

The Yeshiva University OBSERVER

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Influx of Students Poses Unforeseen Challenges

BY CHANA FILLER

The exact figures have yet to be tallied, but a record number of over 350 new students have arrived on the Beren Campus for the fall semester. Roughly eighty percent are returning from a year of post-high school study in Israel.

Though the incoming class of undergraduates draws many of its members, as it typically does, from the tri-state area, an unusually large number of foreign students have matriculated as well. The diverse group of first year students and sophomores hails from locations as far as Russia, France,

Morocco, and Central and South America. "We have a wonderful, international, cosmopolitan group of women coming in," said Associate Dean of Students at Stern College for Women (SCW) Zeldra Braun.

The International students are gradually learning about what Yeshiva has to offer and have become increasingly attracted to the prospect of a dual curriculum. Many have not had any previous access to a formal Jewish education, and with the growing tide of anti-Semitism in their native countries, they are looking



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University President Unsuccessfully Petitions Knesset for Degree Resolution

BY SARA LEFKOVITZ

Adding yet another segment to the saga involving the rejection of Yeshiva University (YU) degrees, University President Richard Joel paid a visit to the Knesset during a trip to Israel in June. Addressing a joint session of the Education, Culture, and Sports Committee and the Committee on Immigration, Absorption, and the Diaspora, President Joel voiced his extreme dissatisfaction with the Israeli government policy and his astonishment at the still unresolved status of the issue.

With a decision that some have termed a "bureaucratic glitch" and others, "marked discrimination," the Israeli Ministry

of Education has refused to recognize YU degrees for purposes of salary compensation. In a society where income levels increase dramatically with each subsequent degree, the policy bears enormous implications for the scores of Yeshiva alumni who have immigrated to Israel and presently work in the country's public sector.

Though they are hired to complete the same work as their Israeli counterparts, YU alumni are receiving significantly smaller paychecks as remuneration. Graduate degrees building upon a Yeshiva B.A., even if earned at other institutions, have been completely disregarded as well. Consequently, all YU *olim*

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Sy Syms Hires Interim Dean Upward Trend Continues

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Upon the conclusion of the academic year 2005-2006, Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) was actively looking for a dean. Shortly prior to the start of the 2006-2007 academic year the former Philip H. Cohen Chair in Accounting at SSSB, Dr. Joel Hochman, was named interim dean at SSSB. After many years of teaching Dean Hochman is now preparing as he steps in to the role of dean at this crucial juncture.

Although he only officially began his duties as dean last week, Dean Hochman was initially approached by Vice President for Academic Affairs Mort Lowengrub last June. Because SSSB hired seven new full time faculty members the administration felt they had the flexibility to offer the position of

interim dean to an academic.

"It was the logical thing to do," said Dean Hochman, of asking him to replace Dean Ira Jaskoll, former interim dean of SSSB and current senior associate dean. Before last year, all the previous deans of SSSB had been from the world of academia. Dean Jaskoll stepped down willingly and without ill feelings, understanding that an academic pedigree is ideal for the position. He will once again be the Senior Associate Dean at SSSB, the same position he held under Dr. Charles Snow before last year.

So while it made sense for the Yeshiva University (YU) administration to offer him the job, Dean Hochman did not initially jump at the opportunity to be interim dean. "My first love is teaching," he explained, and "I like what I do," he said of his job of 25 years. He knew the new

position would be a challenge and completely different from what he was used to, a leap he wasn't sure he was prepared for. "Its challenging to go from one set of skills to a different set of skills I had less experience with," he admitted.

Yet, he accepted the position after receiving an enormous amount of support from President Richard Joel and Vice President Lowengrub. "They have been enormously supportive since I chose to do this," he said, expressing his appreciation many times. "They have given me everything I have asked for."

One of the greatest challenges of the job is dealing with an increased number of students. As a professor, Dean Hochman's concern was the students in his classes however; he will now

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Two Women Selected for GPATS Fellowship

BY YAFFI SPODEK

The Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies (GPATS) at Stern College for Women will be expanding this year to offer an intensive two year fellowship to two of their top graduates. The two inaugural fellows, Esti Honig and Elana Stein, both from Teaneck, New Jersey, were selected based on their exceptional performance and involvement in the regular GPATS program.

The fellowship program is the first one of its kind in the United States. The program is a two year program, with a maximum capacity of four women participating at one time. The goal of the fellowship program is

to further educate women and to assist them in developing their textual skills by enabling them to continue their intensive and in-depth study of *Torah SheB'al Peh*, specifically in Talmud and halakha. Additionally, it is designed to prepare them for their chosen future careers as educators and teachers for the greater Jewish community.

The general GPATS program was launched in 2000, and is funded by the AVI CHAI foundation. It is under the direction of Rabbi Dr. Ephraim Kanarfogel and Rabbi Shmuel Hain, who heads the learning as the Rosh Beit Midrash. The GPATS program is designed to help women progress as Judaic Studies scholars as well as become role models

for the Orthodox Jewish community as a whole. The program is fairly selective about the women it accepts, valuing quality over quantity and choosing students that are intelligent and are serious about their learning. To be considered for the program, one needs to be a top student who has had formal experience in learning Gemara at the post high school level. The top students from the regular GPATS program are then chosen to join the prestigious fellowship program.

"Highly educated women are needed as scholars, as educators, and as role models," explained Rabbi Hain. "The senior fellows, with the help of the CJF, will be better prepared to take on these

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Do you want your voice
heard?

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Does Torah u-Madda Exist at Yeshiva University?



ADINAH WIEDER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The mantra of Torah u-Madda is synonymous with Yeshiva University (YU). It is not just our university's academic philosophy; rather it's a way of life. Succinctly stated, Torah u-Madda is the synthesis of Torah coupled with the pursuit of secular academia. Despite the various views of these seemingly contradictory ideals, Torah u-Madda attempts to integrate them and incorporate them into a way of life. When a conflict between the two realms appears irreconcilable, Torah should always prevail. However, it is understood that this is no small feat, which is why some opt to solely focus on one aspect. There are those who feel it an ignoble task to spend their life creating a balance between Torah u-Madda. And therefore there are many that opt to solely toil in Torah. Those that choose to live a life of Torah u-Madda believe in laboring in both, in the hopes of creating a balance in the modern world. It is not our task to make judgment calls on those that choose Torah over Madda. Rather, it is incumbent upon those that choose Torah u-Madda to work toward the Torah u-Madda ideal.

YU stands to represent Torah u-Madda literally to the world. It is understandably a great challenge for the university to represent Torah u-Madda. An individual leading a Torah u-Madda lifestyle is confronted with numerous challenges. When dealing with so many schools within the university and the number of students and faculty, the challenges can only be intensified. The university has academic standards that are constantly being challenged by other academic institutions and must maintain its competitive edge. It is incumbent upon the university to provide students with stimulating and thought provoking courses, and to be a forum to air their ideas, and above all be a constant wellspring for *limud* Torah.

Amidst this push to strengthen our academics and augment our secular studies curriculum, the suggestion to decrease Torah has also surfaced. Students are being urged to stay on a fifth year and to take advantage of their credits from Israel, so that they can spend less time on *limud* Torah and more time on secular studies. Any suggestions that even intimate the slightest compromise of Torah study disrupts the precious balance that exists between Torah u-Madda. To insinuate a decrease of Torah poses numerous problems.

Why should the push for stronger

secular studies mean a decrease in Torah? When will we learn that it is only through enhancing our Torah that anything in our lives and above all our secular knowledge be successful? To quote President Joel, "...we need to make Torah u-Madda a *lechatchilah*. It is not a *b'dieved*." If Torah u-Madda is truly our mantra then, an enhancement of one part should mean an enhancement of the other because we believe they go hand in hand. If we are striving for a synthesis then, we should be lauding the students that learn full time, take numerous Judaic Studies classes, and maintain a full secular studies course load. As well as applauding the efforts of many students involved in activities that are *tikkun olam* related. Instead of praising these students we are suggesting that they focus more on extracurricular activities and their liberal arts degree. Where is the union between Torah u-Madda here? If our university, the harbinger of Torah u-Madda cannot live up to the mantra then, how can we demand others to respect it?

Recently, there has been discourse regarding the award of credits to students hailing from *yeshivot* that do not espouse the Torah u-Madda view. There was mention of not awarding these students credit at YU. How can we demand that such *yeshivot* foster a Torah u-Madda environment if, we at YU cannot engender an atmosphere as such on our own campus? Instead of students working together to create a cohesive atmosphere of Torah u-Madda, we have students arguing about "right and left." If we stopped arguing about "right and left" and helped each other move straight up to G-d, we would be in a very different place. We need to contemplate our own role in this saga. We, as students at YU, need to step up in our Torah learning and focus on unity. As a unified Torah entity, we will surely reach unprecedented heights in our quest for academic excellence; only then can we truly say that we represent the precepts of Torah u-Madda.

Stranded at a Crossroads



ALANA RUBENSTEIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For most students summertime is associated with freedom, relaxation and laid-back activity. While some people opt to take summer school and others have stressful jobs and internships, on a whole it's a much more leisurely time than the academic year. So like many other students, I was looking forward to having a few weeks off devoid of exams, deadlines and assignments. I purposely secured a low-pressure part time job writing for a local newspaper, so with a lot of happy occasions to celebrate and a short trip to Israel planned, the last thing I intended to feel this summer was academic stress of any kind.

Yet, for better or for worse, like most things, my summer did not turn out exactly as planned. While thinking is always a good thing, I found myself a bit more preoccupied than I had intended and dealing with many more decisions than anticipated. I experienced some sleepless nights and an equal amount of contemplative days where thoughts of the future would not leave me alone. While I could easily attribute my experiences to my own neuroses, my own need to know is not the real reason I felt so inundated all summer.

The truth is I am at a crossroads in my life, and whether or not I feel prepared to deal with it, I am at a point that requires big decisions to be made. With only a year left of my undergraduate education, the clock seems to be counting down to the next phase of my life, a chapter that I cannot see clearly and have not yet planned out.

The uneasiness I was experiencing only intensified in the presence of others. The conversation starter of the summer seemed to be "how much time do you have left in college?" followed by "what are your plans when you graduate?" Each time I replied, "possibly law school or maybe a writing position," the pressure I was feeling to pick one or the other increased.

It seemed as if everyone and everything was taunting me to make a choice, including the war in Israel. Like most Jews, the situation in Israel was always on my mind and the news was constantly playing in my home. Seeing young men and women in IDF uniforms, most of them around my age, fighting for their lives and their country with a sense of pride and purpose made me feel inconsequential. I couldn't help but think, what am I doing with my life? What is my purpose? Who am I and who do I want to be?

I was convinced that these feelings of anxiety and doubt would intensify as the academic year crept up on me. Thankfully, I was wrong. In the past few days I have been feeling calmer and more in control. While it is true that

choices will need to be made, the intense pressure I associated with these choices was false. I wrongly convinced myself that I had only one chance to make the right choice and that what I decided would be final. Although I am currently leaning towards law school, this does mean my future is set in stone. After talking with many people I trust, I have realized that I have many options and that having these options is a blessing. While it is great to know what your future path is, having to make your own path, as a slow a process as it may be, is not any lesser of an alternative.

I am not only thankful that I have choices in front of me, I am thankful that I have the opportunity to make these important decisions in an environment like Stern College for Women (SCW). Our college is a unique and nurturing place that provides its students with the tools they need to explore their options and make intelligent and informed decisions. The administration, advisors and professors are available for guidance and support and are willing to go to great lengths for those who wish to utilize their expertise. I have learned this firsthand by taking advantage of their services in the past and am certain I will use them again in the upcoming academic year.

The student body at SCW demands self-exploration as well. Though small in number, we are a diverse and multifaceted group, each with our own goals, hobbies and passions. This opens up a number of doors manifested in the countless number of student run clubs and activities that take place on a daily basis. Attending a variety of events and meetings is a great way to explore new avenues and perhaps uncover talents and interests we never knew we had.

I know I am not the only one unsure of what my future holds. Instead of being scared by what lies ahead I urge you to embrace the choices you will be faced with and enjoy the journey in to the future. I urge you all, especially those just beginning their college careers, to use the resources offered at SCW to your advantage and realize that the possibilities are endless and that no decision is a final one.

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OPINIONS

No More Tears

BY PEREL SKIER

Israel, Lebanon, Hezbollah. A glance at our broadcast news is misleading. The Middle East is constantly at the center of our nation's consciousness: it is talked about everywhere, on every form of media, and it follows us from our newspaper at breakfast to talk radio on the commute to billboards and blogs and heated water-cooler disputes. Given the fretful and frantic nature of our coverage, our single-minded focus on the tragedies unfolding in Israel, it seems obvious that we are all suffering from this latest war. Right? We feel Israel's pain as if it were our own; we share their outrage and their grief.

I liked to think so. I have family in Israel, friends in Israel—everyone does. And even if I didn't, it's unthinkable to suggest that as grounds for apathy. The people of Israel are all my relatives. They all share my past and future. The land is the birthplace of my entire nation, and one day it will be home again. Theoretically, I know these things, and sometimes I think that I feel them in earnest. I talk almost daily with a cousin of my mother's who completed his time in the army more than a decade ago and has five young children,

now warily waiting for his name and the names of others settled into their lives to be called up for action.

And this is only the most recent sorrow that has stained our lives. Rockets tearing up Haifa, beautiful Haifa; suicide bombers; Jews murdered by acts of hate all over the world, from Canada to France to England to Washington Heights. Everywhere you turn: pain, pain, pain.

But I think what almost disturbs me more is my inability to cry for it all.

Maybe it's just me. I went to shul this past *Tisha b'Av* and sat on the floor like everyone else, listening as my Rabbi struggled to enunciate *Eichah* over his tears. Everyone around me was crying. I sat with a close friend of mine, a person I love more than almost anyone in the world, whose entire life was turned upside down this past year when her mother collapsed. Everyone grieving, people I loved hurting, and the exhortations of *Eichah* itself resounding throughout the shul: "Weep for everything we've lost; don't forget what's happened to us, don't let this day slip past you and leave you unchanged!"

But, even knowing how

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Sulam, Israel

BY JAMIE FOGEL

This past summer I was a counselor on a six-week Israel touring program for kids coming out of tenth grade. I had many apprehensions about the decision to accept the position before I left, but among them was definitely not war with Lebanon. We arrived in Israel on July 11th, two days before the first katyusha fell on the northern city of Nahariya, the episode that marked the beginning of the Lebanese conflict which has paralyzed much of Israeli life over the past summer.

The subsequent violence took a dramatic toll on the program. During the first week, the staff members who barely had the chance to learn each other's names wore two faces—one of tranquility and assurance to display to the campers, and another of fear and uncertainty that we revealed only to each other. At the end of the first week, as more violence and hatred from our northern border unfolded each day, it was decided that the group would stay in Israel with a severely altered itinerary. All plans to travel north were cancelled from that point on. The staff learned to operate as leaders of a summer experience whose plans changed on a daily basis.

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"Tractor Man to the Rescue?"

BY AVIVA HOROWITZ

My six week stay in Israel this summer in the midst of the Israeli-Lebanese War can best be personified by two words: "Tractor Man."

Need a little more explanation? Let me tell you a story...

About a week before I was leaving back to the States for the summer, a few friends finally managed to drag me away from my work to take a nice day *tiyul* (trip) out to Ein Gedi. The day started out simply enough. We packed up food, plenty of water and actually managed to get on the right bus.

The only question was where to get off.

Realizing we were approaching Ein Gedi, we consulted the bus driver who informed us that we had in fact missed our stop. In typical Israeli bus driver manners, he let us off at the next stop with no other instructions as to how to find our way to the hiking sites. No matter, being the resourceful women that we were, we headed to the information booth at the gas station across the highway. Having consulted a map on the side of the booth, roughly equivalent to a school-child's drawing, we started walk-

ing along the highway confident we had figured out the way.

First, the shoulder to the highway disappeared. Then it started to turn uphill. Note to self: walking alongside of a busy highway, in middle of the day, in the Israeli sun is not a good idea.

Having hiked for over twenty minuets with no nature reserve in sight, we collapsed under the first semblance of shade unsure as to our next step. We realized we clearly had misjudged the direction, but could hardly fathom turning around and heading down that hill again. Tired and confused, we just sat for the moment.

And then he came... "Tractor Man"

We saw from a distance. A dark skinned, skinny man in a big floppy hat, driving down the hill in his tractor. Despite every warning from my parents not to talk to strangers, I flagged him over to the side of road. The minute he began to speak I started to worry. In a high pitch, almost girly voice, with a thick Middle Eastern accented Hebrew he asked me, "pretty, pretty girls, why are you sitting on the side of the road? Pretty girls are you lost?" However sketchy this man may have looked and sounded,

beggars can't be choosers and we were in desperate need of some help. Therefore, I stood along the side of the highway and explained our situation to Tractor Man.

With a big smile Tractor Man explained that we "pretty girls" had managed to walk about two kilometers uphill in the wrong direction, but that we shouldn't worry because he would save us. He said he had seen many lost tourists in the area, but so many people mistook him for an Arab that they would not stop him for help until they were desperate. But, since we pretty, pretty girls were so nice and sweet, he would save us. And save us he did. He gave us a large bottle of ice water and drove off down the hill in his tractor, only to return ten minutes later with his truck. Not only did he drive us over to Ein Gedi nature reserve, he actually took us to an ancient synagogue in the area and attempted to entreat the cashier to give us an exclusive tour.

Interesting story, but not seeing the relevance?

We never expected our "savior" to come riding towards us on a beaten tractor, but despite the off putting appearance and mannerisms, Tractor Man was a

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Q & A: A Response to the Criticism of Israel

BY AVI POSNICK

In light of the continuing criticisms of Israel, it is important to keep the following facts in mind. We all must be able to defend and advocate Israel, because we are all unofficial ambassadors for Israel. It is important that we all know the facts.

Why are so many civilians dying in Lebanon?

Hezbollah is based and operates in civilian areas. They store their rockets in houses, hospitals, mosques, etc. They use civilians as human shields, knowing that Israel will think twice before attacking them and knowing that any such attack will cause the world to condemn Israel. When Israel does decide to attack these civilian areas, it warns the citizens to get out beforehand, losing the advantage of surprise in the process. Israel does all that is possible to avoid killing civilians; it does not target them under any circumstances. The fact that so many civilians are dying in Lebanon is due entirely to Hezbollah. Jan Egeland, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, has said, "Hezbollah must stop this 'cowardly' act of hiding

amidst women and children." In other words, if Hezbollah did not operate in civilian areas, civilians would not have died.

