



The

OBSERVER

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President Joel and Yeshiva University Students Dominate the General Assembly

BY ADINAH WIEDER

A delegation comprised of 55 Yeshiva University (YU) students attended the United Jewish Communities General Assembly (GA) in Los Angeles from November 12-14.

Students arrived on Friday and spent Shabbat in the Pico-Robertson community. The entire YU delegation participated in the "Just for a Day" program. The program involved over 1000 Hillel students from across the country doing acts of *chesed* in various neighborhoods. The evening culminated with a dinner and a concert.

The first session that the YU delegation attended was on Monday, November 13th on the topic of "The Jewish Future: Where we are as a people". The three speakers at this plenary were Rabbi Norman J. Cohen, provost, HUC-JIR, Dr. Arnold M.

Eisen, chancellor-elect, JTS, and YU President Richard M. Joel. The crux of the conversation addressed the future of the Jewish youth through the eyes of the Jewish leaders of the major institutions of higher learning. The discussion revolved around ways to engage the youth, inspire them to reach unprecedented heights, and adapt education in order to keep the Jewish future secure.

The general feeling at the assembly was that President Joel was not only eloquent in his delivery, but the content of what he said portrayed an unwavering commitment to a halakhic lifestyle. President Joel spoke about the importance of maintaining dialogue while at the same time recognizing that there are lines that YU will not cross as a halakhically observant institution. He gave the analogy of not running a red light at three a.m. even though there is no one there

because we are a people who follow the framework of the law and, all the more so, a law that we view as being Divine. One of the many lines that drew a thunderous amount of applause was when President Joel said that the purpose of Jewish education is so that the next generation will know that they are Jews and why being Jewish matters.

Delegates were overheard remarking how "...President Richard Joel unequivocally dominated the debate. His responses were always intelligent and heartfelt. The students at Yeshiva University must be very proud."

During lunch students were afforded the opportunity of hearing from Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) Dean, Rabbi Kenneth Brander. Rabbi Brander spoke on the topic of "Sustaining the Community in a Culture that

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University President Richard M. Joel discusses "The Jewish Future: Where we are as a people" with Dr. Arnold M. Eisen and Rabbi Norman J. Cohen at the General Assembly

New Interim Dean Projects Bright Future Despite Recent Flux

BY CHAYA CITRIN

On October 18, the women of the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) met with their new interim dean, Dr. Joel Hochman during the SSSB Annual Club Fair on the Beren Campus. The event marked the first significant exchange between the SSSB student body and the new dean since his appointment in August.

Approximately 40 students gathered at the Le Bistro Cafeteria to hear Dean Hochman deliver the fair's opening remarks, in which he repeatedly underscored his commitment to the Beren Campus and related his broader vision for SSSB.

Dean Hochman also sought to quell circulating rumors

regarding the status of SSSB and more specifically, the women's division of the school. Addressing complaints that officials have consistently overlooked and have been inaccessible to the students of the Beren Campus, the interim dean promised more "face time" with regular visits and office hours. The dean then responded to fears about the stability and future course of SSSB, which have been fueled by high faculty turnover and allegations that the school lacks the backing of the university administration. In attempts to allay these concerns, Hochman pointed to the allocation of nearly \$100,000 for business research as testament to Yeshiva University's (YU) strong invest-

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New Five-Credit Tanakh Class to be Offered Every Morning

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER

As an immediate response to student requests, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, chairman of the Rebecca Ivy Department of Jewish Studies, is in the midst of setting up a five-credit Tanakh class to meet every morning during the first period slot.

The class will be taught by esteemed Tanakh scholar Rabbi Mordechai Cohen, and will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays for a formal lecture based on texts to be prepared on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the beit midrash. Women in the class will learn *b'chavruta* (in pairs), using each other's backgrounds and skills to delve into the texts. A graduate student at Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies will be hired to assist the

class on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The idea came up last year when a group of Stern College for Women (SCW) sophomores and juniors organized a meeting with President Richard M. Joel, Dean Karen Bacon and Rabbi Kanarfogel to discuss Judaic studies at SCW. In immediate response to that meeting, Rabbi Shmuel Hain, head of the beit midrash at SCW and teacher in the Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies, was asked to teach an undergraduate Talmud class, to couple a class taught by Rabbi Moshe Kahn. The creation of the class led to a doubling of the amount of women who learn in the beit midrash on a daily basis each morning.

More recently, the group was reenergized at the most recent Town Hall meeting with

President Joel on October 25. The President set the stage for advancements in Judaic Studies at SCW, saying, "This is the year. We gotta put this on the fast track." In response to that promise, students met with Dean Bacon to ensure that an every-morning Tanakh class would become a reality.

This class offers the women at SCW a unique opportunity since until this point all Bible classes were offered twice a week like every other college class. The new Tanakh track is set to run parallel to the two Talmud classes that meet each day. The every morning Talmud class was created by the administration after Emily Shapiro, a former SCW student asked for the class.

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Reflections on the GA



ADINAH WIEDER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Before I left my hotel room on my trek to the convention center, where the General Assembly (GA) was taking place, I glanced in the mirror for one last collar adjustment. When I looked in the mirror and saw myself, I laughed. I thought who am I and what am I doing in business attire on a Monday morning? I am 21 years old and on most Monday mornings my attire consists of a skirt over my pajamas. My life experiences are nothing compared to those of the other members on the GA. They have spent years in the arena of Jewish Communal Services while I have neither years of schooling nor experience in the field. I continued to smile at myself as I tucked my shirt in and wiggled my already bandaged toes that were suffering from strangulation, due to the very pointy high heeled Enzo Angiolini's on my feet. As I walked to catch the shuttle to the convention center I contemplated my purpose for being in L.A.

Shortly after my arrival at the convention center I went into the first plenary to hear President Joel speak. After hearing President Joel speak I was no longer unsure of my purpose at the GA. President Joel had vocalized to hundreds of people what YU stands for and I was there as a representation of what it means to be a halakhic Jew. President Joel told the entire delegation that we are an institution that stands for halakhic principles and that we are unwilling to compromise on them. When no one is watching we still behave according to halakha, simply because it is the right thing to do.

Our connection to Judaism far surpasses *hava negila* and the Israeli flag. It is a sense of commitment and dedication that manifests itself in every facet of our lives. I was at the GA to portray this sense of commitment and dedication. I was there to show other members of the delegation that even though I may live by a different set of theological ideals I am still able to have converse with others.

I spent about 45 minutes speaking with an agnostic female rabbi. When I first approached her I thought that the only things we had in common was that we were both Jewish and female. However, after conversing with her she told me that as a child she went to Bais Yaakov. We discussed our similar school experiences and I realized that we had a

lot in common. She explained to me what her semikha program entailed and explicated one of her many theses for her semikha degree. At first, when I heard that she was agnostic I thought about smiling politely and walking away. However, I knew that I would only be confirming the negative stereotype that she had encountered many times before. I spoke with her and although we both disagreed with each other, we were able to maintain an open non-hostile dialogue. I hoped that I helped dispel some of the negative stereotypes that she had encountered with religious Judaism.

Never in my life did I have the opportunity to talk with someone whose views were so diametrically opposed to my own. I am thankful for the opportunity that I had to expand my horizons and for the lesson in tolerance that I received. Every person I encountered looked at me and smiled as they read my name and where I am from. They said "another Yeshiva University student," to which I smiled and proudly responded "yes." It was truly an honor to walk around and say that I represent YU. Every student and staff member that was part of the delegation contributed to that palpable sense of YU pride that was in the air. I was proud to say that I belonged to a religious institution that fosters independence and cultivates an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for everyone, while remaining strongly committed to its ideologies.

As I walked out of the hotel towards the bus headed for the airport I caught a glimpse of myself in the mirror. I saw myself and no longer wondered what my purpose was. I no longer viewed myself as merely a 21-year-old in the midst of obtaining a college degree, rather a 21-year-old woman with the ability to institute change, the ability to bridge gaps between those with opposing ideologies. I saw a woman with a love of G-d and His Torah and a passion for Judaism, one who strives to lead an honest and true life. And this time, I smiled because I truly understood my capabilities and saw myself for the woman that I was.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words



ALANA RUBENSTEIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As Yeshiva University (YU) students, we have been told time and time again that we are the future leaders of the Jewish people. The administration of both our college and the university at large has indoctrinated us with a mission to bring wisdom to life and use the skills we have obtained during our undergraduate years to be a light unto the outside world, a sphere which encompasses both Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

One cannot internalize these messages without becoming a bit intimidated. The future roles we are being told we are destined to fulfill come with great responsibility. As believers in Torah-U-Madda it is up to us to enlighten those around us and use our unique and collective talents to make this world a better place.

To accomplish these lofty goals, we have to take ourselves seriously. We must believe in ourselves and our mission if we are to bring about change. Yet, how can we be expected to do so when our own university, the institution that has planted these ideas in our heads in the first place, does not treat us in a way that indicates that it takes us as seriously as it demands us to take ourselves.

The most recent town hall meeting held on the Beren Campus illustrated this point to a tee. My understanding is that these meetings, which are held only once a semester, are conducted so that the students can voice their concerns and receive answers to questions they may have about the university. Students get one hour to engage in meaningful dialogue with the higher echelons in the university before returning to class with their newly acquired knowledge.

Unfortunately, the last town hall meeting did not resemble my utopian vision of what was to occur. Serious issues were not addressed as well or in the numbers that they should have been. Instead, students and faculty members were entertained by President Joel and company. More time was spent advertising the new line of university ties than on the problems Stern College for Women students are faced with. I learned more about AstroTurf and how dogs relieve themselves than I did about how the university plans to tackle serious spatial issues.

Before I continue what many of you may have already deemed a rant, I want to clarify two points. First, I am not trying to belittle the importance of these forums. It is important for students to interact with their university

president and challenge him for answers and results. Yet, laughing at jokes does not, at least in my mind, constitute a dialogue. Many faculty members and students agreed, saying that they found this particular meeting unproductive and a waste of time since they were presented with a comedy routine instead of information.

Secondly, I do not believe this to be a gender issue. From my understanding, the men were treated to the same presentation as the women. They too were told why the university adopted purple as its color. While I am unaware if they were as bothered by what occurred as the women and faculty in Midtown were, if they were treated to the same remarks I believe they have every right to be disappointed and upset as well.

So while I believe it is great for the university to instill its student body with a sense of importance, the gesture seems counter-productive when the empowered is made to feel inconsequential by the one who built him up to begin with. As YU students we are presented with many opportunities, whether through the Center for the Jewish Future or the university proper, to go out into the world and represent ourselves and our religion. Yet, when we come back to school after a day, a week or a summer, our sense of accomplishment often dissipates. For example, though I have been praised by colleagues at summer jobs and at extra curricular activities for my ability to stay on top of things and my commitment to do the best job that I can do, I have been put down by a certain professor more than once for showing concern over an assignment or having questions about the exact nature of a task.

We are all amazing women with things to contribute to the world. We all have talents that could be utilized in some capacity or another. Yet, if we are not taken seriously and are made to feel inadequate and deficient in our own university, a place that should make us feel secure, how are we supposed to gain the confidence to make the most of our skills in places where we are less comfortable? While the administration and faculty of YU pays lip service to our uniqueness and potential, actions speak louder than words, and in our case, they are screaming statements contradictory to what our university claims to stand for and represent.

Have an Issue with this Issue?

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OPINIONS

The Yeshiva University

OBSERVER

Costumes, Cartoons and Humanity (or Lack Thereof)

BY CHANA WIZNITZER

Tactless.

You would think someone would know better than to dress up as a suicide bomber for Halloween. You would think that person would be informed that his costume decision implied a lack of sensitivity to the public at large, and certainly to the large community of Jews who attend the University of Pennsylvania.

You would think that the president of the University of Pennsylvania, who was hosting the Halloween party, would refuse to pose for a picture with this student. You would think she might detect something other than innocent fun and games at stake. You would think she might suggest a change of attire.

Tactless.

President Amy Gutmann had no qualms about posing alongside Saad Saadi, who was dressed as a suicide bomber, complete with fake rifle, plastic dynamite, the outfit and the act. Several pictures suggest that he is "killing a hostage." Saadi's website is saad-saadi.com. Following the link to 'Pictures' and then 'Facebook Albums' leads the viewer to an assortment of photos taken on Halloween, many of them featuring Saad and his friend in terrorist gear.

Saadi has posted a disclaimer on his site, stating, "My friend, Jason, and I express our condolences and sympathy to all affected by our costumes. We wish to make it clear that we do not sup-

port terrorism, violence, or anything that is against society. There is no agenda or statement associated with our behavior shown in these pictures. The costumes are meant to portray scary characters much like many other costumes on Halloween. Additionally, we strive for all societies to instill healthy and non-violent values."

Note the language of his reply. Saadi does not say he is sorry. He does not apologize or express apologies. He expresses his "condolences" (who died?) and "sympathy" for those who are "affected" by his costume. The wording places the blame on the viewer who had the bad grace to be "affected" by something that was not in any way Saadi's fault. Of course.

Such actions bring to mind Prince Harry of Wales' famous choice of attire while attending a costume party themed 'Colonials and Natives' in January of 2005. Prince Harry attended the party dressed as a Nazi, his khaki shirt and Nazi armband prominently displayed. Of course, his face, not his garb, was splashed all over the tabloids, and he was made to issue several very public apologies, though they were termed "feeble" in nature.

Considering the amount of publicity garnered by Prince Harry's actions, the subsequent scandal, and scathing remarks made about him, it is astonishing that yet another person would be so bold as to dress as a suicide

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Judaism: Misogynist, Egalitarian, or Separate But Equal?

BY PEREL SKIER

How do you feel about the way Judaism treats women?

This is, of course, a loaded question, one that has no correct answer. Strangely, I have heard it all my life. My *chumash* and *hashkafa* teachers in high school made sure to ask and answer this question at least once a month in their lesson plans, and I think I even remember my middle school teachers going on about it. We could sense it coming just by the way they glanced anxiously around at the class during attendance, and I remember how we would all groan and slide down a little lower in our seats. We were the kinds of girls who would have been struck by the question like a lightning rod had we been given the chance to think of it ourselves, but instead it was forced to us, conveniently packaged with the answer: Separate But Equal.

Men and women each had equally important purposes to achieve, the argument went, but they alone could accomplish their respective goals, just as each person is created with a unique mission in life. It would be nonsensical to suggest that someone try to fulfill someone else's destiny, and it seemed doubly so to insist that a woman pursue men's objectives. Maybe that was the point. By raising the specter of sexism with such frequency and simplicity, our teachers successfully vaccinated us against ever having doubts about our value as women

in our religion. No vestige of intellectual curiosity remained in our minds.

So it follows that the first time a Bible teacher threw this sucker out to me at Stern College for Women (SCW), I automatically started doodling at the top of the page. Ten years of experience made me an expert on the subject. Needless to say, I was taken aback when the teacher proceeded to answer the question for us again, this time the wrong way. Women are not equal to men in Judaism's eyes, the teacher alleged. Furthermore, there is proof that women can participate in certain activities usually designated for men in specific texts which for the life of me I had never heard of before. But, they seemed bewilderingly authentic in all their photocopied-Hebrew-handout glory.

That first time it happened, it threw me. I sat on my bed in the dorm room that night, trying to translate the source material, struggling to contextualize its message with everything everyone had taught me as a child. If it's true that a woman singing through a microphone is not considered halakhic *kol isha*, then why is it so unthinkable in my community? If there is really no problem with women reading from the Torah, or having their own *hakafot*, then how come the slightest mention has never been made of it in *shul*? Why do men say a *bracha* thanking G-d that they were not created a woman?

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The Feminine Myst(a)que:

As the "war against waste" wages on, the women of SCW should no longer have to watch from the sidelines

BY SARA LEFKOVITZ

Women are outnumbering and outperforming men in colleges across the United States. The latest studies have indicated that women comprise a greater percentage of both honor students and overall graduates. With their increasing prominence and ascension to unprecedented academic heights, undergraduate women are giving their male counterparts plenty of cause to worry. Admission officers at various universities have cited their alarm at the growing disparity between the sexes, sparking some to suggest the implementation of affirmative action for men. Affirmative action for men!? What would our mothers and grandmothers think?

Women have fought long and hard for the opportunity of a col-

lege education. Historically barred from the "old boys clubs" synonymous with institutions of higher learning, women were compelled to found schools of their own. Even post-gender integration, a few last holdouts of women's colleges have remained. Committed to the promotion of women in all academic and professional arenas, these schools have bolstered and furthered the aspirations of their students, imbuing them with the confidence to fulfill their greatest dreams.

Why then, at Stern College for Women (SCW), does the status quo seem so drastically different? Considering the uniqueness of our gender-divided institution, set against a backdrop of unparalleled inroads among women at large, one would think that we would be able to maximize the

assets at hand. But somehow, I think we've reverted back to, or at least stagnated at the point where women at other colleges may have been situated 25 years ago. I can make this assessment when films like "Mona Lisa Smile" become eerily all-too-familiar and friends reveal that they have had to abandon cherished career ambitions to conform to society's dictates.

Let me first clarify and provide some disclaimers. I am not a misandrist. Nor am I seeking to merge the two distinct gender-related spheres which Orthodoxy has apportioned for men and women. In fact, none of this has anything to do with religion. Rather, it has to do with a mindset that should have been discarded long ago when we left the *shtetls* of Europe. No, thankfully most of us at SCW no longer

have to contend with arranged marriages. Unfortunately however, despite the relatively progressive climate of our day and age, the double standard for women continues to exist, just in a modified form that has been more difficult to detect. Today, young women in the Modern Orthodox community can go to college, and even to graduate school. Yet, I wonder how many of them are actually encouraged to "go for the gold." The "gold" so to speak is different for each individual, but it is the career for which her talents are best suited and the one which will afford her the most intellectual and emotional fulfillment. Even an Orthodox woman can find an array of such professions which can also pragmatically accommodate a family life.

Yet our society has not

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A Message from Our Presidents



ESTHER BIRNBAUM
PRESIDENT OF SSSB

A study by the Center for Academic Integrity at Duke University found that a higher number of business students admit to cheating than students in any other area of study. This report found that of business students pursuing their MBA, 56% admitted to cheating, compared to 54% studying engineering, 48% in education and 45% of law school students.

The study indicated that the reason for the higher rate of cheating among business students is twofold. The first reason stated is the stressful atmosphere found within these schools which causes students to use whatever measures necessary to succeed. Although I am not at the graduate school level, as an undergraduate student enrolled in a business school with a dual curriculum that answer makes perfect sense. We are at constant competition to get the best grades, the best jobs, and get into the best graduate schools. We try to achieve all this

while attempting to complete our college requirements in three years, juggle a dual curriculum, and try to stay sane. The pressure created within college has the ability to push students into feelings of despair which lead them to cheating in order to succeed.

The second reason cited in the study for such high rates of cheating among business students is due to the role models the corporate world has lent us. When our role models come from Enron, Worldcom, and Martha Stewart, just to name a few of many corporations rocked by scandals, how can any business student be expected to maintain a code of ethics? It seems like those who cheat in school are just starting out in the business world early.

I would also venture to say that to many students cheating is just simply part of school, a means to an end. It's the "everybody's doing it, therefore it must be okay" mentality. As a firsthand witness to such rationale, I can tell you that cheating seems to be a part of every student's education from middle school through graduate school.

Students at Yeshiva University (YU) are not exempt from these findings, and the question is what should be done to prevent such a scenario from plaguing our university. If we can not find integrity and honesty in an educational institution, where else can we find it? Academic

integrity is something every university holds to a high standard so how can we turn our backs when a majority of students have reported that they themselves have broken these principles?

The proactive response to all of this seems obvious. Business schools need to teach ethics. There are many approaches as to how this could be done. One possible way is to enforce an honor code that will foster integrity and respect among students. By forcing a student to sign their name on a pledge of honesty at the end of an assignment or test, one is reinforcing the ideals of honor and integrity among students. Although many higher level universities employ this tactic and report good results, I find it hard to believe that this is that effective in the corrupt cheating culture we are currently caught up in.

The response to this problem that I find most relevant to Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB) is to teach ethics within the required curriculum at a business school. The lack of such a required course within schools is partially the fault of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the accrediting body for business schools. The AACSB requires schools to "establish expectations for ethical behavior by administrators, faculty, and students" but has no specific ethics course require-

ment upon which accreditation would be based. In this period of corporate corruption many schools are now looking towards incorporating ethics into their curriculum, as well as offering the class as a requirement. Shouldn't our school be doing the same?

It seems shocking that an ethics class is not required at YU. Students can coast through their years at SSSB only hearing the briefest references to ethics. It may be touched upon for five minutes at the beginning of an accounting class, or mentioned in business law classes, but there is no formalized structure in which it is taught in significant proportions at our school. I would like to be able to say that such a class is not necessary in a school like SSSB where the environment itself establishes a standard of ethics, but this is not the case. Look around at a classroom of students taking a test, or ask students given a take home test if it was actually completed honestly. There is a need here for further education in ethics.

For a school that purports a philosophy of Torah u-Maddah it would seem that a business curriculum should come hand in hand with Jewish ethical teachings in the field. While in my science class Torah was constantly referenced, why is it that in my business classes nothing related to Jewish business ethics is even mentioned? Where is the tie in to

Torah and halakha? There are so many dimensions to halakha that relate to business, yet students are not given the opportunity to pursue this subject further.

Cheating is a problem that plagues schools and universities all over; no school is immune to it. With a philosophy of Torah u-Maddah behind us, SSSB students have the ability to lead the rest of the world in ethics and honesty. Yet, even within our own system, it is still a grave problem. How can our students be expected to go into the business world and conduct themselves honestly, let alone be an example to others, if they are not given a fundamental understanding of ethics at YU. As SSSB students we should be asking for courses that relate what we learn in the business field to the lives we live as Jews. YU is attempting to follow a vision of creating the next generation of Jewish leaders but the opportunity to further that philosophy within the classroom is being lost. It is that very education which should be attracting students to a place like SSSB, and it is that education that the students here should be demanding.

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SHOSHANA FRUCHTER
TAC PRESIDENT

It occurred to me yesterday that the first articles written by the student government leaders each year revolve around the idea that "the college experience is what you make of it" and that getting involved is essential in forming that experience.

It's true, and if you remember, I explained my personal experience of benefiting from a recruitment dinner and a million more tools than I'd ever imagined gaining from my work for The Observer.

This time of year I'm compelled to make the same shout out: you've seen the exhaustive plethora of activities brought to you by the Office of Student Affairs, the Center for the Jewish Future and, most importantly, your peers. You've realized that just about anything you've wanted to do with your college experience is at your fingertips through either academics or through the many organizations which sup-

plement the formal academics at Stern College for Women. From My Name Is MUDD to the Bodies Exhibition, all you have to do is sign up and you'll participate in an awesome trip.

So at this point in the year I'm compelled to return to the official rallying cry of all student leaders, "GET INVOLVED!" I'd tell you. But then it hit me. Those of you reading this article are involved. Reading The Observer, certainly this column, proves a certain level of investment in life at SCW, an interest in the proceedings around you.

So you are involved. But are your roommates? Your lab partners? Your fellow gym classmates? Your acquaintance on line in the cafeteria? The woman you happen to be walking "with" back to the dorm, at the same pace but just a few strides behind?

Share the wealth. Tell them. Tell them about the events you're interested in, when and where they're happening, how to sign up. More importantly, tell them about events they'd be interested in participating in. Show them that it's fun to go to events and meet new people, experience new things, get a couple of tattoos.

I know you know a few people who are not involved in school activities.

A proposal: if each of you reading this will try to commit to consciously sharing the wealth once a week with one

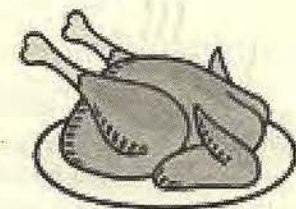
fellow student at SCW, the world will be a better place. I truly believe that. Imagine the consequences. Figure there are at least 25 more weeks of school this academic year. Even if I'm the only one to ever read what I have written here, that'd be 25 women recruited for involvement at SCW.

Not everyone has to go to everything, but everyone does have the right to feel welcome and invited on their campus and it is us who have the responsibility, and indeed, the great opportunity to be that invitation. Let's do it.

Concerned about awkwardness? For tips on how to accomplish this goal as not awkwardly, or, for those interested, as awkwardly, as possible email me.

Contact
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Join Student Affairs and Residence Life for a Thanksgiving Brunch



FREE!

