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Spring 2006

The Independent Spring 5766 Issue 3

Lander College for Women

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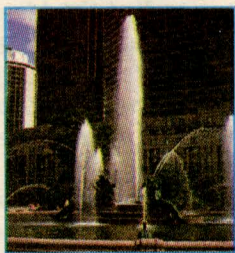
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The INDEPENDENT



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New Rabbi Hopes to Inject LCW with Soul

By Batsheva Schondorf

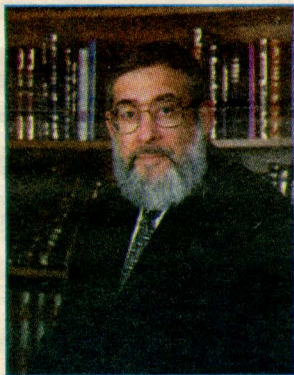
A new face has been walking the halls of Lander College for Women. Rabbi Flaum, Rav of the 'White Shul' in Far Rockaway has been appointed Mashgiach Ruchani of Lander College for Women in addition to his role as Judaic Studies professor. In this capacity, Rabbi Flaum intends to build up the student body and "inject the school with neshama" via shiurim and a Torah activities committee. These tactics have proven successful in the past, earning Rabbi Flaum a sterling reputation in the field of education.

Bringing with him experiences both as an educator and a congregational Rabbi, Rabbi Flaum plans on

being both, he says, "a listening ear and a guiding light to the students at Lander College for Women."

Dean Stoltz-Loike welcomed him, saying, "Rabbi Flaum, with his many years of experience as a scholar and a Rav, will bring an added sense of energy and vitality to our already strong Judaic Studies department."

Rabbi Flaum's classes will focus mainly on his field of expertise, Jewish Medical Ethics. "The students find themselves going deeper and deeper [into the material] than they ever expected to," said Rabbi Flaum. "I look forward to teaching many more women here at



Rabbi Flaum

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College Amongst the Palm Trees—Miami Joins the Touro Family

By Rachael Saloff

When the average Touro student thinks of the tropics, she thinks of time off from school. But for students of the new Touro College South (TCS), the view greeting the window-wandering eye during class is likely to include palm trees and an array of wildly colorful, spiky vegetation. In September 2006, Touro intends to expand its borders with a branch in Miami, Florida. Joining New York, California, Nevada, Jerusalem, Berlin and Moscow, this new location is expected to increase the already over 22,000-strong student body. Touro College South, like Lander College for Women, is planning to sport a strong incorporation of Judaic studies into the curriculum, with B.A and M.A degrees offered in the popular fields of Psychology, Business Management and Administration, and Judaic Studies. Manhattan's Lander College

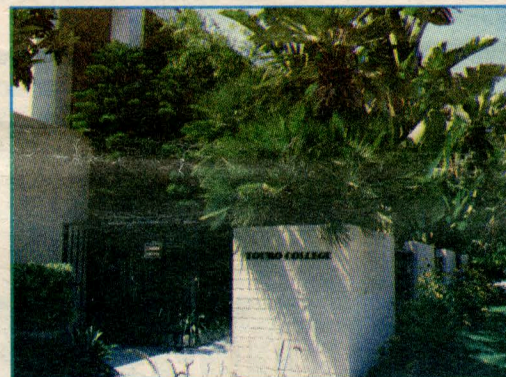
attracts students from around the country, from states such as Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and now Florida. According to Charles Ganz, chairman of the Touro College South Advisory Board, the ramifications of this new branch

will the "Floridean" students' home communities be deprived of their capital. As Touro College South grows and succeeds, "the Jewish communities of South Florida will better retain its students, and families, businesses and local institutions and organizations will thrive as a result," said Ganz. And once there's an educational opportunity especially for Jewish women in the home state, what self-respecting Florida resident is likely to leave the sunshine for New York's winter slush?

However, the decision may be more complex than the Touro administration thinks. "I want to go to New York," declares one prospective college student, Dina Feldstein, of Miami, Florida.

Feldstein, a High-School senior, considers New York a more developed hub of Jewish

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Touro's Miami Campus

may do more than increase the convenience for Florida-based students. Prior to this move, he points out, the Jewish community of Southern Florida was poorer for Lander's existence, since much of its vibrant youth would transplant itself to New York for college. But no longer

Lander College for Women Celebrates Adar

By Mindy Lane

Adar came in with extreme simcha at the Lander College for Women's Rosh Chodesh event.

Music flooded the Ohav Shalom Synagogue on the Upper West Side as the Sababa DJ Company made feet dance and walls rattle.

The women mingled happily around the dairy buffet before they sat down for the festive meal. But once the dancing music was cranked up, the chairs got cold quickly as the room temperature rose. The Sababa

DJs doubled as a dance team, and taught and led new dances. Participants followed the dancing cues.

A special addition to the evening was an open mic and talent show. Dorm counselor Miriam Leah Droz performed her own rendition of "Someone Else's Story" a song from the modern musical *Chess*. Droz's rendition capitalized her and the Jewish people's love of Eretz Yisrael. Raquel Weinberger, with her magical fingers,

backed Droz up on the key board.

The event was enhanced by Dean Marian Stoltz-Loike sharing her words of Torah. The Dean elaborated on the hardships that Queen Esther went through while living in Achashverosh's palace. Though Esther was now in the house of a king, she did not compromise her relationship to the true King. Despite those around her, Esther was committed to her Jewish identity. The Dean, giving inspiration to the crowd, paralleled Esther's commitment to

how Jews should act today despite living within a culture that challenges Jewish observance.

LCW student Chana Tova Cassell gave an intriguing Dvar Torah on the meaning of *Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha*. Cassell explored the question: why is there a mitzvah to be happy the entire Adar? If Adar's happiness was based on history, Jews would technically only be celebrating the weeks that follow Purim. At the

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Editorial from **INDEPENDENT** Editor-in-Chief

What's Behind Touro Spirit

By Rachel Berman

No one seems to have noticed the complete lack of student council activity this past semester, nor has anyone seemed to care. In fact, there hasn't even been a student council in existence for the past few months, but there's still been no noticeable difference in Touro life.

But what's curious is how unconsciously everyone regards this. Hasn't the lack of Touro student life rankled some fair LCW souls who perhaps are hungering for a true and wild "college experience?"

"It's apathy, the entire Touro is apathetic," said one former LCW student council member, as she explained why planning LCW activities was such a chore.

That apathy isn't across the board, though. LCW students are very un-apathectic, even passionate, when it stretches to things like shiurim and Prof. Klapper speeches (notice the packed reading room), free lunch (notice how it disappears), good grades (the average LCW transcripts are A's and B's, and watch how upset some girls get at a less than perfect grade), Circa salads, that ¼ pony that was the reigning hair style for a few months, taking/transferring as many credits as possible so as to be in college for the least semesters possible—it seems that Touro girls have lots of passion, just not towards

group trips and activities.

For this there is good reason: we've all been through four years of high school, and most of us have suffered at least a few summers of camp. Enough is enough.

In a nutshell, LCW women have their priorities straight—we believe in saving money, saving time, and hearing themes that are interesting and worthwhile.

But what about the rest of American University students—are they simply less wise than their counterparts on the Touro campus? Less drowned in debates and color-war? Why does college culture flourish in these other places?

The answer is probably two-fold. First off, most American college students haven't been squeezed through a seminary year in Israel, where all the shrieking and energy is even more meaningful because it takes place in the Holy Land. So the average college dude or dudette has to find his or her energetic meaning in the college scene.

The second reason is even more powerful—clubs and rallies and discussion groups are where everyone on campus finds their dates, so of course every college student has to get involved!

Fortunately, the ol' shidduch system has most of us at LCW covered, so we're not reduced to actually revving up

protests or spending time at after-class clubs just to find the ideal guy. But believe me, if Lander Men's were invited to these functions, there would undoubtedly be more takers.

However, despite the previous lukewarm semester, a new spirit seems to be emerging in Lander College for Women. A political science club is up and running, some students want to start a Chassidus club, the LCW women running for student council positions are energized, excited and hanging up clever signs in the elevator.

It seems like LCW women do have passion for student activity, which only means one thing: in the next few months, as we move into a new and greatly improved building and as the new student body starts sizzling with newfound spirit, LCW is going to be tremendously more exciting to attend. ■



Rachel
Berman

Letter from **INDEPENDENT** Executive Editor

By Miriam Cohen

The issue of James Frey's "memoir"—since proven merely a work of mediocre fiction—is an issue I cannot seem to put to rest. Ever since Frey's quivering, pathetic, remorse-rife follow-up appearance on Oprah, the problem of facts blurring into fiction has pulled at the proverbial heartstrings of this writer's morale.

Along with the masses, I got caught up in the Frey craze after Oprah plugged A Million Little Pieces (since re-coined rather tritely "A Million Little Lies") on her show. Along with the masses, shepherded by Oprah, I felt a self-righteous indignation and betrayal in light of Frey's exposure as a fraud.

I followed this story with the perverse fascination more suited for the devastation of Katrina's aftermath. I watched Oprah's follow-up show and felt, in lieu of vindication, annoyance.

Yes, Oprah, we get it. You're embarrassed. Frey sat, beaten and sheepish in all his blue collar glory beside Oprah. "I lied," he admitted. "I got carried away." Oprah railed against him (though her main objection seemed predominantly focused on the shame he subjected her to) on the grounds that recovering addicts' hope and inspiration gleaned from the "memoir" was being snatched away

from them, shattering said inspiration into, well, a million little pieces.

James Frey's best-selling memoir, A Million Little Pieces (2003), is an account of one man's journey out of drug and alcohol addiction. Frey's memoir offered inspiration and hope to many struggling with addiction. After Frey and his book were plugged on Oprah on October 26, 2005, sales of the memoir skyrocketed until the website TheSmokingGun.com began questioning how true the memoir really was. Oprah stood by Frey's side at first and defended him publicly, but soon the evidence became irrefutable. Oprah invited Frey to be on her show once again on January 26, 2006, but this time instead of plugging him, she publicly railed against his misrepresentation of facts in his memoir.

These arguments against Frey, that the inspiration he offered proved a mere apparition, the ephemeral, iridescent stuff of dreams, infuriated me. Since when is a book not bearing the dreaded title "self help" meant to impart lessons?

When have we stopped appreciating language, aesthetic value of prose, in favor of

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The Independent is published quarterly by students of Lander College for Women in Manhattan, NY. Opinions expressed are those of individual students, not of the college. Signed letters to the Editor are welcome and will be published as space allows.

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Letter from Executive Editor

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By Miriam Cohen

rhyme? If drug addicts are looking for inspiration, perhaps they should check into a treatment facility. If they are looking for an easy answer, glimmering treat presented in Frey's book (he claims to have been cured with only minimal formal treatment, crediting his macho strength and superiority of will for the idyllic life he has today), perhaps they should resign themselves to lives as addicts. If Frey's book imparted any lesson it is this: there is no easy answer, there is no quick fix.

Frey wrote what he thought—correctly—would sell. He wrote a romanticized account of addiction with a happy ending to boot; the perfect modern day fairy tale of narcissism. Essentially, Frey was his own wicked stepmother, fairy godmother, and Prince Charming rolled into one.

Ironically, in Frey's misguided attempt to write fiction veiled as truth, he penned the truth of addiction more poignantly than he ever could have had he stuck to the facts. Addictions are categorized by deceit and self aggrandizement, the very fabric of his book. Frey's truth is messy, his prose leaves much to be desired, and his readers will have to look for inspiration elsewhere. Truth, it seems, is not what we are after when it is our dignity that's at stake.

Frey's misstep, truly, was not in his lying but in his calculation, his agenda, the choppy

drip-drop of his prose, in place of the more aesthetic waterfall of a flow.

A piece of writing, regardless of its genre, is always, and has to be, a subjective truth, a piece of a larger truth. One should never make the mistake of stretching a written work into something as amorphous and lofty as a guide pertaining to one's own personal life. When a writer writes for the reasons Frey has—for art's antithesis—money or fame or more likely both, writing is no more an art form than the lies we spin in our everyday life.

In a school like Touro College, where reputations are so often at the forefront of everyone's minds, agendas are abounding. Fear of desecrating G-d's name, our own pristine characters, or that of our families' (putting a damper on potential shidduch opportunities), censors our writing. We may pick safe, parve slants for our stories (as Frey in his way did), churning out copper look-a-likes when we all know if we followed our own truth, we would have no trouble spinning out gold.

Sometimes truth is ugly, it is always to an extent subjective, and someone will always hate it. Perhaps the mark of a good writer is if she is loved—or hated—on the basis of her work, rather than as Frey is, on the basis of a technicality in the murky, irrelevant divide between fiction and fact. ■

Lander College for Women Celebrates Adar

Continued from page 3

By Mindy Lane

beginning of Adar the Jews in Shushan were mourning Achasverosh's decree. Why then do we celebrate in the beginning weeks of Adar?

Cassel continued: "Just like Miriam collected drums before she left Egypt with the anticipation that Hashem was going to save Bnei Yisrael, so too did the Jews in Shushan act." Instead of mourning

(but hidden) way Hashem would save the Jewish people. It is in the anticipation that Hashem would save the Jewish people that today we can be happy through the entire month of Adar.

