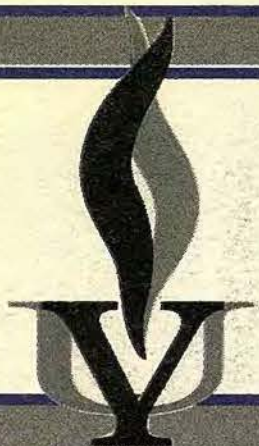


OBSERVER



President Delivers State of the University

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER

On Wednesday, September 21 during club hour, scores of students, faculty members and administrators packed the Levy Commons at 215 Lexington to greet Yeshiva University President Richard Joel at the biannual Town Hall Meeting. Joel opened the meeting with an optimistic address in which he laid out a grand vision of the university's future and then fielded questions from the audience regarding specific academic issues and student needs.

The president's speech aimed to urge the three components of Stern College, faculty, students and administrators, all well-represented at the meeting, to strive for excellence through pragmatic action to achieve idealistic goals. Joel, who believes

Stern will indeed reach those successes if all the players work together, stated, "That is our job together...Your journey could be magic here if we keep reminding ourselves of that magic."

Touching on university news, Joel noted his recent appointment of Dr. David Srulovitz, chair of the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering at Princeton University, as dean of Yeshiva College, as well as the additions to the faculty, 31 new professors on staff and 17 new full-time faculty positions. The president applauded these teachers as top caliber "thinkers and scholars and lifelong students that have chosen to come here." With these significant additions, the university hopes to further actualize its

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TAC Sponsors Learning at Starbucks

BY MICHAL MUNK

Anyone who has been in Stern College on Friday mornings knows how quiet it is. Most students are either at home or sleeping soundly in their respective dorms. The Beit Midrash fails to reverberate with the daily learning that usually takes place there. The halls are much emptier than usual; even the caf is quiet! However, a new program will soon be starting, perhaps changing the face of Fridays as we know them.

TAC President Hillary Lewin, Kulanu President Frieda Kahn and Estee Warshawsky have teamed up with Associate Dean of Students Zeld Braum, Dr. Hillel Davis, vice president for University Life, and Presidential Fellow Rebecca Stone to create a new Friday morning learning program. This program will be unlike any other one currently offered at Stern College. It will be hosted in Starbucks, offering free coffee and fostering a relaxed environment.

The program will be geared toward beginners or any student interested in learning more about Judaism. It will feature weekly discussions led by Rabbi Hajioff, and perhaps other faculty members, covering a myriad of topics, primarily those that the participants wish to learn about. The program will require people to sign up and will be limited to ten students per session.

Lewin says that she hopes this will promote socialization, as well as provide a more intimate, "safe" environment allowing students to pose any questions. Warshawsky noted that they are committed to making the environment "nonjudgmental, where anyone will be welcome."

Lewin says in addition to the learning aspects, she hopes the session will be a "great way to meet people," because, as she claimed, "people who are willing to take time off on Friday mornings to come and learn deserve to meet other people like them."

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YU CELEBRATES LANDMARK ANNIVERSARIES

Einstein Marks 50 Years

BY ILANA LEVIN

The image of the man who gave his name to one of Yeshiva University's most well-known graduate schools was featured throughout the gala commemorating fifty years of scientific and medical research.

The black-tie formal dinner-dance, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf=Astoria on Sunday, September 18, celebrated the Albert Einstein College of Medicine's 50th anniversary, and in doing so, honored the scientist who embraced the idea and need for a medical school as part of YU, and allowed it to be named for him. The gala was attended by over 750 guests, including YU faculty, alumni and philanthropists.

While many of them certainly came for the opportunity to be photographed and have Albert Einstein's image superimposed onto the picture, the keynote speaker likely attracted a sizeable crowd as well.

Senator Hillary Clinton, delivering the keynote



times existed, the numbers of people who were limited from pursuing the dream of medical education."

Affirming that fundamental reason for Einstein's existence, YU President Richard Joel spoke of Einstein's decision to open its doors to medical students affected by Hurricane Katrina. It was decided that "we would accept medical and law students from Tulane University, without transcripts, as visiting students for a semester, and waive tuition," Joel told the Observer.

Noting the sharp distinction between the scientific culture of Einstein and lack thereof in Washington, Clinton said, "Although this college has proven itself equal to every chal-

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Yeshiva College Turns 75

BY ADINAH WIEDER

On Wednesday, September 21, Yeshiva College celebrated its 75th anniversary at a dinner at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum on 12th avenue and 46th street. Approximately 550 guests attended the celebration, which Dinner Chairman Stanley M. Raskas called "the largest gathering of YC alumni in history." Hadassah and Marvin S. Bienenfeld and Jeanie and Jay Schottenstein were honored at the dinner, alongside 25 faculty members with upward of 20 years of service to the university.

Mr. Bienenfeld is the founding chairman of the college's Board of Directors and Mr. Schottenstein served as chairman of the Board for 11 years.

The crowd ranged from recent alumni to old timers, friends of honorees, current YC students, faculty and administra-



tion; the past converged with the present, and together, everyone looked to the future. The number of dinner attendees testified to

the excellence of this institution, and there was a sense of pride and privilege among the affiliates and alumni, as the dinner was a statement about the greatness that has emerged from Yeshiva University and the importance of belonging to a legacy so rich.

YU Chancellor Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm addressed the audience, speaking about his numerous years at the university and the positive transformations that have occurred. The crowd had the pleasure of hearing remarks from University President Richard Joel, who expressed his gratitude to the group, saying "Ultimately a uni-

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I N S I D E



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Not Just the Yankees Page 26

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Ilana Levin
Editor-in-Chief

My brother has been telling me since before I started high school that low expectations are the key to success—or at least to avoiding disappointment.

My brother's statements, however, invariably cause me to form opinions equal in force and opposite to his own, so ignoring his advice, I wrote everything I really have to say in my first column of the Observer. Now I find myself becoming one of those op-ed columnists I usually disdain who searches for any topic to complain about because he has no power to effect change.

What I would really like to complain about is op-ed columnists and other elitists who think equality can be achieved by focusing on surfaces instead of substance.

Lou Cannon, a biographer of Ronald Reagan, in describing President Reagan's reasons for nominating Sandra Day O'Connor to the Supreme Court in 1981, writes, "He liked the symbolism of being the first president to put a woman on the Supreme Court." Symbolism?

The So-Called Value of Diversity

Implication: it's a visual thing, it's the so-called value of diversity.

O'Connor, in reaction to the nomination of John Roberts, originally for her vacated seat, said, "That's fabulous! [He's a] brilliant legal mind, a straight shooter, articulate, and he should not have trouble being confirmed by October. He's good in every way—except he's not a woman."

It was a clever comment; it was replayed on the news over and over and it made it into the national magazines' quotations pages. It probably made Maureen Dowd and Anna Quindlen wish they had thought of saying it themselves.

But O'Connor's comment, as well as the "suggestions" and pressures by interest groups and the media (or rather: let media be a subset of interest groups), imply that there is a value to a most superficial type of diversity.

Applying a system of points based on visuals (read: affirmative action) to an institution that is not meant to be reflective of the demographics, let alone the opinions, of the country is absurd. Personal experiences should have no bearing on the yes-or-no question of the constitutionality of a law; so for what other value is diversity useful?

David Brooks got it right when he wrote before the Roberts nomination: "Mr. Bush, pick a genius." Characterizing the emphasis on diversity as

"superficial first impressions" and "identity politics tokenism," Brooks correctly considers "sheer force of intellect" to be the most important value to look for in a Supreme Court candidate.

It's not like liberals would be ecstatic with any female candidates the president would have considered nominating. The nomination of Janice Rogers Brown to the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia Circuit received a lone Democratic senator's vote and harsh criticism from liberals. She's a black woman, so that's two points on the carefully calibrated affirmative action scale—but liberals were crying because of her political ideology. The president's nominating strategy shows a direct relationship between diversity and ideology: the more "diverse" the candidate, the more extreme the political philosophy. The genius of such a graph is it leaves liberals in conflict between two values they ostensibly consider important—is it more important to diversify the bench or to install liberal ideologues on the bench?

Maureen Dowd is one of those liberals torn in two. Taking on Clarence Thomas after the Supreme Court handed down its decision on affirmative action in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, Dowd writes, "It's impossible not to be disgusted at someone who could benefit so much from affirmative action and then pull up the ladder after himself." If Dowd could

have it her way, she would apply affirmative action only to those who share her liberal theology (and it is a theology, comparable in zealotry and intolerance to the religion of the conservative right).

In a similar vein, Anna Quindlen calls for the equivalence of affirmative action in the Senate, complaining about the 14 : 86 ratio of females : males. Though I dare not suggest that intelligence be a prerequisite to serve in Congress (while it should be to serve on a court), I will defend the democratic system of elections. If there were more qualified women interested in serving in the Senate, and if even the slimmest majority wanted to elect these women, there would be more female senators—it's that simple.

I hate to act like the media I now am by recycling worn and boring topics, but let's talk about Larry Summers for a minute. When the president of Harvard University addressed the gender gap in academic and scientific institutions last January, all the national magazines prosecuted him for weeks. Yet none of their articles (and all the ones I read were written by women) could destroy his argument on scientific grounds. An inset that appeared by a Time magazine article on Summers' speech, titled "The Iceland Exception: A Land Where Girls Rule in Math," certainly added to the media's case against Summers: the writer

had to travel to an isolated fishing village in Iceland with a statistically insignificant population (student body: 254) to find an inverted gender gap.

What are the so-called intellectual elitists of our country so afraid of?

Enter: Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Hillary needs no affirmative action to reach the White House because she's actually qualified for the job. Granted, right now half her name still belongs to her husband, but she no longer needs it; she's hit one-name fame. She also graduated Yale Law School alongside her husband and actively worked in the White House for eight years.

If Hillary wins the presidency (not that she's running for it) it will be because a majority of Americans (read: a majority of Americans who care enough to vote) think she's capable of doing the job well, and better than the male Republican who will presumably run against her.

In that case, conservatives can only hope that Congress remains in Republican hands so it can keep the wallet closed, preventing Hillary from rousing the entire Village to fix the country's problems.

Unless, of course, liberals would prefer to diversify the presidency in two ways at once by voting for Condi?

Ilana can be reached at ilevin@yu.edu

Bagels, Lox and the Disengagement



Adinah Wieder
Editor-in-Chief

administrators, and student leaders, targeted at this very issue. It gives me great satisfaction to be actively involved in the development and growth of our university. In retrospect, awed by the concern voiced by the administration and student leaders, to pursue avenues meaningful to the social and academic pursuits of their student body; I left the meetings uplifted and assured that Yeshiva University is at the forefront of its collegiate contemporaries. The prospect of mobilizing student's aspirations for reaching heights never before attained is truly palpable.

A recurrent theme articulated at the meetings was a desire to facilitate student input in order to enhance the college experience. One of the legacies of YU is to enable students to gird themselves with the tools necessary in the future to function in society. Students are encouraged to develop their individual talents, in order contribute to Jewish communities, as well as, to make a difference in the world. Concern for humanity is an overriding goal as evidenced in, YU's trip to The Hague, and the rally for Darfur.

Our society is currently facing an abundance of calamities. Beginning with the disengagement of Gaza, where families were evicted from their homes, to shortly thereafter, and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The world is grieving due to the loss of lives, sense of family and in many instances, the loss of spirituality. Many Rabbinical authorities believed that the disengagement would never happen. With the relocation of families, Israel must contend with many Israeli youth in a spiritual upheaval. It was clear at the meetings that YU wants to provide students with the ability to react to crisis such as these. YU is committed to enabling and mobilizing its students to respond to natural and spiritual disasters. The goal of many of the meetings was to ascertain the most effective strategies for preparing students for this task.

Last week, I was privileged to attend a meeting with Shaul Goldstein, the Mayor of Gush Etzion. En-route to the meeting, I rehearsed various scenarios regarding the purpose and focus of the meeting. Mr. Goldstein was collecting

funds to distribute to the countless families left in need as a direct result of the disengagement. He described the current state of affairs in Israel. He recounted the plight of the families: there are people in caravans, some in hotels, and others that do not have a place to live. After his concluding remarks, I glanced down at my notes and noticed all the numbers, I had jotted down. The words on my paper seemed to swim before my eyes as I began to digest the severity of the situation. The incongruity between my current state and the plight of the Jews evicted from their homes was astonishing. There I sat eating my bagel, lox, and cream cheese, passing danishes, and drinking coffee while I listened to the difficult predicament that my Jewish brethren in Israel are facing.

It is imperative that when discussing matters such as these we feel the tragedy in our hearts and be sensitive to those experiencing a loss. Do we feel the pain? Is our heart breaking because we are hearing about another crisis? Alternatively, are we sitting around the table thinking another person that needs

help, let us vote on their cause and move on with our lives? We must ensure that we do not adapt a callous attitude to the trials that plague humanity. It may appear as if there is always some other story that is waiting to be heard. It is necessary that the stories do not merely remain stories; they need to become our stories.

Many of us will hold influential positions where we will have the ability to come to the aid of those in need. Let us always remember that to aid others we need to take part in their plight, we need to give of ourselves. As students of Yeshiva University, we carry the ability to bring about change. Let us hope that we live up to these expectations and work together to continue instituting change everywhere we go. I take great pride in being a part of these meetings and providing input for the future. However, I remind myself that no matter what the humanitarian cause I will treat them as if they were my own.

A K'siva V'chasima Tovah!
Arwieder@yu.edu

EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

Beginners Track Should be Just the Beginning

At the Town Hall Meeting last week, students questioned President Joel about the CJF, the community (or lack thereof) at Stern, and the cafeteria hours. In the final question of the meeting, the president was asked whether plans were in store for modeling the entire Judaic studies department after the newly created Beginners Track, which requires a full morning commitment to Jewish studies four days a week. In other words, are there plans to make such a track for the entire student body?

