



# OBSERVER

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## YU Rallies to Protest Iran and Commemorate Kristallnacht

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Amidst pouring rain, many individuals from diverse backgrounds came out on Wednesday night, November 9, the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kristallnacht, to take a stance against Iran and support Israel.

A group of approximately 75 people, including students from Yeshiva College (YC), Stern College for Women (SCW), Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB), Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (REITS), Chovevi Torah, Brooklyn College, Cooper Union and New York University, joined together in front of the Iranian Mission to the United Nations in protest of recent statements made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. At a conference titled "The World Without Zionism," Ahmadinejad called for Israel to be "be wiped off the map," and expressed his hope that he will see the day when both Israel and the United States cease to exist.

The rally was sponsored by Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), AMCHA, NY Board of Rabbis (NYBR), the Yeshiva University Israel Club and the Yeshiva University Public Action Committee (YUPAC), in an attempt to "bring the cause to the attention of the American people as well as our elected representatives," said Aviva Horowitz, SCW junior and co-president of YUPAC. "We must show our representatives that we know and we care about the situation in Iran. Protests and rallies like ours bring the

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## New Edge for the Beren Campus: Ice Skating at Bryant Park

BY ATARA LINDENBAUM

As of late, El Nino has reared its ugly head in the city of New York to the displeasure of many. The temperatures of these past few weeks have hit record highs in comparison to those of past years for this pre-winter season. People find themselves craving for cold beverages or ice drinks to quell their desires for a brisk autumn day. Another less known solution to this predicament is located

in close proximity to the midtown Beren Campus. Stationed behind the New York Public Library's Beaux Art façade, the new ice skating rink recently installed in Bryant Park provides New Yorkers with a way to pretend that winter has finally arrived.

Located at Sixth Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, just one block away from Times Square, Bryant Park "offers refuge from the hustle and bustle of

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## ADMINISTRATION COMMITS TO EXPANSION OF SERVICES AND SPACE

### Student Leaders Call for Weekend Services

BY ILANA LEVIN

The agenda of the first Student Life Committee of the year focused on the growing needs of the student body on the Beren Campus, both in quality and in quantity of non-academic services the university provides. Student leaders and representatives raised important issues before the deans and administrators who sit on the committee, regarding the hours of the library and computer rooms, the need for a larger beit midrash, and the shuttle service schedule, as well as other aspects of student life.

The committee discussed the services available on Sunday and the need to improve

and extend these services, considering the growing amount of students on campus over the weekends. "Sunday is a regular day now," said Rachel Kraut, director of Resident Life. Committee members acknowledged that more students are staying in for Shabbat each week, including local students who don't return home Saturday night but rather stay in the dorm for the rest of the week.

"Why is the building shutting down?" asked SCW Student Council President Deena Hassan, referring to the weekend library and computer hours. The library and computer room are not open on Saturday nights and on Sunday both open at noon.

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## Beren Campus to Add 2 Floors in 215 Lex

BY TIFERET UNTERMAN

Stern College is going to accomplish the impossible: we are going to accumulate more space in Midtown.

Who would have thought it?

Claustrophobia is a sadly common diagnosis among Stern College students. But now there is hope. A greater day is coming when space issues in Stern are going to be relieved, while a bigger and better Beren Campus lies ahead.

So to whom do we owe our thanks for this modern day miracle?

The Space Planning Committee, instituted last June by President Joel, has recently received permission from the Board of Trustees to utilize two full floors in the 215 and 205 Lexington Ave. buildings which have just recently been put up for lease, a total of 18,000 square feet. The two floors, the 12<sup>th</sup> floor in

215 Lexington and the 14<sup>th</sup> floor in 205 Lexington, connect to each other to form one large continuous space.

The Space Planning Committee is comprised of various administrators, including the chair of the committee, Jeffrey Rosengarten, associate vice president for Administrative Services; Rick Annis, vice president for Finance; Hillel Davis, vice president for University Life; Daniel T. Forman, vice president for Institutional Advancement; Morton Lowengrub, vice president for Academic Affairs; and Elliot Gibber, a lay leader and liaison to the board.

The committee was given six to seven months to study both the Beren and Wilf campuses to figure out how the space is used now and how it could be better used and improved for the future. By closely noting the specific

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# Viva Natural

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Ilana Levin  
Editor-in-Chief

In April of 1996 John Paff, the chairman of a New Jersey county Libertarian Party, was arrested while handing out fake million dollar bills as part of a two-person anti-tax protest in front of a post office. Three years later he and his partner in crime were awarded \$12,500 in a federal civil rights lawsuit, as well as \$25,000 in lawyers' fees, to be paid by the township. Clearly this was an extremely worthwhile use of the tax dollars Mr. Paff wishes didn't exist.

The irony can't escape even the most passionate big-government liberals who believe that taxes are the solution to every international, national, state and local problem, from protecting the endangered buff-headed marmoset (native to Brazil and not to be confused with the cotton-top marmoset which lives [though not for long] in Costa Rica and Colombia) from the appalling prospect of extinction, to repaving New York's streets by constructing scaffolding, placing orange cones on every corner, and causing interesting new traffic patterns but not actually improving the roads.

But those particular noble causes are debatable, while others should clearly not be on the government's agenda. Self-righteously named watchdog groups such as "Citizens Against Government Waste"

and "Taxpayers for Common Sense" are incensed by the Senate's most recent transportation bill, particularly by the much-maligned but aptly-named "Bridge to Nowhere" connecting the exceedingly populous Gravina Island to the Alaskan mainland. (It would cost less to pay the 50 residents of the island \$4 million each to move to the mainland.)

Maybe only 12 senators voted for an amendment seeking to reduce money for this project because no one else read the original bill, or maybe because every member of Congress is guilty at some point of bringing home "earmarks" (or "pork," depending on whom you ask). I understand that some culture-minded people believe the federal government has a responsibility to support "arts and culture" (some of which seems to me more like arts and crafts produced by kindergarten students, though talented ones, to be sure), but when did it become a national priority to fund museums on weather, paper, cotton and country music (not "culture" by any stretch of the definition) or subsidize the National Cherry Festival and Alaska Moving Image Preservation Association?

Cutting the membership of Congress by approximately 50% is a fine solution to the out-of-control spending, particularly because allowing Alaska one congressman and two senators seems to me fiscally irresponsible at this point, and because the people of Texas cannot possibly need all 32 of their congressmen to accomplish the relatively simple objectives of protecting 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights and seceding from the Union.

I anticipate a rejection of this proposal by historically-inclined and overly sensitive proponents of democratic government who will waste no time in reminding me of the ingenious solution of bicameral government and proportional representation, etc. etc. But they cannot object to the more practical suggestion that Congress should just vote to give itself more vacation. The less time its members

work in the office, the less money they are capable of spending. Maybe August, grandly titled "District Work Month" because the congressmen return to their districts to provide their constituents with impressive statistics on how many earmarks they won over the session, should become the model for at least ten other months of the year. It's a win-win situation: staffers get to wear flip flops to work and take the Member-designated elevators and taxpayers can rest assured their money is not being wasted.

But even the money Congress allocates for important causes is not used efficiently. A House representative advocating for the distribution of government funds to faith-based organizations to carry out work in lieu of government agencies captured this well: "You win a windfall in the lottery, you want to give a tithe of it to an organization that will distribute it to those less fortunate than you are, so the first thing you think is—'I know! I'll give it to the federal government!'"

The worst part about the federal government's ineffective use of tax dollars is the maligning of those who are reluctant to throw away their money via taxes, foolishly thinking there must be a better way to spend it. Liberals who are extremely concerned with how private citizens spend their money are constantly concocting devious ways to siphon their money—hard-earned or not—into the public coffers where it can be wasted.

The media (I couldn't resist) is a fine example. In the New York Times' less-than-ringing endorsement of Mayor Bloomberg (in which you had to read until the last line to know who was being endorsed) one complaint the editorial lodged against him was his "obscene spending" for his two mayoral elections. Only the New York Times has the chutzpah to criticize a politician for spending \$75 million of his own money in his first campaign, who, once elected, took a yearly salary of \$1 from the city.

President Bush's \$40 million second inauguration also provoked media-instigated outrage, in which fiscally concerned liberals (a newly evolved species native to the remotest parts of Alaska) called for the money to be used instead in Iraq and in tsunami-stricken South Asia. While the criticism sounds noble, they seemed to have forgotten that the money was all raised through private individual and corporate donations—but everyone always knows exactly how other people's money will best be spent.

In the end of the day it doesn't really matter because people from both ends of the political spectrum spend their money on process and not on substance, which only further obstructs government from getting even its constructive ideas accomplished: conservatives donate money to the aforementioned watchdog groups who take their voluntarily given money and spend it to prevent the federal government from spending their involuntarily given money, and liberals contribute to paranoid organizations like the ACLU who go through the Constitution with a magnifying glass (and a red editing pen when they think the Supreme Court's not looking) discovering rights the Founding Fathers meant to write but neglected to explicate, such as the right to erase "God" from the Boy Scout Oath.

If you're depressed by none of the spending problems I've mentioned you should think about taking one of those online self-diagnostic tests such as "Are You A Socialist?" But if you're troubled enough you may want to consider joining Mr. Paff's yearly anti-tax protest next April 15—and you may even earn some money doing it.

Ilana can be reached at  
ilevin@yu.edu



Adinah Wieder  
Editor-in-Chief

I was part of a group of students involved in an informal discussion with two members of the publicity company that works for Yeshiva University. The goal in their visit was to help them appreciate the demographics that comprise the student body here at Yeshiva University. The discussion included student hobbies, majors, schooling prior to attending Stern College such as coed high schools or single sex high schools, as well as career goals and aspirations. The image that Stern College portrays was discussed at length. One of the concerns expressed by students was the response that SCW students receive upon stating that they attend Stern College.

For those that are familiar with the "Stern girl" appearance, pardon me for explaining. However, for the sake of this article I must elaborate with the hopes of

providing suggestions a for rectifying this negative personification of a Stern woman. The "Stern girl" walks down the street [sic] with the Starbucks latte in one hand and the Saks bag in the other, as well as the cell phone pasted to the ear loudly "chatting" about the big upcoming date that is going to take place that evening at seven. This picture is missing one thing: books. This "Stern girl" just so happens to be walking to class after her mad dash to Fifth to grab the vitals for the evening's events. This image may be a bit exaggerated. However, the words "Stern girl" evokes something along these lines.

Upon stating that one is a student at Stern, many of the responses include the usual rolling of the eyes as if to say, "I am in Barnard and you are intellectually inferior to me" or the "Are you also waiting to get your MRS?" as well as the "You typical Stern girl." The crux of the discussion lay in assessing the genesis of these preconceived stereotypes as well as the role that SCW plays in affirming these derogatory statements. Some of the accusations are unfounded and untrue; however, I do believe that there is a certain truth to the "Stern girl" persona.

It should be our goal to maximize our time here at SCW. It is a time to expand our breadth of knowledge, to fight for a cause, pursue our spiritual quests, and at the very least be active participants in the classes that we attend. While everyone may have different priorities, there is much need for balance. Many a time students discuss the "horror" of graduating SCW

and not being engaged. If this is the attitude of the students then how can it shock or even offend us when people describe the degree attained from SCW as an MRS? It is quite disheartening to sit at lunch and hear women complain about having to attend classes when they have so many other things to do like shop and be social. This is not to say that either one of those things are bad. However, there are worse things than needing to balance classes and one's social life.

Another contributing factor to this general image is the high school mentality. Students sometimes have trouble recalling that we attend college, not high school. Students frequently discuss how they rescheduled various midterms because it was too overwhelming to have two in one day. If the rule is two midterms per day then how can a student go to a professor and ask for an extension because she has two midterms in one day or better yet, because she has no midterms the day of but one the previous day. Would the conversation just described ensue between a Barnard woman and her professor? Probably not. Would a Barnard student tell her professor that she assigned too many French vocabulary words for homework? Once again, probably not.

There are many serious, hard-working, and focused students here at SCW. The solution lies in rectifying our approach because we are provided with the very best education possible. People making unsubstantiated comments regarding the education fail to note that our curriculum is hard-

er than many other renowned colleges. Last year while I was taking organic chemistry in Stern, I had a friend taking it in Brandeis. They had cheat sheets which students were allowed to bring to the exam that included lists of synthesis. In Stern, one must know how reactions occur; there is no such thing as cheat sheets. Comments regarding the intellectual integrity here at SCW cheapen the efforts and accomplishments of the earnest students. The only resolution to this problem is for us to begin taking ourselves seriously so that others will take us seriously. It is important that as a university we work together to project these voices so that we can transform the term "Stern girl" and the connotation behind it into a student that attends SCW, with a new image of a Stern woman. The woman who walks down Lexington Avenue, is well-spoken, knowledgeable, hard-working, serious, self-assured, and looks out to the world to see where she can make a difference.

Adinah can be reached at  
arwieder@yu.edu

# EDITORIALS AND OPINIONS

## Reconsidering the Hebrew Language Requirement

As a division within the Jewish Studies Department at SCW, the Hebrew Language Department should have a vision, curricula and an educational philosophy that fit into that of the larger picture of the Jewish Studies Department. Yet the credit requirements and levels of the Hebrew classes are disproportionate to those of the other Jewish Studies branches.

Students are required to take three to six Hebrew language classes, which is frustrating for students in other Jewish Studies advanced courses which employ primary sources that require the knowledge of Hebrew. Does it really make sense to require a student who is taking a class in Parshanut HaMikra or in Halacha, and who is expected to prepare a number of texts prior to class, to take a Hebrew language course that begins with a table conjugating basic verbs?

Compounding the problem is "the Israel factor." Students who receive credit for their studies in schools in Israel often find their credit distribution imbalanced when they arrive on campus. The majority of credits given for study in Israel is for Judaic Studies and Bible courses and not for Hebrew language. The result is that ironically, after spending a year or more in Israel learning advanced Judaic studies, these students must forfeit continuing that type of education to fulfill

their Hebrew language requirements instead.

The unique application of Torah u-Madda in YU is what draws many students away from secular colleges and into Stern. The course offerings, particularly in Bible and Judaic Studies, are what distinguish Stern from other colleges. Students can take Jewish history, Jewish philosophy and Hebrew language courses at any college. But the opportunity to learn Tanach and Halacha on a college level from professors and rabbis who maintain an Orthodox perspective is unique to Stern—and the university should take advantage of this by allowing its students who are interested to enroll in these classes instead of requiring them to substitute Hebrew language courses.

If the administration is unwilling to lessen its requirement of nine to 18 credits of Hebrew language, it should seriously consider an alternative: Jewish studies courses taught in Hebrew and/or taught with emphasis on independent study of primary sources written in Hebrew should be counted towards the Hebrew courses requirement. Students taking these courses are learning Hebrew anyway—only in the form of Talmud Torah instead of verb construction tables.

## Letters to the Editors

### Female Leadership is No Laughing Matter

Dear Editors,

President Joel's Town Hall Meetings provide students with a medium to publicly raise university issues that concern them, while at the same time these voices are directly heard and responded to by President Joel and his assistants, leaving the student body with feelings of reassurance that their voices are being heard and hopefully taken into account by the presidential office.

Although I am a member of the "Richard Joel Fan Club," I have to admit that I was quite disappointed by his response to my question at the previous Town Hall Meeting. I asked President Joel whether the Center for the Jewish Future intended to hire any women, since currently the leadership is made up of eight men. President Joel began his response by mentioning that Hindy Poupko, who graduated Stern in June 2005, is currently working as a presidential fellow at the Center for the Jewish Future. This response was said in jest, and Joel further commented that the university is looking for a female leader, but simply has not found the proper match yet.

Hindy Poupko is a capable woman, but a student leader nonetheless. Fortunately, Yeshiva University does not shy away from having female student leaders. But hiring Poupko as a presidential fellow for the CJF certainly does not amount to the message that Yeshiva could have sent out by including one or two women leaders on the initial board of the CJF. I do not doubt that President Joel was sincere in his last remarks concerning the current search party for one capable woman, but I have to admit that his initial comment about Hindy Poupko did not indicate his sensitivity towards the subject.

Furthermore, Shoshana Fruchter's article about the Town Hall Meeting in the past issue of the Observer misrepresented President Joel's response to my question. Fruchter wrote that the president "noted the extensive and impressive work Presidential Fellow Hindy Poupko (SCW '05) is doing

for the CJF." I understand that as an honest, objective reporter, Fruchter may not have been able to report the joking tone in President Joel's voice when he made the comment, but by simply highlighting his remark about Poupko, Fruchter gave validity to his point.

As students at Stern College for Women, we often have to defend the reputation of our campus so we are sensitive to the stereotypes created of the "typical Stern girl." The Observer should be especially sensitive to the importance of women leadership in organizations like the Center for the Jewish Future.

Atara Lindenbaum  
SCW '07

### Valuing Diversity

Dear Miss Levin,

In your article, titled "The So-Called Value of Diversity," of the October 2005 edition of the Observer, you seemed to have denigrated a value which should be kept in high esteem. Your basic thesis (may I be so presumptuous as to summarize it) was that the quest for diversity in positions of higher intelligence goes hand in hand with a lesser quality of ability, as you stated concerning O'Connor's remark which implied "that there is a value to a most superficial type of diversity." Do not claim that such a prestigious justice and incredible mind, such as O'Connor, would ever lower her standards for the most respected court of this country. Why should ability and diversity be incompatible? Can we not have our cake and eat it too?

Regarding your question "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?" Why, Miss Levin, your question only stems from your inability to appreciate what diversity offers to any given situation. Perhaps the strictly homogeneous setting where you received your education sheds light on this narrow view which you maintain (what?! Your personal experiences have

helped form your opinions on intellectual matters?!).

The fact is that your question does not exist, for your premise is misguided. Whether personal experiences should or should not help shape a justice's approach to the constitutionality of law has no significance here, for the fact is that one's perspective is shaped by one's background. This is easily seen in debates on many of the hot topics which periodically appear before the Supreme Court (dare I say the word—abortion). Interpretation of the constitution calls for just that, interpretation. You assume that by using your view of the purest form of logic (i.e. only using conservative logic from conservative people) all can reach a true and honest decision. So if the bench was filled with white, upper-class, urban-grown, Georgian-bred (note: not coincidentally used, see New York Times Oct. 19, '05 article on poll taxes), well-fed, middle-aged men, the integrity of the Supreme Court would be upheld as long as they received a GPA of 4.0. Decisions would be made by the brilliant stimulating debates between these justices because they actually have differing creative understandings of the Constitution.

Sure, that's believable. "Personal experiences" do not imply a second-rate fluffy additive to the facts. Rather, think of it as a balance of powers (although I know that is a touchy subject for Republicans owing to the effort to nominate Harriet Miers). In order to keep the debates rolling, with opinions stimulating a higher, more elevated form of discussion, varying perspectives must be brought to the table. Different views, not astonishingly, are held by different types of people.

Diversity on the bench is not a shallow, nor a skin-deep value (excuse my pun). Diversity is a virtue necessary to ensure the exalted caliber and purest integrity of intellectual debate in our Supreme Court.

Certainly here, diversity is an indispensable value.

And so it should be called.

Tiferet Unterman  
SCW '07

The Yeshiva University

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The Observer  
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New York, NY 10016  
(347) 236-6555  
www.yuobserver.com

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# A Reversal of Progress

BY TOVA STULMAN

Art often imitates life, and though the new television show "Commander in Chief" portrays a female president, which obviously has not yet happened in the U.S., it does mirror the continuing societal trend of females reaching high-powered positions. Law, medicine, academia, you name it—the traditionally male-dominated fields of typically prestigious professions are seeing an increasingly equal ratio of males to females. It might sound like it so far, but this isn't an article intended to shake my verbal pom poms and rah rah women's rise in these fields, rather to draw your attention to another trend I have noticed of late.

It's no secret that observant Jewish women have been just as conflicted, if not more so, than non-religious females, about the stay-at-home (or stay-at-home-more) mothering vs. the executive/exalted professional mothering options. Having kids and being physically available to them is not just a maternal instinct with Jewish women, but a

cornerstone of our religion. Accordingly, an increasing number of women have chosen to take the "less prestigious" routes of careers that provide a decent living yet simultaneously allow flexible and fewer hours. These careers include vocations such as social work, the therapies (occupational, physical, and perhaps most popularly, speech), and special education.

Even more belittled are the women who prefer to be stay-at-home mothers. I dare not suggest that people who enter into these professions, or choose to bypass a paid profession at all, are less brainy or dedicated than people who enter into the fields of law and medicine, but many of my peers do believe this. In fact, they more than suggest it—they denigrate these choices and grumble about women taking the easy way out.

A friend of mine, currently attending an Ivy League university, tsk-tsked when she heard that another friend of ours, a naturally smart girl, decided to go into speech therapy. Since high school, we had pictured her in the

role of a lawyer, perhaps, or something akin to that high-status job. No doubt she'd be an excellent lawyer, but practicality, for personal reasons, has dictated another choice for her, one she is happy with and excited for. If she's content with her decision, then shouldn't everyone else be?



Geena Davis in "Commander-in-Chief"

Some women are so fiercely possessive and inordinately proud of the progress women have made to be seen as smart and capable as men that when women choose to not enter the high-powered playing field, they are seen, in a sense, as selling out.

It's true that women have fought for, and rightfully earned, the entitlement to choose between being more available at home and being a full-time working mother. Now, finally, we can truthfully say "to each her own," allowing every woman to make a conscious decision about what type of life she wants for herself and her family. I'm trying to be very clear about what this article isn't, and it isn't trying to argue whether mothers who are doctors and lawyers are less capable of mothering and nurturing as women who have lesser demanding and time-sensitive jobs.

What it is trying to do is to inform women that the fight for the right to choose denotes an actual choice. Just as women used to be maligned and defamed for choosing to go to work, with fearful exclamations over latchkey kids and the breakdown of family values, many are now being disparaged for choosing to work fewer hours and stay home more.

Only in this instance, it's not even by men, for the most part, but by our female friends and

peers. Deciding on careers that are seen in the public eye as less esteemed and exalted is not wasting potential, brainpower, or selling out to the evolution of the women's movement. It is often judiciously practical decisions or desires to help people in more thankless professions (and mothering and raising a family are certainly at the top of that list) that lead people to pursue careers not widely recognized as truly productive or hardworking. In a way, it makes carrying out those jobs all the more harder than practicing medicine or law. It will be when we stop shaking our heads over smart and studious women choosing careers that appear to be less impressive, or when they choose to be stay-at-home moms, that we can all say true progress has been made.

## POINT-COUNTERPOINT

### TORAH TOURS

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

"Where will you be for Simchat Torah?" was definitely the most frequently asked question this holiday season. Worse than the question is the surprise, if not shock, at my response, "I'll be at home." Suddenly, spending *yom tov* with one's family and being involved in one's own community has become an exception, an anomaly that demands explanation.

