



The Yeshiva University

OBSERVER

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VOLUME LVIII, ISSUE I

AUGUST 22, 2012 / 4 ELUL 5772

New Premium Dining Plan Offers More Flex Dollars

CHANA BRAUSER Just a few weeks before the start of the fall semester, those Yeshiva University students who managed to stay on top of their school-related emails might have been surprised to find an email from Bruce Jacobs, Director of Dining Services, announcing some startling new changes to the undergraduate dining plan. Some students were no doubt pleasantly surprised to find that a version of last year's pilot 'flexible dollars' plan, wherein students could redirect a portion of their dining plan funds for use in local restaurants, would be continuing and that two new restaurants – Grandma's Pizza uptown and Bravo's Pizza in midtown – had joined the lineup.

This year, as Jacobs explains in the email, YU undergraduates will be offered the option of paying \$1550 a semester – a \$50 increase from last year – for the Basic Plan, with \$50 of those dollars designated as flex dollars. For those who wish to have more 'flexibility,' the new Premium Plan allows students pay an additional \$150 a semester for the privilege of using \$250 at the participating restaurants. Those students who choose to upgrade to the Premium Plan would be able to use a total of \$500 on their caf cards in the restaurants throughout the academic year, paying a cumulative \$3400 (as opposed to the baseline \$3100) for the meal plan.

The success of last year's pilot program encouraged its continuation this year, although with several

important changes. During the fall 2011 semester, students were initially given \$100 from the funds already on their caf card to help test the program. Only a few weeks in, many students were complaining that they had already exhausted the \$100; so, Jacobs explains, the university generously allotted an additional \$150 during the fall semester and a final \$100 during the spring semester. Thus, during the course of the past year, students were given \$350 of their prepaid dining funds for use at off-campus restaurants. This semester, \$50 of the \$1550 per semester – or a total of \$100 per year – will be designated as flex dollars for students signed up for the Basic Plan.

When asked about the changes, Jacobs remarked that while the students were thrilled with the new initiative last year, "Food Services ran a deficit of \$750,000 last year," channeling these funds instead to the participating restaurants. "Take the \$350 per student and multiply it times the number of students on the meal plan," Jacobs calculates, clarifying that "Yeshiva University cannot afford to lose \$750,000 on a program like this every year." Jacobs adds that most universities working with Blackboard, the company that coordinates YU's meal plan, do not offer equally generous deals.

Believe it or not, Jacobs challenges, Yeshiva University offers one of the cheapest dining plans relative to

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DEAN KAREN BACON There are places in our lives that are "off-limits" - embarrassing moments we choose not to replay, closely held assumptions we do not intend to revisit, actual physical spaces labeled "enter at your own risk". In my personal life, my husband's study is one such physical space. So it was with a combination of hope and dread, that I asked him to do some summer tidying. Happily the pain was worth the gain, for during that excavation some wonderful reprints surfaced that I share with you, our students, as you begin this new academic year.

In 1956 and again in 1970, Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik addressed our rabbinic alumni on the uniqueness

of the Yeshiva. The Rav's words are personal and powerful, the message clear and defining. And although he was referring specifically to the Yeshiva, the context suggests that his words are relevant to the students of the University as well.

The Rav begins by telling us who he is.

I may have very few good traits, but one trait which I do possess is my inability to imitate anyone else. I always want to be myself and to display my unique dignity of having been created in the image of God.

This message must resound loudly with each of us. For the essential function of the university is to provide a place and a space to encounter ideas and interpret them using the tools of our individual intellects and life experiences. The university is not about imitation. It is about analysis, exploration, and creativity, set in the context of a life of values. And what might be that life of values for our community and for this University? The Rav lays that out for us as well.

You will ask me, In what does the uniqueness (of YU) express itself? What is it? I will answer you that its uniqueness is an idea, or, if you wish, a faith. If you wish to say so, the

uniqueness consists of an adventure. What is this idea, faith, adventure? It is the concept that the Yeshiva has proclaimed in three words: It is possible!

For the Rav, "possible" meant the ability to be a scholar, a *talmid hakham*, and also to be someone "trained in all the skills and able to live in the midst of modern society and not to retreat". For the Rav, "possible" meant to be "inquisitive, curious, and committed".

Without dissecting each of these adjectives, I think we can all agree that to fulfill the mandate of "It is possible" requires action, not passivity. Studying the sources before attending a shiur and a lecture is action. Using the resources of the Beit Midrash and the library to struggle with unfamiliar

materials speaks to commitment. Ranging beyond our current intellectual boundaries and interests reflects curiosity. And all this in pursuit of a life of Torah U'madda. "It is possible".

So my charge to you for this year is to be an individual and to be a scholar. To let the unique foundation of this Yeshiva University leave an indelible mark on your minds and souls, even as you challenge us, your rabbeim, professors, yours peers, to join in shouting out, "It is possible".

IT IS THE CONCEPT THAT THE YESHIVA HAS PROCLAIMED IN THREE WORDS: "IT IS POSSIBLE!"

College: Worth It? A College Student's Lament and Proposition

ADAM ROSENBERG An issue especially relevant to the lives of college students is the rising cost of higher education. As highlighted in the recent Wall Street Journal article, "Families to Shoulder Rising College Tuition Costs," tuition rates have doubled since the late 1980s, leaving many families in a state of financial distress. With endowments lower than usual and the tacit "responsibility" of universities to provide a quality cultural experience for their students and staff, it is not surprising that universities have raised tuition and limited scholarships, enabling their ivory towers to stay high above the red.

In a detailed report analyzing the for-profit higher education industry, Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, points out that the federal government has failed college students. These students, who earnestly believe that the government will shield them poor sales pitches and inadequate programs, end up falling deep into tuition related debts. Republican members of the committee took this criticism one step further and said that the report failed to mention similar schemes practiced by public colleges as well. All politics aside, this is a major issue for our generation, colloquially coined "Generation Screwed."

Excluding those who continue on to graduate school and accrue even more debt, the proverbial college graduate is thrust into the workforce and expected to start paying off their loans after

a six month "grace period." However, two factors make initiating these repayments almost impossible: 1) the poor job market and volatile world economy, and 2) students' lack of clarity regarding their place in the workforce. To make matters worse, this "grace period" is hardly enough time for some to find a job, let alone figure out a life direction. Apart from the elite students who land jobs at prestigious firms with high paying internship programs, the majority of graduates that are lucky enough to get a mediocre entry-level position often struggle to pay off their college debts, finding themselves in deep water.

These problems would not be as relevant if college was truly a worthwhile investment. But is it? As an economics major, one of the most important concepts that I have learned is the idea of opportunity cost: that the price of any activity is measured by comparing it to the value of the next best alternative. In laymen's terms, to gain something, one must sacrifice something else. The opportunity cost of obtaining a professional degree and acquiring a better job is going to college.

While the intrinsic value of going to college is implied, one must ask: what is the fundamental purpose of college?

Ideally, the purpose of college should be to morph students from immature high school kids into well-rounded, mature and sensible adults. In doing so, undergraduate institutions are supposed to teach practical courses in liberal arts, applied sciences, and business.

However, this ideal has been tarnished by institutions perpetuating the notion of "academia for academia's sake," offering courses that do not consider a student's long-term best interests. Even the "more practical" business oriented courses do not provide an accurate depiction of what actually occurs in the workforce. Considering that in most cases, graduates need even more than a higher education (for example: a JD, MBA, MD, PhD, CPA) to get a well salaried job, what is the best way to rectify the ineffectiveness of higher education and make it more relevant?

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Founded by the women of Yeshiva University's Stern College in 1953, *The Observer* is the official newspaper representing the student body of Stern College and Yeshiva University. *The Observer* is an independent student publication, self-funded, and published on a monthly basis throughout the academic year. Views expressed in *The Observer* are those of the writer's and do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board or the student body, faculty, and administration of Yeshiva University. All *Observer* Content is copyrighted and may not be reprinted without permission.

Pssst, Wanna Know A Secret? A Message From Your Editor-In-Chief

RACHEL DELIA BENAIM You might expect this letter to wax poetic about all the news tidbits and fantastic back to school tips we've managed to jam into our Orientation Edition of *The Observer*. But I am taking a different track. I want to talk about a few things you may not be aware of. Besides, you're already here and engaging with our first issue of the new semester. Why preach to the proverbial choir? Generally, I will be using this column to discuss whatever's on my mind that is relevant to the student body. It could range from migraine headaches and how to cope, to 'caf-food', to religious oppression... depends on the month, really. This month—well, you can see for yourself—

Did you know that...

1. The *Observer* is an integral part of YU life on campus? The *Observer* is the official newspaper representing the student body of Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women and Syms School of Business. This paper is meant to give the population of Stern College, Syms School of Business, and ultimately the entire undergraduate population of Yeshiva University the opportunity to let their voices be heard.

2. The limits of my language mean the limits of my world? Well, they are and Wittgenstein never said anything that made so much sense. Language, and in effect writing, is liberating. Free yourself, release your inhibitions and write about what you love—sports, politics, movies, or, well, YU! We want to hear what you have to say, and we want your world to keep growing.

For those of you who are new (or those of you who have been here, but avoid the newspaper stands like the plague **ahem...) We welcome any member of the Yeshiva University community— male or female— to join our legacy. Students can join the news as writers, reporters, photographers, designers, copy editors, web staff, or business associates. The time commitment necessary to be a staff member depends entirely on the interest and availability of the staffer, and the *Observer* is always looking for student volunteers interested in contributing to the paper. We're always looking for new passion and talent, so if you are interested in joining our tight knit staff, contact the editor in chief—that's me!—at Rachel.Benaim@mail.yu.edu.

3. We have a rockin' editorial staff? Oscar Wilde once wrote, "Why was I born with such contemporaries?" He was a cynic, so he might not approve of my interpretation of this, but I am so grateful to have such an unbelievable staff. This year's editorial staff is, not to set the bar too high, but the best that SCW ever produced. Our team is highly motivated, talented,

and up beat, endlessly committed to, well, you. I've already learned so much from each and every member of the staff.

The *Observer* staff is eloquent, stylish, and super cool. Yes, it's true. Our new editorial staff serves to mix tradition with a modern flair—our new video, photo, and social media initiatives will prove that we are tech-savvy 21st century gals. We are fortunate to have an extraordinary (not to mention stylish) staff this year—and we want you to meet them. Check out the last page to read their bios (so you can creep them out say hello to them in the hallways—in all seriousness, they'd love to hear from you and meet all of you.)

I must thank them tremendously. Without them, we'd literally have no paper. Thank you for being so extremely diligent and efficient in getting this issue done over summer vacation. I know it was not easy (especially dealing with a constant string of emails at certain points), but you all really rose to the occasion and this issue would not be here without y'all.

4. The *Observer* is the only official publication of Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women and Syms School of Business? Yep, that's a fact. Founded in 1955 by Stern College Women, we are now in our 57th year of consistent publication. We are run entirely by undergraduate students—everything from writing, to layout, to business management is done by your very peers.

Despite the fact that there are literally too many YU publications to count, I hope you still spend the time to read *The Observer* on a monthly basis. There's nothing like the day when the royal blue newspaper receptacles on the Beren and Wilf campuses are restocked with the new *Observers*. I don't know, for me it is always a good omen (throw some salt over my shoulder and call me superstitious.)

The *Observer* is a lot of what makes my experience here what it is. Ever since my first semester on campus, I eagerly awaited *The Observer's* monthly publication. I craved to hear what people had to say about YU, religion, and social issues. I would join the other esteemed members of the YU community each month and voraciously read the paper cover to cover.

5. "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others." George Orwell's words never rang so true. There are many ways to get something done. There are many ways to effectively change a university—or so one thinks. I'll give you the 'more equal' short cut—writing. If you as a student are having a problem, you have two options: either you can complain to your friends in the

caf every night over dinner for the entire semester (or longer), or you can do something about it. You can collect your grievances, put pen to paper, and express yourself in a dignified, yet quite public manner. You could literally make an impact in the history of the university by just "banging it out." Our administration reads *The Observer*. Let your voice be heard and maximize your time here. Don't leave it for someone else to do.

6. THE WINNERS OF THE PHOTO CONTEST ARE ON PAGE 13!!

Good, glad we have that settled then.

Now, I can't possibly go on any longer without officially welcoming you to our new year... Welcome to a new year at *The Observer*. I look forward to serving you and keeping you, the student body, abreast of news and events happening on campus as well as issues plaguing the student body. Furthermore, of course we have our copy editors and our fact checkers (yes, that's really a thing), but if you would like to report a correction, please email scwobserver@gmail.com. After all, we are here for the sole purpose of informing the student body and being your voice—so we must be accurate.

As the Editor in Chief and your personal public servant, if you have any issue that you would like *The Observer* as a newspaper to address, or something you'd like me personally to address, please let me know.

We now return to our regularly schedule programming; enjoy this epic Orientation issue. And once you've planned how you're going to rock this upcoming year at YU—saving on textbooks, visiting all the cultural NYC hubs, and dining in style with your improved caf-cards—check us out again in mid-September. We'll be including our signature Features "Nowhere But Here," by Hannah Dreyfus, "The Student Council Corner," and a new column, called "How To..." by Avital Tzubeli. Until then...

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A huge Mazal Tov to all of our alumni who made aliya this summer. We wish you the best of luck. Keep making us proud!

Republican Presidential Hopeful Mitt Romney Visits Israel

CHANA POSLUNS Presidential hopeful Governor Mitt Romney took his fundraising campaign abroad to Jerusalem for three days this summer, a move that, though controversial, spoke volumes about his intentions regarding Middle East policy. For the whirlwind three day trip, orchestrated by Marc Zell, the co-Chairman of Republicans abroad, Romney was all sabras and shwarma. The governor set out to wow Americans and Israelis alike, meeting with Israeli regional leaders, visiting holy sites, and greeting local residents.

Zell, a partner at the international Zell, Goldberg & Co. law firm, explains that the time he spent with Romney revealed the governor's "genuine... sincere and also highly intelligent character." Zell met Romney for the first time upon his arrival in Israel, remarking that he was "quite taken aback by him both as a candidate and as a human being," adding that both Romney and his brother Scott

"really struck me and impressed me with their sincerity, integrity, passion, and warmth, not only for Israel but also for America."

The Jerusalem branch of Zell's firm was primarily responsible for the success of Governor Romney's visit. This author had the distinct privilege of interning for Mr. Zell this summer, helping to coordinate Romney's Israel visit. Preparations began weeks before his arrival, preoccupying a significant number of the firm's employees with the task of ensuring a smooth visit for Romney and his family.

On July 30, the last day of his trip, Romney hosted an exclusive fundraiser breakfast at the King David Hotel. The fundraiser – the first such event in Israel's history for an American presidential candidate – was a major success, raising millions for Romney's campaign. The attendees, Zell reflects, were captivated by Romney's "sense of composure" and impressed by his

confidence. "With the kind of track record that he [Romney] has," Zell attests, "when you're in his presence and you listen to him talk, there is a comforting sense that he knows what he's doing. If given the opportunity, he could really turn things around." Zell believes that the trip – though it instigated much controversy and was challenged by political commentators – helped Romney share his personality and sincerity to both an Israeli and international audience.

On Sunday July 29th, the first full day of Romney's visit, Jews around the world observed the 9th of Av, the Jewish national day of mourning commemorating the destruction of the Jewish temple and numerous other tragedies that have stricken the Jews throughout history. The decision to visit on this particular date only stirred up more controversy; within Zell's office, some employees saw the choice of date as "crass," though others believed it to be "a brilliant political move," while still others deemed the

matter insignificant. In any case, the choice of arrival dates certainly garnered a fair share of attention – arguably a positive development for any presidential candidate.

