

Lander College For Men

The Lander Chronicle

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Announcement From The Dean

I am delighted to announce that upon my departure for England, Dr. Bernard Lander will appoint Dr. Moshe Sokol as the Dean of Lander College For Men.

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Message From The Dean

At the end of this month I shall be leaving Lander College to take up a senior position with an American University in London. In the two years in which I have been in the USA I have been enormously proud to see Lander College grow from a construction site and a series of pious aspirations into a beautiful campus and the practical application of *Torah im Derech Eretz*.

We now know that Lander College is in fact what it was always intended to be – the expression of Shimshon Rafael Hirsch's famous dictum, a statement of faith that it is possible to lead the life of a total Torah observant Jew but to lead that life in *this* world.

The opportunity to head such an institution from its very foundation came to me as a gift from the Almighty. For although I have spent a lifetime in university education (I have spent the past forty years in a university environment), not until President Lander

offered me the Deanship of the College had I actually had the opportunity of working in a *Jewish* university environment. So, really for the first time, I was given a chance to do something for *Klal Yisroel* - for *Yiddishkeit*. This was an awesome responsibility.

How have I measured up to the challenge? Essentially this is a verdict for others to reach. But, with the support of a very talented Faculty and a dedicated and hard-working support team, and with the help of the industrious and hard-working student body, I have I think managed to lay the academic foundations of a thriving institution, a living proof that it is possible to combine the highest quality academic work with the highest quality *limmudei ko-desh*. I have particularly valued my relationship with the *Rabbeim* and their associates in the *Beis Medrash*. We are indeed one institution – a seamless

(Continued on page 2)

Faculty Perspective

Tax Cuts *Still* A Bad Idea

Many of us are hesitant to criticize the President on domestic issues because of our support of his, so far successful and admirable, handling of the war on terrorism. However, we should be able to support him on the war and criticize him on the home front. In the May, 2001 edition of The Lander Chronicle, I wrote a piece entitled "Tax Cuts, A *Really* Bad Idea." Well, they still are.

Mr. Bush has said that repeal of his tax legislation would be *raising* taxes. Does he think that we are stupid? The overwhelming bulk of his proposal has not yet gone into effect; it is famously back-end loaded! How can something

that has not yet occurred be modified? We are simply talking about canceling something, which has not yet gone into effect. Moreover, the law lapses in 2010, reverting the tax code to its current form. Now, *that* would be a tax increase!

In other words, the president's legislation provides for a *temporary* tax reduction. And any *Lander College for Men* Macroeconomics student can tell you that permanent tax cuts will far more positively affect consumption spending, and hence provide economic stimulus, than any temporary cuts.

(Continued on page 2)

(Cont. Message From The Dean)

garment adorning the Jewish world.

To embrace and apply the highest standards of scholarship, and to pursue the truth, are Jewish ideals. What is commonly termed 'the secular' can (and I would say must) embrace 'the holy'. The *Torah* was given to us for this life. Even in my 'secular' work I have been guided unashamedly by Jewish values. My 'secular' work has benefited immeasurably as a result.

It would be untrue to say that we have not had problems in establishing the College and making it function as we would wish. All organizations have problems. But here, at Lander College, faculty, support staff and students function as a team in confronting problems and finding solutions for them.

I shall take back to London the fondest memories of the College and all who work in it, and I shall look forward to returning from time to time, as a visitor, to view its progress at first hand.

I wish you all the very best in whatever life holds in store for you. And I pray that the Almighty may continue to give us all the strength to carry out His work and, in so doing to bear witness to his Charity and Loving-Kindness to His people.

Professor Geoffrey Alderman
Dean, Lander College for Men

(Cont. Tax Cuts *Still* Bad Idea)

But that's not all. The current plan has materially altered the budget picture going forward and will likely wipe out the current surplus, if not put us once again into deficit. Because the federal government will then have to borrow again big-time, long-term interest rates have gone up in anticipation of this eventuality. This hurts the economy by making business investment less appealing and personal residence financing less palatable.

Have you had enough? Sorry, there's more. The current tax plan targets the rich, i.e., those who will spend little of the tax savings. Besides the obvious lack of fairness, little meaningful economic stimulus will thus be provided.

