



The Yeshiva University

OBSERVER

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Republicans & Democrats Why You Vote The Way You Do

ELIANA PASTERNAK With the 2012 Presidential elections steadily approaching, we as novice voters have to pledge our allegiance to some political party or another. What fuels that decision? Yes, you can become "educated," but what actually influences which opinions with which you identify? As college students, this election is the first or second major election since we came of voting age. As US citizens, we are charged with the significant task of identifying with a political ideology and electing our future leader. With a poor economy, social unrest, and (how apropos) no jobs for college graduates, our choice will speak volumes. It will affect the entire course of America's future. More personally yet, it will answer a major question about who we are as individuals. So I ask you, elephants, donkeys, or perhaps will you write in an independent emu? What makes a conservative conservative, a liberal liberal, and an independent independent? Psychology has long been concerned with these sorts of questions, and its resulted research has yielded many findings. Those findings however, are not consistent—perhaps because Americans are a highly diverse and complex people, the research reflects that fact. Regardless, some predictors of partisan identifi-

cation results include parenting style, genetics, and temperament.

A recent turn in the research, however, which has received favorable coverage, indicates intuitive moral mechanisms as the origins of our partisan identifications. Political ideological commitments are thus, more accurately, core moral commitments.

Jonathan Haidt, a psychologist and professor at the University of Virginia, has done extensive research on morality and emotion. His research pinpoints five moral foundations which, depending upon a person's sensitivity to each, predicts his or her political ideations.

Haidt names these foundations as harm/care (which relates to our sensitivity to suffering), fairness/reciprocity (which relates to justice and reciprocal altruism), loyalty (which relates to recognizing, trusting, and cooperating with members of one's perceived group, while distrusting members of other groups), authority/respect (which relates to deference, obedience, and duty towards leaders and people of authority), and purity/sanctity (which relates to the exclusively human emotion of disgust as it relates to

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At New Student and Resident Advisor Orientation, Harassment Policies Reviewed

CHANA BRAUSER The week before school starts is never a quiet time at Stern. While upperclassmen may be enjoying one final beach barbecue or jetting back from some far-off volunteering mission, various student leaders, Resident Advisors (RAs), and, most notably, legions of first-time-on-campus students stream into the school buildings and dorm rooms to set up shop. Resident Advisors spend a few days participating in various training and orientation activities to help prepare them for their jobs and new students enjoy a range of introductory speeches and activities to help facilitate an easy transition into the college lifestyle. This year, both orientations featured a new element: both RAs and new students were required to take an online course designed to raise awareness about harassment policies and tools for prevention.

Student employees and new students were required to complete an online course – about 45 minutes to 1 hour long – reviewing the definition of harassment, reporting policies, and their rights to work and learn in a non-hostile environment. At the end of the

exam, students were prompted to print out a certificate indicating completion of the course. The course, though not long, is comprehensive and urges those who feel they are being harassed to either request that the perpetrator stop or to report the incident(s). Those who completed the course received the message that any behavior, statement, or action that is derogatory, whether or not the perpetrator intended it to be, should be reported in order that it can be appropriately investigated.

Esther Sasson, Assistant General Counsel & University Director of Compliance for Yeshiva University, discussed the impetus behind the new requirement. Frankly, she explains, this is not the first time the University has tackled this "important issue." Although the University has distributed pamphlets and information booklets on preventing sexual harassment and has established a number of anti-harassment policies, Sasson notes, the administration "have been looking at ways to do more about educating students about this important subject." Indeed, while a quick look around the YU website

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Look Good, Feel Good

AVITAL TZUBELI I'm very often told I always look put together. I am also often asked if it takes me forever to get ready for class in the morning. The honest truth is that I do not, in fact, wake up 'forever' before class to get ready, and that most of my time in the morning is spent chillin' with my cup of coffee. So how do I do it? And, perhaps more importantly, why?

Those who were in my computer design class last semester may remember that second day of class when I was perpetually laughed at for stating that dressing well improves academic performance. Apparently this didn't quite fit with good-student qualities such as "getting enough sleep" and "doing homework." Since then, however, only a few people have disagreed with that statement.

The fact of the matter is, that there exists a serious apathy on our campus towards dressing decently—so much so that slumpy outfits have become part of our stern girl stereotype. The worst part is that it really wouldn't take that much effort to get dressed, but girls don't understand that. Well, as someone who is often driven up the walls by the way some girls look around here, I am going to make an attempt to help.

Your pajamas are for sleeping in. Leave them

in bed. You will never ever, no matter what, look dressed in your pajamas. This includes sweatpants, fleece pants, Hanes v-necks, and even sweatshirts. Sweatshirts are to be worn when you are cold, not in place of shirts. I totally understand the need to be comfortable, but there are other ways to do so without looking like you've crawled out of bed five seconds ago even during the third class of the day. Not only are you disrespecting your teachers and their subject matter, but you may also be stuck in a completely lethargic state all day. Plus, how do you expect anyone to take you seriously if you've got Angry Birds on your chest and the name of your seminary across your butt?

Let's talk about those flip-flops while we're at it. I don't mean sandals; I'm referring to those three-dollar rubber flip flops that you wear to the beach or when you're washing floors. If

anything screams laziness, these do. No matter how much effort you've put into the rest of your outfit today, you've ruined it with that moment of I-couldn't-care-less. You were barefoot when you got out of bed, right? Find a pair of non-rubber shoes instead.

The next thing I am going to criticise is the

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Avital Tzubeli

The Tenured Ten: The Road To Tenure At YU

TOVA KUTNER This academic year, ten Yeshiva University professors have been awarded tenure. When some people hear the term "tenured professor," they mistakenly assume that the speaker is referring to a decade, or *ten years*. To others more connected to the world of academia, the phrase brings to mind the image of a dry professor who has spent his or her life scribbling notes in dusty books from within looming ivory towers. At Yeshiva University, the ten new professors who received tenure may not all have taught for ten years and probably don't live in imposing tall buildings (unless you count apartment buildings...), yet their achievements and commitment to their academic field recently won them this lofty recognition.

When a professor is awarded tenure, they are assured a permanent post at the university. At YU, a tenured professor promoted from assistant to associate professor in a given department of expertise.

Among the recently tenured professors are: Dr. Naomi Grunhaus, associate professor of Bible at Stern; Dr. Bruno Galantucci, associate professor of psychology at YC; Dr. Tamar Avnet, associate professor of Marketing at Sy Syms; Dr. Gaetano Bloise, professor of economics at Stern; Dr. Sumanta Goswami, associate professor of biology at YC; Dr. Shalom Holtz,

associate professor of Bible at YC; Dr. Jenny Isaacs, associate professor of psychology at YC; Dr. Rachel Mesch, associate professor of French at YC and Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; Dr. Chaya Rapp, associate professor of chemistry at Stern; and Dr. Margarita Vigodner, associate professor of biology at Stern.

According to Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, vice provost for undergraduate education at Yeshiva University, "Tenure is awarded to faculty who have made a long-term contribution to the teaching of our students and have conducted leading research in the field." Contrary to what some may believe, tenure is "not a reward for

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Religion Beat

A Message From Your Editor-In-Chief

RACHEL DELIA BENAİM As we approach the Jewish New Year, I think it is very appropriate to begin a dialogue discussing Judaism's connection to other religions. Here at Yeshiva University we are, thank Gd, extremely well versed and educated in Judaism, but not at all in any other religion. We won't be in the bubble forever—do you want to breed intolerance or understand and forgive?

This monthly column (which, in the future, will be published in Arts and Culture) will feature different world religions and interviews with religious leaders to better understand other religions. To be able to coexist with others we must understand them, and after all, as the French proverb recognizes, "he who understands everything forgives everything."

The yamim noraim are upon us. As we approach these days of awe, as a writer in this issue, Leah Frenkiel describes, we must take a step back and evaluate ourselves and how we fit into the world. On a larger scale, we must evaluate how we as Jews fit into the world. To be able to comprehend that and effectively truly appreciate the hours we are spending in introspection, we must understand different major players in the world. There are politics at play, yes. Mitt or Barack? But let's steer clear of that here.

I think a major player in politics is the faiths and principles upon which they were founded. Many governments were actually founded on religious ideas though they themselves may no longer be religious institutions. There are over 1 billion Muslims in the world. There are 2 billion Christians. 375 million Buddhists. 1 billion nonbelievers... To understand governments, peoples, and effectively the place of a Jew in the world and how we fit with those peoples, it is imperative to look into these other religions and, at the very least, have some basic idea of their tenets of faith.

In light of the upcoming United Nations General Assembly where Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu (love) will, yet again, have a lil' showdown with the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, I think it's appropriate we look at Islam. Off the bat, I'd like to state that not all Muslims are extremists. Not all Muslims are like

Ahmadinejad. There are Sunnis, there are Shi'as, there are 12vers... That's a separate discussion—Islam as a religion is seen by its followers as a peaceful one that calls for tolerance and unity under Allah.

The Qur'an, the Holy Scripture of Islam, presents the five pillars of the Islamic faith as follows: the shahada/kalima, salah, zakat, sawm, and Hajj. These creeds in English, are belief in Muhammad and Allah, daily prayers (5 times a day), charity, fasting during Ramadan (the 9th and holiest month in the Islamic calendar), and the pilgrimage to the holiest city, Mecca, that a Muslim must make once in his lifetime. All denominations of Islam believe in these five pillars. If they do not, they are not Muslim.

Let's discuss this pillar by pillar and then we can debunk all of the myths. Kalima/shahada is the declaration of Islamic faith. All Muslims must make this declaration stating that Allah is Gd and Mohammad is His messenger. (for anyone paying attention to the capitalization—I wrote "Gd" and "His" because Muslims are actually a monotheistic religion that believe in the Gd of Abraham i.e. the same One as we do. In that case, His name must be referenced properly in print. Incidentally, this is why, at gun point, one would theoretically be allowed to convert to Islam for pikuach nefesh, but not Christianity—but more on that next month).

The next pillar mentioned is salat, prayer. Muslims are required to pray 5 times a day—once at dawn, once at noon, once in the afternoon, once after sunset, and once at night. The times of their prayer are similar, lehavdil, to the Jewish times for prayer in that they change daily depending on the celestial bodies.

Zakat, the next pillar, is charity. In Islam, like in Judaism, charity is a requirement. However, whereas the Jewish faith requires one give ma'aser, 10% of everything earned, Islam only asks for 2.5%.

Sawm, (think tzom), is the fourth pillar in Islamic faith that requires all Muslims to fast during Ramadan. Being that the Muslims are on a lunar calendar, much like Jews, Ramadan can fall out during any time of the year (they don't have an Adar bet

to make up for their shorter lunar months). During Ramadan, which, this year was from July 20- August 18, believers must refrain from food, drink, and pay extra attention to their actions and sins. Comparatively, it is sort of like Elul and Yom Kippur rolled into one. During this time, Muslims are meant to seek to be closer to Allah and become more mindful of themselves through following the specific positive teachings of Islam—refraining from violence, greed, arrogance, etc.

Finally, the Hajj. The Hajj is a pilgrimage that every Muslim must make to Mecca once in his lifetime. Mecca, located in Saudi Arabia, is the holiest city in Islamic faith because it is where Allah revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet.

Myth 1: all Arabs are Muslims. Not true. Arabs are from the Arabia Peninsula. It is a region. You can be Arab and not Muslim and you can be Muslim and not Arab.

Myth 2: All Arabs hate Jews and want to kill Jews. Well, no. At the very least, don't you remember that Iran loves Israel Facebook movement last year?

Myth 3: that Muslims believe there needs to be total anarchy in the world for the redemption to come. Sort of. Then again, depends who you ask. Ask a 12ver, a radical Shi'a Muslim, and he'll tell you there needs to be anarchy to usher in the 12th Imam/ Mahdi i.e. the Messiah so he can wage holy war and restore peace. Ask a Sunnis and he'll tell you that the Mahdi is simply "the rightly guided one" and he will spread illumination and understanding. (**Shi'a are only 7% of the Muslim population—myth debunked?)

Take a moment to think about others' faiths and where they come from. Try to understand other people—not just people like you but everyone. Most relevant, take a moment to think about how realizing that there are other religions in the world affects you as an Orthodox Jew. Think about how, as we stand before Gd on Yom Kippur, praying for our people and ourselves there is a whole rest of the world being judged as well. What about them?

Until next time...
Ktiva VeChatima Tova

Welcome aboard to our Copy Editor and PR Manager Arielle Katz and Courtney Thomas



We would like to sincerely apologize to out beloved Business Editor whose bio was not actually her own in the last issue



Sophie Felder
Business Manager
Sophie is a Super Senior from Rhode Island, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Economics. She likes democracy, hamburgers and swimming in the ocean. She spent half the summer in Kansas and the other half in Tel Aviv, but is still as pale as she was when the summer began.

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Orientation: The Rundown

SHALVA GINSPARG Waiting on line: Manhattan's least favorite pastime. Yet, the queue which wound its way along Madison Avenue in the early morning of August 22 consisted not of anxious theatre-goers in dire need of tickets, foot-tapping executives pining for gourmet pizza, or tired techies two days in to a three day camp-out in front of the Apple store. On this line were the incoming freshmen at Stern College for Women and their excitement was infectious. As the newcomers began making their way into Brookdale, student guides dispensed water bottles, information, and words of encouragement. After settling into their rooms and giving parents and friends quick, parting

hugs, students made a beeline for Stanton Hall. Orientation had begun.

With their college careers an unmapped terrain, the students began by exploring the variety of majors offered at Stern College and sat in on presentations about their majors or minors of interest. Student guides then treated the freshies to a detailed tour of the campus. "Pursuing Possibilities: Women in Careers," an event which took place later that evening, afforded students the opportunity to hear from women who achieved success in a broad range of careers. The women spoke candidly about the struggles and satisfactions of balancing career, home, and religious life. The evening culminated with "Popcorn and Panoply"--a fusion of fun, food, and Stern trivia.



Julia Siegel

Students arose early the next morning; there was still so much to learn and explore. Workshops a b o u t

the computer labs, libraries, writing center, and university and residence life ran throughout the afternoon. A New York-themed dinner celebrated the best of the Big Apple and gave students a taste of the city they now call home. Caricaturists and calligraphists furnished striking pictures of names and faces - perfect décor for new dorm rooms. Bellies full from the barbecue, the students then journeyed to the world of Broadway, where Mary Poppins sang, dance, flew, and dazzled. Friday afternoon proved equally eventful as students, armed with their new metro cards, ventured to the Met and to the Union Square Farmers Market.

In a quick round of word association, the first Shabbaton at Stern would elicit "inspiring" and "meaningful." Shiurim from Rabbi Blau, Rabbi Kanarfogel and Mrs. Schechter imbued Shabbat with tremendous Torah and learning. Shabbat afternoon activities included a midtown walking tour, bikur cholim with TAC, and a meet and greet with Dean Bacon and Dean Orlian. Motzai Shabbat was capped off with an ice-cream party and rounds of "human guess who" and Pictionary. The inspiration of Shabbat carried over to the next morning with a morning of learning which spotlighted "Torah and the

21st Century." Following the shiurim, school buses carried students uptown to Wilf Campus for a "Welcome Bash," replete with guided tours of the campus, lunch, and live music courtesy of the Moshav Band.