In what was perhaps the single most controversial statement of his trip, the governor's address to the Jerusalem Foundation included his firm declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In stark contrast to the confidence with which Romney spoke, the White House's Press Secretary could not manage to even mention Jerusalem when asked repeatedly by reporters what America considers the capital of the Jewish state. The statement might displease the enemies of Israel, yet Romney did not seem too concerned, sticking boldly to his words.

CHANA BRAUSER
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Since his return, Romney has faced much criticism for his attempts to fundraise and campaign abroad, yet the visit undoubtedly sent a strong message about his serious commitment to furthering democracy in the Middle East and addressing the tremendous conflict in the region. The trip was highly covered in the American media, enabling his perspective on Middle Eastern policy and the American-Israel relation to reach a large audience of Americans. No doubt the pro-Israel and evangelical voting demographic saw the trip in a positive light, but perhaps even those Americans seeking a president with a strong commitment to democracy in the Middle East and a strong stance in the conflict with Iran were similarly impressed.

The Beren Writing Center: Looking To The Future, A Year In Review

CHANA BRAUSER The Annual Beren Writing Center Report, reviewing the Writing Center's progress for the 2011-2012 academic year, was released this July.

The past year was arguably the most successful in the history of the Beren Writing Center. In the fall, students were greeted with a welcome surprise, finding the Writing Center housed in new, expanded quarters in room 714 in the 215 Lexington Avenue building. The space was later decorated with inspiring quotes about writing from currently enrolled students, lending the BWC a homey feel and creating a sense of individuality and student involvement.

With the addition of two new staff members – ESL tutor Emily Long and Writing Instructor Lauren Burstein – the BWC was able to better serve both its student visitors and student tutors. Emily Long led an informative session, inviting tutors to work with her to learn how to maximize their time during tutoring sessions with non-native English speakers and support these students in their writing development. "The hiring of dedicated tutor Emily Long," Efthymiou notes, "resulted in the BWC having seen every incoming international student last semester." In a series of meetings, Lauren Burstein addressed the best way to help students transition into adopting more academic writing styles.

As BWC director Andrea Efthymiou explains, "operating with a staff of 20 faculty and peer tutors contributed to our success," generating an unusually high number of student visitors. While the national average sees writing centers serving anywhere between 10% and 15% of enrolled students, the BWC welcomed an unprecedented 23% of the Stern student body in the fall semester and 19% in the spring. All the student visitors were asked to complete an evaluation following each tutoring session; a review of these surveys revealed that 97% of the visitors were "satisfied" with their tutoring sessions.

In previous years, students wishing to visit the BWC often were relegated to a waitlist – in fact, 400% of available appointments during 2010-2011 were waitlisted – but the 2011-2012 year saw a tremendous decrease

in waitlisting. Extensive administrative re-organization allowed for a mere 40% rate of waitlisting and reduced the previously overwhelming amount of complaints regarding lack of available appointments to zero. Writing instructor Burstein carefully tracked the waitlist throughout the year, offering updates comparing the current waitlist rates to those of the previous year.

While internal staff development and facilitation helped foster increased sensitivity, professionalism, and success amongst the peer tutors and faculty, outreach efforts undertaken by the BWC continued. During both the fall and spring orientations, BWC staff members addressed new students and held workshops, introducing students to college writing. Visits to each of the English 1100 (Composition) sections helped increase awareness among students of the resources offered by the BWC.

In a new outreach initiative, the BWC ran a pilot program in collaboration with the Office of University Housing and Residence Life, offering dorm tutoring on a drop-in basis on Sunday evenings. The program was successful and will be continuing into the 2012-2013 academic year. The BWC, working with the Career Development Center, offered a two-workshop series for students applying to graduate school, and joined Professor Deena Rabinovich and the students in the Legacy Heritage Program for an individualized session.

Despite a tremendous increase in clients, the BWC's satisfaction rates are higher than ever with waitlisting at an all-time low. This year, the BWC is committed to extending its social media reach, via its website and Twitter feed, making schedule changes and announcements easily accessible to the student body. Lizzy Bentley, a Stern graduate and past tutor, will be the Writing Instructor for the 2012-13 academic year. Efthymiou has already begun working with peer tutors Hannah Rozenblat and Devorah Snow to enhance and update tutoring hiring and training materials. Further innovation and development is sure to allow the BWC to continue helping students cultivate their writing skills and achieve academic potential.

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every other university in the United States. At Columbia University – where the meal options are comparable to those offered at YU – dining plan prices range per semester from \$1975 to \$2295, with an additional 10% tacked on for those participating in the kosher meal plan. Columbia also provides a flex dollar account for students to use at either off-campus or on-campus establishments, but does not allow any of the money in this account to come from the prepaid plan, so that the students must add any additional funds separately. At both Tulane University – where the per-semester meal plan as of last year was \$2375 – and Pace University – where students paid between \$1795 to \$1995 per semester during the 2011-2012 year – only \$25 from the prepaid funds is designated for use off campus.

It would not be "feasible," according to Jacobs, for YU to allocate more than the relatively generous \$50 per semester for off-campus establishments without charging a premium. To do that, Jacobs asserts, the university would have to lay off food service employees and even cut into the budget of other services. The \$3000 a year that each student on the meal plan pays supports not only food preparation and purchase, but the salaries and benefit of food service employees, equipment maintenance, kosher supervision, and extended hours of operation. Designating more of the prepaid funds as flex dollars, as Jacob explains, would mean cutbacks – anything from curtailment of hours to serving fewer meals on weekends.

One accounting major at Syms who wished to remain anonymous questioned the new Premium Plan, insisting that a "cost-benefit analysis" of

New Premium Dining Plan Offers More Flex Dollars

the initiative did not seem to yield any particular advantage for students. For many, the email was confusing, and Jacobs admits that the message "wasn't communicated as well as it should have been" and that he's been flooded with phone calls "off the hook" to clarify the options. YC junior Ari Schachter jokes that "only people in Rav Schachter's shiur would be able to understand the email straight off the bat," adding that he doubts "too many people will be willing to tie up 150 dollars in order to gain the option of transferring 50 more dollars from one kitchen to another."

While students have questioned the advantage of prepaying when they could pay out of pocket as they go along, Jacobs notes that dollars on the caf card are tax-free, maintaining also that students are paying for convenience.

Rather than carrying cash or using a credit card – making it harder for students to monitor what they're spending and often resulting in over-spending – students will be able to rely on the caf card and keep a record of their funds. One



Avital Tzubeli

obvious advantage of the plan, it seems, lies with the participating restaurants. "Their business has skyrocketed," Jacobs notes, contending that "if the kosher [food] business is successful, all it is good for the Jewish community."

The Jewish community at large might benefit then, but it remains to be seen how many of the smaller YU student body believes they will do the same by opting for the Premium Plan. The initiative seems to be rather generous when compared with programs offered by other universities and both Jacobs and the YU administration is optimistic that many students will hop on the bandwagon.

Introducing...Sy Syms School of Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program

MALIA WEISS I consider it an honor to attend the Sy Syms School of Business. Now, it's official. For the first time, The Sy Syms School of Business has instituted the Sy Syms School of Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. The Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program emphasizes academic excellence in business, liberal arts and Judaic classes, with a strong focus on advanced entrepreneurship opportunities. This strong connection between academics and the business world will be apparent in the Syms honors classes. This new Syms honors program gives academically and entrepreneurially motivated students access to the Sy Syms Business School's premiere faculty and analytical, real-world business courses.

Dean Pava, the Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business, explains, "As part of our re-energizing the Sy Syms School of Business, while enhancing academics across the board, and our new focus on entrepreneurship; the Sy Syms School of Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program plays an essential role. We are putting our best foot forward in utilizing some of our top faculty. It is exciting working hand in hand with the Yeshiva College and Stern Honors Program as we move forward on this exciting new project."

The course work for the Syms Honors Program consists of different components. Dr. Avi Giloni, the director of the Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program, as well as the Associate Dean of the business school, explains that this program is for 3 types of student interests; academic, entrepreneurial and quantitative. To target the distinctive strengths, the Syms honors requirements can be individually tailored to each student. All the Syms honors students are required to have a high SAT score and a 90+ High School GPA. What sets these students apart are their drive for entrepreneurship and leadership capabilities that is demonstrated by their substantial extracurricular activities.

The Sy Syms honors students will begin with an "Honors Business in a Global Environment" course in their first semester, taught by Dr. Galit Ben-Joseph. This course is a microcosm of the Syms honors program as a whole: analytical academics with a strong focus on entrepreneurship in the global business market. Dr. Ben-Joseph's real world experience, which includes; 8 years at Goldman Sachs, 6 years at JP Morgan and currently working at Neuberger Berman for 4 years, will bring the class to life by incorporating her personal

experiences and current events. This course is unique in the sense that there will be fewer lectures, and instead more case study analysis and oral presentation, both crucial skills to learn for any business. Dr. Ben-Joseph states, "today it is very important to challenge students and give them exposure to real life experiences and not just lectures," ultimately internalizing those lessons to be successful in the global business environment.

In addition, Syms honors students will be required to enroll in five additional honors courses. Of those courses at least two must be from the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein or S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program and at least two must be Sy Syms honors courses. Some Syms honors courses include Honors Accounting Principles II, which will be taught in the 2013 spring semester by Dr.

Martin Leibowitz, a highly esteemed accounting and finance professor. Other Sy Syms' Honors courses include; Honors Quantitative Methods for Management, Honors Principles of Marketing and Honors Kucin Lecture Series. The Sy Syms Honors Program is open to any major, since the honors classes are all core business requirements not specific to any major. Dean Pava "hope[s] that Yeshiva College and Stern Honors students will take advantage of the Sy Syms Honors Program when appropriate."

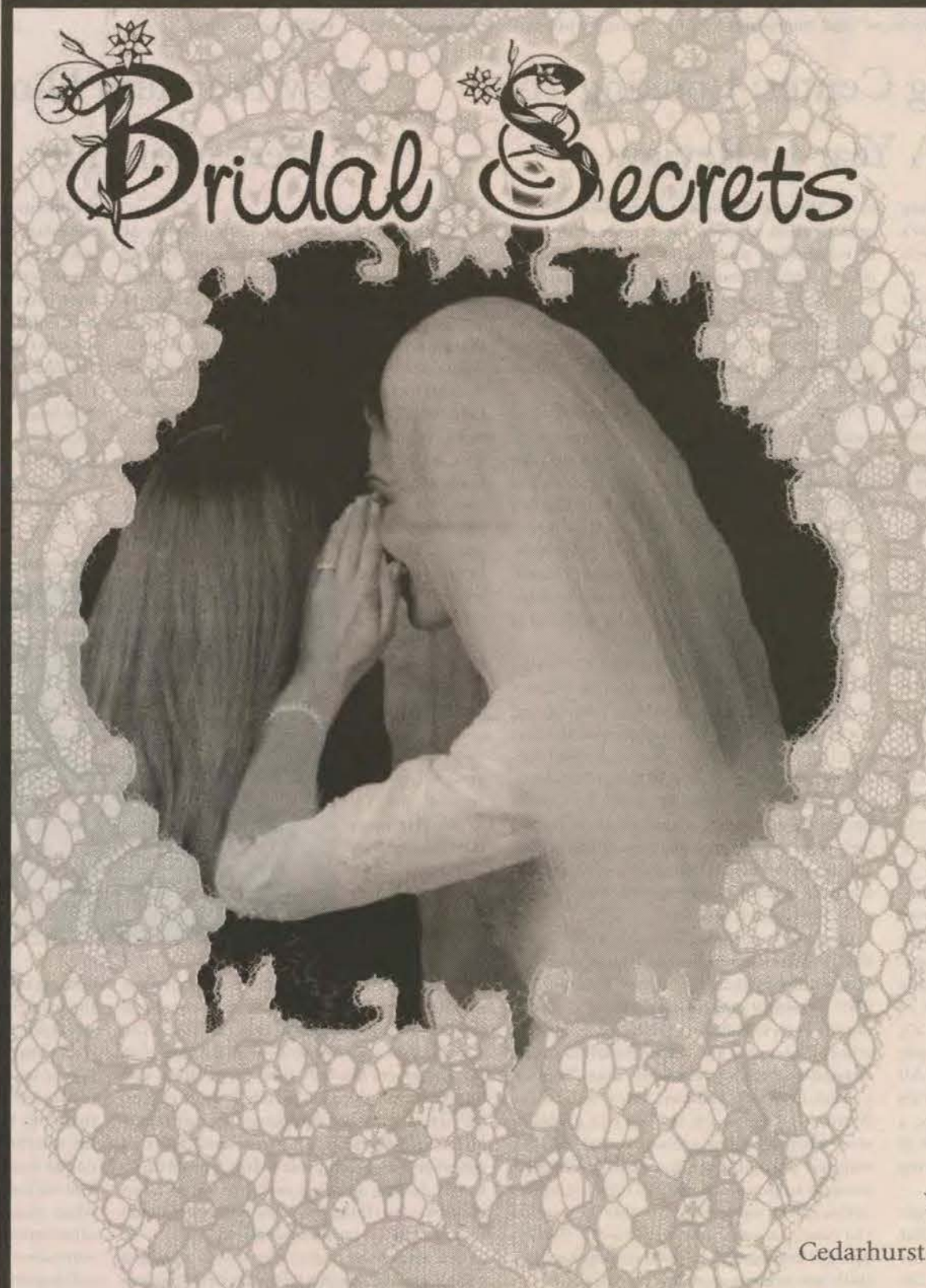
The Syms honors students will then be required to apply their in-class experiences to the outside world. They will be obligated to either complete an entrepreneurship project or a top-notch internship. The Associate Dean of the Sy Syms School of Business, Professor Michael Strauss, expresses how the "entrepreneurial internship

is a main component of the Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. We expect the Syms honors students to roll up their sleeves and be involved in a real world business environment." Associate Dean Giloni explains, "what differentiates the Sy Syms Business Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program from other business school honors programs is the faculty support and commitment to mentoring the students' project or internship. We want to meet the needs of the students personally and hope that they will utilize the lessons they learn, in combination with the close personal relationship with an adviser, to succeed in the project or internship they choose, ultimately leading to success in corporate America."

Sy Syms honors students will also have the benefit of attending an

entrepreneurial leadership seminar. These seminars will delineate the multiple applications of the analytical academics and business perspectives taught in the Sy Syms Honors Program. The Syms honors students will also be obligated to take part in Sy Syms honor's events with high-powered businessmen. Sy Syms honors students will also be able to attend Yeshiva College and Stern's honor's events. Also, Sy Syms offers a variety of clubs, lectures and entrepreneurship opportunities.

The new Sy Syms Honors and Entrepreneurial Leadership Program is one of the business school's biggest accomplishments. It could not have been done without the help of Dr. Gabriel Cwilich, director of the Yeshiva College honors program, and Cynthia Wachtell, director of the Stern College honors program.



Bridal Secrets

Unique
Upscale
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2012 Olympics: A Moment of Silence Heard 'Round the World

SHALVA GINSPARG The words heard 'round the world at the Olympics of 1972 belonged to ABC newscaster Jim McKay: "Our worst fears have been realized tonight." At this summer's Olympics in London, the world listened instead to the famous Jewish folk song, "Hava Nagila." Indeed, on the forty-year anniversary of the Munich massacre in which 11 Israeli athletes were murdered by the Palestinian group, Black September, Jewish gymnast Aly Raisman won a gold medal for a performance set

to the tune of Hava Nagila. The symbolism did not go unnoticed.

Ever since the tragedy of 1972, the International Olympics Committee (IOC) has refused to recognize the event with a moment of silence. This year, the long-standing point of contention was brought to the fore by Ilana Romano and Ankie Spitzer, the widows of athletes murdered in the Munich massacre. Their sentiments were echoed by over 107,000 others, President Barack Obama included, who signed a petition in support of

a moment of silence. Nonetheless, the IOC did not capitulate. Their explanation? The Olympics is simply not the appropriate time and place for a moment of silence in honor of the victims.