11/23/06

1:00 pm

RSVP by 11/20 to

Betty in

215 Lex Rm 713

212-340-7715



LIZ SHELTON
PRESIDENT OF SCW

Times up, your votes are in. Recently, a student poll was taken around campus, asking students what it would take to get them to participate in more Student Council and Club Activities. Through this process, I received many new and innovative ideas. You have spoken, and here are your answers.

I'll start with my favorite. A student who had never read my articles or picked up a paper in the first place recommended I make my articles more entertaining. Point Taken. Another student suggested that Student Council bring *rebbeim* to events in an effort to attract more men from the Wilf Campus. I am glad to announce that I am doing my best to bring as many *rebbeim* as I possibly can to Battle of the Bands, which will take place on November 30th in the Schottenstein Cultural Center. I will be on the lookout for all the men it will bring. There was one other recommendation that stood out above the rest. A student pro-

posed that like other colleges, we at Yeshiva University should have a date auction. Now, while I may find this particular suggestion rather odd considering the way in which our institution is fashioned, I daresay I would be fairly entertained, especially with all the *rebbeim* now coming to the events.

A few weeks ago Student Council co-sponsored Battle of the Sexes with Yeshiva Student Union (YSU) and Yeshiva College Student Association (YCSA) on the Wilf Campus. After the event I interviewed 100% of the participants and got nothing but positive feedback. Everyone enjoyed the event, had a great time, and met new friends, although the boys did seem a bit bitter since the girls clearly dominated the evening and went home with the majority of the prizes. Maybe we will give them another chance, maybe not. In addition, this past week Student Council and YSU went to the Nets vs. Bucks game; 220 students attended and received a free pair of shorts. In short, there are so many great events occurring daily on campus vying for student participation and there are so many ways for one to get involved.

Associate Dean of Students Beth Hait once told me that, "the power is in the students hands." Well it's about time we realized it. If anyone has suggestions or is looking for a way to get involved on campus, in clubs, or with

Student Council please contact me or my board. Our information can be found in either cafeteria on the bulletin boards. We are always looking for new and innovative ideas, and who knows, maybe your suggestion will appear in the next issue. It is up to each and every student who reads this paper to pick up an extra copy and hand it to the person sitting next to him or her in class. Why? Because there are numerous events going on each day, wonderful events that council members, club heads, and your fellow students spend hours upon hours preparing for other students to enjoy, and there is no reason that every student should not get to attend the same events and receive the same opportunities to go out and meet people and have fun with fellow students that you are.

Contact Liz
at
eshelton@
yu.edu

Letter to the Editors:

Dear Editors,

I would just like to say thank you for putting your paper on the web. Being an alumna, I really miss being able to pick up a new copy of The Observer and reading it cover to cover.

I would like to comment on your September articles mentioning the fact that YU has neglected the Beren Campus' urgent need for a new beit midrash. The situation seemed extremely hopeful last year. I remember the numerous articles in every edition of The Observer sounding positive in regards to advancements in the Beren Campus beit midrash renovations and remodeling. I was led to believe that YU planned to dedicate the 7th floor in the 245 Lexington building as the one space devoted to women's advanced Torah learning on the Midtown Campus for fall semester 06. Reading the past month's issue of The

Observer editorials, I was sadly informed otherwise. I strongly believe students should not stay quiet when they are presented with empty promises.

I am not trying to disregard the work that has been done, and is being done to beautify the Beren Campus. However, students are not begging for a prettier lobby, or a fancy front lounge. Students want a comfortable and welcoming place to further their Torah studies in an institution that promises Torah u-Madda. How do you expect students to keep Torah as a main priority if they see their university does not?

Deena Hassan., SCW 06

POINT-COUNTERPOINT

Welcome or Unwelcome: Should Students Outside YU Be Able to Participate in Leadership Training Programs of the CJF?

BY SHOSHANA FRUCHTER AND ESTHER GENUTH

While there are many benefits to the inclusion of non-Yeshiva University (YU) students on the various Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) programs, there are many reasons as to why this practice should be reconsidered and changed. Currently, the overwhelming majority of CJF programs only admit YU students, yet the few that have and still include students from other universities should look to evaluate the fairness of such a system.

It is unreasonable for programs which require application selection processes to choose candidates from other universities if consequentially a YU student will be rejected or placed in a program other than their first choice. Programs such as Eimatai, Torah Tours, and last year's Teach for Israel fellowship have opened spots for non YU undergraduate students.

From a financial perspective, university resources should be spent on the students themselves rather than on outside participants. A university student has the right to be accepted to the program of his choice and gain skills and new experiences. Choosing a non-YU student over a YU student simply violates fairness and equality of opportunity. As one active Stern College for Women student stated: "I think it's great that they want to incor-

porate other college students but if a Barnard student is chosen over a YU student then that is simply unfair. We should keep it internal."

Although diversity in programming often enhances team creativity, it can be achieved within the YU student body as our students stem from diverse religious and geographical backgrounds. Furthermore, the most important factor should be maximizing the number of YU students' exposure to new opportunities rather than bringing in potentially more experienced undergraduates from different collegiate backgrounds.

Lastly, a program which is exclusive to YU students fosters a sense of school pride and unity among participating students and helps to increase the unity and sense of community within our university.

The Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) at Yeshiva University (YU) is exactly that, at YU, and nothing more. It is located on the undergraduate campuses; up and running full-time on Wilf and increasingly more available on Beren, (not quite enough just yet, but certainly getting there). It is funded by YU and run by its staff. But, as clear from its programming, it functions for the entire Jewish community. It should thus also allow the entire Jewish community to benefit from its leadership training programs.

In thinking about the consequences of CJF leadership programs like QUEST and Eimatai's acceptance of non-YU students, I found myself evaluating the goals of the programs and checking if the effects matched the goals. If the goals of Social and Organizational Leadership Training (SOLT) programs are to train students, to afford them the skills necessary for preparing, organizing and facilitating stimulating educational sessions and to propagate those lessons yet further by passing them on to all those at the sessions, all students should be welcome to join. Yeshiva College (YC) and Stern College for Women (SCW) students should be at work with Columbia, Barnard, and Queens College students along side them.

Just a couple of students from outside YU participating in QUEST, for example,

benefit the entire group tremendously. These students would bring another perspective to the table and allow the participants to plan a more balanced program. Their meeting and forming relationships with YU students bridges the gap that exists between YU and other colleges. Furthermore, the high school students these programs are ultimately benefiting, certainly appreciate a more diverse team.

Lastly, that couple of students studying at a secular college in New York will surely mention their weekly commitments to their friends and peers. They will explain the program and its creators' innovative style. These students, now leadership trained, will spread the word of the wonderful things going on at the CJF and allow those outside YU to catch a glimpse of YU's dynamic character.

Current protocol leads to a very minimal amount of students from outside YU participating in SOLT training programs. The ratio is just perfect, it allows YU students to gain from outside the protective enclave of Wilf and Beren, benefits the high school students who work with the newly trained relatively diverse college students, and causes more and more people to hear and know of the great things happening at YU.

Keeping Church and State Separate

BY PEREL SKIER

"It is a mark of separation, and that is why it makes other people from outside the community feel uncomfortable."

It's been a while since The New York Times ran this story on October 17, so perhaps I shouldn't be surprised to not be hearing about it anymore. Yet, I am disturbed, and here is why. The above remark was made by Prime Minister Tony Blair about the veils Muslim women in his country wear, but it applies just as easily to Jews.

There are a few things that make us want to think rosy thoughts about Prime Minister Blair. At least I know why I liked him at first. He was one of the few international figures supporting America rather than condemning us at some of our most vulnerable moments, blaming the Islamic extremists who perpetrated the attacks on our country to begin with rather than American capitalism or self-satisfaction, or, as the years drag on, tyranny. I have only a layman's understanding of politics, and maybe even less than that, but I am tired and hurt by Europe's repeated denunciations and vilifications of America and all that we stand for, tired of their jeering attempts to make us out as barbaric imperialists. Yes, the War in Iraq is problematic. But unlike the cul-

tures we're fighting, in America, we don't strap explosives to ourselves and detonate them around young kids and their parents and grandparents. I think that fact deserves a little more differentiation and acknowledgement than it has so far received.

That being said, I have read many accounts of hate crimes committed against Muslims, and my first reaction to Blair's remarks was a shrug. While part of me shivered at what it must be like for the honestly good-intentioned Muslims throughout the world who can't control the actions of their brethren in other countries and want only to live ordinary lives, I sort of felt that a sharp increase in anti-Muslim sentiments was not only natural but inevitable. When there are Muslims involved in nearly every conflict across the globe, from Indonesia to France to Russia, then—surprise!—people are going to become fearful and suspicious of Muslims. Is it unfair to those who have done nothing wrong? Of course. But, as some of my teachers would say, *yesh reglayim b'davar*, these suspicions have not been pulled out of thin air, and terrorists all over the world justify these suspicions daily. It is hard to blame a civilization for discriminating against those who have repeatedly wounded it.

Or is it?

As Americans, we find ourselves thinking this way. As Jews, who have been victims of Islamic terrorism for far longer than the Europeans or the Americans, we have little initial sympathy for the Muslims victimized by discrimination. We have been struck too many times; too many loved ones have been lost. So when we read an article about how Tony Blair, America's lone ally, is going to go ahead and consider Muslims "improperly integrated" into British society, we think, "You know what? They earned it." And we turn the page.

And we miss that little clause in the eighth paragraph of the story where Blair says: "People want to know that the Muslim community in particular, but actually all minority communities, have got the balance right between integration and multiculturalism."

Am I the only one who finds this statement extremely alarming?

If you read this particular story closely, its headline is "Blair Criticizes Full Islamic Veils as 'Mark of Separation,'" you will find that what Blair is criticizing is not really Islamic veils, but any outward display of religion at all. The article describes an incident wherein Jack Straw, leader of the House of Commons, "asked Muslim women meeting with him to

remove their veils, arguing that it prevented communication and set the wearer apart."

I guess that's one argument for the human-hair *sheitel*.

Seriously though, don't you wonder what kind of conversation he's going to have with the next Jewish representative who has the gall to wear a *kippa* in his presence? Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi clarifies that it isn't the religious connotations, but the simple placement of the veil that offends his senses. "You can't cover your face, you must be seen," he says. "This is common sense, I think. It is important for our society."

That kind of reasoning is as random and arbitrary as your grandmother deciding that she doesn't like people who wear bright colors because she thinks they are too loud. The difference is that your grandmother wields no political power, while these prime ministers are the people who expelled the Jews from their countries time after time throughout the Middle and Renaissance Ages for crimes just as cooked-up as this one. Common sense? When does the Common Sense Committee hold its meeting to legislate fashion? Where is its ruling on middle-aged men mowing their lawns without shirts on?

No, common sense has little to do with Prodi's statements, or Blair's.

Those statements do not stem from social etiquette. They stem from fear, alienation and disgust. Not at Muslims exclusively, but at any ethnicity other than the good old reliable white Christian. The situation for Jews outside of America is less than optimal already. But when we see articles like these in the newspaper we simply cannot skip over them without a second thought just because there's no "Jew" in the headline. We can't let phrases like "compromise for the sake of social harmony" slide over our heads, no matter who says them, no matter who they are said about. Right now, at least in theory, people in Britain can worship any way they choose. But we can't forget that the separation of church and state is non-existent in Europe.

We can't let that concept be forgotten here, in America, or we may find ourselves making a few compromises of our own.

A Message from Academic Advisement

Defining Academic Stressors

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

What are academic stressors? They range from personal to teacher/student to institutional stressors. Personal stressors include worry about not living up to self-imposed expectations, procrastination, and the feeling of being isolated. Teacher related stressors involve being in courses with instructors whose guidelines and standards are vague or inflexible. Typical institutional stressors are registration hassles, deadlines, and exams.

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

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

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

Feel free to visit the Academic Advisement Center if you need help with academic stress. We are located on the 14th floor of 205 Lexington Ave. Please drop by or make an appointment.

Miriam Schechter, Director
Rochelle Mogilner
Dr. Gail Gumora

Costumes and Cartoons

continued from page 3

bomber for Halloween, and better yet, to post those pictures online.

Not only are the pictures offensive, but apparently the captions, which have been removed, were as well. Campus Watch at campus-watch.org reports that some of the original captions were, "Influencing a future Mujahideen" (showing Saadi posing with a little boy superhero who is aiming his gun at the camera), "Freedom fighter and freedom statue pose for a picture," (showing Saadi alongside a woman dressed as the Statue of Liberty) and the like.

What's the problem with Saadi posing as a suicide bomber? After all, it's Halloween, and surely other people pose as ghosts, ghouls, goblins and movie characters. The problem, of course, is that this is real. Suicide bombers kill people. They destroy people's lives, murder children, and then proudly take credit for this. To take a suicide bomber, a terrorist, as one's Halloween character, implies a profound lack of sensitivity, no, of feeling, of all human emotion.

For how, after seeing the faces of orphaned children looking so desperate and forlorn, how, after viewing the mangled and bloody remains of people on television and in the media, how, after reading about the fact that these people deliberately stud their explosives with nails and sharp shards in order to harm the most people, how could anyone find it within themselves to pretend to be such a person? How could anyone take on the character of a murderer, take on the character of one who kills innocents? This is abhorrent and repulsive. It is in poor taste, but that is the mildest thing that can be said of it. It is utterly- disgusting.

But offensive Halloween costumes are not the worst of what has gone wrong with the world.

On Wednesday, November 1, Moroccan cartoonist Abdellah Derkaoui won first prize in Iran's International Holocaust Cartoons Contest. According to Iranian sources, the contest was in "retaliation for last year's publication of caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad in Danish and other European newspapers that angered Muslims worldwide."

The cartoon depicts "a crane with a Star of David sign, putting up blocks making a wall separating the Muslim shrine, the Dome of the Rock, from Jerusalem. The wall has a gate, shown in the distance that looks like one at the Auschwitz concentration camp, where Jews were incarcerated and killed."

Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammed Hossein Saffar-Harandi presented the prize to a Moroccan representative, praising the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, for taking the initiative in opening the subject of the Holocaust

to debate.

"The taboo is broken now," stated the minister. "People should not think that by questioning the Holocaust, they are committing a crime."

This is frightening because it is particularly reminiscent of the famous *midrash* of *Amalek* and the bath-water. Nobody would attack the Jews after their fabulous Exodus from Egypt, which included miracles and wonders the like of which the world had not theretofore seen. However, *Amalek* "jumped in the bath water" and cooled it off for others. This is the exact language the minister is using. "The taboo is broken now," and others may now follow suit.

It is astounding that people believe they can question the Holocaust, that it is a subject to be opened to debate. The Holocaust is a fact, proven by people, pictures, and evidence of so many kinds. My feelings about this are not inspired only because I am a Jew. They are also inspired because I am human, and feel the bonds of the common humanity I believe we all share. What kind of man encourages the mockery of an event so terrible in nature that it destroyed millions? What kind of person lauds, praises, and awards \$12,000 to a man for being as anti-Semitic and barbaric as possible in cartoon form?

Where is our humanity?

From the tactless nature of a Halloween costume to an outright attack in the form of political cartoons, our humanity is slowly slipping away. People do not like to feel connected to others. We prefer to look out for our own interests, and if that includes making a mockery of the suffering of others, so be it.

It's disgusting, but worse than that, it is so sad.

It is sad because it will not change. It cannot. We cannot affect change in others, as the maxim goes, we can only affect change in ourselves.

So while I condemn Saadi's costume and am appalled by an International Holocaust Cartoons Contest, you may ask, what is the purpose? I can do nothing. They will be as they are and I will be as I am. To which I answer- you are right that I cannot directly do anything. But, I can care. What is most important is the way in which I react. We as Jews and we as humans cannot lose our sense of feeling; we cannot dismiss assaults like these. We must be outraged, disturbed by anyone who tramples the feelings of others so carelessly; we must care about these matters. We must keep careful guard over our sensitivity. Otherwise, it too will fade away and we might reach the point where, one day, Jewish people laugh alongside their friends in Hitler costume.

The Feminine Myst(a)que

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allowed it to be so. From the moment we have reached what has been deemed as "marriageable age," most of us at SCW have been subjected to the burdensome, if at times, oppressive pressure of *shidduchim*. The juncture when marriage concerns should be introduced is a separate matter of debate, but the idea that they should preclude a woman from pursuing her lifelong dream to be a doctor, a dentist, a lawyer, or what have you, is absolutely unconscionable. It is very difficult to reconcile work and family roles, some argue. Whoever said it was easy? But does that mean we shouldn't try?

From an early age we are pushed to excel at school. I think we tend to forget that the grades are merely a means to an end. The women of SCW are just as fastidious, if not more so, than the men of Yeshiva College about maintaining high grade point averages and justifiably so. But if we're just in college to bide our time until we get married, then what has the whole experience amounted to? We are afforded the opportunity for a first-rate college education only to throw it by the wayside when the timing is no longer right. Of course the material we are taught is meant to be enjoyed for its own sake, but it is also meant to be utilized and incorporated into our larger futures, which will hopefully include some kind of role that rewards us in ways that others cannot.

A guy I once dated told me that it was very important to him that the women he went out with received "good grades." He seemed to feel this statement was sufficient in illustrating his affinity for bright women and elaborated no further. But the remark struck me in a most alarming way and seemed to confirm my suspicions that part of the discouragement my fellow classmates had encountered was from the very boyfriends and husbands they were trying to please. "Good grades" appears to sum up the necessary attribute of intelligence; outside interests and career aspirations are totally irrelevant and in fact, unnecessary.

When I hear of SCW undergraduates who dropped their plans to become physicians, fearful that they would be rendered "*shidduch* unworthy," it upsets me to no end. These amazingly driven and capable women should be lauded for their efforts, not denigrated and made to feel like social pariahs. Any man that cannot be proud of such a woman's accomplishments does not deserve her anyway. It is a shame that primitive ways of thinking have permeated the ranks of our community to such an extent that externally applied limitations on women have actually become self-imposed.

And this is what perturbs me the most. The reinforcement we may be denied from our families and communities should at least be supplied by ourselves. Someone related to me her con-

versation with a friend who had recently given birth. Though professing herself to be happy, the friend revealed that she would love to be going into a health-related field, an ambition which was not and would not conceivably be factored into her present circumstances. "It's not going to happen," her companion unabashedly replied, unknowingly abetting her friend in closing a window of opportunity that may never be opened again.

Why can't Orthodox women have it all, just like everyone else? Like their male counterparts, all women have a right to be happy and content with their lives. I appeal to each and every woman at SCW to do what makes her happy and to encourage her peers to do the same. Whether you choose a domestic role, a professional role, or endeavor to balance them both, you should be respected for a decision that allows you to maximize your talents in the venues you perform best.

In a recent essay in Newsweek, Anna Quindlen wrote the following: "...the perception was that the fight for equality was a war against men. But the battle was really against waste, the waste of talent, the waste to society, the waste of women who had certain gifts and goals and had to suppress both." We at SCW can set a precedent for subsequent generations of Orthodoxy. We can help reshape the societal norms regarding women, transforming today's unthinkable into tomorrow's reality.

New Five-Credit Tanakh Class to be Offered Every Morning

continued from front page

Levin, who last year served as co-editor-in-chief of The Observer and has participated in the morning Talmud class for four semesters, has been a strong advocate for students' needs and academic interests. "Besides the obvious academic benefits of studying in one class four mornings a week, which allows for an intensity and a depth that twice-a-week courses cannot offer," Levin says, she hopes that "having a Tanakh course run side-by-side with the two *Gemara shiurim* will enhance Stern's morning learning and the beit midrash community."

Being part of "the community that emerges from the every morning *Gemara* classes is an incredible experience," reflected SCW junior Jaime Fogel. Having a parallel Tanakh class, Fogel believes, "will open up this same community experience to other students as well." This community learning experience is "particularly valuable as a transition from *midrashot* and seminaries to college," Levin added.

Providing more of a context

for this recent initiative, Rabbi Kanarfogel explained, "our Jewish studies program seeks to provide the highest levels of Torah and Jewish Studies for women, and this is one more component of that mission. Giving students the opportunity to spend additional class time involved in the study of Torah texts that are both complex and exciting," Rabbi Kanarfogel explained, "is a natural outgrowth of our direction."

Despite being approached on November 6th, while the deans were in the midst of settling details for next semester's schedule, Dean Bacon ensured that this initiative be acted on right away because, "among the driving forces that guide our academic planning is our firm commitment to respect and respond to the intellectual interests and the changing patterns of our student body," she said. Though there is one technical obstacle that has yet to be resolved, Dean Bacon is hopeful that "we will implement this exciting new option as early as this coming spring semester or at the latest by fall 2007."

Rabbi Cohen, chosen by the

administration and faculty together to teach this class, is one of Yeshiva University's prized Tanakh scholars, who has always "advocated serious independent preparation for [his] classes," believing that "this system maximizes the benefit to students by developing their skills and enabling them to learn a methodology. Having a group meet every morning will solidify this system," he concluded.

From the establishment of a monthly learning program on Friday for Judaic Studies majors to developments in the realm of Judaic Studies faculty, the administration has been most receptive to the students' suggestions and accommodating to their needs.

Besides the great success of instituting an every morning Tanakh class, the most notable success of this process is what it shows about the relationship between students, faculty, and the administration. "The expansion of our Tanakh program," Dean Bacon said, represents "collaborative planning, students and faculty working together to grow academically and spiritually."

NEWS

Stern College Dramatic Society Hires Artistic Director

BY DEBORAH ANSTANDIG

Actor Reuven Russell has joined the staff of Stern College for Women (SCW) as Artistic Director of the Stern College Dramatic Society (SCDS). Russell's hiring represents an attempt by the college to expand and revive the society, which has not produced a play in over a year. Under the leadership of Mr. Russell and SCDS President Sharon Shmuel (SCW 07), this year's program will include the annual student Showcase and a dramatic presentation in the spring.

The SCDS's activity dates back to 1968, with its first production of "The World of Shalom Aleichem." The student organization has staged a myriad of plays ranging from Rose's "Twelve Angry Men" (1977) and Albee's "The Zoo Story" (1985) to Howard Ashman's "Little Shop of Horrors" (1994). The decision for the upcoming spring performance is still undecided.

The student Showcase, which will take place on December 10th-11th, features approximately 40 students who will sing, dance, and act. Russell is involved in writing the narration connecting the acts and offers theatrical guidance, sharing tips for dance and vocal performance.

A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University and the Yale School of Drama, and a student of the acclaimed actress and instructor Stella Adler, Russell

enjoys no shortage of expertise. Russell is also a *ba'al teshuvah*, having become Shabbat observant in graduate school. Russell attributes much of his desire to become religiously observant to his experiences with Adler, who taught acting luminaries such as Marlon Brando. "She used to teach us that despite how you behave in the rest of your life, you can never lie on stage," Russell said. "Finding the truth in



Actor Reuven Russell

theater is the natural bridge to finding truth in life."

It is precisely the combination of these two elements that makes Russell a uniquely suitable choice for SCW. "Russell straddles two worlds; his experience will make SCDS into a more developed and more impressive program," explained SCW Dean Karen Bacon. "He is aware of the sensitivities that halakhic observance creates while still coming with a tremendous amount of knowledge in his field. Russell approached Stern College, and we are thrilled to have a permanent figure involved in drama at the college." Associate Dean of Students Zeld

Braun emphasized the significance of having Russell as a permanent figure, hoping his arrival will inspire new students to participate in creating a "greater presence of drama at SCW."

Russell has already served as a tremendous resource to the society and to students interested in drama, holding weekly theater workshops on Wednesday evenings. "The purpose of these classes is for students to explore, discover, learn, and hone [their] talents and skills for the theater. These workshops will ultimately turn into rehearsals for the spring production," Russell explained.

Students who have participated in these workshops expressed their excitement for the upcoming year. Deanna Frazin (SCW 08) has been active in drama since her freshman year and is thrilled that "Stern found someone of his caliber who can help us with the acting." Showcase Director and Producer Sharona Motkin (SSSB 08) emphatically agreed, affirming that Russell has been "very willing to help."

SCDS membership is open to all undergraduate students, regardless of prior theatrical experience. "You don't need talent to join this group, only courage," stressed Russell. Those interested in partaking in a "meaningful, entertaining, inspiring, and fun show" should contact sshmuel@yu.edu for more information.

