

Stern College Students Welcome Rav Soloveitchik

Student Council Officers Planning Successful Year

Rochel Sperling; Zelda Badner
Editor of the *Observer*, Rochel Sperling's active interest and participation in school affairs mo-



Rochel Sperling
Zelda Badner

tivated her to run for president of Student Council. Rochel, who is from Washington, D.C., will be a senior next year. Majoring in sociology, she will either go into social work or law.

Rochel feels that the *Observer* plays an important role in the eye of Stern College. She thinks that the *Observer* directly or indirectly was responsible for many improvements enacted this year.

Next year Rochel will work to have a "functioning faculty-student committee which would be composed of volunteer faculty members who would, on a regular basis, meet with Student Council and class officers. At these meetings the important and pressing issues and problems can be discussed and a definite plan of action decided upon, which would be carried out simultaneously by all student organizations." Rochel feels that the student body should have a voice in "vital matters concerning our school."

Rochel hopes to continue and expand the program of school activities for next year. Some examples of these activities planned for next year are a concert

series, an extended debating season and Torah-campus. Rochel hopes "to have periodic meetings with each of the departments in the school." In order to accomplish anything next year, Rochel emphasizes the importance of everyone "active cooperation and participation."



Suzi Shustek
Nancy Cohn

The new vice-president of Student Council, Zelda Badner, is from Ellenville, New York. Zelda who will be junior next year, is a history-political science major and is interested in teaching high school. When asked what she would like to see at Stern College, Zelda replied that she would like to see more students involved in school functions. Having been involved in many extra-curricular activities and serving as president of her class in her freshman year, and this year's treasurer of Student Council, she is a good example of her feelings. Zelda noted that during her freshman year she was in the choir. She would like to see a revitalization of the choir for next year.

Zelda's primary reason for coming to Stern College was to gain a religious education. She also thinks that Stern's location in New York has many cultural

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Rav Expounds On Teacher And Disciple In Experience Of The Halachic Community

By Marcia Davis and Eilene Klavan

Ed. note. This represents the interpretation of the lecture by the authors.

The evening of Wednesday, May 18, 1966, marked the occasion of an important "first" (and a profound experience) in the history of Stern College. At 8 p.m., a capacity audience of faculty and students, assembled in the Koch Auditorium had the privilege of being addressed by Rav Joseph B. Soloveitchik. Rochel Sperling, in introducing Rav Soloveitchik, expressed the hope that this would set a precedent for an annual lecture at Stern College by the Rav, *shlita*.

Commitment to G-d

Speaking on the topic of "Teacher and His Disciple," Rav Soloveitchik prefaced his discussion by an explanation of the nature of the halachic community as opposed to the general religious community, in order to elucidate and deepen our understanding of the Torah concept of the teacher-student relationship. The halachic community is unique in two respects. While the general religious community worships God, the halachic community is committed to God. The concept of worship is one of a mystical, ceremonial and irrational set of actions confined to areas of sporadic religious manifestation in an aesthetic frame-

work, while commitment to God implies a pledged service to Him, based on a contractual relationship between God and Man. It does not consist of a single cultic performance or series of performances; it is service which halacha insists upon in every field of endeavor, in every ordinary act of living. "Service is mundane in substance and design," explained the Rav. What matters is not the substance of the act "but the compliance with the halachic norm which relates every ordinary action to the service of God."

"Precision is Important"

The second manifestation of the halachic community is that its service must be precise. Halacha is very meticulous, very much concerned with detail. It demands precision not only in thought but in actions as well. "The absence of the smallest element may invalidate the halachic act." In this sense halacha is similar to the mathematical formula. "Wherever the act of summation is responsible for the emergence of the entity, detail cannot be ignored." Halachic service in outline or in individual arbitrariness is insufficient.

Technical Instruction

In this perspective, we can understand the importance of the teacher in the halachic community



Harav J. B. Soloveitchik

and his function on three fundamental levels. The first level is one in which technical knowledge of the Torah is imparted. It is difficult for men to fulfill the will of God unless each one has acquired the indispensable Halachic know-how or skill. At this stage, the study of halacha is purely pragmatic and would more properly be called instruction than education for it is "devoid of the creative, cognitive element in education." The term *rav* would be out of con-

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Large Stern Audience Hears Lively Debate on Viet Nam

By Mara Davis and Esther Levine

TUESDAY night in the Stern Auditorium, another one of the myths about student interests exploded. A majority of seats was occupied in the largest room in the building, not for a dramatic presentation or some social function, but a debate. The topic for discussion was "Morality and the War in Viet Nam."

On the affirmative side were Mr. Chris Emet, a radio announcer, and John Sandbury, a graduate student at St. Johns and vice president of Young Americans for Freedom.

Stern's own faculty members manned the negative side with an eye toward synthesis. Rabbi Howard Levine, an associate professor in the Religious Department, and Mr. Jules Levey, an ardent young history instructor, defended the position that ethically America does not belong in Viet Nam.

The informal debate was set up to allow each speaker twenty- (Continued on page 6, col. 1)

Rochel Sperling Receives Aishel Award

By Patti Flom

Between 1959 and 1960, the administration discussed the idea of establishing a Scholastic Service Society, open to Juniors and Seniors who could maintain a 3.4 cumulative index and acquire sufficient service points for extra-curricular activities. In April 1960, the idea was adopted.

By the end of the fifth semester, one must accumulate a total of seventeen service points. The office determines the cumulative academic index, and gives the names of deserving girls to the representatives of Aishel (the Scholastic Service Society), who then review the extra-curricular sheets to see if the girls are

eligible for induction. (It is, therefore, of utmost importance that girls file their sheets when notice is posted on the bulletin board.)

In May 1961, Aishel inducted five girls who had fulfilled the requirements as of February 1961. In the Spring of 1962, seven girls were inducted; in 1963 five girls were inducted, and in 1964 one girl was inducted. On Wednesday morning, May 18, Mrs. Sabina Schmidman, who was in the first group of inductees in 1961, inducted Rochel Sperling into Aishel. Rochel's greatest achievement in the field of extra-curricular activity is her editorship of *The Observer* from Spring 1965 to Spring 1966. Rochel is the only stu-

dent in two years who has received the coveted award. This is a most regrettable situation and shows lack of impetus on the part of many who would be qualified.

A plaque hanging in the lounge in the school building is adorned with the names of all the inductees of Aishel and the names of honorary members who would have received the award but graduated before the Scholastic Service Society was established.

In the past, Aishel has had few meetings, but it is planning one in the near future, when the members will discuss giving keys (similar to Phi Beta Kappa) to the girls who merit such an outstanding award.

Ed. note. This official announcement came from the office of the dean regarding the valedictorian for this year's senior class.

It is the tradition at Stern College for Women that the Valedictorian is the student with the highest cumulative academic index. This year a most unusual situation arose. Elishava Teitz, who achieved the highest average over a period of five years, and with a relatively broad Jewish Studies background from her native Israel, declined the honor because of these two factors. Susan Katz, the second ranking senior, who is American-born and graduating with her (Continued on page 3, col. 5)

Landesman Becomes Editor As Observer Begins 10th Year

By Baila Salit

Rivkah Landesman has accepted the position of editor-in-chief of the *Observer* for the coming school year. Rivkah, an incoming junior, is a Psychology major and has served previously on the *Observer* staff, most recently as copy editor.

Three new positions have been introduced, in hope of expanding the already-established departments and to create new ones. Senior Editor, Naomi Meyer, will represent the graduating class on

the newspaper. She will notify the students of opportunities available in the various graduate schools and the prerequisites set up by their administrators. This should prove extremely helpful and enlightening to the upper classmen, who are considering and preparing for graduate work. Students will also be kept up to date on the plans and progress of the yearbook. Executive Editor, Sharon Duchan, is planning on coordinating a corres- (Continued on page 6, col. 3)

The Editor Speaks: A Statement of Aims

Before looking to the future and outlining our goals, it is necessary to analyze the present. Though we all criticize, and often justly, it is out of love that we do so. Our presence here recognizes the need for a Stern College and in our staying from year to year we admit that the good outweighs the bad.

Those with an attitude similar to that of the "rosho" in the Haggadah who fold their hands and say "try to convince us of your beliefs" do not belong here. It is only those who realize that Stern must function effectively who will ultimately gain from the school by contributing to it.

It is with this understanding that we move to the area of constructive criticism. We cannot ignore the weaknesses of our college nor be afraid to openly oppose school policy, but the tone of our opposition must change. We have whined our way to becoming the central clearing house for complaints. It's time we started to work toward positive amendments no matter how trite the problems may sound. The problems have been aired; it is time for solutions.

The Observer will not only observe happenings in the school, nor will it comment on the scarcity of activity. It will act along with a revitalized student body and student leadership. These factions will work along with an anxious faculty already stirred to action.

Free press will be our motto and we will speak out on a large number of topics involving touchy issues. In the fall we will discuss "synthesis," its implications, possibilities, and applications. We will continue to stress the need for a working student-faculty committee. We will demand it.

With the addition of new names and titles to the editorial board, we hope to set up contacts in other schools for exchange of information and ideas as well as coordinating the executive board's activities and its ties with each class.

