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Pre-Health Changes Elicit a Range of Responses

BY SHAYNA HOENIG

DISCLAIMER: Due to the sensitive nature of this topic, the identities of the students have all been undisclosed.

A large number of students at Stern College for Women (SCW) intend to pursue health related fields including the therapies, dental and medical (allopathic and osteopathic) schools, and optometry, all of which are classified as pre-health. The numbers of students pursuing graduate degrees in any one of these fields are on the rise. It would therefore seem logical that the number of pre-health advisors be proportionate to the increasing number of students pursuing health related fields.

Upon speaking with students and faculty, there seems to

be a large percentage of women who feel that they are lacking proper guidance and that the advisement of the Pre-Health department leaves much to be desired. Until recently, there was only one qualified pre-health faculty member on the Beren Campus full time. Students were required to schedule meetings weeks, and sometimes even months, in advance. This system clearly was unable to efficiently accommodate the rapid growth in the department.

Therefore, over the summer the Pre-Health department underwent a few drastic changes. In order to facilitate a greater advisor to student ratio, the pre-health advisement was divided so that Dr. Loewy, previously the sole arbiter for all the pre-health fields, would have

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Writing Center Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

BY YAFFI SPODEK

The Stern College for Women (SCW) Writing Center may be hard to locate, tucked away in room 1018 on the 10th floor of the 245 Lexington Avenue building, but students know where to find it when they need help. The Writing Center was initially founded twenty years ago, in 1986, by Dr. Richard Nochimson, whose original vision was to have the center as a place where students could come to get assistance in all stages of their writing. Though no longer involved in the Writing Center, Dr. Nochimson currently works as a professor in SCW's english department.

Today, the Director of the Writing Center is Dr. Jay Ladin, who is beginning his fourth year in this leadership position. Last

year, when he took a sabbatical, Professor Elizabeth Hollow, assistant director of the Writing Center, filled in as acting director in his absence.

The Writing Center has definitely evolved over the past twenty years. While still trying to live up to Dr. Nochimson's original vision, which recognized the benefits that peer tutoring has to offer, it is trying to "marry that vision to current thinking about how to grow good writers and good writing," explained Dr. Ladin. "Philosophies about how to teach writing and what the proper role of the Writing Center is have changed quite a bit over the years."

In response to these changes, the Writing Center has introduced several new programs and innovative techniques to cater to stu-

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YU Receives Largest Gift to American Jewish Life

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN AND ADINAH WIEDER

On September 13, Yeshiva University (YU) publicized the generosity of Ronald P. Stanton, chairman of Transammonia Inc. Stanton's donation of 100 million dollars is, to date, the largest known contribution to Jewish education and Jewish life in America. This act of philanthropy confirms his belief in YU and the ideal it promotes.

"[This is] another affirmation of the fact that this is a great place that people believe in," said University President, Richard M. Joel. "That's a great kind of gift that's a real belief in our future."

This donation brings philanthropy to a whole new level while focusing national attention on YU. "The whole world is

talking about YU," said President Joel. "Yeshiva is a first tier university that has now gotten first tier philanthropy so people can see who we are."



President Richard M. Joel and donor Ronald P. Stanton

The significance of the Ronald P. Stanton Legacy, however, exceeds its monetary value. To President Joel, this bequest signifies that Stanton, a former chairman of the YU board and current

serving member, both understands and believes in his vision for Yeshiva. In giving his donation it was as if Stanton was saying, "I want to partner with the leaders of this university so we can embark on a joint dream," explained President Joel. By not asking for any permanent reminder of his generosity, Stanton affirmed that he is mostly interested in contributing to the future of Yeshiva. "This is the best kind of gift you could get," said President Joel, "because it comes without condition."

"I'm not interested in naming opportunities for me," reiterated Stanton. "The reason for this particular contribution," he continued, "is that it is supposed to be regenerated." As the President explained, this newly

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CJF Makes Amends with Enhanced Presence on Beren Campus

BY SARA LEFKOVITZ

Rabbi Kenneth Brander, dean of Yeshiva University's (YU) Center for the Jewish Future (CJF), has promised that the women of the Beren Campus will no longer be forsaken. With a new storefront adjoined to the 245 Lexington building at Stern College for Women (SCW) and the importation of additional personnel, the CJF is assiduously working to reverse the disinterested impression it may have given the undergraduate women during its first year at Yeshiva.

The brainchild of President Richard M. Joel, the CJF was established to cultivate the next generation of Jewish leaders and promote the values espoused by the university among communi-

ties worldwide. With its main premises located in Washington Heights, the CJF often confined itself to the environs of the Wilf Campus during the months following its inception, leaving the women of SCW without so much



as a representative. Amidst criticisms of patent neglect, the center appointed Dr. Susan B. Hornstein as its director and liaison to the Beren Campus in December 2005.

Arriving in February, Dr. Hornstein initiated plans to con-

struct a CJF storefront on the Beren Campus, attempting to facilitate more regular interactions between staff and students. She also reached out to the Women's Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies,

helping it to develop a more public face within the college. Yet, Dr. Hornstein's efforts still remained largely focused on setting up the CJF's administrative pieces on the Wilf Campus. This commitment invariably required her presence uptown and therefore once again produced a stark absence of CJF personnel on the Beren Campus.

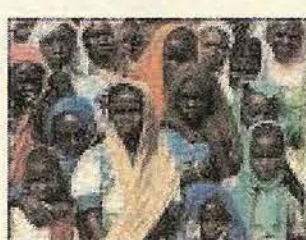
"Dr. Hornstein did an unbelievable job at helping the CJF create this infrastructure," said

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TAC INVITES YOU TO:

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Where is Our Beit Midrash?



ADINAH WIEDER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A classic evening in my life consists of my stop at Starbucks, followed by my trek up to the 20th floor of Brookdale Hall to The Observer office. I have learnt how to maneuver through the crowd effectively while attempting to balance my large backpack, the *grande* hazelnut, soy latte in one hand and the books that don't quite fit into the backpack. Occasionally, the sneakers which are strung over the strap on my backpack (I always carry sneakers because I can never remember which days of the week I have gym) knock into my leg causing me to lose my balance thus sending my *grande* hazelnut, soy latte flying in the air. On the days that I manage to make it into the office with my latte the following scenario ensues: I set my latte down and head to the bathroom. Upon exiting, I am well aware that sheer exhaustion has already set in. I reach for my latte only to find the cup empty; it is now time to play, "find the latte". Every Starbucks cup looks exactly the same and being that I have an accumulation of finished to almost finished Starbucks cups everywhere, and my short-term memory is full to capacity, it is quite the task to identify the newest latte. At times like this, I get disconcerted and I wonder if my zombie-like state that lasts two weeks out of the month is worth all the trouble.

It is Thursday, September 21- *erev Rosh Hashannah* and I am on my way up to The Observer office, latte in hand, to attempt to create some semblance of an erudite editorial so that the paper can go to press and I can go home to sleep. I constantly contemplate the role of "the editorial." I could share my moral qualms, for my list of ethical dilemmas could go on for eternity. However, unless it is really a *shaas hadchak* and the moral issue is quite pressing, I prefer the parley pertaining to Yeshiva University (YU) and the Beren Campus.

Considering the tumultuous start of the semester, there is much to comment. Last week, I was informed that the seniors will not see the new Beit Midrash during our tenure on the Beren Campus. For those who cannot recall, last year almost every issue of The Observer featured a news article regarding the Beit Midrash on the front page. It was important enough to receive editor editorials dedicated to enlightening the readership as to the huge need for the renovation. It was said that construction on the Beren Campus Beit Midrash will commence prior to the Wilf Campus construction, yet construction has yet to begin on our Beit Midrash.

It pains me to think that this may be another instance in which the Beren Campus plays second fiddle to other colleges within this institution. The attitude appears to be the following: Why do the women demand so much? Can they not be content with the new lobby in Brookdale Hall and the current renovation of the front lobby of 245 Lexington Avenue?

At a recent meeting, plans regarding the possibility of building a room enclosed in glass in the Beit Midrash were revealed. The function of this room would be to block out the noise that a lecture in the Beit Midrash would cause. Students commented that that would defeat the purpose of the Beit Midrash: we students want to be able to hear other students preparing for *shiur*. An administrator

dismissed student concerns with a terse "we will talk to the Rabbis and see what they have to say." The ratio of rabbis to students is quite disproportional. If student representatives are at a meeting to be the voice of students on this campus then why minimize their concerns. The tone of the statement was "thank you students for your input and even though this is your Beit Midrash, a place that daily sees close to 200 students, we will consult with those who spend less time in the Beit Midrash than you." I am in a quandary as to why the voices of students here are at times minimized.

At times, it is not only the administration at fault, but the professors too. If a student expresses concern regarding her ability to attend class on a certain date, it is not unheard of for the professor to comment, "Are you getting engaged?" Or, ladies, you know when your assignments are due so if there is a conflict with that date and a wedding inform me at once. Comments as such are unnecessary. There are numerous women at Stern that get engaged, married, and have babies and still show up for class and complete their work in a timely fashion. What ever happened to setting assignment due dates and just stating if anyone has a conflict please see me?

It is with these perturbing thoughts that I entered Brookdale Hall to sit down to write this very editorial. However, on my way into the building, I heard TAC President Shoshana Fruchter calling my name. I turned around and saw her with Shoshana Agatstein, and Rebecca Barnett both of whom are also on TAC board. They were standing around with a group of approximately 20 other women. Upon seeing them as I entered the building I assumed they were all waiting for cabs to the airport. Much to my pleasant surprise, Shoshana informed me that the reason why they were all standing there is because they were going to distribute food to the elderly before going home. I wished them all a *ksiva vchasima tova* and walked away.

While waiting for the elevator and drinking my latte, I tried to assess all my frustrations. Upon entering the building the first time, my thoughts were the following: What kind of editorial could I possibly write when I am currently so irritated with the general tone of the occurrences on the Beren Campus? Why did I spend the last year of my life working so hard for an institution that at times does not take the efforts and concerns of the women on this campus seriously? I walk around at times so zombie-like, that after walking into The Observer office and setting down my coffee, I cannot even remember where I put it.

However, after seeing the 20 or so women standing outside I got all the answers I needed. I work hard for the women here at this college that want to make a difference in the world, the women that want their voices to be heard. I work for the women that spend hours in the Beit Midrash improving their Torah learning for themselves and for the rest of *Klal Yisroel*. I work for the women that understand what it means to respect a fellow student. SCW would be a very different place if some of the faculty and administration could embrace the visions of their students and make them become a reality.

Not Such A Bad Thing After All



ALANA RUBENSTEIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have never considered myself a feminist. Sure when I was younger I would argue with my older brother that I was just as smart as he was or get annoyed when he volunteered my sister and I to help in the kitchen, but I never felt the need to do anything other than return the insults. Along the same lines, I did not attend the women's prayer group at the local synagogue and did not have an urge to read from the Torah at my bat mitzvah. I was satisfied with the role that both Judaism and society at large carved out for me as a young woman and did not feel compelled to challenge these notions.

While I can attribute this to my young age or general apathy towards issues outside of my personal life, that would be a lie. To be honest, I did not want to be a feminist. In our society, feminism has a bad reputation and was not a cause I wished to be associated with. I had no desire to rant and rave about how I was looked at as a second tier citizen or about how men of lesser integrity and intellect were given opportunities not afforded to me on the basis of gender alone.

Being a student at Stern College for Women (SCW) has changed some of that. Broadly defined, feminism is, a "belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes," a conviction I am not embarrassed to say I have. I do believe that women deserve to be recognized as equal and contributing members of society, who, while they may be different than men, are not any less significant because of it.

However, I am also realistic enough to realize that although women have been fighting for this cause for centuries, the glass ceiling in the corporate world and stereotype that women belong in the kitchen will not disappear over night. And while I understand that certain gender based inequalities exist in the world, they should not exist within our own university.

Yet they do. Although the women at SCW are paying the same amount of tuition as their male counterparts, we are not given the same opportunities and recognition from Yeshiva University (YU) that the men at Yeshiva College (YC) are getting. While the university has been doing many great things on our campus, it is not enough, especially when compared to what is going on uptown.

The university considers its Washington Heights campus the "main campus." This is extremely evident in the number of personnel and student services located there. All the employees of the Finance Department, MIS, Office of Enrollment Management, Department of Communications and Public Affairs, Administrative Services, Office of the Vice President for University Life, Office of Student Aid, Office of Student Accounts and Department of Athletics and Physical Education are situated on the Wilf Campus. More members of the

Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) work in Furst Hall than at the CJF storefront in midtown. They do not outnumber us in everything though. We are fortunate enough to have 75% of the university's Food Services staff on the Beren Campus.

To add more fuel to the fire, the men of YC witnessed the groundbreaking of their new beit midrash last week. The new structure will accommodate 400 students and be a place bursting with Torah. And while I am not suggesting that the men do not need or deserve more space to learn, the women on the Beren Campus have the same need. Anyone who has been to a T-cubed meeting can attest to the fact that the 6th floor beit midrash is not nearly large enough to accommodate all the SCW students wishing to engage in Torah study. We were promised that construction on a new beit midrash would commence in midtown before it did on the Wilf Campus. Clearly this has not occurred.

Our academic options are also substandard. Look at our Judaic Studies curriculum. While the men at YC can choose from a number of tracks and decide how their day is structured, the women of SCW do not have the same choice. While I am not suggesting it be required for everyone, women who want to begin each day with Torah should be able to do so without having to worry about fulfilling their liberal arts requirements. Those satisfied with the system as is should be allowed to sustain that daily format as well.

Therefore, considering the inequalities embedded in the university at an institutional level, it is of no surprise that these feelings of intellectual superiority have permeated into the student body at large. In a recent article in The Commentator, two men wrote about YC law school acceptances. Instead of reveling in their own success, they felt the need to degrade the women at SCW by giving the article the subtitle, "Wilf Acceptances Outnumber Beren's." The article implies that since fewer women applied to law school and the SCW acceptance rate was slightly lower than the YC rate, we are in some way inferior. Isn't it possible that less women applied to law school based on the fact that they weren't interested in law, rather than due to their lack of intelligence? Overall, YU's undergraduate law school acceptance rate was an impressive 93%. Would it have killed the men uptown to concentrate on that?

The women on the Beren Campus are equal students of YU who deserve to reap all the benefits the university has to offer. The physical location of our campus is not a good enough justification as to why we are being denied basic services that should be afforded to the entire undergraduate population. Call it feminism or anything else, but if it will assure me a better education and overall undergraduate experience, I am not embarrassed to wear the label.

OPINIONS

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Student Evaluates Role of Campus Paper

BY PEREL SKIER

student newspaper?

If you've so much as glanced at Yeshiva University's (YU) undergraduate newspapers in the past few weeks, you've probably noticed the controversy surrounding The Commentator's recent decision to not publish in-depth news analyses or opinions about the events in Israel unless they have a direct impact on YU students. The follies of this policy have been argued all over the campus, and I must admit that I have often been the one doing the arguing. In fact, looking back, I wonder if anyone in my classes, dorm, or immediate social circle has escaped my frustration. Nevertheless, I am not sorry, because all those arguments, from every point of view, helped me arrive at the startling realization I came to late last night: I have been fighting the wrong war.

The Commentator, in proclaiming Israel-related stories outside of its domain, raises two questions. The first, of course, is: "How does this reflect on YU's relationship with Israel; what does it say about American Jewry's connection with their Israeli counterparts?" That is the premise I debated till the cows came home. However, the question we have really been dancing around all this time is this:

What is the true purpose of a

Somehow, after a year of writing for various sections of both undergraduate newspapers, it never occurred to me to wonder why these publications exist. They were well-established when I still couldn't remember the password to my yu-mail account. I had some hazy idea in the back of my head that college newspapers were devices used to take the pulse of the campus community, probably derived from an even hazier idea that colleges were places where students question, debate, and learn from each other, places where everyone spoke earnestly and loudly, so their voices could be heard.

It is perhaps a naïve and idealistic image, but one so rooted in my parents' attitudes towards college and seemingly so reflected in all the clubs and activities happening all over both campuses, the Organ Donor Conference recently held, the YU-attended Darfur rally in Washington, the SURGE dinners, that I was completely surprised to find that not everyone shared my vague definition of what a college newspaper should be.

During a conversation with a friend who is a frequent contributor to The Commentator, I dragged out the "On the Absence of Israel" feature. While he himself had nothing to do with the

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Winning the P.R. War

BY SARAH WILLIG

Although Israel has won decisive victories on the battlefield, she has faced numerous losses in the court of world public opinion. Leading the charges against Israel are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), who claim to impartially monitor human rights and humanitarian needs around the globe. Due to the "halo effect," which grants legitimacy to anyone claiming to speak from a perspective of human rights, these NGOs have come to define how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is understood by the media and politicians. As this past summer's events in Gaza demonstrate, NGOs frequently fail to live up to their mission statements by engaging in particularistic and political agendas.

On June 25, 2006, eight Palestinian terrorists attacked the Kerem Shalom crossing, killing two Israeli soldiers and taking one, Gilad Shalit, hostage. The Israeli government launched Operation Summer Rains, sending Israel Defense Force (IDF) troops into southern Gaza and bombing infrastructure targets to prevent Shalit's kidnappers from transporting him over the Egyptian border. This Israeli action was met with widespread condemnation by NGOs. Although they condemn the kid-

napping of Shalit as a war crime, multi-million dollar organizations such as Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International (AI) have used recent events in Gaza as further opportunity to attack Israel, ignore the history and context of terror, and erase any Palestinian responsibility for their situation.

HRW issued a press release on June 29th which called the kidnapping of Corporal Shalit a "war crime," but primarily criticized Israel's strike on a power station in Gaza. HRW's comments focus on Israel's alleged human rights infractions with minimal attention to Palestinian responsibility for initiating the crisis, following a pattern of disproportionate focus on Israel. Over a third of all HRW Middle East publications in 2004 were about Israel, which is especially striking when compared to their relative lack of reports on notorious human rights abusers such as Sudan, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

In a June 27th press release, AI condemned the abduction of Corporal Shalit, stating that "hostage taking...is expressly prohibited under international law" and calling on the "Hamass-led Palestinian Authority (PA) and the PA President Mahmoud Abbas" to secure Shalit's release.

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Forgetting the Hurricane

BY DEANNA FRAZIN

What historical event occurred on August 29? Stumped? Here are some hints. Approximately 1,836 innocent people died. Roughly 81.2 billion dollars worth of damage was incurred. The first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, one of the most catastrophic and costly natural disasters in American history, has just passed.

Of course, the event was not completely ignored. President Bush made a speech, and there was some news coverage, the key word being 'some.' That day deserved much more attention than it received. I asked people if they knew when Hurricane Katrina made landfall, and they all said, "Some time towards the end of the summer." To most people, the anniversary of the hurricane was merely one more day of summer freedom to enjoy before the onslaught of schoolwork and classes.

The anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, however, is a day that must be recalled with

intensity and reflection. We need to reflect, not only upon the hundreds of lives lost, but on our country's failure to respond to the threat posed by the hurricane and the overwhelming need to be better prepared in the future.

The question to really ask is: why was so little attention paid to a day that should be tattooed on our brains forever? It's because Hurricane Katrina is a contender for the top spot on the list of humiliating catastrophes in the history of the United States. Thousands of people died because of our country's utter disorganization. The people of the Gulf Coast were inadequately warned of their impending doom. There were not enough buses to evacuate these people. There were not enough rescue workers. There were not enough rescue supplies, not enough medical supplies, not enough semblance of human decency. Countless bodies lay rotting in the street for days because there was no one to come and collect them. Countless people sat atop their roofs for days praying that someone would

save them, and horrifically, many of their prayers went unanswered.

The government likes to give a plethora of excuses as to what went wrong, while simultaneously evading any admission of guilt. That is inexcusable. Ultimately, racial and sociological reasons allowed our country to fail. If Hurricane Katrina happened in Boca Raton, Florida, we would have been dealing with a much different situation.

Our question still remains. Why was the anniversary so neglected? Human Nature. When people do the wrong thing, do they really want that event playing over and over in their heads? Of course not! The human psyche prides itself on its defense mechanisms of denial and repression. Because so many of us let ourselves forget about the hurricane, we must be completely ignorant to our country's failings; otherwise, we're just living in a state of denial and repression. We are trying not to remember it too much because we do not want to memorialize our country's fail-

ures. Although it is not easy, we must force ourselves to remember Hurricane Katrina not only on its anniversary, but really every day of the year. Not only should we recall the thousands of lives lost, but we should remember vividly that our country failed. If we keep in mind our country's pitfalls, we can change the future. We need to remember the lack of organization so that next time we will be prepared. Of course man does not have control over Mother Nature, but he can learn how to properly deal with emergency situations. Whether the emergency is another hurricane, tornado, or terrorist attack, we must be ready. We must learn from our mistakes so that no more lives will be cut short by carelessness.