President Joel responded by saying, "We are deeply committed to an integrated curriculum," implying that Jewish studies courses will continue to

be scheduled in the same time intervals as general studies courses.

This seems to be inconsistent with the philosophy of YU, for the Yeshiva College schedule and the Beginners Track of SCW are not integrated. Is YU committed to the ideal of Torah U-Madda, in the form of separate programs within the same college, only some of the time? Is integration *b'dieved* or *l'chatchila*? Or does it depend on which campus we're talking about?

At YC, students are part of different programs, such as MYP, BMP and IBC, based on their learning background and their interest. At Stern, there is hope among some students that

the Beginners Program is just that: a beginning. SCW undergraduate students who wish to pursue their Torah learning in a more intensive environment and with a more rigorous approach are not afforded the opportunity; an intensive gemara and halacha program is available only for graduate students.

An advanced undergraduate track, modeled after a combination of the graduate program and the beginners program, is certainly plausible and worthy of consideration. Yet President Joel dismissed the idea of separating Torah into morning and Madda into afternoon time blocks for any female students except beginners. A schedule

which promotes distinct times for Torah and general studies emphasizes the importance of Torah learning, a value which YU certainly claims to promote. It would also counter the mindset of approaching Torah study as simply a requirement to receive a Stern degree, which would be antithetical to YU's mission.

Perhaps it is not realistic to impose such a restructuring of the schedule on the entire student body at this time. But an administration which gives no serious thought to this proposal penalizes those students who do want to make a serious commitment, both in time and intensity, to advanced Torah study.

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Welcome to the iPod Era

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

Taking the subway is a unique experience. It epitomizes the big city phenomenon of thousands of diverse personalities coming together and different cultures converging, allowing infinite possibilities to learn from each other. The most beautiful component of stranger-to-stranger relationships is the potential for the intimacy of personal interactions which take place each day, even while maintaining anonymity.

At least that, that *used* to take place.

In the past few years, city travel—and indeed, many public-life experiences—have shifted drastically away from personal contact and have given away to obsessive self-involvement.

I'm referring to the headphones craze. Exemplified by the slick, white-wired iPod, MP3 players and all its technological cousins have succeeded in creating a self-centered, private-sector public. Suddenly, civilians need not acknowledge one another's existence because an outdated, oftentimes dead singer commands their full attention. Where's the logic in that?

Back in the day, plain-old walking around the city was entertaining; being engaged with your surroundings was a given and extremely enjoyable. People would listen and look about themselves, peering through the open windows of the lives of the people around them. From diapers to museums, you've absorbed it all after a day of travel through the city, via other people's conversations. All this, without eavesdropping; the characters in your scene knew you

were listening, and tacitly let you in on their fun. Nowadays, all that has changed; little remains of the sharing public that once was.

The Apple Company alone has sold 21 million handheld personal music devices, in the recent trend of digital musical contraptions. As a result, millions of people have closed themselves off from their surroundings, content with their Beatles songs or heavy metal tunes, bopping their heads to their personal music, instead of synchronizing themselves with the rhythm of the city's motion.

Headphones have caused even those not wearing them to turn a bit more inward. Since the volume of personal chatter has been muted, speakers are uncomfortable "disclosing" their afternoon plans on a subway car with only a few specific non-headphone-adorned travelers "paying close attention" to what they say.

In an effort to explain the sudden round-the-clock need for private entertainment of handheld music player devices, SCW senior Sarah Rindner theorized, "People are spending upwards of \$200; they probably feel like the more they listen to [an iPod], the more it was worth it." It's clear that the public and engaging community we've lost was worth a lot more than \$200.

It's not too late to turn off your iPod and join the civic community.

With eye-catching advertisements and appealing technology, Apple's iPod has transformed today's music scene. This device is attractive not only for its style but for its convenience. iPods, as well as other similar music players, can store several thousand songs which allows the listener to essentially become his own DJ.

The advantages of owning an iPod make its high price a worthwhile investment. The option of creating playlists enables iPod owners to sort their music according to genre. It gives the listener the freedom to avoid unwanted music and to match the appropriate song for his mood. Gone are the days of frustrating hours waiting for Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath my Wings" to finally be played on the radio.

The iPod's small physical size yet large digital capacity make it the ideal exercise companion. Michael Bull, a senior lecturer in media at the University of Sussex in England, who interviewed more than 1,000 iPod users around the globe, confirmed. One study participant used her iPod to distract herself from stress and to pump herself up for a workout.

Other benefits include its usefulness for long distance commutes, as well as for blocking out distractions when necessary. Many even use their iPod as a measure to ensure their personal security. Holli Bacon, another participant in Bull's study, stated that her commute on the train, when she listens to her iPod, is the only time she has

to herself. The same participant also listened to her music when walking home at night because she felt "safer" with the distraction.

Music players are even being used as virtual libraries to store *shiurim* and lectures. Currently, ShasPods, not affiliated with Apple, are available for purchase. The player's files of 2,711 *shiurim*, one for every page of the Talmud, can even be uploaded onto one's iPod.

Exercise, traveling, learning: the benefits of the iPod and similar music players permeate so many significant spheres in a person's life that it's no wonder they're so popular.



The Yeshiva University

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A Message From Your Presidents



DEENA HASSAN
SCW STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

Recently I have heard many different complaints, or rather constructive criticisms. However, all it seems to be is talk—and only talk. In my years at Stern College I have come to the realization that if you want something changed, you cannot wait for some one else to do it; you must change it yourself.

Someone once told me before school started, “I don’t focus on what the university is going to be building; I focus on what I can build as a student leader.” At the time, the statement made some sense to me, but as

the month progresses and my involvement on campus increases, the statement takes on a new meaning. The opportunities offered to students here at YU are abundant; however, the power of the student is yet to be truly unveiled. As a student leader, I have the ability to reach out both to the students and to the staff of Stern College. Due to this, I, as well as the entire SCWSC board, have become a liaison between the student body and the many deans and administrators we have.

Additionally, there are many committees that have and will institute to aid the student body in any way. Recently, I have appointed a group of women to analyze changing the Sunday cafeteria hours. With the help of this committee, God willing, many students will be able to benefit. This is only one of the numerous changes I am planning to make this coming year. My board and I can only institute changes upon being notified of a need for change. We turn to the students to guide us in our quest to better serve you.

If you feel that your voice is not being heard on campus, it is

incumbent upon you to get involved. There are many clubs that beg for student participation. All the contact information for SCWSC board members can be found on the bulletin board on the third floor of the 245 Lexington building. The board members are readily accessible and await your input. After the *chaggim* there will be student council meetings open to the entire student body.

The idea of taking control of the situation is one that can be carried over into the month of Elul as well. As we approach the New Year, we must all realize that it is in our hands to create change. We must no longer be passive participants in our life. It is the perfect opportunity to take on a more active role in the world going on around us. I would like to wish all the students in Stern and Yeshiva Colleges a *shana tova*, a happy new year, on behalf of the entire SCWSC board.

Please address all comments and complaints to dhassan@yu.edu. She's waiting.



HILLARY LEWIN
TAC PRESIDENT

The past three weeks of school have been quite a whirlwind. As I reflect on what has been accomplished on our Beren Campus in this short time, I am absolutely amazed and overwhelmed with pride that the involvement of the student body is so strong and filled with such enthusiasm. When I leave the

school building every night, I feel even more inspired than the previous day because of the random encounters I have had with fellow students who wish to be involved in enhancing student life.

Already during the first week of school, TAC, SCWSC, SSSB and CJF held a toiletry drive for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As we all know, many people in New Orleans and surrounding cities were left with nothing to their names. As part of the Yeshiva University community, we raised nearly \$1,000 in one day and collected 12 boxes of toiletries to be donated towards the disaster victims. Without hesitation, so many women eagerly offered assistance to collect toiletries and money in both the school buildings and in the dormitories. The selflessness that permeated Stern that day was extraordinary.

It is often fitting to respond

to tragedy in the world by engaging in self-reflection. The very act of introspection allows us to gain a new perspective about the world and about our place in it, both as individuals and as a Jewish community. To help students make their month of Elul more meaningful, TAC created the “R.A.M.” (Religious Awakening Month) lecture series. We recently had Rav Hershel Schachter, Rosh Kollel of RIETS, speak at our opening event. He began our series with the topic “Insights into the Yomim Norayim,” and received an unbelievable turnout. Everyone benefited immensely from his words. The series will conclude with two well-known speakers, Rabbi Hanoach Teller, a renowned lecturer from Jerusalem, and Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff, one of the teachers involved with the new Beginners Jewish Studies track.

Three additional unique

learning programs that TAC has instituted this year are Night Seder, “Spill the Beans Coffee Club” and “Latte & Learn.” Night Seder was initiated Shoshana Fruchter and Atara Lindenbaum, two SCW students. Students fill the Beit Midrash in the school building as they pair up to study various Judaic topics, ranging from those of *lishma* to those which pertain to preparation for classes. The program has been a wonderful success so far! “Spill the Beans Coffee Club” will meet at Borders Bookstore on the first Wednesday of every month for informal lectures and discussions about various contemporary topics. Coffee and cakes will be served, and will be accompanied by diverse speakers such as religious women in the fashion world and members of our own faculty. “Latte & Learn” is an intimate program tailored for women in the Beginners

Jewish Studies Track. The program is geared to provide BJS students with additional learning opportunities outside of the classroom. Every Friday morning, Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff will be leading informal discussion groups and *shuirim* at Starbucks about various topics to be announced weekly. One of TAC’s main goals this year is to provide programming that is suitable for the diverse student body. I hope that everyone will take advantage of these unique learning opportunities to make the most out of the time we have to engage in Torah study here on (and off) campus!

So far, we have been off to a great start and I look forward for the rest of the year! I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. May all of the goals you have set forth for yourselves be accomplished and may this year bring much personal and spiritual growth.



RIVKA KAHN
SSSB STUDENT COUNCIL
PRESIDENT

Wow, what a great start! Things are moving, and moving fast. The exciting new feeling of

being back in school has been replaced with that sweet feeling of familiarity and routine in a comforting way. Sy Syms School of Business has been going non-stop. With interviews for accounting majors already starting and workshops taking place weekly in preparation for finance, management and marketing majors, the start of the year is proving to be extremely successful.

Speaking of successful...how great was the SSSB orientation night with a tremendous turnout that surpassed all expectations (especially since it took place on our very own Beren Campus) and a great

speaker, Douglas Sokolov of Dougie’s BBQ fame, who shared with us his journey and experience through the business world, from buying his first store while he went for a walk one night to opening up his ninth branch in the Dougie’s BBQ franchise.

Also taking place that night was the club fair with the Accounting, Management, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Future Business Leaders, Marketing, Finance, Fashion Merchandising Marketing, the AAF, and the Consulting clubs all pulling in their fair share of members. We can’t wait to take the next step and see what exciting programs

the clubs and student council will put together. Please don’t forget that if there’s a club we don’t have or an idea for a club we don’t have, we’re always ready, willing and looking to help facilitate our students’ needs, so just let us know if you’re onto something. Let’s not forget the Sy Syms notebooks with the pocket folders and SSSB logo on every page, as if the free Dougie’s wasn’t enough!

Capping off a great week was the Sy Syms Shabbaton with two guest speakers, Rabbi Lawrence Hajioff and Professor Robert Greenberg, both captivating speakers in their own right. With Rabbi Hajioff speaking about

“Bulls, Bears and the Big Guy upstairs,” his discussion on business ethics and his good humor take on everything. And Professor Greenberg’s inspirational *shuir* on “Drawing closer to God” was a perfect precursor to the beginning of *selichot* and the onset of the *yomim nora'im*. Since Saturday night was the first night of *selichot* we decided to make “Saturday night activity” sometime in November, so I hope you will all look out for that, because from these two experiences I’m sure you can tell that it’ll be great! I’m looking forward to many more successful programs together.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Professors and Students Research

Dr. Don Estes and Professor Lea Blau of the chemistry department, along with Nomi Ben-Zvi, a recent SCW graduate, researched in an area of biophysical chemistry involving the melting transition of DNA. Dr. Estes began this work while attending a workshop at the Biennial Conference in Chemical Education at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in the summer of 2004. The workshop was on the Physical Chemistry On-Line Consortium.

The consortium's goals are to promote collaboration between students across institutional boundaries and to act as a laboratory for the on-line study of physical chemistry by providing openly available resources. Participating institutions include Monmouth University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin, Rider University, Tuskegee University, Central Missouri State University, Fairmont State University, Ball State University, and Kennesaw State University.

A new module, the DNA Melt, was written and then tested during Dr. Blau's biochemistry laboratory course last spring. Students involved were Nomi Ben-Zvi, Michelle Faber and Malkie Krupka. The melting

transition, or the unwinding of DNA's double helix, was monitored using ultraviolet spectroscopy. The dominant forces of interaction in the helical structure were determined by varying the DNA's base sequence and composition. The experimental data were then compared to an analytical model. The structural dependence of DNA melting is important for several molecular biology techniques including the polymerase chain reaction.

During the summer, the project was extended with Nomi Ben-Zvi to examine solvent effects and the resulting thermodynamics. Dr. Estes, Dr. Blau and Ms. Ben-Zvi presented a poster of the initial results at the Gordon Conference on Chemistry Education Research and Practice at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut in June. A member of the chemistry department at another woman's college, Sweet Briar College in Virginia, expressed an interest in collaboration. A paper is being prepared for submission and publication in the *Journal of Chemical Education* and further work involving undergraduate students is being planned.