"Sports are a bridge to love, interconnections and spreading of peace among nations; it must not be a cause of division and spreading of racism," noted the Palestinian Olympic Committee in a letter applauding the IOC's decision. To Shaul Ladany, a survivor of the massacre, the decision points to the fact that the IOC doesn't "regard them as victims of the Olympic movement but as 11 Israeli victims" and that the committee "fear[s] that Muslim and Arab nations will somehow boycott the Olympics Games."

Amidst this backdrop of conflict and controversy, an unlikely hero stepped up to the balance beam: eighteen-year-old Aly Raisman. Though Raisman herself remarked that "having that floor music wasn't intentional," she added that "the fact [that] it was on the 40th anniversary is special, and winning the gold today means a lot to me." She further commented that, "if there had been a moment's

silence, I would have supported and respected it." Guri Weinberg, the son of athlete Moshe Weinberg who was killed in the Munich massacre, conveyed to the Simon Wiesenthal Center his tremendous gratitude and admiration for Raisman. "She's got a lot to teach the IOC and the rest of the world about what's right," he declared.

In another poignant display of solidarity, the Italian delegation conveyed a moment of silence for the Munich victims inside the Olympic Village. Raisman's convictions were further shared by Bob Costas, an NBC newscaster who conducted an on-air memorial service as the Israeli athletes entered the arena. Costas noted that though IOC president Jacques Rogge "led a moment of silence before about 100 people in the athlete's village...for many, tonight, with the world watching, is the true time and place to remember those who were lost, and how and why they died."

Raisman also garnered praise for her unabashed celebration of her Jewishness at the summer Olympics, not least reflected by her Hava Nagila song choice. She even revealed to the New York Post that "I am Jewish, that's why I wanted that floor music."

A New York Post cover hailed her as a "Star of David." French swimmer Fabien Gilot followed in Raisman's nimble footsteps via a tattoo he displayed at the games which bore the Hebrew phrase אני כלום בלעדיהם — "I am nothing without them." Mr. Gilot revealed that the tattoo is in homage to a Jewish grandfather figure. Raisman's rabbi, Rabbi Keith Stern of Temple Beth Avodah in Massachusetts, described her as someone who is "very proud and upfront about being Jewish. Neither she nor her family explicitly sought to send a message. But it shows how very integrated her Jewish heritage is in everything that she does." Rabbi Stern also commented that, "I can't wait to have her at the temple to talk about her experience."

Whether they'll be in the audience when Raisman does indeed give her speech in synagogue or whether they were simply in the audience of the 2012 Olympics, to many of Raisman's keenest admirers, her greatest victory was won in an arena far beyond the narrow straits of a North Greenwich balance beam.



Israel Matzav

Schottenstein Residence Hall Houses New Caf Store

RACHELO DELIA BENAIM The women of Stern College will no longer have to make the long trek uptown to stock up on "real food," toiletries, and other late-night, convenience items. Instead, a new state-of-the-art caf store on the base floor of Schottenstein Residence Hall will welcome those students seeking to purchase both late-night snacks and assorted non-food items on their caf card. The caf store, stocked with everything from the classic Chobani yogurts to pizza to toothbrushes, was opened due to the hard work of Stern College's Student Life Committee. Elana Raskas, co-president of the SLC, explains "the store will include many hot food options," a perk that will be "very convenient for anyone who wants a late dinner or midnight snack." Students are "eagerly awaiting the opening of the new and improved Schottenstein caf store, otherwise known as 'Cafe 29,'" adds Raskas.

The store, located between the Schottenstein front and back lounges on the east side of the building, has two entrances: one closer to the hot food and one closer to the 'snackage.' The location is both convenient and practical, as it will help regulate what is anticipated to

be dense student traffic in and out of the store all night.

Currently, the store will be open from 8-12 pm, the same hours as the old Schottenstein store, but the hours of operation are subject to extension depending upon student request. During Orientation, the store will be open during the following times: Tuesday, August 21st from 4:30 - 8:00 pm; Wednesday, August 22nd from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm and 4:30 - 8:00 pm; Thursday, August 23rd from 9-11:00 am, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, and 4:30 - 8:00 pm; and Friday, August 24th, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Cafe 29 was the brainchild and initiative of the Student Life Committee, a group of committed students who work to enhance student life on campus. The committee members believed that last year's caf store hours and facilities did not adequately serve the Stern community, so SLC co-Presidents Elana Raskas and Ruth Brown worked tirelessly all summer to ensure that students would have upgraded facilities to enjoy this academic year. Raskas expressed her deepest gratitude to food services for addressing student needs and improving the quality of life on the Beren campus.

QUESTIONS
ANSWERS
RESULTS

?

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I have a suggestion about life on campus, who do I talk to?

Who do I speak to about changing my rooming situation?

How do I find a chavruta?

How can I add or drop a class?

Where do I make photocopies on campus?

Where can I find out more about student clubs?

Who do I talk to about getting healthy food options in the caf?

How do I declare a major?

How do I find a chavruta?

How can I add or drop a class?

Where do I make photocopies on campus?

Where can I find out more about student clubs?

How do I declare a major?

FEATURES

MIRIAM DUBIN
BEQUI FRANKEL
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Student Council Corner: A New Addition to The Observer

ADINA MINKOWITZ Dear Students,

Before I begin, I would like to introduce myself. For those of you who do not yet know me, my name is Adina Minkowitz, and I am this year's Stern College for Women's Student Council (SCWSC) president. I am so excited for this year, you have no idea! Now, allow me to introduce the SCW student council: Shimra Barnett, Vice President, Adena Kleiner, Corresponding Secretary, Amanda Esraeilian, Recording Secretary, & Rebecca Peyser, Treasurer. We are so excited to get this year started!

We are all looking forward to using our Student Council Corner column in *The Observer* to keep the student body up to date on what's going on behind the scenes (and obviously to keep you posted on all the cool events we are planning). For every edition of *The Observer*, a different member of the council will pen this column discussing events happening on campus and issues bothering or relevant to the student body. This column is also meant to be interactive. We want to hear what you have to say so if you ever want to address a member of the council or write to us, this would be the place to do it—just email in your question/comment/editorial to scwobserver@gmail.com with the subject line "SCWSC Corner."

Now, let's cut to the chase. WELCOME to a new year at Stern College for Women! We can't believe that summer is over and this new academic (not to mention) event filled, and incredible, year is beginning.

We want to be the first to let you know about a few events happening on campus in the next couple of weeks:

August 29 – "Out and About Camp Out" – SCWSC, TAC, SSSBSC are co-hosting a welcome back event in Koch Auditorium (in 245 Lexington) at 8pm. This is the first event of the year and is a great way for new students to get to know the Stern community and make friends and for returning students to reunite with old friends. We are serving snacks and having activities all having to do with a camping theme. As always, we will have giveaways and will be selling apparel. Make sure to attend while we spend the night stargazing, making s'mores and more!

September 4 – "SCWSC Annual Club Fair" – SCWSC is having their annual club fair on September 4th in Koch Auditorium. Get ready to be blown away by all that happens on campus. Bring an open mind because you are sure to be amazed by all that SCWSC clubs have to offer. There is an endless number of ways to get involved and we know you will because the Stern student body is an incredibly enthusiastic one!

September 5 – "Screen on the Green" – SCWSC, YSU, YCSA, SSSBSC (Beren and Wilf) are hosting the annual "Screen on the Green" in Tenzer Gardens on the Wilf campus. There will be busses leaving from 245 Lexington at 7pm so make sure to come on time and ensure your spot. Screen on the Green is the first co-ed event of the year. It is a night where both SCW and YC students hang out on the green grass in Tenzer Gardens while watching a movie – this year "THE LORAX" – eating popcorn, cotton candy, and Mike & Ikes. It is yet another way to meet new people, see old friends, and relax before you get bogged down with work. We hope to see you all there rain or shine!

While these are all the events we can tell you about right now, there are many more happening on campus in the next couple of weeks. Make sure to check your SSTUDs, flyers, the student events calendar (yu.edu/events) and flat screens for all things amazing. We can't wait to see you there!

Will the Real Messiah Please Stand Up?

ORLY BENADERET In 2010, the Fox Network ran a Simpsons episode titled "The Greatest Story Ever D'ohed." The Simpson family traveled to Jerusalem on a church mission, hoping it would bring Homer some needed salvation. After visiting religious sites, Homer was overcome with a spiritual feeling and delusional belief that he was the Messiah sent from G-d to unite Jews, Christians, and Muslims. As CNN blogger Jessica Ravitz explains, having this "Jerusalem syndrome" mindset, he proposed a new faith of "Chris-mujews," a religion that worshiped both peace and chicken. This classic Simpson situation is ever-so-satiric in that it actually reflects a true phenomenon.

The "Jerusalem Syndrome" was coined in the 1930's by an Israeli psychiatrist named Heinz Herman. This rare condition is more frequent among tourists who visit biblical and holy places and then suddenly feel as if they too are biblical figures. The general psychosis develops gradually, first with symptoms of anxiety and insomnia. Then, the person may feel urged to leave their tour group to visit holy places, such as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre or the Western Wall.

As the symptoms worsen, the person may begin to do purification rituals, such as shaving all their body hair and clipping their nails to rid themselves of impurities. Some people can become so delusional, that they venture to the Old City and chant sermons claiming they are Jesus Christ or the Jewish Messiah.

An example of this condition was one of Herman's first cases that involved an Englishwoman who was so convinced that the Second Coming of Messiah was imminent that every morning she climbed to the top of Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem and waited to welcome the Lord with a cup of tea.

At first, I was personally skeptical towards this condition. I did not think that someone could truly feel and believe that he or she was the Messiah. However, after working in a psychiatric ward in Israel this summer, my opinion changed.

I had the opportunity to work for six weeks as a volunteer at the Herzog hospital psychiatric ward in Jerusalem amongst one of the leading psychiatrists, Dr. Pesach Lichtenberg, who treats individuals with "Jerusalem syndrome" as well as other mental illnesses. I sat in on psychiatric evaluations of patients with this

condition and listened to them describe themselves as the Messiah who was ready to save the world. Once these patients were admitted, I would talk to them and listen to them repeatedly tell their tale of being the Messiah. I asked one patient if he wanted to play a card game, and he responded, "I cannot, Mashiach is coming at 12:30," and then he continued his story of his own messianic journey to Israel instead of playing cards. The psychiatrists at Herzog explained that some of the patients with this condition have schizophrenia, which might have increased the likelihood of them having "Jerusalem syndrome."

Schizophrenia is a mental illness characterized by hallucinations, delusions, and thought disorder. This might explain why someone with this mental illness could be more susceptible to having "Jerusalem syndrome," though it is not always the case. There is no cure for schizophrenia, but there are many treatments for the symptoms. As I worked in this psychiatric ward, I watched patients be admitted and discharged from the hospital. Once the patients are treated with therapy and medication, most are not harmful and they can leave the psychiatric ward after a few days, months, or years.

Even though I plan for a future in the field of clinical psychology, I had some fears of walking into the psych ward. From the movies that have illustrated mental institutions (thank you, *Girl, Interrupted* and *Shutter Island*) I assumed the worst. It only took a week to realize how wrong I was. After working with the patients and learning about their past experiences that brought them to Herzog, my perspective of mental illness has expanded profoundly. Once I was past the layer of people looking, talking, and acting differently, it wasn't difficult to lead a group discussion about political issues in Israel or even the summer Olympics. Most patients know why they were placed in the hospital, and they wanted to get better and leave.

Mental illness is hard to completely understand. Most people do not see it as a chemical imbalance in the brain, nor do they understand how to interact with someone living with a mental illness. Even though there is more research in this field than ever before, my friends and family still could not understand why I would want to work in a psychiatric ward with "crazy people" for my summer break. Without thinking, we categorize these people—people who could be our friends, parents, brothers or sisters—as "crazy" and we easily forget that these people have the same hopes and dreams that any one of us do. They just have different obstacles to overcome. As the vice president of the Active Minds Club, a club that helps educate and break the stigma of mental illness, I hope students take advantage of the events this year and become more mindful of what mental illness is and leave behind their stigma of what mental illness is not.

**The factual details about the Jerusalem Syndrome were acquired from Chris Nashawty's February 17 WIRE Magazine article, "The Jerusalem Syndrome: Why Some Religious Tourists Believe They Are the Messiah."

AUGUST 19-SEPTEMBER 15						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19 AUG.	20	21	22 ORIENTATION	23 ORIENTATION	24 ORIENTATION <small>Candle Lighting - 7:32pm</small>	25 ORIENTATION SHABBAT
26 ORIENTATION	27 ORIENTATION	28 MAUI WOW! Lobby 245 Lex.	29 Out and About Camp Out! 7:30pm, KOCH	30	31 <small>Candle Lighting - 7:11pm</small>	1 SEPT. Campus Couple SHABBAT
2	3 LABOR DAY NO CLASS	4 SCWSC Club Fair! 8:00pm, KOCH	5 Screen on the Green! 8:15pm, WILF	6	7 <small>Candle Lighting - 7:00pm</small>	8 Sy Syms SHABBAT
9	10 TAC Club Fair!	11 9/11 Memorial Event	12 President Joel Speech	13	14 <small>Candle Lighting - 6:48pm</small>	15 In-House SHABBAT

*Please note: 1) Only SCWSC events are listed 2) Not all events are listed 3) Events that are listed are subject to change

Hello; We Are The Women's Studies Society

CHANI HERZIG What does feminism mean to you? If my rhetorical question made you want to put down this article, all the more reason to please keep reading. For some, the term feminism conjures images of crazed women running in circles burning bras, with bad hair, and — I'm just going to say it — trying to be men. To others, it inspires a nostalgic daydream, complete with heroic music trumpeting against the backdrop of an enormous waving flag and some famed women's rights activist.

Or perhaps you're one of those people who truly feel no animosity towards the word but avoid it out of disinterest. Apathy is an emotion. Let's set the word aside for now, not because I want to toss the cause — precisely the opposite. Without that word, which in certain circles has the distinct effect of chucking a football through a china shop with the accompanying gasps of horror, we can all agree. Even those of us who know the history, and those of who only think we do, are united by one cause.

Take a look around. Chances are that if you're reading this, you have some respect or connection

to Stern College for Women. Be it your place of employment, where you're receiving your undergraduate degree, where your friends attend university, or where you turn for your news, you support the education of women and, in effect, women's rights.

Allow me to take one step further. The Stern College for Women demographic is a unique pool of young Orthodox and Jewish women who will in their lifetimes face certain challenges specifically because we are Jewish, Orthodox, and women. In this place of study, introspection and preparation for our futures, don't you want to know that there are several resources dedicated solely to exploring our unique place in the world? There are. Here's one you should know about:

We are the Women's Studies Society. The mission of the Women's Studies Society is to promote awareness of issues facing women at large as well as the women on campus. We do this in hopes of enabling the student body to make informed decisions and think critically about the various roles they'll play. If calling us 'feminist' makes you uncomfortable, don't. Spare the term. Save the

concept. Whatever you call us, understand that we are here to facilitate necessary and productive conversation that will aid the Stern campus in their journey towards the future and awareness as women.

In hopes of achieving just that, the WSS hosted several events in the last two semesters. Peggy Orenstein, author of the New York Times' bestseller *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*, joined us to discuss her findings about the industry take over of little girls' understanding of their femininity. In an interfaith panel we discussed the ethical challenges of abortion in our event dubbed *When Life Begins*. In another event, *Birthing in the Modern World*, a panel of birthing specialist including a birthing sociologist and a midwife shared their perspectives and experiences. With the *Girl Effect* event we witnessed just how much 'the wisdom of women builds her home' when a UN relief worker shared her experiences working with communities in third world countries to educate women.