These are some of our resolutions for the future. The incoming freshman class is undoubtedly briefed on the apathy here. Let us not infect them, but rather rally them to our causes and make our causes theirs.

Freedom of the Press

With the departure of Rabbi Rabinowitz from the faculty of Stern College, the posi-

tion of faculty advisor will be vacated. In defiance of Administration plans, the Observer officially protests an advisor replacement.

It is essential that the student body of a college express itself freely, without restrictions. Only then is it the voice of the body it represents. At Stern the Observer is that means of expression.

A faculty advisor, by definition, limits that expression. The Observer is willing to accept the responsibility for all that is printed. It is time for the staff to accept this responsibility and assume the role of a mature and competent student voice. The administration projects its image and views through Public Relations; the students demand the Observer.

Pink Slip Plight

To Dormitory Residents, the drudgery of filling out pink slips and signing in twice a night, is an old story. That neither the signs nor the pink slips serve any real purpose, is a fact that house mothers and dormitory residents have long ago learned . . . and yet nothing had been done.

Last week, the height of this absurd situation was reached when twelve girls — out on a school function had a high university official call the housemother to tell her that they would be late. The housemother's reply was one of shock, surprise and interest. That: 1) the girls were out at all 2) the girls were together and 3) that she had no idea as to where these girls were.

Had the girls broken any rules, this lack of knowledge on the housemother's part would have been understandable. But in each case, a girl had signed out for the evening and filled out a pink slip. Not one felt it necessary to state her destination and not one slip was challenged.

Thus, petty though the incident was, Stern College learned once again, that pink slips are worth no more than the price of the paper they were written on.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that the sign in system in the dormitory be seriously reevaluated in the hope that one simple, sincere, sign-in will do.

Interchanging Courses

A faculty member recently suggested that we encourage the integration of bodies

of knowledge at Stern. This can be put into active practice by an exchange of lectures among the various departments. The value of such an interchange is undeniably profitable to the student.

A guest lecturer on music or art, for example, can create an entire picture for a history student whose course concentrates principally on social and political aspects. A psychology course could do well to integrate literature and Bible, perhaps, as active examples of trends and theories. The list of possibilities is unending.

This departmental integration would have far-reaching effects outside of the immediate benefit in a particular course. The entire direction of the acquisition of knowledge would be more realistic in a worldly sense. When the sharp barriers which limit the learning of a specific subject to a rigid schedule are made flexible to allow for overlapping and integration, learning per se will have taken a step forward at Stern.

Unopposed Elections

I. When Student Council elections were held in May, three of the five officers ran unopposed. In the Freshman and Junior classes, the office of President was unopposed.

II. In addition to this, less than half of the student body came to hear the speeches given by the candidates. The students who voted without attending this assembly voted without adequate knowledge of the candidate who did run.

III. This situation is a grave one in that there is little enthusiasm on the part of the student body. The girls who are so willing to criticize the school are not willing to give a little time and devotion to change the situation which are so annoying.

IV. In order to have a properly functioning student body, we need girls who are capable of handling the responsibilities incumbent upon them as officers. We are not attacking the unopposed candidates, but rather the girls who chose to sit back and let the others do the work.

In order to improve ourselves, we need action by those girls who have the capability but who do not wish to over-exert themselves. To change our situation, we need strong leaders to set the pace.

Apathy never did and never will solve any problems.

Letters To The Editor

In Appreciation

Dear Editor:

As representative of Rabbi Louis Finkelstein in charge of the rescue and restoration of the Seminary Library, I fully appreciate the remarkable contribution made to that work by the faculty and students of Yeshiva University, including Stern College. Their unflagging effort, performed with intelligence and initiative, as well as their rare zeal, has been a vital factor in saving much of our priceless heritage. Everyone connected with The Jewish Theological Seminary of America is heartened by this evidence of our mutual devotion to Torah.

Faithful yours,

Rabbi David C. Kogen,
Assistant to the Chancellor,
The Jewish Theological
Seminary of America

Unworthy Theologian

Dear Editor:

I was bemused by the heartfelt essay lauding the holy union between science and religion from the pen of Dr. Wernher von Braun that appeared in a recent Observer. Of course, one hopes that even Satan will realize his error, but I for one must regard Dr. von Braun's testament with wary amusement. He was, of course, a Nazi

and one of Hitler's rocketry chiefs. After the war, he was part of the German war booty — the Soviets got scientists, and the U.S. got scientists. Dr. von Braun prospered in this country because his skills were needed — much as Churchill justified his pact with Stalin by saying that he would lie down with the Devil if it helped the war effort.

Now it pleases Dr. von Braun — having made the best of all possible worlds — to tell us all about the beneficent effects of the religious attitude. I take this rather hard. I was in London during the war, and I think I can remember every single one of Dr. von Braun's V-2 rockets. I do not say that he was specifically trying to get me — if so the aim at times was terrible. But I certainly do not welcome a sermon from such as he. It is of course possible that Dr. von Braun believes that the word of God is valid and redemptive coming even from a corrupt priest. Perhaps, but I cannot be so persuaded.

Now a happier note to end on. I and many colleagues of the faculty were deeply moved at the actions of Stern girls and Yeshiva College boys in helping to save the books at the Jewish Theological Seminary. It was a magnificent gesture and a blessed action. One

does not take off his hat within the walls of Stern, but if one could I'd take mine off to you.

Sincerely yours,
Henry Grinberg
Instructor in English

A Humble Apology

Dear Readers,

I would like to acknowledge the fact that I have made a very grave error in my article on Rabbi Shmidman's lecture about Shabbos. This error was part of a parenthetical statement which I added to one of Rabbi Shmidman's. This statement concerned the 39 milchot — they are, in truth, all derived from the Torah — including that of carrying. In fact carrying is one of the most emphasized in the Tanach.

Furthermore, I would like to stress that all such erroneous statements within my article were not said by Rabbi Shmidman; and above all, I would like to apologize for having misinformed the public in regard to something as sacred as what is mentioned in the Torah.

Sincerely yours,
Chana Sadowsky

A Positive Approach

Dear Editor:

The end of the year should

mean time for evaluation. This year there have been many positive innovations — Torah Campus, the Yeshiva-Stern College Series, a minyan on Shabbat, etc. At the time of this letter, it is noted that Rav Soloveitchik will speak at Stern soon. In addition, a debate on Vietnam will take place.

All of these have just begun to explore the numerous possibilities which could be a part of Stern College. Many of these possibilities have been imagined and parts put into reality while there are many ideas that have yet to be formulated. For example, not only should Rav Soloveitchik come

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Sperlosophy

Matchless In Power Among Us . . .

The year has passed. Deadlines have come and gone, come and gone . . . Vague and foggy recollections of the printer's office at 8:30 in the morning after a 4:00 A.M. "dummying" session pass before my eyes . . . Copy . . . page proofs . . . headline sheets . . . cutlines . . . bylines . . . until they drove me crazy. On more than one occasion I had a burning desire to stand on 34th St. and either bang my head against the sidewalk, or else scream at the top of my lungs until overcome by exhaustion. By some miracle these moments passed and were replaced by some semblance of normalcy.

In all fairness I must admit that if the decision were again mine to



Rachel Sperling

make, my answer would have been the same — yes, I will accept the editorship of the *Observer*. For in the past year, I have learned and I have matured and I have come to love Stern College more deeply, even though its faults have multiplied and been magnified.

I have learned . . . Naturally, my knowledge in the field of journalism has increased from nothing to a bit above the zero line. The necessity of avoiding tombstones, pictures on the fold, and alliterated headlines among other facts, has been deeply impressed upon me, oftentimes through the misfortune of trial and error.

However, my education has not been restricted to such a narrow academic field, for I have gained a deeper understanding of people and of the world — of life in general. This is the type of knowledge which cannot be gained from books, papers, or lectures, but must be obtained by the individual through the process of living and interacting with one's environment.

I have matured . . . Before September, 1985, "patience" and "tolerance" were two words included in my spoken vocabulary, but I lacked any conception of their true meaning, and rarely practiced them. Through the year I have come to realize that people are only human and everyone has a limit, beyond which he can not pass. Unfortunately in some cases this realization came too late, and I wish to apologize to anyone with whom I have dealt unfairly due to a lack of patience and tolerance.

I have come to love Stern more deeply . . . This cannot be explained in words, for it is a feeling and emotion, rather than a statement. This is the type of change which must be experienced by the individual. In order to undergo such a change one must give of herself to Stern College and not only draw from her resources.

Unfortunately, sprinkled throughout the year were several disappointments. In the world of students I came into contact with Public Enemy No. 1 — the constant complainer who offers nel-

situation, remain silent, or leave.

On the other side of the coin, I was rudely awakened to an undesirable practice among many faculty members. Believe it or not, the student organizations of Stern

staff are no exceptions. Therefore, any constructive advice is welcomed with open arms. It is very difficult to gather this advice accurately as it is "dropped" in classes and among faculty members themselves.

Consequently, we beg of faculty and students alike, please inform US of any of your thoughts, suggestions, etc. It would make life a lot easier and much less confusing. Amid all this learning, maturation, and such, I see fulfilled many of our objectives as expressed this past year.

