

THE OBSERVER

The Official Newspaper of Stern College for Women • Yeshiva University

December 28, 1989

Volume XXV, Number 4

Tevet, 5750

Rabbi Weiss Sues Cardinal

by Shoshana Levine

Rabbi Avi Weiss, a renowned Jewish activist and a Judaic Studies professor at Stern College, is suing Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp for defamation of character. This lawsuit is the first of its kind ever brought against a Cardinal.

Three months ago, in Czesochowa, Poland, Cardinal Jozef Glemp delivered a fiery sermon in front of thousands of people, spewing forth anti-Semitic canards and denouncing the group of Jews who were protesting against the presence of a Carmelite convent located at the Auschwitz death camp.

In one of his statements, Glemp claimed that the group of demonstrators had arrived at the convent with a box containing a bomb, and that "had it not been for the workers who stopped them, the group of protestors [under the leadership of Rabbi Avi Weiss] would have murdered all the nuns."

This comment, along with other derogatory statements, caused Rabbi Weiss to send his lawyer, Professor Alan Dershowitz, to submit a complaint against the Cardinal for defamation of character, ordering him to retract all falsities and slander that he had stated publicly.

After submitting the complaint, Rabbi Weiss was informed that the Senator of Solidarity had urged the Cardinal to release a public apology and retraction, and that Glemp had agreed to do so. However, a day before the retraction was to be declared, two leaders of the American Jewish Congress met with Glemp. They informed him that Rabbi Weiss does not represent the American Jewish view and is merely a destructive individual searching for trouble.

Apparently, these Jewish leaders possibly wishing to win over Glemp's favor agreed with Glemp's negative attack on Rabbi Weiss instead of speaking out against Glemp's slander. "That, quite frankly, is unforgettable, unforgivable, and beneath contempt," Rabbi Weiss stated rather emphatically. "It is clear that there is new leadership needed in the American Jewish Congress." Cardinal Glemp has

since refused to retract his statements.

Rabbi Weiss has declared that he is suing the Cardinal for defaming his name. Unlike most lawsuits, Rabbi Weiss is not suing for monetary gain. Rabbi Weiss stated, "I don't want money, and I'm not looking to send him [Glemp] to prison. All I want is a simple retraction."

Rabbi Weiss is adamant about receiving a complete apology from Glemp. Glemp's statements influence the Polish people in a tremendous way. Although in America few people believe or listen to the Cardinal, in Poland his Jew baiting orations incite anti-Semitism throughout the country. Weiss continued that the Jews are in danger of again becoming Poland's scapegoat and may be targeted to carry the burden of guilt for Poland's calamities.

Some people, including Poland's Prime Minister, feel that by suing the Cardinal, Rabbi Weiss is setting back the possibility for a productive Polish-Jewish relationship. Others feel that this is a positive action that is necessary to bring justice and respect. Rabbi Weiss in agreement said, "This is a new era in which we must strive even stronger for self respect and peace. This event will not throw back previous accomplishments, but rather will help in developing a new standard of relationship that demands a mutual respect for one another."

Rabbi Weiss predicts that he will be travelling to Poland in a few months to begin the trial. Due to the nature of his trip and the widespread anti Jewish attitude in Poland, he will be accompanied by bodyguards.

Rabbi Weiss maintains that the court must rule in his favor. "We have the law on our side. Unless the case is unjustifiably dismissed, the courts must rule in our favor, at which point a complete retraction by Glemp would be forthcoming. If the outcome is not in our favor, it would be a result of biased courts and legal injustice, at which point all American and Jewish interaction with Poland would have to be severed."

Annual Chanukah Dinner Raises \$22,000,700

Quayle Honored

by Deena Yellin

The 65th annual Chanukah dinner and convocation, which honored Vice President Dan Quayle, attorney Alan Dershowitz and financier Carl Icahn, was held at the Waldorf-Astoria on December 10. The gala event raised over 22 million dollars for Yeshiva University.

Prior to the dinner, a convocation took place during which honorary degrees were conferred. Quayle delivered the keynote address and received the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Yeshiva University President, Dr. Norman Lamm.

Quayle spoke against the 1975 United Nations General Assembly Resolution equating Zionism with racism and vowed to abolish it. According to Quayle, the purpose of the resolution was to "lay the groundwork for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations and world community, and second, to provide anti-Semitism, thinly disguised as anti-Zionism, with the appearance of international approval." Quayle maintained that the goals have not been accomplished and, despite the vindictive campaign against Israel, its legitimacy has not been tainted while that of the United Nations has. Quayle emphasized that, "for the record, this remains our policy today: If Israel goes we go." This was followed by a prolonged burst of applause from the audience.



Fiona Nilson and Dorvy Prince from Indianapolis greet VP Quayle at the Convocation.

In addition, he assured that in all of Eastern Europe, America would be vigilant against appearances of anti-Semitism. He called upon the Soviet Union and other nations to join in sponsoring a second resolution in the General Assembly which would affirm that Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. "This resolution would state that Zionism is not, and never has been, a form of racism, and would have Zionism is racism" declared null and void."

Harvard Law School professor Alan Dershowitz spoke after the dinner. He began his speech by explaining that although he

attempted to earn a degree from Yeshiva University "the old fashioned way-by earning it" he was denied the opportunity because, "Yeshiva University had standards, and I didn't meet those standards. I was turned down by Yeshiva, and I'm here to say that Yeshiva was right in doing so." The proof he provided was his Yeshiva High School report card which he read aloud to a roaring crowd.

He spoke about what he feels is a crisis in Jewish leadership in America. "The Jewish contributions during the 20th century have been immeasurable... We now approach the third century

Continued on page 5 col. 4

Stabbed Youth Seeks Refuge In Brookdale Hall

by Lisa Lasher

On the afternoon of December 12, Mr. Ivan Babick, a 16 year old youth from Long Island City, was slashed on his face and neck at 34th street between 5th and Madison Avenues. Bleeding extensively from an open face and neck wound, Babick ran into Brookdale Hall, the Stern College dormitory, to seek assistance. Students, together with Mr. Adam Heyman, manager of the Stern College cafeteria, tended to Babick's injuries, while the dormitory security guards called the paramedics and the police.

According to Babick, a messenger swerved his bicycle towards him, as if to hit him. A dispute ensued, during which the messenger dismounted and slashed Babick with a knife on the left side of his face and neck. The messenger fled the scene on his bicycle, while the victim ran to Brookdale Hall for help

Ms. Sonia Vazquez and Ms. Patricia Parker were the security guards in the dormitory at the time of the incident. Parker, who was filling in for Vazquez during her break, was the first to spot Babick entering the building. Upon assessing the situation, Parker called the paramedics and the police. Both guards stressed that the situation was handled "in an appropriate and professional manner" and that the students were "calm and helpful." Vazquez commented

that although the incident occurred outside, Babick's coming into Stern meant that "we had to help him."

Aviva Rosenstein, a SCW freshman, was in the lobby on her way to the school building when she spotted Babick "tense and shaking" entering Brookdale Hall. Her first impression was that Babick was "wearing a Halloween mask." Upon seeing the deep gash profusely bleeding from Babick's neck and

Continued on page 7 col. 1



SCW professor and removed activist Ari Weiss.

Inside This Issue

- Overview Of Judaic Studies p. 8
- Review of Psychology Department p. 10
- About Women p. 14

Editorial

Student-Teacher Evaluation Can Improve The Quality Of Education

With the semester coming to a close, it is time for both students and professors to take a critical look at what has been achieved. Grades and student-teacher conferences give the teachers a fair idea of where their students stand at the end of the term. Students, however, have no way of freely telling their teachers what they have learned, enjoyed or disliked about a course.

Evaluation forms, with questions regarding teacher performance, attitude, clarity and the specific strengths and weaknesses of the course, should be distributed at the end of every semester. This procedure would allow the professors to gauge their overall performance, and it would give the students a chance both to compliment and to criticize. Presumably, teachers want to be informed of whether their style of teaching is effective and whether the students have gained anything from the semester.

Conscientious professors should want to have feedback in order to understand where improvements need to be made. If done tastefully, evaluations would be very beneficial to course instructors and could lead to greater student interest and satisfaction.

Before the professors read the evaluations, they should be given to the Dean's office so that if there is unanimous agreement as to a specific problem in a class, appropriate measures can be taken. The administration could thus be made aware of both the pros and cons existing and have a better idea of which teachers and courses are most effective.

Faculty evaluations have been suggested before the SCW Senate, and private meetings with the faculty and administration have been held regarding the idea. It is unacceptable that such a simple procedure has not been implemented. There is a definite need for such evaluations in order to improve the quality of education for which Stern College strives.

Jews Reaction Inexcusable On Anti-Semitism Issue

Vatican II was a policy making convention convened in Rome by Pope John the 23rd and continued after his death by his successor Paul VI. The Convention lasted from 1962-68. An important result of this meeting of Christian leadership was a proclamation stating that the Jewish people were not responsible for Jesus' death. Since then there have been numerous attempts to create an aura of interfaith good will. It does not appear that Cardinal Glemp is aware of this.

Cardinal Glemp's August 26th sermon denouncing Rabbi Avi Weiss and his followers (who were demonstrating at the Carmelite Convent in Auschwitz) was at best incendiary, and at worst dangerous. Glemp's claims that Weiss' group had arrived at the convent with a bomb is the type of unfounded statement that throughout history has led to acts of violence and death.

Not surprisingly, Rabbi Weiss is in the process of suing Cardinal Glemp for defamation of Character. What is so inconceivable is that the American Jewish congress repudiated Rabbi Weiss and in turn apologized to Glemp. It is truly sad to see Jews condemning their brothers to gain supposed world approval. The sad fact is that some of Glemp's supporters had already insisted that he apologize to Rabbi Weiss and his fellow demonstrators.

It is important to create a policy of denouncing anti-Semitism. Only then can there be an atmosphere conducive to interfaith understanding.

