The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

Volume 51 Number 2

October 2005 / Tishrei 5766

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 continued on page 12

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 Zelda Braun, Dr. Hillel Davis, vice president University Life, and for 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

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 wellknown 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



address, called on her audience "to remember that one of [Einstein's] reasons for coming into being was the, perhaps less than welcoming arms that sometimes 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-



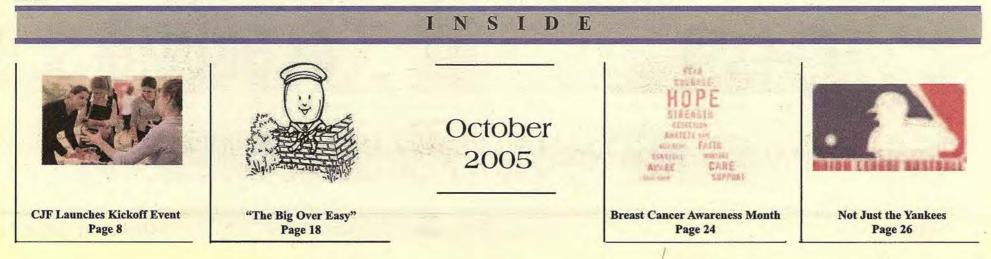
the excellence of this institution, and there was a sense of pride and privilege among the affiliates and alumni, as the dinner was a statement about the greatness that has emerged from Yeshiva University and the importance of belonging to a legacy so rich.

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 unicontinued on page 10

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



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New Now Under Pas Yisroel





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 scalebut 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 importantis 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 zealousness 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 senatorsit'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 onename 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?

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Bagels, Lox and the Disengagement

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 Adinah Wieder of their student body; I left the meetings uplifted and assured Editor-in-Chief that Yeshiva University is at the forefront of its collegiate contemporaries. The prospect of

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.

One of the hallmarks of Colleges and Universities is to inculcate a social conscience in their student body. Admission representatives and recruiters go through painstaking lengths to select prospective students that will excel academically, as well as embrace the institutions philosophies towards humanity. A means of achieving this goal is by creating forums where students and faculty members can work together to develop a cohesive strategy for engaging its students.

The beginning of the academic term marked a myriad of meetings involving faculty, 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.

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

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THE OBSERVER

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.

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The Observer is published monthly during the academic year by the Stern College for Women Student Council. The staff of The Observer retains the right to choose newspaper content and to determine the priority of stories. While unsigned editorials represent the views of The Observer's editorial board, all opinions expressed in signed editorials, olumns, letters and cartoons are the opinions of the writers or artists and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Observer, Stern College for Women, its student body, faculty or administration.



POINT-COUNTERPOINT Welcome to the iPod Era

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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-tostranger 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 creatng 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 musuems, 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 nonheadphone-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.

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 com panion. 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.



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

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THE OBSERVER

OPINION

Backpacking Across Europe: The Quintessential Simple Life

BY JUDITH HOLTZMAN

This past summer, in just over five weeks, a friend and I were able to visit 20 major cities in seven different countries, all on the European continent. We visited the many different sites and cultures of European life, including the Louvre in Paris, the Uffizi in Florence, the Red Light District in Amsterdam, the Coliseum in Rome and the waterways of Venice. The stories and experiences that my friend and I now share from our 36 days of traveling count among the most unforgettable moments of our lives thus far. We lived the lives of vagabonds, homeless and hungry. We didn't have our own beds, normal meals (unless you count peanut butter sandwiches for breakfast, lunch and dinner as part of a balanced diet), private showers, bathroom facilities, or even clean clothing to wear. Yet despite the lack of what we had previously considered essentials. we managed to survive. We were able to experience the foreign cities in their raw essences without the basic luxuries to which we were accustomed.

Our packing list to Europe included very little, since the universal mantra of backpacking is "Pack light since you will be carrying everything on your back." We kept this concept in mind as we packed, but nevertheless, our loads seemed heavy as we sagged under their weights on our quests for accommodations. We knew that unsanitary conditions would surface during our stay in Europe, and sure enough, we took refuge in many a place with squalid conditions. However, we pushed away our disgust by telling ourselves that it is all part of the Although we couldn't possibly prepare for every situation, we did use some foresight in our

experience.

we did use some foresight in our packing. We stayed dry despite the constant rain showers with our fortuitously packed rain ponchos, last-minute items that came to be extraordinarily handy. We brought along zip lock baggies with every imaginable over-thecounter drug to counter any illnesses that might possibly occur. We packed twine to use as a clothesline for the few articles of clothing that we did bring along. Unfortunately, although we had an excess of water with which to wash our clothes, the weather was too wet and cold to allow them to dry easily. Additionally, our health also suffered during that 36-day period, since we survived mostly on bread, peanut butter and granola bars.

Our lack of luxuries and communications was what made this trip so unforgettable. We didn't bring along cell phones, laptops, or any electronic devices. In this manner, we were completely disconnected from current events. For five weeks, we forgot about political oppression, war, and terrorism. There was just the two of us, making our way through famous sites in Europe.

We were lucky enough to visit some of the most incredible monuments and sites of the world. We walked through the Westminster Abbey in London, the beautiful homes in Bruges (in Belgium), the fantastic cliffs of Luxemburg, the beautiful synagogues and churches of Florence and the waters of Venice. Each of these cities was unique, whether it was because of the languages spoken, the dress of the natives, or even the food that was eaten. Yet my friend and I could not help but

notice the one common factor among these nations: the abundance of historical monuments commemorating war and victory. As fascinating as it was to walk back in time and feel the historical richness of European society, there was one thought that was constantly going through our minds: these statues and landmarks were dedicated to remembering various wars, death, and destruction. These monuments that were praising a triumphant general or emperor did not mention the loss of life that was involved or the destruction that lay in the wake of this conqueror. We must remember that for every victory, there was devastation; for every hero, a helpless victim.

During these few weeks of travel, we were able to experience the struggles of simple living, as well as the grandeur of the great world we live in. We witnessed the great potential of the human spirit, as well as the destruction that it can inflict. Man is blessed with the capacity to make much out of nothing, yet destroys these creations with violence, conflict, and war. We saw the many palaces and monuments dedicated to kings and queens, generals, and martyrs, yet all that is left of their great kingdoms, wealth and prosperity are small monuments that are kept up for tourists to take pictures. The lesson my friend and I learned was twofold: we should all do our utmost to make sure this nation is remembered for generosity and benevolence, rather than strife and battles, and that in order to take refuge in serenity and peacefulness, it is often necessary to remove oneself from the frivolities of this technologically advanced era.

And the Creepiness Award goes to....

BY TOVA STULMAN

Almostmetjew.com-I went to this website following the advice of a friend, who described it as "alternately hilarious and creepy." After inspecting its content, I concluded that it was hilarious precisely because it was so creepy. Basically a website designed for allowing Jewish males and females to post regrets about missed opportunities and crush-at-first-sight longings, its goal is to connect people who eyed attractive members of the opposite sex but were too timid/overwhelmed/unprepared to actually initiate conversation. I find this disturbing on oh, so many levels, but if I had to narrow it down to just a couple, I'd go with the following:

I know in this age of makeover shows and metrosexual acceptance, it might not be so weird for a guy to notice a girl's clothing, but consider the following post: "You were wearing an ankle-length peasantish skirt with a white t-shirt with the sleeves stretched out from being rolled up, and bejeweled flip-flops. Your hair smelled really nice, like fresh-picked flowers."

Do boys really notice this stuff? More importantly, do they really remember this stuff enough after noticing it to retrieve details from memory when writing these posts? I was still under the impression that men, if complimenting you on your clothing at all, still refer to all outfits as dresses, no matter if it's really a dress, skirt, or jumper.

How about the boy who smirked at the girl in the drama section of Blockbuster"? Or the boy who had the presence of mind to note the avocado, cheese, roasted vegetable spinach wrap a girl was getting at Circa? Guys, while you were doing the smirking and the avocado/cheese/vegetable noticing, did either of you think to actually pause and introduce yourself? To maybe find a halfway decently clever line to say, to hopefully get the objects of your affection talking? No? I suspected as much.

To the boy who referred to a group shot on onlysimchas.com and wrote, "You look like you have a gitte neshoma and you are cute!"-it's nice that you tried to he shtark with the words gitte neshoma and all, but somehow, I highly doubt it was the girl's neshoma that compelled you to place that ad. It was quite possibly her pretty features or her fashionable outfit, but her neshoma? Unless of course you have some otherworldly talent for discerning people's inner souls through online pictures, in which case I offer my humble apologies. Some posters sound downright scary. Like the boy who reported the following: "You were wearing all black. Also, were perspiring a little (but who wasn't?). Had a spellbinding look that probably causes many to stare (with a touch of mysterious lilith- like danger). Also looked

like you had some serious kavanah (which is more than you could say for me!)." I would advise the girl possessing the lilith-like danger that she may be in real danger should she choose to respond to this potential daterapist's plea for contact.

Of course, stupidity and superficiality is not only limited to the boys. Girls also have their fair share of shallow and unbelievably absurd moments on this new(ish) site. Some places where girls met their maybe-bashertes include the frozen food section at Brach's supermarket, at a near collision on the Monsey freeway, and in a building in Washington Heights where the guy who inspired the female poster by holding the door open for her at approximately 5:10 PM. Adjectives and descriptions used by the Jewesses searching for male Jews vary, but some real gems are "menstchy." "weight between 140-210 pounds" () know, it's only give or take some 70 pounds), and one young woman who knew, just knew, her guy was Jewish because his "smile and attitude were ironic." If you're confused, bemused, and simultaneously amused, you're not alone.

It seems as if what really drives the posters to announce their longings is the amount of attractiveness of the people they are searching for. What else could people possibly notice about others in mere minutes that cause them to think dating is in order? Some people cite character traits, certain middot that they've observed and are attracted to, which reminds me of biblical times, when kneeling by the fields to gather wheat and moving to serve water to camels garnered righteous husbands. Yet it goes without saying that these are certainly not biblical times, and I am highly skeptical that unless that girl saying tehillim fervently was quite pretty, and unless that guy bentching with such kavanah was adequately handsome, these acts of religious devotion would almost certainly go unnoticed.

If you are indeed infatuated with someone you saw at the YU library, Israeli Day Parade, Circa or Dougie's, then for heaven's sakes, go over and talk to him or her. Devise a plan of action or initiate a friendly conversation. If the person brushes you off, move on-don't use this website as an excuse for your ultimate cowardice. Editor's Note: After completing this article, I was flipping through the September 12 issue of New York Magazine, when I came upon an article entitled "Semitic Search Engine," about the very same website I had just written about, with some of the very same examples I had given. It was a little disconcerting to note the impish cupid tot wearing a yarmulke, and further disconcerting to think that millions of readers might now be snickering at what is arguably a pretty shallow and futile website created by and for mainly Orthodox Jews.

THE REGISTRATION HASSLE

"I need this class or I won't graduate." "I'm not a morning person, I need an afternoon class." "The class is too difficult, I need to switch."

The buzz of the fall semester's start filled the Academic Advisement Center. On the lines outside our offices students anxiously waited to secure their favorite choices, remedy schedule conflicts, or have questions answered about requirements. For some, the smile of satisfaction filled faces as students were signed into their ideal class. For others, the plea for an exception followed by the disappointment of "making do" marked faces. It happens each semester. Such is the registration hassle: the tug between individual preferences and institutional standards.

Students choose courses for a variety of reasons. The initial motive may be one or a combination of the choices listed below:

To fill a requirement The instructor's reputation An interest in the subject matter Anticipation for an "easy A"

Whatever the intention is for taking a particular course, the experience may prove completely different. Here rests the hidden surprise! Remain open to the possibility of enjoying your classes. Be patient with yourself, the course material, and the professor. Look for the positive and remember whether your instructor is Professor Excellence or Professor Mediocre, <u>you</u> bring something into the setting. Contribute a thought when feeling bored, prepare more when feeling challenged, and ask questions when confused. The result will be a sense of control and power over your "student hood" that could completely alter your impressions of and performance in the course.

For further inspiration:

Take a moment to decide which choices from above reflect your reasons for registering into your most and least favorite courses. Then try inverting the reasons and see what happens to your motivation. The results should prove positive.

Have a stimulating and rewarding fall semester.

The Academic Advisement Team

Miriam Schechter, Director Rochelle Mogilner Dr. Gail Gumora

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THE OBSERVER

There's No Place Like New York

BY PEREL SKIER

Listen up, New Yorkers (or veteran YUers in general). I've been here for practically three whole weeks now and as such I feel it is my civic duty to point out that your city has issues. Please consider:

-- Taking a book out of your library is like trying to smuggle illegal goods over the border. Where I come from, back in Ye Olde Hicktown, to check out a book all one needed was a library card. So when I bumbled into the fabled Mid-Manhattan Library last week, I selected a few books, noted the line for the check-out was exceedingly long, and naively decided to check myself out using the machines provided "For Your Convenience." Then, as if that were not foolish enough, I attempted to exit the library. I was lucky that I did not get arrested by the police. A word to the wise: always make sure that all the little receipts the machine spews at you are tucked neatly in their respective books before you try to escape the library. You don't want to cause a scene the way I did: books thrown at random into my backpack, their individual receipts jammed into my wallet. The security guard watched me as I spread nine or ten books out on her checking table and desperately tried to match up the receipts.

--You have helicopters landing at your river walk. Hello! Are you aware of how cool that is? Every time I am at the river one of these flying machines of coolness descends from the sky and docks right at the 34th Street walkway, creating a whirlwind in the waters around it. And no one else at the river bats an eye. Ho hum, you all seem to say. Yes, another helicopter landing. People! This city is awesome! Salute!