Why do we keep blaming Syria and Iran for what is happening in Lebanon?

Syria and Iran support Hezbollah. Hezbollah receives billions of dollars annually from Syria and Iran, and these countries help build and ship missiles and rockets to Hezbollah as well. They assist in the training of Hezbollah terrorists - Syria occupied Lebanon for years, during which it permitted Hezbollah to grow and take up positions along the southern Lebanese border. Syria continues to allow Hezbollah and other terrorist leaders to live freely in the Syrian capital, Damascus. Both countries have threatened Israel with more violence, Iran even going so far as to urge the complete destruction of Israel. Iran and Syria are being blamed because they are doing all they can to help Hezbollah.

Isn't Israel acting disproportionately in Lebanon?

Israel is targeting the terrorist infrastructure in Lebanon. Under the United Nations charter, every

country has the right to defend itself and to protect its civilians from attack. This is exactly what Israel is doing. Israel's actions are not just a result of Hezbollah's recent, unprovoked attack against it and the abduction of two soldiers. Rather, Israel has organized a military operation to protect over a million citizens living throughout northern Israel from the tangible threat of some 12,000 Hezbollah missiles aimed at them, currently leaving them no choice but to reside permanently in bomb shelters. Hezbollah, which is a terrorist organization dedicated to Israel's destruction, has launched more than 1,500 missiles in the past few weeks, causing numerous civilian deaths, hundreds of casualties and widespread devastation. Israel is employing only the amount of force needed to defend its population from a terrorist threat.

What is UN Security Council Resolution 1559 and what does it entail?

The resolution calls for a respect of Lebanon's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon throughout the country. It also

calls for the remaining foreign forces to withdraw from Lebanon, and the disbanding and disarmament of all Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias. Though Hezbollah is the "militia" that is referred to, the sponsors could not mention it by name because of opposition from Council members. This resolution was passed by a vote of 9 in favor, (US, UK, France, Germany, Spain, Angola, Benin, Chile, Romania) to none against, and 6 abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China, Pakistan, Russia, Philippines) on September 2, 2004.

Did Israel fully withdraw from Lebanon?

Yes! In May of 2000, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan certified that Israel had completely withdrawn from Lebanese territory, as was required of it under UN Resolution 425. The UN team on the ground certified that all Israeli troops crossed back over the blue line, or the international border, between Israel and Lebanon.

What are the She'eba Farms and what is their status?

The She'eba Farms is a 100-square-mile, largely uninhabited patch of land that borders Israel,

Lebanon and Syria. It was given to Syria under the French mandate in the 1930s and has been controlled by Israel ever since Israel acquired it from Syria in a defensive war in 1967—when it was attacked by Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Lebanon claims that the She'eba Farms is Lebanese territory, and Hezbollah uses this as a pretext to continue its attacks on Israel. Thus, after kidnapping three Israeli soldiers in that area, it announced that they were captured on Lebanese soil. Yet, the world, including the UN, says otherwise. In fact, on January 28, 2005, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1583 which condemned violence along the Israel-Lebanon border and reasserted that the Lebanese claim to the She'eba farms area is "not compatible with Security Council Resolutions."

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Should There Be One Undergraduate Newspaper?

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

As Yeshiva University (YU) begins a new academic school year, it is difficult not to recognize the various aesthetic changes on both campuses. Yet one aspect of YU has remained the same as previous years—the separate nature of the undergraduate student newspapers. Despite recent efforts to merge both Yeshiva College's (YC) *Commentator* and Stern College For Women's (SCW) *Observer*, the decision was made for the newspapers to continue to function as separate entities.

There are a variety of reasons as to why a co-ed unified newspaper board would significantly benefit the YU undergraduate community. Firstly, a joint production is appropriate and practical. Currently, the *Observer* and *Commentator* often feature multiple articles that cover the same university events and news. A single detailed and well covered article should suffice for the various events occurring on both campuses.

Another advantage to combining both undergraduate newspapers would be the ability to choose from

the most qualified and dedicated students as writers and editors. Increasing the applicant pool for various positions would only enhance the current status of both publications. A larger staff would also enable the newspapers to be printed more regularly and with more up to date news coverage.

Furthermore, the expenses of printing two undergraduate newspapers would be partially offset if both newspapers were to combine. From an economical standpoint fundraising and printing costs would be lower than if maintaining two separate publications.

Lastly, both YC and SCW would benefit greatly if their students were to bridge the gaps between both campuses and work together through the mediums of news writing, editing, and publishing. A merge of both the *Commentator* and *Observer* would provide for a wonderful forum to further develop inter-campus dialogue.

The idea of merging The Observer and The Commentator to create one undergraduate newspaper, may be theoretically sound, but is practically impossible. As anyone who worked on either of the staffs will tell you, working on pieces, last minute news updates, editing articles given in way past deadline, and waiting for all that to layout the final paper, takes so much time, it often pushes hours way past midnight. Running a co-ed office of that sort is virtually impossible.

Where would such an office be located? The Wilf and Beren Campuses are not that far away from each other, but the A train at those hours of the night doesn't seem like a good idea. Any compromise (Upper West Side?) would be impractical for both the men and the women.

Even putting aside the issues of time and place, the prospect of bringing together the two newspaper staffs would eliminate positions of leadership from the student body. It's true that the joining of the two newspapers would greatly benefit

the staff in other ways, such as allowing the one unified group of editors to assign just one reporter to cover events and eliminating the current "try hard not to infringe on the other paper's issues," not to mention the intense competition between The Observer and The Commentator. Yet, it is not worth reducing the editorial positions available to the women at Stern College for Women (SCW) and the men at Yeshiva College (YC) for these benefits. The status quo enables more students to be involved than one unified Yeshiva University undergraduate school newspaper would.

Since viable hours and office space for a joint SCW-YC newspaper are impossible, and the students will invariably lose out by the reduction of positions on staff, both The Observer and The Commentator should keep running as separate entities.

A Message from Our Presidents



LIZ SHELTON
PRESIDENT OF SCW

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This is your time. I repeat this phrase to myself daily as I have over the past two years here at Stern College. Never again will I have the chance to act as freely as I have and make a difference. And never again will I be able to take advantage of today, today. The fact that "this time," is primarily my time drives me to be an active student leader and make the most out of my college experience, because this is it folks.

When I entered Stern in the fall of 2004 I didn't possess the same drive to be active as I do today. To be honest I did not partake in as much as I would have liked to. Sure, I attended events on and off campus and signed up for clubs at club fair but I wasn't taking advantage of all that was

available right in front of me. That certain oomph was missing, and I was curious to fill that niche.

By the spring semester of that year I knew in my gut that I needed to do more. I was ready to take advantage, stand up, and make a difference. I ran for Stern Student Council Treasurer, not really knowing all that it entailed. Being involved throughout the 2005-2006 academic year gave me a new outlook on truly taking advantage of "my time." I became overly excited for events and that excitement affected my peers, making them curious and anxious, and consequently involved as well. I was able to think creatively and plan events for the student body, something

that not only enriched my time, but the time of my peers as well.

This brings us to the present. I decided to run for Stern Student Council President because I felt there was more I could contribute to life on campus. I believe there are so many opportunities knocking, and if we only took a moment of our time to find them, life on campus would be enhanced throughout. I tell you all this now, at the beginning of the semester, at the beginning of the year, or even the beginning of your college career so you will have the advice and knowledge that I did not; take advantage of your time and the grand possibilities around Stern College.

Free pizza. That's what did it for me.

It was the very beginning of the academic year 2004-2005 when I saw a sign that read: Interested in writing for the *Observer*? Come tonight to the *Observer* office, 20th floor of Brookdale Hall to learn more. Free Pizza.

Well, everyone had told me that if you stay around in school a lot you wind up lacking money on your caf card to fund lunches toward the end of the semester, especially if you pass it out to support friends, teachers and those who live off campus. Remembering this lesson, I traveled the long elevator ride up to the 20th floor that first week of school and ate great pizza. And I began writing for the *Observer*.

When thinking about the

message I wanted to send out to new students, I asked myself what I was thinking when I first got to Stern. Besides memorizing that you walk up the "hill" on 34th Street to get back to the dorm, I remember telling myself to get involved, to take the tools I gathered from my high school and midrasha learning experiences and give back to the community. My initial reaction to this push was to return to my high school for a learning event called Learn Torah Eat Dougie's. (I know food is a common theme at these events—see perek 2, mishna 5 of tractate Rosh Hashana, "and large meals were made for them so that they would be interested in coming"). The event was fun and I looked around for more opportunities to help out: there was more to do at my high school, synagogue, local Hebrew

schools and tons of other volunteer opportunities around the City. Looking around at all of them was almost dizzying. How do I get involved?

The answer, I realized, was to do the things I like to do, to join the clubs on campus which I found to be engaging and invest time in their projects. So I continued writing for the *Observer*.

Writing for the paper led me to a lot more than free meals and improved composition skills. It made me aware of new initiatives, upcoming events and important issues on campus. It taught me to keep my eyes peeled for all sorts of great opportunities on campus: educational, social, and simple fun. And that's what's made my past two years at Stern so enjoyable.

Best of all, having a framework of extra-curricular activities

to ensure that school work was well complimented led me to meet great people and make great friends. The resources are out there, tap into them.

Look into the clubs you're interested in. If you like Torah and chesed activities, come to this year's great lectures and fun events. Stay on campus for Shabbat September 8-9, the Torah Activities Council and Student Organization of Yeshiva Shabbaton. Come learn Torah Tuesday nights with TAC at "T-cubed" in the main Beit Midrash (on the 6th floor of 245 Lexington) at 7:30. If you have any particular favorite speakers, bring them to Stern through TAC.

Read the signs and the emails, hey, why not check out an event offering free pizza?



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The beginning of the new school year at Yeshiva University presents an endless supply of new and exciting possibilities for the year that lies ahead. As summer wraps up and a fresh school year approaches, the prospects of this coming year at Sy Syms School of Business seem infinite. As I am sitting here writing this article I am filled with excitement at all the opportunities that are about to become available to all Sy Syms students. I, together with my board of Michelle Laufer, Rachel Katz and Penny Pazornick, have been planning nonstop to create a fun and exciting year for all the students at Sy Syms.

In addition to the improvement of student programming in Sy Syms, there are many other positive changes occurring at different levels. I would like to applaud the administration in their obvious efforts towards developing and enhancing our school. The administration at Sy Syms has been working tirelessly over the summer to improve various aspects of our school. On an academic level, seven new full

time faculty members have been hired in order to complement and enhance our already strong academic program. These teachers make up about a third of the full time staff at our school. These new faculty members all have PhD's with extensive listings of research and publication. These new hiring's coming hand in hand with heavy investments in research facilities for our school.

Along with the hiring of these faculty members comes the hiring of a new Interim Dean, Professor Joel Hochman. Dean Hochman is a tenured accounting professor at Sy Syms who graduated from Yeshiva University, received his M.B.A from Baruch College, a J.D. degree from Pace University School of Law, and his rabbinical ordination from RIETS. Dean Hochman has already shown interest in improving both student programming and academic standards for our school. We are looking forward to a successful and eventful year together with him.

Further signs of development at Sy Syms are evident in the

steps being taken towards gaining AACSB accreditation. There have been many positive developments in the completion of those steps. The advancement in this procedure is another indicator of the investment that both the administrations of Sy Syms and Yeshiva University as a whole have in Sy Syms School of Business.

The honors program, which began last year, is another sign of progress within the school. Efforts are being made to create a quality honors program on both campuses. Currently, select honors courses are being offered to assess the interest of the students. A full Honors Program is expected to be up and running by fall 2007.

It is obvious to all of us that many steps are being taken to improve and build upon the standards already in place at Sy Syms. These developments have only one missing part. That part is the motivation and the involvement of the students on both the Beren and Wilf campuses. This is a time of positive and exciting

change in our school. It is a time for students to get involved, influence and embrace these changes. The academic opportunities students are about to have, as well as the programming prepared by the Sy Syms Student Council, are unprecedented. Both these aspects are creating opportunities that will enhance student life on both of our campuses.

For the freshmen or incoming students, you should know that the next three or four years of your life in college are whatever you make of them. You are about to have a world of opportunities put down right in front of you. It is your choice whether you will embrace them or just let them slip away. For the rest of the student body, whether you are a sophomore, junior, senior or anything else, this time of change and improvement gives you the opportunity to take advantage of things that weren't offered in the past. It's your choice.



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On the Absence of Intellectual Honesty

BY GADI DOTZ

The Commentator's new policy banning articles pertaining to the Jewish state is a prime example of intellectual dishonesty that has become all too common in the pages of Yeshiva College's student newspaper. The policy is appalling and deserves a full retraction.

"On the Absence of Israel," the title of the shameful editorial that attempts to explain this new policy, is itself a bundle of contradictions. The editorial repeatedly stresses Israel's importance to our community, as it says: "The importance of the State of Israel is without measure for our community and Judaism as a whole." Yet, "despite its importance," the editors conclude that, "Israel remains outside of our domain."

Vague terminology? Never fear, for The Commentator defines its domain just above this puzzling pronouncement. "We are a paper dedicated to raising awareness of all things occurring

within Yeshiva and its greater community," it says. Certainly The Commentator cannot be suggesting that Israel lies outside our greater community. After all, the first paragraph of this editorial acknowledges that "many Yeshiva undergrads" are extremely concerned with the current conflict and with "ways to help out their fellow Jews" in Israel.

Surely then, the proclamation that Israel "has little to do with Yeshiva" is without foundation. After all, many Yeshiva students have just recently returned from studying in Yeshiva University's (YU) official Israel program. Thousands of alumni have made aliyah and currently live in Israel. Many students have relatives living in Israel who are directly involved in the conflict. YU sends annual missions to Washington, DC to advocate for Israel and conducts missions in Israel itself during winter break. In light of all of this, it is apparent that Israel plays a vital role in the lives of Yeshiva students and

should therefore be extremely relevant to their newspaper.

Additionally, it goes without saying that the Jewish State is important to the Modern Orthodox Jewish community of which Yeshiva claims to be the flagship institution. In fact the aforementioned editorial states this explicitly. And just in case there were any doubts, Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, in the new Commentator series about him, is quoted saying, "Ours is the only religion that is rooted in land."

Perhaps this is an unfair portrayal of a policy that can be explained in a perfectly rational manner. As one Commentator editor told me, "It's not so much that they have a 'no Israel' policy, rather they want the articles to be 'Yucentric' or at least somehow have the article pertain to YU/YU students." Or as the editorial in question concludes, "We do not wish to become home to unsolicited rants and banter that do not affect Yeshiva."

Indeed, this argument could

be deemed reasonable, if it were not only Israel that was singled out for censorship. I myself marveled at the pertinence of the full-page article entitled "NFL 2006 Season Preview" in the very same paper as this inane editorial.

Let us not forget the entire Arts & Culture or Science & Technology sections. Surely Israel has more to do with the Yeshiva community than an advertisement masked as an article about the "Lotus Lounge" and its friendly drunks. And while discussions about Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, or a punk rocker's nosebleed during the "Warped Tour" might be amusing, I fail to see what makes them more applicable to YU than discussions about Israel; ditto with articles on Superman, flying cars and NASA space stations. If the purpose of this policy was merely to narrow the focus of The Commentator to issues directly involving YU, it has certainly been ineffective.

Furthermore, if this were the purpose, one must wonder why

Israel was singled out in the editorial. Could it be because issues concerning the Jewish homeland resonate with the student body more than other issues and thus generate more submissions? If so, that is all the more reason this policy is absurd. The "Official Student Newspaper of Yeshiva College and Sy Syms School of Business" has an obligation not only to its editors but to the entire student body as well. If a certain topic resonates with the students enough for them to write and submit an opinion piece on it, there is no reason why that article should not be considered for publication.

If The Commentator truly represents the students, a well-written op-ed by a student should not be censored simply because the editor doesn't like what the student has to say. Arbitrarily declaring topics *verboten* reflects poorly on the editorial staff and gives new significance to the newspaper's nickname, "The Commie."

Orientation Events are for Everyone - Right?

BY ESTHER MALKA STROMER

Welcome to Yeshiva University! So here you are, about to embark on a new school year. Whether you are a first-time-on-campus student, affectionately known as an FTOC, a second-time-on-campus student, an STOC, or a returning student, there are some fun and exciting things that are new to all. Whether it is the facilities that are under renovation, the people in your dorm, or the professor that you've never taken before, something new awaits you this year.

When most people engage in something new, they go through a training or orientation period. Well, here at YU, there are plenty of Orientation events. Some are specifically catered to the FTOCs, such as reviews of academic requirements, class registration and greetings by your various student councils, while other events are really open to the greater student body, such as Orientation Shabbos, the TAC Chagiga, and the Welcome Back Barbecue. There are some events that fall between these two categories, such that they are open first to FTOCs, then to whomever is interested on campus, because there are a certain

number of spots available for these events, and the event planners like to have all of the spots filled. The goal of these programs is not only to introduce the new students to the world of YU, but also to allow all students to meet one another.

I think that no matter what your status is on campus, you should maximize your time during Orientation and take advantage of all of the programs offered. To me it seems such a shame when I hear students say, "Oh, what's the big deal, it's just Orientation, I can skip it." Just Orientation? I think not! One year, on the first day of Orientation, I even heard an FTOC remark, "Well, I think that I am going to get my key, go upstairs and set up my room, and then go back to my relatives in New Jersey for the next couple of days and come back the night before classes start." Now, don't get me wrong, I am all for family time, but I think that it is a big mistake to consider Orientation irrelevant or unnecessary. No matter how many siblings, friends and relatives of yours have been through YU, it is not the same as *you* being through YU and *you* becoming acquainted with your new surroundings through the Orientation events.

Instead of detailing all of the Orientation events individually, I will just say the following: college is not only about coming in and leaving with exactly the same group of friends. Besides all of the academic work that you do and all of the extra-curricular, resume-building activities in which you take part, college is a time when you have a unique chance to meet people with a myriad of different backgrounds. Granted, here at YU undergraduate schools, the population is more homogeneous than in most secular colleges, but still, there is quite a broad spectrum of students here. Therefore, the Orientation committee does its best to have events that appeal to all different types. However, they are fairly short-lived events, so why not try one that you think may not be 100% up your alley. You never know who you're going to meet and you might actually enjoy yourself. So go ahead, give it a try! All you have to lose is a couple of hours; something a possible positive experience and a group of new friends is definitely worth.