Changes To Pre-Law Advisement Illicit Confusion

BY YAFFI SPODEK

The Observer has learned that Yeshiva University (YU) is looking to hire a new full-time general academic advisor who would also be in charge of pre-law advising. Spearheaded by Dr. Thea Volpe, director of Undergraduate Academic Advising, this change is being implemented with the hope that a full-time person would be capable of introducing more programming and initiatives than Rabbi Michael Hecht's part-time position as the pre-law advisor currently permits. The advertisement for this position stipulated that the person did not need to have a law degree and that although advising experience would be good, candidates without should apply anyway since they could always be trained. Other qualifications included interpersonal skills, good writing abilities, and an understanding of academics or at least a willingness to learn.

"We are always looking to expand advisement in general," Dean Karen Bacon explained. "We are looking to expand with people who provide full-time services." A new general advisor can advise students of career options, and also be specialized to help students with the application process for their specific field. "We also hope to have in the future special career workshops and panelized discussions from alumnae, so that students can hear of experience from people in their specific fields," she elaborated.

Rabbi Hecht was approached by Dean Bacon very prematurely about this issue, and was only given minor details as to what changes might be occurring. Rabbi Hecht has neither the interest nor the time to become a full-time advisor, a fact that both he and Dean Bacon recognized. "I would be ready to help in some sort of consulting capacity to help train a new person," Rabbi Hecht said. Dean Bacon agreed that if they were to hire a new full-time advisor, "Rabbi Hecht would help that transition."

Rabbi Hecht has been the pre-law advisor at YU for both campuses for the last three decades. Three years ago, in the fall of 2003, Dr. Robert Greenberg was approached by Dean Bacon and was subsequently appointed as the pre-law advisor for the students of Stern College for Women (SCW) on the Beren Campus. As a professor of political science and of business law at the Sy Syms School of Business (SSSB), Dr. Greenberg had previously been advising pre-law students informally in an unofficial capacity.

Therefore, it seemed logical to hire Dr. Greenberg to assist Rabbi Hecht, since students had been complaining that it was difficult to meet with Rabbi Hecht who had previous commitments uptown on the Wilf Campus.

Records indicate that there are typically between 20 and 25 SCW women who apply to law school each year. The pre-law advisors always worked on a part-time basis, since this small number did not garner a full-time employee dedicated solely to pre-law advisement. According to Dean Bacon, the current system has been working. "I know of no problems," she commented in late August of this year. Likewise, there have been no complaints from the students to the administration about the Pre-Law department. Therefore, one would logically assume that the department would continue as is, without any significant changes, and certainly not before consulting with the advisors who were working there. There is always room for change in any department on campus provided that it would be an improvement over the current situation by somehow enhancing what is being modified and making it better for the students being affected.

Although Rabbi Hecht acknowledges the benefits of having a full-time advisor in place of a part-time one, he is not entirely confident that YU will be hiring the most competent person for the job. "I think it makes very little sense to hire someone who hasn't gone to law school to be a pre-law advisor," he said. "It would have very little credibility with our students." Professor Greenberg agreed. "How can someone who has not been through the law school experience advise students about what to expect?" he wondered. "I am at a complete loss to understand how someone without a law degree could be afforded even preliminary consideration." He believes that students will be "seriously shortchanged."

Having been a pre-law advisor for the last 30 years, and sending what he estimates to be about 3,000 students to law school, Rabbi Hecht possesses an inordinate amount of knowledge about everything related to pre-law, from taking the LSAT, to the application process, to helping students get into the right places. He also has invaluable connections at many law schools and routinely makes personal phone calls to the admissions committees to persuade them to take borderline students. "It is doubtful that YU will get a good enough

Communications Department Assumes Larger Role in University Life Executive Director Announces Establishment of Events Office

BY SHAYNA HOENIG

Administrative officials have made great strides in improving and expanding the university's Communications Department. The department, which oversees publicity and fundraising on the university's behalf, has added new personnel to its ranks. Among the recent arrivals is Georgia B. Pollack, who now serves as executive director of university communications. Pollack previously held a similar position at Sarah Lawrence College, a liberal-arts school in Bronxville, NY.

"The department's purpose has always been and will continue to be to attract students to our programs and help raise money," Pollack said. "So we work with the enrollment and fundraising office of the university. We support them by creating letters, posters, help create items for donors. I would say there isn't an

area of the university we don't deal with."

"We get involved with trustees, faculty, [and] alumni," she continued. "We are the support function to make sure that we have the highest quality materials, the right message about the university, not only to our students but to the world at large. We just support every department of the university with the communications materials." In addition to the standard responsibilities entailed by her position, Pollack has started working on several new initiatives which she believes will further advance the department's goals.

Soon after her arrival at Yeshiva University (YU), Pollack proposed the creation of a centralized events office to better coordinate and disseminate information for campus programming. By Pollack's recommendation, the university hired Grant Grastorf, Pollack's former col-

league and Head of Programs at Sarah Lawrence, to lead the new office.

Grastorf has been consulting with the deans and Student Life Committees on both undergraduate campuses to develop the most efficient system of running the office and allocating responsibilities. Pollack explained that having Grastorf meet with both the students and administration will enable the events office "to be more organic, coming out of the needs and wishes of the students and faculty themselves. Grant is going to try to work order [into the] system, he'll have staff he's going to hire, he'll work closely with our student affairs office who will have the final say in events."

"The ownership of events is still in the hands of the one who comes in," clarified Pollack. "We are not responsible for the suc-

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Senator Explains Republican Fall to Students

BY SHANA BRUCKSTEIN MUSCHEL

A day after the Republican Party lost control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) spoke to a group of approximately 100 Yeshiva University (YU) students at a luncheon held on the Wilf Campus. Despite his party's losses, the Republican senator remained upbeat about the future of his party. Referring sarcastically to the rainy weather, Brownback said, "What a gorgeous day in New York," and then joked, "particularly if you're a Republican."



Senator Sam Brownback

Brownback, who was elected to the Senate in 1996, blamed the Republicans lack of success in the 2006 midterm elections on two main factors. Both the war in Iraq and the recent Congressional corruptions contributed to the

party's loss. The scandals surrounding Mark Foley and Tom Delay created negative attention for the Republicans and were extremely detrimental to the party. In addition, according to Brownback, the concern over immigration laws was the hot button issue of this year's elections, and the lack of successful results in the matter was a major blow to the Republicans. However, he assured the audience that the less than stellar results achieved by the Republicans was normal for a midterm election during the President's second term, explaining that, "the natural tendencies in the cycle where a president is in his last term, his last midterm cycle, most of the time you lose seats in that type of situation." The

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Former YC Dean and Ambassador Analyzes Summer War with Lebanon

BY NAVA BILLET

The Rabbi Arthur Schneier Center for International Affairs at Yeshiva University (YU) hosted Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, former dean of Yeshiva College, who gave a lecture entitled "The Summer Vacation's War: Implications for Israeli Security and Diplomacy."

The title for the evening's address was not arbitrarily chosen. The ambassador actually borrowed the appellation from an Israeli child who coined the phrase "Summer Vacation's War," conveying to a reporter his disappointment that the conflict had disrupted his summer break. Ambassador Kurtzer felt that this was a more suitable designation than the one invoked by Israeli government which had referred to the struggle as the "Second Lebanon War."

Ambassador Kurtzer is a most appropriate figure to make an assessment of this past summer's war, given his close relationship with Israel and its government over the past few years. As the former American Ambassador to Israel, and before that to Egypt, he continues to maintain ties with members of its government. The ambassador delivered a thorough analysis of the events leading up to the summer war with Hezbollah and the conflict's implications and aftermath. His account was well-structured and insightful, shedding light on the complex and ever-changing political situation in the Middle East.

Ambassador Kurtzer posited that two wars were waged from the Israeli front this summer, one in Gaza and one in Lebanon. More specifically, the ambassador explained, Israel was fighting

a war against Palestinian infiltrators not associated with Hamas, in whose best interest it was to keep the *hudna* (cease-fire), and against Hezbollah terrorists fighting from Southern Lebanon without any external assistance. Both of the aggressors employed the same kidnapping tactic to incite Israel, but neither was trying to start war. Rather, the two groups were hoping that the kidnapping of Israeli troops would lead to prisoner exchanges. He described the situation as an ongoing



Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer

"game" with unspoken rules: terrorists would kidnap soldiers and the Israelis would release prisoners. Only this time Israel "broke the rules." The ambassador cited a post-war statement made by Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in which he intimated that had he known that Israel would respond militarily to his attack, he would not have commanded it.

Ambassador Kurtzer also cast doubt on the notion that Hezbollah had trounced the Israelis, a claim that prevailed throughout the Arab world following the brokering of the UN ceasefire. First, he argued, a significant number of frontline Hezbollah fighters were taken out during this war. Secondly, "Sheikh Nassrallah is not a liar," explained the ambassador, and would have hit Tel Aviv with long-range rockets had the

Israelis not destroyed his supply in the air raids they conducted early on. Ambassador Kurtzer also praised Israel for its unparalleled success in absorbing displaced citizens and refugees, even while contending with a continuous onslaught of rocket attacks.

"Israel needed to prove they are willing to bleed and die for their country and still care for it as patriotic Israelis," he said. "[The] Arab street may celebrate... [But] Israel did accomplish its strategic purpose and inflicted defeat for now on Hezbollah."

Ambassador Kurtzer's analysis of the post-war implications are that there needs to be an international dialogue in which all the major international communities will partake. He said that U.S. involvement in Iraq was harmful to Israel; being an ally of the U.S. of close geographic proximity to Iraq makes Israel more vulnerable to attacks. He also stressed the need to target terrorists because the ability to do so has been diminished worldwide. His final point emphasized the importance of the role of the United States in helping Israel and the Palestinian Arabs find a platform on which they can meet and negotiate peace. "There is a need to act out a role for the betterment of peace in the region and Israel as a whole," he concluded.

His words were eye-opening for the diverse group that attended the lecture. He presented a different point of view than most of the audience was used to hearing, allowing them to assess the situation in a new light.

Office of Student Affairs Celebrates Newly Expanded Premises

BY CHANIE DINERMAN

The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) unveiled its new premises on the Beren Campus with a "Chanukat HaBayit" celebration. The entire staff of the OSA welcomed students to the 7th floor of 215 Lexington Avenue where the offices were moved over the summer. Yeshiva University (YU) Dean of Students, Dr. Victor Schwartz, was also present. Dr. Schwartz oversees all non-academic related student issues for the entire university, including YU's seven graduate schools.

With its newly renovated offices and enlarged staff, the OSA hopes to expand its presence and reach on the Beren Campus. The Chanukat HaBayit kicks off a year of unprecedented activity within the department and among the larger student body, which has already begun to feel the effects of a more visible and involved OSA.

Associate Dean of Students Zeldia Braun reiterated the function of the department for those in attendance. "When you don't know where to go this is a place to come," she said. "We are very good at resources. [We do] a lot of work with individual students but we won't tell you regular and academic advisement. We will know who to send you to for a

particular project."

Dean Braun pointed to the event as a demonstration of the department's commitment to making the undergraduate academic years as enjoyable as possible. "[We are here] to be a resource and an advocate for students on campus in different capacities to enhance the students' overall experience," she said.

Though occurring during a busy week of midterms, the event enjoyed a sizeable turnout. Students were presented with pens and placeholders, complimentary of the OSA and were urged to partake from a plenteous buffet of shish kabob, knishes, and salads.

Those who joined in the festivities praised the warmth of the OSA, emphasizing how much they appreciated the department's efforts to accommodate them and to become acquainted with them on a more personal level. "The office of Student Affairs is amazing," said Torah Activities Council President Shoshana Fruchter (SCW 07) with enthusiasm. "They take care of everything and more and with a smile and really good advice." "[They] do so much to reach out to the students; they want to be part of our lives," added Aliza Vishniefsky (SCW '08).

Interdisciplinary Workshop Offers Insight into Life after Graduation

BY DEBORAH ANSTANDIG

On October 23, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), Office of Career Services (OCS), and Senior Class Board jointly sponsored and held a seminar titled "Stern College Explores Life after Graduation." The workshop brought first-year alumnae back to campus to share their various experiences and insights on post-college life.

The event was devised by Naomi Kapp of the OCS and Beth Hait, assistant dean of students, in an effort to assist students in dealing with the pressures that come with the final year of college and graduation. The workshop offered practical advice about graduation requirements, finances, and independent living in areas frequented by recent Stern College for Women (SCW) graduates like Washington Heights.

Approximately 50 students were in attendance.

The panel of speakers included SCW '05 alumnae Esther Fisher, Brandys Geller, Yael Goldmintz, Rivi Goldsmith, and



Alumna Emily Fischer, Rivi Goldsmith, Brandys Geller, Esther Malka Stromer, and Yael Goldmintz address students

Esther Malka Stromer. Each shared her unique perspective about life after college and discussed the myriad of new challenges with respect to changes in residence, friendship, budget, and workplace.

One key point stressed throughout the evening was that it was perfectly okay for seniors to be somewhat uncertain about their professional plans upon leaving college. "The trend in the country for people who spent four years in college is that 80% of them are not so sure what they want to do after they graduate," said Dean Hait. Kapp added that these types of decisions were different for each individual, emphasizing that there was no one universal path. Both urged students to take advantage of the available resources designed to aid them in the deliberation process, including published materials and meetings with faculty and staff.

According to Kapp, the OCS usually holds a panel of this sort sometime during the spring semester. However, this year, the workshop was held significantly

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FEATURES

Stern Students Run New York City Marathon

BY JACKIE FAST

For those students who are still wondering what extracurricular projects to participate in during second semester, here's a suggestion that may not have crossed your minds: run a marathon. As unlikely as this sounds, since running for an excruciating 26.2 miles might not sound terribly appealing, much less humanly possible for anyone other than talented athletes, it is actually worth considering.

Presently, several Stern College for Women (SCW) students are embarking on the project of training for marathons and half-marathons. On Sunday, November 5th, 2006, SCW students Ariella Bram and Aliza Forman completed the ING New York City Marathon, a first for both.

"It's great to run a marathon because for me and for so many other people, even the idea of running that distance is so far out of the mind's realm of possibility," said Bram, a SCW junior. "It was something that just always seemed impossible. However, with training, just about anyone in decent shape can learn to run a marathon. It's a very tangible way to overcome the impossi-

ble."

Bram never participated in any sports in high school, even though everyone else in her family is athletic. Last January, one of her former seminary *madrichot* (counselors) mentioned how she had run a marathon a few years back. Bram decided right then, on a whim, that she would begin training for one. Although



delayed by an injury, she completed her training, and the runner known to street spectators as "Skirt Girl" completed the marathon in New York, exhausted but exhilarated.

For senior Aliza Forman, the excitement of crossing the finish line closely matched the excitement of crossing the starting line. In the week before the competition, she nearly lost her ability to

run after sustaining an injury to her leg. However, with unfaltering determination, she succeeded in running the marathon. "Although the race was exhausting, it was extremely fun," Forman reported.

The ING New York City Marathon has over 37,000 runners, more participants than any other race in the world, and the runners span a staggering spectrum of the population. Men and women from around the world flock to New York to participate, from hard-core athletes with toothpick limbs to wheelchair riders. Rabbi Dr. Eliezer Ehrenpreis, a 75-year-old rabbi and mathematician from Philadelphia, ran the marathon for his 36th straight year. Cyclist legend Lance Armstrong ran his first marathon ever, claiming afterwards that it was the most physically excruciating race he had ever experienced.

However, most of the runners have no unusual claim to fame. Most of them are running the marathon simply to demonstrate that they, as perfectly average people, can do it too. For many runners, the race takes on added personal meaning because

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Adereth El: More than Just a Shul

BY ABBY ATLAS

Those who have stayed in Stern College for Women (SCW) over Shabbat may have had the pleasure of davening at Congregation Talmud Torah Adereth El (Adereth El), fondly called "the 29th Street Shul." The membership of the shul reflects the population of Murray Hill; many singles and young families attend the shul regularly. Yet, looking at the crowd in attendance on a typical Shabbat would not intimate to the observer the long and rich history of the congregation.

The shul's first service was organized by a group of poor German immigrants in the year 1857 on the holiday of *Shavuot*. To put this year in the context of American history, the original seal of the congregation reads "80 years of the Independence." The shul holds the distinction of being New York City's oldest synagogue in its original location. Though Adereth El is not the oldest congregation in the city, its building has been in continuous use longer than that of any other New York City synagogue.

Even more noteworthy than the age of the building is the dedication of the Adereth El congregants through the ages. In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the shul, which is to be celebrated this coming year, the shul is planning a number of special events. To mark this milestone, in addition to a gala dinner to be held in March, the congregation will host a lecture series which will focus on the history of the Jewish community of New York City. The shul is also collecting research about its predecessors and trying to track down the descendants of its early members.



"Celebration 150 isn't about buildings," says Adereth El's website. "It's about the people of Adereth El; from our founders...who made important contributions to Jewish communal life, and our children; tomorrow's Jewish leaders."

This is the key to Congregation Adereth El's success. It is more than just a relic of the past. It is a shul that is constantly adapting to best suit the needs of the community. Rabbi Gideon Shloush has been the

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Number of Students Majoring in Art Therapy is on the Rise

BY YAFFI SPODEK

Many Stern College for Women (SCW) students have never made the elevator trip up to the 8th floor of the Sy Syms School of Business Building at 215 Lexington Ave, unless they are art students. The 8th floor is home to the small but striking art studio of SCW. The walls plastered with paintings, collages, and projects made out of every material imaginable are evidence of the dedicated artistic population present at the college.

Although the art major, when compared with other majors at SCW, is small, the department is constantly growing and increasing its number of students and courses being offered. According to Ms. Ruth Glick of the Registrar's Office, there are currently 26 declared art majors in SCW. In particular, there is now a noticeable rising interest in the field of art therapy, one of several shaped majors that an art student can choose from. Six seniors are majoring in art therapy, which is more than half of the 10 art students who will be graduating this year. Other underclassmen are

already committed to or are strongly considering that area of concentration as well.

On its website, www.arttherapy.org, The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) defined art therapy as a form of treatment which "integrates the fields of human development,



visual art (drawing, painting, sculpture, and other art forms), and the creative process with models of counseling and psychotherapy." Sara Rosengarten, a senior majoring in art therapy, described it as "a range of creative media, of creativity and innovation, which stresses the progressive ways of expressing the self through art."

The field of art therapy is extremely inventive, and new

mediums of expression are always appreciated. A student's art portfolio would therefore include all different types of art, ranging from the basic painted canvases to newer, more modern art forms such as photography. "The more media you have sculpt, paint, draw, collage, regular and digital photography, printmaking, and the more talented at all different kinds of art you are, the better it is," explained Rosengarten.

Art therapy is a major that is less restricted than other fields, and enables a student to use all their skills, two factors which help to account for the continued interest in it. "It appeals to a lot of people- you can use anything," said Rosengarten. Natalie Gabbay, a senior, also chose art therapy because she viewed it as an opportunity to really make use of her abilities. "I have always wanted to utilize creativity in whatever field I chose to pursue, and I hoped that my future career would involve helping the world in some way, I just wasn't sure how," she said. "Art therapy seemed like the perfect fusion of

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Washington Experiences an Influx of Democrats and Jews

BY: BATSHEVA LIPSCHITZ

"The West Wing is like the West Bank- there are so many Jews," joked Jay Zeidman, the White House liaison to the Jewish community, when he addressed the students of Yeshiva University on October 25.

With the midterm election behind us, there will be 30 Jews occupying seats in the House of Representatives and 13 who will serve in the Senate. The numbers are up in the House from 26, with six new Jewish faces emerging among the 435 representatives, and up from 11 in the Senate. The number of Jewish members serving in the House reached its peak in the early 1990s with a total of 33. Two years later, that number had fallen to 29, and in 1994 only 24 Jews were elected to the House. To date, 13 is the largest number of Jewish senators simultaneously in power.

The large representation of Jews in Congress comes hand in hand with the Democratic tide that overtook Washington on Election Day. Thirty-eight of the 43 Jews who will enter office in January are Democrats, three are

Republican and two are Independent but will probably choose to identify themselves with their Democratic colleagues.

Two of the more well known Jews who ran for office, and won, this year were Joseph Lieberman and Eliot Spitzer. Lieberman, whose own party dropped him in the primaries, is now listed as an Independent Senator of Connecticut. He describes himself as an "independent-minded Democrat" and got 48% of the votes in his state. Democrat Ned Lamont received 39% of the votes and Republican Alan Schlesinger, who is also Jewish, trailed far behind, getting only 10% of the votes.

Spitzer, a Democrat, was the New York State attorney general before deciding to run for the job of governor of New York. A few weeks before the election, Spitzer was projected to have a 45 point lead over John Fasso, the Republican candidate. His favorable/unfavorable rating was 74 % to Fasso's 17 %, with 10 % not knowing enough to take a position. It seemed that the race

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Midtown Cuisine: Better than the Caf?

BY SHANI CHESIR

It's 7:30 PM and you just finished your grueling chem lab. You run downstairs to grab your favorite dinner selection, a chicken caesar wrap, but are out of luck. To your dismay, there is nobody by the cash registers and the staff is beginning to put the food away. Unfortunately, you do not know offhand the locations of the various eateries around Stern College for Women (SCW) and go back to your room for an unsatisfying bowl of cereal and milk.

Many students do enjoy eating out, even when they are not forced to do so by the limited caf hours. "A lot of my fellow Stern students think it's a



Mendy's Restaurant

waste of money to go to dinner anywhere but the caf," said Alyssa Rottenstreich, a SCW junior. "But there are just some nights when I think to myself 'ewww not the caf again', and then I know its time to take out the wallet instead of my ID."

There are many different factors to consider when deciding where to eat. Do you want a place that you can run into on the way back from class, so you could just pick up something quick that you can devour in your room while you begin to tackle your work? Would you like to eat in a relaxing atmosphere, with waiter service and fancy desserts? Are you meeting with friends from other colleges who want to avoid the "Stern scene?"

The most convenient eateries for the majority of SCW students, especially those who live in Brookdale Hall, are Mendy's and Eden Wok. Mendy's is perfect if you are in the mood for a traditional and reliable meal. They are famous for their "soup and half a sandwich deal", which is a perfect choice when you want a meal with variety at a reasonable price. They even throw in a container of coleslaw and a pickle! Mendy's is also historically famous for being one of Jerry Seinfeld's common hangouts. One can choose to eat in the regular part of the restaurant, which provides waiter service and a homey atmosphere. Most SCW women, however, choose Mendy's because the food has a fast "take-out" feel, yet one can actually sit and eat it in the front of the restaurant, in a more informal setting. When asked where she eats out most frequently, "I go with Mendy's," was Deena Perles's, a junior, reply. "It's close enough that if you are too

lazy to go to the caf or cannot imagine eating the same old chicken, you can go there without it being a shlep. You can count on the food- you know that turkey on club bread will have the same great quality each time!"

Eden Wok's menu is a combination of "Far East 'standards' together with sushi, sashimi and even a number of Pacific 'fusion' and American grill selections," according to its website. However, some students don't think it is worth it to go to Eden Wok. "They sell anything I

would buy from there in our caf anyway," commented Naama Levin, a Sy Syms School of

Business (SSSB) junior. "After the caf has closed, if I am craving Chinese food I can usually obtain it from the Milner's fridge. On the other hand, the sushi in school is so delicious that I can see how it would entice someone to go to the actual store after hours to get some more." The dimmed lights and calm ambience provide the impetus for someone to choose this location for their relaxing night out.

If you are willing to walk a few extra blocks and want a cheaper meal, then go to 37th and Broadway to J2 or Kosher Delight. You cannot go wrong with either of these choices. J2 is reliable for a good slice of pizza, or a falafel salad and pasta dishes if you want to be healthy. "It's a perfect distance from Stern; not too far but you can still get some fresh air on the way," says Arly Avner, a junior at SCW and a frequent patron there. "It costs just a couple of dollars, which is convenient because I need to save up my cash just in case I get another one of those negative caf feelings." There is also a lot of space to sit, so if you want somewhere to eat with a large group of friends, you do not have to worry about there being enough tables to accommodate everyone. An upstairs room is useful for a special occasion such as a birthday party, where you enjoy a more private atmosphere.

Kosher Delight offers a wide variety of classic fast food at reasonable prices; one can buy a hamburger, fries, and soda, for around \$10! If you do not feel like leaving your dorm building, they have a very convenient delivery service. You can set up an account on

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Noah Baron Appointed the New "Shabbat Rabbi"

BY ALIZA VISHNIAVSKY

It seems that every time I am in Stern for Shabbat, a friend who does not usually stay for the weekend always asks me at the end of davening, "who is that guy making the announcements?" to which I respond, "the Shabbat rabbi." This year, Assistant Dean of Students Beth Hait, head of the Shabbat Enhancement Program (SEP), has appointed Noah Baron, a fourth-year semikha student at Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) the position of Shabbat Rabbi.