Look, if you really want to have a bad day, read Dr. Paul Krugman's "Fuzzy Math." Or do what the ostriches do.

Dr. Kenneth S. Bigel
Chairman, Business Department

The Students' Voice

Downfall of an Empire

Looking at the Enron fiasco develop from a snowball into an avalanche, one sees how the combination of brains, ambition, and an absolute disregard for morality and the law can topple the 7th largest corporation in the country. It is hard for the mind to comprehend how a few people (albeit, with help from many others) can create a corporation so steeped in greed and corruption. There are enough documents (even after the shredding) in need of analysis to support lawyers and auditors for many years to come. There is no way for one article, try as I might, to cover the vast amount of shady deals and fuzzy accounting that went on in Enron's corporate headquarters. While the balance of the story has not yet been told nor adjudicated, the following recitation of the situation is based on public information.

In an attempt to cover up liabilities on their financial reports, Enron's CFO, Andrew Fastow, presumably under the auspices of Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling (the CEOs during his tenure), created partnerships and other deals in an attempt to write off losses in excess of \$600 million. The partnerships were created with phantom companies headed by none other than one Andrew Fastow. These deals were subject to one clause; if Enron's stock fell below \$47 a share, the losses in the partnerships would have to be disclosed on Enron's financial statement. At the time these deals were made, Enron's stock price hovered in the mid-eighties, so there was not much need for concern. Last year however, under the barrage of uncertainty caused by their accounting practices and the pending California energy crisis, Enron's stock began to fall, causing great alarm in the upper echelons of Enron's empire.

On February 12, 2001, Kenneth Lay stepped down as Chief Executive (he continued to be the Chairman of the Board) and Jeffrey Skinner assumed the position. In late march, during an interview with "Frontline," when asked what his top priority as CEO would be, he answered: "To get the stock price up." Not too many people knew just how crucial keeping the stock price up really was. Enron took the money received from investors and attempted to keep afloat "Raptors," which was four of Fastow's partnerships worth approximately \$504 million in losses. Enron was trying every trick in the book to inflate its stock price, to no avail. As Enron continued to report quarterly earnings, its stock slowly dipped into the \$50 range. Impending doom lingered, with seemingly no way to stop it. On August 14th, Jeffrey Skinner abruptly resigned as CEO for "undisclosed personal

(Cont. Downfall of an Empire)

reasons.” Even as he testified in court this February, Mr. Skinner claimed to have no idea of the dire straits his company was in. Kenneth Lay resumed the position of CEO six months after he originally stepped down from that position.

As Enron’s stock continued to plummet, Kenneth Lay attempted to reassure his employees that the company was still in good shape. But the snowball was picking up speed and it was becoming increasingly difficult to stop. In late September, Arthur Anderson’s auditors discovered a mistake they made in Enron’s books. They accidentally credited Enron with \$1 billion of assets that would now have to be written off. Almost simultaneously Enron’s stock dipped below \$47 a share, and the clauses built in the Raptors’ deals were triggered, forcing Enron to show more than \$600 million in liabilities. In conjunction with that, Enron was forced to reverse a previous report of \$600 million in earnings causing a \$1.2 billion dollar swing that would prove to be a fatal blow.

As its empire crumbled, Mr. Lay attempted to salvage the company by creating a merger with Dynegy, a Houston based rival. Talks progressed, and Chuck Watson (CEO of Dynegy) accepted a potential merger deal. This deal was ultimately nixed when Enron filed its quarterly report (the 10-Q) that showed that Enron had burned nearly \$2 billion in cash just the week after the merger agreement.

With all avenues of salvation exhausted, Enron’s fate was etched in stone. With its stock having plummeted to rock bottom and no possible deals remaining, Mr. Lay finally threw in the towel. On December 2, at 4:28 a.m., Enron officially filed for bankruptcy, marking the largest corporate bankruptcy in history. The fall of one of the world’s greatest corporate empires was complete.