SCW Freshman Commended For Activism

New York city is famous for its indifference to the daily suffering of people in the streets. Usually, people are afraid or uninterested in getting involved with the pain of a stranger. Frequently, people nonchalantly walk by homeless individuals lying on the street without obvious to their needs. The "Kitty Genovese" case, in which a woman was attacked and murdered while many onlookers did nothing to help, is a tragic reflection of the status quo.

Recently, a stabbed victim ran into the SCW dormitory at Brookdale Hall for assistance. Contrary to popular belief, evidence suggests that the guards were hesitant to help him. It took a freshman of SCW to extend her hand to assist the victim. Her knowledge of first aid allowed her to assess the situation and provide some necessary medical attention.

The Observer would like to commend Ms. Aviva Rosenstein for her quickness, her courage and most of all, for her concern for a fellow human being.

THE OBSERVER

245 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 340-7700. Published by Stern College Student Council. The views expressed in unsigned columns are those of *The Observer* only and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the student body, the faculty or the administration of Stern College.

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Letters

Physics Course Needed

To the Editors,

I am a biology major planning on attending some form of graduate school in the sciences. For any graduate level program in the sciences a basic physics course is required - one which Stern College does not offer.

It can be understood why for some specialized areas of interest, a shaped major in Hospital Administration, for example, it is needed to go to an outside University to supplement SCW's course offering. SCW is a small school with a limited curriculum and cannot accommodate everyone.

However, once we are no longer dealing with an isolated individual, but rather a substantial number of students who need a basic course to be admitted to their respective graduate schools, it should become the school's responsibility to offer that course. Non calculus based Physics is a necessary prerequisite for medical, dental, optometry, physical therapy and other graduate schools. But, the SCW student finds herself with a choice. She can either take the Physics course offered at SCW, one which is required only for engineering, Physics and related majors, or she can spend her summer, nights, or early mornings in a different University. Besides the burden of traveling to an outside campus and the red tape she must mill through in order to transfer the credits (that will only be counted as electives and not Physics credits), she is required to pay a substantial amount of money. Baruch, where I am currently taking General Physics, is a city school, not a private university where student fees are astronomical. To take these eight credits, it is costing me \$376, excluding lab fees and transportation. If SCW cannot offer this course, perhaps they could subsidize it (as they do for courses taken at FIT), thus reducing a major expense to an inconvenience.

Continued on page 14 col. 5

Professor Cahen Responds To Article

To the Editors:

I would like to correct the errors in the article by Shaani Goldberg ("Professor Told To Leave After 20 Years At SCW"), that appeared in the November issue of the Observer, p. 4:

1. I have been a member of the faculty since 1962—i.e., 27 years.

2. My name is spelled with an "a", not an "e"—CAHEN.

3. Termination of employment has no relation to pension payments. These are forthcoming at whatever age the employee (or ex-employee) so chooses.

4. I have published, but not enough to satisfy Dr. Brenner.

5. Promotion was denied to me in 1982 because Dr. Brenner wanted proof of my teaching ability—not because he wanted [me] to publish scholarly works." He did say that on the basis of my record (in 1982), he would not grant me tenure.

I pointed out that I was not applying for tenure, but for a promotion, having just completed my doctoral dissertations. My classes were visited by observers from both within and outside SCW, and one year later I was granted a promotion.

6. I wrote a thesis for my master's degree and a dissertation for the doctorate.

7. I had an oral presentation before an international symposium of scholars (at the Library of Congress). It walked music with literature and was very well received. I wanted to pursue that type of scholarly activity since music must be listened to and cannot be read by those lacking such knowledge. Dr. Brenner insisted on publications. For that reason, Prof. Peninnah Schram's information was very heartening. Hence, I did not satisfy—partially or fully—"only...two of the three requirements," or criteria for tenure.

8. I was granted full-time employment on the condition

Continued on page 7 col. 5

Canadian Misconceptions

To the Editors:

In the last edition's article, "Club Canada: Misconceptions" there were a few misconceptions that, in accordance with the author's attempt to allay ignorance, I would like to point out.

The article stated, "It would be nice to include the supplement, 'Canadians are not aliens' to the nightly recitation of 'Hear Oh Israel.'" Although some Canadians with an inferiority complex may find comfort in this statement, it would not be correct. Unless one is also a citizen of the United States, one is considered an alien when in the U.S. Proof of this is that if a Canadian is employed within the U.S. without a Greencard, Uncle Sam will rescind his welcome.

As far as the Commonwealth being a Communist plot, if that were the case, McCarthy would have discovered it and had places like the State of Virginia thrown out of the Union.

So the next time you see a Canadian chuckling, raise an eyebrow and chuckle right back!!!

Amanda Weiner
SCW '92

Cents Sense

To the Editors:

Everyday, the residents of Brookdale Hall face a small, yet annoying and unnecessary inconvenience. I am referring to the lack of even one change machine in the dorm. There are several vending machines and, more importantly, coin-operated washing machines and dryers in the dormitory. Residents are often forced to run around the dorm badgering their neighbors for change, or even resort to buying six candy bars in order to obtain quarters.

There is however a simple solution to this problem. The same company that provides the vending machines could provide change machines. Any cost that

Continued on page 7, col. 3

Announcement of Essay & Writing Awards

Yeshiva University has three endowed awards to be made annually for the best essays submitted by undergraduates in various fields of Jewish Studies. In addition, there are four annual awards for excellence in writing. Specific information on eligibility for these awards follows:

ESSAY AWARDS - OPEN TO ALL UNDERGRADUATES (Yeshiva College & Stern College for Women)

The Lawrence P. Fischer Memorial Award:

-Awarded to the best paper submitted by an undergraduate on some aspect of Jewish History
-Must be written in Hebrew
-Cash award of about \$250

The Edward A. Rothman Memorial Award:

-Awarded to the best paper on the theme of "Issues in Orthodox Judaism in Practice"
-Should be written in English and be between 2,000 and 3,000 words in length
-Cash award of about \$200

The Fannie and Asher Scharfstein Memorial Award:

-Awarded to the best paper on the topic of Gemilat Hesed.
-Should be written in English
-Cash award of about \$100

The Morris and Chaya Zukerman Memorial Award:

-Awarded to the best research paper on Jewish History
-Cash Award of about \$75

The Professor Laurel Hatvary Award:

-Awarded for creative writing
-Open to all SCW students; preference normally given to seniors
-Cash award of about \$50

The Dean David Mirsky Memorial Award:

-May be in any subject
-Awarded to a graduating Stern College senior
-Cash award of about \$200

The Jerome Robbins Memorial Award:

-Awarded annually (by the YC Alumni Association) for the best original short story
-Cash award of about \$75

SCW: The Best Of Both Worlds

by Chayale Weissman

The aim of Stern College is primarily to enable Orthodox women of the twentieth century to balance their secular and career-oriented goals with their religious beliefs. Besides a sound secular education, SCW also provides an intensive Judaic studies program which shapes the fundamental values that will guide students in their future careers, home and family life.

There is a constant desire by the students to question and understand fundamental theories and issues which affect modern Orthodox women. Yet, there is also a further need to enhance certain aspects of the college's spiritual atmosphere. SCW students should be proud of their dual role in society; that of an observant Jewish woman as well as that of a woman with career goals.

There is a lack of pride, however, among many women and their identity with the college. They often show disrespect towards their Rabbeim, the administration, fellow students and basic school policy. As college students, it is expected to have a certain general sense of what is right and

wrong, and as yeshiva students, there is an additional set of rules and ethics to which one must adhere.

The message of Chanukah explicitly teaches us this concept—that spirituality is for everyone and is easily within everyone's reach. Just as in the case of the Chanukah lights which are invalid if over 20 cubits high, if our own spirituality is placed "too high" so that it is out of reach and too abstract in our lives, then it has no value.

The Judaic Studies department enables students to grasp and further develop their spirituality. The miracle of Chanukah taught us the significance of spiritual survival. Incorporated in our study of basic Torah, Halachah and philosophy, we study issues and concepts that are currently facing modern Jewry and are therefore pertinent to our spiritual and even physical survival. We do not have to change halacha to live in modern society, but rather, we can merge the two ideals together creating harmony between religious values and secular knowledge.

Ms. Weissman is the President of the Torah Activities Council

41 Years Bypass 41 Jews

by Karen Pruzansky

At a time when American Jewish support for Shamir is so vital, it appeared to the U.S. Bush Administration, literate American readers of the New York Times, and enemies of Zion, that Jewish Americans after 41 years of loyalty have finally abandoned the State of Israel. I am referring to the "Dear PM" letter signed by 41 American Jews, many of whom are leaders of the infinite number of federations, committees, agencies and congresses supposedly representing the opinions of Jewish Americans. These alleged friends of Israel have not expressed my sentiments, and they certainly do not represent the voices of the 170 in attendance of an Israeli Bond breakfast. These Jewish philanthropic Zionists did not lose faith in Prime Minister Shamir and bought nearly 19 million dollars in Israeli bonds within an hour. At the breakfast Shamir was not disillusioned by the rejection letter and stated that "the people

in this room will not sign letters—they'll sign checks."

The mood emanating from the prominent leaders in the breakfast room of the Regency Hotel in NYC was not one of discord with the Prime Minister, but one of acclamation and approval for his peace efforts. Their projection for the future of Israel is optimistic; therefore, they have no qualms in investing their money in the building of a stable economy that would allow for the security of their brethren who have established homes in Israel.