Rav Gigi Addresses Stern Students

On September 19, Stern College had the honor and privilege to host a *shiur* given by HaRav Baruch Gigi, newly appointed rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Har Etzion (otherwise known as Gush), and prominent teacher of Midreshet Lindenbaum and Migdal Oz.

Inyanei Rosh Hashana was the topic of his *shiur*, specif-

ically focusing on the similarities and differences of the blowing of the shofar during Shnat Yovel and Rosh Hashana.

Rav Gigi is one of the rising Israeli Sephardic rabbanim, having made aliyah at the age of eleven from Morocco. He is also the rav of the Sephardic Synagogue in Alon Shvut.

YU Hosts Yachad Shabbaton

Back by popular demand, a joint SCW-YC Yachad shabbaton was hosted on the Beren Campus during the weekend of September 18-19. With attendance surpassing 275 people, the shabbaton was extremely successful and the large crowd made the events very lively.

Yachad is an organization that runs programming for developmentally disabled individuals. One of the main goals of Yachad is to provide its members with the opportunity to participate in mainstream events. The shabbaton was coordinated by Nicole Bodner, an SCW junior, as well as by Aron Pollack, a YC senior, both of whom have been involved in Yachad for some time.

Yachad is divided into three groups, according to age. This shabbaton was held for the oldest division, Reim, whose participants are all above the age

of 25. Along with the 35 Yachad members and 35 advisors, many other YC and SCW students participated in a Friday night ice-breaker following davening, and in an oneg Shabbat.

On Shabbat morning following Kiddush, many students joined in a special Torah learning program, followed by lunch, *zemirot* and lots of dancing. Rabbi Simon, a rosh yeshiva at YU, was invited to attend, and delivered a *shiur* after lunch. Ms. Beth Hait, also in attendance, commented at Seudah Shlishit that there was some apprehension in planning a Yachad shabbaton for so early in the year, but she was glad to see how smoothly and beautifully everything came together.

A motzaei-Shabbat kumsitz was enhanced by the musical talents of Tzemach, a YU band, and of course, by pizza for all who arrived early enough to get a slice.

Bikkur Cholim Committee Begins Planning

In collaboration with TAC and SOY, The Bikkur Cholim Committee, a newly formed committee headed by Chani Ozarowski, is developing monthly *chessed* opportunities for Stern and Yeshiva students to participate in at locations around Manhattan.

A group of Stern and Yeshiva students will coordinate one Friday morning each month a visit to Jewish patients at NYU Hospital, or to residents at a local nursing home. The committee

also hopes to arrange special visits before Jewish holidays, and possibly Shabbat visits as well. Prior to visiting with patients students will undergo a training session at the hospital which will discuss hospital guidelines for patient visiting. This project is still in the final stages of organization and will not be underway until the completion of Sukkot break. Further questions should be directed toward the Bikkur Cholim Committee, TAC or SOY.

YC 75th Dinner

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University is students and teachers, thinkers and seekers, visionaries—when one has that as a facility the Yeshiva cannot but reach its destiny." Joel stressed that it was because of the contributions of everyone present at the dinner that YC has achieved this momentous milestone. Discussing the accomplishments of YC, Joel said, "This ship has never sailed with a prouder banner." The continuous support that YC receives from its alumni and the continuous rise in enrollment is proof of its success.

Joel proceeded to describe the role that YC plays beyond the Wilf Campus. "Yeshiva College has shaped our lives and infused it with passion," he said. "You and I can give that gift to the world. For 75 years Yeshiva College has fashioned society... now it is time to look to the future. We all know what we need to build. YU must be a place that ennobles and enables. We must view Torah U'Madda as a *l'chatchila*. This is a place committed to knowledge and values. YU is a place that brings wisdom to life. I ask you to join me to build tomorrow." Joel stressed that at YU the opportunity to be

"*mikadaish the chol*" is ever present. YU students have the unique opportunity to study Torah and then to implement what they learn in every day actions.

The singing of Hatikvah and the Star Spangled Banner by an alumnus and the Neshama orchestra made up of YC alumni reflected the dedication and hard work of YC graduates. The event was truly a YC affair, from the cuisine, the centerpieces, and the choir that sang the Alma Mater. Raskas commented that approximately 175 graduates, from communities across the United States and ranging from the class of 1940 to the class of 2005, volunteered to serve as class marshals for the event. During the dinner, a video encapsulating life at YC was shown. The video featured the oldest living alumnus, current YC students, and various successful alumni who commented on the forward steps that YC has taken since its inception. The video was a blend of old-time memories interspersed with photos of YC today. The dinner concluded with the singing of the Alma Mater by the choir followed by *bentching*.

Clinton Keynotes Einstein Dinner

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lenge that has been presented to it in its first fifty years of existence, and it has been on the cutting edge of medical research and a real concern about high ethical standards, I'm worried that there are pressures that are at work in our national government that may undermine the mission that the Einstein College has fulfilled."

Addressing the recent decrease in federal funds for scientific research in general, and the specific need for federal government-sponsored stem cell research, Clinton spoke of her "hope that we will be able to pass legislation that will provide a more thoughtful approach, taking into account the very serious ethical considerations, but providing the opportunity for researchers at Einstein and elsewhere to have the chance to pursue this important research."

Honoring Albert Einstein himself, Clinton concluded, "He was not only the

most brilliant of scientists, but he appreciated the important role that science plays in furthering the human endeavor that we are all a part of. He once said that 'only a life lived for others is worth living.' Well, certainly when he gave his name to this institution, he understood exactly what he was doing."

The medical school, first dreamed of by YU President Dr. Samuel Belkin in 1948, opened its doors in 1955 to a class of 53 men and 3 women. Over the years, Einstein has expanded its student body and programming to its current enrollment of 750 M.D. students, 394 Ph.D. students, and an estimated 360 post-doctoral candidates. The representation of women on campus has increased significantly to 40% of the student body. The physical grounds and affiliations of Einstein have developed to accommodate the growing student body and advances in science; the school recently held a

groundbreaking for a new research building, The Michael F. Price Center for Genetic and Translational Medicine. This expansion is part of what Joel considers a "strategic vision for its future, because if you don't keep going, you fall backwards. [Einstein] has a tremendous reputation for being a strong place for scientists and comfortable for medical students."

The gala continued with dancing, which was followed by a presentation by comedian and actor Robert Klein, and a video about Albert Einstein. Elliot K. Wolk, a member of the Einstein Board of Overseers, was the chair of the event, and honorary chairs were Governor George E. Pataki, Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Frank Lautenberg and John C. Whitehead, chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

The Downtown Connection

Election Season II

BY SARA CHAMAMA

The polls have closed. The votes are in. The people have spoken. Well, at least those who bothered to go and vote—according to the New York Post, less than 17% of registered Democrats actually showed up to vote in the NYC primaries on September 13. The next step in the political process is the general elections occurring on November 8, which, by the way, if you haven't yet registered to vote, you still have time—just go to <http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us/pdf/forms/boe/voterreg/voterregenglish.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in before October 15.

So who will be your (Democratic) representatives in the election? Let's start from the top, the mayoral race, and make our way down to the bottom, City Council Members.

The Mayor:

A rather interesting situation is happening with regard to the Democratic mayoral primaries. The New York State law maintains that if the winner of the primary election does not get at least 40% of the vote, a run-off election is called for September 27. It just so happens that Fernando Ferrer won the primaries with just over 40% of the vote.

Anthony Weiner, the runner-up in the primaries with less than 27% of the vote, gra-

ciously conceded the win to Freddy Ferrer before he passed the 40% threshold. This would have left the Democratic Party with a bit of a conundrum, because the law does not provide for the event that the runner-up has conceded. It is quite possible that the city would have spent approximately \$10 million on a completely unnecessary run-off election. Aren't bureaucracies just wonderful?

The Democratic Party is trying to appeal to the State Supreme Court; however, the law is the law, and the court might refuse to call off the run-off election. Regardless, Anthony Weiner deserves much kudos for his decision to concede the election and not pull a Gore, or even more accurately, replay the NYC 2001 Democratic mayoral primaries. It would be a waste of time, money, and can only harm the Democrats' chances of making it into Gracie Mansion.

Speaking of, the Democrats' chances of winning the mayoral election are not looking so good. Polls consistently show that New Yorkers widely support Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg is also busy garnering endorsements not just from prominent Republicans, but from prominent Democrats too. One such Democrat is Steven Rattner, former adviser and fund-raiser for John Kerry. "While we honor and love our party," the New York Daily News



reports Rattner as having said, "we recognize our higher obligation to our city. That's why we are here today—to say to our fellow Democrats, you can be true blue and still be true Bloomberg." Bloomberg, a self-made billionaire, has no need for the money these Democratic endorsements will send his way, as he is financing his campaign himself. His goal is mainly to cut off support and money for Ferrer.

Manhattan Borough President:

The borough presidents no longer have much power attached to the title anymore. Scott Stringer won this race. He was up against nine other candidates, some of whom were very qualified for the job. Stringer said before the election that if he won he would "use my vote on land use and zoning decisions to include 30% affordable housing in all new developments. I will appoint a deputy borough president for Affordable Housing who will work with community groups and city agencies — and proactively plan for a Manhattan where the people who built up our city can afford to raise their

families in the neighborhoods they created." Let's hope this wasn't an empty campaign promise, and that he truly attempts to make affordable housing available in the city.

And now for some more localized election results—the City Council:

First, I want to extend an apology to the reader. In my previous column I claimed that Beren Campus resides in District 2. While this is true for a majority of Beren Campus, the 36th Street dorm is in District 4. All of the other dorms are located in District 2. The winner for District 2 is Rosie Mendez, former chief of staff of Councilmember Margarita Lopez. The winner for District 4 is Dan Garodnick.

My favorite highlight of the campaign trail:

Campaigns, candidates and speeches, after a while, tend to blend together into one big bland composite. Most times what you hear coming out of a candidate's mouth is carefully scripted and pre-scrutinized for

any possible gaffes. It is for this reason that Democracy for NYC decided to create an event that would bring the candidates outside of their comfort zone and allow for unscripted conversation and free discourse. The venue? A karaoke bar. Democracy for NYC oh so cutely called the event the "Mayoroke." The DFNYC claims that they are "promoting democracy one poorly sung cover tune at a time." Unfortunately, none of the mayoral candidates were brave enough to attend, although there were plenty of City Council wannabes in attendance. Songs such as "I Need You Tonight" and "I Got You Babe" were sung.

So that's all for now. Tune in next time for a report on how the elections (as well as possibly the run-off elections) went. Remember, democracy only works if its citizens care enough to participate. Do your part and vote. Please. You have no excuse to complain about the government or its actions (or lack thereof) if you don't vote. Just do it.

Political Science Department Picnic

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The hard work of the political science faculty is also evident by the "Political Science Handbook" they gave out to each student at the picnic. The handbook informs students on career opportunities, course requirements, fellowships and internships, and also includes pre-law information. There is a complete list of the faculty in the department and all their contact information on the first page.

"We see what students are capable of and, as best we can, we push them to fulfill that potential," Luders said. He went on to explain, "Although there are some students that just want the easy grade, most students want to get something out of their education and they value courses that are both demanding and rewarding. I believe the students really appreciate that we are challenging them to think critically, to learn about new things, to introduce them to things that really matter," he added.

"We definitely want to get students more involved in politics and public affairs," Luders said. "We live in exciting times and feel that it is critical that the next generation does not walk away from politics and government, but instead assume the leadership roles necessary to confront and, ideally, solve some of the vexing problems that we confront."

However, stimulating classes alone are not always enough to arouse student interest in a subject. The Joseph Dunner Political Science Society is one of the most active clubs on campus, boasting significant turnouts at the numerous events they sponsor each year. The society's success in recent years is due to a joint effort between the student leaders, faculty and administration. According to Horowitz, there are some events that are run by the professors and some that are student-run. "We work in cooperation with the professors," she said. "Each group endorses the other and encourages people to

go to both types of events."

Luders echoed this sentiment. "The Joseph Dunner Political Society has been around for quite some time," he said. "Of course, depending upon the energy of the students and their leaders, club activities wax and wane." This semester, the student leaders are motivated and active, and are also making an effort to closely coordinate programs between the department faculty and students.

Luders also gave credit to the administration, particularly Dean Karen Bacon. "She has provided unconditional support for our initiatives in political science and this makes all the difference," said Luders. "From bringing in speakers in our Women in Public and International Affairs Lecture Series, to the summer internships, fellowships, and much more, Dean Bacon has been immensely encouraging." He also acknowledged Dr. Mort Lowengrub, vice president of Academic Affairs, as being a tremendous help and sup-

porter of the department.

This year's list of activities includes a number of fascinating lectures by many world-renowned individuals. The Women in Public and International Affairs Lecture Series continued with a lecture by Dr. Rachel Bronson, director of Middle East Studies, Council on Foreign Relations and author of the forthcoming book "Thicker than Oil: America's Uneasy Relationship with Saudi Arabia." There will also be several international relations lectures, a talk by Dr. Yossi Olmert and a discussion about political communications with David Elstein. The new Schneier Center for International Affairs, led by Professor Ruth A. Bevan, David W. Peterogorsky professor of political science at YC, will also be sponsoring a number of events. Aside from lectures, Horowitz promises frequent pizza parties and a shabbaton with Senator Joseph Lieberman in early December.

For additional information on upcoming political science events students should be on the lookout for flyers and posters around campus. The events are open to all political science majors, minors and individuals who are simply interested in world affairs and having some fun. "We encourage all students to come to at least one event and find out what political science is about," said Horowitz.

The department is in the process of recruiting faculty members who specialize in international relations. Additionally, they are also working hard to strengthen every aspect of the society and department. "We are really committed to this program and committed to you," said Luders.