By the end of the event the women were excited to spread the Adar smiles.

Student Rebecca Greene said, "I was impressed with the atmosphere



LCW women at the Adar party

silently, Jews banded together at the beginning of Adar to sing praises to Hashem. "If we don't daven like we need saving," Cassel continued, "then Hashem won't save us." As Haman's allotted day approached, the Jews in Shushan unified and anticipated the miraculous

of the event. [The school] went above and beyond to put elegance in the atmosphere. It's not every day we eat candle lit meals!" Several other LCW students commented on the great food and the "slamming" music. ■

INDEPENDENT



Letters - To - The - Editor

Where's the Spirit?

To the editor:

Where is the school spirit in Touro? Students here will be in college for an average of three years, but what's a girl to do? Having attended another University with a vibrant student life, I was disappointed to find that Touro College has no extracurricular activities.

Touro needs to have more choices in their student life. Extracurricular activities can become students' best memories over time. Work, work, work, go home and then work some more becomes the all too familiar pattern for students at Touro. When class is done, the girls rush home. Why? It doesn't have to be this way. Touro's excellent learning needs to be coupled with an after-school student life. We would have more choices over how to spend our college life, including fun stuff, chatting, or just doing nothing—but at least it would be a choice!

Clubs should be formed to support college life. Going beyond and outside the classroom will allow students

to interact with each other on another level. There are tons of students with similar interests and hobbies throughout Touro but they never have a chance to connect. Let's enhance our learning experience with some fun!

Let's get this started now. Here comes student SPIRIT!

Shauna Price
LCW Junior

To the Editor:

One of my most memorable Subway rides was in September where my path had crossed with a liberal democrat. She happened to like me so much she even handed me a pin that said "Impeach Bush Now: To End the War, To Save the Environment." She had one in every color; it was like a candy store.

When I voted for Bush in the 2004 elections, I was politically blind. I have been regretting my decision more and more as I read the papers and watch the news. When I came to New York I was but a young naive indi-

vidual swayed by the popular opinion of Bush as the best candidate because he was "good for Israel". This was basically the only positive thing I ever heard about Bush. It may seem like Bush could be "good for Israel" but his dealings are elsewhere. Someone like Bush cannot make a difference big enough for Israel and Jews worldwide, because he will go back on it for his own benefit. He cannot even make a difference for us here in America. Fact is, he's a huge phony out for the big bucks and favoritism of oil entrepreneurs in the Middle East.

Take for example our own natural disaster in New Orleans. Bush's administration was nowhere Near ready to send relief and aid. They did not even have a devised plan ready for this type of emergency. My guess is, they were too busy looking for non-existent weapons of mass destruction as an excuse to fuel the war. Please Bush, stop fighting your only war against "terrorism" and preparing for terrorist attacks when there are real things going on. Where is his high moral ground? Let's not forget of course, Bush's recent decision to put

the United Arab Emirates in charge of six American Ports, that of which, even the Republicans were shocked about. Yes everyone, he really does care about us... If he's fighting this war of what he likes to call, terrorism, how come he invited them over here for dinner? Where's our security? Do we really think that these Arab Emirates were chosen to come here and be our friends, especially post 9/11? There's something really fishy going on here.

What is it that Bush has declared at all of his recent addresses? Oh yes, why we should keep trusting him and having faith that the hundreds of casualties in Iraq is worth expanding his royal bank account. At our expense, Bush is putting us all into danger.

Whenever Bush does something unexplainable, the answer will always be for money. Bush, any chance for true peace in the Middle East? Oh well, I'm sure he'll think of something to scare us to stay the course.

Debbie Wax
LCW Junior

Editorial from the Contributing Editor

The Real Desperate Housewife

By Amanda Minkoff

In 1962, millions of American women suffered from what was called “the problem that has no name.” In 1963, Betty Friedan gave it one. Her book *The Feminine Mystique*, published in that year, gave vent to the latent angst of an unwilling housewife; a housewife who, like hundreds others surveyed for her book, was “by noon...ready for a padded cell.” On February 4 of this year, the woman who ignited the fire under the Feminist Movement, died. She was 85.

Born Bettye Naomi Goldstein in Peoria, Illinois in 1921, Friedan was, early in her life, socially ostracized for being too bookish, brainy, and outspoken. Despite lonesome years of high school excluded from dances, sororities, and dates—a period, she later wrote, which allowed her to sympathize with other societal outsiders—her college experience grant-

ed her the freedom to be as bookish, brainy, and outspoken as she desired.

At Smith College and later at Berkeley, the former Bettye Goldstein dropped the ‘e’ at the end of her name and pursued her doctorate in psychology under the celebrated psychologist Erik Erikson. But in the true fashion of the day (a fashion Friedan would later condemn), she left Berkeley, and a handsome fellowship, to follow a physicist she was dating to New York. They later separated and Friedan soon afterwards married another man, settled in Rockland County, New York, had three children, and slowly fell into the post-war phenomenon of housewifism.

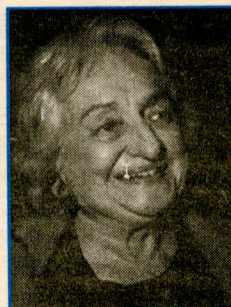
What followed next is feminist folklore. After years of “half-guiltily,” as she describes, being drawn away

from her primary responsibilities as only mother and wife, Friedan recognized a collective flaw in the psyche of the sub-nuclear family and in the very essence of the American woman itself. In her book, Friedan sought to dispel the myth that a woman began and ended in the household; that “Occupation: housewife” was enough to satiate the appetite for accomplishment in the fairer sex. Instead, through her subsequent founding of the National Organization of Woman, the 1970 protest march on Bryant Park, and her work in the blossoming Feminist Movement, Betty Friedan proclaimed that a woman was just as competent as a man to do whatever she set her mind to. Equality was all she asked for. And not just a better vacuum cleaner.

In recent years, feminism, as Betty Friedan had dreamed of, has suddenly taken on a darker image by much of the public at large. When interviewed

about her groundbreaking role as the first female president of the United States in the television show *Commander-in-Chief*, actress Geena Davis repudiated this unfounded fear of modern day girl power. “I won’t suddenly immolate if I use the word [‘feminism’],” she explained. “Women have been taught to be afraid of the term, that it means all kinds of things it really doesn’t, like ‘against men’ or ‘unattractive, strident.’ Feminism simply means a belief in women having social and political rights equal to men.”

And so, with the death of Betty Friedan, those of the so-called weaker sex should be grateful for the opening of gates locked to them for so long; gates that kept many rapacious and inquisitive minds reluctantly at bay, instead of welcoming them to the world outside the maternal domain. In 1963, women were enlightened to their rightful claim as productive components of the American socio-political culture. Let’s not allow such a powerful entitlement be lost in 2006 with the death of its progenitor. ■



Betty Friedan
(Google Images)

Suicide in the Jewish Community

By Deborah Brody

Shortly before 3 o’clock on Wednesday, January 25, a 21-year-old Jewish boy and Manhattan resident leapt to his death from the Empire State Building. He had purchased a ticket for the Building’s observatory deck on the 86th floor, but managed to leap from a vacant office on the 66th floor. He was not an employee in the building and it is unknown how he found his way to an executive floor.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the world, and yet it is rarely discussed in the Jewish world. Although the Jewish suicide rate is far less than that of the rest of the world, its numbers are still existent. Despite Judaism’s disapproving attitude toward suicide, it is important to ask what causes these suicidal thoughts and how they creep into the Jewish community.

Suicide is the act of intentionally killing oneself. It successfully affects someone in the U.S. every 18 minutes. Thoughts of suicide do not depend on age or gender, but instead on the presence of depression. Although it may be difficult for a person with depression to discuss their pain, there are signals that may predict suicidal urges or tendencies that can be picked up through conversation and actions. Very often, experts say, suicidal people express their depression and the pain they are feeling, only to see their cry for help dismissed or ignored.

With this in mind, how is it possible that a nation that prides itself on ‘Ahavas Yisroel’ [love of a fellow man] is standing by for the killing of itself?

Suicide is rarely discussed in religious circles, which translates often tragically for people with suicidal thoughts.

Suicidal individuals often view suicide as “a way to put an end to their pain,” which often stems from depression. Individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one, illness, or financial strain often manifest signs of depression. If someone speaks of dying, bodily harm, (shooting, jumping, cutting, etc.) these comments should be taken seriously as a cry for help.

Generally when a person suffers from depression, they will alter their eating and sleeping habits along with their behavior and disposition. Many depressed people experience low self-esteem and a loss of hope for the future.

Depression has no single source, but is caused in part by a chemical imbalance in the brain. Suffering from depression is not optional, just like cancer or arthritis is not a choice. But just like any other illness, depression is treatable.


It is crucial to be aware of suicidal symptoms because individuals suffering from depression often hide their symptoms and insist that they are fine.

Perhaps this is where the real problem lies; when a person suffering from depression sends out signals for help to people who promote Ahavas Yisroel but do not understand depression or feel comfortable discussing the topic, then who’s going to be the hero and prevent another death?

After this young man took his life, the reaction from everyone Jewish was nearly identical. With horror they seemed to collectively cry, “He was Jewish?!” Why

After this young man took his life, the reaction from everyone Jewish was nearly identical. With horror they seemed to collectively cry, “He was Jewish?!”

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Beautiful You on Shabbat

By Jacqueline Wygoda

All little girls dream of their sixteenth birthday when they will be inaugurated into the world of makeup. Young and naïve as little girls are, they don't appreciate their soft, clear, beautiful skin, the lack of dark circles under their eyes and how, after a late night, they don't have those bags to show it.

However, once girls are introduced to makeup, whether it is just the basics of blush and cover-up or that full face of gorgeous makeup, it's so hard to let one day go by without applying any. Without any makeup, no one wants to leave the house, be seen at the grocery store and definitely not in a social scene like shul.

Once a week, Jews dress in their best attire and set out to welcome the Shabbat. Shabbat is the one day when Jewish women go out best dressed with no makeup, since Halacha mandates that most makeup cannot be applied on Shabbat. Women have always applied their makeup before their candles are lit, but a day later the cover up doesn't cover up that much, the blush isn't on so well and that black mascara runs like a leaky faucet. Sadly, the day when women want to look their best, they look their worst.

This matter bothered Shaindy Kelman (of Shain Dee's Cosmetics) so much that she designed her own

line of Shabbat makeup approved by Rabbi Blumenkrantz.

"It always bothered me that everyday we can put on our makeup and look amazing and the day that we're with our husbands and friends in shul, we have to look our worst. I tried perfecting the products and techniques to make makeup last longer, even until the next day—however, it still didn't look as fresh or natural as if it was

applied that day, and besides, it's not healthy to sleep in make up. Then I saw a company selling Sabbath makeup approved by Rabbi Blumenkrantz, but the prices were much higher than they needed to be for their quality. I felt that if

there was going to be such a product available, it should be the best makeup for the best prices because the ladies buying it also give tzedakah and pay yeshiva tuition, so they don't have any extra money to waste. I called Rabbi Blumenkrantz and he met me and checked my products. Lots of the colors were halachically not good, because of too many oils and high pigment content (which aids in the color's longevity), but slowly we found more and more. Twelve years later, I have a large variety of

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Dorm Life

By Sheena Tamar Dishaw

For the 90 students of the Lander College for Women in Manhattan, the Upper West Side is home. For these students, Touro is more than just taking few classes a week— it's a lifestyle. The commute to the Midtown campus may take anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes on average, and you will often find the MTA system dotted with dormers. Friends are made while taking the 1, 7, 6 train or the m86 bus. Shabbos plans bring girls together with combined meals, dorm onegs and Suedat Shelishits.

With meals home-made by the girls in their dorm kitchens, they sing and give divrei Torah as well as laugh and enjoy each other's company. Often, many students will eat with the dorm parents, Rabbi Motty and Malkie Katz, who have on average over 10 guests each Shabbos meal. "We love having the Shabbat guests; it's when we get the chance to get to know our neighbors on a more personal level," said Malkie.

On Thursday nights, girls get together for mishmar, where they learn and eat homemade chulent prepared by dorm dweller Zissel Shakhnazaryan. Tuesday night finds the dorm girls together in the lounge reciting tehillim and collecting tzedekah for hachnassat kallah and other community needs.

Living in Manhattan brings girls

together; they go out together to eat, shop, and enjoy the NYC sites. During nights in the dorm, girls bond over DVDs, music, talk sessions and study groups. Sharing books, notes, food, clothes, thoughts, frequent fire alarms and new security guards create the lovingly eclectic environment that is the Touro dorm.

Considering that the new campus will be located on the Upper West Side next semester, the dorm expects more occupants who realize the benefits of the close proximity.

With only 3 stops on the subway or a 20 block walk, we at the dorm hope you're ready to enjoy the ups and downs of dorm life in Manhattan. Just remember, it's not so hard in the beautiful Jewish environment of 175 w. 85th street. Malkie put it best when she said, "We enjoy it so much, our 10 month plan has turned into 5 years here at the dorm, and we continue to

choose our small Manhattan apartment over a 4 bedroom in Passaic. I love staying in touch with former dormers as well as getting the chance to get to know new friends every semester!"

