

the observer

Volume 12 - No. 2

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF STERN COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

BIRTH OF A BUILDING

floors of reinforced concrete have risen next to Stern College.

The four million dollar classroom building, soon to be covered brick and stainless steel, should be completed by late April or May, 1970. Classes will begin meeting in the building immediately to allow renovation of the present building into laboratories. Minor changes to prepare for new plumbing and wiring systems in the current structure are already

underway.

In addition to classrooms, the building will provide additional library space, recreational facilities, and a new cafeteria to be joined to the original building by a walkway.



June 7, 1969

And Aid Reduced

when they received the notification of their financial assistance package from the Office of Student Finances. With the tuition increase students depended upon an increase in aid to alleviate the added burden. In actuality, money fund However, the increase was not great enough to compensate the entire tuition rise.

portunity Grant Program, the only outright scholarship offered by 'ederal government, decreased available funds. Eligibility for this program was tightened, eliminatcertain students who relied

Reevaluation of the National Defense Student Loan Program resulted in smaller appropriations to most universities. More stringent eligibility requirements have been added as well. A student whose family earns a yearly income above \$10,000 in most cases will no longer be considered.

Besides direct allotments, the

deficiency in government aid affects the work study program. The



Stern College has taken a stand on the Vietnam Moratorium. The Student Council has announced its participation in the nationwide effort to shut down regular activities to revive a broad-based anti-war movement.

The October 15 moratorium is to be a nonviolent protest against the war in Vietnam to inform Pres. Nixon of the will of the ington, is a call for national antiwar action one day in October, two days in November, three days in December and so forth until the war is ended. The call has been signed by 500 college student body presidents and campus newspaper editors at hundreds of campuses. The call is now being distributed to business, professional and community groups for sup-

DEAN MIRSKY REVAMPS J.S.

have blown through the Judaic studies department over the summer, sweeping in many innovations and improvements. The revamping of the department, as announced by Dean David Mirsky, has brought about changes in the levels of study, the departmental structure, and course requirements.

Incoming freshmen are being programmed this year on three levels E, or elementary, is comparable to the A and lower B levels; I, or intermediate, has re-placed the rest of the B level and most of C; and H, or high, is the equivalent of upper C and all D levels. The A, B, C, D, system remains in effect for all upperclassmen and the new grouping is limited only to freshmen. However, many courses have combined the new and old systems. For instance, Advanced Hebrew Grammar and Composition is open to sophomore D and freshman H.

Students may not recognize the JS courses they took last semester because they have changed their names over the summer to Philo courses numbered over 70. Bible courses are now listed in the department numbered 0. Jewish history has Hebrew above 70, merged with the history department (above 70) and RS 51 has become Sociology 70. This regrouping of all religious studies courses

offered at Stern has simplified not only the course listing, but has facilitated the assignment of B.A. credits to all courses. All courses, including those in the philosophy department can now be counted toward the B.A. at the option of the student

Along with extended B.A. "credit-ability," equality has arrived at Stern The distribution of requirements in Hebrew language, literature, history, and culture nec-essary for the bachelors degree have been standardized for all students regardless of level, Each student must take six semester courses in the field of Hebrew language and medieval and modliterature, with expanded choice in conversation and composition. Four semester courses in Philo above 70 are included in the new requirements, as is the newly credited (one credit) Sociology 70.

This total of 17 courses ordinarily nets a student 49 credits, 45 of which may be credited toward the bachelors degree. Six additional credits in Hebrew, Jewish philosophy or history, for a total of 55, must be taken to qualify for grad-

These requirements do not apply to seniors, but juniors and sophomores are expected to adhere to the new specifications unless they notify the Office of the Registrar

At many colleges, students will boycott classes, and teach-ins and seminars will be held. At Stern, Professors Gruber and Goldstein and Mr. Pollack have distributed literature about the moratorium and have decided that all history clarge will be devoted to discussions of the problems that the war has created and possible solutions. Club Hour, 2:15-3:15, in the auditorium, will be an open forum led by Professor Marvin Gettleman, editor of the docum history Vietnam, who will discuss the history of the war.