Tractor Man

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have easily gone the summer oblivious to what was happening. However odd and inconceivable that may sound based on the images that were flashing across the international media, pictures sometimes are deceiving. Even in a state of war Jerusalem remained a quiet safe haven far removed from the violent and terrifying images people perceived.

At the same time, the peaceful image, or perhaps mirage, which we constructed for ourselves living in Israel this summer, was also not the reality. While the pictures on television were a distant threat, the war hit home with many of us on a very personal level as the summer progressed. Other than my boss, there was just one other worker, Shlomo, in my office. Though a constant annoyance with his teasing and tendency to randomly break out into a Bob Dylan classic, he was always there to help, entertain, or simply serve as a distraction. One day I was in the office and in desperate need of some help, as I was totally stumped on my project, but Shlomo was not to be found and was not answering his phone. My boss walked in about midday with the simple announcement that Shlomo was called up reserve duty in Lebanon. By the end of the summer I had four friends serving in the army, four amazing guys who had to put their life on hold, and in danger to help protect our country.

As the summer progressed my 21 bus was no longer just filled with weary passengers traveling to and from work, but with families with their belongings packed high in an assort-

ment of rag tag luggage- duffel bags, pocket books, trash bags. Families fleeing from the North swarmed into Jerusalem, filling empty dormitories on campuses such as the Yeshiva University campus in Bayit Vegan with whatever they could carry. I was lucky enough to befriend an amazing and special family from Tzfat, which was forced to flee after having spent two weeks in a bomb shelter. This family of seven kids was overwhelmed when they were welcomed into a simple three bedroom apartment, and was insistent that they needed only one room for their use and others families could move into the rest of the apartment. As I got to know Reut, Yehudit, Bat - El and the rest of the family, I realized that however peaceful and unaffected my summer was in spite of the war, many others were not as lucky.

Things are not always what they seem, and it's our responsibility to look past the obvious and attempt to recognize what is really there. Perhaps as college students with little income and less free time, we don't appear to be the ones who can help pull Israel through this tough time. But maybe each one of us can be a Tractor Man and help put Israel and our fellow Jews back on the right course towards a more peaceful and serene future. We each can do our part, and make our own contributions, whether it is through prayer, political action or simple words of support to those in Israel. Don't let appearances fool you, each one of us can have a powerful impact in our own small way.

Each one of us can be a Tractor Man for those lost on the side of a busy highway.

Contact Perel If You Have
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NEWS

University Alters Calendar for Undergraduate Students Forcing an Earlier Start

BY SARA LEFKOVITZ

The administration of Yeshiva University has effected significant changes in the calendar for the 2006-2007 academic year. Following a thorough review of both the secular and Jewish calendars, university officials finally decided on a schedule that brings the undergraduate students back to campus a full week earlier than the previous fall 2005 semester.

Though truncating the summer hiatus, the new calendar promises to afford some advantages of its own. It provides not only for an extended winter break, but also for an earlier closing-date in May. Students may rest assured that the changes will not reduce the number of class meetings or the duration of final exams.

According to Andrea Z. Burdick, university director of student academic records, the 2006-2007 template is specifically designed to accommodate travel days before and after all major Jewish holidays, as well as to ensure that the spring semester ends before *Shavuot*. Legal holidays and New York State requirements that mandate fifteen class weeks per semester were also considered when the calendar was devised.

"I am a strong believer in

two full weeks off between semesters," Burdick replied, when asked about the reasoning behind devising such an atypical academic calendar. "Our students carry a very heavy workload during the term and need enough time to return home and relax long enough that they can return to campus rejuvenated and ready for the new semester. Also, if classes continued into June, then many students would not be able to register for summer courses at other institutions."

Though the new timetable may preempt such future scheduling conflicts, it was simultaneously responsible for a few glitches as well. With the extensive construction, new staff, and unexpected upsurge of incoming freshmen, the university found itself in a state of transition, juggling more tasks than it was equipped to handle. The academic calendar was released later than expected to the undergraduate community, and many students had already proceeded to plan their summer break according to the calendars of previous years. Thus, many students became encumbered with prior commitments requiring them to miss the first week of classes or allowing them to enjoy only a few days of real vacation before the start of the fall semester.

However complex it may be,

the procedure for devising the academic calendar under normal circumstances, is fairly systematic. Burdick began the process by developing initial calendar drafts, usually composing two or three different options. The proposals are then circulated amongst the various academic departments and are discussed with the deans of each undergraduate institution and a handful of faculty members. Once the propositions are modified, the Student Activities Committees on both campuses are consulted for their input. The revised calendar is then presented for approval to Dr. Morton Lowengrub, vice president of academic affairs.

Dean Ethel Orlian, associate dean of Stern College for Women (SCW) offered her reasons for approving the changes for the 2006-2007 academic year. Although the administration, faculty, and students have been long accustomed to a later start-date, Dean Orlian stressed the need for the university to experiment with new things, especially if they appear to serve the best interests of the students.

"As with most issues, I imagine there will be a varied response," she remarked. "There are probably students who would have liked to extend their almost three-month break by yet another

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Professors Return from Sabbatical

BY SHAYNA HOENIG

Summer vacation is not just over for the students. Professors must also conclude their official hiatus as the academic year begins. Yet, for some professors, the beginning of school marks the end of a much longer "vacation" than just the typical three month summer break. In the fall, a few members of the Stern College for Women (SCW) faculty will be rejoining their colleagues after being away for part of the 2005-2006 academic year. Upon their return to SCW, Rabbi Dr. Aharon Fried, Dr. William Stenhouse, Dr. Jeffery Freedman, Dr. Jay Ladin, Dr. Carole Silver, Dr. Joseph Luders, and Dr. Michelle Levine will use the products of their sabbaticals in the classroom as a means of sharing their work with their students and the academic departments they represent.

Rabbi Dr. Fried, professor of Psychology, dedicated his time off to studying the interface between Jewish studies and psychology, much in the spirit of Yeshiva University's mantra of Torah Umadda. Hoping to publish a guide for teachers of Jewish education, he wrote a textbook combining his research on education, psychology, and linguistics with Torah source material. He also began developing assessment materials to assist children

with learning disabilities in yeshivot and day schools. "Currently available assessment tools fail to look at the Judaic studies component of a child's curriculum in spite of the fact that in many cases it comprises more than 50% of a child's learning," Dr. Fried explained. Existing tools often fail to take the cultural differences between children in Jewish day schools into account, and they are tested as if they represent the general student population upon which the standard tests are based. His research will surely enhance the Introductory Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Psychology of Religion, and Social Cognition: Development of the Child courses he will be teaching this fall.

SCW is also pleased to regain Dr. Stenhouse to the History department. Dr. Stenhouse, who took leave for a year long sabbatical, spent the academic year as a research fellow at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, an institute at Columbia University. In addition to participating in regular seminars, he has been researching 16th and 17th century Italian museums. "I am particularly interested in how peoples' experiences in museums affected the sort of history they wrote," he said. "I want to show how schol-

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New Beit Midrash Still in Planning Stages

BY SHAYNA HOENIG

For many of the students at Stern College for Women (SCW), the Beit Midrash represents the focal point of their undergraduate experience. Throughout the day and night, the Beit Midrash is constantly filled with people: women catching *mincha* or reviewing the *parsha*, graduate students learning Talmud and halakha, and those who simply drop in to enjoy the ambiance of a room abuzz with Torah study.

While it is great that the Beit Midrash is a vibrant center of Torah, usually packed to the core, the amount of students wishing to be there presents some drawbacks. The current facility, located on the sixth floor of the 245 Lexington building, does not adequately accommodate the volume of students entering through its doors each day. With a mere fifty seats, its size is grossly disproportionate to the number of users.

Yet, that is all due to change. After intensive lobbying by the student body, university officials

decided to take action on the issue and approved plans to build a much bigger Beit Midrash. The proposed expansion was believed to be at the top of the administration's list of projects, with the intention of enhancing the quality of life on the Beren Campus. However, construction is still not underway.

"The building of a Beit Midrash twice in size guarantees the ability to house the growing community and encourages it to grow further," explained Shoshana Fruchter, president of the Stern Torah Activities Council (TAC). "The university's investment displays a great deal of dedication and commitment to Torah and learning at SCW."

As TAC president, Fruchter plans to utilize the new Beit Midrash "to centralize the Torah community at Stern" with lectures and *mishmars* as well as joint programming with the faculty and the students of the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies. Among the new initiatives planned is a pro-

gram Fruchter refers to as "T-Cubed: Torah on Tuesdays with TAC," which will be housed in the Beit Midrash on Tuesday nights.

So while the ideas for the Beit Midrash have grown, the physical structure has not. To the surprise of many SCW students, the room is in the same condition it was in before summer break commenced. "While there is a load of construction going on...it's not for the Beit Midrash," acknowledged Jeffery Rosengarten, associate vice president for administrative services. "We are still awaiting approval from the city [in order to begin construction]."

"The good news is that we have a design," he continued, affirming that the dream of a bigger Beit Midrash is closer to becoming a reality than ever before. "The plan involves changing the seventh floor of the 245 Lexington building so that the Beit Midrash will hopefully be large enough to accommodate

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Zoo Rabbi Addresses SCW Students

BY HILLY KRIEGER

On August 28th, Rabbi Natan Slifkin, an author and educator, addressed the students at Stern College for Women (SCW) on "The Heresy of Intelligent Design." Known by many as the "Zoo Rabbi," due to his knowledge of both zoology and natural history, Rabbi Slifkin has published 11 works dealing with different issues relating to science and Torah. In his lectures, Rabbi Slifkin attempts to reconcile the concepts of evolution with those of Orthodox Judaism.

Originally from Manchester, England, the "Zoo Rabbi" studied in both the United Kingdom and Israel, and received his rabbinic ordination at Yeshivat Ohr Somayach in Jerusalem. In addition to his numerous speaking engagements worldwide, Rabbi

Slifkin lectures regularly at men's and women's yeshivot in Israel, where he currently resides, and occasionally, at larger institutions such as Bar Ilan University.

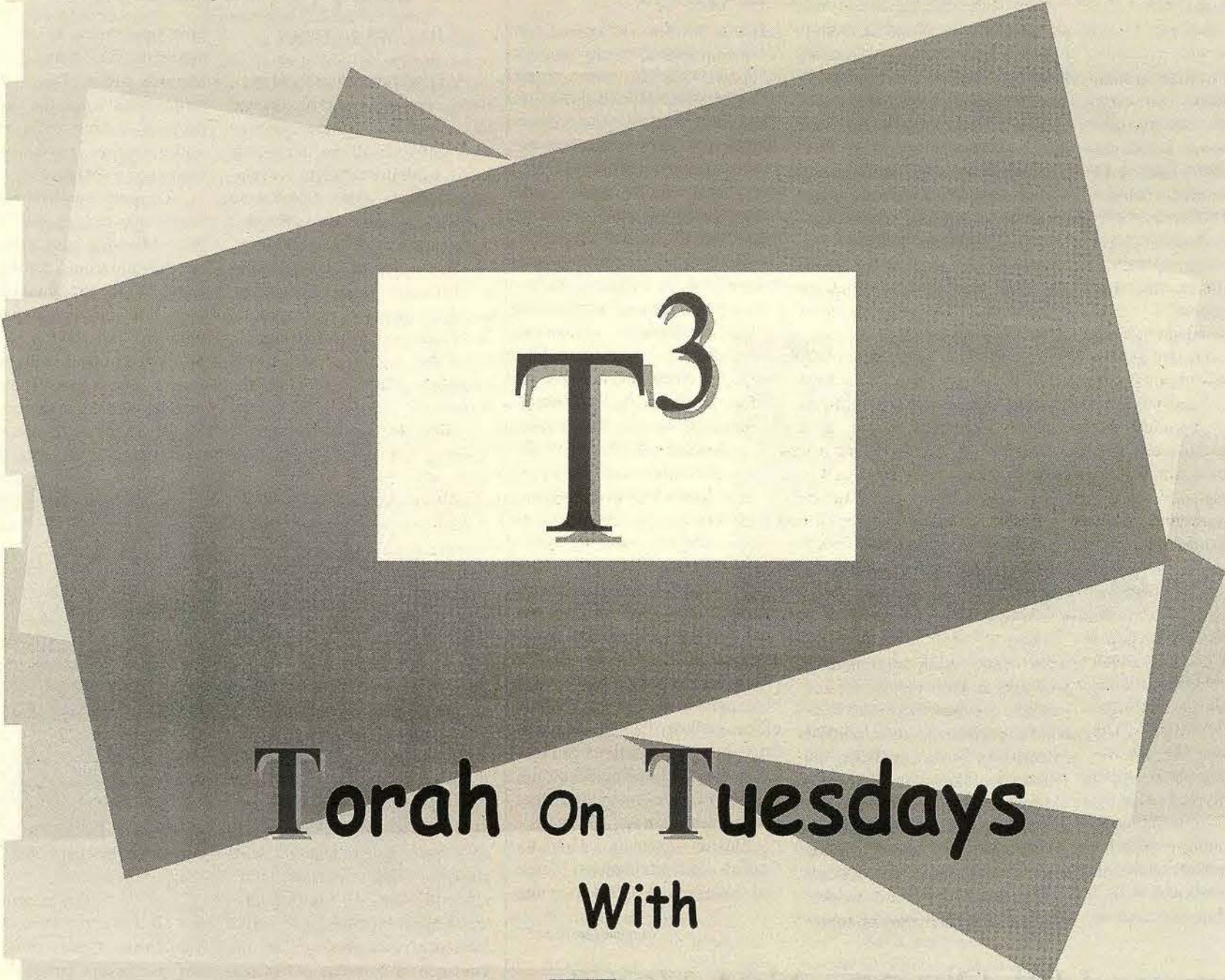
"The Heresy of Intelligent Design" was sponsored and organized by the Department of Biology at SCW "I believe it is important for SCW, and the biology department in particular, to maintain a connection with Israel and with those who live in Israel, especially those with scientific knowledge that

can be relevant to our students majoring in the sciences," said Dr. Harvey Babich, chair of the department. "In my opinion," he added, "Rabbi Slifkin's books are a million times healthier for Torah committed SCW students than the theories presented in any

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FEATURES

Presidential Fellows Program Welcomes Fifteen Graduates From the Class of 2006

BY YAFFI SPODEK

If you take a look around campus this semester, you will see several familiar faces working in different venues across the university grounds. Instead of leaving their Alma matter behind, fifteen Yeshiva University (YU) alumni from the class of 2006 have chosen to remain at YU as Presidential Fellows for the upcoming academic year. Now in its third year, the Presidential Fellowship in University and Community Leadership program, which was established by President Richard M. Joel, is part of a broader attempt to train top YU graduates in expanding YU's contributions to the Jewish community.

"The fellowship inspires the participants to reach for the nobility and responsibility that come with leadership," explained President Joel. "The program motivates the participants to reflect on the positive experiences they have had at YU and examine the opportunities in the Jewish community — both for laypeople and professionals — in light of their interests and skills." The fellowship program is

administered by Elysia Stein and directed by Rabbi Josh Joseph, President Joel's chief of staff. The Presidential Fellows were chosen after going through an intensive screening process that evaluated them in many areas including their academic performance, campus leadership, and involvement within the greater Jewish community. Each fellow is given the opportunity to

relating to Jewish communal leadership and university administration.

This year's fellows, seven of whom are women, comprise a diverse group of students with various backgrounds and interests. They will be working all across the campus spectrum from the Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) to the YU Museum and everywhere in between. Rivvy Ackerman, a former psychology major at Stern College for Women (SCW), will be working in the Dean's office at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work. Tiffany Khalil, an English literature major, will be on Beren Campus working in the Office of Student Affairs and Jen Kraut, a history major, will be on the Beren Campus as well, assisting in the Office of the Deans. Eliana Rudolph, who will be working in the president's office, graduated with a degree in English communications and was Editor-in-Chief of *The Spectrum*, a student life magazine that debuted last year.

Barrie Zigman, also an English communications major, was chosen to work in the



work with a senior administrator who acts as their mentor for the year and provides them with first-hand experience in their field of interest. As former students, the fellows are likewise able to provide invaluable feedback to the mentors who elicit their opinions and suggestions about various topics. In addition, the fellows are required to attend weekly graduate-level seminars on topics

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Murray Hill Place: Not Your Average Next-door Neighbor

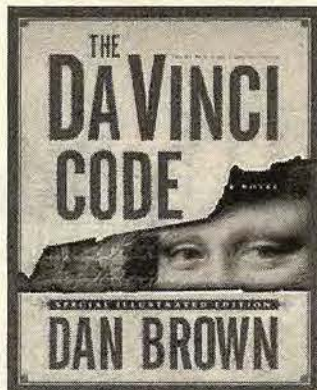
BY JACKIE FAST

Every day Stern students cross the corner of 34th Street and Lexington Avenue en route to the 245 Lexington building. In doing so, they pass in front of a brick high-rise with arched doorways and public benches called "Murray Hill Place." Many students are probably unaware that the Murray Hill Place is neither a condo tower nor an office building; it's actually the American headquarters of Opus Dei, a Catholic organization with a confusing reputation that seems to be the exact opposite of its declared mission.

While Opus Dei is popularly known as a secretive, isolationist, and fundamentalist Catholic cult, its proclaimed purpose, which is to offer religious instruction to regular people and not secluded clergymen, is quite the opposite. Although the particulars of the organization feature some elements that really do seem somewhat extremist or rigidly strict, there is more to Opus Dei than its reputation generally acknowl-

edges.

The impression that most Americans have of Opus Dei was formed by Dan Brown's best-seller, "The Da Vinci Code." In the book, the organization's members are monks with long robes who will resort to murder in order to prevent leaks of information about a Christian conspiracy. However, in reality, most



members of Opus Dei don't even live in its "centers." Instead, they live in regular homes and have normal jobs and families. Additionally, despite its popular image as an organization of monks, Opus Dei has virtually no clergy. "There are no monks at all

in Opus Dei," confirms Brian Finnerty, the American Director of Media Relations.

According to Finnerty, Opus Dei operates its centers primarily for retreats and conferences. The retreats provide their members with an opportunity to take part in theology classes and other organized activities, and to learn more about Opus Dei's mission of increasing religious meaning in all aspects of life. A small number of caretakers, administrators, and religious leaders staff the centers.