The WSS is already busy planning a full year of events to continue the streak of informative

exposés. We'll host events that take apart the media perversion of women's self image, women in the workforce and the shifting demographic of women's earnings. Additionally we'll continue to bring you events that discuss familial issues like miscarriages and the support groups that exist for such loss.

These are just a few of the events and topics we're going to cover. But there is more. The WSS is fortunate this year to have our own special place in the Observer. We will use the column keep you informed about our events, women's issues in the limelight and even review a book surrounding the cause. We invite you follow the column, come to our events and participate in the conversation.

The WSS isn't here to preach on some soapbox or flagrantly disregard the status quo. We're here to be a source of support and open discussion for the women of Stern as we move through our undergraduate journey together. Hopefully what we learn together will carry us through many a life experience.

A Penny Saved Is a Milkshake Earned: Saving Money on Textbook and School Supply Shopping

SARA SHABTAI Did you just step into the elevator when a overwhelming amount of "Textbook for Sale" signs jump into your face? Do you want to call the individuals selling the textbooks but are nervous you're paying too much for the textbook? Maybe you compare all the different prices in the elevator posts, and then compare those to the YU Online Booksale Facebook page and you think you found a deal (read: cheapest overpriced textbook).

While those may very well be the best prices you can get on short notice, don't forget to check online too. Personally, I am a huge fan of comparison shopping online to see where I can get the best bang for my buck. I'd rather not have to constantly shell out \$200 for a textbook. Unless that textbook is coming with a pair of Tory Burch flats, I'd rather look elsewhere.

Having trouble getting into the bargain hunting spirit? I have just the solution. Think of finding your textbook for the cheapest price as a game where you reward yourself (maybe with an Oreo Milkshake from Tiberias) for getting your textbook for the cheapest price possible. Start off by

taking note of how much other students are selling their books for. Remember to also check the YU Online Booksale page on Facebook. Keep in mind that you can write on their wall the list of books that you're looking for, then start checking textbook sellers' websites. Don't look at just one website; you should be checking at least 3-4 — if not more.

I always check Chegg.com first. They usually have the best deal for renting textbooks. Renting can usually save you up to 50% off the original price, and you don't have to worry about selling the rented textbook back at the end of the semester. Open a few more tabs, check sites such as Amazon Textbooks, Half.com, Barnes and Nobles Textbooks, and more. See who has the cheapest price. If you're short on time, check Slugbooks.com — they compare sites and see which site has your textbook for the cheapest price.

Many textbook sellers now allow you to rent, buy, or download eBooks. If you're attached to your iPad all day, then an eBook might be right for you, so it's worth looking into that option as well.

Remember these few tips when considering what format of textbook to buy:

#1 The international edition of a textbook is similar to the regular edition. The only difference is that the page numbers will be different than the regular, American version. But if the price is right, then don't hesitate to buy it.

#2 Renting textbooks is a great option if you're in Syms. The textbooks for some classes may change every semester depending on the professor. Also, renting is usually 50% off the original price. The only thing you need to take into consideration is how many days the textbook can be rented for. You should make sure that the textbook can be rented through finals.

#3 eBooks are a great way to lessen the weight of your backpack by substituting the textbook with your tablet. Just keep in mind that if you're a person who likes to study on Shabbos, then this isn't a good option for you.

I'd like to share a personal shopping anecdote from last semester. I needed to buy *Accounting Principles*, ISBN #978-0-470-53479-3. Naturally, I whipped out my bargain hunting skills.

Chegg offered \$55.99 to rent, \$195.00 to buy new, and \$182 to buy used. Amazon offered \$28 for the International Edition, \$189 for a new copy, \$135 used. Slugbooks (which, incidentally, I found from an advertisement on YouTube) offered \$45.47-new/used, \$48.84-rental, and \$118 digital textbook. Finally, someone listed the International Edition from \$60 on the YU Online Booksale.

I should've bought the used International Edition for \$28 from Amazon, but I sacrificed an inexpensive price for convenience and bought it from the YU Online Booksale.

The price to pay for convenience? \$32.

Although the International Edition isn't as appealing as the regular edition (or so our professors tell us), it still has the same content. So figure that you could be spending at least an extra \$10-\$50 on each textbook if you don't shop comparatively. Yes, it's time-consuming, but each \$32 adds up, and you can use that money to buy something much more rewarding than textbooks. Manipedi? That refreshing milkshake from Tiberias? You decide!

Everyone is a Pro: The New Age of Instagram and Digital Photography

ADINA MINKOWITZ Do you ever get the feeling that having a unique skill is not really that special at all? Well honestly, it just might not be. If you took a photography course, own an SLR (single lens reflex) camera, or even have a dark room, it may have all been for nothing. It seems as though nowadays anyone and everyone can probably do all the things you spent years learning to do. Everyone can be a pro in today's day and age with the new phone application, Instagram.

Instagram, launched in October 2010, is a phone application (commonly referred to as an "app") designed to give people the ability to snap photographs after "adding filters to make them look retro, and then for sharing them with sites like Twitter, Flickr, Tumblr, and Facebook" as explained by Dan Frommer of Business Insider.

People can comment, share, "like" photos, and keep up with their friends' lives with each upload.

Sara Rivka Stromer, a senior at Stern College for Women, says "Instagram means extra fun with my regular camera on my phone!" An anonymous Instagrammer describes her upload anticipation: "I literally hold my breath, cross my fingers and hope I will get over 5 people to comment and like my pictures on Facebook."

The most interesting aspect of Instagram photos is that they are in no way professional. Sometimes the shots are of empty cups on a restaurant

table, the corner of a window, a rose on a park bench. But, with the added effects, however, they can look quite impressive. Stromer describes Instagram as "a fun hobby...apparently everyone is a photographer nowadays because of Instagram!"

With all the people commenting and liking these pictures, the person who took them becomes a talented Instagrammer, and in their minds, a photographer.

Instagrammers may even put "photographer" on their resume under extracurricular activities and interests. The anonymous Instagrammer claims, "I actually really enjoy drawing, and I've been building up a portfolio for some time. I've decided to print my Instagram pictures on large pieces of high quality paper and add them to my portfolio. Who knows, maybe those pictures will tip my resume over the edge." Instagrammers have a lot of pictures to show. It seems as though they are as talented as the next guy, and they are also passionate about their social media adeptness.

Now, for all those who do own SLRs, life savings spent on photography classes and Adobe Photoshop, every vacation is an opportunity to showcase their photographic abilities. How does Instagram make these photographers feel now that to any layman the pictures on Facebook and Twitter look almost identical? Ilan Regenbaum, esteemed YU

student photographer explains "I do have a problem with those people calling themselves photographers, or attributing their own skill to the picture. If you want to call yourself a photographer in this digital age, it is irrelevant what camera you have, but it is how you use it. In my eyes photography as a whole has been downgraded as an art...Photography used to be an art that required one to be an expert in composition and exposure, but now one can take 20 pictures of the same subject and one is bound to be good."

Yonatan Sklar, notorious HASC photographer, explains that while on the one hand he agrees the app allows amateur photo fanatics to make "garbage look meaningful," he concludes that these people are "just out to bring more light to the world." While it might bother him that everyone is experimenting with photography, Sklar believes that "these doers change the world in a very acute

but necessary way. They take the ordinary and transform it to the extraordinary. They break down barriers and stigmas that say that if you don't have the right tools you shouldn't try... Let me tell you, if you think you can — try. If you can't — innovate."

So now I beg to ask the question, what really makes someone a photographer? Is it just having a collection of photos that people think are great, owning priceless camera equipment, or both? To Regenbaum, being a photographer requires one to "set up a picture, compose it, and set the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO in order to get the desired exposure. So let people use Instagram to their hearts' content, but if you don't know what 'f stop' means then don't call yourself a photographer."



www.billydecola.com



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SPORTS

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Quotes of the Month

"My message is to never quit, never give up. When you have a little trouble here and there, just keep fighting. In the end, it will pay off."

-Gabby Douglas

"Persistence can change failure into extraordinary achievement."

-Matt Biondi

New York City Work Outs

LINDSEY WESS Whether you're in class or studying at the library, it is safe to say that as college students, we don't spend a lot of time outdoors. Sitting down for large parts of the day means not getting enough exercise. While we have numerous gyms, with multiple workout machines, these are all indoors. We go to school in one of the most vibrant cities in the world, and it would be shameful not to take advantage of what New York has to offer.

From a running workout to a soothing yoga class, there are many ways to be active, especially in NYC. We all know the store Lulu Lemon, for their most comfortable and slightly pricy athletic gear. Well shopping isn't all they have. Every Wednesday they have a running group that begins at 6:45pm. The best part about it is that it is free. Speaking to one of the general managers at the SoHo store, she explained that Lululemon focuses on the community aspect of running. If you aren't a runner, and don't think you can keep up with the group, that should not stop you from joining. They will never leave a person behind, and there will be an instructor to help and motivate you along the way. It's a three to five mile run, which lasts for about an hour. The route changes every week. During the run they stop to get in some push-ups and lunges, giving you a full workout.

If Wednesday night doesn't work for you, fortunately you can go to one of the most beautiful parks just minutes away. Central Park has a wide range of paths, designed for the comfort of your running level. With a city that can be overwhelming at times, some nice greenery can be pleasant to run through. If you go to the website centralpark.com, you can go to the running category where they have an array of paths for you to choose from. So don't stress about getting lost; Central Park created running guides from short to long distances.

While these are all invigorating opportunities, most students need an additional incentive to run outside—let's face it; it takes enough to get us on the treadmill, right? However, running outdoors definitely has its advantages. Since there is no wind resistance in-

doors, it requires less energy to run on a treadmill. Effectively, you will not be using as much energy, therefore burning fewer calories. Due to the incline of the ground constantly shifting, you're using your muscles in multiple ways to keep up with the change in the ground level. So why not take that extra step outside, and shed off some of those calories from late night ordering at Tiberias?

If you're looking for more of a relaxed workout, you can join a yoga class offered at Central Park for 15 dollars. They offer a class on Sundays at 10am and Thursdays at 6:30pm. If Central Park is too far for yoga, Lulu Lemon offers a class Tuesday morning at 10am in, and Thursdays at 6pm in Bryant Park. Senior, Sara Baumser says, "I think it's really great that there are so many sporting options in the City. Since I'm not on a team, it gets you to hang out with other people in a fun setting".

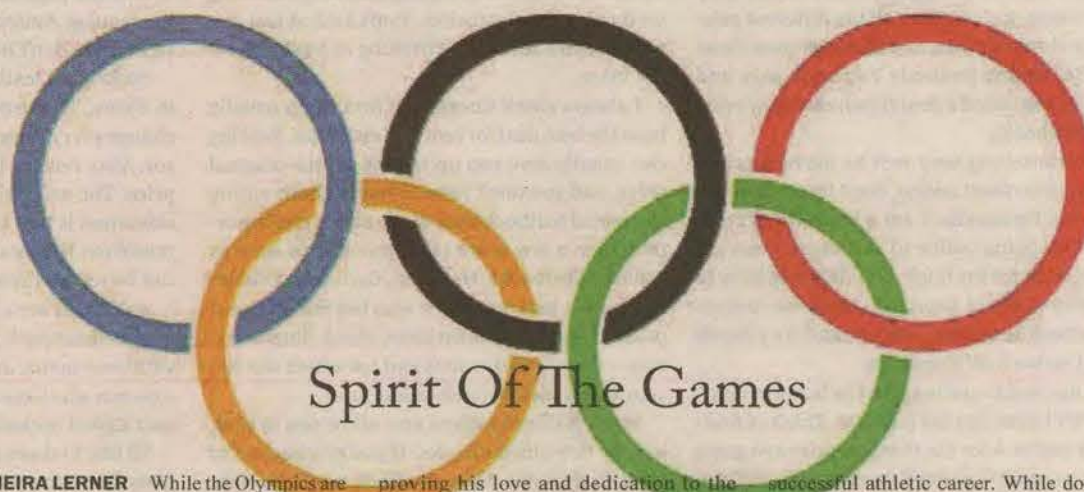
If you're more of the active type, Bike New York is an organization that offers free bike classes. The communications director for New York, Brent Tongzo says, "We have a wide variety of classes at various levels." On a college budget, bicycle rentals can get pricy, and owning a bike while living in a dorm is not practical. Fortunately, BNY has nine bicycle centers, and they provide classes for all participants that do not own a bike. Although biking in New York can get dangerous, Tongzo explains, "We have a bicycling basic class, which teaches you skills that you need to bike on the road. From there we have a class called traffic skills 101. In addition we have winter riding classes, which teach you how to ride in the cold winter". If a bike class isn't for you, but you'd still like to ride around at your own pace, the company Bike and Roll has a rental service that provides renters with more riding freedom than an organized class.

So for all students that are not on a sports team who would still like to more exciting exercises than just another day at the gym, the City offers you fun options different days of the week. So take a break, lace up your sneakers, and get exploring.

September Home Game Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
2	3	4 - 8:00 - 8:00	5 - TBA - 8:00	6
9 - Baruch Invitational - 12:00 - 12:00 - 1:00	10	11 - 8:00 - 8:00 - 8:00	12 - 8:00	13 - 8:00 - 9:00
16	17	18	19	20
23 - Hunter Invitational	24	25	26	27
30				

- = Cross-country
- = Soccer
- = Tennis
- = Volleyball



MEIRA LERNER While the Olympics are an international athletics competition much like Wimbledon and the World Cup, there are inspirational stories of such heroic drive and persistence that make the Olympics unique. Here are five stories from the London Olympics that truly define the spirit of the Games, serving as a source of hope and inspiration for all.

1. The Olympics are widely recognized as a gathering of the most elite athletes in the world. Incredibly, a member of that elite group of athletes this summer was a double-amputee runner from South Africa named Oscar Pistorius. Because of a congenital disease, Pistorius's legs were amputated when he was just eleven-months-old. Despite his debilitation and legal battle to prove that artificial limbs did not provide an unfair advantage, Pistorius qualified for the London Games, becoming the first double-amputee to participate in the Olympics.

2. Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang traveled to London in hope of repeating his Athens Olympics world record performance in the 110m hurdles. Tripping over the first of ten hurdles, Xiang landed awkwardly on his ankle, tearing his Achilles tendon. Staring at the hurdles ahead, aware that his dreams had just crashed down with his injury, Xiang decided not to leave the race early but to hop to the finish line. Xiang took a single break en route to the finish line in order to kiss the last hurdle,

proving his love and dedication to the sport. Demonstrating his Olympic spirit, Xiang was regarded by fellow Olympians as the real winner of the race, as competitor Balazs Baji of Hungary lifted Xiang's arm at the finish line. Displaying their respect for Xiang and brotherhood as fellow Olympians, Britain's Andrew Turner and Spain's Jackson Quinonez carried Xiang off the track.

3. With 200m to run in the 4x400 relay preliminaries, American Manteo Mitchell's leg gave out. Knowing that stopping in the middle of his run would prevent his team from qualifying for the finals, dashing Team U.S.A.'s hope for a medal, Manteo refused to stop running; Mitchell ran the final 200 meters not for himself but for his teammates and for his country. After reaching the end of his lap, Mitchell collapsed onto the ground with what was later diagnosed as a complete break of the fibula bone. With Mitchell's heroic willpower, the U.S.A. team qualified for the finals and won a silver medal.