Where Has All My Caf Money Gone? Torah Study: An Invaluable Context for Leadership Development

BY JAIMIE FOGEL

On my first day back at Stern College for Women (SCW) as a junior, I noticed many changes on campus. Most clearly visible was the construction on the front lobby, which seems unlikely to ever be completed (don't even get me started on the "New Beit Midrash"), the constant noise of men at work and inconvenient temporary entrances. The new 205 Lexington building was also quite a shock. Having to share an elevator with an eclectic mix of New Yorkers was not what I was used to at SCW. Now that I am a junior, I am no longer the youngest student on campus, something that also required an adjustment. I've run out of excuses for my complete ignorance of the inner workings of the E-Reserve system, and after two semesters, I no longer expect to get a permanent schedule together until at least midterm season. It was also strange to see familiar faces in all of the grade levels; an older friend made in a class last year or even a random camp friend that suddenly walked through the door of psychology class. But there was one change I noticed immediately which did not put a nostalgic smile on my face: the caf prices.

I have been informed by past employees that the SCW cafeteria raises its prices on a regular basis. Some years they are raised

more than others and some items have remained the same price for long periods of time. For example, a bottle of soda has been \$1.25 for at least the past four years. But this year there was a clear increase in prices on the salad bar, the hot meals, and worst of all the sushi.

You see, I learned my lesson after my first semester here. Having two rolls of sushi everyday for lunch was just not going to work unless I planned on going hungry for the last two months of school. Milner's and other such stores are also card eaters, another lesson I had to learn the hard way. So this semester I came prepared. I bought a small fridge that my roommate and I could share and I decided to keep cereal and milk in the room so that I could save money on breakfast.

All of these necessary calculations made in order for my caf money to last throughout the semester are ridiculous! Thank God, I come from a family whose refrigerator is never empty, and if it is, we can quickly run over to the closest supermarket and restock. So why must I come to school and have to keep track of the food I eat just so I don't have to stand in the caf during finals week waiting for a kind soul to sponsor my meals on her mysteriously full caf card? I should not have to feel like a beggar in a school my parents pay thousands

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BY DR. LISA ROSH

A top-tier national research institution, a location in the city with the preeminent business community, and a distinguished research faculty committed to undergraduate teaching were all elements that drew me to join the management faculty of the Sy Syms School of Business.

Nonetheless the element that has been most salient during my initial contact with the university is the undergraduate students' unique ability to learn from experience, take a broad and systematic view and think creatively; these are all elements that effective managers have identified as making a positive difference in how they lead.

Having earned a master's degree in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University and a doctoral degree in Organizational Behavior from Yale University, I have been involved in both academic and professional work in Leadership and Team Development for over ten years.

I have taught Human and Organizational Studies to master's, doctoral and executive stu-

dents at George Washington University, Leadership and Team Building to undergraduate and executive students at the Singapore Management University, and conducted executive development seminars with private, public and non-profit sector executives at Right Management Consultants. However, none of these populations have shown intrinsically the innate capacity and potential for complex leadership challenges as the Yeshiva University undergraduate student nor do any of these populations universally engage in Torah study.

The methodology employed in Torah study, be it the *chevruta* (one on one learning) format, the teacher's role, the use of challenging assignments or the value of *Torah lishmah* (love of learning for its own sake), are comparable with the best practices in leadership development.

Research has shown that most effective leadership development activities are ones that challenge individuals and provide information concerning their strengths and weaknesses in a supportive context that communicates that their effort to grow

and learn are valued. Similarly, Torah studies are notorious for providing challenging assignments that are often beyond a student's ability, with the teacher providing guidance and assistance and one's *chevruta* partner providing critique within a context that is often informal, voluntary and ungraded.

The fertile ground that Torah study provides for the development of leadership capabilities can further be enhanced with our coursework in the management department, as it focuses on intrapersonal intelligence and skills, self-awareness and self-confidence. This will truly enable our student body to fulfill the mission of the school which is "to ennoble students' deepest human needs for purpose and discovery, and to enable them to transform their communities and society through meaningful action."

Dr. Lisa Rosh is a visiting assistant professor of management at the Sy Syms School Of Business

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POINT-COUNTERPOINT YUNITE SHABBATON

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

There's nothing like a road trip for breaking down barriers and forging sincere relationships. Outside of one's element, each person is given the opportunity to emerge as an individual, as he is no longer subject to the specific expectations his friends hold for him or the preconceived notions others have about him. For this reason a Shabbaton held off campus is the perfect place for establishing the groundwork for a united student body.

The success of this year's Yeshiva College YUnite Shabbaton is proof of this fact. Far more men tried to register this year than last to the point that many students had to be turned away. People embrace the chance to meet other students outside the academic, religious, and social pressures that are so prevalent uptown.

Thankfully, the divisions between the different social groups in the student body at Stern College for Women (SCW) are nowhere near as deep and defined as those on the Wilf Campus. But they do exist and should be tempered. A Shabbaton with the goal of uniting the students would be a step, but if that Shabbaton would take place off campus, it might also be effective. Traveling, rooming and dining with those they'd otherwise not have ever spoken to, would

afford the women at SCW a chance to choose friends based on personality and character traits, rather than convenience and quick association. Not to say that best friendships are made over one weekend, but a Shabbaton held off campus, on a territory where no one has more control than anyone else, would provide for the opportunity for sincere friendships to develop.

You might argue that a Shabbaton on campus could provide a similar setting. But the difference between rooming for the weekend and traveling with groups of people that you didn't know previously is very significant. On campus women would possibly eat with people they've never met before but then would quickly link arms with their friends (literally! how inclusive!) and return to their dorms, to their comfort zones.

Lastly, a Shabbaton geared at the goal of uniting the student body must be able to house the student body, and the sorry crowded state of our Beren Campus in midtown, proved by the great success of the Shabbat Enhancement Program, makes that impossible.

For both practical and technical reasons a unity-oriented Shabbaton off campus would be great for the SCW student body.

For the second year in a row, Yeshiva University's Wilf Campus has sponsored an off campus YUnite Shabbaton with the goal of promoting more on campus unity within its diverse student body. While this weekend retreat provides students with the opportunity to meet fellow students and *Roshei* Yeshiva, the Beren Campus can do without it.

Firstly, creating unity within a university campus should begin "on" campus, rather than at an off campus location. If a YUnite Shabbaton is designed to bring together the undergraduate body throughout the school year, the most appropriate place to host such a weekend would be on the actual campus location.

Furthermore, Stern College for Women (SCW) and the Beren Campus is fortunate enough to host a variety of Shabbatonim each week, largely through the Shabbos Enhancement Program. Large weekends such as Yachad, Israel Club and Orientation Shabbatons draw over 300 students and are active steps in creating a greater sense of community at SCW. Other popular shabbatons include TAC/SOY, WYUR, Political Science, and the various Israel midrashot reunions.

The benefits of a YUnite Shabbaton

are also questionable due to the limited number of spots available to students and the short lasting nature of the event. A weekend focused on increasing unity should not have a number constraint, but should be open to the entire student body. Lastly, more efforts should be placed on events and programs that will lead to long term community building rather than a quick two day trip.

Instead of looking beyond the undergraduate campus for unity, SCW students should search within themselves and develop initiatives and programming to further enhance the community atmosphere on the Beren Campus.



LIZ SHELTON
PRESIDENT OF SCW

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A friend recently told me, "It's not the years in your life, but the life in your years." While I thought this statement was profound to begin with, it really struck a cord in me during the month of Elul. Ultimately life is what we make it. We get back what we put in and if we're lucky, we'll even get a little more. Each year we try to grow spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually, to rise above what we were before.

When I first became involved in Student Council, I began to realize how many opportunities are readily available to each individual student. Take that one extra moment in the elevator to look at the signs posted all around, and take advantage of the many activities and opportunities available on campus. Earlier this month, Student Council hosted the hugely successful "Club

Fair," which gave the student body an in depth view of the many clubs on campus. Each one is eager for student participation. The Drama Society and the Speech Club have already had their first events, and many more fantastic events from each of the clubs are sure to follow. Keep your eyes open so you don't miss them!

Additionally, Student Council has set its goals for the year and is moving forward in its effort to unite the student body and promote school pride. We are also looking to the students to guide us in our quest to better serve you. We have an energetic Student Council Board: Vice President Adina Orenstein, Treasurer Shoshana Michelson and Secretary Rena Wiesen. They are all amazing people who I am keen on working with and who

are just as eager to work with you. We all have so much to offer and are readily accessible and awaiting any and all student input. Student Council contact information and a calendar of upcoming events can be found on our bulletin boards in either cafeteria. If you want to know what's going on please check them out.

Take control of your time, get involved and become active. As we enter the new year we must realize that it is in our hands to promote change because ultimately "it's the life we put into our years." Let us all grow together and be more active than ever this year so that we can really infuse this year with life.

On behalf of the entire SCWSC board, I would like to wish each and every student a Shana Tova.



SHOSHANA FRUCHTER
TAC PRESIDENT

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The very beginning has ended. We are no longer in the first few weeks of school: by now, schedules flow naturally (with an occasional lateness on Wednesdays forgetting that because of club hour class begins at 1:25), class locations and campus routes somehow geographically make sense, and efficient work programs are being maintained by most of the students at Stern College for Women (SCW). The start-of-the-school-year freshness is gone.

This is great, but with it usually leaves an important approach that we must try to retain. The question, "What's your name?" was initially extremely prevalent on campus, but as the warm summer air fades away, so does the I'm-looking-forward-to-meeting-all-of-the-women-at Stern attitude. At first there was an excuse to meet people: it's imperative to have friends to walk to school with, to eat in the caf with, and to study with. But our community of about a thousand undergraduates huddled in a seven-block radius in midtown can be so much more

than isolated small groups of friends.

Introduce yourself to everyone in your classes. Find out who else is in your major, where people are going for the upcoming holidays, and how they're enjoying their time so far at SCW. With a relatively small variance in religious background, any pair of women at SCW could probably speak for a solid few minutes. On the other hand, they would likely have an interesting conversation considering the gamut of geographical backgrounds and different interests here.

I suggest this for two reasons. First, you might find some personalities you really enjoy and gain a great friend. Though many women come to SCW equipped with tens of friends and acquaintances from past experiences, I think everyone would benefit a great deal from looking around and finding those like-minded people, who will be friends not just of convenience (we live near each other), or of time (were in the same class for 12 years), but will forge

friendships that will help you bring out the best in each other.

Secondly, learning people's names is also important to foster a cohesive community of acquaintances, to be friendly neighbors and to smile and say hello in the halls (including Lexington Avenue). The staff and administration certainly appreciate the acknowledgement of their presence and not only their service, so does everyone else; everyone likes to be recognized.

When you're waiting for a lecture to begin introduce yourself to those sitting around you. If you're learning at T-cubed, find out who's learning next to you. When you're packed into Koch for *hatarat nedarim* (or in the elevator!) learn the names of those around you.

Take advantage of the events brought to you by SCWSC, SSSBSC and TAC to meet more of your peers. Meet the women around you; it will make a difference in the day of those you pass by and in your day too.



ESTHER BIRNBAUM
PRESIDENT OF SSSB

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The start of the New Year revolves around a central theme of beginnings. For some, the first month of school marks the beginning of your time in college. For others, it signifies the end of your collegiate years and the start of a new period in your life.

Reflecting upon the first few weeks of school, I find myself feeling great satisfaction being back in a collegiate atmosphere. These past weeks have been filled with excitement and planning for the upcoming year. The Sy Syms Student Council has run two extremely successful and entertaining events: a back to school barbeque in Central Park, and a club fair reception featuring Mr. Sy Syms. These events were both well attended and enjoyable for those in attendance.

After these initial weeks of school, there is however one

point of vague discontent which stands out in my mind. The first month of school has been incredibly busy with student programming, evident from a simple glance at the walls overflowing with signs about different events. From *Shabbatonim*, to club fairs, to rallies, to *shuirim*: there is never a day that goes by on the Beren Campus without multiple events happening. While all these events are well attended and successful, it seems to me that there is still a portion of our student body, which remains aloof to campus life.

A college campus is a common ground for people to interact and thrive. It is a time of life to grow both academically and socially. It is a time to become passionate about things you believe in. Unfortunately, as I walk through the halls of Sy

Syms School of Business and Stern College for Women, it is not uncommon for me to find just the opposite happening. I see women who are just trying to find their way to class as they walk past tables set up to educate about the genocide in Darfur. They do not even pay a moments notice to the numerous colorful signs hanging on the walls.

It doesn't really matter where this indifference stems from. The beginning of the year is a time to stop, think and reevaluate your direction. Which way is each of us going? Am I the person who is going to walk by unconcerned, or am going to take a minute to pay attention and get involved? I assure you that the minute it takes to become active in your interests and passions is well worth the investment in the long run.

Knowledge is Power

BY SARA CHAMAMA

I have a friend (who will remain nameless to protect her dignity) who just graduated high school and currently faces The Big College Decision. "Come to Stern," I told her. "You really feel like you're getting an education here." But her response was: "I don't want an education. I just want to go to college to get my degree, not to learn."

When I heard this, I was aghast. How could someone actually say that they don't want to learn and that receiving an education is not important to them?

Her response bothered me, and her words echoed through my head the whole summer like that lyric from the Pink Floyd song: "We don't need no education." I thought about what she said, and came to the realization that I had heard this sentiment before, countless times (albeit never so frankly put), from the mouths of my fellow Stern College for Women (SCW) students. Whenever a Finance major complains about the drag of a required biology class, isn't she only repeating my friend's objection? (And another voice joins in the chorus: "I don't want no education.") Whenever a Biology major gripes about needing to take the umpteenth Hebrew class, what is she really saying? (And the chorus gets louder: I don't want no education.) They might not consciously be saying that they don't value an education, but that is nonetheless what they are saying.

SCW's core system is set up the way it is to allow all students, regardless of their major, an opportunity to broaden their horizons and take classes with which they would otherwise never come into contact. So instead of complaining about all the extraneous classes required, take it as it was originally meant. Choose classes that you need to fill your requirements in a wide range of areas, and sit back, relax, and enjoy them. Soak up the knowledge. If you are going to have to take the classes anyways, you might as well go in with a smile and the mindset that you are there to broaden your scope and learn new and cool things. Want to learn a whole new way of counting according to the Maya system? Great, take archeology. Want to understand why the Knesset is so fractious and so completely different than the American political system? Take Israeli Politics. Why does one plus one equal two? Take elementary, my dear, elementary math that is.

There is no need to suffer through classes when a simple change in attitude can completely overhaul your semester. Instead of dreading classes that you feel have no relevance to your future career, revel in them. I know we all do sudokus, the crossword puzzle, talk, text message, and even sleep during class, but I challenge everyone to take an interest in the classes being taught and to actively listen and participate during class. I promise you won't regret it.

Where Has All My Caf Money Gone?

continued from page 5

of dollars for me to attend!

Now in all fairness, I understand to some degree why caf prices increase. There is a concept called inflation. Therefore, the food sold to Yeshiva University by wholesalers is subject to price increases every so often, and the Food Services Department must raise their prices. But the extent they have taken this to is *mamash* bordering on stealing. Yes, the students begin each semester with an increased allowance on their card. But the small raise in our caf money does not in any way compensate for our increased bills throughout the semester. Here's a small anecdote to illustrate. The other day, I went to buy applesauce from the salad bar as a light snack in between classes. I would estimate that the amount I scooped into the cup was about the size of two store bought mini-containers. It cost me two-fifty! I actually laughed at the cashier because I thought it was a mis-

take. It costs more to buy food in the caf than it does to buy from the elite, overpriced mini-markets of Manhattan, and it's cheaper and tastier to buy a turkey wrap from Mendy's than to buy one in Stern's cafeteria.

What could we do to ameliorate these added costs? Very little it seems. One suggestion I have thought of is to sell the main dishes of the hot meals separately from the side dishes, just as they sell the side dishes separately. This would accommodate a student who only wants to purchase a piece of chicken or meat, ensuring that she would not need to pay over eight dollars for it. But the real problem resides in the fact that eating healthy foods and not skipping meals diminishes your caf money too quickly. Needless to say, I'll be seeing you all at Mendy's.

What is the Purpose of a Student Newspaper?

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decision, he nonetheless supported it, agreeing with the editors' explanation that off-campus Israeli current events fell outside of The Commentator's job description.

"But how can you say that?" I said. "The Commentator is a newspaper written by and for Jewish students in a Jewish university. How could the situation in Israel, or discussion about the situation in Israel, not be extremely relevant? Isn't the sole purpose of a campus newspaper to be the voice of the students, to talk about the issues that are important to them?"

"No," he said, as though I were from the now non-planet Pluto. "College newspapers are just conduits of information. They're supposed to inform the students about things going on within the administration and to get them more involved in events and activities happening on campus. The actual clubs and activities are the places where students express themselves. We have an Israel Club. The Commie's job is just to keep the students on top of what's going on at school."

This definition haunted me over the course of the day, following me through all my classes. I felt betrayed. Was that truly all college newspapers were supposed to be? A kind of public service intended to make it easier to keep track of the interim deans? A update on the construction progress? To my mind, such a purpose could not justify the paper's existence. A paper of that kind might be feasible, but it would be dry, brittle, and uninteresting, filled with inconsequential minutiae of administrative meetings and lists of upcoming social events.

Truthfully, though I don't know, I don't really think The Commentator defines itself this way, either. I leafed through past issues, glancing at the headlines. I think if anything, the paper falls somewhere in between my friend's definition and mine. It seems confused as to which it wants to be: a glimpse into the hearts and minds of YU students, or a tighter, more official news source.

I hope, for its sake, that The Commentator makes a goal of the first, because it becomes more irrelevant itself with every step it

takes toward the second.

Yes, it is important to know about the happenings on the campus, and there will always be an audience for school-related news. However, The Commentator, like The Observer, is in a unique position. As an undergraduate newspaper of a Jewish college in America, it has the opportunity to explore and facilitate honest discussion of the issues that are molding an entire generation of Jews, from diverse backgrounds and places in life. For better or worse, the things that are happening in countries around the world today—in the UK, in France, and yes, in Israel—are shaping the minds and convictions of YU students, and will affect the way we lead our lives long after graduation. Our undergraduate newspapers could shed considerable illumination on what these issues are and how they are changing us.

It would be a shame if they chose to make themselves glorified "sstuds" instead.

From the Desk of Academic Advisement Sixty-Year-Old Student Takes

Hebrew 101

I've always been lousy at learning foreign languages. During college I never earned more than a D in Spanish. Years later, after spending six months studying Hebrew in Israel, I still stressed over the basics. Yet, this past July, I decided to try again. Motivated by those Stern College for Women (SCW) students struggling with Hebrew, as well as my desire to help them and a wish to improve my own Hebrew skills, I enrolled in an intensive Ulpan.

From the start I anticipated areas of vulnerability. I would have difficulty decoding new words, processing certain sounds and speaking. I knew I would get frustrated and need more time to compose my thoughts. I also predicted the teacher's well-intentioned, if sometimes undermining, corrections. As I suspected, my troubles did not disappear. I may have been the oldest student in the class, but the added years did little to improve my natural aptitude for the subject matter.

However, experience did provide me with the patience, honesty, and focus that I lacked in

previous attempts. Instead of finding fault with the teacher, the textbook, other students, and most of all myself, I created a relationship with my difficulties. When called upon to read, I did not panic. Rather, I recognized my anxiety, held it in check, proceeded to carefully attend to the passage one word at a time, read slowly and thought about the ideas. The new approach awarded me the pleasure of witnessing what I could accomplish rather than what I could not. Overall, my vocabulary increased, my reading improved, and my knowledge of Hebrew widened. I actually read the assignments, did my homework, understood the teacher, and participated. Far from fluent, I am excited about the gains I made.

It's important to note that familiar feelings of frustration and self-doubt emerged. As a younger student, I felt them many times. In the past these feelings managed to cloud my thinking and limit my effort. This time I continued in spite of the temptation to give up. Learning Hebrew remains challenging, but the chal-

lenge leaves me feeling resourceful, competent, and inspired to learn some more!

In keeping with my resolve to continue learning and to help SCW students who need advice with Hebrew, The Academic Advisement Center Study Clinic is offering "Let's Talk: Handling Hebrew" on Monday's and Wednesday's during the Study Clinic's evening hours. The sessions will provide students with strategies for success and an informal and supportive place to practice speaking. For specific details, email me at gumora@yu.edu.

Wishing you a good year in which you meet your challenges with integrity and endurance.