Yet, there are men and women who live in Opus Dei centers such as Murray Hill Place full time. Termed "numeraries," these individuals practice celibacy and live in completely gender-separate quarters. They enter the building via separate entrances and do not have any contact with the opposite sex. They also practice a few different forms of corporal mortification (self-inflicted pain) such as the use of a *cilice*, a barbed thigh-band described in "The Da Vinci Code." Although

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YU Undergrads Participate in Cutting Edge Research

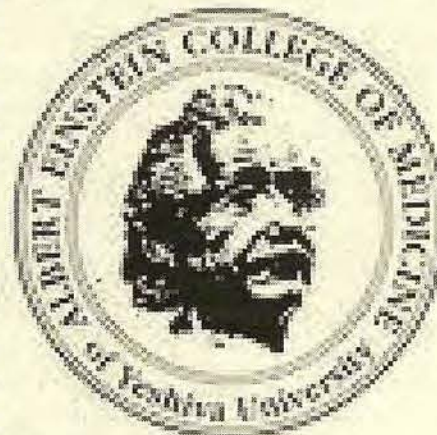
BY SURI GREENWALD

At the end of the school year, many students eagerly awaited their summer vacation as the time to accomplish all the things that being a full time student prevented them from doing. Some were off to camp, while others traveled to a variety of diverse countries. A select group of students chose a different route altogether, deciding to spend their summer involved in scientific research with the intention of gaining valuable experience for the future.

Women and men from Yeshiva University (YU), along with 40 students from other universities, participated in a Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), an honors program offered at the Albert Einstein College of

great opportunity to interact with students that share the same interests and goals as I do," she said. "It gave me the chance to perform cutting edge research under the guidance of world-renowned scientists."

Louissette Soussan, a pre-med senior majoring in biochemistry from Morocco, also participated in the program. Soussan did research in the anatomy and structural biology department, with Dr. Ben Ovryn. She was privileged to work with him one-on-one, which gave her an opportunity to ask as many questions. They worked with cancer cells and optical imaging, which



included some aspects of physics as well as biology. Soussan feels she "gained a lot of experience working in real research

along with fellow researchers," and given the chance would definitely do it again. Yet, the program was not all about the students' individual work. Once a week, different professors presented their research to the participants of the program. They also met with fellow researchers to discuss their plans and ideas. A workshop on medical ethics was also required, seeing that it is such a fundamental part of the research field. In addition to the educational features, the program had a recreational component as well. The students were treated to trips to the Bronx Zoo, shows, baseball games, and barbecues. These activities fostered socializing and encouraged camaraderie among the research students. On the final day of the program, all the students presented their research in poster form as the different professors walked around to see their work. "It resembled a science fair," said Cohen, who greatly enjoyed all aspects of the program. The students who participated definitely gained immensely from their summer at Einstein. Regardless of whether or not they will decide to pursue a PhD or MD, this experience was very valuable for them. They were able to interact with graduate professors, as well as with their own peers who share similar future goals.

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During the duration of their research, students were housed in apartments provided by the school on the Einstein campus in the Bronx. Those who chose not to live in New York were compensated for the cost of their transportation. In addition, all the students received a \$2500 stipend for their work.

Michal Cohen, a senior at Stern College for Women (SCW) who was privileged to work in the department of neuroscience under the guidance of Dr. David Spray. Over the course of the program, she researched antibodies, junctions, and intercellular communication.

Another student who enjoyed her time in the neuroscience department was Jessica Feig, a junior at SCW. "It was a

Stern Honors Program Travels to Maine

BY ABBY ATLAS

This summer nine Stern College for Women (SCW) students attended the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program summer course in Maine. The course consisted of lectures conducted on the Beren Campus; reviewing introductory material that students would need prior to their hands on experience in Maine. Students then journeyed to Maine to complete the laboratory component of the course.

The lectures were given by SCW biology professor Dr. Joseph DeSantis. He introduced the basics of marine biology to the small class, preparing them

prising and unpredictable.

In addition to their lab work, the students went to various sites to observe the sea creatures in their natural habitats. At the intertidal zone, the zone between the area of high tide and low tide, the women observed the complex ecosystem of marine life that thrives there. At the mudflats, a swampy area of knee-deep mud, the class examined many species of worms and clams.

From an educational perspective, the unique setting of this summer session course had obvious advantages over standard classroom learning. "It was incredible to go out into the fields and learn [marine biology] hands



Seniors Aliza Forman and Judy Gorelick-Feldman build a maze to test the learning capabilities of rock and Jonah crabs.

for what lay ahead. After learning, about topics such as tides and marine ecology, the class was relocated to the small town of Walpole, Maine. There, in the Darling Marine Center of the University of Maine, the class had the opportunity to learn about marine life hands on and witness the ecosystems at the bottom of the ocean.

On the first day students were already dredging up various specimens from the bottom of the nearby Damariscotta River. The findings, which included algae, sponges, crabs and starfish, were then brought to the laboratory for examination. In the lab, the students divided into pairs, and each pair choosing a particular marine species for analysis. One pair of students, seniors Michal Konigsberg and Zahava Schmukler, studied sea anemones, conducting a variety of experiments using light and sound to see how they would respond to various stimuli. Schmukler noted that the experiments were "enlightening" and that while many of the experiments turned out as expected many of the findings were sur-

on," said Konigsberg. Yet, it was the benefits outside of the academic realm that truly made the trip special. Being together in a small town united the women, as they bonded in a way the classroom could not allow. The lack of tourist attractions allowed the nine women to spend a lot of quality time with each other. They spent their nights talking, watching movies and playing cards. "We really had a good time together," said Konigsberg.

Aside from getting to know each other, the students also had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with Dean Ethel Orlian, who, together with her husband Rabbi J. Mitchell Orlian, accompanied the women to Maine. Her presence on the trip was greatly appreciated both as a participant and as the chef! "The food tasted like my grandmother's," commented one woman enthusiastically. "It was delicious!"

Yavneh Olami Summer Internship Program Affords Students A Rich Summer Experience in Israel

BY LAURA SHUMAN

In an effort to build their resumes, many students increasingly opt for internships in their chosen career paths or use the summertime to simply continue on with college courses. Very seldom are students able to enrich their knowledge in their fields of choice while still experiencing the relaxation afforded by summer break. Yavneh Olami provides college students with the rare opportunity of travel combined with research internships in their chosen career areas while enabling students to partake in the Israeli work force.

This past summer, over 20 Yeshiva University (YU) students and recent graduates participated in Yavneh Olami's Summer Internship program in Israel. Broadly speaking, Yavneh Olami is an international Religious Zionist student organization whose aim, according to its website, is to provide a "religious Zionist educational, cultural and social framework for students all over the world." The program, which accepted 115 students from a variety of universities in America, Canada and the United Kingdom, including New York University, Landers College, Brandeis University, University of Pennsylvania, York University, and Columbia University has more than tripled in size since its inception six years ago.

The skeletal aspect of the program is the internship

itself. Students are given the option of choosing full or part time internships, and are also able to choose the amount of Hebrew spoken in their workplace. The internships are catered to meet the specific academic needs of the individual.

Students can select from a broad range of areas a field that most interest them. They are requested to pick their top two choices in the event that their first choice is unable to be accommodated. Internship areas include, but are not limited to journalism, medicine, business, law, scientific research, public relations, computers, and politics. Students are then notified about their placements prior to the start of the program.

Aviva Horowitz (SCW 07), who returned to the Summer Internship Program through Yavneh Olami for a second consecutive year, was assigned to work for the advisor of international affairs to the Mayor of Jerusalem and felt extremely lucky to be placed where she was. "It blows your mind," said the political science major. "These were bosses that took interest ...and spoke to me like an equal which I was not in any shape or form." This is part of the reason she believes the program is so unique. "It gave real time job experience which normally would not be open to us," said Horowitz gratefully.

Such sentiments reflect the overall difference between an

internship in America and one in Israel. Yael Abromowitz (SCW 08), who interned at the Palestinian Media Watch and specialized in graphic design, commented that her office treated her like a real working partner as well, "where as in America" she explained, "it would be filing, and getting people coffee." One of the primary goals of the program is to place students in an environment that will provide them with the most realistic impressions of working in Israel.

In an effort to make this a "well rounded" experience, the program also took participants on short trips. In addition activities were conducted in the evenings, providing students with the opportunity to hear from interesting guest lecturers and Torah scholars. A weekly course was given by the political pundit Gerald Steinberg. The program also hosted Shabbatonim across the country in such locations as the Golan, Yerucham, and Jerusalem. Additionally, YU provided the use of their Beit Midrash, computers, dining and dorm facilities to the visiting university students.

Students that attended the program felt that it was both enjoyable and educational, as it gave them an opportunity to socialize, participate in recreational activities, and get a glimpse of what their futures in Israel might look like.

Do You Enjoy
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Want to Stay in for a
Relaxing Shabbat?
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SHABBATON
Shabbat Parshat Ki
Tavo
September 8th-9th
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THE ISRAEL SECTION

Counterpoint Israel: A Student Reflects on A Unique CJF Summer Program

BY RACHEL DAVIES

As one of ten Yeshiva University (YU) students chosen to go on this summer's Counterpoint Israel program, I was given the opportunity to devote four weeks of my summer to doing community service in the Negev. The objective of the program was to come to the aid of our brethren in Israel and to provide students with an opportunity to sharpen their leadership abilities.

The first week was spent in Dimona, participating in Meir Panim's Rebuilding Communities Project. Meir Panim is an Israeli organization that works with the poor people of Israel, providing them with a variety of services while concentrating on restoring their dignity by helping them get back on their feet. Another goal of Meir Panim is to unite all different types of Jews in Israel.

We worked with Israeli Defense Force volunteers, the local firemen and police department, and the electric company, in an effort to revitalize the town. We spent much time cleaning the streets and building a playground in one of the city's poorer areas.

The next part of the program required many hours of training and discussing the importance of having clear goals and of working in line with those goals. We ran a camp in Yerucham for the duration of two weeks for underprivileged Israeli teens. Every session required us to remain focused and remind ourselves of the tasks at hand. If the goal of a session we were running was to teach English, what was the most effective way to run the program? If we wanted to empower the campers, how could we give

them the feeling of having the most control?

A further encumbrance to the completion of our tasks was the fact that we were diametrically opposed to the situation the campers were in. Americans working with Israelis, university students from Manhattan working with teens living in a development town, religious Jews working with mostly traditional



or irreligious Jews—how would we do it?

Our goal was plain and simple. We were going to follow Meir Panim's philosophy and go into camp with open arms, full of acceptance, and showing love. But like Meir Panim, we made it clear both to ourselves and to our campers that we weren't going to be their "rich American benefactors" and "save them." We were coming to give and learn and share with the community in Yerucham. While the teens had so many reasons to reject us, their response was one of eagerness and excitement. They wanted to spend time with us and participate in the myriad of activities we planned.

Each day, the 40 campers, ranging from 7th to 11th grade, the 10 YU counselors, the two Israeli counselors, and the two families who volunteered their summers to run the camp, gathered for "shoko v'lachmaniya"—chocolate and bread rolls. From there we went to an English mul-

timedia interactive session prepared by one of the YU students on various self empowerment topics such as choosing principles to live by, using positive speech, and not giving in to peer pressure. The goal of this activity was to help each camper identify what was important to him/her and what made him/her special.

The day continued with workshops, and each camper was allowed to choose which activities they wanted to participate in. They were given the choice to play sports, cards, board games, draw, or make fashion projects. This gave the teens a chance to not only enjoy themselves, but to explore and develop their own talents and abilities.

We then ate an Israeli style hot lunch followed by a day ending "fun activity." These included swimming, an outing to paintball and a visit to Bedouin tents. The camp also sponsored day trips to locations such as the Dead Sea and Eilat.

Throughout all of these activities we were given the privilege of learning, appreciating and praising the qualities of the 40 teens we worked with. We tried to help them discover the power within themselves, their families, and their country. It was a daunting task to go into and interact with the people in a community different than we were used to, but by walking in with open arms and open hearts we were able to forge unique and special connections with the great Israeli teens we met who were so different from ourselves.

A Message from Your President



BY RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

The Israel Club is your connection to Israel while at Yeshiva University (YU). By being part of the Israel Club, you will hopefully be linked to what is going on in Israel and be a part of a group of people who feel that same connection. You have the perfect opportunity to be involved with Israel activities on campus, so take advantage of our resources and channel your positive energy to our club.

There are two main focuses we want to have in the Israel Club this year. First, we want to create a sense of awareness on campus as to what is going on in Israel. Especially now, with what happened this summer in the north, it is very important to know and keep up with what is going on. For example, I took it upon myself to read Israel news everyday to make me more attentive to the situation and to make me feel personally connected. We hope you will come out of each of our events learning something new and wanting to help Israel in any way possible. These events will include speakers, analysts, diplomats, professors, rabbis, YU students, and experienced Israeli leaders.

Monday August 28 was the Israel Club's opening event, which featured two YU students who have personal connections to what went on in Israel this summer. Rabbi Blau, *mashgiach*

ruchani on the Wilf campus also spoke. We are also raising money for people up north, learning *lilui nishmat* fallen soldiers, letter writing, and much more. On September 18 we will hopefully have David Baker, senior foreign press coordinator for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, address the student body and on October 31 we are having Moshe Yaalon, former chief of the IDF.

Our second focus is to help students keep their personal connections to Israel as alive as possible, whether it is through Torah, aliyah programming, or through learning about the people in Israel. These events will include an Israel/aliyah fair for people who want to or are thinking of living in Israel, a *Torat Eretz Yisrael* speaker series featuring rabbanim speaking on different topics, an Israeli film festival, and *kumzitzes*. Our first *kumzitz* is going to be September 20, and we will hopefully have someone speak as part of the *torat eretz yisrael* series every month.

Hopefully through our programming this year you will gain more of an awareness of what is going on in Israel, as well as a more personal connection to the land and people.

I am very excited for the upcoming year and for all of the Israel Club events. Israel and everything that happens there means so much to me, so I hope it reflects in the programming and our goals for this year. Please email me at Rose018@aol.com for any questions, comments, criticisms, or anything else. Our website, www.yuic.org, has more ways in which you can get involved with Israel Club and help the current *matzav* (situation) in Israel. Looking forward to a great year filled with Israel programming!

Summer 06: A Summer of Strife

BY TALIA KAPLAN

There will be many ways that the summer of 2006 will be remembered. For some it will be the big internship that they landed, for others it will be the experience of a life time traveling the world, and still for others it will be the summer they got married. For the State of Israel the summer of 2006 will be remembered as a trying time of war.

In retrospect, July 12 will be the day that will stick out as the beginning of the difficulties. It was on that day that Hezbollah, a recognized terrorist group that follows the Shiite Islamist politi-

cal party in Lebanon and has close ties with Iran, captured two Israeli soldiers and killed three others. In response to these attacks Israel initiated a series of bombings on southern Lebanon which houses the Hezbollah terrorists. The air strikes were accompanied by a ground invasion and an air and naval blockade.

Looking back at this summer, people will say that the turning point in the conflict was when rockets hit the home of Sheik Hassan Nassrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, in Beirut. At that point he announced that these series of attacks were an all out

war. Hezbollah began attacking the north of Israel, and their rockets reached as far south as Tzfat. All together, around 3,970 rockets were fired into Israel. These rockets hit numerous towns including Haifa, Hadera, Nazareth, Tiberias, Nahariya, and Kiryat Shmona.

Perhaps the most poignant memory in the Israeli psyche from this summer will be the evacuation of the northern part of the country. Nearly one million residents of northern Israel were told to stay in bomb shelters. Almost all of those who could, evacuated the towns that were at risk of getting hit and relocated throughout

the country to cities further south. The largest amount of evacuees settled in the beach town of Nitzanim. In Nitzanim, around 6,000 people lived in a tent city for an extended amount of time. One mother reported traveling to the city because her daughter was unable to sleep at night knowing that the alarm could go off at any second, forcing the family to run to their bomb shelter in desperate hope that they would successfully avoid the katyushas that were falling all around them.

The war was also felt throughout the land as *miluim* (reservists) were called up to help

on the warfront. Throughout the country fathers, sons, and brothers were seen putting their uniforms back on to respond to the call of duty. On Mach-Hach Ba'aretz, a Bnei-Akiva summer program for American high-school students, six male counselors were called back to the army. Pammy Reinhard (SCW 07), a counselor on bus six of the program whose co-counselors Yoni Levitt and Eitan Bendheim, a Yeshiva College student, were called back to the army, said that it was at that point that "the situation really hit home. Until that

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No More Tears

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unbearable the situation in Israel has become, aware of the despair and frustration of *tzuros* throughout the world, surrounded by tears, I sat dry-eyed, a phenomenon which shocked and frightened me. Had I truly become this callous? How was it possible that I was unable to summon enough emotion—on that night of all nights—to cry?

I couldn't sleep. I sat awake on my living room floor all night, thinking furiously, trying to understand why I felt—or didn't feel—the way that I did.

For awhile, I was just going in circles. I thought carefully about tragedies I had heard about, imagining what it must have been like to live through them, what it must be like to be the parent or the child of someone who had lived through them. I thought of my friend and her new, unasked-for challenges, what it must be like not to be able to turn to your mother when you don't know what to do.

It was overwhelming. All that hurt, frustration, anger, despair—trying to get my head around the feelings that each of these people has to grapple with every day left me empty and exhausted. And that was when I realized the source of my apparent apathy, something I had not

been able to put my finger on before.

It wasn't that I *couldn't* summon enough emotion to cry for my people. It was that I didn't want to.

I didn't want to think about children growing up without fathers, or houses blown apart by rockets, or even my friend, my dearest friend, struggling to care for her entire family and still have time for her own needs. I didn't want to see another bloody ambulance on the news. I didn't want to get an email about another sick little kid in need of *tehillim*. I didn't want to hear about another tragedy that I was helpless to prevent or ameliorate. No more inadequate words of comfort—no more names on my *tehillim* list—no more tears.

I think what compounds this frustration is a sense of helplessness. Maybe it's a coping mechanism, or maybe it's just human nature in general, but either way, we prefer action to thought a thousand times over. We would rather feel that we are actively doing something right now, at this very moment, to fix what's broken—reverse the damage, make it all better—than admit that we are powerless to change things. From the Jewish perspective, we are required to do both: to do whatever we can to allevi-

ate suffering, and to pray for G-d to 'fix' the problems that we cannot. Seems like a good system, don't you think? We do the little things, G-d does the big things, and somehow it all gets done.