Stern College students whose classes have been cancelled are urged to meet in the auditorium for discussion during the class period.

Events at Yeshiva University begin at 3:00 with Vietnam seminars in 501 Furst Hall, led by Dr. Greenburg, Dr. Simon, and Weinburg. Participants will then move to Bryant Park, 42nd St. and 6th Ave. to join the city wide rally. At 8:30, Rav Aharon Lichtenstein will give a closing address at Furst Hall,

Not only students but business establishments plan to participate in the Vietnam protest. For example the Paris Theater, currently featuring the movie "Oh What A Lovely War" directed by Richard Atenborough. plans free showings all day.

According to The Village Voice, there will be rallies at noon on Park Avenue and Wall Street. The 4:30 p.m. rally in Bryant Park will be addressed by Eugene McCarthy and John Lindsay.

Memorial Service and the reading of the war dead will take place in Penn Station, Grand Central and in front of Trinity Church. Church bells will be rung hourly and an evening candlelight rally will be held in Washington Square Park as well as in other city parks. College students will canvass door to door for support throughout the

Tuition Increased

In addition, the Educational Opupon this source of aid in the past.

government provides 80% of the funds for the program.

tenance workers voted in May to join Local 1199 of the Hospital Workers. Shortly after classes ended in June, the University eninto a contract with the union. Provisions of the two year Many students were dismayed contract include across the board salary increases of at least eight percent, 40 hour minimum work week for maintenance help with 35 hours for clerical workers, three to four week vacation periods, six legal holidays plus eight paid "free days," medical benefits, and added to the scholarship severance pay.

Higher labor costs coupled with

rising food prices have also affected the cafeteria budget. The attempted to reduce operating expenses by limiting the number of cafeteria employees and using paper plates for breakfast In addition, 'prices on many items, particularly meat dishes, soda, and cake were raised to provide greater income. For the first time, there will be a fifty cent charge for shalosh seudot. The price of the other Shabbat meals has been raised from \$3.75 to \$4.00.

October 7, 1969

Services Cut

Here are comforting words for

all new and used Stern dormers

who viewed with horror the spec-

tor of unmade beds and dirty

rooms upon their return to school

There will be maid service this year, but only once a week. The

maids will do their usual jobs of

sweeping, cleaning, and changing

linens. Only five women will be

handling the jobs that eleven

The cut in service resulted from

the unionization of all maintenance

employees. The non-teaching pro-

fessional staff as well as the main-

maids held last year.

The new price list should not increase the average student's weekly expenses by more than two or three dollars. In the event that many students are unable cope with the higher prices, the cafeteria budget will be reviewed to find other methods to reduce

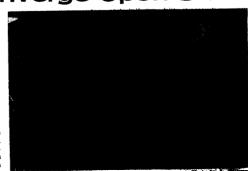
Frosh Converge Upon Stern

Orientation: To accomplish the formal procedures of academia, to set' an informal atmosphere of familiarity. Is a synthesis possible?

With convergence of freshmen beneath the "50 East 34th Street" awning and the reactivation of the elevators to their twenty-floor potential, coordination was led upperclassmen in the role of Big Sisters. The chairman of activities for three consecutive years, Alice Lautman, combined

An opening meeting of students and council is not an unexpected orientation event. The novel impact of this activity, however, was in its ultimate goal. Rather than present a formal convocation, this meeting effected an informal, yet

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)



Mrs. Jenny Giges, director of the dorinitary, gives freshmen their assignments on the first January.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, STERN?



Organized freshmen convocations were among the greatest accomplishments of this year's orientation chairmen, Alice Lautman, Sandy Listernick, and Karen Mirsky. At the opening session Tuesday night, October 7, students entered the auditorium and immediately found seats with name cards attached. Speeches were kept short and aimed at special problems encountered by freshmen in adjusting to life on Stern's campus, the city of New York. The usual orientation folder distributed at the opening meeting was supplemented this year by additional folders on tourist attractions and a freshman directory.