Gail Gumora, Ph.D.
Academic Advisor/Study Coach

NEWS

BEREN CAMPUS OFFERS AN ABUNDANCE OF NEW SERVICES

Office of Disability Services to Help Wide Range of Students

BY CHANIE DINERMAN

Yeshiva University (YU) Counseling Center has spearheaded efforts to establish an Office of Disability Services and has appointed Rochelle Kohn as its director. Kohn, who will be working mainly from the Beren Campus, is in the process of obtaining her doctorate from New York University in rehabilitation counseling, an area of study that focuses on working with people who have different types of disabilities.

The new Office of Disability Services will cater to the special needs of students with learning disabilities and offer support to professors as well. There is a wide range of disabilities which the office will be equipped to handle, including ADD, ADHD, dyslexia, and some physical disabilities. It has also made accommodations for auditory learners. The university does not only have an ethical responsibility to offer these services, but a legal one as well. "The college," explained Kohn, "[is] required to provide appropriate adjustments to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability."

Previously, Dr. Chaim Nissel, director of the Counseling Center and Associate Dean of Students Zeldra Braun, had worked in conjunction with pro-

fessors to provide students with the necessary services, but there was no personnel on staff specifically for this purpose. Both individuals were instrumental in conceiving of and setting up the disability office.

"We are at a point in the development of the undergraduate schools to have created an Office of Disability Services," remarked Dean Braun. "Those students who need the services are in a much better off position than they've ever been." She proceeded to explain that students with disabilities simply have different paths of learning than other people. "[These] students can have an office that can cater to their needs and advocate for them to help them succeed academically," she said.

One of the new technologies purchased to assist students with disabilities is the Kurzweil 3000 computer system. The program is designed to help students with dyslexia and ADD, as well as other auditory learners. The speech-to-text system operates by processing printed, electronic or internet text documents entered by either the student or the teacher. Documents are decoded and then read aloud back to the student, with highlighted boxes pointing out exactly what is being read. Access to the system will be made available to students

through the YU website.

Accommodations such as these make it possible for students with disabilities to learn and study independently. With the help of these services, students can acquire not only the skills, but also the confidence empowering them to succeed in all of their academic endeavors. Kohn shared her vision for the new Office of Disabilities Services in a recent email sent by the university's Dean of Students. She "looks forward to developing a vibrant, active office where students, staff, administration, and faculty can learn about ways to promote full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of college life."

She also expressed her hope to meet with undergraduates about any issues they might have and to assist each one in the best possible way. "I would like to help the students in need of our services [to] have academically satisfying experiences at Yeshiva University," she said.

Ms. Rochelle Kohn's office is located at 215 Lexington Avenue in Room 1218. She can be reached at 917-326-4828.

New Assistant Director Joins Beren Campus Counseling Center

BY CHAYA CITRIN

The Yeshiva University (YU) Counseling Center has expanded its ranks with the recent addition of an assistant director to its Beren Campus division. The appointment of Dr. Yael Muskat, a psychologist and Stern College for Women (SCW) alumna, coincides with efforts by the center to establish a more reliable presence on the women's campus and provide more comprehensive services to the student body at large. The position involves a wide array of both clinical and administrative responsibilities.

Currently in its second year, the Counseling Center was founded to offer free and confidential services to students, a facility available at many other universities. With offices on both the Wilf and Beren Campuses, the center provides students with short-term counseling, medication management, and professional referrals. In its inaugural year the center serviced approximately 8-10% of the undergraduate population.

With the arrival of Dr. Muskat, the Counseling Center hopes to broaden its reach among the students of YU, particularly among those of SCW. Last year, while the center was still in its formative stages and lacking ade-

quate personnel, the Beren Campus was often left without a full-time psychologist on staff. Although the center's director, Dr. Chaim Nissel, would divide his time between the two campuses, a permanent fixture was still needed to meet the demands of the undergraduate women. Situated in midtown, Dr. Muskat seeks to fill this void by becoming more accessible to the students and encouraging them to utilize the available counseling opportunities.

After graduating from SCW in 2003, Dr. Muskat proceeded to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology from Long Island University. This fall she returns to the halls of her alma mater, bringing with her a diversified and substantive resume. "I have fond memories of my experience here, and when I heard about the opening of the Counseling Center, I was excited by the opportunity to be a part of it," she reflected. "Having worked in various counseling centers, schools, and the New York City court system, it is rewarding for me now to give back to my community. The students here at the Beren Campus are a varied and dynamic group, and I look forward to getting to know them and working with them."

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Office of Student Affairs Expands Role with New Student Events Coordinator

BY HILLY KRIEGER

Anyone ascending to the seventh floor of the 215 Lexington Avenue building will notice a marked difference in the atmosphere of the Office of Student Affairs at Stern College for Women (SCW). Relocating to its newly renovated premises, the Office of Student Affairs has made internal changes with respect to its staff as well. The position of Student Events Coordinator has been added to the expanding ranks of the SCW department, with Associate Dean of Students Zeldra Braun at the helm. Rachel Shtern, a 2003 SCW alumna whom Dean Braun describes as "very skilled and highly motivated," will assume the new role within the undergraduate community.

According to Dean Braun,

the position of Student Events Coordinator was created because "adding new staff will continue to help build the community." In order to expand its role on campus, both by revamping previous programs and launching new ones, Dean Braun felt that the office had to increase its number of personnel. "The challenge is to create meaningful events and meet the needs of students as they arise," she said. Through involvement on campus, explained Dean Braun, students can enrich their college experience and strengthen the unity they feel with their counterparts. By inventing even more opportunities to participate in various extracurricular activities, she and Shtern hope to build a better sense of community on the Beren Campus.

Consequently, it is only appropriate someone familiar

with SCW life assume the position. Shtern was very active throughout her tenure on the Beren Campus, holding positions on her freshman and sophomore class boards and serving as Student Council Treasurer and co-chair of the Student Life Committee during her junior and senior years, respectively. Following graduation, she remained at SCW as a resident assistant while simultaneously working for the National Jewish Outreach Program. There, she assisted in organizing the nationwide "Shabbat Across America Program" in addition to numerous other non-profit and public relations projects. Shtern will continue her studies for a Masters in Public Administration from Baruch College as she takes on her new role at SCW.

As Student Events

Coordinator, Shtern will be responsible for coordinating a range of programs for the undergraduate students on the Beren Campus. She has already begun to brainstorm for Orientation 2007 and has started planning events for the current academic year. Her most recent efforts have been focused on developing a new and improved peer mentoring program, in which first time on campus students are paired with upperclassmen to guide them through their adjustment to college and city life.

"It's great to be back on campus and contributing to student life," Shtern enthused. "I'm excited to see what's there and working on it to make it better. Through the mentoring program and other university-sponsored events, we hope to further build the Stern community and to get

more students involved. With any new position, you can have a fresh look on programs already in place and the new ones you are trying to create."

"The purpose of the position is to bring more events, better events to the Beren Campus," added Dean Braun. "The expansion of the Office of Student Affairs shows the university's commitment to serving the needs of the students on campus. We're very excited to be working with Rachel and as a team. Everyone has their own perspective on things, and our abilities are expanded when we add new people to that team."

Students Commemorate 9/11 With Poignant Program

BY ESTHER GOLDSTEIN

On September 11, 2006, the men and women of Yeshiva University (YU) remembered the tragic attacks that occurred in their vicinity five years earlier. Students from both undergraduate campuses filed into a crowded Schottenstein Cultural Center to attend a commemorative event co-sponsored by the Yeshiva Student Union (YSU) and the Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC).

The program began with an introduction by Liz Shelton, president of SCWSC, and a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of all those who perished on that fateful day. Shelton recounted the events of 9/11 through her own personal perspective and described her initial reaction to the horrors she had witnessed on television. "September 11 is a date that one, will never be forgotten, and two, that is important to everyone to remember and reflect," she said. Her words appeared to set the tone for the remainder of the program in which students were given an opportunity to both remember and reflect. Shelton's recollections were followed by those of Jacob Daum, the featured speaker of the evening. Daum, a resident of Washington Heights and volunteer for Hatzolah Emergency Medical Services, had been present at the World

Trade Center Site on 9/11, and shared his firsthand experiences and subsequent emotions with the audience.

Daum began by describing the confusion he had felt on the morning of September 11, hearing his radio go off numerous times without really understanding what exactly had transpired. When he was finally informed that the Twin Towers had been hit, he immediately went down to the targeted site to offer his assistance. Like all of the other emergency workers on the premises, he did not know what he was getting himself into. This cloud of uncertainty, however, did not detain him.

"It's in me to help people, so I knew that there would be plenty of people [who needed help], so I was drawn down there," Daum said simply. This same desire to lend a hand is what caused him to join Hatzolah in the first place. "I wanted to help the community. I wanted to give back to the community that I lived in," he explained.

One of the most touching stories Daum related involved an unaffiliated Jew offering to join a *minyan*. The man, who had not *davened* in many years, volunteered to complete the ten-man quorum if he was needed. The vignette was both moving and inspiring, causing the students in the audience to reflect on the

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Plans for Possible Dance Major at SCW is Currently Underway

BY DEBORAH ANSTANDIG

The students of Stern College for Women (SCW) have launched a grassroots campaign to petition the university for more advanced courses in dance. While the college does offer classes in ballet, jazz, folk dance, and dance aerobics, many have appealed for a greater variety and intensity of course study at the academic level. Adena Kozak (SCW 05) has sparked conversation and subsequent efforts aimed at developing a concrete major in dance. Although the materialization of a major may be relegated to the distant future, if there is enough student interest, advanced dance courses may appear on campus as early as next semester.

Because there are so few venues for observant Jewish women to hone their skills in dance and other performing arts, Kozak believes that SCW ought to offer women this opportunity. During her undergraduate years, Kozak studied dance outside of school and continued her passion for the arts after graduating and making *aliyah*. In Israel, she has participated in various dance troupes, performing at major venues throughout the country.

Throughout her dancing career, Kozak felt conflicted about how to synthesize her artistic gifts with halakha. "When faced with the conflict between

dance and halakha, people either leave Orthodoxy or stop being creative," she explained. "I've seen this happen my whole life and I'm sick of it."

As a result, she channeled her creative energies into founding her own dance company called Professional Women's Theater and held a competition called "*Rotzah Lhiyot Kochav*" (I Want to be a Star), in which talented women performed in accordance with halakha considerations. Kozak had long viewed SCW as the launching pad for creating similar venues for Orthodox American women and set out to make this vision a reality.

Over the summer, Kozak enlisted the assistance of Anna Schon, a student at Barnard College with a double major in European History and Dance. "Yeshiva University is the center of Orthodox Judaism in America; it should be promoting this opportunity for Jewish women," Schon remarked. "If G-d gave us these gifts, we have to find a way to use them."

Schon has teamed up with SCW junior Laura Shuman to advertise the option for more advanced class offerings in dance and to gauge the level of student interest. Presently, there are over thirty women who have expressed a desire to take these courses should they become available.

Rachel Polansky (SCW 09) is among those who have added their name to the growing list. Polansky assumed she would have to search for an off-campus location to pursue her interest in dance. "The idea that Stern would offer courses would make dance very convenient," she said. "Also, it opens the door for many young women who ordinarily wouldn't have this possibility."

When consulted for her input regarding the issue, SCW Dean Karen Bacon emphatically voiced her support for expanding the opportunities to study dance on campus. Although admitting that the caliber of the college's prospective program would probably not match those of other universities, she emphasized that efforts to create such a program were still worthwhile, assuming there was sufficient interest among the student body.

As talks begin between Kozak and the SCW administration, some preliminary ideas have already been laid out for next semester. Dean Bacon suggested offering courses focusing on different styles of dance and would even consider renting out studio space to accommodate the demand. Although the prospect of a major in dance may presently seem elusive, the likelihood of advanced courses by next semester means the beginning steps are already underway.

TAC/SOY Shabbaton is a Huge Success

BY SARAH MATARASSO

On Shabbat *Parshat Ki Tavo*, the Beren Campus hosted what is believed to be the first-ever joint Torah Activities Council (TAC)/Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY) Shabbaton. The participants numbered approximately 250 students, making it one of the most widely attended Yeshiva University (YU) Shabbatonim.

When asked why the two student organizations decided to arrange the event together, TAC President Shoshana Fruchter said that the "goal was to strengthen the Torah community at SCW and YC by creating a forum for the students to stay in comfortably and have the opportunity to learn, sing and relax with their peers. We figured that *Elul* to be a great time for such an event, setting the tone for a year filled with learning Torah, making good friends and strengthening our community." To make their vision a reality, Fruchter and SOY President Josh Vogel (YC '07) approached Beth Hait, assistant dean of Student Affairs, and

presented her with the idea. Hait explained that she supported and encouraged them from the outset, but that most of the credit should go to the students who put in many hours of work to create the final product they desired.

Those who attended had the privilege of hearing from Rosh Yeshiva Rabbi Yosef Blau and from SCW Judaic Studies Professor Nechama Price. Ms. Price presented a *shiur* entitled "Ambiguities in Tanakh," on Friday evening, which was followed by a *tisch* led by Rabbi Blau. The next day, *davening* took place in the Schottenstein Cultural Center and was followed by a *kiddush* and then a lecture by Rabbi Blau on how the *kedushat hayom* (holiness of the day) of certain days is manifested in the *shmoneh esrei* prayers of those days.

Aside from the programs facilitated by YU staff, there were various student-led sessions and activities. Two students prepared *chaburot* (small study groups), which they delivered on Shabbat afternoon in the SCW beit midrash. The first was given by

SCW senior Ariella Nadler, the second by YC senior Menachem Yondorf. Avi Robinson, a rabbinical student and regular Shabbat visitor to New York University hospital on 31st Street and 1st Avenue, trained a large number of students interested in *bikur cholim* (visiting the sick), teaching them how to go about visiting the patients, which floors were best to visit and how to avoid upsetting the front desk security guards. The group then proceeded to visit patients, which was particularly appreciated by those Jewish patients who had found themselves in the hospital over Shabbat. Ayol Samuels, a senior at YC, was one of the students who made a trip to the downtown hospital. "I visited with one other student," he explained "and we met some interesting people who sincerely appreciated having someone to talk to. This *chessed* opportunity rounded off an amazing Shabbat that was already filled with Torah and lots of friends."

Even with the packed schedule, students had the opportunity

to relax and socialize before *mincha* (afternoon prayer) and *seudat shlishit*. After *ma'ariv* and *havdalah*, TAC and SOY organized a night activity that involved packing care packages for senior citizens. The event was successful as all the packages were arranged and those who attended had a great time in the process.

The Shabbaton was a huge success, leaving students from both campuses inspired by and excited about this new initiative. "The program in its entirety was a success," said Vogel. He was especially impressed by the large turnout at both the Friday night *oneg* and Shabbat afternoon *chaburot*. The large number of people who stayed for the planned lectures and activities also impressed Jenn Shuldiner, a SCW senior. "You know a Shabbaton is a success" she said, "when the room doesn't empty within ten minutes after a meal has ended." Aharon Arazi, a senior at YC, had a similar reaction. "[I] thought there was a pleasant atmosphere, that the students involved in leadership roles rose to the challenge and that there

was a surprisingly large turnout," he said.

Although this was the first Shabbaton co-sponsored by these two student councils, Hait believes that everything ran very smoothly and that the weekend's programs were well-planned. Both councils look forward to the next Shabbaton set to take place on Shabbat *Parshat Vayikra*, which falls out on the weekend of March 23-24. While the crowd at this first Shabbaton was very impressive, "[I] hope to see more men come down for the weekend," said Vogel. "The word will probably spread that the Shabbaton was fun, comfortable and of course, very *frum*."

FEATURES

Creative Arts Create a Unique Summer Experience

BY ALIZA VISHNIAVSKY

Creativity comes naturally for kids, whether expressed on the playground, at home, or in the classroom. Some kids are bursting with imagination, while others are more reserved and only willing to show their originality when they feel comfortable in their surroundings. It is important for every type of child to find that place of security in which they can channel their innate ingenuity and use it to learn about themselves and others.

The Nesheemah Yoga Center's CADDY Camp, a creative arts program for children of all ages and backgrounds in Bogotá, NJ, does just that. CADDY stands for, Circus Art Dance Drama Yoga; the five disciplines used to help kids explore their creative side in a safe and stimulating environment. "Caddy Camp is founded on the simple and profound principle, that given the right environment and support, all children can reach their full potential and embrace their lives with more courage and joy," explained Nancy Siegal, founder of the Nesheemah Yoga Center and director of CADDY Camp. "Our mission at

CADDY Camp is two fold: one, to nurture children's imaginations through the creative arts and to help them find their authentic voices. Secondly, to help them develop new pathways for learning."

CADDY Camp runs week-long programs in the summer, as well as sessions during vacations such as the upcoming *Chol Hamoed Sukkot* program. Throughout the week, children are given the opportunity to experience the various art forms and are able to share their thoughts and feelings concerning the activities with the rest of the group. "The program gives children an opportunity to find their own voices in their own way within the safe and stimulating environment provided for them," explicated Naty Gabbay, a Stern College for Women senior and aspiring art therapist who interned at the camp this past summer.

CADDY Camp is centered on yoga based philosophy. "We felt that by combining creative arts with the beautiful teachings of yoga that children would learn valuable techniques, that they could use during CADDY Camp, as well carry them into their lives

outside of Caddy Camp," explained Siegal. The yoga philosophy also stresses the importance of participation for the purpose of enjoyment rather than the end-product. "Learning a skill is not about becoming an expert," said Gabbay. "It is about focusing on the process of learning the skill." For example, some children may discover through an exercise that s/he is more comfortable taking risks than s/he thought. "The important thing is what you learn about yourself and others," she reiterated. "Every step of a lesson at CADDY has this underlying principle in mind."

As an intern, Gabbay was given the freedom to create her own lesson plans for the art element of the camp. "Nancy is always open to new possibilities and new ways to develop the program further," she remarked. One lesson she promoted through art was the idea of exploring who you are as an individual by pinpointing your personal strengths, and then realizing how those traits fit into the broader framework of a larger group. After a discussion that involved self-

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Jewish Campus News Hits the Web

BY ABBY ATLAS

Everyone knows the feeling of opening their new mail folder online, only to find thirty or forty mass e-mails that were sent to the entire Stern College for Women (SCW) student body. Most people proceed to delete the majority of these e-mails, lacking the time and energy to read each one, proving that even in a Jewish college it is hard to be up-to-date on current campus news. Imagine then, how hard it must be in another non-denominational institution, for a Jew on campus to keep up with their university's "Jewish news."

Professional journalist Steven I. Weiss acknowledged this problem and had a vision, which he put into action two years ago, to prevent such ignorance. He wanted to set up campusj, a website for Jewish students on various college campuses. Weiss's goal was to not only "provide comprehensive coverage of Jewish news on campus," but also to train and provide "opportunities to the next generation of Jewish journalists."

To achieve this, Weiss searched for budding journalists on various college campuses, including institutions like Columbia University, New York

University (NYU), and McGill University, who were willing to take on the challenge of being the representative of their respective school. Each of these representatives was charged with the responsibility of writing a news blog each day to be posted on the campusj website, www.campusj.com. Students can write about anything from "anti-Semitism on campus to a new Jewish professor," explained Perel Skier, a sophomore who is the SCW student representative.

Weiss chose to have the students report the news in blog form for two reasons. First of all, writing in blog form allows the student writers to develop technique and hone skills in the new methodologies of the media. Additionally, anyone with interest is free to respond to a blog in the form of a comment which can either be added directly to the post or be submitted as an entirely new post. Blogs allow for what Weiss calls "interactivity" among students, and he deems this communication between them to be, "one of the greatest aspects of our publication."

In addition to the response that a student reporter gets from his or her peers, Weiss also provides feedback. According to Skier, Weiss edits each piece of

writing and provides useful suggestions of how to improve one's reporting, noting interesting vantage points to consider and raising good interview questions. Though Skier just started reporting for campusj this year, she is already beginning to notice improvements in her journalistic abilities. Also, because she is responsible to post a blog each day, Skier is now, more than ever, attuned to what is happening on campus. "In my opinion," she said, this heightened sense of awareness "is an achievement."

Weiss exclaimed that it is "truly a wonder" to be able to watch his reporters' writing skills improve over time. The success of the site has motivated him to expand campusj, recruiting representatives from more schools and hiring a new associate editor, Rivka Bukowsky, who was previously a campusj reporter herself. The expansion has also allowed Weiss to provide the reporters with a small stipend.

Raising the next generation of quality Jewish reporters is no small undertaking. However, Weiss's dedication to the task and his progress up until now indicates that his site will continue to develop and thrive.

Murray Hill Market Upgrades

BY JACKIE FAST

The Murray Hill Market, with its colorful awning and vibrant storefront, stands out on the corner of Lexington Ave, between 33rd and 34th Streets. Although the space has been virtually vacant for an entire year, there are now signs of life on this bustling corner located directly between the 245 Stern College for Women (SCW) building and the 215 Sy Syms School of Business building of the Beren Campus.