--There is no place in Manhattan to buy Crispix. Perhaps some of you have not yet experienced the joy of Crispix, so let me explain what it is. It is a breakfast cereal. New Yorkers, breakfast cereal is a necessity of life. Good breakfast cereal, doubly so. I do not understand how a city can have 72 billion pizza shops and sell only Frosted Flakes and Cheerios at all of their convenience stores. Where is the Waffle Crisp? The French Toast Crunch? The Chex? The Cocoa Puffs? What do you people have to wake up to in the morning? I realize some of you do not eat breakfast cereal, but that's no excuse.

--There is ... something ... dripping from your buildings. Have you noticed this? Now I am new and have much to learn about relating to 20 +-story buildings. However, I still feel that I should not feel droplets of...something...pinging off my head wherever I walk (everyone join in! "Raindrops keep falling on my head ... "), especially considering that it has not rained since I arrived. If anyone has more information about this mysterious substance, please contact me immediately. This is a matter of utmost urgency.

--Macy's has more than one floor of shoes. This is a women's college, so I'm sure you're all very much aware of this, but I couldn't help pointing it out anyway. Where I come from, the shoe stores don't even have one floor of shoes. They sell socks in the other half.

--Your elevators have personalities. You know, sometimes I think they can understand what I am saying to them. Living as I do on the 18th floor, I spend a great deal of my day trying to get the elevator to come. I have tried nearly everything. I threaten to take the stairs; I promise not to hold the door open and dash back to my apartment for my laundry detergent; I attempt to reason with it in quiet and matter-of-fact tones, explaining that we will both be happier if it decides to stop on my floor. All to no avail. So don't waste your time like me, New Yorkers. Open the stairwell door. When the elevator hears the door close, it will come.

So, to recap:

Libraries = U.S. Customs Helicopters = extremely cool Crispix = needs work Building drippings = mystifying Lots of shoes = so much potential Elevators = How I Spent My Saturday Night

O.K., that's not nearly everything, but I think that's plenty for you all to ponder until next time. New York has many wonderful characteristics, of course, but you see it is the quirkier ones that no one ever warns you about. So now you have your heads-up. If you have any additional befuddlements to add to the list, write to me. And have a nice week, YUers! Stay safe from building drippings!

Did the Government Respond Enough to Hurrican Katrina?

BY ERICA SCHWITZER

The catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina is one of the worst natural disasters that our country has ever experienced. Katrina devastated cities and towns along the Gulf Coast, crashing into parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The city of New Orleans was severely damaged and has been left in ruins. It is presumed that New Orleans will most likely never be the same. The levees that protected New Orleans from being overflowed by Lake Pontchartrain were unable to sustain the strong winds and water. As a result, four and five feet of water covered some parts of New Orleans. Ray Nagin, the mayor of New Orleans, issued a mandatory evacuation order; however, many residents either chose to stay or had nowhere to go. Bodies were seen floating in the floodwaters of the streets. Some people were forced to remain on their rooftops, holding on for dear life. Originally the death toll was

thought to exceed 10,000, but we now know that figure is less than 1,000.

In every tragedy, people search for answers and demand that those answers be given. People indirectly try to place the blame on someone else. Unfortunately, there are no answers. The devastation of Hurricane Katrina was the result of a natural disaster, and the

response. Former President Clinton directed harsh words towards the Bush administration, stating: "You can't have an emergency plan that works if it only affects middle-class people (and up)."

These accusations are unfair. The country was not prepared for this disaster. On what basis can one criticize the government för not taking better action? Although the Federal **Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA) was designed to respond to emergencies, it was meant to be a secondary responder-after the local government calls for help or after the federal government assesses that help is needed from the federal government. Therefore, the charge that the federal government did not respond effectively and quickly is misplaced. There are those that believe that the devastation of Hurricane Katrina has widened the gap between whites and blacks. Some people believe that had the refugees been white, the federal government might have

Torah U-Political Science—and I Don't Even Mean Israel By CHANI OZAROWSKI level of nation-states, and to sat

Last year, I started the Observer's Torah U-Madda column to help us expand our concept of what "Torah U-Madda," a longtime motto of this school, really means. While we may have our own ideas about how to interpret this very general phrase, and while Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, chancellor of the university, wrote an entire book about it, I set out to illustrate how one particular student (namely, me) understands and encounters the intersection of Torah and worldly studies in classes at Stern College. I wrote and continue to write in hopes that my suggestions of possible Torah U-Madda instances will serve as food for thought, as well as encourage others to seek out relationships between Torah ideas and other subjects learned in university or in the world at large.

That said, I am including in this Torah U-Madda column a subject that may not often be considered in regard to Torah concepts: political science. The first thing that often comes to mind upon hearing of political science as relates to Judaism is the modern state of Israel. Or perhaps one may consider the question of monarchy as discussed in Tanakh versus the democracy we experience today. However, the aspect of political science I wish to discuss is neither of those two. Upon reading a piece by political analyst Greg Cashman for my political science course here at Stern, I found that his analysis of war very notably reflects fundamental Jewish belief, and in a remarkably simple way.

He points out that if historical events just occurred randomly, then there would be no use in political or historical analysis. To have any logical discussion on history, it must be supposed that history comes with its own laws and patterns that can be discerned and studied.

Once we make this assumption, it makes perfect sense for any Jew who believes in God to accept that ultimately it is God who controls the course of history. Just as studying the laws of nature can be viewed as a revelation of God's grandeur, so too can the study of historical trends give us a peek into His ways. In fact, this is the very basis upon which we believe that redemption of our people can arrive at any time, and is destined to occur at some point in history. This notion of God overseeing history is also reflected by the perspectives through which one can analyze history. For example, according to Cashman, it is possible to locate the origin of war at the level of the individual. Maybe it is in the genetic makeup of one leader to become power-hungry, and so his whole country may go to war because of his desire to expand his borders.

level of nation-states, and to say that since the character trait of Nation X is to be very aggressive, it often has clashes with Nation Y. This understanding that an entire nation can have a collective character trait harks back to interpretations of ethically difficult biblical passages such as the command to utterly wipe out Amalek. The same concept is illustrated by the statement in Pirkei Avot that Jews, as a group, are "bayshanim, rahmanim," and "gomlei hasadim," "meek, merciful, and giving," and the statement in Torah that we are a "stiffnecked people."

Finally, Cashman conjectures that war can be attributed to the "structure of the international system itself." The normal worldly balance of power and economic give-and-take simply lend themselves to war.

However, one might wrongly conclude that such a perspective on history in general and war in particular frees the human race from taking any responsibility for the existance of man-made evil in the world. This conclusion is mistaken. Cashman points out that one can also analyze the causes of war by looking at "small groups" and how they make their decisions, as well as how two states interact with each other. While the first levels mentioned suggest that God, in creating the nature of the world, included elements that make war almost inevitable, the latter two levels on which one can analyze war indicate that it is human beings who have behira, free choice, to cause or prevent war. This admits to a duality which is practically obvious according to a traditional Torah philosophy of the world.

On one hand, in our daily morning davening, we attest to the fact that it is not man alone who determines the course of history. We say in the brachot preceding Shema that God is, among other things, the "Ba'al Hamilchamot," "Master of Wars," i.e. that He has a "finger" in determining world history. On the other hand, the prophet Yeshayahu relays the message that in the most ideal of times, "lo yisa goy el goy cherev, lo yilmedu od milchama," that no nation will make war on another. It is well known that such messianic times will arrive at least partially as a result of our human actions, and so such a prophecy implies that it is also our responsibility as humans to work through the nature God gave us in order to create peace in the world. Thus, using Cashman's analysis as a guide, we can see that even according to secular thought, war is caused both by the choices of human beings and by the nature of human beings. By looking at levels of society which contribute to war, it is possible to see how we create human history, even as God directs it.

country was not prepared for it.

Recently, there has been heavy criticism leveled against the United States government for failing to respond to Hurricane Katrina more effectively. Furthermore, some claim that the federal government responded more efficiently to those individuals displaced by the tsunami last year than by Hurricane Katrina. Others vehemently feel that the government is simply too focused on Iraq and does not care enough about what is happening on its own soil.

Many refugees felt that they were treated inhumanely, like "animals," claiming that racism and class played a fundamental role in the government's

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Alternatively, it is possible to look at causes of war on the

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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

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 made some sense to me, but as 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 "R.A.M." the (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 Hanoch 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 shiurim 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.

OPINION



RIVKA KAHN SSSB STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Wow, what a great start! Things are moving, and moving fast. The exciting new feeling of replaced with that sweet feeling of familiarity and routine in a comforting way. Sy Syms School of Business has been going nonstop. 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

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

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

upstairs," his discussion on business ethics and his good humor on everything. And take 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.

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NEWS

CJF Launches Kickoff Event at the Beren Campus

BY NINA BURSKY-TAMMAM

The following speech was delivered by Rabbi Jerome M. Epstein at Convention 2002, a joint convention of the Conservative Movement held February 10-14 in Washington, D.C.

The Prophet, Isaiah, challenged the people of his time. He was a man with hope, vision, and goals of transforming humanity. But he was continually disappointed in their response. He was pained by the corruption he saw. He shed tears because of human failure. The world was going in the wrong direction and his pleas for change were tauntingly rejected.

Finally, in an attempt to create a revolution and inspire a change in behavior, he challenged the people of Israel to take responsibility for human transformation. He urged them to become an "Or Lagoyim," a "light unto the nations." Isaiah saw the darkness that blanketed the world and immobilized humanity. He also knew that the darkness would not evaporate by itself; for darkness is the absence of light. And, so, he challenged Israel to become that light and show the way for the rest of the world.

It is not every day that one is offered a chance to significantly change the future of the worldwide Jewish community. However, during the week of September 12, it seemed to be a daily-occurring phenomenon on both the Beren and Wilf Campuses. On the Beren Campus, the Center for the Jewish Future's (CJF) staff manned stations in the Levy Lobby and in Le Bistro for its on-campus launch.

The three-day kickoff event, publicized as "You Are the Ticket to Our Future," provided an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with the vast number of Jewish communal programs open to student participation, and to learn more about the CJF in general. The perception that the CJF is merely taking over existing university organizations is a mistaken one. The CJF is also linking with several external organizations, including the Orthodox Caucus and various Jewish TV/film/media production companies, to address issues facing the Orthodox community that have long required attention.

Another ambitious venture of the CJF is the creation of the Department of Communal Initiatives, under the direction of Rabbi Ari Rockoff, which aims to initiate contact with communities in order to identify and address their challenges and needs.

When asked which programs are in most desperate need of participants, Rabbi Josh Joseph, director of Special Programs, replied that different people are attracted to different forms of contributing. For example, a program like Torah Tours, no matter how successful, does not attract every student. The CJF seeks to not only continue all existing programs, but to afford every student the opportunity to contribute whatever their individual skills may be, from Jewish education to accounting to computer science, in any way possible. The array of possibilities for playing a role in the CJF provides any interested student with a meaningful outlet for his or her skills.

Hillel Rapp, program manager of student activism and chessed programs such as L'maan Achai, confirmed the CJF's commitment to place every single student in the position where his or her abilities are most needed. "We lose a great number of talents from Jewish communal service," he said. "We want to give students opportunities to pursue those skills within Jewish communal service rather than somewhere else." The CJF promises students the professional face and facilities they need to implement their ideas so that student-initiated programs can succeed. Whether the need is for phones, websites, funds or manpower, the CJF is ready and willing to provide it.

The Center's kickoff events included the "Name That Storefront" competition, a chance for students to offer their suggestions for names for the new CJF storefronts. Gifts were given away throughout the week, including forest-green CJF Tshirts, CD's with shiurim by prominent Yeshiva University rabbis and handy school-supply cases.

Many were attracted by the CJF's allure rather than by their pure appeal to the conscience. When asked if she attended the Center's opening events, Nava Streit, an SSSB junior, remarked, "Obviously! If there's free food, definitely," referring to the tasty samples of fondue and doughnuts being distributed. "But in all seriousness," she added, "It's really smart to create this umbrella organization. It makes any program I might want to take part in accessible. It makes each individual program seem more substantial.'

Rabbi Kenneth Brander, the Center's dean, closed the opening festivities on the Beren campus with a motivating speech on the nature of Yom Kippur. "There are different portals of entry to have a *continued on page 12*

CJF Aids in Hurricane Relief

BY AVIVA SEGELMAN

The Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), whose inauguration on campus included smoothies and USB keys, had a different, more intense inauguration outside New York. The CJF, led by Dean Rabbi Kenneth Brander, and specifically Rabbi Moshe Bellows, Director of Division of Social and Organizational Leadership Training, headed significant relief efforts for the thousands of people made refugees by Hurricane Katrina, which hit and devastated New Orleans several weeks ago. A team made up of students, alunni, and staff was trained by Rabhi Bellows and immediately sent to Houston, one of the communities where the CJF has focused its efforts. There are over 10,000 refugees in Houston alone, and the CJF has been and will continue to provide assistance in many areas of need. Rabbi Bellows was contacted by Lee Wunsch, the CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, who requested the CJF's help with the relief efforts. Immediately, a three-person team comprised of CJF Presidential Fellow Aliza Abrams, third year RIETS semicha student Phil Moskowitz, and Rabbi Aryeh Lightstone. assistant rabbi in West Orange, New Jersey, was trained by

Rabbi Bellows and sent to Houston. For ten days, they worked with Rabbi Barry Gelman of the Houston community and the Houston branch of the UJA to formulate and carry out a multi-faceted relief plan. Rabbi Bellows accompanied the group to Houston for the first day. With respect to his team he commented, "I am humbled and honored to have led a delegation of such talented committed YU students. They are really the true heroes here."