CEO Addresses Students

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which represented the other party, the corporations, conducted a survey and found that 40% of Americans regard the WTC event as one attack. Solomon was not going to try to convince the jurors that the attacks were two incidents. Rather, he reframed the issue, telling them that with respect to terrorism they were correct and the attacks on the Twin Towers constituted one occurrence. However, the issue of the case at hand was physical impact, a completely different issue than terrorism. Using this tactic, Solomon was able to convince the jurors that siding with the corporations in this particular case did not violate their perspective that what occurred on 9/11 constituted one attack.

Solomon also described the makings of an ideal jury. Jury consulting firms generally try to eliminate jurors who have extreme underlying prejudices, ranging from the social ideology, one who is pro-plaintiff in securities litigation, to the champion of personal responsibility, one who is pro-defense. The result of these eliminating procedures is a relatively impartial jury, one that can be plied and persuaded by appealing to people's slight tendencies to either antagonize or empathize with the defendant.

An enormous amount of preparation and investigative work goes into jury research. DOAR hires teams of psychologists and sociologists to conduct interviews, observe behavior and analyze focus groups of mock jurors deliberating over

simulated cases. Once the researchers decipher the psychological profiles, another major task remains: using the information collected to sway juries. This next step is the subject of the second lecture.

Solomon repeatedly stressed the indispensability of understanding jury dynamics in winning cases. As an increasing number of legal firms are coming to this realization, DOAR's services are in high demand. "There is a system for inquiring minds that can be discovered to understand why and how people make the decisions that they do," concluded Solomon. "It's about assessing how people see the world and asking the underlying questions. It's just like *shidduch* dating," he joked.

Summing up her admiration of the speaker, Shira Schwartz, a junior and physics major at SCW, said, "The topics of Mr. Solomon's lecture apply to a broad range of interests. It was really inspiring to see a person who is so knowledgeable and completely self-made. It gives hope to the rest of us."

After partaking in such a dynamic and broadening discussion, students expressed their eager anticipation in attending the two follow-up sessions, which touched upon different issues within the same larger context. The September 19 lecture, titled "Is a Picture Really Worth a Thousand Words?" focused on visual communication in the courtroom. Solomon's lecture on September 26 addressed the tactics of the litigator in a lecture titled "So You Want to Be a Trial Lawyer?"

Learning at Starbucks

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Lewin explained that although many *shiurim* and learning programs are available at Stern, hardly any of them are catered toward beginners. Warshawsky noted the same phenomenon, claiming that the more advanced students at Stern have a "million and a half places to go," whereas the beginner students have almost none. This was the driving force behind this new idea. Warshawsky discussed the idea with Lewin at the end of last year, but there was really no time to get organized. This year, however, they are determined to get it off the ground. Both Lewin and Warshawsky expressed that there is clearly a great need for a program like this at Stern.

The program reflects a greater attempt to better meet the needs of students coming from diverse cultures and backgrounds. Although many students coming to Stern are observant and have strong educational backgrounds, having attended Hebrew day schools and seminaries in Israel, there are a significant number of students who

have not. Prior to this year, the students with little or no Jewish education were offered few beginner classes, and were almost immediately thrown into classes unbecoming their educational levels. However, this year Davis and Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies, have begun to reform the problem by starting a beginner's track to better cater to these students' needs. The track is led by Rabbi Hajioff, Rabbi Shloush and Mrs. Schechter, three dynamic and well-respected teachers. Lewin commented that so far this track has been "going great; everyone loves it!" The track is meant to alleviate the challenge facing students entering Stern without a Jewish education who are forced to fulfill many Judaic Studies requirements. The track is more beneficial to beginner students, and the goal is to help them reach a point where they will be able to take the more advanced classes at Stern.

It is quite evident that both the academic leaders and

position as an institution continually striving for academic excellence.

Stressing the impressive cosmetic improvements of the Beren Campus over this past year and over the summer, Joel detailed the renovations in Brookdale Hall, now equipped with a larger and more extensive fitness center and a more comfortable entrance hall, and reminded the students that just one year ago the new cafeteria in the SSSB building, Le Bistro, had yet to be introduced to SCW. The president informed the audience of the festive celebration planned for November 15 to inaugurate the expanding Beren Campus.

Directing the crowd's attention to the future, Joel related the plans to further beautify YU's Midtown campus by reconfiguring the entrance to the main school building, 245 Lexington Ave., by moving the administrative offices to more professional quarters and replacing them with either a grand lobby and some classrooms, or possibly even a student lounge or Beit Midrash.

Not surprisingly, Joel closed his speech with impassioned words regarding the Center for the Jewish Future, his greatest project established so far at YU, impressing upon the students the "need to focus on the Center for the Jewish Future" and calling on them to capitalize on the CJF's programming which will "teach students how to be in positions of leadership" and lead them to the "awareness of making dreams come true."

With that, Richard Joel passed the microphone to CJF Dean Rabbi Kenneth Brander to introduce himself to the Stern community. Rabbi Brander briefly explained the Center's goals, emphasizing that its "focus is to have a relationship with faculty and students, to have a synergetic relationship," and "to take what you learned and share it with the world," because "we have a responsibility to service the community and humanity to celebrate *tikkun olam*."

Opening the floor to the students, the president was met with a range of requests and criticisms balanced with sentiments

student leaders at Stern College are interested in providing opportunities and catering to the needs of all students in Stern. Warshawsky noted that unfortunately "there is a large population [of students at Stern] who don't feel welcome." Hopefully programs like this will help assuage that problem.

Town Hall Meeting

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of thanks and university pride. Among the latter were positive responses to the Shabbat Enhancement Program and to the call for action from President Bush to stop the genocide in Sudan, which appeared on Tuesday, September 20th in the front section of the New York Times, financed by many major Jewish organizations, Yeshiva among them.

Some students pressed the president for responses to requests that had been brought up at last year's Town Hall Meeting. SCW Junior Deborah Anstandig, a non-New York resident, raised a concern from previous meetings regarding the hours of food services on campus over weekends. The Kushner Dining Hall closes on Friday at noon, Anstandig pointed out, and remains closed until Sunday evening at dinnertime. Inconveniences like this, which could have been solved last year, are only being taken care of now, with a student committee on food services in its final stages of formation. Joel responded by polling the crowd to test whether or not these hours affect a significant percent of the SCW population. Seeing that the cafeteria's food is in demand, the president suggested a compromise food be arranged to help the students.

Another topic revisited was the need for a larger Beit Midrash for the women at Stern College. Tiffy Unterman, beginning her second semester on campus, addressed Joel emphatically, reminding him of his commitment to beautify the Beren Campus. She quoted the president's comments describing Le Bistro as a place he visits with different important leaders to show them "what we have here," this "centerpiece" at SCW. "Wouldn't it be great," Unterman asked, "if the president would lead important guests to a large Beit Midrash, showing them 'what we have here,' 'a centerpiece' on the Stern campus?" Last year, Unterman remembers her request being somewhat brushed off with a comment to the effect of, "make some noise" to get a better Beit Midrash. This year, her comments were met with a statement from Joel that "before the shovel goes into the ground [to build another Beit Midrash on the Wilf Campus] there will be a bigger Beit Midrash here; a

centerpiece on the campus." This promise was applauded by much of the audience, and Joel promised his dedication to the cause, saying, "You have my commitment."

Students' inquiries reached beyond SCW issues. Sy Syms Student Council President Rivka Kahn questioned the president regarding the search for a qualified dean and the plans to strengthen SSSB academically. Joel responded that the university must be "realistic" about its plans, but noted that improving the business school is indeed a priority. The president said that a search committee will soon begin its work seeking an experienced dean to head the college, adding that he plans to improve neglected areas of the school, by investing more in the faculty and creating an honors program here.

Atara Lindenbaum, sporting a "President Joel Fan Club" t-shirt, pointed to YU's CJF and asked the president why there are no women leaders on board molding the Center. The president conceded that there should be, and noted the extensive and impressive work Presidential Fellow Hindy Poupko, SCW '05, is doing for the CJF. Joel claims that the university has "not found the right match yet" and is searching for a few women leaders to join the CJF.

A sentiment repeated several times throughout the meeting was that there is a lack of community at SCW. Whether due to religious or geographic (for the married students at Stern who live uptown) differences, the task of creating unity on campus, the president noted, lies on the shoulders of the students themselves. Through the students' own programming propelled by the student councils, TAC, or individuals, the president encouraged "unity without uniformity" among SCW students.

The Town Hall Meeting was successful in continuing the ongoing dialogue between students and administration at SCW with the president, forcing the students to take responsibility for each other and for the future, and the university to respond to their challenges.

Aftermath of Katrina

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responded sooner. This claim is utterly absurd. The refugees suffered not because they were black, but because they were in the wrong place and at the wrong time when the hurricane hit. It seems that those who are making this claim are simply attempting to advance their own private political agenda, being opportunists by taking advantage of a human tragedy.

The rebuilding of New Orleans should not be done hastily. This city is ten feet below sea level. Although New Orleans is an important port city, a flooding of the city can happen again, so before rebuilding begins, plans should be made to physically protect the city from the onslaught of water and from future hurricanes.

THE ISRAEL SECTION

Pope Meets with Israeli Chief Rabbis

BY SARAH MATARASSO

"The Jews did not recognize our God. Therefore, we cannot recognize any right on their part to the Holy Land."

Those were the words spoken by Pope Pius X to Theodore Herzl, who in 1903 asked the Pope for his support in the creation of a Jewish State. Ninety years later, on December 30, 1993, the Holy See (the "government" of the Roman Catholic Church, headed by the Pope, considered a state according to international law) signed an historic accord, known as the Fundamental Agreement, with the State of Israel. This accord established full diplomatic relations, but what took so long?

The accord clearly represented a landmark event in the relationship between the two faiths, something which may not be taken lightly. In 1919, only two years after Britain's Balfour Declaration, the Vatican had warned of the dangers of a Jewish State. However, aside from any underlying theological issues, politics played a role in delaying this important event from coming into fruition. Ever since the State's establishment, and its consequent declaration of Jerusalem as its capital, the relationship between the Holy See and Israel was very strained.

Wishing to gain influence and control of Jerusalem and their holy sites, the Holy See supported the 1947 proposal that Jerusalem be internationalized. Aside from this motivating factor, there was always the Arab-Israeli issue. Creating diplomatic relations with Israel could potentially place them at odds with the Arab world—something the Vatican was not prepared to do. The Holy See claimed that such a move could "prevent [us] from working towards peace with the authority deriving from [our] position of being above the parties involved in the conflict."

Others explained that it had taken years for diplomatic relations to take root in other countries following their establishments, such as the United States, Mexico and—most surprisingly—Italy. Although in 1987 Pope John Paul II declared that "the Jews have a right to nationhood, as do all other peoples, according to international law," nonetheless, an official treaty was nowhere in sight.

However, the situation turned around following the Gulf War, and especially after the Madrid Conference, which set the Arab-Israeli peace talks in motion. The Vatican couldn't just stand idly by, without offering its help in the process. According to one Vatican diplomat, "If the Palestinians can sit down formally with the Israelis, why can we not do it?" Although the effectiveness of the Oslo Accords and all subsequent meetings is still a matter of debate, the Holy See was now in a position that would allow itself to comfortably move itself closer towards proper Vatican-Israeli relations.

In an attempt to set up such relations, on July 29, 1992 it was agreed that a commission should be set up, whose job it would be to discuss topics concerning the two groups. One of the major issues discussed was the role the Church would play in fighting anti-Semitism—a hot topic, considering the Vatican's muted voice during the Holocaust. The discussions continued for more than a year until, exactly 17 months after the discussions had begun, the treaty was signed.

The treaty covers three large areas: relations between Israel and the Holy See, which are to be viewed as two political entities; relations between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church; and relations between the State of Israel and the church

in Israel. There were exhaustive negotiations that followed, and the final Legal Agreement was completed almost four years later, on November 10, 1997. The agreement helped establish the Catholic Church's legal status, a status that had not been defined for over 500 years under the Ottoman Empire, British Mandate and the Israeli State up until that point. The Church and many church institutions were accorded legal status under Israeli law, and their interaction with non-church establishments became subject to Israeli law.

As far as papal visits to Israel, they have been limited to a grand total of two. The first was a one-day stint in 1964, when Pope Paul VI did not even publicly refer to the State of Israel by its



name. In stark contrast, although unavoidably shrouded in politics, was Pope John Paul II's week-long March 2000 visit. During the pope's visit to Bethlehem, he made reference to the Palestinians' right to a homeland. In what was viewed by some as a further emphasis of this point, the pope spent a full day visiting areas under Palestinian autonomy. However, a spokesman for the Vatican at the time claimed that no official stance on the matter would be taken until an international decision was made, and Israeli officials downplayed the comment.

In 1993, Pope John Paul II met with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Lau at the pope's summer residence, Castel Gandolfo. This was the first official meeting to take place between a pope and an

Israeli chief rabbi. Another such meeting, this time with the Ashkenazi and Sephardic chief rabbis, took place during the pope's 2000 visit. This meeting was a short courtesy visit, lasting less than an hour.

The most recent meeting between a pope and the Israeli chief rabbis took place earlier this month, when Rabbis Yonah Metzger and Shlomo Amar met with Pope Benedict XVI in Castel Gandolfo. Despite relatively smooth relations with the Vatican over the past few years, the Israeli government was upset by the new pope's failure to condemn or even mention a terror attack this past July in Netanya when, in a public statement, he mentioned terror attacks in Egypt, Britain, Iraq and Turkey.

The visit took place on the 40th anniversary commemorating a milestone in Jewish-Christian relations, namely the "Nostrae Aetate," a declaration which stated that "Jews were most dear to God and that a great spiritual patrimony was shared by Christians and Jews." The document also condemns anti-Semitism as well as the deicide accusation that Jews killed Jesus.

