



# The Yeshiva University OPPRESSIED

March 2008/Adar II 5768

Volume LIV Issue 6

## Sexism Exposed (Yet Again) at YU

### Stuffed Cabbage Scandal Tells All

The Observer has discovered another instance of gender discrimination at Yeshiva University, this time through the efforts of an undercover reporter operating as a Kushner cafeteria employee.

On Thursday, March 1, cafeteria staffers served the women of Stern College and the Sy Syms School of Business a meager single helping of stuffed cabbage for dinner. Reportedly, their uptown counterparts were given two jumbo-sized portions of the same dish.

The shocking discovery revealed the broad scope of entrenched sexism at the university, which seems not only to dictate academic and social policies, but food servings and selection as well.

"I am utterly dismayed at the discrepancy in the food apportionment between the two campuses," commented Etana Zack, chairwoman of the Beren campus Student Life Committee (SLC). "The whole thing is completely unsavory and I will most certainly raise this issue at the next SLC meeting."

"Of course, the matter may be a complete coincidence," Zack continued. "However, I am sure something more sinister is at work."

Undergraduates at the Be-

ren campus speculated about the causes behind the incident.

"I am convinced that this is all about body image," asserted Kay Lo-Cal (SCW '11). "It's all part of the conspiracy to make women even more unhealthily conscious of their weight."

Lo-Cal pointed to the food selection in both campus cafeteria stores as evidence of her theory. While Brookdale's Millner's and Schottenstein's C-Store are stocked with Healthy Bites salads, fruit, and vegetarian sushi, the Rubin Caf Store earns its proceeds from the sale of Entenmann's doughnuts.

"They think they're helping us with these subversive messages," added Candy Mintz (SSSB '08). "They think we're going to neglect our diets when we're busy with midterms and become *nebach, lo aleinu*, obese. I really believe this is just a scheme to promote YU Connect and solve the shidduch crisis."

Others offered the notion that the university secretly hoped to boost the GPAs of YC undergraduates, at the expense of women. "Hello," said one student on condition of anonymity, "don't you see what this is all

Continued on page 5



Sara Lefkowitz/The Observer

Beren campus stuffed cabbage plate



Courtesy of Eitan Kasner

Wilf campus stuffed cabbage plate

## MRS Major to Debut at SCW

In a recent press conference at Stern College for Women (SCW), administrators and academic advisors announced the advent of an MRS major, scheduled to debut in the fall 2008 semester.

Since the founding of SCW, students have pondered over the absence of an MRS degree, pointing to a gaping hole in the school's curriculum. While the primary objective in attending the college might always have centered on finding a spouse, there has never before been a formal way to go about snatching one up.

The decision to institute the major was prompted by increased demand among undergraduates. Students have therefore responded enthusiastically to the recent announcement.

"I think this new major is an amazing opportunity for me," remarked Fruma Knaidelberg (SCW '11). "It's like God has answered all of my tefillos. This is the whole reason I chose to come to Stern and not Queens College, so I can find my *bashert* and start building my *bayis ne'eman biyisroel, im yirtzeh Hashem*."

Some students, however, have expressed frustration that the major was not introduced sooner. Shterny Fefferstein, a recent SCW alumna, laments the fact that she was unable to pursue the major. "If I had learned the skills that the MRS major would have provided me with, I would be married already. I would not have to be living single at the age of 22. All is lost. My bachelor's in Speech is completely useless next to an MRS degree."

Some have suggested that the motivation behind the new major stems partly from recent attempts at creating a university-wide initiative to end the shidduch crisis. The MRS curriculum has been arranged to parallel that of the CJF's YU Connect. In fact, students who wish to graduate with honors can do so by attending one YU Connect event per semester, provided that they keep detailed accounts of their experiences in special dating logs.

The Marriage major will be formatted differently than other majors at SCW. First, students who pursue the major, a two-year program (including seminary for those who attended), will be exempted from CORE and liberal arts requirements. The only classes which must be attended are those relating to the major, which is comprised of 48 credits and combines courses from SCW as well as Sy Syms.

MRS course requirements include Dating 101, What to Look for in Your Intended, Home Economics, Nidda, Engagement Ring Design, Diamond Appraisal 101 and

102, Wedding Management, and Conflict Resolution, among others.

Controversy erupted when one faculty member suggested the addition of an accounting course, so as to instruct women in the methods of maintaining sound family finances. However, opponents quickly dismissed the idea as "feminist" and "radical," and succeeded in excluding the class from the final version of the curriculum.

The lucky student who marries before completing her major will be excused from attending her classes and will receive her diploma under the *chuppa*. MRS majors graduating without engagement rings will face severe disciplinary action and will be banished from the campus to await their unfortunate fates alone, friendless, and single.

It is unclear when and if a similar major will be created for the young men of Yeshiva College (YC). However, as YC junior I. M. Tzoris elaborated, "With an average of 17 shidduch offers a week, and a date with a new girl every other night, why would us guys need a marriage major?"

The administration at SCW expects the new major to be quite popular. It is expected that 300 of the first-time-on-campus students entering in the fall will declare their major as MRS. Other majors that are currently popular at SCW, such as Psychology, Biology, and English, will likely see decreases in enrollment. Some fear that the smaller departments, such as Sociology and Art History, will disappear altogether.

One member of the Office of Admissions conceded that the new major will also serve as an effective recruiting technique, drawing students away from Touro College, CUNY, and Shana Bet.

Despite the projected boom in undergraduates, administrators do not expect it to create a dorming problem on the Beren campus. The rate of marriage for MRS majors is expected to be so high, that the university may no longer have to rent out Windsor Court and may even consider selling off Brookdale Hall.

However, administrators do anticipate a shortage of apartments in Washington Heights. No comments have been released as to how SCW attempts to address this impending difficulty.

SCW students are anticipating the upcoming major and are preparing themselves for a rigorous academic experience. But will the major really be as successful as many suspect? Students polled have already eagerly responded with an enthusiastic "I do!"

Continued on page 6

## RIETS Opens its Doors to Stern Women

The Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS) of Yeshiva University will begin admitting graduates of Stern College for Women (SCW) to the rabbinical school's prestigious Kollel Elyon program. The Observer has learned.

The move marks a watershed in the relationship between SCW and RIETS, whose administrators praised the decision with equal enthusiasm.

"We are thrilled to induct the first class of women into RIETS," enthused Rabbi Yona Reiss, incoming dean. "Being a part of expanding women's Torah study is a prime con-

cern here at RIETS, and we are very happy to be working toward that goal."

Dean Karen Bacon added her sentiments. "The women at SCW are immensely capable, both in terms of Torah scholarship and community leadership. We are very pleased that these women will now have a chance to showcase their talents and add to the atmosphere of the RIETS beit midrash."