The "leave home for the holidays" attitude is an outgrowth of this generation's educational climate. Translated in the YU world, when you cross today's obsession with student leadership with the flourishing realm of informal Jewish education and set the product early in the school year, the result is Torah Tours. In other words, Simchat Torah musical chairs: undergraduate students leaving their own communities to live up different communities across the continent for two days by dancing, singing and learning with strangers, instead of with their families and neighbors.

The project itself is applauded by many, but the significant negative effects of Torah Tours are rarely noticed. Besides the fact that many students owe it to their parents and siblings to help out over the holiday and be around to spend quality stress-free time with their families, Torah Tours leaves many communities in the New York area bereft of the indispensable college students who would have been able to dance, sing and learn with fellow

community members. The lack of college-aged people active in their synagogues on Simchat Torah has taken a toll on the communities who send them. The situation is not that a couple of seats are empty in shul. The urge to reach out has caused West Hempstead, Queens, and Staten Island — areas native to many college students — to reach the ridiculous point of having Torah Tours teams come to invigorate their communities. Participating in Torah Tours is a great *chessed*, but *chessed* at home should not be neglected.

The stay-at-home-for-*yom-tov* system is a natural implementation for student leadership, which encourages college students to be responsible community members providing excitement and enthusiasm not only on Simchat Torah, but rather in helping to build genuine connections with the children and adults in their communities that can be kept up throughout the year. At home, students give naturally to their families and synagogues; they give where they are needed.

Sending a few teams to areas known to be in need of excitable and inspiring youth is a great idea, but shuffling over hundreds of daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors to over 70 communities is unnatural and detracts from what could be a great Simchat Torah at home.

With all due respect to the CJF, no thank you.

It is no wonder that the Blanche Schreiber Torah Tours, with programming that affects over 70 communities over just 3 days, has become such a success. Torah Tours, a CJF-spearheaded project, serves Jewish communities across North America by sending out teams of enthusiastic young women and men to enhance the holidays.

As a participant of Torah Tours, one is able to spread passion and excitement for Torah in a fun and meaningful manner. Volunteers are expected to lead dancing and singing, teach Torah classes, and interact with the youth. This fresh and exciting opportunity has drawn hundreds of Stern College, Yeshiva College and RIETS students, as well as tens of their peers studying in other universities, each year to participate in Succot and Shavuot programs.

The experience of spending *yom tov* in another community and meeting its members is often one that remains with the participant for a long time after. In many ways the student gains much by giving to the community they visit. "It was an incredible opportunity to give to the Binghamton Jewish community," stated Queens College student and Succot Torah Tours participant Talya Barth. "Yet for everything I gave, I received just as much from

them."

While it is true that Torah Tour volunteers leave their own communities to visit others, it is a worthy and valuable "leave of absence" that enables others to experience the talent and devotion of Torah Tour participants. Often it is necessary for a person to leave their own community so that they feel empowered and valuable. Many students expressed that it would be difficult to bring as much enthusiasm to their own communities because of the familiar surroundings and community members. A change of scenery can often be the trigger for a successful and enjoyable *yom tov*.

Serving communities such as Richmond, VA; Nashville, TN; and Milwaukee, WI, Torah Tours enables volunteers to form relationships and leave lasting effects on Jewish communities across North America. That is truly a *mitzvah* worth the time spent away from your home base.

# An Intelligent View

BY JULIA FRANKSTON-MORRIS

Some things are quite deceiving. One block from the meandering Susquehanna River, flanked in autumn by colorful leaves and birds in v-shaped form flying south for the winter, sits an unassuming federal courthouse in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The courthouse is across from Capitol Park where for over a century people have fed the pigeons while state workers amble to and from work. Diagonally across stands Michael, the flower man who peddles day-old surplus flowers to passersby and, unbeknownst to his customers, donates all the proceeds to his ashram.

The courthouse shares its space with the local post office and is once again the stage of a national drama, housing yet another trial of national significance. In 1973 it hosted the Berrigan trial, a trial of Jesuit priests and others involved in protesting the Vietnam War. A decade later, neighbors of Three Mile Island, a nuclear power plant along the Susquehanna River, brought their claims against the utility for a reactor meltdown. And now, once again the courthouse sits in the spotlight for hosting an intelligent design trial. The Supreme Court has already decided that the teaching of creationism is not permitted in the public schools. One of the key issues in this case is whether intelligent design is creationism in masquerade. Parents and a deposed member of the school board, along with the ACLU, have brought this lawsuit. They are suing over the Dover school board requirement that an informational statement about intelligent design be read in biology classes. An additional point of contention is that each classroom is required to have multiple copies of "Pandas and People," a science textbook known for its advocacy of intelligent design and a book considered by the science department of the school to be "flawed science."

Since I was home in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the holiday break, I, like many others, was drawn to the courthouse. I had an image in my mind of waiting in a long line to get in, being searched for

weapons, cameras and recording devices, having to wait while some sort of background check was done, and then getting arrested for fighting with one of the school board members or their supporters. So I packed light to prevent an extended search process, and brought identification, my cell phone, and water and crackers in case I became hungry or thirsty in jail. I was ready for the excitement.

But to my surprise, the quiet little courthouse, in its unassuming downtown neighborhood, was not so deceiving; it was almost just as quiet on the inside. I gave my identification and went through the metal detector in less than a minute. I then proceeded to the trial check-in area. It was there that I became Public Observer Number 18, ready to join the 17 other common folk observing the trial.

When I arrived at the courtroom, the judge had just declared a ten-minute recess. This gave me adequate time to mingle with my fellow observers and get the dish about what was going on. I chatted with a Mennonite couple, who were more than willing to share their impressions and thoughts on the trial. They had been present every day of the trial and were helpful in pointing out the important figures present. I learned who the relevant parties were and who had already testified. Additionally, I learned that Charles Darwin's middle-aged great-grandson was also observing the trial. He had flown in from England and was in the middle of writing a book. I spent the remainder of the recess looking for this man, but to no avail.

When the court was back in session, reconvened by the Honorable Judge John E. Jones, I took my seat among my fellow public observers. The box usually set aside for jury members was filled with press, all of whom were scribbling away. Richard Nilsen, superintendent of the Dover Area School District, was on the witness stand, testifying. While it was not the most fascinating few hours of my life, it was still quite interesting. The gist of the testimony of Rich, as the defense called him, can be summed up in his statement: "I did not see intelligent design as creation-

ism. I saw them totally separate... Creationism references Genesis... Intelligent design does not reference a biblical context at all." While I wanted to throw something at his head, maybe my phone or even my jail crackers, I controlled myself and smiled at my Mennonite friends who were approvingly grinning at these remarks.

I found Nilsen's testimony hard to believe, and the more I have read of the transcripts of school board meetings as well as articles in different periodicals, the more certain I am that the motive of the school board in introducing intelligent design is an attempt to bring Christian belief into public schools. In one such school board meeting, where tensions ran particularly high, a school board member is recorded as stating, "2,000 years ago, someone died on a cross. Shouldn't someone take a stand for him?" If that doesn't make their motives clear, I don't know what does!

Don't get me wrong; I am in no way saying that I do not believe in the idea behind intelligent design. I believe in the concept of "yesh me'ayin," creation ex nihilo. However, I disagree with those who deny that intelligent design and creationism are synonyms. Intelligent design is a deceptive phrase; it is creationism masquerading as a scientific idea. What the school board is trying to do is something that our Constitution does not permit. We have a separation between Church and State for a reason, to prevent government from imposing upon us any sort of religious beliefs. This assures that government influence and funds cannot be used to promote a religion.

We have a rich history of Supreme Court cases concerning the First Amendment, particularly concerning the separation of Church and State. A particular relevant one, *Edwards v. Aguillard*, comes to mind. At the core of the case of *Edwards v. Aguillard* was the Louisiana state statute, known as the Balanced Treatment for Creation Science and Evolution-Science in Public School Instruction Act. This statute required that in any public school in Louisiana where

evolutionary theory was taught, creation theory must be taught as well. The issue at hand was whether or not this act was in violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution. The Court held that this statute was unconstitutional, based on the fact that the act lacked a clear secular purpose. In the act itself, the purpose was declared as "protecting academic freedom." However, the Court disagreed with this statement and argued that in truth, this act encouraged the opposite, by restricting and confining teachers in their teaching. Furthermore, the Court held that this act results in the promotion of creation theory over evolutionary theory. The Court held further that creation theory is a religious theory, one held by and supported by the religious, and thus a support of this theory in the public schools would be the equivalent of the government supporting a religious tenet.

Recently, The New York Jewish Week has focused on this trial. Rabbi Chaim Schertz, the rabbi of my synagogue, Congregation Keshet Israel, has come under attack for his public support of the plaintiffs and their objection to the introduction of intelligent design in the classroom. In a letter defending himself on October 28, he reiterates the important point that "basing religious belief on scientific demonstration is ultimately detrimental to religion. Science changes, religious truth does not."

To support the plaintiffs is not to oppose intelligent design; rather, it is to support the Constitution and to protect ourselves. It is this idea that many people are getting confused about, my Mennonite friends included. It is not that the, as some have called the plaintiffs, "godless parents," do not want their children to learn the theory of intelligent design in general; rather, they understand that the public school is not the appropriate place to do so.

I think that at a time like this we all need to remember that in order to have freedom of religion, we also need to have freedom from religion.

## A Message from Academic Advisement

### Defining Academic Stressors

Stress, stress, stress may be the expected norm,  
From taking exams to living in the dorm.  
Yet, when the stress is undefined,  
Solutions are so much harder to find.  
Deciding which strategy to use,  
If overcome with academic blues,  
Is a skill worthy to master,  
And avoid any unnecessary disaster.

The Academic Advisement Center recently held its first workshop of the year. In planning for the workshop academic stressors were identified. They ranged from personal to teacher/student to institutional stressors. Personal stressors included worry about not living up to self-imposed expectations, procrastination, and the feeling of being isolated. Teacher related stressors involved being in courses with instructors whose guidelines and standards were vague or inflexible. Typical institutional stressors were registration hassles, deadlines, and exams.

The first line of defense against surrendering to academic stress is to recognize to which pressures you are most vulnerable. While some students may thrive on the demands of meeting a deadline, others may react by procrastinating. Therefore, taking responsibility for your learning style is essential.

Many students do not identify their vulnerabilities until they reach college. It takes a certain level of maturity to admit when something is not working. Prior to college student work is more actively supervised by adults. Parents "pester" and teachers assign nightly homework that is regularly checked. College freshmen quickly learn that the role of supervisor becomes their own. This added factor may create some resistance or ambivalence to managing a semester's workload. "I have plenty of time to finish this paper" is a common theme that often tests the learning strategy of even the most successful student.

Assuming responsibility requires some self-awareness, reflection, and discipline. Soon the once nagging stressor is transformed into a motivator for success and new productive habits emerge. The result is a feeling of satisfaction and empowerment.

Feel free to visit the Academic Advisement Center if you need help with academic stress and watch for news about our next workshop on November 30, in room 306 during Club Hour.

Miriam Schechter, Director  
Rochelle Mogilner  
Dr. Gail Gumora

# A Message From Your Presidents



NAVA STREIT  
VICE PRESIDENT OF SCWSC

Although the Yamim Noraim already seem like ages ago, a nice idea that I heard on Rosh Hashana has been lingering in my mind. The Rosh Hashana *machzor* states, "On Rosh Hashana we will be inscribed... who will live and who will die." But what is Hashem judging? If we would assume it was our past actions, like the judgment of human courts, then we

would not be taking into account Hashem's prophetic foresight that allows Him to know whether or not we will continue in our past ways. But the alternative route of judging us on our future actions would also seem unjust. How could we be punished for something we have not even done yet?! The d'var Torah concluded that Hashem ultimately judges our current level of perfection based on our priorities. Our priorities reflect our values, goals, and the level of potential that we ultimately want to reach.

On Rosh Hashana we are judged on where we are at right now. It therefore makes sense for us to introspect before Rosh Hashana and set our priorities to align with those of the Torah. This is how we will be judged favorably and, hopefully, be able to carry through with our thoughts and plans successfully in the coming year.

This year as vice president of SCWSC, I know that we have anxiously set many necessary goals for the coming school year. Although we have only had a

month of classes, everyone's schedule is already packed, including ours. We hope this year will not only be academically fulfilling, but will also bring us together as a united student body. We want everyone to be involved in student life and participate in the various activities that Stern offers.

Our fiesta night last month was a notable success. The Mexican style food and mariachi band were not only very appealing, but also great attractions. The piñatas were an excellent twist and, of course, the company was incomparable. The Club Fair was yet another hit. A club booklet was compiled and distributed with the descriptions and goals of every club. The clubs' sign up sheets were overflowing with names. Many first year students were introduced to all the different worlds Stern has to offer. Hopefully the enthusiasm of all the applicants will remain high and radiate at all future club events! Just remember that active members are an essential key to keep any club in existence. (Also, active members become the next club heads...)

Since we are still on the topic of priorities and potential, I hope that every student, whether at the club fair or not, will take advantage of everything Stern has to offer. All students with any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or comments are invited to our first ever town hall meeting: Raise Your Voice. The exact date has not yet been confirmed, but keep checking the walls; flyers will be posted soon! We have a lot more in store for the year ahead of us. We are very excited and urge you to join us to make this year a smashing success. The only way we can truly meet our potential as this year's Student Council and meeting your needs is with your help! So we urge you to get involved and set your priorities high for this school year. Hopefully, we will collaborate and together we will help each other accomplish our goals.



HILLARY LEWIN  
TAC PRESIDENT

First, I want to welcome everyone back from vacation! I hope that your holidays were meaningful and that your time off was well spent!

Since we were on vacation and I have no events to respond to that happened this month on campus, I would like to share some thoughts that I had over the break.

I went home to Miami with the hopes of having a relaxing time with my family and a little "fun in the sun." Although the first few weeks off were enjoyable, the last

few days made me forget I was even on vacation! My feelings of distress emerged as a result of a visit from Hurricane Wilma. Shocker.

The damage from the hurricane made things a bit difficult. For instance, try having *yom tov* with no electricity and no running water! Let's just say the situation was not ideal.

I live in a small community in Miami called Kendall. The shul there is quite unique as it is primarily made up of *ba'alei teshuvah*. We usually have a "Simchaton" where NCSY brings public school and yeshiva high school students into our shul to create a "ruach-filled" *yom tov* environment complete with singing, dancing and educational programming. Since the Simchaton was canceled due to Wilma, the "novices" of Young Israel of Kendall were left on our own in the *ruach* department.

It was Simchat Torah night and there was not a trace of light in the entire city. The police enforced an 8 p.m. curfew on residents because the darkness was hazardous. With special permission from the police department, we were able to celebrate in the parking lot of our shul. The

Torah was read by candle light and we were able to dance with "strobe lights" from local police cars that were keeping watch for us. Although the celebration was uncomfortable for most, the rabbi kept on insisting, "FPL (the local electric company) is not our ultimate source of power, *HaKadosh Baruch Hu* is!"

As my thoughts began to wander in reflection of his statement, I remembered that it is specifically on Shemini Atzeret that we add "*mashiv ha ruach u'morid hageshem*" to our *Shemoneh Esrei*. There has got to be a connection here. I once heard a beautiful idea that instead of understanding *ruach* as "wind" and *geshem* as "rain," the roots "*ruach*" and "*geshem*" are also found in the words "*ruchniyut*" (spirituality) and "*gashmiyut*" (materialism). Simchat Torah is essentially our last "hoorah" in terms of having the privilege to bask in spirituality with Hashem from the beginning of Elul until the end of Shemini Atzeret. When we add in this line to the *Shemoneh Esrei*, we are saying to God, "Take away this spirituality, and bring down the *gashmiyut*; bring down 'real life;' we are ready to face the

world after being so spiritually close to you for so long."

Since Miami was hit more than most places with mass amounts of "*geshem*" (rain) and "*ruach*" (wind), there was definitely something we were able to learn from our alternative Simchat Torah celebration. On a personal note, I learned that even in the most "*gashmi*" (material) situations, when quite possibly the last place you want to be is dancing in a dark shul parking lot on a Tuesday night after having lost electricity and water and having swept up hurricane debris all day, the *ruach* (spirituality) that has begun to disperse must always be brought back down through our conscious efforts and mindsets. We should always seek to achieve a sense of *ruchniyut* even in the most *gashmi* of situations. As we venture into the rest of the semester, although we have sent away the *ruchniyut* because we know we cannot live so closely to it for so long, we must take measures to ensure that the door to *ruchniyut* is not completely closed.



RIVKA KAHN  
SSSB STUDENT COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT

Since Sukkot break, Syms School of Business has made its presence known on cam-

pus with different club meetings, programs and workshops. 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.

There are many new Syms School of Business events to look forward to. On Monday, November 21, Professor Verstandig invited George Ross, Donald Trump's right hand man and costar of "The Apprentice," to lecture on his new book: "Trump Strategies for Real Estate."

Also in store: the marketing club is putting together a new kind of movie night, featur-

ing a product placement game with real prizes. The Entrepreneurship Club is also planning new programs for us to look forward to, so definitely keep an eye out!

Another program we have in the works is some sort of fun night activity to make up for the lack of Saturday night event from the SSSB shabbaton. (It was the first night of *selichot*.) It will take place, God willing, sometime in December. But don't worry, there will be many more events going on until then. Don't forget to check your e-mail and the signs hanging around school for more updates and information.

## CONTACT YOUR PRESIDENTS

Deena Hassan  
dhassan@yu.edu

Hillary Lewin  
hlewin@yu.edu

Rivka Kahn  
rkahn1@yu.edu

## NEWS

## YU Offers New and Improved Counseling Services

BY NINA BURSKY-TAMMAM

At some point in their college years, nearly half of all students report feeling so depressed that they have trouble functioning. It's no wonder, considering the constant academic and social pressures and the challenges of adjusting to a new and unfamiliar community. Finally, after years of planning, Yeshiva University (YU) has instituted a counseling center to accommodate and hopefully alleviate such burdens.

Dr. Victor Schwartz, director of the counseling center, has qualifications that inspire confidence in the center's program. He was the co-director of New York University's (NYU) counseling service for 14 years before coming to YU, and has been a member of YU's Board of Mental Health Services since its inception three years ago. Schwartz brings with him not only extensive experience in the field of general college mental health, but familiarity with the dynamics specific to YU, having graduated from Yeshiva College himself.

Dr. Efreim Nulman, senior university dean of students, was instrumental in bringing the counseling program into fruition. He is extremely confident in the choice of Schwartz as the director of the program, calling him "the best man in the whole country for the job" and "the expert on college student counseling-related issues." "Who do you think I called when I had issues?" he asked.

The center's staff is com-

prised of professional psychologists, social workers and three senior Ph.D. students doing their residency training. These students provide the center with valuable resources that outweigh their relative lack of professional experience. Having these trainees adds to the staff in number and keeps them up-to-date on current research and issues. Their presence also allows more flexibility to follow up with graduates of the university for longer periods. One trainee graduated from Stern College for Women (SCW) and went on to spend a year as a psychological trainee in Fordham University's counseling service before returning to YU to work at the center. The other two are licensed trainees doing their residency at Beth Israel Medical Center.

According to Nulman, it has taken nine years to formulate the concept of the counseling center and get it on its feet. The effort finally succeeded because "President Joel has been extremely supportive of having the counseling center and he recognizes that this is something all top-tier universities provide," said Nulman.

Students with a variety of problems have already sought help at the counseling center. The issues included trouble adjusting to New York City, social discomfort and not knowing people, difficulty in getting along with family, depression, and anxiety.

The center's staff is also at hand for students who simply need to talk. They are equipped to

perform basic psychological tests, and should there be a need, they can prescribe medication for students. They have already had to prescribe anti-depressants for students on the Wilf Campus. Should students express an interest, the option of group therapy sessions is open as well. However, as professionally run as the service is, only short-term care is offered. Staff at the center will refer students who require long-term treatment to more suitable facilities.

Students who are skeptical about the center's promise of confidentiality can be assured that no information will be disclosed to outside parties, including the university administration. Confidentiality may only be breached in the case of an immediate threat to someone's life or suspected child abuse. In the interest of maintaining this confidentiality, there are discussions about moving the center from its current location in the offices of the Center for the Jewish Future, on the fourth floor of the Geraldine Schottenstein Cultural Center, to the third floor, where there would be more space and privacy. If any YU student is still concerned about privacy despite these measures, the center will help students find referrals outside of YU.

Workshops are being planned as an opportunity for students to become familiar with the options offered by the center, as well as with its counselors. The work-

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Middle East Expert  
Dr. Michael Oren Addresses  
Yeshiva University

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

The last war Israel was involved in was not The Gulf War. The seventh Arab-Israeli conflict was a four-year clash still awaiting a name. It was a war fought against civilians, a war whose battlefield included cities, streets and buses, and a war where "one side tried to annihilate the other side," said Dr. Michael Oren. A noted author and historian, Oren addressed Yeshiva University's staff and students on November 1, at an event co-sponsored by the Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs and Stern College for Women.

While some may disagree that the *intifada* was an actual war, Oren's opinions regarding Israel should not be taken lightly. As the author of "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of Modern Israel," as a senior fellow at The Shalem Center, a Zionist organization in Jerusalem, and as the contributing editor of its journal "Azure," he is very knowledgeable in Israeli politics. He served as an advisor on interfaith relations under former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and was an advisor to the Israeli Delegation to the United Nations as well. He was an officer in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), most recently doing reserve duty in Gaza this past August.

The type of war that took place in Israel between 2000 and 2004 was unprecedented anywhere in the world. This was the

first time a democratic nation was a victim of terrorist attacks on a daily basis. "Israel was unprepared to deal with the phenomenon of suicide bombing," reflected Oren. The Israeli government was operating blindly, due to unfamiliarity with the West Bank, and failing without the support of both Israeli society and the world at large. Tourism was dropping and Israel's world famous high-tech market plummeted, resulting in an overall low morale in the country. By December 2000, there was a real fear that Israel would lose its war on terror.

Everything changed in January 2001 when "a man of large dimensions, but multiple dimensions as well," according to Oren, came into office. Ariel Sharon was a man who had been a part of every major Israeli milestone. "He's a very talented politician," said Oren. At the same time, "he's a man of contradictions," and "a man who came to office with tremendous baggage." When he began his term as prime minister, both the United

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## YU Israel Programming Enhances Sukkot Vacation

BY YAFFI SPODEK

While the Beren and Wilf Campuses of Yeshiva University (YU) were on vacation, the YU Israel campus was quite active running *V'Samachta B'Chagecha* events for students and alumni over Sukkot. The programs were coordinated by the Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), largely aided by its dean, Rabbi Kenneth Brander. Abby Weisz, Yeshiva University in Israel (YUI) program assistant, organized the events under the direction of Howard M. Weisband, senior advisor on Israel affairs. The four events, held in Jerusalem, corresponded to the four facets of YU's relationship with Israel: religious Zionism, Jewish history, social action and Torah learning.