When the team arrived. they met with the UJA of Houston, whose offices would remain their base for the duration of their stay. Many of the people they worked beside were displaced employees of the UJA of New Orleans, who, despite their personal losses, were working tirelessly to help others who had lost everything as well. "It was unbelievable to see people act so selflessly," said Abrams, referring to these leaders who put the needs of others far before their own. This phenomenon was not limited to the Jewish community; it was apparent at the Astrodome, Lion Stadium, and George R. Brown Convention Center as well, where many of the people working tirelessly to find apartments and basic needs for others had themselves lost everything. The team went to these refugee centers four or five times to volun-

Beren Campus Undergoes Facelift

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

New students were not the only ones who had to get used to Stern College's Beren Campus this fall. The new renovations caused many returning students to do a double take as they returned to the city for the new semester.

"We always try to have exciting upfront visual changes when school starts," said Jeff Rosengarten, associate vice president of Administrative Services. This year, those changes include a newly designed Kushner Dining Hall, a renovated Brookdale Hall, as well as a reconstructed dining area in the Schottenstein Residence Hall.

The changes affecting the most women are those in the Kushner Dining Hall. According to Rosengarten, renovations on the cafeteria were an obvious step. "After building Le Bistro, it was clear that construction needed to be done because now the Kushner Dining Room looked outdated," he explained. The construction included outfitting the service area with completely new equipment and laying new floors in both the dining and service areas. The layout is also different, making the process of getting food easier, even with the crowds. "There was no room for anyone to stand during the rush hours of meal time," said Tali Langer, an SCW junior. "Now everything is more spread out and there is more room to stand. It's now more practical and aesthetically pleasing."

Phase Two of the construction on the dining hall will occur during the upcoming semester. The primary changes will be made to the ceiling and lighting. "An eating place shouldn't have big band of fluorescent lighting. You wouldn't have that in a fancy restaurant," said Rosengarten.

There are also plans to decorate the walls and put curtains on the windows. In addition, new chairs and tables will replace the dull ones currently in the cafeteria. Rosengarten described the new chairs not only as, "very, very cool and extremely with it," but also comfortable.

The most striking changes were made to Brookdale Residence Hall. "I've had it on my agenda to begin a process to make it more beautiful [for a long time]," Rosengarten said regarding the home of the largest number of SCW students. "We came up with a plan that enabled us to create a more attractive lobby because that it is the first thing you see." The construction of the lobby led to additional modifications. The administrative offices have been completely renovated. There is also a newly equipped fitness room extending into a space that once served as a study lounge. "There was an unattractive study space, and a small outdated exercise area which was inadequate, considering people's interest in physical fitness," explained Rosengarten.

that had to be done," she said. "It's a dorm for so many girls and having a nice fitness room is definitely a necessity. I was pleased to see what they have done with the room and the machines they have purchased."

More renovations are set to take place before the academic year is over. Plans are in the works to renovate both the front and back lounges in Brookdale Hall. Rosengarten feels that the front lounge is very small and claustrophobic and hopes to find a way to open it up into the lobby. "I understand that some girls want the front lounge to be private," he said. However, he believes there are ways to make the area somewhat private without creating a feeling of confinement. "The end result is just to make a more attractive space," he said. He then proudly added that this was the first year that he was not embarrassed of Brookdale Hall when people moved in. The front hall of the Schottenstein Residence Hall was also "modernized, renovated and improved," according to Rosengarten. The idea was to make it more user-friendly and inviting for students. Additionally, Rosengarten discussed plans to put signs and banners up all over the Beren Campus in order to make it feel more like a campus. He said, "The banners will give women on the Beren Campus a more 'campusy' feel. It will make that part of Manhattan really yours."

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Langer agrees. "The fitness room was definitely something

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Solomon Lectures on Jury Research

By Sara Lefkovitz

On September 12, students and professors flocked to Weissburg Commons on the Wilf Campus to attend the first in a series of three lectures, titled "Politics, Psychology, Technology, and the Law." The series, run jointly by the political science and psychology departments of Stern and Yeshiva Colleges, featured Mr. Samuel H. Solomon as its distinguished speaker.

Solomon is the chairman and CEO of DOAR Litigation Counseling, a firm that specializes in courtroom dynamics. DOAR seeks to facilitate better communication between litigators and jury members, allowing attorneys to influence the verdict of juries more effectively. Information technology, jury strategy, jury issues and various graphics are a few examples of the many factors comprising the complex DOAR equation, one that has thus far yielded very successful results. Today, DOAR represents over 3,000 clients across the United States.

The CEO himself has a diverse background. Solomon received an M.B.A. from the NYU Stern School of Business, as well as an M.S. in philosophy and rabbinic ordinationa from Yeshiva University. With over 20 years of experience in a variety of fields, Solomon has authored, consulted and taught, as well as contributed to several prominent cases, including the Scott

Peterson trial.

The idea for the lectures was formulated when Solomon, a Yeshiva College board member, sat down to dinner at a YU event last spring with some of the university's professors-among them Dr. Steven Pimpare, assistant professor of political science at YC and the faculty organizer of the three-part lecture series. Following a bit of friendly and spirited debate concerning politics, science, media and law, Pimpare implored Solomon to share his unique experiences and professional expertise with the students of YU.

"Solomon is here because it is incumbent upon us to seize any opportunity we have to expose our students and ourselves to the smartest and most creative people," said Pimpare. "Solomon fits the bill and is working on the cutting edge of his field. Plus, Sam's a funny and charming guy, so these lectures should be entertaining, too. I'm a huge fan of being entertained while I'm being challenged and provoked to think harder and to think better."

Solomon began the first session, "Jury Research and Recent High Stakes Litigation: Manipulation or Mastery?" with insight into the psychology and sociology of jury selection. "What I'm going to show you is how we really think about the world," he said. "What I say will impact every aspect of your life."

Through an opening question regarding the legitimacy of jury research, Solomon proceeded to illustrate that virtually all jury verdicts are decided on the basis of a value and belief system that is unique to each individual juror. These values and beliefs function as a filter through which the facts of the case become the issues of the case, the way people really think about things. Each statement and interaction is a value belief that is loaded. Solomon explained, "We do not see things as they are; we see things as *we* are."

As a result, the primary objective of a jury-consulting firm is to understand what values and beliefs are operating within a group of jurors and to then use that information to craft a message that fits those value beliefs. When there is a strong issue at the forefront of a case, most people are going to have a fixed opinion about it and a firm like DOAR will not be able to change that opinion. What they can do, however, is reframe the issue, allowing the jurors to support the opposing view by presenting it to them as a viable alternative that does not contradict their tenaciously held principles.

For example, the recent World Trade Center insurance case was hinging on the question of whether the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers constituted a single or a double occurrence. The insurance companies favored looking at the 9/11 attacks as one incident, hoping to spare themselves the additional millions of dollars in damages. DOAR, continued on page 12

YU Commemorates September 11

BY YAFFI SPODEK

On Sunday night, September 11, 2005, Stern and Yeshiva Colleges held their fourth annual 9/11 memorial assembly. Organized by SCW Student Council President Deena Hassan, the Schottenstein Cultural Center was filled with SCW and YC students, as well as some parents and alumni.

The evening commenced with the lighting of four memorial candles, representing the four years since the attacks, followed by a moment of silence. Hassan addressed the audience, recalling her first reaction to September 11, 2001. She had seen the images on TV of the planes crashing into the towers. "It looked like a bad movie," she commented, a sentiment shared by many worldwide.

The featured speaker of the program was Ari Schonbrun, director of global accounts for Cantor Fitzgerald and a survivor of the attacks. Schonbrun, who had miraculously escaped from the 78th floor of Tower One, was one of the few that survived from his company; 658 of his colleagues never made it out of the building.

Schonbrun now travels to different schools and institutions sharing his story. Rayla Guber, an SSSB sophomore, commented, "It's my third time hearing his story. It's just so inspirational."

When the first plane crashed into the 92nd floor of Tower One, Schonbrun was on the 78th floor, eight feet away from an elevator that was about to take him to his 101st floor office. The elevator exploded, causing the entire building to shake and causing Schonbrun to go flying through the air. "I was screaming. I had no idea what was going on, but I knew it was bad," he said, describing the moment of impact.

While seeking a means of escape, he came across Virginia DiChiara, one of his coworkers who had been in the elevator and was suffering from severe second and third degree burns on much of her body. "I will not leave you. I promise. Don't panic. We're gonna be O.K.," he assured her. Amid all the chaos and despair, Schonbrun found the strength to be the voice of reason and encouragement, and together, he and DiChiara, along with another co-worker and a fire warden, proceeded to make their way down the 78 flights of stairs. Schonbrun maintains that he survived on that day due to a series of miracles. "The biggest miracle of the day," says Schonbrun, occurred while he was on the stairs by the 75th

floor. He somehow had service on his cell phone and was able to receive a call from his wife allowing him to assure her that he was alive. Another miracle he recounts occurred as he was proceeding downstairs to leave the building through a garage exit. A mysterious voice called out from the stairs above and told him to get out on the first floor. "If he hadn't opened the door, I wouldn't have been here today, Schonbrun said. He also recalled the kindness of John, a stranger on the street who invited Schonbrun and others to his apartment to use the phone. Schonbrun described him as a genuine "tzaddik."

To this day, DiChiara considers Schonbrun her hero. While she believes that he saved her life, according to Schonbrun, the opposite occurred. He maintains, "If it weren't for Virgina, I would be dead." In essence, they were each responsible for saving the other's life, due to their mutual compassion for a fellow human being.

Schonbrun ended his story with a rousing message. He told the audience that he regards 9/11 as a direct message from God, a wake-up call to refocus his goals in life and to not only concentrate on the material and trivial aspects of life. He advises people to work on "simple kindness that's all it is."

Schonbrun feels that people are going through life too fast, preventing them from hearing God's whispers. By means of disaster people will finally wake up and hear God, causing them to realize what needs to be achieved in the world.

The memorial closed with an emotional video tribute to the victims of 9/11, saluting the heroes and showing moving pictures of the tragedy's aftermath. Those who attended were left with a powerful message and a new view on life.

Ayelet Mael, an SCW sophomore, remarked, "It was very inspirational and it was an incredible story which makes you rethink your outlook on life." Deborah Anstandig, an SCW junior, was literally speechless for a few moments. She described the experience as "powerful...so powerful that I don't have words. It hurts in a way." Judy Gorelick-Feldman, an SCW junior, was also at a loss for words, and agreed that tragedies like 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina were "attacks against humanity that were just so powerful." The heartfelt words and insights of Schonbrun made a lasting impression on many, and the effects of 9/11 will undoubtedly be felt for many years to come.

Political Science Department Reaches Out to New Students

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

The number of YC and SCW students who filled the 36th Street Residence Hall Courtyard on September 13 for the political science department's kickoff picnic is the most recent indication of the department's growing popularity on campus. In recent years the department has seen a tremendous influx of new students. While Professor Joseph Luders, David and Ruth Gottesman assistant professor of political science at Stern College, joked, "I don't know how many people are here for political science and how many people are here for Mendy's," it can be safely assumed that the high attendance was due to the outstanding staff of the department. Luders joined the political science department in 2002. Since then, the number of students majoring in political science and students enrolled in political science courses has doubled. There are an estimated 30 students currently majoring in political science and approximately 12 students who have chosen political science as a minor. There are seven political science courses being offered this

semester.

The increasing interest in political science can be attributed to a variety of factors. "The terrorist attacks on 9/11 made it clear that politics really matters," said Luders. "Our vulnerability to the attack and our responses cannot be understood without knowing something about American politics and policy, the Middle East, and international relations."

According to students, another reason the political science department is so popular at SCW Luders, "we wanted to attract superb teachers who brought their passion and expertise to the classroom. In my opinion we could not have done a better job." He believes Professors Bryan Daves, Evan Resnick and Stephen Pimpare, who were all in attendance at the kickoff event, have "dedicated themselves fully to strengthening the department, programming numerous events, and unleashing their creative enthusiasm on the institution."

The faculty understands that teaching is not their only job.

is the dedicated professors that comprise it. Aviva Horowitz, an SCW junior majoring in political science and the co-president of the The Joseph Dunner Political Science Society, said that while she is interested in the subject, "What really sold me was the

department here. We have a warm department that really reaches out to get students. They make sure to have a cohesive department as opposed to other departments where you just go to class and maybe speak to your professors."

Luders agrees, recalling how a few years ago the administration decided to expand the staff of the political science department by recruiting new faculty. "In our search for ideal candidates," said They are committed to the students and eager to serve as mentors. When introducing himself and his colleagues at the picnic, Luders urged, "Don't be shy. We are there and really do want to help you."

The kickoff event illustrated this point. The professors sat with the students, addressing any questions or concerns they may have had, but also joked and addressed them as equals. Despite this, Luders still has his doubts. When asked why Stern students love the political science staff so much, he joked, "I am not so sure they love us. After I return midterm exams, the looks I get are not exactly loving."

Feel Free to Write for News afrubens@yu.edu

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AMPUS BRIEF

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 promote collaboration to 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

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, speciftransition, 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.

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Rav Gigi is one of the

Yovel and Rosh Hashana.

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 icebreaker 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

continued from front page

versity 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.

"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

continued from front page

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 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 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 repu-

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

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 postdoctoral 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

tation 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, Charles Schumer, Senator Senator Frank Lautenberg and John C. Whitehead, chairman of Lower Manhattan the Development Corporation.