The 2012 SCW orientation united international students, transfer students, students back from Israel and students fresh out of high school. Whatever country or school they came from, orientation played an integral role in the acclimation process. "It's harder than if you came straight from Israel because you know less people," noted Kory Darling, a transfer student from Portland Community College. However, Kory added that Stern "does a good job of making you feel comfortable and planning fun events." Elianne Neuman, who

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Julia Siegel

has begun Stern this semester after a year at Nishmat in Israel, echoed Kory's sentiments. Elianne described orientation as a "good transition period" and commented that the "the school has so many resources and they really want to help us." In the words of the Midrash, all beginnings are difficult. Fortunately, SCW's multifaceted orientation has equipped students with the tools to begin this new chapter in their lives with confidence and success.

Shalva Ginsparg is a first-year on campus.

TEIQU Program Revamped

Student Life Tweets

ESTIE HIRT, Student Life Liaison for Communications and Public Affairs

Want to know what's going on behind the scenes in SCW? Tune in for the Student Life Committee's new Twitter section in The Observer.

@YUGeneralFacilities
Trying to fix the heat in Le bistro #farmersmarketgonebad

@FoodServices, Shabbat deadline extended to Midday Wednesday #wontbepoor #caneatlunchagain

New Events Calendar coming live SOON! #waytoomanystud

@YUMacs Softball team coming to Stern #girlsplaysportstoo

Computer Lab now open at 8:00AM #procrastinatingisanooption #rushinmorningtoostressful #printingproblems

@RKraut Feminine Products to be Restocked in School Buildings #sterngirlproblems #thattimeofmonthagain

Premium Meal Option Still Available at any point #sickofcaffood @Mendy's @Tiberias @Eden Wok @Bravo's

STAFF TEIQU is officially revamped. The improved program launched on September 5th, with a delicious dinner, Torah, and apples and honey.

A talented and enthusiastic bunch of over 60 people filed into Furst 501 unsure what the revamped version of TEIQU would yield—would it be the same as previous years? Would it be better? Worse? Well, according TAC President Margot Reinstein, "TEIQU event was one of the most successful events TAC has ever run - filling a niche that no other club does: a forum for students to engage in thoughtful conversation, face-to-face. Students were able to meet new people, gain new perspectives and I'm sure everyone left with something to think about."

Spearheaded by SCW senior Rachel Weber and YC seniors Hillel Gross and Josh Botwinick, TEIQU the event was a huge success. SCW junior Penina Cohen was overheard discussing it in the halls of 35th street all night. "Such a great event," she exclaimed. "Rachel, Hillel, and Josh did such an impressive job and I'm really looking forward to future events." Weber, Gross, and Botwinick were, according to Reinstein, "professional, well prepared and passionately spoke about important issues facing the Jewish communities. The topics were relevant and thought provoking. They raised some issues I had never actively thought about before."

Dinner was offered first before the actual programming began. While people were eating, they were encouraged to entire a competition in cleverly naming TEIQU (the long-hand way). YC senior Jo Jo Frenkel won the contest with the phrase "Torah-Emanicipated Israelite Questioners Union".

After the food was consumed and TEIQU received its full name, students sat at tables and discussed the issues regarding the Musaf davening of Rosh Hashana, which were posed

by the TEIQU presidents. For malchuyot section students were posed the question "How should your Jewish values influence your views on government?" For zichronot, "What role does the Holocaust play in our Jewish collective



Irit Greenboim

memory?" For shofarot "Ani maamin b'emunah sheleima beviat hamashiach: Mashiach: What do I really believe?" Within each topic, all tables were provided with various questions that could bring the discussion in different directions, along with sources to help enrich the conversation.

To compliment these discussions, video clips were played. They aired the clip of Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveitchik's invocation at the Republican National Convention, and a clip from the Simpsons where Homer suffers from the Jerusalem Syndrome (coincidentally this episode was mentioned in the last episode of the Observer, but that did not influence our programming). It got students thinking and dialogue going.

Chana Weinstock, avid Torah learner and passionate Stern Girl, reflected on the uniqueness of this event. "The event featured intellectual and honest discussion about real issues that we as Torah Jews face in our daily lives, however," she explained "this was not a lecture. It was just us, the students, sitting around discussing our

thoughts on the matter - throwing ideas out at each other and challenging each other's views. I really appreciated the event and look forward to more like it in the future."

As for the program's "reimagination," TEIQU's Beren president Rachel Weber explained "Our goal in recreating TEIQU this year is to move beyond stigmas to talk about issues that are relevant to large segments of the YU population. Whether it will be responding to current events or bringing a new spin on an old topic, TEIQU will be the address for a nuanced, mature and never-boring debate. After a really exciting opening event, we're looking forward to showing our fellow students what else we have up our collective sleeve. Hillel Grosser, Wilf campus president, added that a main purpose of the rebranding was "to socialize our events more in order to empower the students and give their views a more central role."

...and it looks like TEIQU's goals are already being reached. Event attendee Netanel Shafier also had a something to share regarding the "reimagination" process: "I always liked TEIQU. It continues to impress me tenfold with timely and enjoyable events that bring stimulating subject matter on important and relevant issues."

So far, it looks like TEIQU is taking the campuses by storm. Check out for what they have coming up soon.



The Tenured Ten: The Road To Tenure At YU

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past service, but an investment in someone whose academic life in their field will be significant." Tenured professors, Schiffman explains, are chosen because they "will enhance [the university's] academic quality and reputation." The professors who received tenure this year are "all top people who know how to teach and relate to our students," Schiffman maintains, adding that the professors "identify with our mission as a University, and it is partly as a result of this that our students get into top graduate schools and fellowship programs." Tenure, then, seems to be a win-win situation, with the university and its students benefiting from the research, experience, and talents these professors bring to the table, and the professors achieving the ultimate job security.

Most of the tenured professors have been extensively published in their field of expertise. The publications range from overarching, broader topics to detailed studies of intricate subjects. Dr. Shalom Holtz authored a comprehensive typological study of the documentation surrounding lawsuits during the last period of native rule in Mesopotamia and the beginning years of its incorporation into the Persian empire. Dr. Rachel Mesch recently wrote *Having it All in the Belle Epoque: How Women's Magazines Reimagined the Modern French Woman* (forthcoming from Stanford University Press), in which she discusses the interplay between feminism and femininity in the early twentieth century. Dr. Gaetano Bloise has published a number of papers tackling relevant economic themes.

Many of the tenured ten, primarily those from the science departments, have also done extensive research. Dr. Sumanta Goswami has done research involving targeting micro-metastasis in breast cancer. His colleague, Dr. Margarita Vigodner studies spermatogenesis, male fertility, and reproductive health, and has been awarded two grants for further research.

For several of the professors, being awarded tenure at Yeshiva University is especially meaningful. Dr. Tamar Avnet remarks, "As a researcher it is very important to me to work in a place that appreciates knowledge and advancing science and yet is able to keep its Jewish traditions and combine these two elements well." Dr. Bruno Galantucci admits that his students motivated him to seek tenure. "I very much

enjoy working with YC students," he explains, adding that "they are delightfully engaging and doing research with them is a great source of motivation and inspiration for me."

Dr. Chaya Rapp, associate professor of Chemistry at Stern College for Women, shares her experience at SCW and the tenure process.

Surprisingly, Dr. Rapp admits that "I don't think I knew I wanted to pursue a career in academia. I was finishing my doctorate at Columbia and ...I happened to bump into Dr. Irving Borowitz, who had taught at YC for many years and was teaching summer session at Columbia." He urged her to apply for an open position at the university, an idea which Dr. Rapp remembers calling

"crazy" while discussing it with her husband. "Well," she shrugs, "the rest is history."

Dr. Rapp was indeed hired for a tenure-track position in 1999 as a member of Stern's department of chemistry and biochemistry. Her research interests involve using a range of computational methods, including molecular and quantum mechanics, molecular dynamics, and docking, to address problems related to protein structure and function. In 2011, she was awarded an NIH R15 grant for her proposal, entitled "Computational Modeling of Post-translational Modification in Proteins."

This research development may have been the tipping point in terms of her tenure nomination. Indeed, Dr. Rapp notes, "a successful

research program was key, along with teaching and service to the university. [It was] very hard, but that's the case with anything you want to do a good job at." During the summer of 2011, Dr. Rapp was notified of her nomination for tenure. She then set about preparing a professional portfolio, including information about teaching, research, and service to the university community. When asked about the process, Dr. Rapp compares it to "a long pipeline...the portfolio is sent across the country to experts in your field." Then, a faculty committee, along with the Dean, the President, the Academic Vice President, and the Board of Trustees, must review the portfolio. Just a few days after Purim in the spring of 2012, Dr. Rapp was granted tenure.

Receiving tenure, Dr. Rapp

maintains, does not change anything for her students. Her curriculum, course offerings, and office hours will remain the same. When asked what advice she would offer to students pursuing similar careers, Dr. Rapp replies frankly. "Going into academia means being in a job where your homework is never done," she confirms. "As a perpetual student, that works for me, but not necessarily for everyone," she continues, noting that "on the other hand, academia also provides tremendous flexibility, which has been indispensable for balancing work and family life."

One final word to the wise? "If you love teaching, and enjoy the challenge of research, then go for it."

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Nine Yeshiva University Students Attend Jewish Medical Ethics Conference in Connecticut

ARI ROSENBERG From August 16-19, nine Yeshiva University students attended the 4th annual Jewish Medical Ethics Conference, a weekend lecture series on topics including controversial circumcision techniques, organ transplantation, practical medical halakha, elective medicine, and more. The lectures were given by some of the biggest names in the field of Jewish medical ethics and covered the most pertinent issues currently facing Torah-observant physicians.

The conference was co-sponsored by Yeshiva University's Center for the Jewish Future and run by Torah in Motion, a Toronto-based organization whose mission is to study and teach topics in Judaism. This year's conference was held at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury, Connecticut, with the intention to involve both current Jewish medical professionals and students aspiring to join their ranks. As such, students were given the opportunity to apply for scholarships and attend the conference at a reduced rate.

Of the nine students who attended, three were Stern College women and six were Yeshiva College men. All nine plan to enter the field of medicine or dentistry and several are members of the Yeshiva University Student Medical Ethics Society. The students who attended the Torah in Motion conference were audience to speakers

such as Rabbi Dr. Eddie Reichman, professor at Einstein and mentor of the Medical Ethics Society; Rabbi Dr. Avraham Steinberg, author of the Encyclopedia of Medical Halakha; Rabbi Dr. Aaron Glatt, Executive Vice President at Mercy Medical Center; Rabbi Dr. David Shabtai of RIETS Kollel Elyon; and Dr. Beni Gesundheit, professor of medical ethics at Bar Ilan in Israel. The students were able to ask questions and participate in the discussions generated during the lectures and programs, though they also enjoyed additional sessions specifically geared toward their interest in the field of medical halakha. The speakers and topics afforded the students a trove of practical advice regarding their future education and career path as Jewish physicians in a secular world. The overall message imparted to students was the importance of the personal responsibility they would assume upon entering the fast-paced medical world of ethical complexity and confusion.

The future of medicine will no doubt bring even more innovative and complicated procedures and technology, raising many ethical questions that will need reconciliation. From growing human organs inside animals and creating artificial hearts with no heartbeat to producing offspring grown from only one human's DNA, the next generation of Torah-observant doctors will have to face many halakhic difficulties.

They will be challenged to redefine the moments of life and death, what it means to be human, and the exact nature of physician's role in the lives of the sick and healthy.

While ethicists in the past worried about physicians changing the characteristics of a human body and "playing G-d," today's ethicists expect physicians to soon create life itself. In a world that

is quickly changing, the future is sure to bring both tremendous opportunity and potentially crippling challenges, though these nine Yeshiva University students are already preparing themselves to face the difficulties with respect for both the Torah laws and the medical realities.

This preparation to be equipped to handle medical ethics continues in all of the Medical Ethics Society Events. On October 21, the YU Medical Ethics Society will be hosting its own

Jewish medical ethics conference entitled "Out of the Ashes: Jewish Approaches to Medical Dilemmas Borne out of the Holocaust." Topics of that conference will include, among others: the ethical use of Nazi data, trans-generational trauma, and a personal account of Nazi experimentation.

Ari Rosenberg is a senior at YC and is Vice President of the YU Medical Ethics Society

Harassment Policies Reviewed

continued from page 1

reveals a twelve page document detailing the University's "Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures for Students," it is doubtful that most YU students chance upon the PDF. Even if they happen to notice it, it seems unlikely that most students would take the time to sift through the form, much of it in legalese.

This year, Sasson continues, the University has taken "more proactive preventive measures," in light of recent guidance release by the Office for Civil Rights of the US Department of Education regarding compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX, Sasson explains, "generally bans sex discrimination in schools," and the new information released by the government is designed to help universities expand their involvement in preventing sexual harassment.

Guided by both the US Department of Education's guidelines and the materials used at other universities, Sasson continues, YU has "introduced an e-learning workshop for first year students [the online course discussed above] and revised our Harassment Policy and Complaint Procedures for both students and employees."

While Sasson has had a role in the procedures, she adds that Renee Coker, the University's Title IX Coordinator, has been tasked with taking "an active role in ensuring our compliance efforts."

Although the University may have revamped their policies and materials regarding sexual

harassment, a number of new students and RAs did not seem to take particular notice. The students were asked to take the online course during their own time, an honor system for a task which may not prove compelling enough for many to get around to, at least during the first few weeks of school. Aimee Rubesteen, a senior and returning RA, commented that while some fellow advisors did not take the exam very seriously, she believes that it addresses "an important element" of a job that involves "working closely with students in housing, especially in light of the numerous tragedies on college campuses that are rooted in bullying." First year RA and junior Ayelet Bersson agrees, remarking "as an employee in the Yeshiva University system, it was an important message to hear," though she felt that the website "was frustratingly slow and time-consuming in explaining the danger of harassment in a workplace."

Technical frustrations and lighthearted student reactions aside, the University this year has taken more practical steps towards combating a very serious issue. While it may be up to many students to follow up on the directions and guidelines offered by the University, the axiom "knowledge is power" rings true. As students living, many for the first time, in a city with over eight million residents and in a college environment surrounded by dozens of new people, it is important that they are armed with the tools to protect themselves.



Sy Syms School of Business Announces Launch of Fashion Elective

STAFF In the spring 2013 the Sy Syms School of Business will introduce a new business elective course, Fashion Fundamentals. As part of its entrepreneurship and leadership focus, the goal of this new course and others to follow is to provide students with knowledge of the basic functions of fashion and its impact on the business environment. The planned fashion sequence will be open to Stern College and Sy Syms students. Fashion Fundamentals will meet one day each week on Monday afternoon in the **FG hour from 4:40-7:15pm**. A second course Applied Concepts in Fashion Merchandising is planned for the fall 2013 semester. Fashion Fundamentals will be a prerequisite for the Applied Merchandising class. Additional courses may be introduced after student evaluation and course assessment.

