals, and makeshift shelters, trying to match faces and fates to the names on my lists." At the time he wrote the letter, he had been working without sleep since arriving in Phuket three days prior.

As reported by the Chabad website, Wilhelm was soon met by an Israeli team of doctors and forensic experts who joined the effort. JTA News Service points out that Chabad actually funded Zaka (Disaster Victims Identification) volunteers to fly out to Phuket, in addition to working with them. Together, they not only identified individuals, but also arranged for *shmirah* (guarding) of the bodies of Jewish victims until a proper Jewish burial could be planned.

The rising number of Lubavitch and Israeli volunteers in Phuket eventually set up a temporary Chabad there, even managing to get a Torah scroll so they could hold a full Shabbat davening. Shabbat meals were also arranged for those in need. According to the Chabad website's news postings, there were both relief workers as well as

local Phuket Jews present.

While these efforts were ongoing in Phuket, there was much activity at the permanent Chabad Houses as well. The twelve rabbinical students who had been living in Thailand were scheduled to leave the country right before the tsunami hit. Needless to say, they remained in Thailand to help the efforts, and also worked together with Israeli doctors who checked injured people in the Bangkok Chabad. In Koh Samui, a location that was spared from the tsunami's fury, the Chabad House hosted at least fifty young travelers who, in search of shelter, all slept on the Chabad House floor.

While all this was going on in Thailand, the Chabad representatives were keeping close contact with Chabad Headquarters in Crown Heights. In the few days immediately following the disaster, the Chabad website was updated as often as every half hour to help concerned relatives and friends abroad locate their loved ones. Chabad also had an electronic system online where people overseas could enter the name of a loved one who was missing to find out any more information. However, according to the public relations department of the official Lubavitch Office of Shlichus (which sends out Lubavitch 'messengers' to spread Judaism around the globe) the main effort undertaken by Lubavitch organizations outside of Thailand was fundraising. Ways to support general relief as well as a toy drive for tsunami-affected children were publicized worldwide with the help of Chabad Headquarters. Still, most of the action taken was the result of

direct efforts of Chabad members actually based in Thailand.

Through all of the hard work and intense emotion involved, Wilhelm writes, there were a few encouraging rays of hope. "What keeps us going are the miracles that are sprinkled throughout the horror." Miracles like the story of a one-year-old who was discovered by his nanny and saved just in time after being ripped away from his mother by a powerful wave, and like the story of the family of six who were scheduled to fly to one of the most hit areas right before the tsunami until their flight was delayed on the runway. Additionally, says Wilhelm, "The unity among the workers is incredible. I was moved to tears when I saw the news reporters join us to help locate and identify the injured and dead...alongside the rabbis, government officials, and volunteers."

While these stories are inspiring, the tremendous destruction overshadows them. "I've seen more pain and suffering in the last few days than I've seen in all my 32 years," writes Wilhelm. "[There are] certainly no understandable explanations or reasons for its occurrence. But I believe...like everything we experience, [the tsunami] is part of a larger picture that we currently don't see. More importantly, we must use this opportunity to focus on our ability to overcome, to help others, and to rebuild."

It is not too late to donate to the relief efforts. Monetary donations can be made for the toy drive or general relief through www.jewishthailand.com. Information on toy shipments can be found on the website.

JJ Schachter Joins Yeshiva

By Frieda Kahn

President Joel recently announced that Rabbi Dr. Jacob J. Schacter will be joining the Yeshiva University family in a new position as University Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought, and Senior Scholar at Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) starting in the fall of 2005. In his position as Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought, Schacter will teach two courses a semester in both the graduate and undergraduate divisions of the university. As a Senior Scholar, Schacter will additionally play a prominent

role in the new Center's development.

The establishment of the CJF is a monumental step in Yeshiva University's effort to be an influential force in the collaboration, reorganization, and rejuvenation of initiatives that will ensure a vibrancy and growth within future Jewish communities. The CJF, under direction of incoming dean Rabbi Kenneth Brander and in partnership with the many schools and institutions affiliated with YU, will be working to create multifaceted programs that will endeavor to head-start a domino affect of active involvement of lay and professional leaders in improving the future

of American Jewry.

The Center for Jewish Future will work to achieve its goals in a compound approach. The Center will run programs that provide leadership and partnership opportunities both between different components in the University, and in conjunction with external organizations and communities. This will increase the number of qualified individuals that can be actively involved in guiding the Jewish community, and make fresh ideas and resources available by broadening the spectrum of participants. The CJF will be a think-tank for addressing both the immediate and future needs of the Jewish community, in

American and throughout the world.

Schacter, who has a long list of impressive credentials, has always had a strong link with Yeshiva University. He served as the director of Yeshiva University's Torah Umadda Project from 1986 to 1997, and was an adjunct assistant professor at Stern College for Women from 1993 to 1999. Schacter is also the founding editor of The Torah Umadda Journal and co-author, with YU professor Jeffrey Gurock, of "A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community: Mordecai M. Kaplan, Orthodoxy, and American Judaism" (Columbia University Press, 1997). Schacter

also sits on the editorial boards of Tradition, Jewish Action, and Bechol Derachecha Da'ehu, and is the editor of several books, articles, and reviews. He comes to YU after serving as dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in Brookline, MA for five years.

"I am proud to be a student in a University where what is on the forefront of minds of the administration is the welfare of the Jewish community of the future," remarked Arin Rudansky, SCW junior. "I am impressed by the amount of resources and effort the University is investing in the creation and hopeful success of these new programs."

Amcha Protests at Auschwitz Commemoration



Amcha protests designation of SS Headquarters

By Rachel Adina Borg

Many embrace "never again" as their heralding cry, a protest that is quickly becoming a challenge. This year, January 27, 2005 marked 60 years since Russian forces liberated Auschwitz. The dwindling numbers of survivors and liberators made this year's ceremony even more poignant, marred only by an incongruous protest by five Amcha members against the recent designation of a building in Birkenau as a church.

Amcha, under the leadership of National President Rabbi Avi Weiss, provides support for Holocaust survivors and their families and petitions for Jewish causes in general.

Amcha protested the designation of a church in a former SS commandant's headquarters. It is named after an allegedly anti-Semitic priest, Maximilian Colby, who was killed in Auschwitz.

In addition to desecrating the memory of Jewish Holocaust victims, Amcha claims that this is in violation of a 1974 United Nations agreement that

Auschwitz and Birkenau would remain untouched to preserve the historical integrity of the site.

A participant of the protest, Schelomo Marmor, asserted that Amcha's rally could not have been misunderstood as protesting against the actual commemoration ceremony. "We protested twice," he said, "A day before the ceremony, and an hour before the ceremony, and not while anyone was speaking." He added that their efforts were appreciated by many visitors: "Survivors came up to us and thanked us; they said they felt angered by what had happened." Yet many members of the Polish Jewish community were offended by the protest's insensitivity to the Auschwitz liberation commemoration, which Marmor acknowledged.

SCW student Laura Hurewitz was at first adamantly against the protest, feeling it was disrespectful to the ceremony and the Christians that died in Auschwitz. However, upon hearing the church stood specifically in Birkenau, Hurewitz felt the protest justified. "Birkenau is the primary place where Jews died. I don't feel a church has a place

there."

An Auschwitz survivor, Susan Stein, agreed with Hurewitz. "This church threatens the entire Jewish presence. Visitors to Auschwitz and Birkenau in one hundred years from now will see the church and not realize the magnitude of Jewish lives lost." Stein feels that given the number of diplomats and the press coverage the ceremony attracted, it was a wise decision to protest there.

On Amcha's website, Rabbi David Kalb, national vice president of Amcha, stated, "it is completely inappropriate to have a church at the site of the largest Jewish cemetery in the world. We do not agree with the construction of any religious house of worship in Birkenau; the camp must be left how it was, so people can really understand what happened."

Of the SCW students interviewed, all supported the cause of the protest although some questioned Amcha's sensitivity in protesting at the ceremony as opposed to diplomatic means.

Amcha's protest did not receive major press coverage.

Presidential Fellows Initiate Incubator Project

By Frieda Kahn

At the Feb 10th Town Hall meeting on the Wilf campus, President Joel officially announced the establishment of the Incubator project, created and initiated by this year's Presidential Fellows. "An incubator is when an established organization takes under its wing a new initiative and provides it with the resources necessary in order for it to succeed," explained Rachel Cyrulnik, an SCW '04 graduate who now works as a Presidential Fellow. "Traditionally this has been done in corporations, and for-profit businesses, but we decided to apply this to a humanitarian cause."

The YU Incubator is a forum through which all students attending any YU graduate or undergraduate school will have the opportunity to submit an innovative idea for a successful non-for-profit organization that they believe makes a real difference in the Jewish or general community. YU will serve as the incubator for one new seed organization per year and will make available a number of different resources including staff, administrative and legal guidance, office space, telephones, computers and a small grant. An advisory committee composed of administrators, faculty, graduate fellows, non-profit professionals and headed by a committee chair will help to oversee the chosen project's progress and

assist in its transition to independence. The student whose idea is selected will be appointed as the project manager and will be responsible for starting and running the non-profit organization, along with receiving academic credit towards her/his major.

According to presidential fellow Lisa Grundman, a committee "of mentors and supervisors will look through the applications and meet with the nominees to discuss their ideas." The finalists will be notified by April 1st, 2005 and the winning application will be announced by May 1st, 2005. "The student chosen will then meet with an advisory board composed of community leaders, and innovative thinkers and doers, with whom they will be working closely throughout their time in the incubator," explained Cyrulnik.

The presidential fellows, according to Cyrulnik, want "to leave a lasting contribution to the University and the student body when we leave at the end of the year. Students come up with these great ideas, but they don't necessarily have the funds or mentorship available to go ahead with their ideas, so those dreams don't become realities for them until they are much older, if they are able to achieve them at all."

YU will incubate the organization for a maximum of three years, based on periodic evaluations of progress, after which the project manager will launch

it into its final stage of independence. The establishment of this project at this time relates to the newfound financial security of the University and belief in the project's potential to connect YU to the larger Jewish community. "YU now has the resources to support this type of undertaking," clarified Cyrulnik. "This is a means to ensure that there can be collaboration with future organizations to work together to support ideas that will make a difference, because the future organizations will have had their roots in the University."

This type of project reflects the strong feeling of responsibility that the Yeshiva University student body and faculty have about facilitating avenues through which Jewish and global problems can be alleviated. The synthesis of Torah values and education integrated so deeply shines through with this project. This also allows the Yeshiva University student body to once again demonstrate their ideals so clearly stated on their website, "To Learn, To Lead, To Inspire."

All students are encouraged to apply by submitting an online application at the project's website, www.yu.edu/incubator by March 11th 2005. There will be several information sessions open to all students who are interested in discussing and developing their ideas before submitting them, or who just have questions about the project.

Yeshiva Employs Giuliani Safety and Security

continued from front page

sultants also plan to meet with a student committee to discuss safety concerns.

Contracting Giuliani Partners represents a bold move on the part of Yeshiva's administration. Although YU boasts a crime rate significantly lower than other Manhattan campuses of Columbia and NYU, its prominence as a large Jewish institution in the city does warrant extra caution. "It heightens our concern," remarked Yeshiva University Chief of Security Donald Sommers. "We want to get [Giuliani Partner]'s assessment, and independent view; it's good to take a fresh look."

The current security review targets the Wilf, Beren, and Brookdale campuses in Manhattan. According to Rosengarten, security officials from the Resnick campus that houses the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology joined in the decision process, but the university ultimately decided to focus primarily on the undergraduate Manhattan campuses at this stage. The Resnick campus faces different security issues and may implement a review in the future.

Yeshiva currently spends millions of dollars annually on security, and while hiring

Giuliani Partners adds to the expense, it may help to reduce the cost further on. A large amount of Giuliani's staff consists of former city administrators who worked with him during his tenure as mayor. Their knowledge of city agencies will help Yeshiva determine if it is receiving necessary aid from city officials. "These are people familiar with the field, people with a great deal of experience in security, policing, and anti-terror," clarified Rosengarten. "Their vast knowledge of city agencies will help analyze if we are getting everything from agencies that we are entitled to." Rosengarten continued to explain that additional city resources, such as increased police presence in Yeshiva campus neighborhoods, will provide a tremendous resource and level of assistance beyond what YU can accomplish.

At the end of their review, Giuliani consultants will submit their proposal to the Yeshiva administration, who will decide which initiatives to undertake. "Their mission is to provide us with findings," remarked Rosengarten. "Then we can internally decide what to do."

Spotlight on Luca Luca



Red cashmere military coat, Luca Luca.

By Julie Ast

Luca Luca, a major influence in the fashion world, presented his fall winter collection during Olympus fashion week at Bryant park on Sunday February 6th. The collection featured bright colors, shiny fabrics and floral prints.