The Murray Hill Market is a cute grocery store and deli with a wide variety of both cooked foods and packaged items. By midtown standards, it has a well-stocked produce section as well. Aside from its extensive flower assortment on the street side, the market's most noticeable feature is its array of ready-to-eat breakfast foods, including personal-size cereals, individual cups of yogurt, and hot drinks of every variety.

Mr. Young Kim, manager of the Murray Hill Market, reported that the shop opened two weeks before Labor Day, right around the time the fall semester began at SCW. The market had rented its storefront for over a year and had been actively renovating the facilities in anticipation of its opening. According to Kim, business is especially busy during the corporate lunch hour. "There are a lot of people who live on the block, a lot of people in the neighborhood," he said. "Although a lot of people work nearby as well, we mostly see residents." The market also has a catering service but it is not in high demand.

And while it is charming in its own right, Murray Hill Market is up against stiff competition. Within a two block radius of 34th Street and Lexington Avenue, there are a plethora of grocery market options. For example, Gristedes, located on 32nd Street and 3rd Avenue, a colossal supermarket by midtown Manhattan standards, is just a block away.

Another rival store is the Greenleaf Gourmet Market, located on the corner of 34th

Street and Park Avenue, which has a flower selection of greater variety and value. One would be hard-pressed to find another flower shop where two-dozen fresh roses in any color imaginable are only ten dollars.

However, while the flower section at Murray Hill Market may seem soft compared to Greenleaf's, the new market seems surprisingly well-prepared to handle the competition. With its sparkling counters and bargain hot lunch dishes, all of which are under six dollars, some of the neighbors may be drawn in. Although this may appeal to the SCW student considering how much cheaper the prices are than the ones in the cafeteria, the prepared foods at Murray Hill Market are not kosher.

Whether the new market will beat out the competition for SCW students' business remains to be seen. "I might buy flowers or fruit there," said one sophomore, who admitted that its proximity to the school buildings was convenient. Other students, however, expressed concern about the prices. "I used to go to Greenleaf Gourmet, but now that I'm living in Schottenstein, I'm at a loss," said senior Yael Sussman. "I tried Gristedes once, but it was too far away, and now I've bought fruit at the new market on the corner, but I think they're more expensive." Others, who prefer variety over proximity, favor Gristedes because it is easily the largest food store in the neighborhood.

However, in reality, most SCW students only shop sparingly at the existing grocery stores, preferring to go to Milner's and the C-Store to attend to late-night cravings. Many students polled for this article had not even noticed that the new store opened up at all. But even if the women at SCW never flock to the Murray Hill Market, they should nonetheless be very pleased to see that their walk between school buildings is just a bit more picturesque now, with a sparkling new market taking the place of a long-vacant building.

WRITE FOR FEATURES
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Walking Beyond 34th Street

BY JACKIE FAST

Walking Beyond 34th Street features a walking tour itinerary in Manhattan and topical selections of fun excursions that are typically free.

Walking Trip Number One: Lower Midtown to Greenwich Village, starting on Madison Avenue near Stern College for Women and passing Madison Square Park, Gramercy Park, and Union Square.

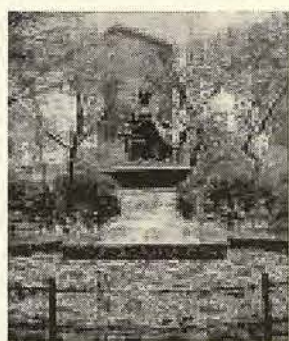
Right now, before the weather gets too lousy and the days get too short, is the perfect time to get out and explore the most beautiful outdoor locations in the city. This issue's column will focus on pleasant outdoor sites, with a number of parks and other notable landmarks.

This walk takes roughly an hour, and twice as long if you retrace your steps back to SCW. However, you could easily stretch it out to a full-day excursion if you wish to linger at the locations listed below.

1. Begin by walking down Madison Avenue. On your right, you'll pass the American Academy of Dramatic Arts at 30th Street. It's in a really pretty building, and it is worth trying to peek inside. One block downtown is the Hotel Carlton at 29th Street, one of Midtown's most beautiful buildings when lit up at night. Even during the day it is gorgeous, with its combination of brick and molded details. It looks like it came out of Europe.

2. Continue walking down another two blocks. Now you're approaching Madison Square Park, the site of the Madison Square Garden arena until 1925. Interestingly, the park was there

first. At the turn of the 20th century, this district was the financial center of New York, and the century-old skyscrapers serve as evidence of the area's illustrious past. At 27th Street is the New York Life Insurance building with a gold pyramid at the top, and at 25th Street is the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company tower which has a gigantic clock-tower. When it was completed in 1909, the Metropolitan Life tower was the tallest building in the world. Both buildings still feel very grand today, especially if you stand in their colossal doorways. Another notable and beautiful building is the County Appellate



Madison Square Park

Court at 26th Street. This building cannot be missed and you'll know you're there once you see the classical pillars and sculptures of gods representing justice.

3. Sit down for a break at Madison Square Park (Madison and 23rd-26th streets), and enjoy the squirrels. While you're in the park, you should also check out the public sculptures that are usually very interesting, but tend to move around the park very frequently.

4. At the far corner of the park you'll find the triangular Flatiron Building, an architectural marvel considered on the skin-

ny side at only six-and-a-half feet wide. Proceed down Broadway (to the left of the Flatiron Building) until 20th Street.

5. Turn left onto 20th Street. On your right, before Park Avenue, you'll pass the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historical Park. The building is a very detailed replica of the house where Teddy Roosevelt grew up and is a real national part with rangers and everything. The museum has an admission fee of three dollars and is open five days a week from 9-5.

6. Proceed for another block down 20th Street until you arrive at Gramercy Park. The property that Gramercy Park rests on was originally a swamp; hence the name "Gramercy" which is Dutch for "crooked swamp." A man named Samuel Ruggles bought the park in 1822 and zoned residential lots surrounding it, which made for very valuable real estate. The park is the only private park in the entire city, and only the residents of the surrounding properties have the key to it. The only days when the park doors open to the public are Christmas Day, Yom Kippur, though it is unclear why, and one other day that changes every year. Instead of going in the park walk around it and enjoy the charming houses surrounding the perimeter. On the south side of the park (the right side if you've approached it from 20th), you will find a home that belonged to Harper of Harper Row Publishers. Author O. Henry also lived around the park but I have never found his exact house.

7. Speaking of O. Henry, you can pass the restaurant where he penned his most famous story, "The Gift of the Magi." Simply

find Irving Place on your right and turn down it. Pete's Tavern, complete with its historical plaque, will be on your left, at the corner of 18th Street.

8. Irving Place, originally designed by Samuel Ruggles, is named after Washington Irving, author of "Rip van Winkle" and friend of Ruggles. Irving never lived on this avenue, but in any case, proceed down it for three blocks until you reach 17th Street. Then bear right back towards Park Avenue to meet up with Union Square Park.

9. At the corner of 17th Street and Union Square East, you'll pass the building of the New York Film Academy. This



Gramercy Park

building has another very important claim to fame: it was the final location of Tammany Hall, an organization that controlled Democratic Party politics in New York for most of the 19th century. The Tammany machine kept Democrats on city council and the senate through a mixture of bribery and violence, and was one of the most important forces in the history of New York politics. This was the last building to house Tammany Hall until it ceased to exist in the 1960s.

10. Forward and to your left should be Union Square Park, and if it's a Monday, Wednesday,

or Friday, you should see a gigantic Farmer's Market in front of you. Supposedly, over 250,000 customers shop at the green market at Union Square each week and there is a stunning variety of organic products to consider. Even if it is not a market day, the park is still an interesting place to be. You'll always find street performers and vendors, and perhaps you'll chance upon a rally as Union Square is one of New York's most famous venues for public activism. Thanks to Fiorello LaGuardia there has been a decrease in drug-dealers and homeless people, and the park is a much safer place than it was even ten years ago. It is quite harmless during the day.

11. On the south side of the park, the building across 14th Street has some fascinating public art, including a dizzying screen with numbers flashing across it. If you're interested in what the numbers represent, the artist titled the work "Metronome," and one number counts up to midnight while the other one counts down to it. The numbers and the rest of the façade are meant to express the frenetic pace of city life. If it gives you a headache, you're in good company.

12. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, you could wend to your right in the direction of 5th Avenue and proceed a few more blocks downtown to Washington Square Park (5th Avenue and Waverly Place, which is approximately 7th street). But if you're done, you're at a very convenient place to call it a day. From here, you could easily catch the 6 train back to SCW or save two bucks and walk back.

A Call to Action: Taking Responsibility for the Situation in Darfur

BY SURI GREENWALD

Over sixty years have passed since the infamous time in Jewish history when six million Jews, along with many gentiles, were led to their deaths during the blatant episode of genocide now known as the Holocaust. After the atrocities of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party were publicized, the world was infused with a sense of "never again." Although many believe that much progress has ensued since that horrible period, this is not so. Such a spirit was short-lasting and it was only a matter of time before genocide would occur and history would repeat itself. The current genocide happening is in Darfur, Sudan and if nothing is done, it too will go unnoticed and continue.

About three years ago, a militant group in Sudan, commonly referred to as the Janjaweed, received government support for its operation in fighting the

Sudanese Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/SLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). The Janjaweed, made up primarily of members of Arab ethnicity, uses methods such as rape, expulsions, and outright murder to quiet these "rebel" movements from voicing their requests to the Sudanese government. The Janjaweed's targets are the civilians who support these "rebels."

In May of 2006, an agreement was forged between the government of Sudan and parts of the opposing forces, although some factions of the rebel forces did not participate. The agreement mandated the Janjaweed army to stop using its forces to discontinue the aforementioned atrocities, and demanded that the rebel forces stop fighting.

Yet, the fighting continues to escalate and there is no sign of any future peace. A similar resolution adopted in 2004 was also ignored. Civilians are still being

attacked and aren't receiving the aid that they need since aid workers are being assaulted as well. The African Union (AU) in Darfur is supposed to be protecting the aid workers and helping to uphold the cease-fire agreements, but they are only required to protect civilians in "clear and present danger." They also don't have enough weapons, and therefore cannot be effective in controlling the situation. In response, the U.N. wanted to send a U.N. mission to Sudan, but Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir is unwilling to permit a U.N. invasion of that nature.

Over 450,000 Sudanese are now dead, leaving over two million people displaced from their homes and over three million reliant on outside aid. These numbers are astounding. But feelings of helplessness in regards to the situation are counter-productive. Sending aid does not seem useful since those who need it are not likely to receive

much. Also, practically speaking, Americans cannot just pick up a gun and go fight to defend the victims.

Fortunately though, there is something that can be done. The Holocaust, although integral to keep the memory alive, is in the past and cannot be atoned for. What's done was done. But today, efforts can be made to help put an end to the carnage now taking place in Darfur. People are capable of raising awareness of the situation. The public needs to know the facts. The government needs to hear our voices.

To accomplish this and to end the mass murder, rallies and informative sessions being held all over the city. One educational event was recently held in Queens. Among the sponsors were the Forest Hills Jewish Center, The Westchester Darfur Coalition, and Brooklyn Parents for Peace. Although the event was free of charge, any donations went towards aid funds for the

situation. Ruth Messinger, President of Jewish World Service, discussed her recent trip to Darfur and relayed basic facts about the circumstances there. Other notable speakers were Daowd Salih, a refugee from Darfur, and Congressman Anthony Weiner. Another event was held in Central Park on September 17. The rally and musical performances that went on were another attempt to display American support and raise awareness for the victims in Sudan.

These are just a few of the many ways to get involved in the situation at hand. Remember that any effort is worth it. Standing back and being passive won't get humanity anywhere. Be proactive and give true meaning to the words "never again."

THE ISRAEL SECTION

Two Stories, One Message

BY NINA BURSKY-TAMMAM

A month ago, two days after the tumult of war had somewhat quieted down by way of the ceasefire in Israel, two distressing articles appeared in the Jerusalem Post. The two articles could easily have shared one title. The message each conveyed was essentially one and the same. Their subjects, however, could not have differed more.

The first article told the story of three Israeli brothers: Zohar, Yonatan, and Itamar Shapira. The brothers grew up in a family that instilled in them a sense of duty and commitment to defending their country, and they fulfilled this duty while serving in some of the most elite units in the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). Yet, during this past summer's Operation Change of Direction in Lebanon, all three were virulently opposed to participating in the war. In fact, Itamar, a 26-year old paratroop engineer who fought in Lebanon during his mandatory army service in the years leading up to the 2000 pull-out, refused to take part in the war and was sent to military prison for close to a month. "From the very beginning of this operation, the IDF's response was immoral," Yonatan said in the article. "Right away they bombed civilian targets - the airport in Beirut, oil storage facilities, roads, neighborhoods. They turned a million people into refugees."

The frequency of this opinion was minimal, and the

majority of Israelis supported this war, considering it to be a "war of survival." But the article pointed to a consistent trend of draft resistance among some extreme left-wing IDF reservists. The Shapira brothers and others are among the leftist groups who refuse to enter into the territories.

The second article, intriguingly juxtaposed beside the story of the Shapira's, was about a group of people diametrically opposed to the dovish IDF insubordinates. The article relates the legend of what happened in June of 1974, a legend all too familiar to followers of Rav Tzvi Yehuda Kook's philosophy. Yona Efrat, the central region commander at the time, approached Rav Kook as he stood with a hundred or so settlers on forbidden territory in Samaria in an attempt to spark "a renaissance of Jewish settlements" there. Efrat announced to Kook, "I've been ordered to evacuate you," to which Rav Kook answered, "There are some orders you simply don't obey." Upon Efrat's insistence the rabbi finally agreed to leave, walking side by side with the commander off the site.

This story has been retold countless times by followers of Rav Kook, each with his own interpretation of what the rabbi's actions meant. There are those who choose to emphasize the power and finality of his words, that "there are some orders you simply don't obey," while others insist that Rav Kook's ultimate consent to coop-

erate and leave the illegal premises is the most significant detail of the story.

The implications of this dispute came to the fore before the evacuation of Yamit (which took place shortly after Rav Kook's death in 1982) and during the implementation of the Oslo Accords, but most prominently last summer before and during the disengagement from Gaza. In the words of the article, "What Kook said to Efrat is not just a legend, it is a teaching, a precedent, say his followers, and it sheds light on what Kook would have said about insubordination or conscientious objection if he were alive during the evacuation of Jewish settlements from Gaza and Northern Samaria. It reveals, they say, what Kook would have advised those religious IDF soldiers who were ordered to take part in the expulsion of Jews during disengagement."

By far the most fascinating and convincing interpretation of Rav Kook represented in the article was that of Rav Shlomo Aviner. He is Rav Kook's most senior student who opposed calling for mass insubordination during the disengagement from Gaza, making him one of the more moderate rabbis opposing the Disengagement. Rav Aviner made a point of distinguishing between legitimate and illegitimate forms of military disobedience. "There are certain military orders that contradict the

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A Message from Your President

BY RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

more enjoyable.

With fall semester in full swing, the many clubs on campus are finally settling into a routine. The Israel Club is no different. As a response to what occurred up north this summer, the Israel Club and the Yeshiva University (YU) student-run *tzedakka* organization L'maan Achai, are launching a campaign called "Schlep for Israel." The program involves collecting toys for children living in places that were affected by the recent war. There are three drop-off locations on the Beren Campus, one in each dorm, where students can leave their contributions. There are two additional drop-off locations on the Wilf Campus. It will then be up to YU students who are planning to visit Israel over Sukkot break to sign up and "schlep" these toys along with them. We are giving the toys to the organization Meir Panim who will then distribute them to those families they know are in need. The objective of this launch is to encourage more YU students to become active contributors to the people of Israel by directly supporting those who need our help.

The organization L'maan Achai will organize numerous other projects throughout the year in an effort to raise money for various organizations in Israel. For those thinking beyond Sukkot, the YU Israel Club is also hoping to run a mission to Israel over winter break. The idea behind the trip would be to help rebuild a community in the north that was damaged as a result of the fighting this past summer.

A newer initiative the Israel Club has taken up is "Shulchan Ivrit." The goal of this program is to create an informal setting where students will feel comfortable and be encouraged to speak Hebrew. We plan to have fun activities, games, discussion groups, and perhaps even an Israeli food cooking night, to make this learning experience

For those planning ahead, we will be conducting a number of other programs in the coming months. On October 31st at 8 p.m. on the Wilf Campus, Moshe Yaalon will be speaking. Yaalon served as the 17th Israeli Defense Force Chief of Staff from 2002 to 2005, and led the army's successful effort to quell the Palestinian terror war launched in September 2000. He has recently taken up a position at the Shalem Center in Israel as a Distinguished Fellow. Additionally, David Baker, senior foreign press coordinator for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, will be coming to campus to speak on the topic of "Israel's international media efforts - How is the Jewish state perceived around the Globe?"

We are also organizing an Aliyah Fair for the end of December. The fair will include representatives from Nefesh b'Nefesh, the Jewish Agency, Yavneh Olami, and a bunch of others. If you are interested in making aliyah after graduation, or even in ten years from now, this is the perfect opportunity to get answers to your questions and explore various options.

As I end off, I remind everyone that you can still get involved with the YU Israel Club by emailing me at Rose018@aol.com. Whether you are interested in L'maan Achai, Shulchan Ivrit, or any of the other initiatives and programs we will be establishing, we would love to have you. You can also visit our website, www.yuic.org, to learn about other ways to get involved. I look forward to seeing all of you at our events.

Israel Held to a Higher Standard

BY JENN SHULDINER

Although the conflict between Israel and Lebanon has ended, widespread criticism of Israel's war effort continues. Many claim that Israel used disproportionate force in its war with Hezbollah. Before dismissing this argument and labeling it as Anti-Semitic, it is imperative that we examine what actually happened and see if there is any truth to this claim.

The conflict between Israel and Lebanon began on July 12, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. While Katyusha rockets were being fired at military targets and bordering villages, a group of Hezbollah fighters entered Israel and attacked a patrolling vehicle leaving three soldiers dead and capturing two others. Subsequently, five more soldiers were killed on Lebanese soil while participating in a rescue mission to retrieve the captured soldiers.

During the course of the war, Hezbollah fired over 3,970 rockets, most of them aimed at civilian targets. They embedded their soldiers, missile launchers and munitions in civilian structures such as houses and apartment buildings. They used sophisticated weaponry such as Russian made anti-tank guided missiles which succeeded in destroying 14 Israeli main battle tanks. These missiles were also used to destroy buildings in which Israeli soldiers would take cover. Hezbollah attacked an Israeli ship, killing four sailors and forcing the ship to return to shore. In total, 159 Israelis were killed.

Israel inflicted major damage across Lebanon killing more than 850 Lebanese, the majority of them being civilians. Bombings destroyed major areas of Lebanese civilian infrastructure including the Beirut Airport, electrical facilities, 25 fuel station roads and bridges. Israel also maintained an air and sea block-

ade on Lebanon. The intent was to disrupt the communications and supply routes of Hezbollah.

Israel has been accused of practicing indiscriminate warfare. A 50 page report was recently published by the Human Rights Watch, "Fatal Strikes: Israel's Indiscriminate Attacks Against Civilians in Lebanon." This report analyzed two dozen cases of "Israeli air and artillery attacks on Lebanese civilians." It concluded that Israel's explanation that members of Hezbollah were hiding men and weapons among civilians was usually the case but was not a sufficient explanation for the amount of strength used by Israeli troops. They accused Israel of "consistently failing to distinguish between combatants and civilians."

There appear to be three key issues in this argument. Can an army destroy a country's civilian infrastructure to disrupt the

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Aliyah Tip

The Student Authority, a division within the Israeli Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, offers tuition grants for up to three years for undergraduate studies, including the pre-academic (Mechina) program, and for graduate studies, including a supplementary year if required. This grant is for tuition fees only and is not dependent on the student's financial or family situation.

(From the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption's website)

Netanyahu Addresses Large Crowd at NYU

SCW Students Inform On Israel

BY SIVAN KEREM

On September 7, close to one thousand people, most of who were college students from around New York City had the privilege of hearing former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu speak at New York University (NYU). The event was co-sponsored by Caravan for Democracy, an organization that brings a variety of speakers from Israel to address issues in the Middle East on college campuses across the country, and the Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life at NYU.

Netanyahu spoke about a variety of topics, but stressed the importance of speaking out against protesters, understanding the basis of the current conflict in Israel, and being aware of the danger the current war in Israel can cause the United States and the world at large. Appropriately enough, upon entering the venue Netanyahu was confronted by protesters who declared him and the State of Israel to be war criminals. Netanyahu refuted their argument by explaining that a war crime is when soldiers deliberately cross a border into civilian territory. While Hamas and Hezbollah do this continuously, Israel only stepped into the restricted areas when specifically targeting terrorists hiding amongst civilians.