The first event, which took place on *erev* Sukkot, Sunday, October 16, at the YUI campus of the Gruss Kollel in Bayit Vegan, featured a thought-provoking panel discussion on the future of religious Zionism. Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Rabbi Benny Lau and Rabbi Brander sat on a panel that was chaired and moderated by Marc Belzberg.

Rabbi Riskin spoke about the need for Americans to make *aliyah* (move to Israel), in an effort to bring *chiloni* (secular) and *dati* (religious) Jews together. He also spoke about the detachment of the religious Zionist community from the rest of Israeli society because of the disengagement from Gaza over the summer.

Rabbi Lau discussed the lack of a sense of community in Israel and illustrated ways to heal the ideological rifts within the *dati leumi* (religious Zionist) community. He praised the general concept of *kehila* (community) and

indicated that rabbis in America have a duty to teach Israel how to function as one unified community.

Rabbi Brander talked about his personal experience of being a rabbi and a leader of a community in *chutz la'aretz* (areas outside of Israel), and concurred with the viewpoints of the other rabbis regarding the deficiency of a real communal sense in Israel. He also called for better cooperation between religious Zionists within and outside Israel in an effort to foster a more cohesive community.

During *Chol Hamoed*, on Friday, October 21, Rabbi Brander led a walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem for the Jewish history component of the program. Rabbi Brander kept the participants informed and entertained by using both biblical and historical sources to explain the archaeological features of the Jewish Quarter. He displayed how diverse Jewish sects had managed to live together despite the difficult conditions of the Second Temple Era, imbuing the listeners with a historical message that has clear modern implications.

The social action element of the YU-Israel affiliation was fulfilled on Sunday, October 23 as volunteers helped prepare *yom tov* meals at the Chazon Yeshaya soup kitchen. Those who came spent their morning doing *chessed* (good deeds) by peeling and chopping vegetables to help feed Israel's poor, thereby facilitating the distribution of the 7,000 meals the kitchen provides on a daily basis.

To culminate the program, 400 people gathered on *leil Hoshana Rabba* for a night of Torah learning with local and visiting YU *roshei yeshiva*. The program, a joint effort arranged by the OU Center in Israel and YUI, began at 10

p.m. with *shuirim* given by Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm, Rabbi Brander, Rabbi Hershel Schachter, Rabbi Dovid Miller and Rabbi Assaf Bednarsh. The program concluded at 5 a.m., after nine hours of learning, with the praying of *vatikin* (daybreak) at the *kotel*.

Rabbi Brander was pleased with the programs and gratified by the level of participation shown. He indicated that there would be similar programs forthcoming to fortify YU's link with Israel. "It was exciting to see a diverse, cross-section of the YU family participating side-by-side, including students and *roshei yeshiva*, overseas visitors and Israel residents, and alumni of all ages and their families," he said. "It was clear that there is a tremendous thirst for the kind of learning that YU has to offer, in Israel as in the States, and this was the first in a series of programs designed to strengthen our University's connections with *Eretz Yisrael, Am Yisrael, and Torat Yisrael*."





# CJF Expands Torah Tours

BY SARA LEFKOVITZ

For most of the Yeshiva University (YU) student body, the festival of Simchat Torah was celebrated amidst the familiar din of family and friends, accompanied by the drifting aromas of stuffed cabbage and *tzimmes* cooking in the kitchen.

Yet many students opted to celebrate the holiday away from home, in locations as remote as Ireland and as provincial as Rego Park, Queens. They were delegates of Torah Tours, a program launched by YU more than 20 years ago, which dispatches college-aged men and women to various Orthodox communities across North America and Europe for the Simchat Torah and Shavuot holidays. As advertised on its website, Torah Tours aims to "share the Torah knowledge and enthusiasm of Yeshiva University and RIETS students with Jewish communities throughout the world."

The majority of the congregations that apply to Torah Tours have small communities, and as a result lack both the manpower and means to create a structured and spirited *yom tov* experience. Some of the synagogues are comprised of elderly members and need younger people to take command of the prayers and Torah readings. Others do not have a rabbi on staff for the holidays.

In an attempt to fill these voids, Torah Tours sends teams of four to eight students to offer various services to communities in need, such as leading the davening, delivering *shiurim* and *divrei Torah* to adults, and planning activities for children and teens. Oftentimes, the main charge of Torah Tours participants is simply to liven up the atmosphere and generate energy through singing and dancing.

This year, the Torah Tours organization and administration has undergone several changes. Firstly, the newly established Center for Jewish Future (CJF), headed by Rabbi Kenneth Brander, has assumed responsibility for the program. Rabbi Ari Rockoff, director of the Department of Community Initiatives at the CJF, will directly preside over its implementation, and under his leadership Torah Tours hopes to broaden its reach to communities and students alike.

Over 70 congregations, signed up this *yom tov*—the largest number in Torah Tours history. Shuls across the country, including Netzach Israel in Atlanta, Beth Jacob in San Diego, and Torat Emet in Columbus hastened to register before the dead-

line. A waiting list was even assembled in case of some last-minute dropouts. Although the bulk of participating students was drawn from Yeshiva and Stern Colleges, a surprisingly large number of students from other universities such as CUNY and Columbia joined the ranks as well.

"We want the latitude and longitude of the YU student body involved," said Rabbi Brander in a phone interview from Israel. "[However,] it's important to recognize that Torah Tours is a venue in which YU celebrates its message. If other students want to help spread that message, we want to welcome them as well."

Another innovation implemented this year was the mandatory training sessions held at the Wilf Campus towards the end of September. Students were briefed on the challenges they were likely to encounter at their host communities and were advised on how best to handle them. Extra emphasis was placed on communication between the parties, and the importance of advance preparation was equally stressed. "In order to make sure that the students benefit, we must give them the tools to capitalize on these experiences," explained Rabbi Brander. "But they also allow for the communities to benefit more."

The extent of the benefits these communities receive is difficult to measure. Some members can recall the names of the Torah Tours students who visited them in past years. Jamie Tabrisky, a resident of Mill Basin, Brooklyn, remembers the two women from Stern College for Women (SCW) who joined her shul for Simchat Torah in the fall of 2003. "They added a lot of *ruach* (spirit) to the *hakafot* (circuits)," Tabrisky collected. "We're a small community so it was really nice to have new faces."

Deborah Anstandig, a senior at SCW, was among a group of students dispatched to Las Vegas, Nevada. Presently the fastest growing Jewish community in the U.S., Shaarei Tefilah of Las Vegas enthusiastically received the extra set of hands offered by the Torah Tours men and women. "This community is really a wholesome group of people that doesn't take their Judaism for granted," Anstandig remarked. "They were so appreciative and happy with the *shiurim* we gave and the environment that we created. We left them feeling good about who they are and what they are doing. I think we sort of validated them even though they were the ones who had asked us to come."

In unique circumstances, the Torah Tours participants establish roots in their host communities and are able to develop lasting ties. One such example is the community in Richmond, Virginia. During the summer, students from SCW had set up a *kollel* (learning group) there, learning with pre-teen and teenage girls for two weeks during the month of August. Invited back by the community, the same women returned for Simchat Torah, this time as delegates of Torah Tours. "Everything that we've done with YU so far has been amazing; but the Stern students specifically were really incredible," said Rabbi Daniel Yolkut, the rabbi of the main Orthodox synagogue in Richmond. "When we first started the *kollel* program in the summer, we were hoping to create some long-term *kesharim* (connections). I don't think we ever dreamed what would happen. The girls look up to them as role models, friends and mentors. People were vying to get them for meals. It was really something special to see."

Aliza Preil, an SCW junior who made the trip to Richmond, reflected on her experience there as well. "The Torah Tours in Richmond this past Simchat Torah was amazing in its own right, but was enhanced greatly because we already had a relationship with the community from the summer. We have been in constant touch with the girls, and going back to Richmond where we felt so at home, really solidified our *kesharim* with them and with the whole community. We are looking forward to spending more time there in the future."

Upon hearing such accounts, it is no surprise that Torah Tours has been so remarkably successful year after year. This success however, stems from the fulfillment of the larger, overriding mission espoused by YU. As expressed by Rabbi Brander of the CJF, "Every single time a student becomes involved, it by definition makes them more sensitive to and more excited by *avodat hakodesh* (holy work) and Jewish community work. Students really begin to understand their responsibility for the Jewish people when experiencing the unbelievable ability to transform lives simply by their presence and actions."

# Additional Weekend Services

continued from front page

Compounding the lack of computer availability is the fact that computers in Brookdale Hall are not networked with the YU server and that the Schottenstein residence hall has no computer lab at all. The Thursday night closing time of 11 p.m. which marks the beginning of the limited weekend computer use creates difficulties for students who have no other computer access yet have homework to do. The decision was made to hold a trial run of keeping one of the computer rooms open until 1 a.m. instead of midnight on weeknights without a staff presence. The administration also committed to looking into the possibility of extending library and computer hours further during midterm and final exam weeks.

Issues with the shuttle service were also raised, specifically with regard to the transports that drop off and pick up students from the local train and bus stations, such as Port Authority, Penn Station and Grand Central Station. The administration promised to take another look at data showing what additional times were required and which locations were especially needed, but also explained the current policy and its limited service. Two years ago "a decision to

make shuttle service based on security rather than on convenience" was reached, said one administrator. Government regulations and cost efficiency are also factors that contribute to the determination of the shuttle schedule.

Computer room printing concerns were raised as well, where student representatives expressed concern over the maximum printing threshold of 100 pages per month and 200 pages during months of final exams.

Other requests, some more realistic than others, were submitted to the administration, including asking for the Bar-Ilan CD to be made available in the beit midrash. Several suggestions were made in an effort to relieve the constant problem of elevator traffic, including adding to the course schedule a 7:45 a.m. period two mornings a week, beginning the first period at 8:55 a.m. instead of at 9 a.m., and a plea to professors to let students out of class on time.

Dean Nulman summarized the issues raised at this meeting when he said, "The whole place needs an expansion of services that are adjunct to the educational mission. Times are changing." It seems clear from the results reached at the committee meeting that the administration is ready to respond.

# 2 New Floors in 215 Lex

continued from front page

needs of each school, for the present and for the future, the committee was able to draw up a comprehensive plan as to what needs to be accomplished for drastic improvements to be achieved. They brought on consultant Paul Siegel and Associates, who deal with architecture and planning, along with sub-consultants, experts in planning laboratories, classrooms and office spaces. "There is a real commitment to do this right," explained Rosengarten.

With President Joel's vision of growing the student body of the undergraduate schools by 1,000 students within the next five years (500 students for each campus), the Space Planning Committee was given a further seemingly impossible responsibility—to find more space to accommodate this coming proliferation of the student body.

This upsurge of growth means more than just finding actual physical space to place new students. It extends to the need for space for new faculty members, more office space, more classrooms, more labs, and other important facilities. Dean Karen Bacon has been working closely with the Space Planning

Committee to ensure the appropriate planning for the women's campus.

In addition to the expansion to the two floors in the 215 Lexington building, big plans to renovate the 245 Lexington space have been drawn up. "We want to make 245 better, more comfortable" and with "newer, more modern classrooms," says Rosengarten. But as he also pointed out, the main obstacle for these renovations on the Beren Campus is that flexibility of space is needed in order to start anything; floors need to be reconfigured while no one is there.

Along with allowing for additional classroom space, these developments will enable "swing room," where departments from the 245 Lexington building will be moved to the new floor space in 205 and 215, allowing for renovations in the 245 building to begin. A possibility under consideration is the relocation of the dean's office and executive administrative offices to the new floor space down the block, so that renovations on the first floor of 245 can start taking place. All of this will be taking place within the next few months.

"The plans for expansion represent the first steps in

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## YU Sends Faculty and Student Representatives to the GA in Toronto

Toronto hosted the annual United Jewish Communities (UJC) General Assembly this year. The General Assembly took place November 13-16 at the Toronto Convention Centre. The CJF sent a delegation of students that they hoped would positively impact not only the Canadian Jewish Community but to the Jewish community worldwide.

The event featured hundreds of Jewish organizations in North America and all around the world. This occasion enabled students to learn about the Jewish community. Students and alumni in the YU group will also meet with YU supporters in Canada.

YU's exhibition booth consisted of YU representatives who spoke with attendees about YU's academic and social programs. One component for YU's GA exhibit was the "Shabbat Table," which was meant to foster conversations that one might have around a table during Shabbat. YU's exhibit at the GA also featured "Jewpardy." "Jewpardy," is a Jewish version of the popular game show Jeopardy.

Three CJF rabbis also lead

sessions at the GA. Rabbi Kenneth Brander, CJF dean discussed synagogue/federation relationships. Rabbi Ronald Schwarzberg, director of Jewish career development and placement at the CJF, taught Bible at a learning session. Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, senior scholar of the CJF and director of rabbinic and community education, also lead a session.

Dr. David J. Schnall, dean of the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration, had been invited to offer a session at the GA on conflict management. He integrated skilled-based training with Jewish content, keeping the session as interactive as possible.

On Saturday night, the group heard from Susan Jackson, one of Canada's most experienced outreach and community development professionals. She is the executive director of the new Centre for Jewish Knowledge and Heritage. The group also heard from David Koschitzky about his involvement as a lay leader in Jewish communal life.

## Beren Campus Dedication

On November 15, the dedication of the Israel Henry Beren Campus in Midtown will take place. The festivities will be in honor of Robert M. Beren and his family. Through the generosity of Beren and his family the campus has undergone much needed change in order to enhance student facilities.

The celebration will begin in Le Bistro, located at 215 Lexington. Students will have the opportunity to meet with Beren

and his family and to thank him personally for his generous contributions which have greatly added to life on campus. Students are encouraged to attend the event in order to express their gratitude as well as demonstrate their support of the university.

There will be a dinner hosted for Beren and his family in the Schottenstein lounge. Various students and faculty were invited to attend.

## Grant Awarded to Three Yeshiva University Professors

Three professors from Yeshiva University's department of physics have been given a grant from the National Science Foundation to organize a Pan-American Scientific Institute.

The conference, called "From Disordered Systems to Complex Systems," will take place in late August or early September 2006 in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Professors Gabriel Cwilich, Sergey Buldyrev, and Fredy Zypman have been asked to lead the program along with two professors from Mar del Plata. A team of more than 20 world authorities on physics will attend, including researchers from

France, Spain, Israel as well as North American and Latin American scholars. The \$100,000 grant will pay for the professors' travel costs and expenses.

As part of YU's participation, Dr. Cwilich has arranged for five advanced undergraduate students in physics to attend the conference, which is traditionally open only to graduate students, post-docs, and researchers.

This grant further testifies to the strides that Yeshiva University is making in science. It will provide professors as well as students the opportunity to be involved in the newest scientific developments with scholars from abroad.

## Yeshiva University Hosts Rare Einstein Exhibit

Yeshiva College and The Mendel Gottesman Library at Yeshiva University will sponsor an exhibit featuring rare documents, photographs, and rare footage demonstrating the special relationship between Yeshiva College and Albert Einstein as the college marks its 75th anniversary.

The exhibit "Einstein and Yeshiva University: Love for the Spiritual and the Moral" will run from Nov. 15 - March 31, 2006. The exhibit contains dozens of rare items, most of them illustrating Einstein's ties to the college. Highlights include footage of the ceremony at which he lent his

name to the university's medical school and an original 1929 manuscript in which Einstein presents one of his attempts at a unified field theory, the most important scientific goal he tried to reach after devising his general theory of relativity.

The exhibit coincides with a Week of Science at Yeshiva College which will spotlight students' scientific achievements. It also coincides with the 50th anniversary of Yeshiva University's medical school, which bears Einstein's name.

## Yeshiva University Students Head to Israel for Winter Break

In addition to spending winter break in Honduras, students are being offered the opportunity to spend their winter break in Israel. There is expected to be approximately 75 students that will partake in this trip. The trip will be partly subsidized by the Center for the Jewish Future.

Prior to the trip students will conduct toy drives on campus in order to distribute toys to the myriads of Israeli children still residing in hotels. Those in hotels report that their children have

nothing to do in their free time. Students will raise funds on campus to facilitate the purchasing of DVD players and other toys to distribute to the children.

Programming will include visiting with the disengaged Israeli's as well as activities conducted by Yeshiva University students for the children. Arrangements for the trip are in the final stages and a more detailed program will follow within the next few days.

## Film Director Mira Nair Addresses YU Students

Independent film director Mira Nair spoke to YU students about the importance of movies that break down cultural barriers at a talk sponsored by the Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs and the Yeshiva College Book Project.

A native of India, Ms. Nair began her career as a documentary filmmaker before going on to make such well-known movies as *Monsoon Wedding*, *Mississippi Masala*, and *Vanity Fair*. Although most of her work deals with Indian themes, she has worked hard to encourage the formation of local film industries all over the world. Through her production company, Mirabai Films, Ms. Nair established Maisha, a film laboratory for aspiring screenwriters and film directors in East Africa and South Asia.

The event included a screening of Ms. Nair's contribution to *11.09.01*, a collection of short films made by 11 filmmak-

ers, each 11 minutes, nine seconds, and one frame long, made in response to the Sept. 11 attacks. Ms. Nair's film is a retelling of real events in the life of the Hamdani family in Queens. Muslims, their eldest son went missing after the attacks, was accused by the media of being a terrorist, and was later discovered to have died at Ground Zero while working as an EMT.

*11.09.01* had a very small release in the United States because the media described it as "anti-American," she said. "Our only revenge is to make cinema that eliminates misunderstanding by telling human stories." The lecture was followed by a showing of *Salaam Bombay!*, Ms. Nair's debut feature film about street children in Bombay. She cast actual street children and held a months-long workshop to gain their trust before starting work on the film, a component of her work that she described as "social science research."

# The Downtown Connection Election Season III

## Bloomberg Came, Saw, and Conquered

BY SARA CHAMAMA

The polls have closed; the votes are in. The next mayor of New York City will be Michael Bloomberg. This comes as no great shock to anyone who was paying even a jot of attention to the campaigns. Bloomberg ran an excellent campaign, in the end, garnering a historic 58.5% of the votes (to Democratic opponent Fernando Ferrer's 38.6%). According to Newsday, this is the highest margin any Republican mayor has won an election with. Also historic is the amount of money that billionaire Bloomberg has spent on his campaign. Using all his own money, the mayor spent at least \$64 million, and while the numbers aren't all in yet, he is expected to have outspent the previous record for any mayoral race, which was Bloomberg's \$74 million in 2001 against Mark Green. The New York Times calculated that this win cost Bloomberg \$100 a vote.

Bloomberg trounced Ferrer in most demographic categories and even received, according to a Pace University exit poll, 48% of the Democratic vote, as opposed to Ferrer's 50% of the vote within his own party. In fact, so many Democrats endorsed and voted for the Republican mayor that C. Virginia Fields, a former mayoral candidate, was prompted to say at Ferrer's concession speech, "Are

there any real Democrats in the house?" The only category that Ferrer semi-dominated was the Latino vote, of which he had home advantage, but even among the Hispanic vote, 3 out of 10 voted for Mayor Bloomberg. The only borough Ferrer won was his own Bronx. Bloomberg split the black vote, traditionally heavily Democratic, with Ferrer.

While the campaign trail this season has been relatively clean and calm, with little negative attacks and deliberate muckraking—except, perhaps, at the very end which saw a suggestively obscene commercial produced by a very desperate Ferrer depicting Bush and Bloomberg er... rather close, shall we say?—no election is completely without its more bizarre moments. One such political gem is the man bearing a Dubya mask appearing mysteriously (with the help of the Democratic Party) at Bloomberg campaign speeches and pep rally. The silent president, sometimes holding a sign claiming support for Bloomberg, was an attempt to malign Bloomberg in the eyes of liberal Bush-hating Bloomberg supporters.

The Commander-in-Chief was not the only masked figure to make an appearance at Bloomberg events. Not wanting to miss out on the fun, a man dressed up as a chicken—complete with feathers, wings and



mask, was seen in attendance. The chicken was a reference to Mayor Bloomberg's refusal to appear at the first scheduled mayoral debate, which was held at the Apollo Theatre. Despite cries of racism and unfairness and undemocratic campaign tactics, Bloomberg was a no-show, leaving Freddy Ferrer to attend the debate sans debating partner and address his comments and insults to an unmanned podium.

This will be the last election that Mayor Bloomberg will ever run, he vowed the day after he won. (There is a two-term limit for the New York City mayor.) "I will work, if God's willing, for the next four years for this city as mayor and then go into the world of philanthropy for my next career," Bloomberg stated.

The mayor wasn't the only position on the ballot. Among judges, city council members, and city comptroller, there was also an exciting proposition regarding the New York subways that was passed. For the first time in 60 years, a new subway will be built, which will run along 2nd Avenue. The construction for the project, which is expected to cost around \$2.9 billion, will start in

2012. The Metropolitan Transit Authority claims that this new subway will relieve pressure from the Lexington line by allowing the 4, 5, and 6 trains to run smoother and faster due to less crowding by sharing the burden. (That's us, the 6 train!) I think that here on the Beren Campus, we can all heartily applaud this new subway.

This is not the first time this subway has been planned. In the 1920's, New York City broke ground for a 2nd Avenue subway, but was forced to stop building plans due to the Great Depression. Now, almost a hundred years later, the vision of a new subway will be realized. Also approved by Proposition 2 was the connection of the Long Island Rail Road to Grand Central.

One might think that it is safe to breathe a sigh of relief now that elections are over for this year. But the politicking of campaign is never quite done with. Next up: the run for speaker's chair in City Council. Current Speaker Gifford Miller will have to step down due to a two-term limit. Council members will vote for the new speaker on January



Reuters/Mike Segar

4th.

I'd like to close the topic of elections with the fact that only approximately 1.2 million people voted, 31.7% of those registered to vote. New York City is made up of 8.2 million people. It is important that everyone be registered to vote, and then actually go out and do so. If you are not currently registered, please do so before the next election, so that you too can partake in the wonderful process of democracy. If you did vote in this election, then I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

## Middle East Expert Dr. Michael Oren Visits YU

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States and a majority of Israeli society were not behind the Israeli government in its war on terror. Sharon would not retaliate under such conditions.

While "often this was maddening," recalls Oren, he ultimately believes Sharon did the right thing. When Sharon finally struck back in the spring of 2002, terrorism dropped dramatically. He "proved you could win a traditional war against terror," said Oren triumphantly. A war that began with the Palestinian objective of destroying Israel by means of unraveling its economy and ruining the people's morale ultimately backfired. Not only did the Arabs not accomplish their goal, but Israel ended up doing all of those things to them. "Terrorism did a lot of things, but it never defeated us psychologically," he said. "No one believes Palestinian terror will destroy the Jewish State," he added later. This victory was a tremendous moral victory for Israel, one that was not only a result of military tactic, but also the result of the resilience of the Israeli people on a whole.