"To understand the purpose of the Shabbat rabbi, you must first understand the purpose of the Shabbat program on the Beren Campus," said Hait. "The vision of Shabbat on the Beren Campus is to create a community among our diverse population." To achieve that goal, a different student club sponsors each Shabbat to give each weekend its own unique flavor. "The Shabbat rabbi brings continuity from one Shabbat to the next," Hait explained. Whether the biology club or the Spanish club sponsors Shabbat, the same person is there to coordinate *tefillah*, get everyone's attention for *kiddush*, and to give *divrei torah* and *shiurim*. According to Hait, the typical Shabbat rabbi has training and experience that match the Shabbat vision. "It is a great chance for a rabbinical student to

learn hands-on about leadership and diversity," she said.

Baron and his wife Tova come from their home in Washington Heights every week to be that continuous presence. A native of Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Baron learned for a year at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel, after graduating from The Frisch School. He earned his BA at Yeshiva College, worked as a *madrich* (advisor) at Yeshivat Shaarei Mevasseret Tzion for two years, and is now in his final year of semikha. This year, he is teaching math and computer classes at Breuers, and is a member of the Ramaz Kollel. In addition, he is finishing a Master's degree in Education at the Azrieli School of Jewish Education. Tova, a graduate of Barnard College, is originally from Miami Beach and is currently a nursing student at Columbia University.

One reason Baron was interested in becoming the Shabbat rabbi was because he thought it would be a good chance to meet a diverse group of students. "I love meeting new people," said Baron. "I also heard that everyone at Stern was really nice, so I wanted to check it out myself, and I have found that it is true." Baron reports that, so far, he has enjoyed the time he has spent on the Beren Campus. "There is always so much excitement," he elaborated. "I like the fact that every Shabbos there is a different Shabbaton." Baron also appreci-

ates the opportunity to find out about all the different clubs that the campus has to offer. So far this year he has acquainted himself with Sy Syms, Yachad, the Spanish Club, Torah Activities Council (TAC), and Student Organization of Yeshiva (SOY). "I get to meet all the presidents of these programs and spend time with the *rebbeim* who come to spend Shabbat with the women of Stern College," he said. "The weekends I have been at Stern so far have been great because we have had many dynamic guests who enhanced Shabbos with great *shiurim* and singing."

The women of Stern College for Women (SCW) have expressed their enthusiasm over having the Barons on campus for Shabbat. "Because Noah and Tova are both warm, genuine and easily approachable, their presence really adds to the Shabbat environment," said Shayna Hoenig, a SCW junior. According to Debbie Weinerman, also a SCW junior, Baron helps create a very friendly atmosphere. "He is really funny, very dynamic and personable," she explained. "It is important to have a Shabbat rabbi in general because it shows that Stern strives to make an established community, and Shabbat is a great time to foster that community. Noah is doing a great job at that goal."

New Peer Mentoring Program Launched at Stern

BY SURI GREENWALD

All beginnings are hard, and this is especially rings true for the start of one's college experience. Students beginning their undergraduate studies suddenly find themselves with a whole new set of peers, professors, and general surroundings. Some opt to go away for college, leaving their hometown and the surroundings that they are comfortable with. Although it is an exciting point in a student's life, it can simultaneously be a nerve-racking one as well. Students can very easily find themselves lost and alone in a new world that they feel is too big for them. Therefore, for these very reasons, many universities make it their priority to reach out to their first time on campus students and provide them with helpful resources to best meet their needs.

One such initiative in Stern College for Women (SCW) is the B.L.U.E (Beginning Life in the University Environment) program, which is an umbrella heading under which many other smaller programs fall. The program, run by the Student Affairs Committee, caters to new students at the college, seeking to make their experience a better

one. Events that they have put together include game night in the Brookdale Residence Hall's Freshman Lounge, making henna art with new Sephardic students, going out to eat at Mr. Broadway, and touring the city at night on a double-decker bus.

A subsection of the B.L.U.E program is the Peer Mentoring program, which is being spearheaded by Rachel Shtern, the Student Events Coordinator on the Beren Campus. The program, which is still in the works as it is now still recruiting mentors and first time students is designed to reach out to first time on campus students by pairing them up with a junior or senior student. The upperclassman will act as both their peer and mentor, and help to guide them through their new transition into college life.

Shtern emphasized that it is different from counseling, since the university already has a counseling center. Rather, it is an additional resource for these new students to have, providing them with someone on campus to talk to who knows the ins and outs of life at SCW. The point, "is to make them feel at home and more a part of the YU community," explained Shtern. The mentors are there to answer any questions

ranging from how to put together a schedule, to which teachers and classes to take. They can also just be a friend who is available to hang out and listen after a long and stressful day.

The peers are juniors and seniors, as opposed to sophomores, since they have been on campus longer and have more experience with college life. Each junior or senior is assigned to three students, so the students can get adequate attention from their mentor. The mentors themselves are a varied group of women, whom Shtern considers to be a great group. They have different majors, come from sundry backgrounds, and have unique personalities. This diversity is necessary to be able to cater to the many different types of students at SCW.

The recruiting of mentors is still underway, and the program will hopefully be launched after Thanksgiving break. Until then, if you'd like to join as a peer mentor or would like to be assigned to a mentor, email ftocheren@yu.edu, or Rachel Shtern at rshtern1@yu.edu, or call 212-340-7715.

From the Middle East Forum Club

BY DAVID STEIN

Last week, America witnessed a congressional midterm election that many observers believed was essentially a referendum on the foreign policy of our current administration. With Democrats taking control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the election results are considered to have been a major blow to President George W. Bush and his foreign policy initiatives.

As Americans have seen, in many ways the war in Iraq has become the biggest political issue in the country today; it has directly affected the elections, which will in turn affect everything from domestic social issues to taxes to policies toward Israel.

There's no question that the post 9/11 world is one of conflict and danger. In what some describe as the developing clash of civilizations, it is apparent that Iraq, Iran, North Korea and the War on Terror are the biggest national and global security issues that the nation is facing today. Make no mistake; these issues are not isolated, unimportant issues. 2006 is a critical time of shifting powers and emerging threats that may ultimately shape and define the world for the next generation. Indeed, just last week Tony Blair stated that in his view, the War on Terror is the defining task for this generation.

Thus, as the United States and the world grapple with these issues, the question for Yeshiva University (YU) students, as global citizens and as Jews is where do we stand? Are people engaged in or even aware of these pivotal events in the world? How does one support for Israel and one's identity as an American citizen shape his participation in the political issues of the day? Do you, *should* you contribute to the broader discussions going on in our world?

There is no question that the rallying cries of *Tikkun Olam* and "bringing wisdom to life" have led YU students to become increasingly aware and involved in the events going on in the world. The men and women of YU have always fervently supported Israel, and have recently become more aware of and involved in such global issues as the ongoing genocide Darfur. However, will we rise to the challenge of also engaging in the national discussions about Iraq, Iran, North Korea and US foreign policy?

The Middle East Forum (MEF) is committed to facilitating wider participation among the YU community in these critical issues. The MEF believes that the issues of Iraq, Iran and US policy in the Middle East do not only deserve attention; they demand participation. As adherents to an ideology that promotes

involvement in and contribution to the world at large, YU students cannot retreat into their *daled amot* and ignore these issues.

On the cover of YU's new recruitment catalogue are written the words "Because the world needs leaders..." it sure does. It needs people who are willing to be informed and involved in the issues of our day. Leaders who will contribute to Jewish communities while at the same time remain cognizant, caring, engaged, and ready to contribute to the issues facing the broader world community.

To that end, the MEF will be writing a monthly column for *The Observer* and *The Commentator* whose goal will be to inform readers about a given topic by providing information and sources about that topic. In light of last week's election, this column will focus on this past month's events in Iraq.

The month of October was the fourth bloodiest month for US troops since the war started. In total, 104 soldiers were killed, many as a result of new tactics in an offensive to restore order to Baghdad that saw increased numbers of Coalition troops deployed into the capital. As Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was fired, the future of the US military presence in Iraq remained unclear amid calls from the newly empowered Democratic Party for US troops to withdraw. President Bush recently met with the Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan collection of politicians convened by Congress to analyze and advise on the US strategy for Iraq. While Bush stated that they had "a good discussion," any recommendation for change would likely require major policy shifts within the administration. Meanwhile, as sectarian violence continues with the government unable to stem the vicious pace of bombings and killings carried out by partisan death squads, Sadaam Hussein was sentenced to death last week for crimes against humanity.

For more information about events in the Middle East, just be sure to read the news; every major newspaper in the country has a website that is updated regularly. For those who are looking for even more information, Aljazeera.net, while arguably often biased, is a good source for stories that often get missed by Western media services.

At the end of the day, Iraq and the other major issues in the world affect everyone in some way and deserve attention. The MEF is looking forward to the YU community become more interested, engaged and aware of these and other global issues. For more information, contact dpstein@yu.edu.

Get informed. Get involved.

Beyond 34th Street: Murray Hill and Midtown East

BY JACKIE FAST

If you're like most other Stern College for Women (SCW) students, you cannot escape the presence of schoolmates when you're out with friends during free time. You go for an outing on a Sunday or a weekday afternoon, and you invariably run into people you know. Maybe it's because everyone eats in the same restaurants and meets at the same coffee shops, or perhaps nobody has any creative ideas of where to go. You've probably heard people tell you over and over again that you live in Midtown, and therefore the world is at your fingertips, yet you haven't seen much of the world other than the shopping on 34th Street, the restaurants around SCW, and Times Square.

This issue's *Beyond 34th Street* is a tour of Murray Hill and Midtown East, starting in front of Brookdale Residence Hall and journeying to one of the most architecturally interesting enclaves in midtown—Tudor City. Estimated walking time is at minimum a little less than an hour; but can be stretched to last at least three if you linger in the Morgan Library.

1. Beginning on Madison Ave. and 34th St. outside of Brookdale Residence Hall, turn right to go uptown. In this city block, there are two sites of interest which, bafflingly, most of my associates at SCW claim to have never visited. The first is the Complete Traveler-Antiquarian Books store. Located on the corner of 35th and Madison, this store can probably claim to be the most comprehensive collection of rare travel books in the city. I highly recommend checking out the travel guides to the Holy Land from the nineteenth century, as well as the map collection and the wall of Baedekers, some of which are affordable.

2. The second point of interest on the block is on the other side of Madison Avenue: the New York Public Library of Science, Industry, and Business. Although these three subjects don't necessarily lend for the world's most casual perusal, the library building itself is absolutely stunning and the room is very well-suited for studying. The library isn't open on Sundays or Mondays but it is certainly worth a visit.

3. Walk up a block and a half to 36th St. and Madison, where you'll find the Morgan Library on your right. If the library is open and you have the \$8 admis-

sion fee handy, then a trip inside is unquestionably worthwhile. J.P. Morgan, one of the wealthiest Americans a century ago, had a penchant for collecting valuable manuscripts and printed



Morgan Library front lobby

books. He commissioned the construction of a library that would become one of the finest interior spaces in the city to house his collections. The highlights of the exhibit include a Gutenberg Bible, letters by Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, and the Bronte sisters, and musical scores hand-written by



Amish Market

Beethoven and Bach. I could not extol the praises of this collection enough in the few lines afforded to me here.

4. Upon exiting the Morgan Library, walk across the street to see the outside of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland at the corner of 37th St. The silver roof of the building and overwhelming height of each story makes this building appear



Grand Central Terminal's Vanderbilt Hall

quite imposing, despite it being deceptively small. Although you can't enter the building easily, since according to their website you'd have to have your Polish passport prepared, you can certainly marvel at it from the outside and imagine the immense wealth that was once concentrated in our neighborhood of

Murray Hill.

5. Walk uptown four blocks to reach 41st St., and make a right. At the corner of Park Ave. and 41st, make a left. Here, between 41st and 42nd on Park Ave. is a branch of the noted Whitney Museum of American Art, and unlike the larger museum on the Upper East Side, this museum is free. Unfortunately, the exhibit is quite small and the artwork is impenetrably modern. Yet, there is no privilege quite like a free museum, and there are few public spaces that feel so private in the middle of bustling midtown. It's worth a visit, even if you may not find the art appealing.

6. Stare forward at the imposing façade of Grand Central Terminal but do not enter the building here. Instead, make a right along 42nd St. and proceed until the corner of Lexington Ave. At this corner, fascinating skyscraper architecture can be seen in every direction. To the south (right) is the Chanin Building; with its earthy brown bricks and twentieth-century art deco flourishes. One should check out the elevators in the lobby to appreciate just how modern this building must have looked when it was first completed in 1929.

7. Continue across the street to the shimmering Chrysler Building, on the northeast corner of 42nd and Lexington, whose stainless-steel spire and car-inspired hood ornament "gargoyles" are unmistakable. When it was completed in 1930, the Chrysler Building held the title as the world's tallest skyscraper, until the Empire State Building was completed shortly thereafter. Again, the lobby is open to the public. Note how the metallic steel of the building's exterior clashes with the earthy red marble inside. Marvel at the mural ceiling and its depiction of the modern city and the role of human beings and their cars in the new city.

8. Now, return to the other side of Lexington Ave. to enjoy Grand Central Terminal. Walk up to where 43rd street would intersect Lexington, and enter the Grand Central Market, an organic market with 17 different specialty shops. At the end of the arcade, you can step across into the Main Concourse, where the frenetic pace of people running to catch their trains (at almost any hour of the day) is only offset by the calm of the columns and regal beams of sun-

continued on page 25

White House Liaison Addresses Students on Jewish Advocacy

BY ESTHER BARUH

The Yeshiva University Political Action Committee (YUPAC) kicked off its 2006-2007 agenda by hosting Mr. Jay Zeidman, White House liaison to the Jewish community, for a lecture titled "Jewish Advocacy: A View from the White House." Students gathered in Weissberg Commons on Wednesday, October 25, to hear Zeidman speak about his personal involvement in politics and how undergraduates can contribute as well.

Avi Posnick, a Yeshiva College senior and the co-president and founder of YUPAC, welcomed the audience with a brief message about the organization's mission on campus, which is to "encourage, promote, and facilitate student activism on behalf of the Jewish community." Posnick also thanked President Bush on behalf of all Yeshiva University (YU) students for his "strong, continuous and unwavering support" of Israel and presented Mr. Zeidman with a small token of appreciation to give to the president.

Rabbi Josh Joseph, chief of staff to YU President Richard Joel, gave a short prelude to Mr. Zeidman's speech. He explained that "YU is serious about young Jewish initiative and involvement," and resultantly strives to inculcate in its students a sense of youthful initiative and professionalism. Rabbi Josephs pointed to Zeidman, a 24-year-old government participant, as "an example of these qualities" and subsequently extended the podium to the featured speaker of the evening.

With his sleeves rolled up casually and an easy smile, Zeidman introduced himself to the audience. A native of Houston, Texas, Zeidman attended Texas Christian University where he served as student body president. Zeidman described his participation in student government as a crucial learning experience which taught him important lessons in leadership and in dealing with different kinds of people. He also credits a summer internship in Washington D.C. as one of the key factors in his decision to seek work in the political arena after graduating from college. Zeidman landed a job working for the Office of Public Liaison, under the direction of Karl Rove, and in April 2006 was named White House Liaison to the Jewish Community.

Zeidman works with different Jewish community leaders to communicate their concerns into the "walls of the White House" while simultaneously keeping those leaders aware of the administration's relevant policies. "President Bush is very engaged in what people have to say on the ground [and] we [Jews] have always been a very engaged people," Zeidman said, adding that

they really "makes strides" for the Bush administration to work on issues that are important to the Jewish community at large. Zeidman deals with a wide spectrum of organizations including Hadassah, AIPAC, the World Jewish Congress and the Orthodox Union, as well as community leaders and Rabbis.

On a political note, Zeidman spoke earnestly of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur. He commended YU's involvement in rallying to save those being victimized in Darfur and recalled the Jewish community's familiarity with genocide. As Jews, he explained, "we take a step back



White House Liaison Jay Zeidman

when we hear that word [genocide]." Zeidman stressed the importance of educating oneself on the atrocities being committed in Darfur and affirmed the Bush administration's commitment to working with international allies to ease the crisis.

The White House Liaison also reassured the audience that President Bush was "in high spirits, because he's doing what he believes in." The President, said Zeidman, is very aware of what people say and keeps himself informed through the media. He takes public opinion into account, but will make decisions that he feels are right for the country.

Urging the audience to become more politically active and aware, Zeidman voiced his hope that students would express their "voice" by voting in the midterm elections and encouraged those interested in politics to intern in Washington. The college years, he observed, are the most formative with regards to developing beliefs and opinions and suggested involvement in student groups as a way to cultivate these ideas. "I saw an opportunity to get involved . . . this is civil service . . . it's an amazing experience to work at the White House for a man that I respect," Zeidman said, connecting his student government experience and current position. "Young people really run this country," he added, revealing that the average age of a White House staffer is a mere 27. Zeidman explained that the key to success is to have "a lot of energy, enthu-

siasm, and motivation."

Zeidman wrapped up his speech by emphasizing once more the importance of student involvement and opened the floor to questions from the audience. Students asked about a range of topics, including President Bush's "cowboy diplomacy," the challenges of representing a diverse Jewish population, and how to motivate people who are politically apathetic. In his answers, Zeidman reiterated the idea that actions do matter. "We take action after we hear your voice. . . If you want something to get done, put your heart and energy into it," he said.

Student response to the lecture was extremely positive. "It is very important to speak up for the Jewish people and go to Washington," reflected Michelle Grundman (SCW '10), who attended the lecture. "[Zeidman] made [politics] comfortable for us. He made it like a personal conversation, as something we could all relate to. . . and be a part of."

The lecture was the first in a series of planned events that will shape YUPAC's agenda for the academic year. Posnick offered his reasons for asking Zeidman to speak at the organization's opening event. "Jay Zeidman has advocated for the Jewish community and has been very involved in various Jewish organizations such as AIPAC and the ADL," he explained. "He knows the importance of taking action and Jewish advocacy. As someone who is only 24, we hope that he can use his experiences to help motivate and encourage the student body here."

"We chose specifically to have Jay Zeidman come address our students because we felt our students would be able to relate to him as well as be inspired by his example," added Aviva Horowitz, Posnick's YUPAC counterpart on the Beren Campus. "He is a perfect example of what we hope our students at YU will strive to achieve, a successful career rooted in Jewish principles."

YUPAC has already begun working on a "Da Ma Lehashiv" (Know How to Answer) program that will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for tackling tough issues such as missionaries, anti-Semitism, and Holocaust denial. The organization will also organize a lobbying mission to Washington DC, run political activism training seminars, and connect students with prominent political and business leaders through its new "Proud to be Jewish" initiative.

CJF Sponsors Eimatai Conference

BY HILLY KRIEGER

On November 5th-7th, Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future (CJF) sponsored the annual Eimatai Leadership Development Conference for selected high school students from across the United States. The retreat, which was held in Pennsylvania, trained participants in areas of leadership through various skill-building programs. Over 100 students, representing 13 different Jewish high schools attended the three-day conference.

"This conference is all about critical thinking," said Rabbi Moshe Bellows, director of the Social and Organizational Leadership Training (SOLT) division of the CJF. "We encourage [students] to think critically about the world around them."

This goal is partly achieved by orchestrating seminars and discussions around an overarching theme connected to current events, which this year was religious extremism. "The theme each year is a reflection of the current hot issues in the news and events occurring around the world," explained Aaron Steinberg, the associate director of Eimatai. "The theme serves as a springboard to get the students to investigate and develop intelligent opinions on these issues and not base their ideas solely on what they read in the newspapers or see on TV. People hear common phrases and throw them around; we encourage students to explore the issues and come up with their own definitions and ideas."

Community building comprises the second objective of the conference. Students are typically divided into groups and devise original plans for addressing the most pressing needs of their schools and communities. The exercise is intended to generate a greater awareness among students with respect to their larger societies and to servicing others. The organizers of Eimatai hope that such activities will help empower high school students to produce positive change. Upon their return to their respective high schools, participants of the conference are expected to implement their proposals as part of the follow-up program to Eimatai called Eima-Beta.

The conference enlists the assistance of Yeshiva undergraduates, who guide and supervise the high school students. These advisors, who are trained by experts, rabbis, and health care professionals, help to develop innovative programming during

the semester preceding the conference. Many of the undergraduates are also members of the Quality Education Skills Training Program, known as QUEST, which is under the auspices of the CJF and specifically Rabbi Bellows.

Thus, explained Rabbi Bellows, the Eimatai Conference serves a dual purpose. It provides leadership training not only for adolescents, but for Yeshiva College and Stern College for Women students as well. Eimatai advisors are taught important skills such as management, program development and implementation, and group facilitation in preparation for the conference. Moreover, as they assist the students during the actual conference and with the Eima-Beta component, the undergraduates also become more familiar with the dynamics of various communities, which they will later contribute to.

"The YC and SCW advisors do consultation with the high schoolers, finding the best way to implement programs, anything, to help the students realize their dream[s]," said Steinberg. "We're always looking for dynamic advisors, new blood, diversity; students interested in creative education – thinking outside the box, leadership, and communication skills."

Rabbi Bellows added that there was another dimension to the conference. "A large part of Eimatai is for the students to celebrate the Jewish similarities they all have instead of focusing on their differences; whether it [is] where they're from or what kind of school they go to," he said. The CJF hopes such lessons in unity will help strengthen the larger Jewish community.

Eimatai is just one of a growing list of initiatives launched by the CJF since its inception last year. With an extensive agenda and ample funding, the center is now looking for recruits to fill its ranks. By providing a multitude of opportunities appealing to a wide range of individuals, the CJF intends to better mobilize the student leaders in its midst, which according to both Steinberg and Rabbi Bellows, represent the linchpin of the center's success.

For those interested in making a difference: for QUEST contact Laura Freiman, LCSW at freiman@yu.edu. For Eimatai and Eima-Beta, contact Aaron Steinberg at eimatai@yu.edu.



ISRAEL

Former IDF Chief Addresses Students

BY ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Former Israeli Defense Force (IDF) Chief Moshe Yaalon challenged the notion that the tension between Israel and its Arab neighbors is a regional conflict with no relevance to the rest of the world, last night when he addressed the students of Yeshiva University.

"We are already in my mind in World War Three," Yaalon, who spent 37 years in the IDF, asserted in his lecture entitled "The Security Challenges for Israel and the West." "The war today is not between Israel and the Arabs. [It's] not just about Israel but about the West and unfortunately the West is sleeping and Europe is in a coma."

Although the initial controversy may have been between the Jewish State and those countries that surround it, the situation has taken a different form. "In the past we were challenged by what I call secular national ideology," Yaalon contended. "In the last 30 years, actually since the Iran revolution [in] 1979, we are facing national religious ideologies."

Today much of the Middle East is rallying behind the cry of jihad, which is an Islamic, not an Arab thought. "The root cause is not any more occupation," he reiterated. "The root cause is jihad. And of course the jihadist ideology did not emerge because of Israel."

"The idea of jihad is to impose Islam all over the world," Yaalon explained. "It emerged in 1979 without any connection to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

He proceeded to detail the three main groups that promote jihadist ideology- Iranian Shia, Sunni-Wahabi and Muslim Brotherhood- before returning to the principle idea that binds the different factions. "They mean what they say and they say what they mean," he said, referencing

their collective desire to convert all the people of the world to Islam and their readiness to annihilate those who don't cooperate. "They want us to become Muslim or be killed."

The "they" most specifically refers to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his followers who, according to Yaalon, finance and generate most of the terrorist activity in the world. Iran has given money to Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, been behind attacks in Beirut and



Former IDF Chief Moshe Yaalon

Argentina, and sent a letter to the United States a few years ago "urging President Bush to convert to Islam or else he will be remorseful," recalled Yaalon. "This is Iran and this regime is equipped to acquire nuclear military capability to impose Islam."

Despite the fact that Americans and Israelis alike are the targets of this intense hatred, the grave and immediate threat these individuals pose is being ignored, Yaalon asserted. "Most of the terrorists today all over the world are Muslim and jihadists and it is ignored in the west," he said. "Only few people and you understand the significance of this type of threat."

Although he painted a grim picture, Yaalon remains optimistic about the future. "I am sure that in the end we will win," he declared. "There is no other

option. In the end we will wake up, even in Europe."

