

**Starbucks Coffee**

Get the facts about the Starbucks rumors in the Middle East  
[www.Starbucks.com](http://www.Starbucks.com)

**Hitech jobs North Israel**

Hi-Tech jobs in Haifa and Galil for software & electronic engineers  
[www.Optimum-HR.co.il](http://www.Optimum-HR.co.il)

**Harmony Hotel Jerusalem**

Exciting New Boutique Hotel In the Heart of Jerusalem  
[www.atlas.co.il](http://www.atlas.co.il)



Subscribe to Print Edition

Thu., March 26, 2009 Nisan 1, 5769



Israel Time: 03:03 (EST+7)

# HAARETZ.com

Back to Homepage

Search

web haaretz.com

Haaretz Toolbar Diplomacy Defense Jewish World Opinion National Print Edition Car Rental

Books Haaretz Magazine Business Real Estate Joy of Giving Travel Week's End Anglo File Singles

Talkback

Read Respond

Read & React

IDF: 600 Hamas men, 309 civilians died in Gaza offensive  
Responses: 241

Obama: Peace won't be easier under Netanyahu, but just as necessary  
Responses: 117

Religious IDF troops walk out of event featuring woman singer  
Responses: 121

Print

Send to a friend

Send response

More Headlines

22:47 Hamas: We've resumed Shalit talks with Israel

23:55 Medical panel: Anthrax experiments on IDF soldiers were unjustified

19:52 Israel's UN ambassador: Netanyahu committed to peace

22:19 Palestinian children sing for Holocaust survivors

19:34 Rights group: Hamas tortured Gaza inmate to death

20:04 Rights group: Israel made illegal use of phosphorus shells in Gaza

21:58 Israeli archeologists find 1,500-year-old Byzantine bathhouse

23:11 WATCH: Daily news round-up from Israel

17:15 MI chief: Iran has crossed nuclear bomb threshold

17:16 Assad says Syria-Israeli talks depend on clear U.S. position

18:02 IDF soldier hurt in Jordan Valley shooting-range accident

19:44 Syria offers to help Obama pull troops from Iraq

16:47 6 Danes convicted of selling T-shirts to fund

Ads by Google



**Starbucks Coffee**

Get the facts about the Starbucks rumors in the Middle East  
[www.Starbucks.com](http://www.Starbucks.com)

**Hitech jobs North Israel**

Hi-Tech jobs in Haifa and Galil for software & electronic engineers  
[www.Optimum-HR.co.il](http://www.Optimum-HR.co.il)

**Citibank Offshore**

Up to 5.64% on USD Time Deposit. Plus a bonus if you invest.  
[www.citibank.com](http://www.citibank.com)

**Harmony Hotel Jerusalem**

Exciting New Boutique Hotel In the Heart of Jerusalem  
[www.atlas.co.il](http://www.atlas.co.il)

Special Offers

**Spring Specials-Dan Hotels**

Jerusalem from 179\$. Tel-Aviv from 223\$. Herzliya from 336\$

**Dead Sea Skin Care**  
Quality cosmetics from the Dead Sea. Coupon code HAARETZ for 12% off!

**Camp Kimama Israel 2009**

The best place for your children this summer

**Eldan Rent a Car**  
Israel's leading car rental company offers you a 20% discount on online

## Correct, don't destroy

By Menahem Ben-Sasson

Tags: Universities, Israel News >>

Some people waited eagerly for the State Comptroller's report about higher education in Israel. Now others are waiting eagerly to see if it will lead to the end of the higher education system.

The latter group is composed of people who do not understand how vital and important higher education is for modern society in general and for Israel, which is bereft of resources, in particular.

Some believe that a country which is dependent on divine mercy should invest in religious institutions. And others faithfully represent the world of the ignorant, or the way of thinking of the anti-elite.

As Akiva Ben Yosef, before Advertisement

he became Rabbi Akiva, said: "That I could find a scholar and bite him like a donkey."