A Chassidic Rebbe once told Netanyahu that when there is a chamber of complete darkness, all a person needs to do is light one candle and it will be seen from afar. Netanyahu relayed this message to the audience in an effort to urge them to speak out against protesters, light a candle, and "enter, act, and fight!" He explained that we have the state of Israel in order to defend ourselves but that defense is not only achieved through the use of weapons but also by lighting candles of truth.

The clash with the Palestinians, Hezbollah, and Iran, is not over peace, but over our existence and the existence of the West, explained Netanyahu. He insisted that the crowd realize that this war is "not just Israel's war. They hate Israel because of the West. Israel may be first, but Europe is next, and the United States is last." He believes that Iran, who has been supporting Hezbollah, is currently building long range missiles, not just to target Israel, but to target Europe, and ultimately, the United States.

Therefore, Netanyahu stressed that Americans need to unite in support of their government in its dealings with Iran, as he did with respect to the Israeli government, even if one is generally opposed to the actions of their government. Recalling the 1930s when the world was obliv-

ious to Hitler's power and as a result America did not get involved until it was too late, he stated that now, the danger is clear and imminent, and the American people can no longer remain passive. Yet, as Netanyahu said, the US "cannot lead without a follower," and therefore called on the audience to support President Bush and the United States government in whatever efforts they see fit in dealing with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Following his speech, Netanyahu answered prewritten questions from the audience. When asked about the current government in Israel and his views on their choice to lift the air and sea blockades in Lebanon, a dignified Netanyahu declined to answer, reiterating the importance of standing behind his government and supporting them, regardless of his personal opinion.

His message was heard loud and clear. Shira Lankin, a student at Stern College for Women said, "Netanyahu's speech forced me to realize how vital it is to unify with our countries and put aside all political differences, whether in Israel or America, to fight terrorism."

BY MARISA BASS

Being a Jew who lives outside of Israel is difficult for me, as I often feel as if there is nothing I can actively do to benefit those who live there. This is especially true when Israel finds itself to be in a time of crisis. While young men and women my age are fighting for their lives and facing constant dangers, I am sitting comfortably in college classrooms and enjoying the luxuries that Midtown Manhattan has to offer. It is unsettling to me, as I'm sure it is for many others, that all I can really do to feel connected is regularly check the Jerusalem Post homepage.

Recently, though, I have discovered that this is not completely true. Rachel Lichtenstein (SCW 08) was in Union Square when she witnessed a group of people protesting Israeli actions in the war with Lebanon. She was shocked by the abundance of misinformation being given to the public and was slightly relieved when she noticed an observant woman attempting to counter the protest by handing out flyers containing truthful facts about the situation in Israel. She decided that she would gather a group of women together to help this activist. With the help of her sister Elana, who works for American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), she made a couple hundred flyers

with facts concerning the situation in the Middle East and got about nine of us to go to Union Square the next week. "I thought it would be a fun way to get people to do something for Israel," said Lichtenstein. "People have a love for the land and don't have a way to express it. I thought that this would be a good way for them to get involved. So many people, Jews and non-Jews alike, are misinformed about the situation there, including myself. Therefore, I figured that this would give me a reason to learn the facts and teach them to other people as well."

Armed with Israeli flags and signs with statements such as "We Stand with Israel" and "Hezbollah Wants War, Israel Wants Peace", we headed over to Union Square. I quickly spotted the protestors, who were holding signs disapproving of Israel's "murderous" actions and asking that Israel stop waging war in order to allow for peace. The most disturbing thing was that one of them was holding a sign that read, "Jews for Peace." It was then that I realized these protestors were actually Jewish. We decided on a position ourselves right across the street from them and held up our signs proudly while passing flyers out to whoever would take them.

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We Must Be Heard

BY JACKIE SAXE

Yes, Israel was at war. Yes, it's very hard to watch the news and read articles about the tragic events that took place. Yes, there is something that we can all do to help.

Our friends and family in Israel are dedicating their lives to ensure the security and prosperity of the Jewish homeland. When speaking to them, they do not convey any feelings of fear regarding what they are doing or where they live. Ironically, it's the majority of Jewish Americans that are allowing themselves to be consumed with feelings of helplessness and hesitation. Israel cannot be viewed as a place just for vacations, bar mitzvahs, and weddings. We cannot just visit when we feel it is safe enough to be there. Israel must be seen for what she is. Not only is she the United States moral and democratic ally in the Middle East, but she is also the Jewish homeland, a place that will ensure that never again will a Jew have nowhere to go. Now is not the time to be turning away from Israel. Now, more than ever, we must move closer.

We are all aware of what silence can yield and powerlessness can bring. Just sixty years

ago we survived an annihilation attempt and after years of exile returned to Israel. Yet, the threat of our destruction still exists. President Ahmadinejad of Iran has made his intentions of wanting "to wipe Israel off the map" clear. The scariest part is that his country is not far from obtaining the nuclear capabilities to make such an ambition possible. This is not something to take lightly. Iran is behind Hezbollah and they both must be stopped.

This is where you come in. Many Jewish Americans, actually 99% of them, have no idea of the power they possess. They aren't aware of how much access they have to their representatives nor of the impact they can have upon them. Congressmen and senators want to hear from young people and, as I know from personal experience, they listen to what we say. If you were to contact and establish relationships with your representatives, you would be amazed at how influential you can be.

So now for the big question, what can we do?

1. Go to www.congress.org and find out who your elected officials are and how they have voted on bills regarding Israel.

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THIS MONTH IN ISRAEL

Board of Inquiry Established to Investigate the War with Lebanon

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert set up the commission which will be led from within the government by retired Justice Eliyahu Winograd. The board will have the power to subpoena witnesses and make recommendations for the dismissal of government officials.

Pope's Remarks Create Outcry

Pope Benedict XVI made a statement that shed a negative light on Islam and its leader Mohammed. While he has said that the statement was misunderstood, Muslims around the world have been infuriated by his remarks.

Rice and Livni Hold Talks at the GA

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Israeli Foreign Minister Tzippi Livni that the US will not put the Israeli-Palestinian issue on the same page as the Iranian nuclear issue.

France and Israel to Work Together on Stem Cell Research

The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa will work with the INSERM of France to develop further technology in stem cell research. The new center will bring French scientists to Israel and an Israeli scientist to France.

Israeli Psychiatric Care on the Move

Psychiatric healthcare now falls under the auspices of four public health funds rather than the auspices of the Health Ministry. It is now under the same realm of healthcare as physical maladies.

Rabbi Ovadia Yosef Recovering From Heart Surgery

Former Sephardic Chief Rabbi and head of the Shas Party, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, underwent surgery at Hadassah Ein Kerem to relieve an irregular heart function. He is currently recovering.

Writing Center Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

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dents' needs as best as possible. Special English as a Second Language (ESL) tutorials were added to accommodate SCW's numerous foreign students. The ESL tutoring sessions can focus on anything the student wants, from helping to improve the student's conversational skills, to working on their grammar and punctuation.

In addition, the Writing Center has added tutoring for the verbal sections of the MCAT and other graduate school entrance exams. Copies of old tests can be obtained there as well. Furthermore, students, particularly freshmen, who struggled with the English placement exam, will be happy to know that intensive tutoring sessions are now available specifically for them.

The center also hosts "Writer's Circles," group meetings for SCW's creative writers who wish to meet periodically to discuss their works of fiction or poetry. Writers come to contribute and hear others' ideas and to get feedback on their writing. They also acquire useful information regarding possible places to publish their work and on readings occurring in the New York area.

The Writing Center's servic-

es are completely free of charge, and are open to students from any of Yeshiva University's undergraduate programs and graduate schools, as well as to staff and faculty. The center welcomes writers of all levels, regardless of where they are up to in the writing process. According to its mission statement, its goal is to "help generate ideas, locate evidence, strengthen skills, consolidate conclusions, and untangle the snarls of thought and language every writer faces."

This year, the Writing Center hopes to encourage a "much greater usage...both by students and by teachers," said Dr. Ladin. Right now, unfortunately, "people think of the Writing Center as a place where you go when you have a problem. It isn't. At the Writing Center we are dedicated to making a place where everyone can receive encouragement, nurturing, and honest and constructive feedback."

He also believes that "teaching writing is one of the most important and most difficult and time-consuming tasks for a teacher at the college level," and he therefore urges all faculty to take advantage of the many resources being offered. Assistance is given for in-class presentations, specially designed handouts, consultation on the

design of effective writing assignments, and much more.

"Essentially we want to offer support to everyone at Stern, engaged in the growth of writers and the encouragement of writing," explained Dr. Ladin. Students can come in with virtually any writing assignment. Whether it's a standard essay for English Composition class, a research paper, or a personal statement for graduate school, the center is available and eager to help. It is open almost all day, from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, and students can either make appointments in advance or just drop in to see if anybody is free to work with them. Papers can also be submitted to the center via e-mail, and a tutor will generally get back to the writer within 24 hours.

A unique feature of the Writing Center is that students get to work individually with either Professor Hollow or one of the SCW students who work there as tutors. This year, the writing center employs nine SCW women from a variety of majors, some whom have been working there for a few years. The tutors are all specially selected, interviewed, and trained, and are required to attend periodic workshops to discuss the differ-

ent facets of writing and the tutoring process.

"The Writing Center has been blessed with an extraordinary group of dedicated, compassionate, articulate, and intelligent young women," Dr. Ladin remarked, "and it is a pleasure to foster their work and hear about their adventures in helping their fellow students' writing grow."

Dr. Ladin and Professor Hollow genuinely enjoy and value the work that they do and the experiences that they have at the Writing Center. "I love writing, and I love watching writers grow," said Dr. Ladin. "To me the process by which thoughts become words, and words inspire more and more probing thoughts is always miraculous."

Professor Hollow agreed. "I really enjoy tutoring students, watching them develop their ideas and get excited about writing," she commented. "I also enjoy the ongoing relationship with tutors- it's collegial, educational, and fun!"

The tutors feel the same way. "The Writing Center is not just about helping students improve their writing skills; it is about instilling a sense of excitement about the writing process in each person that comes in," explained Alexandra Weiser, an SCW senior. "I love to see those light bulb

moments when a student realizes that she is capable of taking her idea and putting it into words. I'm glad that I can play a part in building the confidence of each potential writer."

The Writing Center staff is excited about its milestone 20th anniversary and looks forward to planning some special celebratory events to take place later on in the year. An "open house" is already in the works for this semester. Stay tuned and look around campus for signs and announcements with details of upcoming events.

CJF Makes Amends with Enhanced Presence on Beren Campus

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Rabbi Brander. "She deserves a lot of credit for all of her hard work. Her talents were used to start up the process and there was no one better than her to do that. [However] once she had completed her goals in the CJF vis-à-vis the Beren Campus, she came to the conclusion that her talents were presently better directed elsewhere."

Dr. Hornstein's June departure indicated to the CJF that it yet again needed to expand its overtures to the students of SCW. If it were to provide equally accessible leadership opportunities for the undergraduate women and solicit their input regarding various programming, the CJF would need to situate members of its staff at the Beren storefront, in addition to hiring a full-time campus coordinator. The continual presence of the CJF at SCW would ensure that female students no longer felt relegated to the status of, in Rabbi Brander's words, "forgotten stepchild[ren]."

"The women of Stern/SSSB should not feel second class," emphasized Rabbi Moshe Bellows, director of Social and Organizational Leadership Training at the CJF. "It is up to the whole of YU, of which the CJF is a small part, to create this culture. We very much wish to

impress on them [that] they are equal players."

In fact, according to Rabbi Bellows, women outnumber men as participants of CJF-run training programs such as QUEST, Eimatai, Eima-beta, and Achshav. Each week, the programs alternate between the two campuses so that the students are duly accommodated. Numerous women have also attended the General Assembly Conference held annually by the United Jewish Communities and have partaken in other CJF-sponsored initiatives like Torah Tours.

The CJF has already stepped up efforts to create a more fluid dialogue with the undergraduate women by placing a cadre of officials at the new storefront on a rotating basis. Additionally, center officials have already begun the search for a full-time campus coordinator to direct all operations on the Beren Campus. According to Jordana Schoor, the executive director of the Orthodox Caucus and overseer of special projects at the CJF, a replacement for Dr. Hornstein will likely be hired after the *sukkot* break. In the interim,

Schoor has assumed all responsibilities entailed by the slightly modified position.

Due to her other professional obligations, Schoor is only able to dedicate one day a week to the Beren storefront. Her limited presence however, has not hindered her from developing an

extensive agenda of initiatives geared specifically to the students of SCW. Schoor's primary motivation is to equip the female undergraduates with the tools required for undertaking active and public roles within the Jewish community. She cited the glaring paucity of Orthodox women leaders as a major prob-

lem and has proposed a series of intensive seminars as a way of offsetting the disparity.

Participating women will be taught pragmatic skills such as public speaking and budgeting, which will prove to be resourceful in any community post. Schoor reiterated the CJF's commitment to the women of the Beren Campus and its endeavors to compensate for what could ostensibly be construed as a former attitude of indifference and detachment. "In our inaugural year, much more time was spent on the Wilf Campus and we felt the void of not connecting with Stern women," she said. "We are committed this year to

having our staff spend more time on the Beren Campus, using the creativity, energy, and power of Stern women to enhance the CJF and its programs with the larger Jewish community."

"We want the women of Stern to realize that we value who they are," emphasized Rabbi Brander. Rabbi Bellows con-

cluded. "The Beren and Wilf Campuses are two parts of a vibrant student body that benefits most when all are fully engaged and serviced," he said. "As such, we are committed to servicing YU students no matter on which campus they may be found, in an equal fashion."

The CJF appears to be keeping its word. With continuous staffing at the storefront, full-fledged advertising, and visits by key administrative officials, the CJF has been present on the Beren Campus since the academic year commenced. With such large scale efforts, a stronger CJF-SCW alliance, yielding benefits for both parties, looks increasingly promising.



Winning the P.R. War

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However, in the same statement, AI also took the opportunity to condemn Israel for "using excessive force" and "endangering disproportionately the lives of Palestinian civilians," and described Israeli "artillery shelling and air strikes in residential areas of the Gaza Strip" without mentioning the context of continued rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza, or the deliberate terrorist tactic of using civilians areas for protection.

These NGO statements are reminiscent of their reactions to the June 9th explosion on a Gaza beach that killed eight Palestinian family members. Many NGOs immediately assumed that Israel was responsible for the explosion, regardless of any evidence or investigative findings, and issued press releases accusing Israel of callously endangering and killing

Palestinian civilians. In the general din of condemnation, the various NGOs ignored the IDF's conclusion that Israel was not responsible for the explosion, or, in the case of HRW, dismissed it as being "partisan" and not credible. Other NGOs showed their politicized agendas when they rushed to accuse Israel of deliberately targeting civilians based on discredited media footage emanating from the PA.

As with the "Jenin massacre" myth, the ability of NGOs to make flagrant and widely accepted charges against Israel based on sloppy or non-existent evidence illustrates their political power to create history, despite their lack of internal accountability. To win the public relations war, supporters of Israel must look critically at NGO activities and hold them accountable for their politicized attacks and non-humanitarian agendas.

Media Portrays Dual Message

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basic moral principles of a nation and, therefore, cannot be obeyed," he explained. He expressed the hope that he had held before the expulsion of Jews from Gush Katif that so many soldiers would be morally incapable of obeying their orders that the government would be forced to back down from its plan. But by no means did he encourage an organized revolt as many other rabbis did. According to Rav Aviner, for this to be legitimate insubordination the majority of soldiers would have had to independently reach the conclusion that they could not obey orders to expel Jews from their homes in the Land of Israel. That "would have proved that loyalty to Jewish values, which are the foundation of our nation, took precedence over blind obedience to military orders," he remarked. "It would have strengthened us as a nation."

But instead, soldiers performed what Rav Aviner referred to as "blind execution of

orders without knowing why" and "acts of obedience." In contrast, ethical action, said Rav Aviner, involves judgment, choice and responsibility. Apparently, the Israeli army was not yet prepared to face such responsibility.

Rav Aviner's words of disappointment and the Shapira brothers words of disillusionment sound remarkably similar. For both extreme ends of the political spectrum, upholding moral justice is a necessity and an obligation. But that stage of which Rav Aviner dreamed, of an instinctive and unflagging moral guide within every Jewish individual, is a stage that our nation has yet to reach. Until that moral compass is well-developed in every individual, no amount of guidance from idealistic draft-resistors or rabbinic authorities can artificially create a sensitive and just Jewish people.

Pre-Health Advisement Raises Questions

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greater assistance. Dr. Loewy is no longer involved with students who are planning to pursue professions in occupational therapy, a field that was previously under only her jurisdiction. The occupational therapy department is now under the guidance Head Academic Advisor at SCW, Dr. Gail Gumora.

Another recent modification to the Pre-Health advisement department is the formation of a review committee to review pre-med students' applications. This committee will assess the file that Dr. Loewy compiles on the applicant, based on transcripts, recommendation letters, biographical information, and standardized test scores. This committee will consist of various professors who will be selected and rotated from time to time. With this new committee, a student could have another voice advocating on her behalf if there is a professor with whom she is acquainted sitting on the committee. However, a particular applicant could potentially have a professor whom she has never taken, reviewing her application and determining her level of qualification.

Students have therefore been expressing concerns regarding having this faculty committee comprised of members who are quite unfamiliar not only with them, but also with the credentials that dental and medical schools demand of applicants. Though not all students enduring the application process had Dr. Loewy as a professor, they nonetheless felt confident in Dr. Loewy's capabilities, knowing that this is her field of expertise. The induction of this new committee process is therefore rattling the sense of comfort and security that students previously felt in the Pre-Medical advisement, for they no longer feel they can necessarily rely completely on the advisement's knowledge and fluency in the pre-health fields.

Prior to the development of the committee Dr. Loewy and occasionally Dr. Potvin, pre-health advisor for Yeshiva College (YC), would meet with each student. Dr. Potvin explained that his role was to "come in for group meetings and help with recommendation letters to try to ease Dr. Loewy's burden." Dr. Loewy and Dr. Potvin would have students present an autobiographical sketch and on that basis, they would ask questions and try to get a better feel of the students. Dr. Loewy explained, "we also give them pointers on interviewing skills. This process helps me write the best recommendation letter possible."

According to Dr. Loewy, with regard to the new

system, "we decided over the summer, and I thought it would be nice to have the input of other objective committee members. Before we meet, I xerox everything in the file that I want them to know; the information that I know." This committee will thereupon meet with Dr. Loewy and the student, and hopefully provide positive input and advice so that the students can strengthen their applications. Dean Bacon commented that "the idea is to have more voices in the process. Ultimately the committee will advise Dr. Loewy in this process. They'll review the strengths and weaknesses of candidates. The committee will review Dr. Loewy's output. The committee is basically reading what the medical school will read."

A concerned student commented on the matter, "these are people who may not even know me. This committee will apparently look at my grades and my recommendations and then based on that, they will decide if I should be highly recommended, recommended or not recommended at all." It hardly seems fair to students that their futures are in the hands of individuals who are now going to be determining, based only on a brief interview and student records, how enthusiastically each student will be presented to the medical schools of their choice. Students have expressed, that it is one thing for members of a medical school acceptance committee to assess the student and reach their own conclusions for better or worse. But for a student to receive a potentially poor recommendation from a review committee that is supposed to be advocating on their behalf simply because the committee members are unacquainted with the student, is quite another. Students are concerned that this may negatively effect their chances for admission instead of assist them

Dr. Loewy responded, "students are completely misunderstanding. It is completely to their advantage." Even with a committee that doesn't know the students, "I think it is to their advantage. After reviewing their information, they can point out strengths as well as weaknesses. I will take their suggestions and go back to the applicant and tell them how to strengthen their application."

As for the Pre-Health department, this is Dr. Gumora's first experience working with students pursuing degrees in occupational therapy. Dr. Gumora has spent numerous hours building her knowledge of requirements that students must fulfill prior to applying to graduate school. Dr. Gumora has spent much time meeting with students and helping them decide if this is

the field they truly wish to pursue. While Dr. Gumora admittedly does not know so much about the field, she expressed that she is "learning and it's exciting. I like helping the young women think about their careers."

Dr. Loewy explained that the decision to sign on Dr. Gumora was a "matter of sheer numbers. Our student body is getting very big and our numbers going into the sciences are exponentially growing. The numbers couldn't allow me to see people and people were frustrated that they had to wait to get appointments." Dr. Gumora was specifically assigned to students interested in occupational therapy because according to Dr. Loewy "it has, with respect to requirements, fewer sciences. Its emphasis is on psychology which is Dr. Gumora's specialty."