First and foremost, a Shabbos minyan has been established at Stern College. Moreover, as of two months ago, Dr. Belkin advised all concerned that the University will assume the financial responsibility of the hotel bills of the boys comprising minyan.

Secondly, Stern College has its own dormitory, in the "person" of a 19-story edifice. Unfortunately, the building is still an apartment house necessitating, in some cases, the impossible demand that five girls share a single apartment. It is recommended that renovations be undertaken over the summer

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Outgoing Observer Staff

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ther constructive criticism nor tangible assistance. All she does is complain, complain, and complain. Such a girl has three alternatives. She can either help to correct the

wish and strive to correct the unfair and illogical treatment and situation which prevails in many areas of the College's life and in this the members of the *Observer*

Rav Soloveitchik States Role of Teacher and Part of Student in the Halachic Community

(Continued from page 1, col. 5)

text here — the instructor in this instance is a *moreh derech*, and the halacha demands that the student must show gratitude to his instructor. Because of this basic feeling of gratitude which is considered by Bachya and Saadia to be at the root of religious life, we are even required to tear *kriah* for a teacher who taught us only technical knowledge of halacha.

The Illumined Mind

On the second level of the teacher-student relationship, one learns to ascend in his service of God. On this level, one realizes that halacha is not just a code of laws and regulations; halacha is a "method of thinking, a way of acting." One who is halachically committed to God is committed not only in his physical actions: "The trained halachic mind is committed to God" as well. "God demands thinking as well as deed." Teaching on this level is a creative process. The teacher is engaged in fashioning a mind. It is a struggle between the "primitive, ignorant, amorphous" intellect resisting the imposition of form and the rigid, disciplined method of thought and expression possessed by the teacher. "Basically, education at this level means subjecting the student to the authority of the teacher."

The status of the teacher is one of creator, fashioner of the student's mind. His rank at this level is one of master similar to the relation of a *rav* and *eved*, as well as one of teacher in the sense of *rav* and *talmid*. And halacha prescribes *kol m'lacha she'eved oseh l'rabbho*, *talmid oseh l'rabbho*. All work that a servant does for his master, a student does for his teacher.

"Reasons of the Heart"

The third and highest level of halachic teaching is the experiential level. This is the level of *ta'amu u'y'vu ki tov haShem*, taste and see that God is good. On this level we not only think, we "intuit." We experience through the

heart, we become visionaries. The same halachic process, the same precise system which demands that we think in a detached, formal manner to the point of being legalistic, also insists on an experiential feeling of the heart without which halachic thinking is incomplete. On this level of feeling, man experiences the indefinite, uplifting aura of *k'dusha*.

The teacher, then, must endeavor not only to train the mind, but to give a great halachic experience. To do this, the teacher and student must be bound in an existential relationship which can be understood in terms of Maimonides' definition of education as *chesed*, as extraordinary moral kindness, which involves the opening up of barriers which exist between men, man's sharing his existence with others, as God showed *chesed* in creation by emerging and revealing Himself to the universe. Education is not just teaching a didactic, technical performance or an act of acquisition of the mind. It is the "spontaneous revelation of the teacher." It is the overflow of knowledge, feeling, and hope, similar to the dynamic inspiration and compulsion of the *navi*, the prophets who shares his message with all men at all costs. The communion is not just a verbalized message; it is a sharing of an awareness, an experience, a commitment to a great ideal. The Rav noted that the development of this communion is one of the main problems of Jewish education in America.

It is this communion which enables us to understand that the Jewish concept of *masora*, tradition, is not just the passing down of laws *mi'dor l'dor*; it is one generation embracing completely the communities past, present and future. We are all in communion with one another.

Four-fold Family

At the highest level, the teacher and pupil must form one experien-

tial community in which teaching is done by inspiring, uplifting and revealing in a dramatic performance in which the teacher acts out his inner convictions. The teacher has now become a co-partner with parents to form Judaism's concept of a four-fold, family community of father, mother, child and teacher, as we have learned *mipi ha'shemu'ah*: "*Ban-echa — ayilu talmidecha; talmidim k'rutim banim*." "Your sons — those are your students, for students are called sons."

The image of this father-teacher as a moral force gives structure, hope, and courage to the pupil for future endeavors.

Communion Transcends Distance

Torah she'b'al peh is such that at its apex, when the teacher-pupil relationship has developed into one experiential community, each member is and always will be an integral part of the other, no matter how far separated they may become in time and space.

It seemed apparent that during the Rav's lecture, the audience did unite into one experiential community with him, and we hope it will not be long until we will be privileged to hear another inspiring message from him.

(Continued from page 1)

class, felt, in turn, that Elsheva deserved the honor in accordance with tradition.

To escape the impasse, the following Solomonic solution was acceptable to all: in view of the fact that there will be two special events at commencement time — the Senior Dinner and the post-commencement convocation for Stern College — Susan will deliver an English valedictory at the Senior Dinner and Elsheva a Hebrew valedictory at the convocation.

We do not foresee a repetition of this situation.

Observer Retraction Ordered As Rabbi Joshua Schmidman Clarifies Reporting Error

In the last issue of the "Observer" there was a report of a talk given by Rabbi Joshua Schmidman to a group of students on the topic of "Shabbos." The report, unfortunately, contained a number of inaccuracies and distortions. This is perhaps to be expected to some extent, as Rabbi Schmidman spoke for more than an hour on a complex and technical subject, and a short newspaper account of such a lecture is bound to fall short of presenting a full or even partial summary of what was said. It is, however, regrettable that the errors were not all of omission but also of misrepresentation. Partly to blame is the fact that a girl was not assigned beforehand to report the lecture, but rather was asked at some later date to reconstruct from memory a report of the lecture. Thus it was, of necessity, not an accurate account.

Rabbi Schmidman was, however, deeply distressed over one particularly serious mistake in the report concerning an important matter of "halacha." It was falsely stated that, "Shemirat Shabbat is directly related to the cessation of what is considered work, as stipulated by the 39 *melachot* (categories of work), 38 of which are derived from the Torah itself. The 39th *melacha*, carrying, is added by our sages." The editors wish to make it plain that, of course, no such statement was

made by Rabbi Schmidman. The editors, further, wish to apologize to Rabbi Schmidman for this misstatement, and to their readers for this obvious, faulty report.

Rabbi Schmidman has graciously consented to state what, as a matter of fact, he did say. This appears below:

Statement by Rabbi Schmidman

In the course of my lecture, I stated that there are 39 categories of "melachah" forbidden by the Torah (Midoroisa) on Shabbos. "Carrying" is one of these 39 "melachos." I explained that it is one of the 39 "melachos" involved in the construction of the "mishkan" which is the source of all the categories of "melachah" forbidden on Shabbos by the Torah.

I pointed out that "carrying" is, furthermore, explicitly characterized by the Torah in two separate verses (Exodus 19:29, Exodus 36:6) as being forbidden on Shabbos (see Tossafot, Tract. Erubin 17b and tract Shabbos 2a). The prophets also particularly emphasized the importance of the observance of the "melachah" of "carrying" in their preachments concerning Shabbos. A large portion of my lecture was devoted to elucidating the philosophical implications of the "melachah" of "carrying" and to explaining some of the Talmudic and the Midrashic material dealing with "carrying."

Sperling Reviews Past Year; Hails Parents and Co-Workers

(Continued from page 3, col. 5) months whereby a dormitory setup and atmosphere will be produced. In addition, with the purchase of the new dorm the Observer and Student Council have acquired their own room, thus making life a bit easier.

Looking over the syllabus for the Fall of 1986, one notes the inclusion of many more new and advanced courses such as Humanities, History, and Philosophy. This trend marks a definite improvement in the college academic picture.

However, I feel our most significant contribution has been in the Observer itself. We have attempted to strengthen a foundation on which subsequent years can build. I feel that to a great extent we have succeeded, for the issues have appeared on schedule, in addition to being larger and we feel on a

items or a sequence of words which could, if noticed, have gotten us into serious legal trouble. I was lucky to have had the opportunity to work with this wonderful man, and I know I speak in the name of the entire student body when I say that his presence will be greatly missed.

In the course of extending thanks I must include my roommates, Baila, Jeri, and Gale (present and ex), whose help and understanding was invaluable. In addition, I wish to apologize to them for the blaring lights and the crumbling of brown paper bags at 4 A.M.

Last, but certainly not least, I owe my life as an editor to Rifkie Landesman. Besides serving as instructor in both the grosser and finer points of journalism (due to her journalistic background) she was my true right hand in all mat-



New editorial board pictured L to R: Marlene Glissman, copy editor; Gilda Schuchalter, editorial assistant; Chia Ramras, managing editor; Rivkah Landesman, editor-in-chief; Sylvia G. Laufer, managing editor; Faye B. Greenblum, feature editor; Esther Spenciner, associate editor; Naomi Meyer, senior editor; Sue Amin, assistant copy-editor; and Peninah Krumbine, contributing editor. Also not shown, Miriam Fink, feature editor and Sharon Duchan, executive editor.

The staff of the Observer wishes to extend its congratulations to Rachel Sperling, recipient of the Aishel Award and newly elected president of Student Council. We are proud to have served with her.

higher caliber. This goal will be further realized in the future for we have just received a much-needed increase in student activities funds from the University.