Despite winning a spec-

acular victory, no one could have predicted that "a war that began with Arabs shooting Israelis could end with Israelis shooting Israelis," remembered Oren. Yet that is exactly what happened this past August when the Israeli government pulled out of Gaza. "What happened last August was a breakdown of a covenant that goes back to Rav Kook," said Oren. Rav Kook believed that secular Zionists were also doing the messianic will because, like religious Zionists, they too were trying to secure the land. However, with Gaza, they not only stopped defending the land but decided to give it up as well. People stopped believing that it was necessary to defend Gaza.

Oren was called to do reserve duty in the Gaza Strip and described the experience as "really rough." While active soldiers had been psychologically prepared for the situation, reservists did not go through any formal training. "I could not imagine the trauma I would endure taking people out of their homes," he said. Oren was called a Nazi, and had the phrase *arrur atta* (accursed are you) yelled at him, which to him was the worst

remark made. "I was unable to get it out of my mind for weeks," he painfully recalled.

And while some Israelis may have been hostile towards the Israeli Defense Force, the "Israeli army acted impeccably in this disengagement. I have never witnessed anything like this," he said, describing the efficiency and sensitivity of the army. "This exceeded my expectations."

Although the army successfully did its job, "the government in many ways failed," said Oren. "Ariel Sharon failed. He has the potential to be a great leader with one exception: He's a lousy communicator." There was no attempt by the government to reconcile those who were in favor of the disengagement and those who were against it, resulting in a huge split between secular and religious Israelis. Some synagogues refuse to say "*reishit tmechat geulatenu*," a part of the prayer for the Israeli government, anymore. To heal the rift, the government will have to stop trying to punish those who refused to leave. Had the government done something earlier, Oren is convinced the results would have been completely different.

Despite the tremendous price she had to pay, "in retrospect, Israel has gained a tremendously from the Gaza disengagement," Oren said. The focus in Israel and surrounding Israel is not the Palestinian situation anymore; rather, it is on other international affairs such as Syria and Iran. Now Israel can attack Palestinians without being condemned by Europe or the rest of the world. The world has gotten a glimpse of what a Palestinian state would look like, and the Palestinians have "proven themselves for the nth time to be incapable of maintaining a stable state," said Oren. The Israeli economy has skyrocketed, making it one of the 20 wealthiest economies in the world.

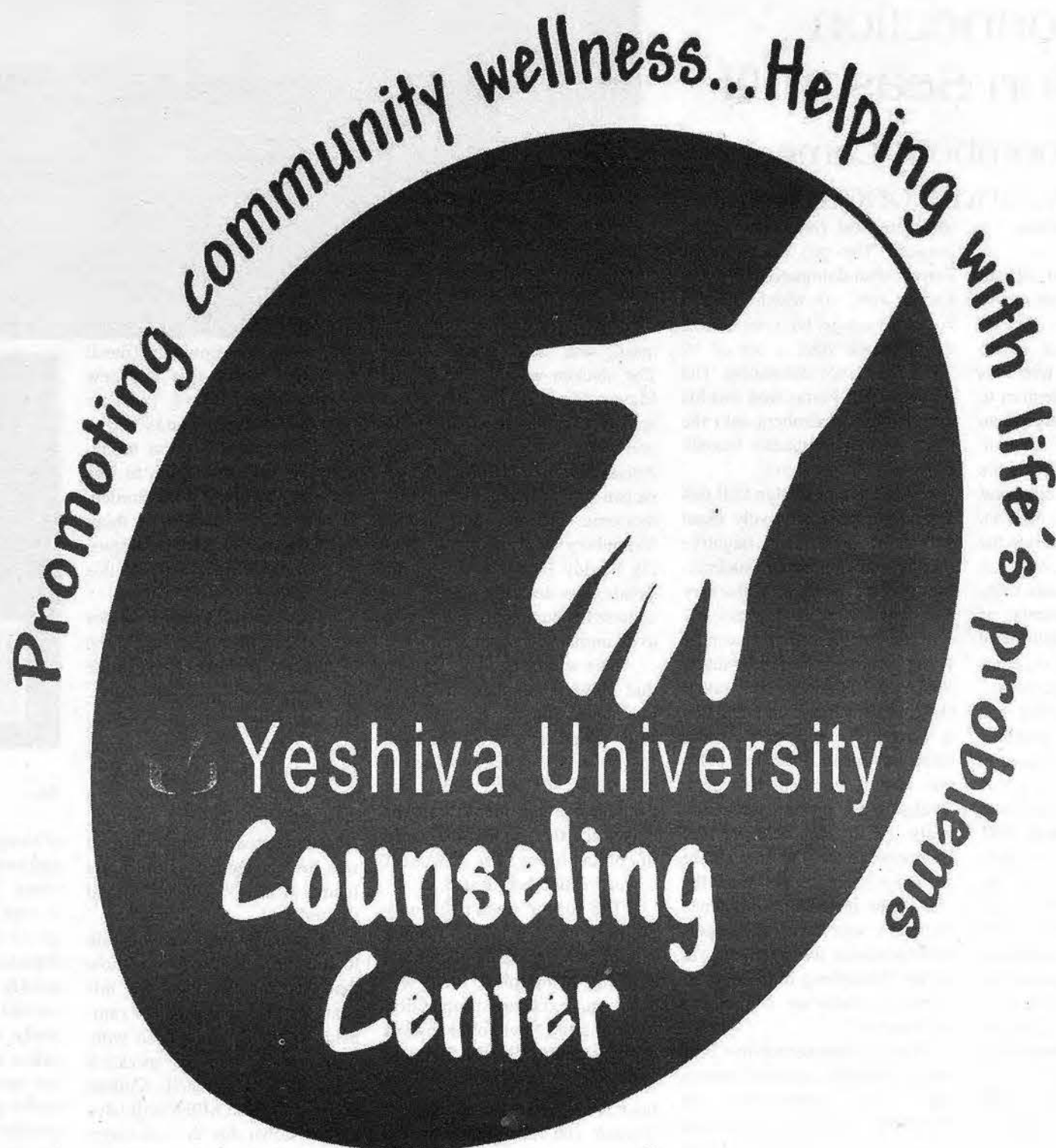
In its relationship with the United States, Israel has never been in a better place. While it took President George W. Bush a while to side with Israel (after 9/11 he refused to associate Israel's war on terror with America's war on terror and did not put Hamas on the list of terrorist organizations until October 2002), he has taken steps on Israel's behalf that no other American president has taken.

Bush called Israel "the Jewish State" and declared that Israel has a right to defend herself. He has said that Israel should give up land as a reward for peace, not give land up in hopes of getting peace.

And while Oren acknowledges the positive relationship between Israel and America, he condemns Sharon for his "over-enthusiasm for complying with the American government." "I think it's a mistake," said Oren, "for Israel to be politically dependent on the United States." History has proven that "every time you buckle, you get contempt," he said. Each time America has told Israel not to do something and Israel went ahead and did so anyway, it ultimately resulted in America respecting Israel more.

Oren also acknowledged that this situation could change at any point. Bush's friendship with the State of Israel is due to the fact that there are 70 million Evangelical Christians in America who love Israel, and not because he necessarily loves Jews. Furthermore, if America decides to lower the bar regard-

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# THE ISRAEL SECTION

## Israeli Professor Honored with Nobel Prize

BY SARAH MATARASSO

Robert J. Aumann walked into a press conference on October 10 wearing a brown and white knitted skullcap and a full white beard, and with his infant grandchild nestled in his arms. After receiving a phone call from the Royal Swedish Academy for Sciences (RSAS) informing him that a press conference would be held in his office in a little while, his phone did not stop ringing for the entire day. Eventually he stopped picking up.

Aumann has been honored as one of two recipients of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, a prize totaling \$1.3 million. A professor emeritus at the Hebrew University's Institute for Mathematics and a member of the university's Center for the Study of Rationality, he and co-prizewinner Thomas C. Schelling have been recognized "for having enhanced our understanding of conflict and cooperation through game theory analysis," according to the official press release issued by the RSAS. Aumann told reporters that Israel has become the number one world power in the field of game theory.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1930, Aumann and his family fled for the United States eight years later. Once he was settled in New York, he did undergraduate and graduate work there before working on his doctoral dissertation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After earning a doctorate, he did research at Princeton in game theory, a relatively new area of study at the time. In 1956 Aumann made *aliyah* and began teaching mathematics at the Hebrew University.

He maintains dual Israeli and American citizenship.

Describing game theory, Aumann explained that the actions of one party involved in a conflict will affect its adversary's consequent behavior. The issue of the Arab-Israeli conflict naturally came up during the press conference, and he expressed his belief that the conflict, which he said has been going on for the past 80 years, "is going to go on for at



least another 80 years. I am sorry to say it." In an AP interview later that day, Aumann said in reference to the recent pullout from Gush Katif that "we're sending a really bad signal to our cousins... We're saying, all you guys have to do is to increase the terror, all you have to do is increase the pressure on us and we will capitulate." One of his own grandchildren was killed during the war in Lebanon in 1982. He has expressed the hope that some aspect game theory will be helpful in the ultimate resolution of the conflict.

Aumann is not the first Israeli to receive the Nobel Prize in economics. Although Daniel Kahneman was born in Tel Aviv

in 1934 while his mother was visiting relatives, he spent most of his childhood in France, which was the permanent residence of his parents. Following the World War II he moved to what was still called Palestine. Interested in psychology from an early age, Kahneman completed an undergraduate degree with a major in psychology at the Hebrew University where he would eventually return to teach the same subject. Kahneman was awarded the prize for economics in 2003 for his work on decision-making in situations of uncertainty.

The first Israeli Nobel laureate was S.Y. Agnon, a famed novelist and short-story writer. Born in Galicia in 1888, he left for Palestine in 1907 where he remained for almost his entire life, residing primarily in Jerusalem. He was honored with the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1966, which he shared with co-recipient Nelly Sachs, only four years before his death. Although his earlier work was done in Yiddish, the majority of Agnon's works are in Hebrew.

In 1978, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Born in Poland in 1913, Begin was active in the Zionist youth group Beitar. In 1938 he was arrested for protesting against British policy in Palestine. After imprisonment at the hands of the Russians at the onset of World War II and after his subsequent release, Begin joined the Polish army and was transferred to the Middle East.

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## A Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Israel

BY TALIA KAPLAN

For most people, spending *Sukkot* in Israel is a nice time to stay in a hotel, visit all the best tourist spots and eat a lot of Burger's Bar, Big Apple Pizza and Marzipan. While it is true that I too enjoy Big Apple Pizza (and let's be honest— who can say no to a Marzipan *rugalach*?) on my most recent trip to the Holy Land I decided to get myself into an adventure.

After visiting Bar-Ilan University, a religious university in the Tel-Aviv area of Israel with a growing Orthodox American population, I planned on taking a *tremper* back to Jerusalem. A *tremper* is basically a hitch-hike; many Israelis use this mode of transportation while traveling throughout the country. Full families may *tremper* to visit their families in other parts of Israel. For me, there was the choice of taking a bus or a *tremper* from one of the cars leaving the university. I had some time until I had to be back in Jerusalem, and the chance to meet some unknown Israeli and sit in his or her car for an hour seemed to be the adventure I was looking for.

As I reached the *tremper* area, the place where people hitch-hike from, I recognized a friend standing there waiting for a ride to Jerusalem as well. I thought to myself that this could be both a good thing and a bad thing. It would provide me with company while I was waiting, but if someone came by and had only one seat to Jerusalem then she would get the seat and I would continue my wait. As I got closer she broke the news to me: she had been waiting for a half hour and

none of the cars had been heading towards Jerusalem. I figured I could wait a little longer and hope someone would come.

As the rain started to fall some ten minutes later, I started to rethink my decision. It started to pour. My feet were wet, my sign that said Jerusalem on it was crumbling in my fingers, and I had no umbrella. A kind fellow *tremper* let me share her umbrella but my shirt that was still sopping four hours later was proof that the umbrella did not serve much of a purpose. My facial expressions were as downtrodden as I could possibly make myself look, hoping that even if the drivers were not planning on going to Jerusalem, they would change their minds when they saw me standing in the rain.

It would have been nice if that had been the most adventurous part of my story. It would be nice if I could tell you that I got into a car with a kind-looking driver and had been driven to my destination. But suddenly, a man appeared as if out of nowhere and said to my friend and me, "*Yerushalayim? Bo iti.*" meaning, "Are you going to Jerusalem? Come with me."

We followed this man to his car parked outside of the university. We contemplated the *tremper* we were about to accept. The man seemed to have appeared out of thin air, and he was carrying a gun to boot. We figured we would be O.K. since many Israelis carry guns. As soon as our seatbelts were buckled, we got a taste of what the ride would be like as we sped into the curb to pick up some more *tremper*s.

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## Yitzhak Rabin: Remembering a Decade Later

BY SARAH MATARASSO

"There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace." These words, spoken by Yitzhak Rabin in his acceptance speech for the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize, resonate as loudly as they did over a decade ago. This past November 4 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of one of Israel's most important political figures and most respected statesmen of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A true *sabra*, Rabin was born in Jerusalem in March of 1922. Raised by politically involved parents, he joined the Palmach during the Second World War. During the Israeli War of Independence, Rabin was in charge of the Harel Brigade

responsible for ensuring that the way to Jerusalem would remain open so convoys carrying supplies could be allowed entry.

But as much as he was a military man par excellence, Rabin's involvement in working towards the peace of his country began early on. He was involved in the 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Egypt, and in 1968 he was appointed chief of staff by Golda Meir. In 1974 he became the prime minister following the Yom Kippur War, and it was during this time in office that he signed the Interim Agreement with Egypt, which included, among other things, the Israeli withdrawal of troops from most of Sinai.

Although resigning from the premiership in 1977, Rabin remained active in Israeli politics and regained leadership of the Labor Party in 1992. For

the next three years he focused much attention on the issue of peace between Israel and her neighbors, signing the Declaration of Principles with former chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Yassir Arafat, which allowed for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho and the following year signing the Israeli-Jordan peace treaty. Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir following a peace rally held in Tel Aviv on November 4, 1995. This year's nationwide memorial in Israel, which was to take place on November 5, was delayed a week at the request of former President Bill Clinton who was unable to attend at that time.

Political assassinations are as old as Roman emperors and as close to home as four American presidents. But this was an act that only further developed a

social schism present in Israeli society and heightened the already thick secular-religious tension surrounding the issue of peace. The effects of Rabin's assassination have been studied by many attempting to understand where the country stands and if anything has been learned

from this tragedy. Saul Singer, editorial page editor of the Jerusalem Post and a published author on subjects pertaining to the Middle East, points out that a decade after the Oslo Accords and especially on the heels of this

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## A Look At the Advertising Industry: Advertising Week 2005

BY LAYA PELZNER

As the world becomes more commercialized, it is difficult to live without being affected by advertising. From television and newspapers to billboards and the subway, advertising is everywhere. Advertising Week 2005, which occurred in New York from September 26-30, gave advertising professionals and those interested in the field the opportunity to learn about the inescapable world of advertising.

Advertising Week unites professionals for a combination of lectures, panels, exhibits and entertainment that takes place in various venues around the city, including the Reuters building, the New York Public Library, the Gershwin Theater and the Museum of Television and Radio.

"Advertising Week is focused on addressing many of the industry's key business issues," explained O. Burtch Drake, president and CEO of Advertising Week and president and CEO of the American Association of Advertising Agencies (AAAA), "while celebrating its contributions to the nation's economy and quality of life, as well as its influence of popular culture."

One of the highlights of Advertising Week is the "Procession of the Great Icons" parade, which takes place on the first day. This event features famous icons, including Tony the Tiger, Mr. Clean, the Pillsbury Doughboy and many others, who walk through Times Square and up Madison Avenue. The public votes for their favorite nominees, starting in August, and the most popular icons are announced.

Another entertaining event is Amateur Night at the Apollo. Performers must submit auditions in advance and must work in the advertising or media industry. Unlike the parade, which is open to the public, this event is by invitation only.

Throughout the week, there are simultaneous panels and conferences featuring the industry's top professionals. These sessions range from topics such as brand image and cultural differences to the future of advertising and advertising for non-profits.

One panel explained the way New York City, the Country Music Association (CMA) and Chevrolet are uniting to host the 39th annual Country Music Awards. Another panel discussed whether including homosexuals in commercials will improve sales or turn people away from the company.

Maurice Levy, chairman and CEO of Publicis Groupe, the world's fourth largest communications group, explained how he used his position in the global community to work with Israelis and Palestinians to create The Peace Campaign, designed to help the Palestinians and Israelis meet their separate goals by working together. "Nothing is easy in the Middle East," he said. However, he worked with over 80 professionals from both sides of the conflict to design an advertising campaign that would run simultaneously in Israeli and Palestinian media outlets.

Advertising Week attracts attendees from over 30 countries, so it is not surprising that Levy's campaign was only one of the many global initiatives discussed

at Advertising Week. Yahoo! and media specialist agency OMD sponsored a panel discussing the role that technology has on teenagers and the way trends vary in different countries.

Not only were global issues discussed during Advertising Week, but industry leaders gathered at the United Nations for a VIP dinner, and President George W. Bush wrote a letter to Advertising Week participants, which was published in "The Insider's Guide to Advertising Week 2005," published by the New York Times.

"By providing a medium for information and expression," Bush wrote, "advertisers communicate with people from all backgrounds and cultures and represent the diversity that make our nation unique."

In the same publication, Mayor Michael Bloomberg wrote a letter expressing his delight that Advertising Week 2005 took place in New York. "New York City has long been recognized as the advertising and media capital of the world," he wrote, "and we are proud that nine out of the ten largest agencies are headquartered in the Big Apple."

Advertising Week enables students to "take advantage of all that New York has to offer business students," said Dr. Deborah Cohn, assistant professor of marketing at Yeshiva University's Sy Syms School of Business. Cohn cancelled her classes for the week so her students could attend Advertising Week events.

"Advertising Week is an exciting opportunity to meet with advertising professionals and

*continued on page 16*

## Beyond the advertisements: Understanding the position of the Halachic Organ Donors Society enough to donate organs?

BY JACKIE FAST

You've probably seen the advertisements of the Halachic Organ Donors Society (HODS) in an assortment of Jewish newspapers, ranging from the Observer to The Jewish Week. You've tried to recognize the faces of the rabbis whose membership cards appear across the full-page ad, immediately identifying Rabbi Dr. Norman Lamm as chancellor of Yeshiva University. No doubt, you've also wondered what makes HODS different from other organ donation registries. What is "halachic" organ donation in contrast to secular organ donation? How can organ donation practically be within the bounds of Jewish law?

It is important to note that explaining the position of HODS in the context of the halachic and biological aspects of organ donation is a hefty topic which cannot be adequately assessed in this article due to space constraints. However, a brief explanation of the issue in regard to the halachic sources, medical facts, and the modern disagreements, and where HODS stands regarding all of it is possible.

From a halachic standpoint, a person may not donate an organ if the transplant will result in his own death, even if the donation will save another person's life, because of the precept *eiyn dochtin nefesh mipnei nefesh*, one may not terminate one life to save another. However, it would seem that organ donation is theoretically permitted if the donor is already deceased. The question remains, is there a time when a person is halachically considered dead, but biologically "alive"

From a medical standpoint, organ donation is only possible if the organs are harvested at a time when blood is still circulating. For essential organs such as the heart, there are very few cases where donation is possible. Since living people won't sacrifice their lives to donate a vital organ, and organs of the dead are medically useless, the only people who serve as viable donors are those who are barely alive or sustained by respirators. In few medical cases are these conditions met, and in even fewer cases is the patient viewed to be dead by halachic standards.

Most organ donors are either in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) or are brain-dead. These two conditions may appear similar on the outset but are in reality quite different. In PVS, a person's cerebral functions are disabled, although brain-stem functions such as respiration and heartbeat are still functioning. According to secular and religious law, a person in PVS is still alive.

For a brain-dead patient, even the brain-stem is not functioning, and respiration and heartbeat are naturally maintainable for only a short period of time. A brain-dead person may be sustained on a respirator indefinitely, although independent respiration is incapable of being regained after it is lost.

In America, it is legal to donate organs while in either of these medical states. However, the donor must have consented and the family must be informed. In fact, according to the statistics provided by the governmental organ and tissue donation and transplantation service, Donate

## A Light Goes Out: Remembering Rabbi Herman Naftali Neuberger

BY SURI GREENWALD

While the Jewish community was celebrating the holiday of Sukkot, a time laden with happiness, the passing of spiritual leader Rabbi Herman Naftali Neuberger caused the holiday season to be tinged with mourning and grief. Rabbi Neuberger passed away in his sleep on October 21, leaving a hole in the heart of the Jewish nation. Who was this man that so many felt had been a father to them? How was this leader of Ner Israel Rabbinical College able to touch the lives of all kinds of people, from the Orthodox to the Conservative and Reform Jews, spreading even to non-Jews? It is this phenomenon, the Baltimore Jewish Times recalls, that was Rabbi Neuberger.

From 1918 until his travel to yeshiva in 1935, Rabbi Neuberger called Germany home. After learning for three years in Poland in the famed Mirrer Yeshiva, he was thankfully invited to New York by relatives who had moved there, thereby indirectly saving him from the imminent onslaught of the Holocaust. While in America, Rabbi Neuberger visited relatives in Baltimore where he was introduced to Ner Israel, then known as Tifereth Israel Congregation, and to its leader,

Rabbi Yaacov Yitzchok Ruderman. Drawn to the institution, Rabbi Neuberger decided to make Baltimore his new home. He soon began working there and shortly after, in 1942, he married Judith Kramer, Rabbi Ruderman's sister-in-law. Rabbi Neuberger became very involved in the yeshiva; he served as vice president and received his *semikha* (rabbinical ordination) from Rabbi Ruderman. Ultimately, he replaced Rabbi Ruderman as leader of the congregation after Rabbi Ruderman's passing in 1987.

While in Baltimore, Rabbi Neuberger was quickly recognized as a great advisor: everyone sought out his advice. Yeshiva students, politicians, and even strangers vied for the counsel he readily gave. For Rabbi Neuberger, it was a 24-hour job and every individual counted. When the maelstrom of World War II was engulfing Europe, he obtained visas for Jews to escape to America. When Jews faced great danger in 1979 after Islamic fundamentalists took power in Iran, he again sent visas, allowing hundreds to obtain refuge and learn at the yeshiva in Baltimore.