However, I think that with the recent barrage of war and terror, we often feel like there is nothing we can do. We can't bring back the people killed, whether it's in a battle, a car accident, or a terrorist attack. We can't end their families' grief. We can't grant peace or security to anyone: not Israel, not the United States, not the UK. It seems very possible that this summer's news cycle will be repeated for the rest of our lives. I remember very vividly a blown-up picture on the front page of the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel the day after the London terrorist plot was defanged. It was an image of a security line at an airport that must have been miles long, the security staff in full gear grimly herding the travelers along, and the 72-point caption over it read: "Is This the New Normal?"

Yes. It is.

I live in a world now where everyone routinely expects to be bombed out of the sky.

I live in a world where buses taking schoolchildren on field trips explode.

And I am old enough, now, to

realize that I live in a world where nothing is safe, nothing is guaranteed, and no one is infallible.

It is an overwhelming realization, which is why the natural reaction is to roll up your shirt-sleeves and get to work. We feel that if we cried for every tragedy, we would all drown in the tears, and to what purpose? This has been my unconscious reasoning: I can't think about the painful things I see in the news because there's just too many of them, and to process all that sorrow would only serve to paralyze me with despair. I don't want to cry every day.

I think that is a healthy sentiment; few people will tell you to drag through life decked in black for the world's victims.

However, at this juncture we often make a crucial mistake: we attempt to distract ourselves from the pain rather than do something about it.

It's so easy. Read a book, watch a movie, sign onto AIM—it's miraculous how the world's problems suddenly meld into the background. Oh, we keep ourselves busy. We make sure we don't have time to think, and over the course of time, unintentionally, we forget. We don't forget what actually happened, but we forget the emotional impact

behind it. It becomes another dry fact, another figure to stack up in opinion columns. It no longer hurts to talk about it.

This is why *Tisha b'Av* is so important.

Tisha b'Av forces you to stop and focus. It drags up the gruesome details of the siege of Jerusalem so graphically that you nearly relive it. It's a day designated for remembrance—not necessarily to cause us despair, but to restore to us that initial drive, that feeling that cries out, "something here is broken—what can I do to fix it?"

We need to stop tuning out reports of tragedy and sorrow because if we don't think about them and understand them, at least a little bit, we'll never have the motivation to do what we need to do. We need to pray, we need to send money, we need to volunteer—no matter who you are or what your opportunities, there is something that you can do. But before that can happen, you have to realize how much your action is needed, how truly imperative it is that you do something.

You need to be able to cry.

Sulam, Israel

continued from page 4

a role in Israel's defense, and he did spend time fighting in Lebanon. One of the first soldiers killed was a close family friend and grew up on the same block as one of our male counselors. Without telling the campers, he arose early on the first Friday morning of the program and quietly left to attend the funeral.

Then the drafting started, or as I learned to officially call it, a *tzav shemoneh*, which means an emergency call to report to your reserve unit. The first staff member to leave was the administrative head of the program. He rarely dealt directly with the kids and resided mainly in the office busy with scheduling and technical details. His draft had very little effect on the lives of the campers since they had limited contact with him. The second draft was of our technical coordinator who traveled everywhere with the group, running any errand we needed him to accomplish and more. By the end of the second week, when he was drafted, some of the kids had become close with him and his leaving upset the already precarious equilibrium and the program's sense of security. Yet, by the middle of the week they all recovered. Then a counselor and our medic, the two favorite male staff members,

were given a two-week notice and had to leave the program to report to their reserve posts. The war had hit us hard. Everyone knew a sibling, a friend; a friend's sibling or co-worker involved in the war effort and for the first time, so did I.

The kids reacted as kids would. In the beginning they were constantly on the phone crying to parents who would then frantically call up the camp office demanding assurance that their child was safe. The office would calmly respond that the program traveled nowhere near and would never be anywhere near the targeted areas. With each draft, a new round of hysterics broke out among the campers, and it was our jobs as counselors to calm them and assure them that we were all safe even if we did not quite believe it ourselves.

My personal experience in Israel this trip, during the start of war with Lebanon, brought me closer to the land than ever before. For someone whose greatest dream is to build a family and a home in Eretz Yisrael, I consider myself as closely connected to Israel as I can be before I make that final trip to stay. This summer I was in a new and unfamiliar place. For the first time, when terror and violence raged in Israel, I was where I needed to be—I was on the spot. The most

frustrating feeling for me is to sit and watch from a distance while Israel is in pain, or even worse, for that pain to be dulled by the miles of land between us and not feel anything at all. I can sit in *chutz la'aretz* and say *tehillim* or organize charities to help the Israeli people, but I feel that the only way to show my solidarity is by being there when everyday life is not so easy; to live and breathe and walk in the land even when my life may be at risk.

My perception of life in Israel also matured over this visit. It's simple to spend a year in yeshiva and return to the states floating on an aliyah cloud. Who wouldn't want to live in a place where you can learn from incredible Torah scholars all day long and perform mitzvot to your heart's content without any pressures from the outside world? The choice seems clear. The reality is that life in Israel has added difficulties. A newly married wife has to sit and wait while her young husband goes off to war; it is rare to find a teenager who has not already attended the funeral of someone close to them. Death is confronted at a much younger age and is a lurking presence in the lives of those who do not deserve it. On *Tisha b'Av*, we took the group to the funeral of a soldier no one on the program knew personally at Har Hertzal,

the military cemetery. It was then that all the campers and staff finally understood the concept of *am echad b'lev echad*—one nation with one heart. The majority of the thousands attending the funeral did not know the boy or his family. In Eretz Yisrael the loss of each life ripples through the hearts of every individual and stirs deep pain of mourning in them, to the degree that they flock to say goodbye to a boy they never even spoke to. This summer, I realized that I have no idea what it means to sacrifice for something I love, but my Israeli co-counselors and my experience as a counselor gave me a small taste of what *chibat ha'aretz* (love of the land) truly means.

I always wear a silver necklace carved in the shape of Israel around my neck. Engraved on the front is the famous quote of Rebbe Nachman of Breslev, "*Lekol makom she'ani holeich, ani holeich l'erezt Yisrael*"—In everywhere that I go, I go to the land of Israel. On the back I have inscribed the three politically charged words most Modern Orthodox Jews recite every Shabbat in the Prayer for the State of Israel, "*Reishit tzmichat ge'ulateinu*"—stating that Israel is the first of the sprouting of redemption which boldly implies that the modern state is part of the final divine plan of redemption.

This summer I returned to the store I bought the necklace from and had them add one word to the back—"*sh'tihay*"—let it be that the State of Israel is the first sprouting of redemption. I did not choose to add that word because of any political standpoints, as I had not originally chosen the statement with any knowledge of its political connotation. But after the events I witnessed this summer, I felt embarrassed by my unintended declaration of certainty that this state is part of the final Jewish claim to the land of Israel. For the first time, I personally witnessed the fragility of our homeland's existence and realized that all I can do is *hope* that this state is the beginning of something even greater. All I can do is beseech of God everyday to bestow peace and tranquility upon the land that holds the key to His nation's ultimate destiny.

Arts and Culture

World Trade Center: An Infamous Day Portrayed by Hollywood

BY LAURA SHUMAN

If it were any other movie, the first scenes of Oliver Stone's summer blockbuster *World Trade Center*, which consist of pictures of Manhattan used to display the movies credits, would be dubbed as movie fillers. However, the images of the city's yellow taxis and cool streets as they are being hit by the first glimpses of sunlight, are an entirely appropriate way to begin a movie entitled *World Trade Center*, and effectively bring the viewer back to that infamous September 11 morning.

It was almost five years ago that a plane was flown into Manhattan's World Trade Center, and many will never forget their initial shock. As the world sat glued to their television sets, they could not believe their eyes when the North Tower was hit only minutes later. At the time, many would comment that what they had seen was more like something they would expect to see in a movie and not something that could occur in real life.

Immediately people acknowledged that a movie would eventually be made on this topic; a realization which raised many questions. Firstly, how would Hollywood recreate such a notorious day in history? Then there was the timing factor. It is well known in Hollywood that timing could make or break the success of a film and with thousands of Americans still grieving, when would it be appropriate to produce such a film?

So when Stone announced he would be putting out a movie depicting September 11, many critics quickly said that five years is still too early to reproduce the images of downtown Manhattan covered in grey dust, thousands of papers raining down from the sky, and people suffering from the collapses of the two towers. However, Stone's movie contends that that is not the case.

Just as they were on the day itself, the vast majority of people seeing this film are onlookers and individuals who were affected by September 11 on a national level only. They are people who view the day as a national day of mourning and sadness rather than something that personally affected them. Although the movie has a joyous ending, an idea that goes along with the Hollywood brand tunnel of a neat happy ending, the success of this film is dependent on the role Stone allows the audience to play. He relies on the

focused path in terms of politics, background, and people he used.

The film opens on the morning of September 11, 2001, and tells the true story of two New York City Port Authority Police Officers, John McLoughlin, played by Nicolas Cage, and Will Jimeno, played by Michael Pena. The cameras follow them into the towers, and then document them getting pinned under twisted metal in the lower concourse of the building. After setting this gruesome scene, the rest of the film switches back and forth from

scenes portraying the conversations had by the wives and families of the two men and flashbacks of the officers with their respective families before embarking on the greatest mission of their lives.

Although the two main characters of the film were eventually picked out of the rubble and returned to their loved ones, one cannot help but think of the thousands of New York's finest, as well as regular civilians, who were not as lucky. Perhaps the hardest part about seeing the film was the realization that

this was not a fictional movie like many of the others that came out this summer.

If the movie has a fault, it is not when it came out or the images Stone chose to include. Instead, it is in the fact that it fails to tell the story of every individual who perished or who gave of themselves and acted in a heroic fashion on behalf of others. Yet, it is nearly impossible to tell the story of a nation and of over 3,000 individuals in a two hour blockbuster, and one cannot fault Stone for his inability to do so.

With that said, as a film about two men and their personal stories, *World Trade Center* is a masterpiece. By including the audience in his film and demanding that Americans relive the emotions they felt on September 11, this film is surely one which will be archived as one of Hollywood's finest pieces.



A Restaurant Review: Colbeh

BY MICHELLE SCHIFFMAN

With the large array of kosher restaurants in Manhattan, choosing one is always a grueling task. Whether you are in the mood for a quick bite with some friends, or a fancy dinner in a candlelit restaurant, there is more than one choice for any dining occasion. But, if what you are looking for is a unique cultural experience, Colbeh, a Persian/Mediterranean restaurant located at 43 West 39th St., is the perfect place to go.

Upon entering the restaurant, one is sure to be impressed by its beautiful décor. The room exudes romance, as every detail attributes something to the room's ambience. Seeing the dim lighting, candles, fine china, beautiful glasses, crisp white table cloths and magnificent floral paintings ensured a pleasant dining experience right off the bat.

Noticing the fancy décor of the restaurant, I expected the restaurant to be full of posh and lavishly dressed people. However, as I looked around I noticed an array of attire on the customers. There were people wearing jeans and polo shirts, as well as suits and ties. There were also many different types of people there, including Persians, Americans and Asians. It was quite a change from the usual clientele at most local kosher restaurants.

The next thing that immediately jumped out at me was the politeness and attentiveness of the serving staff. Within minutes of walking into the restaurant my party was immediately shown to a table. Waiting for us at the table were filled water glasses, hot pita bread and seasoned vegetables. In a similar fashion, our waiter did not abandon us once we were settled in. After eating our appetizers with the silverware provided on the table, the staff cleared our plates and took our silverware with them. Realizing we would need silverware for the next course, the waiters brought new forks and knives for everyone at the table before we even had a chance to ask for replacements. However, at some moments we felt as if the waiters were watching us too closely, almost as if they were waiting for us to leave so they could seat another party.

The trickiest part at Colbeh was trying to figure out what to eat. The menu is full of foreign

words, but luckily I was with a Persian friend who was able to explain what the various dishes were made of. Yet, for all of those who aren't lucky enough to have a Persian dining partner, the menu explains what all the entrees are in fine print underneath the original Persian listing. I ended up ordering *tahdig* (\$6.50), a crusty rice dish topped with the stew of the day, as an appetizer. Although it looked a little intimidating at first, it ended up being absolutely delicious! We also had *gondi* (\$6.50), ground chicken breast and chic peas with Russian spices. Everyone was very impressed with the dish, but it was a bit spicy.

For main dishes, the individuals in my party each ordered a different type of kabob. The chicken (\$22.50), steak (\$25.50) and ground beef (\$25.50) skewers were cooked to our liking and extremely tasty. Each entrée came with a large portion of rice that was better than any rice I had ever eaten before.

Although the portions were



nicely sized, no meal is complete without desert. In an effort to see how the staff would meet such a challenge, we fibbed and told the waiter it was someone's birthday. They definitely passed the test! Every waiter, and even the manager, came and sang "Happy Birthday" to our table. However, the singing seemed a bit out of place considering the quiet and calm atmosphere of the restaurant and we felt as if we were disturbing the other customers dining near us.

Overall, Colbeh turned out to be a great restaurant. It has a lot to offer, providing the diner with a unique cultural experience, great food, and good service. The entrée prices, which range from \$20-\$30, are very appropriate for the fancy restaurant that Colbeh is. Colbeh is the perfect place for any occasion, particularly those events that warrant a quiet and private dining experience.

University President Petitions Knesset for Degree Resolution, Despite Renewed Efforts Issue Remains Unsettled

continued from front page

(immigrants) working at government jobs are likely to be compensated only as high school graduates.

Many have decried the Israeli government's attempts to "have its cake and eat it too," however officials at the Ministry of Education have staunchly defended their position. The problem lies not with Ministry procedure, they argue, but rather with the university's own laxity in upholding certain academic standards. Familiar with the considerably less rigorous and structured curricula of American *yeshivot* in Israel, the Ministry of Education has deemed the courses of those institutions unworthy of credit. Since YU does grant full academic credit for these same courses, its conferred degrees are held in much lower esteem.

"The main problem of the individual graduates whose degrees did not receive consideration is on account of their previous non-academic studies," explained Shauli Peer, who works at the Ministry's Office of the Spokesperson. "According to the rules that guide the Ministry's arm for evaluating foreign degrees, you can recognize by a certain outline if a graduate meets our conditions. In the case of Yeshiva University graduates, we are talking about degrees that do not meet even the maximum leniency we can allow according to our rules."

"The arm is responsible for a

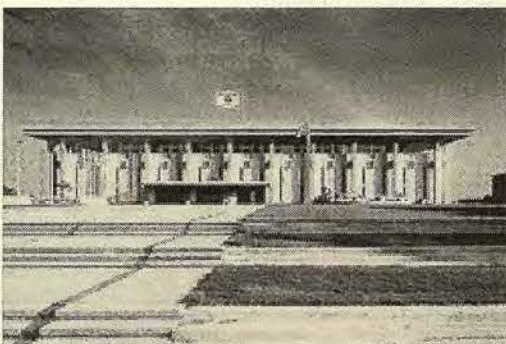
technical investigation of all academic degrees from the Diaspora," continued Peer. "We check all that is concerned with each and every degree, including previous studies. In order for us to complete this technical review, we require all graduates to present us with all of their transcripts and grades."

Thus, according to Peer, the Ministry of Education does not consider a college's accreditation by the U.S. as sufficient grounds for approval and as a result determines its own criteria for assessing the qualifications of foreign graduates. Implying that the Ministry may not have reached the same conclusion as that of the American accrediting authorities with regards to YU, he replied: "When we conduct our technical review, we don't deal with or consider the issue of accreditation. We don't mix in with evaluations of a university's accreditation; those decisions are made by the relevant policymakers of another country."

Others would beg to differ with the Ministry's approach. In a related article from The Jewish Week dated June 30, President Joel rendered his own verdict on the issue. "The only business of Israel is to ask whether [the graduate] can produce a bona fide American bachelor's degree... If this was happening in any other country, I would be crying anti-Semitism."

Given its historically deep-rooted ties with the State of

Israel, the university has regarded the Ministry of Education's rebuff, in colloquial terms, as a slap in the face. The largest contingent of American *olim* hails from YU and thousands of alumni have immigrated there since the State's inception. Moreover, through its development of the S.



The Knesset

Daniel Abraham Israel Program, the university has increased the number of students opting to study in Israel. By facilitating the easy transfer of credits and organizing various community service initiatives, the program has encouraged undergraduates to experience life in Israel and thus, solidify their bond with the country.

However, with the degree dilemma still pending, the Israeli government runs the risk of alienating potential *olim* among the YU population. With the prospect of being denied adequate compensation for an entire sector of jobs, these students may be forced to reassess their formerly unshakable commitment to making aliyah. One student, speaking on condition of anonymity, admitted that the current issue might affect her plans to teach Judaic studies in Israel.

"I think the whole situation is ridiculous," she demurred. "Of course we gain from going to Israel, but it's also good for them that we study at their yeshivot. Now they're throwing that back in our faces, saying that they won't recognize our degrees specifically because we studied there."

"This will definitely make it harder for me to figure out how and what I want to work as," the Stern College for Women senior continued. "I would like to make aliyah within the next few years,

but this would definitely deter me from ever teaching in a government school. The truth is that I'm hoping they'll take care of this before I get there."

Yet, some are beginning to wonder if the issue will ever be redressed at all. The Israeli bureaucracy is notoriously beleaguered by "red tape" and any internal changes require months, if not years, to be implemented. When the quandary first surfaced in January 2005, unleashing a backlash of discontent, former Minister of Education Limor Livnat responded with a letter to President Joel. Apologizing for the difficulties YU alumni had encountered, she promised to achieve a resolution by the end of the month.

Livnat's assurances were called into question when another YU alumnus was reportedly denied a salary commensurate with his BA over a year later. With the intent of rectifying the problem once and for all, President Joel traveled to Israel to make his sentiments explicitly

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Scheduling Changes

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week and others who would opt for a longer intersession. We will need to evaluate the earlier start once the year is completed to determine if it is an approach worth repeating."

True to Dean Orlian's words, many students have already conferred their approval on the new academic calendar, despite the widespread tide of discontent. "I think the decision to begin the academic school year earlier was the right one," commented Esther Genuth, a senior at SCW. "It is important that we finish before *Shavuot* and besides, who wouldn't want to start school a week earlier?"

Chani Ladaew, a SCW sophomore, shared Genuth's rationale. "It doesn't really make a difference; it's only a few days ear-

lier, not a few weeks," she said. "But when it comes to winter break, believe me; you will feel the difference in having an extra couple of days."