But nothing could have been accomplished without a willing and cooperative staff and without other outside help and understanding. Therefore, to a few of the people under this category to whom I am especially grateful, I wish to offer special thanks.

Heading the list are my parents. To them I must say "Yivashor kochachem." I still cannot understand how you put up with me and "my newspaper," for on several of my trips home I daresay I was not temperamentally a "perfect angel." I still thank G-d that you did, and did not throw me out instead.

A true source of encouragement throughout the year was to be found in the person of Rabbi Rabinowitz. Many people have asked me why we put up with an advisor. To set the records straight, Rabbi Rabinowitz was a true advisor. He never made us delete an article or even a word. Fortunately with his wisdom and experience he was able to point out certain

A Word for those who Want to Be Wise:

In previous years the administration has gone through great lengths to institute courses suggested by students, only to find the enrollment insufficient for the quota. Don't let the upcoming year follow this bad example. Enroll in the course for which you petitioned.

ters, whether they be clean or dirty work.

Therefore, I feel no qualms in transferring over to her the key to 4C, the "light blue telephone," and the checkbook, for her experience in all fields of the Observer has well-grounded roots. Consequently, to Rifkie all I can say is "Hatzlachah Rabbah!" for in this field, I am the student and she is my teacher.

On this note bid you adieu as editor of the Observer and will hand the title, as well as the work to Rifkie... Hold it! I did hear someone whisper nepotism?

Koss-tic Comments

Graduation Heralds A Look Backward

When one starts out on a new task, the many available roads all look good, the varied bits of advice all sound reasonable, and the work to be done looks monumental. In many instances, people must go the way alone or unadvised; in others, there is constant guidance and available help. The Student Council Presidency of Stern College is such an instance. Not only was help given by students, faculty, and administration, but from previous presidents and alumnae. It is from these people that I received the help, and often courage, to accomplish all that we did accomplish. It's a matter of personal pride that prompts me to feel that we have come a far way from last year and a matter of sheer fact to know that there is still so much to do. But there is no doubt in my mind that Rachel and her fellow officers will not only fulfill these outstanding debts but continue on the upward path to new goals.

Even though we preach planning for tomorrow, looking ahead, *kadimah*, it's pleasant to review the past year's activities, to reminisce. I feel that I have profited greatly from this year's experiences—that I've learned a great deal about human nature, patience, perseverance, and simply working with people. I've been very privileged to represent Stern College at various functions and to meet such personalities as I. B. Singer and Rav Utermann. I appreciate the chance to have been president, to help us become autonomous, to increase our receipt of student activities fee, to help establish the shabbas minyan, and to institute several changes within Student Council itself.

But nothing would have been possible if conditions had been different, if the administration had not been agreeable to our proposals, if the students hadn't been willing to cooperate and if my officers had not been as great as they are. I am grateful to all those people who made suggestions for bettering situations and who helped aid our cause. I can only hope that our actions have been for the betterment, for our



Sue Koss

Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 2)

to us once at the end of this year, but he should be invited back several times next year. In addition, it is hoped that other such people as Rav Soloveitchik will speak at Stern College.

Torah Campus lectures have but scratched the surface of the numerous qualified people not only in Stern College but throughout the New York city area who could lecture at Stern. The topics of a religious nature which could be discussed have just been scratching. Maybe not only lectures suited to mixed levels of students but lectures for less advanced and more advanced students should also be held.

Some possibilities are having speakers on Jewish and non-Jewish culture, speakers (may include teachers from the school) on general subjects or give book reports, etc. Other possibilities include having more debates with faculty and non-faculty members participating, concerts — choir and instrumental — Jewish and non-Jewish music, art shows (Jewish and non-Jewish). Other ideas are the encouragement of more week-ends in more communities, maybe to include such a city as Boston.

It is hoped that next year there will continue such activities as plays, sings, and a Lag B'omer activity.

The problem of socials has to be looked at with a more positive approach. Since the school has grown, socials as they have existed in the past are now no longer "very sociable." I think it was Neil Kosiow who suggested that socials should be held on a smaller basis. This idea needs serious consideration. Also, such activities as the Yeshiva-Stern College Lecture should not exist for the sole purpose of being socials, but rather of helping to serve many needs — one of which is communication between Yeshiva College and Stern College so that ideas are not isolated at either institution. Other areas of informal get-togethers on the part

of the schools should be established — such as clubs, debates, etc.

Although my letter starts out with a positive viewpoint, I do not think that we can neglect the other areas. All of the ideas mentioned and whatever is done within the school(s) need cooperation and participation by the student body, faculty, and administration. "One only gets out of something what one puts into it." If everyone works together, the possibilities become realities.

The same idea applies in regard to classes. Teachers and students will only get out their encounters what they put into them. In other words, somewhere along the line, the cycle of student's complaints in regard to students have to be stopped.

This letter has covered only a few of the many possibilities. Although negative areas exist which have to be handled, and other areas in the end might have to be accepted realistically, there is much room open for the positive at Stern College.

Lenore Wolfson

Bnei Akiva

Dear Editor:

About a year and a half ago, I asked permission from the powers that we have a Bnei Akiva club in SCW. It wasn't as if I were asking every girl in the school to drop what she was doing, leave her princess phone and flowered linen suit and run off to a kibbutz and fight the Arabs in dirty khaki clothes. No! I was merely asking permission for the twenty or so Bnei Akivans in the school and any other girl who might have Zionist ideas, to meet once a month under school auspices.

Though the administration was all for such a venture, members of the student council informed me that no such group could be set up, for Y.U. policy was against having organizational groups under its auspices. Though

I mentioned that it was a fact that such group had been set up for the boys more than two years ago and that it has been functioning strongly since then, I was told that this was impossible and that I must be mistaken.

Allow me to state two facts: In the past Commentators there was a letter to the editor specifically mentioning this Bnei Akiva club in Y.U. This should certainly serve as sufficient written evidence for its existence.

On the Friday before Lag B'omer, there was a notice on the Student Council school bulletin board urging Stern girls to participate with BETAR in celebrating Lag B'omer. Betar is not only one of the most radical Zionist groups, but it is a severely militaristic one as well.

If our Student Council can allow Betar members in Stern to so-to-speak propagandize, I see no reason why we, more peaceful Zionist can not similarly exist. Its not as if this were a new ideal we were introducing into the school. Unless I am mistaken, I believe that every Jew is supposed to have some sort of inherent feeling for Israel. We do not seek to convert and missionize others, we merely wish to sustain ourselves.

Perhaps the future leaders of the Student Council will allow their classmates the same privileges afforded to our uptown colleagues.

Tirzah Rosenfeld

Apathy at Stern

Dear Editor:

It's that time of year again! As unpatriotic as this may sound, most of us are preoccupied with summer plans and trips. School and finals are the farthest things from our minds. But before we take leave of Stern for three glorious months, a serious evaluation and critical appraisal of this year is in order.

Time and time again we have instructors attack the apathy and (Continued on page 6, col. 1)

improvement, and that all have profited. I was quite gratified to see the interest and participation displayed in recent class elections and can only urge everyone, winners and losers alike, to continue to strive for perfection, to stick up for their rights, and fight for them—if necessary. Show that you're serious for it often works. You must not surrender nor give up your cause. It's up to you to learn from our mistakes and profit from our gains, and carry on where others have left off.

Although there are changes in next year's plans and scheduling of events, much remains the same and I am counting on those people who were instrumental in this past year's programming to help out next year. Your experience and participation will be greatly appreciated. And if you are to graduate, your will in alumnae is also very beneficial.

Despite the fact that the Yom Tovim came soon after the start of school, Ethel Pelcovitz and her devoted Torah Activities Committee members came through splendidly with their preparations—as for all other occasions. Ethel always was invaluable to me as my chief advisor and friend. During her free time after student teaching and studying for gemers, she elevated TAC to its present high position and her effervescent dedication and devotion to Stern was an inspiration to all. Nina Rosenblum and Sheila did an excellent job in preparing the freshmen for the many facets of Stern in their position as Freshmen Week co-chairmen.

As soon as we returned from our extended vacation, Harriet Jakubovics appeared on the scene after working in the background in preparation for clubs and the highly successful club assembly. I disagree with all those who say that clubs were a flop this year. Participation may not have been stupendous but all those who attended benefited. Without Felice, what are you going to do next year? I'm sure that her club constituents are duly inspired and versed in Israeli dancing to continue this most successful club. I would also like to thank Mr. Bonchek

(Continued on page 5, col. 1)

Koss Commends Chairman

(Continued from page 4)

for paying the way by showing that a club can be well attended even though it's not scheduled during club hour. To all others who aided our endeavors and conducted or participated in clubs—THANK YOU—and next year, continue to join and do.

F CRT's were highly successful—under the chairmanship of Toby Engel, forums have finally come to life and even flourished; Ilene Hershinson inaugurated a fine program for socials and Reva Weinreb, although she took over in mid-year, continued in fine fashion without a let down. Her doggedness secured for us and enjoyable semester, for she didn't give up.

