

Lander College For Men

The Lander Chronicle

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Editor:
Kenneth S. Bigel

Art and Design:
Ilya Epshteyn

Copy Editor:
Michael Assouline

For admissions information or
to schedule a campus tour
contact Rabbi Sruli Safran

Phone: 718-820-4884
Fax: 718-820-4838
Email: srulis@touro.edu

Lander College For Men
75-31 150th Street
Kew Gardens Hills, NY 11367

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Teaching At Lander College

The *Lander College for Men* was founded on certain principles and aspirations among which were to provide a high level, quality academic education to its students. This means, in part, that the students must actually feel that they are learning from and enjoying their secular studies. It is therefore important to periodically assess whether this objective is being achieved.

Near the end of each semester, students provide written feedback to the Lander administration by answering a "Faculty Evaluation" questionnaire. For each course that a student takes, an "eval" is provided. If he takes four courses, he will provide four evals. Last year, the first year in which our doors were open, we collected and analyzed 234 evaluations.

Courses and faculty are rated by stu-

dents on a six-point scale relative to certain issues, with a "six" being the highest score possible, "three" being considered a fair score and a "one," well, awful. Bear in mind that it is indeed rare in academe for students to provide a "six" or a "one." In general, professors were found to be well-organized (5.0 out of 6), friendly to students (5.3), and responsive to questions and discussion (5.2). Courses were awarded an overall score of 4.8.

We believe that these scores reflect favorably relative to other comparable institutions. While we recognize the need to continually improve the quality of the educational services we deliver and are deeply committed to doing so, we are proud of the results we have thus far achieved.

Kenneth S. Bigel, Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of Business

Faculty Perspectives

Beware: Words Can and Do Kill

This article has been excerpted from the *London Times Higher Education Supplement*, 13 July 2001.

Some documents are just too dangerous for consumption by the general public. In 1877 the orientalist, Sir Richard Burton penned a treatise titled *Human Sacrifice among the Sephardine or the Eastern Jews*. It was based largely on the "Damascus affair" of 1840, when a number of Jews were accused of having murdered a Christian priest to use his blood in the baking of Passover matzah. This horribly false tome represented a classic "blood libel" directed against Jews, such as those that had been rife in the medieval era. Judaism, of course, prohibits any consumption of blood of any sort.

Burton's manuscript survived the instruction given by his widow that all his papers be burnt. An attempt to publish it at the end of the century led to its acquisition by the "Jewish Deputies" in 1911, with its then president promising that it would be "suppressed forever." In the 1980s, as a member of the deputies, I began a campaign to permit bona fide scholars to consult the manuscript. Following interventions on my behalf by the then president of the Royal Historical Society and the then president of the British Academy, I was permitted to read the manuscript after having given an undertaking that I would publish nothing

(Cont. Beware: Words Can and Do Kill)

without the board's permission. Two other historians have read it under similar conditions.

In June, there was an attempt to auction the manuscript. This sale would have been irresponsible given the risk of the manuscript's falling into neo-Nazi hands. I am also against its being made available for any member of the public to consult "as of right." There is no such right.

The manuscript falls into a special category. Bona fide scholars, whose motives are demonstrably academic, should be able to read it. But we would be foolish to ignore the fact that the blood libel, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent Jews, is still very much alive. As recently as October last year, the Egyptian daily *al-Ahram* ran a story headlined "A Jewish Matzah Made from Arab Blood." Historians have a duty to tell the truth as they see it, even if telling it is upsetting to individuals. In the past, I have incurred Jewish communal displeasure by naming Jewish members of the National Front and convicted Anglo-Jewish pedophiles. I am unrepentant.

I deplore attempts by owners of archives to deny access in order to protect reputations. History is about the exposure of myth. It is the hallmark of an open society that its government and other organizations

permit journalists and scholars the freedom to confront "received wisdom" and to consult archives and publish from them. But freedom is not the same as license. Words can and do kill. Governments are right to restrict access to archives if they judge that such access may prejudice national security. Communal bodies are similarly entitled to restrict archival access if they judge that unrestricted access is likely to prejudice communal safety.