Described by the rabbis as "very cordial and heartfelt," the meeting raised a number of issues. At the top of the list came a request by the rabbis that the pope speak out about the issue of leaving the synagogues in Gush Katif intact, a decision which left the Palestinian community in an uproar and resulted in the burning and looting of four synagogues. The Palestinian Authority has insisted that it plans on dismantling the rest of the synagogues. According to a statement made by Rabbi Metzger following the meeting, "The discussion focused on the burning of the Gush Katif synagogues. The second issue we discussed was our war against the rising anti-Semitism, mainly in

Europe." Although the topic of anti-Semitism is clearly a recurring one, the recent display of violence in the way of synagogue burnings in various European countries has become a growing concern and threat to the Jewish community at large. The rabbis highlighted the danger in allowing such violence to occur in any house of worship, be it synagogue, church or mosque, and according to Rabbi Metzger, "The pope said he would call for condemning the burning down of holy sites." The last point on the agenda was a request on the part of the rabbis that the pope designate an official day church-wide Anti-Semitism Day; the day would be used to consider the current Christian-Jewish relations, as well as jointly discuss ways to fight anti-Semitism.

The meeting, which lasted only 45 minutes, was set up with the goal of deflating the stress that had peaked with the pontiff's neglecting to overtly denounce the July terrorist attack. After a long history filled with its share of ups and downs, the rabbis commented that all parties "felt very comfortable with each other," and that this would only be a step forward in the improved relations, a process that greatly advanced during the papacy of the late Pope John Paul II.

<http://www.icpa.org/il/jl401.htm>

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Foreign+Relations/Israels+Foreign+Relations+since+1947/1947-1974/22+Israel+s+Relations+with+the+Vatican.htm>

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Tomorrow? Reflections on the Days After Disengagement

BY AVIVA HOROWITZ

Israel, always a hotbed for controversy and arguments, was in a state of complete turmoil this summer with the anticipation of the coming disengagement. Ordinary citizens argued ceaselessly the merits and disadvantages of removing Israeli settlements and soldiers from Gaza. Suddenly, little known cities such as Shirat Hayam and Neve Dkaim were as commonly mentioned in daily conversation as Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv. One would be hard pressed to avoid the debate as cars passed by flying either the blue and white strings of the pro-disengagement movement or the

bright orange ribbon of the Gush Katif movement. Bulletin boards usually advertising an upcoming *shnur* or festival, now displayed signs loudly declaring "*Yehudi Lo Migaresh Yehudi*," "a Jew does not expel another Jew!" Protests against the disengagement would block Israeli highways on a daily basis, and visitors to the Kotel would often find it the setting of a passionate prayer rally for Gush Katif supporters. And it was in this environment that I found myself working in a political think tank in Jerusalem.

The expressed purpose of a think tank is to analyze situations. They try to understand how movements or events come

about, why people or governments act or respond as they do, and what possible outcomes or ramifications will come about as a result. As one can imagine, the disengagement served as fresh fodder for the center, but we didn't focus on whether or not the disengagement should occur, as much of the population wondered, since our job was to analyze events as they occurred. The real question that burned in our minds, the question that we would examine and reexamine was, with the inevitable disengagement, what would happen the day after? How would Israeli society recover and reunite despite the estrangement over politics?

Many hypotheses were discussed, though to be honest no one could truly predict anything. The country seemed more polarized than ever, some rabbis calling on soldiers to refuse orders, while others declared such a move to be nothing short of treason. Rallies grew to hundreds of thousands of people and government officials from the right and left continued the mudslinging which has sadly characterized Israeli politics since the beginning of the state.

As disengagement began, my phone was constantly ringing and my AIM busy, as everyone, though perhaps not in Israel themselves, wished to empathize, if possible, with those living

there. But how can one accurately explain the emotions that were running through the country that week? How can one describe the change in atmosphere? Anyone who has ever visited Israel would describe Jerusalem as a bustling city. Full of bubbling tourists and Israelis with their boisterous manner, Jerusalem is always lively. The only word I could find, when asked by friends to properly describe the changed atmosphere, was deflated. Walking along the normally busy streets of Rechavia, one could actually hear the news broadcasts from apartments above reporting from Gush Katif. The restaurants on

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The Ethical Dilemma Behind "Wi-Fi Mooching"

BY JACKIE FAST

There was a time once when the Internet access at Brookdale Hall wasn't operational, so I tried to connect my laptop through a wi-fi card to see if any wireless local-area networks sent a signal to the dorm room. I was pleased to discover that I had access to no less than four networks. However, they were clearly private networks belonging to neighbors like "David & Janice," and I didn't know if I was allowed to use the connection service that they paid for.

Wireless local-area networks (WLANs) were originally created by Apple Computers, but today they are usually sold by phone-service companies such as Verizon. Popular in workplaces, Starbucks locations, and even private homes, WLANs provide unlimited Internet access to any computer that can receive a wireless, or "wi-fi," signal in the vicinity. Since most of the people who own wireless networks never get around to protecting their Internet connection with a password, the Internet connection is freely accessible to anyone nearby.

As I began to examine the matter more deeply, I've found that using a publicly-accessible, privately-owned Internet connection is a very hotly debated issue in today's news. It seems that nobody is fully sure how to approach the subject of wi-fi mooching: is it moral to use the Internet service that my neighbor paid for, regardless of the fact that my usage doesn't affect their monthly bill? Is it even legal? And most importantly, is it halachically permissible?

Many people, including Randy Cohen, author of "The Ethicist" column for The New York Times Magazine, defend wi-fi mooching on moral grounds. They point out that the Internet service is easily accessible to the public; it doesn't require hacking or any other

malicious method of access. They do not consider it stealing because the person paying for the service pays the same amount regardless of how many people tap into the network. According to this argument, the concept is comparable to sniffing the air around an air-freshener that was purchased by one's roommate. Unethical? Unlikely.

The legal issue, however, is far more complex, due to a law that possibly prohibits wi-fi mooching, but the legal experts are quite unsure whether it does or not. The debate revolves around a federal law listed under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act which, in paragraph 2a, explicates that "Whoever...intentionally accesses a computer without authorization or exceeds authorized access" is violating the law. This law was written in 1986 to outlaw computer hacking. It is quite evident that the legislators who passed this law did not foresee that less than 20 years later people would be wondering whether accessing a privately-owned wireless network is considered "unauthorized access." "This is a totally open law," says Neal Katyal, who teaches criminal law at Georgetown University.

Legal experts nowadays predict that a court case in the near future will produce a ruling on this issue. According to one federal law expert, the only people that will ever be convicted for unlawful wi-fi mooching are those who sneak into office parking lots at 3 a.m. to use the wireless connection. Taking advantage of a network that services you in your living room is probably never going to be prohibited by law.

Another consideration that is vital to determining the legality of using another person's network is the way that the Internet Service Providers feel about having people share the services they sell. Many companies, including AT&T, Time Warner and Verizon, decidedly

state in their sales contracts that wireless networks are not to be shared. In these cases, whether the courts' definition of "unauthorized access" includes wi-fi mooching is irrelevant because it would be stealing from the company. However, some companies have left the issue of wi-fi sharing ambiguous, and others, like Speakeasy, even go so far as to permit it.

Rabbi Hochberg, *mashgiach ruchani* of Stern College, says that the attitude of the Internet Service companies is the most vital issue. When a person taps into David & Janice's wireless network, he has no idea as to which company the network in question belongs. Therefore, since many of the companies prohibit sharing, wi-fi mooching would be prohibited by Jewish law as well. If a person knew for a fact that the network he was tapping into belonged to a company that permits sharing, it would be permitted "as long as the courts don't declare it illegal altogether," explained Rabbi Hochberg. "If they do, then *dina demalchusa dina* (the government's law is upheld) would apply, and it would certainly be *assur* (prohibited) in all cases."

The debates about the morality and legality of this issue will probably continue to rage for some time. However, in the end it might not matter about whether you think wi-fi mooching is stealing from your neighbor. It might not even matter if you believe that the courts should prohibit it or permit it. Ultimately, there are companies that prohibit sharing as part of their sales contracts, and unless you ask your neighbor which company they bought their wireless networks from, you might be violating the *halakha*.

Yeshiva University could dissolve the students of SCW's moral, ethical and *halakhic* problems by simply setting up wi-fi on the Beren Campus.

Neighborhood News The Spy Shop

BY ATARA LINDENBAUM AND JULIA FRANKSTON-MORRIS

Nestled in the second floor of an unassuming apartment building on 34th Street is a shop. This store, known to its customers as the Spy Shop, has existed in this location for four years. The Spy Shop is part of a larger 20-year-old franchise with stores in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and Toronto.

The owners saw a profitable business opportunity in opening the shop in New York in 2002, after the events of September 11. The entrance into the Spy Shop is slightly complicated. Protocol maintains that entrance through the door at the southeast corner of Lexington and 34th Street is only upon buzz-in. After proceeding up a narrow stairwell, one encounters two more doors which eventually lead to this secretive establishment, The Spy Shop.

The Spy Shop consists of three little rooms: a storage room, an office and a showroom. Though the area is relatively small in size, six Spy Shop employees crowd this tiny showroom. The showroom consists of several glass showcases, containing different spy-oriented gadgets and tools. The staff members are eager to show customers the interesting and varied merchandise. Nanny cams, bulletproof vests, handcuffs, voice changers, and bugging devices line the glass showcases. Additionally, under the advanced technological equipment section, there is a simple handbook on how to change one's identity.

One of the employees at the store, who goes simply by Steven, suggested that the most applicable product to a college student's life would be a tape recorder and safe items. These safe items, which are ordered from some "hippies in California," according to Steven, look like regular household

items, such as cans of coffee, air fresheners, or Pringles cans. In truth, they are safes which open from the bottom. Atop the safe items sits a row of little brown bottles. Steven continued to explain that these small bottles were actually powerful chemical mixtures. These mixtures can cause an opponent to sneeze, become nauseas, or profusely regurgitate.

Although the storekeepers suggest that these items should only be used when necessary, or "when someone's got you really mad," they admit that this product, like many of the others, such as the bugging devices, can be used at the customer's discretion. Steven explained that the products do "say to use with other people's consent," but acknowledged that "for sure no one really does that."

Consumers vary; while big corporations employ devices purchased from the Spy Shop to secure their working spaces, private businessmen often acquire voice changers to see if their wives or girlfriends are cheating on them. Administrative bosses buy small gadgets to spy on their employees. Even parents buy hidden cameras to get glimpses of their children's private lives.

The Spy Shop purchases their electric equipment from B&H, an electronics store on 34th Street and 9th Avenue, owned by Hassidic men. The Spy Shop enjoys doing business with B&H, an owner noted, "because they don't beat around the bushes, they cut straight to it." The salesclerk standing nearby pitched in that he "likes Jewish people in general."

The workers at the Spy Shop are well aware of the observant Jewish women's college campus which surrounds their shop. Considering its clandestine identity theft and technological facilities, it's a good thing SCW is on the Spy Shop's good side.

Sharsheret Develops Programs for Jewish Women Fighting Breast Cancer

BY ABBY ATLAS

When students plan out their futures, important factors like careers, family and community come to mind. Although each woman's perception of her future is different, they all have one thing in common: no one ever imagines herself as a victim of breast cancer.

Though we do not like to address this reality, the frequency of breast cancer in women is all too high. The American Cancer Society reports that one in seven women will develop breast cancer at one point in her life. One of those seven idealistic students will have to factor breast cancer into

her future.

Rochelle Shoretz was a 28-year-old mother of two children when she was diagnosed with the disease. A young attorney who had just finished a clerkship for United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Shoretz had to deal with breast cancer in the context of her family, professional and religious life. She found that what helped her more than anything else was talking to another woman who had been in a similar situation. She recalled later, as reported by Elana Silber, "that finding this woman was like finding a sister."

It was then that Shoretz realized the need for a breast

cancer organization that would "provide culturally sensitive support for Jewish women." Her goal was to establish an organization that would address the unique concerns of young religious women with breast cancer. In 2001, working mostly from her hospital bed, she created Sharsheret, an organization to serve this purpose.

Sharsheret, Hebrew for "chain," aims to link together young breast cancer victims. One of the most unique programs that Sharsheret has created is called the "Link Program," which puts newly diagnosed young women in touch with others who share similar diagnoses. Elana Silber, the program direc-

tor for Sharsheret, says the goal of this program is to create "one-on-one peer support" that aims for "confidentiality and convenience." The organization prioritizes the privacy and confidentiality of the newly diagnosed women, while allowing them to share their concerns with other women who are in a prime position to help.

In addition to establishing a network for these young women, Sharsheret also seeks to meet each woman's individual concerns relating to her family and job. They have specialized programs which help the women cope with difficulties like explaining the situation to their children, addressing the cosmetic side effects of chemotherapy and radiation, and dealing with the halakhic implications of breast cancer. Sharsheret has published many booklets with titles such as "Facing Breast Cancer as an Orthodox Jewish Woman" and

"Surviving Young: Life after Breast Cancer."

Sharsheret has joined with many organizations, both Israeli and American, to both help improve the situation of women with breast cancer and help find a cure for the disease. On Sunday, September 25, Sharsheret joined two major organizations in the fight against breast cancer by participating in Race for the Cure, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's annual walkathon in Central Park. On October 16, Sharsheret will take part in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk.

Sharsheret now has 250 women in their "Link Program" and thousands of others benefiting from its programs, educational and otherwise. Its work has made a tremendous impact on the Jewish community.