Dr. Fred Palumbo, Chair of the Management and Marketing Departments at Sy Syms reported that syllabi for both initial courses are under construction. Fashion Fundamentals will provide a basic introduction to the terminology and fundamentals of the fashion industry, and examine the development of merchandise from concept to consumer. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of the industry in the global marketplace.

Examples of the impact of fashion are everywhere within our economy. They include industrial design where creative staffs develop the concepts for manufactured products, such as cars, home appliances, and toys; a combination of art, business, and engineering to make products that people use every day. And, the obvious impact in the design of clothing and home décor.

Applied Concepts in Fashion Merchandising will prepare students to understand strategic concepts that are utilized within the fashion industry. Concepts such as costing, quality control, mar-

keting, sourcing, manufacturing and logistics, and expanded research techniques. These skills are essential tools for next generation design specialists and for those interested in careers within established organizations or starting their own enterprises.

Dr. Palumbo noted that in the past Beren students were able to enroll in fashion classes at FIT. However, it became more and more difficult for students since they were not able to register until after FIT students and often were closed out of classes. Courses moved online, many available only on Friday or Saturday, and the FIT academic calendar differed from Yeshiva University. This was problematic as exams and presentations often conflicted with the YU holiday schedule.

In researching alternative solutions, the best choice was to find qualified adjunct instructors who have taught fashion related courses at local colleges and to bring control within Sy Syms.

To launch the first course, Dr. Palumbo has recruited Professor Michael Londrigan, the Interim Dean of Academic Affairs and Chair of the Fashion Merchandising Department at LIM College in New York City. Professor Londrigan has 30 years of experience in product development and marketing, holds an MBA and is author of the textbook, *Menswear: Business to Style* which has been used by a number of colleges offering courses in fashion marketing. The LIM College was founded in 1939 with a focus in the businesses of fashion merchandising and visual merchandising. Its campus is in midtown Manhattan.

Students should be aware that the Center for Career Development's website posts information regarding careers after graduation under their "Explore Career Fields." Within the Industry Overview students can learn about specific fashion related

careers along with links to professional resources and organizations that support the industry. The CDC website states that "On the business side of fashion, one must be attuned to customers, be comfortable with numbers, have vision and be able to make predictions based on research, and be able to work collaboratively with diverse personality types. An undergraduate degree in any major can allow one to enter the field though internship experience is essential. For many companies, working at the retail store can be helpful in order to later work on the corporate side. A background in business, marketing, management and merchandising are all helpful too."

The fashion industry is one of New York City's largest and prominent business sectors. Included are many start-up firms and next generation retailers and designers. The NYC Department of Labor reported that in 2010 over \$9 billion in total wages and over \$1.7 billion in tax revenue was generated; and NYC is headquarters to over 900 firms. Fashion Week in NYC is a semiannual event that attracts over 225,000 total attendees at many shows throughout the city. The event generates almost \$500 million which translates to almost \$800 million in total economic impact per year.

Dr. Palumbo is hopeful that the addition of these fashion electives will interest students and provide a platform for them to launch business careers in established firms or entrepreneurial ventures. The fashion sequence of courses will also complement the activities of the Stern College/Sy Syms Fashion Marketing Club. Students interested in the Fashion Fundamentals business elective course should plan their schedules carefully; it will meet only on Monday afternoon during the FG section in spring 2013.

FEATURES

Happy At 108

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Student Council Corner Becoming Sensitive to the Sensitivities: Confronting the SCWSC Stereotype

ADENA KLEINER Corresponding Secretary, SCWSC

"Oh, I get it. You're running for SCWSC, you must be into the *Mada*."

"I'm into the what?"

"Well you're running for SCWSC and not TAC, so you must be interested in the *Mada* aspects of Yeshiva University, and not the *Torah* aspects. Sure, I'll sign my name for you."

This frustrating conversation took place while I was collecting signatures for my nomination to run for Student Council this past Spring. As a woman who is extremely passionate about Torah learning and committed to halakha, I was disturbed by the stereotype presented in this conversation. Not only was I saddened by the assumptions that my peer made about me, but, more importantly, by the misconceptions she had about the values of SCWSC and those who participate in our events.

Now, I could address these stereotypes head-on and try to prove that my fellow council members and I are committed to Torah learning and Torah values. However, this seems unnecessary, and would further legitimize the stereotype that SCWSC is only for the women who talk to men, their events are for the "not-so frum", etc. This conversation, however, did make me aware of a vital issue confronting our council: the notion that there are some women in Stern College who feel uncomfortable attending SCWSC-ran events. This pre-conception is extremely troublesome, problematic, and is an issue that needs immediate addressing.

If one were to take the time to read the SCWSC mission statement, it is clear that our council is committed to embracing the diversity of the Beren Campus, while simultaneously striving to unite its members. As a council, we feel that our diverse student body is an asset to our college, and it motivates our council to create more unique events and clubs that appeal to the student body's various interests. Additionally, we work extremely hard to be sensitive to the needs and desires of all of the different members of the SCW community. We want to ensure that every woman in Stern College feels comfortable attending an SCWSC event, whether it is uptown on the Wilf campus or downtown on our lovely home turf.

The question is, how?

Since our council's first meeting last year, it was clear to the council that active steps and subtle changes would need to be implemented in order to appeal to a greater constituency. For example, what type of music should we play at our events downtown? Or, how do we remove the stigma of going uptown and ensure that the events held there will be a fun and/or educating experience even for those who do not frequent the 5th floor of the library?

Just a few minutes into our meeting, it became increasingly clear that it would be naïve for the members of SCWSC to assume that we can foresee and address each area of sensitivity that might arise for every event that we run. Thus, we turn to you the student body for your guidance and input. Without further ado...drum roll please...the creation of scwoncall@gmail.com!

This email address should be used as a means of asking for help, expressing frustrations, and presenting new ideas. Scwoncall is a way for you to let us know how we can make our events more appealing to you. It is a way for you to confirm that your thoughts and feelings are relevant and meaningful to SCWSC. It is a way for all SC women to combat and correct the SCWSC stereotypes and a way to unify our campus.

So let's be clear and unequivocal:

We can't wait to hear from all of you :)

Ktiva V'chatima Tov

ORLY BENADERET *What defines happiness?*

Stern College positive psychology professor, Dr. Aharon Fried, played the documentary "Dancing Under the Gallows." The film depicted the eternal optimism of the oldest known Holocaust Survivor in the world, Alice Sommer. Now, at 108 years old, Alice loves playing the piano, socializing with her friends, and meeting new people. Looking back on the last 70 years, Alice recalls how playing the piano for the Nazi's in Germany had saved her life in the Theresienstadt concentration camp—a propaganda camp made to deceive the world of the true conditions the Jews faced in concentration camps. Alice was sent to Theresienstadt with her husband and son. Alice's husband and twin sister were killed in different camps. Though she survived, she suffered from cancer in 1986, and her only son died in 2001. However, despite her painful life, her outlook on life is, surprisingly, HAPPY.

"I never hate," explains Alice. "Hatred only brings hate." True to her word, Alice doesn't hate anyone. She does not speak of revenge, regrets, sorrow, or loss. She speaks about her music, friends, and being optimistic in life. She continues to explain, "I was born with a very good optimism and this helps you when you are optimistic, when you are not complaining. When you look at the good side of life, everybody loves you."

Is optimism an innately born trait? Has Alice been able to withstand her life's hardships because she has such an optimistic

view on life? She might think so. Alice explains, "my sister was always the pessimist, I was the optimist." While being optimistic is extremely important, I think there is more than just optimism that has kept Alice alive. She has found meaning and purpose in her life through music. Alice says that "Music is God" for her. Playing music every day is how she has learned to instill purpose and pleasure in her life. By knowing what makes Alice happy—her passion for music, friends, and love—Alice looks forward to waking up cheerfully every morning. She says, "In every day life is beautiful. Every day we can speak about anything, its beautiful."

Discovering what makes one truly happy is something that most people struggle with. As college students, we are constantly trying to decide what to do for the rest of our lives. We question if we chose the right major, we will be successful in our careers, we will have a family, and if we will be truly happy. At this point, we cannot really foresee the success that will come in our lives; only time and enough life experience can give us that knowledge. Still, Alice has exemplified a few key aspects to living a life of happiness that we can attempt to achieve in our own lives.

What can we learn from Alice and others like her? That finding happiness and success simply means doing what you love and not caring about what others think or say you should be doing. As Steve Jobs said, "you need to have a lot of passion for what you're doing... if you don't love it, you are going to fail." Finding what motivates

you and wakes you up every day is a challenge. Alice looked at her own struggles in life and chose to focus on the good and what she loves to do. Though it is not easy, Alice has turned away from a life of hatred.

So, what defines happiness? The perpetual question, but I think with such a simple answer: Stop doing what you hate and start doing what you love. Let us all wish Alice a "Happy 109th Birthday," please Gd, on November 26th!

The Mental Health Column is brought to you by Orly Benaderet. As a senior at Stern College for Women, Orly is passionate about improving the mental health field and educating the student body about various areas of mental health. Happy reading.



Republicans & Democrats Why You Vote The Way You Do

continued from page 1

virtues and vices associated with bodily activities in general and religious activities in particular).

He compares the moral mind to an audio equalizer of sorts with five slider switches for the five different values of the spectrum enumerated above. Differences of opinion with regard to, say, harm/care issues, reflect a difference in sensitivity toward that value, or how far the slider switch for that value is set. Haidt's extensive research shows that political liberals base their moral systems primarily upon the harm/care and the fairness/reciprocity foundations to the exclusion of the other three foundations. Political conservatives, on the other hand, base their moral systems more evenly upon all five foundations.

This principle is what Haidt refers to as the Moral Foundations Hypothesis, and it is why nonpolitical questions such as "Would you be willing to slap your father in the face, with his permission, as part of a comedy skit?" and "Does it disgust you to touch the faucet in a public restroom?" are in fact excellent predictors of political alignment. These nonpolitical questions directly relate to a person's sensitivity towards one of the five moral foundations (in this case authority/respect and purity/sanctity, respectively). Haidt reaffirms that a conservative is more concerned with au-

thority/respect than a liberal, which explains a conservative's reluctance to slap their father even with his permission in a comedy skit. Conservatives are likewise more concerned with purity/sanctity than are liberals and are therefore more sensitive to issues of disgust such as touching faucets in public restrooms.

Though several critiques of Haidt's moral foundations have emerged it has received significant attention and acclaim as a statistical model. Haidt's work has been compiled into a website, www.yourmorals.org, where people are encouraged to create a profile and begin taking the questionnaires that he designed as part of his ongoing research. The questionnaires, which address issues of morality, ethics, and values, immediately report your results, and tell you how you scored relative to others (males vs females and conservatives vs liberals), and what your answer choices reveal about you.

Our political alignments will be largely determined by our moral sensitivities. For you to gain insight into the motivation for your own political alignment, take Haidt's questionnaire and see if his theory works for you.

Elephant?

Donkey?

Independent Emu?

The Economics of College: An in Depth Analysis of its Necessity Yet Shortcomings

ADAM ROSENBERG Does going to college enable one to get a higher-paying job? This question is at the crux of a dilemma faced by many young adults, who must choose to either sacrifice time and money to attend college, or immediately enter the workforce. Although extensive research exists on this topic, and there are many diverging opinions, the purpose of this article is to put the facts on paper.

In economics, capital is defined as something used to yield production. While objects such as machinery and supplies are classified as physical capital, there is the additional abstract idea of human capital - comprised of educational and intellectual strengths. Education is delineated as human capital, because in order for one to educate and produce, they need to have been educated. Thus, in a theoretical sense, the more educated one is, the more valuable they are as a member of the workforce.

With the advent of hi-tech manufacturing and cheap overseas labor, educational attainment becomes that much more important. Many American businesses have outsourced unskilled labor jobs to

emerging countries such as China, India, and Taiwan for the simple reason that American workers cost more money and labor regulations render profitability a herculean endeavor. This has been problematic for many Americans, especially those in the manufacturing sector, whose jobs have been shipped overseas. With the demand for skilled labor going up, and demanding large amounts of human capital, it is incumbent on young Americans to attend college, despite the drastic increase in costs and debts.

The renowned economist, N. Gregory Mankiw, provides data showing the difference in income between those who have attended college and those who immediately entered the workforce. With the need for unskilled labor decreasing and the need for skilled labor increasing, it is much more lucrative in the long run to attend college than to simply start working. While in 1980 an unskilled male laborer made \$45,310, 44 percent less than a skilled male laborer with a \$65,287 salary, this difference doubled in 2008, with unskilled laborers making \$43,493 on average and college educated males making \$81,000.

Similarly, in 1980, an unskilled

female laborer made approximately \$27,324 and skilled female laborers made 35 percent more money at \$36,894. While women's salaries did not increase as drastically as men's, they still rose, with an unskilled female laborer making \$31,666 - 71 percent less than a skilled laborer making \$54,207.

When this math is simplified, the average salary of a college graduate in 1980 was only 29 percent higher than those who entered the workforce immediately following high school. In 2008, with the need for unskilled labor in the United States diminishing, there was a 45 percent salary difference between those who attended college and those who did not. Receiving a college education seems imperative for landing a lucrative job.

However, there are those who disagree and feel that college is an unnecessary hindrance towards entering the workforce. Prominent among them is author Charles Murray, whose theories are outlined in his controversial 2008 book *Real Education: Four Simple Truths for Bringing America's Schools Back to Reality*. According to Murray, the model of a traditional four-year liberal

arts college should be discarded for a system of competency tests. In doing so, students will have less restrictions on where they can be hired. One example, excerpted from a 2008 article corresponding to *Real Education* entitled "Down with the Four Year College Degree," Murray presents the following:

"If I am an employer of accountants and am given the choice between an applicant with a mediocre CPA score but a BA in accounting and another who studied accounting on-line, has no degree, but does have a terrific CPA score, explain to me why should I be more attracted to the applicant with the BA?"

Deserving job candidates often do not receive enough credit for their immense intellectual and vocational talents because of some limitation on paper, such as where they went to school, or, in the case above, if they went to school altogether. If this example is an accurate portrayal of what occurs in the workforce (it somewhat resembles the storyline on the popular television show "Suits"), it would seemingly indicate that college attendance and intelligence do not correlate.

According to Murray, the IQ level that rendered someone "prime college material" is 115, a level held by approximately 16 percent of the population. Considering that 28 percent of all adults have bachelors degrees, something is incorrect. Either students are getting smarter, or

colleges' standards have been lowered. Instead, Murray advocates for a system where students' careers are determined by their performance on standardized career tests. This provocative theory essentially allows for the top 20 percent of society to live predetermined lives of great wealth and vocational success, while the rest of society hovers around a job market with a more menial core. This theory is almost comparable to intellectual eugenics; promoting an educational environment which, in the words of New York Times book critic Charles McGrath, resembles, "an Aldous Huxley world where our place in the pecking order is more or less predetermined."