Rabbi Neuberger did not shy away from controversial moral issues and joined forces to deal with gay rights and abortion, and, together with Cardinal Keeler, tried to

preserve marital sanctity throughout the community. He dealt with issues as mundane as school vouchers and with more crucial issues regarding the security of Israel, considering the Arab war against the state. Politicians and officials would call on him for advice and knew they could always rely on it.

His influence was not limited to the amorphous global community; rather, he was personally involved with his own constituents. If a woman needed help procuring a divorce, a congregant needed assistance in obtaining a job, or a dispute required settling, he was consistently called upon. Indeed, the Yeshiva Ner Israel, at which 900 students currently study, owes much of its success to Rabbi Neuberger's giving personality.

Beyond the yeshiva which is comprised of strictly Orthodox Jews, Rabbi Neuberger dealt with people less observant. In so doing he conveyed the important lesson that the entire Jewish nation will forever be bound together and that, as he articulated, "you have to love a Jew regardless if he goes to a temple or a *shtiebel* (small synagogue)." No doubt this understanding contributed to his reputation as trustworthy counsel.

Despite all of his leadership responsi-

bilities and the honor brought upon him, Rabbi Neuberger did not succumb to arrogance; he always accredited his achievements to God. Nor did he shirk his familial responsibilities: he not only made sure to spend time with his immediate family, he also often visited his siblings in other parts of the world.

When asked how he has time for all his undertakings, he responded unceremoniously, saying that he wished there was only more time in the day for what needs to be done. And what about getting any sleep? "When the telephone stops ringing, I go to sleep at night," was his reply.

Rabbi Neuberger had already lit the customary Shabbat candles before he lay down for a nap that Friday afternoon. At age 87, he passed away peacefully into the next world. Part of the Jewish nation's light has been extinguished. Rabbi Neuberger's extraordinary character was a great lesson for all and though his passing is staggering, sulking in sorrow is not productive; instead, it is imperative that one follow in his footsteps, remaining ever-conscious of the fact that there is so much to do, and as Rabbi Neuberger expressed, just "not enough hours in the day."

# SawYouAtSinai.com: The dot-com Shadchan

BY RIVVY ACKERMAN & MIRIAM KAHN

SawYouAtSinai.com and its founder Marc Goldman have set out to revolutionize the online dating world for Modern Orthodox Jews. A few years back, Goldman was looking to expand the possible dating options for singles in the Jewish community. His idea was to merge two elements of the dating experience: matchmaking and online dating. The result was SawYouAtSinai.com, a dating website that pairs members with matchmakers who then work to make matches, eliminating the self-search aspect of most other dating websites.

Its unique balance of professional matchmaking assistance and personal involvement sets it apart from other dating venues and websites. Only a few years old, the site has already accumulated an impressive membership of 12,000 singles and employs 260 matchmakers. Upon joining the website, each member creates an individualized profile, including detailed personal information relating to one's background, level of observance, personality factors and interests.

Members then choose three matchmakers from the site who they would like to assist them. Only the selected matchmakers have access to member's profiles, ensuring confidentiality and privacy. Matchmakers require at least a phone call, sometimes more, in order to become acquainted with the person's background and personality, yet they have only as much involvement as the individual prefers.

There are two different levels of membership: basic membership, which is free, and the gold membership varies between \$7.95 and \$12.95 a month. Depending on the member's preference and level of membership, anywhere from one to five matches can be suggested by matchmakers per week. Gold members have access to more matches. There is no obligation to pursue any suggestion made. This flexibility allows members to be both involved and in control of the process.

SawYouAtSinai's philosophy is that the largest appeal of the online dating system is the opportunity to meet people

beyond one's existing social networks. The simple and convenient aspects of online dating that SawYouAtSinai employs, combined with the more interactive approach of matchmaking, provides "the best of both worlds," in the opinion of one Stern College for Women (SCW) senior.

The distinctive blend of characteristics of both types of dating makes SawYouAtSinai.com uncontested in the online dating world. Having recently expanded the range of observance level categories to include more options, Goldman hopes to double the number of members on the website over the next few years. "We feel that the Jewish community is really growing, therefore we want to continue to grow and expand in order to help as many people as possible," remarked Goldman.

The website has also begun to host single's events that are attended by both website members and the matchmakers. So far, the events have elicited highly positive reviews and feedback from the majority of those involved. Often, the events are designed to cater to individuals with shared levels of religious observance.

Goldman believes that the website is convenient for college students because it is inexpensive, convenient and time-efficient. The fastest growing area right now is the 18 to 25-year-old category. "We feel that many college students are unaware that we even exist," explained Goldman, "and those who are aware are unfamiliar with the inner-workings of the site and what it is that we do."

To promote awareness, SawYouAtSinai.com has extended an offer of two free months after a month of signing up for gold membership to any interested Yeshiva University students. To access the offer one must type in the marketing code 'YU' when prompted. This offer is available through December 31.

"It sounds like we should try this out; it eliminates blind dating hassles but sounds equally as efficient," declared one SCW senior who is now considering joining the site. "Everything students do nowadays is online; why not make dating that convenient too?"

# An Inside Look at the Stern Transfer Student Experience

BY CHANI OZAROWSKI

Imagine returning from a year of studying in Israel to attend a secular college which is located relatively close to your home. Though the school has its benefits, i.e. it accepts credits for your year abroad, the social and religious environment is severely lacking. There is little Shabbat life since most other students commute, the closest Jewish center is a Conservative synagogue, and developing a social group to which you can relate is very challenging. What would you do? Or perhaps you have actually been in such a situation and subsequently made the same decision Tamar Grun made: transfer to Stern College for Women.

Grun, a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, entered Baltimore's Towson University as a sophomore after spending a year in seminary. Faced with the challenges described above, she chose to go along with the suggestions of family and friends to transfer to Stern.

The process was not an easy one. It began with the typical steps taken by all students applying to a new school. In accordance with the requirements laid out in the admissions section of the YU website, Grun had to submit official high school and college transcripts, a \$50 application fee, official SAT/ACT scores, an essay and a completed application. Additionally, she needed an interview and, as stated on the website, she needed to "meet the academic standards required of freshmen and be in good academic standing" at her current school.

Once she was accepted, however, Grun, an English Communications major who plans to go into advertising, had to calculate which credits from Towson could actually be transferred and, upon entering the school, adjust to campus life. The process of credit transfer, she remarked, proved "very difficult." From the administrative end, Ms. Frances Fisher of the Associate Registrar explains that "final transcripts, course descriptions, and syllabi are required in order for department heads to determine what courses are equivalent to the courses offered at Stern College and Sy Syms School of Business." Transferring these items and establishing equivalence between the differing courses can prove a daunting task for student and administration alike. Still, reports Grun, "people are very helpful [at Stern]," a factor which definitely eases the transition.

This sentiment is mirrored by Chavie Machefsky, a student who transferred to SCW from the University of Hartford. Although her credit transfers were still in the works as of October and were definitely annoying to deal with at times, she also reports that people at Stern and in the Registrar's Office in particular were of great help. "Tracey has been really, really helpful and great," she says, emphasizing that she "couldn't have kept it together without her."

Machefsky, who skipped her sophomore year due to Stern's acceptance of seminary credits, had reasons somewhat similar to Grun's for transferring. While her transfer was partially due to dissatisfaction in academic matters at Hartford, she was also religiously unhappy. In her own words, there was "no one on the same page as I was."

And now? "It's working out to be a really good fit," she affirms. Although initially apprehensive, Machefsky is glad she switched, both in terms of academic and

social concerns. An early childhood education major, she was considering Stern specifically because of its reputation for having a good education program, and is currently satisfied with her findings. Commenting on the warm student body, she notes that "it is not difficult to find people who are nice."

As for Grun, the Stern academic and social realities are less similar to her initial expectations than they are for Machefsky. While she appreciates the extra-curricular activities and numerous opportunities for Torah lectures, she admits that the workload and student effort required at Stern are more rigorous. In addition to the obvious Judaic studies requirements, Grun notes that there are more assignments and that readings are more imperative. She explains that at Stern, you "have to do [the readings] or you'll be really lost" in the next class, whereas at Towson, readings were fully reviewed in class. Socially, Stern also lives up to her hopes for a relatable Jewish context. She is glad to meet new people and be a part of Stern's unique dormitory experience. Grun remembers how surprised she was at the diversity of the student body, an aspect of Stern that was "totally different" from her initial expectations.

While transfer credits, academics, and social life are evident challenges facing transfer students such as Grun and Machefsky, there are other difficult aspects of adjustment whose existence may not occur to the native Stern student. For example, Machefsky commented that her most difficult adjustment in coming to Stern was actually going to school in New York City. At Hartford, she was used to a "sequestered campus" in a more rural area; noting the loud traffic and bad smells which plague Midtown, Machefsky related that acclimating to the new environment was definitely difficult.

For Grun, just being a transfer student in a school where the student body is mostly native to the area was disorienting. According to the university's Director of Enrollment Management John Fisher, the number of transfer students in women's undergraduate programs is "so small that we really haven't been rigorous in tracking it," and so there is not even a clear record of how many transfer students enter SCW and Sy Syms per year.

For Grun, this factor made the most difference during orientation, when there were "four hundred girls, all new [to the college experience], in a room, and everyone has different backgrounds." Given such a context, she noted that it would be nice "to know you're not the only one out there" who is going through the experiences of transferring colleges. One suggestion she made was for future orientations to include separate sessions for transfer students.

As evident from Grun and Machefsky's experiences, each transfer student certainly arrives at Stern with a different comfort level and set of expectations for a university. Because of this, no single student's experience necessarily reflects the feelings of the rest. Additionally, it is important to realize that such experiences and expectations depend on the nature of one's previous school, as well as the particular classes and professors taken in each.

Learning about transfer students from the inside, paying notice to the academic, religious, social, and geographic changes to which they must adjust, should make the student body more sensitive to the issues challenging them.

## A Vacation – Or Is It?

BY CLAUDIA AMZALLAG

After more than a month off from school it seems like we've starting all over again. We need to readjust to those Monday mornings — you know: when your eyes itch from lack of sleep and you're invariably running to get those last-minute things done before class, though you thought you'd prepared everything this time — and obviously to readjust to our schedule and course loads, learning everything over again from the beginning of the subject for midterms, with finals just around the corner. Certainly, it was great to be at home and spend time with family, but when all the holidays come to an end and all that vacation time is over, going back to school is very difficult for multiple reasons.

The transition has been especially hard for international students who, when vacation ended, were forced to go through

the goodbye process all over again, leaving their families and good weather in most cases, for the still-foreign NYC and its upcoming winter wrath.

Much worse than having to leave home again is not being able to travel home for holidays in the first place, as was the case for many international students, due to high airline ticket fares. Not having family here, they were dragged from one home to another, unable to access the dorms, and, as opposed to most students, they just could not wait for school to start again.

Laurence Suissa, a junior from Casablanca, described her stay in New York for the holidays, saying "Even though it was really great to stay by friends for the holiday, it was difficult because I was not with my family. I would have wished the dormitories stayed open, because there are some stu-

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## Halachic Organ Donations

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Life, 6,990 organ donations in America in 2004 were from living donors, a close comparison to the 7,150 organ donations from deceased donors.

Of halachic sources that deal with the determination of death, the first is a mishna in Tractate Ohalot 1:6 which determines that decapitation is an indicator that life has ceased. The Talmud in Tractate Yoma on page 85a concludes that a person trapped under rubble who has irreversibly stopped breathing is surely dead, and one may not move the rubble on Shabbat to check for a pulse. In light of these two sources a PVS patient is alive by halachic standards since independent respiration remains. Ostensibly, the Talmudic sages were not knowledgeable of the central role the brain serves in the body's function. Does irreversible brain failure precede these indicators?

Major modern deciders of halacha, Rabbis Moshe Feinstein and Shlomo Zalman Auerbach zt"l, left responsa to this issue which seem to reject brain death as a determination of death, although their writings are open to interpretation. Both of them dealt with the question of organ donation at a time when studies in brain-death were being

researched and the scientific facts remained unclear. Of the contemporary rabbinic authorities, opinions take both directions in interpreting their decisions. The verdict for organ donation remains a significant dispute to this day.

Those who are against organ donation maintain that since respiration and heartbeat can be medically sustained on brain-dead patients, the patient is therefore considered to be "alive" even after brain failure. According to HODS, and others who support organ donation after halachic considerations, irreversible cessation of respiration follows brain-death and patients are considered dead beyond that point.

Some of the scholars who are members of HODS are students of Rabbis Auerbach and Feinstein, and their personal correspondences have formed the basis for their interpretation of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century responsa. One such student, Rabbi Avraham Steinberg, M.D., explained that "Rav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach told [him] specifically...that the heart per se is not necessarily a sign of life and death; in other words, a person can be defined as dead even though his heart is still functioning. What is important to Rav Auerbach is brain function." Steinberg, a pediatric

neurologist in Sharei Zedek and author of "The Encyclopedia of Medicine and Halakha," reports that he had performed experiments, while Rabbi Auerbach was still alive, which resulted in the latter reversing his ruling on organ donation from brain-dead donors.

Rabbi Moshe Tendler, son-in-law of Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, is another member of HODS. "We must remember that all of Rabbi Feinstein's early teshuvot (responsa) in this area were on cerebral death," he says. Since cerebral death produces patients in PVS, it is completely different from the modern definition of brain death. With this distinction drawn, it's clear that the acceptance of brain death as a halachic definition of death can be reconciled with Rabbi Feinstein's writings.

Although organ donation remains an open issue in the Judaism, HODS is, true to its name, strongly grounded in halacha. With their advertisements, more readers will be able to identify organ donation from brain-dead donors as not only a viable concept within the framework of Torah, but as an opportunity to fulfill an important mitzvah as well: to save a life.

## Advertising Week

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make connections," explained Andre Harrell, CEO of Nu America Records and former president of Motown Records, who warned that people must be careful how they "buzz." According to Harrell, if the public does not like the way buzz agents are acting they will generate negative feeling towards the brands.

One of the themes of Advertising Week 2005 was the future of advertising. "Change is what we felt the culture is about," said Alex Bogusky, of advertising agency Crispin Porter + Bogusky, who created the anti-smoking Truth Campaign.

As technology advances, advertisers will find it more beneficial to utilize new methods of advertising, such as maximizing Internet and cell phone advertising. "Internet and cell phones at core will change the life of the advertisers," said Levy.

Another area of advertising that is predicted to increase is buzz advertising, a method where advertising goals are achieved through word of mouth rather than traditional advertisements. Currently, celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Martha Stuart are increasing their businesses through buzz marketing.

In order for a buzz marketing campaign to succeed, the person involved must be authentic. "To be timelessly cool is definitely

driven by authenticity," said Andre Harrell, CEO of Nu America Records and former president of Motown Records, who warned that people must be careful how they "buzz." According to Harrell, if the public does not like the way buzz agents are acting they will generate negative feeling towards the brands.

An exhibit entitled "Hold My Skateboard While I Kiss Your Girlfriend" at the Museum of Television and Radio explored the future of advertising, and the "Opt In to Advertising's New Age" exhibit at the New York Public Library for Science, Industry and Business went through various advertising modes, such as print, radio, television and Internet, going from past to present.

Advertising Week 2005 featured such a large amount of simultaneous sessions and other events that participants could not attend all of them. Yet even attending a limited amount of events offered the opportunity to enlighten and change the way people view advertising. In a world where advertising is inescapable, Advertising Week enables people to embrace and learn from professionals in the field.

## Oren Visits YU

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ing Palestinian compliance with the road map somewhere down the line, it would be disastrous for Israel.

He also acknowledges that Israel's internal politics could change at any moment as well. "Israel is in a highly dynamic situation," said Oren. For all he can foresee, the "right" may embrace Sharon down the line because what is considered the "right" in Israel may change. "Israel has an imperfect political system," he said. That is just another part of Israeli society.

In the meantime, "where we're standing now, Israel is looking unprecedented strong," Oren said. Israel is currently in a post-Palestinian phase and has the opportunity to deal with other core issues confronting her. While the main problem facing Israel a few years ago was destruction by the Palestinians, today Israel must deal with keeping Jerusalem and extending sovereignty over a large part of the population, something Israel has been unable to do in the past. "We are moving from *Am B'yisrael* (a nation in Israel) to *Am Yisraeli* (an Israeli people)," he said.

However, he does not see a complete dissolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict under Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas on the horizon. For there to be everlasting peace, a Palestinian leader would have to be capable and willing to wage a civil war against his fellow Palestinians. "I don't see Abbas making those steps," Oren said. "He's a nice guy but I don't see him waging a civil war." While Abbas differs from former leader Yassir Arafat in that Arafat encouraged terror and Abbas has said he is against terror, the two are similar in the fact that neither is willing to stop terror from occurring.

Yet "if peace means time without an active war, I'm confident we can have it," said Oren, who views Israel's situation through a pragmatic lens. When his first son was born, Oren remembers looking at him and saying, "This kid won't wear a helmet." Now he realizes generations of Israeli men will be wearing helmets for many years to come. Israel is in the Middle East, an unstable area of the world, and Israelis need to have realistic expectations of what peace means in their region. However, "I know as a historian we've survived all of this," he said. "In Israel we lead normal, fulfilling intensely vivid lives," and with all the terror occurring around the world, he'd rather deal with the issues it brings with it in *Eretz Yisrael* (the Land of Israel).

## Counseling Center

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shops will deal with the common issues of eating disorders, relationships, depression, study skills, and substance abuse. These sessions will be geared toward helping those who are troubled by their own issues or who recognize a problem in a friend.

Schwartz noted that until this year, the majority of people who utilized the university's counseling services were from outside the metropolitan area. He believes this is because it is often more difficult for "out-of-towners," and especially foreign students, to receive the support that they need without the assistance of the university. "Now that we are publicizing, there will probably be a

more random and varied group of students using the service," he said.

Unfortunately, there is no lack of issues troubling most students, resulting in all types of people coming to the counseling center for help, no matter their demographics. In the words of Nulman, "For those who lack the resources to independently obtain the emotional and psychological support that they need, the counseling center provides them with an ideal situation. And for those who have resources outside the university, the center is still an extremely attractive option."

## International Students

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dents that don't have family here and cannot afford to come back home, so it would be nice that even if we eat at Chabad or somewhere in the city, we should have a place to stay." Suissa expressed that there is no place like home and that it feels less imposing to go to other people's houses for dinner as opposed to sleeping there as well. Other breaks do not provide such a challenge because they are shorter; however between Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, vacation lasts a whole month!

It is hard enough for international students to acclimate to a new environment, life style and language; perhaps letting the dormitories stay open for Sukkot can alleviate the load. Another issue that international students struggled with this semester, because of the calendar and school schedule, is that of the two isolated days of school right before Yom Kippur: one Monday and one Tuesday of school, disrupting what would have otherwise been a complete month-long vacation.

SCW senior Jennifer Bossel, also from Casablanca, described, "The two days of school in between are not fair for students who don't live around [New York]. You either have to miss classes and be behind or stay for Rosh Hashanah instead of being with your family."

Personally, I could not afford to miss classes in between

and had to stay in Brooklyn for Rosh Hashana. I have to admit that even though I am very sociable and feel at ease, it was still very uncomfortable and I could not wait for it to end. It was even more frustrating when I found out that half of my classes had been cancelled. Apparently, it is not only for the international students that these two days have been somewhat of an issue.

Though it's understandable that the administration believes these two days are important, the dubious success of two days of regular scheduling in the midst of a month without classes should have been evaluated more realistically.

In this case, many out-of-state students, often not affected like the international students, also had trouble figuring what to do with that Monday and Tuesday. Some non-New Yorkers traveled home for Rosh Hashana and back again to New York, only to return home two days later, spending double the amount of travel-fare that they would have to go home for one complete break.

Now that we're back to school, it will be steady for another two months so let's make the best of it. I'd like to add a message to all those students who traveled abroad for the holidays: "Don't forget to visit the writing center on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor to sharpen your English skills!"



## Israeli's Nobel Prize

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After the establishment of the State of Israel, he became involved in politics and founded the Herut party, which laid the foundation for the establishment of the Likud party, and he was elected prime minister in 1977 as head of the Likud. It was then that Begin initiated the peace talks that led to the Camp David Accords and to the 1979 Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty.

Almost two decades later, two more Israeli politicians—Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres—shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Yasir Arafat, who was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization until his death in 2004. The prize was awarded “for their efforts to make peace in the Middle East.” According to Alfred Nobel’s will, the peace prize should be granted to the person in the preceding year who “shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations.” The talks, which eventually led to the signing of the Oslo Accords in August of 1993, were initiated by the Norwegian government. In 2000, President Bill Clinton wanted to further the Oslo Peace Process and decided to organize a Camp David summit between Arafat and then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. However, the summit failed in its attempts to further the process and as a result only added to the diminishing credibility of the Oslo Accords.

The next two Israelis to receive a prize were honored for their work in the field of chemistry. Aaron Ciechanover was born in Haifa in 1947, receiving a medical degree from the Hebrew University in 1975 and a degree in biology from the Technion University in Haifa in 1982, where he now works as a professor at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine and Research Institute. Avram Hershko was born in Hungary in 1937 and was deported to Austria where he survived World War II in a labor camp. Reunited with his family at the end of the war, Hershko immigrated to Israel in 1950 and settled in Jerusalem where he studied medicine. Before beginning his clinical training he spent a year working in a lab, and he realized that although he would complete his medical training, he would pursue a career in research. Hershko is also a professor at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine and Research Institute. Along with a third co-recipient, Irwin Rose, a specialist at the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of California, Irvine, these two distinguished Israeli scientists studied the way proteins are broken down. By studying this process of regulated protein degradation, the researchers were able to demonstrate that the specifically chosen proteins to be degraded are marked with a molecular label known as ubiquitin which can be recognized by a proteasome, a complex which will then go ahead with the protein degrada-

tion. A number of important processes use this specific protein-recognition mechanism, including cell division and DNA repair.

Aumann is the eighth Israeli to be honored with a Nobel Prize. Whereas the rest of the categories, namely Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace, were specified by Nobel in his will, the prize in economics was instituted by the Bank of Sweden in 1968 in memory of Alfred Nobel. The prize is then actually awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, as are all other Nobel Prizes with the exception of the Peace Prize. The process of selecting a maximum of three winners begins in September, approximately one year before the winner is announced, when letters are sent out to worthy people or to organizations who can nominate candidates. Of these nominees, the Economics Prize Selection Committee of the Academy organizes detailed studies of the most distinguished nominees. The committee then provides the Academy with its proposal in the form of a report, which provides a lengthy review of the main candidates. A vote is held at the beginning of October and once a decision is made, it cannot be appealed. The prizewinners are contacted and press conference is held. The ceremony is held in December, when a medal, a diploma and a monetary award are distributed to the winners.