Sheena Tamar Dishaw is the features editor of the Independent. A sociology and communications major, Dishaw backpacks through Europe in her free time. ■

Recent dorm events

Sunday, February 12: Tu'B'Shevet seder and seed planting.

Sunday, February 19: Private tour of the Met museum to see the Jewish side of art.

Tuesday, February 21: Visiting with DOROT, the Center for the Elderly, and making birthday cards.

Monday, March 20: Showing of award winning holocaust memorial documentary film "Paper Clips" at 9 pm in the lounge.

Wednesday March 22: Rabbi Flaum gave a shiur at the Touro dorm (with pizza, of course).

Sunday, April 2: DOROT passover package delivery with students from YU, Stern and Columbia.

Read the signs in the Touro dorm elevators to keep yourself posted on what's happening!

College Amongst the Palm Trees—Miami Joins the Touro Family

continued from front page

By Rachael Saloff

social life, and a more exciting venue for the enterprising young adult. She says that many of her friends feel the same way. Surprisingly, then, the decision of where to go for college is not as clear-cut as it might seem.

Yet in any case, the Touro board believes that Jewish social and communal life in Miami will certainly be enhanced by this extension of Dr. Bernard Lander's 35-year-old brainchild.

As a guiding force, Touro College South is to have Rabbi Alan G. Ciner, Vice-President of the complete Touro College (not just LCW). His previous career was that of a Synagogue leader, and one of Rabbi Ciner's chief accomplishments is having played "a critical role in

transforming the vision of the Schottenstein Talmud into a reality" (according to Rabbi Nosson Sherman, general editor, Artsroll Mesorah Publications.)

With experience in important, modern Jewish affairs such as these, it seems that Touro can look forward to Rabbi Ciner's future direction of its southernmost location.

The location will be at 1703 Washington Avenue in Miami Beach. The edifice chosen by Touro is a 45,000 square foot building, being leased from Temple Emanu-El. With 14 classrooms, a library, reference centers and wireless internet, TCS intends to serve today's community spiritually, academically, and technologically. ■



Illustration by Rachael Saloff

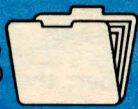
Touro Bytes by Chani Agar

What are you excited for in the new LCW building?

"The gym!" -Rena Horowitz
 "The gym!" -Roselyn Barber
 "The gym!" -Mindy Moskowitz
 "More space and a new and updated building!" -Rifki Frankel
 "Umm, ventilation?" -Penny Rubin
 "Let's be honest, more bath-

rooms!!!" -Chani Agar
 "Food! Especially cookies!" -Amy Goodman
 "The location (closer proximity to the dorm) and more lounging space" -Sheena Dishaw. ■

FEATURES



Email Brings the College Experience to a New Level

By Rachel Berman

College English professors are notorious for their complaint that email and IM'ing have plunged their students' writing skills into the bathwater. But now email is the cause of another college-student sin: "the ridiculous 'dumbing-down' of college-professors' inboxes." In short, with the advance of email, students are flooding their professor's inboxes with messages that border on the inappropriate, the disrespectful, and the plain nutty.

On a whole, students say that emailing is far more unobtrusive than a phone call and more convenient than timing their school-day to a teacher's office hours, when the teachers are usually distracted anyway with other students or their morning coffee and bagel.

Emails, on the other hand, can be tossed off at 2:00 in the morning, and have no added risk of eye contact or awkward and stilted phone conversation.

The New York Times featured an article nearly a month ago about how email is changing the face of student-professor relationships. Though most

responses were negative, some teachers appreciated the ease of contact in email:

"[An emailed] question about a lecture or discussion 'is for me an indication of a blind spot, that the student didn't get it,'" said a Political Science professor at Amherst College.

A professor at MIT said he once received an email that was essentially a plea for help from a student who had just realized he was gay. The professor, Michael Greenstone, helped the student find a counselor and spent much time talking to him.

"I don't think we would have had the opportunity to discuss his realization and accompanying feeling without email as an icebreaker," he said.

But the great majority of teachers that the Times interviewed lamented the effect that email was having on their professional standing and their free time.

"The tone that they would take in email was pretty astounding," said an assistant dean at Georgetown University. "I need to know this and you need to tell me right now, with a

familiarity that can sometimes border on imperative."

Professors at Touro College, however, don't seem to mind emails from students at all. Perhaps the teachers here are more easy-going, or the students are better behaved.

LCW junior Adena Firstman had her own idea: "It totally depends on the teacher," she says. "Like with [Professor] Popkin, I feel it improves the relationship because I feel he likes friendship outside the classroom. He writes funny comments, too. I emailed him once that I was sick and would miss class, and he emailed back with 'alleged sickness' as the subject."

"I wouldn't email my teacher something funny," said another LCW junior who wished to remain anonymous, "but I've emailed about a grade change." She suggested that to control any email problems, "teachers should set aside time every night to be online, check their email, and maybe even chat."

"I don't get any nonsense emails," said Professor Michael Popkin, head of the Humanities department at LCW. Popkin gives out his email address freely at the start of each semester. "I get serious things like, 'my grandmoth-

er died—I won't be in class.'" He added, "I want people to email me if they have a problem. I'd rather they email me than buy the wrong edition of the book [referring to a teacher quoted by the NY Times who was annoyed when a student emailed her about what to purchase for class: a notebook or a three-ring binder]."

Popkin said that he tries to keep a low profile. Even though he considers what you say in email to be outside of the classroom, he's always been careful about writing things in print.

"I don't write a lot [in email]," he said, "so there's nothing to hold me to. Don't say anything on paper. If it's on an email, they got me! It's in print!"

Psychology professor Joyce Schenkein said she's fine with all the emails. Some have been ridiculous, "like from the consistently lowest scoring student: 'I think I deserved a higher grade! Most of the emails are about grades. Once, right before the final, a student asked me for all my teaching notes from the beginning of the semester! I sent her the notes from that day, but I'm not spending an hour digging up those files. She can get it from another student.'" ■

"I don't write a lot in emails so there's nothing to hold me to. Don't say anything on paper!"
—Professor Michael Popkin.

The Independent Interviews Touro's Own Eminem Look-Alike!

By Miriam Adler

Everyday we walk into the LCW campus and, seemingly by magic, the building is always in order, televisions are in their appropriate classes, and desks are straightened out. Who are these people behind the functioning of the seven story building located on 30th and Lexington? Who are these men in gray shirts that go up and down the elevators, traveling with much determination?

On my quest to discover the secrets of LCW, I began talking to the man behind the ski cap; the man whom we all recognize but who remains a mystery to the student body; the man who was a little worried and confused when I asked him some questions about himself for the newspaper...our very own Will!

Name: William Moro

Age: 33

Job Description: Maintenance Supervisor

Q- So Will, where is your family originally from?

A- My family is originally from Puerto Rico, but now they live in New York.

Q- Where do you live now?

A- Right now I live in the Bronx

Q- Tell us about your family.

A- I am the youngest of 8. I have 4 sisters and 3 brothers. I also had a dog for 9 years, named Sasha.

Q- How long have you been working in Touro?

A- This is my 8th year at Touro. I worked for 2 years at the 23rd Street campus on the 5th floor and for 6 years here at the Women's division.

Q- What is your basic job here at Touro?

A- Basically my job is to make sure everything is up and running and going well. I just make sure everyone's happy.

Q- Does it ever get difficult or

overwhelming?

A- Sometimes it's hard to make everyone happy. There will always be complaints.

Q- Where did you go to college?

A- I actually graduated from Touro

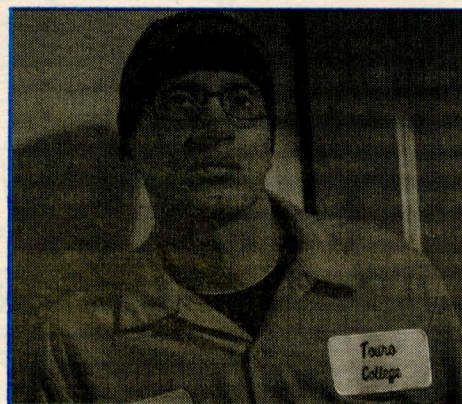
with a BA in Social Work. I was already working for Touro when I was a student there. It took me 5 years to graduate—it was hard balancing work and school.

Q- What other jobs have you had in the past?

A- My first job was at a depart-

ment store. I also worked at a hospital and at a cemetery. On my first day of work at the cemetery, I was cutting the grass and I found a whole skull and spine. I brought it to my supervisor, but he told me not to tell anyone—so, shhhh!

Q- What's one of the grossest things you've found here?



William Moro

A- Well, besides for what I find in the bathrooms? Once I was cleaning the roof and I found dead pigeons with blood, bugs, and worms all over them. It was pretty gross getting rid of that.

Q- What do you think of us? What do you think of the girls here at Touro?

A- The girls here are nice, very pleasant.

Q- So are you excited for the new building?

A- YES! Very. There are going to be new floors, bathrooms, and new adventures!

Q- Anything else that you want to add?

A- Overall, my transition from 23rd street to the women's division went well. I enjoy everyone and being here. Except the uniforms could be a little better.

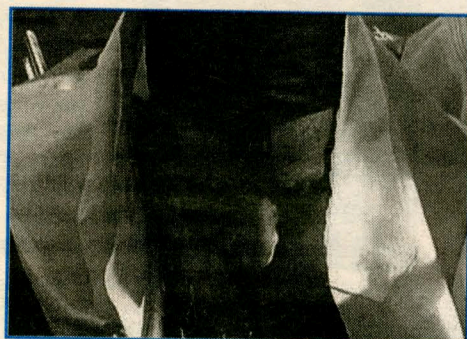
There you have it, straight from the man himself! So next time you notice that the gum was removed from under your desk, that there is soap, toilet paper, and paper towels in the bathroom, and that the floor is particularly shiny, don't forget who to thank! ■



Mourning Rav Kaduri

By Malka Salhanik

Sunday January 29—Waves of black flooded the ancient streets of Jerusalem as an estimated quarter million mourners escorted the body of Harav Yitzchak Kaduri zt"l to Har Hamenuchoth. All major Israeli news media that had been covering the ups and downs of Rav Kaduri's deteriorating health condition now focused their attentions on the funeral of the renowned Gadol. Sephardi and Ashkenazi chareidim alike gathered at the cemetery in a tremendous display of reverence and respect to a beloved leader. The crowd stood listening to hespeidim given by the great Sephardic leaders of our generation: Rabbi Ovadia



Yosef, Rabbi Yaacov Hillel, Rabbi David Batzri Benayahu Shmueli and Rabbi Yaacov Adis.

Rav Kaduri had never written a sefer or headed an institution. He was neither a famous Halachic authority nor a leader of any new movement in Judaism. Then why did thousands of followers flock to him for blessings? Why did politicians make time to visit him during their campaigns? What was it that won him the awe and respect of so many different kinds of Jews?

Rav Kaduri was born in Iraq; the exact date of his birth is unknown. Although he came to Eretz Yisrael at

the age of seventeen, he soon returned to Iraq to study under the Ben Ish Chai. While studying in Iraq, the Ben Ish Chai blessed Rav Kaduri with a long life and that he live to see the final redeemer. Rav Kaduri's closest followers claim that this came true. On the ninth of Cheshvan 5764, Rav Kaduri revealed that he had met the Mashiach.

Eventually, Rav Kaduri returned to Eretz Yisrael to learn in Yeshivat Porat Yosef in Jerusalem where he studied Kabbalah from Rabbi Ephraim Cohen and Rabbi Salman Eliyahu. Rav Kaduri first worked as a simple bookbinder, perusing all the books he bound. Graced with an exceptional mind, he soon committed many manuscripts to memory. He is

said to have known the entire Talmud Bavli by heart.

Legend has it that Rav Kaduri once disagreed with a leading Halachic authority. To prove his point, Rav Kaduri simply lifted his hand up to the bookshelf, picked out a sefer, opened it immediately to the right page and proved himself correct. The other rabbi was astonished at Rav Kaduri's immense knowledge of even non-Kabbalistic texts.

Although Rav Kaduri's knowledge encompassed many areas of Torah, it was his unequal grasp of Kabbalah that distinguished him above all oth-

ers. His understanding of the secrets of Jewish mysticism was unparalleled and it is this which brought thousands to him for blessings and advice. In particular, Rav Kaduri was known for his amulets, Kabbalistic charms that are thought to bring a person overall success in life.

Rav Kaduri used his extraordinary abilities to help the needy. His great love of the Jewish people was apparent in the many hours he devoted each day to individuals who came for guidance and help. He davened intensely for the safety of Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael and had an ardent love for the land of his people. His modesty was extraordinary. And as President Moshe Katsav described at the funeral, his humble way of life was "...an example of Jewish spirituality and morality that accompanied the Jewish people for generations."

So what was it about Rav Kaduri that captured the love of so many followers? Yes, it was his keen intellect and unmatched brainpower. Yes, it was his astounding knowledge of Kabbalah. But it was also his piety and sincere devotion to Am Yisrael. It was his genuine love for a struggling people who looked to him for leadership. It was his unceasing concern and inimitable smile. This is what brought thousands to his funeral to pay their respects to Harav Yitzchak Kaduri zt"l whose passing leaves a painful void in the minds and hearts of a nation. ■

Malka Salhanik, back from a year and a half at Michlalah, is a sophomore at Touro College who is majoring in accounting.