He also offered advice on how to achieve this end, saying that Israel and the world at large must use all of its resources to do so. "First of all, they should be defeated by all means," Yaalon stated, explaining that physical fighting alone will not do the job. "Their main goal is to fight and defeat the West and we should fight it on every front."

He specified that Iran must be the first target. "Without defeating Iran there is no chance for any stability around us," said Yaalon. "For me it's very clear today [that] it is inevitable the military confrontation with Iran. The question is when and how." But, "military means is not enough," he emphasized. "This type of regime must be punished by political means [and] by economic means," he said.

Yaalon outlined a long multifaceted struggle, in which the west must be dedicated to educating itself. "We should educate Israelis and westerners first to understand and be aware of this threat," he said. "We should understand... the significance so we could fight it back." The western world must comprehend what and whom it is dealing with, as well as with its roots and values, before any type of improvements can be made.

The governments of the western world must empower their youth by providing them with a sense of "purpose and identity," he said, something that can only be achieved through an enhanced education system that promotes freedom and democracy. It is only then that the western world can begin restructuring the education system of its enemies in an effort to achieve peace.

Message From Your President

BY RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

Before I talk about upcoming Israel Club events on campus, I wanted to take a moment and say how pleased I am with the student turnout at events so far this year and how appreciative I am to all of you for coming and making our events successful. The enthusiasm and passion I see in the students and the feedback I am receiving is really incredible. It makes me happy to know there are so many people who care about Israel and what happens there on this campus.

For example, when the family of Ehud Goldwasser came to the Beren Campus before Sukkot, over 400 people packed into the Schottenstein Cultural Center. This really inspired me and made me realize how lucky I am to be on a campus that is so pro-Israel. Having said that, after an event like this one, where we all feel really effected by the current situation of our *chayalim* being in captivity, I think it is our job as a Jewish campus and as individuals to keep the passion from such an event going at all times and to never forget the state these soldiers are in. We can do this by keeping them in our daily *tefillot*, by checking the news on a regular basis to see if there are any updates on them, and by bringing in more speakers to address the current situation. The Israel Club is actually teaming up with the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) to send postcards to the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), reminding him that we have not forgotten the three soldiers and to urge the UN to do everything in its power to bring them home. This is an example of something everyone can get involved in, and is a way for us to channel our passion for the cause into something tangible.

Upcoming Israel Club initiatives include a lecture by David

Baker on November 30th, an Aliyah Fair on December 4th and "The Lman Achai Israel Leadership Experience." David Baker is the Senior Foreign Press Coordinator for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and will be speaking on the topic "Israel's International Media Efforts - How is the Jewish State Perceived Around the Globe." The event is taking place in Levy Lobby at 7:30 p.m.

The Aliyah Fair, which will take place on the Wilf Campus from 8-11 p.m., will include representatives from Nefesh b'Nefesh, The Jewish Agency, Yavneh Olami, among other organizations. If you are interested in Aliyah now or see it as a possibility for the near future, this is the perfect opportunity to come and explore your options. There will also be an opportunity to set up individual meetings with representatives from Nefesh b'Nefesh to discuss aliyah planning and to find out what practical steps need to be taken to make aliyah in the near future before the Aliyah Fair.

Our last initiative for the semester is "The Lman Achai Israel Leadership Experience." Join a Select group of devoted Yeshiva University (YU) students as they embark on an initiative to Northern Israel, with the purpose of deepening their connection to *Am Yisrael* and *Eretz Yisrael* and acquiring the skills necessary to enrich the lives of the YU community upon returning to campus. This trip will be partially subsidized.

There is always room for more Israel activities and more student participation in these programs, so please get involved by emailing Rose018@aol.com, or by checking out our website at www.yuic.org. Hopefully the events we bring to campus will enable you to strengthen your knowledge, activism and connection with Israel.

THIS MONTH IN ISRAEL

English Al Jazeera coming to Israel by the end of December

The infamous TV station will be making its appearance in Israel in the coming months. The network has already begun broadcasting in other parts of the Western world.

Kassam Rockets Kill Women in Sderot

Kassam rockets fell for an entire day in Sderot, a municipality in the North West portion of the Negev. They were launched by Arabs in Gaza, a mere 20 miles away. As a result, the Supreme Court of Israel has demanded reasoning as to why the area schools have not yet been fortified.

Professor Named New Prime Minister of Hamas

Former head of the Islamic University of Gaza, a terrorist-hotbed, Mohammed Shbair, has been named, but not officially chosen to serve as the prime minister of the Hamas Authority. He will be replacing his one time assistant Ismail Haniye. Despite the change in leadership, Hamas policy towards the Jewish State will not change. It will still not recognize Israel.

Two New Bases Built on the Egyptian Border

In order to protect itself from Egypt, Israel has built two new bases on the Egyptian border.

Lost Tribe Awaits Return to Israel

BY JENN SHULDINER

There was an Israil flight scheduled on November 12th to take 812 members of the lost tribe of Menashe from India to Israel. Yet, the flight never took off since the Indian authorities refused to grant permission for the flight to take place.

This was not the first time that Indian authorities have interfered with efforts to convert and transport those claiming to be members of the lost tribe of Menashe. In November 2005, India put pressure on the Israeli government to stop doing conversions within their borders and the rabbinic team in the country was subsequently pulled out. Before their removal, the team had successfully converted over 700 Indians to Judaism, making these newly reinstated Jews eligible to take advantage of the Law of Return and settle in Israel.

Many of them had anxiously been waiting to depart to Israel and begin their lives in the Holy Land. Unfortunately though, because of their recent flight cancellation, they must wait longer, and will now have to proceed in smaller groups over an extended period of time. In addition, there

are still over 8,000 people in India waiting to be converted.

The tribe of Menashe was exiled to Assyria (present day Iraq) when they rebelled against the Assyrians in the 8th century B.C.E. Since then, their whereabouts have remained a mystery. In a *Mishna in Sanhedrin* it is disputed as to whether or not the 10 tribes will ever go back to Israel. Rabbi Eliezer believed in their eventual return while Rabbi Akiva did not.

According to the tradition of the Bnei Menashe, the clan traveled from Assyria to Afghanistan, to Himalaya, to Mongolia and then settled in southern China. They were enslaved and forced to conceal their faith by hiding in caves. Their "leather scrolls" were taken from them and burnt. They were expelled from China in 100 C.E. at which point some of them traveled to Burma and West India.

A Pentecostal minister named Tchalal had a prophecy in 1951 about the Bnei Menashe returning to their homeland and to their roots. This stirred up a desire to return to Israel and the clan wrote letters to the Knesset asking for assistance in doing so.

Their request fell on deaf ears.

Despite being ignored, they began to practice their traditions. Their ceremonies and oral customs often parallel Jewish ones. Some of these include circumcision using a flint stone, donning a kind of *tallit* with azure coloring, and the singing of traditional songs that mention holy places in Israel such as Shilo and Zion. They follow laws quite similar to



Young Indian Jews in Aizawl, Mizoram

the biblical laws of leprosy. They have the practice of a preparing a Pesach sacrifice that is eaten with bread baked without yeast. They also have an oral tradition which includes Abram, Moriah (a clear reference to Isaac who was nearly sacrificed on Mount Moriah) and Jacob. They have the tradition of giving sacrifices on an altar which is suggestive of the altar in the Temple. They also practice levirate marriage where

the brother must marry his belated brother's widow.

In an effort to gain authenticity they made contact with Rabbi Eliahu Avihayel who started an organization called Amishav which is devoted to their cause. He recommended that they send two men to Israel who would learn there for two years before returning to India to spread what they have learned. Under the influence of these two men over 3,500 people have begun living a fully Jewish life. Additionally, over 1,000 individuals have been taught, converted and brought to Israel.

In November 2004 there was an article published on genetic testing done in order to confirm the authenticity of the Bnei Menashe. Although the study did not find any direct linkage to Jewish ancestry, they did find maternal connection to Near Eastern lineages suggesting that the theory is plausible.

The theory was legitimized when it received official recognition from Rabbi Shlomo Amar, the Sephardi chief rabbi in Israel, in March 2005. This allowed them to return to Israel under the Law of Return, yet, Rabbi Amar ruled that conversion was still

necessary since they had been separated from Judaism for over a millennium.

K. Elisha Singson, chairman of Beth Shalom synagogue in Churachandpur, India, applauded this decision because "this recognition clearly means we have got into the process to return to our homeland [Israel], ending our 2,726-year exodus."

Those that have already immigrated to Israel were granted temporary resident status which does not entitle them to the benefits of a new citizen. The Israeli government has not supported their immigration or conversion. The entire movement has been sponsored by donations collected by Rabbi Avichail. In light of this recent setback there is the added impediment imposed by the Indian government. In spite of the cancellation of the flight and forced removal of rabbinic authorities over a year ago there are still thousands of members of Bnei Menashe waiting to convert and return to Israel. One can only hope that the 27 century exile of the Bnei Menashe is finally coming to an end.

Nobel Prize Winner Predicts a Tumultuous Future for Israel

BY PEREL SKIER

Nobel Laureate Professor Robert Aumann denounced Israel's dismantlement of the Gush Katif settlement last August as "an unprecedented act of barbarism, of inhumanity, of stupidity and banality" in a memorial lecture delivered Monday night at Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun in uptown Manhattan. He asserted that the recent Israeli-Lebanon conflict was the direct result of the pullout and that all incarnations of the land-for-peace policy hurt the peace process.

"The inhuman and barbaric expulsion from Gush Katif 15 months ago led directly to this summer's war," said Aumann. "And it set back the achievement of peace by at least 10 or 15 years, probably more." Israel dismantled the Gush Katif settlement in August 2005 as part of its unilateral disengagement from the Gaza Strip.

Aumann, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2005 for his game-theory analysis of conflict and cooperation, said that those who advocated "appeasement," the Israeli withdrawal from certain territories in exchange for a promised end to the terrorist attacks which have racked the country for more than six years, suffered from an "impatience" that caused them to act contrary to their own best interests.

"Our Arab cousins do not suffer from impatience," he

warned. "They possess a quality which I admire and envy them for: perseverance, determination and persistence." He explained that "50 years ago, when I came to Israel, [the Arabs] were saying they have time: 'The Crusaders came and they went, the Jews came and also they will go. We have time—whatever it takes, 50 years, 100 years.'"

"They're still saying it," he added, despite the fact that the Israeli people have failed to display a similar steadfastness. "We have lost heart, we have lost direction, we have lost purpose."

"We Jews are in a hurry," the professor noted. "We want peace now, and we broadcast it loudly and clearly; we expel thousands from their homes in an unprecedented act of barbarism, of inhumanity, of self-hatred and banality." He affirmed that this approach had achieved little in the past, and if pursued, would continue to fail. "We have had war for 85 years in the Middle East," he said, "and the way we're going, we'll have war for another 85 years and beyond that."

Aumann also said that while there was "absolutely no reason we can't live in peace with our Arab cousins, there is one and only one way to have peace in the Middle East: mainly, to convince our Arab cousins that we are not the Crusaders—we are here to stay."

According to the Nobel Prize winner, this entails acting in a

manner that demonstrates that "we will not move—that like them, we have time, whatever it takes." He said that the Gush Katif pullout had caused "irreparable" damage to the peace process and that an immediate "about-face, not only in policy, but also in our attitude, the attitude of the people of Israel" was required to recover from the setback. "We fall all over our-



Professor Robert Aumann

selves with anxiety, with guilt, with self-hatred," he observed. "We want peace now, and so we will never get it."

Comparing his criticism of the land-for-peace policy to the opposition to disarmament during the Cold War, Aumann said, "in the long years of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, what prevented the outbreak of war were the bombers with nuclear weapons in

the air 24 hours a day, 365 days a year—disarming would have led to war."

He also quoted President Lincoln's statement in his second inaugural address that "both parties deprecated war, but one of them would make war rather than let the nation survive, and the other would accept war rather than let it perish." He applied this to Israel explaining that Israel must prepare itself to endure Arab assaults rather than negotiate away its territories in a desperate bid for peace.

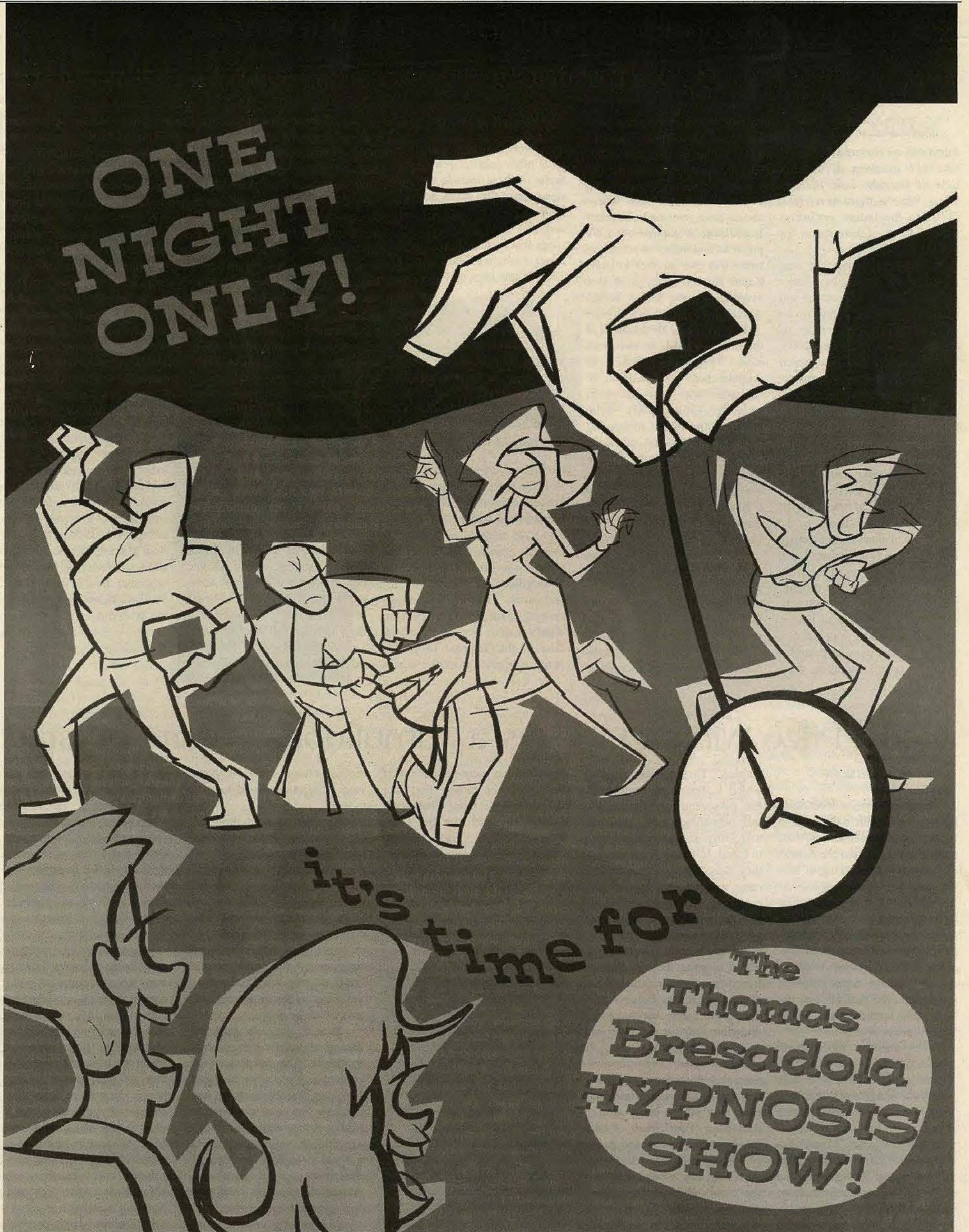
Instead, Aumann said, "we dismiss all the ills of the world as irrational." This practice is especially dangerous when applied to the terrorist problems Israel faces because "the *shaheedim* are not irrational," he explained. "They are highly motivated, highly rational people, and if we dismiss them as irrational we can't address the problem." The problem, Aumann suggested, is that by withdrawing from territories such as Gush Katif, Israel is validating the terrorist approach. "They think they can [succeed] by blowing themselves and us up, and they're right," he said. "We are the ones threatening the expulsion from Judea and Samaria, not them. It's not what we want; it's what they want—but if anything that makes us irrational, not them."

"I'm not blaming the government," Aumann clarified. "The government was reelected—it got a tremendous vote of confidence

last month, so it's not the government, it's us. I'm blaming us. We motivate them." He added that "the goal of the *shaheedim* (suicide bombers) is to get us out of Gush Katif, out of Judea and Samaria, out of Jerusalem, out of Haifa and Jaffa, out of Tel Aviv...and we are saying to them, 'Go for it! Blow us up and we'll capitulate!'"

Concluding his remarks by paraphrasing Lincoln's first inaugural speech, Aumann said, "In our hands, my complacent fellow countrymen, lies the momentous issue of war and peace in the Middle East. If we persevere, if we make it clear to our cousins that we wish dearly to live in peace with them, but that no amount of violence can budge us even in one wish, then we will have peace. But ultimately," he warned, "if we continue with the policy of appeasement, of capitulation, then the violence, and the war, will escalate."

"The Jewish nation will survive," Aumann said. "I'm less sure about Israel."



Tuesday, Dec 5
8 pm
Koch Auditorium of the Beren Campus
Buses leave Wilf Campus at 7:15 pm

Adereth El

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rabbi of the shul since 1999. Young and vibrant, he is constantly devising ways to help the shul develop and grow. In his almost ten years of service, the membership has nearly tripled. In addition, a new beit midrash has been built to facilitate more learning and spiritual growth.

However, despite its progressiveness, the shul's long history is integral to its present state of affairs. The Rabbi Emeritus, Rabbi Sidney Kleiman, is a living example of long term dedication. This year, Rabbi Kleiman received an award from the Rabbinical Council of America recognizing his 67 years of service to the shul. Rabbi Shloush describes the relationship between him and Rabbi Kleiman as that of a "grandson and grandfather." This relationship is representative of the heavy emphasis Adereth El places on integrating the different generations. It is the ability of the shul to look forward to the future, while at the same time remembering and celebrating its incredible history, which is its greatness.

Rabbi Shloush describes the shul as "an anchor" that has held the Jewish community of Murray Hill/ Grammercy Park in place. Due to the close proximity of Congregation Adereth El to SCW, the women of the college are among these beneficiaries. Chanie Dinerman, a junior at SCW, is one of a handful of women that utilizes the resources of the shul on a daily basis. "Mincha in the 29th Street shul has become an essential part of my routine," she says.

The relationship between the shul and SCW is a give and take.

While the students at SCW benefit from the shul, the shul gains as much, if not more from SCW. In recognition of its gratitude to SCW, the shul will honor Dean Karen Bacon with an award at their celebratory dinner this year. Aside from davening with the shul, "the Stern women are integral to [the] shul's programming," says Rabbi Shloush appreciatively.

One such program, run by the Torah Activities Council, arranges for SCW women to unite with Adereth El members in visiting sick patients at NYU Medical Center each Shabbat afternoon. Another joint initiative of SCW and Adereth El is a weekly *chavruta* (learning partner) program at the shul. Run by Jaimie Fogel, a junior at SCW, the program matches up each of the participating shul members with a SCW student. The pair then chooses a topic to learn together, anything from halakha to *parsha* (weekly Torah portion) to *machshava* (Jewish thought). Despite the small size of the learning program, the energy that is felt in the beit midrash each Wednesday night is inspiring. Fogel comments that due to the enthusiasm of both the Shul members and the SCW students, the "excitement and passion" that fills the room is commensurate with what would be expected from "many more people."

This program is one small illustration of the eagerness of the Adereth El membership for constant spiritual growth. Such eagerness and dedication has characterized the shul for 150 years. The congregation's broad perspective, which is enriched by its past while heading toward the future, promises that it will continue to see success.

Midtown Cuisine

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www.kdexpress.com where you order food online to arrive at a certain time. The website will even save your favorite dishes for easy selection next time you want to order!

If you want to combine your meal with another activity, such as ice-skating in Bryant Park or a Broadway show, there are several restaurants located near these fun activities, and walking distance from Times Square. My Most

Favorite Dessert Company is located in the theater district, on 45th Street, between 5th and 6th Avenues. This restaurant is famous for its desserts, but it also offers several different kinds of pastas, salads, and soups. This is a good place to go if you want to



get out of the regular circle of crowded places closer to SCW. During the day the atmosphere there is business-like, while at night it is more elegant. Annie Buchsbaum, an SCW junior, declares that this is her top choice. "My Most Favorite Dessert is my most favorite restaurant," she said enthusiastically. "I always get the white chocolate mousse cake—it's amazing!"

Hopefully, next time you are hungry, you will not despair! If none of these options are tempting to you, then stay tuned for next issue, in which I will explore various other dining options in our neighborhood. Until then, Bon Appetite!

Judaism: Misogynist, Egalitarian, or Separate But Equal?

continued from page 3

Are we obligated to recite our own *zimmun* if we eat together, just as men are? Are there things that I'm supposed to be doing but, in ignorance stemming from the inherited traditions of my poor and half-educated grandmothers in Europe, am unaware of?

And for at least a little while, the larger question reverberated through my head. Could it be that I had been brainwashed, that I was part of a self-perpetuating cycle of Jewish women who denied themselves their own rights based on misogynistic, rather than religious, principles?

However, my confusion began to diffuse as I encountered this line of attack with increasing frequency, both in another Bible class and from a group of women sitting together at a Shabbaton. Gradually I came to regard it as just another simplistic answer to that rhetorical question. Just as my high school teachers always had texts and halakhic authorities to back up their point of view, so my college teachers offered me sources for their theories. I understood that people who asked me how I felt about woman's role in Judaism generally wanted me to say one of two things—to express either smug self-satisfaction or bitter repression—and the trick of it lay entirely in discerning which it was before I opened my mouth.

Either way, the question lost its authenticity and its importance. Framed by absolutes, the issue seems high-strung, even a little ridiculous, to many young

Jewish women. I am sorry that it emerges in that light, because I think that if one removes the reflexive zeal book ending this question, one realizes how quietly important it really is and how it affects our everyday lives as Jewish women, not necessarily in big, bombastic ways that emblazon injustice or fulfillment on our minds, but in the routines and daily traditions that we take for granted.

It felt strange to me, for example, to shake a *lulav* and *esrog* during *Hallel* on *Succos* and make a *bracha* on them in the *succah*, but for different reasons. I do these things every year, but in a way, because it's always been my father or my brother making *kiddush*, *hamotzi*, *havdala*, it's almost as if I expect them to shake the *lulav* for me. It intrigued me to realize, as I stood there by myself in our *succah*, that here was something every Jew had to do for himself, a ritual we were each obligated to fulfill as a member of our nation. It thrilled me a little, a sensation not unlike when your parents let you borrow the car for the first time. However, I felt awkward only a few moments later, trying to grip both the *esrog* and *lulav* and turn the page in my *siddur*, and it occurred to me that I'd grown equally accustomed to the idea that it was only the men who needed external things to pray properly. My father and my brothers needed to put on *tefillin* and their hats and sometimes a *tallis* before they were ready to *daven*, they needed to roll out of bed at five in the morning for a

minyan—the conditions had to be just so, the stage perfectly set. But I had only to tap into my own heart, wherever, whenever, and this struck me as a privilege in its own right.

I think this is the key to understanding how Judaism truly treats women. It is neither misogynistic nor egalitarian, but lost in the undefined grey spaces between. In certain ways, Judaism presents challenges for women that men do not share, and, sometimes frustratingly, it makes excuses for us when we feel we are perfectly capable of stepping up to bat. In other ways, though, it puts us a little closer to the fire, allowing us directness in our relationship with G-d. A religion that oppressed women would hardly bestow on us. We are acknowledged as those charged with the important mission of molding generations, forming children's earliest impressions of what it is to be a good person as well as a good Jew, and it seems to me that G-d has custom-designed our required courses and electives to grant us enough room in which to work.

Jews Elected in Record Numbers

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would be a landslide, which is exactly what it was. Spitzer received a whopping 70% of the vote, beating Former Governor Mario M. Cuomo's record for most votes in a New York gubernatorial race by 5.4%.

Aside from the influx of Democratic Jewish politicians in office, there was also an increase in the number of Jews who voted for the Democratic Party this year. According to Steve Rabinowitz, a Democratic media consultant, this was expected, considering that the rest of the country tended to choose Democratic candidates as well. "When the country goes Democratic, the Jews go even more so, because Jews are basically a Democratic constituency," he said.