Known for his feminine designs, Luca Luca began participating in fashion week in 1998. Since then his first store on Madison Ave and 62nd street has expanded into his national headquarters. He now distributes to specialty stores worldwide.

The show has gained a rep-

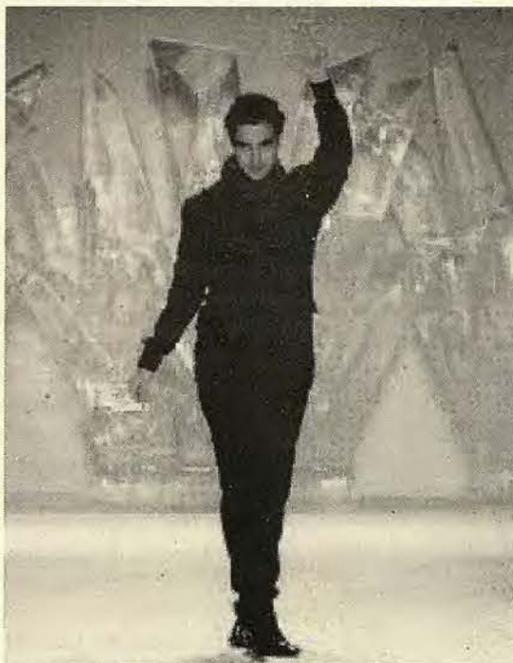
utation among stars. Paris and Nicky Hilton came in right before the lights turned off, pushed in by a crowd of paparazzi. Anna Wintour, Editor in Chief of Vogue, sat in the front row. Rebecca Romijn and Anne Hathaway were also present, wearing Luca Luca from last season.

The feel of the show was eclectic as models marched down the runway to safari music. At first Luca Luca showed his clothes with flats, an unpopular alternative to stilettos which most designers prefer. The models wore their hair on top of their head in a loose updo, adding elegance to the already sophisticated line.

The first look, a red angora knit top and silk jacquard taffeta skirt, set the tone for the first part of the collection. Its earthy vibe appeared in the next couple of looks: an army green wool skirt, a red cashmere military coat and an olive laminated silk skirt.

Luca Luca next featured a cyclamen silk velvet dress under an army green coat. The vibrant color of the dress offset the toughness of the jacket.

His last look, a black hand pleated silk taffeta evening dress, perfectly summed up his collection. Its classic elegance defined Luca Luca, a designer who is known for making beautifully crafted feminine clothes.



Zac Posen appears at the end of his show.



Purple strapless silk gown, Zac Posen

Zac Posen, Boy Wonder

By Julie Ast

Zac Posen presented his fall-winter collection at Olympus Fashion Week at Bryant Park in what proved to be a star studded event. Sean P. Diddy Combs, Zac Posen's business partner since 2004, sat in the first row aside Jay Z. Ashlee Olsen and Claire Danes sat farther down the aisle in the middle of the runway. Other stars included Bette Midler, Serena Williams, Bernhadette Peters and Vivica Fox.

The collection featured romantic flowy tops paired with well cut bottoms. His 21st look

was a pale-blue silk blouse and a blue wool skirt, that complemented each other. The well-tailored skirt toned down the loose top.

Zac's evening wear evoked an ethereal vibe. Gowns in shades of purple and gold dominated the runway. A gold silk ruffle dress fit tight on the top but had ruffles for the last two feet of the dress. The dress's romantic ruffles calmed down the bold color.

His last dress, a purple strapless silk gown wowed the audience. Its elegant classic appeal will surely make it a star favorite and a runway presence in award shows to come.

The models wore their hair down in frizzy brushed out curls. The hair was ugly, but added to the silk moveable pieces in the show.

Zac Posen, a relative newcomer to the fashion world, measures up to older more experienced designers. His collections are met with anticipation by the fashion world and stars alike.

The fall-winter collection will influence chain stores carrying evening wear such as Banana Republic and Arden B. Be sure to look out for romantic flowy pieces when you shop next season.

The Snake Pit

By Sara Levit

It was like a sketch out of Saturday Night Live. Thirteen year old pop star, Jo Jo, saunters by and the paparazzi goes nuts. "Jo Jo, put your teddy bear up to your face! Jo Jo, suck your thumb!" They snap away and continue to shout, or frankly, harass her, until the next bigger, better star glides past them.

My experiences at Fashion Week can be summed up in two words - photography pit. Surrounded by the monetarily gifted, the photographers were the second class citizens at the event. During my week in the pit, I was shoved around, learned about twelve new swear words, discovered what it's like to harass a celebrity and realized the true meaning of "survival of the fittest." My partner for the events, Julie, received a hit in the face by one man's camera which resulted in a bleeding mouth. The paparazzi's response to this? "Girl, welcome-to the pit!"

During my first day, I fumbled with my camera looking slightly bewildered. Fortunately,

I was lucky enough to meet the two photographers who helped my life become much easier. When the infamous Richard, a paparazzi legend in his own right, tried to shove me out of my



The paparazzi harasses Carmen Electra

hard-earned spot, they immediately jumped to my aid. As they joked about how they remembered their first times in the pit, I sheepishly accepted all the help I could get. By the second day, I was a regular paparazzi, coolly accepting offers to jump to the front of the line since I was, of course, from the Observer.

The level of vulgarity that occurs in the pit might be shocking to some. Richard shouts at the socialites to "move [their] feet off the catwalk!" Models

who don't pose for a long enough time at the end of the catwalk receive boos and jeers. Little do people realize that there is whole lot of hootin' and hollerin' going on as that model in their magazine photo walks by scantily clad. Those fortunate enough to have a seat at the events, however, sit in silence as they watch the women stroll by in their abundantly sheer tops.

Here's what I learned from my week in the pit: They may be rude, incredibly pushy, and their cat calls may sound crude, but the reality is that these reactions display an honesty that pervades the pit.

The photographers won't pretend that an overexposed woman in their view is a totally ordinary, acceptable occurrence. So, if you would ask me whether I would rather have a seat among the celebrities or sit with the snakes, I would tell you that I'll be there, right next to Richard, yelling, "Yo lady, move your paper away from the runway!"

Fashion and Medical Alliance?

By Sara Levit

As part of the 'Be Seen, Be Screened' campaign, Katie Couric and Heidi Klum began New York's Fashion Week on February 11th in the Bryant Park tents by unleashing a public service announcement on colon cancer. Together with supermodel Klum, Couric, a co-founder of the Entertainment Industry Foundation's National Colorectal Research Alliance, joined Olympus, the title sponsor of this year's Fashion Week, in their campaign to raise awareness of the disease. They informed everyone of the importance of getting screened at an early age. Couric, whose husband died of the disease in 1998, reported that "colorectal cancer is curable 90 percent of the time when detected early." Her husband himself might have been saved if only he had been screened earlier. Especially important is to raise awareness of the disease among women who, surprising to many, have equal chances in developing the disease. "We want to make it fashionable to talk about colon cancer," Couric said. Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men and women combined.

Famous for their digital cameras, Olympus produces much of the endoscopy equipment used worldwide in colono-



Katie Couric with Heidi Klum at press conference

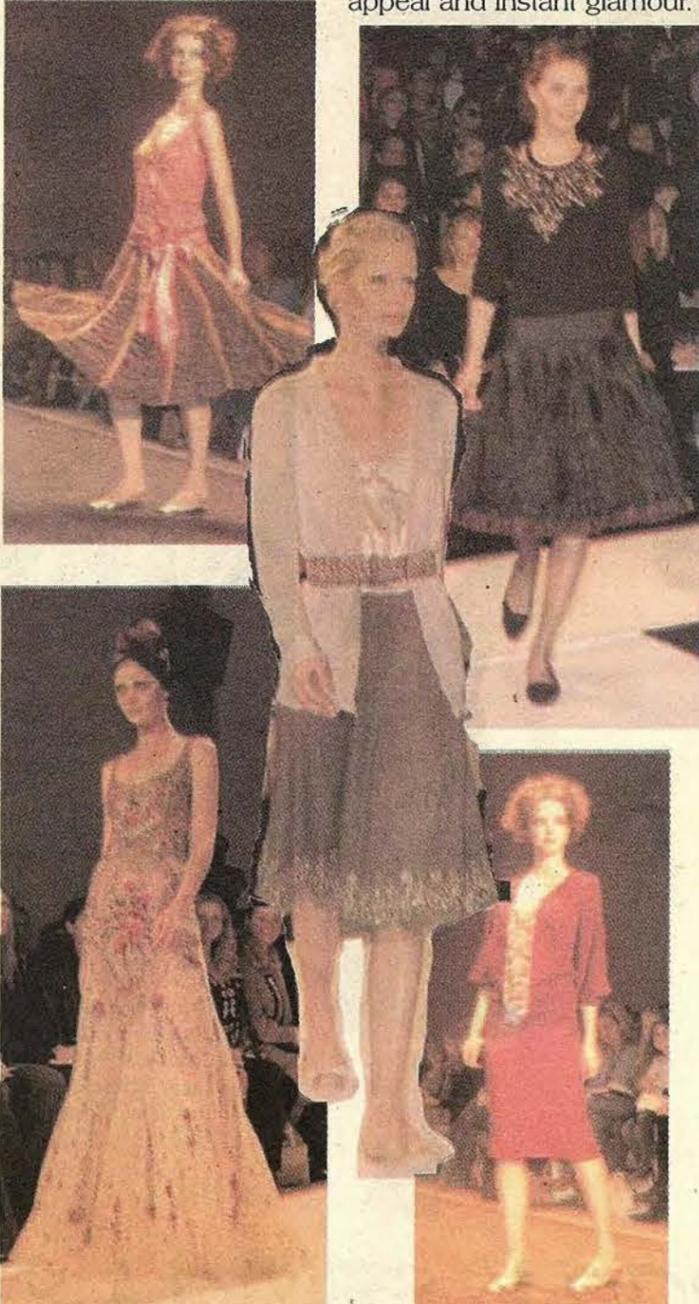
scopies. "As a photography leader, our products are designed to do more—allowing people to capture images that motivate and inspire," said Martin Lee, vice president of marketing of Olympus America Inc., on News Channel Eight. "And as a pioneer and continuous innovator in the medical world, Olympus technology enables physicians to capture images to diagnose and treat colon cancer and save lives."

Since all the attention colon cancer has been receiving from the EIF, NCCRA and the Today Show, the number of colonoscopy screenings have increased by almost 20 percent, a phenomenon known by researchers at the University of Michigan as "the Couric Effect." "Hemlines may go up and down," said Couric. "But our bodies are here to stay and we want them to look as good on the inside as on the outside."

FASHION TRENDS

JEWEL ENCRUSTED

Swarovski crystals and semi-precious gems adorned everything from woolly winter outfits to sleek gowns, adding ethnic appeal and instant glamour.



Clockwise from Top Left: Pink with Gold details, Tracy Reese. Black Jeweled Cardigan, Oscar De La Renta. Fuchsia Dress, Tracy Reese. Sheer Chifon Gown, Reem Acra. Center: Sparkle Wool Skirt, Oscar De La Renta.

FLORAL



Floral patterns are normally reserved for spring, but designers kept it weather appropriate, using heavy fabrics and more somber fall colors.

Clockwise from Top: Brocade gown, Oscar De La Renta. Handkerchief Dress, Tracy Reese. Floral Handkerchief Dress, Esteban Cortazer. Patwork Dress with Shall, Tracy Reese.

BROCADE/TAPESTRY

Brocade/Tapestry was used with shiny fabrics on skirts and dresses. The patterns were too beautiful to hang on a wall.

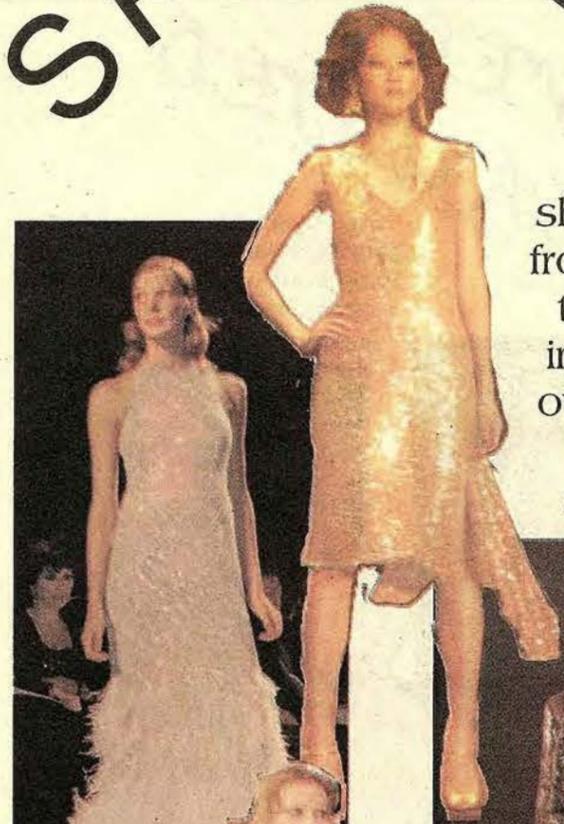


From Right to left: Fuchsia Tapestry Jacket, Tracy Reese. Floral Print dress, Luca Luca. Gathered Dress with Sweater, Oscar De La Renta. Blue Brocade Suit, Tracy Reese. Floral Skirt with Sparkle Cardigan, Oscar De La Renta.