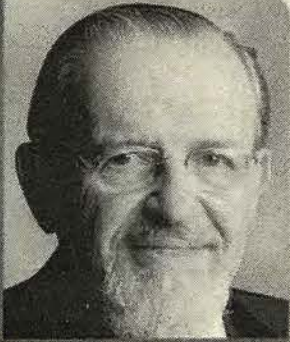
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Arts and Culture

"Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance After the Holocaust"

BY OBSERVER STAFF

The YU Film Festival began last month with a screening of "The Chosen," a film based on Chaim Potok's well-known novel. This month, the festival showed the film "Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust," directed by Menachem Daum. The film is a record of a journey initiated by Daum, one that was meant to open the eyes of his right-wing Orthodox sons, who Daum felt were intolerant of the "other nations." In the film, Daum essentially creates a social commentary on the religious community at large, gently criticizing its intolerance and close-mindedness to anything outside of its own boundaries.

The movie is actually a documentary, following Daum, his wife and his two adult sons on an expedition that spans the world—from Jerusalem to Brooklyn to Poland and back. Daum initiated the trip after hearing a tape of an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who vociferously declared that "We *yidden* [Jews] have to hate the other nations." He brings the tape to his sons, who listened to it, and found that although they might not have gone to such extremes, they did not disagree with the perspective of cutting themselves off completely from the outside world. His disappointment and concern about their attitudes encourages him to plan a trip to Poland for his family. Daum wanted to return to Poland in particular because his father-in-law had been hidden there for 28 months by a Polish farmer and his wife, and he believes that showing these people to his sons will allow them to see that among the nations there are wonderful, warm, helpful people as well. In showing his sons one family, Daum hopes to demonstrate that tolerance and acceptance of all people is the only way to live.

Prior to leaving to Poland, Daum visits his wife's parents, who don't want him to return to where they lived and to where his father-in-law was hidden—his father-in-law is not only fearful, but is also wracked with guilt that he has not made contact with the family since leaving Poland. He says that he "promised them the world," and could not fulfill the pledge, so instead chose to avoid all communication. Daum respectfully expresses that he understands, but makes no promise that he will avoid the town or the family.

The viewer can see that throughout the trip in Poland, Daum's sons are initially skeptical of their father's attitude and refuse to participate in his personal spiritual journey. A significant turning point comes when the family visits the old synagogue in his father's town. The

synagogue is in ruins; it has no roof, no windows, no door, and no floor—there is nothing to say that this place used to be a place of worship other than the plaque above the entrance that says in black letters "Beis Adas Yisrael." It is at this place, when Daum's wife begins to say a prayer, that she bursts into tears and turns away from the camera as her sons watch somberly, quietly standing by in this place of ruin.

The most moving scene in the film is when Daum and his family find the farmer and wife, both of whom are still alive and living in the same house. The barn in which they hid the three brothers is no longer there. This elderly Polish couple remembers the Jews who they hid, and they retell the story of how they managed to save them, even when one night the Nazis came and searched for them. Daum's sons and his wife begin to say the *bracha* [blessing] upon seeing a place where one's forebearers were miraculously saved, upon which both mother and sons begin to cry, voices breaking as they say the words. It is at that point that the audience sees the barriers breaking down, and that Daum's sons now realize that they are forever indebted to the Polish gentile couple who saved their grandfather.

The film's last segment involves a ceremony in Poland, when the Polish couple is presented with the "righteous gentile" award from Yad VaShem, the Holocaust museum in Israel. Daum, his wife, his sons and his eldest granddaughter go to Poland for the ceremony, and it is astonishing to see the elderly Polish woman speak with Daum's father-in-law on a cell phone, she in Poland, and he in Brooklyn. At the end of the film, however, it is still clear that although Daum's sons are now willing to accept that there indeed some "righteous gentiles," they view this couple as only an exception to the rule.

The film is meaningful and powerful not because in the end Daum convinces his sons that he is correct and they are wrong. The strength of the film lies in Daum's tolerance and acceptance of everyone—not only of the gentiles, but also of his sons. Ultimately, he treats all of the players in the film with absolute dignity and respect.

After the film screening, Daum spoke about his inspirations for the documentary. In 2001, Daum created a film project that sympathetically portrayed the ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, trying to show the world the "other" from the inside. After 9/11, Daum felt it was time to humanize the secular world to the Jewish community. He produced the film "as a response to

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d' "Old Country" Dance

BY CHAYA SARAH SOLOVEICHIK

The final scene of "Old Country" was, for me, the most poignant. The 24-minute film, currently on screen at the Jewish Museum, ends with the aged immigrant, Morton Norris nee Munniac Nossal (Allen Kaeja), walking outdoors in Ottawa, Canada, as his youthful-looking but deceased wife and child gaze at him somberly. A voice resonates in the background, expressing the words written by Nossal in a displaced persons camp in 1946, saying, "You cannot imagine how lonely I am here by myself. I am still alone without wife and family. You may have read in the papers and heard from other people about the horrible time we had to go through. You can understand how I am longing to leave this country." The words are all the more jarring because they are the first English words spoken in the film.

"Old Country," a Gemini nominated film screened at the 2004 Woodstock International Film Festival, is directed by Allen Kaeja and Mark Adam. It depicts the breakdown of the community in Kutno, Poland with the approach of World War II, and is loosely based on the experiences of Allen Kaeja's father during that time. The scenes flit back and forth between the Kutno district of 1939 and present-day Ottawa, Canada.

This film blends dance, soundless acting and compelling background music by composer Edgardo Moreno. Originally produced for the stage in 1995, it was only recently tailored to film by the Toronto-based dance company Kaeja d'Dance. The company's name is particularly appropriate, considering that the company is directed by Karen and

Allen Kaeja.

"It was an absolutely fascinating experience to transition it from stage to film," Allen Kaeja explained in a phone interview. "On film, it's completely different, because it's all done on location, and we can direct the eye of the viewer."

The directors capture the eye with great success throughout the short film—the viewer feels as though she is being pulled along for the ride. Their unique camera work poignantly captures moments of time for the audience. For example, after Morton Norris leaves for the warfront, he is seen standing outside resolutely grasping a gun. The camera focuses on his grim expression and zooms in on various parts of the rifle as he maneuvers it into shooting position. A second example of the captivating filmmaking technique is in recording a skirmish between Norris and another soldier in a barn. The natural sunlight streaming in is especially beautiful and paints the scene in a surreal way. "The scene in the barn was the hardest," Kaeja explained, "because it was done during 'magic hour,' when the sun is just right, leaving us with only forty-five minutes."

Essentially, "Old Country" delves into communities and families. It explores the dichotomous relationships and struggles that the characters experience in war-torn Poland, and then later in Ottawa. The film begins with Polish Jews and non-Jews feasting together in celebration of Rosh Hashanah, but ends with what Kaeja calls "the ripping scene," where we see old friends grabbing at Norris's wife with hostility, as the wind whips around them. There is also a pivotal scene in which Norris hugs his family before heading out the

door to battle, replayed throughout the film several times. The audience watches him leave his family over and over and over.

The film encompasses great artistic significance in addition to personal significance for its directors: much of the Kaeja family, in addition to Allen and Karen Kaeja, actually appears in this film. In fact, the numerous people participating in the Rosh Hashanah scene are mostly Kaeja's relatives.

It is the expressive choreography and dance of "Old Country," however, that really keeps the film on a constant move. I found the dance sequence involving up to eight people outside on the streets the most exciting, while Karen Kaeja's solos are also beautifully executed.

Kaeja d'Dance brings its unique dancing style to other films as well, many of which deal with the Holocaust. Their upcoming hour-long film, "Asylum of Spoons," also tackles the theme of family, although with a much different bent. Clips of past films, along with a trailer for "Asylum of Spoons," can be viewed on their website, www.kaeja.org.

"Old Country" is on view at the Jewish Museum until October 31 and plays continuously throughout the day. Although slightly confusing at points, Kaeja d'Dance utilizes an untraditional method to portray an aspect of World War II, creating a moving work of art in the process. I arrived in the middle of one showing, watched it fully afterwards, and would have stayed for a complete third time except the museum closed about eight minutes into the film. If only the museum closed at nine on Thursday nights, like all the other weeknights ...

Humpty Dumpty's Fall in "The Big Over Easy": Who Done It?

BY SARA CHAMAMA

One of the main things I remember from my ninth grade literature class is a statement my teacher was fond of saying, "Two-thirds of a pun is peeew." (This was said while she held her nose with one hand and waved the other in front of her face.) Fortunately, however, "The Big Over Easy," by Jasper Fforde (second 'F' silent), manages, for the most part, to stay clear of that truism. While books based mostly on puns usually get on my nerves, "The Big Over Easy" did not. On the other hand, it is likely that this book triggered little irritation because quite a few of the puns and literary allusions simply went straight over my head. Make no mistake about it—the book is overflowing with puns, literary allusions and wordplay.

One gets the sense that Fforde had an awful lot of fun writing this book, and the feeling of wry amusement and "nudge, nudge, wink, wink" infuses the text and infects the reader.

"The Big Over Easy" is the first in "The Nursery Crime Series" and only tangentially related to Fforde's other series, "The Thursday Next Novels" (the first being "The Eyre Affair," which I highly recommend). It takes place in a world where nursery characters exist and have real lives like you and I do. Humpty Dumpty, for instance, was a generous man, er... I mean egg, who earned and lost fortunes in shady business deals and was something of a womanizer. Mr. Dumpty has recently fallen off the wall, a six-foot-high brick hedge he was fond of sitting on when deep in thought, and is the

newest subject of the Nursery Crime Division, the beleaguered and downtrodden branch of the Reading Police Department. Was it suicide? After all, it was Easter time, an understandably depressing time for the large egg. Or was it murder by his ex-wife, the biscuit heiress? Or was it something more sinister?

It is up to Detective Inspector Jack Spratt and his ever faithful (or is she?) Sergeant Mary Mary (who turns out to be quite contrary) to solve this case. Unfortunately, DI Spratt's track record isn't too great—he just lost an expensive and timely case against the three pigs for the premeditated murder of Mr. Wolff.

Ready to thwart Jack at every turn is the much admired and extremely pompous DI Friedland Chymes who wants the glory of

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F A S H I O N

Thinking Ahead: What to Wear for Spring '06

BY RACHEL SHPAYHER

Backstage after a show, a reporter asked fashion designer Zac Posen the stupidest question he has ever heard. Posen replied by saying, "What are the new trends? There are no trends; whatever you feel like wearing is it."

Well, whatever we as consumers will feel like wearing in the spring and summer of 2006 has nothing to do with the overdone bohemian look, bright color schemes, and the long layering shirts. Fortunately these looks will be long gone by the time we receive the new irresistible looks. These new looks include the runway popular trench coat dress, high-waisted belt, neutral colors, and nice-clean lines. These looks not only dominated the runways, but will be soon found in our own closets.

We have several people to thank for giving us fashion hopefuls something to look forward to in the new season. One of the many designers who brought us



Y & Kei trench dress
Photo Credits: newyorkmetro.com

the trench coat dress was husband and wife duo Y & Kei. They took

the viewers on a romantic ride with their rich fabrics and beautiful designs, including spring's new hit dress: the sky blue linen trench coat. Or if you were searching for a more elegant version of this popular dress, designer Tracey Reese had her models hit the runway with two different styles called the onyx flowers trench, and the buttercup three quarter coat.

Newcomer Matthew Earnest hit it right on the spot with his collection. He gave viewers the high-waisted belt. For the upcoming season everyone should raise their belts, and have them rest anywhere from right below the bust line to anywhere on the waist line.

In addition to Earnest having his models parade up the runway with higher belt buckles, he also had them wearing softer and plainer colors, with a hint of a

bright detail. Whether it is the high belt itself or some part of the design, this season's bright colors are taking a backseat to the upcoming season's softer and more elegant colors.

Something else that we may feel like wearing in the spring and summer of 2006 is anything with clean lines, as Oscar De La Renta showed with his ability to bring classic beauty and clean lines to women's clothing, which make them nothing less than shine. From his Jackie O-inspired garments to his flirty dresses, if anyone is able to get a hand on any one of his pieces they will be sure to fit in with all the other people who simply feel like wearing whatever it is they like.

Zac Posen's mantra still rings true: wear whatever you feel like wearing, but here are the trends for spring 2006.



Oscar de la Renta showing his beautiful timeless appeal.
Photo Credits: newyorkmetro.com

Tracey Reese and Nanette Lapore Juxtapose High Fashion and Practicality with Stunning Results

BY JULIE AST

The days may be getting cooler, but the clothes featured at fashion week are made for sultry summers and warm spring evenings. While the second week in September marks the beginning of fall, fashion shows at Bryant Park herald what will be in vogue for spring 2006.

"The whole thing was very surreal, actually seeing it—it's different seeing it in person and in magazines," said Aliza Schuman, a fashion week attendee. "The energy is great; everyone is excited to be there. The whole thing is so fast. The designers design for months and months and the show is over in 15 minutes."

The fashion shows fall into two different categories. The collections either pronounce the artistic aspect of their clothing with dramatic lighting and huge jewelry, or stress the designer's intention to make the clothing more wearable and practical.

As Fashion Week comes to a close, two designers are notable

for featuring wearable apparel in their collections. Tracy Reese and Nanette Lapore lead the pack with lines full of sensible clothing while not compromising style for function.

"My clothing is very womanly and pretty this year," said Nanette Lapore about her spring 2006 collection. Lapore sent her models strutting down the runway September 14 at 9 p.m. at the Plaza Tent in Bryant Park. Celebrities at the show included Kerry Washington, Kelis, Nas and JC Chasez of N'sync.

The collection started with a Route 66 theme reminiscent of a road trip pit stop in New Mexico. Skirts featured blanket-printed fabrics in earthy tones paired with eyelet tops.

Lapore later changed direction to 50's retro. Models wore knee length high waisted pencil skirts in 50's silhouettes with big floral Hawaiian prints. Lapore then added pleats and ruffles for dimension. Woman's Wear Daily says in their September 15 publication, in an article entitled "In everything turn turn turn" that

this part of the collection "is where the fun was, where she allowed her knack for innocent charm to take over."