Two other people also gifted with perseverance are Susie Kuhr and Janet Lefkowitz who hounded class chairmen until they prepared for the Chanukah sing. It was the first time there was class competition at a Chanukah Chagigah and, coupled with the innovation of poetry recital, we hope this will become another tradition. Our Purim Chagigah, chaired by Miriam Josovitz and Rochel Sperling was true to color and all those participating went away with renewed spirit and plenty for ruach (and cookies!)

A totally new perspective was brought about by Rebecca Ulman and Torah Campus. She deserves a lot of credit for establishing this club and seeing it through. All the girls who attended its sessions profited immensely from the varied lecturers. Its success has served as a tremendous impetus for more such activities in the future. The dramatic society also has served in such a position this year. The very successful Dramatic Presentation showed off the hidden talent with which so many Stern girls are endowed. We hope that next year, with even more enthusiasm and participation, we'll be able to present a dramatic performance at least once a month thus enabling more girls to be active, with greater variety. Also, as a result of CRT, we'd like to establish a concert series with monthly presentations.

Not only did we have a fairly successful year with new activities, but also with our routinizations. There has been great improvement in the Hebrew activities, thanks to Linda Genauer who climaxed the year with the *ruachdik Yom Ha'Atzmaut* celebration. Susie Harris and Iene Nieldelman did their best with the blood drive and made several good suggestions to improve participation. Progress was most clearly seen on our bulletin boards. Nancy Cohn and Suzi Schustek are wholly responsible for the tasteful and decorative display of signs. They always managed to read (and translate) my messages and put their art work up on time. Their enthusiasm in all aspects was greatly appreciated.

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

Student Council Officers

(Continued from page 1)

advantages. Zelda feels that her willingness to work for the school next year is more important than making many promises which often turn out to be empty.

Nancy Cohen

Much of the publicity in Stern College this past year was the work of Nancy Cohn. Next year this bright, active junior hopes to continue to work with publicity in addition to serving as treasurer of Student Council. Other roles that Nancy has fulfilled are those of a "big sister," chairman of her freshman sing, and a tour leader during Open House. In between hours, she works as a part-time secretary.

Nancy, an elementary education major, lives in Baltimore, Maryland. She says that she came to Stern mainly for its Yiddishkeit. Nancy feels that the new dormitory has made it easier for students to take advantage of student activities. The best way to combat lack of school spirit, Nancy feels, is for returning students to show a positive interest in the school as an example to incoming freshmen.

Suzie Schustek

Suzie Schustek, an elementary education major, who is from West Hempstead, L.I., will be a junior next year. Suzie, who feels that extra-curricular activities are an important part of college life will fill an active role as recording secretary of the Student Council. Other active roles she has fulfilled were publicity chairman for her sophomore class, sophomore representative to the student alumni, typist for the Observer, a chairman of her freshman sing, and a tour leader for

Open House both last year and this year.

The Bees; A Taste of Bitter Honey Prophecy Thru Anthropodic Analogy

By Maime Guttman

The following is an essay concerning the discovery of a unique type of insect society. It is a reprint of an article which appeared in the noted biological journal *Phaeosco* which concentrates on informing the public of those experimental endeavors which have resulted in total disaster. The colony was uncovered by the famed team of Phoebe and Ligget Glauber.

"We had been involved for quite sometime in the identification of true Hymenoptera social colonies of considerable complexity. We chanced quite accidentally on this rare form of nest when we noticed that it was divided into seventeen distinct districts. Each varied in size and in quality which in itself was decided by the virtue of its importance to the main branch and each had its own governing insects. One section in particular, caught our attention. We eyed it immediately because it was a hive comprised only of ripe fertile females. However, protecting this peculiar nest were guardian "house workers." These are older crop of those female larvae who were fed only on a meagre mixture of nectar and pollen, therefore stunting their growth. These workers clean and guard the hive, supervise the storage of food and always buzz around.

This honey roost is ruled by a queen bee who lives at the top of the hive with her favorite drone. However, she interacts with the head drone of the neighboring portion in which the young females are fed.

We comprehended quite a phenomenal occurrence in this section. There are two types of bees in "feeder" positions and two forms of bee-food that are offered. Amazingly enough, the young females themselves can choose those bees who feed them and the food. They can pick the ordinary mixture of nectar and pollen, fed by those bees who have also been raised on it. These youngsters will then develop into the plain worker-type who prepare for and feed following broods. Or, these females can select a special substance, called Royal Jelly, by which they can mature quite into inde-



Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits

aim was to present the laws in terms of their significance in contemporary conditions. He felt that these laws are widely misunderstood but they make the Jew unique in his attitude towards marriage. He explained that because their fulfillment requires an almost heroic measure of self dis-

Taharat Hamishpacha

Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue addressed Stern College on the topic of Taharat Hamishpacha (laws dealing with family life). His chief

discipline they are even more difficult to uphold in an age that clamors for more freedom.

He emphasized that our approach to marriage differs from that of Western Civilization, based on Christian teachings. In Christianity there exists the concept of original sin expressed by sex. It therefore maintains that the ideal state is celibacy and holds marriage off as second best.

Rabbi Jakobovits stated that we are diametrically opposed to that concept which is totally foreign in Judaism. He explained that during the time of the Temple, marriage was a means of carrying out a purpose. At that time the High Priest (Cohen Gadol) had to be married in order to function in his office. The reason behind this was that a man could not properly shoulder responsibility for others unless he was a family man.

He then touched on a related topic — divorce. In Catholicism a marriage is insoluble whereas in Judaism "divorce" is encouraged where partners are incompatible. And, Rabbi Jakobovits stressed, the divorce rate among Jews who live Jewish lives is remarkably low. He feels that this statistic is due to the observance of Taharat Hamishpacha laws.

The laws of Taharat Hamishpacha impose a period of twelve days of every month where marriage relations are totally severed. Rabbi Jakobovits pointed out how in a modern world these laws are especially needed. Husband and wife renew their relationship after twelve days rendering it almost new and thereby eliminating the need for new distractions so numerous in this age.

Stern Hosts Torah Activities

But this interpretation of the laws is not why Jews keep them. "Today we are concerned with observing these laws in a purely religious context," he stated. The laws wouldn't be carried out if their cause and effect weren't religious.

A question and answer period followed. Among other questions, Rabbi Jakobovits answered why Ben Azai, a great scholar never married. "There is a din (law) that if a person has such a longing for Torah he is not bound by the first mitzvah of procreation; he does not marry."

Kashrut

On Monday evening, May 10, Torah Campus held its last lecture. Rabbi Raphael Weinberg addressed a small, but interested audience on the subject of Kashrut.

He began by explaining the term Chok: not a law for which there is no reason, but a law for which no reason was given to us by the Torah. Kashrut is such a chok. The only hint of explanation that the Torah gives us is the statement "Kedoshim T'hyu" which is always mentioned close to the laws of Kashrut. In other words we believe that Kashrut is connected with Kedushah in some way. But as for logical explanations of Kashrut and its connection with Kedushah, we have only theories which may or may not be correct.

Rabbi Weinberg then presented two such theories — one from ancient Hellenistic times, and the other, a comparatively modern theory. The ancient explanation suggested that the animals that we are permitted to eat are those with domesticable traits, and G-d made them permissible so that we should emulate their desirable characteristics. The forbidden ones are mostly beasts of prey and are not permissible in order to prevent our emulating their undesirable traits. The modern theory states that certain animals are forbidden because of health hazards. Rabbi Weinberg explained the danger of applying human reasoning to a chok such as Kashrut, as such reason may one day become out-of-date, and stressed the fact that the reasons we give are merely theories.

He then elaborated on the concept of Hachra-ach — decision — which means that it is up to the Mashgiach to decide whether a properly slaughtered animal is kosher or not, if some sort of blemish is discovered on the animal. There is no black-and-white in these matters, merely some basic guidelines. The term Hachra-ach is connected with the terms Glatt-Kosher and Non Glatt-Kosher which differ in that Glatt-Kosher allows no room for Hachra-ach, while "non-Glatt" accepts Hachra-ach if a decision is necessary, and will use meat that is judged to be kosher.

Rabbi Weinberg concluded his informative lecture by mentioning the modern problems of Kashrut, such as when is a Hechsher needed for a product. This touched off a lively question-and-answer period during which many questions pertaining to Kashrut were asked and answered.

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Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 4)
indifference which apparently reigns supreme at Stern. Time and time again we are riled by student leaders who plead for co-operation and support. But time and time again, we sit idly by and shrug off the burden responsibility to those few girls who along with the administration and several faculty members work together for a better school.

One need only look at the recent Student Council elections to find ample proof of the devil-may-care attitude which plagues Stern. Why, we ask, in a total enrollment of 9,000, were only 900 eligible to run for office? And why out of those 900, did three positions go unchallenged? Can it be that so few care to involve themselves? If this be the case, then we seriously question the decision of nearly 900 girls who chose to come to Stern. Were they all misled? Where they deceived?

In the midst of this apathy, there was a handful of girls who DID work diligently for the betterment of the School — the outgoing Student Council. To these individuals, especially Mrs. Sue Koss, president, we extend a personal note of thanks.

After all that has been said on disunity and student passiveness throughout the year, we hope that many more girls have been awakened from their slumber and lethargy and will begin taking an active part in school affairs. Stern has much to offer us. We have much to offer Stern.