METALLICS SPARKLE



Designers toned down a seemingly garish color with pretty ruffles and sheer fabrics.



Models shimmered from across the room in dresses overloaded with sequins.

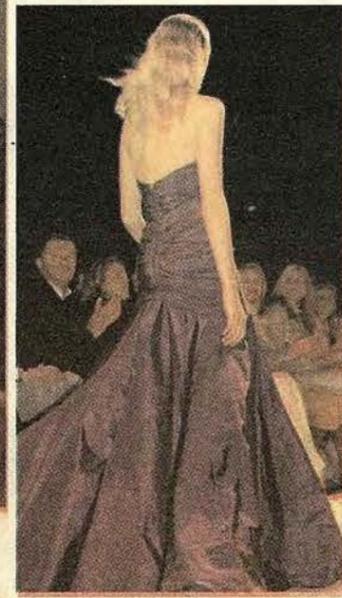


Clockwise from top: Gold Sheath, Tracy Reese. Black Dress with Sequined Camisole, Reem Acra. Black V Neck Dress, BCBG Max Azria. Feather trim Gown, Michael Kors.



BACK DETAILS

Some dresses appeared plain.... until models turned around. Remember to watch your back next season.



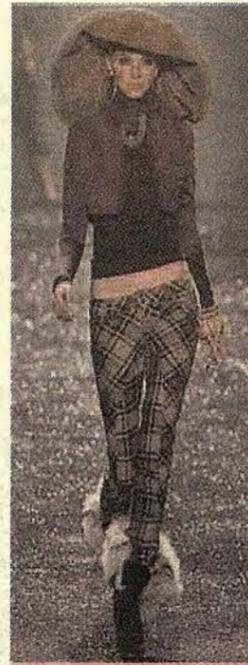
From left: Red leather cut-out coat, David Rodriguez. Plum iridescent gown with gathered train, Micheal Kors. Back buckle dress, David Rodriguez.

Clockwise from top: sequined top, Tracy Reese. Chiffon dress with lace, Betsy Johnson. Sequin embroidered sheath, Reem Acra. Shimmer pant suit, Tracy Reese. Pleated Silk dress, Lela Rose. Cap sleeved dress, Esteban Cortazar. Center: Satin pencil dress, Narciso Rodriguez.

Cropped Jackets

The perfect piece to tone down a fancy outfit or add glamour to a simple one. Designers paired them with satin and plaid.

From Left: Brown cropped jacket, Narciso Rodriguez. Fur jacket, J Mendel. Fuschia Velvet Jacket, Tracy Reese. Violet Jacket, Sweet Face. Plaid party dress with red detail jacket, Marc by Marc Jacobs.

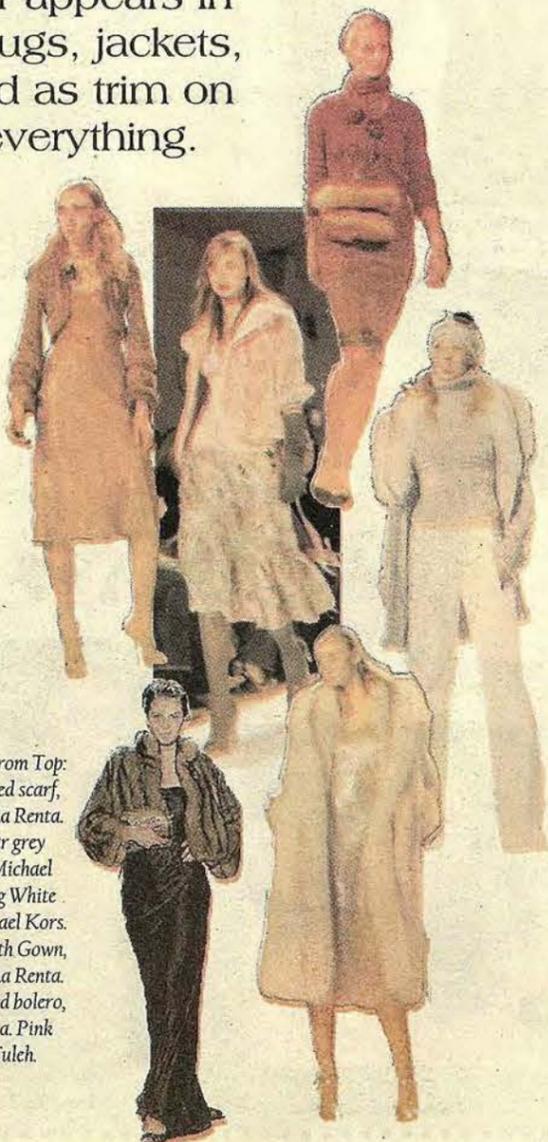


JEWEL TONES

Jewel Tones are sure to warm up the winter. They have usurped the oppressive black as New York City's closet staple. Colors ranged from emerald to ruby and came in many different fabrics and styles.

FUR

Fur appears in shrugs, jackets, and as trim on everything.



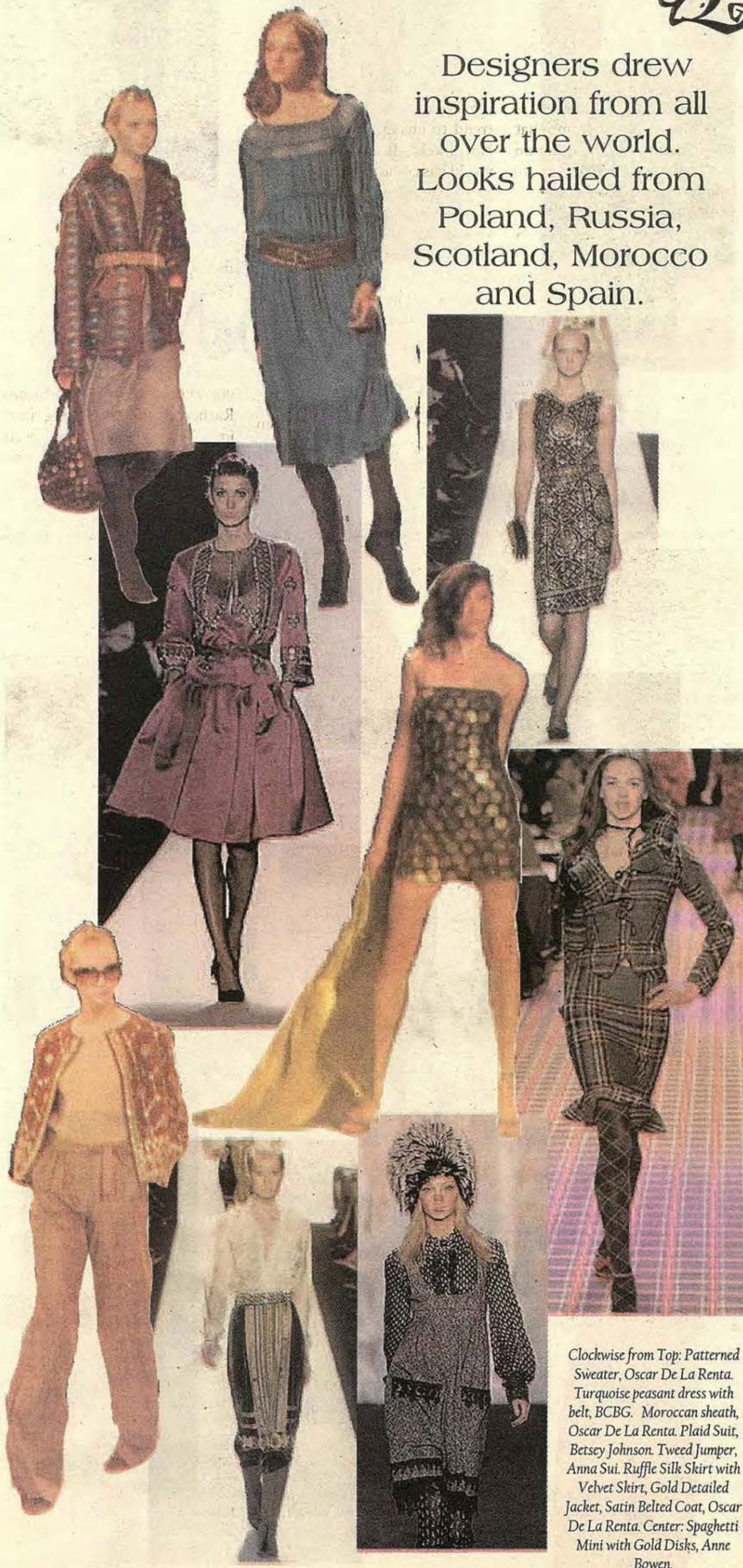
Clockwise from Top: Fur trimmed scarf, Oscar De La Renta. Fur collar grey sweater, Michael Kors. Long White Mink, Michael Kors. Cropped with Gown, Oscar De La Renta. Fur trimmed bolero, Reem Acra. Pink jacket, Tuleh.



Clockwise from Top: Ruby Gown, Esteban Cortazar. Amethyst Gown, Oscar De La Renta. Leather Hombre Skirt, Oscar De La Renta. Fuschia Skirt, Tracy Reese. Peridot Dress, Esteban Cortazar. Ruby Gown, Michael Kors. Emerald Gown, BCBG Max Azria.

Metropolitan Journal

Designers drew inspiration from all over the world. Looks hailed from Poland, Russia, Scotland, Morocco and Spain.



Clockwise from Top: Patterned Sweater, Oscar De La Renta. Turquoise peasant dress with belt, BCBG. Moroccan sheath, Oscar De La Renta. Plaid Suit, Betsey Johnson. Tweed Jumper, Anna Sui. Ruffle Silk Skirt with Velvet Skirt, Gold Detailed Jacket, Satin Belted Coat, Oscar De La Renta. Center: Spaghetti Mini with Gold Disks, Anne Bowen.

A-LISTERS, B-LISTERS AND C-LISTERS



Tommy Hilfigger at Baby Phat



Tracy Ellis Ross, of UPN's "Girlfriends", at Baby Phat



Beverly Mitchell at Y and Kei



Mya at Y and Kei



J.C. Chazes and David Gallagher at Baby Phat



Anna Wintour, Editor-in-Chief of American Vogue, at Tuleh



Vivica A. Fox at Baby Phat



Paula Abdul at Baby Phat



Paris Hilton at Luca Luca



"House of Sand and Fog's" Shohreh Aghdashloo at Tracy Reese



Carmen Electra at Y and Kei



Model for the Tracy Reese runway

By Sara Levit

For years, people have tried to make a correlation between obsessive reading of fashion magazines and developing eating disorders. How often do we, as women, read through magazines wondering why models have ideal bodies, while the rest of us struggle to keep off those last five

pounds? It's not everyone that looks at models this way, however, as some seem to take a more aversive outlook on the situation. "These women look disgusting and they look like they just came out of a hospital," says Jenn Shuldiner, a sophomore at Stern. "It's appalling that this is what girls are striving for and what they have to compare themselves to." Jenn may actually be on to something.

It's no secret that in the world of fashion, food becomes the enemy. Karl Lagerfeld, designer of Chanel, who has recently shrunk down to nearly half his size, blatantly stated in the December issue of *Elle* magazine that "[he's] beyond food." Rest assured that in the next issue an angry letter to the editor was printed, yet the vicious cycle continued. In that very same issue, page after page featured models boasting unrealistic proportions.

After attending Fashion Week here in New York, I can say in all honesty that when you look at magazines, what you see is not at all what you get. At the

Model Behavior

What They Don't Tell You in Magazines

Carolina Herrera show, super-model Jacquetta Wheeler glided down the runway, as I watched in astonishment. With every bone jutting out I couldn't believe that this was the same glamorous woman I've seen time and time again in the pages of every noteworthy magazine. Watching the very women I once envied, I began to feel as though I've entered the mother ship. More Olive Oil, Popeye's sweetheart, than a Greek goddess, the reality of what these women look like is quite different from what you would expect. The question was raised in my mind: Are we trying to reach a level of perfection that is merely an illusion?