The addition of a track for women has inspired a series of relocations on the Wilf Campus. Initially, administrators considered housing the program in the same beit midrash, but upon reaching the conclusion that the facility would simply not be large enough to accommodate the anticipated influx of women, plans were made to situate the new enrollees at the Glueck Center for Jewish Study. The men, it seems, will remain at their current premises: the Main Beit Midrash in Zysman Hall and the Schottenstein Center.

Temporarily however, the women will be placed in Furst Hall classrooms, until the Glueck Center construction is completed.

Women who are looking forward to joining RIETS in the fall

expressed their opinion of the institution's decision. "Here we are, coming to study Torah with the men, and they still treat us like second-class citizens!" complained one SCW graduate, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I say that we stand up and complain. There is no reason why we can't enjoy the *beit midrash* as well. I think the men should have to use classrooms too."

"I don't know," said another woman doubtfully. "I mean, they're letting us into RIETS. That's pretty amazing. I'd be happy to just learn in the hallway there."

The Glueck Center is expected to contain over 80,000 seforim. In order to further accommodate the new women's track, each incoming student will receive a complete set of *Shas* and an extensive collection of *SHuT*.

"It's only fair that we equip the women with the proper tools to really learn Torah at a very high level," pointed out Rabbi Reiss.

Current students at RIETS were displeased to learn about the new measure. "Um, we totally got

### INSIDE:

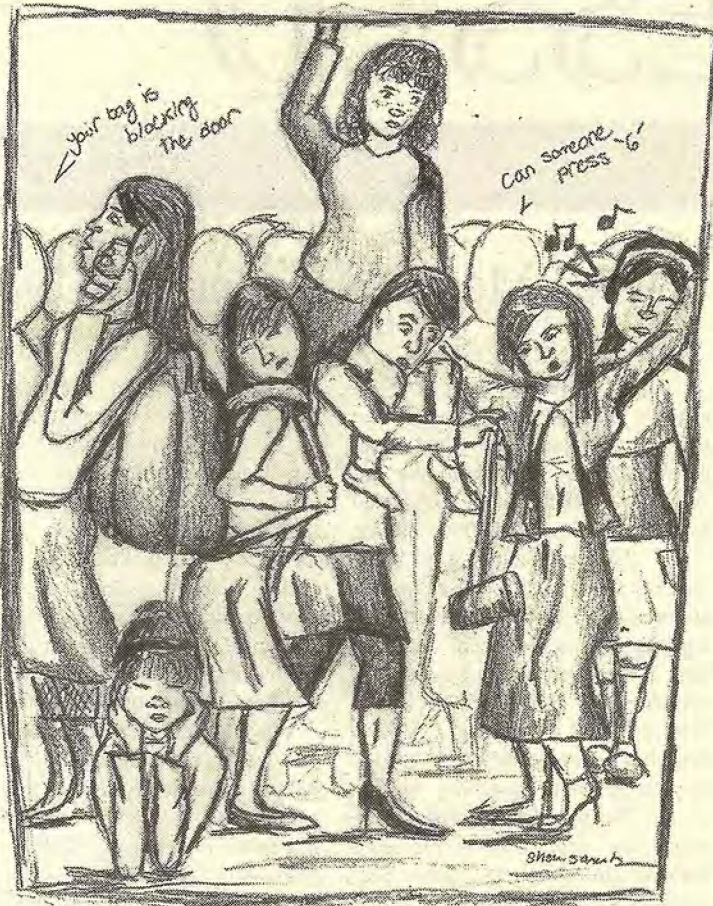
SCW Campus Expands to Include H&M, Macys.....34

Major Water Spillage Wreaks Havoc in Computer Lab.....245

Infection Plagues Nation; Students Protected by Purell....911



B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



How many Stern women can you fit in an elevator?

## Elevator Congestion Decried: Problem Assessed, Solutions Offered

In a laudable effort to maximize elevator efficiency, SCW has instituted the well-known policy of running express elevators during peak periods throughout the day. This involves a security officer riding the elevator during designated times and making sure that it only stops at designated floors. (Unless, of course, staff or faculty member is also on the elevator. In that case, the policy is to also stop at any floor this privileged person requests. Hat tip to the physically fit personnel who do not take advantage of this odd loophole).

Currently, the "Peak Express" policy does much to alleviate the problem of too-many-students-not-enough-elevators, but the situation remains a far cry from okay. Talking from dorm rooms to the 15 Lexington building, waiting for an elevator remains the longest part of students' commute. If this is how things stand now, what will happen when President Richard Joel meets his goal of increased enrollment?

This is the question that Caren Rivera, SCW security officer and frequent elevator operator, brought to President Joel. Joel said that the issue was under discussion by his administration, and is currently looking into buying all of the elevators in the Sy Syms building. Rivera tried

to ask about plans for the 245 building, but her meeting with Joel was over before she had a chance to ask.

"Increasing enrollment is a really important goal for a lot of really important reasons, and I think we have to stop being all self-centered, and not let a little thing like crowded elevators stop us," said Yedida Sternman (SCW '11). "I mean, come on, you're going to college in New York City—part of the Manhattan Experience is riding on public transportation systems with a high commuter density."

This sentiment echoes that of much of the faculty and administration. Academic Advisor Miriam Schechter told The Observer, "Look, so the elevators are crowded. Granted. I'm sorry. But there are alternate ways of reaching your classroom in a timely fashion. 245 Lexington has two fully-functional stairwells servicing all floors from the basement to 11—including 2M. In fact, we've been talking about restructuring the gym requirement to allow women to climb to their classrooms for credit."

There have been loud complaints from the student body that President Joel doesn't un-

Continued on page 6

## LOST AND FOUND DEPARTMENT GOES MISSING Dean's Office: "It Was on the Seventh Floor A Second Ago"

In an alarming development that has stymied students and administration alike, the Stern College for Women Department of Lost and Found Items was reported missing late Wednesday night, the Office of the Registrar said.

"We encourage the student body to remain calm and collected," urged Tracey Stokes, assistant to the Registrar. "Chances are it'll turn up. Somebody probably turned it into Security—maybe you should ask them."

The Department of Lost and Found Items, according to a frantic poster Scotch-taped over the elevator buttons in 215 Lexington Avenue, the building where it was last seen, is a large room with "windowless cubicle walls, coat racks, floppy rain boots, padlocked file cabinets and MY IPOD!!! If u see it plz call me Blimi Werner ASAP!"

Students waiting for the elevator frowned, commenting that they could have sworn they saw a room "almost just like that" in the computer lab yesterday. Yet tear-off phone numbers at the bottom edge of the flier remained largely still attached as of Thursday afternoon, and Security has not received any news of the missing department, said front desk Burns Security Guard Jose Mendoza.