In order to find a balanced perspective on the economics of a college education, this article has provided sources and statistics which both advocate for the necessity of a college education as well as its shortcomings. On the one hand the data supplanted by N. Gregory Mankiw provides an obvious glimpse into why college is important from a numbers perspective. On the other hand, Murray's theory, albeit controversial, raises tenable objections to the current system and how young adults spend their most formative years. Notwithstanding both views, as the famous verse in Isaiah 33:6 proclaims: "Wisdom and knowledge are the stability of the times." Indeed, only strong education and intellect can keep society on a smooth road towards prosperity and growth.

Michelle Obama on Nutrition, Fitness, and Health

YAELE LASSON As the 2012 presidential election campaign heats up and children across the country head back to school, it is evident that President and First Lady Obama's nutrition initiatives have changed the way American children eat.

Michelle Obama, the newest spokesperson fighting against childhood obesity, maintains that children's health is not about politics, but rather should be considered a necessary undertaking for the benefit of children and the future of their health. "In the end, as First Lady, this isn't just a policy issue for me," declares Michelle. "This is a passion. This is my mission. I am determined," she continues, "to work with folks across this country to change the way a generation of kids thinks about food and nutrition."

The new school nutrition reforms fall under the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, which President Obama signed in 2010. This act, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, creates legislation that "authorizes funding and sets policy for USDA's core child nutrition programs," including the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the Summer Food Service Program, and the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The objective of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act is to allow the USDA the "opportunity to make real reforms to the school lunch and breakfast programs by improving the critical nutrition and hunger safety net for millions of children."

Together, both President and First Lady Obama have made significant headway by improving lunch options in schools across the country. The new lunch standards promoted by the Obama administration through the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act include the switch to whole grains, more fruits and vegetables, and low-sodium and low-fat options in school menus. In addition to an improved menu, the Health watch section of the political blog "The Hill" reports that this coming school year, guidelines will be implemented to

control the calorie maximum for students based on their age to balance the previous minimum calorie gauge.

Because nutrition's best friend is fitness, Michelle Obama has launched the Let's Move! initiative to fight childhood obesity and to act as an early intervention to adult obesity by providing children with the tools to maintain a healthy lifestyle. According to the Let's Move! website, www.letsmove.gov, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum to create the first Task Force on Childhood Obesity, designed to review all "programs and policies relating to child nutrition and physical activity and develop a national action plan to maximize federal resources and set concrete benchmarks toward the First Lady's national goal."

The Task Force focuses on five significant elements intended to promote a healthy lifestyle for children, including creating a healthy start for children, empowering parents, providing healthy foods in schools, improving access to healthy, affordable food, and increasing physical activity.

No matter your political stance, it is clear that the Obamas seem to have substantially contributed to the health and wellness of American children, but it is up to American society to keep up the momentum. As the Let's Move! Website explains, "Everyone has a role to play in reducing childhood obesity, including parents and caregivers, elected officials from all levels of government, schools, health care professionals, faith-based and community-based organizations, and private sector companies. Your involvement is key to ensuring a healthy future for our children."

For more information and resources for kids and teens of all ages, visit <http://www.letsmove.gov/> or <https://www.presidentschallenge.org/>.

The Nutrition Nook is a column brought to you by the Stern College for Women Nutrition Club. Please share any ideas, interests, or questions that you want to see discussed in this forum at scwobserver@gmail.com

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Who Should Pay On The First Date

CHANI HERZIG Cinderella is a fairytale. A woman cannot sincerely expect a prince and his royal funds to sweep in and solve all of her fiscal problems. Today women go to college, get degrees, and at the right time, enter into healthy romantic relationships. Despite the modern monetary interactions couples practice, a last vestige of chivalry has been sacredly guarded: the date.

A man who does not pay, in the very least for the first date, is pronounced ungentlemanly. A woman who offers to split the bill is branded unfeminine. What has kept this practice alive in the book of unwritten rules? Why does the guy have to pay for the date?

In the most basic terms, it's biblical. Turns out, the rule is not unwritten. When asked to comment on the topic, Rabbi K. Auman, a noted teacher in Stern and Rabbi of The Young Israel of Flatbush, referred to several halakhot (Jewish laws) which

pronounce the man responsible for wooing and courting the woman. Not to mention his obligation to support her financially in marriage. (See Ketubot [Jewish prenuptial agreements] for details.) One striking source, a gemara in Kidushin (Chapter 1 2b) states "It is the way of a man to pursue a woman and not the way of a woman to pursue a man."

When first asked about the assumption that men pay, Rabbi Auman agreed that it is "a function of social convention." But whether the gemara speaks of a primordial truth or simply the most common way things happen, is left to the reader.

Tuvia Bacharach, a junior and accounting major at YC, chalks it up to pure manners. "On the first several dates, the guy is trying to convince the girl to go out with him." Tuvia wouldn't want financial considerations to weigh in when she's "deciding whether or not to go out for the first time." It's

one less detail for her to worry about.

Moshe Soloveichik, a senior and economics major at YC, deems it a function of the "consistency model." He explains that "ultimately he's the one who's going to buy the ring" and it follows he should be the one paying for the ventures leading up to that point.

But for some women, having the date pay is a convention hard to stomach. Dena Shayne, former SCWSC president and current Presidential Fellow in the Office of Admissions, shares that "it just makes [her] uncomfortable." Considerately, Shane points out that "everyone is at an age where no one really has money in their pockets." Practically put "it's about what's more economic for everyone."

The YC students interviewed did agree that if the girl is the one to propose the date, she should also be the one to fund it. Elliot Kalson,

a YC'11 graduate, who shared his opinion when a work colleague was being interviewed nearby, believes "the person who calls for the date should be the one to pay for the entire thing." He adds that "if a girl offered to pay for half a date that a guy proposed, it would lead to insecurity" in her date who would then wonder if "she wanted to continue the relationship." Interestingly, Kalson was unavailable to explain why. Maybe it's just a feeling.

Dena's sentiment, if unique in the early stages of dating, was not unshared for those long term dating. Both WILF Campus students interviewed and Rabbi Auman agreed that once a couple is going out for a long period of time, splitting the bill is a lot more reasonable.

Miriam Seidman, a senior and advertising major at SCW puts it simply. "We just split the times because it's not going to be the only time." Sonia Felder, a junior at SCW and member of the WSS, believes it is "unfair to assume he'll pay for everything." Interestingly, Seidman adds that "girls who brag 'my boyfriend always pays' are demeaning themselves." According to Seidman, "they're handing him a power and it's dangerous."

Dean Bacon had a word of caution

when asked to comment on this line of thinking. To women who are made uncomfortable by their dates picking up the tab, she urged them not to feel indebted. "When money is used as power there is something very wrong with our values." Certainly, a relationship where money is used to dominate or abuse is something of which to be cautious. But no spouse should be granted significance or importance according to their paycheck. "If money creates a power struggle, then indeed we are in need of some deep introspection."

Of course, what a couple does is an entirely personal choice. While considering whether or not to approach this delicate topic, this seemingly conventional practice is definitely worthy of a conversation or two. It means different things to everyone: an action meant to be gentlemanly and kind could make a date very uncomfortable. While at the very same time, a gesture intended to be considerate and generous could be interpreted as offensive and rude.

Dating is filled with enough ambiguity; let's not leave anyone guessing.

This is the second installment of the Women's Studies column brought to you by the SCW Women's Studies Society. Stay tuned for more...

Tips for the Frequent Flyer: How to Score Cheap Airfare

MIRIAM DUBIN A Yeshiva University student may spend thousands of dollars per year on airfare alone. Unless you live a bus or train ride away from school, going home for vacation can rack up hundreds of dollars. For parents of students who are already shelling out for the meal plan, dorm fees, frequent Mendy's outings, and other student expenses, the cumulative price of flights per year is an additional financial burden on the already costly student budget.

Betsy Magilnick, a senior at Stern College for Women, says "I wish I could pay \$7.95 for an off-peak ticket on American Airlines. But this is the price you pay for being an 'out-of-towner.'" Realistically speaking, many students like Betsy will probably end up paying closer to \$200 to go home for the holidays.

There must be a cheaper way. Out-of-towners, I have come to answer your plea. Here are some tips to help you save money when booking your next flight.

Flexibility is key. Being flexible with travel times and dates can significantly decrease the price of airfare. For example, a Virgin America one way flight from JFK into LAX for the Friday before Rosh Hashana ranges between \$195 to \$396 depending on what time of day the flight takes off. Let's take the cheapest flight on Friday September 14, which departs at 7:00 am, and change the date to Wednesday

September 12—just like that you watch the cost of the seat drop from \$195 to \$129, saving you over \$60. Generally, flying during the middle of the week is the least expensive, while weekends are the most costly. When you can, fly midweek.

Tip two is easy enough—technology. Use search engines to compare prices when researching the cheapest flight. Many of you are probably experts at navigating the traveling sites such as Travelocity, Orbitz and Expedia, but it is worth reiterating that finding the least expensive flight requires research. Don't forget that some airlines will not post their flight information on such sites, and that it is worthwhile to check the popular airlines' websites for comparison. Virgin America is a perfect example of one such airline that usually does not post their flight listings on travel sites but will often offer low priced alternatives.

Organization and scheduling are key as well. Buy tickets early, but not too early. Rick Seaney, one of America's experts on airfare, writes in his article, "The Best Time to Buy Airline Tickets", that airlines begin posting their sales around three to four months before the departure date. He warns, however, that tickets purchased before four months prior to flying will generally be "priced at mid-tier level." This "magic window" of savings, as referred to by Fox Business writer Andrea Murad, peaks around 18 to 21 days before

departure where you will find ticket prices at their lowest.

On that note, also be sure to purchase your flight early in the week. Airlines generally hold their sales between Mondays and Wednesdays. There is a myth that Tuesday is the cheapest day to buy, however this is not a hard and fast rule. Rick Seaney writes, "Airlines follow a herd mentality. If one starts a sale, most of the others will follow; if one raises prices, the others will soon catch up." If you shop for tickets during the sale days, you will find the airlines battling with each other for the best sale, and therefore you will save money on the same flight that would have been more expensive if you booked it on a Thursday.

Receiving emails and updates from select airlines will help save money. Signing up for notifications will not only inform you when that airline is having a sale, but will also update you about specific flights that are at their lowest rate. Usually, you have to buy such tickets within a window of a few days, but it is well worth it to save the extra money. Signing up for a "points" system with an airline that you travel with often will reward you every time you fly with them, either with points towards another flight, hotel, or other travel expenditure. Frequent flyers, keep in mind that it is beneficial to make the airline your friend—signing up with them for deals is a worthwhile venture.

Regardless if you are a frequent or rare flyer, saving money while traveling will pay off. Although finding inexpensive flights requires time, patience, and research, you will be grateful to save the extra cash. One student, who wishes to remain anonymous, spent over \$500 on a round-trip flight that could have cost half that amount had it been using the frequent flyer tips.

Whether you are flying to a vacation destination, home for the holidays or jetting out for business, try these travel tips next time you book your flight and let the savings speak for themselves.

A Psychological Perspective on Teshuva

LEAH FRANKIEL Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is a similar process to teshuva. CBT is a psychotherapeutic technique that focuses on alleviating a patient's negative symptoms by working to alter his or her maladaptive cognitions and behaviors.

In this period leading up to the yamim noraim (Days of Awe), people are encouraged to become absorbed in deep introspection and begin to take stock of interpersonal, intrapersonal, and spiritual endeavors. Chazal, in their wisdom, had a keen understanding of both the human mind and the human experience. Among the immeasurable contributions Chazal made to Judaism are the countless psychological insights concerning the human condition. In fact, some argue that Chazal actually predate Freud, Jung, and Adler as being the first psychologists.

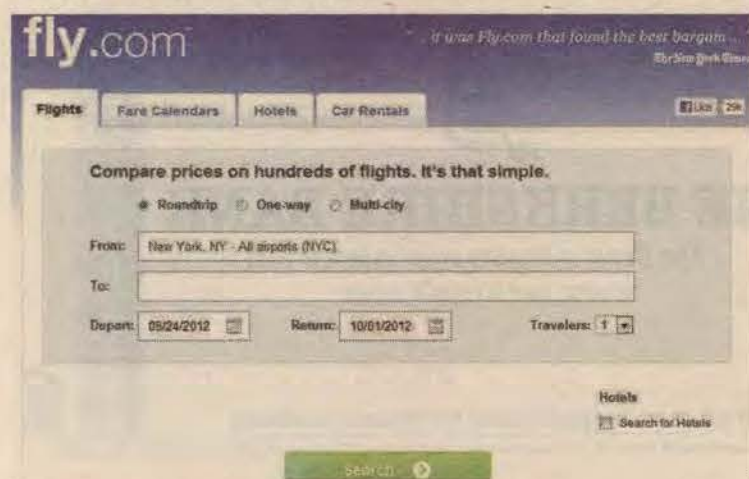
One of the highlighted focuses during this time of year is teshuva, repentance, a sort of to return to a more pure, idyllic state of being. Repentance is primarily characterized by a change in both behaviors and cognitions. People strive to correct wrongdoings ultimately reconnecting, or "returning" to G-d through a four-step process: departure from the sins which we have wrongfully committed, feeling regret vis-à-vis one's actions, confessing before Gd, and acceptance of the future. What this means is that after correcting personal behaviors, individuals must reframe our thoughts concerning their sins. Man must no longer justify and validate the reasons for sinning; rather, he should sincerely regret them.

In his acclaimed book, *The Judaic Foundations of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy*, Dr. Ronald W.

Pies enumerates the connections between Judaism's teshuva process and CBT. These connections offer insight into the process of repentance from both a religious and psychological perspective. Pies discusses the concept of self-awareness and self-examination as a fundamental value in both the Judaic tradition as well as in the CBT approach. Self-awareness and self-examination are centered around both scrupulously and fairly assessing our actions and motives. Pies maintains that people often either underestimate or overestimate their own faults, which this leads individuals to go astray. It is therefore crucial, especially now, to honestly evaluate and assess individual behaviors.

Pies quotes Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) 6:6, which teaches to "know one's place." The Rabbis advise assessing both individual accomplishments and faults in order to rectify them. Albert Ellis and Robert Harper, in *A Guide to Rational Living*, offer strikingly similar advice: "Accept your own wrongdoings...as misdeeds to learn from and to correct in the future," (Ellis & Harper, 1961, p.186).

The coming days are often considered an intense time period on the Jewish calendar. With this newfound cognitive understanding of the repentance process as being rooted in religious and psychological teachings, the process gains a new level of significance. Not only does the process reflect a special gift from Gd to man, it also has scientific backing in how to approach these new days. For those who find it more difficult to connect to their spiritual side on the yamim noraim, think of it like a CBT session with a psychologist, it'll work.