4. One of the 4x400 relay athletes who benefited from Mitchell's refusal to quit despite a broken leg was none other than Team U.S.A.'s Closing Ceremony flagbearer Bryshon Nellum. At a Halloween party in 2008, Nellum was mistakenly identified as a gang member and shot three times in the leg. Fighting for his life, Nellum had greater concerns than the end of his previously

successful athletic career. While doctors performed three successful surgeries to save Nellum and allow him to regain the ability to walk, Nellum was dismayed to hear doctors say he would never again be able to run competitively. Well, the silver medal Nellum now proudly wears around his neck tells a different story.

5. In London, runner Sarah Attar, and fellow Saudi judo fighter Wodjan Shahrkhani, became the first female athletes to represent Saudi Arabia in the Olympics. While Saudis believe that women playing sports violates their culture and tradition, the International Olympics Committee overturned the Saudi Arabian ban on female participation in the Olympics in an effort to improve gender equality. While Saudi girls will aspire to follow in the examples of Attar and Shahrkhani, the Saudi nickname for the women - "Prostitutes of the Olympics" - proves just how far Saudi Arabia must progress before accepting female athletes. With Attar and Shahrkhani leading the way, however, the IOC will be able to reach their goal of creating an international athletic competition with total gender equality.

These athletes keep the spirit of the Games alive, reminding us that the determination and heart derived from representing one's country can lead to physical feats athletes would never otherwise dream of achieving.

Artwalk

AIMEE RUBENSTEEN Miami happily satisfies every native and tourist who craves copious amounts of sand and sunshine. And now, it can put New York City to shame by enabling everyone and anyone to become a gallerina. Every second Saturday of the month, the Wynwood Art District in Miami, Florida, opens its galleries' doors and extends its hours late into the evening. The experience is incomparable to Chelsea's gallery opening receptions, which may excite the elite buyer or hipster college student, but could never entice a mix of social classes and ages in the way that Art Walk seamlessly achieves. While Chelsea is an art hub that invites a somewhat exclusive group to view their galleries, usually with an offering of wine and sometimes cheese, Miami is



an explosive art destination with food trucks galore, live bands and street markets. In one Saturday night, a wandering tourist could roam through almost one hundred thousand people celebrating the birth of art in Miami.

Art Walk begins with the traditional white cube gallery, the Ascaso Gallery, which hung a variety of styles on its walls. The most interesting of the eclectic bunch were the paintings of Luis Tomasello, especially his "Atmosphere Chromoplastique No. 852," (2006). This piece of art, constructed from white planks of wood, created a grid of cubes, was painted with neon acrylic paint. The calculated areas of paint reflected off particular edges of each square in order to create a series of blue and orange diagonals when viewed from a distance. The clever, and yet aesthetic appeal of this work was grabbing the attention of the packed-to-capacity gallery.

The next stop would only exist in Miami, with its pop-art-loving Britto fans. Kawaii Universe Studio, is more like a sticker shop than a gallery; huge stickers in the shape of ice cream cones, sashimi sushi, cupcakes, and cod fish lined the studio's white walls. Tacked with Velcro, these stickers sell for a whopping \$40.00, even though they are not one-of-a-kind nor are they embellished with gold. The most surprising part of the space is the fact that it is busy! In true Miami fashion, people, adults to be specific, were shedding cash on stickers in an art gallery.

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ARTS & CULTURE



While shuffling through throngs of teenagers and seniors on the sidewalk, I was presented with a warehouse-turned-rave-venue where The Eclectic Art Movement (TEAM) presented itself in the form of graffiti plastered on canvases, large-scale cartoons in frames, and classical paintings hanging on concrete. While one band blared its heavy

metal from outside the complex, a techno band deejayed its beats from inside. One man was sculpting a gold Michelangelo-esque statue, while another man finger-painted a three-eyed yellow dog onto a piece of tarp. The interplay of styles from every angle - there were paintings and graffiti on the walls, the ceiling, the floor, and even on some of the people - explored an area of art yet to be explored in NYC.

This space could have been a nightmare, but instead it was the art-lover's dream. The atmosphere epitomized the definition of art in the way that it both enticed and challenged all of the viewer's senses and preconceived notions about classical and commercial art. The somewhat loose definition of art further emphasized the future of contemporary art in the way that it can be anything from a calculated wooden grid to a child's supply of stickers to a gallerina's phone (one gallery featured iPhoneography!). Miami proves it is not a one-trick pony; did not just get it right with its beaches, it got it right with its art, too.

THE OBSERVER PHOTO CHALLENGE

"Bring the final issue of The Observer wherever you go this summer, and take a picture of someone reading it!"

FIRST PLACE



Coliseum, Rome, Italy Photo credits: Aliza Pollack
Models: Talia Lautman, Zahava Hoffman, Sara Schild



Alan Avitan



Sarina Miller

Ilan Regenbaum



T Lautman, Z Hoffman, S Schild, A Pollack



WE KIND OF WISH WE WERE LIKE THE NEW YORKER, SO THE OBSERVER'S NEXT CONTEST WILL BE CAPTIONING THE WINNING PHOTOS. EMAIL YOUR CAPTIONS TO SCWOBSERVER@GMAIL.COM - MAKE SURE TO TELL US WHICH PHOTO YOU'RE CAPTIONING - AND YOU COULD WIN A \$15 ITUNES GIFT CARD!

Theater: The People's Entertainment?

GILA YARMUSH Theater-going is an expensive hobby for most people, especially college students. If you don't want to deplete your already empty bank account, the hobby is time-consuming and unpredictable--no matter which method you attempt in acquiring affordable tickets.

Standing on line for hours with your breakfast and newspaper, waiting until the box office opens to buy student rush tickets, is not the most comfortable way to spend your morning. And after all that waiting you might be told there are no student rush tickets available for the day's performance, thus losing hours of glorious, precious sleep! Then there are the "lottery shows" where you have to go about two hours before curtain to put your name in a basket and see if it gets picked at random. If it's not, you have no excuse to not do your homework.

Off-Broadway, while cheaper for the

general public, is not much cheaper for students. \$60 is no small amount and can do a lot of laundry and buy a lot of food.

I love going to the theater, but the cost of theater tickets makes it a challenge for college students, like myself, to experience this incredible cultural opportunity that New York City has to offer.

But have no fear, fellow cash-strapped college students, the Signature Theatre Company has begun a new initiative called "A Generation of Access." According to their website, the initiative ensures that "every seat at every performance" of each show's initial run will cost an affordable \$25. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that "Signature remain[s] a home for audiences of all ages, backgrounds and incomes, creating a truly diverse and vital community in the heart of the theatre district."

Having tickets at such a low price not only enables college students to attend theater, but also to experience Signature Theatre Company's pioneering mission. Founded in 1991 by James Houghton, the Signature Theatre Company was the first to dedicate entire seasons to one playwright, allowing for a full exploration of the playwright's work. This includes revival productions of previously performed works as well as premieres of other pieces, enabling "an intimate and immersive journey into the playwright's singular vision."

In 2005 the Signature Theatre Company began the Signature Theatre Initiative. The goal of this Initiative was to create affordable seating for the initial run of a performance for the public. The Initiative was subsidized through donations from corporations, foundations, and individuals, most notably Time Warner. The Initiative was successful in attracting new

people to the theater and 37% of the audiences throughout the six seasons since this initiative began were first-timers.

"A Generation of Access" is the program by which the Signature Theatre Initiative will continue over the next 20 years. "A Generation of Access" initiative is mainly funded through The Pershing Square Foundation, which, as its mission states, was founded in 2006 to "invest in organizations that use innovative and scalable solutions to attack the compounding roots of poverty."

It donated \$25 million to the Signature Theatre Company, a majority of which is to be dedicated in a 20-year effort to ensure ticket prices remain affordably priced. For the next 10 years the cost of all tickets for the initial run of a production will be \$25; the following 10 years of tickets will continue to be affordable, although not guaranteed to remain \$25.

The "A Generation of Access" initiative granted me the opportunity to see *Blood Knot*, a play by the South African playwright, Athol Fugard. I am an Athol Fugard fan and was delighted when I read that a play of his was going to be produced; imagine my delight when I realized I would be able to afford to see this play. Seeing *Blood Knot* was one of the best theatrical experiences I have ever had. I walked out of the theater shaken.

But *Blood Knot* is not the only Athol Fugard play playing this season, later this year the Signature Theatre Company will be producing two more Athol Fugard plays, *My Children! My Africa!* and *The Train Drive*. Hopefully, with subsidized tickets, The Signature Theatre Company will achieve its goal and a more diverse audience can see them too.

The Stern Revelation

AIMEE RUBENSTEIN The 4th Annual Senior Art Show is presenting the work of eleven Stern College For Women students ('12) at the Yeshiva University Museum until September 30, 2012. The aptly named show, *Revelation*, emphasizes how the creation of art reveals a new technique, skill, or perspective without simplifying the artwork into schoolwork. Displaying various media like digital photography, oil painting, stop-motion animation, and stone sculpture, the show captures the various talents of the graduating studio art majors of SCW. The creation of art parallels the progression of the artists themselves throughout their creative process. As the museum explains on its website, *Revelation*, focuses on "art as a dynamic, often fraught process of discovery - a revelation, both personal and artistic." Each artist's work is accompanied with their personal revelation, which is explained in quotations on the walls of the gallery. For example, while one artist confesses she never even thought she could paint, another artist admits that different painting techniques and different colors have broadened her perspective of the world. Reading the artists' revelations while viewing their work provides the viewer with unique insight into each piece. Adjunct Art professor, Traci Tullius explains, "In discovering and revealing themselves through their art, they offer us a path for the same kind of journey."

The show's entrance heightens the viewer's perspective by creating a title wall that forces the viewer to play with their distance and view of the word *Revelation*. The title itself slices each letter onto different plastic panels at different heights and angles, and therefore it can be read from various viewpoints. This forces the viewer to immediately be conscious of their perspective and relation to the art in the gallery. The bold purple walls provide the backdrop for the oil paintings that display self-portraiture, nature, and the city of New York. Additionally, the sculptures vary from Jordana Chernofsky's abstract marble creations to Lauren Kahn's macaroni constructions and life-sized beautified sewer covers. After roaming around the paintings and sculptures, the viewer may be ini-

tially confused to see Samantha Feldman's art displayed on the floor, with permission to not just touch, but to actually step and walk over her work. Before leaving, the viewer is summoned to watch Leah Fried's adorable stop-motion animation video. Each of these works, to name just a few, represent the plethora of art found in SCW. In this way, *Revelation* not only highlights its artists' revelations, but also invites its viewers to experience their own self-revelation.

Personally, the creation of the exhibition enabled a self-revelation of my own. Last semester, I enrolled in SCW's Exhibition Design course and curated this show with seven other SCW students. It became readily apparent that even though memorizing dates and data about the history of art is crucial to pursuing a career in the field, delving into the creation of an exhibition is just as, if not more, important. During this course, I explored the curatorial process of everything from collaborating with the artists

on their work, brainstorming a conceptual theme, inventing a title, and choosing the layout and color scheme for the gallery space.

While SCW is sometimes trapped in a slender stereotype, each piece of art proved it was anything but ordinarily similar to its neighboring piece of art. Therefore, the show emphasizes the common thread of actually creating art, and this revelatory experience that is shared among the artists.

**If you haven't already seen it, go check it out before September 30, 2012:
Yeshiva University Museum, 15 W. 16th Street, New York, NY 10011.**

Yeshiva University Museum and Stern College for Women present
STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN SENIOR ART SHOW 2012

REVELATION

Jordana Chernofsky Samantha Feldman Leah Fried Jenny Goldstein Beth Hendler Lauren Kahn
Jessica Levner Noa Peysner Michal Rakovsky Dina Wecker Melissa Zelnwirth

Fashion Impossible

DANIELLA BRECHER The Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibit "Impossible Conversations," features two infamous Italian designers Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada. From May 10th - August 19th, museum-goers could view and listen to the two designers converse, even though they are from two different eras. This show was fashioned after the 1930s *Vanity Fair* article "Impossible Interviews," which created conversations between well known innovators whom would never in actuality meet or converse in person. Applying this format to a conversation between Prada and Schiaparelli, the exhibit leads to a comical insight into the minds of two great Italian designers that may have never otherwise had this impossible conversation.

When entering the exhibit, there is a long and black plastic bench set before a large screen in a black room playing a simulated conversation between Prada and Schiaparelli, which immediately teaches that Schiaparelli designed from the late 1920s until the 1950s, and Prada from the late 1980s till present day, and yet have the ability to seamlessly overlap and intertwine in dialogue and in style. In the films, directed by Baz Luhrman, Prada plays herself and Australian actress Judy Davis plays Schiaparelli, who died in 1973. In each film Prada and Schiaparelli (her lines taken from her writings and interviews) are sitting across from



each other at a long dining room table set with flutes of champagne and decanters of crystal. The room's darkness and gothic decor gives a feel of anonymity adding a severity to every spoken word. The short films throughout the exhibit tell the story of each designer's individual approach and opinion regarding women's fashion, design in their respective era, definition of an artist, and the meaning of life.

After watching the first film, I was able to see the slight awkwardness that was about to unfold. At the end of the discussion, they concluded that fashion is too difficult to discuss with another designer; but life was the one thing that they could both agree on. And yet, even there they couldn't quite agree. Schiaparelli spoke about her wild past and how she always marched to the beat of her own drum, which always inspired her lavish designs. In her time, women's fashion was mainstreamed into specific styles, so she didn't design with an audience in mind in order to explore her own opinion of beauty. For her, fashion wasn't a money making career, it was what made her feel unique and free. In contrast, Prada's approach was to beautify the everyday woman. Living in an era of individuality opened more room for creativity. Her work is commercialized and is made in order to please a public.

The first display, and in my opinion most poignant, "Waist up/Waist down", displayed Schiaparelli's elaborate waist up designs suiting the cafe era in the 1930s. Each suit jacket or blouse stole the show, since many women lived in cafes, and barely showed their skirts or slacks under the café tables. In opposition, Prada's elaborate waist down creations extenuated femininity by elaborating the details and movement of skirts, which she believed deserved ample attention. The difference in focus demands every shopper to rethink the reason why they shop, and if they prefer to shop for tops or bottoms.

I found the third section, "Hard Chic's" focus to be fascinating. In this section the designers were exploring the juxtaposition of women's fashion and men's work uniforms. The combination of the two was like a celebration of the influx of

women into the largely male dominated work force. The inspiration from male uniforms is apparent, even though they are feminized. Prada explains that she wants to make "the male more human and the woman stronger". She wanted femininity with the power, and these pieces, to her, are the attempt to solve the struggle between the two.

Finally, in the seventh and last exhibit, "The Surreal Body" examines fashion as an art. The display is set up like a fun house in glass boxes with mirrored walls illustrating the fashion's contemporary concept of blurring lines and creating illusions by playing with scale. In this section Schiaparelli starts to talk about fashion as an art, when Prada retorts, "it was

the only real relevant experiment that really was meaningful, it was not a joke it was a serious moment when serious minds were collaborating". To her fashion is no art it's an order to fill, a public to sell too, but to Schiaparelli it's "revolutionary".

The exhibit ends off with a loop back to the start of the conversation, and the origin of the title for the exhibit, "Impossible Conversations." Here, Schiaparelli asks Prada if they were to, theoretically, meet in real life would they be friends or foes? Prada answers friend, but Schiaparelli continues to point out how even after their long discussion they still haven't been able to agree even on the fundamentals of fashion.

David's Corner: Summer Student Presentations

DAVIDA KOLLMAR This past summer I conducted research at Stern. One of the highlights of the summer was the student presentation event, at which students from research groups in the sciences (including biology) presented their projects to the professors, students, and lab techs assembled. Of course, like any other event at Stern, there was food—in this case pizza. In fact, there were so many types of pies, that I noticed that each of the first four presenters had eaten a slice with a different topping. Can you figure out the order of the presentations, the name of each presenter, the subject she researched, and the type of pizza she had from the following information?