While students continue to contemplate the relative merits of the scheduling changes, Burdick and her colleagues are heading back to the drawing board as they start work on a new academic calendar to serve the university for the next five years. She hopes to have a draft ready within the next few weeks and a finalized timetable by the end of the fall semester. With this much-advanced notice, it can be safely assumed that students will be amply prepared if and when changes of a similar degree manifest themselves again.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

FALL 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SENIORS**
APPROPRIATE WORKSHOPS REQUIRED FOR ALL SENIORS, ALL MAJORS
**(excluding Accounting)

August 2006

- August 23rd - October 18 (Beren), Club Hour—Successful Business Job Search Series I
- August 23rd (Wilf), 8PM, Mandatory Senior Orientation for On-Campus Business Recruiting (men & women)
- August 24th - October 19th (Wilf), Club Hour—Successful Business Job Search Series I
- August 24th (Beren), 12-2pm—MonsterTRAK Overview
- August 28th (Wilf), 12-2pm—MonsterTRAK Overview
- August 31st (Wilf), Club Hour—"Senior Options" for Liberal Arts & Science Seniors

September 2006

- September 5th, (Beren), 8pm—Acing the full-time Job/Internship Search for Liberal Arts & Science Seniors
- September 7th, (Wilf), Club Hour—Graduate School Workshop
- September 12th, (Beren), 8pm—Senior Options: Life after College
- September 18th, (Wilf), 8-10:30pm—Finance Seminar (open to both men & women)
- September 18th, (Beren), 8pm—Getting into Graduate School
- September 28th, (Wilf), Club Hour - Job Search Workshop

IMPORTANT DATES:

- GREs: Paper Pencil Subject Tests: November 6, 2006-Deadline: September 15, 2006
December 4, 2006-Deadline: October 13, 2006
April 16, 2007-Deadline: February 23, 2007
- Computer Based General Tests: Offered many times a month. Call 1-800-GRE-CALL
1-800-473-2255 to register for a test by phone available on going or log onto www.ets.org/gre

- LSATs: Tuesday, October 3, 2006 - Deadline: August 29, 2006
Monday, December 4, 2006 - Deadline: October 31, 2006
Monday February 12, 2007 - Deadline: January 9, 2007

- GMATs: Computer based test only. Available all year round. Call 1-800-GMAT-NOW
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Hochman at the Helm of SSSB

continued from front page

have to shift his focus to include the students of the entire SSSB. Dean Hochman will be doing more than just interacting with the students. While he is unsure of how long he will remain interim dean since his contract simply states that he will be the interim dean until a permanent replacement is hired, he is determined to make the most of his time in the position and improve SSSB as best he can.

When asked about his vision for the school he described a two part plan which is already in motion. Firstly, he intends to continue the projects began by his colleagues last year. SSSB is on its way towards gaining international accreditation. The first step, considered the hardest to accomplish, was achieved over the summer and the administration is concentrating on the rest of the process.

Dean Hochman is also dedicated to getting the SSSB honors

program ready for the class of 2010 and establishing research facilities for the faculty, and in turn the students, of SSSB. The university has allocated almost \$100,000 for this purpose and the interim dean is planning to use these resources to enhance the academic opportunities available at SSSB.

Part two of his vision is to increase the amount of full time and part time faculty at SSSB. While there is no timetable available for when these professors will be hired since it is contingent on the university as a whole, Dean Hochman is hoping this will occur as soon as possible. More faculty members would mean a lower student-faculty ratio and would give the professors more time for academic research and publication.

While these changes would affect both campuses, he has unique plans for the Beren Campus as well. "I definitely want to give more time to this campus," he said. In the past stu-

dents have complained to him that the deans have been absent in midtown since logistically it is easier to operate uptown. While he cannot promise he will be able to split his time fifty-fifty he is definitely working on making the time spent on the Wilf and Beren campuses is more equal. "The woman shouldn't feel as if they are being ignored," Dean Hochman said.

Despite his initial ambivalence, Dean Hochman is extremely satisfied with his decision. "I love it," he said enthusiastically of his new post. "It's rough; it's hard but an enjoyable type of hard."

Bunkbeds in Brookdale

continued from front page

to Yeshiva as the venue for displaying their Jewish pride and augmenting their knowledge. They will now encounter the "New York experience in [the] context of [a] Jewish communi-



ty", explicated Associate Director of Admissions Geri Mansdorf. The diverse and accepting atmosphere in New York, she explained, allows these students to maintain a strong Jewish identity while engaging in the pursuit of higher education and fulfillment of career goals.

Upon interviewing many of the incoming first year students and sophomores, Mansdorf was impressed by, what she described as, their "level of enthusiasm for academics" and professional aspirations. Many honor students have joined the ranks of the SCW population and will surely help to advance the quality of academics on campus. Additionally, each potential candidate Mansdorf encountered shared with her their career ambitions and hopes that the university would prepare them for a successful future.

The caliber of students, and not just the number, is also continuing on an upward trend. Last year, the average SAT score and Grade Point Average was well over 1200 (according to the old scale) and 88% respectively. Although the statistics have not yet been compiled for the current incoming class, past rates seem to signify a progressively more academic student population on the Beren

Campus.

However, standardized test scores are not the only figures on the rise. Tuition costs have climbed from \$12,800 per semester for the 2005-06 academic year to \$14,100 for the present one.



Add the \$3,130 and \$1,205 per semester tab for housing and food, respectively, and the total outstanding fees come to \$37,370, a nearly \$4,000 increase from last year's costs.

With the large influx of stu-

dents, it comes as no surprise that there is a shortage of housing. "As of August 20 every housing facility was filled to capacity, said Director of Residence Life on the Beren Campus Rachel Kraut, "but, our goal is to accommodate everybody." In Brookdale Residence Hall, even the study rooms have been removed to meet the increased demand. With the addition of bunk beds, six students can now occupy rooms that are typically designed to house four. Moreover, SCW has allegedly acquired a few more off-campus apartments to alleviate overcrowding.

Another factor contributing to the housing issue has been the last-minute registrations of students originally enrolled in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program. With the Middle East conflict still looming, some concerned parents canceled their daughters' plans to study abroad and arranged for them to head directly to SCW. The University's Office of Admissions says it has made every effort to accommodate the latecomers, whose numbers they claim are not significantly higher than those of years past. However, with a waiting list for housing and a swelling undergraduate population, it remains to be seen if the Beren Campus is in fact fully equipped to rise to the challenge.

GPATS Fellowship

continued from front page

leadership roles in the Orthodox community." He is very enthusiastic about the development of the GPATS program and is optimistic about the potential that it has to train the future leaders of the Jewish world. "I am excited about the expansion of this program because it ensures that we'll be producing scholars and leaders for the Orthodox community," he said.

However, a future career in *chinuch* is not a prerequisite for being part of the regular GPATS program. "If someone wants to learn *lishmah* (just for the sake of learning), they can be role models and leaders in a different way, not necessarily as teachers," noted Rabbi Hain. But, if one is selected to continue on to the fellowship program, it is understood that they intend to pursue a career in education.

Stein and Honig will be responsible for helping to develop GPATS educational programs

in several communities. They will be receiving leadership training on numerous topics, public speaking primary among them. They will also be in charge of leading group discussions through Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF). Besides the learning and training aspects of the program, both women also have teaching positions for this year. Honig will be in charge of coordinating and preparing several *Yimei Iyun* for some local Yeshiva high schools. Stein will be the resident scholar at the Jewish Center on 86th Street in Manhattan, and will teach a number of classes there as well.

With each consecutive year the program continues to grow. Rabbi Hain is confident that if the fellows are indicative of what is to come one can safely assume that with each successive year the program will continue to succeed.

Ministry of Education and Degrees

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known. While addressing the Knesset committees with the relevant jurisdiction, Joel referred to the abnegation of YU degrees as "inconceivable" and "unacceptable."

Members of the Knesset appeared to concur with Joel's assessment of the situation. Education, Sports, and Culture Committee Chairman Rabbi Michael Melchior declared that he was giving the Ministry of Education thirty days to clear up any outstanding glitches precluding the full recognition of YU degrees. Pay scales would be readjusted and YU alumni would finally be appropriately compensated for the work they were hired to do.

But the saga does not end here. Nearly a month after the supposed deadline, The Observer could not ascertain that the degree dilemma had been definitively resolved. According to Peer, the Ministry of Education is still in the process of evaluating Rabbi Melchior's "recommendations." "We hope that with the help of these concentrated efforts, we will find a proper solution to the problem of recognizing foreign degrees in the near future," he said. Until then, many YU alumni will be forced to contend with diminished paychecks and the frustrations accompanying bureaucratic inertia.

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Murray Hill Place: Not Your Average Next-door Neighbor

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they can hold leadership positions in the retreats and conferences for newly initiated members if they wish, their religious responsibilities are relatively similar to those of the regular members of Opus Dei and their religious practice is an accompaniment to a real-world profession. "The numeraries work as engineers and lawyers and students," explained Finnerty. "They never dress in long robes, not even on Halloween. Although they take on some stronger religious practices in their lives, they are still essentially lay people."

Perhaps the most striking discrepancy between Opus Dei's reputation and its public mission is the ingenuousness of its public relations department. For a group that is infamously renowned for secrecy, one surprised at how easy it is to contact its spokesperson with any questions. Media reporters from literally dozens of newspapers and television stations have toured the headquarters, from NBC to Good Morning America to a Rabbi from the Anti-Defamation League. The

reason for this openness is simple. They have found that the most effective way to combat negative media images of seclusion is to make themselves as accessible as possible. To achieve this end, they even have their own full-time director of media relations.

All of this publicity has admittedly been a mixed blessing for the organization. Although "The Da Vinci Code" has increased the public's fears of Opus Dei's secrecy, corporal mortification, and general extremism, it has also increased awareness of the organization. As a result, thousands of people have inquired about additional information and membership.

Yet, Opus Dei is still an extreme branch of Catholicism with some seriously controversial practices and an indisputable aura of mystery. After all, if Opus Dei is so open to the media, why isn't there any sign outside the Murray Hill Place indicating that it is the organization's national headquarters, or that it belongs to Opus Dei at all? Finnerty claims that the lack of overt signage on the building's exterior has nothing to do with fostering secrecy.

Rather, it's about disassociating Opus Dei from monastic images and retaining a real-world feel for the building. "We want to set a certain tone," he said. "It should be ordinary, because we're all about increasing religious devotion in ordinary life. It isn't supposed to be a monastery. We wanted it to look a lot more like a regular apartment building."

This reporter is not completely convinced by his explanation. Sure, Opus Dei may not be remotely secretive to media reporters, and its reputation for extremist practices may be exaggerated, but we can be sure that the Murray Hill Place is not exactly like every "regular apartment building" in Murray Hill regardless of how ordinary its name and appearance might make it seem.

Zoo Rabbi Addresses SCW Students

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typical biology textbook."

However, Rabbi Slifkin's attempts to explain the Biblical creation story in light of modern evolutionary theory have never been free from controversy. Many have deemed his views heretical and in direct contradiction with the Torah's account of the creation in *Sefer Bereishit* (Book of Genesis) and subsequent Talmudic interpretations. Last year, a group of distinguished Israeli Rabbis placed a ban on three of Rabbi Slifkin's books in an effort to restrict their readership among the public. The disagreement largely concerned the debate over the exact age of the world. Supporters of the ban have referenced that debate in stating the reasons for prohibiting the books and have adhered to the time-honored version of 5766 years. They argue that Rabbi Slifkin's assertion that the world is actually billions of years old threatens to undermine traditional Jewish beliefs.

Yet, it seems as if many members of the administration and faculty at Yeshiva University do not share these views and have

thus invited Rabbi Slifkin to the university in spite of the controversy. In fact, according to Dr. Babich, Slifkin's books "show how some of the greatest Jewish thinkers explained Judaism and *Bereishit* in a way that complements modern science rather than conflicts with it." The "Zoo Rabbi's" scientific conclusions are based on those of widely accepted halakhic authorities, including the historic scholar and physician Maimonides. Moreover, many modern scientific discoveries are difficult to deny and Rabbi Slifkin's desire to reconcile them with the Torah constitutes a more realistic approach. When asked what he hopes students gain from his lectures, Rabbi Slifkin responded, "I hope the students gain a greater understanding of the relative roles of Judaism and science."

Presidential Fellows Working in Various YU Programs

continued from page 10

Department of Communications and Public Affairs. Zigman was initially hesitant about the fellowship and only applied for the job as a back up. Yet, after enduring the application and interview process, she realized that the individuals in charge of the program were exactly the type of people she wanted to be working for. "That was more important to me than an incredible salary," she admitted. The specific fellowship she was given appealed to her as well since it allows her the unique opportunity to explore several different aspects of the communications field like budgeting, marketing, advertising, event planning, and graphic design.

Zigman says that she certainly would have enjoyed doing a communications job in the entertainment field, where she has already had several internships, but that this position felt more right to her and excited her more than anything she has done thus far. "Working for YU will be much more fulfilling," she said. "It is really crucial to believe in the company you work for, especially if you are going to be doing PR [public relations]. YU is a one-of-a-kind institution and I think I will love being a part of it."

Three of the fellows will be working in YU's CJF under the mentorship of Rabbi Kenneth Brander, dean of the CJF. Beth Katz graduated with a double

major in history and economics. She served as president of the J.P. Dunner Political Science Society and was chairman of the Canvassing Committee, which coordinates student government elections. Working with her is Avi Narrow-Tilonsky, who studied economics, and Laya Pelzner, who majored in English communications with a concentration in public relations, and minored in business. Pelzner's specific duties include overseeing a CJF newsletter and assisting with various aspects of programming.

"I want to learn how to work better as part of a team and improve my communications skills," Pelzner said. She hopes to be able to use her background in PR and marketing and apply those skills to helping the Jewish community. She also sees the fellowship as a chance to build relationships with members of the YU staff and work with the students to ensure that this year is productive.

For the first time, the program will have a fellow, Aliza Mainzer-Hughes, an art-history major, working at the YU Museum. Yoel Eis, a history major, will work in Enrollment Management and Eli Hagler, who studied management at Sy Syms School of Business will work in the Office of Student Affairs on the Wilf Campus. David Herring, also a management major, will be in the Office of Purchasing and Materials Management while Menachem Menchel, a psycholo-

gy major, was assigned to the Office of Institutional Advancement in Community Affairs. Ez Shaffren, another psychology major, will be working in the Office of the Vice President for University Life under the guidance of Dr. Hillel Davis and Shuey Jacoby, a political science major, will be working at The Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy (MTA), YU's high school for boys.

Many of this year's fellows are considering careers in Jewish



communal service and view their participation in the fellowship program as a good way to gauge their future areas of pursuit. The fellowship is also an ideal way to gain a greater understanding of how YU and other large Jewish organizations are run, which will help prepare them for upcoming work experience. Others plan on using their new skills and experiences to act as future lay leaders of the Jewish community. "I decided to do this fellowship because it will hopefully enable me to gain valuable work experi-

ence while learning more about YU and the general Jewish community," said Pelzner. "I hope the fellowship will build on some of the skills that I have, and teach me more about Jewish communal leadership at a level I would not be exposed to elsewhere."

Zigman shares Pelzner's sentiments and is just as enthusiastic regarding her expectations for the year. "The fellowship program in general seems like a great way for individuals to transition easily from being a student to a professional," she explained. "The office I'll be working in will add to that easy transition because it will allow me to explore my general field of interest a bit more before I have to decide what specific area I'd like to work in."

Some of last year's Presidential Fellows have been rehired by the University to work on the various campuses this year as well. Aviva Needle will continue to work in the Office of the Dean on the Beren Campus and Aliza Abrams will be overseeing programming for the CJF while she attends the Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Others are leaving YU to attend graduate school and find new jobs. Hindy Poupko, a former fellow for the CJF, will be studying at New York University as a Wexner Fellow, attending their dual program in Nonprofit Management and Israel Studies. Aaron Gavant, who was a fellow at the Association of Modern Orthodox Day Schools and

Yeshiva High Schools (AMODS), a division of the CJF, will be attending law school at the University of Maryland. Michael Rosman, who worked in President Joel's office, will be working in the consulting division at Ernst and Young.

Yet, they can only look back at the experience of working at YU favorably, appreciating the valuable time and effort they expended. They genuinely enjoyed working for YU and promoting the values that it represents. "The fellowship gave me a sense of empowerment, that what I do really matters," reflected Rosman. "The ability to contribute and help cultivate the ideas and ideals for which the institution stands is truly amazing. The fellowship program has provided me with a strong foundation to go on to take a leadership role in the business world and to make a difference in my community."

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Interventional Cardiology

Research

BY ILANA ERLICH

The introduction of balloon angioplasty and stenting has greatly advanced the treatment of partially occluded coronary arteries. These procedures have allowed countless patients to avoid having to undergo coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), a highly invasive surgery known for its long recovery period.

For angioplasty, access to the coronary arteries is gained through the femoral or radial artery. A wire, followed by a balloon, and usually a metal mesh tube known as a stent, are threaded up through the circulatory system to the coronary arteries. The balloon is inflated when it reaches the point of stenosis, thereby opening the artery. The use of a stent often follows to hold the vessel open after the procedure. This can be performed preventatively or as a rescue operation for myocardial infarctions.

A limitation of this procedure is seen when chronic total occlusions (CTOs) are treated. When occlusions (99-100% blocked) that have been in this state for more than three months are treated, the procedure is rarely successful. Arteries are simply too narrow and calcified to accommodate a guidewire, resulting in the inability to perform the angioplasty.

Studies of these CTOs have shown evidence of microscopic vessels through these occlusions. The vessels are too small to accommodate the finest

guidewire currently available. The question my research addressed is whether or not an aggregate of these microvessels would allow for guidewire crossing.

Small numbers of these microvessels occur naturally, but they are too few and far between to prove useful in aiding guidewire crossing. Various growth factors are proven to increase the instance of these tiny vessels when applied to an occlusion. Researchers quickly recognized the need to add a synthetic variation of this growth factor to the body in order to get the desired results.

The challenge has been to devise a delivery system for this growth factor. A simple injection of this growth factor proved ineffective and research to transfect cells with DNA to make their own excess of the growth factor proved to be too slow to be effective. The objective of this research was to create a drug delivery system for this growth factor.

Searching for a biodegradable polymer in which to encase my growth factor was undertaken. A double emulsion technique was used to create microspheres ranging in size from 5-100 microns full of growth factor. These spheres were then suspended in phosphate buffered saline, and injected through a catheter directly to the site of the occlusion. The microspheres were designed to release most of the growth factor by diffusion

within the first 6 hours after implantation. Over the next 2 weeks, the degradation of the polymer itself allows for the slow release of the remaining 20-40% of the growth factor. The lack of blood flow through the occluded artery would hopefully work in our favor, ensuring the microspheres would be allowed to release the growth factor before they were essentially washed away.