MEIRA LERNER Though it is known as one of the fastest cities in the world, trying to run in New York City is no easy feat. There are always pedestrians everywhere you turn, and there's hardly anywhere in the heart of Manhattan where someone could enjoy a rigorous run without literally bumping into tourists, business people, and hipsters. Due to difficulties of running through the crowded streets of New York City, many Stern students have instead chosen to utilize gyms to get their exercise. Although it may be tempting to push physical limits at the gym, there is a fine line between challenging oneself and suffering an injury. A few tips for gym workouts are listed below: What is the difference between aerobic and anaerobic exercise? When involved in a high-intensity workout, such as sprinting, one's oxygen intake is insufficient to provide energy for the powerful burst. Hence, the body must resort to an inferior method of energy production that can function anaerobically, or without oxygen. While temporarily effective, anaerobic energy production produces waste that eventually builds up and causes muscle fatigue. This fatigue prevents muscles from functioning with elevated intensity, slowing down the body until it reaches a speed at which it can continue production aerobically. Cross country runners, for example, are aerobic athletes, while soccer players, surprisingly, must

Optimize Your Gym Workout
















train as anaerobic sprinters. However, it is important for all competitive athletes, regardless of the sport, to do both aerobic and anaerobic training. For a cross country runner, anaerobic training can teach muscles to function at faster speeds, which translates into faster long distance runs. For a soccer player, while the game is mostly anaerobic, players must ensure that their muscles learn to function for a full ninety minutes. Elliptical or Treadmill? If your intention is to stay fit, the elliptical is a great option. The elliptical provides aerobic exercise without demanding the pounding impact between your feet, knees, and hips necessary on a treadmill. Keep in mind that if you are recovering from an injury or your knees hurt from pounding on the treadmill, the elliptical is a great option as it is the physically less demanding. However, if your goal is to run a race or play a sport that has a large running component, your primary workout should be on a treadmill. Staying fit, while a necessary factor for any sport, is not sufficient for competitive technical play. Just as a baseball player's muscles grow accustomed to smoothly throwing a ball and a tennis player's muscles adapt to swinging a racket, so too our muscles familiarize themselves with a workout. If you train for a race on an elliptical, while you will be fit, your muscles will not

gain the muscle memory of running that is obtained on a treadmill. Should I run every day? Running is an extremely effective method of burning calories and staying fit. However, running every day can make muscles susceptible to overuse injuries as the exercise puts pressure on the same muscles every day. Thus, the healthiest way to keep fit is cross-training. Instead of running every day, alternate runs with other forms of exercise, such as biking, Stair Master training, and weight training. By mixing in other workouts, you will become an overall fitter and physically healthier individual. Why is it important to lift weights? Running involves not only the legs but also the arms. If you do not believe me, try running with your arms pasted to your sides. Sprinters in particular can benefit from muscular arms, as the faster a runner pumps her arms, the faster her legs will move. For stronger, leaner muscles use lighter weights but perform more repetitions. Lifting in this way will not cause bulkiness and converts arm fat into muscle. Note that increasing muscle also enhances fat-burning potential and allows workouts to intensify without muscle fatigue. Furthermore, strong muscles are a huge factor in injury prevention.

Have more workout questions? Email questions to the Sports Editor.

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

September Home Game Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
September 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				

SPORTS

MEIRA LERNER
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Lady Macs Volleyball

LINDSAY WESS Having just six returning volleyball players, the future of the team was a matter of concern. In an exciting turn of events, the volleyball team recruited eight new, enthusiastic, and skilled volleyball players. While adding eight rookies is necessary and beneficial to the team in the long run, it often has a detrimental side-effect on team chemistry. This was a major fear entering the season, but after winning the season opener on September 4 after simply two team practices, the volleyball team proved that they are a force to be reckoned with. "I am so proud that we were able to find the chemistry needed for our first game. We all worked together and cheered each other on, which helped us stay focused and confident," said captain, Moriah Green, SCW 13. Before try-outs, the six returning players traveled to pre-season training camp where they went on daily runs and worked on their volleyball skills. Unfortunately, as injuries began to take a toll on the players, only three athletes remained fit for practice. This rocky start to the season left the women feeling unsettled about their upcoming season. But the players quickly shook off their doubts. "We were not going to let pre-season determine how we play in the games to come. Even with only three players, we still trained hard," said, Jackie Berger, SCW 14'. After a pause, Berger added, "You just always need to have a positive attitude." Unfortunately, volleyball's troubles continued. Five new players had trouble submitting medical forms,

banning them from practicing and playing in their first game. Ineligibility, however, did not stop these rookies from cheering for and supporting their teammates from the sidelines. "I was really happy to see that they kept an upbeat attitude on the bench, because it really helped us win the game, and even though they didn't play, they still helped with the win," noted Green. "I was so happy to see the smiles and support of my teammates off the court. All of our games, except for one, are all away games, which means we will have no support in the stands from family and friends. Our team is our support system for the season, and I am so happy that they are there for us," adds Berger. The players' optimistic outlook will ensure that the Maccabees' current season will be a success. With the season ending in October, the team has a full schedule of games with a single break during the week for Shabbat. The determining factor of whether Volleyball can consistently win games will be if the players can physically and mentally balance their rigorous classes and volleyball commitment. "Winning the first game of the season will definitely give us the momentum we need to pull another win," Green said. At the same time, the game-opener win is not getting to players' heads. This is merely the beginning of a long, demanding season in which the athletes must play their best in every game. It is great to win, but we cannot think that one win means that we do not have to play our best.

For more details and game recaps, visit yumacs.com.

Soccer: Macs vs. Lehman College L 1-4
Volleyball: Macs vs. Medgar Evers College W 3-0 (25-9, 25-19, 25-17)

Quotes of the Month

"You can motivate by fear, and you can motivate by reward. But both those methods are only temporary. The only lasting thing is self-motivation."
~Homer Rice~

"Every game is an opportunity to measure yourself against your own potential."
~Bud Wilkinson~

"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."
~Vince Lombardi~

ARTS & CULTURE

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Sleep No More

Strut Your September

MICHAL KAPLAN-NADEL Weighing in at four and a half pounds, the September issue of Vogue magazine is an astounding 916 pages. While this may sound like the trappings of a daunting biology textbook, it is really the guidebook to all of fall fashion. This issue of the famous magazine isn't a standard monthly edition; it has sold so many copies that a documentary was made about Vogue's famed September issue in 2009. The documentary, aptly titled *The September Issue*, shows behind the scenes footage of the magazine's production. Spotlighting Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of American Vogue, the film is very reminiscent of the film *The Devil Wears Prada*. Known for her icy demeanor and chic blonde bob, the fictional British editor-in-chief holds all the power over every decision made at the magazine. Her staff will do anything to please her, knowing that her word is final when it comes to dictating what is fashionable and what is not. Likewise, today's fashion trends are the direct result of Wintour's efforts.

When cracking open the issue, it takes flipping through about 200 glossy ads to get to a page that actually contains full sentences. But if you make it past the initial ball gowns and leather boots (don't worry there's a lot more coming, this issue boasts 658 ads), there's a little bit of everything in the articles that follow. Some articles contain more depth than one would expect, including interviews with both Chelsea Clinton and Lady Gaga, and a piece about a woman who cannot remember people's faces due

to a rare neurological condition.

Others showcase a fun and silly side of the fashion world, including a piece about designer skateboards and a spread that depicts models with different shades of neon colored hair. Although there are still the requisite articles about designers and new collections, there's enough in the issue to keep even those who aren't well versed in extreme high fashion entertained and interested.

With all the hype this edition receives, the question begs to be asked: Why is this month different than all other months? For fashion, fall is the beginning of the year. Although it's mostly speculation, the September issue is considered the most important because fall introduces big ticket items like coats, boots, and all things layered. Additionally, it is the precursor to Fashion Week, the time when many designers show their collections on the runways.

But the significance of the September issue also has a deeper message, one that extends to the Stern College for Women population as well. Shopping at this time of year reminds us how important it is to start off our year with a bang. The pieces and price tags in Vogue magazine may seem like a big jump from a new cardigan or jean skirt, but the new clothes and new school year feeling is universal. As we gear up for a year of classes and homework, having that new special piece of clothing can give us a little more bounce in our step and remind us that although summer has ended, September can still bring some fun.

DANIELLA BRECHER The title for Emursive and Punchdrunk's dance company's twisted take on Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, *Sleep No More*, couldn't be more telling. This thrilling, interactive show is enough to make the hairs on your arm stand and keep you up at night. The show's scenes, images, and prop installations burn so deeply into the mind that, try as you might, when you close your eyes the show will replay itself again and again behind your lids.

Sleep No More is shown in an old warehouse on the West Side that the producers had renovated to resemble the Mckittrick Hotel from 1939. After checking all extra baggage and coats, I went up to the front desk where I got my room key and a playing card from the friendly, smiling hotel concierge. I passed the lobby and entered a dark, narrow black maze, while thinking that I was about to embark on a terrifying journey. Instead, I entered the Manderley bar, a scene taken right out of the 1930s.

The mood was set with dimly lit rooms, red velvet draped walls, and a stage where a lounge singer and her band were turning out some slow swing tunes. There, we, the "Guests," all socialize, drink, and relax before being admitted individually every few minutes by the overfriendly attendee, an actress, into the rest of the hotel.

When my number, found on my playing card, was called, my fellow number eights and I gathered into a small room where we were handed a Venetian carnival styled mask, which we were told to keep on, and to remain silent throughout our stay at the Mckittrick. We all crammed into the elevator, and were advised by the elevator attendant to watch our step, and to explore on our own.

Punchdrunk are the pioneers of immersive theater—a setting in which the audience gets involved. An audience member can touch the detailed installations and choose what parts of the play she wishes to see and in what order she wishes to see them. When I entered on the fourth floor of the five-story building, my companion

and I started to explore the children's hospital. There was no cheer, but rather an atmosphere of eeriness and abandonment. After exploring for a bit, we suddenly crossed paths with one of the actresses. While trying to keep up and follow that particular actress's story line, we quickly became separated from the action.

The entire show is performed interpretively through forms of dance, difficult gymnastic moves, fight scenes, and wall climbing. The only sounds from the actors are humming or whistling to a tune, blood curdling screeches, grunts, groans, and chuckles. Each actor runs up and down the five-story building playing out his own part of the story and meeting together with the others at different points, whether it be for a sacrifice, a burial, a game of cards at the pub, or an intimate moment with their wife or lover.

Because of this layout it is nearly impossible to see the entire play from each character's point of view in one stay. It's exhilarating, yet hard at times to keep up, because all the other guests are also trying to chase their chosen character and get a better view of the exciting scenes. The entire experience feels dreamlike, where one floats in and out of different locations, interacts with others at her choosing, or stands like a ghost as she quietly explore some desk drawer or reads a private love letter to herself as other dancers go on brawling in the background.

I won't give away the ending, but all the characters and guests end up in one room, coming together at the close for a dramatic finale. When my companion and I met up again back in the Manderley, finally able to catch a breath, we found that we had two very different experiences and saw two very different shows. However, we were able to connect the dots, seeing how it wove together to form one hugely exciting show.

This show is not for the faint of heart; it is extremely gruesome, bloody, and risqué. But, for those that love a good thrill, a haunted house, and a quick escape from reality, it's a truly incredible and exhilarating experience.

Walking Tours: Never Grow Up



Alice's Tea Cup: Located at 156 East 64th Street

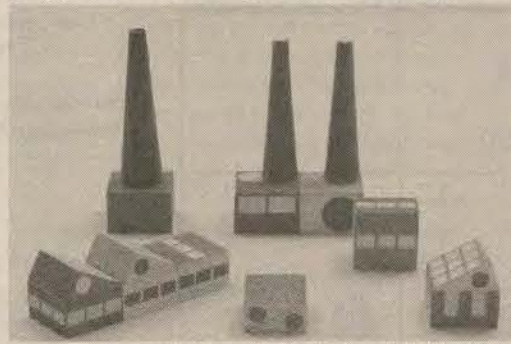
AIMEE RUBENSTEEN

Ever feel like you're experiencing Peter Pan Syndrome when you walk through the double doors of Brookdale? Ever wish you could still get rewarded every time you wake up and went to class like in Kindergarten? Well, whether you are a freshman or a super senior, this walking tour guarantees to give you a little pick me up.

Begin with a cup of tea at Alice's Tea Cup. Remember the good old days when pretend tea served in sparkling tea sets entertained you and your friends for hours? This quaint shop offers a huge variety of teas, among other treats.

Then head over to the Museum of Modern Art's newest exhibit, "Century of the Child: Growing by Design," and indulge in the nostalgia of your childhood toys. With Gameboys, blocks, and tamagotchis galore, you will get to play with major influences of toy-design. (moma.org)

The Museum of Modern Art: Located at 11 West 53 Street (on 53rd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues)



The Museum of Modern Art: Located at 11 West 53 Street

Next, find your inner child during a yoga class at Yoga to the People. Take an extra few breaths in your Child's Pose and laugh a little more when you finish with the Happy Baby position. Yoga to the People studio: Located at 1017 6th Ave (on the corner of 38th Street and 6th Avenue)

End your walk with a stop at Magnolia Bakery and get a pumpkin pecan muffin or a red velvet cupcake. Enjoy the endorphins jumping through your body with every bite.

(magnoliabakery.com)
Magnolia Bakery: Located at 1240 Avenue of the Americas (on the corner of 6th Avenue and 49th Street)



This new addition to *The Observer* serves provide students with different, seasonal walking tour ideas on a monthly basis. Is there an area you'd like Aimee to map out? Email aimee.rubenstein@mail.yu.edu

Yoga to the People studio: Located at 1017 6th Ave

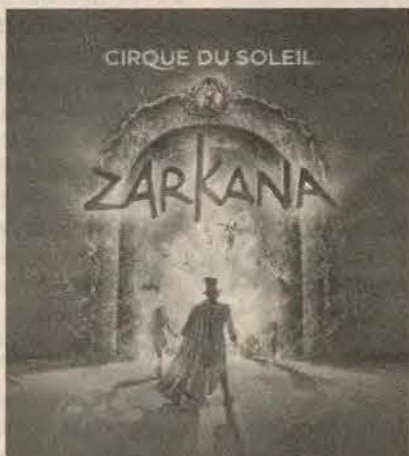


Cirque de Soleil - Zarkana A Review

SHOSHANA BACHRACH World renowned show, Cirque de Soleil: Zarkana tagline, "A fantastically twisted acrobatic extravaganza," already alludes to its premise of getting lost in a darkly magical, uniquely-Soleil wonderland.

The basic premise of the show's story is entertaining—a charismatic but temperamental magician on a musical quest. The music is catchy, separating the storyline from the circus and alleviating the sensory overload. And the acts themselves, simple yet fascinating, and often death-defying, had me clutching my seat. Certain acts, like the golden and green clad trapeze artists, looked so effortless and breathtaking, for a second it didn't seem like what they were doing was difficult at all. The performers were flung into the air and expected to land on a trampoline thinner. From the trampoline, they either soared onto a balance beam, or nearly fell off the "Wheel of Death." At that point, the audience is shaken back into reality and suddenly we'd all remember how difficult these stunts actually are.

Zarkana entertained, but it didn't entirely enthrall. I was not completely lost in the fantasy and I did not think the show met my high expectations. Perhaps it was the show's venue of the classy and enormous Radio City Music Hall that separated the show from its creepy aura. Additionally, the length of the show was disappointing; it was less than an hour and a



half, while I had been expecting at least a two hour performance. When the lights turned on, I thought it was the intermission.