In contrast to these Jewish Americans who clearly support Israel while residing in America, we have 41 Americans who have the chutzpah that only Jews possess to outwardly reject the policies of the Israeli government, and try to dictate the future of Israel by making suggestions that would jeopardize Israeli's security. They feel impelled to write letters, broadcast their disharmony, and condemn Israeli even before its

enemies. For they believe that Israel's policies would perhaps weaken their position in the American community. Some detach themselves completely from Israel for fear that the American gentiles will equate being Jewish with being a Zionist. This was made clear in the letter addressed to Prime Minister Shamir. The signers explained to "Israel's enemies" that they must not "mistake our differences with regard to particular policies as signifying any attrition whatsoever in our support for Israel's people." The key words being "Israel's people", show that these 41 American Jews have disassociated themselves from their brother in what they view as a difficult and contentious moment in Israel's history; while 12 years ago after the outcome of the Six Day War was manifested, these same people used expressions such as, "Look what we (Jews) did!"

We live in a free democratic society where one cannot be punished for voicing his/her

opinion. But how could those Jews not living in Israel who wrote the letter speak of what is right for Israel and what Israel must do? Their lives are not threatened with everyday physical violence. Rhetoric is easy when you live in a secure environment, but actions must be carefully thought out when it affects the future of a whole nation. As Prime Minister Shamir said, "We will not be pressured into committing national suicide." They believe that "most American Jews do not reject" land for peace and that this trade will not endanger Israel's security. Where do they base their opinion that "most American Jews" will accept the idea of land for peace? Who are these so-called "prominent American Jewish leaders" who say they represent my views and those of many other Jewish Americans. I never elected them to their post, they are not my Power of Attorney.

Seymour Reich, the current
Continued on page 15 col. 5

Quotes Of The Month

"For some of us, forgetting what we learned in school isn't all that difficult."

Vice President Dan Quayle, upon receiving his honorary Doctor of Law degree from Yeshiva University

"I was turned down from Yeshiva College and am here to say that Yeshiva was right in doing so"

Alan Dershowitz, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, after receiving his honorary Doctor of Law degree from Yeshiva University

"I was skeptical when I first learned I would be given a degree together with Quayle..."

Alan Dershowitz

"I respect the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and am now on its Board of Directors because it was the only medical school from which I was rejected."

Carl Icahn, Chairman of the Board of Trans World Airline, after receiving his honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Yeshiva University

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Around The Campus

YU Zionists Plaster N.Y. City

by Rachel Mohl

Forty-five students braved the below freezing temperatures last Sunday to poster Manhattan with flyers about Aliyah. The group's hope is to influence the concept of Aliyah into the minds of the New York Jewish community.

The "posting" was the second follow-up activity of the YCSC Zionist Shabbaton that was held in Riverdale in early November. After Zev Maghen, a Zionist activist and one of the program's coordinators, spoke about Zionist ideals at YC in the beginning of December, it was decided to plan the posting event as soon as possible. The idea was to utilize the energetic momentum the students generated after gathering for the Shabbaton and the speech.

SCW was well represented with over thirty women present. Only two YC students attended. Ten Barnard and Columbia students plastered Morningside Heights at 9 am on the same Sunday morning.

The group covered a radius of eighty-six blocks north to south, and five avenues wide, with concentrated efforts on Jewish areas of the city, such as the Upper West Side. Flyers were placed on mailboxes, phone booths, traffic light boxes, and even in subway staircases. "The posters pose uncomfortable questions for comfortable Jews," said Maghen. Two different flyers were used on Sunday morning.

YU Ceases To Divest In South Africa

by Debby Aharon

Mr. Sam Hartstein of Yeshiva University's Public Relations Department verified concerns over YU's affiliation with South Africa. Students and other YU linked parties were questioning whether or not the university still held stock in companies that had business relations with South Africa.

Based on the federal government's Sullivan Law, American companies do not do business with South Africa. In the past, for example, General Motors had plants in South Africa, but, in order to comply with this law, the plant was withdrawn by GM management. Even The Chase Manhattan Bank publicly withdrew its affiliation in accordance with this law.

There are, however, certain companies that still have not terminated their business relationships, and, hence, the concern about YU's connection to these companies was raised.

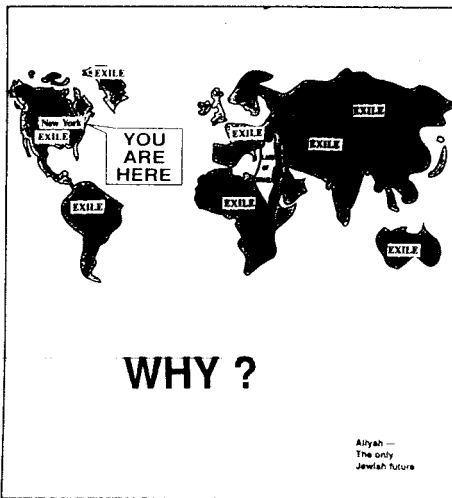
"We passed the text," Mr. Hartstein confirmed. "YU no longer holds stock in these South African affiliated companies."

One flyer showed a picture of refuseniks hugging relatives at the Lod airport, and read "You can go home again-Israel!" The other flyer depicted a map of the world with every continent marked "Exile" except for Israel. A pointer towards New York declared "You Are Here" and on the bottom, the poster simply asked "Why?". Both posters had the symbol of the map with the word "Habayta" in one corner, and in the other it says "Aliyah—the only Jewish future."

"We hope to force Israel to become a topic of discussion and

make people contemplate their stance on the State and Aliyah," said Sara Weiss, a SCW committee member. The students hope to remain unaffiliated with other organizations in order to encourage further involvement of people from different ends of the religious and Zionist spectrum.

The students involved in the program said they were pleased to witness the actualization of plans begun at the Zionist weekend. They also hope that these activities will continue next semester.



WHY ?

Aliyah —
The only
Jewish future

New Pre-Health Advisor Replaces Potvin

by Mindy Ackerman

The new Pre-Health Advisor, Dr. David Weisbrot, has officially taken his post at Stern College. Weisbrot is replacing Dr. Potvin whose resignation came into effect November 1, 1989. Approximately twenty Stern College students met with Weisbrot, for the first time on December 20. Dr. Weisbrot comes to Yeshiva University after having been a professor and the Pre-Health Advisor at William Paterson College for seventeen years. He is currently involved in genetics research at Columbia University in New York.

At the meeting, he lectured on fields in the medical profession. He spoke about medical and graduate school programs as well as careers in physical and occupational therapy, nursing and research. "In the past, there was not much help available to those going into graduate schools, as opposed to medical school," observed Sara Weiss an SCW senior. He also spoke about the decline in the number of applicants to medical and dental schools. He attributed this decline to many factors, including the increase in oppor-

tunities in business and computers, the decline in the prestige of the medical profession, the many years of study and the high cost of malpractice insurance.

In reference to the actual application process, Dr. Weisbrot stressed the importance of writing an all-inclusive personal essay in addition to maintaining a high GPA. Issues covered in the meeting were the entrance exams, for instance the MCATs and the DATS, as well as the crucial personal interview. "He was helpful and informative," maintained Sandra Benchemol a junior at SCW. "When I spoke with him, he was very interested in helping me make plans for the future." Debby Aharon, an SCW senior, agreed. "He was Makpid' to take notes on pre-health students. He wants to get to know students better so that he may write comprehensive letters of reference for us."

Dr. Weisbrot said he is excited about beginning to work with Yeshiva University students. Heather Rush, an SCW senior, related that she was pleased with the new appointment. "He is dynamic and charismatic and seems eager to

Continued on page 11 col. 5



David Margolick addressing students.

N.Y. Times Columnist Speaks At SCW

by Deborah Hamburg

New York Times law columnist, David Margolick spoke to Stern College students in Koch Auditorium on the topic "Journalism and Humanism." The December 13 lecture was presented by the Morris Epstein Forum on the Arts and co-sponsored by the Max Stern Scholar's Program.

Margolick writes the "At the Bar" column, which is found in back of the "B" section of the Friday Times, received his BA from the University of Michigan and his law degree from Stanford University. He feels that his background in law puts him at an advantageous position to write his column.

Margolick spoke about his career and how he selects topics for his articles. He stressed that articles do not always have to be dry facts, but can focus on the day to day lives of individuals. The latter types of stories are more likely to be read and remembered.

Margolick said that most people forget the news stories they read soon after they dispose of the newspaper. He has found it to be mildly offensive when he sees the Times being used for poorer scoopers and fish packaging. The journalist's work has a "short shelf life" because today's news quickly becomes

"yesterday's news."

Another point that Margolick spoke on was that of the dreaded deadline. He admitted that in college, he was never able to meet deadlines, but when it comes to submitting his column, he has no choice but to be on time.

When asked the difference between news writers and columnists, Margolick replied that reporters are limited in their topics and any article produced must be objective. Columnists have the liberty of choosing their own topics and editorializing. Rather than presenting the effects of events on a macrocosmic level, Margolick said that he likes to present the events as they affect the microcosm of society. In his 800 word column, Margolick tries to keep his stories easy enough for anyone outside of the legal profession to understand, yet, interesting enough for those within the profession. For Margolick, "writing about the law is writing about life."

The Morris Epstein Forum On the Arts, which presented this lecture, was started to honor the memory of an admired teacher and scholar. Epstein was an editor of "World Over" magazine, a professor of English and Chairman of the English Department at SCW.



Dr. David Weisbrot - new Pre-Health Advisor.

Save The Date:
February 7-8

SSSJ Lobby In
Washington D.C.

See Shoshana Levine
8A for Details

Stern Students Donate Blood

by Debby Aharon

On Monday, December 25th, between 10:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M., the Greater New York Blood Program held a blood drive at Stern College in the Koch Auditorium. The blood drive, which raised 85 pints, was the only one held on Christmas Day in New York City. Since Christmas weekend is a major week-end for accidents, blood is especially needed at this time.

Tay Sachs testing through Dor Yesharim, was also available between the hours of 12-2, even for those who did not donate blood. Dor Yesharim specifically uses a number system so that everything is confidential.

Sharon Fischer, SCW junior and chairwoman of the blood drive, said that she was anticipating at least 90-100 students to donate blood. Although the amount was a low expectation in comparison to the 600 students who attend SCW, Fischer explained that she could not expect more based on past

experience. She explained that many people are squeamish or too busy.