Suzi Schustek
Nancy Cohn

Religious Irresponsibility

Dear Editor:

Talk, these days, profusely runs on about the Religious Problem has been dubbed "religious apathy," "lack of commitment," "want of inspiration," and a barrage of other titles.

To correctly define the problem may be the best approach. While sitting in Religious Studies classes we cannot help but notice a blatant disrespect on the part of many toward the subject matter.

The disrespect may exhibit it-

self in sacrificing a lecture on Dinim, for example, for last minute cramming in biology. It may also exhibit itself in coming to Chumash (Bible) class in sleeveless dresses — (not that that should ever be condoned in an orthodox institution. However, since a clear stand on such issues has not been made known, it could be pointed out that students — as individuals could, at least, muster up some outward respect for holy subject matter.)

Th line of demarcation in atmosphere between an R.S. class and a secular one seems barely existent. Each have assignments, term papers, and finals; and those we suppose, offer enough justification for treating one sphere of learning exactly like the other. The motto of Yeshiva University, it is true, is Torah U'madah. But, does that in any way justify the lowering of religious studies to the level of an academic requirement without the least bit of respect reserved for Torah? (Torah as in 'Torah for Torah's sake!')

When we were offered the best of both worlds we unfortunately lost perspective on the infinitely more important.

Judy Benoliel
Shifra Feder

A Fresh Approach

Dear Editor:

The May 12th issue of *The Commentator* reports that a Dialogue was held May, 3rd at Yeshiva University. The dialogue between administrators and a student panel took place in front of large student body of Yeshiva College. Why has there been no such dialogue set up between administrators and Stern College students? The student body at Stern has just as many questions, if not more, to ask of the administration.

From the coverage in *The Commentator*, this dialogue seems to have been, in reality, a monologue on the part of both sides. A real problem at Yeshiva University is that the administration takes very little of what the students say very seriously. (Even though this problem has its part.)

(Continued on page 7, col. 1)

Stern and Columbia Argue Jewish Stand On German Reunification in Forensic Display

At the West Side Jewish Center on Thursday, May 12, Stern and Columbia College debating societies argued an important contemporary issue — Resolve that: American Jews should oppose politically the reunification of Germany. Former Dean of Yeshiva College, Dr. Simon Gutterman, prominent writer and translator Philip Bernbaum, and a vice president of the Camp Morasha Board of Trustees judged the debate before an impressive gathering including synagogue members, a random selection of Miss June Tauber's Speech II students, and — oh yes — Mr. Max Stern. Strongest personal impression — lesson in forensics: a debate can be fought and won on terms of debating procedure alone.

Gilda Schuchalter opened the affirmative argument with background material on the history of a united Germany, that Germany which, during a period of less than 75 years, developed the warped philosophy of the intel-

lectually elite and extended it to execute all the damage an arrogant power-hungry nation could fathom — and more. The information presented was vital; authorities stated that anti-semitism, as inherent in this ideology, could reassume its former force. But authorities base statements on evidence, and the judges wanted evidence.

The primary task of the first affirmative speaker is to define the terms of the debate. The negative team proposed that Miss Schuchalter did not take advantage of that right. The second affirmative asserted that she did — that the negative must first prove the possibility that Germany could be united; the affirmative would then show why we must oppose this unification.

What type of political opposition would then be necessary? — either those organizations the negative offered for use in more necessary causes or through standing by in opposition i.e. retain-

ing the status quo. Why should American Jews be opposed? Reunification promised no possible benefit to Judaism and "We owe them nothing."

Gilda concluded powerfully with an analogy comparing a Germany divided when they reached for too much power to the ancient city of Babel whose builder's were divided by G-d for much the same reason. The over-all speech was quite effective, and the strategy of laying the burden of proof on the negative while the affirmative supported a status quo was interesting and unexpected. Such an approach without adequate proof laid the affirmative open to refutation by clarifying their arguments and extending them, ad absurdum. Thus, the strategy backfired.

The first negative speaker, Gerald Nadler, proceeded to define the terms of the debate. Opposition, he maintained, must take the form of a definite plan of action. He then conceded to the affirmative the unlikelihood that Germany would ever be unified. Any waste of political or financial resources to oppose a "phantom threat" would do nothing but harm Judaism by removing limited resources from more important areas.

He added further that a reunified Germany would not be strong enough to do harm since both are dependent on allies for military and economic strength. Alone, united Germany would be weakened and West Germany crippled by the addition of the less powerful East. As opposition on purely vengeful terms would be "un-Jewish", the affirmative would have to establish a real fear of a united Germany — by facts.

(Continued on page 8, col. 3)

Spenciner, Laufer, Ramras Fink, and Others

(Continued from page 1, col. 1)

pence between Stern and other colleges to learn of their activities and student response in comparison with those at Stern. As Editorial Assistant, Gilda Schuchalter will suggest and distribute topics for editorials, which will be voted upon by the editorial staff.

During the coming season, the *Observer* will deal with the recurring theme of SYNTHESIS. Each issue will contain an article based on this topic, to acquaint the Yeshiva student with the meaning of synthesis, its application, etc.

Journalism courses may be offered to inform the newspaper staff of the procedures and techniques involved in putting out a newspaper. If sufficient material and facilities will be available, other students who are interested will be welcomed. The courses should benefit students, who are actively involved in newspaper work and are considering journalism as a possible profession.

The remaining Editorial Board will consist of Esther Spenciner-Associate Editor; Sylvia Laufer and Chia Ramras - Managing Editors; Faye Greenfield and Miriam Fink - Feature Editors; Miriam Josowitz - News Editor; Marlene Glassman - Copy Editor; Sue Amin - Assistant Copy Feature; Arline Malman and Jeri Smulevitz - Typing Editors; Vivian Singer - Business Manager; and Jeanne Litvin - Photography Editor.

Mazel Tov

Engaged

Barbara Schacknow '67 to Howard Piolet
Jane Scheiman '68 to Judah Abramovitz
Tzivia Rosen '68 to Bruno Beiler

Married

Sheryl Ashenberg '68 to Michael Cooper

Course Changes

An article in the last issue of the *Observer* mentioned some changes in the Hebrew courses on the C and D levels. What is planned is an attempt to lighten some of the load of papers and exams. Some courses will be more concentrated, while others will be expanded. For example, a course that is now a two-credit course for two terms, may become a three-credit course for two terms. When these changes have taken place, the students will be taking the same number of credits as they ordinarily would, but few subjects, resulting in fewer tests and papers per term.

Some changes in the Hebrew requirements on the C and D levels (non B.R.E.) are to be put into effect. However, this will be done with regard to the official class of the students, and none will be unable to graduate only because of the changes in requirements.

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Myth of Student Apathy Exploded As Huge Gathering Turns Out to Hear Viet Nam Debate

(Continued from page 1, col. 4)
five minutes to outline his points with a short period of questions for the audience afterwards. Mr. Sandsbury commenced the evening with an argument supporting intervention in Viet Nam. He strengthened his position giving a short historical resume of situations in which treaties were made pertaining to Viet Nam. He concluded by saying, "The United States by treaty, agreement, and invitation is legally and morally there to help stamp out the invasion."

The next speaker was Mr. Levey who delivered a spirited talk of overwhelming commitment to self-determination for Viet Nameese people. He emphasized quite movingly the plight of the Vietnamese people caught up in the terrible war in which they stand to gain nothing from our intervention.

The graphic description of

America's violation of the Geneva conference in which he described the effects of napalm, lethal and non-lethal gases and other nauseating techniques used in the war shocked the audience. He concluded using the words of Oliver Cromwell in a pathetic plea to the affirmative team — "Consider you may be mistaken!"

The last speaker for the affirmative team, Mr. Chris Emet, gave a lengthy rebuttal of Mr. Levey's (pronounced Lee-vee) points in which he attempted to show the misrepresentation of facts reported in newspapers, notably, *The New York Times*. Very interesting was Mr. Emet's account of his personal experiences with Diem when he (Diem) was just a penniless immigrant in this country and very much misunderstood.

Rabbi Levine, concluded the program by speaking of the re-



Mr. Jules Levey at Viet Nam debate with Mr. Chris Emet and John Sandsbury. Not shown is Rabbi Howard Levine.

ligious and normal aspect of the war. He emphasized the necessity of free discussion from all points of view in reaction to a certain petition recently presented by a few misguided individuals in Washington. He stated that such

an action was against the foundation of democracy as well as contrary to orthodox Jewish beliefs.

Reva Weinreb, a most diplomatic mistress of ceremonies, directed the question and answer period after the speakers' presentations. A most stimulating, animated discussion ensued. Many of the students showed a great desire for more activities of a similar nature.

Refuah Shelemah
Nina Leichtman
Ida Slivko

Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 6)
all at other universities and colleges, this does not make it right at Yeshiva University.)

Next year more dialogue should take place between the administration and students at both Yeshiva College and Stern College. In addition, both sides should go into the meetings with sincerity and open-minds. Not only should dialogues take place

between the administrators, but, also, heads of the religious departments within the University should set up similar sincere and open-minded dialogues. There is no doubt on the part of most students within Yeshiva and Stern College that questions exist concerning YU's responsibility in the area of student behavior, both on and off the campus in addition to many more problems yet

to be dealt with. Problems that are constantly pushed under the rug can never be solved and in the end will only become more serious.