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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

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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 tohttp://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, graciously 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 selfmade 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 The winner for District 2. 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

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.

any possible gaffes. It is for this

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 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 many worldby 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 Schneier Center new 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.



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"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.

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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 ideologue, 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 coutroom. 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

continued from front page

Lewin explained that although many shiurim and learning programs are available at Stern, hardly any of them are toward beginners. catered 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 unbefitting their educational levels. However, this year and Dr. Ephraim Davis 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.

Town Hall Meeting

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 stu-

continued from front page 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.'

inquiries Students' 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.

It is quite evident that both the academic leaders and dents, 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.

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.

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THE OBSERVER

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 formal-

ly 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 weeklong 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.

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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 Dkalim 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 shiur 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 OBSERVER

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-yearold 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

tor for Sharsheret, says the goal of this program is to create "oneon-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 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.

"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.

Sharsheret Develops Programs for Jewish Women Fighting Breast Cancer

BY ABBY ATLAS

Y ATLAS her future.

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-

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 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

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

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THE OBSERVER

Hudson River is Open for Row Boating

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER

The cheapest way to travel to New Jersey from Manhattan? Not the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey buses, even if one takes the unviersity's intercampus shuttle up to the George Washington Bridge bus station. The most fun way? Definitely not the cumbersome carpool you've arranged. Try row boating.

For just a few more weeks, depending on this winter's commencement and ferocity, publicly owned piers which dot the West Side of Manhattan Island will continue to house not-for-profit boating organizations. The goals of these organizations are to "restore universal access onto the public waterways" and to reintroduce the public "to the joys of rowing and sailing on the urban waters," according to one organization's website.

"Floating the Apple" and "Downtown Boathouse," both all-volunteer organizations, allow anyone to pull up to their shores and use the organizations' manpowered boats and paddles free of charge. The explorer must be 18 years of age, know how to swim, and wear a lifejacket. This boating service is available as long as there are volunteers available to supervise.

Downtown Boathouse, which had three locations this summer, at 96th and 72nd Streets on the Upper West Side and at Pier 26 in Lower Manhattan, supplies single and double kayaks and allows participants to enjoy their boating experience for about half an hour in the bay area surrounding the pier.

In general, the boathouse is available to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Earlier in the summer they were also open for two hours, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., throughout the week. These hours are not 100% reliable and information about each specific station is difficult to ascertain. When asked about the time discrepancies, volunteer XL Mu explained, "The problem is we don't have enough staff to man three stations at once," so the organization is busy consolidating to just two docking areas.

More than just a kayak port for individuals, the boathouse conducts classes along the harbor that teach advanced kayaking and even a youth sailing program. Last year "we had over 15,000 different people use the boathouse," testifies the <u>www.downtownboathouse.org</u> website. "We expect even more for 2005," the organization says invitingly.

Though swimming in the Hudson River is illegal, many boaters get wet and splashed on, and so both the Downtown Boathouse and Floating the Apple offer changing areas and restrooms for participants. Both organizations also demand that participants sign waivers despite the fact that most of their boats are uncapsizable, in the unlikely case an accident should occur.

Some unlikely incidents do occur, however. SCW Senior Sarah Rindner reports that while kayaking in the embayment she chanced upon a pineapple bobbing in the Hudson's waters. After a friendly debate between Rindner's group and the boathouse volunteers on the possible dangers of eating food found on the river, Rindner and her friends ate the fresh fruit for breakfast. "It was delicious," she assures the Observer

It was Mr. Mu, a volunteer for the Downtown Boathouse, who sent kayak seekers to Floating the Apple. "Just a few blocks up. Ask for Frank, tell him I sent you," XL advised. He was referring to Frank Cervi, facilities manager at Floating the Apple, who confirmed the positive relationship between the nearby boathouses, stating, "We don't view each other as competition."

Floating the Apple, which runs six boathouses scattered around the New York harbor, offers a more intense boating experience. On the water for upwards of an hour and a half, participants are trained in the sport of row boating. Commands are shouted by Captain Frank-"Stroke, stroke! Together, together!"-the seven passengers enjoy a lesson on identifying the different parts of the boat and the etiquette of row boating, not to mention a confrontation with nature.

Dodging ferries and private yachts, the Apple's boats are often propelled off course by natural currents and by the wakes of large motor-controlled boats. Rowers work hard to maintain control and safely reach their destination, Hoboken, New Jersey. Upon reaching the calm bay, participants are encouraged to switch seats to give each person an opportunity to row.

Just before heading back to New York City, the captain allows his crew a short break to absorb everything around them, placing the tiny boat floating on the river into perspective with a great view of the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. Even Captain Frank, who has been volunteering at the boathouse for over five years, exclaimed with the wonder of a first-timer, "Look how great this is!"

It's time for you to go see how great it is, too.

Visit

www.downtownboathouse.org and www.floatingtheapple.org

International Student Population Grows

BY CLAUDIA AMZALLAG

Hola! Bonjour! Priviette! Qué Tal? Vaya con Dios! À la prochaine! Hasta Lluégo!

These expressions, frequently heard in hallways and classed to several other countries, the bulk of the influx coming from France and from Morocco.

studying Filiz Ilyago, accounting, was the first student to arrive from Istanbul, Turkey. When asked how she heard about Stern College, she replied, "My Hebrew teacher from Istanbul, who then became the chief rabbi of our community, is one of Yeshiva University's alumni. He gave me the idea to come get my education here." Ilyago expressed how pleased she is with the decision, saying, "I am very happy in New York City; it is a beautiful school. I do not want to be the last international student; I would like to promote the school when I get back home." Adapting to a new country is difficult, but could prove to be worthwhile. Zelda Braun, associate dean of students, says, "I think that the girls should get involved in clubs and other extracurricular activities without

losing their cultural identity."

But how much can an international student really adapt? Ilyago bemoaned that part of her experience, saying, "Although 1 always felt welcomed, there is always an extent to which you could not fit in. It seems like you will always be treated as an international student." For Ilyago, joining the extracurricular activities was easier said than done; she concluded, "The accent does not lie." Though Ilyago's experience was slightly dampened by the distance she sensed between herself and the native students, for others, it is specifically their successful integration into the school via extracurricular activities which helps them to acclimate. Jordana Benezra, a Moroccan student graduating this year, explained, "By joining clubs, I was able to master the language better, to make friends, and to learn a lot about the

Essay Contest Welcomes Submissions BY YAFFI SPODEK them to par with their Israeli

The Elie Wiesel Foundation

for Humanity has just begun

accepting submissions for its

annual Prize in Ethics Essay

Contest. The purpose of this

competition is to challenge col-

lege students to analyze the ethi-

cal issues that confront them in

today's complex world. Students

are asked to write a personal,

thought-provoking essay on any

topic of their choice provided that

it relates to ethics. The essay

should examine and discuss the

selected topic while raising ques-

tions and making rational argu-

Elie Wiesel later became a jour-

nalist and recorded his experi-

ences in the Nazi death camps of

Auschwitz and Buchenwald. In

1978, he was appointed chairman

of the President's Commission on

the Holocaust and in 1980 he

became the founding chairman of

the United States Holocaust

Memorial Council. A devoted

supporter of Israel, Wiesel has

staunchly defended the cause of

Soviet and Ethiopian Jews, and

rights activities, Wiesel has

received numerous awards,

including the Presidential Medal

Congressional Gold Medal and

the Medal of Liberty Award. In

1986, he won the Nobel Prize for

Peace, and soon after that, he and

his wife Marion established The

Elie Wiesel Foundation for

Humanity. On the foundation's

website, he explains his motive

behind creating the contest:

"Whatever the answer to essen-

tial questions of society and indi-

vidual human beings may be,

education is surely its major com-

ponent. However, what would

education be without its ethical

dimension? Many of us believe

them to be inseparable. That is

why this Prize in Ethics Essay

Contest was established by our

director of the Foundation for

Humanity, is an adjunct professor

of sociology at SCW, and she has

therefore chosen Yeshiva and

Stern Colleges as target schools

to receive marketing materials for

Alexandrea J. Ravenelle,

Foundation."

For his literary and human

the

U.S.

other persecuted groups.

Freedom,

of

A survivor of the Holocaust,

ments in favor of ethical action.

them to par with peers."

Ravenelle also applies her work from the foundation to her sociology classroom by "touching on real-life application theories," such as genocide. She wants her students to ponder the role that ethics plays in their own lives and she stresses that "ethics are not just limited to textbooks, but they have real-life implications." She impresses upon her students the message that they need to "fight to make the world a better place, to leave our children with a better legacy, to leave our children with a better world."

The Ethics Essay Contest is open to all undergraduate juniors and seniors who are enrolled fulltime in an accredited four-year university. The foundation provides a list of relevant topics for students to write about, but applicants are encouraged to write on any topic they feel strongly about, as long as it pertains to the field of ethics. Some suggested topics for this year's contest include describing a moral dilemma one has encountered, the relationship between religion and ethics, and the relationship between genocide and ethics.

The contest was created in 1989 by the foundation, and thousands of students from hundreds of universities have contributed thus far. Through their writings, they delve into their fears, hopes, concerns and beliefs, with regard to education and its ethical components. The essays are judged based on several criteria, including but not limited to content, intensity, originality, writing style and depth of feeling. Each submission is judged anonymously by a distinguished committee that reviews the essays, and afterward a jury that includes Elie Wiesel chooses the winners. Winners have the opportunity to meet Elie Wiesel personally. In addition, the first place winner receives \$5,000; the second place winner gets \$2,500; the third place winner picks up \$1,500; and the two who win honorable mentions collect \$500 each.

This contest is one of the most prestigious writing contests in the United States, and any student who is interested is urged to submit an entry. The power of the written word is truly phenomenal and should never be underestimated. In the words of Elie Wiesel, "Words can sometimes, in moments of grace, attain the quality of deeds." For more details and information, visit the organization's website, www.eliewieselfoundation.org, and click on "ethics prize." All submissions should be postmarked no later than December 9, 2005.

rooms, indeed all around the campus, symbolize a lot more than we think. Yeshiva University's doors have long been open to Jewish students from all of the continents, but when did Jewish women from all these countries start entering the doors of Stern College for Women? The process is worth historical examination.

According to SCW International Student Advisor Marga Marx, young ladies seeking a good education initially came from countries that were under communist regimes, causing their arrival here to be sometimes quite dramatic. Women came from Iran to be able to pursue an education at SCW. Recently, attendance has expandthe contest in an effort to increase the number of entries. Ravenelle has previously taught at Hofstra University and SUNY FIT, and began working with not-for-profits as a fundraiser for the National Council of Economic Education before becoming director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation.

"I joined the foundation because I wanted to make a difference," she explains. Ravenelle says the main goal of the foundation is to "fight indifference, intolerance, and injustice," and she views the organization as one that really deals with "the future of the world." Some of the key issues which are handled within the foundation include health care, education, activities in Israel, and work with Ethiopian-Israeli children "to help bring

All entries should be mailed to the following address: The Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity PO Box 1089 New York, NY 10150

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THE OBSERVER

FEATURES

~ × ×

International Students

continued from page 15 American culture."

The international students' adjustment requires their effort as well as the efforts of American students. American students can make the transition process much easier by welcoming and befriending international students.

What does the future have in store for us? The numbers show that more and more women are interested in coming to study at SCW; after all, it is a unique institution for women made up of an effective secular program that does not compromise the indispensable Torah education and spirit.

Over 100 international students are enrolled this semester, comprising roughly 12.5% of the student body at SCW. This is almost twice the amount of students enrolled five years ago.

The numbers are large but need to be qualified: what makes a student "international"? According to Marx, there are several categories of internation-

al students. "Either they are born in other countries and then moved to the United States, or they actually came directly from their country of birth."

Another relevant question is whether or not Canadians should be considered international students. When asked, one Canadian student said, "We are only six hours away by car, we speak English fluently and we live in North America. Why should we be considered international?" Nevertheless, Canadians continue to be officially considered international students but usually do not necessitate as much assistance as the overseas students.

Stern College provides a very rewarding and gratifying environment that is conducive for high caliber, yet enjoyable studies for international students. In turn, the women, upon graduating, will likely "spread the word" about the university in their native countries, thus ensuring the continued success of the college across the continents.

Sharsheret

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Contribution of Stern students to this cause is particularly relevant in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, though, as Tamar Warburg, a Stern alumna who interned at Sharsheret this past summer, pointed out, "Unfortunately, breast cancer is a relevant topic at any time during the year."