## Yitzchak Rabin

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summer’s unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, “The failure is not so much that there are divisions over our fundamental approach toward achieving peace and security, but that this debate has been fed by, and in turn exacerbates, the religious-secular divide.” The fact that Rabin was assassinated by an observant Jew remains an open wound and still contributes to this divide. Looking towards the positive, some are amazed that nothing of the sort transpired during the recent disengagement process, contrary to the fears of many who believed that such a reoccurrence was not unlikely. As Singer put it, “It is good news that, a decade after Rabin’s assassination, and especially following the crucible of disengagement, that our democracy is in one piece.”

If one general lesson

may be extracted from the devastating assassination and the internal rifts that it created, it is the legacy of a man who spent his life in service of his country. While many disagreed with Rabin’s methods and attempts at reaching a lasting peace, one cannot turn away from this and not learn the lessons of dedication, perseverance, and of hope. He viewed himself as part of the continuum in the Jew’s search for peace. In his own words, as he was about to accept the Nobel Peace Prize, “I do not stand here alone, today... I am the emissary of generations of Israelis, of the shepherds of Israel, just as King David was a shepherd... of the rebels against the establishment, like the Prophet Jeremiah... I am the emissary of the poets and of those who dreamed of an end to war, like the Prophet Isaiah.”

News:  
afrubens@yu.edu  
Israel:  
matarass@yu.edu

## YU Rallies to Protest Iran and Commemorate Kristallnacht

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issue to the forefront in Congress and have the potential to help force the passing of legislation.”

Ahmadinejad’s statements are especially frightening, considering that Iran has the means to follow through on such threats. Iran possesses nuclear missiles that can easily be sent into Israel at any time. They are also on the verge of developing nuclear weapons, which can end up being detrimental to the entire world. The signs distributed at the gathering, with slogans such as “Iran’s threat to annihilate Israel is a threat to all of us,” and “Stop Iran before it gets to use the atomic bomb,” were not exaggerations.

The rally began with the chanting of “Stop the Hate, Iran” and the singing of “Am Yisrael Chai” (The Jewish nation should live). Other slogans recited throughout the program included “Kick Iran Out,” “Zap Iran’s Nukes,” and “Never Again,” the last one referring to Kristallnacht and the Holocaust.

“There is great significance in the coinciding of the rally and the eve of Kristallnacht,” said Horowitz.

“When Hitler got up a little more than 50 years ago and called for the destruction of the Jewish people, leaders condemned his words and did little more. Kristallnacht, in effect, signals the beginning of his active campaign against the Jewish people that would lead to the death of six million Jews. We must ensure that this time we take up action and ensure that no great tragedy to the Jewish people occurs again. It is our responsibility to protect our nation from another Kristallnacht.”

This theme resonated throughout the rally, which was led by Rabbi Joseph Potasnick, executive vice president of the NYBR. “It all started with words,” said Rabbi Bruce Ginzburg, president of the Union for Traditional Judaism, in opening the event. “It all started with words and then it escalated to laws of discrimination and resulted in a night of broken glass.” And while he applauded U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan for refusing to visit Iran and applauded the rest of the U.N. for verbally condemning the Iranian president, he loudly declared that words of disapproval are not enough to prevent Ahmadinejad’s

vision. “Our words also have to be followed with action,” he said.

And while Ahmadinejad’s words cannot be ignored, Rabbi Ginzburg had to give him a little bit of credit. “At least let’s commend him for something we couldn’t do,” he joked, referring to the fact that this is the first time the U.N., the European Union and Kofi Annan are standing with Israel.

Another speaker, Rabbi Eli Krinsky of the CJF and REITS, recalled standing by the Kristallnacht exhibition at Yad Vashem (the Holocaust museum in Israel) a year ago when “my heart skipped a beat,” he said. Because Israelis write the date with the day preceding the month, the date given for Kristallnacht was 9/11, a day all Americans remember vividly. When writing dates the European way, 9/11 is also the date of *Tisha B’Av*, another day when the hatred of man caused great destruction. “When will we learn?” he asked. “When will the world learn?” Answering his question, he went on to say, “We have learned and we expect the world to learn as well.”

“What is the recipe for

genocide?” opened Rabbi Eitan Mintz, executive director and vice president of AMCHA, the next speaker to address the crowd. “It’s two things,” he declared, “intent and opportunity.” Hitler had the intent 67 years ago, followed by the opportunity. Similarly, Ahmadinejad clearly has the intent, and, given Iran’s possession of missiles, now has the opportunity as well. “I would not be surprised if they are planning attacks from this building,” he said, referring to the Iranian Mission behind him. “From the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of this building,” he reiterated.

This was not the first rally to take place in protest against Iran, and will not be the last. “This is part of a bigger plan,” said Rabbi Jonathan Pearl, the last public figure to address the group. “We are going to continue to assemble here until the president of Iran is removed.”

After a few words by Scott Shulman, a YU student, Rabbi Pearl concluded the program by reciting *Kel Moleh Rachamim* (Memorial Prayer for the Deceased), followed by *Kaddish* (Mourner’s prayer) and the singing of the *Hatikvah*

(Israel’s national anthem).

Ari Posnick, a YC senior, founded YUPAC in the spring of 2005. The organization’s mission is as follows: “There are many issues affecting the Jewish community, both here in the US and abroad. YUPAC will ensure a method of action to deal with these issues for Yeshiva students. When a speaker comes and discusses anti-Semitism, human rights violations, the situation in Israel, or when students hear an issue on the news, we want them to be able to not only be aware of the issues but to act on them to facilitate change. The Yeshiva student body has the unique potential to coalesce into a strong unified voice on issues of concern. Yeshiva students can and should take a stand and influence public policy. Geographically, we are located minutes from some of the most powerful and influential Jewish and pro-Jewish organizations in the world. Thus, we have the resources and capability to change the world for the better.”

# Arts and Culture

## Reading Feynman's Letters Beats Bongo Drumming

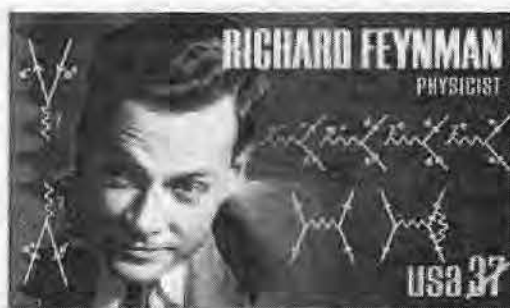
BY CHAYA SARAH SOLOVEICHIK

Then again, I suppose my comparison of Richard P. Feynman's letters to drumming is unsound since my experiences with bongo drumming are limited to banging on overturned cups. The well-known Feynman, on the other hand, became quite adept at the skill. Feynman was also something of a practical joker. He cracked safes for the fun of it while working on the atomic bomb in Los Alamos and even took up drawing later in life. Although Feynman's reputation stems in part from winning the 1965 Nobel Prize for his accomplishments in quantum electrodynamics, his dynamic and vigorous personality did much to propel him before the public eye.

Readers became intimately acquainted with the adventurous and spirited Feynman in his laugh-out-loud 1987 autobiographical account, "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman! Adventures of a Curious Character," and learned that Feynman often drilled holes in his shoes during boring classes, spoke in languages that exist only in Feynmanland, and was denied acceptance into Uncle Sam's army, because, well, the authorities thought he was crazy. Admittedly, maybe he is somewhat eccentric, but Feynman's daughter, Michelle, introduces us to a different side of Feynman in the recently published "Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track: The Letters of Richard P. Feynman."

The compilation and sampling of Feynman's correspon-

dence is, for the most part, organized chronologically and spans from his graduate school days at Princeton in 1939 to shortly before his death in 1988. The letters are often brief, only a line or two before his signoff, but are occasionally long and rambling, written in response to relatives, fellow scientists, friends, fans, and complete strangers seeking advice about physics and his unique take on life. "You cannot develop a personality with physics alone, the rest of your life must be worked in," Feynman tells one student, and this volume affords readers a more personal



and serious glimpse into Feynman's own life and personality.

Regularly acknowledged for his zany antics and quips, Feynman's blunt expressiveness in the 1946 letter to his first wife, Arline Greenbaum, approximately a year and a half following her death from tuberculosis, is notably striking and poignant. He cuts straight to the core of the issue with his conclusion, "I love my wife. My wife is dead" and postscript, "Please excuse my not mailing this - but I don't know your new address." His strong emotions are only natural and don't come as a surprise, but we still don't expect to find the ram-

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BY REENA MITTELMAN

It's a tender story of love and death, bravery and triumph. The characters must struggle to survive in a world fraught with danger and hazard. With new perils at every turn, their safety and survival depend on the bonds that tie them together. But the heroes of this story are not gallant knights, fearless emperors, or plucky young princesses. They're penguins.

"March of the Penguins" was this summer's surprise hit. In its first weekend of national release, it was the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> biggest box office draw. A reality show in the truest sense, "Penguins" is a nature documentary by French director Luc Jacquet that follows emperor penguins as they undertake a grueling 70-mile march across Antarctica's frozen tundra to find mates, reproduce, and care for their offspring.

For the U.S. release of the film, distributor Warner Independent Pictures removed the original French voice-over (which included actors giving "voices" and characters to some of the penguins) and selected Morgan Freeman to narrate. A fitting choice, Freeman expertly captures the spirit of intertwined drama and humor that forms the basis of the film, and his dignified voice gives the penguins the respect and admiration they deeply deserve.

"Penguins" contains the standard elements of a documentary film, but is much more appropriately described as a love story, or, as the narrator puts it, "a tale of life." Rather than simply following the penguins on their remarkable journey, the camera zooms

into the personal relationships between the penguins, framing their experiences in a distinctively human context. During their journey, the penguins huddle together to keep warm, rotating positions so that each one gets a turn in the middle of the circle. When the penguins reach the breeding ground, they "kiss" and touch affectionately. After laying her egg, the female penguin carefully transfers the fragile egg to the male in an elaborate dance that the pair rehearses several times. The penguins' devotion to their young is remarkably strong,



and penguin parents will often combat extreme conditions and harrowing perils with a fragile egg or baby chick tucked in just above their feet. Taking turns watching their chicks, penguin parents make the dangerous journey multiple times, often while on the brink of starvation. The camera's up-close and personal approach to examining the penguins puts the viewer in the thick of the action and enhances the emotional impact of every disaster and the elation of every triumph.

Despite the movie's guiding theme of love and determined

cooperation, "Penguins" contains its fair share of depressing images that demonstrate the unforgiving harshness of nature and the daily threat of the food chain. Much of the movie consists of a seemingly never-ending series of disasters and tragedies that befall the penguins. If the long trek and freezing cold don't kill them, starvation and hurricane-force winds might. And even if they survive more than three months of perpetual darkness and escape the killer leopard seals, hawks, albatrosses, sea lions, and other predators that hunt them, many poor penguins will still mourn the unbearable loss of a chick killed in a storm or frozen inside its egg before it even had a chance to experience life in the wild. Separation and death are such constants in the lives of the penguins, making their family reunions all the more meaningful.

Yet, the heartbreaking poignancy of "Penguins" is countered by the charm of the endearing creatures. It's nearly impossible to watch groups of black-suited penguins slipping and sliding on their bellies down Antarctica's icy slopes without laughing out loud at the awkwardness of their waddling gait and at their startlingly human-like manners and interactions. In one humorous scene, two hungry females simultaneously trying to squeeze into a tiny hole in the ice find themselves gawkily stuck in the opening, with only their bottoms sticking out. In another scene, a penguin trips on the ice and appears to squawk or curse in anger. The camera certainly isn't sparing with images of death, but every scene maintains an atmosphere of hope and wonder, focusing on the

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## In One Word, "If It Was You" is Energetic

BY PEREL SKIER

To call Tegan and Sara a girl-fronted acoustic act is to call the Clash an alt-country group.

To be fair, there are bountiful layers of acoustic guitar in nearly every track of their album, "If It Was You." There are lilting harmonies. The Jewel potential is there. However, there is more of the Clash in these sisters than any pop princess you can name, and if you've got spirit, they'll march you to the front lines.

The album opens with "Time Running," a bombastic blast of banjo, acoustic and dirty electric, a happy and slightly sloppy march with a shout-out chorus. Tegan and Sara sound like the female equivalent of Paul Westerburg, raw with sincerity and chutzpah, and their voices crack wryly on a one-liner, "I could see you ten or twelve times

a day/I think it's best we do it your therapist's way." The girls both have energy and enthusiasm to spare, and their songs have the power to make you stomp your feet and pump your fist in the air. This comes from someone with an unusually high resistance to fist pumping.

What's particularly interesting, though, is the simplicity that often comes across in their songs. The rainy "Monday Monday," full of Springsteen-esque keyboards and strumming, details a frustrating relationship at an impasse. Before the chorus, either Tegan or Sara inquires, "What's wrong with you?" The question is direct and painful, the true grievance behind all the petty arguments and flowery words.

"Living Room," on the other hand, melds bluegrass banjo, fiddle and slide guitar with dark

acoustic chords and three-part harmonies, resulting in a folk song that is catchy, but vaguely ominous. Another highlight of this spirited collection is "Want to Be Bad," whose marching-band drum rolls, reverberating acoustics and bagpipe-like guitar



solo all sound as vast as wind rushing over mountain tops. The song recalls someone's desire to escape their small town to explore, and Tegan's voice lingers a little, like a shiver, as she recalls, "You're so

tragedy...and you were hard on me."

"If It Was You" is ragged around the edges. A few of the songs in the middle - "Underwater," "Not Tonight," "You Went Away," - all sound too much like each other or perhaps too typical of Tegan and Sara, without the unique twist that gives the other songs their own identity. While "Terrible Storm" has an involving, atmospheric verse and an interesting Moog synthesizer in the chorus, Tegan and Sara attempt a disconcerting time warp that makes the two pieces feel unconnected. In certain places, when their voices reach too high, the two sisters sound eerily like Alanis Morissette, which is not a good thing.

However, the rough edges are one of Tegan and Sara's most charming features. They are a

band without any pretensions; they make music the way children color with crayons, and while the results seem amateur at times, it is surprising how accurate their observations can often be. A glimpse at the liner notes pretty much sums up the album. In place of the usual musical credits, there is this simple caption: "Tegan is an instrument and so is Sara." They play what they feel.

It is Tegan and Sara's gutsy rawness that makes "If It Was You" an intriguing listen. Two girls with acoustic guitars never sounded so fierce or so fun. If you still can't quite get the mood of the album, picture it this way: Tegan and Sara want to lead you to victory, and they'll do it with a marching band that bangs on pots and pans.

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## A Royal Treasure: "Freddy and Fredericka"

BY SARA CHAMAMA

A recent Washington Post article characterized the Windsor royals as "a family that craves peace and decorum but often seems to find a whoopee cushion on its throne." This could not be a more accurate description of the fictional British royal family depicted in Mark Helprin's latest novel "Freddy and Fredericka," where Freddy is a stuffy, eccentric, nineteenth-century-throwback, intellectual crown prince who is married to the ditzzy, beautiful, brainless, media-beloved Fredericka. There is a substantial reason for the close parallels between Helprin's royals and the Windsors, since Freddy and Fredericka are a somewhat obvious and overly exaggerated caricature of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana. A character by the name of Lady Phoebe Boylinghotte also makes an entrance in the novel, whose real-life counterpart is currently married to Prince Charles.

Freddy makes one too many faux pas for the common British citizen to accept. My favorite gaffe of Freddy's is where Fredericka's hairdresser records her claiming that an enraged Freddy threw an encyclopedia at her—the Oxford English Dictionary, not the Encyclopedia Britannica, as that would have taken too long—to prove to her that she has only one bosom, and not two, as Fredericka had previously claimed. This tape, upon being played in Parliament, caused much uproar and discussion in the House over the etymology of the word "bosom," whether women have one or two, and whether men have bosoms as well. This is just one example indicative of the many wacky and ridiculous things that occur in this novel.

Freddy and Fredericka are ridiculed by the media and besieged in Parliament, while the populace calls for Freddy to abdicate his status as heir to the throne. This ill will compels Queen Phillipa to summon the legendary and old Merlin-like-adviser, Mr. Neil, to help solve their public relations problem that is the royal couple. And deeming it necessary, Mr. Neil sentences Freddy and Fredericka to exile in America with the express mission of recapturing that slippery ex-colony.

F & F are parachuted into New Jersey (and as a native New Jerseyan, I'd like to note for the record that the negative stereotypes are not appreciated) incognito as dentists named Mr. and Mrs. Lachpooof Moofoomooach. The names, along with everything else in this book are quite wacky. (Other odd names in the novel include Didgeridoo, Psnake, and Craig-Vyvan—the name of both a boy and the royal falcon, the latter of which plays a vital part in this story.) And so their adventure and American road trip begins. They jump from one zany situation to another, and as they discover America, they also discover themselves and each other.

Helprin's world, while it may look superficially

like ours, is that of the absurd. He succeeds magnificently in creating situations and scenes that are one step short of sane. A majority of the humor is derived from miscommunications. This might get tiring after a while for some, but I always found it to be quite hysterical.

I have but two complaints about this novel. Firstly, there is no reason why a lighthearted novel such as this should be the length that it is. "Freddy and Fredericka," running at 550 pages, is the type of book that requires serious muscles to lift. Secondly, it must be read in solitude. I had started reading the book in the presence of my family, but was quickly banished to my room due to my incessant giggling. Freddy and Fredericka, page after page, scenario after scenario, is guaranteed to make you laugh. One part which cracks me up no matter how many times I reread it is a flashback to a press conference that Freddy once partook in. I will quote parts of it here for you, in the hope that you find it just as funny as I did.

[Freddy said:] "It is one thing that the not-so-honourable gentleman insults me, but it is another that he attempts to sully the name of my father, who's sane, who, he says, is not."

This was heard by everyone not as "my father, who's sane," but as "my father, Hussein." The audience was whiplashed.

"Your father, Hussein?" Snatt-Ball asked, delighted. "Yes," Freddy answered, with finality, "my father, who's sane."

"But he isn't."

"Of course he is," Freddy said. "Everyone knows it. It's been obvious since he was born. It's clear to me in everything he does. I suspect, furthermore, that, although he is, you are not."

"Of course I'm not. Are you?"

"Yes," said Freddy, laughing at Snatt-Ball's admission (he had him now), "absolutely."

"Both of you?"

"Both of us. The queen can confirm this, as can just about anyone else in the world."

The moderator asked, "When did Your Royal Highness assume this name?"

"Whose name?" Freddy asked. Primed for it, everyone in the hall thought he had said not *whose name* but *Hussein*.

The scene continues for another page and a half in a similar vein. And despite the rampant goofiness displayed in the novel, "Freddy and Fredericka" is at its core a novel about two misunderstood and self-involved lost souls who become less pampered and more caring. It is a novel of redemption and love. The time invested in reading this tome is time well-spent.

grates to Switzerland to be able to study there. Both are brilliant scientists, yet the play conveniently relies on the audience's knowledge of Einstein's notable contributions while carefully educating them on Haber's, all the while portraying the philosophy behind these contributions.

Einstein is portrayed as a sage philosopher. He is permanently aged throughout the play, ambling through scenes and narrating much like the stage manager in Thornton's Wilder's "Our Town." His philosophy of the sciences emphasizes the importance of ideas and theoretical thought, while Haber is concerned primarily with the societal and practical application for every discovery. Thiessen's Einstein is aged and unchanging, and his manner-

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## Around Town

BY JACKELYN VOLMER

Dorming in New York City has its downsides, such as the noise from traffic at crazy times, the outrageous prices for basically everything except manicures, and even the extreme cold and unbearable winds that descend upon Manhattan during the winter months. Yet, New York City's attractions far outweigh its irritations, and as students attending college in "The Big Apple," it would be a shame if we did not take advantage of our amazing environment. Midterm exams are no excuse to hide out in the library. When taking a study break, be creative. Make sure you do more than watch "Sex And The City" reruns—we are living in "The City," now do something about it!

There is so much to do in New York City that it is hard to know where to begin. Let's be honest, food is clearly a high priority of ours. For a listing of the kosher restaurants in New York City, visit [www.shamash.com](http://www.shamash.com). It has an alphabetical listing of kosher restaurants as well as the type of foods served, the location and the price range. In terms of noshing, I recommend Popcorn Indiana. Located at 48<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, the store is decked out with different flavors of popcorn including Kettle Corn, Chocolate Chunk 'n Caramel, and Country Cheddar. Dylan's Candy Bar, located at 3<sup>rd</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup>, is another place to go for a snack. Co-owned by Ralph Lauren's daughter, Dylan, this candy shop is heaven for chocolate and sugar addicts alike.

New York is famous for its baseball teams—the Yankees and the Mets. But while baseball season has passed, basketball and hockey seasons are in full swing. Luckily, both the New York Knicks and New York Rangers play conveniently nearby at Madison Square Garden. For mezzanine level seating at the Knicks' games, tickets start at just \$10. Tickets for hockey are a little more expensive, starting at around \$27 per seat. Going to a hockey game will certainly get you in the mood to ice skate. There are two great ice skating rinks that are relatively close to Stern. Located near 50<sup>th</sup> street just off of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is the classic Rockefeller Center ice-skating rink where admission is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Every night, the rink is open from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and again from 10:30 p.m. to

midnight. Admission is \$15 for adults, and skate rentals are \$7; payment is in cash only. Another place to glide is Bryant Park, situated behind the New York Public Library, between 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> streets and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues. "The Pond" at Bryant Park is a new public 170' x 100' state-of-the-art rink, open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Admission is free and skate rentals are \$7.50.

New York also offers a plethora of museums. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, located on 82<sup>nd</sup> and Fifth Avenue, is one of my favorites, but I also found a few other interesting museums strewn throughout the city. The Skyscraper Museum's galleries are now open in Battery Park City at 39 Battery Place. Museum hours are noon to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. General admission is \$2.50 for students and seniors and \$5 for everyone else. The exhibit "Favorites," a listing of 100 experts' top ten New York towers, will be running through December 4. Another popular museum found in the heart of Times Square between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue is Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum, where viewers can observe over 200 of the world's top celebrities—in wax form, of course. It costs almost \$32 for adults.

Tourists from around the world visit New York City and do not leave until they have seen at least one Broadway show. Last spring, I saw Disney's "The Lion King" and highly recommend it to people of every age. Another show with great reviews is "Wicked," the prequel to "The Wizard of Oz." To avoid the retail prices of Broadway tickets, visit TKTS located in Duffy Square, the center island of 47<sup>th</sup> Street between Broadway and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. TKTS sells unsold tickets on the day of performance for all Broadway shows at 25% to 50% off the box office price in addition to a \$3.00 service charge per ticket. The electronic signs in front display what shows are available for that day. TKTS only accepts cash and traveler's cheques.

I hope this has given you a brief idea of the excitement awaiting you in New York City. I recommend taking the opportunity to explore at least one museum or attend only one sports game this month... oh, and good luck on your midterms.