The most common excuses from students are that they are squeamish, afraid they will faint or have anemia. These three complaints are not validated because the procedure is not painful, only takes one hour of one's time and unless one has a serious anemic condition, one can eat a hamburger the night before testing. Furthermore, each potential donor is examined to ensure that they are in good enough condition to donate blood.

The actual number of students to give blood was 85, however, many more students showed up but were unable to donate. They had to first fill out medical questionnaires to be evaluated by a technician. High blood pressure, iron deficiency or cold symptoms automatically disqualified many willing students from donating.

Michelle Hyla, a representa-

tive of The Blood Association, was surprised that "our high was dramatically low compared to the number of people who could potentially give," said Fischer who attributed this lack of participation to the fear of fainting or getting sick. "Many students were nervous about giving. Even the nurse was surprised at the level of anxiety in the room."

The fear, according to Fischer, was unfounded because the procedure is virtually painless and trained attendants were on hand to calm people down and to provide any assistance necessary. "People who didn't come passed up an opportunity to do something meaningful."

According to the Blood Kit Facts Pamphlet, approximately 2200 units of blood are needed every day by patients in the more than 260 hospitals that are served by the Greater New York Blood Program. This continuous and steady supply is essential because blood is perishable.

Chanukah Dinner



Attorney Dershowitz reading aloud his YU High School report card.

Continued from page 1 col. 5

of American history and the second century of Jewish history in American and I worry about where our leadership is going to be coming from. I worry about whether our leadership is prepared to confront the new issues." Dershowitz said.

He contended that the Jewish community was taken by surprise in the case of Eastern Europe and has not acted affirmatively or acted aggressively to pursue Jewish interests in Eastern Europe. He raised the example of the convent at Auschwitz, which was supposed to be moved, according to an agreement made with Jewish leaders last February and later broken. He referred to Rabbi Avi Weiss who acted in "a Martin Luther Kinglike act of civil disobedience..." He called the Cardinal's speech "the most obnoxious, indefensible, disgusting, overtly bigotted, anti-Semitic speeches in the history of that country." He criticized the leaders of the Jewish Congress, Henry Sigman and Robert Levin who issued public statements condemning; prime minister Shamir for his statements about Poland, Rabbi Weiss, the lawsuit and refused to issue any statement public or private criticizing Cardinal Glemp for his statements. "That is not the kind of Jewish leadership I think we need in the future," said Dershowitz. We need affirmative Jewish leadership that is not embarrassed about its Jewishness, we need people who are prepared to stand up for our values we need people who in an instance like the Jonathan Pollard case...would do what we would do if any American, Jewish or non-Jewish, was sentenced to an unjust, disproportionate sentence." He explained that Jonathan Pollard was given life imprisonment for a crime which generally is punished by three years in prison.

He accused the American Jewish community of living in the 1930's and 40's, since they are concerned about allegations of dual loyalty. He maintained that the Jewish community should not be as apologetic as it is about Israel. He maintained that if the right kind of "lead-

ership is going to emerge, it's going to emerge from institutions like Yeshiva University...from institutions which teach Ahavat Yisrael, which teach a deep and committed love for Israel, which understands and helps teach the Jewish people that we as klal Yisroel have a responsibility to carry out."

Student leaders were chosen to participate in this year's Chanuka dinner. They included presidents of various student councils and organizations, the Executive Board of Student Council and editors of the college newspapers. Their duties included robing the honorees and faculty, carrying banners to the stage for a presentation about YU and escorting various dignitaries and YU trustees to their tables. Dovie Prince and Fiona Nitsun robed Quayle since they are from his home-state of Indiana.

Despite the large number of student invitations, students complained that they were snubbed at the dinner and convocation. They were not permitted to attend Quayle's speech because they had to learn their assignments and duties for the rest of the evening at a special meeting scheduled during the speech. When an Observer editor and a YC student attended Quayle's address instead of the meeting they were severely admonished. "We missed what the news reporters were calling a major foreign policy speech which I watched on the 11 p.m. news when I got back to the dorm," said Cindy Schlanger, President of Student Council. During the dinner itself, the students also felt they were treated badly. They had been told that they would be sitting...with the guests at the dinner but after the guests were seated, it was discovered that there was no room for the students. Additional tables were eventually set up in the back of the room for the students who had been on their feet since their arrival at 2:30 that afternoon.

The Public Relations Department refused to comment about how much money will go toward Stern College.



Stern Celebrates Chanuka

Newly Formed Presidents Circle-

by Karen Weiss

Student leaders of Stern College and Yeshiva College met with the recently established President's Circle of alumni of YU on Tuesday, December 5. The President's Circle, which will be expending approximately \$80-100,000 in support of the University, met with the students in order to learn of the areas of student life in need of financial support.

Student Council President Cindy Schlanger spoke about the growing involvement of students in SCW clubs and organizations and the financial constraints these organizations face. She requested computers for the Observer? ... Torah Activities Council President Chayala Weissman explained that TAC would like additional funds to: sponsor honorariums to noteworthy authorities who are knowledgeable on issues pertinent to SCW women, enlarge the Torah Tapes Library (which is currently functioning out of the Beit Midrash closet), send SCW students to the Soviet Union and start a scholarly publication on Judaic topics.

Other representatives of SCW present at the discussion were:

Improving Atmosphere Fundraising

Sy Syms School of Business President Dina Friedman, Editor-in-Chief of the Observer Deena Yellin, Dramatics Society Vice President Elisheva Wohlgelemer, and members of the Executive Board of Student Council-Heather Rush, Shira Friedman and Chani Rutner.

In the discussion that ensued, the student leaders explained various areas and projects of student life at the undergraduate schools that need improvement. One idea raised by members of the President's Circle was to sponsor a lecture series which would bring popular speakers to YU. However, the SCW students maintained that although such an idea is important to the college atmosphere, it is a luxury that should not take precedence over the budget limitations posed to SCW societies and publications.

The YC students stressed the need for a Zionist retreat and a subsidized Shabbat program to encourage more student participation. SOY President, Moshe Wertenteil, asked for additional funds for their neigh-

borhood circulating publication, Enayim L'Torah, and for another laser printer to lighten the work load involved in putting out this weekly publication. He also asked for money to help bind the many ripped and unbound sefarim in the Beit Midrash as well as to help stack the sefarim on the shelves after they are used.

Requested of each of the fifteen members of the President's Circle is to make a minimum annual contribution of \$5,000. Additionally, the group members, all of whom are recent YU graduates, will serve on committees and make recommendations in the areas of: Judaic studies, secular studies and student life at the undergraduate schools. The Committee will meet periodically with Dr. Lamm and other members of the administration to determine the vital needs of the University.

Dramatics Society productions Besamin to publish Morg to refurbish the front lounge in the dorm.



Student leaders meet with President's Circle.

New Appointee Assists Students In Judaic Library



by Shoshana Levine

The Stern College library, has appointed Rabbi Aryeh Gold as a "Sho'el Umeshiv," a Jewish Studies mentor. With a growing number of texts available in the library, students felt that someone was needed to help the students find their way to the texts and understand how to use them.

In a letter to the Editor printed in an earlier issue of the *Observer*, Rachel Mohl, a Junior and a Judaic Studies major at SCW, publicized the student's need for a library guide. The appointment of Rabbi Gold,

one month later, was a direct response to the students' interests. Rabbi Gold, a graduate of YC with S'micha from the Mirrer Yeshiva, assists the students in their learning, whether it be in preparation for a class, research of a paper topic, or expanding one's knowledge of text use.

The rapid increase in enrollment and general student interest in Stern College results in the constant necessity for improved facilities and expanded programs. The downtown branch of the Yeshiva University library has been undergoing tremendous changes over the past few years in an effort to accommodate the growing number of highly motivated students. The new adjunct to the library that was finished during last year's intercession break was the most significant step that was taken towards improving the academic facilities. This newly expanded and renovated library was designed to house the increased number of texts that were being brought in. Due to the previous lack of space, they were being stored in boxes and

were therefore unavailable for student use.

Once additional library space was available, the collection of boxed texts were shelved. The Judaic Studies section of the library is now full of material and texts. The collection of primary sources, for example, the Talmud, Midrash, Zohar and Shulhan Aruch, is impressive. Presently, according to Rabbi Kanarfogel, Head of the Judaic Studies Department, the secondary sources collection, including encyclopedias, histories and commentaries heads the list of needed additions in the library. "With the expanded Jewish Studies library," he said, "now the secondary source collection must be enhanced." The library has standing orders with various publishers, including Artscroll and Feldheim, from whom it receives all new publications automatically. They are therefore expanding at a daily rate.

Many students, however, are still far from satisfied with the material available in the downtown library. "It is improving to a certain extent," claimed Leah

Brueckheimer, a Judaic studies major at SCW, "yet how good can a library be if every time a teacher wants to assign a source, s/he must check to see if it is available in the library."

The increased collection of texts in the Jewish Studies section of the library encouraged many students to become interested in Jewish texts and to peruse that which the library had to offer. However, many of these students felt that they did not have the knowledge necessary to find their desired texts, and that additional guidance was needed. In response to the students' interest, Rabbi Gold, who had previously worked as a reference librarian in SCW, was appointed to this new position of the Sho'el Umeshiv.

Rabbi Gold is available in the library Monday through Thursday between 1 and 10 PM, and Sunday from 7-10 PM. "I see many different types of students daily," he said. "The students approaching me for help are not all from one level of classes, but span a broad spectrum. Some come with real basic questions while others are more advanced.

Most of the students who approach me, however, have one basic thing in common, and that is their thirst for knowledge."

Rachel Mohl, along with the majority of the student body, is very pleased with the way the students have been accommodated and with the immediate response to her original request. Rabbi Kanarfogel hopes that the students will take full advantage of Rabbi Gold's services. "This was something they needed and therefore requested from the administration," he said. "Now that their wish was fulfilled, they must take advantage of what they've been given."