While students are not calling into question Dr. Gumora's outstanding credentials and capabilities, they are wondering why exactly this change was executed and further, why they were not informed of it. According to one student, "I am pre-health and have pretty much had lots of support from Dr. Loewy. She provided great guidance and was also someone just to bounce ideas off of. I really felt like she knew my strengths and my abilities as a student. I understand that Stern can change who advises for majors, but I would have really appreciated being notified about the changes instead of finding out on my own and therefore being the first one to inform everyone else- much to their dismay." One student also expressed concern about her recommendation letter. Due to Dr. Loewy's departure from the occupational therapy advisement, this student and many others feared that their recommendation letters would fall under the jurisdiction of Dr. Gumora who may be well qualified, but is neither well acquainted with the students or with the profession. Dr. Gumora herself expressed, "I have not done letters because I don't know the students. I don't think I'm the person to do that. I don't see myself at this point writing recommendations because I don't teach the students in a formal class."

These changes to the Pre-Health departments have not only generated new questions, but they have also reignited old complaints and concerns regarding the overall protocol of both the advisement of and preparation for pre-health students at SCW. Students feel as if they are being discouraged from pursuing their fields of choice based on their grades. Students understand that some are more qualified than

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SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Solar System Shake-up: What Happened to Pluto?

BY RACHEL-ALI ELBAZ

Throw away the posters of the solar system that decorated the bedroom walls of your youth. After decades of discussion, and a short period of brief and sometimes bitter debate, astronomers from the International Astronomical Union (IAU) have voted for the removal of Pluto's planetary status. In fact, they have completely reclassified the solar system.

The parts of the solar system can now be defined as three separate and distinct categories. The first is a planet. A planet is a celestial body that orbits the Sun, has enough mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (an almost round shape), and has cleared objects around its orbit. The second category is that of dwarf planet. This is a celestial body that orbits the sun, is almost round in shape, but has not cleared its orbit path. Additionally, dwarf planets are not satellites. The third category of our solar system includes all other objects except satellites. These objects are called "small solar system bodies."

Our solar system now has eight planets, a minimum of three dwarf planets and thousands upon thousands of "small solar system bodies," such as comets and asteroids. Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune are the eight planets. Pluto, Ceres, a large asteroid, and an object named UB 313 have been awarded the status of dwarf planet. They orbit an area called the Kuiper Belt, an area of icy debris that lies beyond Neptune.

While this new classification system makes perfect scientific sense, it also involves many human emotions and the culture of two generations. The scientific community was aware that Pluto was different from the moment of its discovery in 1930. It was much smaller than the other planets. In fact, Pluto is smaller than



our moon and 400 times less massive than earth itself. Additionally, it has an elongated orbit that is tilted and goes inside the orbit of Neptune for approximately 20 years of its 248 year orbit around the Sun.

The process that resulted in the ousting of Pluto's planetary status has filled a void in the discipline of astronomy. Prior to the clear classification of objects in our solar system, there were no basic tests or qualifications that objects were required to meet in order to be admitted to the "cosmic" world. There are two ways to define a planet. One is to define it in terms of its neighbors and the interactions it has with the environment. This type of definition would entail selecting dominant bodies in the solar system whose gravity perturbs one another. Not only does the sun hold the planets in orbit, but each planet attracts the other. Isaac Newton used this idea to develop the concept of universal gravita-

tion. In the case of Pluto, while Neptune does attract it, Pluto is too light to have the same effect on Neptune. The second way to define a planet is based on the properties of the body itself. Basically, this method states that if a body is massive enough, and with enough self-gravity to form itself into a ball, it may be called a planet. If this definition would have been used, our solar system would now have at least twelve planets. The additional four planets would have been Pluto, UB 313, Ceres and Pluto's moon Charon.

While there was much confusion over the definition of a planet and other objects in our solar system, it must be said that the IAU worked tirelessly to come up with a definition. The decision to place Pluto in the category of a dwarf planet can withstand the greatest scientific scrutiny. In fact, Pluto is a good match with the other ice balls located in the dark corridors that lie beyond Neptune. While the decision to officially remove Pluto from the list of planets was a shock for many, it was a long time coming.

Astronomy is a continually developing science. This reclassification of our solar system not only impacts the scientific community, it also has a cultural and economic impact. For example, books must be edited and toys must be re-designed. It is important to note that progress and academic advancement requires change. This is not always easy or comfortable for the individuals that find themselves in the midst of change, but it is necessary if science and thought are to continue to advance and develop.

HPV SCREENING SAVES LIVES

BY SHANA MAIKHOR

Human papillomaviruses (HPVs) are a group of more than seventy different types of viruses. They are given numbers to distinguish them and can be transmitted through sexual intercourse. HPVs six and eleven may cause genital warts, but are called "low risk" because they are not associated with cervical cancer.

Some types of HPVs are linked to cervical cancer, particularly numbers 16, 18, 30 and 33. This association is so strong that scientists who study this area think that the very small number of cervical cancers that test negatively for HPV have come about because there was a problem with the HPV testing and not because the infection was absent.

On the other hand, many women who are infected with high risk HPVs do not go on to develop cervical cancer. There are other factors, such as smoking, that influence whether a woman will develop cervical cancer. Women who smoke and have a high risk HPV infection are more likely to develop cervical cancer. It is important to remember that regular cervical screening will detect abnormal cervical cells before they become cervical cancers. With proper screening cervical cancer can be prevented.

The National Health Service (NHS) is undertaking a pilot study to try to find out whether HPV testing on a wide scale would help the cervical cancer screening process. Women who test positive for a high risk strain of HPV may be more likely to need treatment for borderline or

mildly abnormal cervical smears. At the moment, a mildly abnormal cervical smear indicates that the patient may need to have a colposcopy. A colposcopy is a diagnostic tool used to determine the cause of abnormalities that can be found in a pap smear. This test is a visual examination of the cervix. It is a simple and painless procedure performed at the physician's office. The procedure takes between fifteen and twenty minutes. Alternatively, the doctor may ask the patient to return in six months for a second smear. If the abnormality is still present then the colposcopy would be necessary.

The HPV can be latent. Latent viruses are present but inactive. It is possible for someone to have been infected at some point in the past and for the virus to be dormant. Viruses can remain dormant for years. Most HPV infections disappear without treatment, as the body's immune system fights the infection. However, it is important for women to undergo procedures to screen for HPV because if active it can be deadly.

New Research Suggests Autism Link to Father's Age

BY ESTHER FISCHER

Autism, and its various forms, has long been recognized as the result of a neurological disorder affecting the normal functioning of the brain, especially in areas pertaining to social skills and communication. Severity of the disorder can range from social awkwardness (Asperger's), to severe low-functioning autism, where the patient needs round-the-clock care.

There are a handful of different theories regarding the causes of the disorder; however, a recent study of Israeli Jews may hold clues to the answer. On September 4, 2006, the Archives of General Psychiatry published a study by researchers at Columbia University and several Israeli institutions including Hebrew University and the Chaim Sheba

Medical Center. The study focused on 130,000 Israeli Jews born in the 1980s who were being recruited to the army. The study found that those fathered by men over the age of 40 were almost six times more likely to suffer from autism or related disorders as compared to those fathered by men under the age of 30. The mother's age at childbirth seemed to have little impact.

According to Craig Newschaffer, professor and chairman of epidemiology and biostatistics at the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia, there are at least two explanations for this phenomenon. Firstly, as men age, their sperm undergo mutations that, when combined with the egg, may give rise to disorders such as autism. The second explanation is that older men who are carriers of genes responsible

for autism are, for some unknown reason, more likely to pass along those genes as compared to younger men.

The study was based on biographical information collected by Israeli army recruiters on young men and women. Although most consider the study strong, carefully designed, and valuable due to its strict parameters, some disagree. Dr. Fred Volkmar, Harris Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry, Pediatrics, and Psychology at the Yale Child Study Center, says that the results are inconclusive, as the study did not consider if the fathers themselves suffered from autism. Additional studies also need to be conducted in order to rule out the possibility of an ethnic bias.

The interest in autism has risen as a result of the increasing number of children diagnosed with the disorder. In the 1960s,

one out of 2,000 patients was identified as having autism. Today, approximately one out of every 166 people is diagnosed with it. There is widespread debate over the cause of this. Are there really more individuals with this disorder, have the numbers risen due to a broader definition of the disorder, or have they risen because of an increased awareness of the symptoms of the disorder.

Today, the prevailing theory is that autism is a genetic disorder, although claims have emerged that mercury-containing vaccines are to blame. This latter suspicion has not received any evidence in research studies. Autism is more common in boys than in girls, and symptoms include repetitive behaviors such as head-banging, avoiding eye contact, and communicating in gestures rather than in words. It is

usually diagnosed within the first three years of life. Doctors look for specific indications such as an inability of the child to communicate by babbling or gesturing by 12 months, no single-word utterances by 16 months, and loss of language or social skills at any age. Different screening tests such as the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) can be used as a diagnostic tool.

This study on autism has opened up the field of research into what effect the father's age has on the health of a child. Although the results from this study are not considered conclusive, it has raised a lot of questions and has put the focus on a new and promising field of research.

Studies Show an Increase in Diabetes Diagnosis

BY GRACE CHARLES

Diabetes is a disease that currently affects 16.2 million Americans. The number is currently on the rise. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta estimates that by the year 2050, 12 % of Americans will be suffering from diabetes. That translates to 48.3 million people! Even worse, that number may actually go even higher if our nation's obesity rate continues to increase.

Diabetes is defined by the body's inability to produce or properly use insulin. Insulin is a hormone that facilitates the conversion of sugar, starches and other foods into energy for the body's everyday use. Insulin causes the cells of the body to become permeable to glucose so it can then enter the cells and act as a source of fuel for them. This hormone plays a huge role in one's health and general well-being. When the body's natural reaction to the digestion of these carbohydrates is thrown off, it can have dire consequences on the individual. While the cause of diabetes has yet to be clearly identified, genetics and environmental factors such as obesity and lack of exercise seem to take part in it.

There are two major types of diabetes, Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is marked by the body's failure to produce insulin. Approximately 5-10% of Americans who are diagnosed with diabetes have Type 1 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is the result of insulin resistance and a relative deficiency in insulin. At such a stage, the cells of the body do not respond as they should to insulin's signals for them to allow glucose to permeate and enter through their membrane. Most Americans with diabetes are diagnosed as Type 2 diabetics.

In the current edition of *Diabetes Care*, Dr. K.M. Venkat Newman and his Centers for Disease Control colleagues write, "If incidence rates continue to rise, the consequent healthcare costs will be devastating." This epidemic will cause people to lose much of their earnings to healthcare-related costs and specialty food products.

Researchers add that diabetics from 65 to 74 years of age will more than triple by 2050. For even older citizens, the number will at least quintuple. The minority breakdown forecasts the number of white diabetics to double, the number of African American diabetics to triple, and the number of Latino diabetics to increase by a factor of six.

Individuals who exercise regularly and who maintain a healthy weight have the lowest risk of falling prey to Type 2 diabetes. New research reveals even greater depth about how to prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes. The general advice is to do at least half an hour of moderate exercise five days a week, and to cut down on foods high in fat and/or sugar.

You can protect yourself and those you care about from this life-long illness. The internet has many resources filled with the most up-to-date information on preventing diabetes. The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) has set up the "Game Plan" program to help Americans slim down, get in shape, and stay or become healthy. The NDEP also has information on maintaining a healthy weight, eating the right types of foods that your body can handle, and on calculating your risk for diabetes. Check out the "Game Plan" and many others programs at <http://ndep.nih.gov>.

Generic Drugs Cause Controversy

BY YUDIT DAVIDOVITS

Clot formation is an essential part of the body's defense mechanism. Platelets stick together to form a clot in the presence of a cut. Unfortunately, platelets will form clots as a response to the breakup of plaque, caused by a buildup of cholesterol in the walls of arteries. This clot may be responsible for limiting, or even stopping the flow of blood to the heart or to the brain, resulting in a heart attack or stroke respectively. Plavix, or clopidogrel bisulfate, is an antiplatelet agent that acts by inhibiting the adenosine diphosphate receptor on platelet cell membranes by binding to it. Blocking this receptor, named P2Y12, is important in inhibiting the glycoprotein IIb/IIIa, an integral membrane protein that has the ability to bind fibrinogen and other blood glycoproteins responsible for platelet clotting.

Plavix is sold as pink, round, coated tablets containing 97.875 mg of clopidogrel bisulfate. The tablets also contain hydrogenated castor oil, hydroxypropylcellulose, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose and polyethylene glycol 6000 as inactive ingredients. While Plavix is marketed under Bristol Myers-Squibb, and Sanofi-Aventis, its generic form, clopidogrel bisulfate is marketed by the large Canadian generic pharmaceutical company Apotex.

Plavix is the second best selling drug in the world, used by nearly 50 million Americans resulting in four billion dollars in annual sales in the U.S. alone.

The FDA requires generic drugs to have the same quality, strength, purity, and stability as their brand name versions. They have the same effects and risks as the brand name version, but trademark laws prevent generic drugs from looking exactly like their brand name counterpart. Generic drugs are less expensive, because they do not require the investment costs of research, development, marketing, and promotion that a new drug requires. The company that developed the brand name drug is given a patent protection that prohibits competitors from selling their version of the drug. Patents last about 20 years after which competitors can sell generic versions after approval by the FDA.

Apotex has been battling Bristol-Myers and Sanofi-Aventis for the past four years, arguing that the patent that protected competitors from selling Plavix was no longer valid, and that the lower prices of a generic version would allow more people to use the life saving drug. The company began selling its product August 8, 2006 after negotiations fell through that would have resulted in holding off selling the

product until 2011 if Bristol-Myers and Sanofi-Aventis agreed to pay Apotex 40 million dollars. The generic version sold for 20% less than the brand name, and within days it had control of more than 75% of the market. Apotex predicted that within six months the company would make as much as 2 billion dollars in sales, twice the company's annual sales.

Apotex has shipped about 300 million tablets, enough to last until the end of the year. A recent ruling in the dispute prevents Apotex from producing any more pills until the case concludes, but does not require Apotex to recall the pills already shipped. The general public needs to become aware of the availability of a cheaper form of Plavix and the feuding that prevents its widespread distribution. It is also important to recognize that if generic drug companies are continuously successful in fighting patents, it may hinder pharmaceutical companies from investing the necessary funds to produce new life saving drugs. These acknowledgments will hopefully result in action that focuses less on the needs of big businesses and more on the quality of life of real people.

Aspirin Exhibits Positive Health Benefits

BY ELANA MEYERSDORF

The New York Times recently reported on a new study that reveals the benefits of aspirin in reducing prostate enlargement. Prostate problems, such as benign prostatic hyperplasia, affect one quarter of all men between the ages of 40 and 50. By the age of 70, almost half of the male population is affected. Researchers at the Mayo Clinic determined that the risk for developing an enlarged prostate was reduced by 50% in men who took aspirin on a regular basis. Low dosages of aspirin seem to be sufficient to lower the risk for not only prostate cancer, but for additional cancers and diseases as well.

The name aspirin is actually a trade name (coined by Bayer) of the chemical acetylsalicylic acid; although today it is used as a generic term. It is synthesized through the reaction of acetic anhydride with salicylic acid. Aspirin not only has the ability to relieve pain, but also to act as an antipyretic (lowers fever) and an anti-inflammatory agent. It was named by combining the "a" of acetylated salicylic acid and the "spir" of *spiraea*, the Latin name for meadowsweet flowers, while *in* is known as a common drug ending. In an alternate version in the development of aspirin's

nomenclature, the *as* of acetylated salicylic acid was combined with the "pi" from Raffaele Piria, one of the scientists who isolated the compound in its crystalline form.

The actual synthesis of aspirin took place in 1853, and was done by French chemist Charles Frederic Gerhardt. Felix Hoffman, a researcher at the German based company Friedrich Bayer and Co., continued the work of acetylation, and in 1899, the new "wonder drug," Aspirin, was patented. While aspirin was commonly known as a painkiller, no one knew how it actually worked until 1971, when Sir John Robert Vane started on the research. For this research, he received both the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and knighthood in 1982. Aspirin, he discovered, suppresses the production of prostaglandins within the body. Prostaglandins are hormone-like substances found in almost every body tissue and fluid. They play vital roles in the sensation of pain. Aspirin prevents the production of these pain-sensing compounds and thus, relieves the symptoms that they detect, such as fever, swelling or inflammation.

Aspirin also prevents the formation of thromboxanes, derived from prostaglandins, and are vital in the platelets' ability to initiate

blood clotting.

The prevention of blood clotting produces aspirin's best and worst qualities. Insufficient numbers of platelets can lead to gastrointestinal bleeding or a hemorrhagic stroke. On the other hand, aspirin's prevention of platelet formation can forestall heart attacks. This beneficial use of aspirin was noted by Dr. Lawrence Craven in 1948, who recommended "an aspirin a day" to prevent cardiovascular disease. The heart attacks that aspirin is most adept at preventing are those caused by internal blood clots that prevent blood from reaching the heart. Ironically, Bayer's early twentieth century aspirin advertisements read, "Does not affect the heart." However, as research continued on the drug, its positive effects were realized.

In 1999, aspirin was inducted into the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. As evidenced by the recent study of Dr. Lieber, its induction has not stopped scientists from continuing to explore and plumb the depths of aspirin's manifold benefits.

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Arts and Culture

The Reinvention of Film Noire?

BY TIKVA HECHT

It looks like Hollywood has decided to abandon revisions and musicals and has instead chosen to reincarnate another of its golden-era favorites: the film noir. With decadent drama, dark and stormy nights, turned up collars, hand-guns held with elbows bent at perfect ninety degree angles, and, of course, detectives, this genre of movies did exactly what movies were created to do: they entertained. They provided a rare rush, one that comes from pure fantasy parading around like an innocent toddler in three-inch stilettos.

Hollywood knows that movies today do not accomplish what they did fifty years ago. Audiences want entertainment, but they also want reality; they want to be fooled, they just do not want to be fooled by something they know is foolish. So Hollywood has responded with a wink-wink nod-nod approach to its new revival effort. "Hollywoodland," the feature film directorial debut of Allen Coulter, is the perfect example.

"Hollywoodland," based on a true story, tells the tale of actor George Reeves's mysterious death and the fame seeking detective who tried to prove murder was afoot. While the first act follows a jazzed up routine of the classic detective route consisting of a dead body, a hint of a scandal

and a visit to the morgue, this movie is not about figuring out whodunit. In fact, it only asks the question to show what a worthless question it really is.

The movie boasts what life was really like half a century ago. It uses the glamour and drama of the fifties to illustrate what an illusion the glamour and drama of the fifties actually were. So the brave detective works out of a seedy motel, the Hollywood star wears tights and a cape, and the ravishing women say witty lines that fail to be witty. At the heart of it, this is not a detective movie at all, but rather some deformed version of a human drama, with some non-radiating attempt at uncovering the insecurities and ugliness of the human condition.

The acting, it should be mentioned, was excellent. Adrian Brody, who played Louis Simo, the detective, was good as usual. More than any other aspect of the film, he managed to move his character between grandeur and pathos in just the right way to capture the movement between the past and the present that the film wanted to highlight. Ben Affleck, who played Reeves, was also a pleasure to watch. His character is all about failure. Often the problem with self-deprecating characters is that by the end of the film, they are feeling so bad for themselves that there is no room left for sympathy. Affleck, however, let his charac-

ter develop slowly, maintaining a sparkle in his eye for most of the film. Diane Lane and Bob Hoskins round out this extremely talented cast.

Somehow though, despite the acting and the general high quality of the movie, "Hollywoodland" falls short. It's trying to be self-reflective, but art is inviting because of its pretense. The intrigue of characters is that they exist in and for the plot. Despite predictable twists and turns, and tough guy dialogue, the old detective movies understood this. They respected the imagination. "Hollywoodland" did not. That "Hollywoodland" turned its hero into a human is not what indicates this, but when "Hollywoodland" made this transformation, it abandoned the hero altogether. What is that compelling about a human if there is no hero in him?

Here is my suggestion. Skip the overly cramped "Hollywoodland" and just rent "The Maltese Falcon" and "A Street Car Named Desire" instead. You will still get the indulgent film noir drama of the detective and the probing truth filled drama of the human condition, but you will receive these dramas with space available in which they can breath, evolve, and still entertain.

The Wedding Singer Brings Back the 80s

BY MYRIAM CAMHI

It seems like the transformation of Hollywood movies into Broadway musicals is a trend that is not going to stop anytime soon. "The Wedding Singer," the cheery adaptation of the 1998 blockbuster movie bearing the same name, is just the latest example. Yet, unlike many other shows this season such as "Lestat," "In My Life," and "Lenon," "The Wedding Singer" is a fun, upbeat show that provides a truly enjoyable experience.

The story begins with an introduction to the main characters, Robbie Hart, played by Stephen Lynch, a well-respected wedding singer who loves his job, and Julia Sullivan, played by Laura Benati, a waitress at a catering company. Although they are both involved, Robbie with a punk woman named Linda, and Julia with corporate sleaze bag Glen, when they first meet, the sparks are definitely still there.