One reason for the voting trend among Jewish voters was the fact that Israel was not the main issue in this election. Rather, Jews were taking many other issues into account. "Jews saw no difference between Democrats and Republicans on

Israel," Rabinowitz explained, "and all the difference in the world on every other issue that mattered."

One of these issues was Iraq. "Assuming these numbers [from the consortium of major news organizations] hold, they suggest clear frustration in the Jewish community with the war, and very serious questions about President Bush's leadership," said Gilbert Kahn, a political scientist from Kean University. "They tell us that the inroads the GOP has made in the Jewish community in recent years are not guarantees, especially in a situation where there's an overwhelming issue like the war in Iraq."

The most blatant example of this change in Jewish voter priority was in Pennsylvania. Republican Senator Rick Santorum, who is known to be both pro-Israel and pro-war in Iraq lost to State Treasurer Bob Casey Jr. Without factoring in a margin of error, it was recorded that Casey got 79% of the Jewish vote while Santorum only received 21%.

These numbers follow a gen-

eral trend of Jewish partisan association. The American Jewish Committee (AJC) released its 2006 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, which showed that the number of Jewish voters identifying themselves as Democrats has increased from 48% to 54% since the last midterm election in 2002. At the same time, the number of Jewish voters identifying themselves as Republicans has decreased from 18% in 2002 to 15% in 2006. The AJC survey also shows that the number of Jewish voters who identify themselves as liberal has increased from 37% in 2002 to 42% in 2006. In contrast, the number of Jewish voters who identify themselves as conservative has decreased from 29% to 25% during the same time period.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Recent Research Reveals Oddities
in the Brains of Migraine Patients

BY RACHEL-ALI ELBAZ

Migraine pain can knock you right off your feet. Not only can it cause you to miss classes, but migraines can also be the sources of excruciating and unbearable pain. Many people are surprised to learn that almost 10 percent of Americans, an approximate 28 million people, suffer from migraines.

Migraines are a physical, neurobiological event that occurs in or around the brain. A migraine headache is a severe pain that is felt on one, and occasionally both sides of the head. Most often the pain is in the front of the head around the temples or behind one eye or ear. Additional symptoms that can accompany the migraine are nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light or sound. While migraines can occur any time of day, very often they begin in the morning. Pain and debilitation from a migraine can last between a few hours and a few days.

Most people who suffer

from migraines are between the ages of 15 and 55, although they seem to get less frequent with age, and are often members of families where migraines afflict more than one member. Women are victims of migraine more than men.

There has been a great deal of thought and study with regard to the causes of migraine. One



theory is that they are caused by variations in blood flow in the vessels of the brain. This theory is based on the idea that blood vessels either narrow or expand. Narrowing would constrict blood

flow and cause problems with sight or dizziness. When blood vessels expand, they press on nerves and cause pain.

A second theory relates to the chemical changes in the brain. This theory is based on the idea that the chemicals responsible for sending messages from one cell to another get interrupted. The consequence of this interruption is that blood vessels do not expand or contract correctly and trigger a migraine.

Another popular theory is based on genes or heredity. Individuals inherit faulty or abnormal genes that control the functions of certain brain cells. Simply put, this theory suggests that migraines are genetic.

No matter what the cause of migraine pain, anyone who suffers systematically from this pain knows that certain things can trigger them. Usually they are not caused by a single factor but are a combination of lack of food or sleep, bright lights, loud noise,

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Sugar: It's Not So
Sweet

BY GRACE CHARLES

Sugar is now more accessible to us than ever before. This tasty substance is a component of almost everything we eat, hidden in most breads, soups, and even salad dressings. For the average American, common table sugar makes up over 20% of their daily caloric intake. Unfortunately, studies have consistently linked high sugar intake with an increased risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and premature aging. This is not a coincidental correlation. Our bodies are not made to handle the highly processed and refined sugars we enjoy and consume in great quantities.

Sugar covers a wide range of simple forms of carbohydrates, including glucose, maltose, fructose (derived from fruits), and sucrose (white table sugar). These different types of sugars have various rates of breakdown within the human body. Glucose, for example, is quickly pumped across the intestinal wall directly into the bloodstream. This process rapidly raises the glucose levels in the blood, causing the blood sugar level to spike. Fructose, on the other hand, is slowly absorbed in the gut after ingestion, delivering calories at a gradual rate.

The most basic forms of carbohydrates are starches. They are found in fruits, vegetables, grains, and legumes. In one's digestive tract, starch breaks down into small molecules of glucose. The glucose usually comes in the form of starches, while fructose is consumed much less and mostly in the form of fruits and honey. According to Dr. Michael Lam, director of Medical Education at the Academy of Anti-Aging Research, until about 200 years ago, the average American daily intake of fructose was only about eight grams. Then, sucrose came more easily available and later, in the 1970s, high fructose corn syrup was introduced as a cheap sugar substitute.

A whopping nine percent of our average caloric intake now comes from fructose. Let's do some math. One can get 53 grams of glucose and 53 grams of fructose from every 100 grams of sucrose. The average American now ingests about 100 pounds of sucrose every year, which translates into 125 grams per day, and thus 66 grams of fructose. Add the 66 grams to the 8 grams consumed daily for "fruits and honey" and the grand total amounts to 74 grams of fructose daily. Our bodies, set to metabolize only about eight grams of

fructose a day, are overloaded with fructose by about tenfold!

As carbohydrates are ingested, the pancreas releases insulin. The carbohydrates cause a rise in blood sugar, and it is insulin's job to move the sugar from the bloodstream to the cells for metabolism. Insulin converts almost half of the carbohydrates consumed to fat for storage. The more sugar one eats, the higher the level of sugar there is in your blood and the harder the pancreas must work to produce the amount of insulin needed to get the sugar

out of the blood and normalize the blood sugar level. When insulin is overproduced, it causes a decrease in the number of insulin receptors on cells, causing a decrease in the amount of insulin and glucose removed from your bloodstream. This disorder is known as insulin resistance, and results in high blood sugar levels, the hallmark of diabetes.

As blood sugar level increases, the amount of insulin in the blood also increases until the blood sugar level is ultimately lowered. Within a few hours after a meal the blood sugar level drops. This may cause one to crave sweets, leading to snacking, usually on more carbohydrates. If the resulting cravings are not satisfied, hunger, moodiness, dizziness, or sleepiness may be experienced. High insulin levels prohibit the release of serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain that signals

the body when it is time to slow and stop eating. Without serotonin, people tend to eat more than necessary because they have no signal in their head warning them that they have eaten enough. The outcome is an uncontrolled cycle of hyperinsulinemia which results in sugar cravings. This cycle cannot be so much satisfied as it can be prevented by avoiding refined carbohydrates and sugars.

There are many unexplained phenomena that accompany one's indulgence in sugar. What is the link between sugar and ailments such as obesity, diabetes, certain cancers, and cardiovascular disease, among other maladies? The connecting factors and answers remain ambiguous, but Americans are clearly eating far more sugar than the body is meant to handle. Keep your body healthy and protected by limiting and avoiding these poor nutrients.

Clitoridectomy: A Woman's
Nightmare

BY SHANA MAIKHOR

Clitoridectomy is the removal of the clitoris, sometimes accompanied by infibulations (stitching of the vulva). This mutilation occurs under unsanitary conditions and without anesthesia; victims are often held down by relatives or tied down.

Clitoridectomies are either common or universal in nearly 20 African nations, many Middle Eastern nations, and in parts of Malaysia, Indonesia, and the India-Pakistan Subcontinent. The prevalence of clitoridectomies in Egypt has declined substantially and is now largely limited to a few groups in rural areas. The procedure continues to be practiced widely among certain tribes in Nigeria and in other parts of Africa. Some African countries have passed (rarely enforced) laws against clitoridectomy, but the practice is only barely acknowledged by government ministries of information and journalists.

All told, about 80 million women have had clitoridectomies, meaning that about 80 million women have undergone genital mutilation. Although most clitoridectomy victims are Muslims, it has also been practice by Christians, animists, and some Ethiopian Jews. Clitoridectomies were also occasionally recommended to "cure" female masturbators and women with "loose" moral virtues in the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A more radical form of cli-

toridectomy, known as Sudanese or Pharaonic clitoridectomy is practiced widely in Sudan, generally between the ages of four and eight. Pharaonic clitoridectomy entails removal of the clitoris along with the labia minora and the inner layers of the labia majora. After removal of the skin tissue, the raw edges of the labia major are sewn together and a tiny opening is left to allow for the passage of urine and menstrual discharge. Medical complications are common, including menstrual and urinary problems and in some cases death. After marriage, the opening is enlarged. Enlargement is a gradual process that is often made difficult by scar tissue, and hemorrhaging and tearing of surrounding tissues often occur. Mutilation of the labia is now illegal in Sudan, although the law continues to allow the removal of the clitoris.

The London-based Minority Rights Group International lists the following short and long term effects of clitoridectomy. Tetanus, hemorrhages, septicemia, cuts in the urethra, vaginal walls, bladder, and anal sphincter, chronic vaginal and urinary infections, massive scarring that can impede walking, large cysts, incontinence, painful intercourse and menstruation, sterility, increased vulnerability to the AIDS virus, and of course, death under the knife.

What is the rationale or justification given for this torture? The practice is often cited as a puberty rite of late childhood or

early adolescence. The removal of the clitoris is believed to keep a girl chaste because the clitoris is sensitive to sexual stimulation. It is feared that girls are otherwise consumed with sexual desires. Yet, some groups in rural Egypt and in the northern Sudan perform clitoridectomies primarily because it is a social custom that has been passed down through the generations from ancient times or because they perceive it as part of their faith in Islam, even though the Koran itself does not require it.

People who are part of the government of nations where clitoridectomy is practiced and allowed should rise up against the sexual and social insanities that these people are committing. If they do not protest, they are allowing their women to be tortured and mutilated. These horrible things can be prevented by offering greater or less economic help to these nations depending on whether or not their governments take meaningful action against these atrocities. Clitoridectomy can and should be treated as a permanent priority in the United Nations.

Women have a responsibility to deal with this atrocity. It must be discussed at home, with friends, in places of worship, and in the halls of government. It is a human rights issue and a living example of the inferior status and value placed upon many women. All people in all civilized societies must rise up and make this issue a priority. We may be safe, but many women are not.

Hope for Smokers? Study Finds Statins May Slow Decline of Lung Function in Chronic Smokers

BY ESTHER FISCHER

Smoking is the number one cause of lung disease in the world. It is estimated that 1,200 people die each day from illnesses caused by cigarette smoking. However, there may be a sliver of hope for chronic smokers, as new research finds that it is possible to slow the decline of lung function with the use of statins, a drug commonly used to treat high cholesterol and to reduce the risk of heart attacks and stroke.

The study, headed by Dr. Walid Younis, of the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, was presented at CHEST 2006, the 72nd Annual International Scientific Assembly of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP). It reviewed 182 current smokers and 303 former smokers. The subjects had an average age of 66, and were observed over an 18-30 month period. Obstructive lung disease, which is a progressive and often permanent obstruction of the airflow through the airways and out of the lungs, was found in 319 of the patients. Restrictive lung disease, characterized by a reduced lung volume, was found in 99 patients, and 67 individuals had normal lung function.

Of the 485 participants in the study, 238 of them had taken statin drugs for an average of 2.7 years. Their lung capacity was measured by two tests, how much air they could exhale during a

forced breath, called Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV) and by the total amount of air exhaled during the test, called Forced Vital Capacity (FVC). The study found that patients who were taking statin drugs, lost 2.5% in the FEV test, compared to 12.8% in patients who did not take statins. Statin patients also lost 1.3% in



capacity on the FVC compared to a 10.3% loss in the others. Furthermore, patients with obstructive lung disease who took statins were 35% less likely to visit the emergency room or to be admitted to a hospital.

These results are promising, and Younis hopes that in the future, long-term statin therapy could be used to slow the progression of lung diseases in former and current smokers. Statin drugs, sold under the brand names Lipitor, Pravachol and Zocor are taken by millions of Americans to lower blood cholesterol. However, the effect of statins against lung decline does not seem to be linked to lowered cholesterol levels. Rather, it has been shown that these drugs reduce inflammation and benefit the lining of blood vessels and capillaries, and the epithelium, by

a mechanism which is not yet entirely clear.

Despite the promising results from the study, Younis cautions against smoking, and reminds people that it is a major killer. "Even though statins may help with lung function, they have no effect on preventing a patient from the major smoking-related killer, which is lung cancer," he said. "Therefore, smokers should never lose their incentive to quit smoking." Further, smoking causes a variety of other health problems, such as bad skin, from the restriction of blood vessels preventing oxygen and nutrients from getting to the skin, reduced athletic performance, from decreased circulation and lung problems, and greater risk of injury and slower healing time, because smoking affects the ability of the body to produce collagen, the main protein of connective tissue.

This exciting research reveals that statins may be beneficial in helping to slow lung deterioration in smokers. It is important progress that can improve the quality of life and save the lives of smokers. However, smokers must be encouraged to quit because of the other serious health problems such as lung cancer and heart disease that are the cause of death of more than a thousand people each day.

Molecular Mechanism Maintains Memory

BY RACHEL-ALI ELBAZ

Scientifically, memory is the ability of an organism to store, retain, and subsequently recall information. While the earliest studies in this field began in the area of philosophy, it is now part of a new science called cognitive neuroscience. For the human being, memory is, at the very least, a factor that has a direct correlation to quality of life.

Until recently, the mechanisms of memory were not well understood. Although it was known that areas of the brain such as the hippocampus, amygdala and mammillary bodies have some impact on memory, the extent and relationships between them were unknown. Research that pertains to this, as well as the neurological structures, helped make progress in this field. In the past most studies with regard to memory were focused on memory disorders like amnesia, or on neurological disorders such as Huntington's disease or Alzheimer's disease. While degenerative memory loss is

unquestionably devastating, the retention of painful or disturbing memories can also be devastating. For example, soldiers who return from war have experiences that often cause Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

Advancements have been made in this field by scientists at the State University of New York Medical Center. They have discovered a molecular mechanism that maintains memories in the brain. The inhibition of this molecular mechanism results in the deletion of long-term memories. Some have compared this to erasing a computer disc. These scientists also claim that the memory can be relearned. This research opens up new possibilities in the human mind and may eventually be used to treat post-traumatic disorders and prevent memory loss. Another benefit of the identification of this molecular mechanism may be that an individual's memory could be enhanced for therapeutic purposes. Also, memory loss might be prevented.

A cursory overview of the

science behind this is that an enzyme molecule called protein kinase M zeta maintains long-term memories through the persistent strengthening of synaptic connections between neurons. This is comparable to the information that might be stored as 0's and 1's in the hard disc of a computer. By blocking or inhibiting this enzyme, memory can be erased. This enzyme is specific to the function of memory storage and research has shown that the inhibition of related molecules does not inhibit or erase memory.

The discovery of the memory molecule is still in the early stages. Much work remains to be done before this research can be translated into a viable treatment for the many memory disorders that impact the lives of patients and their relatives and friends.

The Disease That Never Goes Away

BY CHANIE LADAWEW

Anorexia nervosa, also known as anorexia, refers to the medical symptom of reduced appetite. Both a physical and emotional problem, anorexia is an eating disorder where foods with fat, carbohydrates, and high amounts of calories are avoided. The disorder is characterized by low body weight, a feeling of being overweight and body image complications. Individuals with anorexia tend to vomit, starve, exercise excessively, fear becoming fat, and obsess with weighing, measuring and looking at themselves in the mirror. In addition, anorexics use laxatives and diet pills regularly. Those individuals who suffer from anorexia lose weight drastically, weighing less than 85% of normal weight, and are never satisfied with their low weight.

Anorexia is a disorder involving psychological, neurobiological, physiological and sociological aspects. 90% of females from the ages of 15 to 19 with an eating disorder are suffering from anorexia. Amenorrhea, which is the loss of three consecutive menstrual periods in women, not eating in public, anxiety, weakness, soft skin, shortness of breath, an obsession with caloric intake, and exercising excessively are symptoms of anorexia nervosa.

As a result of severe malnutrition, the body's metabolism changes which causes the brain to develop an eating disorder. In addition, genetic factors play a role in anorexia. Family members who had or have a history of an eating disorder, obesity, or a mood disorder such as anxiety or depression are more likely to be anorexic. Low self esteem, cultural and social pressures are also linked to developing anorexia. On the other hand, some individuals are afflicted with this eating disorder as a result of dealing with stress. For example, it could be triggered by a divorce, moving, death in the family and change in lifestyle. Personal characteristics, such as, perfectionism, perseverance and anxiety are the major factors that increase the risk of being anorexic.

Individuals with anorexia deny the fact that they have an eating disorder. Therefore, they refuse to seek help from others. It is strongly recommended that anorexics seek professional help

in order to recover. Usually this disease cannot be defeated without such help. Left untreated, anorexia can result in starvation and death.

In order to have a healthy child it is suggested women gain 25 to 35 pounds during pregnancy. However, an anorexic individual with a fear of gaining weight will not. As a result, women may either have a hard time conceiving and carrying the baby to birth. Pregnant women with this life threatening disorder have a higher rate of miscarriage, unhealthy babies and premature babies, all of which lead to other complications.

Anorexia leads to the improper functioning of the cardiovascular system, immune dysfunction, low bone mineral density, low levels of sex hormones and in the long run, death. Osteoporosis develops in 38-50% of individuals with anorexia.

An individual with anorexia can be diagnosed by a psychologist, psychiatrist or by a physician. Death and suicide are major results of the disease. Health care professionals must be called when anorexics cannot pass urine, have a pounding heart beat, faint often, have chronic stomach pain, are vomiting blood, and have pain in their joints.

There are several treatment methods available to anorexics. These include being hospitalized until a healthy weight is maintained or receiving professional counseling, family therapy and nutritional counseling. This will allow the anorexic to learn healthy eating patterns and not starvation as "dieting."

Unfortunately, anorexia nervosa cannot be prevented. However, knowing early symptoms and receiving the right amount of counseling will prevent further damage to the individual. It is important to take immediate care because there are no medications to cure this disease. However, some may take antidepressant medications such as Prozac. Organizations such as the Anorexia Nervosa Related Eating Disorders, National Eating Disorders Association, National Mental Health Information Center and the National Institute of Mental Health are excellent resources for those suffering from anorexia.

Write for Science & Health

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Communications Department Assumes Larger Role

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cess of the event, is it a good concept, do we have the right audience- that's in the hands of the faculty [or] student running it. What we can do is make sure you aren't running around, one place to get tables, one to get linens, one to get food. And we can coordinate the publicity more effectively."

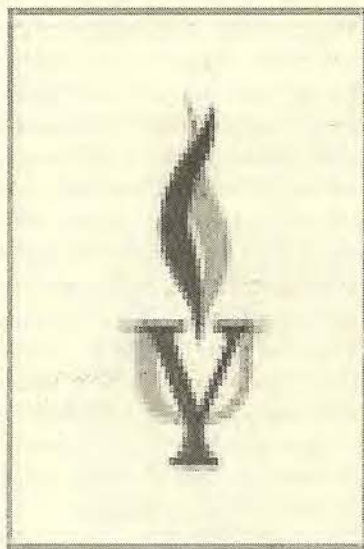
"Our vision is that our office will start with students and faculty for student life and for academic engagements," Pollack explained. "That is our first promise." The initiative was created in partnership with Jeffrey Rosengarten, Associate Vice President for Administrative Services. Rosengarten set up a similar type of centralized facility at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. According to Pollack, the office at the law school has proven to be very successful thus far.

However, the undergraduate events office is still in the planning stages, with no prescribed end date. Pollack said she believed the development phase would likely take months to complete.

"I hope it will be real soon," remarked Pollack. "What Grant is doing now is meeting people, getting to know the university, so that he can learn about it. This is a new edition that has been planned- it's going to take probably most of this year to work out what it should be and how it will work."

The department is also working to bring about the second item on its agenda, a more substantial

student presence. "We basically want to be more engaged with the student community," explained Pollack. Barrie Zigman, a presidential fellow, was hired for this specific purpose and to keep Pollack's finger on the pulse of student life. Zigman has been attending student life meetings and is hoping to set up a program to hire undergraduates as interns



in the Communications Department.

"[I am here] to have daily interactions with students and when they have questions I'm there to answer them," she said. "I'm here for people who want the inside scoop."

A third project involves the realm of technology. According to Pollack, the university will be using a greater deal of interactive media, such as the web, flat screens and digital media. Pollack has hired someone off campus to equip the office with web designers, photo editors, and film editors. The Executive

Director of Communications also promised the advent of a new and improved website. "We basically want to use our media in the most effective way," she explained.

The Communications Department is involved in over 60 projects a week including website design and the production of brochures and pamphlets. They have a staff of over 30, involved with a variety of areas such as printed publications, photographic services, journalism, and technology. Pollack accounted for the large-scale activity saying, "our main responsibility is to get the word out about the university."

Pollack related her enthusiasm in working on behalf of YU. "I think it's one of the great universities in the United States," she offered. "It's got an outstanding liberal arts school and premiere grad schools. What distinguishes it is that it's a school that has values and a mission and goes beyond just trying to prepare people to go out in the world and make money. I can really respect the kind of totality they are trying to bring to the student's education...It's a very exciting place to work in."

Marathon Poses a Challenge

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they run for a good cause. An organization called the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society organizes group training sessions for aspiring runners through its Team n' Training program. Runners commit to raising a sum of money for the society, and 75 percent of the sponsorship money is donated to the organization. The rest pays for group sessions with a trainer and the remaining marathon expenses.

According to Bram, who raised over \$5,000 for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society, the training sessions were quite helpful, despite all of the major practice runs being held on Shabbat. "In the training sessions, we learned everything from running technique, to pacing, to methods on how to drink and run at the same time without spilling the cups, to mental preparation and what kind of shoes to wear," said Bram.

She chose to raise money for this particular society in memory of a family friend, Elan Bohm, who passed away nearly 10 years ago from leukemia.

Some races are designated for all runners to raise money for charitable organizations. At least four SCW students, seniors Michal Konigsberg, Eliana Muskin and Lauren Bloom, and junior Chani Schonbrun, are currently training for the Chai Lifeline half-marathon in Miami on January 28, 2007. All runners in the Miami race have raised at least \$3,200 for this worthwhile charity. Training for Chai Lifeline runners has been avail-

able with a coach on Sunday mornings since the summer.

Runners who train in specialized groups don't only get the chance to elevate their running by raising money for a worthy cause; they also have the opportunity to bond with other runners who undergo shared experiences. "There is such an unbelievable amount of camaraderie among runners," said Schonbrun. "The running itself is really fun and the personal achievement of slowly reaching a huge goal is really inspiring, but the best part is feeling like you really share this connection with all of the other runners." Forman felt the same way. "It's an incredible feeling," she said.

Marathons and half-marathons take place all over the country and throughout the year. To learn more about the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society's Team n' Training program, please visit their website at www.team-intraining.org.

SSSB Accreditation on the Way

continued from front page

ment in SSSB. In fact, according to Hochman, the university has fulfilled all of the business school's recent requests for funding.

With the prolonged absence of a permanent dean and in the wake of a mass exodus of long-standing faculty last spring, the atmosphere at SSSB has been plagued by uncertainty and low morale. Yet Hochman remained optimistic with regard to the current internal changes. "We came out better than if this hadn't happened at all," he said. The administration has hired seven new faculty members to replace the four who left, all of whom hold a PhD in their respective fields. Aside from improving the faculty's academic credentials the recent expansion has also lightened its load in terms of course instruction. Formerly, SSSB professors were required to teach four classes each. They will now give only three, allowing them to devote more time to conducting research and publishing in scholarly jour-

nals.

Dean Hochman articulated his plans to continue working on past initiatives in addition to pursuing new goals for the improvement and advancement of SSSB. Over the last academic year, SSSB has aimed at obtaining accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and developing an Honors Program. The AACSB is the only accrediting agency for business schools and has selectively conferred its stamp of approval upon a mere third of all American business schools.

Bereft of this distinction for nearly twenty years, SSSB has come to view accreditation as a means of elevating its standing not only among other business schools, but also within the university itself. By becoming accredited, explained Dean Hochman, SSSB will prove itself a valuable and successful component of the undergraduate system and thus, hold more weight at YU. As such, SSSB has worked tirelessly to garner the approba-

tion of the AACSB and has already gained pre-accreditation status with its completion of the first stage of the process. Over the next one to two years, the school and its faculty, classes, library facilities, and student-faculty ratio will be observed by the AACSB. SSSB will be expected to clear up any problems that the association identifies and maintain those corrections for at least a year before it is granted accreditation.