TRADITION

Chaos - a condition of utter disorder and confusion, e.g., Stern College registration. Annually almost traditionally. The Observer voices its criticisms of registration day. This year, let us break with this tradition of mere criticism, by adding to it some constructive advice, with the hope that Stern College will in turn break with its tradition of chaotic registration days. On one hand, the registration aides really deserve much praise for a job well done. Yet, despite their efforts registration was, as usual, a chaotic turmoil.

Firstly, registering freshmen before seniors is a ridiculous policy. Without a doubt, upperclassmen should have priority so they are not closed out of courses by incoming underclassmen. Also, the decision to let freshmen indicate their choice of courses and then have the office present them with a schedule was excellent. Unfortunately, the freshmen did not realize that they were expected to take the courses they pre-registered for over the sum-

Secondly, the half hour alloted to each section was certainly not sufficient. We suggest that in the future, more time be allocated to each class to complete registration. This will eliminate long lines and needless waiting, which caused much of the chaos

Thirdly, the system of pre-registration for upperclassmen must be reinstated. Those who were lucky received the schedule of courses in the mail a week before registration; those who were not, never received it. By pre-registering, students will have the time needed to plan an intelligible schedule instead of having to make all the decisions, under pressure, on registration day.

Lastly, although the staff was quite efficient, and the innovation of "runners" excellent, a larger staff at the final stage of registration could have eliminated long lines of impatient registrants:

In conclusion, registration does not have to be the trauma that it traditionally is!

AEBICHD?

The Observer would like to commend Dean Mirsky upon the realization of greatly needed innovations in the Judaic studies program. In a former area of deficiency, this breakthrough marks a refinement in program implementation and course content.

With the simplification of four comprehensive Hebrew levels to the present three divisions (Elementary, Intermediate, and High), ambiguity in freshman placement is significantly reduced. The variation and flexibility of course offerings shows foresight in the provision for individual needs within each level as well.

Nevertheless, we feel that the present format reveals certain glaring errors. Does the single course designation of Hebrew 5, 6, "In-termediate Grammar and Composition" for levels Junior B, Sophomore B and Freshman I, imply that no progress is expected on the B level from Sophomore to Junior year? Does the combination of Freshman E with Junior in Hebrew 03.1, "Elementary Grammar and Composition" presuppose that after three years a student has gained no further comprehension than an incoming student on the elementary level? Again, coordination of Freshman I, H and Sophomore A, B in Philo 73, "Introduction to Jewish Law," forewarns conflict. A freshman with a thorough yeshiva background certainly is on a more advanced level than a second year student who turns to Jewish law with a weak foundation.

A prediction of success cannot be made until the individuals of each class have proven or disproven congruity by the results of class sessions. We look forward to increased sensitivity by teachers and administrators in reviewing carefully the new system before next semester and revising it where necessary.

Prince George to '74

By MERYLE CHERRICK

"They don't honestly expect us to concentrate in class with all that noise from the building next door, do they? asks a freshman.
"I can't believe the new building is finally underway. The racket

they're making is the most reassuring noise I've ever heard," a senior exclaims.

Groundbreaking for the new classroom building took place only months ago, and already there are 201 students who can take it for granted.

Perhaps those who joined the struggle to make the building a reality are initially inclined to condemn this lack of appreciation. This cannot be our only response. How much has been achieved over the past three years that we now take for granted? Does anyone over imagine what life at the Prince George Hotel was like? Or does_any_ one stop to remember the times when everyone had to sign in at the dorm at 7:30 and again at 10:30? Recall the days of limited cuts when absences were restricted to the number of hours the class met per week. Then, there were the days before the the pass-no credit option when students ignored excellent courses because the teacher was reputed to be a hard marker.

Perhaps we all take a lot for granted. We often forget the original problem, but the solution becomes an accepted part of student life. Each innovation thus achieved brings the college to a higher degree of excellence.

The constant influx of new students who ask not "What have you done?" but "What are you doing now?" makes it impossible to be content with past achievements.