Six Months Later, Gush Katif Still Suffers

By Sara Labovitch

While most of us were swimming and playing sports this past summer, an entire community was dragged out of their homes and scattered all over Israel. While there was tremendous support coming from all four corners of the world, it was an event that came and went for most of us living in the Diaspora. With time ticking, our memory becomes numb to that which still deserves reaction. So many of us felt their pain while watching the horror on television, but how many of us have continued to feel the trauma now that Gush Katif is no longer center-stage in the media?

Being that we may or may not have real legitimate reasons for being in America, the next obligation that we are required to fulfill is the concept of "Am Yisroel Chai". We are a nation and with that comes the obligation that all Jews must stick together throughout turbulent times. However, it is easy to forget. If sixty years later we still mourned the Holocaust the way it should be mourned, we wouldn't be able to flourish within our own individual lives. The reality is that G-d had to create us in a way that we would forget so as not to carry the pain within our pockets. It is a kindness on His part, but with that kindness, of letting us live with peace of mind, comes our obligation not to take advantage of that gift. Tuning out and letting go completely is something we cannot let happen.

The families that were carried out of their homes this past summer didn't forget. Many families and friends are scattered, living in hotel lobbies with whatever clothes managed to fit in their backpacks. Some children still have no schools to go to and many of their parents have no jobs. A percentage of these individuals are still in need of psychiatric help for the trauma they went through. It is impossible for them to forget because they are forced to relive the memories each day.

We too cannot allow ourselves the luxury of forgetting. Over Chanukah, while I was studying in Israel, my friends and I organized a toy drive for Gush Katif children, delivering these gifts to kids in different hotels in Jerusalem. When I tell you I saw these children playing in the lobbies because they have no playroom, I tell the truth. When I tell you I saw how these parents cried when we brought their children toys, I do not kid you. When I tell how much it hurt me to see a mother carry in her food shopping bags on a hotel luggage carrier, I beg of you to understand. I was in Gush Katif just a few months before its destruction. I know what it looked like. It was a community like yours and mine and it was built with their every penny and ounce of strength. It was ripped from them and broken down, leaving them hanging

Continued on page 16

The INDEPENDENT OPINION

Separating Business and Politics: The Dubai Ports Issue

By Batsheva Schondorf

Amidst the everyday headlines of murder, politics and the trial of an author who supposes blasphemous ideas, lay the issue of the Dubai Ports World (DP World). The company, owned by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) purchased Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, a British owned company for 6.8 billion dollars. By doing so they became the managerial corporation responsible for directing six major U.S. ports including New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia.

After investigation, the Bush administration approved the sale, but many questioned the measures taken by the council to ensure national security.

The UAE is officially considered an ally of the United States. However, located as they are in a small country located in the Middle East, there is evidence that their banking system filtered money to 9/11 terrorists and

that they are a transfer point for illegal shipment of nuclear components to Iran, North Korea and Libya. Undisputed is the fact that the UAE is a Muslim country that originally recognized the Taliban as a legitimate governmental regime. In addition, the country seeks a trade agreement with Iran and supports the Arab ban on Israeli goods.

But that's all politics; back to business. Should all this hinder a multi-billion dollar financial agreement?

Perhaps citizens would be less concerned if the commodity being discussed were not shipping ports. Critics are furious that while the Department of Homeland Security seeks to tighten their grip on airport security, they will ignore the potential security risk to their ports. Don't be mistaken, however. The safety measures enforced before the shift in ownership will be maintained. In

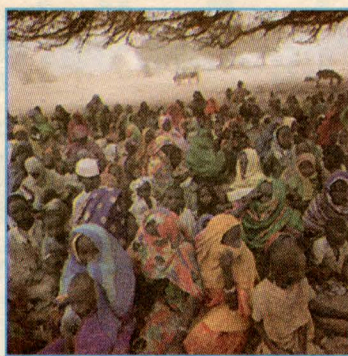
other words, a percentage of packages will be inspected and deliveries monitored.

Congressmen and Senators voiced their protest, urging the president to reconsider. The president remained determined to uphold the sale claiming that security has been taken into consideration and a full investigation into the company found no reason to suspect that they would pose a national security risk.

One needs to ask what was truly troubling those who opposed the deal. Was it the religion of the UAE, meaning Islam, or were people wary of a group that has a pattern of posing threats to the free, Western world? It's a question of personal honesty. As free thinking people we have a right to our opinions but we must know what these opinions are based on; emotions, rational, religious identification. ■



Olympics- This year marked the 20th Olympic Winter Games. Germany stood out as the big winner with eleven gold medals; America came in second with nine gold medals. Other exciting events included Michelle Kwan's withdrawal from the U.S. Figure Skating team and the rumors surrounding skier Bode Miller's drunkenness on the slopes.



The death toll rises as the three-year, primarily ethnic war continues in Darfur. Recently, refugees have crossed the border into Chad, the country directly west of Sudan. Relief services are almost nil and will decrease further if violence does not subside at least some what. To date, 200, 000 civilians have been killed or starved to death, and two million more have been displaced from their homes.
www.icrc.org

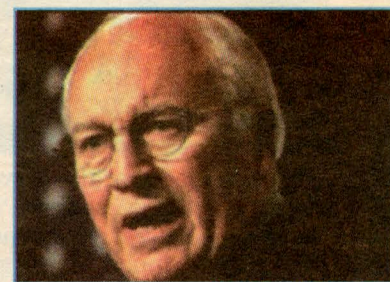
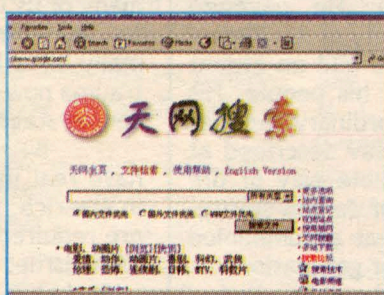


Photo Credit: Getty Images

On February 13th, the body of a 23-year-old French Jew, Ilan Halimi, was found in a Paris train station. Halimi had been kidnapped and held captive in a small Paris suburb since January 22nd, where he was tortured horribly. 80 000 people protested to the anti-Semitic nature of the slaying by marching through the streets of Paris on February 26th. The suspected leader of the kidnapping, Youssouf Fofana, is being held by French police.
Associated Press

Google in China- Popular search engine Google recently launched an equivalent version in China. Issues considered "sensitive" by the Chinese government, such as human rights and Tibet, will be censored.

www.opennetinitiative.net



Despite the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, Mardi Gras was in full swing this year in New Orleans. Mardi Gras, French for 'fat Tuesday' precedes Ash Wednesday which begins the countdown to Good Friday and Easter. New Orleans, known for its elaborate parades and festivals, did not disappoint this year. The festivity and the people it attracted gave a much needed boost to the struggling city's economy

www.kreweofmidcity.com



The INDEPENDENT OPINION

Strike Three for Mr. Lawrence Summers

By Ariella Burg

Boston's prestigious Harvard University is looking for a new president. Although the credentials of Harvard's most recent president may have been good enough, the messages he stood for were evidently unacceptable to the Harvard community. And so, on February 21, former Secretary of Commerce and professor at Harvard and MIT, Lawrence Summers, had no choice but to resign from his four-year tenure as 27th president of Harvard University.

In today's world, in which diversity of thought has been trampled, those whose thinking does not conform are singled out for condemnation. Especially, when those free thinkers are prominent public figures. The irony is that this narrow outlook has infiltrated the bastions once thought to be the incubator of free thought and open expression.

The clash between Mr. Summers and Harvard began when the newly-appointed university president addressed the student body on the importance of patriotism. Military service is "vitally important to the freedom that makes possible institutions like Harvard," said Summers, after lamenting that the word patriotism was "used too infrequently." Apparently, his statements were way out of line. Actually, Harvard students

who wish to train for the military must travel to MIT, because the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) has been banned from Harvard ever since the Vietnam War.

In September 2002, Summers denounced the academic intellectuals on the left who may be "serious and thoughtful," but "are advocating and taking actions that are anti-Semitic in their effect if not in their intent." Rejecting a petition by Harvard professors to divest Israeli funds, Summers condemned the "profoundly anti-Israel views . . . increasingly finding support in progressive intellectual communities." His critics on campus were in an uproar, accusing him of "stifling debate" by calling their morals into question.

Strike three came soon after, when Summers evaluated the black-studies professor Cornel West's commitment to the university. As a television man, political activist and producer of rap music, West was concentrating much less of his efforts on the quality of his academic obligations to

Harvard. Professors such as West have been starting to laze off in their grading, allowing 90 percent of Harvard's students to graduate with honors.

Lawrence Summers, though, does not stand for scholastic mediocrity. As the school's president, Summers knew that part of his responsibility was ensuring that the faculty was upholding the caliber of the school. After approaching West, however, the professor huffed and puffed at the "disrespect and being dishonored," since it is the "only thing one has as a human being, let alone as a black person in America." Their discussion was a private one, not unlike a meeting a principal would have with one of his teachers, yet Cornel West turned it into a public platform for his own racial agenda.

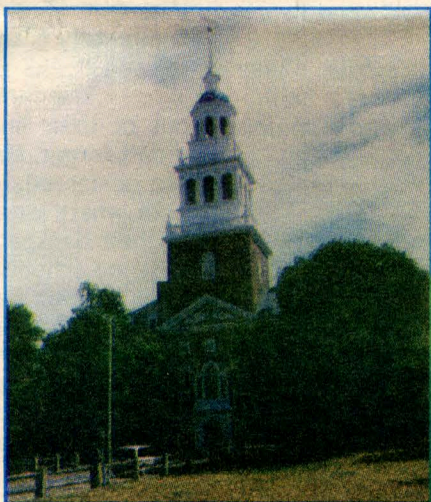
The clincher, though, finally surfaced at a symposium on women in science.

After drawing upon scientific data and possible explanations as to the underrepresentation of women in the scien-

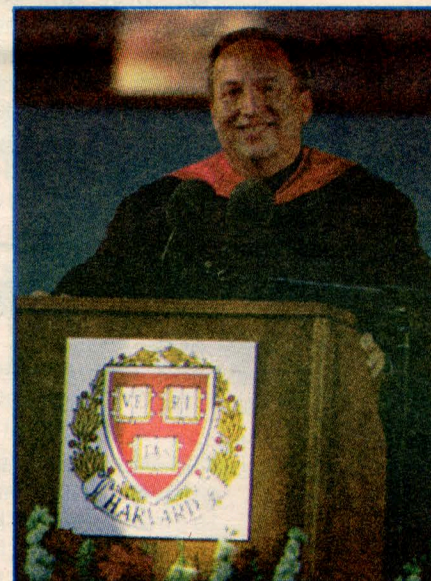
tific community, Summers presented the idea that biological differences in the brains of men and women may have something to do with it. The virulent diatribe from feminists and the left-wing have bombarded Summers ever since. Indeed, to be politically correct in today's touchy society, discrimination of gender and race and the like is the only explanation you'll ever hear. Diversity of people is a wonderful concept, but what about diversity of ideas?

The flawed "political correctness" which now eclipses the academic integrity of yesteryear is an affront to the freedom of intellect upon which we as Americans thrive. Over 40 years ago, in an essay on political questions, writer William F. Buckley Jr. declared that he "would sooner be governed by the first 2,000 names in the Boston telephone directory than by the 2,000 members of the faculty of Harvard." And so did Lawrence Summers. ■

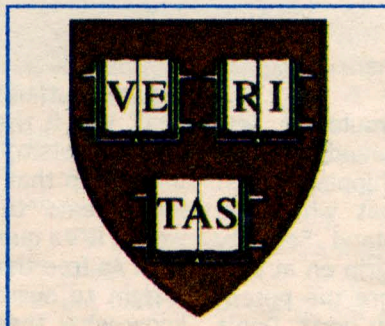
Ariella Burg, who spent last year at Michlala, is Israel editor of the Touro Independent. She plans to graduate in January, with a major in psychology and a minor in history.



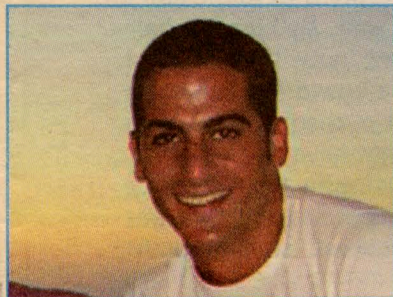
Harvard University



Lawrence Summers, 27th president of Harvard University



Cheney Shooting- On February 11, while quail hunting on a Texas ranch, Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and injured his friend Harry Whittington. While Whittington remains in good condition at this date, the Vice President's office has come under fire regarding the late dissemination of the accident information to the press.



Brutal New York Murder- In the early hours of February 25th, 24 year old Imette St. Guillen was brutally murdered and left by her attacker, who was dubbed the 'mummy maniac', just off the Belt Parkway. Police have pursued many theories, the most recent lead being the bouncer who worked at the club where St. Guillen was last seen early Saturday morning.

www.usatoday.com

John A. (Junior) Gotti's retrial in Manhattan Federal Court has begun. The famed mob boss is facing charges of extortion and kidnapping resulting from the 1992 attack on Guardian Angels founder, Curtis Sliwa. Witnesses have testified that the orders to lure Sliwa into a stolen cab and beat him came directly from Gotti.