Over the decade, models have seemingly become thinner and thinner. Looking back, there was a time when models were not the skin and bones that they are today. "Take Marilyn Monroe, world famous super-model, celebrity beauty of our time," says Levi Ockonov, an up and coming designer who has worked with the likes of Marc Jacobs and Angelina Jolie. "She had the charisma. She was no

size two." So what reason should we hold accountable for the recent size zero/two phenomenon? "The reason designers are making size two's is because it's cheaper, since you are using less material," continues Levi. As for those design houses in which money is no object? "If you put more fabric on a dress it won't look as good hanging on the small hangers. It's all about the sample."

The question remains. Can we expect the recent skeletal trend to change any time soon? Not likely. It seems that the world has come to expect models to appear starved. "The modeling agencies are taking major advantage of these girls," says Levi. "They have no shame in telling them to lose five more pounds. There's a theory about supermodels. The last time we have heard about supermodels was in the eighties. After that there were no such things as supermodels because they starve themselves to death. I've seen how many of them eat. Their breakfast is broccoli. Last season, I was casting models at the stu-



Jacquetta Wheeler with the camera's additional ten pounds

dio and there was vomit all over the bathrooms."

It was obvious to me, as many of these girls strutted by, with heads too large for their tiny frames, that their bodies were not obtained by natural means. Rather, while displaying fashion's best, these supposed beauties ironically taught me that beauty can be an ugly business.

Tzniut Hits the Runways at Fashion Week 2005

By Julie Ast

Bryant Park Fall-Winter Fashion Week 2005. Designers revealed their new clothes for the 2005 fall-winter season this week. Many prominent collections included modest options; long skirts and high collared shirts dominated the runway.

Oftentimes women who abide by laws of modesty search fruitlessly for appropriate outfits to wear at weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and other occasions. Religious girls feel forced to buy unfashionable clothes or order expensive alterations to maintain a contemporary wardrobe while keeping the laws of *tzniut*.

This year designers featured conservative evening wear on the runways. Oscar De la Renta made a beautiful Ruched skirt paired with a three quarter length sleeve shirt. The skirt might seem a little impractical but store copied versions are sure to be less lavish.

At Tracy Reese the clothes seemed like beautiful tapestries, too exquisite to waste on a wall. A prominent outfit in her collection, a Blue Wallpaper floral

tiered frock, outshone her sleeveless dresses. Another conservative look, a caramel waffle coat over sweet peach sweater blouse and scalloped jacquard skirt, is appropriate enough to wear to synagogue.

Many designers presented skirts tailored below the knee. Zac Posen had many pencil skirts but only two silk minis.

Most designers focused on evening wear in their collections. Monique Lhuillier showed a tweed skirt with fur trimming. The collar came up high with a fur border etched around the neck.

Pants this year came in loose silhouettes. Designers featured them in cropped, boyish styles. Lela Rose's first look, a sequined moveable pageboy pant, was stylish but modest. These provided a classy alternative to tight designer jeans.

Fall Fashion Week doesn't discriminate against religious girls. One shouldn't be overwhelmed when they see pictures of well dressed models from fashion week. They can attain similar looks without compromising their values of modesty.



Clockwise from Left: Long rouched skirt with black jewel encrusted top, Oscar De La Renta. Waffle coat, Tracy Reese. Pageboy pants, Lela Rose. Tweed suit with fur trim, Monique Lhuillier.

Israel Club Shabbaton to Host Important Guests

The Israel Club is pleased to announce its plans to host a very important shabbaton on March 11-12, on the Beren Campus. The theme will be "A Teetering Balance: What Kind of World Will Israel Face Tomorrow?", and lectures on Israeli and American foreign policy will be given by a distinguished roster of guests. The lecturers are to include Dennis Prager, a syndicated radio talk show host, Dr. Ruth Wisse, a Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, and Norman Podhoretz, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and member of the Council of Foreign Relations. For more information and registration, log on to www.yuic.org.

YC Graduate Leads Holocaust Project

Efraim Zuroff, a chief Nazi hunter for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, graduated from Yeshiva University High School for Boys and Yeshiva College, and is now leading a mission to track down suspected Nazi war criminals in the country where Nazism was born. Germany is the last of nine countries where the Wiesenthal Center's "Operation: Last Chance" is being launched. "Germany is the culmination of the project," Zuroff told a reporter from the BBC. "It offers the most potential suspects, and in Germany there is the political will to prosecute such people. The question is whether the evidence will be sufficient." The BBC featured Zuroff in a report this week on what may be the final chance to find surviving Holocaust criminals. The effort has so far netted the names of 329 suspected perpetrators in eight, mostly from Eastern European countries. Of the 329 names, 79 have been or will be delivered to local prosecutors. Germany, where the Nazi regime took root, has cooperated in the hunt for war criminals. But not all countries are forthcoming about their complicity in war crimes. Zuroff believes Operation Last Chance serves not only to bring Nazis to justice but also raises awareness about the Holocaust. During his hunt, Zuroff has discovered that Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism still exist. "We hope that Operation Last Chance will contribute to the fight against Holocaust denial and against anti-Semitism."

YU Launches QUEST

Yeshiva University launched Quality Education Skills Training (QUEST), a six-week lecture series that prepares YU undergraduate and graduate students to develop and implement programming at local yeshiva high schools that addresses issues of concern to today's Jewish teens. The winter 2005 agenda will focus on cigarette smoking, drugs and alcohol, cheating, and gambling. The opening lecture featured writer and TV producer, Michael Borkow, who delivered the keynote address. Borkow, who spoke about his journey to a Torah-observant lifestyle and his own informal Jewish education in the "show biz" world of Hollywood, explained how he overcame obstacles including drugs, alcohol and working on Shabbat (the Jewish Sabbath) while writing for hit shows such as "Malcolm in the Middle," "Friends," and "The Bernie Mac Show." He is currently director of education projects for the Max Stern Division of Communal Services, YU's outreach department through its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. "The students learned that through informal Jewish education programs they can empower teens to resist pressures in high school and to achieve impressive things, just as Mr. Borkow did in Hollywood." Referring to Judaism as "the longest-running book club where every week for thousands of years people get together to discuss the same book," Borkow explained to QUEST participants how he started his own "book club," a weekly Shabbat learning group for the purpose of delving into the Torah text and inspiring other Jews to learn. The group began with 3 regular attendees and now attracts some 15 people. The members also serve as a social network for each other, frequently eating Shabbat lunch together.

U N I V E R S I T Y B R I E F S

Samantha Power to Lecture at SCW

Samantha Power, adjunct lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and founding executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, will deliver a lecture on "Can the United States Respond to Genocide in an Age of Terror?" commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. The lecture will be presented at Stern College for Women on Tuesday, March 1, at 8 pm at the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center located at 239 East 34th Street. Ms. Power is author of "A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide." Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for General Non-fiction and National Book Critics Circle Award, she is also the author of an article on the Rwandan genocide, "Bystanders to Genocide," and is co-editor with Graham Allison of *Realizing Human Rights*. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Ms. Power served as a journalist for *US News and World Report* and *The Economist*. She is currently working on a book on the causes and consequences of historical amnesia in American foreign policy.

Ms. Power's appearance is part of the Dr. Marcia Robbins-Wilf Scholar-in-Residence lecture series, entitled "Human Rights and Sovereignty." The series speakers will lend insights on how these two central pillars of international politics contradict each other and present challenges today and for future generations. The series opener on Feb. 23 at 7:30 pm will feature Kenneth Roth, executive director, Human Rights Watch, and Jack Snyder, PhD, Columbia University, "Debating Human Rights and Sovereignty." The lecture will take place in The Commons of 215 Lexington Ave. Ms. Power's lecture is co-sponsored by YU's Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs.

Yeshiva to Sponsor Eimatai Conference

Eimatai, an initiative of Yeshiva University, is sponsoring a conference to be attended by high school students from around the country, on March 13-15 in Cleveland, Texas. Eimatai, a program developed to help train and motivate high school students for Jewish leadership roles, has assigned the theme of facing and resolving challenges and implications of being both Jewish and American in today's world. Besides for workshops and panels focusing on the topic, Ben Fine, a founder and president of Students Against Terrorism (S.A.T.) is scheduled to speak. Following their participation in a March 2002 Eimatai conference, students from Yavneh Academy formed their selfless group, which has already raised more than 120,000 dollars for distribution among terrorism survivors in Israel. Fine will address his fellow students by suggesting ways for them to implement their ideas for effective leadership, and describe how Eimatai inspired the founding of S.A.T..

SOY Holds Seforim Sale

If you haven't already done so, take an evening out of your schedule to attend the YU Seforim Sale, happening on the Wilf Campus now and running until March 2. The wares available for sale include rabbinic and academic literature, educational software, and the latest in Jewish music, among the many more popular and more obscure items. Run solely by the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY), the sale is the largest Jewish Book Sale in North America, and has been an annual event looked forward to by alumnae, students, and community members for 34 years. Praising the enterprising and hardworking students who manage this much-acclaimed sale, President Joel stated that "the SOY sale is a very significant example for our community of their character and values." Last year's event yielded an impressive amount of one million dollars, an amount that the more than one hundred student volunteers expect to exceed this year. Proceeds support student activities and outreach programs in the Jewish community.

Midreshet Yom Rishon Debuts at Yeshiva

continued from front page
prior to the lectures on the website as well, for the benefit of participants who want to familiarize themselves with the material and prepare for the *shiur* in advance. Recordings of past *shiurim* can also be found on the website.

Marjorie Munsterberg, a Washington Heights resident who was involved in the inception of the program, traces the idea of a women's program back to an earlier date. "The Orthodox Union (OU) sponsored a series

like this several years ago with Rabbi Schachter," she clarified, and when the OU ended the lectures the women in her community were looking for a replacement. When her husband began attending Kollel Yom Rishon, Munsterberg thought there was a simple solution for women. "Put in a mechitza, problem solved!" she remarked. RIETS proposed an alternate solution, a separate but parallel program for women. "We are thrilled to have a program every week again, and it's even in the neighborhood and

free," said Munsterberg.

As a program started in part to provide the same opportunities for women that Kollel Yom Rishon offers, it is unsurprising that many women who attended heard about the program through men who attend the *kollel*. "My father came home from Kollel Yom Rishon and told me about it and then my friends from Stern called about it," said Adina Bitton, a freshman at Barnard College who attended the program. "I especially liked that the program had both a *Halakha* *shiur*

and one on *Tanach* because it was a good balance of topics."

The event was overall "entirely positive," remarked Munsterberg, "and the most important goal is to keep up the intellectual quality of the lectures through textual analysis." As a program that is open to women of all ages and backgrounds in learning, this will most likely require the speakers to strike a delicate balance to accommodate all the participants. Currently scheduled lecturers are all associated with

Yeshiva University, but Munsterberg suggested that "it will be interesting to see if the coordinators invite outside speakers."

If Yeshiva University is looking to expand its reach in Jewish education by providing opportunities for women who are past formal education and for students who are looking for a six-day school week, then Midreshet Yom Rishon is certainly a good first step.

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The Biblical and Scientific Conflict: Evolution

By Jessica Feig

Evolution has always been looked upon with a disparaging eye by many religious groups. Whether religious schools should even teach the theory has been a subject of controversy. Many people believe that science and the Bible can not be reconciled and must therefore stand at two opposite ends of the spectrum.

On Wednesday, January 6, Dr. Nathan Aviezer, professor of physics at Bar Ilan University, delivered the seminar, "Evolution, Darwin, Dinosaurs, and the Torah" to bridge the theory of evolution and the Torah while remaining sensitive to both. As part of the introduction, Aviezer made it clear that the common literal contradiction is by no means a contradiction at all. Specifically, he said that while many people believe that the Torah's concept of creation contradicts scientific theory of evolution, this is not at all correct. According to Aviezer, the Torah makes no mention of creation, but rather refers to the process of creating species from raw materials as it says, "Vaya'as" "he made." Consequently, the English definition of "Bara" can not be "create" but some other term. This refutes the concept of *ex nihilo*, known in Hebrew as *Yesh me'ayin*, or the creation of something from nothing.

Although the conceptual contradictions are harder to deal with, Aviezer says that it becomes simplified once one disproves Darwinian Theory. He adamantly exclaimed, "To believe Darwin's theory in the 21st century is a scientific disgrace."

Aviezer justified these provocative words. Darwin's book, "Origin of the Species" was published in 1859, when there was no knowledge of genes. Darwin believed that his theory could be contested by authorities, since he knew that there

were no fossils of the intermediate links to prove that complex organisms evolve from the primitive. He even wrote in chapter 10 of his book, "He who rejects these views on the nature of the geological record [intermediate links], will rightly reject my whole theory." Although Darwin remained hopeful that in the future these hints to the transitional steps would be uncovered, today's scientists, 150 years after Darwin, have overturned the four corners of the earth and these fossils are nowhere to be found.