"Sorry, girls," he added, shrugging. "You know next time

maybe you should clip it to your bag or something. When you leave things alone in the public like this..." he trailed off, shrugging again suggestively.

Associate Dean of Students Zeldia Braun, whose 7th-floor office lies kitty-corner from where the Department of Lost and Found Items was reportedly "left," could not for the life of her imagine where it had gotten to.

"It was right there, right between the little kitchen and the English professors' offices," she said, leaning out the doorway of her office to peer down the winding corridors of the seventh floor. "Oh, snap. I have this clear picture of it in my mind, you know? It had those little grey signs they put on everything here, with the Braille bumps underneath...um, I think I saw a blonde student go in there to get her I.D. picture taken yesterday afternoon when I was walking to Rachel Shtern's office..."

"Are you sure it's not still on the seventh floor?" wondered Student Affairs Assistant Events Coordinator Esther Peromsik. "Bet you anything we're all getting worked up and it's really just right under our noses. Happens to me all the time."

Yet a thorough investigation of the seventh floor revealed only classrooms and offices, and the room where many students

could have sworn the department was absolutely located—number 716-A—contained only desks and a whiteboard, featuring neither the little grey sign nor the windowless cubicle walls the Lost and Found was reported to include.

Raising frustration levels further was the fact that the Department of Lost and Found Items is not the first department that students have been unable to locate this year. The August misplacement of the Dean's Office and Academic Advisement Center, which the SCW women had always kept right next to the first floor lobby for precisely these reasons, created unmitigated panic among students late for class, who wasted valuable minutes breathlessly upturning the entire 245 Lexington building until they finally found the errant office in the absolute last place they would think to look for it—the 12th floor of 205 Lexington Avenue.

"I don't even want to talk about it," said flushed Arts major Shaina Pinsky as she rushed down the stairs of the 205 building, noting that this time she had "gotten wise" and made sure to search the 205 building first, to no avail. "I don't even know where else it could be. I've looked all over Stern, all over Sy Syms, I even went to the 12th or 14th or whatever floor in that other weird building that isn't even ours—how

many buildings does Stern own?"

An anonymous tip-off scrawled on a concurrent poster in the freshman dorm, Brookdale Residence Hall, suggested that students "check the CJF"—the Center for the Jewish Future facility recently established on the Beren campus—but offered no further details. A student following up on the tip reported that she had been unable to make it past the door's early-twentieth-century buzzer, although she has "a hunch" that the tipper knows more than they've said.

Stokes, when informed of students' consternation, said that she appreciated the college's concern, but it really just needed to "take a chill pill." "Listen, all you gotta do is file the 'Lost Item' form, and somebody will get back to you next Monday between nine and four-thirty," she pointed out. "With all the construction and everything going on, it's very easy for students to lose things, students are losing them all the time. I'm sure if the students tell security exactly what they're looking for, they're gonna get it back."

In the meantime, SCW women are wearily adapting to life without the department, although many continue to think about it.

"Man, I had a lot of important stuff in there," said Pinsky wistfully.

The Yeshiva University  
**OPPRESSED**  
245 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10016  
scwobserver@gmail.com yuobserver.com

Carrie Bradshaw  
Editor-in-Chief

Syma Syms  
Managing Editor

Arial Bold  
Desdemona Script  
Lucinda Sans  
Copy Editors

Lena Chutz  
Lea Hout  
Layout Editors

Maureen Dowd  
Opinions Editor

Lois Lane  
News Editor

Barabara Walters  
Features Editor

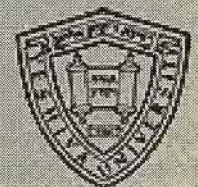
Yosefa Klein Ha-Levi  
Israel Editor

Geraldine Schottenstein  
Arts & Culture Editor

Alberta Einstein  
Science & Health Editor

Anna Wintour  
Fashion & Style Editor

*The Oppressed is published yearly during the Purim season by the Stern College for Knowledge Student Elite. The staff of The Oppressed retains the right to choose newspaper content and to determine the priority of stories. OK? WE GET TO DO IT! IT'S THE ONLY THING WE GET TO BE IN CHARGE OF! ::SOB:: While unsigned editorials represent the views of The Oppressed editorial board, all opinions expressed in signed editorials, columns, letters, and cartoons do as well.*



All letters to the editors should be sent to [scwobserver@gmail.com](mailto:scwobserver@gmail.com)



## SCW Women to Gain Ownership of YC Pool "Take That, Shampoo Protesters"

In an upset that has disturbed many Yeshiva College (YC) students, YU President Richard M. Joel has awarded custody of the Wilf campus's Olympic-sized swimming pool to Stern College for Women, a press statement revealed on Tuesday.

The president alluded to the upcoming settlement in his opening remarks at the Social Justice Society Shabbaton held earlier on the Beren campus, during which he applauded the newly-Masters-accredited Graduate Program in Advanced Talmudic Studies. "This is the beginning of a bright new sphere of Torah u-Madda on the two campuses of Yeshiva University, where Torah women can reclaim not only the bright torch of intellectual gnanhood that has been denied them, but the athletic facilities of personal fitness that have been withheld from them as well."

Joel immediately paused and noted, "Hey, look, I'm not a rabbi, but I mean, that fuss about the hair picture, guys, please—you had this one coming."

The university president was referring to the famed "shampoo photograph scandal" that plagued The Commentator in 2007. Pictures published in the student newspaper alongside a story on a CJF winter-break trip showed female students applying shampoo to their hair, outraging and offending the morality of its readers.

While the prospect of women's swim hours at the uptown pool

has been a topic of frequent discussion between the Stern Student Life Committee and university officials, recent meetings have sparked frustratingly little progress. SLC Chairwoman Etana Zack noted in a recent interview with The Observer that the university had heretofore "kind of avoided" any explanation or insight into its refusal to grant the committee's request.

"Maybe it's because you can get to the dorms through the pool," speculated freshman Carrie Abramowitz, pointing out that the swimming pool is located in the same structure as the Rubin Residence Hall.

Joel's bestowal of the swimming facility to SCW women has caused a whirlwind of confusion and outrage on the uptown campus, as male students grapple with the twin hassles of finding another location to swim and strategically not glancing at the frosted glass surrounding the Rubin pool.

"This is absolutely ludicrous," asserted YC political science major Avi Sturmgrand, shouldering a gym bag. "You know, the YU swim team had a chance until Joel came out with this stunt. Where else in the Heights are we going to find a pool like that? As if the Beren Campus didn't have enough shtotsy Midtown facilities."

"Did you see their classrooms in the main 245 Lex building? They have opaque glass in there," he added.

Students identifying with the more right-wing religious subsets were

also disturbed by the pool's transfer of rights, arguing that the probability of the women's hair becoming wet through their exposure to the pool was alarmingly high, which could result in many female students walking to the intercampus shuttle with their hair still wet—an image recalling the notorious Commentator photo.