Accreditation will also help the school build a relationship with the corporate world. If SSSB becomes accredited, corporations will be more likely to invest in it by donating research facilities and other necessities, as well as hire YU graduates. Consequently, the school will be able to attract higher-caliber faculty and students.

Among Dean Hochman's new plans for the upcoming year are the partnering of alumni with undergraduates and the improvement of academics. Dean Hochman hopes that under the new mentoring initiative, alumni

will act as "big brothers and sisters to our current students," providing them with career advice and job opportunities. Additionally, the program will serve as an important fundraising venue.

More is on the horizon for the SSSB. According to Hochman, SSSB will begin offering a Masters Degree in Accounting in 2007, in keeping with a New York Law that will soon require accountants to have an extra year of schooling after completing their undergraduate education. This limited masters program may lay the groundwork for the development of a full graduate school in business at YU.

Students responded enthusiastically to the event, claiming they felt invigorated by Dean Hochman's presence and encouraging words. "It's great that Dean Hochman came down," said Jordana Mainzer, a sophomore at SSSB. "It really shows that he's invested in the students even though he's [just] interim dean." Chana Filler, a junior, agreed. "It

was so nice to hear that the administration has a vested interest in the success of Sy Syms," she said. "It's important for the students to know our concerns have been addressed and it's exciting to see the changes that have occurred these past months."

The purpose of the Sy Syms School of Business is to prepare students for the real world from an ethical perspective, to train students to think critically, and to graduate students who are ready "to bring wisdom to life." The school is working hard to fulfill these goals. Dean Hochman is excited about the school's future, remarking, "I look forward to the day soon when students are banging down the door to get into the Sy Syms School of Business."

Brownback Visits YU

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senator likened this year's midterm elections to those of 1994, when President William Jefferson Clinton was in his first term of office and the Democrats lost leadership of the House. Brownback explained that this happened because the Democratic Party involved the country in their hopes for nationalized health care and ultimately "did not get it done. If you engage the country with a big topic," he said, "you better have a result at the end of it." The lack of response to the immigration issues, said Brownback, "caused disappointment to people who said these people can't get things done."

All these factors combined, he said, set the Republican Party back a great deal, and "made for a setting that looks very difficult." Brownback explained that the Republican Party, in essence, was "playing on the road," meaning that they were "trying to defend in places this time around that were more Democrat leaning seats than they were Republican."

Trying to stay positive, the Republican from Kansas pointed to the fact that the principles that the Republican Party has established since Reagan's presidency have remained values that the country holds true, and that the country is "still a center-right country." He added that in many cases, Democrats ran on "the Republican side of the aisle," particularly when it came to social issues.

Brownback also asserted that a major problem his party has faced over the past couple of years is that they have not been

able to carry out what they believe in. "When you bring a philosophy in," he explained, "live it. Do it. Don't shy away from it. You got to stand there and tell people 'this is what I believe in.'"

When asked what the proper course of action America should take towards Iran, the senator described the difficulty of the situation. "They put on seminars about a world without America and a world without Israel," he said. "This is a very big threat that we need to get much more of the world community around." Brownback also explained that while he wouldn't use the term World War III to describe Israel's fight with Hezbollah along with the ongoing war on terror and the current war in Iraq, he did express his feeling that "we are involved in a big, difficult fight."

Some YU students who consider themselves Republican were not appeased by Brownback's positive words and upbeat attitude. Students felt that despite Brownback's positive attitude it is still a time of great turmoil for the Republican Party.

Life After Graduation

continued from page 9

earlier in an attempt to alleviate more of senior class concerns by giving them useful information and more time to address any issues which apply to them. Kapp said she hoped the university would host similar events throughout the course of the year to address the fundamental apprehensions endings and new beginnings bring about.

The Senior Class Student Council devoted much time not only to organizing the event, but to publicizing it as well. President Yael Schiller and other members of the board sent emails, text messages, and made personal phone calls to encourage students to attend. "We want to help our class see the light at the end of the tunnel so that nobody is freaking out the week before graduation," said Schiller. "We look out for our class so if

there's any way we can do something to help each other make this transition easier, the senior class [board] is happy to be a part of it." Student feedback from the event was quite positive. "I was expecting more of a discussion about options about going to Israel after college," said SCW senior Suri Greenwald. "Otherwise, it was pretty informative, offering good insights to what different living experiences are like." Eva Greenspan agreed. "It was interesting to hear about people's experiences," she said. "Even though most of what they said didn't relate specifically to my future plans, it was definitely helpful to think about the bigger pictures, and the steps I need to take in order to get there."

Pre-Law Advisement Reassessed

continued from page 8

person from an ad in a newspaper," he remarked. "They just won't have the experience that I have accumulated over the last thirty years. If they get the right person, it can be an improvement. But if they get the wrong person, kids are not going to go to law school."

Rabbi Hecht also brought to light another pertinent issue, which is that both he and Professor Greenberg are observant and are therefore able to advise students accordingly about the religious environments at different law schools. "It clearly is advantageous if the person is *frum*, and is aware of and understands our students and their values," he asserted. "Particularly uptown, people want to be able to discuss these kinds of issues with somebody knowledgeable." Students are always concerned with "the Jewish life at certain schools," Rabbi Hecht explained.

President Richard Joel assured The Observer that "there is nothing to ferret out here," regarding the changes being considered for undergraduate advisement, and specifically the Pre-Law department. "We're not doing an effective enough job in pre-law and pre-health advisement," he admitted. "There is more of a need in terms of guidance in those fields." Therefore, the new person would not be a general academic advisor who would just be absorbing the Pre-Law department, he explained. "Coming from somebody who has a little bit of influence," President Joel said jokingly, "there would be people committed to pre-law counseling and pre-health counseling." He dismissed the fact that this potential advisor would not have a law degree as insignificant, stating

explicitly that "pre-law advisors don't need to have a law degree to advise." He continued on, saying that if they know law schools in general and the world of law, then they would be capable of advising. "Coming from a lawyer- I have a law degree myself- having a law degree does not make you any more qualified to be a pre-law advisor."

Although Professor Greenberg is clearly not in a position to give up his faculty appointment to become a full-time pre-law advisor, "he went to law school, he is a good teacher and he knows the lay of the land," said Rabbi Hecht. Professor Greenberg was not notified by any of the deans of the possible decision to replace him with this full-time general advisor. He had sensed that there might be some changes occurring since he had only been given a contract by Dean Bacon to do pre-law advising for the fall semester, as opposed to being hired for the full year, which is how he was hired in previous years. Dean Bacon had mentioned that Morton Lowengrub, the vice president for Academic Affairs, was looking at various new models of professional advisement, but Professor Greenberg was kept in the dark from the time he renewed his contract in August until a few weeks ago when a colleague of his from SSSB tipped him off that the university was actively looking for a full time advisor. Dr. Volpe was evidently unaware that Professor Greenberg even existed in his role as pre-law advisor for the Beren Campus, only referring to Rabbi Hecht when speaking about the current pre-law advisement for SSSB, YC, and SCW.

Dean Bacon had a different outlook on the course of events,

implying that this new general advisor would only be working at YC. "I don't know where this is coming from," she commented, although she had been notified of the Dr. Volpe's search for a new advisor. "Thea Volpe is speaking for YC- this was her idea. I can't speak for YC, and Thea Volpe can't speak for Stern." She refuted the notion that an advisor would be hired for SCW without a law degree. "That person, that general advisor, will be called the pre-law advisor," she explained. However, in a contradictory statement several minutes later, she said that, eventually, there would be a full-time general advisor effectively absorbing the Pre-Law department. "The person wouldn't be limited to pre-law; they would also do other things." She then rectified her previous statements by explaining that this change is not taking place right now. "Down the road sometime, maybe full-time general advisement will happen." She did concede that, at this point, it is an issue that Rabbi Hecht and Professor Greenberg are only available on a part-time basis. "Students with a problem on a Monday can't reach Rabbi Hecht," she observed. But, she confirmed that Professor Greenberg would be continuing to do pre-law advisement on the Beren Campus, at least for the spring 2007 semester. "Nothing's changing right now, except the things that need to be changed," she said.

Responding via email, Dr. Volpe attempted to further clarify the issue. "The plans for Wilf Campus are not fixed, and our expectation is that, should any changes occur, they will only affect students at the Wilf campus, not students at the Beren campus," she wrote.

Library News

Hours:

- The library is now opening at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday for use before class.

New Online Databases:

- Get business information and news with Factiva
- Get Financial, economic and marketing information from WRDS (Wharton Research Data Server)
- Listen to classical music online with Naxos
- Locate research articles in all scientific disciplines in Web of Science
- Link to Learn Arabic with Divan to help learn Arabic

The Bar-Ilan Judaic Library:

- Now available campus-wide.

Torah Tapes:

- The Torah Tapes presented to the library by TAC are now listed in the YULIS catalog.
- They are integrated into the library's media collection and can now be searched via the catalog.

Term Papers / Exit Papers:

- Start early and finish on time.
- Consult a Librarian for help in finding material on your topic.

Academic Computers:

- In response to student requests, three Academic Computers have been installed in the North Wing Library.

Arts and Culture

The Museum of Television and Radio: A Walk through Pop Culture's Greatest Moments

BY DEANNA FRAZIN

Many people can define significant periods of their lives through television programs. Whether it is "Sesame Street" or "Full House," everyone has that show that sums up their childhood. If one dreams of reliving those precious moments, they need not look any further than New York's Museum of Television and Radio. Located on 52nd Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, the museum boasts a collection of over 120,000 radio shows, television programs, and advertisements, all of which bring you one step closer to reliving America's dearest pop culture moments.

The museum is by no means conventional. There are no small plaques with facts that need to be read, and visitors need not be scared of setting off alarms. There are numerous screenings of TV programs presented throughout the day on a wide variety of topics, which are indicated in a daily brochure. The programs range from modern cartoons such as "The Simpsons" to Nick-at-Nite favorites like "The Mary Tyler Moore Show." There are old clips of "Johnny Carson" and the futuristic cartoon "The Jetsons," making it easy for everyone, regardless of his taste in TV programs, to find something to watch.

The museum is unique in that one can come and go as they please into any screening, fitting in as many viewings as they like. Upon entering the dark screening rooms, it is as if one has passed through a portal in time. This por-

tal transports any visitor to a place where they can be themselves, as all societal norms are relaxed. For example, while viewing "The Muppets: A Celebration of 30 Years," three adult women were laughing like uninhibited children.

In addition, one should not feel limited by the television shows screened. If you want to watch something besides for what is being shown on a given day, the museum has a library and



visitors can select and watch whatever they fancy. Yet, the museum does not have everything. While they have a large selection of shows they only have the most popular episodes available so if you have unique taste you may be out of luck.

If television shows are not your forte, there are still many options to enjoy. The museum, whose name lends itself to radio, also has radio archives. In the Ralph Guild Listening Room, which feels more like a living room, one can get information on and listen to an array of old radio shows. It is especially transforming to be listening to a show and hearing the infamous "we interrupt this program" to hear news bulletins about World War II.

Perhaps more academic, is the museum's large collection of sporting events, old TV adver-

tisements, and political debates. One screening room had "An Advertising Album"; which showed a fascinating compendium of iconic television commercials from 1950 to 2003.

On top of the regular exhibits, the museum also offers special lecture series. The cast and crew of many TV shows and media personalities have been the headliners of weekly lectures. Most of the lectures are open to the public and are made available to students at a very reasonable price. One upcoming lecture, "On Media and Foreign Policy," is being given by Madeline Albright and Henry Kissinger, and the cast of the hit series "Weeds" will be appearing later that same week.

If you are in the mood for a walk through cultural history and some nostalgia, all arrows point to The Museum of Television and Radio. It is anything but your typical museum and can be enjoyed by people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests.

The Museum of Television and Radio is located at 25 W. 52nd Street. It is open from 12p.m. to 6p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. It is open on Thursdays from 12p.m. to 8p.m. and closed on Monday. The Museum is closed on these holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. For information on scheduled activities call (212) 621-6800. The price is \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$5 for children under 14.

The Feminine Touch Goes a Long Way

BY YAFFI SPODEK

Iron, fiber, and glass hardly seem like the ideal materials an artist might use to create a masterpiece. Yet, these are the substances used in an eye-catching new exhibit currently on display at Yeshiva University Museum's Center for Jewish History. Entitled "Feminine Principals: Works in Iron, Fiber and Glass," the exhibit presents the contemporary works of Orna Ben-Ami, Georgette Benisty, and Saara Gallin, three living artists. Each worked with their own unique material of metallic iron, fabric textiles, or glass to express their individual life experiences.

The first section of the exhibit, "Personal Journey," features the iron sculptures of Ben-Ami. Born and raised in Rehovot, Israel, she graduated from Hebrew University in Jerusalem in the 1970s and after attending several art graduate programs both in Israel and abroad, she studied sculpture design at Tel Aviv University from 2001 to 2004. In her sculptures, Ben Ami welds the harsh solid iron into something feminized and more delicate, turning commonplace objects into personal symbols, representing her family and background, as each object in the exhibit is meant to trace her journey from childhood to maturity.

Ben Ami's sculptures are of ordinary objects, such as a backpack hanging on a hook, and of Jewish items such as a pair of *tzitzit* (a religious fringed garment). Her work is distinctive because of the way she manipulates the rigidity and rawness of the iron to produce a softened texture. In the *tzitzit* sculpture, the garment is suspended from the ceiling and instead of appearing stiff and artificial, resembles the cloth garment, with creases in all the right places. The groups of iron strings hanging down from the four corners look so realistic that if one would touch them, one would expect them to swing back and forth as real cloth strings would.

Providing a sharp contrast to the stark bleakness of Ben-Ami's metallic models are Benisty's embroidered fabric figurines of dazzlingly bright shades of red, yellow, blue, and green. Born and raised in Casablanca, Benisty later spent many years living and working in the United States. Named for the French fabric Georgette, with its sturdy yet

transparent quality, Benisty, as a child, would use her imagination to envision the gowns which she would later design and successfully market through Neiman Marcus in Beverly Hills and at her own store in Boston.

Entitled "Renou-er-Renewal," Benisty's textile figures are a reflection of her desire to symbolically stitch together the dispersed fragments of her Moroccan upbringing with French culture. She accomplishes this by weaving the colors of different fabrics into intricately embroidered figurines. Although the individual patterns are quite detailed, ranging from flowered prints to creative abstract and collaged designs, there is no emphasis on the size or shape of the subject's limbs. Some are obese and wide, resembling a blimp, while others are elongated and skinny. The most striking aspect is that each head is a circular block of blank white clay, devoid of any facial features. The emphasis on the detailed bodies and dresses coupled with the absence of defined features is Benisty's way of expressing both

the hidden and revealed experiences of her life through her family of figures.

Looking past Benisty's exhibit, one can see two triangular glass lights hanging from the ceiling like chan-



The YU Museum

deliers, one in a soft glowing purple and one in vibrant green. These are but a few of Gallin's daintily beautiful creations in her display called "Sculpting in Glass." Although stained glass is usually an architectural form, Gallin uses a kiln to construct three dimensional forms that alter the shape of the glass through heat and gravity. Born in America, she has exhibited her work both here and in Israel. Motivated by light, she draws her inspiration from the strength and heroism of the Jewish woman and her connection to Israel.

Gallin's earlier works were completely abstract, until she was stimulated by the rescue at Entebbe in 1976. At that time, her subject matter changed, and she began to incorporate symbolic motifs and commemorate momentous periods in Jewish history, such as the Holocaust and Israel's 50th anniversary. Her later works also pay tribute to significant individuals. An especially creative piece called

Remembering He Who Never Forgot: A New Documentary about Simon Wiesenthal

BY YAEL WOLYNETZ

"I Have Never Forgotten You", a documentary about the life and career of Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, premiered on October 8th, the first night of *Chol Hamoed Succot*, at the Jerusalem Theatre. The film was previewed by a crowd of over 500 viewers; the most noted of all was Wiesenthal's only daughter Polinka and her husband Gerald, as well as the film's Academy Award production team.

The picture, narrated by Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman, retraces Wiesenthal's life from his 1908 birth in Eastern Europe through his wartime imprisonment in several Nazi concentration camps until his

eventual death at age 96 in 2005. The bulk of the film focuses on Wiesenthal's post-war efforts to track down and bring to trial officers and collaborators in the Nazi genocide, including his victorious role in the 1961 capture of



Simon Wiesenthal

Adolf Eichmann, the official who played the biggest role in executing the Final Solution.

The film itself includes a variation of multi-media, including interviews with government leaders, Wiesenthal associates, family and friends of Wiesenthal, as well as many news clippings and interviews with Wiesenthal himself. As the program describes, it was "filmed in over nine countries, the film also offers previously unseen archival film and photos telling the inspirational and remarkable story of how a single person, untrained as an investigator brought to justice many of the most infamous Nazi war criminals."

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Marie-Antoinette, Lost in French Translation

BY SARAH GUIGUI

If there is a historical character the French are genetically programmed to hate, it is Marie-Antoinette. However, this stunning adaptation by Director Sofia Coppola has magically managed to render the insolent queen irresistible.

Chosen to be the depository of an alliance that will consolidate the Franco-Austrian relations, Marie-Antoinette, played by Kirsten Dunst, is forced to leave her native country for the French Court at the age of 14. Her marriage to the dauphin, Louis Philippe (future Louis XVI), is celebrated at the royal chapel of Versailles. Uprooted and unfamiliar with the rituals of the French Court, Marie Antoinette feels sad and alone. Furthermore, she has almost no affinity with her husband who leaves her out, preferring hunting to his marital duties. Little by little, the young queen emancipates herself by limitlessly spending and trendsetting as she jet sets to parties, balls and operas in the latest fashions. When her husband gives her le petit Trianon for residence, the queen adopts the life she has been dreaming of. In Trianon, far from the court and its obligations, she finds a retreat and surrounds herself with close friends.

Her aversion to conventions and her desire to live freely and be herself, drastically contrast with the life she is expected to lead. Marie-Antoinette has something of a rock star charm. Like a rock star, she is too often over the top, and like a rock star it is her extravagance which ultimately causes her downfall.

Wisdom and measure, however, are certainly not the qualities valued or promoted in this film. "Marie-Antoinette" (Sony Pictures 2006) is everything but a movie of teachings. All that the party queen asks from us is to *carpe diem*, seize the day, and to fully enjoy the 120 minutes of film without thinking further.

That is exactly why Sofia Coppola's adaptation is so successful. Everything in this movie embodies youth, carelessness and arrogance. The tone of "Marie-Antoinette" is set from the beginning, where the typography of the title recalls an album cover of the Sex Pistols. An amazing soundtrack, a clever blend of rock-'n'-roll and minuet, rhythms the follies of the young queen brilliantly interpreted by Dunst.

The angles taken by the camera have their part in the success of "Marie-Antoinette" as well. Sofia Coppola has this undeniable talent of conveying emotions without words. The shots are very often brief but always intense and

eloquent. For instance, the camera operates several close-ups of Marie-Antoinette and slowly goes away to show us a big picture of her alone and insignificant by her size in this gigantic palace. A whirl of sounds, colors, sensations, emotions, and humor blows over this film.

The director manages to get away from the conventional historical frescos by choosing not to follow the traditional code of the costume movie. Yet, Coppola takes so much liberty with history that she ends up escaping the weight of historical reconstruction. The political context is, just like Marie-Antoinette's life, evanescent and meaningless.

Marie-Antoinette, as depicted by Coppola, could easily be the bored young woman of "Lost in Translation" or of "Virgin Suicides." One never feels the pressure of the hungry poor people knocking on her door until the final five minutes of movie. The French Revolution is barely mentioned, even though Marie-Antoinette's prodigality is certainly the element that started the revolution. Something is definitely missing in the movie: substance. Marie-Antoinette certainly works on the viewer like a charm, but still leaves one with a bittersweet frustrating aftertaste.

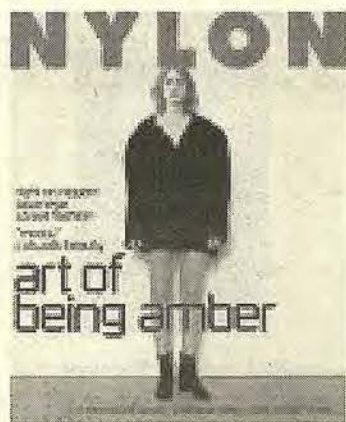
For The Apathetic Who Care

By Yael Zwanziger

You know who hipsters are. They are the people with straight black hair and blunt bangs across their forehead. They wear skinny jeans and Converse shoes all the while rejecting pop culture for being so cliché and typical. Though they are misunderstood and misrepresented, they are not bothered by this perception because they simply do not care. But where does the lonely hipster, who is a loner by nature, go for company? What does she eat? Where does she shop? What does she read? Such a gal is lonely no longer, as there is actually a magazine specifically made for the "cooler than thou" girl called Nylon.

The latest issue of Nylon, a fashion, beauty, and style resource for global trendsetters is releasing its first America-themed edition this December. In all fairness, Nylon is quite unique and atypical. Nylon is a necessary relief from the mass of bubblegum women's magazines found in stores today. The fashions that Nylon focuses on are quirky and different. For example, instead of focusing on Prada's new line, Nylon focuses on America's strange mall culture. The Mall of America brings in 40 million visitors annually, while the Metropolitan Museum of Art draws in around 4 million.

Nylon's beauty section is also unlike regular fashion magazines. It does not focus on very expensive lip liner, but on Dove hair cream. Whatever the magazine concentrates on, it is done in a strange thematic way. For example, it discusses the makeup choices of politician's wives, such as Tipper Gore and Betty Ford, not the first people one



would normally think of when discussing beauty. This section also looks at beauty from yet another angle. Instead of going into long detail on how to fix ones hair, it suggests products, unknown brands, drugstore brands, and unusual products.

The truly definitive part of Nylon is its music section. The musicians that it highlights are generally up and coming bands and performance artists who have not before been well recognized. It is the magazine that knows

which will be the next up and coming band. Before Be Your Own Pet or Franz Ferdinand became famous, Nylon had reviewed their songs and interviewed their singers.

"We think it's important to recognize that the country isn't just New York and Los Angeles," wrote Editor Marvin Scott Jarrett in the newest edition. "There's a lot of exciting stuff going on in the cities in between." To anyone living outside of New York and Los Angeles this statement is a bit jaw dropping. Of course there are interesting things outside of the New York and Los Angeles bubbles. Ironic to the nature of the magazine is that with seven years of existence the only two cities that are trendy enough to be mentioned are New York City and Los Angeles. Isn't being a hipster all about knowing the cool things that no one else appreciates until five years after you found it? With this logic, one would think that coming from a more remote place such as Omaha would propel someone to even a higher level of cool.

Nylon is not a political magazine. It is not a great magazine that claims to have lofty goals or aims to be the best in anything. Yet, this magazine shines with creativity and originality, charm, and art.

Bon Appetite A Restaurant Review: Estihana

BY MICHELLE SCHIFFMAN

Estihana, advertised as "a new concept in oriental cuisine," is one of the best things that has ever happened to New York City. Located on the Upper West Side at 221 West 79 Street between Broadway and Amsterdam, the experience of dining at this authentic Asian eatery cannot be beat.

When you first walk in, you will be very impressed with its seemingly genuine Asian décor. The ambiance is very inviting; the room is a nice size with white and dark cherry walls that are adorned with unique paintings, complete with dark cherry tables, a fish tank filled with exotic looking fish and a sushi bar. During the evening service the lights are dimmed, giving the restaurant a very warm and romantic feel.

However, as romantic as it was, I would advise not to go to Estihana if you are planning on having a personal conversation, given the close proximity of the tables to each other. After being seated it is impossible to go an entire meal without eavesdropping on the nearby conversation.

Everything on the menu sounds delicious, so trying to decide what to order is even harder than trying not to listen to the private conversation the couple on our side was having. I ordered

a wonton soup (\$3.50)

which was tasty, and a very interesting entrée called Sizzling Yakindon (\$17.50), stir fried whole wheat udon noodles with vegetables, with choice of chicken or beef. They don't call it sizzling Yakindon for nothing! Literally searing when the waiter brought the dish out, once it simmered down enough to eat I was immediately transported to Chinese food heaven. My dish was absolutely delicious. If you are more in the mood for Japanese, they have a variety of extremely fresh sushi.