## Parallel Lives: Einstein and Haber

BY ADINA BORG

"Einstein's Gift," Canadian Vern Thiessen's award-winning play presented recently by the Epic Theatre Center, is a remarkable tribute to the philosophical and ethical implications of science. Starring Shawn Elliot as a permanently aged Albert Einstein opposite Aasif Mandvi as Fritz Haber, the Nobel Prize winner credited with the discovery of Zyklon B, Thiessen's two-act play contrasts the two scientists as their lives intertwine, probing their diverging views on religion, nationalism and the purpose of science.

Both scientists are Jewish and born in a pre-Nazi Germany, yet Haber converts to Christianity to pursue science, while Einstein immi-

Arts & Culture:  
[csolovei@yu.edu](mailto:csolovei@yu.edu)

## Feynman's Letters

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conveying them. Twenty years later, he subtly refers to Arline again. After winning the Nobel Prize and receiving a congratulatory post from Arline's brother and sister-in-law, he responds, "You too, must remember someone who would have really been happy this day."

Feynman's canny ability to hit a point straight on comes across in many of his other letters as well. He often uses a succinct 20 words where someone else would find it necessary to use 70. When a 15-year-old questions his motivation for working on the atomic bomb, Feynman's response consists solely of the following words: "I did work on the atomic bomb. My major reason was concern that the Nazis would make it first and conquer the world." Who can argue with that?

Although Feynman was actually Jewish, he rejected his birthright at the age of 13 and advocated atheism. Both the captivating "Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!" and James Gleick's systematic and well-written biography, "Genius," scarcely delve into the physicist's theological outlook. Here is where I found "Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track" especially intriguing. Feynman himself rarely broaches the topic in his correspondence, although one particular letter stands out. A Miss Tina Levitan wanted to include Feynman in her upcoming work on Jewish Nobel laureates, but Feynman politely declined, and in his ensuing response, he explains the reasoning that originally compelled him to denounce Judaism. In the transcript of a tel-

evision interview, found in an appendix near the end of the book, Feynman also discusses his inability to bridge science and religion. Even if readers find themselves disagreeing with Feynman's views, it's interesting to glean the mindset that propelled this intellectual mastermind.

Readers observe the more somber qualities of Feynman in this work as well as his intense love for understanding nature, but his sarcastic humor nonetheless continues to jump out from the letters. The description of his conversation with the queen of Brussels is amusing, as are his attempts over a series of many years to resign from the National Academy of Sciences. If anything, Feynman was stubborn. In one correspondence relating to his Nobel Prize, he also jokes about the disappointment he felt when discovering it wasn't granted for excellence in bongo drumming.

"Perfectly Reasonable Deviations from the Beaten Track" is a long volume at roughly 500 pages and probably appeals more to readers already acquainted with Feynman. Browsing from letter to letter almost makes you wish you had some correspondence with him as well. Although you won't come across any letters from me in the actual work for obvious reasons, I have recently written a letter of my own. "Dear Professor Feynman (November 2005), Since first reading about you in 'Surely Your Joking, Mr. Feynman!' I've wanted to take apart an old radio, similar to those you describe in your book, and tinker with it - perhaps you have an extra one you could send to me?"

Features:  
srfruch1@yu.edu

## Einstein and Haber

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isms and clothing remain the same throughout the play. In stark contrast to Einstein, Haber undergoes significant changes, from young and idealistic to arrogant and ultimately dispirited when the Nazis force him to leave Germany for being Jewish—despite being the creator of Zyklon B, the infamous poison employed in concentration camps.

Seeing this play with SCW students, most of who are majoring in biology and chemistry, made for an interesting perspective. While I was largely concerned with character and plot development in "Einstein's Gift," the other students were initially fascinated by the scientific aspects of the play, eyes darting excitedly as long equations were flourished by the actors illustrating Haber's successes. As the play progressed, however, all agreed that science was incidental to the play, merely a tool to explore the personal power these two men wielded in their genius and discovery.

Throughout the two-hour play, Einstein continuously passes judgment on Haber when visiting him, while Einstein himself is simultaneously portrayed as the perfect scientist, the ghost of the atom bombs still hardly imminent. When Haber has finally aged as well and is sitting in a wheelchair in the last scene, viewers observe Einstein holding his letter to President Roosevelt, urging him to fund what is now infamously known as the Manhattan Project. The power of the sciences is most poignantly felt in these last scenes, as the reverberating sounds and lighting simulating the atom bombs exactly parallel the scenes portraying the devastation of Zyklon B in effect. By the end of the play, the validity and strength of Einstein and Haber's relationship is almost irrelevant, because it is the ethical issues surrounding the science they both devoted their lives to that makes the lasting impression.

## Expanded Campus: 215 Lex

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our investment in the future of this campus," says Dean Ethel Orlian, associate dean of SCW. "Thanks to people of vision, this long hoped for dream is becoming an exciting reality." These are big steps for the Beren Campus, and seem to be symptoms of a much greater emphasis on an expansion of space which is being placed on Stern College.

Other construction plans are in the works as well. Rosengarten iterated that "We plan to begin

a major renovating project over this coming summer," and in the more distant future, there will be an even greater acquisition of space. Yeshiva University owns the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of 215 Lexington (roughly 10,000 square feet). The space is unavailable right now because of the leases which tenants have there, but in eight to ten years, and perhaps even sooner, the space will be accessible for use.

## Tremping Advice

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Much of the rest of the ride was spent stopping at the last possible moment, right behind the car in front of us, or driving in the space between two cars in two adjacent lanes. If this wasn't bad enough, I must inform you that there are two ways of getting to Jerusalem from Tel-Aviv. One is by taking the main and direct highway that passes through familiar Jewish territory, through places like Nof Ayalon, Latrum and Kfar Chabad. The other road passes through Jenin and Ramallah. Both roads take the same amount of time and as you may have guessed, we took the road less traveled—the road passing through Jenin and Ramallah. The checkpoints on the way were welcome sights.

Someone reading this may say how it is obvious that one should never resort to *tremping*. However, this method of transportation has its benefits, especially for the average Israeli or tourist visiting Israel, as the case may be. It helps you get a better picture of Israel than you would get by just renting a car. Many times, talking to the people in the car teaches you a lot about your brothers and sisters in Israel. It also saves a lot of money. Since many people in Israel cannot afford a car, or cannot afford the gas required for the car to run, *tremping* is a great option. If nothing else, it provides an exciting story to write about in your school newspaper!

## March of the Penguins

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penguins' incredible resoluteness and love during their journey to give birth to new life.

The wonderful camera work only enhances the appeal of the penguins. Although some of the footage is slightly grainy or blurred, the Antarctic landscape in the movie is breathtaking, and the camera is lavish in depicting exquisite scenes of sunsets, icy peaks, starry nights, and the Southern Lights. The camera plays with light and color to turn even simple scenes of icicles, fish, puddles, and clouds into gorgeous portraits that are woven into the story as symbols of beauty and power. When it comes to the penguins, the camera takes a probing delight in close-up shots of the beautiful creatures waddling through the snow, tending to their chicks, and searching for food. Underwater scenes show impressive shots of the penguins shooting through the sapphire water amidst gleam-

ing blocks of ice. In one particularly scary scene, the camera captures the gaping jaws of a leopard seal as it grabs a penguin that doesn't make it to safety in time. At another point, the camera even zooms inside the mouth of a penguin as it regurgitates food to feed its newborn chick.

With its dramatic footage and simple, yet moving, tale of survival, "Penguins" was most certainly a refreshing beacon of sanity and sincerity in a summer of brainless and superficial movies like "Wedding Crashers," "The Dukes of Hazzard," and "The 40 Year-Old Virgin." The penguins' feats of cooperation are heartening and their survival mechanisms and mating rituals are fascinating. Guided by instinct and perhaps an inner compass, thousands of penguins miraculously manage to converge each year on the same spot to engage in an age-old breeding tradition. The movie follows the penguins for almost a year, and the chicks that started out as tiny

balls of cute gray fuzz have matured by the movie's end into glossy and black-suited clones of their parents. When the time comes, the grown-up chicks will start out on a journey of their own. And then they will do it all again.

"March of the Penguins" will be released in DVD on November 29. It is rated G, though it does contain some scenes of animal violence, as well as some mildly suggestive material about penguin mating. Running time is 80 minutes.

## F A S H I O N

## When Clothes are Just Clothes

BY SARA LEVIT

I recently came across an article in the August 2005 issue of Allure magazine on the 25 best hairstyles of all time. In it, Allure declared that "the most influential styles didn't just flatter the woman who made them famous. They defined them." Upon reading this claim I practically choked on my cereal. Hey, wait a minute. They were defined by their hair? Personally, I know I wouldn't want my eulogy to discuss the merits of my effortlessly chic chin-length rocker shag. Some additional wise words came from the mouth of the glorious Mr. Puff Daddy, or P. Diddy, or Diddy...or is it Sean Combs now? In any case, during an interview for Proactive acne treatment he decided that the way a person cares for their face reflects who they are as a person. Ah, yes. That one should be added to Bartlett's.

When did the amount of sheen in your locks begin to reflect your moral integrity? What in the world has become of our society? I'm aware that it may seem hypocritical of me to be one of the editors of the

fashion section and preach about the unseemliness of superficiality, but it's important to understand the nature of the bone which I pick. I'm not saying that everyone should walk around looking like slobs or show up to a job interview in sweats. (Casual Friday? Why not casual everyday?) Nor am I undermining the power of a well-fitting outfit on a woman's self esteem. In fact, I recall hearing once that the Lubavitcher Rebbe told a certain group of woman who mistook the idea of dressing modestly to mean messily, and that it is important to look presentable. What I am getting at, however, is that it is important to draw the line between what is simply meant to compliment a person and what makes them who he or she is.

It sounds like a simple concept and it should be. Unfortunately, it is an idea that America doesn't quite seem to grasp. Let us take a look at some statistics, shall we? According to a study published by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, "for a typical white woman weighing 64 pounds or more than an otherwise similar white female of average weight, the former's

wages will be about nine percent lower" (stlouisfed.org). They also found that "the average CEO is approximately three inches taller than the average American man," suggesting that "employment outcomes are influenced by more than productivity." It is an outrageous notion that the taller you are the more dynamic and therefore suitable you are for the workplace. I've known enough feisty five-footers to understand that this impression is ludicrous, not to mention unfortunate for those of us vertically-challenged Jewesses.

We are trained from a very young age to believe that beauty is a virtue. Our childhood heroines, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Cinderella, are all the fairest of them all. We grow up with television shows such as "Friends" where the normal level of attractiveness portrayed is way above average. With this unrelenting attack of idealistic images, a woman's self esteem doesn't stand a chance. In an effort to undo a little of the damage, Dove recently came up with an ad campaign which features—gasp—untouched images of real women with real curves. "We

believe that a wider definition of beauty is plausible—one that is multi-dimensional and defined by women themselves," states Dove's website (campaignforrealbeauty.com). "We want to be part of making this definition a reality."

Well, it seems they have a ways to go. According to Linda Wells, the editor-in-chief of Allure, a survey revealed that "when women were asked which three words they'd most like to hear from a male partner, the most common answer wasn't the expected 'I love you,' but you've lost weight." How sad.

In Audrey Hepburn's syrupy words, "The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to the heart. The place where love resides." In my own words, at the end of the day, the clothes do not make the man.

## FunkyFrum.com: A New Online Boutique for the Modest Woman

BY JULIE AST

Chic the Jewish way? A new online retailer, FunkyFrum.com, sells a compilation of "Modest Clothing for the Modern Women." The site provides an e-solution for Modern Orthodox women who can't find appropriate clothing at their local mall.

"The Internet is far-reaching and provides our costumers with accessibility—no matter where they live," says Rachel Lubchansky, creator of the site.

Lubchansky, a newly Modern Orthodox Jewish woman, thought up the store when she moved back to her hometown of St. Louis and found a lacking in fashionable yet modest apparel in the local mall.

"I feel there is a need for a store like this especially today where we feel very torn between our modern and religious worlds," says Sy Syms Junior Michal Minkowitz. "We want to stay with our Jewish roots but we still want to be involved the contemporary world of fashion."

After a year of preparation,



SKIRTS



Funky Frum Tee \$12

Lubchansky launched the site this August with a small collection of clothing from designers including French Connection, Hazel, Kenzie Girl, Three Dots and XCVI Wearables.

Although there is a small amount of merchandise, Lubchansky plans to expand the site to include petite and plus-size clothing. "Many have requested larger size options, so we are responding to that need for stylish merchandise within the market of plus-sized options," said Lubchansky.

Currently knee-to-floor length skirts in both casual and fancy styles dominate the site. Shirts are also a strong presence. They range from simple layering staples to more ornate tops with jewel accents. The "Sets" section of the site sells three suits which are a Modern Orthodox-friendly trend this fall.

"The clothes seemed really good for fall. Some skirts would work really well for the cool weather we have been having," says Anne Harris, a senior at New York University. "I am from St. Louis. For people who live there it's hard to find the clothes they have in New York. It's nice that the site has that type of clothing."

Lubchansky updates the clothing monthly. Recently she added a piece titled "West Side Story," which comes in a long style perfect for winter. Another recent addition, "Meet me in St. Louis," is a ruffled cardigan which gives the wearer a romantic, pretty look.



"Little Women" \$51

A piece named "1776" constitutes the only coat in the store. It evokes a stylish bohemian look in plaid and velvet. A skirt titled "Little Women" should be called "Joseph's Technicolor dream skirt." It has cascading tiers of blue, green, orange, red and purple which make it an original must-have piece.

The clothing ranges from costing \$12 to \$150. Currently, The FunkyFrum.com t-shirt is the best selling piece and the cheapest at \$12.

FunkyFrum.com proves that fashion doesn't discriminate against the Orthodox community. Lubchansky has created a site that proves that style and modesty can co-exist.



"1776" \$132



West side Story \$71

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# Ice Skating at Bryant Park

*continued from front page*

the city," boasts the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation website. About 20,000 people visit the park daily to dine at its restaurants, ride its carousel, play chess on its engraved tables or simply read on its lawn. Last year, much to the excitement of SCW students who walk to the park to do their schoolwork, their park added free wireless Internet connection to its list of amenities.

During the summer months, Bryant Park is heavily populated with scantily clad New Yorkers lounging on the pristine grass. In past years, a white blanket of snow or ice would cover this grass during the winter months, and was of little or no use to New York residents and tourists. Daniel A. Biederman, the executive director of the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation, is hoping that the ice skating rink will "make Bryant Park useable in the winter." Biederman is relying on the close to 80,000 office workers in the ten-block radius surrounding the park, along with the plethora of tourists and visitors to the New York Public Library to fill the rink. Additionally, the newly named "The Pond at Bryant Park" hopes to alleviate the long waits that skaters encounter at both Wollman rink in Central Park and the rink in Rockefeller Center, particularly on weekends.

The rink at Bryant Park is not simply another space for skaters because unlike the other places around the city, this new rink does not charge an entrance fee. The only cost is for skate and locker rentals, both reasonably priced. (Skater caveat: locker rentals are only three dollars

— if you bring your own lock. Otherwise it is necessary to buy a lock as well, which more than doubles the price. An alternative bag check is available for only two dollars).

Just recently installed on October 28, the Olympic-size skating rink is a portable facility. It is built to keep rain and snow from pooling, and its three-inch surface of ice is laid on top of layers of plastic and foam. Biederman did consider installing a more permanent structure in the park, but engineers determined that this would affect the library's underground annex, which needs a climate-controlled setting to preserve the books there. Originally, the library staff was not thrilled with the idea of having an ice skating rink in its backyard, but they now have no objection. Others are excited to see how this portable rink works, thinking they can now install similar rinks in other places around the city.

The idea to have a rink like this was first mentioned by Biederman in the mid-90s, but was rejected because there was no funding for such an operation. The proposal was made again in 2001, but was dropped then as well for similar reasons. This year Citigroup, partnered with the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation, the organization that maintains the facilities and organizes the programming for the park, is sponsoring the operation and installation of the rink.

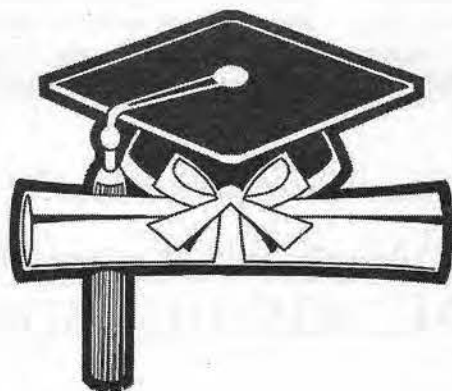
In addition to exciting visits from famous skaters, such as the New York Rangers, whom sophomore Shani Chesir was privileged to meet, the rink is filled with college students capitalizing on their weekend breaks from school. On given any day, there is a palpable cama-

raderie on the rink created by the students, along with the many couples and families skating gleefully on the ice.

The rink provides recreation and lessons for novices and a center stage for experienced ice skaters as well. During opening week, SCW junior Shira Schwartz, who has been skating since she was three-years-old and who has competed with the Shaker Figure Skating Club in Cleveland, Ohio, met a pro-skater who competed in the 2002 Winter Olympics speed-skating races. Returning to the ice for the first time in months and meeting up with other pro-skaters gave Schwartz a chance to "reconnect with the passion of her youth." And of course, since The Pond is open to the public everyday, Schwartz can catch up on all the skating she missed when she was in Israel for the past two years. Schwartz, who owns her own pair of figure skates, related her enthusiasm, "It's so exciting that I can go skating whenever I wish at no charge."

Even special friendships are formed because of the crowds of people on the rink. "I bumped into a man and we were basically hugging because he was skating the wrong way," said an SCW student who went to the rink for her birthday.

The rink will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. and on weekends from 8 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. It will close on January 16, due to the preparations for Fashion Week, which is held in the park in February.



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# SCIENCE AND HEALTH

## Scientists Fear Pandemic

BY ABBY FELDMAN

The winter months are often characterized by a cacophony of sneezes and sniffles that undoubtedly lead to skyrocketing Kleenex sales. Now, the innocuous coughs of a passenger on a train may lead to the spread of one of the most lethal viral influenza outbreaks since 1918.

Scientists across the globe are petrified by this miniscule virus, and with good reason. The Avian Influenza-A virus, though thousands of times smaller than a microscopic bacterium, can cause a pandemic of influenza, which could in effect kill hundreds of thousands of people from Alaska to Zimbabwe. Since 1997, the Avian Influenza A-virus has killed hundreds of thousands of domesticated birds throughout Asia and has now spread to humans who have come in contact to the birds. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that as of November 1, 2005 the 122 reported cases of humans infected with avian flu resulted in 62 deaths.

Over 50% of all humans infected with the Avian Influenza A-virus have been killed. The virulence is due to the character of the virion's proteins located on the surface of the flu-A virus, hemagglutinin (HA) and neuraminidase (NA). All viruses are

known to be "host specific," because the viral surface proteins correspond to the host's surface proteins. There are 16 different HA subtypes and nine different NA subtypes of flu-A viruses. All subtypes of the flu-A viruses are present in birds, while only three are known to infect humans (H1N1, H1N2 and H3N2). The current avian influenza virus is categorized as an H5N1 virus specific to birds. Human infection is only possible by direct contact with infected poultry or wild birds. Once inside the human, the H5N1 virus renders the body's immune system essentially ineffective. The shape specific to the H5 viral surface protein enhances viral replication in human cells. The virus spreads rapidly, evading the body's immune system, as it infects the lower respiratory tract.

The catastrophe that would result if the virulent H5N1 strain of influenza-A could transmit from one person to another is of greatest concern. A mutation (change in the genetic code) would allow this virus's host specificity to expand to humans, creating a pandemic of a very potent influenza. Influenza viruses are generally very susceptible to mutation. The virus's genetic information is not stored in linear strands like the human genome. Instead, viral genetic information

is encoded in eight separate segments. The segmentation of the genome allows the virus to combine with different pieces of another viral genome within a human cell. The drastic re-assortment of genes within the host (antigenic shift) could create a new virus containing the genetic information for the deadly H5 viral protein and the ability to transmit infection from human to human. "If the spread of the virus becomes efficient and spreads person to person—like the seasonal flu, an unprecedented pandemic could occur," explains Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. "There is no pre-existing human immunity to this virus. None. Which is why pandemics can be so devastating."

Others claim that re-assortment of the H5N1 virus may actually render the virus less virulent in humans. As a result, the pandemic may not be as deadly as originally imagined. The virus could lose its H5 surface protein and become a strain of influenza that the average human immune system could easily combat. Nevertheless, antigenic shifts and pandemics are substantiated concerns: three have already swept the globe in the past century: 1918, 1957 and 1968. The

Spanish flu in 1918 was one of the most severe pandemics ever recorded. More lethal than the Black Death, the 1918 flu killed approximately 20-40 million people worldwide. Leavitt describes the pandemic as a "global health catastrophe."

For years, the cause of the 1918 pandemic was a mystery. Recent concerns over the current Asian epidemic of H5N1 have lead scientists to reexamine the virus responsible for the Spanish flu. The question that remains is the following: Will this H5N1 virus translate into an equal or even worse pandemic than the pandemic of 1918? "We know that the H5N1 virus currently circulating in Asia has acquired five of the ten gene sequence changes associated with human-to-human transmission in the 1918 virus," explains Dr. Julie L. Gerberding, director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. "We cannot rest assured when a global pandemic is currently prevented by five genes." Many other virologists such as Dr. Robert G. Webster, director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center on the Ecology of Influenza Viruses in Lower Animals and Birds, have hypothesized that the Spanish flu also originated from a re-assorted Avian Influenza-A virus. "A pandemic resulting from the influen-

za virus is just inevitable," explains Webster. "One of these [viruses] is just going to blow."

Paul W. Ewald, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Louisville, agrees with Webster's assumption. He assumes that an influenza pandemic beginning from the avian flu is inevitable. "Although some scientists claim that widespread use of antibiotics and respirators will minimize the number of deaths caused by a new influenza-A virus, they are mistaken," explains Ewald. "Today modern technology allows for an infected person from Asia to travel across the globe within a single 24-hour period. Influenza would be spread at least ten times faster than it did in 1918. I would almost consider an airplane a vector for the virus."

For scientists the question is not if; it is when and how. When will the flu become a pandemic and how severe will it be? Only time will tell. In the meantime, researchers are racing against the mutation rate of the Avian Influenza Virus H5N1. They hope to discover a vaccination before the situation gets out of hand.

## Marshall and Warren Win Nobel Prize for Discovery of Ulcer-Causing Bacteria

BY ELANA MEYERSDORF

On October 3, 2005, Australian scientists Barry Marshall and Robin Warren were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering the bacteria *H. pylori* as the cause of chronic gastritis, ulcers, and stomach cancer. The role of *H. pylori*, short for *Helicobacter pylori*, might have gone unnoticed had not Warren made what the Nobel Committee termed a "crucial observation" in the early 1980s. While the existence of bacteria in ulcer patients had been documented in the past, doctors had failed to make the association between the bacteria and gastrointestinal problems. Warren, however, realized that there was an inherent causal connection between the two.