The main thing that made me dislike the show was the liberal use of digital effects. The set was created out of three arches onto which various videos were projected. At times this was done to great effect, transforming the stage from a red-tinged mad scientist's lab to a twisted grove of knotty vines. Other times it just looked cartoonish and out of place—like when a cascade of eyeballs flowed down the backdrop for no apparent reason. Cirque de Soleil is not for the single-task mind; there's a lot going on at once. As tightrope walkers leapfrogged on an impossibly thin wire, belly dancers shimmied before torches spewing flames in time with the beat, all with a puppet snake ensconced woman singing menacingly in the background. The giant, digital snakes slithering up and down the sides of the main arch that accompanied this were just overkill.

Is Cirque de Soleil a must see show? Zarkana is not. It was enjoyable and entertaining, but if you're looking for a breathtaking show, go to Broadway. If you're looking to be enveloped in a circus of mystery and magic, read *The Night Circus* by Emily Morgenstern. Zarkana won't blow your mind, but if you're in the mood for a more artistic take on Barnum and Bailey, it will probably do the trick.

6AM, And Backstreet's Back Alright!

MICHAEL KAPLAN-NADEL An infamous star-struck scream rose from Central Park early (try 6 am!) on Friday, August 31st, when the Backstreet Boys reunited for the first time in six years to kick off their twentieth anniversary year. The boy band, which had ruled the pop music scene in the nineties, came back for the final, and largest, concert in Good Morning America's summer concert series.

The concert's early hour didn't stop the crowd from getting a chance to hear a favorite 90s band perform. My friends and I heard about the concert through Facebook, like many others who were ready for the Boys to be back. That's right: Backstreet was definitely back, although the "Boys" are all in their thirties now. But, despite their ages, the five members of the group were showing lots of energy as



Emily Wolmark

they took the stage, joking with fans and whipping out dance moves. "It was great to see them chilling on stage like actual people. We got to really see their personalities," says Emily Wolmark, SCW '14. The Backstreet Boys only played four songs, but the crowd didn't care. They sang along with the classics "Larger than Life," "I Want It That Way," "Incomplete," and "Everybody (Backstreet's Back)." Everyone cheered for their favorite band member, but there were particularly loud cheers for Kevin Richardson, who left the band in 2006,



Emily Wolmark

but has reunited with the group once again. The moment of most excitement at the concert took place when the Backstreet Boys announced their new album, which will be released later this year, and be accompanied by their upcoming tour in 2013. This twentieth anniversary tour will include many concerts and even a Backstreet Boys cruise. Good Morning America's Lara Spencer also announced that fans posting on Twitter had made #GMABackstreet the number one worldwide hashtag trend during the concert. This is a testament to the kind of impact that the Backstreet Boys have made on their tween fans, now all grown up.

Despite the devotion that the fans at the concert displayed, some are skeptical about whether the turnout indicates any sign for the upcoming tour. Jamie Bernstein, another SCW '14 student who was present at the concert, questioned the future success of the band: "Many people, like me, went to the concert for a blast from the past. Attending a fun and free concert doesn't necessarily mean that people want to buy the new music."

Follow them on Twitter @Backstreetboys to stay posted. Time will tell if Backstreet's really back.

The Obama You Do Not Know

HOLLY HAMPTON SEIDENFELD Alongside *Jurassic Park* and *Schindler's List*, producer Gerald R. Molen can count 2016: Obama's America among his most significant accomplishments. Although the movie is officially categorized as a documentary, it watches more as a thriller, or even a horror story. In the film, Dinesh D'Souza, a political commentator and author of many books including *The End of Racism*, explores President Barack Obama's journey from his birthplace, Hawaii, to the White House. While the film originally opened in only one theater in Houston, Texas, it has made a larger splash than anyone could have anticipated. Fox News recently reported that experts are predicting that its earnings will soon surpass Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

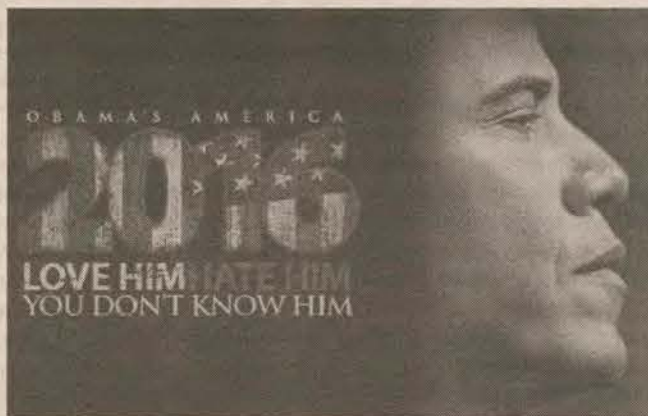
With all this hype surrounding the film, I entered the theater with great expectations. Using Obama's autobiography, *Dreams from My Father*, as his structural basis, D'Souza follows the storyline and tries to understand the President's life journey. He interviews people who knew the young Obama, including his half-brother in Kenya, and he visits the places that deeply affected Obama. The highlights of these interviews primarily revolve around Obama Senior's leftist positions, including a very anti-colonial outlook, and his half-brother's contrasting support of colonialism. However, Obama's father had almost no contact with his son; this casts some doubt as to the relevance of his positions.

At this point in the film, there is a sudden, dramatic shift: Obama's voiceover accompanies

a harrowing visual, wherein he visits his father's grave in Kenya. Quoting directly from his personal memoir, he describes how visiting the gravesite transformed him. At that point, he became determined to succeed and carry out the dreams of his father. This is the moment when D'Souza introduces his own revelation: Influenced by his father's beliefs, Obama's actions have all been within an anti-colonial framework. This explains his curious policies, including one of his first acts as President, wherein he removed a bust of Winston Churchill from the White House. I became entranced at this point. Scene after scene unfolded, and I watched Obama's life and political choices explained from this new perspective.

The most distressing scene was undoubtedly when the President mistakenly believed his microphone was off, and whispered to the outgoing Russian president about the American missile defense. He said, "This is my last election. After my election, I have more flexibility." The Russian leader responds, "I understand. I transmit this information to Vladimir, [the incoming president]."

By the end of the film, I glanced around, and nearly the entire audience was leaning forward, with their elbows on their knees, and their heads propped on their hands. The woman next to me whispered to herself, "Oh my gosh. Scary." I simply responded, "Terrifying." This is a must-see for any American, whether Democrat, Republican, or perhaps most importantly, undecided. It is no surprise this movie has taken the country by storm.



Puzzle Corner: Torah Tours

DAVIDA KOLLMAR Every year the CJF sends YU undergrads across North America to bring ruach to various communities for Simchat Torah. This year is no different. This year, ten students who hail from ten cities will be each sent to one of those same ten communities. Can you use the ten clues to figure out the hometown and destination of each student.

1. The ten cities are: Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and St. Louis.
2. The five girls were from Boston, Chicago, Denver, Miami, and St. Louis.
3. The five boys went to Baltimore, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, and St. Louis.
4. The student from Miami was the only student who remained in his/her own community.
5. No student travelled to a city with the same initial as his/her hometown.
6. Only one pair of students traded places directly with each other.
7. The student from Houston went to Baltimore.
8. The longest trip was one from New York to Los Angeles.
9. The city of Denver either had a resident go to Chicago or had a visitor from Boston.
10. The student from Los Angeles went to a city which is ahead of it in the alphabet.

Email scwobserver@gmail.com for the answer!

OPINIONS

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Nowhere But Here: How To Do It All

HANNAH DREYFUS *Dual curriculum.* To many who attend Stern, the setup is second nature. We're accustomed to incredibly long days, long hours, and abrupt subject switches from Bible to Chemistry to Talmud to Art History. Nowhere but here is 21 credits an average single semester course load. Nowhere but here are we so adept at bifurcating our minds, notebooks, and concentrations. Nowhere but here do holy texts and textbooks share a backpack so comfortably. And nowhere but here do we seem quite so busy all the time. This "Nowhere but Here" installment is dedicated to methods of effectiveness that will help you, extraordinarily busy Stern girl (skeptically raised YC brows aside), continue to do it all, and do it all gracefully.

1. Prioritize OK—I lied. You can't do it all. No one can do it all. And, even more lethal than attempting to do it all is attempting to do it all at once.

Am I telling you, assiduous Stern student, not to do all your homework? Perhaps. Being a successful student and a functional human being (functional: able to eat, sleep, and communicate coherently with other human beings) isn't about blasting through every single to-do on your list. It's about figuring out what needs to be done first, and doing that.

Here's the analogy: You've got big rocks, small rocks, and sand, and you're challenged to fill up a jar. If you start with the sand, the big rocks won't fit. Start with the big rocks, then the small rocks, and then let the sand fill up the remaining spaces, and you'll succeed.

Step one: listing your priorities. This may seem

extraneous; however, when you start listing the things in your life that require time and matter most (and the more specific the better), you give yourself a realistic picture of what needs to fit in your jar.

Step two: order your priorities in terms of level of commitment. All your priorities do not and cannot warrant the same level of commitment. When it comes to classes, list them in order of importance and operate accordingly. The same should be done with extracurriculars, people, and pastimes.

The people who seem to do it all aren't doing it all. They're just choosing what they do mindfully.

2. The Computer Black Hole You're working along merrily in the library, studying, writing a paper. Then, a tiny little notification pops up—someone tagged you in his album. You satisfy your curiosity for just one, innocent moment—and then, before you have time to scream for help, all is lost. You have slipped irreversibly into the black hole of mindless computer surfing. You are caught in the iron claws of curiosity, distraction, and procrastination. Your productive afternoon has been ruthlessly snatched from your grasp, and sacrificed to the insatiable World Wide Web.

How can our fragile human minds fight this battle? Do not underestimate the enemy! As with any battle, you need tactics. They can be drastic—disabling your Internet while in the library (the a-bomb strategy). They can be subtle—only checking your email as a reward for accomplishing a certain amount of work (more of a carrot and stick approach). Either way, stay aware of time. Set limitations. Alarms. Ultimatums. You name it.

Just do not let yourself fall into the computer black hole with no means of escape. It will be the last thing you do.

3. Just Dance Or run. Or yoga (that should definitely be a verb by now). Go walking along the East River. Do not underestimate the power of exercise; you will concentrate better, work better, eat better, and feel better. Take advantage of the gyms in the dorms. Take advantage of your legs—they tend to be rather underused during the school year (even for Schotty residents). Make it a priority, and you'll fit it in to your schedule. How? Refer back to number one.

Simple equation: Exercise produces endorphins. Endorphins make you happy. Happy people don't fail in school—they just don't.

4. Schedule in Relationships It is startling to realize that relationships do not and will not fuel themselves. All relationships, even the ones most important to you, require an investment of time and energy. We all sort of know this, but somehow, relationships seem one of the first rocks to be left unceremoniously left outside the jar. Why? If we're honest, it's because we assume they will still be there when we get back

to them when we finally have time. Unfortunately, that's not the case. Relationships change, people change, dynamics change. When and if you leave a relationship behind, do so consciously and with the knowledge that it won't be the same when you come back to it. And, if you're not willing to take that risk, (literally) schedule in time for the people in your life who matter most.

5. Wake Up Happy The way you wake up sets the tone of your day—don't leave it to chance. Make a playlist of all your favorite, upbeat songs, and set that as your alarm. I can't say you'll jump out of bed, but at least you'll smile against your will into the pillow... and you'll try and fight it, but your feet will start tapping... and then you'll jump out of bed in full-on flashmob mode. And then you'll have an awesome day.

6. Start Small When everything looks incredibly overwhelming, as life often does, pick one thing to do. Just one. And do that.

I do not like to end with clichés, but this column is begging for it: The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.

Here's to a successful, effective, mindful, dynamic year. Write on.

Nowhere But Here: Response Column

YITZCHOK DAWIDOWICZ Hello Hannah, I just finished reading first installment of 'Nowhere But Here', published on The Observer website. (I guess I am one of the few males who reads it online... even after graduating). It was a very interesting piece, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

I have a question regarding your story about getting a nose ring. You mentioned that the motivation to do so was to make others reconsider the mold they had instinctively put you in when seeing your skirt, your hair, or the name of your seminary. You wanted to force them to think "Wait, the nose ring doesn't fit my preconceived notion... who is this woman?" You wanted to prove to others that you cannot be known, understood, by a mere once-over. I question that notion.

As much as we try to avoid them, labels are good. When young high school students (or maybe their parents) decide which seminary or yeshiva to attend, they do so by looking for the one that is the "right fit" for them. They want to go to an institution of learning where the teachers and classes will espouse a type of thinking that they believe in and to which they are comfortable committing a year or more of their life. (Many of them may decide to—gasp—not go to Israel. Let's not forget that label.) The same is true when a person decides to identify as Modern Orthodox or Yeshivish, Conservative or Reform, or even whether to attend YU or Secular College. Our choices carry a lot of weight. They define us.

Allow me, if you will, to ask a personal question. (You did say you wanted this column to be a conversation, one in which I hope alumni can participate.) When you were thinking of getting a nose ring, was it because people were making assumptions about you based on your clothing and seminary that were false, or were those assumptions perhaps a little too accurate for comfort? Was it possible that maybe you fit into that mold too well, and you didn't like that? Maybe you personally didn't feel that way, but I am sure many do, that they fit too well into a certain "type" of person.

But here is the truth—that is not a bad thing. There are very few people in your life who will truly know you. A person who has one true friend is lucky. I know that is hard to believe in today's day of 1,000 plus "friends" on Facebook. But truthfully, though, only your closest friend(s) will actually know who you are, what drives you, what kind of person you are. Everyone else will only have a basic idea.

When you arrived at the gate for your flight to Berlin you thought it was not going to be a very "social" trip. (By the way, was I the guy eating Oreos? I'm pretty sure I was already sleeping on the floor when you got there.) You were

then pleasantly surprised. But was that because you had read everybody incorrectly? Or because, despite the fact that you had read us all correctly, even though we were all coming from different places, that didn't stop us from enjoying each other's company? It is very difficult to really get to know somebody. Until we take that time to understand someone, we rely on labels. Labels that often work.

Dear Yitzchok, You raise some incredibly important points and distinctions in your response, most notably regarding the importance of judging others. Judgment has a time and place, and judging others is a rudimentary part of self-definition.

However, I would like to make a distinction between judging others out of insecurity, and judging others out of the healthy human need to self-differentiate. The litmus test: how you respond to the other. If you respond to the other with fear, resentment, or an attitude of self-righteousness, you have chosen to view another as a threat, judging her to protect your fragile sense of self. If you judge another but are still able to respond to her with respect, dignity, and a willingness to reassess, you are judging others out of a place of security and necessity.

In response to your questions: the problem with judging, labeling, and stereotyping, despite its critical evaluative role, is that it inhibits you from seeing someone else as a complex unit. Both your questions regarding the reasons I personally considered a nose ring and my initial assumptions at the flight gate, presuppose that I, and my trip-mates, fit into one, delineated mold. Your questions ask if this 'model' proved true or false.