The food is not all Estihana has to offer. The service is personable, something lacking in

many restaurants. The waiters are all friendly, polite, and sincere. I had a very difficult time deciding what to order, because everything sounded tasty. The waiter, without revealing any sign of impatience, kindly recommended a number of dishes to me. Moreover, when the waiter brought our food over he said, "enjoy," like he really meant it. Also worthy to note is the efficiency of the service. The restaurant was very crowded when we got there, but as soon as a table opened up we were immediately



seated. Once seated, the waiter came over with waters and soon after, came to take our orders. The sincer-

ity and amiability of the waiters really added to my dining experience at Estihana.

The waiters were not the only ones that contributed to the pleasurable dining experience. There was something very unique about the customers. The restaurant was full of people from all walks of life. They ranged from young Upper West-Side folk to senior citizens, tourists to Yeshiva and Stern College students, businessmen and women to families. I truly felt like I was dining with a big happy family.

Estihana is a fantastic restaurant for all dining occasions. The prices are very reasonable for the top quality of the food that is pro-

vided. The entrees range from \$13.50-\$18.50. This restaurant has much to offer with its delicious food, pleasant ambiance, and its affable service.

Estihana is located at 221 W. 79 Street. It is open Sunday - Thursday from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m., Fridays from 12 p.m. until 2 hours before Shabbat and Saturday nights from 1 hour after Shabbat to 1 a.m. Entrees range from \$13.50-\$18.50. Delivery is available by calling (212) 501-0393.

F A S H I O N

Out With the Old, In With the Old? When Trends are Recycled

BY SARA LEVIT

A recent conversation with a friend left me stumped and more uncomfortable than my sky high heels leave me. With all the current trends, we were hard pressed to find a single one that is innovative. Berets? Been done. Straight leg pants? Can we say 50s and 80s? With a new version of the iPod being unleashed to the public monthly, it seems technology is moving forward more quickly than fashion. In fact, the world of fashion is taking colossal steps backwards. Is our generation really so unoriginal that we have to borrow our styles from the imaginations of our predecessors? You be the judge.

Initial Inspiration:

Grunge:

In his fall line, Marc Jacobs debuted ensembles that could be classified as grunge. The pieces consisted of flannel, plaid, military boots and other things associated with this style. Once reserved for the anti-glamour youth of the 90s, the glamazons on the streets are now dressing up in the decidedly dressed-down look.



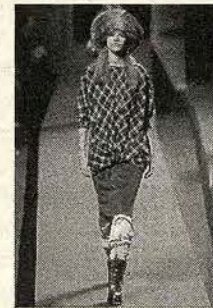
Migrant Farmers

Original Take:



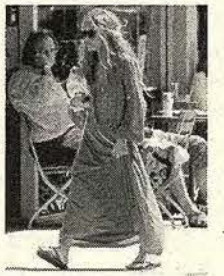
90's Grunge Bands

Today's Rip Off:



Marc Jacob's Catwalk

Taking the Look Too Far:



Mary Kate Olsen

Punk-Goth:

When "Pirates of the Caribbean" made it big at the box office this summer, Johnny Depp wasn't the only one sporting skull and crossbones. Borrowing from the hard rocking, Punk-Goth trends of the 80s and 90s, metal is finding its way from hardware stores to the belts and bags of the choicest fashionistas.



Dracula



Black Sabbath and Kiss



Mulberry for Giles Black Patent Leather Shopper



Mohawk

Leg warmers:

You wore them to your first ballet recital. You've seen them making leaps and bounds in the movie "Flashdance." The definitive rebirth of leg warmers is keeping legs toasty while remaining in vogue.



Ballerinas



Flashdance



Anna Sui Runway



Rainbow Bright

Mod:

Flashy neon tights, geometric lines, micro minis and platform pumps were all part and parcel of the mod look of the 60s. The graphic motifs and headbands can be found on multitudes of fashion conscious woman at Stern College for Women who think the look is still "pretty groovy baby."



Restroom Symbol



The Mod Squad



Gucci Runway



Baby Spice

Foiled Fashion

BY JULIE AST

The success of reality shows like "Project Runway" and "America's Next Top Model" turned the cutthroat fashion business into an actual competition. LVHRD, a networking group, took a queue from these reality series when they hosted the Master-Disaster Duel III, a competition where two designers had one hour to make an outfit at a previously undisclosed location.

On October 24, at 9pm, designers Laurel Wells and Erin Snow arrived at Caravan, a boutique on Grand Street, to find that instead of sewing clothes, they would be using tinfoil as their material. The unusual medium became an added challenge for the designers.

"When we first heard about it we weren't very excited," said Alison Kelly, Wells's assistant and former contestant on Project Runway. "We were imagining having fabric and sewing machines. We had to really think

about what we could do with it and how we could make the dress wearable and still really good, but it took me a minute to get used to it, until I understood how to pleat



it and how to play with it. And then we get really into it."

"It was really difficult, said Wells. "It's all the same color and it reflects light, so it's really hard

to create texture and to make a form that people can actually see and discern."

The judges also acknowledged the constraints of the material. Bryan Levandowski, an assistant market editor at BlackBook, a media corporation, called tinfoil, "difficult to work with."

Levandowski also praised tinfoil as an unconventional material for a dress. "I think it's a challenge that any designer can really appreciate and really kind of open their minds to using different things in their designs," he said. "That's what I look for in fashion. It's when designers use unorthodox mediums or cuts and whatnot. That's what I look for personally, so I think it's a very good idea and it's good to see them doing this and their artwork in action."

The material inspired Wells. "It's fun to try and play with it and find stuff that would work," she explained. She created a shorter style dress with pleats and a fitted

bodice top. Her opponent, Snow, designed a longer style with a slim silhouette.

Levandowski voted for Snow. "I'm going to vote for



Erin," he declared. "I think both dresses are great, but that Erin's adhered to the theme a little better. Her dress is really glamorous. It reminds me of some-

thing very classic like Oscar De La Renta."

Alas, Levandowski was in the minority. Wells and Kelly won the competition with their more fun and edgy design. "The competition for me was nothing, it was a breeze," said Kelly who has had her share of experience with reality fashion shows. "I was the assistant. The stress wasn't on my shoulders and I felt like I was going into it with that kind of energy."

The tinfoil dresses weren't always the main focus of the event. While the contestants were designing, partygoers used extra tinfoil to make hats and bracelets. In their third fashion duel, LVHRD proved that fashion can be both competitive and fun.

Beyond 34th Street: Murray Hill and Midtown East

continued from page 12

light from windows above. Retrace your steps back to Lexington.

9. When you return to the street, make a left and proceed two blocks to 45th St. Make a right on 45th. Walk straight past 3rd Ave, continuing on 45th St. Before you reach 2nd Ave., you'll pass the Amish Market on your right. The Amish Market is one of the city's most interesting gourmet grocery stores, with a remarkable assortment of kosher goods,

and an ambience like few other places in the city.

10. Make a right out of Amish Market and another right on 2nd Ave.

Walk downtown two blocks until 43rd St. Here, make a left, and proceed up 43rd St. to my absolute favorite place in Manhattan: Tudor City. Tudor City was constructed in the 1920s, when the unsightly slaughterhouses along the East River encouraged the builders to orient their development inward. All of the buildings in Tudor City are brick with Gothic touches, from the lettering of the address signs to the stained-glass win-



Isaiah's Wall opposite the UN Headquarters

dows of the lobbies. Most of the buildings have absolutely no view of the river and the United Nations (U.N.) complex below.

At the end of 43rd St, look down at the U.N. complex and the peace-rally-famous Isaiah Wall. Then, turn back into Tudor City and marvel at this cul-de-sac literally built upon 42nd St., wherein vehicular traffic is reduced to a silencing minimum. You can usually walk in the street in Tudor City, and this freedom alone is liberating. Additionally, Tudor City contains in its mere two blocks two parks that are

open to the public, as well as public benches that have an enviable view of the East River.

11. Tudor City

marks the official conclusion of this walking tour. For the simplest and most pleasant directions back to Stern, walk from 41st St. to Lexington and downtown to 34th St. from there. Enjoy the walk!

continued from page 10

those two ideals, and because it is used in such a variety of ways, I felt that I was not limiting my future choices by majoring in it."

Professor Susan Gardner, head of the art department at SCW, brought to light another positive attribute of art therapy as both a major and ultimately a career. "It is now a viable profession in Israel," she said. "This is due to a former Stern student, Karen Goldberg, who was our first graduate to attend New York University (NYU) in art therapy, and was instrumental in establishing the profession in Israel." Gabbay shared these sentiments as well. "It is also an up and coming profession, specifically in Israel where I want to practice," she elaborated, "so I felt that there would be opportunities available for me." This is also true specifically for Israel which generally is known to pursue the creative arts very progressively, more so than other countries.

However, art therapy is not only a viable career option in Israel; it is becoming more prevalent in the United States as well. "With the increased growth in an aging population, more job opportunities have developed," commented Professor Gardner. "Art therapy is also being more widely used in hospitals and schools as part of the grieving process, and as part of detoxification programs." In New York State, art therapy is now established as a profession with licensing authentication that enables therapists to work in the private sectors, Professor Gardner clarified. "Anybody that needs psychological counseling can benefit from art therapy," Rosengarten

added. "It's just a creative visual way of getting to express yourself, and an outlet through which psychologists can reach patients."

There are several graduate programs available to students who want to become art therapists. The leading ones in New York are at the Pratt Institute, NYU, Hofstra University, and the School of Visual Arts. There is also a major school in Chicago called the Chicago Art Institute, which is known for its superior art therapy program. After completing any of these two year programs, graduates have earned a master's degree in art therapy and are officially considered certified art therapists.

All art therapy graduate programs require that students have anywhere from 20 to 30 credits in studio art so they can become familiar with as many different mediums as possible. To that end, SCW has been very accommodating, thanks to the joint efforts of Professor Gardner and Professor Tracy Tullius, another professor in the art department. Their support is indicated by the array of courses being offered for art majors in general, and specifically for art therapy majors. A new course being planned for the spring semester is a drawing course which will use New York City as a subject, where the students can leave the campus to explore and capture different aspects of the city. Another class being worked on, hopefully to be ready by the spring is an interactive video course which will utilize the Wilf Campus video lab. One course already in existence, which was established chiefly for art therapy majors, is called "cre-

ativity and innovation," and works to help students recognize the different emotional forces that drive created images.

The course requirements for art therapy majors include basic art studio classes as well as some psychology courses, such as Intro 101, Personality, Developmental I, and Abnormal. The one class which is understandably not offered in SCW, and which is highly recommended for art therapy majors, is "life drawing," which features nude models. The reason behind taking this specific course is so students can learn to really capture the human figure, Rosengarten explained. Many have taken that course and others, such as jewelry design and advanced photography classes at Fashion Institute for Technology (FIT). SCW officially pays for art majors to take up to 14 credits worth of classes at other colleges and art schools, which exposes them to outside resources and provides them with useful experience for the future.

"Professor Gardner is very supportive in terms of shaped majors," declared Rosengarten. "She is very flexible and into all different kinds of courses, letting students justify why a certain course is counting toward the art therapy major." Gabbay agreed. "Because an art therapist is expected to be proficient in many different media and art forms, we are encouraged to experience various studio classes...but we are still given the freedom to choose the classes we take, based on personal interest," she said.

SPORTS

Mid Season Report: The New York Giants

BY NOAH FALKENSTEIN AND ALANA RUBENSTEIN

Although it seems like the 2006 National Football League (N.F.L.) season just started, the season is in fact more than half over. With nine games under their belt, the teams of the N.F.L. are looking ahead to the playoffs with the hope of competing in, and ultimately winning, Super Bowl XLI on February 4th.

One of these teams is the New York Giants. Coming into Game 9, the team had a record of 6-2, putting them first in the N.F.C. East and on a five game winning streak. Although they were destined for greatness since the start, considering their recent bad luck and a disappointing 1-2 start after losing to both the Indianapolis Colts and the Seattle Seahawks, it was truly astounding that they would find themselves in such a great position.

The team found the first half of the season to be extremely rigorous, but won some key games and overcame the challenges placed before them with flying colors. Despite accumulating many wins, the team has also amassed many injuries that had the potential to be devastating.

LaVar Arrington, the off-season acquisition everyone was talking about, is out for the season with a torn Achilles. He was just reaching his peak and playing like the superstar the Giants thought he would be when injury fell upon him. Brandon Short replaced him at linebacker only to hurt his quad and get sidelined

for a few weeks. Gerris Wilkins is now playing in the position, something Giants fans never thought they would see.

The other season ending injury befell 11-year Giant Amani Toomer. He has a partially torn ACL, which he acquired in Game 8 against the Houston Texans. The loss of Toomer comes with a loss of stability, as he has always been there for his team. A cast of players, most notably Tim Carter, will now be



Tiki Barber

filling the wide receiver position. "It's kind of tough to replace a guy like Amani," Carter said, "but I definitely feel like I have something to bring to the table."

Though their seasons are not over, players Osi Umenyiora and Michael Strahan are also out for the time being. Umenyiora was diagnosed with a hip flexer after playing the Dallas Cowboys in Texas Stadium. Strahan got a high ankle sprain when playing the Texans and will be out for the next two to four weeks.

So while these injuries would have seemed to be discouraging, negatively affecting the team's spirit and will to achieve greatness, the men of Big Blue still had an incentive to try to make it all the way. Tiki Barber, the running back and one of the most skilled and beloved players in Giants history, has officially declared the 2006 season to be his last. At age 31 he has decided to retire after playing in New York for 10 seasons. He has not

missed a game since 2002.

Although the announcement came as a shock to many fans that want Barber to continue playing, he is not planning to go back on his decision. "Everyone wants me to keep playing," he said, "but when I'm 50 and having trouble just getting down the stairs will they be cheering for me then?"

This means, the 2006 season is Barber's last chance for a championship win, and many of his teammates are devoted to helping him get there. While players always strive for victory in February, the impending retirement of their running back has given them additional incentive to bring the Lombardi trophy to New York.

Therefore, Game 9, which New York Post writer Steve Serby described as a "smash mouth war for NFC supremacy," was crucial. The Giants were set to play the Chicago Bears, the best team in the N.F.C. Many sports analysts believed that if the Giants could overcome their losses and beat the 7-1 Bears, there would be nothing that could stop them from taking a trip to Florida in February.

But, like the city's baseball teams have proven, nothing is certain when it comes to New York teams and championship games. The Giants suffered a devastating 38-20 loss, ending their five game winning streak and making them 6-3. Although Big Blue was up by 3 going into half time as a result of their special teams and defense, the absence of five of their regular starters became extremely noticeable in the second half, as things quickly went down hill for New York.

The most devastating moment of the game came when 30-year-old Kicker Jay Feely missed a 52-yard field goal

attempt with 11:20 left in the game. Had he made the kick, the Giants would have been within one point of the Bears. Instead, Chicago Rookie David Hester scored a record-tying 108-yard touchdown, clinching the victory for his team.

And if losing was not bad enough, the Giants also sustained two more injuries. Left tackle Luke Petitgout broke his left leg during the first quarter and Cornerback Sam Madison got injured again in his right hamstring. Although Barber hurt his thumb in the first quarter, he was not seriously injured and continued playing later in the game.

Despite this demoralizing loss, the New York Giants will still make the post-season. They are also the only New York team



The Lombardi Trophy

with the potential to bring glory back to this sports obsessed city. Sports fans may still see Big Blue in Florida; the team will just have to stay healthy and work a lot harder than they may have hoped to get there.

DON'T MAKE US BEG...

WRITE FOR SPORTS!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

LADY MACCABEES BASKETBALL

Date	Team	Time	Place
November			
Tuesday 21	College of New Rochelle	8:30 p.m.	Home
Sunday 26	City Tech	2:30 p.m.	Home
December:			
Saturday 2	Medgar Evers Tournament	8:15 p.m.	Away
Sunday 3	Medgar Evans Tournament	TBA	Away
Tuesday 5	College of St. Elizabeth	8:00 p.m.	Away

Remembering Simon Wiesenthal

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In a speech given before the film was aired, film Director Richard Trank described how "it is trying to distill anyone's life in 90 minutes and it was particularly difficult to do that for Simon Wiesenthal." He explained that through the direction of the film he hoped to reveal "the woman behind the man, a quiet woman" who tried to stay out of the public eye.

Trank explained that the title of the film was inspired by the quote "When my life is over and I meet up with the victims of the Holocaust, I shall

have the privilege of saying to them, I have never forgotten you." This statement was made by Wiesenthal himself and sums up his life's work extremely accurately.

The film illustrated Wiesenthal's life-long dedication to Nazi hunting. He was possessed by the victims of the Holocaust. In an interview included in the film, Wiesenthal explains this feeling by saying, "having survived nothing less than a miracle, I have remained true to those who suffered with me; their last thoughts, their hopes and their fears have become my own."

When Polinka was 15 years old, Wiesenthal realized how lit-

tle time he had spent getting to know his daughter since he allowed himself to get consumed by his work. In an interview with Polinka, she recalled on film how her father expressed his regrets, telling her, "I have nothing to leave you with when I die besides this telegraph thanking me for my work on the Eichmann case."

The film is the latest of eight documentaries put out by Moriah Films, the media division of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, based in California. The film is a joint effort

by the Academy Award winning team, director Richard Trank and producer and co-founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Rabbi Marvin Hier. Trank and Hier's previous productions include last year's "Ever Again," and "The Long Way Home," which won the 1998 Academy Award for best documentary.

The film, "I Have Never Forgotten You" is due to premiere internationally over the upcoming months, in New York City on November 1, in Toronto on November 29, in Los Angeles on December 19 and in Miami on January 8.



A Delegation of 55 Attends the GA

continued from front page

Celebrates Individuality." Following Rabbi Brander, President Joel briefly addressed the students.

Following lunch, the YU delegation, as well as countless others, gathered around the YU booth for a game of Jewpardy. The game of Jewpardy featured various categories of questions on a gamut of topics in Judaism. Topics ranged from Biblical figures to Jewish movie stars and Jewish traditions. The game was conducted on a set that mimicked the set of the game show Jeopardy. For the second consecutive year, there was always a large crowd of people surrounding the YU booth.

The students at the delegation were greeted with the same remarks at every booth they visited. "Wow you are from Yeshiva," said the various people at the GA. "How many of there are you?" It appears that YU students left an indelible impression on the GA participants. When asked about the impression YU students gave to the public Director of the Social and Organizational Leadership Training, Rabbi Moshe Bellows responded as follows: "I believe our students showed themselves and the 3000 GA participants that the YU community is engaged in Jewish and world issues, has the ability and will to dialogue with the broad spectrum of the Jewish community and deeply and profoundly cares about effectuating positive change."

Esther Birnbaum, president of the Sy Syms School of Business Student Council, commented that "the GA woke us up to the realization of the great achievements accomplished by the commitment of all the Jewish entities to a greater cause and the responsibility each of us has to take part in that." Bellows is confident that students will take what



"Jewpardy"

they gained from the GA and bring it back to campus in the form of new programs and student run initiatives.

Throughout the day students had the opportunity to attend sessions or to walk around and visit the various booths. Scoping out the booths and speaking with those who ran the various booths enabled students share their ideas with others and to hear about other perspectives. "[It was] an amazing sight to see so many different sects of Judaism come together to realize that although they had deep rooted differences on several issues, what they had in common was more important," said Alan Kleinerman, president of Yeshiva Student Union.

Later on in the afternoon, stu-

dents had the privilege of hearing from former Prime Minister, Head of Opposition and Likud Chairman, Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu spoke about the Iranian nuclear program. "No one will defend the Jews if the Jews don't defend themselves," he said. "People think sacrifice some of Israel but you can't... people think give territory to the terrorist and they will be nice to you but it does not work like that." Netanyahu spoke of the dangers that face the world if Iran is allowed to produce nuclear weapons. He stressed that at this point it may appear that they are only after Israel despite the fact that the entire West is in grave danger.

After hearing Netanyahu speak the undergraduate students were treated to dinner by the presidential fellowship program. This dinner enabled the students and the presidential fellows to share their experiences and get to know one another.

On Tuesday, November 14th students had some time to visit the various booths as well as sit in on one last session before departing for the airport. Students expressed deep gratitude to the university for providing them with this extraordinary experience. President of Stern College for Women Student Council, Liz Shelton said "The GA was a wonderful networking experience afforded to us by the CJF to learn from other Jewish leaders."

The Feminine Touch

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"Aishet Chayil" (woman of valor), recognizes the Jewish women of the past and present, and features their picture images imprinted onto the glass.

The bright lighting in the gallery accentuates the appeal of some of the pieces, particularly of the glass models; it also allows the viewer the luxury of examining the finer details of the models. The absence of display cases around many of the individual exhibits, (save for some of the understandably fragile glass creations) also contribute to this viewing freedom, allowing the visitor to experience the exhibits close up. One can also gain a better understanding of the artists and their diverse perspectives on their artwork from the personal quotes which are written on the walls above their works.

On the surface, the artwork seems simplistic, using only the most basic raw materials, the "principals" as the exhibit is aptly named; but, the message it embodies goes much deeper than the actual artwork. The materials and designs may be plain, but the

symbolism behind them is sophisticated, reflecting the talents and insights of their female creators.

This exhibit can be viewed through January 14, 2007 at the Yeshiva University (Y.U.) Museum, located at 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY, 10011. It is open on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11 AM to 5 PM. Admission fees are \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for seniors and students.

It is free for children under age five, for Y.U. Museum Members, and individuals with a valid Y.U. ID card. For more information, call 2120984-8330 or visit the website at www.yumuseum.org.

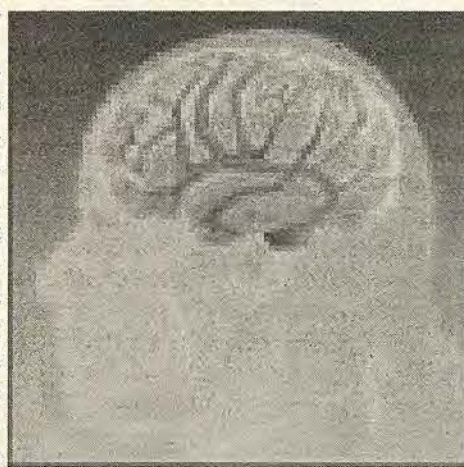
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hormone changes that result from the menstrual cycle, stress, anxiety, chocolate, alcohol, nicotine, and food additives. In addition, changes in weather patterns, like the Chinooks in the Rocky Mountains, are also common triggers of the migraine.

While there are many different types of migraine, the two most common are the classic and the common. The classic migraine comes with visual symptoms called an aura that occur between 10 and 30 minutes before the attack. The aura might be flashing lights, zigzag lines, blind spots, or perhaps a short loss of vision. These symptoms may also be accompanied by seeing or hearing odd things or even a disturbance in the sense of smell, taste or touch. The common migraine is when the victim does not have an aura, but does experience nausea or vomiting.

This condition, no matter which form it takes, should not be taken lightly. In fact the World Health Organization has published a report that emphasizes

the importance of recognizing migraines as a disorder that causes disability at work, school, and in the home. Those who suffer from migraine pain are often completely disabled during the attack and unable to perform



required tasks.

While there have been many drug developments in recent years, the recent news that scientists have made a new discovery is exciting. Researchers from Harvard Medical School have found increased thickness of two areas of the brain cortex in people with migraine when compared to

healthy controls. Both areas of the brain are known to be involved in how the brain processes signals dealing with movement. This thickening may also explain why some victims of migraine suffer from aura prior to

and even sometimes between attacks. However, it is also important and interesting to know that even in cases where the patient with migraine did not experience an aura, they still had a thickened area of the brain cortex.

This discovery might lead to better diagnostics with regard to who is at risk for migraine pain. Further research in this field is important and hopefully will quickly lead to a better understanding of migraine pain and perhaps lead to a cure.

For now, all those who suffer the debilitating and challenging effects of migraine can do is cope with it and try to determine the individual life style factors that can prevent it. More research is needed to help develop a cure or at least give us a better understanding of why some people suffer the pain of migraine.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COUNCILS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
AND J&R MUSIC PRESENT THE

YU CHANUKAH CONCERT

STARRING

*Avraham Fried
Shalsheles & Shalsheles Junior
Omek Hadavar*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14
7:30 PM / LAMPORT AUDITORIUM
AMSTERDAM AVENUE AND 187 STREET

MUSIC BY NEGGINA ORCHESTRA
TICKET PRICES: \$48, \$25, \$30, VIP
FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

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