"Rabbi Gold's new position in the library enhances student interest in texts across the board," Rabbi Kanarfogel maintains. "The library should not simply be a place for books on a shelf, nor should it be merely a quiet place in which papers can be written. It is most importantly a place to where students can come to learn."

Annual Chanukah Concert Features Avraham Fried

by Aviva Tuchman

On December 14, approximately 1000 people packed into Lamport Auditorium at the Yeshiva College campus for the annual YU Chanukah Concert featuring Avraham Fried.

As the lights in the auditorium dimmed, Jeff Braverman, the first act of the night, stepped onto the stage. His first time in concert, the former music coordinator of Camp Morasha warmed the excited crowd with his original tunes and lyrics.

The second act and the main feature of the evening was Avraham Fried, a singer who composes and sings Hebrew and English Jewish melodies. As Fried sang all his popular songs, the crowd cheered and clapped along enthusiastically.

Two of this year's concert coordinators, Jonny Scheiner and Alan Sorcher, two YC Seniors, began planning before last year's summer vacation. They decided to change the acts from the previous year's Miami Boy's Choir and Schlock Rock Band to try something new. Their new choice, Avraham Fried, according to Alan Sorcher has the same standard Jewish style of music while also having the crowd appeal and drawing power. Braverman added the touch of diversity to the concert with his modern style of Jewish music.

Heather Rush, an SCW senior and coordinator of the concert on the SCW end, worked on publicity and on selling tickets. SCW Student Council President Cindy Schlanger ordered buses to shuttle the SCW students to and from the concert uptown.

P. R. Department Holds Round Table Discussion With Students

by Rachel Mohl

The Public Relations Division of Yeshiva University recently held a round table discussion for undergraduates of YU. Invitations were sent to ten students from Stern College, Yeshiva College, and Sy Syms School of Business, the opportunity was given them to meet members of the staff of the Yeshiva University Public Relations department. These undergraduates participated in a discussion with Sam Hartstein, Director of Public Relations, Dean Efrim Nulman and three other Public Relations staff members. The goal of the meeting was to gain information on the current student body for

Alumni Review/Inside, the YU publication that is sent to all alumni, media representatives, board members and donors.

Following the dinner, the public relations staff asked the students a number of questions in regard to different aspects of student life. Dean Nulman questioned the use of the guidance services on both campuses. In response, Tommy Weinberger, a YC student, stressed that aside from the professional guidance available, advisement and the close relationships between the students were special advantages to YC. Further, SCW and YC students noted the superior work of Ms. Naomi Kapp and the Career Placement

Services.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the future of the Jewish nation. Students were asked to visualize their lives in thirty years. Four of the ten hoped to be in Israel and the entire group saw themselves still very involved in the Jewish community. When asked about relationships between the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jewish communities, the majority of the group saw the present rift growing larger. The only solution was felt to be an education and tolerance. Other topics discussed over the evening involved the Jewish-Blacks relations and the current changes in Eastern Europe.

The staff of the Public Relations Department and Dean Nulman were genuinely interested in the students responses. The discussion not only provided an opportunity for staff and students to meet and to gather some PR information, but also served as a way for ten students leaders to voice their opinions. The Administration of the University clearly feels many of the students interviewed will be the future leaders of the Jewish community, and "as the 1980's come to a close and we move closer to the twenty first century, which (we) will help to shape, this kind of discussion is especially timely," and most important.

SCW Cafeteria Sees Changes in Staff

by Sharona Cunin

There has been a turnover in staff at the cafeteria. Mr. Sam Klein, the manager of Food Services at Stern College for almost thirty years, left SCW on December 1. He is now Executive Chef at the Washington Heights campus of Yeshiva University. Mr. Adam Heyman, formerly the Assistant Manager of Food Services, has taken over as the Manager of Food Services at SCW. Replacing Heyman as Assistant Manager is Mr. Stuart Reichman, who attended the New York Restaurant School for Management and has worked in the Kosher food industry for the past ten years.

Mr. Jacob Liberman, the Associate Manager of Food Services for all facilities under the auspices of Y.U., said that the move was to benefit both campuses. Klein's experience in cooking and management

would benefit the uptown campus, from where food is sent to all the other Yeshiva University campuses.

Heyman commented that Klein was transferred to the uptown campus to "help the food service department with its problems in production."

Liberman explained that since the summertime discussions and investigations have been conducted regarding the Yeshiva University management. It was felt that by rotating certain staff members, new and productive ideas could be circulated regularly on the campuses.

Mr. Jeffery Rosengarten, Director of Supporting Services, Administration, and Personnel, said that the position which Klein has assumed had been vacant for a while. In previous years there was also a slightly different slant to the job. Rosen-

(Continued on page 11, col 4)



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Klein, who no longer work at SCW cafeteria.

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Shiur Instituted By TAC And SCWSC

by Ellen Sheer

In early October, Lisa Horowitz, president of the Junior Class, instituted a weekly Parsha Shiur in response to the student desire for an additional learning program in Brookdale Hall. "I was interested in a z'man kavuah (fixed time) to learn parsha and I knew that many of my friends were equally as interested," she noted.

While a weekly Parsha Shiur was already being given by Rav Aaron Soloveitchik at the YC campus, and a Monday night Pirkei Avot Shiur is given by Rabbi Flaum in the Orange Lounge of Brookdale Hall, Horowitz felt that there was a student need for a Parsha Shiur in which Stern women could actively participate. "If students give the class each week, they are more likely to get actively involved," she ascertained. Miss Horowitz seemed to feel that a relaxed atmosphere would not only allow the students to verbalize thoughts and ideas that they would otherwise keep to themselves, but even more importantly, other students would be encouraged to give the shiur. Leslie Langbaum, an SCW Junior, remarked that she looks forward to the shiur particularly because her friends

present it.

Stern College's student council, in the past, generally has not been responsible for initiating shiurim but this year the Junior Class Student Council joined together with the Torah Activities Committee in order to attract a broader spectrum of students. Horowitz admitted that many people who are affiliated with TAC but "do not participate in Student Council sponsored activities," make up the majority of the regulars. Chayale Weissman, president of TAC, feels that this shiur "shows the beauty of Stern College, that the two student organizations can work together on such a meaningful program."

Since its success is based on group participation, the weekly session is accessible and enjoyable to students on any Judaic Studies level.

The class that started at Parshat Noach, is held each week in the Beit Midrash and attracts approximately a dozen people each time. The student giving the shiur uses Meforshim (commentaries), either to discuss one or two key topics, or to reconcile a specific problem. The session goes on for approximately 30-40 minutes and is then followed by refreshments.

Ebullient Sephards Gather For Shabbaton

by Neeli Souli

Yeshiva University's Sephardic Club brought together a record number of students at Stern College for Shabbat Parshat Vayishlach. Approximately 160 students attended this first shabbaton of the year.

The Shabbaton marked the end of Semana Sepharad, the week long commemoration to Sephardic culture. Each night of the week, different synagogues in Cedarhurst, Brooklyn, Highland Park and Manhattan hosted a program. The typical evening began with an introductory lecture, which discussed both past and present Spanish Jewish communities. It was followed by a visual or musical presentation, accompanied with food and drink. Closing remarks were given each night by Rabbi Mitchell Serels, the Director of Sephardic Studies at Yeshiva University. The event was sponsored by YU in cooperation with the National Tourist Office of Spain and Iberia Airlines.

The Sephardic Shabbaton was the culmination of the entire

week. "Semana Sepharad brings to life the beauty and richness of Sephardic culture and customs," said Debby Aharon, a senior and SCW's Sephardic Club president. "If the purpose is to educate the present generation about past generations, then a shabbaton in this theme involving college age youths is appropriate."

The guest speaker, Dr. Gloria Mound, a Fellow of Glasgow University in Scotland, spoke about studies of Spanish Jews who lives in hiding on Spanish islands south of Majorca. Dr. Mound lived on one of those islands for three years. She researched the history of the existence of Jews presently living there, and how they persisted through the Inquisition.

In addition to speaking, Dr. Mound supplemented her presentation with an exhibit of pictures and manuscripts found in a hidden synagogue. While most were pleased with the session, some complained about the lack of time allotted. "It was

fascinating work but she was very rushed," expressed Ilana Sacknoovitz. "There wasn't enough time for her to finish," added Sharon Melamed, an SCW sophomore.

YU students were attracted to the Shabbaton based on the club's reputation for bringing a large number of students together, and for the atmosphere that they bring with them.

The club, however, was not always this popular. "Last year the club had a face-lift," explained Miss Aharon. She said that last year's events were run by enthusiastic leadership. "Past presidents, Ruthie Gabay and Jason Ohayon, used a variety of events to uplift the club's reputation."

"I look forward to the Sephardic Shabbaton, they are always a lot of fun," remarked Nechama Goldman, a senior. Aharon hypothesized that with the rise in Sephardic students in both YC and SCW, "the events will most likely be even more successful."

Student Request for Apology

To the Editors:

The editors were careless in editing my article because when it appeared in the *Observer*, it contained incorrect information that I had not originally presented in my article. I am referring to my article in the previous issue on the termination of Dr. Cahen. It was the job of the editors to make grammatical corrections but they do not have the right to change entire sentences or key phrases and words.

These editorial corrections were not presented to me before my article was published. A news-writer should have the full knowledge of the corrections made.

I myself conducted the interview and therefore it is my writing alone that should appear between the pages. This careless editing embarrassed the interviewee and news-writer. Sincerely, Shaani Goldberg SCW '91

Professor's Response

Continued from page 2, col 4 (University policy) that I undertake a Ph.D. Subsequently, I discovered that there were (and are) faculty members who do not possess the Ph.D., but are full-time; some have been promoted, and some have been granted tenure.