Several of the answers that were given at the Dialogue seem to have been ways of pushing-off the questions. For instance, in **The Commentator** it is reported that Dean Bacon stated that Yeshiva College is a first rate institution. Ask most instructors and students at Stern and Yeshiva this question. They will disagree! Although there are many positive areas in both schools, there are more unsolved problems.

Though Mr. Hartstein said that the term **synthesis** may not have been used in the University policy for the last ten years, and Dean Bacon said that **synthesis** is a meaningless word, their approach does not deal with the many problems which the word **synthesis** connotes at Yeshiva University. Even though the problem is improperly labeled (and I do not know what to label it, since, realistically, problems of this magnitude cannot be easily pigeon-holed into a name), it has to be dealt with.

Mr. Hartstein's answer that Yeshiva University is **first and foremost a University**, makes one ask: Then, why have a Yeshiva in the University? From trying to judge the attitude of most Yeshiva College and Stern College students, I think that they feel Yeshiva University should be first and foremost a Yeshiva. Either viewpoint leaves the student and others connected with Yeshiva University many problems which should be dealt with.

Dean Mirsky's reply seems to leave much desired. One can serve the community in many ways and on many levels. Although acceptance of large numbers of students might partially fulfill the wishes of many applicants who wish to attend Yeshiva College or Stern College, this in the end result, might give an education that is poor in quality not only to meet the student's personal needs but also to serve their communities. Quantity if not dealt with properly can obviolate any quality.

Matters of finance also hit the pockets of Stern College students. Students should not feel content with Mr. Socol's answers for his answers do not solve students' personal worries about financial matters or eliminate the fact that students will be paying more while they will have to push through crowded narrow hallways and eat in an over-crowded cafeteria.

(Continued on page 8, col. 2)

Student Council Gathers In Tel-Aviv for Dinner

On Thursday, May 12, almost 20 incoming and outgoing class and Student Council officers gathered in the Tel-Aviv Restaurant on East Broadway for the second annual Student Council dinner.

Rochel Sperling toasted the new officers with hopes for a successful year. Debbie Wiener and Ruth and Susan Amin read original poem (at least they called it poetry!) about the incoming and

outgoing executive board members. At the highlight of the dinner, Rachel Vitsick presented outgoing President Sue Koss with a beautiful gold charm, in the shape of a gavel, on behalf of the Student Council members.

Rochel expressed the hope that the third annual dinner be held in the Tel-Aviv on the other side of the ocean.

Koss's Acknowledgement

(Continued from page 5)

ciated and I (and Saul) will NEVER forget their (and Zelda's) Sunday morning lox breakfast, Shani Cohen and Esther Spenciner also helped out a great deal with their bulletin boardship. Joanne Hoffman did a beautiful job in preparing our scrapbook.

There were many girls involved in preparing for the adoption of Beit Olot, our Tzedakah project, and we're indebted to them for their research and hard work. Because of their endeavors, we've been able to support four girls a month and endow our students with the true feeling of **Tzedakah**. Arline Malman and her various co-chairman did a splendid job!

I appreciate everyone's help and suggestions. Without these essentials, I would have been at a total loss. It goes without saying that my fellow officers were of a tremendous help to me. Although Rachel's head was in the clouds, she always found it possible to come down and be of service to all. She relayed passages to me from the dorm and kept everything under control. Susie Amin never had to be told what to do—her initiative was always there first, and if there was an instance when she was asked to do something, she did it quickly and efficiently. Zelda straightened out the messy situation of the books and managed them as if she were an expert. Not a penny went out without her scrupulous approval. She too was indubitably beneficial to me. Her advice

Outgoing Officers of Student Council

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Sue Koss
Rachel Vitsick
Susan Amin
Zelda Badner

always was apropos—and her sensible approach served as a good balance for me.

The class officers were faithful Student Council attendees and rarely needed prompting to fulfill their duties. There are many other people who have been of service to me, too many to mention but thank you all. I hope that they are aware of their valuable assistance and will always continue to do those little things in the background for which they don't get recognition—but a great deal of appreciation.

One person who never made himself known but who was very free with his encouragement, and criticism, is Saul. I can never sufficiently thank him for allowing me to accept the presidency and for being so great.

I value the friendships which I've made this year and wish that they'll be continued—I'll answer all letters (and even send stamps for those collectors.)

I don't consider this a goodbye, but merely a **L'hitaot**. Student Council is in the best possible hands. Rochel has all the necessary qualifications—and more. We have always discussed the problems facing Stern, the **OBSERVER**, and Student Council. She is the first president in a long time to be so well prepared. Her board worked closely with the Council and will put their experience to good use.

I do not feel immense relief in being finished for I have not been burdened or disappointed by our activities and I've enjoyed this year to the utmost. It's funny to think that I shall be graduating and leaving but I'm taking such great memories with me that I'll stay on them for three years and by the time I return, I'll be the new building will be up and our striving will be lost in greater ones—but they'll not be forgotten, for all we do is a stepping stone for bigger and better things. We must never stop striving nor be dismayed by the abundance of work to be done for it's not for us to finish the work. . . .

Example of the New Frontier Seen in Post Election Spirit

As candidates for class offices addressed their audiences on Wednesday May 11, the word apathy appeared in every speech. Everyone admitted that this past school year produced a great number of disinterested students.

On Wednesday evening some girls decided that they would combat the cancerous apathetic

feeling. To celebrate some of the election victories, a party was held with all candidates and their friends. Instead of looking back on the past year, many suggestions were made for enriching the academic and social life of every student. The festivities included the singing of old camp

(Continued on page 8, col. 5)

La Plume de Lewin

200th Birthday of Mme. de Stael; Advocate of Feminine Mystique

THIS year, which is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mme. de Stael the famous precursor, along with Chateaubriand, of Romanticism, is time for a re-evaluation and assessment of her work so long ignored. There are a few important reasons why this famous writer and personality so neglected today and in understanding them, the way will be paved for a greater appreciation of her genius.



Eva Lewin

Germaine Necker, the daughter of a school teacher and the minister of Finance to the French king, possessed a great deal too much intelligence for a woman of that day, plus too much pride and frankness which often prevented a lack of tact and modesty. She also possessed a nervous and grandular disorder which caused her demise at the age of 51.

Her mother planned a marriage for her with William Pitt, future Prime Minister of England, which would have buttressed her father's failing prestige and strengthened the alliance between France and Britain, but Germaine, then 17 decided against it as she refused to go to a foreign country where she could not distinguish herself. She consented to marry the 37 year old Swedish baron Eric de Stael on condition that he be made ambassador to France. The marriage however was a miserable failure, and Germaine fell in love with Narbonne whom she felt could help her reestablish her father as minister, save the throne, the revolution and France. He became minister of war, but despite this, had to flee with the advent of the Terror.

Though he was the father of her sons, the relationship was not a success and Germaine set out again to find a man who would dominate but also worship her. She decided that France and the Revolution could be saved through a marriage with Napoleon, but though she adored great heroes, he

despised intelligent women. She realized he did not care for her but nevertheless did not give up hope, enregistering the writer Benjamin Constant as her ally against him. She didn't love Constant but his wit and intellect complemented her own. Germaine was conscious of her faults but could not control them, and was aware all her life that she was not attractive to the men she loved. She followed Napoleon's army through Russia, fearing arrest, and returned to the France of Louis XVIII through England. When her daughter was made a Duchess at Pisa in 1816, Mme. de Stael disappeared from the worldly scene, leaving behind her fame and her works, including two novels, which had aroused the excitement of Europe.

The works of Mme. de Stael with their colour, spirit, and movement, reveal a picture of the customs and history of Bonaparte's time. One of the reasons they are so little read today is because to really understand and appreciate them, one has to first understand and sympathize with the personality of their author. Her descendants are also to blame for her lack of popularity, for they sought to guard their respectability by modifying the stories of the tumultuous adventures of their famous ancestor. Lastly, the wars also did their share in establishing the unpopularity of her works as she was condemned, from the title of a book, for being in sympathy with the Germans. After 200 years, it is time for these misunderstandings to be cleared up and for the fame and renown which Mme. de Stael rightfully deserves to be restored to her.

Observer Holds Second Annual Dinner; Staff Honors Rabbi Jacob Rabinowitz

On Monday night, May 16th, the inveterate survivors of the **Observer** staff for 1965-66 met at the Tel-Aviv restaurant for the second annual **Observer** dinner. Some twenty girls, editors, reporters, and typists, all assem-

bled to honor Rabbi Jacob Rabinowitz, our advisor, who has been promoted to a new position uptown.

Rochel Sperling, the outgoing editor-in-chief, presented Rabbi Rabinowitz with a desk set, a

small token of our appreciation for his efforts in behalf of the **Observer**. She then introduced the incoming editor-in-chief, Rivkah Landesman, who has served as copy editor this year. Rivkah had a small presentation to make herself. On behalf of the **Observer** staff, she gave Rochel a lovely and decorative pin for her untiring efforts to make the 1965-66 **Observer** the best ever in the history of Stern College. Thank you, Rochel! and Rabbi Rabinowitz.