While it is a good question, I think it overlooks an important part of my message. What I advocate for in this piece, and in my life, is breaking out of this true/false, accurate/inaccurate way of looking at people, and at life. When you allow yourself to appreciate the nuances in another human being, the combination of good and bad that so uniquely characterizes us all, labels begin to dim. The question, "who am I" and, sequentially, "who is another" begins to stipulate less rigid confines.

Judgment results from comparison: how does this person measure up to what I think he/she should be. How does this person measure up to who I am. Appreciation of another brings along no measuring tape. You are able, instead, to simply enjoy another human being, presupposition free.

I hope my response was able to answer some of your questions, and address some of the important points you raised. I deeply appreciate your response, and encourage future writers and thinkers to speak up as well! Write on, Hannah

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- How can I add or drop a class?
- 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?

Loving The Stranger: An American Call To Action



bikyama.com

TALI ADLER It sounds like a scene out of a dystopian movie: crowds of people in the streets, chanting slogans that demand the refugees go back to where they came from. Molotov cocktails hurled at several homes by night, a daycare center set aflame. Local businesses display shattered windows, and there are reports of individuals being harassed and beaten in the streets. A member of parliament describes the refugees as a “cancer” and depicts them as an economic threat as well as a danger to the national identity of the country.

The depressing truth of the matter? These are real life events, not something out of a movie. The terrifying part? These aren't scenes from some third world country far

removed from our lives; these are all events that occurred this past summer in the familiar streets of Tel Aviv in reaction to the recent influx of African refugees to Israel.

Some of these refugees are fleeing from war-torn countries, others from poverty and oppression. All are in search of a better life. They are, indisputably, among the most vulnerable members of Israeli society. They have little political power and few friends among the Israeli population. Most of them do not know how to take advantage of the protections that a free society should guarantee them, or how to effectively combat the hate crimes that have occurred repeatedly in the neighborhoods where they have settled. Those of us looking to fulfill the

oft-repeated Biblical commandment not to oppress the weak in society need look no further than the streets of Israel where so many of us spent our summer. It is difficult to argue that these refugees are not the strangers that the Torah commands us to empathize with and protect.

Issues of immigration policy are obviously complicated, and this is not the appropriate venue in which to discuss them. It is unnecessary to explain why racially motivated attacks on indigent civilians are unacceptable in a civilized society. What is necessary, unfortunately, is to ask what should be an obvious question: Why has the American Orthodox community remained silent regarding these events? Why has our community, which feels so deeply connected to Israel, said so little and done even less to help combat the vicious actions that have been so frequently documented in the pages of the Jerusalem Post and Haaretz? How is it that a religious community that feels the right and imperative to influence Israeli policy on all matters related to land policy and national defense feels no need to call on the Israeli government to do everything in its power to protect its most vulnerable residents?

A religious community that is concerned about the security of the Jewish state must also concern itself with that state's Jewish character. Our community has begun to take part in

debates of this nature (many a New York Shabbat table has been the setting of heated debates regarding whether busses should run in Jerusalem on Friday nights and Saturdays), but we failed to do so this summer. True concern about the Jewish soul of the State of Israel means demanding that we as a people examine how it is possible that a country so concerned with determining the Jewish status of converts and Jews of patrilineal descent can so drastically violate the commandment not to oppress the stranger, repeated 36 times in the Torah.

The American Orthodox community has been presented with a choice regarding its relationship with Israel: It can easily remain, as always, a

distant cheerleader whose loud voice intrudes only when questions of land and security are concerned. Likewise, it can continue to attend rallies about Iran, UN criticism of Israel, and rely on AIPAC to represent its only real concerns. Alternatively, American Orthodoxy can decide to concern itself with all that and more. It can decide that it is time to lend its voice not only to questions of the religious status of land but also the religious dignity of its people. It can demand that a Jewish state behave in a Jewish manner, and proclaim that the survival of the Jewish state depends not only on a Jewish majority but also on a Jewish character as well.

It's time to step up, American Orthodoxy.



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Look Good, Feel Good

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exposure of those A-Line tanks, or, for lack of better words, 'wife beaters.' First of all, layering is so five years ago. You don't need to have 3 shirts peeking out from the one you actually chose to wear. Wife beaters are a perfectly simple and easy way to butcher your outfit—especially if you're wearing them backwards in hopes that they can replace your white shell (shudder). Don't do that – we all know what the Fruit of the Loom logo looks like. Yes they are comfortable and easy and everything else you can come up with. I promise, there are a million other undershirts you could wear that don't make you look like you slept on the streets last night.

We've gone piece by piece, and now let's evaluate our less-than-fashionista Stern girl's outfit. On a typical day, she is wearing a faded Gap tee that isn't quite long enough because it's been through seminary washing machines, a baggy wife beater sticking out from the bottom, a black skirt, and flip flops. Here's what I have to say to you: You all look like everyone else and none of you look good.

Get rid of the shirts that don't fit you anymore, and be mindful of the fact that your weight may have changed. Your shirts, unless of course they are part of last year's weird belly shirt phase (which is over, thank Gd), should make a point of covering your stomach. No one should see your back when you bend over. It is uncomfortable for us and rude of you.

The wrinkled look that comes with shoving your clothes into your dresser when they come out of the dryer isn't that cool either. Make a point to fold them when they're still warm, and you'll never once need an iron (though I have one if the need ever rises).

Okay, I've made my point and eliminated your wardrobe. Now what? I advise taking a moment to consider your outfit the night before, not five minutes before class. This will take only one

minute when you're unfortunately wide awake before bedtime while it will take a lot longer when you're exhausted and sleepy eyed with only ten minutes before class.

What you *should* do in the morning, however, is look in the mirror and even maybe pat your hair down a bit. No need to style it or anything, but no matter how good your “just out of bed” hair is, we can all tell if you've slept in that bun.

Some final tips to help you look better put together: one of my personal favorites are button downs. They are simple, easy, and *voila!* You look all dressed up. I do recommend stocking up on button downs if you don't like to spend time on getting dressed but care to look somewhat presentable.

Another quick-fix is tucking in your shirt. People are for some reason very afraid to do this, but chances are you don't look any fatter with your shirt tucked in; if anything the look will flatter you and give people reason to ask what you're so dressed up for today. It may also not kill you to be a little creative and wear a skirt that isn't black every day, but that's really up to you and just fine if you feel comfortable. I won't take that away from you.

If you want to look like a respectable individual and also feel like one, even on those really bad days that exist every once in a while, it really isn't that difficult. It does take some mindfulness and dedication. Especially if you realize that this article is completely bashing the way you look every day. But, the truth is, that as insignificant as another day of class may be, and as silly as it may seem to care about what you look like in school, at the end of the day it's every day, and do you really want to spend the greater part of your week looking, and thereby feeling, like you couldn't care less? It really doesn't take much time or energy to change that, and take my word for it, you will accomplish a lot more when you feel better about yourself.



Adina Kleiner

What Are You Planning On Doing With *THAT*?! A History Major Talks Back

CHANA BRAUSER It's the first week of my junior year at Stern College and already I have seriously contemplated embarking on an illustrious career as a high-powered lawyer, innovative economist (think Freakonomics), compassionate nurse, groundbreaking psychologist, miracle-working doctor, and yes, a physical/occupational/speech therapist with gloriously flexible hours ideal for supporting a growing family. I've considered hurtling down the entrepreneurial path and starting something fabulously successful (à la Mark Zuckerberg), and I've daydreamed about a lucrative position at a global company with a wondrously fun office space (hey, Google).

I've vacillated between excitement about my aliya aspirations and crashed hard after recalling story after story of penny-pinching lifestyles and scarce employment opportunities. I've reveled in my artsiness as I ambled through the streets of the Lower East Side and Soho, assuring myself that (wo)man can live on love of used books and vintage clothing alone. Arriving back in Midtown only moments later, I've been intimidated by young professionals carrying shiny briefcases, talking earnestly amongst themselves, and dropping desperately dry – but somehow stable and reassuring – terms like “banking” and “finance.” After which I nearly took off at a ungainly sprint towards the Syms building,

determined to acquire a business degree as soon as humanly possible.

As a history major myself, I've nearly bear hugged every fellow history major I chanced upon, plaintively begging that they rationalize their choice of major aloud and asking probing questions that probably made some seniors hate me, like, “Do you regret your choice?” and, “So what are you planning on doing next year after you graduate?” I am quick to confess that I, too, am heading down the slippery slope that is the nebulous liberal arts degree. I've attempted to conduct full-blown therapy sessions with unsuspecting non-biology majors in the checkout line in the caf in an effort to make myself feel better about my choice of study. I've equated future success with a degree in biology more times than I can count. I've tried to picture my future in my mind's eye and come up with a terrifying grayness (that's my career we're discussing--I'd like to imagine that my hair will go more of a glamorous white). I've wondered where the time has gone and why I'm not in my school uniform playing Cops and Robbers on the playground (true story).

I've been overwhelmed by my classes and berated myself for wasting my time with “impractical” subjects like ancient Greeks and genocides. Later, I've gently patted my bruised and abused

ego, thinking soothing thoughts like, “Well, at least I know how to think critically” and, “Now, now, ‘impractical’ is a strong word” and, “You'd be great working for a nonprofit” (to which the part of me that's out to get me snidely smirks, “There's a reason it's called a nonprofit, you know”). I've comforted myself by reading up on fabulously successful people with impractical majors and realized, in a (fleeting) flash of inspiration, that the world is my oyster, ignoring the screaming news headlines bemoaning the sorry job market facing college graduates. I've considering applying to more internships than it would take to feed a third world country before (gleefully) recalling the upcoming month-long break and deciding they were impractical. I've applauded myself for making at least that practical decision – because when all anyone tells you is that you're pursuing a highly impractical and virtually useless major, you need all the cheerleading you can get in that department.

But despite it all – depressed job markets, depressed economies, depressed people working in depressed job markets in depressed economies – I've only got two more years here to make the most of my liberal arts education and milk it for all it's worth. As to what it's worth, I can't quite tell you yet and I'm not sure that it's the type of thing I'll be able to quantify. But sometimes, when

I'm graced with a particular burst of clarity or have a reassuring conversation with some former liberal arts major doing something profoundly unexpected with a deep degree of satisfaction, I get a little smile on my face and go back to studying law inscriptions from ancient Crete. If I'm deluding myself, then so be it. There will be plenty of time to worry about the future in the future.

Until then, I stand proudly behind my history major. Whether you're one of the legions of biology majors, or a Jewish education major with your sights set on being a high school teacher, or even a quiet art history major with an insatiable passion for curatorial work that some might call pie-in-the-sky, let's all try to have a little faith in ourselves and in the future.

When I tell you I'm a history major, instead of asking me what I plan on doing with it, ask me how I like what I'm doing now. In a world full of Debbie Downers and Bob Bumpers – no matter how sobering or scary the reality is – there's something to be said for being in the here and now and really making the most of our college years. Here's to a brand new academic year filled with searching, exploring, and experiencing... and a hefty dose of optimism to carry you through.

My Job At A Hospice: Learning How To Greet An Unwelcome Guest

ELEANOR GREENMAN Death is never a welcome visitor. This past summer, I interned at Serenity Hospice in Portland, Oregon, working with patients and their loved ones. One could call my job a companion, a cleaning lady, or simply a listening ear—they would all be accurate. Many times I have been asked about exactly what I did in a hospice, and usually I offer the responses just mentioned. Yet, if I am to be truly honest, I was a merely a friend to those patiently awaiting that long-expected visitor.

One of the most pronounced lessons I took away from this experience concerned not death itself, but the manner in which we respond to it. At the hospice, co-workers and patients who mentioned “death” and all its variations with as much ease as their own names surrounded me. However, after leaving Serenity and returning to Stern, I became acutely aware that the mention of death is astoundingly absent from colloquial conversation. The topic of death, however, is more than just absent. It is fastidiously avoided—a tacit taboo.

In all fairness, this avoidance makes a lot of sense. We are all young, vibrant women at the cusp of adulthood, preparing to venture off into the world with goals, dreams, and hopes. Naturally the idea of the possible termination of such a world is hurriedly thrown out of the doorway, and the door is quickly locked and barricaded lest it returns, knocks, and tries to forcefully enter.

But the question still remains: why must death be so forcefully cast away

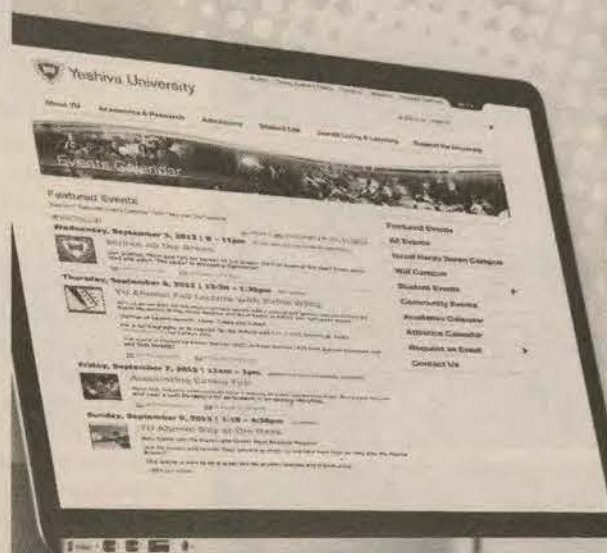
in conversation? As morbid as this may sound, not only did I interact with and get to know my patients this summer, but I had the chance to sit down and become acquainted with death as well. The value of such an experience was immeasurable.

Early one morning, a week before I returned to Stern, I received a call informing me that one of the patients I had visited every Monday had begun to “transition,” meaning the end was near. I headed over to Serenity immediately. Upon my arrival, I saw a woman—a shadow of the person I had seen just a few days ago. She was lying in her bed, atop her pink pillowcases lined with lace. Here was a woman on the verge of death; yet, surprisingly, with every surge of her chest, I could see a faint smile appear on her face.







Death is often personified negatively. He is an ominous figure cloaked in black, who causes us to run away whenever we hear his name mentioned or see a glimpse of his shadow. What I learned through this experience is that death is not a man of terror. He knows that his visit is undesired. A guest always knows when he is unwanted.

Death is not the enemy. The more we treat the topic of death with fear and unease within our own lives and conversations, tiptoeing around the topic, the more difficult it becomes to confront this unwelcome visitor when he calls. And he will call. Beginning to confront the topic of death with openness and maturity is the first step to accepting what we all know, but don't truly believe: we're not going to live forever.

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The Apple vs Samsung Case

MARTHA BAUMGARTEN Some of the most notable consumer rivalries of our generation include household names such Nike vs. Adidas, Coke vs. Pepsi, Skippy vs. Jif. However, in an age that popularized video chat, the need for constant Internet access, and social networking, the stakes grew beyond merely which sneaker to buy or which peanut butter makes the best sandwich. In the past year, the world watched as tech giants Apple and Samsung battled it out on the international stage over alleged violations of intellectual property rights.