A program new to Sharsheret is their "Share a Shower with Sharsheret" which was created this past summer. It provides women with a chance to transform an ordinary bridal shower into a *chessed*. Sharsheret provides women undergoing cancer treatment with cosmetics, scarves and ban-

danas. In addition to bringing a "wishing well" gift to a shower, Sharsheret suggests that guests bring a cosmetic product or a scarf to donate to Sharsheret. This will be included in the Best Face Forward package that Sharsheret distributes to women with cancer. Sharsheret has an additional program called Busy Box, which is specially designed for mothers with small children. These boxes contain toys to entertain children. Another method of assistance is to bring a toy to the shower to help fill a toy box that Sharsheret sends to mothers with small children. To join the walk on October 16, call Sharsheret at 866-474-

Disengagement

2774.

continued from page 13

Emek Refaim, whose television screens normally show flashy music videos, were now all turned to the haunting images of Israeli soldiers escorting settlers from their homes. Ben Yehuda, normally teeming with an assortment of musicians, was now silent. Only the groups of youth and their crowds were audible, forlornly singing Hatikva, the Israeli national anthem. It was almost impossible to recognize the city that, just one week earlier, had overflowed with passion and emotion. The question of "what next?" that had been haunting us all summer would finally be answered. How would Israeli society respond? Would there be a civil war as many feared?

prouder to be a Jew than the week of and the week following the disengagement. While the whole world and the media sat about, expecting to see uprisings and major conflict, Israelis behaved as only brothers can. While brothers may fight and argue, there is little that can truly tear them apart. I remember watching a broadcast from Fox News, showing soldiers squirting blue soap at the settlers who had positioned themselves on top of a synagogue in Neve Dkalim. The broadcaster asked the reporter on the scene whether there was symbolism to the fact that the army was using blue soap. The reporter unhesitatingly responded that there was, as it symbol-

ized the victory of the "blue"

pro-disengagement supporters

over the "orange" settlers of

Neve Dkalim. While I cannot

verify or disprove this explana-

Placing Confidence in the Government in Light of Hurricane Katrina and 9/11

By Laya Pelzner

The security of American citizens has been on many people's minds over the past few weeks. Not only is the country grappling with the astronomical disaster of Katrina, Hurricane but Americans are commemorating fourth anniversary of the September 11. Many citizens feel that the government, on both the local and federal levels, was not fully prepared to handle these disasters. This begs the question: Do American citizens feel confident in the government's ability to handle future disasters that may arise?

According to Dr. Dennis Hoover, acting chairman of the economics department at Stern College for Women, the government failed to respond properly to Hurricane Katrina on all three levels: city, state and federal. His confidence in the government has "certainly declined since they didn't handle it [Katrina] well," he said. Yet, "I think I'm fairly confident that changes can be made," he continued, "so that we can do much better next time around."

"I don't think he [President Bush] is doing his job," said truck driver Dan Jusjen, whose friend's parents and sister lost their house during the hurricane. Jusjen said the government should have acted sooner and airdropped food and water to stranded individuals. "The government did nothing until the last minute," he continued, and he does not think that it is equipped to handle other disasters any better.

Alicia Eggert, an interior designer, took a few minutes out of her lunch break to share her thoughts. "A lot of people compare it [Katrina] to September 11," she said, "But I think that [Katrina] was much bigger. It affected states instead of one city."

"I was never very confident in the government to begin with. I guess it reinstates what I felt," Eggert commented, referring to her opinion that the government

tion, I felt that this was utterly absurd. One had only to look around to see that no one in Israeli society was declaring victory in this situation. Even those who supported disengagement did not view the removal of hundreds of families from their communities and homes as a victory. There were no victors in Israel; everyone was a victim. They were victims of terror and hate, which forced them to make difficult decisions. While they may have felt that disengagement was the right move, no Israeli rejoiced in choosing it. While one may perceive this as simply my own opinion on the matter, I would tend to disagree. In the days immediately following disengagement, you could not find an analyst, a politician, an Israeli who would publicly declare this a victory. On the news, even when the left-winged

did not respond properly to the hurricane.

Sy Syms School of Business student Sarah Melnick agrees that the comparison between Hurricane Katrina and 9/11 is not so clear. "I don't think that there's a relationship between September 11 and the hurricane," she said. "If anything, the terrorist attack is something they [the government] are more accountable for."

Melnick said that she sees a stronger correlation between the hurricane and the tsunamis than to 9/11 because she feels the government had more information about Hurricane Katrina than it did about terrorists destroying the World Trade Center. According to Melnick, "After the tsunamis they [the government] should have been more aware of natural disasters, and they should have been better prepared."

Jackie Wolfson, a young woman walking her dog on the corner of Lexington and 29th Street, thinks that America will experience more natural disasters such as floods, and terrorist attacks. "The terrorists will get us again," she said. "They're too smart for us and they're not afraid to die."

While many New Yorkers remain skeptical about the federal government's ability to prevent disasters, primarily terrorist attacks, others feel that the State of New York learned from 9/11 and is prepared for the worst.

Wolfson is not worried about terrorist attacks because she feels that New York handled the aftermath of 9/11 very well, and she believes that "the government has probably prevented more attacks than we will ever know about."

While State of New York Governor Attorney Nicole Mallo admits that the government was a little slow in handling Katrina, she blames that problem on the state government of Louisiana rather than on the federal government. In regard to Katrina, "the government should have funded a proper system," she said, "but I think here in New York we'd be better prepared for something of

supporters of disengagement were interviewed, they began with words of sympathy and support for those who were affected by the disengagement. Not one person, no matter how ardent of a supporter they may have been, declared- at least publiclydisengagement to have been a victory of any sort. All viewed it as a human tragedy. But most amazing was how people were not content with simply offering words of sympathy. There were hundreds of families now displaced, without homes and belongings. Whole communities such as Nof Ayalon opened their homes to the evacuees, assuring them that they would always have a home in Israel. I went to volunteer at the Shalom Hotel, one of the many hotels in Jerusalem which were temporarily housing the evacuees, only to be turned away

that magnitude." During an AIPAC event on September 15 in White Plains, New Jersey, former Congressman Jim Turner (D-TX) echoed Mallo's confidence in the state of New York. "The truth is, we are not as well prepared for a terrorist attack as we should be," he said. "There is only one state in our nation, and that is New York, that is prepared."

At the same AIPAC event, Mark Cohen, deputy director and chief counsel of the New York State Office of Homeland Security, admitted that Americans will probably be faced with stricter security measures. He also commented, "If one [terrorist attack] occurs, frankly, we failed," referring to the Office of Homeland Security.

Since 9/11, the state government has "put our money where our mouth is," said Cohen, by "providing funding as a state to those areas...that need it most." They have also established task forces to enhance efforts to prevent a biological attack and worked on establishing methods to ensure terrorists do not enter our country illegally.

"Most importantly," Cohen continued, "we have engaged the citizens" by encouraging them to report suspicious items they see on the public transportation system, an initiative that gave the New York government over 35,000 terror-related leads.

Terrorist attacks and deadly hurricanes are not pleasant issues to think about, and nobody wants to imagine worst case scenarios. Yet sometimes that is exactly what needs to be done in order to avoid unnecessary deaths.

Eggerd said that "the only way I would regain confidence [in the government] is sadly if there was another disaster and they responded in a way that made people feel better." In this time of difficulty, let Americans be idealistic in their anticipation that there will be no more disasters while taking the necessary precautions to safeguard the lives of every citizen.

because there was such an outpouring of volunteers. People from every background, secular, dati and charedi, all came with supplies and clothing for the settlers who were each allowed to travel with only with one bag from home. While all summer we feared the rifts that were being created in Jewish Israeli society, we now all observed the amazing ahavat chinam, brotherly love, pouring out. While walking to work a week after disengagement began, I passed by the bulletin board where I had become accustomed to checking for news of upcoming protests and tefillah rallies. Instinctively, I studied it as I had daily for the past two month. While one could still see the bright orange edges of the Gush Katif signs poking out, the board now primarily advertised upcom-

I can say that there have been few times that I've been

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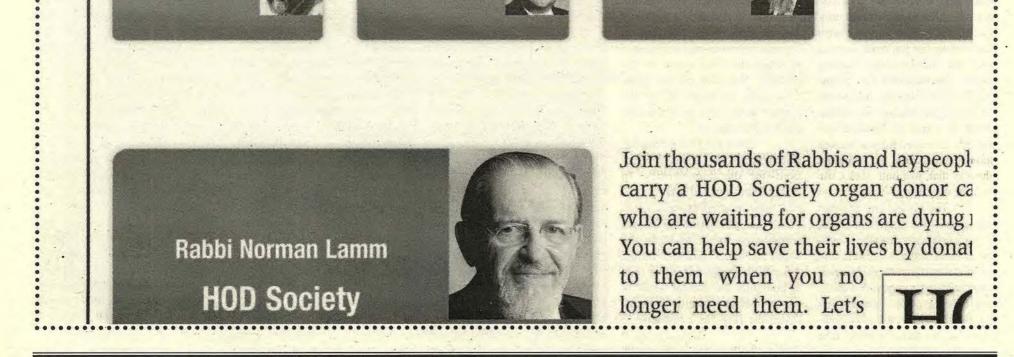
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THE OBSERVER

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 vidden [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 fatherin-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 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 continued on page 23

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."

d' "Old Country" Dance

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, infects the reader. "Two-thirds of a pun is peeeuw." 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 ouns 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

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 continued on page 23

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

"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

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A Porch Production: Brooklyn's Ultimate Block Party

BY RACHEL ADINA BORG (PROUD BROOKLYN RESIDENT)

Real Brooklyn isn't wearing the "Q" on your shirt or naming both your sons and daughters "Brooklyn." To her residents, the real joy of Brooklyn is in the hidden delights often overshadowed by artsy lofts and Park Slope. In the western corner of the heavily Orthodox Flatbush lies Ditmas Park, a small enclave of Victorian homes: the yuppie family's ultimate destination. Comprised of block after block of pristinely kept life-size doll houses, this tiny neighborhood was recently host to a "porch production." Brave New World Repertory, a theatre company struggling to bring classic theatre to Brooklyn, recently performed Christopher Segel's play adaptation of Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird," with six houses and some sidewalk on Westminster Street serving as the set to an audience of over 700.

Claire Beckman, artistic director of the theater company and Ditmas Park resident, advocated tirelessly for what the mayor's office calls a "one-time affair," but what residents are affirming as the first of many. Beckman also doubled as the grown-up Jean Louise in the production, narrating and introducing characters in the manner of show-and-tell as they ambled by Beckman's own sprawling home, transformed by old screen doors into the Finch porch. Advertised in the New York Times as free to the public, streets near Westminster drew huge lines hours before the called starting time. Residents from all five boroughs zealously guarded their places as they sipped drinks from coolers and lounged on beach chairs, loudly speculating on what the performance would be like.

, The performance itself started only a half hour late, a feat considering the huge crowds and cramped seating in the street. Westminster neighbors proudly volunteered, wearing company tshirts and holding placards as they waved members of the audience to their seats and attempted to maintain decorum.

Although the company overcame huge challenges intrinsic to outdoor theatre, the novelty of the setting was ultimately not enough to make this production rousing. The performances were adequate at most, although one bright note was 4th grader Taylor Morgan as Scout. Her clear voice and easy confidence managed to keep the audience interested throughout the long evening, as partial viewing and cramped, uncomfortable seating rankled even the most hardy subway rider.

Ezra Barnes's performance as Atticus was a bit too emphatic to be truly moving, although perhaps Gregory Peck's subtlety would have been unsustainable and disengaging for an outdoor crowd that was never completely still. The beauty of the outdoor setting at times saved the production and kept it real, even as the acting seemed forced. The poignancy of real leaves drifting down onto the street while Jem, Dill, and Scout played outside, and the true echo of outdoor voices kept the drama alive even when the performances seemed slack and microphones fazed in and out.

Another difficulty was that there was no star power. No one personality dominated the cast, making for some boring moments when Brooklynites simply hung their heads in the seasonable summer's eve and napped. The absence of a leading cast member maximized the star quality of the houses and blocks themselves. I never really appreciated those wide porches until I saw a judge's desk and witness stand comfortably accommodated for the court scene; and I never really noticed the beautiful trees on the block until seeing Scout's tire swing hanging like a pendulum in the real breezes from the tree shading the Finch home.

All criticisms aside, Brooklyn residents such as myself found this production within our own neighborhood to be joyful and compelling. Borough President Marty Markowitz put it best in his intermission speech: as an artistic creation, it is an act of reclaiming Brooklyn as "the cultural center of New York City," a title even the most unassuming Brooklyn resident would be proud of.

"Thumbsucker" Explores a Boy's Addiction to Understanding Himself

BY TIKVAH HECHT

There's something about coming-of-age movies. I suppose we're fascinated by this one transition, because of the idea that if you know where you come from, you know who you are. One generation rubs against the next, and if we can wriggle into the tiny space between the times maybe, maybe then, we'll know.

The movie of our generation might just be "Thumbsucker," directed by Mike Mills. It's a movie about addiction, blue col-

absurd.

The movie poster would lead you to believe Justin's problems are due to the fact that his parents act like children. But, as is often the case with even the highest quality print advertisements, this is not exactly the truth. Justin's parents never left that stage right after childhood when you learn that life is unclear and imperfect, and that you are a limited being, unclear and imperfect. Justin's parents consequently suffer from one of the very common side effects of this stage: they mistake confusion for adulthood and acceptance of their own confusion for maturity. They raise their children almost subconsciously, espousing their uncertainty, history and insecurities, not merely for the sake of honesty, but because they don't know what else to do. They move quickly through their incompetence, because, well, life is complicated and often painful, and that's just the way it is. The conduct of Justin's parents actually seems reasonable if you consider the movies they probably "came-of-age" to. Somewhere between "Carrie" and "Footloose," they got the message that parents suffer a false pretentiousness and a pen-

sion for know-it-all-ism that restricts their children and hides their own true nature. Honesty is better, and if you can admit you're only human, then you can pat yourself on the back and inflate your deflated ego. Honesty was so last generation.

Not that "Thumbsucker" or Justin opposes honesty; this generational thing is about building on the past. It's just that once you admit you don't know, etc. etc. what do you do next? Life still feels like it is not a haphazard thing and emotions still feel like they are more substantial than our fingers. Children still ask why. Enter addiction.

It's Worth Traveling to Brooklyn for The Alternative Café By SARA LEVIT menu is appealing

It's no secret that kosher restaurants often fall short of delivering what they are meant to deliver. Dining out should be an experience of unwinding with family and friends and, of course, lavishing your taste buds with delectable treats; yet more often than not, the experiences leave you stressed and frustrated with the lack of service, poor food, less than striking décor and outrageous prices. Thankfully, the long-awaited answer lies in The Alernativa Café Restaurante, also known as Bar-Muda, a dairy restaurant with an unusual fusion of Japanese and Austrian cuisine.