(Continued on page 3, col. 2)

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Befuddled Browser Gets Books

I recently spent an afternoon browsing through the Rare and Never Yet Published Manuscript and Book Shelf of the SCW library. I had gotten lost among the shelves upon shelves of open stacks and was trying to find my way out when I noticed the title "A Guide to Finding Your Way Through Modern Mesopotamian Astronomy." This led me to discover some of the volumes that were helping to hold it up. Filled with awe for these priceless volumes, I took a few of them down, and with the greatest of care, began turning the yellowed pages.

(I later learned that while the books were now rare, they would soon be medium, and eventually, well done.)

In fairly good condition was an unabridged version of *Things My Mother Never Taught Me or You, Too, Can Live With House-mothers*. The novel is an autobiographical account of a girl in her nicotene and how she smokes her way through college. As girl becomes woman, Mona learns never to speak to strangers unless they offer to escort her back to the dorm after 9:30 p.m. She also learns through trial and

error that the cantaloupe is a vegetable and, as such, cannot be kept in any of the refrigerators in her dorm (because refrigerators are for FRUITS ONLY). The heroine then goes on to stage a protest for equal rights to cantaloupes which also attracts a few marchers who, having no better choice since both elevators are stuck on the ninth floor, march. The author (since this is an autobiography, that makes it Mona) lashes out at the pacifists who scorn the demonstration and yet passionately demand utopias where cantaloupes be given equal standing room with apple, oranges, and such.

The next book I leafed through (and may suggest that you, too, read them in this order?) was non-fiction — *After the Fall I.e. I Knew I Shouldn't Have Left My Shabbos Meal On the Window-Sill*. The first chapter, "The Open Window," deals with how to beat the draft before it beats you, and ten other ways of fighting the common cold. At this point, upon remembering that I had left a bag of cantaloupes next to a very widely-opened window, I ran all the way back to my room.

Letters To The Editor

(Continued from page 7)

It seems as if the problems of the Dean's reception, unlimited cuts, and Biblical Criticism were not looked at objectively. For instance, although unlimited cuts might not be advisable for a first semester freshman, for a second semester senior they might be very practical. This is only just a small part of an idea which should be more objectively discussed.

Throughout this letter I noticed that there was a certain term, dealt with, that I used frequently. This term implies many things and leaves much open. Part of the reason for this is the fact that every problem, issue, and concern on the part of those connected with Yeshiva Univer-

sity cannot be handled in the same way. Confrontation and action (in their various implications) is necessary to be taken on the part of a sincere and open-minded student body and administration concerning the problems. In addition, the faculty, too, should play a role.

Since it is the end of the school year, realistically not much can be done now. During the summer, probably most important is for everyone to evaluate and think about all aspects of Yeshiva University, its problems and its good points, so that when school starts in the fall we should start off immediately with a fresh approach.

A Concerned Student

SSSJ News and Notices: Plan Mass Protest Rally

At Forest Hills Tennis Stadium, on Sunday, May 22, there was a country-wide mass rally in protest to the treatment of Soviet Jewry. A local community's organized effort, the Queen's Council for Soviet Jewry, co-ordinated by Mr. Jacob Birnbaum, is being supported in the protest by leading national and local Jewish organizations. Such personalities as Senator Jacob Javits, Congressman Seymour Halpern, Thurston Davis, editor of *America*, and William Booth, chairman of the New York Commission of Human Rights, spoke. The Zimri Choir, Theodore Bikel and Cantor David Kirszenbaum.

POINTS TO NOTE: It is thought that the mass Matzoh letter writing campaign was a significant factor in enabling almost any Jew in the Soviet Union to obtain this Passover. This marks a lifting of many of the restrictions which have been imposed on the availability of matzoh in the Soviet Union since 1957.

In contrast to the preceding, recently Dr. Eric Goldhagen, director of Eastern European affairs in the State Dept., said that Birnbaum, who called the Jewish autonomous region, and recently had a Yiddish newspaper which printed to the party's dictates. This last trace of a Yiddish newspaper is no longer in print.

Montreal will have a protest rally at the end of the month for Soviet Jewry. Around the same time Soviet Heimland's editor, Aaron Vergals, a mouthpiece of official Soviet apology, will be in Montreal.

Sunday, May 8th, Jewish college students bearing thousands of petitions marched to the So-

viet embassy in London. Recently, the SSSJ group in Montreal gave a letter of protest over anti-semitism in the Soviet Union to the Captain of the Soviet passenger-liner, Alexander Pushkin.

A new handbook on Soviet Jewry will be distributed to camps. During the summer several country-wide demonstrations will take place. Projected plans for the call for thousands of youths to gather in singing and dancing outside several New York synagogues during Simhat Torah. It is hoped that this will parallel the actions of the thousands of Jewish youth in Russia who gathered last year at the Moscow synagogue during Simhat Torah. A large Chanukah demonstration is also planned for New York.

During the summer months, as well as the rest of the year, it is important for us to be aware of the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Tel Aviv . . .

(Continued from page 7)

witz and hatzlacha rabah to you. The evening followed with songs, the school alma mater, songs from past class sings, and the uniting force or "friends" sung in a friendship circle.

The extravagant menu included caviar, anchovies, herring, sour cream, and crackers. A few brave souls ventured over to a local restaurant for an early breakfast the next morning.

This was just the start of a new frontier in developing each student's potential in a spirited atmosphere. The promising platforms of the upcoming candidates can only come to fruition with the help of interested students.

Dr. Liebman Explicates Barriers in Judaism

The Walls Within was the topic discussed by Dr. Charles Liebman, professor of political science at Yeshiva College, on Sunday, May 1, at the last of the YC-SCW lecture series.

Dr. Liebman spoke primarily of the barrier that exists between Orthodox and Conservative Judaism. This barrier developed, Dr. Liebman stated, as a result of the renewed confidence held by Orthodox Jews in the survival of Orthodox Judaism as opposed to the confidence of the Conservative movement in being the largest

and strongest Jewish group in the United States today.

In the course of the lecture Dr. Liebman expressed his opinion that unless we compromise our principles and concepts of Judaism there is little hope for the survival of the Jewish American community. He then added, that by compromising, Judaism will of course be defeated.

Appreciation is extended to Dr. Charles Liebman for his efforts to discuss this most complex subject.

Rabbi Levine Speaks Out On Lashon Hara at Torah Campus



Rabbi H. Levine

Lashon Ha Rah, was the subject matter discussed by Rabbi Howard Levine on Thursday, May

5, as part of the Torah Campus lecture series.

Rabbi Levine stressed that a wrong committed by word of mouth is worse than that by deed. In Judaism, it was said, a human being is viewed by his speech, thought and action. Speech is first and foremost, for of all human organs, most significant in developing character and attitude is the organ of speech. Speech is a purer expression of evil than thought of action. By ridding the influence of Lashon Ha Rah from our midst we eliminate evil doings and achieve a real life, a life of Torah and goodness.

Many thanks to Rabbi Levine for his most informative talk.

Debate . . .

(Continued from page 6)

Ether Spencer, second affirmative speaker, reiterated the fact that since reunification of Germany is infeasible, Jews can not oppose German reunification. She quoted famous historians who felt that aggression was inherent in the German ideology, and that the possibility of another Nazi Germany was not inconceivable. Eventually, this fast-growing military nation could assume the oversized proportions it had twenty years ago and perhaps start another World War as it had started the last two.

Richard Morris of Columbia backed up the first negative charge that Stern had not fulfilled the duties of the affirmative team. Mr. Morris showed that since reunification was improbable for the near future, American Jews should not waste their time on opposing this action, but rather, should devote their time, money, and effort to more worthwhile causes such as helping Soviet Jewry.

A spirited rebuttal followed.

Exotic Potpourri On Third Avenue

In all modesty there is no one in this country who has an assortment such as we do.

Anyone who has spent time browsing in The House of Davian, 489 Third Avenue will confirm these words of Mr. Tzvi Wachtel, known incorrectly to some as Mr. Davian. Actually Davian is a contraction of David-Ann, who are,

in the words of a proud father, honor students at the Yeshiva of Central Queens.

While wandering amidst exotic articles ranging from fabrics of Greece and India to Danish woodcuts, this writer had the privilege to become acquainted with Mr. Wachtel, proprietor of The House of Davian.

The House of Davian was created in November, 1963, as an experiment of Mr. Wachtel, then a wholesale importer who represented his artist-wife. Since then he has hand-picked each item he sells from thirty-two countries, including Israel, Italy, Spain, and India, to mention a few that come to mind.

An Israeli since the age of three he visits his native land twice a year on a combination business-pleasure trip. The latest craze he picked up there is represented at The House of Davian by a fascinating, extensive assortment of Yemenite jewelry.

Defying the possibility of sounding like an advertisement, this writer challenges all to visit The House of Davian without leaving bedecked in an Oriental straw hat with a colorful, paper-mache piggy-bank tucked under one arm.



Mrs. Sabina Shmidman, onetime Aishel recipient, awards same to Rochel Sperling at recent assembly.

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