The Toronto Sun

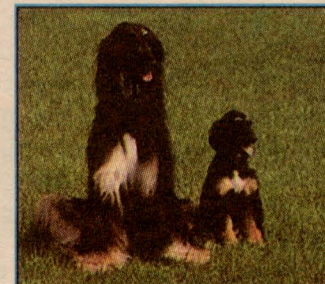


Mecca Stampede- In the annual Islamic pilgrimage (called the "hajj") in Mecca this year, a stampede killed 345 people on their way to the holy Muslim city. The stampede was precipitated by bags that fell before the entrance to a bridge leading to a dangerous leg of the hajj.

www.cbsnews.com

Cloning Scandal- Hwang Woo-suk of South Korea was questioned by officials after admitting much of his research in the cloning of the first dog was faked. Over 40 million dollars was granted to the cloning of "Snuppy," and investigators are now looking into the research to see if the money was spent inappropriately. Dr. Hwang claims that much of the fabrication was not done under his auspices.

www.washingtonpost.com



Islamic Cartoons Rake Up Global Furor

By Chana Schaeffer

In September of this year, the Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten published 12 cartoons satirizing Mohammed, one of them depicting Mohammed wearing a turban shaped like a bomb. The cartoons were republished in February in news media across Europe, including in Turkey, Indonesia, India, Thailand and New Zealand. Violence spread across Europe and the Middle East in response to the cartoons.

Afghanistan saw the worst of the violence.

In Kabul, the Danish, British and French Embassies and the United Nations head office were pelted with stones thrown by angry youths. Just outside of Kabul, in Mehtarlam, gunfire and violence from hundreds of protesters left two protesters dead and a police officer wounded. On February 6, there was a mass demonstration of over 1,000 protesters who clashed with the police outside the American military base at Bagram, leaving at least five protesters dead and another five protesters and eight police officers wounded.

The Danish Consulate in Lebanon and the Danish and Norwegian Embassies in Syria were destroyed in early February. Danish diplomats criticized and condemned Syria for failing to protect them. Thomas May, consulate general for Denmark in Dubai, said after the attack on the embassy, "if you look at the pictures, you can see that the security people turned their backs."

Indeed, Syria was not the only country with a reticent police force. Accompanying their shouts of, "G-d is great!" and, "Death to Israel!," protesters in Tehran throwing firebombs set ablaze the Danish Embassy there. A voice in the crowd, broadcast by loudspeaker, regaled against those "afraid of fundamentalism," claiming that the cartoons were a Zionist conspiracy. The police only intervened after much damage had already been done, firing tear gas into the crowd.

Shortly after the police's half-hearted attempt to disperse the crowd, the protesters began throwing gasoline bombs again. The editor of a newspaper affiliated with the Iranian Basiji militia, which organized the protest, spoke to the crowd. He emphasized the importance of the demonstration, telling the crowd to remain outside of the embassy for a week to show their anger, but recommended that they stop throwing the firebombs since, "it will be used against us."

There were demonstrations in Cairo, Egypt. In the Arab city of Dubai, where demonstrations are generally unheard of, some hundreds of protesters were bused in by the government.

A university professor in the United Arab Emirates was fired for distributing copies of the cartoons to her students.

In Somalia, a teenager was killed by a stampede set off when police

fire into the air to disperse a crowd.

A Catholic priest in Turkey was shot dead by an angry youth shouting, "G-d is Great!"

The Chamber of Commerce in Qatar halted all dealings with Danish and Norwegian delegations, suggesting other Muslim states follow its example. Iran withdrew its ambassador to Denmark and decided to reconsider trade ties with countries in which the cartoon was published.

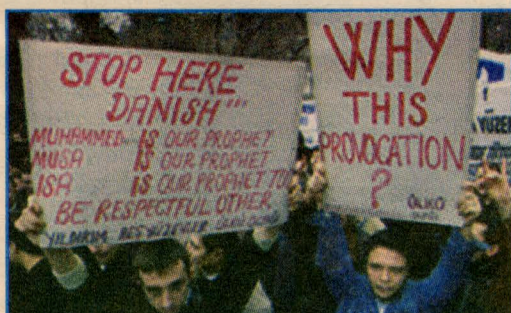
Response from European diplomats was overwhelming. The Danish newspaper apologized publicly for the cartoons, and the prime minister also came out with a personal apology.

On Friday, February 3, President Hamid Karzai advised the Muslim states to forgive the west for the cartoons, saying, "We must have as Muslims the courage to forgive and not make it an issue of dispute between religions or cultures."

However, the Arab response in general was that of "tacit acceptance, if not support, while seeking to prevent violence." (The New York Times, February 7, 2006.)

Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice blamed Iran and Syria for the unrest and violence. She said, "Iran and Syria have gone out of their way to inflame sentiments and to use this to their own purposes, and the world ought to call them on it."

All attempts to reestablish communication and friendly ties between Denmark and Muslim states and organizations seems to result in only more violence. Thomas May vocalizes the question Denmark helplessly asks, "What more can we do?" ■



Demonstration protest in Denmark

New Rabbi Hopes to Inject LCW with Soul

By Batsheva Schondorf

Continued from front page

Lander College for Women."

The faculty is excited about Rabbi Flaum's position and they are especially looking forward to a new program making its way into next year's curriculum. While the exact details remain to be determined, the basic idea is to be a "Seminar in Halacha". Supervised by Rabbi Flaum, the new course will cater to women who have already completed about two years of learning in a seminary environment and will include both shiurim and chavrusah learning. The new building will house a library and other facilities to accommodate the program.

"This [course] is for students who thoroughly enjoyed their learning experience in seminary and are looking for more of the same," said Dean Stoltz-Loike. "We intend to cater to their intellectual and spiritual needs, helping them become the well-rounded Jewish women they strive to be."

Rabbi Flaum's office is located on the first floor to the left of the stairwell. Visitors are greeted warmly by Rabbi Flaum who aims to aid the students in all aspects of their life. "I've already made a few phone calls for girls [regarding shidduchim]," he said with a laugh. "We'll see what comes of it!"

Batsheva Schondorf from Montreal is the news editor of the Independent. She is a junior and majoring in history and political science. ■

Comforting Like an Old Sweatshirt - Shana Bet in Israel

By Ariella Blech

I fidgeted in my cramped El Al chair and tried to sneak a glance out the window around the corpulent man seated in the window seat. Israel! Home! I was going back again and I couldn't have been more excited. Shana Alef was amazing, perfect, all I ever wanted and more. Shana Bet promised an even more incredible time.

To tell you the truth, I was disappointed at first. Coming in for my first year was an extreme culture shock, but at the same time, unbelievably exiting! Having never been to the Holy Land before, I was stunned at the contrast between ancient and modern, desert and forest, holy and er, not so holy. Everything was a new experience, everything was different, everything was "such a chavaya!"

But my second year was different. Somehow, things were quieter. Screaming taxi drivers no longer fazed me. Nachmanites dancing atop their cars in the middle of Geulah, in a frenzy of fervor and delight, failed to provoke a frantic gasp and a

"My blondish hair and obvious American accent notwithstanding, I could push my way through a crowd and forget to say 'excuse me' with the best of them."

camera whipped from my bag. The broken English of the natives seemed normal, not weird, and an American accent sounded odd fumbling with the guttural street names, landmarks and cities. (Tahanah Merkazayis, anyone?) Was I missing something? Where was the spark, the life, the astonishment? Where was the feeling of adventure? The overwhelming sense of wonder and awe?

My Hebrew was no better (it still isn't) but at least I was able to warn a couple of girls in time before they hopped into a "cab" with a man who told them - in Hebrew - "Well, I'm not a real taxi driver, but I'll give you a good price." The shenanigans of the first-year girls and guys seemed hysterical and made me glad I was way past that point. Making Shabbos plans was still a pain in the neck, but I was no longer in the mode of "making every Shabbos count so I have to go to every city in Israel at least once." (Taking an hour bus ride Friday afternoon and arriving at your family with just minutes to

spare is no fun.) And though I succumbed once, a smiley salesman telling me "For you, pretty girl, mivtza - a hundred shekel, crazy price!" didn't (always) weaken my resolve and open my wallet.

I knew the best spots to get shwarma and the cheapest place to get candy. I knew what Chabakuk was, which stop to get off to get to the shuk, and the bus schedule of my local "mispar esrim-vechad" by heart. I was familiar with the cities, the winding streets of the Rova, the best time to go to the Kotel so you can get a spot by the wall. My blondish hair and obvious American accent notwithstanding, I could push my way through a crowd and forget to say "excuse me" with the best of them. This was my city. This was home. It may not have been electric anymore, but it was comforting in the way your favorite sweatshirt is. A feeling of knowing that this is where you belong; this is where it's simple, soothing, and true.

My first year in Israel was extraordinary. The second time was precious.

Ariella Blech is a desktop publishing major who plans to graduate within the next decade. ■

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approved colors. Now ladies of all ages can look great and feel confident when they are seen on Shabbat."

Shaindy started her company at the same time that she started her family, about twenty-two years ago. A trained biochemist, Shaindy worked in medical research but stopped when her daughter was born because she didn't want to be exposed to radioactivity. That was when she decided to combine her love of people and chemistry.

"I love working around people and making them feel good about themselves, so I combined my chemistry knowledge and love for colors and started Shain Dee Cosmetics," she said. She directs a team of biochemists who formulate her products and she also has a lab in her studio where she custom-makes a lot of the makeup. The factors they deal with are the basics of makeup know-how: how it goes on, how well it stays on, how the colors react with the skin and how they reflect with the light and stay true to their shades.

The first time I tried Shaindy's Makeup it felt



spectacular—I actually walked into shul without looking like I was still sleeping! It's amazing what a difference a little cover-up and blush does when applied fresh on Shabbat. Shaindy's Makeup is different than regular makeup because each color has its own brush (to prevent color mixing) and there is no cream foundation. The makeup may not last as long as a cream base, but the beauty of applying makeup on Shabbat is that you can reapply as many times as you wish.

You may think that having a certain line of makeup exclusively for Shabbat, the colors and products may be limited, but the Shabbat line is not limited in color or products. The foundation and blush (like any other brand) matched my skin tone; there were 3 different eye shadows and two eyeliners to choose from. For the past month I've been using Shaindy's Shabbat cos-

metics and I can't go a Shabbat without using it! It's like any other make up: pick, choose and experiment for the look you want.

Halachic guidelines:

Face must be dry and free of any other makeup. Spray moisturizer spray and allow drying.

When using the powder, turn the container over and use the loose powder from the cap. The powder may not be picked up with the brush from above the cake.

You must use a separate brush for every color so you are not blending two colors. No sponges, applicators or fingers may be used. BRUSHES ARE CUSTOM-MADE TO ENABLE THE BEST RESULTS.

You cannot blend two colors together to create a new shade.

You cannot use one product over another. Use the blush first and then the broken powder foundation around it.

You can reapply the same color with its own brush as often as you like. Spray moisturizer sprays again to moisten and set.

You can remove makeup with makeup remover or wash your face with the diluted cleanser only (without cotton or pre-soaked pads). Rinse off with water, dry with a paper towel and then with a towel.

Shaindy has a full line of Shabbat makeup that is solely powder (applying cream on Shabbat is not permitted) and works great for Shabbat. There is a variety of colors, eye shadows, eyeliners, lipsticks (powder), blushes and foundation. All products can be applied on Shabbat/Yom tov just be sure to follow the Halachic guidelines. Along with her Shabbat line, Shaindy has a full line of skin care "because looking good in my cosmetics is enhanced by good skin". There are amazing products for dry, oily and especially "acne" skin that are kosher for Passover (brochure available in May). Shaindy's products

are available for purchase on her website: www.shaindeecosmetics.com ■

Suicide in the Jewish Community

continued from page 4

By Deborah Brody

do Jews automatically think that we commit suicide less than everyone else? What do we think we have that no one else does?

"Religion," explains Sasha Lantsman, LCW Student Activities Coordinator. "The Jewish suicide

rate is smaller than the rest of the world because religion serves as happiness and a distraction. The numbers are also increasing because so are the number of teenagers who stray away from Judaism."

When a family member or close friend is asked if they saw the signs that may have predicted why their loved one killed himself, they are usually at a loss. Sometimes we can be extremely shortsighted

and can become so wrapped up in our own problems that we miss the opportunity to help someone else. Sometimes, stepping back is the only way we can help others and ourselves. ■

If any Touro student is suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts, please speak to Professor Klapper about free therapy. Help is out there for you.

**ARTS AND
CULTURE**



The Beat-Boxing Bochor Releases His Second CD

By Melody Yaghoubi

The sell-out crowd is roaring. The applause is thunderous. The baseline's pumping and the drums are pounding. The stage is set and the man of the hour, the star of the show, fully dressed in Yiddishe garb, complete with his black hat and beard, emerges from the darkness. No, this isn't "Showtime at the Apollo: Williamsburg Edition." This is a nightly occurrence on Matisyahu's winter tour. Dubbed the Hassidic Reggae Superstar, Matisyahu has taken the country's music scene by storm.