Writers Beguelin and Tim Herlihy, who also wrote the screenplay of the original 1998 movie, have done an amazing job creating two characters that the

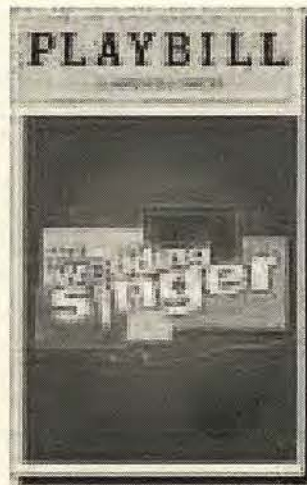
audience will immediately like and empathize with. They portray Robbie's stereotypical good guy nature in the opening scene when he smooths over a vulgar speech given by the best man at the wedding he is working at. And when one of his band members wants to skip an upcoming gig in favor of something else, Robbie convinces him to stay, asking, "we're not going to show up on the most important night in someone's life?" He loves doing what he does and truly cares about people's happiness.

Julia is not far behind in her positive quality traits. Although her naiveté is apparent from the beginning, it is more cute than irritating.

Ready to listen, support, and encourage Robbie when his relationship with Linda goes sour, she refuses to approve his plans to change careers on the grounds that she wants him to be happy on his own terms.

Holly, played by Amy Spanger, is Julia's good-hearted cousin, and Felicia Finley plays Robbie's fiancé turned ex, Linda.

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Peggy Guggenheim and Her Art Collection: A True Love Story

BY SARAH GUIGUI

If you are like me, a nostalgic fan of summer vacation during the sad gray September days, then you will probably enjoy an impromptu virtual trip overseas. How about a little taste of America in Italy? I have just the right place for you. Let us approach the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, one of Venice's art treasures.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, housed at the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, is located on the border of the Grand Canal in Venice, Italy. It is easily accessible by *vaporetto*, which is the local water bus. The museum is open every week day from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with guided tours in English at peak hours. Although, the regular admissions fee is 6.50 euro (approximately \$8.20) with proper identification, students may enter for half price.

Once in the museum, you won't feel like a lost outsider. Large groups of American tourists visit the museum on a regular basis, either with guides

or on their own. College students proudly wearing their school logos and art amateurs willing to discover or rediscover renowned works of art also contribute to the diversity of the crowd. Yet, this museum is more than shredded American cheese on a traditional dish of spaghetti.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection is the Ali Baba cave of modern art. It gathers the works of an incredible panel of 20th century artists including the paintings of surrealist Wassily Kandinsky, the collages of Max Ernst, and the crazy fabrications of Marcel Duchamp.

Sculptures are another important component of the collection. In the Nasher Sculpture Garden, one of the few green spots found in Venice, works by Raymond Duchamp-Villon, Alberto Giacometti and more recent sculptors seem casually placed among the trees. It is also in this very garden that you will find the grave of Peggy Guggenheim her-

self. Strangely enough, her grave is surrounded by the remains of her beloved dogs. Then again, Guggenheim had never been the model of a conventional upper class woman.



Peggy Guggenheim

Guggenheim, niece of philanthropist and art collector Solomon Guggenheim, was born in 1868 in New York. Very early on, she showed a lofty interest in modern art. Therefore, it is not

surprising to note that her first job was at a Manhattan bookstore selling the works of modernist writers like James Joyce and D.H. Lawrence. Later on, she opened an art gallery in London, but was obliged to come back to America when the Nazi Party began dominating Europe. After the war, she was invited to Venice to present her collection, at which point she fell in love with the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni. This location would later serve as her house and the gallery where her art collection would be displayed.

Guggenheim was far from the usual art collector. Her motto was "buy one painting per day." However true or embellished these words might be, this was quite an ambitious undertaking. A lover of art, she literally spent all of her money on works she recognized as artistically original and significant, with a special eye for unknown artists. Interestingly, Guggenheim was credited for

launching the career of the renowned Jackson Pollack.

As the years went by, she became emotionally attached to her collection, a feeling visitors can sense as they go from room to room in the modern day art gallery. Additionally, there are photographs of the art collector posing with various artists among the works of art in some of the gallery rooms. These details give the visitor a glimpse into the life of a unique woman and a better understanding of the love she had for her one of a kind pieces of artwork.

Broadway on Broadway

BY DEANNA FRAZIN

The classic New York experience includes going to a Broadway show. The prototypical student experience is looking for free activities. Combine, to get the spectacular extravaganza known as, "Broadway on Broadway." Currently in its 15th year, this annual event is a celebration and ensemble of Broadway's finest shows for the general public.

The event is intended to benefit the Broadway shows by giving people a sampling of theater events that will stimulate their appetite and lead them to eventually pay for the real thing. This year's September 10 event was held in New York's finest tourist cesspool, Times Square. Comedian and actor Martin Short, who was surprisingly quite funny, hosted the spectacular event.

Although, there were police barricades set up to fence in the crowd, there was still plenty of breathing room. With an estimated 500,000 people in attendance, it seemed as though this number was rather fluid since many did not stay for the whole show, and were coming and going as they pleased. Two large screens were set up to allow the "less Broadway enthused" to see the stage; however, this was not Broadway's finest effort. Technical glitches were rampant and performers' mouths were dubbed, making them look like actors in an old Japanese movie.

The event boasted one song performances from a variety of shows that ranged in genre, with musical numbers from "Avenue Q," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Color Purple," "The Drowsy Chaperone," "Hairspray," "Jersey Boys," "The Lion King," "Mamma

Mia!," "The Producers," "Rent," "Spamalot," "Tarzan," "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," "The Wedding Singer," and "Wicked."

Some of the performances, including "Wicked," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," featured one or two performers on stage belting out their respective shows' powerful ballads. Rather than reveal the talent of the whole cast, these shows chose to highlight their individual actors' voices, which while impressive, lacked the ability to get the crowd revved up. On the other hand, other shows such as "The Color Purple," "The Wedding Singer," "Hair Spray," and "Jersey Boys," opted to showcase many performers or even the whole cast, which really brimmed with energy and had the crowd dancing along.

The best performance hands down was "Hairspray's" "Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now." The act included creative dancing, laugh aloud acting, and dazzling singing. Judging solely based on their one song performances it seems as though "Hairspray," "The Color Purple," and "The Drowsy Chaperone" are excellent shows to go see.

The event also had previews for newly opening shows. Of those, "The Times they are A-Changing," featuring the songs of Bob Dylan stood out as unique amid the never-ending fad of jukebox musicals. The performance of "Blowing in the Wind" with its twangy acapella style was quite beautiful and Broadway worthy. The show then closed with a grand finale by Martin Short and his rendition of "New York, New York," culminating with bangs of confetti shooting out from cannons.

French Country Meets Upper West Side

BY MICHELLE SCHIFFMAN

In the mood for something different? If so, La Creperie, located at 2608 Broadway, between 98th and 99th Street, is the perfect restaurant for you.

La Creperie, whose name oozes sophistication, makes one forget they are on the Upper West Side. Its wooden and brown brick walls, mixed with crisp white tablecloths and wooden chairs give the restaurant a pleasant French country cottage feel. The long windows at the front of the restaurant open up to the busy sidewalk, adding to the unique appearance of the restaurant.

The atmosphere encompassing this unique structure can best be described as down to earth.

Most of the customers there were students from Yeshiva University, Columbia University, Barnard College and residents of the Upper West Side. Moreover, the restaurant had a very casual feel to it, as diners came in straight from work wearing khakis or jeans of any style.

Yet, despite its substantial size, the room was overcrowded with tables. At this point, it behooves one to note that if you want a private place to eat out then this is not the place for you. Also, beware of the fact that since there are so many tables which leave little room for the aisles, you must make sure your chair is no more than 5 inches away from the table or else the maitre de will

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Students Bring Arts and Culture Back to SCW

BY LAURA SHUMAN

Although it is unknown to many Stern College for Women (SCW) students, Manhattan is a borough full of interesting art and other forms of culture. With the hope of opening up this fascinating world of color and expression to the greater student body, several students, in conjunction with the college's art department and Stern College for Women Student Council (SCWSC), have initiated a new club, "SMAC."

According to its founders and active members, "SMAC," an acronym for "Students Meet Art and Culture" has a twofold goal. "We want to open up this world of art culture to the students that aren't just artists" explained Naty Gabbay, a SCW senior and art therapy major who is an active participant in the new club. "We also want to use the club as a way of publicizing the student art work outside of the gallery night art festival."

Founders of the club, Sara Rosengarten, Rifi Rosen, and Aviya Novick, all seniors, have set high goals for the club. They began brainstorming about the group last year, in an effort to raise awareness of the various art venues around the city. Rosengarten, an art therapy

major, pointed to the fact that many students, including the art majors themselves, are not aware of the exhibitions and galleries occurring on a regular basis all around them. "It was a whole culture that we didn't even know about" she said.

In addition to providing a service to the student body at large by exposing them to remarkable works and artists, this club was a long overdue addition to the growing art department at SCW. "Every department in Stern has a club, and I thought that it was important for the art department to have a club [of its own]," explained Rosen, another art therapy major. The absence of such a club boggled the minds of the club's founders, and art majors in general, considering the high interest in art that reverberates throughout the Beren Campus. It is therefore no wonder that the club has already generated a lot of interest, evident by the seventy students who signed up at the SCWSC/TAC Club Fair earlier this month. In addition, the list is growing quickly as more students are being made aware of the club by word of mouth.

In addition to the wide spread enthusiasm the students have expressed, the faculty of the

art department is excited about this new initiative as well. Professor Traci Tullius, art professor and student advisor, will be acting as the faculty advisor to SMAC.

"We'll see how it kicks off and we'll work from there" said Rosengarten. "You can only assume that it's one of those broad topics that everyone is interested in." The club is hoping to bring in guest speakers, organize gallery nights around the city, organize museum trips, and set up venues at which SCW's own budding artists can showcase their works to the Yeshiva University community.

As SMAC grows, programming will be open to both SCW and Yeshiva College students. Its founders have made it a priority to include both campuses, as well as both the art and art history departments, with the intent of becoming a known presence both during the academic year.

Woo-Hoo for Oyhoo!

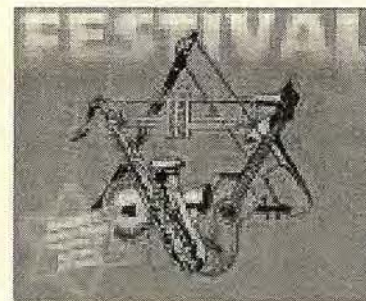
BY Yael Wolynetz

This year's third annual Oyhoo Festival, formerly known as the New York Jewish Music and Heritage Festival, took place from September 10th - 17th in various forms and venues across New York City. The festival consisted of over 60 shows which showcased a diversified group of artists and a variety of musical genres. A Klezmer music concert, Jewish Music Awards, Israeli Hip Hop sounds, Sephardic music shows, Homage to Lenny, Yiddush Fest, and even a Pre-Shabbat Family Dinner concert, were just a few of the many events that were presented to the people of New York City.

When asked why he decided to launch a Jewish music festival in the New York area, Michael Dorf, founder and producer of the Oyhoo Festival laughed and responded with the generically Jewish answer, "to make my parents proud." On a more serious note, he explained his real motivations for putting together such an enormous event. "There are a lot of Jewish people like me who have a kind of connection to Judaism, [and] a positive, more comfortable way to connect with the culture is helpful," he explained. "If to celebrate joyously [with music] helps further the pride of my identity and brings me closer to Judaism, for

me and for other people, this can be a successful way to have a Jewish experience."

His second motivation behind the festival relates more to his area of expertise as a producer and well thought of entrepreneur in the music industry. He is the founder of the Knitting Factory, a well known music club, and the globally recognized



entertainment company brand name, Knit Media, which grew out of it. "From a PR standpoint, Jews can use some help sometimes, especially [in terms of] not being dogmatic or ethnocentric, which generally is a problem of religion," Dorf commented, adding that, "it doesn't help having a festival that is inclusive; we must show the contribution of Jewish artists to the public like the Latino Music festival. It's a great way to show off culture."

Due to its proximity to the

summer, this year's festival had added sentiment since it occurred in the aftermath of the Israeli-Hezbollah war. The celebration of Jewish music, which included Israeli bands originating from cities that were under attack such as Safed, further helped the notion of Jewish pride and celebration. "As a Jew, or even a conscientious human being, it is hard to not be affected by worldwide events, particularly in the Middle East," said Dorf. "As an individual I feel powerless. If people can have a good time, be stimulated, laugh and forget about the war and strife, this is a positive thing."

"I don't have money to do anything philanthropic and send large sums of money to Israel or to the suffering of African countries. What we can do is present some good culture," he added, explaining that the festival is his contribution to American Jewry. "If some of that culture presents interesting Jewish work in a positive way, portraying Jews with a good image, we are accomplishing something."

F A S H I O N

Fashion Week Reveals New Trends

BY RACHEL SHPAYHER

On Friday September 8th at 3:00 pm, the lights began to dim in the tents of Bryant Park. The voices of editors, buyers, celebrities and the like came down to a hushed tone until a silence swept through the crowd. All of this was in anticipation of Gottex Swimwear's 50th Anniversary.

The Israeli born designer, Gideon Oberson, had his models hit the runway in an array of themed swimsuits from his spring/summer 07' bathing suit collection. The pieces of the new collection ranged from a bikini titled "Cactus," a high neck piece called "Grease," and "Bride," the last item shown to the crowd. In total, Oberson exhibited eighteen different trends. It could have been the thrill at making it to the big 5-0 which led Oberson to design such a variety of pieces,

but then again, who says designers must stick to one trend a season?

In fact, many designers designed collections as eclectic and varied as Oberman's, refusing to let one trend dominate their runways. This was especially apparent in the ever-girly collection of Texan born designer Lela Rose. Rose, who has always designed for the more feminine woman, kept with what she knows and had the details of her garments focus on this seasons up and coming trends of the tent dress, coat, and top.

Tent dresses, which were highly popular among the designers this season, were not the only trend seen at this years fashion week. Two years ago, bright color was what every designer saw as the new style. Last season, the colors were more muted, but splashes of color made appear



olympusfashionweek.com - for the BCBG Max Azria

ances on belts, dress details and in a variety of other places. This year the muted tones were still around and colors like Pamela Roland's ecru, ivory and sand dominated the fabrics. Up and coming designer Verrier displayed a wide range of soft colors including beige, apricot, and light blue. In other words, this season's colors are light and easier on the eyes than yesteryear's hot pink, and the color palette was interpreted through various shades.

What also managed to peak through the parade of women in glamorous clothes, were the cutout designs on the dresses and tops of the BCBG show by Max Azria. For his ready to wear collection, Azria took to embroideries, laces and eyelets.

It seemed that Azria, among other designers, believed this

upcoming season of spring/summer to be one of beauty and grace. In addition to all of the magnificent details each and every designer put into their collection for fashion week, it became apparent that structure was something of the past, as soft, light, and luxurious fabrics were used to showcase the designs.

Next season we at Stern College for Women do not have to worry about the mini skirt that kept appearing on the runways, for numerous designers have decided that this trend no longer has a place in the fashion world. Whatever style you are looking for next season, you will most likely find it in one store or another, especially if Gideon Oberson's designs are leading trends.

Max Azria Introduces Two New Collections

BY JULIE AST

Max Azria presented his couture collection Wednesday night, Sept 12th, at New York Fashion Week for the first time. Azria had already shown "BCBG Max Azria," his ready-to-wear clothing line, in the beginning of Fashion Week on Friday, September 7th. According to Azria, he created "one collection that is ready-to-wear and one is a little freer."

"BCBG Max Azria," the ready-to-wear collection, featured 70's inspired frocks in pastels and white, spring's new "it" color. Eyelet embroidery added a fun, flirty feeling to the clothing. Azria says he was inspired by "evening wear that we tried to reinvent to be converted into day-wear." The last look, a dark teal cotton voile dress with eyelets, could be worn as a cover-up at the beach.

In contrast, "Max Azria," a "freer" collection, allowed the designer to branch out creatively without the constraints of making clothing for the mainstream retailer. "I think when you do something for so long like sell clothes that are wearable and practical," said Phillip Block, a celebrity stylist. "This [Max Azria collection] is a whole different field."

The show was replete with frocks done in rustic looking stripes, and ladylike dresses with v-neck backs and cascading ruf-

ple detail. The silhouette was shapeless and sack-like, but Azria used gauzy material to avoid dowdiness. "I thought it was beautiful for the beach and it had that real relaxed feeling. I call them sexy sacks," said Block. "It's loose and casual, it's what summers about. The clothes say that I just want to relax, I want to lay back. I'm tan and I'm beauti-



Max Azria style.com

ful and I just don't have to be fussy, but I have style. And that's what the collection said to me"

Azria drew praise for his loose silhouette. "I feel that they are clothes for so many different kinds of women to wear because they have the kind of shapes that are really great for different kinds of bodies which are really wonderful," explained Jamie King, a model and actress, backstage after the show. "I like to see those things, dresses that can work for

all kinds of people. It is very feminine and very fun."

The clothing's versatility added to its appeal. A blue faille dress was worn with cream satin flats in the show, but could transform to an evening dress when matched with heels. "It's the kind of thing that you can wear with a pair of leggings and high heels or wear it with sandals to the beach," she said.

The designer was able to maintain the same whimsical and feminine style as "BCBG Max Azria". "I love how feminine and effortless his clothes are," praised King. Eva Mendes, an actress, echoed her complement. She called the collection, "effortless and beautiful."

The emphasis on less practical attire was Azria's aim. He departed from his previous runway shows with a loose aesthetic, but remained true to his feminine and fun roots.

Ways to Help Israel

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Whether they have been supportive or not, get in touch with them, visit them, and discuss the current situation in Israel. Explain to them why Israel had a right to defend itself in the war, the threats of Hezbollah, Hamas and Iran, and the significance and vitality of the US-Israel relationship. For discussion topics and to become familiar with the primary issues you can go to www.aipac.org. We can't forget that although we love Israel, most of us are not Israeli citizens. We do not vote in their elections, and must therefore use our power to be heard to make an impact on the situation in Israel here.

2. Vote! If you are not registered yet, it is not too late! One way to do so is by going to www.govote.org. It's simple and will take only a few minutes. Your vote does make a difference.

3. Sign up for the Israel on Campus Coalition newsletter at www.israeloncampuscoalition.org to be up to date with what's going on. Sign petitions, write articles and be heard.

4. Apply to the YU Lobby Mission. Last year we had a very successful trip to D.C. where we spent three days meeting with members of the House and Senate. We hope to expand this mission with participants from different constituencies.

5. Attend the AIPAC Policy Conference from March 11-13.

Approximately 20 Yeshiva University (YU) students attended the last Policy Conference constituting the largest group our university has ever sent. Speakers included Vice President Dick Cheney, House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio), former Sen. John Edwards (D-North Carolina), former House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia), Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), House Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-Missouri), House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland), Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-New York). This is not a comprehensive list. I hope that we can increase our representation this year and show the Pro-Israel community the dedication and commitment of the YU student body.

The Wedding Singer Brings Back the 80s

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Both give great performances. Spanger, convincingly depicts Holly, who is the supportive friend and voice of reason, while Finley effortlessly embodies the heartlessness and sexiness of her character. Additionally, Richard H. Blake, the actor who portrays Glen, has every hair in place and plays the cocky scumbag his character should be perfectly.

Other characters rounding out the cast are Kevin Cahoon, who plays Robbie's band member and Boy George wannabe George, Mathew Saldivar, who plays Sammy, a second band member at the core of all the show's vulgarity, and Rita Gardener, famous for her role in the original Off-Broadway production of "The Fantasticks," as an unconventional grandmother who raps and talks dirty but is nonetheless completely supportive of her grandson. The comic relief provided by all the supporting characters prevents the show from being just another love

story, making it more enjoyable to watch.

Aside from an enjoyable plot and likable characters, this show is also great for anybody who's nostalgic for the eighties. It is full of larger than life cell-phones, stirrup-pants and mullets, which do nothing but bring back great memories and remind you of a simpler time.

"The Wedding Singer" comes out much more compelling than many of the hundreds of other musicals currently playing. This is partly due to the fact that it is different both in setting and plot. It avoids the love at first sight cliché so prevalent in the theatre and on the big screen since Robbie and Julia get to know each other as friends before they fall in love. With that said, if you are a sucker for love comedies, catchy tunes, and some good old 1980s scenery, this is definitely your kind of show.

Students Educate About Israel

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Surprisingly, a lot of people seemed very pleased with what we were doing. One man came over and told me that he had just spent the year in Israel and was appalled by the distorted facts being given by the other party. He said that this group had been gathering for about four months and was happy to see someone doing something about it. Another woman came up to us and said, "I walked by the other people and thought, 'Zeh lo be'emet' (this can't be true)." She then thanked us for representing the other side.