Better facilities and liberalized regulations can reduce the sense of confinement, both physical and intellectual, that students often complained of in the past. But eliminating negative aspects of college life is not enough. Positive action must also be taken.

Students can never achieve a sense of intellectual liberty as long as they receive exact letter grades for almost all courses. "Better to memorize the lecture notes verbatim and get an A than to try some independent thinking and risk getting a C" the saying goes. The impracticality of a system based on the premise that certain responses are definitely correct while others are entirely wrong was widely discussed last year by students and administrators. The Observer reported modifications of the four point system already in effect at other universities, and the faculty invited Mr. John A. Valentine of the College Entrance Examination Board to speak about innovations in marking systems. But the issue was laid to rest for the summer. We must immediately revive interest in finding an accurate means of measuring a student's accomplishments.

At present, requirements in areas other than Hebrew or Judaic studies are too specific. The student must take a survey of English literature rather than an American lit course; she must take Western civilization rather than American history; and Philo 5-6, rather than any other general philosophy course. Besides allowing the student no choice in these areas, this policy also increases the chances of closed courses at registration. Just as requirements in Jewish history or philosophy are now stated in terms of number of semesters rather than specific courses so should the requirements in all other departments allow a choice of courses.

Stern women have always complained of a lack of courses in their specific areas of interest. New classes are not always the solu-tion because there are seldom enough students with identical interests to warrant them. Courses like the new Chemistry 30 program can be a perfect answer. In this case, students receive three credits for completing an independent research project and reporting on their progress at regular conferences with an instructor. Any department, even non-majorials such as art or music, could sponsor such a course provided at least one student and one professor express interest in a mutually rewarding experience

Seminar courses with long reading lists or individual study projects cannot be successful unless students have access to excellent library facilities. It has been said before, but apparently warrants repetition, that the Central University Library at 184th and Amsterdam is not in the least centrally located. Until the new building is completed. there is no room at Stern for additional books, but there is room for a duplicate set of cards for every book in the central library. Students a duplicate set of cards for every book in the tentral florary. School find out which books are available, place their request in the library by 10:00 a.m. and have their books brought to them by 3:00 p.m.

Bevisions in the grading system, greater choice in prescribed courses, opportunities for independent study, and improved library facilities must have the support of both students and faculty in the coming year. By the fall of 1970, as the new building nears completion and a new freshman class enters, we must be able to present them with a truly important welcoming gift — the ability to take for granted not only excellent physical facilities but also a superior intellectual

Editor-in-Chief Associate EditorLinda Stern Managing Editor Karen Kaiser News Editor Carmel Friedman Copy Editors Esther Kastrovizky, Judy Rosenkranz Photography EditorLinda Billauer Circulation ManagerJudy Raskas

Class of '73 Arrives

informative interchange between new students and counselors. In-dividual orientation kits preparing freshmen for activities to come were distributed and duties of the

Big Sisters were clarified.

Drama filtered through social as well as academic activities of the week. An evening theater party, as well as an orientation Shabbat skit eveked acclaim. However, registration procedures caused crup-tive complaints. Although pre-registration forms were completed by freshmen early in the summer, a large number felt that they were ill-prepared to plan the final draft of their programs at that time.
Individuals voiced opinions that

explicit clarification of course requirements. The seriousness of this procedure was not understood by all freshmen. While the intention of the administration was to regard the pre-chosen schedules as basi-cally permanent, many students felt that the forms merely gave registrars an approximate idea of the number of course sections needed.

As a climax, the week's events concluded in Washington Heights. Leaders directed freshmen through a tour of Yeshiva College where a social followed. Sunday evening left freshmen oriented in every aspect of Stern life with the excention of attending classes

Traditions Renewed

By HOLLY OTHER

IEd. Note: Holly Quint is Stern juntor spending the year at Hebrew University. She will con-tribute regularly to The Observer in her column on Israeli life.]