SCW students expressed mixed reactions to the news, seemingly ambivalent as to whether their gain of the pool was a good or bad thing.

"Okay," said Sy Syms freshman Becky Margolis on the bus to SCW's one-hour swim program at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y. "I kind of liked the Y because it's closer and you don't have to walk through an entire campus of guys, but I see where he was trying to go with this."

Friend Jana Kwyrzcki, however, felt that the president's intentions, while admirable, were misplaced.

"The C-store," she asserted, referring to the convenience store located in the basement of Rubin Residence Hall. "Listen, YC, we'll give you back the pool and throw in the opaque glass to boot if you give us your C-store."

"We can talk about the library collections next week," she added.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

As an MTA High School student, I was highly disturbed by the article written by Ms. Schwartz in the January issue of The Observer. She described the "Shidduch Crisis" as simply a foolish frame of mind perpetuated by Stern students. Personally, I think Ms. Schwartz is completely wrong. The "Shidduch Crisis" is a threat to the very existence of our society and that threat is growing rapidly, not because Stern women value getting married too highly, but because the Yeshiva College men they date value them too little.

Let's face it, Yeshiva College guys are so passe. Despite the fact that Stern students are beautiful women who deserve the best, YC men show a shocking lack of manners on dates with them. These guys drive around for hours looking for parking. They sit in Starbucks without paying for drinks. They interrupt and they wipe their noses on cloth napkins. YC men just don't know how to treat a lady. The solution to this problem is simple: Stern women should date us Yeshiva University High School guys.

It's simply the most logical way to deal with this serious issue. We high schoolers won't drive around looking for parking because most of us don't have our licenses yet. Because we have our parents' credit cards, we can afford to take Stern women out

on the town, like to Golan Heights, our most favorite of hangouts.

Walking through the Wilf campus, it becomes clear that many of the fine Stern ladies give us the old once-over already. We know they think us high school guys are cute and rambunctious. It's just a question of getting over the barrier of what has previously been considered the norm for Shidduch dating. I personally believe that once people begin to see the advantage of high schoolers dating Stern women, it will become a more accepted practice. In fact, I trust that the "Shidduch Crisis" itself will be solved and the world will become a better place.

Because I know that someone must break the ice, I would just like to take the opportunity to ask to be set up with Ms. Schwartz, the bitter and frustrated Opinion's editor. I think I would be able to reaffirm her faith in mankind. Plus, I know she would enjoy going to Golan Heights, even after a nauseating romp to the Wilf campus. If someone would like to arrange our shidduch, I would be most appreciative. I'm sure it wouldn't be the first time people got together because of the wonderful paper, The Observer.

Sincerely,

Yosef Nerkast  
MTA '09

## Thumbs-up to Replace Handshake in all YU-Officiated Salutations

Following growing awkwardness, student leaders in conjunction with top administrators have officially changed university policy regarding shaking hands during business meetings, student events, and fabrengens. The "thumbs-up," which will go into effect immediately following the publication of this article, is the first of many steps in building continuity on both campuses.

"Ever since we started doing the 'thumbs-up' instead of the handshake, the energy in the room has skyrocketed," explained one student. "The gender neutral action has been instituted in the hope that male and female administrators can interact on equal, comfortable, and positive terms."

"This is a delicious initiative," enthused President Richard M. Joel. "It has empowered all people who fall under the umbrella of Yeshiva University to enable their thumbs and ennoble their character."

All students and faculty can expect a how-to guide handbook (pun intended) complete with colorful diagrams and

halakhic expansions for those unfamiliar with the hand position.

Mashgichei ruchanim are on standby as they expect to field all sorts of halakhic questions regarding the new endeavor. Questions have included how to determine the correct shiur for how long one must hold their thumb in place, and whether one is still yotzei his thumb if he has a haph-saka between the "hi how are you" and the actual display of the thumb.

Torah learners have been using the "thumbs-up" as a mode of expression for years. The Roshei Yeshiva in all of the learning programs have actually lauded the new initiative and hope that it will help curtail the awkwardness that has plagued co-ed exchanges.

The "thumbs-up" has risen in popularity, making its rounds on inter-campus shuttles, co-ed events, and the world at large.

## Campus Beat

### Who's Your Favorite Caf Guy/Woman?

"Ok, I am digging Yehuda's look. He definitely has mystique! Not to mention his leather jacket and moussed hair—it just screams "Danny Zuko" all over. What a heartthrob!"  
-Tova Muller

"Oh that's an easy one—Nissim, that adorable Rabbi who wears a lab coat in the caf. His outbursts are so amusing and he always advises me of which foods are potentially harmful to my health."  
-Michelle Schiffman

"It changes daily. Whoever gives me big portions is my favorite. It rocks when I get two servings of Shepherd's Pie for the price of one!"  
-Shira Marguiles

"Chris. He's da bomb! You should see him at lunchtime—the whole school lines up and he is so quick! He just zips everybody through. Zip, zip, zip. He is so amazing at multi-tasking; I don't know anyone else who could text, swipe, and draw all at the same time and at the speed of light!"  
-Sara Lefkovitz

"Kenya. That girl is a diva! Her eye shadow tips are even better than the ones I got at Sephora's. It's even 99.8 times more effective than the bend and snap!"  
-Batya Carl







*Omensway Egillahmay Eadingray  
Onighttay niay Rookdalebay!*

*Omecay!*

*Oodfay illway ebay ervedsay fteraay  
hetay astfay!*

## The Idolatrous Life: Avodah Zara

And the people bowed and prayed  
To the neon god they made.

~"The Sound of Silence" by Simon  
and Garfunkel

I can feel you all around me  
Thickening the air I'm breathing  
Holding on to what I'm feeling  
Savoring this heart that's healing

~"I Can Feel You All Around Me" by  
Flyleaf

There are two types of people in this world: those who acknowledge the truth of idolatry and those who do not. Those who realize what grandeur lies within the neon-colored signs, bright lights and flashing brilliance which illuminates our world are the truth-seers, the ones who are looking beyond the easy, sentimental, emotional attachment to a monotheistic version of the world, the one God to whom others strive to feel connected. The greatness of man is demonstrated by his creative capacity. Clearly what man creates is worthy of worship; and so it is that people ought and must bow and pray "to the neon god they made." It is our making of idolatry which makes it worthwhile; it is that which was created by a human being, and therefore intensely meaningful.

There are so many different types of idolatry, and we are lucky enough to engage in all of them! Now, while it is true that the statues are outdated and outmoded, we clearly worship our televisions, otherwise the Bill Watterson "Calvin and Hobbes" strip indicating this wouldn't be funny. Although perhaps he does this slightly more explicitly than we would, laying down a bowl of cereal before the monstrous device that devours much of our time. And it looks upon the bowl with glazed eyes and lol! This new sacrifice pleases it, and so the television is kept happy.