Luis Alvarez's theory, proposed in 1980, seems more reliable. Alvarez, a Nobel laureate, believes in the impact theory. According to this view, meteors collided with the earth and wiped out the dinosaurs while the smaller creatures were able to evade the collisions and were unaffected by the toxic pollutants. For people to exist today, dinosaurs would need to be destroyed, and this theory explains the events perfectly. While atheists would believe that all this came from luck and chance, Jews refer to this as an act of God. According to Aviezer, the change of the animal kingdom is a result of punctuated equilibrium - certain events that occur sporadically to create a balance in today's animal kingdom.

Aviezer, born in Switzerland, received his PhD in Physics from the University of Chicago. He moved to Israel in 1967 and became Bar Ilan's chairman of the physics department. He has published hundreds of articles in various scientific journals and has written two books about science and religion, "In the Beginning" and "Fossils and Faith." His popularity is known throughout the world and "In the Beginning" has been translated into nine languages. SCW students had the privilege of hearing Aviezer speak through the efforts of Dr. Harvey Babich, chairman of SCW's biology department.

FEIG'S FAST FACTS

"Pomegranates: Fruits of Fertility or Fruits of Versatility?"

By: Jessica Feig

"Will that be apple, orange, grapefruit, or tomato?" A waiter rarely finds himself offering pomegranate juice as part of the breakfast selection. In the near future, however, pomegranate juice might be included among the other fruit juices on the menu. Israeli scientists, led by Professor Michael Aviram of the Technion Institute of Technology, studied the various health effects of pomegranates. Their findings suggest that pomegranate juice can reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in America.

This medicinal property of the pomegranate is due to pomegranate's high antioxidant content. Antioxidants are the superpowers that fight against free radicals. Due to their unique structure, free radicals are capable of oxidizing other molecules, such as cholesterol. Cholesterol, in its oxidized form, creates the infamous plaque on the arterial walls of the heart. With the help of antioxidants, the body can eliminate these harmful agents. The research, which was conducted in Israel, is of utmost significance since it proves that pomegranate juice has three times the antioxidant capacity of green tea, the previous leading health drink.

Although recent research has uncovered the pomegranate's health benefits, the medicinal qualities attributed to pomegranates has predated modern times. This "ancient fruit" bears the name *Punicum granatum*, literally meaning apple with many seeds. In fact, other words have been derived from the pomegranate, such as grenade, since its explosive power resembles the magnitude

weddings as a sign of fertility for the new couple. Pomegranates are also regarded as a symbol in Jewish customs. Jews eat the many-seeded fruit on Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, to represent the 613 commandments due to its numerous seeds. As a fruit featured in the Bible, the pomegranate is also known to be one of the first fruits cultivated by man. Surprisingly, many scholars now believe that Adam was tempted by Eve to eat a pomegranate, but artists have traditionally depicted an apple because it is simpler to draw.

Although the specific health benefits of the pomegranates have only recently been published, it has been documented that cultures felt that this exotic fruit contained mystical healing powers. Natives of Sri Lanka used the pomegranate to treat all maladies ranging from conjunctivitis to diarrhea, while Egyptians used it as an antidote for stomachaches.



of the numerous amounts of seeds in a pomegranate, and Grenada, which owes its name and national emblem to the fruit.

Pomegranates have also featured heavily in legend. In ancient Egypt, the pomegranate was buried with the dead in hopes of rebirth, while the fruit was served to guests at Chinese

Hippocrates created a plaster out of pomegranates to cure all types of inflammations and aid in digestion. While all these ancient treatments were a result of much speculation, today the reasons for improvements in health are known as a result of scientific research. It is therefore of essence to make pomegranate juice part of your daily food intake. Bottoms up!

It's Not Really Healthy Just Because It's Fat Free

By Ariela Sherman

"Oh, my gosh, it's so fattening and unhealthy!" How many times have you heard that statement around the halls of Stern College? But do these women actually know which fats are truly unhealthy? Is it always healthier to eat fat free?

On Wednesday, February 2, 2005, Professor Rick Shields, PhD, certified nutritionist and lecturer at NYU, presented a 45-minute lecture during club hour about "fat mistakes." He focused on the goods and evils of fats and oils and how one could have a healthy diet that includes them.

Over 50 students emerged from the informative lecture with knowledge that can help them maintain a healthier lifestyle.

Shields told the audience that he sees many obese Americans in a health clinic on a regular basis. These patients have various life-threatening health problems such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Such diseases have all been directly related to the patients' severe weight problems. While the serious effects of obesity might not be surprising, the age of many of his patients might be. Many of them are under the age of twenty.

Shields discussed various

different types of fats and explained which are considered Essential Fatty Acids, or EFA's. Americans tend to eat enormous amounts of non-essential fats, such as animal products and whole milk products, and this can result in unnecessary weight gain. However, even those who attempt to eat more EFA's may still not be ingesting the correct balance of fats in their diet.

Two main fats are considered essential: Omega-6 and Omega-3. An ideal diet would include a one-to-one ratio of Omega-6 to Omega-3. In reality, most Americans consume a 30:1 ratio of Omega-6 to Omega-3. To confirm the beneficial qualities

of Omega-3 oils, a study recently conducted at Harvard University discovered that Eskimos do not suffer from the rampant spread of weight-related heart disease. Shields explained that the Eskimo diet is rich in whale blubber, an excellent source of Omega-3, and that this is the secret to their healthy hearts.

Shield's closing words gave some advice as to which foods students should eat to increase their intake of Omega-3 fats. Students should be consuming at least one or two servings a week (1 serving = 3-3.5 oz.) for top results. The best source is fish, particularly wild salmon.

Other options include walnuts and ground flax seed.

So let's start trading recipes. Here's one for salmon croquets:

1 (4.75 oz) can Icy Point (wild) salmon

3 eggs

1 cup seasoned bread crumbs (homemade are the best)

Preheat oven to 350°.

Mix the ingredients together. Shape into patties and bake for 30 minutes or until golden.

Makes about 9-10 croquets.

Enjoy!

Albert Einstein: Not Just America's Top Medical School

By Yardanna Platt

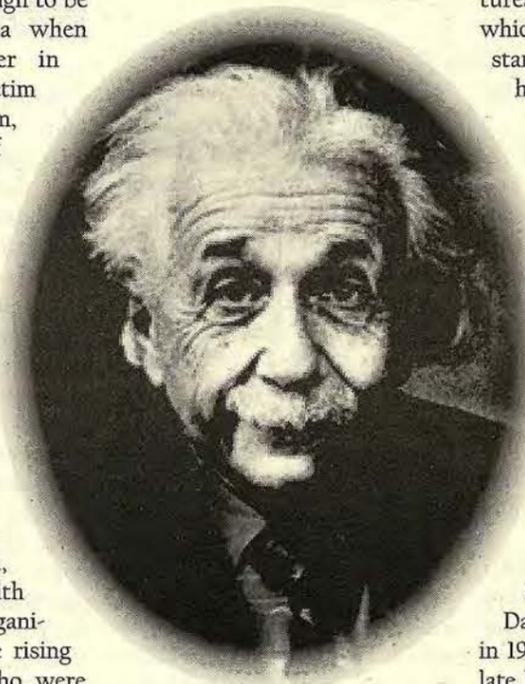
This year marks the 50th anniversary since the passing of Albert Einstein, a man who is categorically described as one of the greatest theoretical physicists of all time. This German-American scientist not only made significant contributions to the understanding of kinetic theory and specific heat, but also revolutionized quantum theory with the formation, a century ago this year, of his theory of relativity, for which he received a Nobel Prize.

Unlike child prodigies such as Mozart and Bobby Fischer, it seems that this scientific virtuoso showed no early signs of genius. In fact, Einstein hated formal instruction and taught himself most of what he knew about mathematics and theoretical physics. After finally being accepted into the Federal Polytechnic in Zurich, he rarely attended lectures, but did go on to receive a full time academic post there, among other positions at great institutions such as the German University in Prague

and Princeton University.

Einstein was the most famous living Jew of his era, and was thus fortunate enough to be lecturing in California when Hitler rose to power in January of 1933. As a victim of global anti-Semitism, Einstein once mused, "If my theory of relativity is proven correct, Germany will claim me as a German and France will declare that I am a citizen of the world. Should my theory prove untrue, France will say that I am a German and Germany will declare that I am a Jew." While working at Princeton, Einstein cooperated with charitable and social organizations to help aid the rising number of refugees who were fleeing to America from Nazi Germany. His letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which warned about the dangers of allowing the Nazis to be first in revealing the secrets of splitting

uranium, prompted the Manhattan Project that led to



America's victory in the race to construct the atomic bomb.

Einstein maintained a strong Jewish identity, remarking, "The pursuit of knowledge for its own

sake, an almost fanatical love of justice, and the desire for personal independence—these are features of the Jewish tradition which make me thank my lucky stars that I belong to it." In 1919 he joined the Zionist movement, and toured Israel in 1923, delivering the first science lecture at the site that was to become Hebrew University. Einstein helped establish Hebrew University and upon its inception remarked to the New York Times, "I know of no public event that has given me such pleasure as the proposal to establish a Hebrew University in Jerusalem."

Einstein ultimately declined David Ben Gurion's invitation in 1952 to have him succeed the late biochemist and president of the state of Israel, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, citing failing health and lack of experience.

Although Einstein's résumé seems somewhat pretentious, he was in actuality a down-to-earth

lover of truth and simplicity who had a great sense of humor. When asked to describe his theory of relativity, Einstein quipped, "When you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it seems like two hours, when you sit with a nice girl for two hours, it seems like two minutes. Now that's relativity." Einstein also noted, "Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, though I'm not sure about the former."

Although mimicking Einstein's trajectory to greatness would require our dropping out of physics lecture and getting a home subscription to Scientific American, it seems that he has already syllogistically mapped out the formula for success. "If A is a success in life, then A equals X + Y + Z. Work is X; Y is play; and Z is keeping your mouth shut," Einstein remarked. While one could argue about the practicality of this equation, perhaps Einstein did not need to heed his own advice in achieving a notable position amongst the high echelons of the giants of the modern world.

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For further information, please contact: Professor Ephraim Kanarfogel, Director
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THE GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN ADVANCED TALMUDIC STUDIES

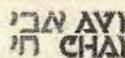
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Substance Abuse Strikes the Jewish Community

continued from page 7

explained Nulman. "We try to put them in the right direction to get the help they need. If, however, the student is not looking for help and is continuing to do things in ways that are not healthy to him or herself and others then we sit down and talk to them."

Yeshiva University currently has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to drugs and alcohol. But with the advent of the mental health center, there will be trained personnel on campus to help students deal with potential issues. Schwartz is excited about the programs that the center plans to run. "If students are concerned about a friend or themselves they should come in and talk," said Schwartz. Over the course of this semester Schwartz hopes to develop a sense of the number of people who truly need help in overcoming an addiction by talking to students, faculty and deans. The center, which will also create a website with information and links to other sites that deal with addiction, plans to be fully operational in September.

A new program designed by MSDCS-RIETS called Quality Education Skills Training (QUEST) trains students to run leadership programs. This year the group will learn both the skills they need for Torah Tours, NCSY, Bnei Akiva, Shabbatons and more, while simultaneously hearing from the experts about

the substance abuse problems that have recently been highlighted in newspapers worldwide.

"When these issues come up," said Rebecca Wimmer, one of the coordinators of the program, "advisors, leaders and teachers need to know how to deal with them." Several college students have taken leadership roles on the project including Aron Srolovitz, Menachem Menchel and Hindy Poupko, the latter two having started a similar program in the Fall, called Teach For Israel. "Their model was so successful, we all agreed it should be expanded to help train students in other areas as well, such as substance abuse," said Rabbi Josh Joseph, director of QUEST. "In future semesters we hope to broaden and expand the fellowship to other issues that affect our community, such as gambling, relationships and whatever issues students will bring to us," explained Wimmer. This grass-roots project involves a six-week training session that will alternate between the Beren and Wilf campus. "We don't really want to limit how many people get trained," said Joseph, "so we're considering developing programs for those who are not accepted to the fellowship as well." Applications are due by February 22 and can be found at www.yu.edu/quest. "We want you to join us on this quest."



By Talya Berger

A paper clip does not generally evoke any strong emotions. It is probably one of the cheapest office supplies available, and it is often seen as nothing but a simple tool used to hold papers together. However, after seeing the film "Paper Clips," I can virtually guarantee that you will never think about the humble piece of wire in the same way.

First, a little bit about the symbolic history of the paper clip: During the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II, Norwegians wore paper clips as a sign of solidarity and opposition to the Nazi occupation. The public recognized the symbol to the extent that a citizen wearing a paper clip in his or her lapel could be arrested.