The Alternativa Café is tucked away almost unnoticeably on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn. While Bar-Muda's immediate location is not particularly trendy or beautiful, the restaurant's interior is warm and inviting. As you enter the restaurant, your eyes become drawn to the gold voile drapery, the warm yellow walls with mahogany engraved trim and the rattan chairs. Moroccan lamps adorn the high ceilings, and the roomy second floor maintains additional tables so there's no concern for overcrowding. Festive Latin music plays in the background, and you feel almost transported to another country for a siesta. On a weekday, the ambiance is very relaxed. The waiters are amiable and immediately provide customers with a table and two distinct menus.

The first, the café menu, is filled with several palatable options. The Austrian chef is prepared to please by creating an assortment of original dishes. I ordered the fish of the day, a grilled tilapia with garlic and lemon served over ratatouille. The presentation was perfect, with no inedible garnish or unnecessarily huge portions, as has become the American tradition. The taste was divine, leaving me without the disappointed feeling of going out to eat, only to be served a dish I could have made at home. Other fish options are miso and maple baked salmon fillet, Chilean sea bass fillet, and a red snapper fillet with bean agout, sun dried tomatoes and scallions, tomato, honey, and red wine vinegar sauce. The remainder of the café

menu is appealing as well. Among the appetizers are Tuna Tatki, a Japanese dish of seared red tuna filet with negi sauce, and a refreshing Caprese salad with fresh mozzarella, sliced tomatoes, roasted pine nuts and balsamic glaze lemon dressing. The cream of garlic soup is made with rosemary and croutons. The pasta section offers many enticing dishes, including a special of the day which, in my case, turned out to be Nioki, potato-filled pasta with pesto cream sauce. For those who wish for a healthier alternative, all pasta dishes can be made with whole wheat pasta. Also on the café menu are assorted pizzas. The Bar-Muda House Pizza is topped with arrugala goat cheese, parmesan and chilli oil. Desserts include hot chocolate cake, crem brule', and chilled avocado soup.

Keeping up with the current sushi trend, Bar-Muda also provides a second menu with a wide variety to choose from. The sushi is served on aqua glass blown plates.

Adding to the excitement of the restaurant is a lounge on the third floor beautifully decorated with white leather couches, chairs and ottomans, as well as glass walls that offer a view of the street. The bar has yet to be stocked as the restaurant is waiting to receive its liquor license, but when it does, it will offer live music and a D.J. The lounge can play host to your private parties, and you are presently free to bring your own liquor. This feature of the restaurant will surely make it a weekend sensation.

For those interested in a true dining out experience I highly recommend this restaurant. If you're tired of eating the same old Chinese and Italian food or are looking to have a truly enjoyable time, Bar-Muda is most certainly worth the trip over the bridge.

Café Bar-Muda is under the Hashgacha Temidis of the Kashruth Division of America and is accordingly certified OU dairy. All dairy products are Chalav Yisrael, all bread is Pas Yisrael, and all Grains are Yashan. The water is filtered.

The Alternativa Café Restaurante is located at 1635 Coney Island, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230. For more information call 718-336-8900.

lar addiction. Not to be confused with hedonism, addiction spirals around the main character of this story, an eighteen-year-old boy named Justin, in conjunction with. an honest yearning for rightness in the world. Justin's addictions aren't drugs in the classical sense. He merely needs something to make things better, and in searching for this, he runs through identity after identity, as if finding himself were the real narcotic. Lou Taylor Pucci, playing the hero, dons each new Justin with skill and ease. It is on the strength of this actor that the movie survives; if not for his plausible portrayal, it would be quite difficult to believe the supporting characters who often border on the

"Thumbsucker" is the type of custom-designed to movie encourage conversation upon conclusion, and for this reason, the actual conclusion of the movie is probably the least important part of the whole film. Even so, it is difficult to forgive "Thumbsucker" for not transcending the problems it lays out so clearly for us. It is an eerily persuasive work of art, almost like a drug itself, but it doesn't really go very far from where it started. Of course, we couldn't expect Justin to escape from the fact that life is complicated as well as difficult or impossible to

understand. But the movie doesn't exactly answer how he will get away from the carelessness of his parents in the future without stabilizing himself through complete devotion to another addiction. We're still left wondering how Justin is going to deal with the unknown. And the most important question of all—how is he going to raise his own children?

Of course, what "Thumbsucker" really wants us to ask is how are we, a generation of addicts, going to bring up our own children? If the movie illustrates anything, it's that the most dangerous stage of childhood is the stage that makes you believe you've left childhood long ago, while the most dangerous drug is the one you don't even realize is a drug at all. I keep thinking about a line Justin's mother says after being asked what her addiction is. She half smiles, half laughs and isn't exactly happy. "Well," she responds, "raising a seventeen-year-old is a trip."

WW.

OCTOBER 2005

THE OBSERVER

FASHIO

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.



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

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 directwo different categories. The coltion to 50's retro. Models wore lections either pronounce the knee length high waisted pencil artistic aspect of their clothing skirts in 50's silhouettes with big floral Hawaiian prints. Lapore with dramatic lighting and huge jewelry, or stress the designer's then added pleats and ruffles for intention to make the clothing dimension. Woman's Wear Daily more wearable and practical. says in their September 15 publi-As Fashion Week comes to a cation, in an article entitled "In close, two designers are notable everything turn turn turn" that

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

this part of the collection "is in the week on September 11 to a slew of fans including, Marcia Gay Harden, Jamie Lynn Discala (Sopranos), Beverly Mitchel (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

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.

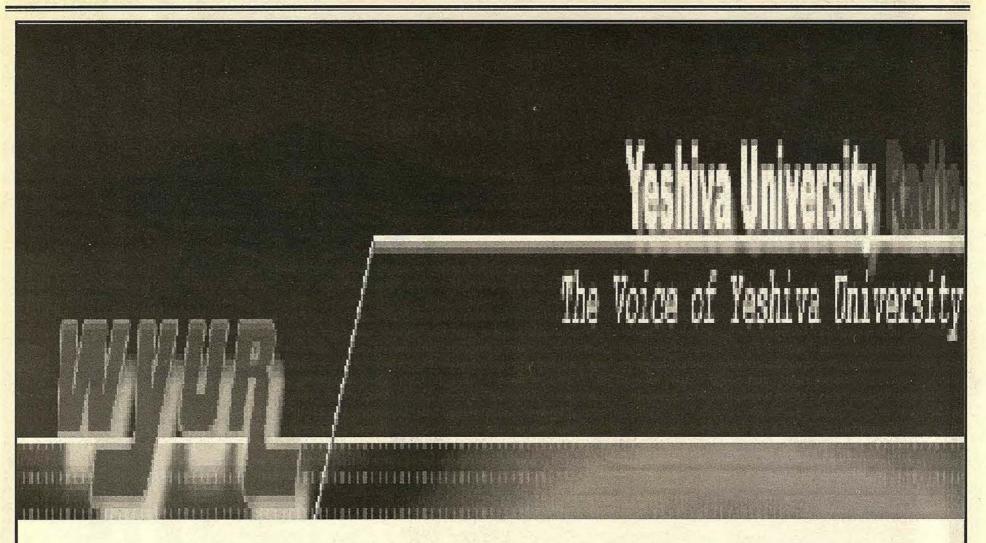
Kirschenbaum, a Sy Syms stu-



Nanette LaporeFashion Runway Photo Credits: Chani Kirschenbaum

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THE OBSERVER



WYUR Welcomes You !

Who: WYUR, Yeshiva University's **Radio STATION!**

What: PARTY AND FOOD!

Where: WILF CAMPUS Schottenstein Cultural Center (3rd floor)

When: Wednesday, September 28th - 9:30pm (starts after the Israel Club event)

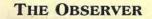
Come and take part in one of the largest activities on campus!

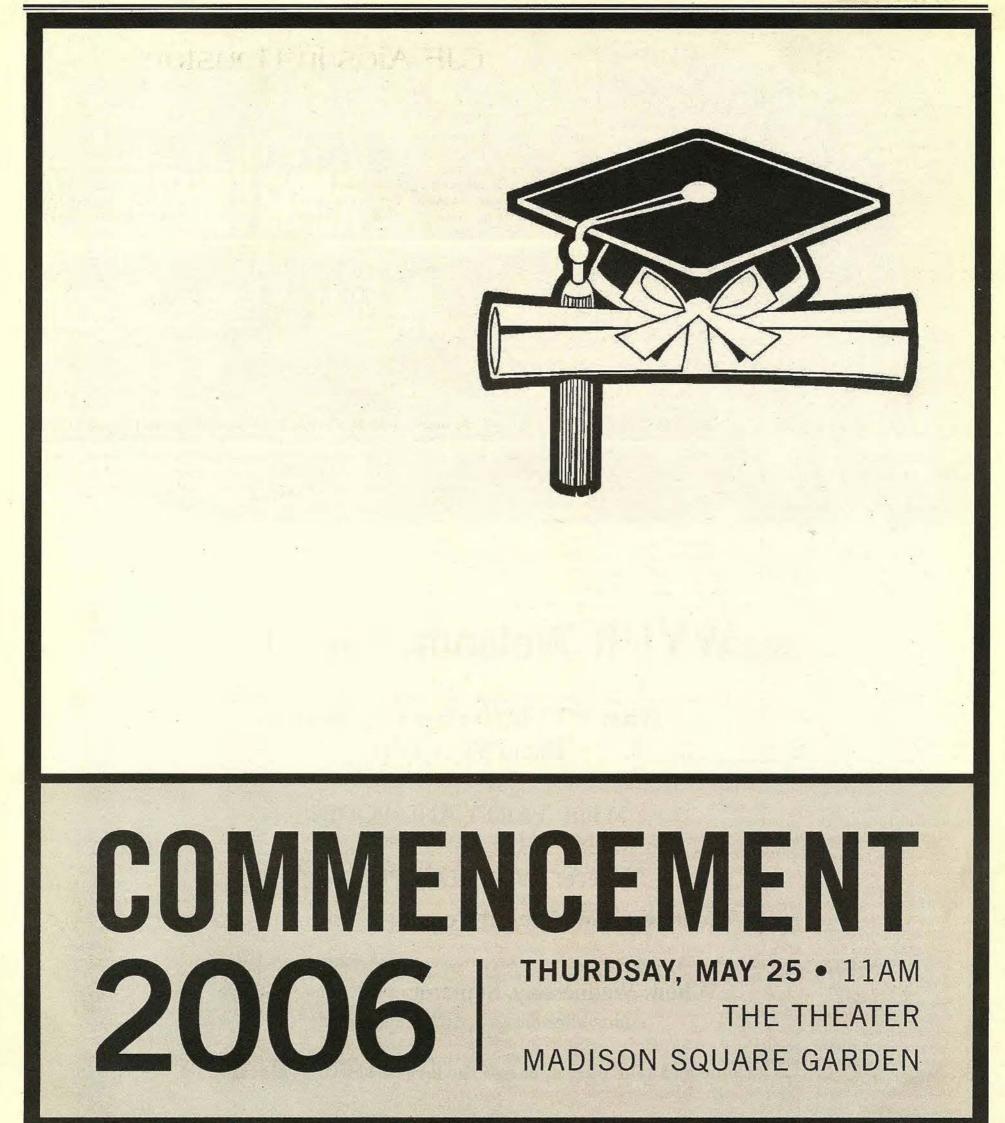
Huge Dougie's Buffet will be served!

For more information e-mail us at Radioyu@gmail.com Or call Rachel at 646-872-7548

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THE OBSERVER





SENIORS, HAVE YOU FILED FOR GRADUATION?

IF NOT, PLEASE PICK UP KIT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR ON YOUR CAMPUS

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THE OBSERVER

Disengagement

continued from page 16

ing shiurim 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 Mkarev 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."

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 "out-

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.

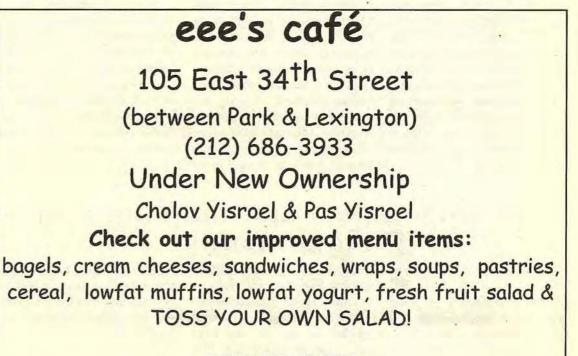
CJF Aids in Houston

"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 Thurday 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.



SMOOTHEEES

Fforde is often at his best in

raged

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.

Breakfast Special: (no substitutions or extras) egg on a roll/bagel & regular coffee \$1.95 +tax 2 eggs on a roll/bagel & regular coffee \$2.95 +tax Lunch Special: Soup & ½ sandwich* \$5.95 +tax \$6.95 +tax Soup & whole sandwich* *Tuna, egg salad, or Fields & Feta End of the day special: (from 4:30pm - close)* Buy 2 bagels, get two free (min 4 per purchase) Buy 1 muffin, get one free *based on availability 10% Student Discount with student ID (min \$5.00 excluding tax) OPEN SUNDAYS

OCTOBER 2005

THE OBSERVER

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Breast Cancer Awareness and Education

People may be born with an

BY ELISHEVA LEVINE & CHANIE LADAEW

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.

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

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.

put people at risk for developing

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 patientpreferred 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 environ-

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.