But beyond our televisions, we have the computer! How else to worship the computer than through

devoting time to it? Computers feed off of our time; they glut themselves on all the time we feed into them, the energy, the anguish and even our frantic scenes when they choose to act like the Ba'al of old, so that we must "Cry aloud; for he is a god; either he is musing, or he is gone aside, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked" (Kings I 18: 27). Imagine that our godly computer crashes; it has chosen to unleash its wrath upon us! And imagine that it does so the night before an important assignment is due, and yet glares at us dully, the screen refusing to clear, error messages plentiful and frightening, emitting strange odors of fizzling black heat and releasing peculiar sounds that frighten us as though the mewling of an animal in pain. "O' godly computer!" we worship, swearing or attempting to placate it in our misery, "how we cry out to you! Hear our plea!" But the computer sits implacable; it is deaf and dumb to our sighs.

And besides these more tangible objects of worship, how can one forget the very idolatrous culture engrained in our Hebrew months? Why, they are named after idols! At the very least, Tammuz is one of the main Babylonian gods. And so we remember our idols in the names of our very months.

And then there is the way in which we deify and worship our very own creations, such as Public Opinion. We as men are the creators of Public Opinion, believe ourselves to be its master, and yet when it unleashes its venomous fury upon us we quiver and quail, unable to move forward or in any way redeem ourselves from the stern glares of a condemnatory society. We shiver in fear before this Frankenstein's monster, no longer priding ourselves upon our work. But that does not make it the less godly!

How then, are we to understand these influences upon our society, these many varied and multi-cultured gods? There is but one way!

We must learn about them! Stern must open its doors to idolatry classes, classes that do not merely exist in the Near-East department but that are available to all! We must all learn how to appease the wrath of our machines in our technicolor world, we must all grovel and abase ourselves before others and we need our teachers and leaders to explain to us how to go about this! How does one bow in precisely the right way? What's the best way to demonstrate one's lowliness before a superior? How to worship properly and appropriately? We must learn these ancient rites; idolatry must be taught to the masses!

What's that you say? We believe in one God; Judaism is a monotheistic religion? Oh, mere foolishness. There is value in idolatry! Even if you don't believe in it, it allows you to contrast falsehood with truth, and thereby appreciate your God even more! And so you see that even the most right-wing Jew would benefit from exposure to idolatry, for it will help him grow in his faith. I am providing a service by demanding this class to exist here. Besides, does this not exist on every other college campus? What do you call the parties that go on there, the culture of getting wasted, exhausted and stumbling about in a drunken stupor? Clearly that is part of worship, the worship of public opinion and social mores. Worship doesn't always look pretty, you know. That's even in the Gemara.

All hail the dawn of a new age—of idolatry, to be taught soon by noted and renowned professors at Stern and YU!

## S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program Re-Re-Evaluated

Several seminaries and yeshivot will be removed from Yeshiva University's S. Daniel Abraham Program as of the conclusion of the spring semester.

In light of recent surveys completed by the roshei yeshiva of these post-high school centers of Jewish study, it has been determined that the majority of these institutions do not accurately reflect the university's ideals and way of life.

The following seminaries have been removed from the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program: Michlah, Michlelet Mevasseret Yerushalayim, Darchei Binah, Midreshet Lindenbaum, Migdal Oz, Machon Gold, Midreshet Moriah, Afikei Torah, Midreshet Tehilla, Sha'alvim for Women, Midreshet Harova, B'not Torah Institute (Sharfman's), Midreshet Ye'ud, Midreshet Lindenbaum (Brovender's), Midreshet Amit, Emunah V'Omanut, Tiferet, Michlelet Esther, Ba'er Miriam, and Bais Yaakov of Jerusalem (BJJ).

The roster of approved yeshivot has been similarly purged. Among those expunged from the list are Yeshivat Sha'alvim, Yeshivat Har Etzion (Gush), Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, Derech Etz Chaim, Yeshivat Torat Shraga, Reishit Yerushalayim, Yeshivat Shaarei Mevasseret Zion, Yesodei HaTorah, Lev HaTorah, Yeshivat HaKotel, Netiv Aryeh, Ohr David, Eretz HaTzvi, Ohr Yerushalayim, Ner Ya'akov, Bais Yisroel, and Toras Moshe.

"Many, if not all, of the schools we spoke with and evaluated expressed reluctance to encourage participation in our various coeducational activities in Israel," explained Vice President for Student Life Hillel Davis. "The YU-sponsored 'Mix and Melaveh Malka' on Ben Yehuda was poorly attended, as was the 'Shiur 'n Shmooze' in Eilat. We believe that the inexcusably small turnout is a direct result of the roshei yeshivas' noticeable opposition to these important events."

Rabbi Kenneth Brander,

dean of the Center for the Jewish Future, emphasized the importance of community at YU. "It is never too early to start building the Jewish future. It is important to foster the Yeshiva University community even before students actually begin their college careers in Washington Heights and Midtown. After all, Israel is part of our campus, too."

"We think this is a great innovation" remarked YC and SCW seniors Eitan Kastner and Adina Schwartz, in unison. "It's about time YU removed the 'rose-colored glasses' and realized the deficiencies in these Israel institutions."

A prominent rabbi from one of the eliminated yeshivot seemed especially pleased at his institution's expulsion from the S. Daniel Abraham Israel Program. "We are delighted that YU has joined in partnership with yeshivot across Israel to encourage shana gimmel and Landers College for Men," he said.

However, other Israel administrators were not as enthusiastic. Rebbetzin Orbach of Ba'er Miriam related her confusion over the decision. "I'm perplexed as to why YU felt the need to remove us again from the YU Israel program, as they already did so earlier this year."

To fill these current vacancies in the S. Daniel Abraham Israel program, YU has announced plans to open the first ever YU coeducational post high school Israel program. Beginning in the fall of 2008, the Seminary for College Educated Talmidei Chachamim of Yeshiva (SCETCHY) will open its doors to future YU students who have demonstrated loyalty to the university's ideals.

"The removal of these incompatible institutions and the creation of SCETCHY will revolutionize the post high-school and YU experiences," explained President Joel. "We will now be able to ennoble and enable our students without the intrusion of what modern psychologists have termed 'Israel Flippage.' The canvas of the Big Tent can only stretch so far."



## Stuffed Cabbage Sexism

*Continued from front page*

about?" "They deprive us of sugary food and drinks so we won't be able to outlast the guys in pulling all-nighters, invaluable study time for exams."

"Of course the administration can't explicitly say it supports affirmative action for men," she continued. "It would be so non-PC."