In order to substantiate this theory, Marshall cultivated *H. pylori* and deliberately infected himself with it. Before doing so, he swallowed a gastroscope tube, allowing several biopsies of his stomach to prove that no bacteria was present beforehand. Marshall then swallowed a pure culture of

*H. pylori*. A week later he felt ill, and additional biopsies were taken. The results were clear: histologically-proven gastritis. Marshall did not allow the experiment to continue long enough to develop an ulcer, but he was treated with antibiotic and his symptoms soon disappeared.

Even after this daring experiment proved their theory, the Australian scientists met with a storm of opposition when they voiced their findings. Until then it had been thought that it was impossible for bacteria to exist in the acidic region of the stomach, and ulcers were attributed to spicy food, acid, stress, and lifestyle. Scientists were loathe to relinquish their dogmatic beliefs, and it was not until 1991 that gastroenterologists fully accepted these findings as fact. The Nobel Committee praised Marshall and Warren, who "with tenacity and a prepared mind challenged prevailing dogmas."

Armed with this new knowledge, the treatment of ulcers has dramatically improved. Previously, ulcers had been a life-threatening disease that required

major surgery and often encountered violent complications. Treatments provided only a temporary relief from the burning



pain, with no guarantee of a permanent end. Today, antibiotics are being used to treat and cure ulcers with a regimen that can be administered over the course of merely two weeks.

The discovery is also significant given the number of people infected with *H. pylori*. Recent

studies show that 50 percent of all humans are infected with this bacteria, but the disease is only manifest in 10 to 15 percent. As of now, scientists are unsure as to why *H. pylori* causes disease in some people but not others. Some conjecture that this is due to genetic variations among humans, while others attribute it to different strains of the bacteria.

Gastric cancer has also been linked to long-term infection of *H. pylori*. While gastric cancer rates in America have been decreasing since the 1930s, it is still the second most common cancer worldwide. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention cautions anyone with a documented history of ulcers to get tested for *H. pylori*. Through preemptive testing and subsequent treatment, the chances of developing stomach cancer can be reduced.

With all the advancements and breakthroughs in modern medicine due to Marshall and Warren, it is no wonder that Adrian Lee, pro-vice chancellor

at the University of New South Wales, hails their work as a "paradigm-shifting discovery." Now, previous medical dogma is being questioned and chronic diseases such as coronary artery disease, regional enteritis (Crohn's disease) and rheumatoid arthritis are being reexamined and reevaluated to see if there are unknown bacterial sources behind them. Lee also stressed that the perseverance of Marshall and Warren and their ultimate reward of the Nobel Prize highlight "the importance of keeping an open mind if medical science is going to progress."



## FEIG'S FAST FACTS: Coffee – Good to the Last Drop

BY JESSICA FEIG

Has stopping off at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts become your daily morning ritual? Well, you don't have to feel guilty for enjoying the beverage with the bad reputation anymore because researchers have suggested that coffee has many health benefits.

Surprisingly, fruits and vegetables are not the main source of antioxidants in most American diets. Coffee is! The average adult consumes 1,299 milligrams of antioxidants every day from drinking coffee. That is approximately four times more than black tea, which comes in second at 294 milligrams. Antioxidants are vitamins and phytochemicals that prevent oxidation, a process that may cause damage to cells. Antioxidants boost the body's immune system and protect us from free radicals that can create damage, leading to many chronic diseases.

Recently, a study was conducted at Harvard School of Public Health showing that the risk of getting type 2 diabetes can be reduced by 20 to 30 percent by drinking three cups of coffee per day. Coffee's antioxidants, such as chlorogenic acid and caffeic acid, may help to promote the delivery of insulin to the tissues. As a result, insulin resistance, a major risk factor for diabetes, is less likely to occur.

Since the caffeine in coffee acts as a stimulant, your morning cup will improve concentration and increase alertness. The caffeine in coffee competes with adenosine, a chemical found in the body that has a calming effect, and produces the opposite outcome. As a result, you will be awake in class, focused, willing to participate more, and able to

get good grades. New research also shows that the risk of getting Parkinson's disease, a brain disease that affects movement and causes tremors, is cut in half by drinking one cup of coffee a day, due to caffeine's adenosine-blocking power which may protect the brain cells typically lost to Parkinson's.

Worldwide research promotes the benefits of drinking coffee. Researchers in France have found that the ill effects of jet lag can be reduced by drinking a cup of coffee every three hours and stopping four to six hours before going to bed. Researchers in Italy have found that coffee contains compounds that keep bacteria from sticking to tooth enamel, and these antibacterials slow the growth of *Streptococcus mutans*, the culprit in tooth decay. Japanese researchers reported in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* that people who drank coffee every day for ten years were half as likely to get liver cancer as people who didn't drink coffee.

There are other advantages for drinking coffee. It is a well-known fact that coffee makes your bladder more active. Increased frequency of urination reduces the risk of the formation of kidney stones. Additionally, another study has shown that drinking a sixteen-ounce cup of caffeinated coffee before exercising helps reduce exercise-induced muscle pain.

All these health benefits are no reason to celebrate a victory. It is imperative to keep in mind that people with a history of high blood pressure or other heart problems should not drink coffee. Too much of a good thing isn't good for anyone.

## YU's Caucus Tackles International Human Rights and Reproduction

BY YARDANNA PLATT

In the moot court room of Cardozo Law School, on Thursday, September 29, The Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center held a symposium on Human Rights and Reproduction for International Affairs in conjunction with Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM), in honor of the medical school's 50th anniversary.

The Schneier Center assembled some of the world's most esteemed scholars on the subject of bioethics regarding human reproductive rights, and focused the event around Dr. Bernard Dickens's keynote address, "Reproductive Rights: Advance or Retreat Under Religious Fundamentalism." Additionally, the other panelists, Dr. Ruth Macklin, Dr. Beverly Winikoff and Adrienne Asch, expounded upon a number of current controversial issues such as embryonic stem cell research, female infanticide, unsafe abortions and the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

The discussed topics were not only informative, but were also exceptionally eye-opening, and paid special heed to the current worldwide neglect and even violation of women's rights. Dr. Ruth Macklin, a professor of

bioethics at AECOM, spoke at length about women's issues on a global scale, particularly regarding Kenya's devastatingly rampant incidence of obstetric fistulas, a classification of injuries stemming from protracted and obstructed labor during childbirth.

The report of these incidents in Africa were reported on the front page of *The New York Times* a few days prior to this conference. However, it is a topic that has been largely neglected and ignored, despite its life-shattering impact upon its victims. Dr. Macklin explained that in most cases, the baby is born dead, and the damage inflicted upon the carrying mother leaves her with lasting conditions that can stigmatize her in the eyes of both family and peers.

Dr. Macklin was not the only panelist to contribute information and staggering statistics enlightening the audience about the need for taking proactive measures in safeguarding women's reproductive rights on the international level. Interestingly enough, the symposium seemed to harp heavily on women's issues, particularly on a woman's right to have an abortion and to obtain contraceptives.

The notion that mothers

should be empowered to have all the children they want, but no more than the children they want, seemed to be the main thrust of the event. The symposium included lengthy and heated debates that attempted to identify when exactly a fetus in development can be deemed a human entity.

Despite the abundance of fervent deliberation about the aforementioned topics, panelists, students and faculty alike seemed to simmer down as they mingled over a Moroccan cuisine at the Village Crown in lower Manhattan. Dr. Ruth Bevan, the director of the Schneier Center, explained that this event was an attempt to comprehend and possibly to start to resolve these global issues by bringing scholars together in order to pool "wisdom tempered by compassion." Indeed, the vast contribution of sentiments, ideas and information made this conference both important and enlightening.

## SSRIs and Osteoporosis – Is there a link?

BY ESTHER FISCHER

Currently, over eight million Americans are taking some form of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) to overcome depression. Prozac, Zoloft, and Paxil have almost become household names. However, new research may indicate a potential side effect of these drugs. Dr. Ulf Lerner, professor of cell biology at the University of Umeå, Sweden, recently published an article in the *Swedish Medical Journal* about a possible link between the use of SSRI drugs and inhibition of bone growth.

The way in which the skeleton maintains bone mass is through a process called "remodelling." The osteoclasts, which are cells within the bone, reabsorb bone mass at the surface. After that, bone-forming osteoblasts fill in the gaps left behind. Hormones, growth factors and cytokines regulate this procedure. However, in vivo and in vitro studies, have shown that neurotransmitters such as serotonin may play a part. Osteoclasts and osteoblasts express the protein 5-HT, a receptor responsible for serotonin reuptake. They also express the protein 5-HTT, which is responsible for binding and transporting serotonin in the cells. SSRIs work by blocking the protein 5-HTT, in

order to increase the serotonin level in the synapses, so that more serotonin will be fired by the neurons. The risk, purports Lerner, is that blocking the 5-HTT receptors in the bone cells may lead to stunted bone growth, especially in children and adolescents, although the exact molecular mechanisms are unknown.

To understand more about this, a research group in Portland recently conducted a study on mice lacking the 5-HTT protein, in effect mimicking the mechanism of action of SSRI drugs. These mice displayed a 6 to 13% narrower bone structure, and weaker and less dense bones than normal mice. Prozac is the only SSRI currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in children. To see what effects a treatment with Prozac would have on developing bones, the team administered Prozac to young mice. The developing mice displayed a reduced bone growth compared to normal mice, and even though the bones were of normal length, they were thinner and less dense. Mice that received a relatively large dose of Prozac revealed a reduction in bone formation in the spine and thighbone areas.

However, Eli Lilly, the manufacturer of Prozac, is skeptical of the results. Lilly claims that

there may have been other reasons for the knockout mice or those treated with Prozac to display such a phenotype, for instance the treated mice were calmer and therefore did not run around as much, causing the bones to develop in such a fashion. Further, they advocate that more studies need to be conducted on humans to support this proposition. In fact, the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research presented in September 2004 a study conducted on elderly men and women treated with SSRIs, in which the treated participants displayed a reduction of bone mass in hips, thigh bones and back bones. An additional report presented at the meeting showed that a genetic polymorphism in the gene for 5-HTT, which has previously been shown to increase the activity of 5-HTT, also increased bone density in the hip.

These and other findings, claims Lerner, seem to show a link between the use of SSRIs and a reduction in bone mass, although he cautions against jumping to premature conclusions, as more studies need to be made in a larger and well controlled context.

Science:  
jfeig@yu.edu  
emsteinb@yu.edu

# SPORTS

## Looking Back on the Playoffs:

By Bella Belsky

The playoffs are known to be a time of unpredictability and excitement. Baseballs best get a chance to battle it out. The team that plays best throughout the series wins; however, the winner is not necessarily the team with the best record. Every game can change the momentum and every game is filled with memorable moments. There are eight teams, but at the end there is only one champion.

### ALDS

New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Although both teams finished with the same record of 95 and 67, the Angels were considered the favorites by most. They are the only team to hold a winning record when playing against the Yankees. The Angels had an added home field advantage and less traveling which gave them a definite edge.

Both the Yankees and Angels have great teams, but very different styles of play. The Yankees are a team predicated on offensive. They get the big hits and score a lot of runs, but also leave many runners stranded. Their starting pitching was at first very strong. However, Mussina was a question mark because he was coming off an injury with one great start and one abysmal performance. The Angels, on the other hand, are a scrappy team who play abc ball very well. They are a great all around team who can run and hit, but most of all they get their runners in and find ways to score by doing the little things. The Yankees biggest weakness is their bullpen. If the Angels knocked out the Yankees starter they had a great shot, and with their great bullpen it was be pretty easy to shut the Yankees down after the sixth inning.

The Yankees split the first two games in Anaheim and the Angels split the next two in New York to return the series to Anaheim for the pivotal Game Five. In Game Five it appeared that the Yankees of April were back after a long hibernation. Many star players did not show up to play their best and there was no energy. They did not score when there were runners in scoring position and a sacrifice fly is all that was needed to get the job done. In every game the Yankees had a chance to win, but they did not capitalize. Many star players on the team came to New York for the purpose of winning a championship and lost it for themselves by not producing. Their atrocious defense along with lack of offense cost them the series. Unfortunately, it came down to "Wait until next year" as the Angels won the series three games to two.

Chicago White Sox vs. Boston Red Sox

After Chicago's breakdown at the end of the season no one really knew which team would come out to play in the playoffs. Would it be the team who won 99 games or the one that almost choked when their 15 game lead on August first was reduced to only one and a half games at one point. Would the series showcase the Red Sox's explosive offense, or would the White Sox be able to shut them down and live up to their capability? Which Sox team would prevail?

The White Sox are a team that is low in star power. Many of the players have even suffered public humiliation at one point in their career, but they make it work for them and play harder. Additionally, the White Sox manager, Ozzie Guillen, is known to motivate and energize his team with his theatrics. White Sox pitching has been among the best in baseball. Defensively, they are above average and help the pitchers keep the runs down. Because hitting is

not their strength, Chicago knows how to manufacture runs. The combination of great pitching and solid defense is what gets them their wins. On the other side of the diamond, the Red Sox are their opposites in many ways. They are a team of stars that make up a powerful lineup with some of the best hitters in the game. Their pitching and defense rank close to the bottom in the American League. In the end, when all was said and done, the White Sox swept the Red Sox to move on to the next round.

### NLDS

St. Louis Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres

It came as no surprise that the Cardinals swept the series. In the regular season, the Cardinals finished with the best record in the majors of 100 and 62, while the Padres barely cleared .500 with a record of 82 and 80. St. Louis dominated the National League with their strong lineup of power hitters and small ball players, solid starting pitching, and defense. The Padres have an inconsistent team with only two good starters, no explosive offensive to produce runs, and a problematic defense. Only their bullpen really shined. At the close of the series the best team won with ease.

Atlanta Braves vs. Houston Astros

The Astros clinched the wild card on the last day of the season. They came all the way back from an embarrassing record of 15 and 30 to snatch a playoff spot and their stellar pitching was what ultimately got them in. Atlanta's pitching was pieced together because of injuries and performed well; however, they could be no match against a dominant Astros rotation. Both teams have good clutch hitters and solid defense, but the focus of this series was on the pitching.

Game Four turned out to be the most exciting game of the series. It was an 18 inning thriller that the Astros won 7-6 and it was almost like watching a double header. This game is the longest in postseason history (five hours and fifty minutes) and the only postseason game with two grand slams. The Astros were down by the score of 6-1, when they staged a comeback in the bottom of the eighth with the help of a grand slam by Lance Berkman. Then in the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs, Brad Ausmus hit a solo homer that barely got high enough to qualify and the Astros had tied the game. In next eight innings both bullpens pitched shutout balls. Clemens contributed when he came in to pitch three impressive innings. Finally, in the bottom of the eighteenth, Chris Burke, a no name player, (another Aaron Boone) hit a walk off homer to end the game and the series sending the Astros to St. Louis to face the Cardinals.

### ALCS

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim vs. Chicago White Sox

When the Angels came into Chicago for the ALCS, they already had a few clear disadvantages. The Angels had just completed a tough five game ALDS with the Yankees where they flew cross country twice. They were exhausted to start off the series after flying immediately from Los Angeles to Chicago late Monday night to begin game one on Tuesday night. Additionally, their number one pitcher, Bartolo Colon, was not on the ALCS roster because due to injury. The White Sox took full advantage and did everything right from pitching, to defense and running the bases. There were also several controversial calls made by the umpires that were crucial in determining the end result of games. With all that said the White Sox pitching stopped the explosive Angel hitting, and they won the series three games to one to advance to the World

Series for the first time since 1959.

### NLCS

Houston Astros vs. St. Louis Cardinals

The series started out as a 2004 NLCS rematch. Both teams were pretty evenly matched with good pitching and good hitting. In Game Four it looked like the Astros had sealed the deal when they had the lead going into the ninth with their closer, Brad Lidge, in the game. However, the Cardinals were not done yet and Pujols produced a three run game winning home run. Unlike last year, St. Louis was unable to win their next home game. This time the match up had a different ending with Houston taking the series three games to two.

### World Series

Houston Astros vs. Chicago White Sox

The Astros waited 44 years, since they were founded in 1962, to get in to the World Series and the White Sox had not won one since 1917, 88 long years. This World Series was close and exciting and also showcased the longest World Series game ever played. Game Three was another extra inning record breaker lasting 14 innings, five hours forty one minutes, and ended at 1:20 am after a White Sox home run gave them the lead in the top of the 14<sup>th</sup> and then the win when the Astros were unable to score. The White Sox were able to pull off a sweep of the Astros, but it was not an easy task. The Astros were in every game until the final out. Since they did not take advantage of their numerous run scoring opportunities they were unable to win a game.

Their starting pitching was great for the most part; it was their hitting that was to blame for their losses. Pettitte and Backe were great, Clemens had to leave after two innings with an injury, and Oswalt was ok (game tied into 14<sup>th</sup> inning). Surprisingly, after his dominant season as closer he did not do his job in some of his appearances during the postseason. In Game Two he gave up the game winning homer in the ninth after the Astros had rallied to tie the game. In Game Three he had a good relief outing, but in Game Four he gave up the game winning home run again. Yet, despite their closer troubles, the Astros lost it themselves when in their final 30 at bats of the series with runners on base they did not score a run. (The loss of Beltran in the off season was a big blow to the Astros offense.) Additionally, in Game Four, with one out in the ninth inning and a runner on base there was a ball that went into the stands and Astros fans just leaned back to let the Sox player make the catch. They had a shot to win and the fans did not interfere.

The White Sox rolled through the playoffs with an 11 and 1 record and are the new World Series champions. They managed to dispose of the defending champions, eliminate the scrappy Angels, and defeat the daunting Astros. However, this year's TV ratings for the World Series are the worst ever despite the great match up and thrilling games.

Contact the Sports Section:  
bbelsky@yu.edu

# The NHL is Back, but is it Better than Ever?

BY BELLA BELSKY

With the absence of hockey for about 16 months, its long awaited return is finally here. Last season many players either went overseas to play professionally in Europe, traveled up to Canada to play in leagues there, or some even stayed home to be full-time dads. Many people had lost their jobs due to the strike (zamboni drivers, arena vendors, employees of stores in the vicinity of arenas that counted on business from games, for example), but hockey is finally back. To generate interest, the National Hockey League will be marketing a new game and the addition of 30 new teams that will be on the ice.

This season many teams look very different after the dramatic changes made after the 2003-2004 season. There was a much greater turnover rate during the free agency and trade period; approximately 150 players changed teams. There have also been a few star older players who have just recently announced their retirements from hockey, for example Scott Stevens, the captain of the Devils, Mark Messier, the captain of the Rangers, Al MacInnis, defenseman for the St. Louis blues and Ron Francis, center for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The new salary cap gives each team a shot to be competitive and puts the 30 teams on more equal footing. Now that each team has a cap of \$39 million and a floor of \$21.5 million the big spenders had to start dumping players while the small market teams were able to make key pickups. The have-nots became haves and the sellers became buyers.

Jaromir Jagr, the New York Rangers' star right winger, commented on the new NHL: "There's a lot of teams that didn't make the playoffs, or that didn't feel like they were going to make the playoffs. Now, they feel like they have a chance to make the playoffs, or maybe go all the way. There's a lot of teams, like Chicago and Pittsburgh, that didn't spend too much money the year before or two years before. Now, they are signing a lot of good players because they feel like they have a chance like everybody else."

Brian Burke, Anaheim's new general manager, also spoke about the positives of the new NHL, saying "Now we have the same off-season buzz they get in baseball. In the old days, a lot fewer people moved and they tended to gravitate toward the same teams." With a star on every team this season should be fun to watch as the league regroups and new contenders emerge.

Sidney Crosby is seen as the future for the city of Pittsburgh and the Penguins. The 18-year-old rookie is being compared to The Great One, Wayne Gretzky. He was the number one NHL draft pick, and he has become the new face of the league. Less than a month after Crosby arrived, the Penguins sold more tickets than they had in the entire 2003-2004 season. The Penguins had been the last place team in the Atlantic Division for the last three years, but now they had a shot to contend.

Many of the other new rules in the NHL were made for the purpose of trying to increase scoring and open up the ice. First, the reduction in the size of goalie equipment (by 11 percent) gives the goalie less equipment to block shots with and gives the players more net to shoot at. Second, goalies have new restrictions to the areas in which they can play the puck. They are required to stay within the lines that now start six feet from each goal post on either side of the goal and extend diagonally. Failure to do so will result in a delay of game penalty. Prior to these new rules, goalies like Martin Brodeur of the New Jersey Devils were able to act as a third defenseman. A third new rule is that the rink dimensions remain the same, but the neutral zone was shrunk by four feet, the net moved back two feet, and the offensive zones are four feet longer to allow players more open ice and new scoring opportunities. A fourth change is that two-line passes are now legal which allow a player to pass the puck when behind his blue line to a teammate waiting on the other side of the red line. Increased play in both offensive zones will enable longer passes and additional scoring opportunities. Finally, in order to decrease whistles and interruptions in the game and to increase the flow, players can now tag up on the blue line if they skate into their offensive zone

before the puck. Overall, a faster-paced and higher-scoring game should help in attracting more fans. In addition, the increased intradivisional play leads to more intense rivalries and more emotional games for fans and players. The game now has a new energy and excitement in a league where anything can happen.

Furthermore, the new shootout serves to end the draw and the tie in games where teams would end up with one point instead of the two they would receive in a win. Previously, there was a short five-minute sudden death overtime and now there will be an additional shootout between the two competing teams if they fail to score during overtime. Each team will send three players to take penalty shots. The team with the most goals will win the game by one goal and gain the full two points while the losing team will still get one point. Shootouts are a great way to showcase the thrilling one-on-one challenge between player and goalie.

As a result of any obstruction to the play being forbidden, there have been numerous penalties called every game. For example, in the Devils' opener there were 19 penalties and the game was mostly one long penalty kill (38 of 60 minutes). The first Ranger game also had 14 total penalties called by the referees. The designated players who are on the ice to kill off the penalties get very tired with all the extra ice time and sooner or later the other team will score when there are many power play opportunities. Larry Robinson has said that "the same people are taking the penalties all the time and they just have to learn." So as time goes on, hopefully the fans will see a reduction in the amount of penalties and a game with more flow.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, but is the NHL going to be all that this season? Are the changes a good thing that will revive the sport or is it past saving? Be patient, because the NHL teams will have to work overtime to prove themselves and adjust to the new game.

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When? 11/16

Where? 245 Lexington Ave, Room 401

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Penny Joel and Nechama Reich will come to campus to schedule individual meetings with students interested in aliyah.

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