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 Loss of Gush Katif

BY LEORA NAAMAT

Aleí 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 insectfree 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

the real hydrogen economy. To have an ideal hydrogen economy, the hydrogen must come from renewable sources rather than to double in order to take on the fossil fuels so that we stop release ing 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

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.

be created with electricity as well. The electrical generating capacity in the country will have 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).

ment 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

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,

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

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

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THE OBSERVER

SCIENCE & HEALTH

FEIG'S FAST FACTS: "To Be orNot To Be ... Vaccinated"

BY JESSICA FEIG

Do you remember the pre-school visits to the physician at the start of every school year? Well, those doctor days are virtually over for teens. Unless an epidemic strikes, there isn't much that will send a robust teenager to the physician. However, young adults should be cognizant of various health issues and toss away their "I'm invincible" philosophy.

Meningococcal disease, commonly referred to as meningitis, has been receiving quite a bit of attention from the media. On campuses around the nation there have been many reports regarding the death of collegeaged adults from meningitis. This has sparked concern to wary parents whether they should be encouraging their children to be vaccinated.

Meningitis can be contracted in either its bacterial or viral form. The disease is spread through the air via respiratory secretions such as coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing personal items like drinking glasses, utensils cigarettes. and Symptoms may appear two to ten days after exposure, but they usually appear within five days. Symptoms of the disease include a high fever, stiff neck, headache, vomiting, seizures and a purple rash. Diagnosis can be difficult due to its flu-like symptoms, but if not treated early, meningitis can cause swelling of the membranes covering the brain-the meninges. In addition, hearing loss, brain damage, kidney failure, seizures, chronic nervous system problems and the loss of limbs can result. Ultimately, the brain will lack blood and oxygen and macabre results will follow.

People living in crowd-

ed quarters and individuals with weakened immune systems are more susceptible to develop meningitis; thus, college students are vulnerable. Freshmen are particularly at risk since they are making a transition from their capacious homes into dormitories and have the added burden of stress in their new environment.

Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, are the drugs of choice to treat meningitis. Fortunately, there is a safe and effective vaccine to prevent meningitis. Side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days, are mild and infrequent. Since very few people have had severe allergic reactions after the vaccine, the risk is very small.

After vaccination, immunity to the disease develops within seven to ten days and remains effective for approximately three to five years. As with all health-related issues, your family physician can help you make the decision that is best for you after weighing all the risks and benefits. Physician Assistant Mary Little of Student Health Services remarks, "The vaccine is recommended but not mandatory. At this point, it's still an optional thing." Out-of-town students and anyone without a primary healthcare provider should seek counsel from Student Health Services, located in Brookdale Hall, room 2B.

Note: The vaccine is available for 95 dollars.

Student Health Service Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Fri.-8:30 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm -2:30 pm

Rethinking "Junk"

BY ESTHER FISCHER

It is a well-known concept, iterated by molecular biology teachers all over the world: "Over 95 % of the gene consists of non-coding DNA (introns), which'is commonly referred to as 'junk'; it does not code for RNA or seem to serve any other legitimate purpose."

Assistant Professor of Hematology and Molecular Genetics Dr. John Greally questioned the idea of "junk" DNA. Speaking to alumni and current students of YU in the Schottenstein lounge on September 14, he elaborated on his research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. A young doctor and scientist native to Ireland, Greally began his talk provocatively with the title Sequencing the genome was the easy part...The new science of epigenomics." Epigenomics is the study of how cellular differentiation controls which genes to express and which ones to silence. It is a way of regulating genes without changing the nucleotide sequence; in other words, even without mutations, humans would still have genetic diseases. One main regulator of this complex process is cytosine methylation. If a methyl group is added to the cytosine nitrogenous base, the gene is turned off by making the chromatin, DNA wound up on histones proteins, pack together so that certain sites become inaccessible.

Why is gene regulation interesting? We already know one type of disease which is related to malfunctions in gene regulation: cancer. In cancer, the tumor suppressor genes are switched off and the oncogenes are switched on. Understanding gene regulation would greatly expand our knowledge about cancer. Greally also highlighted other diseases as targets for observation. He mentioned a study (Galbraith, 1964)

of a generation of mice that displayed a mutation, which made some of them blonde (the parents were brown), obese and diabetic. This phenomenon was attributed to the Agouti pigment gene, which was found to be present not only in the hair follicles but in other tissues as well (it was found to be a hormonally related protein). The group of scientists observed that this generation of mice displayed the Agouti protein with the insertion of a virus-like sequence, reminiscent of the repetitive sequences found in "junk" DNA, which caused the adverse effects in varying degrees in the offspring. It was found that this sequence could be silenced cytosine methylation. by Furthermore, the more folate the mother consumed, the more the genome became methylated and the less chance she had of giving birth to a pup that would develop diabetes.

We observe that a mother's diet during pregnancy affects expression of genes in the offspring that may lead to disease later in life. Can this principle be extended to human beings? The audience was then made aware of "the hungry baby" syndrome. This syndrome refers to babies who are born with an unusually low birth weight and appear extremely hungry and agitated. This condition is thought to be due to placental problems: during pregnancy the mother's placenta becomes ruptured, which depletes the flow of blood to the baby, causing it to be nutrient upon · birth. deficient Unsurprisingly, these babies have a higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes: Is this a coincidence or can it be attributed to a similar mechanism as observed in the mice?

Another disease caused by malfunctioning DNA regulation is Beckwitt-Wiedeman Syndrome (BWS), in which babies are born with unusually large organs. This

Global Warming to Blame for

syndrome is similar to what has been observed in certain cloned animals (in animals it is called Large Offspring Syndrome). Both syndromes are due to problems with epigenetic regulation.

What influences epigenetic regulation? At this point, Dr. Greally gave us an important piece of advice: "Eat your greens." Animal studies by their lab showed that mice that were fed a high-fat, low vitamin diet (meant to represent the common American diet) showed a much higher incidence of tumors (around 42%) than mice fed a recommended balanced diet (those mice displayed a 0% incidence of tumors). The tentative conclusion is that there seems to be a correlation between a healthy diet and proper gene regulation. We have seen that diet, age and drugs influence epigenetic regulation, and that these effects can be long-lasting.

The research is all part of The Human Epigenome Project, in which AECOM is involved. It is an extension of The Human Genome Project and aims to define the epigenetic landscape of the genome in order to understand more about gene regulation and what it has to do with noncoding DNA. This has potentially huge implications not only on the understanding of diseases such as cancer or diabetes, but it can be argued that almost all diseases can be thought to have an epigenetic basis.

Interested in getting involved? The best way to do this, said Dr. Greally, is to study bioinformatics. The field currently displays a large gender gap, with men dominating the subject. "We need more women to be comfortable with computers for analyzing data," he said. It is a highly valuable tool in epigenetics and will be used extensively in the project. That way, we can become part of the future.

Hydrogen Fuel

et.

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comes from nuclear power and 7% from hydroelectric power. Solar cells, wind turbines, geothermal power, and other sources

plants will be replaced.

The electrical-generation problem is probably the biggest barrier to the hydrogen economy. Once the technology is refined and becomes inexpensive, fuelcell vehicles powered by hydrogen could replace gasoline internal combustion engines over the course of a decade or two. Changing the power plants over to nuclear or solar may not be so easy. Nuclear power has political and environmental problems, and solar power currently has cost and location problems. We can only hope that this fuel problem is solved. Not only will this issue transpire to future generations, but it will affect us as well. Therefore, it is in our best interest to not only do what is best for us right now, but what is best for the future of our plan-

Hurricane Katrina?

BY ELANA MEYERSDORF

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, hundreds have been left homeless, hungry and heartbroken. The enormity of the damage has led many to ask the question: "How did this happen?" In scientific circles, global warming is being discussed as a possible cause. A recent study conducted by Peter Webster and his colleagues of Georgia Institute of the Technology shows an 80% increase of number 4 and 5 tropical cyclones in the past 35 years. This dramatic increase is consistent with intensifying global warming that is occurring due to anthropogenic (humangenerated) greenhouse gases. There is no doubt that tropical storms and heat are intrinsically related, as tropical

water to drive their cyclonic winds. However, the question remains as to whether there is a direct causal nexus between ris-

storms feed off warm ocean own study of tropical storms, corroborated Webster's findings of increasing duration and fierceness.

Though the evidence

generate only 5% of the powerhardly enough to make a difference.

In the future, it seems likely that one of two things will happen to create the hydrogen economy. Either nuclear power or solar power generating capacity increase dramatically. will Remember that in a pure hydrogen economy, the electrical generating capacity will have to approximately double because all of the energy for transportation that currently comes from oil will have to be replaced with electrically generated hydrogen. So the number of power plants will double, and all of the fossil fuel ing temperatures and severe tropical storms. In the study conducted by Webster, two independent variables were observed: the number of tropical storms in the past 35 years and the intensity of these storms.

Webster found that the number of storms in this time span did not increase significantly. Between the years 1975 and 1989, researchers counted 16 category 4 and 5 hurricanes, while in between the years 1990 and 2004, there were a staggering 25. "There's a strong suggestion of a link," says meteorologist Kerry Emanuel of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Emanuel, in his

pointing to a strong correlation seems solid, scientists are reluctant to claim unequivocal causality due to other influencing factors. Christopher Landsea, a meteorologist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division in Miami, says that in the 1970s, storms were not measured on the same scale as they are now, and thus, such comparisons are inaccurate. Additionally, critics object to the lack of discernable evidence as to how global warming causes these storms to increase in ferocity, as well as to the inability of

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THE OBSERVER

SPORTS

SPOILERS OF THE SEASON KY decade. Coming up the Yankees Tampa Bay (three games). If they There are six great teams still Mets".

BY BELLA BELSKY

For the major league baseball teams who are out of the races, now is the chance to get their revenge and determine which teams will be in the playoffs and which will not. As Toronto Blue Jay Vernon Wells put it, "it's fun to be in a situation where we have a chance to knock them (the Yankees) out of the playoffs." (New York Times: Sports Monday) There are approximately seventeen games left to the 2005 regular season (all stats as of September 15th). The chase is on to see which team will come out on top.

The importance of the spoiler teams in baseball can be seen when looking at the match-up between the Yankees and Devil Rays. A major contributor to the Yankees' less than stellar record is their poor performances when playing the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. This season they have lost 11 of 19 games with the Rays and have a record of 83 and 62. The Yankees trail Boston in the AL East by a game and a half and are a half game back in the Wild Card. Last season New York won 15 of the 19 games they played against the Rays, and ended the season with a record of 101 and 61. In 2004 the Yanks won seven more of their games played vs. Tampa Bay. Those seven wins would have a huge impact on their record now. They would put the Yankees in the lead in the AL East by five and a half games with only seventeen left to play. Only winning eight of nineteen games against the divisions' last place team, the Devil Rays, is an embarrassment when you compare the teams, their records, players, potential, and payrolls.

AL Wrap-up;

AL EAST:

The Boston Red Sox, at 85 and 61, are clinging to a slim one and a half game lead over the Yankees, who have stormed back. All three remaining division teams are out of the race and have the role of spoilers if they wish to take advantage of it. Boston has been inconsistent over the season and has only been able to maintain their lead until now because the Yankees were terrible at the start of the season. The Red Sox were able to stay a few games over .500 until they improved after the All-Star break. Now the Red Sox have a slightly harder schedule with a four game series against the Oakland Athletics (A's) who are fighting for the AL West division or the wild card spot. The division title is up for grabs.

decade. Coming up the Yankees will play six against Toronto, eight against Baltimore, and another three against Boston to close out their season. Toronto and Baltimore both have the opportunity to spoil the Yankees bid for the playoffs. However, if the Yankees can win their games against the weak teams they have a great shot. If the Yankees beat the Orioles and Blue Jays then they can even capture first place. Determination can go a long way and the Yankees have started to look hungry and play with a visible energy and urgency.

The Baltimore Orioles stayed in the race through the All-Star break and then they started to revert back to their old losing habits. At first they seemed to be in the game to stay as 'the real deal', but that did not last. Now, at 69 and 76, the only fun they can have is the chance to determine which team will make it into the postseason, the Yankees or the Red Sox.

The Toronto Blue Jays, now 72 and 73, have not been a first place team for a while and now they find themselves in the familiar role of spoiler. They too have the ability to spoil the season for either the Yankees or Red Sox if they take advantage of the games played against both teams (ten total).

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays have played spoiler the whole season⁻in winning eleven of nineteen games vs. the Yanks. But, whether their efforts are successful remain to be seen because the Yankees are right in the middle of the pennant race and the wild card race. Waiting at the end of Tampa Bay's schedule are all teams who are playoff contenders. They play a three game series against the Red Sox, Angels, and Athletics. If they capitalize on their opportunity, the Devil Rays can determine the winners of the AL East, AL West, and the wild card race.

AL CENTRAL:

The Chicago White Sox, at 88 and 57, have the best record in the American League and were thought to be untouchable for most of the season. However, their lead in the AL Central has considerably diminished. They now have only a four and a half game lead on Cleveland and still have to play six games against them. For Chicago to hold outand win their division they cannot lose to teams like Detroit and Minnesota. The Cleveland Indians, at 84 and 62, have made a big surprising comeback and are now only four and a half games behind the White Sox for the division title and they are first place in the wild card race. They can get to the playoffs if they beat teams like Kansas City (seven games) and Tampa Bay (three games). If they can pick up a few games on the White Sox (six games) they may even win the division,

The Minnesota Twins, at 75 and 70, are out of the playoff race. Usually they are right in the center of the action, but this season they will have to revert to the role of spoilers. They have the opportunity to do some damage when they play seven games against the White Sox and three games against the Athletics.