When questioned about the stuffed cabbage scandal, Food Services Manager Mr. Moshe Singer was unable to provide satisfactory answers. "Calculations of food portions are beyond the jurisdiction of our department," he explained. "Those decisions are left to an executive committee."

This executive committee, which meets weekly on the Wilf campus, is comprised solely of men.

"All female applicants to the committee are rejected," disclosed

one insider. "They never make it past round one of the process. We just tell them it's their personality."

News of the stuffed cabbage discrimination was leaked to Social Justice Society President Shlomit Cohen, who subsequently staged a boycott of the screening of "Thin," an HBO documentary shown on campus earlier in the month.

"Why should we attend a university-sponsored viewing of a film on female anorexia?" Cohen shouted into her bullhorn, addressing the crowd of women picketing outside Levy Lobby. "This school is complicit in the problem and we will not condone this."

Chants of "One-two-three-four, give us sweets in our store; five-six-seven-eight, put more food on our plate!" echoed throughout the building.

## The Oppressed is seeking:

- FEMINISTS
- RABBLE ROUSERS
- CURMUDGEONS

Interested journalists should contact [scwoppressed@gmail.com](mailto:scwoppressed@gmail.com)

## Sixth Year Scholarship Gains Popularity at YU Undergraduate Colleges

Following the initiation of the fifth-year scholarship at Stern College for Women (SCW) and Yeshiva College (YC), admissions officials at both schools introduced the sixth-year scholarship option, which has steadily gained popularity with a record 150 applicants.

Admissions officials are unsurprised and pleased by the positive response.

"Our office has been inundated with requests for a possible fifth year of on-campus study for about two years now," explained Geri Mansdorf, associate director of Admissions at SCW. "The introduction of the sixth-year scholarship has only increased the number of students who wish to remain on campus longer."

Students began to express an interest in staying for a fifth year on campus shortly after the fifth-year scholarship, which finances a fourth year of study on campus, became an increasingly mainstream option. The scholarship is commonly known as the "fifth-year scholarship" because Yeshiva University counts a student's post-high school year in Israel as the freshman year.

With the new sixth-year scholarship, an unprecedented number of women will be studying on the Beren campus—1,200, up from a 1,000-count student body the

year before the option was offered.

Mansdorf attributed the rise in applicants to undergraduates' oft-expressed wish to continue research projects begun in their sophomore or junior years.

"Four years on campus have not proven to be long enough to really refine a research project, regardless of discipline, so we made a collective decision to offer students the option of applying for a sixth-year scholarship, which would finance a fifth year on campus," she said. "Thus, students will be able to complete more comprehensive and complex works."

One student dismissed this suggested reason, offering one of her own instead.

"What grad school is really going to take undergraduate research that took more than four years seriously?" she scoffed. "I want to stay because housing in Midtown is crazy expensive, but Stern won't charge me too much money. It's such a steal! All I need to do is take four classes to qualify for housing as a full-time student, and then I have a great part-time job. It's the best deal ever!"

Rachel Kraut, director of Residence Life on the Beren campus, told The Observer that housing has been affected by the greater numbers of students attending SCW.

"Because there are more wom-

en on campus, we have encountered a bit of a bed shortage," she explained. "Luckily, the university is talking about buying the entire Windsor complex to help deal with the situation."

Food Services is another department that has been forced to make changes due to the high student count. The Kushner cafeteria is now open until 9 p.m. to accommodate students, and the menu has changed to include 500 pieces of breaded chicken served at dinnertime, up 150 percent from the standard 200.

University officials offered their opinions as to why students have opted to stay at SCW for a fifth year.

"I think we have created an incredibly vibrant community here at the Beren campus," enthused Associate Dean of Students Zeldia Braun. "Students are really drawn to what the college has to offer, and I think it's great that women want to stay here at Stern for longer."

Dean Karen Bacon agreed. "The women at SCW have created a warm, studios, academic environment. It's only natural for them to want to stay at SCW for longer to nurture that atmosphere."

STERN SHOWCASE 2008

If you think Stern women rock, just check out their ROCKS!

For a limited time only, experience this unique engagement ring display of all shapes and sizes, featuring a range of cuts and designs as diverse as the student body itself!



## Garbagemania! Evens Out Inter-Campus Recycling Competition

In an effort to fight the ever-rising effects of Global Warming, Yeshiva University has taken a stand against pollutants and carcinogens everywhere through the institution of a new school-wide competition known as "Recyclemania." The state of our planet is in dire need of improvement; carbon dioxide and other harmful chemicals are eating their way through the fragile Ozone Layer, causing the Earth's temperature to rise steadily. Glaciers are melting and polar bears are dying by the minute. It has become more than obvious to all who attend Stern College why we women must participate in "Recyclemania." To beat Wilf!

Students on the Beren campus were sure that collecting as many recyclables as possible would only bring further proof of Stern's superiority to YC. "Wilf is over-rated," exclaimed Keren Levy (SCW '10). "I think we women have this competition in the bag."

Other students believe that this sort of activity not only allows them to have friendly, non-awkward competition with their counterparts uptown, but is a worthwhile and character-building experience for them. "I believe that Recyclemania is really great because it gives me something worthwhile to do on Thursday nights," commented Tova Uberman (SSSB '08). "I have truly gained from this competition on so many levels."

Students were asked to accumulate as many plastic bottles, containers, and aluminum cans as possible, and to store them in special blue recycling bags distributed by Residence Life. These bags are then to be collected every Wednesday and weighed. The floor with the heaviest bag per

capita is then deemed the winner.

"The way I see it, it makes me feel like I am giving back to society without really having to leave my room," explained Michal Taishan (SCW '10).

Despite the success of "Recyclemania," many believe that it is not effective enough, citing Wilf's current lead over Beren in pounds of recyclable materials collected. "No matter how many Smart Water bottles we accumulate over the week," says Uberman, "it seems like the boys win every time. It just doesn't seem right."

Because Beren is having such difficulty pulling ahead, a decision was made to take more action. "Something had to be done," said Batya Eshel (SSSB '09), "we decided that we needed to take this competition to the next level."

What resulted was the creation of a new Environmental and Energy club initiative, dubbed "Garbagemania!"

Each floor, in addition to receiving special recycling refuse bags, will also receive a Blue and White "YU" garbage bag. The hope is with their vast consumption of goods, and therefore garbage, the women would succeed in narrowing the recycling gap through the supplementary competition.

Like Recyclemania, Garbagemania! was greeted on the Beren Campus with great enthusiasm. "Every Tuesday night before I go to sleep, I sneak down to other floors and take items out of their trash bins," admitted Adina Starr (SCW '11).

The competition has become absolutely ferocious, with women amassing junk by the gallons. Each student is encouraged to stop whatever she is doing at any given moment and collect as much refuse as possi-

ble—whether it is schlepping heaps of trash from the cafeterias or going straight to the dumpsters themselves.