Time limitations did not allow for the completion of this project. However, it is currently being continued by other lab personnel. Early success has been attained by the incorporation of the growth factor as well as a carrier protein into the tiny spheres. Additionally, how much growth factor and protein were incorporated into the microspheres was measured, and developed a release profile. Histology shows that my microspheres are staying at the occlusion site for at least 4-6 hours, long enough to have the vast majority of the growth factor inside released into the surrounding tissue. Future research will quantify the effectiveness of this drug delivery system and hopefully lead to further advancements in interventional cardiology and patient care.

Early Bird or Wise Owl?

BY RACHEL-ALI ELBAZ

One of the most challenging aspects of living with others often lies in finding roommates with similar sleeping patterns. Early risers are often nicknamed 'early birds' and those who stay up later are often called 'night owls.' While the reality is that most people fall into the middle ground, scientific facts tell us that about 10% of individuals are extreme 'early birds,' and 10% are extreme 'night owls.'

Early birds function, perform best, and are most congenial in the late morning and noon hour, while the peak performance period for night owls begins at about six and carries on throughout the early evening. Of course the early evening is also the time when night owls are at their best.

Whether individuals prefer morning or evening is dependent on variations in circadian rhythms. This is the 24-hour physiological cycle that occurs in all living creatures and organisms. This is often referred to as the 'body clock.' Everyone has a circadian rhythm and huge differences can and do occur between individuals.

The 'body clock' controls the sleep patterns by regulating body temperature as well as melatonin and cortisol. Normally, the melatonin level will rise just before sleep and drop shortly after awakening. The hormone cortisol reaches its highest level just before waking. The core body temperature of an individual is at

its lowest level in the middle of the night. The point of all this information is that the likelihood of a person to be an 'early bird' or a 'night owl' directly depends on whether these chemical changes occur earlier or later than 'normal.'

College students are often thought to be 'night owls' due to academic and social pressures. The associated sleep patterns are of concern to many. Interestingly, studies reveal that at about the age of twenty an abrupt change in sleeping habits occurs. The midpoint in the sleep cycle, or time when the body reaches its lowest core temperature, tends to get earlier. This recently revealed fact is becoming one of the first methods that can scientifically mark the end of one's adolescence.

Being aware that an individual's tendency or preference for a particular sleep pattern is founded in genetics makes it much easier to accept differences in roommates sleep patterns. In a perfect world, students would be allowed to have a genetic test to determine the best study schedule for them. Classes could also be held at alternate times to allow the student the best chance at success. Unfortunately, the world is not perfect, and neither is the yearly assigning of college students to dormitory rooms. The best we can hope for is to have a good understanding and empathy for others who tick to their unique circadian rhythm.

Predicting the Future: Working Towards A Better Prognosis for VCFS Patients

BY MICHAELLA GOLDBERG

You probably know someone born with Down Syndrome, and you may have also heard of Fragile-X Syndrome. But chances are you have no idea that Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome (VCFS) even exists. VCFS is actually one of the most common genetic syndromes, affecting as many as one out of every 2,000 live births.

Part of the confusion regarding VCFS is caused by the range of symptoms associated with the disorder. The most common symptoms include cleft palate, heart defects, characteristic facial features, immune deficiency, learning disabilities, and psychiatric illness. Unlike diseases such as Tay-Sachs that are caused by mutations in a single gene, VCFS is caused by the deletion of dozens of genes from chromosome 22. While VCFS is fully penetrant, so that any individual who has the deletion will exhibit

some symptoms of the disorder, the expressivity of VCFS is extremely variable. This means that while one patient may have cleft palate, a major heart defect, and a constant series of infections due to her immune deficiency, another patient may seem normal except for his mild learning disabilities and slightly unusual facial features.

Researchers are interested in understanding the cause of the variability in VCFS. Most VCFS patients have the same deletion of 3 million base pairs from a certain region on chromosome 22, so the deletion itself is not the only factor determining which symptoms the patient will develop. Bernice Morrow's lab at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (Einstein), in collaboration with a group at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, are hoping to unravel this mystery by conducting an association study in which they will search for common DNA sequences among

VCFS patients exhibiting similar symptoms. These DNA sequences are called "genetic modifiers" because they modify the severity of the disorder, although they are not in the deleted region of chromosome 22.

Identifying genetic modifiers that affect VCFS will help doctors provide better care to VCFS patients and their families. Currently, a doctor can give an accurate diagnosis of VCFS, but the prognosis, or the prediction of the development of the disorder and the symptoms that will manifest, is very vague. When parents are told that their child has VCFS, they do not know if their child will be mentally retarded or able to succeed in school, if their child will have a compromised immune system or if he will be perfectly healthy. If researchers can identify genetic modifiers that affect the severity of VCFS, they will be able to better predict

Is Sunlight Helpful or Harmful?

BY ESTHER FISCHER

Summer brings with it ample opportunities to bask in the sunlight, and perhaps to get a healthy tan in the process. But really, how healthy is exposure to the sun? Recent reports suggest that we might have to be more careful when venturing out to enjoy the rays.

According to a new report from the World Health Organization (WHO), around 60,000 people a year die from exposure to too much sunlight. The report, which is the first to discuss the global effects of sun exposure, came in response to a concern of a growing amount of sun-related illnesses. The main causes of death are malignant melanomas, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, which are caused by UV rays emitted from the sun. The disease manifests itself as dark moles or tumors that develop in response to sun exposure. The moles can be found

most frequently on the upper backs and legs, and may be accompanied by itching, tenderness or pain in the surrounding areas.

Exposure to excessive sunlight has also been blamed for causing a myriad of other diseases including pterygium, a disease characterized by a growth on the surface of the eye which may lead to astigmatism, severe burns, cold sores, and skin aging, caused by permanent dilation of the blood vessels in response to UV rays which make the skin take on an abnormal or irregular thickness and a permanent red color, and cold sores.

Another common disease caused by too much sunlight exposure is eye cataracts, currently the world's leading cause for blindness, identified by a cloudy or opaque area of the lens of the eye, preventing light from passing through the lens and

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Do Hydrogen Bonds Contribute to DNA Stability?

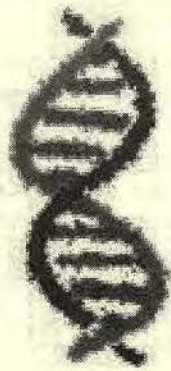
BY SARAH GUIGUI

The discovery of the structure of DNA by two scientists, James Watson and Francis Crick, only dates back about fifty years. DNA, the support of our genetic material, has since then been the subject of many studies that each time try to render more accurate the knowledge scientists have of DNA and all the processes associated with it. One of the subjects of interest of these studies questions the stability of the molecule. It has always been believed that DNA's stability relies on the ability of the complementary bases to hydrogen bond. Recent studies have shown that DNA actually owes its stability to hydrophobic interactions between the stacked bases.

Hydrogen bonds are fairly strong bonds. There are namely three hydrogen bonds between the cytosine base and the guanine base, and two hydrogen bonds between the adenine and thymine bases. Of course, the hydrogen bonds are responsible for the double helical structure of DNA; but the stability of the molecule is the result of some other interactions. In fact, upon denaturation, the DNA molecule loses its double helix structure and unwinds. One would think that this is due to the breakage of the hydrogen bonds between the bases. However, the broken hydrogen bonds between the Watson-Crick bases are replaced by hydrogen bonds between the single strand and the surrounding molecules of water. This fact indicates that

there must be forces, other than the hydrogen bonds, that stabilize DNA.

In our attempt to prove that base stacking is what makes the stability of DNA, Dr. Leah Blau, Dr. Don Estes, and I, during my summer internship at Stern



College for Women, studied the thermodynamics of the melting of the DNA molecule. More specifically, we subjected the DNA to melting, knowing that the melting temperature of a molecule is directly related to its stability. To prove our point, we invariably used fragments of DNA that were eight bases long. The composition of the DNA fragment remained the same in all the samples and the sequence of the bases changed.

The definition of melting in regards to DNA is the temperature at which the two strands of the molecule separate. If DNA's stability was only due to hydrogen bonds, the melting temperature should not vary with the

sequence of the bases. However, our research showed that it did vary. Different arrangements of the same bases lead to a difference in the melting temperature, proving the influence of the nearest-neighbor bases on the stability of DNA.

To explain very briefly the origin of the interactions that stabilize the DNA, one has to understand that the Watson-Crick bases, which are not polar, unite to expel the surrounding polar water molecules. Those hydrophobic interactions result in bases being stacked very tightly one on top of the other; therefore providing the stability of the nucleic acid.

This important misunderstanding in regard to the forces stabilizing DNA has been rectified in some biochemistry and molecular biology textbooks, whereas some other textbooks still stick to the "hydrogen bond theory."

Fighting a Bad Habit

BY CHANIE LADAEW

If human fingernails tasted like ice cream or chocolate, biting them would be understandable. But in the real world, fingernail biting is an unhygienic, hard to quit habit. Interestingly, it is tied to the spectrum of human emotions. Fingernails are the dirtiest part of the hand with all kinds of nasty things growing and thriving there. Biting or chewing on the nails is a sign of anxiety, chronic tension or uncontrollable compulsion that, in extreme cases, requires psychological help.

Fingernails have multiple functions. They protect your fingertips and make it easier to pick up tiny objects, such as loose threads. They also come in handy when you have an itch that needs scratching. By biting them you are breaking the skin and maybe bringing germs into these openings in your skin. When germs invade, you can get an infection. Additionally, when you bite your nails, those germs go into your mouth. Think about all the nasty things you touched all day-like your pen, desk, and coins. Biting your nails causes the germs they harbor to get into your mouth and eventually grow in your stomach and make you sick.

Cuticle cutting or biting is bad as well. They protect the nails matrix and the nails growth center. Cutting them removes the protective barrier against bacterial diseases and can cause nails to grow in a strange way, which can lead to additional infections.

These habits are very common bad habits both in children and adults. While common in high school, this habit is more widespread among college aged individuals. When adulthood is reached, nail biting tends to stop. Research says that both male and females are equally prone to the habit in earlier years. However, as the get older, males are more likely to be nail biters. The nail biting habit is a strong behavior pattern that is repeated over and over again and the child or adult displaying this behavior often lacks awareness of it.

There are several different causes that underlie this habit. Stress, nervousness and post smoking pressures are all possible triggers of nail biting. Some individuals will engage in habits to attract attention or as an attempt to manipulate parents or significant others. If a child feels their parent is ignoring him, he may engage in annoying habitual behavior because he knows it will provoke a reaction from the parent. Furthermore, there may be a genetic component to it, as nail biting is more common when parents were nail biters as children. In addition, children are great imitators, so if an adult in the household or family is a nail biter, a child may do the same.

Painting or dipping finger tips in foul tasting formulas like Maval, Control It or Stop-it, will help you overcome this habit. Additionally, clipping nails and making nail care a priority can alleviate the problem.

Computer Graphics Aids in Biomedical Research

BY REINA EISNER

This summer I did research at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) in the Biophysics Department on their Mission Bay Campus. I was given the opportunity to work with PhD students. I studied proteins and researched their involvement in the biomedical field. One of the most useful aspects of the job was investigating practical applications and functions of the protein structures that I analyzed.

My research was conducted in the UCSF computer graphics laboratory. I viewed the protein configuration of HIV-1 protease, asthma, and various proteins involved in the metabolism of numerous types of cancers. Through my research I gained insight into the involvement of proteins in various diseases. Applications of pharmaceutical chemistry under the Principal Investigator, Dr. Matthew Jacobson, laid out the pathway of the protein's actions and inhibitory effects. Further research may provide us with

information that could be helpful in curing diseases previously deemed incurable.

The specific protein I focused my studies on was 15-lipoxygenase. Lipoxygenase is an iron containing enzyme found in plants and animals. The precursors of this protein are various diseases including coronary artery disease, asthma, and pancreatic cancer. The study of protein structures and how they interact with ligands is important because understanding the geometric arrangement of the protein-ligand structures can prove useful for drug design. Pharmaceutical chemistry focuses on targeting binding sites of proteins to create drugs that will inhibit the function of the protein. In targeting the binding site of mammalian 15-lipoxygenase I studied the structure and various binding pockets and cavities that we presume to be active binding sites. I was able to be learn computational chemistry programs to target binding sites and perform "docking." Docking is the term used when simulating the interaction between a protein and ligand.

I built (on computer) ligands of specific sizes and "docked" the ligand into the specific site that I chose in the protein. The function of this is to provide the researcher with a visual of the process because these interactions are difficult to observe.

Many biomedical studies use computational chemistry to formulate graphical structures involving theoretical predictions as to what a molecule may look like and what it may do if placed in a certain environment or if a certain reaction were to take place. Theorizing syndications is one of the best ways researchers study active binding sites. However, it is also a bit risky to make a statement from computational predictions because scientists do not actually know what the reaction will be like until one has attempted to reproduce the results experimentally.

The Observer
Staff Wishes the
Entire Yeshiva
Community a
Happy and
Healthy New
Year.



F A S H I O N

Trashy Fashion: Good for the Environment?

BY SARA LEVIT

Arch nemeses of the world: Capulets and Montegues, Seinfeld and Newman, Archie Andrews and Mr. Lodge, PETA and Anna Wintour.

While many have witnessed the maliciousness that can exist in the world of high fashion in this summer's blockbuster "The Devil Wears Prada," People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, better known as the radical troupe PETA, have been focusing on one evil deed in particular. PETA,

has gone out of its way to assure that the unforgiving, carcass wearing population of the world realizes that chickens and cows are just as important as the rest of us. Armed with cans of red paint, and sometimes even blood, PETA followers have not been known to remain tight lipped about their indignation with fox fur coats and coon skin hats.

And with fur coming in big and strong in this sea-

son's collections, PETA devotees are busy hunting down all the pelt-worthy rotten tomatoes they can find in preparation for the cold months that lay ahead.

Due to their deprecatingly unorthodox methods, some wonder if the animal loving activists actually take more pleasure in carrying out their radical procedures than achieving, if at all possible, an end result. They consequently wonder if people more willingly respond to reasonable solutions than aimless pandemonium.



"fan mail"- from junk mail

With this in mind, the environmentally conscious seem to have come up with a way to combat conspicuous consumption with of all things, fashion. For fashion designer, Nancy Judd, executive director of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition, creating her couture collection Trashy Fashion seemed like the appropriate next step to creating a more

environmentally friendly world. The collection composed of recycled materials, included a little black dress with rusty nails, sparkling beads made of glass chips, and junk mail scraps morphed into a fabulous ensemble.



"paperlace" -lace cutouts of office paper

The inspiration for this line came from Pitzer College, where Judd was a student. Distressed by the fact that her school didn't have a recycling program, Judd initiated one and became increasingly enthralled by trash and the recycling process. Where did the

debris go once it was recycled? It was her thirst to know more that drove Nancy to do an independent study on the topic.

In 1998 she created the Santa Fe Art Festival, an art and fashion show with an educational ulterior motive. To promote the event, Judd would create an ensemble of her own to be featured, eventually garnering her some press. Although she had no real background in fashion besides for sewing her own clothes as a child, the positive reactions to her work encouraged Judd to formalize her company into what is now called Pulp Fashion.

Pulp Fashion shows are held annually throughout the nation, including California, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Texas, and Nebraska. Judd also promotes her cause by holding community contests where community members submit their own trash derived garments and model them off for cash prizes. Even children are persuaded to recycle at the contests by doing arts and crafts activities with unwanted scraps and debris. For those who are not artistically inclined, Judd advises, "shopping at thrift stores, consignment stores, and yes, even recycle bins are steps in the right direction."

So while she isn't hanging



"aluminum back"- from shower curtains and aluminum

around polluting factories with tomatoes in tow, and slashing the tires of gas guzzling SUV's, in her own gentle way Judd is saving the world, one rusty nailed dress at a time.

Fashion Icons Change Over Time

BY JULIE AST

Michal Minkowitz, a senior at Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB), sits at her computer wearing a pair of simple cr me dress pants and a crisp white tee shirt. Her look mimics that of her style icon: Jackie O. "Jackie is timeless, elegant and sophisticated," she says. "Her look cannot be dated and it remains a source of inspiration from generation to generation."

In the past, celebrity style has influenced fashion trends, but today's film stars, rather than the designers, dictate what's in vogue. The latest star sagas bombard America as they are featured on newsstands, websites, and television shows. Due to this increasing media coverage of famous people's mundane activities in maga-



Jackie O. and her timeless style

zines such as "In Touch Weekly" and "Life and Style," and the attention garnered by their designer wear at award shows, stars have gained influence in determining trends.

"I do notice a difference in the way the public responds to celebrity figures," says Minkowitz. "In the past, celebrities were revered for their talent. However, nowadays our fascination with them is all encompassing and extends to their personal lifestyle."

On the online site, People.com, a style watch poll titled "Would You Wear This?" allows browsers to vote on whether or not they would don the latest trends that featured stars are sporting. The public can voice their opinions on outfits such as shirt dresses, vests, and ankle boots which are worn in paparazzi photos of star-

lets such as Ann Hathaway and Siena Miller.

Celebrities increasing exposure gives them power in the fashion world. As trendsetters, they have replaced fashion editor's authority in determining the must have looks. "In the past, the world has based their fashion on what is shown in magazines, which has been carefully planned and organized by fashion editors," says Shannon Friedman, a senior at Stern College for Women. "Now, we have pictures of the daily lives of those stars, in which many of them have picked out their own clothing."

Celebrity influence extends to retail stores who copy their style. Last year, Lindsay Lohan was among the first to wear leggings as an alternative to jeans. Now, the look can be seen on the streets of New York City and at clothing stores. They are currently being sold at Urban Outfitters for \$14.

Some feel that the celebrities shouldn't get credit for their style choices. "Stars don't pick out any clothes themselves," says Tamar Estrieher, a junior at SSSB.

"Their stylists pick out their clothing from designers. They should receive the credit."

Whoever makes their decisions; celebrities are fashion plates. They are the modern day Jackie O's who will typify the style of our time. For the latest style cue, look to the red carpet. The runways at Marc Jacobs and Gucci may be were fashion originators, but the stars who wear their clothes ultimately determine the trends.