Fast-forward sixty years to Whitwell Middle School, located in rural Tennessee. The teachers at the school wanted to initiate a program that would teach a lesson of tolerance to their mostly white, Christian student body. Principal Linda Hooper and Vice Principal David Smith decided that a Holocaust project would be appropriate to demonstrate the destructive nature of intolerance. They would focus on the fact that six million Jews had been killed on the basis of their religion - but how could the teachers convey such a large number? The challenge was to find an object that was small enough for the group of students to realistically collect and store, so that the students could hopefully gain some understanding of

what the number six million encompasses.

After doing some research on the Internet, the 8th grade participants who had volunteered for the program found that the paper clip had been a symbol of solidarity worn by Norwegians during the Nazi occupation of Norway. The paper clip would therefore serve a threefold purpose: It was easy to collect and store, it had historical significance and there was also the paper clip's more mundane purpose: holding things together.

Thus, the 8th grade students of Whitwell decided that they would collect paper clips. They mailed requests to local businesses and families for paper clips, and asked that each paper clip be sent back with a note describing why the paper clip was being given to the project. The film "Paper Clips" is about their journey and the ripple effect that this small group of students from rural Tennessee, collecting paper clips and memories, had on the world.

"Paper Clips" tracks the evolution of the project, from the initial stages of local excitement to how the venture gained the world's attention with the aid of two journalists, Peter Schroeder and Dagmar Schroeder-Hildebrand. The two journalists wrote about the Whitwell mission, and slowly the middle school's project began appearing on the news in various countries. Huge shipments of paper clips arrived at the school, as did single paperclips accompanied by poignant, and occasionally heartrending, stories from

More Than A Practical Tool: "Paper Clips"

Holocaust survivors worldwide.

At one point, a group of survivors from the New York area went to Whitwell to see the project, and to speak to the people of Whitwell about the Holocaust from the perspective of those who experienced it. I was slightly disturbed at the fact that the survivors spoke in a church, and behind each of them was a large golden cross. I do realize that the focus of the movie is tolerance and understanding, but it did surprise me. However, even that did not distract me from what the survivors were saying. I saw the movie over a month ago, yet I still feel tears collect in my eyes as I think about these elderly people, numbers embedded in their wrinkly forearms, voices trembling, retelling their nightmares to a silent, white-faced audience.

The Holocaust program had, by the end of several years, amassed over 30 million paper clips, and became a question of what sort of memorial to create. Hooper decided that she wanted to obtain an old German railcar that had been used by the Nazis to transport Jews to the death camps, and to fill it with the collected paper clips. Peter and Dagmar Schroeder went to Germany, and searched the country for such a cattle car. They found one, and after several months the car finally arrived in Whitwell. It was a strange dichotomy; there was excitement at the arrival of the ultimate memorial, and yet unspoken horror at what that same railcar represented. The railcar was refurbished - rotting floorboards were



Students enter cattle car memorial

replaced and support structures were installed. Plexiglas walls were put up in the interior of the car, flanking the walls, and behind the glass were a total of 11 million paper clips - 6 million for the Jews, and 5 million for the others who were targeted and killed by the Nazis. The other 20 million paper clips that the students collected were not included, and are more a testament to the scope of the project than anything else.

The school-side monument was dedicated on the 63rd anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, which is a remembrance of the devastation and death caused in the Jewish neighborhoods by raging German mobs on November 9th and 10th, 1938. A small garden had been planted around the lone cattle car, and butterflies were engraved into the concrete path that leads to the ramp which enters into the car itself. The butterflies were inspired by the poem, "The Butterfly" written by Pavel Friedman, a child who had lived in the Terezin Concentration Camp, in 1942:

*"The last, the very last,
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.*

*Perhaps if the sun's tears would
sing against a white stone...*

*Such, such a yellow is carried
lightly 'way up high.*

*It went away I'm sure because it
wished to kiss the world goodbye.*

*For seven weeks I've lived in here,
Pinned up inside this ghetto.
But I have found what I love here.*

*The dandelions call to me
And the white chestnut branches in the
court.*

Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.

Butterflies don't live in here, in the ghetto."

After watching "Paper Clips," I left the theater feeling stunned and confused. I was simultaneously mourning for those who had been taken, tortured and killed by the Nazis, and also celebrating life and the amazing effect that one small school in the Midwest had on the entire world. This project and its message of tolerance were broadcasted on the news in dozens of countries, and revived the awareness of equality in a fresh way. I do not generally become emotional during movies, but during "Paper Clips," I found myself moved to tears several times by the narrative.

Some critics disdain the movie as clichéd and yet another feel-good, commercialized movie about the Holocaust. I could not disagree more. I found that the documentary-style film allowed the participants' emotions to express themselves in an honest, sometimes raw way, and that neither the adults or children in the film, nor the producers, had any motive other than capturing the essence of the Whitwell Middle School's project. I strongly suggest that you see this film - it will make you pause and reconsider what the Holocaust has really taught humanity, and appreciate the impact of things that may begin as small endeavors.

On Fashion and Frogs

By Esther Flaschner-Berko

Over vacation, I finally saw the frogs. "Frogs" was a temporary exhibit at the Museum of Natural History, featuring bizarre frog species from all over the world. My mother and four-year-old sister were the first in my family to see the exhibit, and since they returned raving about it I had been dying to go myself.

The frogs didn't disappoint. The glass cages at the museum housed the most ridiculous-looking frogs with the most incredible colors. Teeny frogs, no bigger than one inch, glistened bright neon colors. Leathery frogs of teal blue sparkled alongside frogs that were so grey and woody that they camouflaged right into their habitat and could not be

seen without the help of a museum employee.

The museum extended "Frog's" stay in response to public demand, and when I arrived the exhibit was crowded with families and adults. I adored it. Something about these crazy little frogs left everyone happy. I stood there, watching the brightly colored frogs in their cages and the spectators smiling placidly and snapping pictures in awe.

I felt the same way just last week, standing in the middle of the big white tent at Bryant Park during Fashion Week. I wanted to experience Fashion Week and went to the event to cover Douglas Hannant's show. There I was, having carefully selected my attire, in the middle of an exhibit. Journalists, socialite fashionistas, and photographers

all tried to "out-cool" each other with pretentious demeanors. The trick was to look as cool and comfortable as can be, fitting right in with the unspoken rules of the Fashion world. Sit here, look like you belong, uncross your legs if you're sitting near the runway, take copious notes, and don't look too impressed. Applaud when the designer comes out, and then rush out of the show.

I guess to journalists and photographers, who cover these events daily, the runway loses its novelty and becomes unimpressive pretty soon. But to me, the visiting observer, their mannerisms looked affected and radiated a false sense. I sat, watching the bright colors prance by and the spectators ogle their cameras to catch the model's pose before she turned the runway.

I walked out of the tents feeling pretty good about myself. While passersby outside craned their necks to watch celebrities entering and exiting the premises, I could prance right in to the super-confident Fashion world with my all-powerful press pass. And then I realized; I was watching the frogs. Like the exhibit, these models walked up and down their runways, seemingly oblivious to the world around them, while the audience gazed intently.

The frogs seemed a thousand leagues away from the models on 42nd street. Fashion Week forces you to adopt the haughty attitude of the bold and beautiful. But frogs, they just let you enjoy it, smile, and walk away.

For Two
Weeks,
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Will Reign
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Shul-Hopping With Shifra

The Carlebach Synagogue – Living the Teachings of Reb Shlomo

By Shifra Bronstein

Looking for a shul where your Jewish brothers and sisters are all “so holy?” Then perhaps you should consider Congregation Kehilath Jacob, otherwise known as the Carlebach synagogue, located on the Upper West Side. This synagogue embraces much of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach’s teachings, such as a love for all Jews, the tradition of Kabbala and living as a spiritual and joyful Jew. One can practically feel Reb Shlomo Carlebach’s smiling presence. On a weekly basis, this shul welcomes all sorts of Jews into its fold, for a Shabbat with an environment “rich with Torah, spirituality and joy.” The legacy of Rabbi Carlebach is carried today by the current rabbi of the shul, Rabbi Naftali Citron, who is the great-nephew of Rabbi Carlebach.

The Carlebach shul (CS) attracts hundreds of Jews into its doors each week. The shul attributes its success to its two fundamental Torah beliefs: *Neshama Yeteira* and *Lechem Mishneh*. *Neshama Yeteira* is the “extra soul” that Jews receive on the Shabbat, and the *Lechem Mishneh* is the double portion of bread that was on display in the Beit Hamikdash (Holy Temple). The CS’s goal is to find the hungry *Neshamot Yeteirot* who crave Torah teach-

ings, and to then feed them *Lechem Mishna*, or spiritual fulfillment. Thus, one of the CS’s purposes is to unite all Jews under its roof in an atmosphere of Torah learning and spiritual realization.

But how does the Carlebach synagogue satisfy the souls of such a diverse group of Jews each week, from the unaffiliated Jew to the traditional Hasid? The unaffiliated Jew is perhaps attracted to the tolerant milieu of the shul. He may begin to feel a blossoming connection through the stirring prayers, communal dances or inspiring Torah speeches by Rabbi Citron. Additionally, outreach is a main facet of the shul itself. The shul’s Shabbat meal is served along with Torah learning, R’ Carlebach stories and melodic Hassidic songs. The enthusiasm that the congregants feel while serving God with happiness is absorbed by the unaffiliated Jew as well as the observant Jew, who perhaps may not always serve God with such an intense sense of joy. The outreach program in the Carlebach shul is so successful that it has been recognized for an award by the Covenant Foundation, a program of the Crown Family Foundation of Chicago and The Jewish Education Service of North America. This is the first time that the Covenant Foundation will be granting an award to an

Orthodox synagogue. The purpose of the award is to provide a grant which will duplicate the unique outreach program of the CS among other communities, including the Carlebachian methods of providing various levels of Torah education and a connection to Jewish spirituality using traditional prayer, ritual and learning.

The Jew who is fortunate to possess a more extensive Judaic background is also provided with a learning schedule that he can appreciate on his level. Each Shabbat prior to Shabbat services (except those Shabbatot which fall out on Holidays) Rabbi Citron conveys the teachings of the *Shem Mishmuel* which delves into the weekly Torah section through Kabbala, Midrash and Talmud. Rabbi Meir Fund, known for his lectures on Kabbala, and a close friend of R’ Carlebach ob”m, imparts a weekly learning on Kabbala to the congregants. Additional programs supply learning opportunities for yet more advanced Torah scholars. Admission for all of these learning programs is free.

The synagogue also offers events which help to form bonds between congregants, in addition to educating and providing an avenue for some enjoyment. A good example was the shul’s second annual Lag Ba’omer trip called “Sefirah Trail.” The purpose of the trip was to commem-



orate the life of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, the author of the Zohar, and to impart some of his teachings. This event attracted approximately 1000 participants, including adults and children. The participants were first led into Rabbi Bar Yochai’s “cave” where they heard the story of Rabbi Bar Yochai’s life. Next they were led into various tents, each of which represented a different lesson of Rabbi Bar Yochai. In one, for example, “Avraham” and “Sarah” offered them food and explained the meaning of chesed (kindness). Participants were asked to write about a personal

act of kindness they planned to accomplish, and the notes were then displayed on a bulletin board. In this manner, the participants were educated in a variety of *Midot Halev*, or Attributes of the Heart, while visiting each tent.

This unique shul truly lives the teachings of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach and provides a vast amount of outreach to Jews who are thirsting for spiritual fulfillment. If you wish to learn more about this amazing shul, please visit <http://www.carlebachshul.org/index.htm>.

Bon Appetit: A Restaurant Review

By Adinah Wieder

Café K is the restaurant to put at the top of your “places to eat” list. Centrally located on 48th St. between Fifth and Madison Avenues, it is within walking distance from Stern and in the center of the best shopping that the city has to offer. No reservation is necessary, which helps make dining at this restaurant a hassle-free experience.

Upon entry, my eyes immediately adjusted to the dimly-lit interior. The lighting enhanced the ambiance and created a charming appearance. The central dining area is small enough to create a warm and homey atmosphere, yet large enough that I was not sitting in my neighbor’s lap. On the tables were candles placed in small colored glasses; this final touch completed the cozy mood.

I arrived at a particularly busy hour with two friends in tow. However, we immediately received a friendly greeting, and within minutes we were seated at the table of our choice with menus. It is usually my experience in restaurants that I must hunt down the waiter to place an order, and it consequently can take as long as 35 minutes before

the chef even sees the order. But in Café K the waiter arrived at just the right time and answered all of our questions. He remained patient throughout our numerous inquiries as to the number of bones in the salmon, the abundance of cheese in the wraps and whether the water was properly filtered. To this last inquiry, the waiter responded with a smile that all the restaurant’s water – even the water used for the ice cubes – was filtered to the appropriate degree. Throughout all the questions regarding the various choices for the side and an order change, our waiter remained good-natured.