The Burton manuscript is a dangerous document. In civilized societies, only those appropriately qualified are permitted to practice medicine and to prescribe dangerous drugs. Only those suitably qualified, and who can be trusted to read the Burton manuscript in context, should be permitted access to it.

The Jewish Deputies have debated these issues. Their forebears were right to suppress access to the Burton manuscript in 1911. They were wrong to do so in the 1980s. However, the leadership was extremely misguided in attempting to auction the work. Thankfully the manuscript failed to reach its reserve price. Burton's evil diatribe should be preserved but made available only to those whose business is the pursuit of truth.

Dr. Geoffrey Alderman
Dean, Lander College for Men

Business Ethics - Not so Simple!

Businesspeople are often chided for acting unethically. Before one rushes to judge another's actions, it is useful to understand the context in which decisions may be made. The following fictitious scenario is intended to provoke thought and opinion. Keep in mind that in business, inaction is not an option. It is either do or don't. Deciding not to do something is an "active" decision.

An ambitious, young sales executive finds himself bidding for business in a very tough, competitive environment. The competition he faces is very aggressive in its marketing tactics. While the young man is proud of his firm's performance record, he is not convinced that the historical data alone will put him "over the top." He considers "embellishing" his claims.

After all, is business not merely a game, one, which is not much different than, say, poker? In poker, everyone knows the rules and bluffing is not only acceptable, but also admired. A good bluff may be rewarded at times. In this case, it is not as though the business prospect is an uninitiated naïf to the business; in-

deed, s/he probably expects this behavior from the other bidders, since they include some parties whose "reputations precede them." The sales executive would merely be placing his firm in a more favorable light relative to the competition, thereby benefiting his firm and himself. Only the competition may be harmed, if they lose the bid. On the other hand, if he loses the bid because the competition exaggerated, it would just be a pity!

What should the sales executive do? We are interested in your opinions. Write or e-mail us at The Lander Chronicle (thelanderchronicle@hotmail.com). Selected responses may be published in a future Chronicle.

Kenneth S. Bigel, Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of Business

Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts

One morning this past summer an email sat in my Inbox with the intriguing subject of "Mensa Quiz." With piqued interest I opened the email attachment and found a lineup of difficult brain teasers prefaced with the challenge "If you score 23 out of 30 you are

(Cont. Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts)

a genius and qualify for Mensa," the high IQ organization. Since childhood I had been fascinated with determining my IQ but never quite got around to take the Mensa exam. And now, the challenge awaited me.

Although my desk was full of paperwork that demanded attention, this childhood dare enticed me towards solving the riddles. And so the time flew by. After an hour I had solved 21 of the riddles and the remaining solutions remained elusive.

But I kept trying... and then the two student interns who worked with me over the summer entered my office. I cajoled them to join me in this brain storming session. And join me they did. The interaction between the three of us was phenomenal. One of us shot out a possible solution another rejected it and the third hit on the correct solution. Within 10 minutes 27 of the problems were solved!

It was at that point that it struck us that although each of us was gifted in his own particular way, individually we were limited by our *selves*. Working together as a team, though, highlighted our talents and eliminated our shortcomings. Divided we were bright but united we were *genius*!

This insight was one of the motivations for the recent organization of the Lander College Computer Club. During the first meeting of the club we decided to develop an online *Shouk*, where at the end of each semester the students could sell their used textbooks to others who needed them for the following semester. To implement the *Shouk*, the club was divided into a number of teams, with some students being involved in web design, others in database and web administration, and others in middleware development. Each team must integrate and coordinate its activities with the other teams to design a unified web site.

The students are already acquiring invaluable experience in their areas of interest. The enthusiasm of many students who are reading up on topics that take them beyond their basic course work is tangible. And it certainly doesn't hurt that some new hardware and software is on its way. But most of all is the camaraderie, teamwork and the reality that together we are greater than the sum of our parts.