\$14 leggings sold at Urban Outfitters



Professors Return from Sabbatical

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ars started to use objects alongside texts as historical sources because of the settings in which they saw and discussed exhibits." In undertaking this project, Dr. Stenhouse had the opportunity to share his research with professionals in a variety of disciplines, including classicists, historians, and art historians.

As for the English department, SCW welcomes back Professors Ladin and Silver. Dr. Ladin, professor of English and director of the SCW Writing Center, used his sabbatical to fulfill a fellowship through the American Council of Learned Societies. During this time, he completed "Life Blow," a book of poetry structured according to Emily Dickinson's "Death Blow, A Life Blow," while his other work, "The Book of Anna," a mixture of poetry and prose diary entries written in the voice of a fictional survivor of a concentration camp, was accepted for print. He is also finishing up a book on modernism in which he explores the influence of modernism and language on American politics. Professor



Professor Jay Ladin, English Professor and Director of the Writing Center

Ladin will be offering courses in American Literature and Modernism.

Dr. Silver dedicated the last two spring semesters to scholarly activities in Cape Town, South Africa where she immersed herself in both literary projects and beautiful surroundings. Last spring, she wrote an introduction and notes to a book entitled "A Lady Trader in the Transvaal", which describes a woman's travels and adventures in South Africa in the late 19th century. Professor Silver enlisted the help of Stern alumnus and former Editor-in-Chief of The Observer, Rebecca Rosenberg (SCW 05) to assist in composing the introduction and to serve as a research assistant. Both the notes and introduction will be published in the United States and South Africa. Dr. Silver also wrote a short piece on Cape Town's paintings and sculptures and is in the process of developing a collection of the region's fairy tales. "Everyone reprints 'animal fables,'" she explained, "but there are wonderful tales of ogres, princesses, monsters, heroes, beauties, and beasts taken

down by explorers and missionaries in the late 19th and early 20th century. Many have not been republished; I'm finding them, writing notes and a long introduction." She hopes to include some of these stories in the curriculum the next time she teaches her course "Myth and Folklore."

Dr. Luders, professor of



Professor Joseph E. Luders, Political Science

political science, will also be returning. He has been revising a manuscript for his book about the outcome of different social movements. "In the book, I develop a set of theoretical propositions about targets to explain why certain movements are more or less likely to be victorious," he explicated. "I evaluate the merits of my approach by looking at the achievements of the American Civil Rights Movement, and by comparing degrees of success across different areas such as voting rights and desegregation." In addition,

Dr. Luders presented new research at a conference in Chicago addressing the topic of whether "rising economic inequality produces greater political inequality." He will be offering courses on the Fundamentals of Political Science and Democracy and Inequality.

As for the Judaic studies department, Dr. Levine, professor of Bible, will be returning for fall 2006 as well. Dr. Levine used the last semester to explore Nahmanides' literary approach to biblical narrative, focusing on the Book of Genesis. Her work is based on the dissertation she completed at New York University in which she discussed the "various literary strategies by which Scripture presents the Biblical personalities and the variegated means by which it develops their character portraiture." Dr. Levine will be offering courses on the Biblical Exegeses of *Malbim*, Women in the Book of Genesis, and Song of Songs.

Refocusing from personal self-study back to a classroom

setting is a difficult transition, but also a rewarding one. "It's always a little bit difficult to switch gears, but teaching feeds scholarship and scholarship enriches teaching, so it's really the best possible combination, for me, at

least," commented Dr. Silver. "Besides," she added, "the students are great and I enjoy working with them." Rabbi Fried concurred. "I am looking forward with anticipation to returning to the classroom, to responding to student's questions, interest, and curiosity, which I feel keep my own thinking fresh and current," he said.



Professor Carole Silver, English

Professor Luders expressed similar sentiments. "Although I've missed the interactions with the students and department," he said, "I was very pleased to have the time away from teaching to pursue my research and to work on my book manuscript. The university administration understands that this takes time to do, and I am very grateful for their support. But it will be good to be back!"

Rosengarten Promises Beit Midrash In the Near Future

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170 seats. The plan also has some surprise elements that the students will hopefully be very excited about."

"It was actually my work on the 'space planning' project that helped figure out where a newer, better, and larger Beit Midrash could be built," Rosengarten continued. "It was then a chain reaction that was necessary- leasing new space in 215 Lexington, building a new board room/conference center in that space, moving everything from the east side of the seventh floor of 245 Lexington elsewhere, etc. Had this all not taken place there would not have been an appropriate solution even with student pressure and leadership."

Initial plans have been laid out however; there is still no guaranteed timetable as to when the students at SCW will be able to reap the benefits of such extensive planning. The plans are currently being reviewed and while they will likely be confirmed within the first weeks of the semester, construction may not

begin for months. "We expect approvals from the building department within the month and will then actively and aggressively move ahead to start the process of building the new Beit Midrash," said Rosengarten. "We will evaluate together with the Dean as to whether we can proceed with the demolition and construction work during the school year without undue inconvenience to classes in session. If so, then much of the work will be completed during the spring 2007 semester. A more detailed time frame and schedule will be presented shortly as well as a rendering of the proposed beautiful Beit Midrash."

Regardless of the time frame, the students of SCW should remain optimistic. "There are more young ladies learning than we have room for so it just makes sense," said Rosengarten, expressing his understanding of the situation. "[Yet] it is a complicated process, which thank God is well on its way although things like this necessarily take time."

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

ACCOUNTING SENIORS FALL CALENDAR OF REQUIRED EVENTS

August 2006

- Wednesday, August 23rd, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session I
- Wednesday, August 23rd, 2:30:00PM, Mandatory Orientation for On-Campus Recruiting
- Thursday, August 24th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session I
- Tuesday, August 29th, 2:30:00PM, Accounting Career Fair I
- Wednesday, August 30th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session I
- Wednesday, August 30th, 3:15PM, Accounting Career Fair II
- Thursday, August 31st, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session II

September 2006

- Tuesday, Sept 5th, 3:15PM, "What Midsize Firms Have to Offer"
- Wednesday, Sept 6th, 6:00PM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session III, "Mock Interviews"
- Wednesday, Sept 6th, 8:00PM, "Dining with Dattatreya"
- Thursday, Sept 7th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session III, "Mock Interviews"
- Monday, Sept 11th, 11:15PM, "Behavioral Interviewing"
- Tuesday, Sept 12th, 12:00PM, "Second Round Interviews: What to Expect"
- Wednesday, Sept 13th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session IV
- Wednesday, Sept 13th, 1:15PM, "Careers in Taxation"
- Thursday, Sept 14th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session IV
- Wednesday, Sept 20th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session V
- Thursday, Sept 21st, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session V
- Thursday, Sept 28th, 10:00AM, Club Hour: Successful Job Search Session VI

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(212) 960-5400 x5033

SPORTS

The Final Stretch

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Although it's still anyone's game, the end of the baseball season is in sight. With only six weeks left of the regular season, every sports writer, analyst, and fan is looking towards the post season hoping his or her favorite team stands a chance at becoming the 2006 World Series Champions.

This year, September baseball is going to be particularly exciting for New Yorkers. For the first time since 2000, both the New York Yankees and the New York Mets have a chance at playing October ball. At their last post season meeting, it was the Bronx Bombers who ruled the city, winning their third straight championship, their fourth in five years, as they defeated the Mets 4-1.

This season began a bit differently. After some impressive off-season moves Willie Randolph put together a team to be reckoned with. The New York Mets took an immediate lead in the National League East and in the Major Leagues in general. Newspapers all across the state hailed the Queens team as the Kings of the City and Mets fans finally got the glory and recognition they had been waiting for.

The whole team played well however, stars quickly emerged. Although he was always good, David Wright, who made his major league debut in 2004, became phenomenal. At third base he is a force both offensively and defensively. He is currently batting .301 with 22 home runs and 88 runs batted in. He was given a starting spot on the National League All Star Team, hitting a homerun that solidified his status as a baseball superstar.

While they no longer have the best record in Major League Baseball, the Mets are still having a great season. At the time this article was written they were leading the National League with a record of 75-48 and a .610 winning percentage. They lead the Philadelphia Phillies in the East by 13.5 games and their magic number is 26.

Currently, the Yankees are tied with the Mets with the same 75-48 record and .610 winning percentage. After sweeping their main rivals, the Boston Red Sox,

in a five games series at Fenway Park, they are leading the American League East by six and half games with a magic number of 33.

Yet, the Bronx Bombers season did not begin as gloriously as it is now shaping up to be. Although they have been the American League East Division Champions for the last eight sea-



sons, serious questions about a ninth title were asked early on. While the roster looked good coming into the season, with the off season acquisition of long time Red Sox center fielder Johnny Damon, bad pitching, and injuries plagued the team.



Regular outfielders Gary Sheffield and Hideki Matsui both sustained serious injuries, making many of the starting players foreign to Yankee fans. Robinson Cano also took his place on the disabled list for a few weeks and many wondered how Manager Joe Torre would pull his team through. An unreliable fifth pitcher and a slumping A-Rod did not help matters. Going into the July 10th All-Star break the Yankees were three games behind the Red Sox and talk of October was followed by a huge question mark.

The Yankees however have prevailed. The bench has really come through, as players no one thought would get playing time became essential everyday play-

ers. Fan favorite Bernie Williams has played in 104 games, filling in whenever needed. Andy Philips, Bubba Crosby, Miguel Cairo and Nick Green also got more appearances than anyone anticipated.

Yet, it is Melky Cabrera who has become the biggest breakout star of the season. The 21-year-old outfielder has continuously played well, impressing his teammates, coaches and Yankee fans. He is batting .290 in 91 games with 7 homeruns and 40 runs batted in. Although his continued role on the team is uncertain when the regular outfielders return, his contributions until this point have been vital.

Nonetheless, to no ones surprise, it is Yankee Captain Derek Jeter leading the team into the final stretch of the season. He has been nothing but impressive as he contends for the American League Most Valuable Player title. The acquisition of leadoff hitter Johnny Damon allowed him to return to the number two spot in the lineup. He is hitting .336 and has the second highest batting average on both the Yankees and in the American League.

The newest members of the team have contributed most to the dramatic improvements. Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman made some power moves on the eve of the trading deadline, acquiring, among others, right fielder Bobby Abreu and pitcher Cory Lidle from the Philadelphia Phillies. With the recent losses experienced in the outfield, Abreu's fielding experience and power bat were perfect for the Yankees. He has

become an integral part of an already threatening line up and is batting .395 with his new team. Lidle has also been a blessing considering the inconsistency of the Yankees number five pitchers. Although he came to the Yankees with an average record he has gone 2-2 since joining the team and has a 2.82 earned run average.

Regardless of what happens in the next two months, no one can deny that this baseball season has belonged to New York. Both teams have played well and are looking good coming into the final stretch of the season. And who knows? Perhaps another Subway Series is in the city's future. Baseball fans will just have to keep watching!

Looking Ahead

BY RACHEL KATZ

Over the past two year I have been lucky enough to be a member of the Yeshiva University women's varsity basketball team, the Lady Maccabees. Our division three team competes in the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference. The past two seasons afforded us wonderful opportunities. The bonds formed on the basketball court have translated into great roommates and lifelong friends.

Being part of the Lady Macs takes a lot of devotion. We practice twice a week on Monday and Wednesday nights. The practices help us work as a cohesive group and prepare us for the intensity of game nights. My first year on the team we attended three tournaments. The first was our season opener, a tournament in Boston that gave us an opportunity to spend a Shabbat playing ball and learning about each other. The second was the Betty Shabazz Tournament hosted by Medgar Evers College in which we placed second. The final tournament took place at the end of our winter break, giving us an opportunity to spend a week in Florida practicing and playing basketball. Regrettably, we were only able to participate in one tournament, the Betty Shabazz Tournament, this past season. The Lady Macs placed third overall, but individual players received tournament awards.

This past season was consid-

ered a "rebuilding season." We had just lost six amazing players and gained six new ones. Forced to spend most of our season getting used to being a team, our scores floundered. Regardless, our spirits still ran high. Despite our record, we continued to play with heart and are known in our conference as the team that acts and plays with true sportsmanship.

This coming season I cannot wait to spend time with the incoming and returning members at tournaments, practices, and games. Two of our most devoted members are the coaches, Head Coach Dr. Karen Green and Assistant Coach Mrs. Esther (Oppenheimer) Goldfeder, who know how to whip us into shape and motivate us on and off the court. They are always there for us whenever we need them, whether the issue is basketball or non-basketball related.

In previous years we were privileged to be able to practice in Basketball City, one of New York's premier basketball facilities located on the Westside piers, and play our home games at the Samuel H. Wang High School for Girls in Holliswood, Queens. This year we do not have the luxury of practicing at Basketball City. Instead, we will be playing at Baruch College, conveniently located only minutes from the Yeshiva University's Beren Campus. Fans are always welcome and we look forward to seeing you at games.

Fencing
Tryouts
9/11 7:25
9/13 7:40
11th Floor
245 - Gym

Health Benefits of the Sun

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reaching the retina. While the greatest numbers of cataracts are found in people from Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, they can and do manifest themselves in individuals throughout the world. In order to be protected, the WHO advises people to take a few simple precautions such as using sunscreen, seeking shade on very sunny days, and avoiding tanning booths, which may have very deleterious effects on the body.

Although excessive sunlight can be dangerous, moderate exposure carries with it many benefits that are essential to our well-being. Exposure to the sun activates the production of vitamin D in the body, which is necessary for the normal growth and regeneration of bone tissue. Vitamin D also regulates cell growth and cell death (apoptosis). Sunlight also prevents diseases such as rickets, osteomalacia and osteoporosis. This may be an explanation for the February 2005 Journal of the National Cancer Institute publication of a report showing that people who experience moderate exposure to the sun appear to be somewhat protected from developing certain types of cancers.

A Better Prognosis

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the symptoms an individual patient will develop. For example, one day a doctor may be able to predict that a child has a 70% chance of developing Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) based on her diagnosis of VCFS and an analysis of her genetic background.

This past summer, I have been participating in VCFS research under Dr. Morrow at Einstein as an Undergraduate Research Scholar. My project was to determine the size of deletions in VCFS patient samples and to establish whether the deletions occurred on the chromosome inherited from the patient's mother or father. To analyze the deletions, I amplified small sequences of DNA from each patient and his or her parents for genotyping. The sequences of DNA that I genotyped are called variable number of tandem repeats (VNTRs) because they contain short sequences, such as "CA," that are repeated various numbers of times in different individuals.

Normally, each person has two copies of DNA, one copy inherited from each parent. For example, for a specific VNTR known as D22S311, a father might have two alleles (variations), one that is 255 base pairs (bp), and one that is 263 bp. The mother might have two alleles that are 261 and 265 bp. If the child only has one 255 bp allele, then the child only has one copy of DNA for this VNTR. The child

In addition, the prognosis of cancer-sufferers, especially those diagnosed with cancer of the lymph glands and melanoma skin cancer, is better for patients who have moderate exposure to the sun. Sunlight also activates the production of the neurotransmitter serotonin, a natural mood-enhancer that prevents depression and Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a mild depressive state caused by inadequate exposure to the sun, which is especially prevalent in the winter months. Reports also show sunlight to be beneficial for the treatment of some sleep disorders, and for preventing certain cancers such as breast cancer, colon cancer and prostate cancer, and even for preventing some immune disorders.

Sunlight has the potential to be both dangerous and healthy. The best advice is to keep sun exposure safe by using sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 on very sunny days. Limiting the amount of exposure one gets, while making sure to stay out of the sun during the early afternoon when rays are particularly harmful is also healthy advice. When this suggestion is followed, rather than being concerned about the dangers of sunlight, one can reap the benefits of sunshine well into their golden years.

inherited the 255 bp allele from her father, but she did not inherit either allele from her mother, so the child is said to have a maternal deletion.

As another part of my research project, I went to Children's Hospital at Montefiore to analyze patients' records. I hunted down dozens of charts from VCFS patients and tabulated which symptoms each patient exhibited. Reading the various patient histories helped me understand the patient's point of view by giving me a glimpse of the very human stories, instead of just focusing on genotyping and allele sizes.

My genotyping results and analysis of patient symptoms will help the researchers at Einstein when they begin the genetic modifier study. I also confirmed that our patient samples match previously published data about the deletions that cause VCFS: about 93% of our patients have the common 3 million base pair deletion, and deletions occur at approximately the same rate on maternal and paternal chromosomes.

Although I had many new experiences this summer as part of my research, the most exciting aspect of my internship was participating in the collaboration of such a large, diverse group - doctors, scientists, genetic counselors and patients - all working towards the goal of understanding a disorder and improving the treatment of those suffering from it.

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point, we hardly noticed that there was a war going on, [but] when both of my co-counselors were called up it became a harsh reality."

The world response was mostly divided into two groups. European and Arab countries sharply condemned Israel for using extensive force. They blamed Israel for destroying the innocent Lebanese bridges and towns when it was Hezbollah and not Lebanon that was sending katyusha rockets into Israel. America had a slightly different response. Although President Bush encouraged methods other than harsh military initiatives to resolve the conflict, he did express Israel's right to defend itself from attack.

By the thirteenth of August a ceasefire had already been presented to and agreed upon by the two warring parties. The lasting effect of this cease fire and its strength is a point of discussion

throughout Israel, particularly because Arab leaders view the agreement as a retreat by Israel. "After one month of war against Lebanon's resistance, Israelis are the absolute losers and Hezbollah is the absolute winner of the war," said Iran's Foreign Military Spokesman Hamida-Reza Asef. "...The occupiers of Jerusalem failed, despite their military, economic, intelligence and diplomatic backings."

Another point of contention is the Israeli government's management of the war effort. There have been calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the government because of the clear mishandling of the war on the part of the upper echelon. The ground troops are claiming that the actions of the military were not organized or productive; a claim proven by the fact that many groups of soldiers did not receive food for days. This is still under investigation.

The people of Israel respond-

ed to its evacuated brother's with one voice of support. Cities housed camps for children that were missing their summer vacation in bomb shelters, organizations made packages for those still living in the bomb shelters, houses were opened for families to live, and volunteers helped to distribute medicine to the elderly and make sure that they were receiving everything that they needed. It was a very different picture indeed than the divided country that existed post expulsion exactly one year ago.

So while we in America will all have different memories of the summer of 2006, for the citizens of the State of Israel one thing will stick out. And although this one memory may manifest itself in different ways and is still evolving, one thing is certain. Although filled with strife, the summer of 2006 was filled with unity and love, sentiments which will hopefully be remembered in future times of trouble.



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