"It's a tough job," said Eshel, "but someone has got to do it."

Everywhere, young women are seen stashing away Styrofoam containers, empty soda bottles and the like and then hoarding them away in their rooms in order to amass "More Filth than Wilf!"

Although students at the Beren campus have had only positive things to say about Garbagemania!, the men of Yeshiva College have expressed strong opposition to the initiative.

"If you ask me, it really stinks," said Elie Gabai (YC '09). Shimshon Goldberg (YC '08) shared similar sentiments. "Stern seriously needs to clean up its act."

While the two interviewed men declined to explain the reasons for their antagonism towards Garbagemania!, one woman attempted to offer some rationale.

"My brother keeps all his garbage in his room in Rubin," remarked Shifra Schmutz. "When he switched dorms mid-winter, my mother couldn't walk into the room; there were old papers, books, wrappers, and containers piled to the ceiling."

"No wonder the Wilf campus is losing," she verified. "The men can't make it to the hallway collection bins."

Despite the criticisms thrown at Garbagemania!, the program has still retained its popularity at Stern College. Students believe that this unique addition to the competition is the key to Beren's success. "Victory will be ours in the next weighing competition," said Levy, "I can just feel it. Wilf, you are seriously going down."

## RIETS For Women

*Continued from front page*

here first," noted one RIETS fellow. "Why should the girls be the ones getting all the good stuff?"

"The women coming is going to cause a huge racket, what with all the construction on the beit midrash," exclaimed another RIETS student. "It's ridiculous that they're giving them free seforim! Torah is not something that should come without any work. That's what we do here; we toil in Torah. Not having to pay for seforim—what kind of attitude do you think that will engender?"

Other male constituents voiced doubts about the women's track at RIETS, fearing more general ramifications for student life on the Wilf campus.

"Are these women going to want to use the pool too?" asked one YC senior at a recent Town Hall Meeting with university President Richard M. Joel. "I mean, we're letting them into RIETS. What if they want to move into the dorms or something?"

"This new venture is very promising," President Joel replied. "We are very pleased to welcome more women to the Wilf campus. We look forward to accommodating their needs and working with the current students on the Wilf campus to understand their needs as well."

The women's track will include a coed chavrusa seder along with women's-only classes. Men and women who wish to learn with a chavrusa of the opposite gender will have the option of selecting one during the first week of the Elul zman.

One married student at RIETS related his excitement about the new track, as it will allow him to learn with his wife, who will be entering RIETS in the fall. "I am eager to learn Torah with her at such a high level," he said. "In general, I am looking forward to welcoming the women to RIETS. I think we will have a lot to learn from each other."

## Elevator Continued

*Continued from page 2*

derstand the situation on the Beren campus because he is blinded by the YC elevator situation.

"It's really not fair," remarked Linda Grossberg (SSSB '08). "Beren has had this problem for years and years, and the administration is just making it worse. But no one ever knows, because the guys have these crazy-huge spacious elevators that never get crowded. And anyways, even if their elevators do get crowded, it's not like they mind or anything."

Also unfair is the extra comfort granted to men riding the el-

evators during peak periods. In the well-documented "Red-Sea Effect," a male riding in an elevator seems to be surrounded by an invisible force field. Even women who usually risk all to make that elevator will remain standing outside, unwilling to ride the elevator at the cost of touching a man.

However, there are women looking to change that attitude.

"It's just a chumra," said Sternman. "Shomer-Negiah concerns absolutely do not apply in this situation where the cross-gender physical contact is neither avoidable nor *derech chiba* (affectionate). Even if riding a peak elevator with someone is a sure way to rub elbows with them, it's not like that's what you're after."

Other effects include the "Squashed Bug Scenario," in which students' abdomens and cheeks are slammed against an elevator wall and other students' knapsacks are jammed into their backs.

Many are familiar with the "Stampede Effect" resembling the scene from Disney's "The Lion King," where Mufasa gets trampled by hordes of wild animals. You'll notice that one helpless girl: lame, broken, injured, and late to class, freshly attacked by bloodthirsty Stern women.

Lastly, students may undergo the "Twister Phenomenon." This entails the student contorting her body to fit into the elevator. It may remind you of a student balancing on one foot, performing a slight backbend, while precariously holding onto an overflowing hot cup of cappuccino with a cell phone crammed between her ear and shoulder.

**"Mayim rabim lo yukhlu lekhabot..."**  
**"Vast floods cannot quench..."** (Shir HaShirim 8:7)

***We may not be able to offer you a pool, but we are pleased to announce that not only will we be offering Taharat Mishpacha Seminars, but we will soon also be offering a full service Mikvah to the women of Stern College.\****

**Shuttles will leave from Brookdale Residence Hall**  
**Monday nights at 7:30 P.M.**

**\*This offer is geared towards married or engaged women. But a little healthy pressure never hurt anyone!**



## SCW Administration Imposes New and Improved Dress Code

As a measure to further increase modesty on the Beren campus, administrators at Stern College for Women have decided to enforce a stricter standard of dress as of the spring semester. Small green cards emblazoned with the signatures of the deans will be handed out on which the new dress code will be explained.

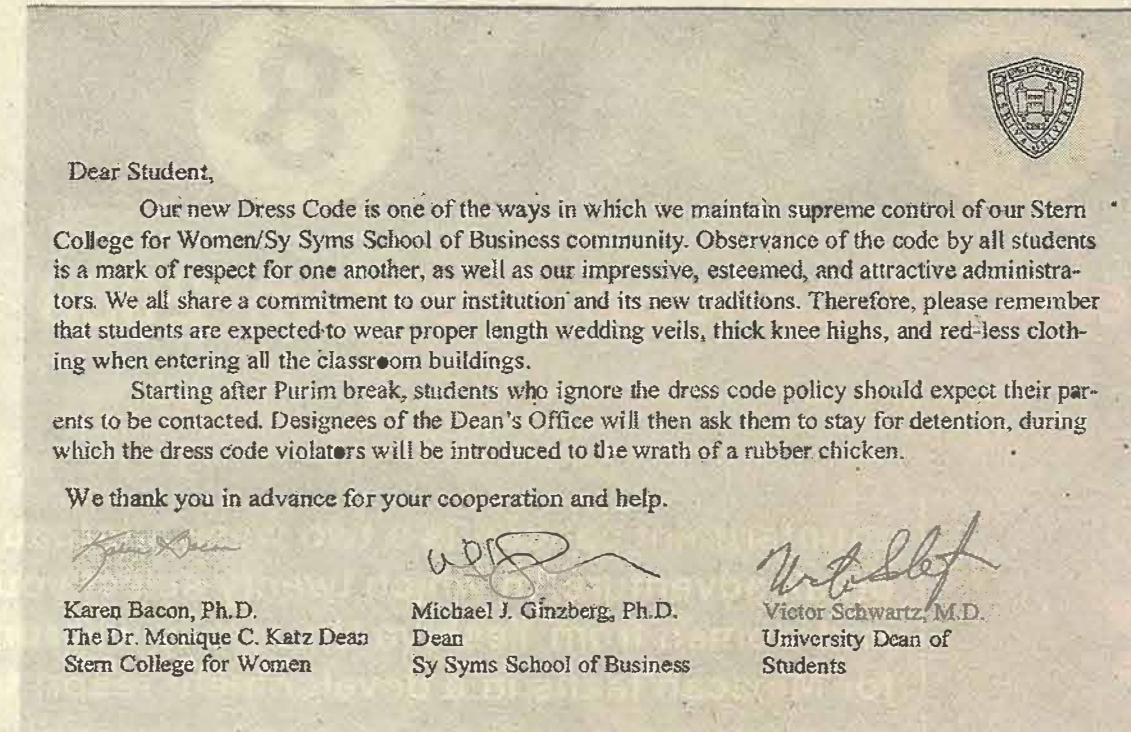
To give Stern students a preview of the modified school rules, The Observer contacted the deans for further information, but was unsuccessful in obtaining an interview.