Jonathan Robinson, Ph.D.
Professor, Computer Science Department

The Students' Voice

New Year, New Strategies, Same Commitment to Success

The Lander College Investment Club started the new year with resounding success. New membership, new investment strategies, and an innovative selective stock study sheet have all contributed to a wonderful start in what promises to be our best year yet. Despite the tragedy our nation faced and difficult market forecasts affecting our clubs' bottom line, our conviction in the principles of global capitalism have not been moved. We, as a club and as citizens, are resolved to trust in our nation's values and remain supportive of the economy.

The Club's primary objective this year is to select an investment strategy that would suit both our Club's needs and take advantage of anticipated volatile market conditions. By incorporating the various approaches used by numerous experts throughout the United States, the Investment Club has chosen a system that relies on detailed fundamental analysis and yet is fairly simple in its application. With the help of William O'Neill's expertise portrayed in his book, "*How to Make Money in the Stock Market*," the Investment Club began to build its system of investing. The National Association of Investors Corporation (NAIC) provided invaluable assistance, as well, with its Stock Selection Guide.

Our next goal is to create a stock study work sheet. In this worksheet, we utilize publicly available information about a company – culled from annual reports, SEC statements, balance sheets, news releases, etc. – and apply that knowledge to our forecasts about future market volatility and growth. To form our forecasts, our club concentrates on company growth, industry growth, strong management, and positive earnings. We look for leaders, not laggards. Constant research, up to the minute reports and feedback, and a dedication to grow – both in profits and knowledge – make our club a winner.

While profitability is the ultimate goal of any financial organization, we define success by the ability to triumph despite hardship and to learn from our mistakes, no matter the hard truths we must admit. These things allow us to succeed. For example, when the club decided to invest in Enron (NYSE: ENE – \$9.82), the world's leading energy trader, it seemed like a wise decision. At the time profits were up, market share was at its peak, and management had a firm grasp on its direction. However, we nonetheless lost \$30,000. Enron's problems started last winter,

(Cont. New Year, New Strategies, Same Commitment to Success)

when California's effort to deregulate the electricity market led to soaring power prices and rolling black-outs. As a result, the company was the subject of much criticism and political anger. We blamed the declining market and hoped things would turn around. In truth, we should have pulled out, but it was hard to sell. To us, selling at a loss meant that we made a bad investment –and we were not ready to admit defeat. The Club saw first hand that sometimes one has to cut its losses when disaster strikes, and has therefore added a “stop-loss policy” to our investment strategy.

Exciting things are happening in the club every day. While profits are down, education and enjoyment are still up (and forecast to rise!!). Membership opportunities remain available as the Club encourages all students to participate in the hottest club this side of the East River. The September 11th attacks on our nation have not deterred us one bit; it has made us stronger. We look forward to a future of personal growth and profits.

Steven Hornung
CIO, Lander College Investment Club

Shabbos at LCM

From the moment that Kabbalas Shabbos finally starts [or shortly thereafter] until the following night when the *havdallah* cloves are extinguished [*v'hameivin yavin*], our beautiful campus is transformed from a hectic college environment into a tranquil [and sometimes even peaceful] yeshiva atmosphere that is characteristic of the feeling that Shabbos traditionally represents.

“In-Shabbosos” present students with the rare opportunity to spend precious time with their rebbeim in a friendly and informal setting, which is virtually impossible during the regular hustle and bustle of the school-week. Although “out-Shabbosos” are more ordinary in nature, they actually play an even more significant role in the success of our yeshiva by acting as the strongest unifying force among the students of our school. They provide a regular opportunity for students to spend time chilling out together, building and strengthening a sense of *achdus*, which is essential to the success of our institution.

Every Shabbos presents its own share of difficulties, [so no two weeks are actually quite the same] yet, thanks to the tremendous efforts of a few devoted students and kollel members, we somehow manage to get through each week without any major catastrophe

[and sometimes even in a somewhat organized fashion]. Everyone is strongly encouraged to join us for Shabbos and enjoy themselves while taking advantage of this great opportunity to help promote *achdus* in our yeshiva.