9. In the 1970s, the various crises at SCW concerning the language requirement necessitated strenuous effort on the part of the language teachers—with their colleagues as well as in the classroom. This robbed me of precious time needed for work on my doctorate and thus lengthened the time for its completion. I did not contemplate the writing of articles until after receiving the degree.

May I suggest that an interviewee be shown a copy of an article before it is published—so as to prevent the printing of erroneous information, and to avoid embarrassment to the interviewee as well as the interviewer?

Sincerely,
Nancy Cahen
Spanish Dept.

Stabbing Victim

face, Rosenstein realized the seriousness of the situation. She stated that she was horrified that the guard's "first reaction was to motion him out, even after Babick pleaded for help." According to Rosenstein, although she was afraid to touch him, when she saw that the guard continued to motion Babick out the door, she decided to act. Rosenstein mentioned that she ran to get paper towels and instructed Babick to place them on his wounds and to apply pressure.

Babick said that he was unaware of his injuries until he noticed his bloody reflection in a building window. He intended to seek help at NYU Medical Center on 34th St. and 1st Avenue., but felt that "he couldn't make it" and decided to enter Brookdale Hall because it appeared "to have a lot of people." His original destination had been NYU Medical Center in order to visit his mother who is a patient there.

Rosenstein felt that the "students were definitely more effective than the guards." In con-

cession, Rosenstein acknowledged that "it is the guard's job to be defensive and that their main concern is to protect the students." Her conclusion was that "once they realized the situation, they should have acted more efficiently."

In response, Mrs. Ilene Kupferman, the Resident Supervisor at Brookdale Hall, said, "No one is under an obligation to help anyone—it was a humanitarian and good samaritan thing to do." Kupferman stressed that "the unfortunate thing happened here (near Brookdale Hall); however, it could have happened anywhere in the city." Babick was taken to Bellevue

Hospital where he received thirty-six stitches and remained there until seven o'clock that evening. Babick stated that he is currently in good condition. He added that "everyone was helpful," specifically three students whom he could not identify but wished to thank.

Cents Sense

Continued from page 2, Column 5. this would incur would certainly be covered by the increased revenues that the added convenience would yield. After all, it only makes sense to provide us with the correct cents. Susan Bahn SCW 92

...Observer's Response

The Editor's of the *Observer* apologize for any embarrassment suffered by you or Dr. Cahen. However, it is our policy that reporters can look at their articles before they go to press and make any necessary changes. Please keep that in mind for future reference.

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Jewish Studies Thriving At Stern

by Shoshana Levine

"Stern? Why would I want to apply there? What does it have to offer me that Barnard doesn't?" If ever you are found in the position of discussing the advantages of a Stern College education, you would likely be inclined to place a heavy emphasis on the merits of its Judaic Studies Department, which is such an integral part of the Yeshiva University experience. The "mada" part of the YU educational system can be evaluated vis-a-vis the various academic departments of other universities; but, because of the uniqueness of this institution's dual program, the Torah department generally cannot be compared. Yeshiva College, though unique in its Torah U-Mada philosophy, is not necessarily unique in its type of learning or in its level of shiurim, while Stern College is unique in both aspects. SCW represents the epitome of women's Jewish education today. Its Judaic Studies Department, offering a wide range of courses, illustrates the great heights toward which women's learning is perpetually reaching and growing. The individual professors and rabbim who comprise the core of the Jewish Studies faculty are the ones responsible for enabling SCW to truly fulfill its role of being the center of Jewish learning for women.

Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Department of Judaic Studies, feels that SCW is succeeding in living up to its reputable image, and that its Jewish Studies program is justifiably the paradigm of women's learning. "Our purpose at Stern is to provide our women with the best quality of a traditional and academic education in Judaic Studies," he said. "Our goal is to produce women who are not only capable of under-

standing things they've learned in the confines of the classrooms, but women who can use the skills that they've acquired to continue their learning after Stern."

The Jewish Studies Department at SCW offers a large variety of courses in many different areas including Bible, Halachah, Jewish History, and Jewish Philosophy. While some of these courses are lacking in their intensity and seriousness, others are tremendously challenging and extremely intense. The intensity of a course is generally proportionate to the level of commitment found in its students. There is a large enough variety of courses available to allow a student to choose the specific type of learning that she desires. Generally, a student will be interested in a specific method of study based on her background and her previous learning experience. Some women, because of their proclivities, gravitate towards discussion oriented classes, while others tend to focus on the more textually based ones.



Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel

Referring to SCW as "Yeshiva Le-Banot," Rabbi Kanarfogel stresses the importance of textual analysis as being a vital tool to assist students in developing a full appreciation of the value of Jewish Studies and to enable them to continue their learning on their own. "Our 'yeshiva' gives over the methodology of analyzing texts just as traditional men's yeshivot do. We try to reproduce learning-methodologically, textually, and ideologically—not just for exams, but for outside of the classroom as well. The most radical devel-

opment in women's learning today, is the increased demand for intensive study of text. Our emphasis on textual analysis and language skills in learning, is what places us at the forefront of women's learning." Rabbi Kanarfogel, who is also a professor of Jewish Intellectual History, and is as perfectly at home in the halls of Harvard as he is in a Beit Midrash, emphasizes the value of an academic Jewish Studies program in conjunction with the more traditional Torah studies. "Torah is first and foremost," he said. "The lesser traditional yeshiva disciplines, i.e., philosophy and history, are optimally used to help one put all that one has learned together and into the right perspective. We project an image of intellectualism for the sake of spirituality. Our ultimate goal is for our students to utilize their knowledge and intellectualism to develop the right values and a Torah way of life."

In addition to offering a large selection of courses, with each one advocating different learning techniques and methodology, SCW's Jewish Studies faculty represents a wide range of ideologies or "hashkafot." While some teachers discuss hashkafa formally as part of the class, others reveal their hashkafot as a supplementary part of the course through students' questions or through the professor's analysis of the material being covered.

Rabbi Tzvi Flaum, the spiritual leader, or "mashgiach ruchani" at SCW, joins Rabbi Kanarfogel in stressing the importance of having a large variety of courses on all different levels of learning, and representing a wide range of hashkafot. "Because of Stern's diversified student body," he said, "both the levels of learning and the spiritual level of the women are different. Our purpose is to give each student sufficient exposure in both learning and hashkafa to enable each one to develop to her maximum potential. This applies to the lower echelon courses as well as to the more advanced ones. Our beginner courses in basic Judaism are extremely intense. Through these classes we try to convey a basis of learning and hashkafa which is just as intellectually stimulating and just as crucial as the more advanced classes." Rabbi Flaum also agrees with

Rabbi Kanarfogel in his views about the goals of women's learning. "The courses at Stern that focus on enabling the students to see the full gamut of the evolution of halachah through a multi-faceted approach of text analysis, is unique and not available in other institutions of higher learning for women," he believes. "Because women here are exposed to collegiate and graduate school education, their Torah education must be at least on the same level, if not more intense, as that of their secular education."

Being the spiritual mentor of the college, Rabbi Flaum emphasizes the spiritual level of the women which, he notes, has risen greatly over the past few years. He attributes this improvement to the expansion of the SCW Jewish Studies program. "The intensification of the courses results in an increase in the number of students dedicated to learning. This dedication develops their personal piety too, which enables them to become more effective teachers and future role models. Many schools in which SCW graduates presently teach applaud the College for having produced these exemplary teachers." In addition to serving



Rabbi Tzvi Flaum

as role models for students, these women educators serve as tremendous role models for their own children as well. "The more a woman knows about the hashkafa of Torah, the more effective and successful a mother she can be," Rabbi Flaum added. "We're not here to give mussar nor to proselytize. Our goal is simply to encourage each

student to strive to perfect herself both spiritually and intellectually; that will ultimately impact every aspect of her life."

Rabbi Flaum further feels that the general religious atmosphere in Stern has improved tremendously over the last few years. "The chesed that goes on behind the scenes, and the increased number of private shiurim and chevrusa programs are tremendous," he said. "The outreach and acts of Ahavas Yisroel that take place within the school are mostly results of the women's desires to actualize and practice outside of the class what they've learned inside. There is no interface between T.A.C. and Student Council now like there was ten years ago. We all share the common goal of enhancing the religious and Torah atmosphere in our school."

Rabbi Kanarfogel and Rabbi Flaum arrived together at Stern College fifteen years ago as members of a group of scholars sent from Yeshiva College, whose purpose was to upgrade and intensify the learning at Stern. Over these years they have revised, expanded, and improved the Jewish Studies Department. They implemented core requirements to ensure the students' exposure to a wide range of Judaic courses and thus spark an interest in them. There are constantly changes and improvements being made in the program. A major revolution this year, for example, was the implementation of an intense Beit Midrash program designed for the more advanced students. "There are always improvements to be made," Rabbi Kanarfogel claimed. "Our focus now is to fine tune the skills in all the levels of classes by exposing students to linguistic skills at a very early stage, thus establishing a greater sensitivity for the language of texts from the start. The new Beit Midrash program was a necessary addition, and because of its great success, we are now inclined to move toward more seminars and specialized Beit Midrash styled classes in Tanach. Rabbi Kanarfogel sees his improvements taking effect. "Ten years ago women would return to Stern, greatly motivated, after having spent a year learning in Israel, and would be faced with the problem of not having a large enough variety of advanced courses available to them. Now



their biggest problem is that they have too many courses to choose from and simply do not have the time to take them all."

SCW students join the faculty in acknowledging the diversity and intensiveness of the Judaic Studies Program. Miriam Segal, a Judaic Studies and History major, and a senior at Stern, is devoting most of her last semester to Judaic Studies. "The best thing about finishing up my requirements," she said, "is that I can now focus on all of the Judaic Studies courses that I've never had the chance to take. The biggest problem for me is that there are too many good courses given during the same hours!," one sophomore, also a Judaic Studies major, chose to spend a year in Stern learning only Jewish Studies instead of doing the same in an institution in Israel. "After my freshman year, having experienced the learning at Stern, I could not find a school to attend in Israel that would satisfy my needs," she said. "Stern has so much to offer me, and I feel that this is where I can reach a pinnacle of learning."