Michael Fried
Student Editor

The First Graduate

Ok. So I was asked to write an article covering the fact that I am the first graduate of Lander College. What am I supposed to say? It’s been fun? It’s been educational? It’s an honor? Fine, all of these are true points. But I think most of all it’s been an experience that I’ll never forget, an experience I can take with me for the rest of my life.

For those of you who are about to stop reading due to the corniness, don’t! To say I have gone through a lot

in the year and a half I’ve been here would surely be an understatement. Whether it was arriving that first time in Boro Park, the *shabbosim*, the Student Government elections, the Chanukas and Purims, the basketball league, the football league, the football league, the football league ok, I’ll shut up about the football league, to me the bottom line always was that the “guys” were always there. I must say, you guys have been awesome.

Although I’ll be off to law school in May, there’s no way I’m giving up LEADING Hatzolah to the championship, the karate experience (which reminds me, I would like to thank Daniel Glanz for everything!) and of course the ten star campus. In other words, I’ve had a harder time leaving here than I thought I would.

While I’m at it, I would like to throw in some cheap plugs. Thank you to Rabbi Bronspiegel and Rabbi Shmulewitz, to Professor Zucker for ALL of his help in the political science department, and to Dean Alderman and Dr. Sokol for allowing me to graduate at age 20 (actually ,they had nothing to do with it). Oh , and I hope no one kills me for plugging this, but when my CD comes out ay”H, all of you guys are gonna wish I remember you!

Avi Stern
Vice President, Student Government

Pizza Will Be Served

As the school enters its fourth semester, the activities around the campus increase. The Political Science Society is currently planning many events for the student body. The Constitutional Committee, under the auspices of the Political Science Society, is in the midst of writing The Lander College for Men Student Council Constitution.

The constitution will address many issues and concerns that the Student Council and the student body in general face every day at Lander College for Men. A series of drafts are being written by two groups of students, each composing their own version of the constitution. Members of the Political Science Society and the Student Council will then vote upon the final drafts. Hopefully, the constitution will become a guideline that the students can rely upon, serving as a source of rights and privileges in the college.

The Political Science Society is also involved in inviting guest speakers to address the student body. A survey was handed out around campus at the end of last semester. The survey was designed to promote interest in outside lecturers and to discover what top-

(Cont. Pizza Will Be Served)

ics interest the students. The results of the survey show that most students are interested in hearing a guest lecturer speak about the situation in the Middle East. Students showed less of an interest in other topics such as the effects of computer terrorism, the state of the American economy, and President Bush's ongoing war on terrorism. Everyone can attend the speeches; they are not limited to the student body. Upcoming events will be posted in future editions of The Lander Chronicle, so feel free to drop by.

Although there aren't many political science majors in the school, the Political Science Society has members whose majors run from finance to psychology. The main reason for this diversity is the refreshments served at our meetings, but there are other reasons. The Political Science Society plays an active role in trying to establish fair and just surroundings for students to enjoy their college experience. The society's faculty advisor, Professor Ross Zucker, has helped promote student interests many times in the past. Much thanks to him. The writing of the constitution gives students the experience and satisfaction that comes hand in hand with the undertaking of a large project such as this one. The lectures attempt to bring the student body together at times other than morning *seder*. Membership to the Political Science Society is available throughout the semester so anyone who wishes to join may do so. Pizza will be served at the next meeting.

Michael Assouline
President, Political Science Society

Watch Out Amazon.com

Oh no! It's that time of the year again – time to buy books. Everyone knows the feeling. Since Lander College does not have an on campus bookstore, buying books for the new semester means going online and searching through numerous websites trying to find the best deals. Although all of us have books in pretty good condition from past semesters, it is pretty hard to sell them, because we don't know who needs which books, right? Wrong! The Lander College Computer Club has been working to provide the college with an online book marketplace. All you have to do is register, and you are instantly connected to a database of all the books in the college that are for sale. You can search for any book on any subject that you want. When you select the book, you will be given the seller's name, phone number, and e-mail address. Of course you can sell your own books on this site as well. Best of all, because this website is designed specifically for the Lander College campus, almost all the

books for every subject will be available, with no service charge.