In the spring of 2011, Apple sued Samsung for allegedly violating various components of its smart phone and tablet technology. Apple brought claims of 'patent infringement', 'false designation of origin', 'unfair competition', and 'trademark infringement' to international courts. Different combinations of these claims were brought to trial in South

Korea, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Holland, England, Australia, and the United States.

Though experts say that Android phones are more customizable with Google or TouchWiz technology while the iPhone has a more aesthetic appeal coupled with Apple's iOS operating system, the Apple maintains that the technology actually violates patent law. The infringements on user interface, and style, claim Apple, specifically include Samsung's tablet, Nexus 5, Epic 4g, Galaxy S and 4g, and Galaxy Tab. In response, Samsung counter-sued Apple in multiple countries for infringing on its patents for mobile communication.

Both companies attempted to impose preliminary injunctions on the sales of its products. In one case, the German court eventually banned the sale of Samsung's tablet on the bases of copyright infringement. The sale of Samsung products was soon banned in other countries such as Holland.

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In South Korea, although the court ruled that Samsung was not guilty of copying Apple's iPad and iPhone design, specific product sales from both companies were banned due to other infringements.

Samsung's largest victory in this embroiled legal battle was in Japan. The Japanese court dismissed Apple's claim that Samsung violated its patent on media synchronization. Apple made great strides when in August 2012, the Federal court in Northern California awarded Apple with over a billion dollars in damages.

Because lawyers did not negotiate the form of payment for the billion-dollar settlement, Samsung allegedly

sent over 30 trucks filled with nickels as the first installment of their payment. (Techies with a sense of humor?)

According to a PCWorld review of the top smart phones on the market, Samsung's Galaxy Nexus was ranked higher at number two than Apple's iPhone at number seven. Apple sits at the top of United States smart phone sales while Samsung is the leader in the world mobile and smart phone market. Samsung has dominated the market with the release of a few new smart phones while iPhone sales have been sluggish in the second quarter. It would not be surprising to see a pick up in Apple sales in the near future since it has recently invited the media

to an event in which it will announce the release of their new product, the iPhone 5.

Although it seems as if Apple has emerged as the victor, the world must wait for the many still pending cases across the globe. For now, this could be an opportune time to break previous technological loyalties that keep us glued to our beloved handheld touch screens and chrome keyboards. Dare I say it; it might not hurt to try other brands instead of waiting endlessly for our dear electronic executives to announce the release of the next models and software. We might just find ourselves pleasantly surprised.

Einstein Researchers Explore Cataract Medicine

BELLA WOLF With approximately 42% of Americans rocking some sort of eye glasses, contact lens, or Lasix surgery, ophthalmological research has been on the rise over the past quarter decade. This summer was no different. Researchers at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine have found that there are several specific DNA repair enzymes and pathways that appear to be crucial for denucleation in embryonic mice lens fiber cells, which compose the structure of the ocular lens. The researchers studied certain chemical processes that are involved with taking apart the nucleus of a cell. The cells they studied were part of the eye's ocular lens in embryonic mice.

The primary goal of the research was to use these mice to then evaluate and understand the process of transparent lens formation, and determine which key genes, when mutated, lead to the destruction of the optic lens and the formation of cataracts. Cataracts can prevent clear vision and in certain instances be so severe that they cause blindness. According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, cataracts affect 22 million Americans ages 40 and older. This research is part of an effort to prevent cataracts. I was afforded the incredible opportunity by Yeshiva University to participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program at Albert

Einstein College of Medicine. As part of this program, I was assigned to work in a specific lab geared toward my particular interests and field of expertise. I was paired up with Dr. Ales Cvekl in the department of Ophthalmology, Genetics, and Visual Sciences. As I made the dissections and ran tests, I was able to get a feel for what it means to be involved in a laboratory on a day-to-day basis and got a front row seat to this specific research.

The lens is a very important component of the eye as it refracts incoming light to be transmitted on the retina where an image can be processed and visualized. In order for the lens to work properly and efficiently, the lens fiber cells must be transparent. Subcellular organelles such as the nucleus reduce transparency and hinder the ability of the lens to do its job properly. Therefore, denucleation is a critical process that takes place during embryonic development in which the lens fiber cells remove the nucleus. If denucleation does not take place, clouding of the lens would occur, leading to the onset of cataracts. Age onset cataract formation is responsible for 48% of the total occurrences of blindness world-wide, affecting 18 million people. Understanding, and identifying some of the key biological pathways that when mutated lead to cataract formation is the first step in the attempt to circumvent cataract formation and the need for surgery.

As the denucleation process occurs, double stranded DNA breaks form and chromatin, content of the nucleus, degrades. Therefore previous research has indicated that in order to counteract this and prevent apoptosis, programmed cell death, which would produce optical irregularities and scattering of light, DNA repair enzymes were mobilized. The purpose of this experiment was to identify the functional DNA repair enzymes participating in the denucleation process.

In order to test this hypothesis, dissections were made to remove the lens of embryonic mice from three different stages of development: day 15.5 of development before denucleation occurs, day 17.5 of development while denucleation is taking place, and after the mice were born post-denucleation. Genetic content of the lens were then analyzed at each stage to see whether DNA repair enzymes were activated during denucleation. Through comparison of these three different stages in mouse development, it was determined which genes were upregulated, or activated at an increased rate, and during which stages of development. Specifically, the research looked for genes that displayed an upregulation from day 15.5 to day 17.5 followed by a down regulation or no significant change from day 17.5 to newborn. This indicates that these genes were activated, most likely, specifically for the denucleation process.

After running the tests, it was concluded that Nbn, a DNA repair enzyme called nibrin that forms a complex with two other proteins: Rad 50 and Mre11a, to form the MRN complex is indeed upregulated during denucleation therefore proving the hypothesis that DNA repair enzymes are crucial for the formation of lens transparency and the prevention of cataract formation. Interestingly, it is known that Brca1 binds to Rad50, which in turn is bound to Mre11 and Nbn, meaning that Brca1 is yet another player in this specific DNA repair pathway. U

Upon analysis of the data to see if Brca1 also showed an activation during denucleation, research found that not only is it activated but that Brca1 displayed very similar patterns of mRNA expression at all stages of development compared to that of Nbn. This alludes to the possibility that not only does Brca1 work in concert with the MRN complex but that possibly Brca1 is also co-regulated with Nbn. This shows that not only are specific DNA repair enzymes needed during denucleation but also that specific pathways with many enzymes are crucial for denucleation to take place efficiently and correctly.

While still in its initial phases, Einstein's findings will be quite useful for further research in cataract prevention and blindness.

"One Giant Leap" Makes a Stop on Mars

JACKIE BENAYOUN The passing of astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first person to walk on the moon, last month symbolized the start of a new era in human space travel. Space agencies are now looking beyond the Earth's orbit to Mars, our closest planetary neighbor. In the near future, they hope to understand much more about the Red Planet, including if life ever existed on its surface, with the help of the most expensive remote-controlled car ever made.

The space rover, known as the Curiosity Rover or just Curiosity, landed on Mars on August 5 to start its maiden voyage on Mars. Curiosity's first task? To play a pre-recorded message from Charles Bolden, the current Administrator of NASA, on Mars. In it, Bolden congratulated the Curiosity team, vigorously monitoring Curiosity from their base in NASA's Jet-Propulsion Lab (JPL) in California, on a successful landing. Since then, Curiosity has sent many high-resolution images back to the JPL, a stunning panorama of the surface of Mars that has excited scientists about

the potential discoveries that might be made.

"With this, we have another small step that's being taken in extending the human presence beyond Earth, and actually bringing that experience of exploring the planets back a little closer to all of us," Curiosity program executive Dave Lavery told reporters on August 27th.

Curiosity landed in the Gale Crater, a 96-mile wide crater on Mars' surface, that astronomers believe was formed by a meteor collision about 3.5 billion years ago. Over the next two years, the \$2.5 billion robot will explore the surface of Mars, in the Gale Crater and beyond. It is designed to take soil samples from various spots, and to test those samples for signs of microbial life using an onboard chemistry lab known as Sample Analysis at Mars, or SAM.

Over the course of its mission, scientists hope Curiosity will make it from the bottom of Gale Crater to its peak, a 3.4-mile tall mountain known as Mount Sharp. They chose Mount Sharp for a reason: since 2003 scientists have reported

the existence of life, or of molecules of its basic source, water, in the sediment gathered around its base. They hope that analyzing the sediment with Curiosity's advanced tools will finally give them the definitive proof they have long sought out.

In addition to searching for life, Curiosity is equipped to determine what minerals compose Mars' brick-red soil. Atop the rover rests a laser powerful enough to vaporize rock. A small telescope can then analyze the material hit by the laser and determine its mineral composition based on how it reflects light of different wavelengths. The system, known as Chemistry & Camera (ChemCam), is predicted to make about 14,000 such measurements over the course of Curiosity's mission.

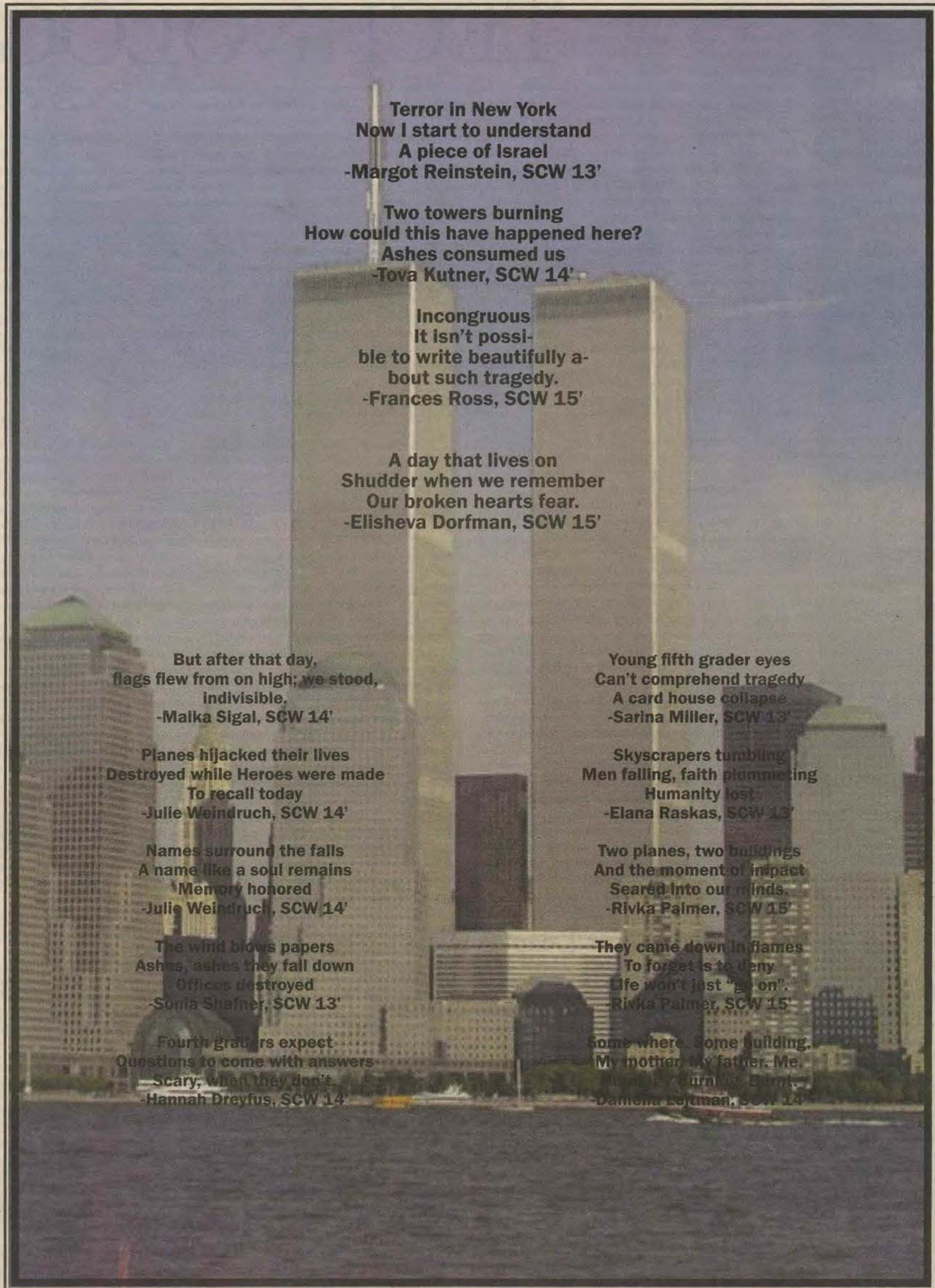
Despite these lofty goals, it will be some time before the Curiosity Team sees concrete results from their Mars rover. They are currently testing the driving mechanism, keeping Curiosity near the landing site and looking for potential hazards in the terrain. In addition, the rover tops out at

a speed of 0.1 mph, and at its peak technicians expect it to traverse about the length of a football field each day. Also, they plan to first send the rover away from Mount Sharp, to an area known as Glenelg. The area, with a name that could pass for an alien civilization, is actually a spot where three different terrains come together, which should give a wide sampling for ChemCam to test as an initial run.

As great an accomplishment as the Curiosity Rover is, the NASA team is already looking beyond robots, to the possibility of a manned mission to Mars. In his interview, Lavery said, "As Curiosity continues her mission, we hope the words of [Bolden] will be an inspiration to someone who's alive today, who will become the first to stand upon the surface of the planets Mars. Like the great Neil Armstrong, they'll be able to speak aloud — in first person at that point — of the next giant leap in human experience."

That's something the late Mr. Armstrong would certainly approve of.

9/11 Haiku Competition: Giving Voice to Memories



Terror in New York
Now I start to understand
A piece of Israel
-Margot Reinstein, SCW 13'

Two towers burning
How could this have happened here?
Ashes consumed us
-Tova Kutner, SCW 14'

Incongruous
It isn't possible
to write beautifully about
such tragedy.
-Frances Ross, SCW 15'

A day that lives on
Shudder when we remember
Our broken hearts fear.
-Elisheva Dorfman, SCW 15'

But after that day,
flags flew from on high; we stood,
indivisible.
-Malka Sigal, SCW 14'

Planes hijacked their lives
Destroyed while Heroes were made
To recall today
-Julie Weindruch, SCW 14'

Names surround the falls
A name like a soul remains
Memory honored
-Julie Weindruch, SCW 14'

The wind blows papers
Ashes, ashes they fall down
Offices destroyed
-Sonia Shafner, SCW 13'

Fourth graders expect
Questions to come with answers
Scary, when they don't.
-Hannah Dreyfus, SCW 14'

Young fifth grader eyes
Can't comprehend tragedy
A card house collapse
-Sarina Miller, SCW 13'

Skyscrapers tumbling
Men falling, faith plummeting
Humanity lost
-Elana Raskas, SCW 13'

Two planes, two buildings
And the moment of impact
Seared into our minds.
-Rivka Palmer, SCW 15'

They came down in flames
To forget is to deny
Life won't just "go on".
-Rivka Palmer, SCW 15'

Some where. Some building.
My mother. My father. Me.
My mother's journal. My father.
-Daniela Lejtman, SCW 14'