The air-conditioned Egged bus rolled over paved roads winding through the mountains. Signs in Hebrew, Arabic, and French pointed the way. A boy in dungarees and a t-shirt turned on the radio and familiar rock and roll music blasted throughout the bus.

Outside, a young boy, barefoot, with a white kefia covering his head, herded his flock of bleating sheep. On foot, he led them through the fields, carefully following markings of stones and

The contrast between the ancient and the modern, between our

group of university students and the barefoot shepherd, was

vious. But, unlike this minor incident, the old and new of Israel

are not always two distinct en-tities. In most areas of Israeli life

the present is simply an overlapping, a continuation, or a re-estab-lishment of a five thousand year

The produce of the land is the

same as described in the Tanach: "eretz chitah u'seorah v'gefen ute'eina v'rimon, eretz zeit shemen u'divash." The fruits and grains are cultivated on the same hills,

and often use the same terraces built by the early Israelites. These are the fields and vineyards from which the miraglim took fruit to

prove to b'nei Yisroel that the land promised them by G-d was fertile

The mountains surrounding Jerusalem are strategically valuable to the State of Israel today, as they

were in the days of King David. Keeping Jerusalem in the center of high mountains was and is of primary military importance. Therefore, as it was necessary for

the earlier commonwealth to capture and retain these hills to pro-

old tradition.

and productive.

tect the holy city, so it is necessary for the modern state to protect its recently captured territory.

Once thousands of Jewish pilgrims journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the shalosh regalim at the Temple. Today, thousands of Jews fill Jerusalem's streets for the Sukkot holiday. Sukkot are built on balconies and venders sell lulavim in Mea Shearim and Machanei Yehuda. Crowds gather at yeshivot to celebrate Simchat Beit Hashoeva and dance near the kotel on Simchat Torah.

The land of Israel is ancient. The state is simply a modernization of the ancient, a religious, military and economic rebirth. She maintains the same glory, the same position in the world and faces the same problems and wars. Is-rael has not, over thousands of years, changed her face.

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Looking Ahead

by MINDY KURLAND

[Ed. Note: The following is an excerpt from a speech Miss Kur-land delivered during Orientation Week. She feels taht the ideas it expressed are meaningful for the entire student body.]

Like the sun and the stars and the man which G-d created at the beginning all of you, too, are in a sense new creatures this week as you take your place on a new stage of your lives — that of your

Stern College experience.

Needless to say, however, your beginnings will be a little more difficult than those of Adam and Eve, since neither Stern College for Women, or the world in which we live, is a Garden of Eden. In our mundane world, as our sages tell us, "Kol hatcholot Kashote" all beginnings are difficult ... but once we are able to overcome these obstacles — the road of life is much smoother. Within the next few weeks you will be faced with the everyday problems of your new Stern College world from academic

adjustments to the communal life of the Stern dormitory.

I cannot be unrealistic, and assure you that you won't have any problems at Stern. Problems are, after all a part of life. Moreover, it is precisely because of this that Student Council is such a vital organization. We must act as your collective voice in expressing, discussing and resolving your problems. The Stern College which all of us demand for the future does not exist to its fullest potential

The future of our school depends a great deal on what you do today and what you want yourselves to be tomorrow. We need all of you. So, when it comes to participating let your voices be heard. Yes, all beginnings are difficult; Stern College is still a young school with many problems. A sense of togetherness is a tool necessary for the progress of an adult institu-tion. Then we can bring to our school the achieved spiritual and intellectual light of an Eden.