To accomplish this goal, the computer club was split up into several groups. The HTML group is concentrating on the design of the actual web page. They are working closely with the graphics design group, which is working on the appearance of the site. The database group is designing the database, and the programming group, will link the database to the web site. The communications group is responsible for setting up the web server on one of the lab's computers, and for servicing the site.

(Continued on page 5)

Special Opportunity to Honor a Gadol B'Torah

As Beis Medrash L'Talmud / Lander College for Men enters its fourth semester, the Student Government is proud to present its most exciting and awesome task yet. The *talmidim* of Beis Medrash L'Talmud / Lander College for Men wish to honor the *Rosh Hayeshivah*, Rav Abba Bronspigel *shlit"á*, with the dedication of a *Sefer Torah*.

For over forty years Rav Bronspigel has been a prominent leader in the Torah community and an inspiration for thousands of *talmidim*. To show our *hakaras hatov* for his years of dedication to the Torah world, this *Sefer Torah* is being written in his honor. His continuous warmth, generosity, and teaching have made R' Abba as beloved today as ever. With this in mind, the *talmidim* of Beis Medrash L'Talmud / Lander College for Men invite all of R' Abba's *talmidim*, past and present, as well as the entire community, to participate in this tremendous mitzvah of *K'sivas Sefer Torah*.

Through your generous, tax-deductible donation, you can take part in honoring one of our most precious leaders. This is a special opportunity to fulfill the *mitzvah* of writing a *Sefer Torah* and at the same time pay homage to a man who has had a great influence on the Torah world and the Jewish People as a whole.

The following levels of sponsorship are available:

Torah Portions	
Sefer	\$5,000
Parsha	\$613
Column	\$250
Accessories	
Silver Crown	\$2,500
Silver Breast Plate	\$2,000
Atzei Chaim	\$1,000
Mantel	\$1,000
Silver Yad	\$360
Gartel	\$180

If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please don't hesitate to call the Student Government Office at (718) 820-4943 or at (917) 324-7393. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

(Cont. Watch Out Amazon.com)

Working together with our faculty advisor Dr. Robinson, we are proud to announce that we are almost done. After weeks of intensive effort, the web site and database have been completed, and the server is up and running. All that remains is to link the database to the web site and upload them to the server. Unfortunately, we were unable to have the site ready in time for the Spring 2002 semester, but just wait until Fall 2002. You won't ever dread the new semester in Lander College again.

Yosef Lehrman
Member, Lander College Computer Club

Any Given Sunday

"HIKE!," the QB calls, and the Lander Football League (LFL) game is underway. Each Sunday, after *shiur*, twenty-four *bachurim* from four different teams, put on warm clothes and battle the cold winter afternoons to play a fierce game of football.



Ben Halper catches the game winning pass against the Ponoveich Shteigers

The LFL originally started as an intramural league to give the *yeshiva bachurim* an outlet from an intense schedule. Given the few amount of teams (5) and number of games (8), the league immediately became competitive. Throughout the week teams prepare game plans (except during *seider* and *shiur*, of course); some teams draw up offensive plays, and others devise defensive matchups.

At mid-season the Ponoveich Shteigers (teams are named after the particular charity for whom they are playing) held first place over the Hatzolah Fireballs, but only by a tiebreaker. Both teams' records were 3-1. Hatzolah would soon take over first place after defeating Ponoveich the first game back from winter break. It was a nail-biter, with Hatzolah ending up on top, 28-24. These two teams could possibly see each other in the Super Bowl at season's end.

The team right on the tail of Ponoveich is the Chev-

ron Wildcats. Chevron bounced back from a rough start (0-2) to even up their record at 2-2. On Sunday, February 10th, Ponoveich and Chevron battled it out for second place, with Ponoveich coming away with the win. Sneaking up on Chevron, to tie them for third place, are the HASC Pounders, who hold a record of 2-3. Finally there is injury prone Aniyim Defenders who currently rank in last place, but they are not a team to be taken lightly.



Avi Stern, QB of the Hatzolah Fireballs

After all is said and done, every game ends with a handshake and a smile. The *bachurim* take the next few hours to relax and back to the *beis medrash* they go for night *seider*.