Instead, a reporter was forced to break into the 12<sup>th</sup> floor suite and pilfer the official plans for the new dress code, entitled "Operation Prudery."

The dress regulations include the addition of knee socks, veils, and the prohibition of wearing red. Comments were written next to each of the new modesty enhancing rules.

In what was interpreted as SCW Dean Karen Bacon's neat script, the following was written by the knee socks policy: "Forcing our young women to wear thick, woolen knee socks will help them improve their academic performance because they will no longer have to waste time worrying about their bodily appearance."

In Mashgiach Ruchani Rabbi Hochberg's messy scrawl was written the explanation for the veil: "In an at-



tempt to encourage Stern women to find and date the right person, as well as adjust to the pressures of the wedding day, we think it wise to demand that women wear long, white veils, as they will have to eventually anyway."

The comment written next to the prohibition of wearing red must have been penned by Associate Dean Ethel Orlian, who always demonstrates an impressive amount of zeal when it comes to tzniut: "The color

red has a strong sensual and licentious connotation. Here at Stern College we value chastity, purity, and naïveté."

The previous punishment for dress code violations was "meeting with a designee of the Dean's of-

fice." With the heightening of dress vigilance, the penalty for ignoring the policy will become even more severe than it was before. "Severe chastisement," involving detention, a call home to parents, and a rubber chicken, has been instituted.

Reception of the new dress code has varied. Sarah Shwinn (SCW '10) was distressed when told of the dress regulations, exclaiming, "This is simply unfair! Why do the security guards get to wear pants and those cute navy button-downs?"

In contrast to this, Tova Muller (SSSB '08) found the school's policy to be to her liking. Muller pontificated, "Women should not be looked at...rather they ought to be practically invisible."

Ben Lifshitz (YC '09) seemed to echo Muller's sentiments, saying that "being female is completely assur."

In their private documents, the administrators of Stern College typed up a final note about the new dress code: "The new dress code at Stern will give the bright, young women the chance to present themselves in a wholesome and appropriate way. Even if it seems as though we are limiting their clothing selection, the fact is, they all dress in the same Ugg boots, jean skirts, and argyle cardigans anyway."

Subject: AMAAAZING EVENT!!!!!!!  
From: ebelfer@yu.edu  
Date: Sunday, March 2, 2008 2:40 a.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Normal

Come to this amazing event!  
This is something you don't want to miss!

Subject: [No subject] - Your curiosity will have to suffice to get you to read this email  
From: idontknowhowtowritesstuds@yu.edu  
Date: Friday, March 14, 2008 5:50 a.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: ???

Subject: NOT SO AMAAAZING EVENT!!!!!!!  
From: ebelfer@yu.edu  
Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2008 6:20 p.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Low

Just kidding...it's not that amazing

Subject: SURGE NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
From: aecomound@comcast.net  
Date: Friday, March 14, 2008 1:15 p.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Normal

Please join us for the next segment of SURGE as our very own SCW students present their research on:  
"The ills of cafeteria food and streptomaniacal bacteria"

Subject: Free food  
From: scwpizzanite@gmail.com  
Date: Thursday, March 6 2008 9:31 a.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Urgent

FREE CAF FOOD!  
Come tomorrow at 10 p.m.  
Bring your caf card!

Subject: Coldstone Ice Cream!! Tonight!!  
From: scwsc@yu.edu  
Date: Monday, March 17, 2008 8:34 p.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Come get it while it lasts

Whoops...Baskin Robbins

Subject: Extended Hours  
From: clubetski@yu.edu  
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2008 7:00 p.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Overdue

Extended library hours--  
just when your midterms are over!

Subject: Coldstone Ice Cream!! Tonight!!-REVISED  
From: scwsc@yu.edu  
Date: Monday, March 17, 2008 8:39 p.m.  
To: sstud@yu.edu  
Priority: Come get it while it lasts

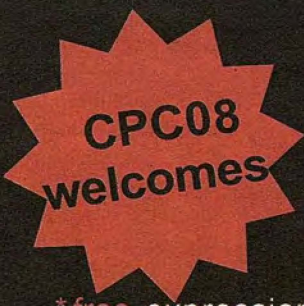
Did we say Baskin Robbins?  
Our apologies, but we actually meant the Haagen Dazs bars from the freezer in Le Bistro...

The  
YU  
Oppressed  
would like to wish  
its readers  
a very happy  
Purim!





## counterpoint cancun program 2008



- \* free expression
- \* talents in delinquency & programming
- \* ability to connect well with people
- \* vocal opinions
- \* sick surfing skills
- \* athletic abilities
- \* people who value un-meaningful relationships
- \* people without a care
- \* people who can partay!

and most of all...  
people who want to  
have the spring break  
of a lifetime. sweet!

counterpoint cancun is a two week alternative spring break adventure, in which twenty select young men and women from Yeshiva University will run programs for Mexican teens in a development resort town.

on CPC08 you will experience awesome opportunities like:

- \* experiencing fair-trade alcohol with indigenous farmers (which is bound to change lives, including your own)
- \* scrubbing n' clubbing: build and restore an old disco to its former glory
- \* challenging yourself while challenging others at a high-stakes game of casino as you bet your money and morality

save the  
dates

counterpoint cancun: April 17th - April 29th '08  
previous lifeguard training not required  
application deadline: March 21st '08

for more information or to receive an application, contact  
[cjalternativespringbreak@yu.edu](mailto:cjalternativespringbreak@yu.edu) or call 212.960.0041



Yeshiva University Center for the Jewish Future  
Counterpoint Cancun

*serving to make a difference*