Natan Fink
Student

Summer Internship 2001

As the school year drew to an end, most of my colleagues knew what they were doing for the summer. Certain individuals pursued positions in their careers, while others searched for anything that offered a salary. As a finance major, I was fortunate enough

(Continued on page 5)



Kehillah.com is a **free** community web site whose goal is to promote Torah, Avodah, and Gemilus Chassadim by disseminating minyan, shiur, gemach and community information and events throughout the kehillah.

We currently service the Queens, Five Towns, and Long Island Kehillahs (communities) with the intention of eventually spreading to other areas as well. To bring Kehillah.com to your community, email us at editor@kehillah.com.

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- ? **Win prizes at the Riddle Corner (coming soon)**
- ? **Community Calendar (coming soon)**
- ? **Luach for Any Location (coming soon) and More!**

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(Cont. Summer Internship 2001)

to land an internship at a very prestigious financial firm in Manhattan known as PaineWebber. Although it was a non-paying job, I was able to spend a summer learning the trade of finance and its applications. From typing up spreadsheets to performing research on stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, I improved my knowledge of the stock market. Developing a relationship with my superiors enabled me to gain important insights into the vast field of the securities markets. The experience gave me an opportunity to enhance my resume, as well as a chance to undergo real work ethics. Taking public transportation to and from the office and reading the newspaper on a daily basis presented me with growth in the manner of responsibility and maturity that were helpful in furthering my business career.

A critical issue that I constantly kept in mind was that I am a Jewish individual representing a Jewish institution, as well as *Am Yisroel* as a whole. This reality gave me the motivation to readily be on my best behavior, and impelled me to create a lasting impression. I was privileged to be in an atmosphere surrounded by friendly people who continuously showed their interest in the Jewish way of life. Many questions pertaining to Judaism were addressed to me; I tried my best to answer them. One woman I worked with offered to set me up with a *frum* girl she was friendly with! My Irish boss and I frequently had conversations regarding Judaism, and he noted that he probably had been to more Bar Mitzvahs than me during his childhood years residing in Monsey! We also discussed *halachos* and *minhagim* that he was familiar with and was curious about. My other supervisor was a connoisseur of wines and was acquainted with the Jewish name brands such as Kedem and Manischewitz. I became friendly with other money managers, of which a few were Jewish. One aspect of the summer that grasped me was a discussion I had with an executive who was Jewish, but not *frum*. He told me that a product entered the market and was called by a name that was derogatory to Jews. He was not sure if it was done intentionally or accidentally, but he did make a point to write a letter to the CEO of the company that produced this item, requesting the name be changed based upon the given scenario. Plus, he forwarded his letter to the Anti-Defamation League to notify them of the problem. His care and concern for the matter deeply touched me, and I was overwhelmed with his commitment toward our religion, as if to say he was doing his part. He gave me a copy of the letter, and told me he would keep me posted if he heard any feedback from the corporation.

The knowledge and skills I obtained this past sum-

mer are valuable for the future, as well as for the present. They are useful for the Lander College Investment Club meetings we have throughout the year and are constructive for specific business courses. Since it is imperative to keep up with the news, the more I know about the business world the more I understand it. The summer internship at PaineWebber furthered my fundamentals in the business arena, providing me with the know-how of its facets. Another benefit that I acquired over the summer was people skills; I learned how to work with fellow employees to achieve a common goal, as well as how to speak to people in a professional and courteous manner. In summary, my internship at PaineWebber was a meaningful experience. I truly gained a tremendous amount of wisdom in finance, and simultaneously advanced my character development. In some sense, I matured both intellectually and as a person.

Eytan Kamkar
Student

“Today I’ll Do Charity” (Shmuel II 3,8)

The Committee for Chessed is a newly developed student organization that is being created to offer *chedsed* opportunities to students at Lander College. Fortunate enough to be located in a very lively community, rich with different possibilities, the Committee for Chessed aspires to take advantage of the nearby resources in order to create a structure of community involvement. The goal of the Committee for Chessed is to offer *chedsed* opportunities to students in a convenient and easy way, as well as to efficiently connect people who wish to be involved in such activities with the appropriate contacts.