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NEW ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Lichtenstein, Shimoff Join Student Service Twersky Regulates Registration BY CXNDI REISS added, "I have no expertise in grad Discussing the freshmen, Mrs. During "Longest Day" Battles

Though Stern College is small in size, the needs of its students equal those of any school. To "ser-vice the needs of the total stuis the job of the Office of Student Services. The vacancy left by the departure of Mrs. Esther Rotenberg has been filled by Mrs. Tovah Lichtenstein, Acting Direc tor, and Mrs. Shirley Shimoff, Assistant to the Director. Students already know Mrs. Lichtenstein as a teacher, religious counselor and friend. They warmly welcome Mrs. Shimoff into the University

Viewing her new position, Mrs. Lichtenstein commented: "The job is one of servicing the student. It is hard to delineate exactly what it will entail." Basically she added that the Office of Student Services deals with professional and vocational guidance, dormitory, student activities, and through the six week Orientation sessions it seeks to build lines of communication on a more relaxed and personal level. This Orientation program is not designed as a regular course; rather it is a means of helping all students toward a better adjustment to college life. Beyond these basic areas there is room for growth and development within this office.

Mrs. Shimoff sees her job at Stern as "an open door and a lis-tening heart." She commented about the immediate warmth she felt here and on the dedication to school among the students, "It is almost as if Stern were a cause to which the girls give selflessly." She sees the Office of Student "serving the student where she's at "

Mrs. Shimoff will be working with the freshmen, "But this will only be one of my concerns," she added. The seniors are Mrs. Lichtenstein's pet project, "I want to deal with senioritis. I extend an invitation to all the seniors to come in, but I feel they are responsible enough to come in without being pushed. The service is here but I won't chase them," she said. Mrs. Lichtenstein

schools and GRE's but I'm more than willing to bring in experts; I do prefer expertise in the ability to sort out confusion and help formulate questions."

Both Mrs. Lichtenstein and Mrs. Shimoff feel that besides formal appointments they wish to establish a more informal line of communication.

Beginning next week we are initiating an 'Anything Goes' session," said Mrs. Lichtenstein. "Girls will bring their lunch and they're welcome to come and talk about anything from religion to



Photo by L. Billsuer S. Shimoff and Mrs. T. Lichtenstein

miniskirts. It's open to all classes. I will have luncheon on Tuesdays

"My day will be Thursday at 11:30," added Mrs. Shimoff, "and if it is as successful as we hope we will eventually invite faculty to participate and in this way open more lines of communication between the students and faculty,"

Shimoff stated that this is a crucial year for them and she will try to see as many as possible by workinanfour "full" days a week.

Juniors and sophomores are not being neglected, but as Mrs. Lich-tenstein said, "I have known these girls since their freshman year and I assume they know by now that the door that was open to them as freshmen is open now. And I would hope that 'when the shoe hurts' they will come."

Although Mrs. Shimoff is new to Stern her connection with the school goes back for sometime. Her husband did his graduate work in Yeshiva and her children graduated from the University's undergraduate divisions, Our new Asst. to the Director majored in education, doing her undergraduate and graduate work in adult education at Southern Connecticut College. She has taught in both the New York and New Jersey school systems. When the vacancy developed in the Office of Student Services, representatives of the stu dent body met to discuss criteria for a new director. Commenting on her appointment, Mrs. Shimoff said, "I seemed to fulfill most of the criteris, but only time will tell if I fill the bill."

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Cleaning, Dyeing, Pressing and Alterationss

Monday's enrollment session, Rab-Norman Twersky reflected on fall registration at Stern

The new Assistant Register feels that pre-programming and the use of audio-visual aids to explain registration procedures helped avoid confusion at freshmen registration. Rabbi Twersky hopes that the 200 incoming students also gained some idea of the responsibility faced by a college student in planning her program,

Rabbi Twersky, an educational administrator since 1951. "freshman" on the YU staff. He replaces Rabbi Yaakov Zev, who has joined the administration of Hebrew University. Rabbi Twer-sky received his B.A. in religious education from Erna Michael College and is now working towards his doctorate at Bernard Revel Graduate School.

Commenting on the new Hebrew levels and courses, Rabbi Twersky said that when the initial confu-sion clears, students' will appreciate the changes as a step forward in providing more variety in Judaic and Hebrew studies.

Rabbi Twersky had his first contact with students as he attempted to solve registration conflicts, Hop-

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Rabbi Norman Twersky

ing to remain open to the sensitivities of the students but also taking a no-nonsense attitude, he kept things moving steadily toward the end of that "longest day."

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