Tracy Reese presented earlier



Nanette Lapore: high waisted but still flirty.
Photo Credits: Chani Kirschenbaum

in the week on September 11 to a slew of fans including, Marcia Gay Harden, Jamie Lynn Discala (Sopranos), Beverly Mitchell (7th Heaven), Vivica A Fox, Stacie J (The apprentice).

Reese says her inspiration for the collection came from the year 1917 in the south, an era populated by elegant debutantes. Her color palate consists of onyx and soft pastels appearing in a series of fluid dresses cascading into tiers at the bottom.

Designers who heavily emphasize the artistic aspect of their fashion catwalk performance don't comply with the "ready to wear" title attributed to the collection. They still produce unique clothing, albeit something the average women couldn't incorporate into her lifestyle

Zang Toi's runway show drew inspiration from his recent trip to Africa. A safari theme ran throughout, but the clothing seemed distant like the country they hailed from. "His show was mind blowing and the definition of exotic," said Chani Kirschenbaum, a Sy Syms stu-

dent and Fashion Week attendee. "Even though while viewing the show it was hard to imagine actually wearing the clothes, all the details were shown with each piece and every piece was more unique than the next."

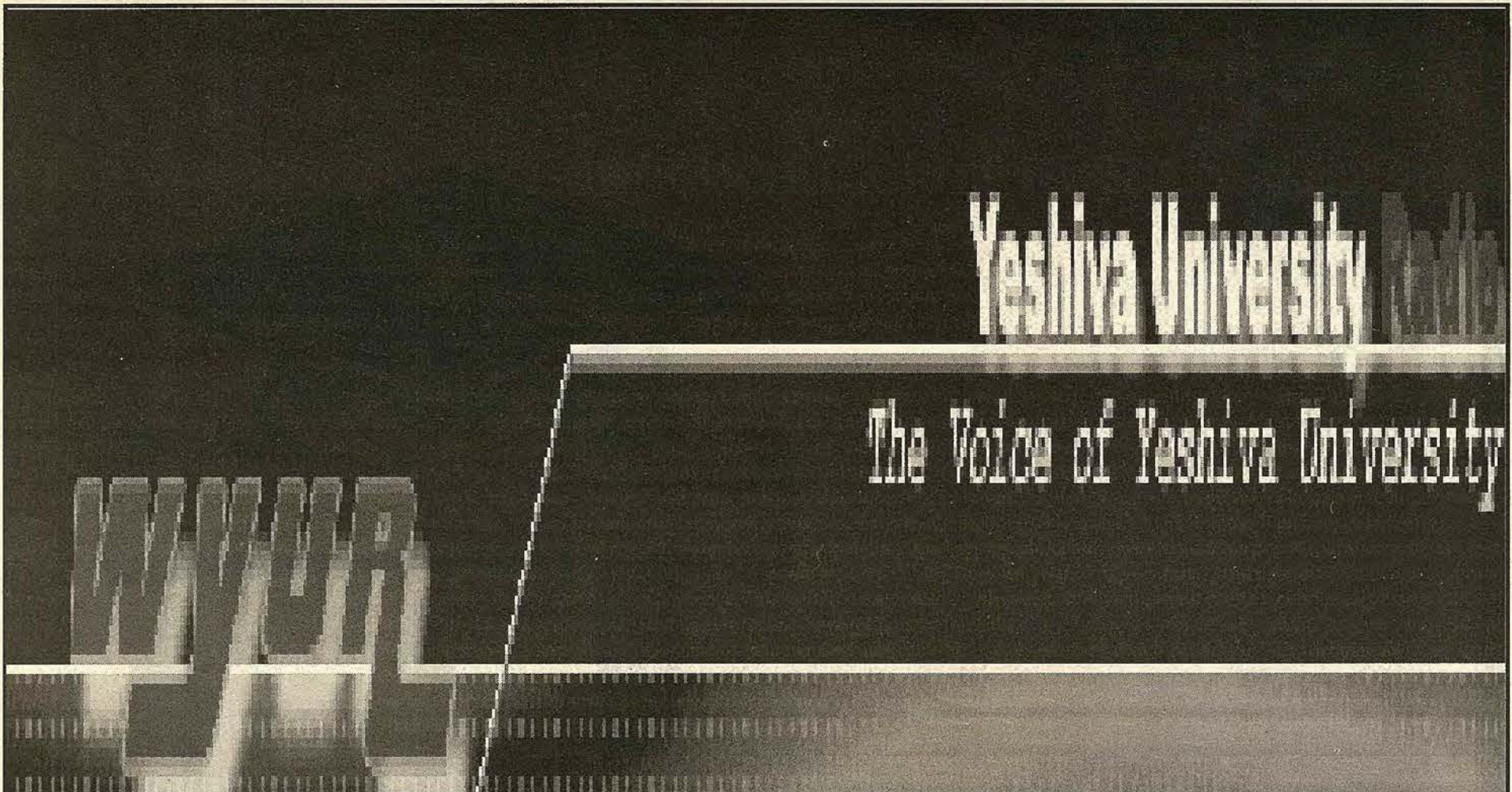
Ashish N Soni, the first Indian designer invited to Olympus Fashion Week, stayed true to his native country. The collection was an interesting study of Indian style but will not affect the fashion world in America. His styles were too radical for Americans to take interest. Soni will maintain a following in his native India, while American women will stick to Nannatte Lapore and Tracy Reese. These women know how to design fun flirty frocks which appeal to the masses.



Stern girls backstage at Zac Posen with Ashanti. From left to right: Lauren Elefant, Rachel Shpayher, Ashanti, Chani Kirschenbaum, Devorah Rosenzweig, Julie Ast.



Nanette Lapore Fashion Runway
Photo Credits: Chani Kirschenbaum



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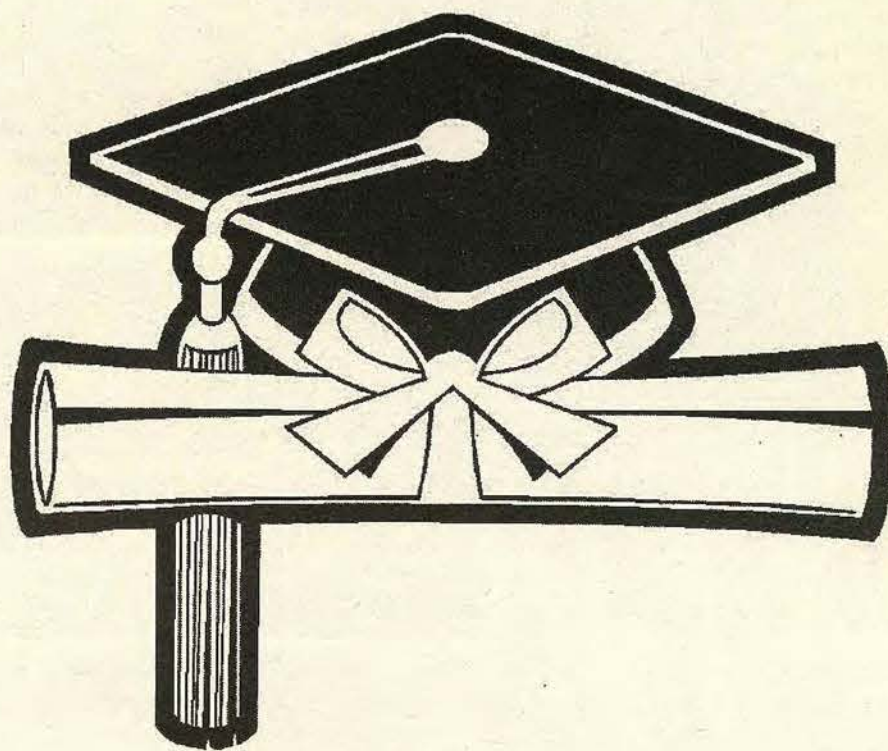
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Disengagement

continued from page 16
ing *shiuurim* for the month of Elul and the item of the week at Supersol. However, in the center of it all there was one advertisement that caught my eye. There was a picture of a soldier with his arm around a Jew with a crocheted kippah. The caption read "Yehudi M'karev Yehudi," "a Jew

should bring another Jew close." This is a lesson that I think Israeli society has taken to heart. Maybe we don't have so much to worry about tomorrow after all.

Film Festival

continued from page 18
9/11," after seeing what horrors intolerance could produce. Daum described the conceptual basis of the film as "dealing with the outside world. We have to create a Judaism that allows us to maintain our passion ... our traditions ... the richness ... and at the same time we have to have respect for all people who were created in God's image." A follower of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, Daum learned that meeting another person is not about judging his or her externals, but is always as simple as

"one human being encountering another human being."

Our communities may not hold the extreme opinion of the rabbi who declared that Jews should hate other nations. We are brought up with tolerance and respect for others. Perhaps, however, even our "modern" communities can take a message from this film—intolerance only breeds intolerance, which in turn breeds fear and hate. And as individuals, and as a community, we cannot expect someone else to break the cycle, but we must do it ourselves.

"The Big Over Easy"

continued from page 18
the case to be attributed to him. In this police subculture, one's placement in the Detective's Guild (founded by Sherlock Holmes) is all important, as is the amount of times one's solved cases have been published in magazines such as "Amazing Crime" and "Sleuth Illustrated." Spratt is neither widely published nor a member of the Detective's Guild. The slick Chymes, however, is foremost in the Guild's echelons and the most popular novelist due to his creative and astute deciphering of convoluted crimes. Fforde uses every opportunity to poke fun at mystery novels and conventional crime conventions.

While attempting to be overly clever, Fforde has sometimes stretched his book too thin. "The Big Over Easy" has a high quota of smiles per page, but one gets the feeling that the plot is there only so Fforde can string the jokes together. This is most striking with regard to his characters, some of whom seem rather flat, and whom I didn't much care for, with the exception of the deliciously vile Chymes and the Titan Prometheus, Spratt's unexpected tenant. Mary Mary, while filling an important role as the Official Sidekick, seemed particularly lackluster to me. This is especially ironic, because in Fforde's "The Well of Lost Plots," in which Mary Mary has a cameo appearance, the main character, Thursday Next, comments that Mary Mary is not as clever or as interesting as she considers herself to be. Whether this was a self-fulfilling prophecy on the part of Fforde or just bad dumb luck, neither bodes well for "The Big Over Easy."

Fforde is often at his best in

the short newspaper clippings that precede each chapter and discuss either a nursery crime or relevant law. These vignettes convey much of what Fforde is attempting to do in this book as well as provide him with a more complete world to play around in throughout his novel. To give you a taste:

"Citizens who find a corpse while walking their dog may be fined if proposed legislation is made into law, it was disclosed yesterday. The new measures, part of the Criminal Narrative Improvement Bill, have been drafted to avoid investigations looking clichéd once they reach the docudrama stage. Other offenses covered by the act will be motorists declaiming in a huffy tone, "Why don't you catch burglars/real criminals for a change?" when caught speeding, if there is a documentary crew in attendance. Civil libertarians, motorist groups, and dog walkers are said to be "outraged.""

From "Amazing Crime Stories" editorial, December 9, 1997

"The Big Over Easy" is a light police procedural novel, taking place in an improbable fantastical world with a ridiculously large amount of plot twisting in the last couple of chapters. While certainly not for everyone, those who can handle an unconventional bit of playful reading with a literary flavor will surely enjoy it. At times silly and always witty, "The Big Over Easy" can just as easily delight as it can exasperate.

CJF Aids in Houston

continued from page 8

teer, talk to the refugees, and help them out as best they could. Their help extended past the Jewish community and reached everyone in need. Abrams described the whole experience as "eye opening, emotional, and educational."

At the UJA, the CJF team took on the administration of the whole Jewish volunteer database, and they managed the donations that came in. The team was first assigned to coordinate Operation Compassion, an effort to organize volunteers at the Convention Center. Each religious denomination was responsible for coordinating the volunteers on certain dates, and the CJF assumed the lead for the Jewish community. However, by the time their assigned dates arrived, most of the victims had been provided with apartments outside the stadiums, and the CJF joined a different religious group on an earlier date. The team then focused on a new initiative: M'door L'door.

M'door L'door is a program through which anyone may sponsor a family in need, and provide for them whatever they need. According to Abrams, they received so many donations and contributions that they had no storage space for everything.

M'door L'door is an alternative option, which enables families in need to receive exactly what they need without storage problems and with an added personal connection. It costs between \$5,000 and \$6,500 to fully furnish an apartment, and the CJF team was able to start providing people with new apartments and new furniture. The CJF team returned to New York on Tuesday, September 20, and they will probably return to Houston for a day or two next week.

"I am gratified that our assistance has brought a modicum of comfort to our brothers and sisters across Jewish and non-Jewish communities," said Rabbi Bellows. Aliza Abrams echoed these sentiments, saying, "It is an amazing experience to be the giver."

YU, in conjunction with the OU and RCA, raised between \$60,000 and \$70,000, which was divided between the Houston, Memphis and Dallas communities, all of which are swollen with refugees and are unequipped to support them alone. \$10,000 went to Houston, \$20,000 to Memphis, and \$50,000 to Dallas; an additional \$10,000 was divided between three rabbis in the areas to form discretionary funds for their

communities. Much of the money provided will go towards the schools, and some has been and will be distributed for people's individual needs such as food and furniture. In addition to the three CJF representatives, the CJF sent trauma specialist Dr. David Pelcovitz down to Memphis to assist the families and children, as well as the community leaders.

Additionally, the CJF sent teachers down to day schools, both Orthodox and non-Orthodox, in Houston, as the influx of students has produced both a shortage of teachers and an extremely large gap in terms of levels of learning. In addition, much of the money raised is going towards the schools, which are unable to absorb such a flood of children.