So the next time you find yourself defending your school to a cynical skeptic of YU, invite that person to visit some of the more serious Judaic Studies courses. The classes will speak for themselves.

Survey Of Jewish History At Stern

by Elsheva Berenzen

The Judaic Studies Department is one of the fastest growing, least criticized departments

at Stern College. Specifically, the department of Jewish History and Philosophy draws remarks of appreciation for both the range of courses offered and the faculty members teaching there. When asked to comment on the possible reasons behind the success of the department, Rabbi Ephraim Kanarfogel, Chairman of the Rebecca Ivry Department of Jewish Studies, replied: "In both areas we are able to cover a full gamut of courses. In Jewish History we offer classes that incorporate the classical, medieval, and modern periods that are taught by professors with Ph.D's in the specific areas that they teach. The same is also true of the offerings in Philosophy. The classes run the gamut from medieval to modern, as well as general overviews."

In addition to the large amounts of course offerings that focus on the history or philosophy of various time periods, another facet of the department that contributes to it being well-rounded is the varied levels on which the classes are taught. Many classes, such as the surveys of Jewish History or overviews of medieval and modern history, can be taken even by those students who are not yet on the advanced level or by those who do not yet have the skills for text analysis.

To keep the department from stagnating, there is constantly a new influx of courses which serve to complement old favorites like Rabbi Kanarfogel's Jewish Christian Polemics. In the coming semester, some of the new topics include Philosophy of the Rav to be taught by Rabbi Sholom Carmy and Jewish Political Philosophy to be taught by Dr. David Shatz. In the discipline of history, Dr. Moshe Sokolow will be sharing with students his area of expertise concerning Jews in the Medieval Moslem World, and Dr. Kosak, previously known as a Hebrew language teacher, will make a debut as a history teacher offering American Jewish History.

Carole Shamula, a junior, is on a year's leave of absence from NYU. She is at SCW for the year to concentrate on Judaic Studies. Ms. Shamula commented that in terms of range of offerings "... SCW is the place to go. There is also room to form a close relationship with

many of the teachers. However, sometimes I feel that the atmosphere is a little too comfortable, and because the teachers are too flexible, it makes me a little bit more lax about my studies."

Rachel Mohl, an SCW junior, and Judaic Studies major, commented on her appreciation for the offerings that concentrate on "... all different periods, countries and texts. There's a lot of variety." Leah Brueckheimer, a senior also majoring in Judaic Studies, agreed with Mohl, but, added that she wishes some of the classes concentrated on the history of a given time period, instead of on one aspect of an era. "Just as there are world history classes that are addressed to certain eras, in Jewish History there should also be such offerings," she suggested.

Rabbi Kanarfogel also expressed some of his hopes for the future. "Ideally, I would like to see smaller classes similar to the colloquia that other colleges offer." He also pointed out that he hopes that students use the amount of flexibility and degree of choice built into the department, meaning that students should look to challenge themselves beyond their existing capabilities. Furthermore, Rabbi Kanarfogel hopes to work in conjunction with the uptown campus to acquire additional faculty for the ever-expanding Judaic Studies Department. In terms of the SCW administration, however, he remarked that "the Dean (Bacon) responds positively to every request in terms of implementing new programs. We are dealing with a college which realizes that we have a unique opportunity in terms of Judaic Studies, and with that, the Dean is uniquely involved."

According to Rabbi Kanarfogel, the goal of teaching Jewish History and Philosophy is to "encourage students to think, to chronologically corroborate what they learn in other classes, and to be a thought base for other issues." Apparently, these goals are being reached, and though, of course, there is always room for innovation and improvement, it cannot be said that, at least in the areas of history and philosophy, the Judaic Studies Department is not accommodating the wishes of SCW students.

Bible Dept. Caught Short

by Ranji D. Lathin

"I'm on core and I have to take a Bible class, but I don't know which one is right for me!" is a common remark when it comes down to choosing which "Bib" class to take.

While it would seem logical that at a women's yeshiva the Bible Department would be one of the strongest, many students do not seem to think this is the case at SCW. Suzie Silverstein, a Judaic Studies major, remarked that she is disappointed with the level of the Judaic Studies classes she has taken so far. Other students complained about the limited choices and the lack of challenging courses in the department overall.

Since the Bible Department is small, students are restricted as to the courses that they can take. Sara Weiss, a senior, remarked "Since I'm limited to taking a few instructors in the Bible Department who are challenging, I have to take whatever they offer, even if I have already studied the subject or am uninterested in the topic." However, for some students the problem has to do with the philosophy of the instructor. One senior, who is a member of TAC, pointed out that she cannot take certain instructors because of their religious philosophy, reputation or the nature of the material studied in the class. "Many of the challenging courses are taught by more radical instructors whose hashkafa is very different than mine, and the ones whom I can ideologically take are less challenging." Some students feel that there is no middle road, either the courses are too hard or too easy. "I feel like I'm choosing between really hard courses in which I'd have to prepare for class every day and do a tremendous amount of outside readings, or the blowoff classes," complained one SCW senior.

However, with new teachers like Dr. Sykes joining the Bible Department and familiar teachers like Dr. Bernstein returning from a semester off, this semester, the Bible department is offering somewhat of a variety. "Students who want to be challenged have the opportunity to do so," remarked Rabbi Kanarfogel, "that is why we have teachers like Dr. Eichler and Dr. Sykes. More students are taking these challenging classes which is a good sign." According to Rabbi Kanarfogel, "The way you judge the quality of a program is if those students who desire challenges succeed in progressing. We accomplish that."

Shoshana Levine, an SCW Judaic Studies major, commented that "though the Bible Department is the most limited amongst the entire Jewish Studies Program at Stern, there are a number of good solid courses available that students are generally scared off from taking because of the radical reputation of its professor. A Rabbi Carmy course, for example, is not synonymous with 'Apikorsus 101,' and while Dr. Sykes is a Revel graduate, he also spent several years learning in the Lakewood and the Mirer Yeshivot." To Levine, it is unfortunate that certain misconceptions turn some of the brightest students away from some of the most stimulating courses.

Some students feel that the fact that there are very few women teachers in the Judaic Studies Department in general is a problem. The Bible Department has two women, one of whom is Deena Wiener-Pack who teaches a variety of courses from a very textually analytical and angle. Rabbi Kanarfogel added that he is looking forward to the time when Stern graduates as well as present students who are pursuing careers in Judaic Studies, will complete their graduate work and return to Stern as Jewish Studies faculty members.

Rabbi Kanarfogel says that "when it comes down to it, a student should vote with her feet." In other words, experiment with different classes and if you find them too easy, move on to different ones. "We are equipped to provide challenges, and strive to enable every student to reach her potential in learning."



FACULTY SNIPPETS



Rabbi Saul Berman
Lawyer, writer and Rabbi of Lincoln Square Synagogue, Berman is a favorite Judaic Studies among SCW's more intellectual students. His courses require much preparation, outside readings and several hours of studying outside of class. He is known for not returning exams and for using a law school method of randomly calling upon people to explain the text or to offer an opinion.



Rabbi Metzger
Metzger can often be seen going from class to class collecting tzedakah. His Lubavitch philosophy is manifested in his courses. Metzger's courses require very little outside readings, basing his exams primarily on class lectures. He is a favorite among students who are uninterested in challenging courses and is an easy grader.



Rebbetzin Safran, "Home and Family"
An editor of Ten Daat magazine, Safran is termed an intelligent, "with it" lady." She deals with the difficult topic of Taharat Hamishpacha with insight, sensitivity and humor. She is given much credit for her open-mindedness to all questions. Her course is based on class lectures and some readings.

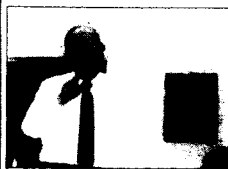


Dr. Moshe Sokolow
Known for his sarcasm, extensive vocabulary, and his knowledge of Arabic (which is evident from his willingness to share his knowledge, even when not applicable), Sokolow is considered more of a scholarly professor than a yeshivish type, bringing in such sources as the Koran and the Septuagint. The lectures are usually supplemented by extensive outside readings.



Dina Wiener-Pack
She is known for her first day course outline which intimidates those not thinking of taking up Ugaritic. This effectively leaves her with a class of sincere, dedicated and hardworking students who can be seen preparing Bible texts with the BDB, Gezenius and Biblica Hebraica. Her classes require preparation.