In case you're wondering, Matisyahu is in fact the real deal, a devout Chassid, strictly keeping the laws of Shabbat and Shomer Negia while touring around the world. This was not always the case, however, for the 26 year old, who just seven years ago traded in his hippie-dreadlocked-beat-boxing lifestyle for a holier and more meaningful religious life. Born in Westchester, PA and raised in White Plains, NY amongst the hippie, drug laced, dead-head crowd of the early '90s, Matthew Miller underwent an intense and dramatic transformation towards becoming 'Matisyahu.' In the secular society he grew up in, Matisyahu never identified with Judaism and it was evident in his life of extensive drug use and poor school performance. While on a camping trip in Colorado, Matisyahu came to the realization that G-d does exist and the quest for knowledge about his religion



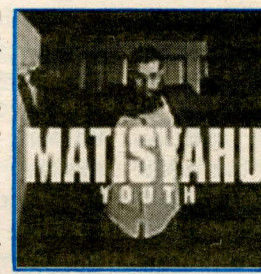
took a hold of him. He soon took his first trip to Israel, where he experienced all that Judaism has to offer first hand, and vowed to grow from his experiences there. However, upon his return to New York, he was not ready to give up the one constant in his life—his music. Following his junior year in high school, Matisyahu dropped out and decided to follow the band Phish on tour. Soon afterward, he realized that this was not the life he wanted to lead anymore and went to a detoxification program in the Oregon wilderness. There, Matisyahu cleaned himself up and came home to attend yeshiva in Crowne Heights, where he underwent conversion to Hassidism.

With a new lease on life, Matisyahu returned to the one thing that had guided him throughout his journey. Under the musical influence of Shlomo Carlebach, Bob Marley, and Sublime, Matisyahu began to hone his undeniable beat-boxing and reggae talents for a higher purpose. His initial studio album, *Shake off the Dust...ARISE* experienced mild success; Matisyahu's true talent, however, came in his live performance. Receiving exposure from appearances on almost every late-night talk show, talks of this "Reggae-Rapping Rabbi" began to circulate. Soon enough, the minor stir he was creating because of his differing appearance would translate into stellar reviews, monstrous CD sales, and superstardom. With the release of *Live at Stubb's*, recorded in Austin, TX, Matisyahu has climbed to

number 32 on the Billboard Top 200 Album list, and hasn't shown any signs of slowing down. His hit single, "King Without a Crown" has reached number seven on the Modern Rock charts and became the most requested song on rock station KROQ in Los Angeles.

Matisyahu's foremost obligation is always to Judaism; he is constantly careful not to come into contact with female fans, even giving up his beloved act of stage diving, lest he land on a female fan in the crowd. He refuses to allow his music stardom to interfere with his observance of Shabbat and holidays, and he even turned down Madonna's request to share the stage with him, which would violate the laws of *Kol Isha*. Matisyahu has, however, gained the respect of musicians worldwide. Trey

Anastasio, former Phish frontman, has been one of Matisyahu's greatest supporters, inviting him to perform at his esteemed Bonnaroo Festival, sharing the stage with the likes of greats such as Radiohead, Beck, and prodigal reggae son, Damien Marley. His success has not only thwarted the misconception that the white man can't rap, but has elevated the sanctity of Judaism. He recently collaborated with Christian rockers P.O.D. on one of the most religious and G-d friendly efforts of this or any era, "Roots in Stereo." Matisyahu's efforts have already influenced many secular Jews to explore their own roots, if not allowing them a sense of pride in their heritage, while gaining the respect of non-Jewish musicians and music fans alike.



His approval in the Orthodox community is, however, still a hot topic of debate. Should he instead be using his time for further Torah study? Is it appropriate to be performing in front of scantily clad female fans, who engage in provocative dance to his music? Is it really a *Kiddush HaShem* to recite Torah lyrics in such a nonchalant manner, in a genre habitually associated with drug abuse and lewd lifestyles? After witnessing the power Matisyahu has with his words and

stage presence firsthand, firsthand and how adolescent girls were dancing to his music while he recites the Shema, a most holy verse in Judaism, I was a little turned off by his music and his approach. It seemed as though he was doing more harm than good. However, after hearing the accolades and admiration he receives from non-Jewish fans who would have otherwise have no affiliation with Jews, it is hard to deny the influence he has. Love him or hate him, it is impossible to ignore how much respect this one man has gained for the Jewish people. Matisyahu's sophomore album, *Youth*, was released in stores March 7. ■

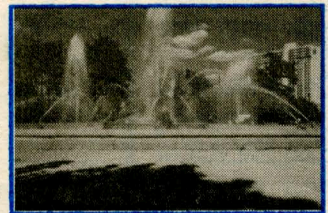
After spending a semester in Israel, Melody Yaghoubi realized her true calling in life was to be a writer for *The Independent*. She enjoys reading *Curious George* books in foreign languages and playing her now defunct guitar, Larry. Her hopes and dreams include being an actual, registered student at Touro.

A Trip to the City of Brotherly Love

By Rena Horowitz

If you are one of those people who enjoy traveling, but Florida is just not your thing, consider a visit to one of our country's most historic cities. Philadelphia (or Philly for short) is only about a two-hour drive from New York City or a comparable hour train ride from Penn Station. Philly's rich history lends itself to many interesting things to see and do and there is really something for everyone in this exciting city.

If beautiful art draws your attention, you will definitely enjoy the famous Philadelphia Art Museum. There is a striking collection of pieces from Van Gogh, Monet, Picasso, and Rodin. You can even pretend to be Sylvester Stalone in *Rocky* and run up the steps of the museum! Philadelphia



is also known for its colorful mural paintings located throughout the city. The Philadelphia Mural Arts Program was started in 1984 to counteract gang graffiti and brighten up the neighborhoods. The murals really help to beautify the city, adding extra flavor and ethnicity to the city.

For those of you fascinated by history, Independence Hall is the main attraction of the downtown area. It is the site of both the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. The line to get in is usually quite long, but once you arrive, it is well worth the wait. The guided tour (led by a Benjamin Franklin look-a-like) takes you back 300 years into the birth of our country. Right near Independence

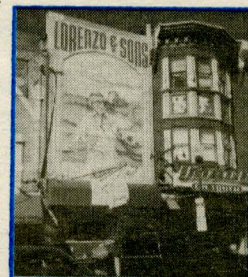
Hall is the famous Liberty Bell, with its crack and all. The history and background of the Bell is clearly explained in a small exhibit with documents, artifacts and movies. It describes how the Bell became a symbol of hope, freedom and patriotism in the United States. Philadelphians are also very proud of their native hero, Benjamin Franklin, who was truly a remarkable man. At the Franklin Institute of Science, basically a huge, interactive, and surprisingly fun science museum, you'll learn all about Franklin's famous experiments (the kite and the key, the central stove) and his lesser known exploits as a musician and philosopher. The museum includes an immense walk-through heart (climb up a valve and slide down an artery!) and an astronomy tower with actual telescopes. You can also catch an educational IMax at this museum (or a

gruesome one--the IMAX film, "Lions", is pretty gory.)

If you're looking for nightlife, give up. Philadelphia shuts down at about 7:30 PM, so make sure you finish all your errands by then. However, Philly's innovative "Lights of Liberty" show (safely finished by 8:00) might spark your interest. "Lights of Liberty" is a walking night tour through the historical buildings and places in downtown Philly. Colors and lights are projected directly onto the historic buildings and voices of the past speak and cheer in your ear (through the headphones). It really feels like you're back in 1774 and getting riled up to throw out the British. There is no need to worry about how to get around once you are in Philly. The city's buses and subways are easy to navigate, and, more

lights are projected directly onto the historic buildings and voices of the past speak and cheer in your ear (through the headphones). It really feels like you're back in 1774 and getting riled up to throw out the British.

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Continued on page 16

Ayelet Waldman Speaks Out

By Miriam Cohen

For anyone who has ever had an opinion that chafed against society's definition of "correct," Ayelet Waldman is in your corner.

Ayelet Waldman is the author of the Mommy-Track Mysteries series as well as the novels *Daughter's Keeper* (2003), and most recently, *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* (2006). Waldman is infamous for a New York Times column in which she wrote that she loves her husband, author Michael Chabon, more than she loves her four children.

The Times column inevitably met with a bitter onslaught of controversy. Most vocal in their criticism of Waldman was the elite circle of Manhattan mothers who frequent the website UrbanBaby.com. "I have never read UrbanBaby.com, because I don't like to read horrible things about myself, but my husband read it and said they basically burnt me in effigy on the site," says Waldman.

Love and Other Impossible Pursuits is narrated by Emille, a woman (who like the author is Jewish though not Orthodox) cosmically drawn to Jack, a married man with a child, convinced he is her Beshert [intended]. Emille, described by Waldman as a "home wrecker," eventually marries Jack. When their marital bliss is tragically

shattered by the death of their daughter to AIDS, it is Jack's son, a child prodigy with an imagined allergy to dairy fabricated by his "Shiksa goddess" mother, who ultimately proves to be the healing force urging Emille forward in her journey out of grief.

Waldman admits that the idea of finding one's Beshert in a married man is an uncomfortable idea for many. "I wanted to dig through the notion of Beshert and what it really means," says Waldman.

Waldman refutes the speculation that the novel, which explores motherhood at its most emotionally-wrenching, is an answer to the backlash her column received. Waldman explains, "I wrote the book a year before I wrote the column. Maternal

ambivalence is something I've always written about; feeling love for your kids so profoundly, and also feeling trapped, desperate to be the person you used to be."

Waldman admits that she is not immune to criticism and that at times the website's postings led her to consider self-censorship in her writing. "I did consider censoring myself because of the reaction," says Waldman. "But then I decided *davka* [Hebrew for "specifically"] I'm not going to shut up!"

Such a response is typical of Waldman, a self-described "girl with the big mouth."

"I fit neatly into the Jewish girl stereotype; righteously indignant, act first think later," laughs Waldman. The doubt that led her to (if only momentarily) consider censorship resurfaces as she explains the other side of the Jewish girl stereotype. "The side to be a good daughter, not to make too much trouble...they are warring sides," she says.

Waldman's identity as a Jewish

woman is something she uses as a springboard in her writing. "[Bringing Judaism into my writing] is my default. I need a reason to make my characters not Jewish; the opposite of how it is on sitcoms where they need a reason to make characters Jewish. It's natural for me."

Although Waldman is firm in asserting that the character of Emille is not autobiographical, she admits that Emille and Jack's relationship is "directly taken from my life." While Waldman's husband was divorced when she met him, like Waldman's character, he had been previously married to a "Shiksa goddess."

"I was such a stark contrast...I'm a Jewish girl from New Jersey! On our first phone conversation, I told a William Kuntzler joke, and it was so familiar [to my husband], it was like coming home," says Waldman.

Sensing potential ammunition for controversy, Waldman errs on the side of political correctness, adding, "It's not that I'm opposed to intermarriage, but there's an amazing connection [between Jews] It's so deep it affects everything about you." ■

Miriam Cohen is the executive editor of the Independent, and is a junior majoring in English



To Be a Real Tzadokit

By Sheena Tamar Dishaw

In the past two issues of "The Independent", we discussed the middot of *chesed v'emet*, kindness and truth, and the importance of balancing the two traits. According to many, this balance is found in the middah of Tzedek, often translated as justice or righteousness. Tzedek can also be defined as doing the right things by strictly adhering to the laws given to us by G-d. It is associated with being considerate of other's needs (Chesed) since Tzedek is about balancing our judgment (Emet) in order to best serve G-d and his creations.

In Deuteronomy 16:20, we find the statement, "Tzedek, Tzedek shall you pursue, that you may live." To

pursue balance in your life brings justice for yourself and others.

In *Midrash Devarim Rabbah*, it is explained that, "To do what is right and just is more desired by the L-rd than sacrifice." As sacrifice is only applicable when the Temple is standing; , justice and righteousness were just as pertinent during biblical times as they are today. Also, sacrifices could only atone for unintentional, accidental sins, while acts of righteousness and justice atone for intentional sins.

The trait of Tzedek is something that will last us into the

next world as long as we do our part to make this world a more just and righteous place. This is possible by giving the benefit of the doubt while

simultaneously remembering G-d's perspective on things, giving tzedekah with an added spirituality by consciously balancing and joining with G-d. (In fact, Tzedek is found in tzedekah along with an additional "hey," representing G-d.)

Giving to the poor is not so much viewed as a generous act rather than one of justice and righteousness, the performance of a duty. That is resonant of Emet. Yet, human righteousness is a reflection of G-d and therefore also includes loving others, resonant of Chesed. This notion is so intertwined with Tzedek that the word tzedakah has assumed the definition of charity.

To be a tzadik or tzadokit is a level achievable by working on balancing our chesed and emet to do the will of G-d with clarity and passion so we can best live our lives serving ourselves and others, sacrificing ourselves to guarantee our place as a partner with G-d. ■

Sheena Tamar Dishaw is the features editor of the Independent. A sociology and communications major, Dishaw backpacks through Europe in her free time.

Lander Women Speak:

"Tzedek is righteousness and justice, but more than that it means being a good person, giving tzedakah and caring for others."