The Detroit Tigers, at 67 and 78, have had their usual disappointing season. Detroit does play four games against the Angels and four against the White Sox. It remains to be seen whether they have the role of spoiler in them after losing all games to playoff contenders in the beginning of September.

The Kansas City Royals, at 48 and 96, are dead last in their division and can claim the worst record in baseball. Kansas City is very familiar with the role of spoiler as they have been the last place team for many years. This month they have already helped the Indians playoff bid by taking two of their three games against the White Sox. The Royals hope to defeat the Indians in the seven games they play before the end of the season.

AL WEST:

The race in the AL West has become very interesting to watch with the Angels constantly squandering their division lead. As it stands now, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and Oakland Athletics are tied for first place with records of 81 and 65. They are also both three games back in the wild card. The Athletics appear to have the harder schedule with four games against Boston and three with Minnesota, but they are battling and keep coming back against the Angels. The biggest series for both teams comes when they will face each other in the last week of September. This division is up for grabs.

The Texas Rangers, at 72 and 75, have been disappointing, especially at the end of the season. After the improvements of last season (89 wins) they expected to contend. However, the Rangers do have a shot to get their revenge on both the Angels, who they play six times, and maybe the Athletics, who they play three times. Texas can be the team to determine who wins the AL West. The Seattle Mariners, at 64 and 82, are last in their division and have had an extremely disappointing season. They are last in their division after winning 116 games in 2001, only four years ago. Seattle is a good team with good players, but they underachieved this year.

There are six great teams still in the running to make the playoffs and only four will make it in. The Yankees, Red Sox, Indians, White Sox, Athletics, and Angels all have a chance and will all go head to head at the end of the month. We are in for some of the most exciting races that may not be decided until the very last game.

<u>NL Wrap-up:</u> NL EAST:

The Atlanta Braves, at 84 and 63, are in first place in the NL East by six games. As usual they appear to have the NL East title wrapped up. Their surge in the second half combined with the slumps in the rest of the division has propelled them to their position on top. The rest of the NL East, except for New York, is in the run for the wild card.

The Florida Marlins, at 78 and 69, are only a half game out of the wild card race. However, their schedule is such that they play only division rivals the rest of the season. If the Marlins are able to take advantage of their opponents and keep up with Houston, then they have a chance to slip into the playoffs.

The Philadelphia Phillies, at 78 and 69, are also a half game back in the wild card for a tie with Florida. If they can win the series against Florida and beat the slumping Reds and Mets then they may be able to pull out ahead in the wild card race. They too have to keep up with Houston who is playing really well and has an easier schedule.

The Washington Nationals, at 76 and 71, surprised everyone by going from the last place Expos of 2004 to being the contending Nationals in 2005. No one predicted that the Nats would amount to much this season, but they are still hanging around. If they can find it within themselves to play like the hungry team they were in the first half then they may have a shot at the wild card. However, thus far with their 7 and 7 record this September it does not look like they are going far.

NL CENTRAL:

The St. Louis Cardinals, at 94 and 54, have the best record in Major League Baseball and on the night of September 15th they became the first team in the major leagues to clinch a playoff berth. They have been a great team the past few years and their talented players have lived up to expectations. When the playoffs begin in October the Cards are a team that has what it takes to make it through.

The Houston Astros, at 78 and 68, have surprised everyone with their huge comeback. On June 1st they had a record of 20 and 32, and they were fourteen games out of first place in the NL Central. With the help of their excellent pitching staff, made up of former Yankees Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte, and Roy Oswalt as the top three, they have made it to first place in the NL wild card race. Houston has the best shot in the wild card race because of their reliable pitching staff. Furthermore, the other serious wild card contenders are from the NL East and will all be playing against each other, each trying to knock the other one out.

The Milwaukee Brewers, at 73 and 73, have been their usual average team. They are five behind in the wild card race, but that is as good as out barring an unforeseen collapse of the leaders. Milwaukee does not really have a shot to act as spoilers either because they are not playing any of the contending teams in for the rest of the season (besides for three games at Houston).

The Chicago Cubs, at 72 and 75, are out of the playoff race. They do have a great shot to spoil the season for the Astros when they face them for seven games. After a strong season last year (89 wins) the Cubs had expected to contend. But Chicago has not played well and deserves its fate this season.

The Cincinnati Reds, at 68 and 77, have been a very disappointing team to watch. The season is pretty much over for them and they will not even have a say as to who will make it into the playoffs. Cincinnati has one series' left with the Phillies, but that is not enough to decide anything. The Pittsburgh Pirates, at 58 and 87, are at the bottom of the National League. They finished in fifth place last year too, although with a more respectable record. Even though they are a young team the Pirates do not seem to have made any improvements this season. Pittsburgh does have a four games series left with Houston, but with the way they are playing they will be no

The New York Yankees are only one and a half games out in the east and a half game out in the wild card. This is the first time the Yankees have chased in a

The New York Mets, at 71 and 75, have been labeled the "50-50" team and "So-So" team throughout the season. New York has had many problems throughout the season with their pitching and offense (they only have one hitter with a batting average around or over .300) which overall have been big disappointments. They were right in middle of the race for much of the season until they dropped fifteen of their last eighteen games. That steep September slide has cost them the season and a chance at the playoffs. Winning now, this year, is not an option. Their future is not now, but there is always next year, so much for the "New

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Playoffs

continued from page 26 match for the Astros. NL WEST:

The San Diego Padres, who have a record of 72 and 73, are sitting atop the NL West. They are under .500, and yet they have a solid six game lead over the LA Dodgers. That is an embarrassment to baseball, having a team without a winning record get in to the playoffs. There are many other good teams who deserve to get in and have more wins. For their sake they should rack up some wins or they will not get far in the post season when they face far superior teams.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, at 67 and 79, are only five and a half games out of first. But this is a big step backward from where they were at the end of last season when they accumulated 93 wins and stood atop the NL West with the division title. Hopefully, LA has only hit a bump in the road. All hope is not lost yet, as the Dodgers have an easy schedule the rest of the way and finish the season with a series at San Diego. If they completely dominate their opponents the rest of the way and the Padres go into a slump, then who knows what will happen?

The San Francisco Giants, at 66 and 79, have also fallen a long way from their level of play last season when they had 91 wins. The absence of Barry Bonds for the majority of the season was definitely a big factor in contributing to their disappointing record. However, the Giants are still right behind LA in the division. They still have a series ahead of them with LA and San Diego so all may not be lost yet.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, at 66 and 80, have been a team that is stuck in the shadows ever since their dramatic World Series title in 2001. No one really expects much of the team. They have had many talented players down in the desert, but nothing has come from it this season. However, if the Dodgers or Giants are able to challenge San Diego, the Diamondbacks will get a chance to have a say in the result when they face each team at the end of the month.

The Colorado Rockies, at 59 and 86, are close to being tied with Pittsburgh for the worst record in the National League. They do not seem to improve at all with time. But they are still around every season to shake things up a little. Before this season comes to a close the Rockies will face both the Padres and the Giants. Maybe they can make themselves heard then.

Every team's schedule for September is set up so that they overwhelmingly play their division rivals. September is the month of 'nail-biting', monumental games, and exciting pennant races that will decide who gets into the postseason, which teams are the real deal and which ones just cannot pull it off. The pressure is on as well as the spotlight. We will see who takes advantage of the spoiler role and who will rise to the challenge and make it to the playoffs.

A New Season with High Hopes

BY BELLA BELSKY

A new season always brings high hopes, high expectations and the opportunity for a fresh start. For the 2005-2006 season, the Stern College athletic teams will strive to reach new heights and achieve new records. The basketball, tennis and fencing teams all had good seasons last year, although their progress fluctuated. Many of the Lady Macs received honors, both academic and based on individual performance, and there were accomplishments all around. Now for a sneak peek into the anticipated new season:

The Lady Macs basketball season does not start until November 21, but it is not too soon to start preparing. Last season was the first time in four years that the team did not win the Betty Shabazz Memorial Tournament. This year they hope to reclaim that honor. After a tough loss in the playoffs, the Lady Macs are looking to rebound. There were five seniors on last year's team, which will result in many player changes this season. Tryouts took place on Wednesday, September 7 and Monday, September 12 at Basketball City in Pier 63 (23rd Street). Lillian Almo, last season's team captain, reported, 'There was a great turnout and the team looks really solid. The new players are very talented and can fit right in [with the team]." She identifies the key to the sea-

son as "being able to play as a team, play strong, and be confident." Additional support from fans that come to cheer them on can help the Lady Macs rise to the challenges they will face and come out stronger than ever.

Stern's tennis team faced many obstacles last season. but came through stronger than expected. The Lady Maccabees had a hard time pulling together a team, but this year they hope to attract interested players to the already talented team. Tryouts had been scheduled to take place on August 31 at the Binghamton Tennis Club in Edgewater, New Jersey, where the team plays its home games, but were rescheduled for Tuesday, September 13 for technical reasons. The first game of the season occurred on September 14. Joe Bednarsh, acting director of Athletics and Physical Education of Yeshiva University, related that there was a good response from Stern students to the email sent out about the rescheduled tryouts. Seven games were played in September and one is scheduled in October, which is followed by the Skyline Conference Tournament in early November. The team's added experience should make them fierce competitors in the conference and should contribute to a very exciting season.

The women's fencing team is the only team to play their home games in Stern College in the 11th floor gym. Tryouts occurred on Wednesday, August 31 and

Wednesday, September 7. There was a good turnout and the tentative members for the new team include five returning fencers and an additional 14 who tried out and hope to join the team. Because most fencers from last year's team graduated last May, the team will consist mostly of "newbies" who can compete as first-string fencers, which will give them hands-on practice and the opportunity to gain a lot of experience. This season there will be two captains, Leora Ross and Frida Fridman. Ross stated, "One of the team's biggest challenges is being able to stay in shape over the month long break for the holidays." She also said that the key to the season is "for the team to play their best and kick as much butt as possible." The Lady Maccabees' fencing season will begin in early December and finish in late February. Last year's team showed many significant individual accomplishments. If they continue to show this kind of potential there is no telling how far they can go.

New standards can be set and new records and honors achieved. This season, show some school spirit and turn out to cheer on the Lady Maccabees to victory. Good luck to all the Lady Maccabees. We are rooting for you.

CJF Kickoff Event

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relationship with G-d," he said. "Our mission during the month of Elul is to find shleimut (wholeness) in ourselves toward ourselves, society, and God. Through that, we ensure the future of the Jewish people by guaranteeing the eternality of the Jewish people."

Although the CJF has set lofty goals for itself, those involved are convinced they can be reached. "YU has a tremendous ability to help Jews and people around the world in ways that we have not yet explored and have not yet been able to channel," affirmed Rabbi Joseph. "The

And if the interest aroused in the CJF during its kickoff week is any indication of what's to come, the staff was accurate in its aspirations. Students' eagerness and curiosity, combined with strategic location and publicity on the part of the CJF, produced an overwhelming turnout. "On the first day alone 700 students signed up on the uptown campus. Over 400 signed up at Stern. We're reaching over 70% of the student population, up from 20%," reported Rabbi Brander.

well as the world at large."

"On campus we raised \$3,000, in shuls \$1,200, and through the joint fund with OU and RCA, \$400,000," said Hindy Poupko, a presidential fellow at the CJF. For more information on all CJF programming, contact Hindy Poupko at (212) 960-5263.

global warming is indeed to

blame for Hurricane Katrina

and the increasing amount of

tropical cyclones around the

world, only future scientific

research can determine.

PLAYER PROFILE: Lillian Almo: Former Captain of the Lady Macs Basketball Team

BY BELLA BELSKY

Lillian Almo, a Seattle native, came to Stern upon high school graduation. Her passion for the game led her and a few

friends to establish their high school's first basketball team. After playing four vears on her

Medgar Evers in the championship game. The Lady Macs reached the playoffs as well, but they were later eliminated after a loss in the second round. For her individual athletic accomplish-



team by helping out with the coaching. Lillian relayed that, "at first glance people see a wimpy team, but we put up a good fight and change their outlook."

Lillian is an early childhood

education major in Stern. She enjoys all sports, music, and spending time with her friends. For Almo, being on a team while in Stern helped make her experience here more fun and gave her an added comfort zone while making new friends. In addition, the many hours spent practicing and traveling to games required her to quickly learn to balance her schoolwork and practice time and enabled her to manage her time better.

CJF's goal, in accord with President Richard Joel's vision, is to take those tremendous resources and channel them to impact Jews around the world as

Global Warming

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scientists to predict such natural disasters.

While the final intensity of hurricanes such as Katrina cannot be predicted, the studies done by Webster and Emanuel indicate a heightened possibility of similarly violent storms in the future. Roger Pielke, director of the Center for Science Technology and Policy

joined Lady Macs for four years of college basketball. Research at the University of Most of her Colorado, says, "We should pay playing time even greater attention to preparoccurred in ing for the inevitability of future her last two intense hurricanes striking vulyears on the nerable locations around the team. world." As for whether or not In Almo's last season, she

From left to right: Lillian Almo, Jessica Epstein, Janna Almo

ments, Almo was named to the All-Star Conference team. She also received the coach's award.

This season, Almo will view the games from a different perspective, from the sidelines. However, she will continue to contribute her expertise to the

Almo reports that she feels pride in representing Stern College.

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was named captain of the Lady

Macs along with Jessica Epstein.

Lillian helped lead her team to

second place in the Betty

Shabazz Memorial Tournament,

losing by only five points to

IDF Captain Elliot Chodoff

The Disengagement and its Aftermath: A Personal Perspective

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