- The four students are: the one who went third, Aviva (who was not last), the physics student (who was not first), and the one who had broccoli pizza.
- The student who ate the eggplant slice went before, but not immediately before, Tzippy.
- Chava doesn't like mushrooms or peppers.
- Ora presented before both the psychology and the chemistry students.
- The psychology student ate pepper pizza.

Email sewobserver@gmail.com for the answer!

Enjoy the Lasts Bits of Summer in NYC

BRIANA MIZRAHI New York City is a cultural hotspot...Well duh, it's not the city that never sleeps for nothing. Few people take advantage of some of the little known and affordable outdoor events occurring until the end of summer. Here's a quick look at what's happening in the Big Apple until we have to whip out our Fall jackets and boots:

1. NYC International Fringe Festival, aka Fringe NYC: If you have a passion for funky art, street art, modern art, comedic art...or any kind of art, this is the event for you. From August 10th to the 26th, Fringe celebrates art by hosting around 1000 different performances that showcase all different kinds of art, including absurdist comedies, social commentaries, and even hip-hop musicals. It is one of the major multi-art celebratory occasions in this country. Boasting over 75 thousand people in attendance in 2009, it takes place over many stages across New York City....And just to make ensure that only the best people perform, all

of the acts that are showcased have been selected by a well-respected jury of artists.

2. Historic Richmond Town Faire: Make your way onto the Staten Island ferry on Sunday September 1st - 3rd because the days of wondering how people lived before the age of Facebook, cell-phones, and central air conditioning, are over. This authentically historic town is hosting their annual County Faire. Historic Richmond is a living history village, where visitors can relive American life in the colonial period. Equipped with a working farm and 30 historic buildings, it literally allows guests to live in the days of olde, yester years, 'before your granddaddy was born.'

3. Monet's Garden; exhibit at the New York Botanical Garden. While this picturesque garden is, in fact, open year round, summer is one of the most exquisite times to visit. The exhibit pays tribute to Monet showcasing two of his original and rare paintings, *Irises* and *The Artist's Garden at Giverny*. Through the

garden's stunning display of flowers taken from the painter's works, they also recreate many of his most famous impressionisms. Plain and simple, the Botanical gardens bring art to life by its breathtaking assortments of the same flowers Monet painted. The current exhibit will be opened until October 19 when they switch to the winter exhibit, so make your way over to the Bronx before it closes.

4. Delocarte Theatre in Central Park: For over 50 years, natives and tourists alike have been able to take pleasure in a magical experience where they can enjoy wonderful performances of some of Shakespeare's classics like *Into the Woods* and *As You Like It*. But what is even more impressive is the famous actors and even more famous directors that took part in making it all happen. This summer, Daniel Sullivan has the honor of directing a talented cast of stars that will ensure onlookers' satisfaction. Catch it before its gone in October.

5. Fashion Night Out:

September 6th. Experience fashion like the movies make it out to be. This event allows shoppers, models, designers, and celebrities, to participate in a remarkable night of shopping and exclusive events - including live music acts and celebrity appearances. Only five years old, this event has risen to the top of the social calendar - compelling some of the biggest stars of the industry to come out and meet fans. Its tough to know where to hang out though—there are just so many options! We've got the inside scoop for you right here. See you there?

6. Downtown Boathouse: This is a great and financially unburdensome way to enjoy one of New York's most precious rivers. The Downtown Boathouse is a non-profit organization that encourages working out by offering free public kayaking on the Hudson River. They even offer lessons and tours - for free. The organization operates on a first come-first serve basis - so get try to arrive at 5 pm on weeknights

(opening)...weekends are a bit more flexible though—they're opened from 9 am- 6 pm. They wont be open for much longer though so get there before its too cold.

7. Atlantic Avenue Fair: On September 30th, the mother of all street fairs will be fully operational in the heart of Brooklyn. This is not any regular run-of-the-mill street fair either: it spans over a mile and displays thousands of shoppes and street vendors. The entire day the street is closed to traffic, giving room to hundreds of vendors selling everything from food, to art, to jewelry, and even pottery. Add on some awesome concerts, raffles, and dances - and you'll have yourself a great day activity.

Get psyched because even though school might be starting—doesn't mean you have to sleep! Hello New York City culture.

OPINIONS

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Nowhere But Here

HANNAH DREYFUS My name is Hannah Dreyfus, and I'll be your Managing Editor this year. This column, written monthly by yours truly, is dedicated to the distinctive experiences and challenges of young Jewish women attending a very, shall we say, complex university. Nowhere but here do elbows carry so much significance. Nowhere but here does lettuce cost quite so much. Nowhere but here does the discussion of premarital sex make the news, and nowhere but here does the term 'exegesis' get us excited (or some of us, at least).

There are a lot of things that make our experiences as practicing Jews at an Orthodox University unique and, when you mull them over enough, quite fascinating. I can think of no place better than here to start those conversations.

Now, while I am quite adept at speaking to myself (preferably not in densely populated areas), I want those conversations to involve you. To that end, I deeply encourage response articles, questions, comments, compliments, and tips. But seriously folks—this may be interesting, but it's even more interesting when you write back.

Like every joke blanketing a piece of truthfulness, this column is supposed to discuss serious topics with a copious and necessary dose of satire. Or, if you'd prefer, a satirical column with a touch of content now and again. I invite responses to be written in the same manner.

So, shall we get to know each other?

Madness and Morals

One year back from seminary, I developed a frenzied desire to get a nose ring.

Now, in no way do I write to besmirch the decision of those who decided to consummate the madness with a small silver ring or diamond stud in one nostril. There is undoubtedly something aesthetically pleasing about the small, unexpected shimmer, the same appeal that makes most any piercing a desired amenity. But the reason I wanted to get a nose ring, if I am to be bluntly honest, had nothing to do with its aesthetic qualities.

I wanted to get a nose ring because I wanted attention. Yes, that's right. The quintessential reason adolescence is such a flaming disaster.

What kind of attention you might ask? I wanted to challenge others to judge me. I was tired of others seeing the length of my skirt, the cut of my hair, and the seminary name stamped on transcript, and assuming they'd gotten the whole picture. I craved that unexpected edge, that, 'really—you went there?' moment, forcing said questioner to check his/her preconceived notions and split-second conclusions at the door. I was the tired subject of stereotyping.



The idealist that I am, I made it my altruistic mission to take on the fight for the betterment of mankind. Yes, I would be the selfless martyr, venturing forth, come what may, to debunk an ugly system that made individuals into brands and turned a world of vibrant color into a scheme of black and white. My nose ring would be a hallmark of progress, the shining symbol of my unspoken crusade against the system, my unsung mission to stick it to the man.

Thankfully, my lofty but foolish ambitions were checked and dismissed. Realist knocking, I realized my motives were purely reactive, negating my sense of self in the process. My critical realization: misguided idealism doubles as naiveté, and ends up helping no one, least of all the unchecked dreamer. With a sigh, I pushed away my moment of near rashness, resolving to showcase my uniqueness in a manner that would actually paid tribute to it.

But there is a moral that emerges from my madness. And it is with this message that I encourage you, Stern readers (and the occasional unsuspecting male who has picked up this paper—I commend you) to begin this year. That moral: check instantaneous judgments.

You've heard it sung in platitudes, you've heard it preached by camp counselors, and you've probably heard it from your mom. When you judge others based on appearance, or even on some careless comment, you severely limit yourself. You limit opportunities to learn, possibilities to spark unexpected friendships, and chances to expand what you think and know, or think you know. Building walls limits motion, inevitably.

A personal anecdote that knocked this lesson into my mind, like a basketball to the stomach.

I have always fancied myself a non-judgmental person. But, when I sat down this summer at the airport gate, awaiting my group flight to Berlin, my furtive glances around at my fellow-trip mates returned disappointed results. Whether it was the distasteful male (now a good friend), loudly

eating Oreos and discussing how many beers he would down upon arrival, or the female to his right laughing a little too loudly and frequently, or the pretty-boy one seat over sitting with feet-up, eyes shut, and iPod in, I do not recall. What I do recall is my split-second conclusion: this is not going to be a 'social' trip.

I look back at that moment with incredulity. My CJF mission trip to Berlin this past June was one of the most incredible experiences of my life on many counts. But one of them was the group of people with whom I was privileged to share this experience.

There were nineteen of us, and enough diversity among our small number for a group twice our size. We came from different backgrounds and circumstances, from the rightest right to the leftist left, but, somehow, we bonded seamlessly. Together we exchanged ideas, reflections, emotions, and laughter. We walked together through the Wannsee Villa where the Final Solution was conceived, danced together (quite literally—someone needed to tell our German DJ that Michael Jackson is dead) and prayed together in one of the only synagogues that survived the War. What united us: respect, and a willingness to put all judgments on hold long enough to hear another voice, see another person.

Now, the undergraduate community here at Yeshiva University is undeniably more outwardly homogenous than most. But when you start appreciating and allowing for differences, you begin to realize the wealth of difference that exists among our student body. The opportunity to learn from those who are different than you, in both subtle and fundamental ways, exists here as well, if we're willing to take it.

As one of my peers commented on our Germany trip, what we experienced by having such a diverse group was 'the closest thing to a university experience I've ever gotten at YU.' University comes from a combination of the Latin roots 'univers', meaning totality and 'veritas,' truth. Truth emerges from the consideration of many different vantage points, not the isolation of one idea.

One of my new friends from Germany has a nose ring. For now, I don't see myself trotting over to the village anytime soon to get one. Hers will have to do for the two of us.

Student Leaders Speak: A Women's Beit Midrash in the Heights

MARGOT REINSTEIN "Student Leaders Speak" will be a column which will feature interviews with SCW and YC student leaders about their initiatives to improve the Yeshiva University community. In this edition, The Observer speaks with Margot Reinstein about the new initiative, spearheaded by Nechama Yagod, to create a women's Beit Midrash on the Wilf Campus.

Margot Reinstein begins her argument about the necessity of a women's Beit Midrash on the Wilf campus with a very simple statement: "We're always there. Let's expand the Torah learning."

It is a theme that remains constant throughout our conversation. Margot, the president of the Torah Activities Council at Stern College, is adamant that she is not campaigning for a women's Beit Midrash uptown for political reasons, nor is she trying to make some sort of statement. She, like many other women at Stern College, simply wants to create a space where women can "go and learn."

Women are constantly around the Wilf campus with spare time in between events and classes, Margot argues. "Some women are there for events, some for Revel classes, some are traveling home and some actually live there," she states. "Why should the only place where we can go be the Heights lounge or the library, with all of the stigmas attached? It's uncomfortable. Unless you have a boyfriend, brother, or someone else to see, there's often nothing for women to do in the Heights. Give us something to do, give us a place to learn, I have no doubt we'll use it."

Margot envisions the Beit Midrash as an all women's space where all Yeshiva University women will feel comfortable learning. "Honestly,

we're not looking for a co-ed learning environment," she emphasized. We're not asking for this to be next to Gluck. It can be in Furst or a different building nowhere near where the men learn. We're looking for a room where women can go on their own and learn." Fervently, Margot adds "We're coming from a genuine place."

When asked what she imagines a typical night in the Beit Midrash will look like, she emphasizes that it is not meant to replace the Stern College Beit Midrash, but simply to serve as a supplement.

"It's a go-to place for women when they have fifteen minutes before an event or twenty minutes before the bus leaves back to the Beren Campus. It's a place where Revel students can have a chavrutah and a place where married women can learn when their husbands are out or at night seder. We're not looking for events to happen there, we have our own Beit Midrash for that."

She readily admits that the Stern Beit Midrash itself could use some revitalization, and adds that TAC is looking for ways to improve the atmosphere there. Regarding the Stern Beit Midrash, she says "The Beit Medrash Committee, headed this year by Penina Cohen and Penina Wein, is constantly working towards creating a more buzzing environment. I don't believe people will start going uptown specifically to learn there. These initiatives aren't a conflict of interests, it's only a way to allow even more students to learn."

Ultimately, these two ambitions are part of a larger goal: to further the Torah study of Yeshiva University women, no matter which campus they are on. As Margot concluded, "This initiative won't detract from any Torah learning, it will only allow us to grow and learn more."

College: Worth It?

continued from page 1

Colleges need to use a fusionist philosophy in formulating a more robust curriculum. To start, if universities partner with businesses in a variety of fields and require students to take an apprenticeship based on their coursework and majors, it will enable students to get some minimal exposure to the mundanities of office life, and participate in office tasks on a daily basis. To best fit in with students' already hectic schedules, this internship would count for credit towards a major, replacing unnecessary classes and busy work. This will help ensure the prospect that students will get ahead while they are still in college, have a more confident idea of their career aspirations upon their graduation, and have less trouble joining the workforce.

Implementation of this program is not intended to suffocate students' whimsical dreams and transform them into corporate robots. Freedom of expression should always be encouraged, but gently guided in a direction that will reap both personal fulfillment and societal contributions. Molding a student's education is like cultivating grapes: one cannot just let them grow freely without some sort of trellis to keep them on track.

Although world of business and moneymaking may seem so monochromatic and unromantic, one need not strangle their creative vices to be a success in business. On the contrary, one of the main tools needed for a prosperous business career is an entrepreneurial spirit. Filling an

uninhabited niche and developing new business ideas increases the overall wealth of society and general efficiency of humanity. One only needs to take a look at history to validate this point. While there has undoubtedly been a flourishing of culture over the past two centuries, the creative pioneers of entrepreneurship such as Henry Ford and Steve Jobs have definitely had a more profound effect on the world than belletrists F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Truman Capote.

By penning this article, I am not trying to discourage those who are creatively qualified and gifted from pursuing their dreams. I am merely proposing a viable solution to the problems faced by the next generation of workers - ourselves: lack of money to pay for college, and a lack of clarity regarding future career choices. If students are given the proper time and resources to further develop their vocational skills, they will surely have a higher chance of attaining success and contributing towards the overall economic good of society. If universities embrace a fusionist curriculum, students can be confident that they are not wasting their time and efforts on classes that will provide them with no inherent value, and can rest assured that the investment in their education will be worth the opportunity cost, and harness high dividends in the future. For now however, we can only wonder if our gentry level western educations will eventually yield us entry level jobs.

To the Freshbacks: A Message of Encouragement

RACHEL DELIA BENAIM Welcome to YU, freshbacks (translation, new students...it's an endearing term—it means you're fresh-back-from-Israel).

If you're anything like us when we were in your shoes, you're overwhelmed right now. You're running to get back on the train to your seminary /yeshiva roommate's sister's in-law's house—basically anywhere but here—so you can avoid staying in the dorms that, right now, mean the true mark of growing up. Well, let me be the first to call you out on that. Don't do it, stick around for a bit. At least give us a chance before you bow out. In the long haul, you're going to love it here.

Now it's scary, confusing even. The students all around are so eclectic: they look like a mix of sem and yeshiva students, people in pajamas, hipsters out of the village, and everything in between—you don't know what you just got yourself into.

There are too many things to do. Don't worry—that's good... you don't want to go to a university that'll leave you bored. Don't bolt. Stick around a while. Soak up these three days of Orientation, and then your first in Shabbat. It might sound lame now, it

might even sound lame while you're going on all those walking tours and pausing to get your picture taken, but they'll show you what's magical about YU, you'll be talking about them the rest of your year — and you'll be looking back on them fondly when you're a senior here.

YU puts on a good show for Orientation. Everyone is peppy, chipper, and you might even think this place can't be college, where's the work? It's not always like this, I'm going to be honest, but the school spirit is pretty close. Students get bogged down with papers and all nighters, but there are always a million and three energetic events being run every night of the semester.