**Starbucks Coffee**

Get the facts about the Starbucks rumors in the Middle East  
[www.Starbucks.com](http://www.Starbucks.com)

**Hitech jobs North Israel**

Hi-Tech jobs in Haifa and Galil for software & electronic engineers  
[www.Optimum-HR.co.il](http://www.Optimum-HR.co.il)

**Citibank Offshore**

Up to 5.64% on USD Time Deposit. Plus a bonus if you invest.  
[www.citibank.com](http://www.citibank.com)

Many others justify themselves by saying that higher education is all right, but why the need for academic freedom? Why does academic freedom mean the administration and budget of the higher education system must be independent? Who needs a fund to pay for trips abroad to foster scientific ties; and why does the state have to pay for faculty pensions?

The comptroller himself did not doubt the need for all of the above. His questions and criticism related mainly to how the system of higher education is run by those responsible for its orderly functioning, and those who are entrusted with regular oversight - the government ministries, the Council for Higher Education and the Planning and Budgeting Committee.

The nature of oversight is to look for defects. Its purpose is not to destroy but rather to correct. The heads of the institutes for higher education and those who ensure its orderly functioning must read the report and correct administrative problems.

In the past few days, however, many preferred to use the report to rip apart higher education.

Let us return to the cornerstone of higher education that many seem to miss - the creation of knowledge. Higher education does not merely inculcate know-how, turning it into awareness and disseminating it; it creates it.

Anyone who counts the weekly teaching hours of researchers is merely making his or her life miserable. The vast majority of researchers are immersed day and

Ads by Google

night in their research (which addresses the very problems of our world).

Their laboratories are open and the lights remain lit for as long as they can operate them. The same is true of the libraries and the study rooms.

Budgetary edicts can reduce the hours when the libraries or the laboratories are kept open, but they cannot diminish the researchers' mission or motivation to get to the root of the truth and to create a font of knowledge for generations.

Order to create knowledge, they go to libraries in other parts of the world, to scientific conferences, and they continue writing and researching after the offices are closed and during off hours at home, via their computers, connecting with databases and alternate libraries.

It is difficult to imagine limiting the freedom of academic creation, the search after truth and the creation of know-how. The freedom of a slave to science is the freedom that society depends upon. It is a vital starting point for understanding higher education.

This has given birth to achievements that benefit the world; because of this, the entire world envied us in years gone by. And that is what we look toward when we attempt to prevent a brain-drain and get the best of our researchers to return to this country.

When we have an understanding of the basis of higher education, results will follow - cultural achievements, curricula, the education systems, inventions, medicines, agriculture and in short, everything that surrounds us.

All of these are likely to be curbed if we use the comptroller's recent report to destroy, kill, lose, and forget all that which we have toiled so hard to create.

Prof. Ben-Sasson served as rector of Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 1997 to 2001.

[Subscribe to Print Edition](#)

 [Bookmark to del.icio.us](#)

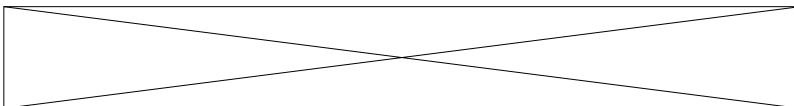
 [Digg It!](#)



**Human guinea pigs**  
A medical panel concludes that Anthrax experiments on IDF troops were unjustified.



**Good Deeds Day**  
Palestinian children from the West Bank perform for Holocaust survivors.



Talkback

 [Send your response](#)

 [Top](#)

[Home](#) | [TV](#) | [Print Edition](#) | [Diplomacy](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts & Leisure](#) | [Sports](#) | [Jewish World](#) | [Israel 2009 election results](#)

[Site rules](#) | [Makom: Engaging on Israel](#) | [Search engine marketing](#)

Haaretz.com, the online edition of Haaretz Newspaper in Israel, offers real-time breaking news, opinions and analysis from Israel and the Middle East. Haaretz.com provides extensive and in-depth coverage of Israel, the Jewish World and the Middle East, including defense, diplomacy, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the peace process, Israeli politics, Jerusalem affairs, international relations, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli business world and Jewish life in Israel and the Diaspora.

© Copyright 2009 Haaretz. All rights reserved

[Palestinian terror](#)

**23:01** [Vatican official to rededicate menorah honoring Holocaust victims](#)

[Previous Editions](#)

[Select Day](#)

[reservations](#)

**Jewish Singles**

**Personal Ads**

Find the love of your life on JDate.com

**Junkyard**

Junk a car - get free towing nationwide and a tax-deductible receipt