There are currently four options that are being discussed as possible venues for *chedsed* opportunities. Two of them are involved with learning and tutoring, as well as a possible big-brother program. The other two are made up of a more physical presence at off-campus locations (such as visits with local Bikur Cholim or volunteering at *Shabbatonim*). The Committee for Chessed will do its best to create a menu-like format of opportunities for *chedsed*, thereby providing easy-to-contact opportunities.

The Committee for Chessed is proud to be a student organization aimed at bridging the school with the all-important pursuit of *chedsed*. We are striving to be a very practical entity. If you have ideas about how to enhance our goals, please don’t hesitate to share them with the Committee.

One of the ideas about being involved with *chedsed* is

(Cont. "Today I'll Do Charity")

that it benefits the performer greatly. May all of us grow immensely from our involvement with *chessed* activities and may we all grow constantly closer to Hashem in our everyday pursuits.

Levi Smith
Coordinator, Committee for Chessed

Office 2001

Same office, same treasurer, same campus, different title. Wow, what a difference a year makes. I realize now how naïve I was while writing these columns as Student Government Secretary. The Vice Presidency allows me to see things with a whole new perspective. OK, OK, we all know that last year there was ZERO difference between, say, the President and the Secretary etc., but things have changed. The truth is, the Student Government works as "the four horsemen" so to speak, to ensure the goings-on in student life. Be it *Mesibahs*, sports (yes, the basketball jerseys *will* be the talk of town) or fundraising events, the Student Government has – or will – accomplish(ed). There are still two members of last year's *extremely* successful government. With the three new members, things should only pick up.

From a student's point of view, this place has been a great success. I mean, I can tell you first hand the experiences of the early days of Lander College. We were trudging through mud, wondering if there should have been a "hard hat needed" sign, as well as the long, but enjoyable bus rides every day between Queens and Brooklyn. We, the students have been a unit since day one, and no, I'm not just saying this because I was told to. The *chevra* here is truly *geshmack*. Gone are the mud - laden entrances and the long bus rides. They have since been replaced by a beautiful campus, with a baseball field that doesn't make me regret turning down the Mets contract, a football league that is a week from kickoff (watch out for the QB that will defy gravity, who? Who do you think?) and a basketball league, which is well into its second competitive season.

As VIP of this place... I mean VP, I am "thrilled" to be a part of the student body. These guys stick with you through the good times and the bad times. There are double the amount of students this year, and it only got better.

To clear up some of the controversy surrounding the elections, let's say I do graduate in January (that's right, first ever!), I don't see it impeding this office position. If I do leave office, though, unlike in the

real world where every year they come out with an improved "Office," (Office 2000 being better than '98, let's say) Office 2002 won't hold a candle to office 2001!

Avi Stern
Vice President Elect, Student Government

Campus News

Lander College Student Government Election Results

President: Michael Fichtenberg
Vice President: Avi Stern
Treasurer: Steven Hornung
Secretary: Ephraim Jablon
First Year Representative: Ben Halper

Formation of Lander College ACM Chapter

The end of last semester marked the formation of the Lander College for Men Student Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM); the world's oldest and largest educational and scientific international computing society.

The ACM Chapter of Lander College is designed to promote a greater interest in computing as well as its application in the field. Chapter activities provide the opportunity for students to develop both professional and leadership skills, as well as a healthy exposure to the field. The chapter's meetings will offer students the opportunity to meet prominent computer professionals and learn from their experiences.

Hatzalah Course Offered

We are pleased to announce that the Queens division of Hatzalah will be offering an EMT course for Lander College students. The course is tentatively scheduled for Sunday afternoons. Upon completion of the course students will receive EMT certification and may join the local division of Hatzalah.

For comments please contact us at:
thelanderchronicle@hotmail.com
Or you can send your letter to:
The Lander Chronicle
75-31 150th Street
Kew Gardens Hills, NY 11367