On campus, the Stern and Yeshiva student councils organized a toiletry drive to provide victims with basic necessities as well as some food. A benefit concert was held on Thursday night, featuring Midnight Remedy and Omek Hadavar, with a suggested donation to support the Katrina victims. For information on making donations and volunteering, please contact Rabbi Bellows in the CJF office, (212) 960 5400 x6169.

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SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Breast Cancer Awareness and Education

BY ELISHEVA LEVINE & CHANIE LADAWE

Breast cancer is one of the most prevalent cancers in society. While it mostly affects females, about one in every 100 people affected is male. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the goal being to educate the public about early breast cancer recognition, diagnosis and treatment. It is important for everyone to be aware of the risk factors involved, prevention, detection and the methods of fighting this deadly disease.

Research has shown that 1 in 3 people will develop cancer during their lifetime. Cancers can occur at any age, but the risk of development increases with age. Breast cancer is a malignant growth beginning in the breast tissue. The two main types are ductal carcinoma, which begins in the cells of the milk ducts, and lobular carcinoma, which begins in the milk-secreting glands. About 85% of cancers are carcinomas and they start in the epithelium, which is the covering of organs and of the body. Other types of breast cancer can arise from the skin, fat, connective tissues and other cells present in the breast.

Over the years, researchers have discovered numerous risk factors that can cause breast cancer. The most common factors are age, gender, genetics, personal and family history of breast cancer. Breast cancer is uncommon in women under the age of 35. About 82% of breast cancers occur in women aged 60 and older.

People may be born with an altered gene that controls breast cell growth. About five to ten percent of these people may develop breast cancer. Women who have had breast cancer or have a family history of the disease are at a greater risk for developing the disease. Early menstruation, late menopause, hormone replacement therapy, chemicals and radiation are other factors that may put people at risk for developing the cancer.

Lifestyle choices also may affect a woman's chances of developing breast cancer, including poor diet, little physical activity, smoking and high alcohol consumption. Therefore, limiting one's fat intake, maintaining a diet plentiful in fiber, eating fruits and vegetables, staying active, not smoking and drinking less alcohol can help protect one's self against breast cancer.

Early detection of breast cancer is the first step in curing it. Recognizing the warning signs is very important. Symptoms of breast cancer include a lump in the breast or armpit, a change in the size or shape of the breast, or a change in the color or feel of the skin of the breast, nipple or areola. Changes in the appearance or sensation of the nipple, abnormal nipple discharge, breast pain, enlargement, or discomfort on one side only are also indications of cancer. Breast self-examinations, clinical breast examinations by a medical professional, mammographies, X-rays and sonograms are the tools of early detection. Mammography is one of the most effective methods because it detects changes in the

breast that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt.

Upon the diagnosis of breast cancer, treatment must begin. There are four main methods of treatment: surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy. Surgery and radiation focus on removing and destroying the cancerous cells of the breast. If cancer is detected, a mastectomy, removal of the breast, may be performed. Depending on the severity of the cancer, a lumpectomy, removal of the "lump," may be the patient-preferred method of treatment. Radiation, chemotherapy and hormonal therapy attack cancer cells that have spread to different parts of the body.

Fortunately, today there are many groups and campaigns involved with breast cancer prevention. Sharsheret is an organization dedicated to addressing the concern of breast cancer among young Jewish women. Rochelle Shoretz founded it in 2001 to provide support and cultural sensitivity to Jewish women diagnosed with the disease. It aims to support and educate young women and health care professionals in the fight against breast cancer.

The most important thing is to be aware of the risks and dangers of breast cancer. The earlier the detection of a tumor, the greater the chances are of curing it. It is imperative to take advantage of all the information we know about breast cancer today so that we may all live happy, healthy, cancer-free lives.

Hydrogen Fuel and the Future of Planet Earth

BY SHANA MAIKHOR

Our dependence on fossil fuels which are non-renewable and the emission of greenhouse gases creates serious problems to all inhabitants of our planet. We are rapidly depleting our fossil fuels while polluting our environment so we must find alternate energy resources. Hydrogen seems to be a frequently mentioned solution, but the public has been misled by the realities of the "Hydrogen Economy."

One of the problems with the hydrogen economy is the hydrogen itself. Where will it come from? With the fossil fuel economy, you simply pump the fossil fuel out of the ground, refine it and then burn it as an energy source.

Most of us take oil, gasoline, coal and natural gas for granted, but they are actually quite miraculous. These fossil fuels represent stored energy from millions of years ago, when plants grew

using solar energy to power their growth. They died, and eventually turned into oil, coal and natural gas. When we pump oil from the ground, we tap into that huge solar energy storehouse "for free." Whenever we burn a gallon of gasoline, we release that stored solar energy.

In the hydrogen economy, there is no storehouse to tap into. We have to actually create the energy in real-time. There are two possible sources for the hydrogen. Electrolysis of water uses electricity to split water molecules to create pure hydrogen and oxygen. One advantage of this process is it can be done anywhere. For example, you could have a box in your garage producing hydrogen from tap water, and you could fuel your car with that hydrogen. Reforming fossil fuels is the second source; oil and natural gas contain hydrocarbons, molecules consisting of hydrogen and carbon. Using a device called a fuel processor or a reformer,

you can split the hydrogen off the carbon in a hydrocarbon relatively easily and then use the hydrogen. You discard the leftover carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

Reforming fossil fuels is obviously not the best solution. This approach reduces air pollution, but it doesn't solve either the greenhouse gas problem because there is still carbon going into the atmosphere, or the dependence problem because you still need fossil fuels. However, it may be a good temporary step to take during the transition to the hydrogen economy. When you hear about "fuel-cell-powered vehicles" being developed by the car companies right now, almost all of them plan to get the hydrogen for the fuel cells from gasoline using a reformer. Cars would still need gas, but by converting it to hydrogen, it would be more efficient.

The interesting thing about electrolysis is that it is the core of

The Loss of Gush Katif

BY LEORA NAAMAT

Alei Katif, a producer and exporter of agricultural products who distributes insect-free vegetables for Orthodox consumers, has been a victim of the forced evacuation of Gush Katif. Since about 30 years ago, the pioneers of Gush Katif have transformed a desert wasteland into what many call "the Garden of Eden." They toiled to create a world in the greenhouses of Gush Katif where special drip irrigation technology, netting and sand produce insect-free vegetables for Jews in Israel, Europe and America.

Sand is used instead of soil to eliminate insects in the sealed topped greenhouses. The vegetation is irrigated by the most effective and environmentally friendly irrigation technology developed in Israel by Simchah Bass, an Israeli water engineer who noticed a shrub flourishing significantly more than others. Upon closer examination, he discovered that leaking water from a pipe caused a wet area to form around the shrub, dripping moisture to its roots and thoroughly hydrating the plant. This discovery blossomed into Netafim, a "Growing Solutions" company.

Drip irrigation promotes the efficient use of water. Conventional irrigation methods, such as sprinklers, utilize 60-300 gallons per hour while drip irrigation uses only one gallon per hour. Water loss due to evaporation, runoff, and wetting the earth needlessly beneath the surface is avoided. Growing without soil has the advantage of nurturing the plant more than the roots because the roots take in a lot of nutrients and absorb more water in soil.

Israel's economy will feel the loss of Gush Katif which produced 10% of all agricultural products, 65% of Israel's organic industry, and 90% of Israel's insect-free produce. Their 350 agricultural enterprises employed

5,000 Jews and 5,000 Arabs. Their greenhouses operated on 900-1,000 acres worth \$80 million, bringing in annual export revenue of \$60-70 million.

The expelled growers hope to increase their success and productivity. "Despite losing more than half its growers and supply of produce with Israel's evacuation of the Gaza strip, Alei Katif is confident that future output will double 2005's projected 17-18 million," says Amir Dror, marketing and sales manager at Alei Katif. "They are trusting and relying upon their customers' loyalty and understanding of the situation," says Ronny Ben-Efraim, the export manager. Dror is optimistic by saying, "One day we will bring produce out of Gush Katif again..."

Labels usually attesting to the lettuce's kashrut and insect-free status projected the emotion and atmosphere on the day of evacuation. One parsley package's label informs buyers that it was "harvested on the 14th of Av, on the eve of the holy Shabbat Nachamu, by the Levran family of Gadid, on the eve of their expulsion from their lands and the destruction of Gush Katif."

The Levran family grew chives, coriander, parsley, mint, chervil, dill and lettuce in their 16 greenhouses where their children are the family's third generation working and farming in Israel. They parted with their greenhouses, computerized irrigational infrastructures and agricultural equipment. Many dislocated families express their desire to continue growing and producing as soon as they resettle in Israel. *Mi K'amcha Yisrael* (Who is like your nation, Israel?) - After investing their sweat and tears into the land they were just forced out of, while still in pain, they desire to continue their own growth and do their part in a growing Eretz Yisrael.

the real hydrogen economy. To have an ideal hydrogen economy, the hydrogen must come from renewable sources rather than fossil fuels so that we stop releasing carbon into the atmosphere. The biggest challenge would be to obtain enough electricity to separate hydrogen from water without using fossil fuels.

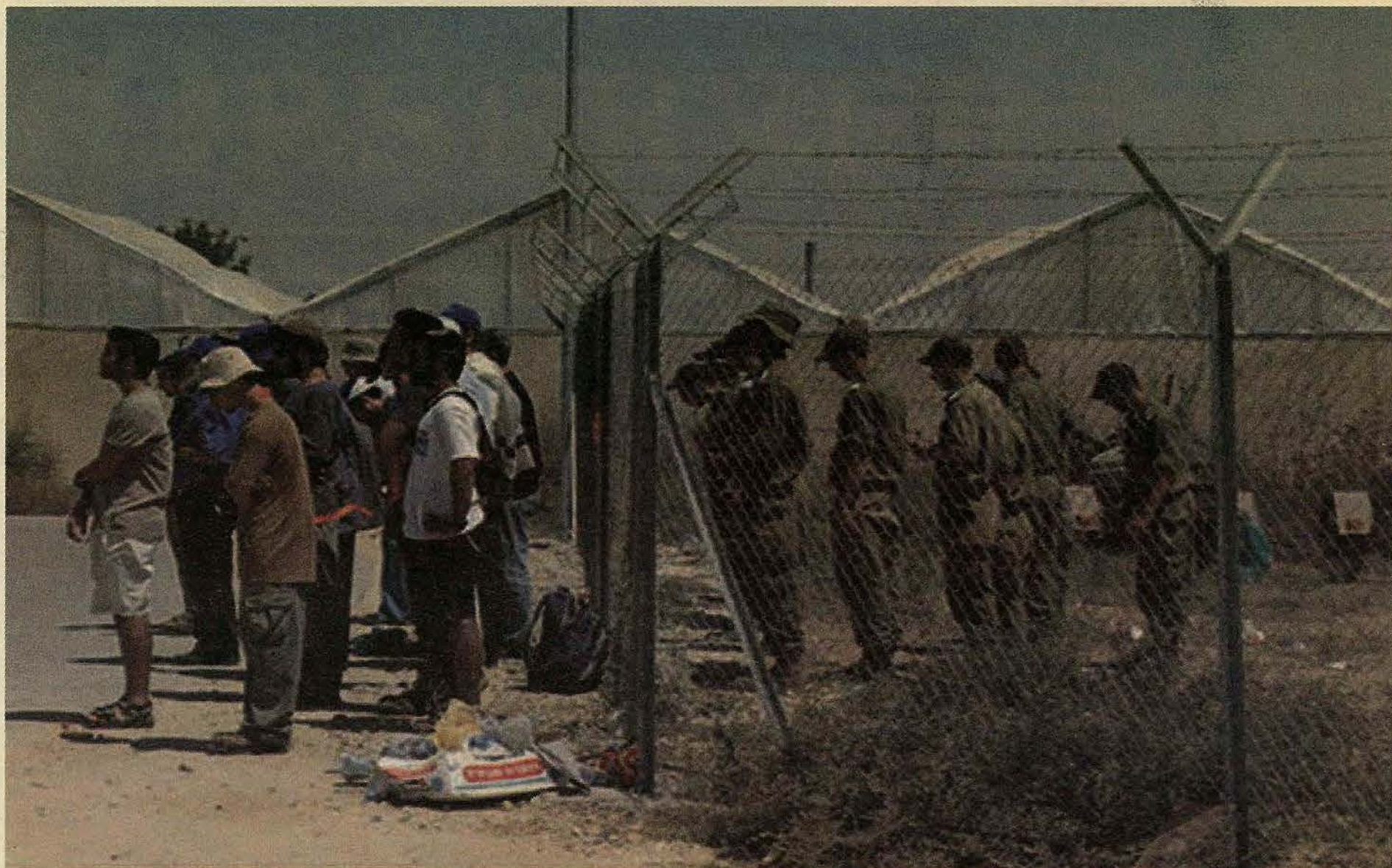
Where will the electricity for the electrolysis of water come from? Currently, about 68% of the electricity produced in the United States comes from coal or natural gas. All of that generating capacity will have to be replaced by renewable sources in the hydrogen economy. Additionally, all of the fossil fuel energy now used for transportation such as in cars, trucks, trains, boats and planes will have to convert to hydrogen, and that hydrogen will

be created with electricity as well. The electrical generating capacity in the country will have to double in order to take on the demands of transportation, and then it will all have to convert from fossil fuels to renewable sources. Only at that point will the flow of carbon into the atmosphere stop.

Right now, there are several different ways to create electricity that do not use fossil fuels: nuclear power, hydroelectric dams, solar cells, wind turbines, geothermal power, wave and tidal power, and co-generation (for example, a sawmill might burn bark to create power, or a landfill might burn methane that the rotting trash produces).

In the United States, about 20% of the power currently

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IDF Captain Elliot Chodoff

The Disengagement and its Aftermath: A Personal Perspective

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