-Emma Simhayev, Biology Major, -sophomore

"Justice is judging others favorably by giving them the benefit of the doubt and putting yourself in their shoes. This is what it means to truly be tzedek."

-Malka Salhanick, Undeclared major, sophomore

Touro Bytes What should be Touro's mascot and why?

"A monkey, because I just love monkeys." - Melody Yaghoubi, Sophomore

"The Starbucks girl- we support them!" - Allison Sutton, Junior

"A tiger, because we're strong and bold and stick out!" - Nitzan Cohen, Junior

"An engagement ring, (self-explanatory)." - Loren Lillien, Senior

"Glukel of Hamlen who was an independent woman of the early 18th C. Torah values, education, a mother, a business woman." - Debbie Friedlander and Zahava Friedman, Juniors

"A chameleon" - Ariel Richter, Sophomore

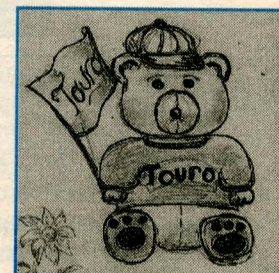


Illustration by: Sara Hartstein

★★★★★ Fateless, the Film By Faige Klein

Stars are based upon directorial and acting quality and viewer enjoyment

Is it possible for a human being to lead a fateless life? Does man have the power of choice to absolve all responsibilities and personal energies, simply becoming an observer as his life unfolds? Lajos Koltai presents these questions in his haunting, yet striking directorial debut film *Fateless*. The movie is based on the autobiographical 1975 novel by Imre Kertész titled *Fatelessness*, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 2002.

The experience of 14 year old Gyuri Koves (played by Marcell Nagy) is at the center of the movie. Residing in Budapest with his family at the outbreak of World War II, Gyuri's father is called for labor service. Gyuri silently and calmly bids him farewell. As his father holds him in one final embrace



on his last night home, Gyuri cries for the first time. "I don't know if my tears stemmed...simply from exhaustion," he silently reflects, "or maybe even because, ever since the first exhortation that I had received that morning from my stepmother, I had somehow been preparing all along to shed them unflinching. All the same, I thought, at least we were able to send him off to the labor camp, poor man, with memories of a nice day." The viewer quickly

understands that extreme resistance, violence and torture will not arrest his attention for the duration of the movie. Rather, it will be the exact opposite; stagnant reactions, orderly obedience, and the quiet sight of resignation are what will chill his soul. Such a display of dull emotion will continue to creep up in many later scenes.

What follows next in the film is Gyuri's deportation to numerous labour

and death camps. In each subsequent sepia-tinted scene, the viewer travels with Gyuri on his journey from a crowded train car, through selection lines, and to his smooth absorption into camp life. All of this is portrayed with a certain strange calmness and orderliness. The organized genocide by the Nazis is presented in a direct and almost sensible manner. This calculated and unquestioning view of the war is perhaps more blood curdling and repulsive than beholding the abuse, furious hate and vehemence that pervaded the camps. The viewer absorbs the inhumane treatment forced upon Gyuri and his steady metamorphosis into a gray skeleton, barely blinking and barely breathing.

The unusual dilemma suggested in this work is the question of guilt. Who shall be found guilty of the grave sin of dehumanization? Nazi or Jew? The constant savage torture and murder of the emotional, mental, spiritual and physical life of a Jew is indis-

putably indicative of the complete lack of any true human quality in the Nazi. It was he, and not the Jew lying broken at his feet, that was dehumanized. Through his own actions and choices, the Nazi suffocated the humanity and the human within. One is dehumanized through his own behavior, not by the actions of another. This is precisely why a Jew that did not challenge the face of evil was himself dehumanized. The fate of a person is for him and G-d to decide. By believing that life is fateless, one is no longer living a human life. Hopelessness is possible, fatelessness is not. When a voice is heard demanding to know, "Was? Du willst noch leben?" (What? You still want to live?) the response of a man, a human, should always be yes. "Yes. I still want to live. It is my fate to live." ■

Born in South Africa, freshman Faygie Klein now resides in Crown Heights. She is majoring in English and Communications.



Restaurant Review: La Creperie By Elaine Tessler

★★★★★

Stars are based on food quality, atmosphere, service, and cost.

Finding a kosher restaurant in New York City that is passably nice and has pretty good food is not that difficult. After all, once you hit the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where both meat and dairy restaurants pop up every other street, it shouldn't be too hard to find somewhere just to sit down and eat. However, dining out gets tricky if you're interested in something just a little different; a restaurant that has food that is both tasteful, original, and of course, kosher.

Le Creperie is one small restaurant that can boast all these attributes. Located on Broadway, between West 98th and 99th streets, this cozy French restaurant invites customers with its bright blue awning and its convenient location. The restaurant was opened recently in the hopes of attracting the Jewish community in the West Side and the many visitors who travel there just for eating. It's intimate setting—small tables, quiet atmosphere—is perfect for a dating couple or even for an evening out with friends. Having tried La Creperie with my parents and my three younger siblings, I would probably not recommend it as a family place, unless the family is somewhat smaller or older than mine. Children may find the extensive menu daunting or the soft aura a bit too restraining (although my eleven-year-old sister was fascinated by the many dates that surrounded our table).

The food, on the other hand, is perfect for people of all ages, genders and sizes. Designed to attract customers with its originality, as the restaurant's French manager explained, La Creperie's specialty is

exactly as it sounds—crepes. Soft, buttery crepes fill up most of the menu; crepes stuffed with fish, cheese, eggs, or vegetables for the meal, and crepes with ice cream, jelly, caramel, or chocolate for dessert. The crepe with grilled salmon fillet (\$25) was delicious—the sweet, doughy crepe was surprisingly complimentary to the simply-prepared grilled fish. Although the crepe with mushrooms and cream (\$11) was a bit too rich for my taste, when served with eggs and creamed spinach (\$12), the crepe again took on an intriguingly unique taste that was delightful. For dessert, the recommendation of the efficient waitress (and definitely my own recommendation as well) was the crepe with bananas, chocolate, and ice cream (\$12). The dessert's flavor is as original as it sounds and actually quite delectable without being overpowering.

The menu at Le Creperie also offers a variety of soups, pasta, fish, and salads presented tantalizingly for those of us who need our food to be familiar. The service is efficient and amiable and a standard 15% gratuity is often included in the bill (saving many of us a large headache). Prices are moderate even as the food itself is a bit of an indulgence. The food definitely does not cater to a strict diet, but it makes up for its fat content with its sheer novelty. So next time you're craving food that is not only mouthwatering but also creative, take a train up from Touro to the Upper West Side and try one of the crepes at La Creperie! ■

The Spring Touro Top 10- Cheap and Available College-Student Culture

- 1. Shakespeare's Measure for Measure**- An awesome, Off-Broadway play for an awesome price at The Pearl Theatre Company, playing Feb. 23-April 9. Student tickets are \$10. Web: www.pearltheatre.org; phone: 212-598-9802 (212)598-9802
- 2. Samuel Palmer: Vision and Landscape**, at the Met- Finally, some pretty art that's pleasant to look at without being controversial or unexplainable. On display until May 29, price is by suggested donation. Web: www.metmuseum.org
- 3. Barnes and Nobles Readings**- Includes a teen fiction read-around, an upbeat lecture on "How to do everything you love", and an evening where Rabbi Telushkin speaks about his book, *A Code of Jewish Ethics*. Free events are bubbling at the Manhattan B & N; just type in the zip code 10010 on the website and you'll see the listings. Web: barnesandnoble.com
- 4. South Street Seaport Museum**- See the ships and the shore that made New York what it is today. Student tickets are \$6, and you'll receive 2 for 1 admission with your metro card until May 31. When you finish the museum tour you can shop the seaport's clothing stores. Web: www.museumsoflow-ermanhattan.org
- 5. Bodies, The Exhibition**- The fascinating human body exhibited in all its intricate and organ-y glory. Don't worry--it's not gruesome. Tickets are \$25, and you receive free MTA transportation if you buy your tickets online. Web: www.bodiestheexhibition.com
- 6. Picnic in Washington Square Park**- Soak in the beauty and history of this classic New York sight-see, and follow it with a tour of Greenwich Village.
- 7. The New York Yankees**- Baseball is back in season. Grab a game and a kosher hot dog for \$18 + \$6 (no, neither are cheap, but it's fun) at the first home game of the season: April 12 against the Kansas City Royals. Web: www.newyork.yankees.mlb.com
- 8. The New York International Auto Show**- See snazzy and creative auto designs and cars so new that they haven't been released yet. Over 1,000 vehicles will be shown at this Manhattan auto show, which runs from April 14-23. Tickets are \$14. Phone: 1-800-282-3336.
- 9. Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors**- From August 4-27, the Lincoln Center on West 65th St. will be showing over 100 performances of international dance, theatre, and world music as well as good local jazz. The best news...it's FREE! Phone: 212.875.5456
- 10. Kensington Stables**- Horseback riding in New York, and Brooklyn, no less! For \$25, you and your friends can take a beautiful, hour-long ride in Prospect Park, one of the last Brooklyn acres with grass. Phone: 718-972-4588

HEALTH &
WELLNESS

New Wave of Exhaustion Hits College Students Worldwide

By Rochie Ebin

The other day I was waiting in the elevator, somewhat awkwardly, with a girl I've seen around. Grabbing the opportunity to improve my somewhat lacking social skills, I attempted to make small talk. "So," I began, "You, uh, live in the dorm?" I stared at her blankly, eagerly awaiting her response, only to discover she wasn't responding. Giving the whole "benefit of the doubt" thing a try, I assumed she was hard of hearing. As a speech major, I increased the decibel of my voice and practically screamed, "DO YOU LIVE IN THE DORM?" Slowly, she turned towards me, clearly displaying the large bags under her eyes (potato sack anyone?) and replied, "Oh, sorry, I'm so tired."

Sadly, this scene, although manifested in many different scenarios, is all too familiar on college campuses. We LCW undergrads are sleep deprived—seriously, somewhat dangerously, sleep deprived. But we are not the only ones; studies show that 79% of college students are not getting enough sleep.

When discussing sleep, one needs to focus on three aspects. Firstly, what

exactly is sleep and why do we need it? Secondly, what happens if we don't get it? And lastly, what can we do about it?

According to Google Definition, sleep is "a natural and periodic state of rest during which consciousness of the world is suspended." The primary function of sleep is recuperation. While awake, as our brains work hard and enable us to function, (somewhat, at least) we produce a chemical known as adenosine. This chemical inhibits certain neurons resulting in the all too familiar 'wave of exhaustion'. As we sleep, the concentration of our adenosine declines, allowing out bodies time to recuperate and re-energize. Sleep is a necessary biological function and allows us to perform more efficiently and accurately.

The effect of sleep deprivation can range anywhere from the usual snapping at your annoying little sister, to the more serious hallucinations, and may even potentially result in death. The most common symptoms of sleep deprivation, however, are drowsiness, exhaustion, fatigue and lack of physical strength. These physical symptoms tend to permeate our moods, causing melancholy, pessimism, and depres-

sion.

According to The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) road rage may very possibly be the result of sleep deprivation, a national epidemic. Additionally, sleep deprivation takes its toll on the immune system, explaining the seeming epidemic of illness in college students immediately following midterms or finals. Furthermore, sleep deprivation results in impaired concentration, which in turn is one of the leading causes car accidents.

Practically speaking, though, what can one do? The average LCW student gets home from college at around six o'clock. The earliest class begins the next day at nine. Somewhere in between then, she needs to pencil in eating dinner, writing a paper, studying for a midterm, and going on a date. (Well, at least she'd like to pencil in the latter.) Obviously, the only option for this unfortunate student is to pull an 'all-nighter' and hope Starbucks has fired the annoying cashier that takes forever to ring up a simple coffee (large, skim milk, no sugar...) Clearly, this is the only option.

Well, not exactly, the only option. Firstly, although bedtime seems like a

thing of the past, it is actually important to establish a clear, regimented bedtime for oneself. Going to sleep the same time every night allows the body to become accustomed to a structured sleep pattern.

Secondly, avoid procrastination. Pushing off all work until the wee hours of the morning interferes with one's mental health. For those (weighing in as the majority) who find this suggestion difficult to follow, the most lucrative advice would be to start small. Instead of stockpiling all homework for what should rightfully be bedtime, a student should resolve to complete at least one assignment before three o'clock (in the afternoon!), and gradually steer herself away from her unhealthy sleep-depriving study habits.

Sleep 'hygiene' is important and should not be overlooked. If taken seriously, we will not only be improving our own performances, we will change the spirit of the entire Touro College. Touro will become infused with a newfound energy and optimism, full of bubbly faces and cheerful attitudes. Until then, though, have a wonderful night! ■



Living with Epilepsy

By Joanna Hertzberg

It was not exactly how I planned to spend my winter vacation. I opened my eyes and several unfamiliar people in hospital scrubs were swarming around me frantically talking about someone who just had a seizure. Luckily, a familiar face appeared beside me and reassured me that everything would be okay. I had no recollection, but to my surprise, the person who had the seizure was me. I now found myself lying on a bed in the emergency room, mid-afternoon, while my friend was at my side explaining to a doctor that I have epilepsy. Because I suffered memory loss from the seizure, I did not even realize I was rushed to the hospital in a Hatzolah ambulance. Not only was I the person who just had the seizure, but it was the fourth grand mal seizure I had since that morning. A grand mal seizure is the most severe type of seizure characterized by loss of consciousness, falling down and rhythmic convulsions resulting from an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain.