The menu is quite extensive. The cuisine includes varieties of sushi, wraps, sandwiches, fish, pasta, soups and salads. I chose grilled salmon, served with an Israeli salad, which comes with the choice of a side dish: rice, baked potato or French fries. The entire meal cost \$10.95, which is half the price of other restaurants in the vicinity. All of the prices are reasonable; the average price of fish is \$11.00 and pasta is \$9.00. My friends ordered salmon teriyaki and penne a la vodka, and their meals cost only approximately \$10.00 each.

Now we arrive at the biggest

test of all (drum roll please): How long will it take the waiter to arrive with our entrees? In a record time of 13 minutes, all three of us received our meals. The portions were the perfect size. They were not too small and not too large so that I still had room for dessert. Nothing was cold, grilled for too long or bland. All the food was very fresh, including the Israeli salad that they served as a side. They even peeled the cucumbers in the Israeli salad! Their French fries were lightly seasoned without too much crunch or potato. A patron remarked that the food was “tasty, light and not oily.”

As I was eating, I noted to my friends that despite the amount of people in the restaurant, we were still able to hear each other speak without shouting. The tables were far enough apart that I did not have to hear my neighbor’s life story. There was no need to read lips, or sit close together to ensure that we all heard each other.

Additionally, there was a nice mix of people at the restaurant with a wide variety of ages. I did not feel as though I were in the midst of an old aged home or walking past the Brookdale lounge. Being that the restaurant is Chalav Yisrael and Pas Yisrael,

it opens itself up to an even larger clientele.

All the guests I polled had wonderful things to say about the service, ambiance, cuisine and even the cleanliness of Café K. Tables are cleaned immediately after they are vacated. Tables are then immediately set to ensure that the next customers do not have to wait. The waiters and waitresses are friendly and efficient. They responded in a friendly manner to the myriad of questions we asked, and always smiled. Never will you hear: “I have way more important people to deal with, people who will leave a bigger tip than you college students.”

The staff is truly wonderful with birthday parties. They go all out, from singing at the top of their Israeli lungs, “Chappy Birthday,” to taking pictures and presenting cakes with funky sparkly candles.

The best part of the menu is the dessert. While in Israel for the year, my friend and I tried every restaurant with hot chocolate cake from Cafe Rimon on Ben Yehudah to Aproro in the mall. Our discerning palates experienced every hot chocolate cake in the country. Café K’s hot chocolate cake definitely ranks among the best. Served with

two scoops of ice cream, flavors of your choice, the cake is heated so that it is soft, and the hot chocolate sauce delicately flows the moment you take the first bite. As my friend said, “it is *ma’ain olam habah*,” (like the World to Come). If you request it, they will add loads of extra whip cream and chocolate syrup at no extra charge. They also brought extra spoons to the table because they know that once one person orders it, everyone will want a taste. This is not the only delectable goody on the dessert menu. There are many pies, everything from apple to pecan, as well as tiramisu and, of course, an assortment of cheesecakes. They also make fresh fruit drinks and the cappuccinos come with a message written out in caramel on top of the foamed milk. Try a delicious fat free muffin to take for the road.

I give this restaurant five stars and two major thumbs up! Hours: 7am-11 pm

Phone: (212) 688-5373

Café K delivers and does catering for all your special occasions.

Tune in next month for more of Bon Appetit: A Restaurant Review.

UP AND COMING IN THE BIG APPLE

New York City Opera: *Candide*

March 4 through March 19
20 Lincoln Center Plaza
62nd Street and Columbus Avenue
Phone: (212) 870-5500

The Black Press: *Soldiers without Sword*

Feb 24, 7 pm
Video Presentation
Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn

Staten Island Gems: *Photographs by Isaac Almstaedt*

Jan 15-March 20
Historic Richmond Town / Staten Island Historical Society
441 Clarke Avenue
(at Arthur Kill Road)
Staten Island

Madame Butterfly

Feb 23 & 26, 8 pm
Metropolitan Opera
70 Lincoln Center Plaza
(Broadway at 65th Street)
Admission/Price: \$50-\$250

Pygmalion

Dec 3-March 27, Wed 7pm, Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 3 pm
Jean Cocteau Repertory
Bouwerie Lane Theatre
330 Bowery
(corner of Bowery and Bond Street)
Admission/Price: \$30-\$50

Sleeping Beauty

New Victory Theater / New 42nd Street
209 West 42nd Street
(between Seventh and Eighth Avenues)
Phone: (212) 869-9809
www.newvictory.org

Dancing About Architecture: Matisyahu, Superstar

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

By Esther Lam

*I had a dream last night.
I dreamt of Jews from different
walks of life, who came together in
song and dance.*

*Both men and women, children
and adults, kipa-clad and bareheaded
males extended their arms to a stage
on which an individual stood. The
diverse nation immersed themselves in
the singer's redemptive rhythms as he
beat-boxed, rapped and chanted about
godliness and repentance. They all
sang along, mouthed each word and
softly jumped in unison. Together,
despite their differences, they joined
together in one room to celebrate the
talents of one of their own.*

A day commemorated by Christians as the day of Jesus' birth seems to be a call to Jews throughout the tri-state area to swarm the streets of Manhattan. With few businesses in operation, and many workplaces granting their employees extended weekends or vacation, December 25th often leaves many Jews with few recreational activities available to them.

Yet on this year's holiday, a large crowd stood outside of B.B. King Live, located in the heart of Times Square. Matisyahu, the Chasidic rapper and reggae singer, was scheduled to perform on Christmas night but, to my surprise, the tickets were sold out hours before his scheduled performance. Countless youngsters waited in the frigid wind, hoping to enter the club that provided a lively social scene and a slice of rare musical entertainment. I assumed that the show's popularity was the result of masses of Modern Orthodox teenagers with a lot of time on their hands, as well as the appeal of a bar serving rebelliousness by the bottle.

Upon entering the crowded room, I realized just how wrong my assumptions were. The event had brought together Jews from all walks of life. There was a spectrum that ranged from non-orthodox, middle-aged couples to Lubavitch Chasidim, and included almost everything in between. Once the opening band had completed their set, the adolescent girls and boys swarmed to the bar like moths to a light bulb. They drank, socialized, pushed and danced to nonexistent music. But when Matisyahu and his band finally graced the stage, all the mayhem ceased. With the sound of his melodic chanting, most of them approached the main floor, and many formed an all-male moshpit. Their lips mouthed lyrics about *Hashem*, *Moshiach* and the *Yetzer Hara* as the bearded Matisyahu, dressed



Matisyahu in concert at B.B. King

in a suit and hat, belted out the inspiring raps.

Matisyahu Miller, once known as Matthew Miller, is a 24 year-old Lubavitch Chasid who lives in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Growing up in White Plains, New York, Miller listened to The Grateful Dead, Phish, Bob Marley and other musicians that preached peace, love and serenity. Seated at the back of his Hebrew school classroom, the dreadlocked Miller beat-boxed his way to near-expulsion from school.

Soon, reggae music began to teach the hippie teenager what no rabbi could ever accomplish. Through the use of many Old Testament narratives, Marley's lyrics spoke to Miller, and the Jamaican melodies opened his eyes to his Jewish roots. "Growing up, not feeling such a strong connection to my Judaism, I started to connect to my Judaism through reggae music, in a weird way," he said in an interview on NPR radio, "Hebrew school ... didn't have that essential quality to it. Reggae music seemed ... so real, yet it was saying Jewish things."

Miller followed Phish on their national tour, spending time contemplating inspiration in Colorado and later in Israel. In an attempt to level their confused son, Miller's parents sent him to wilderness school in Oregon, where he further explored the beat-boxing scene. His interest in hip-hop and reggae continued in college at The New School in New York City where he studied music and drama. After attending services at the spiritually inspiring Carlebach Shul, Miller became a full-fledged *Ba'al Teshuva* at a Lubavitch yeshiva in Crown Heights, which he currently attends.

As I looked around the room, I saw that this concert did

not merely cure the boredom for the participants. These people were true fans. Besides knowing the words to each song, many audience members held copies of Matisyahu's album, "Shake Off the Dust, Arise." Standing next to me was a woman who came all the way from Massachusetts. Covering her hair with a black newsboy cap, much like the band members on stage, the woman said that she viewed most Jewish music as "crap," but after purchasing the Matisyahu album she "fell in love." "I'm always with my kids in the car," she said, "now Matisyahu is the only thing I listen to." As her face beamed toward Matisyahu's singing, her husband, dressed in full Chasidic garb, dozed off behind her.

Matisyahu's voice and performing abilities are impressive, and he truly captivates his audience. After hearing him, I can say that his popularity should not baffle anyone. Though the idea of a Chasidic reggae singer may seem laughable to many, Matisyahu proves that a life steeped in Torah and mysticism is not necessarily antithetical to a style that possesses both strong ethnic themes and sounds that border on *niggun* (hymns). Matisyahu uses both aspects to describe his personal struggles with religion, as well as preach strong messages to the younger Jewish generation. In addition to his impressive talent, Matisyahu has added a sense of vitality and originality to an often banal and predictable modern Jewish music scene. Matisyahu not only accomplishes the feat of attracting an audience of such a wide range of fans, but also brings hope to the future of Jewish music.

Nonsense Wakes Up the Brain Cells

Dr. Seuss at the Children's Museum of Manhattan

By Reena Mittelman

Anyone who has grown up reading Dr. Seuss books remembers the enchantment of his simple but creative journeys into fantastic worlds of possibility.

*"Oh the places you'll go!
You'll be on your way up
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
Who soar to high heights."*

The "Oh, Seuss! Off to Great Places" exhibit, located on the first floor of the Children's Museum of Manhattan, captures the essence of these magical lines from Seuss' book "Oh, the Places You'll Go" (1990). Based on themes from this book and other Seuss classics, the interactive exhibition accomplishes its goal of inspiring children to see their world in new ways by sending, as the website says, "children and families off on a journey to accomplish feats only possible in a Seussian world."

Visitors walking into the exhibit room are likely to feel like they have stepped into a page of a Dr. Seuss book. The room is covered in colorful scenes and quotes from Dr. Seuss' books, and his trademark creatures greet visitors at every corner. It took nearly 70 people to create the Dr. Seuss exhibit, including costume designers from FIT and many scenic artists and fabricators.

With its child-sized doorways, big open play areas, colorful buttons and games, the exhibit is clearly geared toward very young children. However, it is designed to cater to families as well, and contains different activities appropriate for chil-

dren up to about five years old. In a special early-childhood area designed for the museum's youngest visitors, children can race eggs down Horton's slide, sit in a play nest, climb into the Green Eggs and Ham train and car, and play rhyming games in a Green Eggs and Ham boat. This mini play area, filled with slides and padded toy cars, appears to be a favorite with the toddler crowd, while video game style balloon races are more popular with the older children. Children will also have fun building the giant whirling "Thromdumbulator," "unslumping" the mighty Borfin and playing in the mirrored dress-up area, where they can pretend to be their favorite Seussian characters.

It should be noted, however, that the exhibit is more than a glorified jungle gym. "Nonsense wakes up the brain cells," wrote Dr. Seuss. One of the most impressive features of the exhibit is that it epitomizes the creativity and thought that Dr. Seuss put into the development of his series. In the reading corner, children can sit on a Dr. Seuss-themed bench and read the book on which the exhibit is based. In an imaginative twist, children can see themselves projected onto a screen with letters falling behind them in the background and forming lines from Dr. Seuss' books. In the Circus McGurkus play area, children who lie on the floor and watch their images appear on a camera screen can pretend that they are jugglers

balancing on a stack of balls or acrobats hanging from a trapeze through the art of trick photography. On the "graffiti wall," children can create a sound and picture story that they can then post online (www.graffitiwall.com/cmom) or send to their friends as an e-postcard. Using flashing lights, bright colors and technology, the exhibit appeals to kids while maintaining the simplicity and quality of Dr. Seuss' work. Like Dr. Seuss' books, the different sections of the exhibit promote language skills and encour-



age children to use their creativity and imaginations, take adventures and develop such skills that will help children in different aspects of life.