"At one point, an Israeli woman came over to me with tears in her eyes and said 'I'm so happy that you guys are doing this'," said Jessica Morris (SCW 08). "There were also a couple of little boys who I saw talking to the anti-Israel protestors. We followed them and when we caught up to them we told them that if they had any questions about what they heard, they could ask us. Then they told us that they were Jewish and felt relieved to see that we were presenting the facts."

However, many people objected to what we were doing as well. A man approached me and started cursing, yelling at me that we weren't telling the truth, and that the land doesn't even belong to Israel. A woman who turned to me in praise of our cause ended up engaging in a verbal battle with another woman who passed by, and said, "I don't think you guys know what you're talking about." A

man with a seemingly open mind talked to me for a good ten minutes about the situation. However, when a woman told me that she thought Hezbollah was a group of murderers he responded casually by saying, "Actually, I think that the Israelis are the murderers."

Regardless of the obstacles that we faced, the many smiles and words of thanks we received reassured us that we were doing the right thing. We even ran out of flyers within the first half hour and had to make three hundred more, all of which were distributed by the end of the hour. It was especially fulfilling to meet the occasional person who did not know much and wanted to know more about the situation. Like Lichtenstein said, many people do not know what goes on in the world and it may be one of the most important things we can do as Jews to stay informed and inform others.

The Torah Activities Council has generously agreed to sponsor our efforts and we plan to continue our pursuits on a weekly basis. We will gather every Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. If you would like to get involved, either on a regular basis or as a one-time volunteer, you can email Rachel Lichtenstein at RYL65@aol.com, or just find us in Union Square by the subway station at that time.

New Assistant Director Joins Counseling Center

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Dean Zelda Braun, associate dean of students at SCW, related her enthusiasm regarding Dr. Muskat's appointment. "Due to her solid clinical training and wealth of experience, Dr. Muskat is well qualified," she said. "I am especially excited that a Stern graduate is returning to fill an active role in the Yeshiva University community."

Building on past initiatives, Dr. Muskat plans to extend the Center's activities for the upcoming year. She intends to run more frequent workshops and programs dealing with a range of topics from assertiveness training and communication skills to time and stress management. The center will also continue to co-sponsor events with the Department of

Student Affairs such as the one-woman show pertaining to issues of domestic abuse that was performed last year.

"Students need support in many ways, and we are here to help," Dr. Muskat explained. "Some students come in because they are experiencing depression or anxiety or substance use, and some students are feeling more typical levels of stress. Still others are feeling problems in relationships, or they are feeling lonely or overwhelmed. Additionally, adjustment to college and to New York City can be daunting, and students find it helpful to have some additional support in getting through it. We are here to assist them and are open to discussing any issue that they might be grappling with."

Furthermore, she continued, "while there are many outlets for students to receive guidance and support on campus, the Counseling Center provides a unique opportunity because our mental health professionals are specifically trained to help students deal with emotional and interpersonal issues and our sole mission is to be there for students in this way. We are certainly open to input and ideas about how we can be of help and encourage students to contact us and share any thoughts they may have."

Students Commemorate 9/11

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importance of their own *avodat Hashem* (service of God) and fortune at being able to continue practicing Judaism unabatedly. In his concluding remarks, Daum advised the students to live life to the fullest and maximize each and every day.

After the speech, "United 93", a film about the heroic actions of the individuals aboard United Airlines Flight 93 on 9/11, was shown. Thanks to the efforts of the passengers, the fourth hijacked plane was forced down in Pennsylvania before it was able to strike the terrorists' intended target in Washington

DC. The film poignantly depicted the fear and desperation the victims endured, as well as their amazing courage in foiling the plots of the hijackers.

"The movie enhanced the program because it provided a visual representation of what happened that day," said Shira Baron, a SCW senior. "It really made you feel what the people went through." Shelton commented similarly. "During the movie a girl next to me was crying and I overheard her ask her friend, 'Is that what really happened?'" she said. "It allows people, especially those who were not in New York during that

time, to get a glimpse of understanding."

The success of the program comes as no surprise. Aside from the overwhelming turnout, the event generated much positive feedback from those who attended. When asked what she had hoped people would gain from the program, "I wanted students to get that feeling and realize that this is something real," replied Shelton. Judging by the reactions of those who partook in the September 11 commemoration, it appears that Shelton's expectations were more than exceeded.

French Country Meets Upper West Side

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come and pester you to move your chair in closer. In fact, the fondest memory of my entire La Creperie experience was the surprised wide eyed face my dining companion made when the maitre de asked her several times to move her chair in. "I feel like I am wearing a seatbelt!" she screamed.

With the exception of the maitre de, the service was very friendly, patient and attentive. We were immediately escorted to our table where there was bread and oil waiting for us. Likewise, when it came time to order we did not have to wait long for our food.

The menu offered a variety of dishes including fish, pastas, salads, and of course crepes. I decided to order French onion soup (\$5.50) and a spinach and cream crepe (\$12.20). My friend ordered a Greek salad (\$13.50).

The dishes were presented beautifully and large portions were given. So with high expectations, I eagerly cut open my crepe only to find a surprise awaiting me: mushrooms. I told the waiter that



he mixed up my order and without getting annoyed he speedily brought me a new dish. Again, I eagerly cut open my crepe and once again found unwanted mushrooms. I did not have the heart to tell the waiter that he messed again, so I pushed the

dish aside without eating much. A lesson can definitely be learned from this. Do not order a crepe unless you want a surprise. On the bright side, my friend was very satisfied with her salad, and the people sitting next to us were very happy with their pasta dishes.

Seeing as there are not many charming and stylish kosher dairy restaurants in the area, La Creperie, with its beautiful and unique décor, will definitely ensure a pleasurable dining experience. The restaurant was crowded with many familiar faces, a good thing if what you want is to see people, but not the best place to go if you want your privacy. The restaurant is a bit pricey. Yet, if you are willing to spend a few extra dollars, including the added 18% gratuity charge, and are not in the mood for a crepe, La Creperie is a perfect place to go.

SPORTS

New Football Season Incites New Questions

BY NOAH FALKENSTEIN AND
ALANA RUBENSTEIN

With football season in full swing, New Yorkers are wondering how their two favorite teams will fare. Will the New York Giants be able to replicate their success last year and possibly take their season even further? Will the New York Jets be able to recover from their abysmal 2005-2006 season?

Although they fell short last year, failing miserably against the Carolina Panthers in post-season play, this year's Giants have a real chance at Super Bowl victory. With all eleven offensive starters returning and some new off-season acquisitions, Coach Tom Coughlin is set for a title run. Although a tough schedule awaits them, their key players should be able to pull through for an organization that hasn't achieved full football glory since 1990.

Eli Manning, entering his third year with the Giants and his second as starter, is a sure thing to lead his team. Expected to follow in big brother Peyton's footsteps, the quarterback will hopefully use this year to become the superstar he is destined to be. All he has to do is continue to play as usual with just a few minor adjustments. He must decrease his interceptions, throw for more accuracy and most importantly stay healthy. He'll be of help to no one if he can't be in the game.

Big Blue players and fans have also learned to rely on Tiki Barber, arguably the most important player on the team. The run-

ning back, who is coming off one of the best seasons of his career, is more than just another player. He is the engine that drives the bus without which the team would fall flat. The only concern is his age. At over thirty, he is one of the older players on the team, a fact that could haunt the Giants as the season progresses.

The wide receiving of Plaxico Burress, Amami Toomer



and Jeremy Shockey, also looks promising. Burress is still a major threat down the field and with Toomer by his side the two seem unstoppable. Though Shockey's unpredictability, brought on by his tendency to party, is always an issue, he has definitely matured over his first five years on the team, a trend Giants fans are hoping will continue.

More importantly is the defense. Led by pro-bowlers Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, the Big Blue is looking great. Assuming they repeat last year's excellent performance, it will be hard for any team to make complete passes.

However, it is the key acqui-

sition of LaVar Arrington, which has all of New York talking. After leaving the Washington Redskins at the end of the 2005-2006 season, he has a lot to prove and is hoping his new teammates will help him out. And while his talent is incomparable, his right knee presents a problem. After missing numerous practices, only time will tell if he can regain the agility and physical will he had throughout his college days at Penn State.

But even if Arrington can once again play up to his potential, it will mean nothing if the team's defensive backs continue to falter. With Will Allen and Will Peterson gone, fans are looking to second year pro Corey Webster and new Giants Sam Madison, Will Demps and R.W. McQuarters to take the team to the top. While there is still a major question mark at these positions, it is definitely a step up from what was.

Despite a less than stellar start, the New York Giants seem destined for greatness. A repeat of the last year's N.F.C. East Division Championship title is almost inevitable, so Giants fans should breathe easy and enjoy the next four months.

New York Jets fans should expect to have a more stressful season. While it can't get much worse, as they finished last season with a losing record, how they will do is still anyone's guess. With Herm Edwards jumping ship to Kansas City, new coach Eric Mangini must prove himself with a stellar

2006-2007 run. Although he has already made news as the youngest coach in the N.F.L., it will take a different type of number to win over New York City. Victory, though, is not just about the coach. The players, new and old, must really step it up if the Jets want to prove they are a playoff contending team.

First round draft choices Offensive Linemen D'Brickshaw Ferguson and Nick Mangold give the team hope. The health of Quarterback Chad Pennington is in their hands. Coming off two separate shoulder surgeries, he has been extremely impressive, but is not necessarily enough. After not playing all of last season, he must regain his arm strength to compete with the league's other quarterbacks. But if he can't perform up to par, Jets fans should not lose all hope. Though new to the league, former Clemson Tiger



Kellen Clemens will be able to take the ball if needed.

Unfortunately, there are other positions where reputable backups cannot be found. With Running Back Curtis Martin on

the physically unable to perform list, Derrick Blaylock, Cedric Houston and former San Francisco 49er Kevan Barlow have a big job ahead of them.

On the defensive side of the ball, there is not much prospect either. With the departure of John Abraham, who is now playing for the Atlanta Falcons, Shaun Ellis and Dewayne Robertson must step it up for their team. However, the acquisition of Defensive Tackle Kimo Von Oelhoffen from the Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers should be of some help to the otherwise lackluster group.

However, there is a bright spot on the roster. 3rd year pro Jonathan Vilma will be good enough to overcome the Jets new defensive scheme and end his season in Hawaii. Arguably the best line backer in football, he is sure to amaze fans in spite of how the rest of the team performs.

Regardless of how the season turns out, Jets fans must keep one thing in mind. The 2006-2007 football season is a rebuilding year for them. With the Mangini era just beginning it will take time for team chemistry to evolve for Gang Green and even longer for this camaraderie to translate into victories. This is not to say the team will not win some games and possibly even finish over .500, but if any team will bring glory to Giants Stadium it will most definitely be the New York "Football" Giants.

Yeshiva University Receives Gift of 100 Million

continued from front page

acquired wealth will be used as a revolving door fund. This means that money from the contribution will be used when needed and then replenished as new donations are received.

While "it's an enormous gift and it changes a lot," said the President, "the needs of the university because of the needs of the students are greater than that." The current school budget is somewhere in the range of 500 million dollars. Consequently, the administration has not made any concrete plans as to how the money will be spent.

Although Stanton did not detail which YU institutions should receive money, President Joel said that the money was given towards undergraduate and

Jewish education. Yet, he was unable to provide any specifics. "You can't run this [university] by saying, 'okay, let's do that once someone gives me the gifts to do that,'" he said. "I know it's fuzzy," added President Joel. "The only thing that's not fuzzy is that it's a 100 million dollars and it's ours."

The fact that there is currently no promise of funds being funneled towards life on the Beren Campus has many students concerned. Yet, President Joel tried to assuage these fears by elaborating on the larger picture.

"The way students should look at this- your life is a continuum," he remarked. "You need to invest in your education to continue dreaming dreams." Furthermore, he expressed that while the

money may not materialize in time for the current undergraduates to see significant change, it is in their best interest to have a strong YU not only today but in the future as well.

In addition, this philanthropic act is not only significant to YU, but to American Jewish life in general. "This raises the bar on what people give not just to [YU] but to Jewish life," said the President. Stanton's gift allows other philanthropists to understand the impact they can have on society, and hopefully encourage them to dispose of their wealth in a more charitable way.

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Pre-Health Advisement Undergoes Changes

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others however, if a student displays persistence, they would like the pre-health advisor to send transcripts in a timely manner regardless of the personal opinions of the advisor on the students chances or lack thereof for admission. One recent graduate commented, "I am applying regardless of what the pre-health advisor advises and I am not asking them to write me a glowing recommendation; however, I do need a recommendation from a pre-health advisor. All I am asking is that my file gets sent in a timely fashion without being persuaded to take a year off, improve my science GPA, or research."

Reportedly, one of the main reasons why the pre-health academic advisors give students a hard time is because of relatively lower grades in some advanced science courses. Students point out that in certain courses more than half of the class employed tutors. Granted some of these courses are known to be extremely difficult and are used to weed out students unable to endure the rigor of dental or medical school. However, if at times more than half the class gets a tutor then maybe it is not the intelligence of the student that is lacking.

Pre-Med students feel that they are therefore fighting a losing battle in terms of grades: they haven't found their teacher to be satisfactory and therefore they may perform lower than normal. A student expressed to both Dean Orlian and Dr. Loewy that "I think the schools set us up for failure. I gave her an example of certain classes that go on. When I came earlier with issues in the class that I didn't do well, no one would help me, and now that my grades aren't good enough,

they're just telling me too bad and I won't get in anywhere."

Another complaint that students have expressed, in light of the pre-health advisement changes, is dissatisfaction with the advisement they have received thus far from the pre-health advisors. Specifically, some students have reported that they have been threatened with a less than positive recommendation.

Dean Bacon responded that "if we say 'this is an outstanding person in all respects' and it's not true, we're discrediting her, ourselves, and every other student we will write recommendation letters for. For students who have mediocre records, the committee can't invent a record. They do make the students submit more letters and get more powerful letters so that her record will be strengthened." Dean Bacon continued, "these recommendation letters are going to reflect the students record; students shouldn't delude themselves. Graduate school is tough- this is not a right, it is a selective process. The pre-health office can only go so far. It is a reality that people with weak records can't just expect to be admitted and if a student wants the brutal truth and she has a bad record, she will be told that she will get a neutral recommendation letter." Dr. Potvin explained that "it's common practice that if you can't support an applicant, warn them that you can't prepare a positive letter. Make them aware and then they should ask what to do to make them positive, and we will tell them. We cannot support everyone equally if we want to maintain our credibility with medical and dental schools."

Additionally on the subject of recommendation letters,

students are wondering why Dr. Loewy refuses to write recommendation letters without first seeing their MCAT results. Essentially, a recommendation letter is intended to testify to facts about the applicants that are not necessarily touted or manifested on paper, or by standardized test results and grades. On the topic of recommendation letters, Dr. Loewy explained, "we have to give information in both capacities [academic and character oriented]. They want to see your interests and hobbies- the key word is passion- what you are passionate about. They want to see what makes you the person you are and this is sometimes equally important to the fact that you've gotten straight A's." If it is agreed that this is in fact the intent of a recommendation letter, MCAT scores should not be such a critical factor in the letters. A student addressed this concern to Dean Orlian and according to this student; Dean Orlian responded "what kind of recommendation is someone supposed to give if you don't have the grades? They can only say you're a wonderful girl." However, grades do speak for themselves. The schools do not need a recommendation letter that reiterates the student's poor grades; the poor grades speak for themselves.

Dr. Loewy assured, "it's to the student's advantage that we see the same thing that the Medical School sees. They will see the whole package which includes the transcript with all the courses, GPA, science GPA, as well as the MCAT scores and obviously all of the other facets of the students life which is indicative of the resume as well as what the letter of recommendation portray about the person as their skills, personal attributes,

community service and so forth. If the MCAT scores are good- then its wonderful, its just another feather in the cap that to say that this is a wonderful, wonderful application. If the score happens to be weaker, then we can do our best to try to emphasize other strengths that the students had to compensate for the weaker record. We are at a disadvantage in presenting the strongest case for the student without the MCAT scores. I think the scores help us, help me, and help the advising committee to make the best strategy in making the most favorable letter and also, if it turns out the MCAT scores are at a level that's really not consistent with acceptance to any of the medical schools, then it gives us an opportunity to talk to the student realistically explaining to them that it may be a good idea not to apply that year, to take the MCAT again, and that way make their application stronger."

In terms of students allegedly being discouraged, Dr. Loewy explained that in the event that there is an "under-qualified" student, "I would never not recommend. The way I do it is if I find that there are certain deficiencies, I'll speak to the student and point them out to show them how to improve. I think that my role as pre-health advisor is to yes, be encouraging but in addition to being encouraging, I really feel that part of my job is to be realistic with them. I want them to pursue but I want to tell them what is achievable. I'll never tell them not to apply anywhere but I will tell them which schools they have a realistic shot at. If the situation arises that they just are not qualified, if there is a problem getting admitted anywhere, I'll say let's talk about plan B." Plan "B" according to Dr. Loewy

could be Israeli medical schools, taking a year off, looking into osteopathic medicine or other health related professions such as occupational/physical therapy, nursing, etc.

In response to the same question, Dr. Potvin responded that students could be discouraged from a medical career altogether "if we thought it wasn't achievable. We might say to consider other health care professional options or Caribbean medical schools which almost anyone can get in to." Potvin continued, "we can't predict anything 100 percent. I'd never tell someone they can't apply, just that they should realize their chances aren't that good because of this and that, and they should instead apply somewhere where they are more likely to get accepted." According to Dean Bacon, "the role of pre-Health advisement is not just to tell everyone they're going to make it. It [student's negativity] could be the way they're interpreting it. Maybe students find it painful to be discouraged but students need to ask themselves, is this really something that you can excel at and if it isn't, maybe this is the wrong profession. But I don't know of any time where a student has been told we won't let you apply."

There have clearly been misgivings and misunderstandings on both sides. The focus of faculty and students alike should be on the same goal: the success of the student. Hopefully the pre-health department will indeed work to this end and students will be able to, as a result, reap beneficial dividends.

Israel Held to a Higher Standard

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enemy's lines of supplies and communication? Is it permissible to attack civilian areas if soldiers and missile launchers are located there? Is Israel being judged by a moral standard that no other country adheres to during war? Let us keep in mind that Israel was attacked without provocation. Armed units entered Israel with the intent of kidnapping Israeli soldiers. Thousands of rockets were fired at Israeli cities with the intent of maximizing civilian casualties. Many of the missiles and the missile launchers were embedded in civilian structures. If Israel did not attack these sites, Hezbollah could have fired missiles day after day with impunity.

If Israel did not destroy roads, telecommunication towers, bridges etc., Hezbollah could have continued coordinating their attacks and receiving military supplies from Syria.

Let us also remember that Hezbollah acts at the behest of Iran, whose stated goal is the destruction of the State of Israel. Hezbollah is a terrorist organization with a sophisticated military arsenal. Israel fights not just to retrieve its kidnapped soldiers and not just to protect its citizens in the north. It is involved in a continuous fight for its very survival. Israel's response to Hezbollah has to be understood in this context.

Finally, how do other armies fight wars? During World War II,

the Allies had no problem carpet bombing German cities. It goes without saying that the buildings in these cities did not have missile launchers which were firing thousands of missiles on Allied cities. One sees the same pattern in one war after another. So why is Israel judged by a different standard?

Unique Art Experience

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introspection, the campers were instructed to choose one of the distinctly shaped pieces of paper that were scattered around the room and draw a picture of how they think of themselves, not knowing that each shape was just one piece of a bigger puzzle. Later in the day, when the kids engaged in a discussion about using their individual talents and strengths to work as a team, they were handed their pieces of artwork back. To the kids' great excitement, they figured out that they could put the pieces together to make a puzzle, and when they did, to their amazement, they were all connected in one big circle.

CADDY Camp serves all different types of children, coming from a variety of racial and religious backgrounds. Some

have been in CADDY for a few years, while others experienced the program for the first time. Older children, who have more familiarity with the program, become "mentors." As "mentors", they have the opportunity to explore the various aspects of leadership. They serve as role models for the younger children and assist in teaching them certain skills like the Diablo (Chinese yoyo) and devil sticks, both of which are components of the program's circus element.

"It was great to see them interact with one another," remarked Gabbay, referring to the different types of children she instructed. "There are different challenges for every kid." For more information about CADDY Camp, please visit www.Nesheemah.com.

YU Voochhad shabbaton

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will be joining us
and giving a shiur!

Sign up by Wednesday, Oct. 18th

in the Caf or Le Bistro!



This shabbaton is sponsored by TAC, SOY, Office of Student Affairs and The Shabbat Enhancement Committee
special thanks to YU's Women's Organization for generously funding our shabbaton!