Avi Horowitz
Associate Commissioner, Lander Football League

L. F. L.			
Standings			
TEAMS	W	L	GB
Hatzolah Fireballs	4	2	-----
Ponoveich Shteigers	4	2	-----
Chevron Wildcats	2	3	1.5
HASC Pounders	2	3	1.5
Aniyim Defenders	2	4	2

Cheerio

The question of the day is, what does one give to Dean Alderman to express the gratitude we feel towards him. Many of us, over the course of the last year and a half, have had the unique privilege to gain on several different levels from Dean Geoffrey, but I seem to have run out of gift ideas. There are only so many times one can send Yitzy Haber in with a bouquet of balloon flowers before Dr. Sokol gets insanely jealous. I've already made the voodoo doll of noted historian Bill Rubinstein (which Dean Alderman was proud to say has worked out quite nicely), and while he has enjoyed the copies of his own books that I bought for him, I think it's getting old. Besides, even he has gotten bored of reading them.

(Cont. Cheerio)

What do you give to the man who wrote his own birth announcement in the Times. "Not the New York Times, the real Times." The birth announcement read: A man who is smarter than you has now been born. And how many people do you know who have prepared their own obituary for two separate newspapers. The obituary reads: A man who is still smarter than you is now dead. True story.

What gift is good enough for the man who has spent the last year and a half traveling back and forth between England and the rebellious set of colonies that we call the United States just to help build our institution into the powerhouse college it has become today. Current vice dean, and future head dean Dr. Moshe Sokol remarks that "Dean Alderman's superb academic background and vision made a great contribution to the establishment of Lander College." I could have sworn I saw a tear in his eye as he said it.

The disgrace Dean Geoffrey has endured from his colleagues at "my college in Oxford" for being a part of the American educational system is reason enough to ordain him with a knighthood. He has already turned down an offer to become a member of the House of Lords (which he will promptly tell you if you ever call him sir) and he has met the Queen on two separate occasions. Both times he told "the anointed one of G-d" to go....

Speaking of Dean Geoffrey's command of the English language, how can we properly thank the man who has imparted to us his vast linguistic skills? Rav Bronspigel notes "We will miss Dean Alderman with his proper British English and dry sense of humor. He speaks a proper English you know. Ok that's good."

What can you get for the man who changed his legal name from Geoffrey Alderman to Geoffrey Alderman MA DPhil(Oxon) FRHistS FRSA FICPD MIQA MIMgt. All this just to get his accolades on a business card. It's hard to believe this is the person who told Michael Bodenhiemer to "stay on the tablets, boy."

What gift is appropriate for the man on whom Dr. Danishefsky said "He has the sincere interest of the college in mind. The school as a whole and the individuals in it." Many of us can boast that we had the opportunity to get to know Dean Geoffrey on a personal level. As the man has said many times "To those whom he called friends he was ruthlessly charming, to his enemies he was charmingly ruthless."

What gift will please the man who has no qualms

about expressing his real opinions. For example, when the dean of Brandeis University asked for a quote regarding a recent publication Dean Geoffrey responded "nice cover, shame about the book." For similar events please refer to any Dean Alderman publication regarding Bill Rubinstein. The fact is, that there is no gift for the man who gave me the A-I so richly deserved or for the man who will one day give me the letter of recommendation I so sorely need. There is no gift for the man who has worked tirelessly on our behalf and who has been an essential part in the building of our yeshiva/college. There is, however, one thing that comes close.

This.

This article was inspired by a column in Sports Illustrated by Rick Reilly.

Yitzy Haber and Matt Burg
Students

Campus News

Bone Marrow Drive

Thank you to Levi Smith for coordinating with other members of the community to organize a bone marrow drive at Young Israel of Queens Valley. Also, much gratitude to the members of the Chesed Committee, and to all the students of Lander College For Men, for participating in the drive.

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to Dr. Sokol on the engagement of his daughter Aliza to Uri Rosenwasser.

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Shmulewitz on the engagement of his son Rafael to Avigail Epstein.

MIS Update

After being in close contact with the MIS department, we have been assured that full phone and Internet services will be restored to the dormitories within 48 hours.

For comments please contact us at:
thelanderchronicle@hotmail.com

Or you can send your letter to:

The Lander Chronicle

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