Beyond the playground activities and games, the exhibit contains an area that contains biographical information about Dr. Seuss (Theodor Seuss Geisel), with large pictures of the author, models he made for some of his characters, and samples of original manuscripts and sketches for his illustrated books. Many adults could be seen taking a moment to peruse a wall containing explanations of some of Dr. Seuss' most popular books. Did you know, for example, that

the story of "Yertle the Turtle," written after World War II, was modeled on the rise of Adolph Hitler and was a critique of power-hungry national leaders? Many of Seuss' books were written as commentaries on world events, and all deal with social and political concerns such as prejudice, ("The Sneetches"), the environment ("The Lorax"), and the nuclear arms race ("The Butter Battle Book"). Although toddlers will certainly be more interested in playing than in understanding the inspirations

for Seuss' creative process, the exhibit nevertheless tries to imbue children with a sense of the values encouraged by Seuss' books. Signs containing tips for parents encourage them to read to their kids and afterwards to discuss what they have read. Amid the squeals and laughter of children running around between the

activities were discernable sounds of parents talking with their kids about their favorite Dr. Seuss books.

For babysitters of young children, the Museum can be a great place to spend the day. Five floors of interactive fun and educational exhibits are currently featuring Dr. Seuss and Dora the Explorer for younger kids, as well as more advanced exhibits based on the Ms. Frizzle book series and interactive technology for older children, featuring computer games, digital photography and installation art. Children will probably spend no more than an hour in the Dr. Seuss exhibit, but visits to all the exhibits could

certainly become an all-day trip. Several restaurants are located nearby, and the museum gift shop has an excellent selection of cute souvenirs, toys and stuffed animals based on the museum's exhibits. Visitors can buy puzzles and games, and of course, Dr. Seuss books.

In addition, for students studying early education, psychology or child development, the Children's Museum would be an interesting place to visit or observe children at play. From activities utilizing basic motor skills such as building and climbing to more advanced activities such as working on the computer, the exhibit successfully targets the skills and interests of children of different ages.

The Children's Museum has a variety of internship opportunities available for college and graduate students in all of its departments. For more information, visit www.cmom.org/about/Internships%202004.pdf.

The Dr. Seuss exhibit introduces children in an exciting and innovative way to Dr. Seuss' magical and surprising world of fun. Although several of the buttons operating the activities were broken and some of the computer activities seemed a little too confusing for children, overall the exhibit was clean and creative, and provided a fun, comfortable, familiar environment for children. And with Dr. Seuss, what's not to love?

"Oh, Seuss! Off to Great Places" will run through September 2005.

For more information about the Children's Museum and current programs, visit www.cmom.org

Found: SCW Talent, Wanted: Working Microphones and Real Props

By Dodi-Lee Hecht

One thing is certain: "Showcase 2004" succeeded in showing the SCW student body exactly what it had set out to reveal — there is real talent among them. Each of the performers threw themselves into the parts they were given and some even offered Broadway-worthy performances. However, Showcase also let the audience in on another, less pleasant secret — talent can only go so far.

Granted, SCDS is not as well established as its counterpart uptown but one would imagine that this would imply that the younger dramatic society would have the newer, and therefore better, technology. In actuality, it seems that the opposite is the case. So, it is important to bear in mind that the vocalists were forced to contend with faulty microphones and auditorium-style acoustics, that the dancers performed on a stage that was not actually

meant for dancing, and that the actors made use of props and costumes which were most likely gathered together by the actors themselves.

Still, tirade aside, what really stood out during Showcase were not the details of what went wrong. While the morning after demands that we reflect upon what must be improved so that SCDS can reach its potential, that night the buzz was all about the talent. And so it should be because these girls certainly had an overflow of it.

In truth, the performances were all so spectacular that it is difficult to single out the most fantastic acts or most gifted performers. Everyone who participated in Showcase deserved all the cheers she received, and then some. However, the final three scenes of Act I as well as the "African Rhythms" dance and the rendition of "Shema Yisrael" in Act II deserve special note. The performers in these musical and dance numbers were especially impressive and one hopes

that this will not be their only time on stage. Particular note must be given to Naty Gabbay, who performed all original songs which she wrote, and to Adena Kozak, who was the head choreographer and impressively performed across all three genres: musical, dance and drama.

Of the dramatic performances, the highlight was "The Philadelphia," by David Ives. Although, it can easily be argued that Eliana Rudolph's Puck, though not technically a full act, most easily stole the audience's full attention each time she came on stage.

"Showcase 2004" was conceived of and directed by Rudolph. All profits from the event are being donated to two causes: Magen David Adom, the Israeli Emergency Ambulance service, and Sharsheret, an organization which links Jewish women who suffer from breast cancer with similar women who survived the disease.

**Stern College Dramatics Society
and Stern College for Women
Student Council**

**A Benefit
Performance**

Magen David Adom & Sharsheret

PRESENTS

**Showcase
2004**

December 19, 2004

The women of Stern College take the stage at 7:30

An all female night of music and theater

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(860) 966-2514 SH 350
Stern drama@yahoo.com
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YU Students Align With L'man Achai to Raise Money for Israel

By Melodie Balarsky

The newest campaign for L'man Achai (For the Sake of Our Brothers), Feed Israel's Hungry, began with its kick-off event on Wednesday, February 9, in conjunction with the Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) Seforim Sale. Guest speakers Rabbi Meir Goldwicht, President Richard M. Joel, and Rosh Yeshiva of YU Rabbi Hershel Schachter emphasized the importance of social activism, praised students for drawing attention to Israel's underprivileged, and acknowledged student ability to affect social change. "We hope to create awareness beyond the sphere of the YU campus," stated program director and SCW senior Hindy Poupko. "Hopefully, the greater Jewish community will see the need to get involved in this pressing cause."

YU students were motivated to help Israel's impoverished when The Jewish Week and Jerusalem Post reported that one in every five families and one in every three children in Israel live below the poverty line.

YU graduate Reuvan Brand organized L'man Achai's first campaign in 2002 to help Israeli terror victims. Volunteers collected money at the major Washington rally, collecting 30,000 dollars in one day and eventually raising a total of 50,000 dollars. Noticing a lack of financial assistance to Israel's poor, Brand refurbished L'man Achai to facilitate new programs.

The Max Stern Division of Communal Services (MSDCS) hosts weekly *mishmar* (learning) events, geared towards high school students. On February 10, L'man Achai used the *mishmar* event as a venue to promote and engage students in their cause. The goal was to inspire students to become involved with the L'man Achai campaign, Feed Israel's Hungry, and to orches-

trate fundraising projects at the students' schools. Guest speakers included Rabbi Sacks and Rabbi Taragin from Gush Etzion.

Hoping to establish March 12-13, as "Shabbat L'man Achai," organizers will contact various synagogues throughout the United States and encourage them to participate in educational programming and fundraising. L'man Achai would like YU ambassadors to encourage their respective synagogues to get involved. Representatives will be in charge of a *tzedakah* (charity) box that will be located at the synagogue, and will ensure L'man Achai will receive its donations.

Rebecca Stone, Head of L'man Achai public relations and an SCW senior, encourages people to participate. "Volunteers are needed to help publicize L'man Achai's campaign and assume leadership positions," remarked Stone. "We really need everyone's support to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars we are hoping for."

From February 27-30, L'man Achai delegates will attend the Spitzer Forum in Washington, D.C., Hillel's largest conference of student leaders. The forum addresses issues concerning social justice, community service and politics. L'man Achai will set up a booth in order to spread awareness and to help build programming on college campuses.

On February 20, L'man Achai will have representatives at a YU Kollel Yom Rishon Extravaganza, a weekly learning program that encourages Jewish men and boys to study Torah.

Money raised by L'man Achai will go to Hazon Yeshaya, Meir Panim and Yad Eliezar, three non-profit organizations based in Israel.

To volunteer or to participate in L'man Achai activities e-mail: info@LmanAchaiYU.org. View the L'man Achai website at LmanAchaiYU.org.

Israel Club Activities Continue in Israel During Winter Break



SCW Students Volunteer at Soup Kitchen

By Sarah Matarasso and Malky Rosenthal

The Israel Club, in conjunction with the student councils, organized events and chesed activities for YU students on their break in Israel, entitling this effort, "Yeshiva University Gathers in Israel." More than 200 YU students traveled to Israel for winter break, and the YU Israel Club provided them with a wide range of events.

On January 18th, a group of about 15 students participated in an informative session at the Nefesh B'Nefesh office in Givat Shaul. Nefesh B'Nefesh representatives, along with YU graduates who have recently made *aliyah*, spent three hours with the students, providing all sorts of practical information on *aliyah* and answering questions from searching for a job to learning Hebrew in Ulpan. The session highlighted how the *aliyah* process works, and the aid provided by Nefesh B'Nefesh. At the end of the session, Rabbi Joshua Fass, founder of Nefesh B'Nefesh and a YU graduate, gave a short *dvar Torah* explaining the importance of *aliyah*.

Directly from the Nefesh B'Nefesh session, buses shuttled students to a soup kitchen in Jerusalem sponsored by L'man Achai. L'man Achai is a new project created by YU students to alleviate the increasing poverty among Jewish families in Israel. Other YU students who had not attended the Nefesh B'Nefesh session were already working hard in other soup kitchens. The students were eager to help out, whether it was packing boxes or peeling potatoes.

Later that evening, some 150 Yeshiva students gathered at the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem for a gala dinner held to honor the Koby Mandell Foundation. Also in attendance were YU President Richard Joel and Minister for Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs, Natan Sharansky. Both Rabbi Seth and Sherri Mandell spoke movingly

about the Koby Mandell Foundation which they founded in memory of their son Koby, who was killed by terrorists near his Tekoa home. The foundation also runs a camp each summer, and counselors from the camp attended the dinner and sat at different tables to work on a short activity with the crowd. A video presentation was shown and a counselor from the camp spoke to the audience. The event was held not only to support the Koby Mandell Foundation, but also to allow YU students to understand the situation in Israel, and give students an opportunity to become involved in organizations like the Koby Mandell Foundation that helps victims of terror.

"We need to remember that Israel is not just a stay at the Dan Panorama hotel or fro-yo on Ben Yehuda," said Aliza Abrams, TAC President, who spoke at the dinner. "Israel is our home and even if we aren't living there we need to always have our brothers and sisters on our mind."

On Thursday January 20th, around 200 students were taken on a tour of Hebron and Rachel's Tomb. Registration was filled before winter break even began, but a few days before the trip was scheduled to occur, an additional bus was ordered to accommodate the increased number of interested students, as well as other non-YU persons. Judith Gorelick-Feldman, a sophomore at SCW, felt very lucky to receive this "second chance" when she was originally told there was no additional space for her. "Throughout my whole year in seminary, my parents had never given me permission to visit Hebron," Gorelick-Feldman commented. "When I told them that SCW was organizing a tour, they said I could participate. The experience was extremely eye-opening, helping me better understand the place of Hebron in biblical as well as in modern Jewish history."

The buses left from the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem at 10 A.M., heading first for Hebron. Upon arrival a guide led each busload

of students in visiting different sites such as the Hebron cemetery, the Beit Knesset L'Avraham, and the Jewish Quarter. Although only 85 Jewish families currently live in Hebron proper, the wealth of history presented to the students allowed them to get a feel for what life in Hebron has meant throughout the ages, from the time of the Patriarchs to the present. Much to the dismay of the YU contingent, *Mearat Hamachpel*, Tomb of the Patriarchs, was closed due to a Muslim holiday, a fact revealed to organizers of the trip only a day before the trip. The Tomb is open exclusively to the Arabs ten days of the year. (Consequently, the Jews receive ten days when the site is reserved exclusively for their use). Nonetheless, the trip was not cancelled, and the students were informed of the change only once they arrived in Hebron. Although many students noisily expressed their disappointment, everyone seemed to enjoy the tour.

Towards the middle of the day the group rested during a short lunch break, with soup, sandwiches and freshly-baked pizza available for purchase in a small local restaurant. Afterwards, everyone joined together on the grassy area lying right in front of *Mearat Hamachpela*, listening to the inspirational words of Rabbi Simcha Hochbaum, who made *Aliyah* from the United States. With the sun shining and the sky a pure blue, the students engaged in a meaningful and heartfelt *Mincha* prayer service in the area overlooking the burial site of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, despite the Arab chantings that interrupted the service.

After reloading the buses, the group headed towards its second destination, the Tomb of Rachel. Although each bus only stopped at the Tomb for about half an hour, the students had time to recite Psalms, offer a personal prayer, or just experience something new. As the sun began to set and the day drew to a close, the exhausted but very satisfied group returned to Jerusalem, an appropriate place to end a day spent visiting and learning about some of Israel's holiest sites.

Following the visit to Hebron and the Tomb of Rachel, Rabbi Binny Eisner delivered a *shiur* at the OU Center. Although the *shiur* gathered only a handful of YU students, those in attendance were pleased with the intimacy of the lecture. "Going to Israel for break is always an enjoyable experience," remarked Israel Club President Hindy Poupko. "But we all needed an evening of *Torat Eretz Yisrael* to realize what Israel really means to us as Jewish people."