You will not go unchallenged here. You're surrounded by people who jump for joy when discussing The Rav and Edith Wharton and differential equations (mostly the first two, though). Biology majors

and English majors alike value the knowledge gained from extracurricular of college life more than their G.P.A. They enthusiastically sign up for everything at the club faire: the debate team, the republican club, students helping students, the Sefaradi club, and intramural



basketball games in a way that is unmatched almost anywhere else.

You will all face difficult choices during your time here. But if you take all of your YU lessons and education and have some faith, you can't really go wrong. Of course, we know YU is

the right way to go for your choice of college, but you should take this time to figure out for yourself why that is and why you're glad you're here. For some, it's the fact that we're in the heart of NYC, for others it's the unmatched Torah U'Madda, but you have to find out what it is for you. For me, it's the faculty. Whenever I need academic or moral advice or assistance with my coursework, I know I can go to Rabbi Saul Berman, Andrea Efthymiou in the Writing Center, Dean Orlian, or any of the other phenomenal professors, administrators, and presidential fellows all over campus. Take advantage of their presence, it is more

than worth it. We the students are at the heart of this University, and we are here for each other, whether that means debating censorship issues, enjoying Shabbat on campus with Tuvia and Rachel, or speaking to the SWAT team

after Justin Bieber was pronounced 'not hanged' (you should figure out all of these references ASAP, more to come). Ask around, talk to us. We want to help make your transition as easy, fun, and, well, collegiate as possible.

Don't just talk. Make a new friend and get lost together in discussing Wittgenstein, Bowsma, or Tanakh. Go to Tiberias and get a smoothie at 2 a.m. And come to The Observer office, room 20C in Brookdale any weekday evening between 8-11 pm. Obviously.

For these next three days, do everything. Stay up late, talk to fellow freshbacks and current students; think about things you have never considered before. Go along with the student crowd; explore the City with fellow YUers. Let YU propel you; let it motivate you. Come on, try it. You can literally do anything here — any pursuit can be yours if you're bold enough to reach out. Come on, you got this.

I look forward to meeting all of you this year. If there is anything on your mind come find me, talk to me, or, if you're slightly more daring, write in to scwobserver@gmail.com.

Wedding Woes:

Why the Orthodox Community Needs to Reconsider How it Celebrates

TALI ADLER I am normally the first to admit that I would rather not adopt most of the "trends" touted by the New York Times "Sunday Styles" section. I was disdainful of its piece about people who have apparently abandoned regular showers, and was frankly horrified by the purported "fashion" of women wearing potentially harmful contact lenses in order to make their eyes look rounder and more doll-like. However, this past week the section included an article about a trend that immediately resonated with me: people choosing to have smaller, less expensive, less ostentatious weddings than in years past. The article included a number of reasons for the rise of downscaled weddings, including the recession and spreading frustration with the excess of the wedding industry.

My first thought upon reading the article? This is one trend the Orthodox community should think about adopting this fall.

Orthodox weddings, like weddings across the country, have long since passed the point of excess and have approached the realm of absurdity. Orthodox weddings can often carry a price tag of \$30-40,000, with weddings in the \$80,000 not unheard of.

What does all this money pay for? The extravagant cocktail hour, replete with ten types of food, carving stations, and sushi that have become de rigueur, wedding dresses that can cost as much as the down payment on a small apartment, and, of course,

meals for three or four hundred of the couple's closest friends and relatives. While all these elements admittedly combine to create lovely parties, it seems reasonable to ask whether such excess is really necessary in an event that, no matter its importance, usually consists of no more than the first five hours of the new couple's life together.

This, perhaps, is the most important fact to remember in a discussion of limiting spending on weddings. Weddings are, at their core, a celebration of the new couple's love and commitment to one another. They are a way for the Jewish community to welcome the couple into its midst, to acknowledge them as a new family, and to establish their place in the history and future of our people. None of these, to the best of my knowledge, requires twelve bridesmaids or a carving station. As far as I'm concerned, a choice of three entrees cannot possibly add to the happiness of the occasion.

The excess that has become standard in Orthodox weddings is not only unnecessary, it is also dangerous. Everyone has heard the horror stories: the family that removed one child from a private university in order to finance another's wedding; the young couple forced to choose between a down payment on a house and an appropriately lavish wedding, the parents who took out a second mortgage on their house to pay for the four hundred people they needed to invite. Even for families for whom

the pressure to finance a socially acceptable wedding does not reach horrific proportions, the burden is still staggering. Unfortunately, families are held hostage by communal expectations. People seem incapable of resisting the pressure to empty their bank accounts for what essentially amounts to a (very important and admittedly meaningful) party. Whether out of anxiety that they will somehow miss out by avoiding the "extras" that other weddings have or fear of social censure, families seem unable to say the one word that our community so desperately needs to hear: Enough.

Engaged couples of Yeshiva University: consider this an opportunity. Make the first decision of your new life one that establishes what your values are, one that acknowledges what is really most important to you on the most important day of your lives. Choose a slightly more modest wedding, and in doing so help remove pressure for countless other couples who are struggling to make a decision about how to finance their weddings. Remember that a few days after your wedding no one will remember exactly how many dishes were served at the cocktail hour, how big your dress was, or anything about the shininess of the chandelier. What people will remember is the joy of the dancing, the simple beauty of the chuppah, and how wonderful it was to celebrate your marriage. In other words: the only things that ever should have really mattered to begin with.

Quick Quotes: Student Reactions to the Levy Report

The Levy Report, which concluded that the Israeli presence in the West Bank does not constitute an occupation, inspired a flurry of commentary, criticism, and controversy in the pages of major newspapers and across the internet this summer. From mocking contests designed to generate a new name for the occupation to memes that adapted scenes from movies as varied as *The Lion King* and *Pulp Fiction*, it seemed that everybody had something to say. In this month's Quick Quotes, YU students share their reactions to the Levy Report.

Sruly Heller, YC: "Call it what you will, I call it a harmful and unnecessary distraction from the two-state solution."

Gavi Brown, YC: "The Levy Commission, like many members of the Israeli right wing, fails to so much as acknowledge the existence of 2.5 million Palestinians, let alone admit that they are living under a foreign army. They simply don't see, or don't want to see, the reality on the ground: that millions of stateless Palestinians are living without even the most basic rights. Instead, they are preoccupied (no pun intended) with trying to justify a growing military and civilian presence in a region hostile to their presence."

Miriam Shapiro, SCW: "I think that the responses to the Levy Commission represent a broader issue in terms of how Israel is seen in the public eye. To those who have never been to 'occupied territories,' the idea

of a "settlement" is dark, bloody, and frightening. "Occupied territory" means ongoing violence and struggle for all inhabitants. I lived there for a year, and that is not the case. Given the articles from the Geneva Convention cited by the Commission, the legal term "occupation" is just as much as the term "apartheid." While the Arabs would rather Israel not be living in those areas, to claim that Israel is occupying the territory is a misuse of a term that paints an inaccurate picture of Israel's actions."

Margot Reinstein, SCW: "For better or for worse, Jews have settled in these territories. They should not be evicted from their homes, especially since the Palestinians have shown no inclination to make peace with Israel."

Josh Fluss, YC: "I don't think this really changes anything. The right believed this before, the left disregards the whole commission, and the world doesn't care one way or the other. I think that even if it is legally correct, the current government and military administration has other ethical problems superseding the legal ones. Almost no one is really arguing about Modiin or Maaleh Adumim. I don't even think most people are arguing about Ariel. It's whether the military has the right to act against the rulings of the Supreme Court, and I don't think this changes anything."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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Discovery of the «God Particle»: Is there anything Godly about it?

JACKIE BENAYOUN While the students of the world enjoyed a well-deserved summer vacation, physicists around the world were hard at work substantiating long debated theories. On July 4th, scientists at CERN, the European Center for Nuclear Research, announced the discovery of the God particle. Immediately, people around the world began to ask: what is the God particle, and why exactly does it matter? Is there even anything "Godly" about it?

To understand the particle, at hand let's back up a little and examine all the hard work that has been done in pursuit of this discovery.

For the past several years, scientists have been working hundreds of feet below the earth on the border between France and Switzerland. There, an oval tunnel exists that spans seventeen miles in circumference. The tunnel contains a complex machine that is complete with metal structures, magnets, and wires; this instrument is the most powerful particle accelerator ever built. Its purpose is simple and yet, at the same time, very complex: to explain the physical world as we know it.

The accelerator at CERN, called the Large Hadron Collider, includes two sub-parts that essentially shoot proton beams in opposite directions. With the help of magnets, the beams converge at designated areas within the tunnel, allowing for particles to collide at the speed of light. These superfast collisions transform matter into pockets of energy which will eventually reshape themselves into new forms.

Perhaps the biggest fear that has surrounded this immense project is about just how much science will really succeed in discovering. Scientists around the world find themselves at a turning point now that the discovery of the "God particle" was announced earlier this summer. This discovery is widely considered so groundbreaking that some go as far as to equate it with Einstein's discovery of the theory of relativity.

The discovery is beyond the scope of Newton, Bohr, and Einstein's wildest dreams. Physicists, perhaps for the first time, have the opportunity to answer fundamental questions about creation; specifically, how a spacious universe emerged from an infinitely dense one. According to science, the universe should really be empty. However, as day to day existence proves, this is not the case. The LHC experiments are designed to explain how the universe grew with just enough matter to allow for the existence of all subsequent forms. The "God particle" is thought to give all particles mass, without which we wouldn't exist. It can be considered, metaphorically at least, the "cosmic glue" that holds the universe together.

The theories formulated to answer these

questions were first proposed 48 years ago by British scientist, Peter Higgs, along with two other teams of scientists. At the July 4th conference, Mr. Higgs was moved to tears by the discovery because he felt fortunate that it occurred during his lifetime. His theories have famously led to a quest to discover the existence of the proposed God particle, or the Higgs boson as it is more commonly referred to by scientists. The

label God particle was coined after the title of Leon Lederman's book on the topic. Although the particle is both important and mysterious, the nickname is strongly disliked by physicists, who regard it as inappropriate term since the particle has nothing to do with God. So why did Mr. Lederman choose this as the title for his book if there are no Godly connotations? Perhaps it was a marketing ploy, or because the goal of the Higgs boson is to gain insight into the nature of the universe. Either way, scientists have started to refer to the particle as the "Goddamn where is it particle" because of the expense it has caused.

CERN scientists are more than 99 percent certain they've discovered the Higgs- boson, or at the least a new particle exactly where they expected the Higgs to be. Their July 4th announcement was made only after a five-sigma result was confirmed, which means that there is less than one in a million probability that the finding is due to chance. This is a great improvement since the December analysis, when only a two-sigma observation was reported. This has certainly been an important discovery, but there is still much more work to be done in substantiating it. Although the two teams believe that the particle has the same mass as a Higgs, they still

have to determine whether other properties and behavior of the particle are in sync with the theory.

Many, largely from outside the scientific community, are thinking, "Who cares? Where's

the practicality in playing with particle guns? Money (an estimated \$10 billion so far) and brain-power is being invested for nothing!" In truth, these cynics could not be more wrong. As humans, it is often our natural inclination to try to understand the universe. And that should suffice, in and of itself. But even with the discovery of the Higgs, will all of our questions ever be answered? We cannot pretend to know the answer to this question. One thing is certain though: the discovery of this particle has opened countless new doors to exciting avenues of exploration and potential discovery.

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Percy in the Sky with Diamonds: The Perseids Meteor Shower

RACHEL DELIA BENAIM As astronomers and astronomy lovers alike can attest, *The Perseids* are always impressive. The Perseids Meteor Shower is notorious for being the most popular meteor shower in history, occurring every summer in July and August. The shower itself is the product of the comet Swift-Tuttle, which zips around the sun once every 133 years. As the Earth passes through the cloud of the comet Swift-Tuttle's dust each summer, a cloud of bits of ice and dust pass into earth's atmosphere and burn up. Combined with summer weather, the product is always the best meteor showers of the year.

This summer was no different. The meteor shower lasted from July 23 to August 22—peaking on August 11. As astronomer and professor Leonardo Martinez explains in his renowned book, *My First Encounter with Astronomy*, the Perseids are one of modern man's oldest and most consistent friends. The Perseids have been observed for at least the past 2,000 years, though some astronomers believe man has been watching them for as long as man has dwelled in the Northern Hemisphere.

This legendary meteor shower received its name from the constellation from which it radiates: Perseus. In Greek Mythology, Perseus was the hero who sleighed the Gorgon Medusa and then used Medusa's head to rescue Andromeda from a sea monster (Edith Hamilton has a captivating rendition of it in her novel, *Mythology*). Back to the science though—the constellation Perseus was named as such by the Greek astronomer, Ptolemy, and is still considered a reputable constellation well into the 21st century. The meteor shower radiates from its namesake constellation.

According to scientific historians, the earliest records of the Perseids come from the Chinese cannons, but the showers are also mentioned by Japanese, Korean, Italian, and Belgium astronomers from as early as the first century, CE. Major scientific breakthroughs regarding the Perseids started in the nineteenth century when astronomer E. Heis Münster recorded the hourly rate per meteor. In summer 1839, he noticed the shower and began studying it. He calculated the hourly rate per meteor to be 160 meteors per hour.

In 1864, the Perseids became, once more, a popular topic of study. The Italian astronomer, G. V. Schiaparelli, began calculating the orbits of the Perseids. He finally succeeded in 1866 and his calculations assisted astronomers well into the 1970s.

What he noted was that the Perseid radiant turns out to be quite complex. According to American amateur astronomer and writer, Gary Kronk, "the main radiant is situated near the star Eta Persei, but other radiants appear to be active at the same time." He continues by citing the research of the British astronomer, W. F. Denning. Denning "detected the existence of two other simultaneous showers from Chi and Gamma Persei." This was revolutionary because it suggests that the Perseid shower is connected to another two meteor showers, providing evidence that the universe has ripple effects.

One rather remarkable characteristic of the Perseids is that there are times when larger, brighter meteors are much more plentiful than smaller, fainter meteors. This explains why the shower peaks on different days each year. For example, this year the shower peaked on August 11, but last year it peaked on August 13. The rate at which larger, brighter meteors reach the atmosphere determines the shower's peak. According to Kronk, "some of this is most likely due to the Earth encountering filaments of material representing different directions that comet Swift-Tuttle moved in during the last 2000 years."

For all those enthralled by the falling skies above and hoping to connect with the generations of humans who gazed up at the stars before we did, the next meteor shower is the Orionids on October 21. For students interested in learning more about astronomy, join the New York City Amateur Astronomers Association on any Thursday night at one of the city's free parks. Check out <http://www.aaa.org/home> for viewing schedule or contact Miriam Barth at Miriam.barth@mail.yu.edu for more details.



www.meteorshoweronline.com

Summer Internships at NYU Medical Centers Provide Students With Unparalleled Healthcare Experiences

AVITAL YUSUFOV & RACHEL WEINBERGER Every time exam week overwhelms undergrads, the health field is arguably one of the most popular career choices for Stern College women, but how can students possibly know that a particular career is the perfect one before trying it out? The short answer: Experience, experience, experience. When one decides to build any career in healthcare, the first and most important step is to gain experience working in a hospital, interacting with patients and doctors, and possibly conducting research. Many hospitals and medical facilities offer internship opportunities to students who would like to get some experience in healthcare. Avital Yusuf and Rachel Weinberg are just two of many interns who found their healthcare calling this summer at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at the NYU Langone Medical Center offers a tremendous experience internship opportunity.

The Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP) at the Rusk Institute is a four-week long summer internship opportunity given to prospective medical students to both gain experience in the fast paced hospital environment and meet interns, students, and healthcare providers. Based on the student's interests and skills, the HCOP places a highly qualified group of interns into departments across the hospital. Students can volunteer almost everywhere from shadowing nurses to the cardiac and pulmonary research departments. This summer's program had interns in medicine, nursing, occupational

therapy, physical therapy, nutrition, speech pathology and audiology, pharmacy, child life, horticultural therapy, recreational therapy, and social work. The interns are placed at different NYU hospitals across New York City depending on the department with which they are partnered. Each department invites the student to observe the work of professionals and assist in certain tasks. The program serves to introduce students to "real life in the medical field; the rewards and the tremendous difficulties as well," says Rachel Weinberger, HCOP intern.

The Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine, founded by Dr. Howard A. Rusk in 1948, is driven by four principles: "Patients heal better when in the presence of other patients who can offer support;" "Patients healing post-tragedy can be compared to clay becoming porcelain;" "The whole person should be treated, not only their disability;" "Only give up on a patient when they have reached their maximum potential" (Rusk). With this commitment to patients, it is no wonder that NYU Langone Medical Center is a top ten national medical center.

The internship program provides much more than a simple research internship opportunity. Students are able to observe occupational and physical therapy sessions, attend conferences and meetings, and sit in on lectures and presentations relevant to their field of study. All of this contributes to the student's intellectual capacity to pursue a healthcare career.

The intellectual side, though important, is

not the only side to medicine. Patient care is a vital component to any health care career. At Rusk, doctors, residents, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, social workers, pharmacists, and nurses all work together to maximize patient care. The interns were treated to overseeing the senior staff's weekly evaluation conferences. There, the senior team meets for discussion and decision-making regarding patient care. These sessions, though they are not something a student necessarily learns about in medical school, help healthcare professionals keep up with every patient's history and progress.

Senior Rachel Weinberger worked with people being rehabilitated from many sorts of injuries and procedures. Weinberger reflects that she was "able to see drastic changes in many of the patients during my short stay there, and many of them were well enough to get discharged. I also learned how important will and endurance are for recovery. It was truly remarkable to see a quadriplegic patient who, through intense dedication and hard work, learned how to use utensils during the weeks of my internship." Weinberger is confident that "after this experience, I am positive that I want to be a nurse. I want to help people succeed in reaching the highest quality of life possible."

Another senior, Avital Yusuf interned with the Cardiac Rehabilitation unit. Yusuf explains what exactly goes on at the CRU: "patients come to Cardiac Rehab after heart surgeries or other heart problems to rehabilitate

and gradually resume normal daily activities. The rehabilitation process consists of a series of physical and occupational therapy classes that teach the inpatients about the exercises that will help them go back home to their normal daily life. Once an inpatient is discharged, he or she comes back as an outpatient for an assigned amount of therapy sessions to continue exercising in a safe environment, under the supervision of physical therapists and doctors."

CRU doctors and researchers have many responsibilities. As a student, Yusuf conducted statistical analysis of patient pulmonary data comparing stress test results before and after completing a certain number of cardiac rehabilitation sessions. She learned that "the two important indicators of a patient's progress are the stress test time as well as METs (metabolic equivalents) levels before and after an assigned number of therapy sessions. Stress test time is the amount of time a patient is able to walk on the treadmill under a certain protocol. METs are an indication of how much energy one exerts in order to complete a certain activity." Yusuf laughs while clarifying that this study is still in progress—"there are no concrete results just yet...but its looking good!"

Not sure if you want to pursue a career in healthcare? Keep the HCOP internship program in mind because "it can really help clear career misgivings up—I promise," says Weinberg in earnest.

Tell-es Safi: A Glimpse into the Israel's Past

SAMANTHA SELESNY There's no better way to prepare for the future than to look into the past. This summer, 8 YU students were privileged to accompany Dr. Jill Katz and 130 archaeologists on a dig in Tell-es Safi, Israel. Tell-es Safi is located about half way between Jerusalem and Ashkelon. Previous archeological evidence suggests that Tell-es Safi is ancient Canaanite and Philistine city of Gath, and home of the giant Goliath.

The word Tell, as in Tell-es Safi, originates from the biblical word for a ruined settlement, as seen in Joshua 8:28. However, in modern terms, a Tell is a site in which many layers of strata from different time periods have been deposited on top of each other over many years. In our case there are many layers, each of which represents a different era. These eras are classified by periods of construction, living, destruction, abandonment or rebuilding that together make one layer in the strata. As this cycle is repeated multiple times multiple layers in the ground are exposed, which is how a Tell received its namesake.

As a general principal, archaeologists aim to discover information about previous cultures and that's exactly what they did. They not only uncovered materials that ancient people have used, they also studied the ecology and environment surrounding the area, as well. Using these tactics, archaeologists, including the individuals on the dig at Tell-es Safi, hope to gather as much information as possible about these

cultures and use the information to create a more comprehensive picture of the lifestyle and culture of pre-modern civilizations.

The head of the dig, Bar Ilan University's Professor Aren M. Maeir, explains "one of the primary ways the archaeologists on Tell-es Safi study the lives of the ancient people of Gath is through identifying pottery." He contextualized that "using indicative pottery found at the site, our

to the change in technology."

Intern archaeologists were able to learn this first hand. For example, bowl shapes from the Late Bronze Age (1500 BCE – 1200 BCE) differ in shape from those of the Iron Age IIB (800 BCE – 600 BCE) due to different cooking techniques that were developed over the years. Following this trend, Philistine and Canaanite jugs can be differentiated from one another based on burn marks on

"I have always been interested in learning about history but the dig gave me a chance to actually see and touch history first hand." She was not alone in these sentiments. The other seven students on the dig felt the same way. "It was cool to be a part of linking the past to the future," said Margolin.

While the historical perspective gained from the pottery finds this year is fascinating, the Archaeological Science, or microarchaeological

dealt with a large range of analyses from carbon 14 dating to metallurgy to archaeobotany flotation. The combined efforts and perspective by these specialists resulted in a better understanding of the way ancient Philistines lived.

In the zooarchaeological labs located at Tell-es Safi, the different types of animals were studied in order to study many aspects of the ancient cultures including diet, religious rituals, and labor techniques. By identifying the animals of the people who lived in a certain area, archaeologists are able to confirm which type of culture occupied the territory during that period. Archaeologists identify the various species of animals using many different types of analyses including physically measuring bones and teeth and comparing them to modern osteological data as well as genetic analysis through extraction of DNA from the bones. These discoveries have led to a broader perspective on the different cultures that occupied these areas. Interestingly, archaeologists have found that areas known to have been inhabited by Philistines have a much higher percentage of pig bones than areas that were determined have been settlements of Jewish people, which provides interesting insight into the way those cultures lived.

Using the information gained from this summer and previous years, the Tel-es Safi dig has proven to be extremely valuable. It has given archaeologists the ability to ascertain a unique perspective on the ancient cultures that inhabited the area.



YU students and other members of the Area P crew dig this summer in Tell-es Safi, Israel **Nate Ramsayerasaurus**

archaeological team is able to reveal exactly which period of time each strata of the Tell is reached. One of the ways to do so is to analyze shards of pottery to tell the difference in the time period that they were created due

the pottery. This is because the way that food was cooked changed over different eras and fire would reach different parts of the jug. SCW senior and Jewish Education major, Rachel Margolin, commented on the subject:

aspects of the dig have been extremely successful as well. The excavation had many specialists in the field including botanists, zooarchaeologists, pollen experts, phytolith experts, and geomorphologists. These experts

Meet The Editorial Staff



Rachel Delia Benaim
Editor-In-Chief

Rachel (more commonly known by her last name) is honored to be the Editor in Chief of The Observer this year and promises to issue a newspaper of which the entire YU community can be proud. A little bit about her: she is a senior at SCW majoring in English Lit and minoring in Middle Eastern Studies., and she is a big believer in Zooney's 'what good is it being as smart as whips if it doesn't make you happy?' 10 points for anyone who gets the reference... Anyway, she wishes to pursue a career that makes her happy—journalism, despite “the economy’s” warning against it. Get pumped for a newsworthy year at The Observer



Hannah Dreyfus
Managing Editor

Hey guys! I look forward to serving the Stern Student community in the best way I know how: writing. Hence my involvement in The Observer, both last year as an editor and writer and again this year. I'm currently a junior double majoring in English Literature and Jewish History. I'm also currently an Editorial Intern at The Jewish Week, but fear not, espionage should be of no concern (unless a large amount of money is involved—I mean, I'm a student; I have to eat). I hope to pursue a career in journalism, despite the apocalyptic warnings from my co-workers at The Jewish Week. I'm an idealist and an optimist, as evidenced by my voluntary acceptance of position of Teen Camp Supervisor for forty fifteen year olds this past summer. I'm still recovering. Looking forward to the most dynamic, progressive year of The Observer yet.



Tali Adler
Opinions

Tali Adler is in her fourth on campus and is double majoring in Political Science and Jewish Studies. She spent this past summer studying at Mechon Hadar, where she got to indulge her passion for Jewish learning, constant debate and conversation, and excellent company. Tali fully admits to being very (perhaps overly) opinionated, and is thus very excited to be this year's Opinions Editor for The Observer. Please feel free to approach her in the elevator, the caf, the lounge, or to simply accost her on the street to share your opinion of this year's Opinions section.



Miriam Dubin
Features

My name is Miriam Dubin and I am currently a senior at Stern College for Women with a major in Psychology and a minor in English Literature. I just got married to my high school boyfriend, Yehuda, who also happens to be a student at YC. I recently became a resident of Washington Heights, although I was born and raised in Los Angeles where I attended YULA Girls High School. Before coming to Stern I spent a year abroad studying in Israel at Michlelet Esther seminary. I love playing tennis, cooking, and exploring NYC with friends. I look forward to an awesome year with The Observer and the rest of you at Stern!



Bequi Frankel
Features

Bequi Frankel is from Teaneck and is currently a senior at Stern College for Women. She has been a writer for The Observer for the past two years. She is looking forward to starting her path to become a nurse through NYU's new joint program. You may find her meandering through Central Park, building homes in Alabama, flipping through the pages of a dystopian novel, getting lost at the Met, or playing tennis with Miriam Dubin. If you still can't find her, she's probably at Fuerza Bruta in Union Square for the sixth time (check it out!).



Chana Brauser
News Editor

Hollywood, Florida native, Chana Brauser prefers to either be baking with spelt flour, pawing through racks of clothes in Williamsburg thrift stores while attempting to somehow blend in with the surrounding hipsters, or heatedly discussing all things Middle East. Chana spent a year studying in Michlalah Jerusalem College after high school, dedicating her spare time to single-handedly charting new frontiers in the Machane Yehuda shuk. During moments of inspired clarity, Chana is a proud History major in a world that at times seems determined to topple the dreams of liberal arts aficionados. When she is not defending her choice of undergraduate paths or wondering aloud if she should perhaps pursue [insert “practical” profession here], Chana doggedly tracks down all the news that's fit to print in her capacity as the YU Observer News Editor.



Aimee Rubenstein
Arts & Culture

Aimee Rubenstein is from Hollywood, Florida, and she has been writing for The Observer since she first stepped on campus. She has been Style Editor and this will be her second year as Arts and Culture Editor. While she majors in Art History, Aimee anticipates bringing you the rich culture of New York City from her fingertips to yours. Aimee is also the president of the Art Society, Co-Editor-in-Chief of Something Rich and Strange, YU's journal of fine arts, and she hopes to collaborate with many aspiring writers this year.



Lindsey Wess
Sports Editor

Hi there! My name is Lindsey Wess, and I'm a junior majoring in Journalism. I'm from Los Angeles, and no, I still don't own a winter coat. I like to write anything from sports to food. This past summer my friend and I started a food blog, and I could not be more obsessed with it. I'm thrilled to be the Sports Editor for The Observer, and I hope you like the issues to come.



Meira Lerner
Sports Editor

My name is Meira Lerner and the Sports Section is my baby! This will be my second year as the Sports Editor. While I am a Psychology major and pre-med, my main Stern identity is as a member of the Stern College soccer team. I have been playing sports competitively my entire life and plan on sharing the joy and the excitement involved in athletics with the Yeshiva University community. I am a proud Bostonian - no, you do not need to remind me about the Superbowl - so I apologize in advance for Red Sox pride that will inevitably find its way into some articles. I look forward to sharing with you some sporting world disappointments and successes, as well as lessons that can be learned from sports.



Alana Genuth
Science & Technology

Hi, I am Alana Genuth from West Hempstead, NY - “small town, big heart”. I am a senior at Stern College majoring in Biology and interested in pursuing a career in the health field. When I'm not in class I can be found volunteering at the Rebecca School, playing basketball, or at Bryant Park. This is my first experience in an editorial position, but I'm totally up for the task. I am looking forward to working with Tova Joseph, my co-editor for the Science and Technology section, and being a part of The Observer.



Tova Joseph
Science & Technology

Hi, My name is Tova Joseph and I am a senior in Stern College for Women. I am a Psychology major and a Biology minor and plan to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy. This summer I interned in NYU Medical Center in their Occupational Department, and I am the president of the OT club this year. I am the co-editor of the Science and Technology section with Alana Genuth and really looking forward to a great year on The Observer!



Ellie Sonnenwirth
Web Editor

Greetings everyone! I'm Ellie Sonnenwirth (also known as Jessica, Eliana, Eliana Atara Malka, or any combination or abbreviation of the previous) and am excited to be co-Web Editor this year! I was born and raised in lovely St. Louis, Missouri, and proud of it! I attended Block Yeshiva High School, where I was very involved in yearbook, newspaper, and theatre production, and journeyed off to Michlalah after. I am very interested in the sciences and also love art, which is why I am pursuing a career in architecture. Fun Fact: My family and I have visited 47 states so far, and nearly all by car; bet you can't guess the missing three! The big goal is to reach all 50. I'll keep you posted.



Julia Siegel
Photography

Julia Siegel is from Kansas City, Missouri. She is majoring in sociology and minoring in studio arts and is planning on graduating in May '13. Along with being the photography editor of The Observer, she is co-president of mechinah, an RA, a tour guide, a phone-a-thon caller, and a NCSY advisor for the Southern region. She loves taking photos, making friends, and frolicking around New York in her free time.



Irit Greenboim
Photography

Hi. My name is Irit Greenboim and I was in 4 countries and on 14 planes in the last 2 months. Now, that's not my defining quality or anything, but it is true and rather unique I guess. Anyway, I'm Irit, I'm from San Diego, California where its always sunny (like in Philadelphia, but even more so). I'm majoring in Psych and minoring in Studio Art a.k.a photography...which is what brings me here today. I love photography and I look forward to using my passion and talents to enhance the YU student body. Say cheese!



Avital Tzubeli
Layout Editor

In a school where the Computer Science major no longer exists, Avital is in her senior year as a Computer Science major—you can't stop her determination. She hails from sunny Miami but loves living in New York. In addition to her love for all things nerd, Avital enjoys art projects and wandering through the city. Though it is hard to compress her life into four short sentences, her passions include, but are not limited to, music, family, and coffee.



Sophie Felder
Business Manager

Hi there! My name is Lindsay Wess, and I'm a junior majoring in Journalism. I'm from Los Angeles, and no, I still don't own a winter coat. I like to write anything from sports to food. This past summer my friend and I started a food blog, and I could not be more obsessed with it. I'm thrilled to be the Sports Editor for The Observer, and I hope you like the issues to come.



Shaindee Hirsch
Web Editor

Hey there, I'm Shaindee and I'm super psyched to be starting my second year as co-Web Editor of The Observer. I hail from Passaic, New Jersey, and attended Machon Raaya seminary two years ago. I am passionate about technology </nerd> and am proud to be the sole female Information and Decision Sciences major in Syms. Although I have been tempted, I have never succumbed to the urge to tip a cow.