I was admitted into the hospital from the emergency room and even ended up back in the ER a second time one week later. The grand mal seizures caused me to have short term memory loss for several weeks after.

I had been diagnosed with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy (JME) at the age of thirteen, out of the blue. Although

epilepsy can be brought on by trauma to the head or is sometimes inherited through genetics, I did not have any head injuries and no one in my family has ever had epilepsy. Everyone has electrical currents in their brain. When someone has a seizure, the brain experiences a brief electrical disturbance. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that makes me susceptible to having seizures, which is a sudden change in how the brain cells send electrical signals to each other.

People who have epilepsy are affected by it in different ways. I experience two types of seizures and a momentary disruption of the senses known as a "blank out". The most dangerous type of seizures I have are grand mal seizures, which are the ones I had the day I was taken to the hospital. When I have a grand mal seizure, I become unconscious and therefore only know what happens to me through people who have actually

witnessed it. If standing, I fall to the ground and go into a convulsive state. My heart races, my arms and legs shake violently and I make uncontrolled vocal sounds. This usually lasts between two and five minutes, and then once I stop shaking it can take another few minutes before I

wake up and am cognizant. Although grand mal seizures are not usually life threatening, they can be, and sometimes the concern is not so much the seizure itself but the injuries that can accompany a fall to the ground while having the seizure.

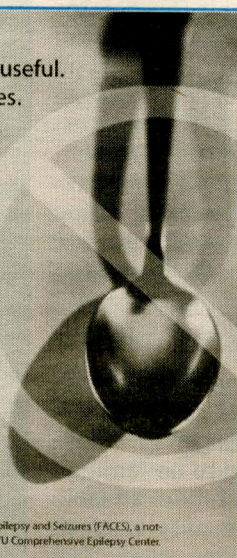
The other type of seizure I have is called a petit mal, or absence seizure. I lose consciousness for a few seconds, but not long enough to fall to the ground. I raise my arms above my head and shake them briefly. These seizures are more hazardous to my friends than they are to me, as I have been known to throw my frapacinos all over anyone walking behind me!

When I have "blank outs", I stare into space for a few seconds and nothing that is going on around me registers properly. Although people cannot

The spoon is very useful.
Just not for seizures.

For the 2.5 million Americans with epilepsy, help is often needed during a seizure. There are lots of ways to do so, but you should never put anything in their mouth. To learn how to assist someone having a seizure, please visit www.nyufaces.org.

Brought to you by Finding A Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES), a not-for-profit organization affiliated with NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center.



Continued on page 16

Internet Dating- the Breakdown of the sites

By Zissel Shakhnazaryan

Hi, I hate describing myself and I'm never sure what to write on these sites but here goes nothing.... That's how it usually starts, and by that I mean profiles on dating websites such as Frumster, Sawyouatsinai, or FutureSimchas.

I personally hate dating. I hate the system. Going to shadchanim that tell you that guys are too scared to date someone who's going to law school, that you need to lose weight for someone to want to date you, or who spend five minutes with you and think they know everything about you.

Then, when magically a potential match is suggested, the real agony begins. The references and the background checks make me feel like I'm applying for a job in the CIA. If you make it to the date it often ends with pressure questions that go something like this, "So, you spent 3 hours with him, can you see yourself marrying him and having his babies?"

Maybe I'm being extreme, but I'm sure everyone has felt the pressures of the big brother system of religious

dating. Which begs the question, is there an alternative? How does one get married without the pressure or criticism, without feeling the need to conform and become the IJM (ideal Jewish mate)? Could the answer be found sitting on every dorm room desk? Could internet dating be the anti-establishment solution to the shidduch crisis?

Frumster lets individuals post their profiles, search through profiles and contact members through the system's database. "Women have initiated roughly 50% of engaged and/or married couples," says Derek Saker, director of marketing for Frumster. "There are about 18 [Frumster] members that decide to take the leap of faith in life together every month!"

So it works. People are getting married, but not without its own problems. The screening that goes with the shadchan "mafia" is intensive and unbeatable, but on the internet research of any prospective mate is up to each individual member. Sometimes, with the whirl of connec-

tion and romance, common sense goes out the window.

Sawyouatsinai, another internet dating service, approaches the dilemma with an interesting twist. You enter your profile into a database of singles that are then matched up through matchmakers. The way to get a match is through a computer calculating system and the matchmaker of your choice going through the actual descriptions and sending the prospective members each others profiles.

Sounds good in theory, especially because the matchmakers themselves are screened before being able to join the site as an official facilitator of happiness. The downside to this potentially great service, however, is the confusion over which matchmaker to pick-how do you know they will 'give' with your personality and work for you? Additionally, how are the members screened before they post their profile; can a matchmaker really know someone without meeting him or her?

Lastly, there is FutureSimchas, a

partner with OnlySimchas--the site that has touched all of our lives and has produced screams, thrills, and tears. FutureSimchas is similar to the format of Frumster, but much less involved. Unlike Frumster which has a full-time dating advice expert and also creates events for singles to participate in, FutureSimchas is simply a site where you put your profile in the system. There's a slight hope that your profile will be read, but there is no success rate to follow or support system to lean on.

Dating can be frustrating, annoying and demeaning. Can the answer to these negative feelings be internet dating which lets you take control of your own research and involvement, or is the stigma and danger too much even for our technologically advanced generation? Only time will tell. ■

Zissel Shakhnazaryan is a senior majoring in political science with a communications minor.

Dating Advice with Professor Klapper

Dear Professor K: One date asked for directions to Teaneck, which was an hour away. Since I don't know the area, I was flustered and took a guess. We ended up getting there just fine, but it was stressful. Do you feel the guy should know exactly where he is going and not have to bother the girl?

--- Lost and unimpressed

Dear Lost and Unimpressed: Are you looking for qualities that ultimately lead to a deep and meaningful relationship, or are you trying to find a Human(GPS) Navigational System? This is not a detail that reflects on a person's character and integrity. Next time offer to mapquest directions for him, and keep your eyes focused on the "big picture," qualities about him as a PERSON, not a Driver.

Dear Professor K: The guy I'm going out with seems to be sweet and caring, but then he does certain things that are so un-thinking, like driving away before I go into my house late at night, or taking me out at dinner time and then not getting me dinner. Is he just clueless? Should I give him a chance even if these things really bother me? ---Stranded and hungry

Dear Stranded and Hungry: Although many movie couples can seem to read each other's minds, I have yet to meet a real-life couple that has managed this feat. Honestly, do you have any people in your life that can actually read your mind, and know what you want? (A grandmother who is offering you food does not count. She is not sensing your needs, she is always asking if you're hungry). When raising a child with proper manners, even the most thorough parents don't usually chaperone their sons through a few dates to "polish" the details of his dating man-

ners. (Not that this is such a bad idea...). Therefore, he may not know the proper etiquette to the things you mentioned. Do not assume he is an insensitive brute until you test that hypothesis.

Next time you are out at dinner time, and starving, hint by saying you forgot to eat, and you apologize if your stomach is making unladylike noises. Ask him to wait until you are safely in your house late at night, with a joke about the neighborhood going downhill, if you must. Then you can see what is insensitivity, and what is just lacking in finesse.

Dear Professor K: I've starting dating this guy who I'm REALLY attracted to--he's extremely good looking and charismatic, but I'm afraid of being blinded by that and not thinking about more important things like common interests and values. How can I clear my mind so I can see the situation more rationally?

----Bedazzled and blushing

Dear Bedazzled and Blushing: Good for you that you can be honest about the blinding element of physical attraction. I applaud your honesty. We are raised with a "Beautiful is good" bias to attractive people. Be extra attentive on your (hopefully in-depth) phone conversations to focus on the person behind the beautiful face. Remember that in twenty-plus years he will not look like he does now. If you need proof of this just leaf through your parents wedding album and compare all the family members in it to the way they look today. Try to remember how fleeting looks are, but "character is forever."

Email your dating queries or rants to touroindependent@gmail.com ■

Mazal Tov

Engagements:

Hunny Benarroch & Daniel "Khordo" Khodorkovsky

Jen Singer & Josh Kanter

Aviva Sanders & Sami Solaimanzadeh

Suri Samberg and Yisroel Weiner

Rachel Kronman and Lee Gross



Weddings:

Lisa Zalmanovic & Dovid Kram

Yehudis Halbstein and Lazer Steinberg

Rebecca Geis and Ari Halpert

Sara Scharf & Gavriel Schuster

Shani and Steven Davidowitz

Sharona Cohen & Moshe Bittan

Miriam Cohen and Yossi Shai

Sara Kroloff & Dror Dany

Compiled by Alison Katz.

Please send all mazal tov announcements to

touroindependent@gmail.com

A Trip to the City of Brotherly Love

Continued from page 11

importantly, the people who you will ask directions from are very helpful and friendly. Most of the museums and attractions are in the same vicinity, and downtown there is an incredible and kosher falafel shop.

The museums, the shows, and the atmosphere will make any trip to Philadelphia a rewarding visit. Philly is educational, fun, and don't forget cheap! It's the ideal vacation spot for any college student with a hundred bucks and a free weekend. ■

Rena Horowitz is a Judaic Studies major who loves biology. When she's not touring Philadelphia, she's cram-

By Rena Horowitz

ming her time with classes in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for taking the most college credits in one semester.

Philly Info

Kosher downtown restaurant:
Mamas Vegetarian
215-751-0477
Lights of Liberty Show
1-877-GO-2-1776
Independence Visitors center:
800-537-7676
NY Penn Station
www.njtransit.com

Living with Epilepsy By Joanna Hertzberg

Continued from page 14

After working in the business world for six years, choosing to go to back to school as an older student was difficult enough, but living with the challenges of epilepsy made returning to school even harder. Memory loss associated with my epilepsy and side effects of my medications cause me to have trouble remembering things.

Unless you have a friend or family member who has epilepsy, you may not have witnessed someone have a seizure, or more importantly, know what you would do if someone was having a seizure near you. As physically challenging as it is for the person having the seizure, it can also be scary for someone observing, if they are not familiar with it. However, if you know what to do you can help someone from hurting themselves and even potentially save a life.

Proper first aid is essential to reduce the risk of injury from a seizure. When someone falls to the ground and has a convulsive seizure, it is important to protect him or her from injury. Cradle the head or place something soft under it, like a towel or your hand. Remove dangerous objects and loosen ties and necklaces or anything around the neck to make it easier for the person to breathe. Turn the person to his or her side to make sure their saliva does not obstruct their breathing. Do not restrain the person or try to stop his or her movements. When the person having the seizure regains consciousness, he or she will be reassured if the person assisting remains calm.

People with epilepsy do not want sympathy, they just want to be treated like anyone else. Epilepsy is not one of the ten plagues, and it is not contagious, like some people think.

For example, I have sat down in classes where the student sitting next to me would get up and move to another seat when she saw me sit down. Many people are misinformed about the facts of epilepsy and think that that epilepsy is a mental illness. The fact is that it is a physical disorder that has nothing to do with mental health or intelligence. Another myth about epilepsy is that a person who has a seizure might swallow their tongue. In reality, a conscious person cannot swallow their tongue and one should never place an object (like a spoon) in the mouth of the person who's having a seizure as it can injure them.

Epilepsy and seizures affect over 2.5 million Americans of all ages. Throughout history, many famous people have had epilepsy including Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Napoleon Bonaparte and Charles Dickens. Others include Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Molière, Agatha Christie, Beethoven, Vincent Van Gogh, Isaac Newton, and Alfred Nobel.

During my free time, I volunteer with an organization affiliated with NYU Medical Center called FACES (Finding A Cure For Epilepsy & Seizures). They work to improve the quality of life for people affected with epilepsy through research, education and awareness. For more information, visit their website at www.nyufaces.org. In school, I was asked by a faculty member if I wanted to take a semester off from studies due to my health, but I chose not to. Epilepsy can become an obstacle to me at any time, but I will not let it stop me from pursuing my goals and aspirations in life. I am not an epileptic; I am a person who happens to have epilepsy. ■

Six Months Later, Gush Katif Still Suffers By Sara Labovitch

Continued from page 7

with nothing to grab onto. Although it's only been a few months, we don't realize that the pain still exists. We may not be there physically, but our letters, money, winter coats, gifts and visits are tangible and meaningful expressions of support. Read about

these individuals. Connect with them. Make them a personal memory for eternity. When they reach out their hand to you and cry for help, reach out your hand and grab them. We are one nation, thus we have all been kicked out of our own homes. We must not forget. ■

MENDY'S CARTOON CONTEST!



Twist your creative juices to think of a caption and dialogue to go with this blank cartoon. If yours is the best, you'll win a \$25 gift certificate to Mendi's Deli! All entries must be in by May 5, 2006. Send to touroindependent@gmail.com

Student Council Elections

will be held on May 16 and 17

Who do you want to lead the school?



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Florence Almo and Penny Rubin

for Vice-President

Amy Goodman for Secretary

Arianna Halbstein and Shayna Bistriz
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