A Review Of The Psychology Department



Rabbi Aberman
A newcomer, Rabbi Aberman is a favorite with his old Michlala students. He is at his best in a small classroom where his talents as a caring teacher are easily seen. Although his class moves slowly on a daily basis, students can look back on the semester and realize they have learned a lot from the course.

by Faith Haber
Psychology has traditionally been and continues to be a popular major at Stern College. Last year alone, nearly ten percent of SCW's graduating class received their degrees in psychology. Five years ago, few SCW students applied to graduate school in psychology and passed the GRE's. Within the past four years, however, nineteen SCW graduates have gone on to

graduate schools, including Ferkauf, Fordham and Columbia. Furthermore, almost everyone has not only passed the GRE's but has also scored in the highest percentiles. According to Dr. Joshua Bacon, Associate Professor of Psychology, "Outcome performance on standardized tests such as the GREs and more recently, the MFATs have been excellent in comparison to national norms, to other departments at SCW, as well as to the psychology department at YC." A Psychology major is a


stepping stone to a career in different areas of the field of psychology, and it can also be helpful in such disciplines as physical therapy, occupational therapy, medicine, law and business. Acceptance rates to graduate schools in psychology differ, for example, in clinical psychology, the acceptance rate is almost 15:1. In other areas the ratio is somewhat less. Gila Iskovitz, a SCW senior majoring in psychology, finds that "Some of my classes are very challenging and satisfying and all are informative." She commented that she would like to see more focus on preparation for graduate school, for example more independent study opportunities. Second, more responsibility on the student's part for supplementing the material covered in class. Students did not seem satisfied with the quality of the psychology courses. One student complained that her introductory class in psychology proved to be "more of a session for sharing babysitting experiences than a college lecture." Others revealed that while the biological aspects of psychology courses were challenging, the courses that focused on the sociological aspects of psychology were weak and unchallenging. "Psychology majors at other colleges have a full bookshelf of psychology books from their courses, but for some of my classes at SCW I can get through

the course without touching a book. So I don't have more than three books from all my years at SCW," said an SCW graduate now studying at NYU. Another student, graduating with an psychology major remarked, "I feel like I didn't learn enough. The standards are too low. If you can read the book and do well on the test why show up to class?" She added that the department should be expanded, and more challenging courses should be offered. Julie Goldstein, an alumnus of SCW presently in her first year at Ferkauf felt that she was well prepared for graduate school, particularly as a result of taking Dr. Bacon's courses. This semester, SCW offered thirteen psychology courses, including specialized ones, such as Forensic Psychology, which deals with law. Nevertheless, students still desire more variety. In regard to this issue, Dr. Bacon said that "Basic courses here are just as varied as anywhere. Because of the limited faculty, what we are missing is the large numbers of specialty courses. It is difficult when a department relies on adjunct professors to teach certain courses." He added that in the future, he hopes to increase the number of full time faculty in the department at the SCW campus and to increase the number of perspectives. Bacon feels that there has been a growing interest toward graduate schools. A different attitude regarding psychology has developed. "More people are taking psychology courses not just to get through but rather out of an interest and a desire for a challenge, which raises the level of the classes for everyone." A result of this growing interest, is an "impetus to change the psychology curriculum and requirements. Now there is a broader background and more of a balance between experimental and clinical-social psychology courses." Bacon attributes

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See You There!!

Tillem Project Brings Together Two Generations Of women

by Sahara Postal

Two generations of Jewish women joined together on Sunday, Dec. 17, at the Second Annual Project Tillem Chanukah Party, to celebrate the upcoming holiday. The party, organized by Chani Ruttner and Sahara Postal, was attended by students from Stern College and the elderly women from the Tillem Program.

The celebration, held in the Orange Lounge of Brookdale Hall, included singing, dancing and an original song written by Ruttner and Postal that retold the Chanukah story. The SCW students joined the ladies in singing both Yiddish and Chanukah songs. Ruttner called upon eight ladies to light Chanukah candles and then led a candle lighting ceremony.

The women then held a panel discussion on the topic of "Chanukah Through the Ages." The ladies shared Chanukah experiences from their childhood and advised the SCW students to take advantage of the education that SCW offers. One outspoken elderly woman contended that "Women today must be

educated and go out to get jobs so they do not have to be dependent on men." Others maintained that women today have it "much harder since we live in such a corrupt society."

At the conclusion of the event, the ladies expressed their delight with the party and with the new and innovative activities of the Tillem Program.

Ruttner emphasized the programs importance. "These women usually just sit at home all day. Because we do things with them, we bring out their potential. At first, they wouldn't even dance at the party, but we insisted and dragged them up there, and then they really started to boogie...you could see they were having a great time!" One elderly woman commented that the program would improve if more students could become involved.

The Tillem program, originally called Project Sages, was started by Ivan Tillem, a professor and Board of Trustees member of SCW who was killed in a plane crash this past summer.

CHANUKAH WISHES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

1. Leona Helmsley will donate the Palace to SCW for dorm use
2. Someone besides Adrienne Goldfeder will win Sports Trivia Quizzes
3. Donald Trump will name a building after someone truly great
4. The average IQ level of the YC student will go up to 100
5. The Canadians will go home and stop writing their silly columns in the newspapers
6. SCW will start a wrestling team
7. The security guards will remember who we are so they will stop bothering us for ID cards
8. The Commentator will stop writing about the caf in every issue.

It takes 20 stupid animals to make one fur coat...

It takes one stupid animal to wear one.

Pre-Health

Continued on page 4, col 3

dedicate time to Stern women." He expressed his interest in meeting all of the students personally to discuss their particular career plans. For those people wishing to meet with Weisbrot, Tuesday appointments can be made with the office of student services.

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Cafeteria

Continued on page 6, col 3

garten explained that in the past the Executive Chef was more of a manager of catering. Now, the job has been altered to "back of the kitchen" managing and requires the skills of a chef.

In addition, a new cook has been hired, as well as a new full-time cashier, Ms. Christina Ayber.

Although Heyman seems pleased with the changes, some students are unhappy. Mrs. Anna Klein, who has worked in SCW's cafeteria for the past eighteen years, decided on her

own accord to retire in the beginning of December. Students miss her friendliness and motherly concern. "I miss Mrs. Klein telling me to get some sleep after a night of studying," said Amy Saffer, SCW junior. Kari Bookbinder, SCW senior, said "I spoke to her every day, she was always concerned about me getting enough nutrition because she saw that I was under a lot of stress. I'm going to miss her."

Mr. Klein refused to comment about his new job.

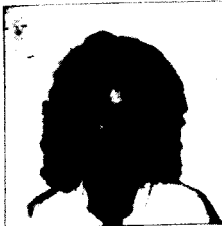
The Observant Reporter

"Are you satisfied with the religious atmosphere at Stern College?" by Banji Lathkin



Adrienne Goldfeder, Sophomore, Pol-Sci major

"Yes, because within certain limits, you're free to be who you want to be. People who are more religious can do what they want, and the same goes for the less religious students. But the dress code doesn't make sense because we're told we can't wear pants in school, but some of the skirts worn are much less modest."



Marlene Holt, Vice President of Sophomore Class, Education major

"No, because I feel that a lot of people here don't practice religious values, just the laws. I think it's more important that they be respectful to their rabbis and teachers than following written laws."



Daniella Bak, Senior, Math major

"Yes, I feel that the school does its utmost to promote a religious atmosphere; there are always speeches and shiurim to attend, and people to go to with any question. However, there isn't enough involvement or concern on the part of the students; for example, the sparse attendance at any given shiur, and the lack of adherence to the dress code in the school building."



Carey Myers, Junior, Psychology major

"Yes, I'm satisfied with the religious atmosphere here because even though the college could be doing more, like offering better Bible courses, they aren't pushing religion on me. I feel that it is like any other university because I'm free to make my own choices, and I don't feel stifled here."



Jennifer Epstein, Senior, English Communications major

"No. The College should do more to promote the religious atmosphere, such as offer more shiurim outside of class. It also bothers me to see things like tref food wrappers and disco party flyers around the dorm. The Judaic studies courses should concentrate more on issues that are applicable to day to day living, like kashruth and tznius."

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Memories of East Berlin

by Naomi Leiser

When I was growing up, trips to New York were inevitably accompanied by a symbolic pilgrimage to East New York. There, among the wreckage of today's slums, my mother would recreate for us the New York of her youth. Oblivious to the passage of time, she would reenter and bring us with her into the neighborhoods she had known and loved.

My father's stories, when he told them, were very different. The city of his youth was not one we could visit. The neighborhoods he remembered were destroyed not by slums, but by war. My father was born in East Berlin and it was not until this past summer that my family and I were able to make our first pilgrimage there.

We went in early June, long before the Berlin wall was breached. So now, when I listen to the news reporters and read magazine summaries, I cannot help but remember the city I visited. It has changed already, and somehow that makes the whole incident seem further removed.

The wait at Check Point Charlie, the sight of the semi-demolished synagogue in the center of the city and of my

father's apartment, remain vivid in my mind. Yet it all seems so distant, as if it belongs to someone else's memories, not my own.

On the first day, guided by the hotel's map, my mother and I discovered the old Jewish quarter. There I remember wandering into the shul, not the building itself but the yard around it. I wasn't supposed to be there, but I couldn't resist the invitation of an unlocked gate. The shul, gutted but not razed during the Second World War, is undergoing renovations and is scheduled to be opened in 1998-9. Next to the boarded up shul, a small sign announced the Gemeinde Zentrum, the community center. After three or four tries, I succeeded in entering the center, which occupies less than a floor of the building, and spoke to the librarian who worked there.

The East Berlin we visited this summer is different from the one you'll find now. Not just politically, but in terms of the situation of the Jews as well. Though there are officially fewer than 800 Jews belonging to the East Berlin community (various estimates place it anywhere between 200 and 800), there are an estimated four thousand

Jews in the city. For them, life now is more uncertain than ever. As East Germany courts the American Jewish lobby and Israeli friendship with promises of reparation, payment and recognition of her own guilt, her own citizens seem to be facing an alarming increase in anti-Semitic incidents.

Up until a few weeks ago the state did not officially recognize anti-Semitism, the party line being that racism and anti-Semitism were products of capitalism and could not exist in a socialist state. When racist attacks occurred, like the destruction of a Jewish cemetery a few weeks ago, and the abduction and harassment of several young Jews, the incidents were covered up and punishments handed out secretly.

In November the communist party changed its policy and began reporting anti-Semitic and racist acts. The deluge of stories might, then, be a result of the change in policy, not an increase in anti-Semitic sentiment.

The position of Jews in East Germany is an especially sensitive issue not just because of the Holocaust, but because many of the founding members of the

Continued on page 15, col 1

Review of Y.C.'s "A Life In The Theatre" A Lifeless Theatre

by Naomi Leiser

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society, under the directorship of Dr. Anthony Beukas, has a long and illustrious history. Or so I am told. If that is the case, then this year's Yeshiva College production, "A Life in the Theatre" by David Mamet, was a disappointment. An amateurish production which at times soared but all too often did not, YC's version of "A Life in the Theatre" contained evidence of some real talent, but too little and too seldom to rescue the play.

In any event, "A Life in the Theatre" may not have been the best choice for a college Drama Society production. A series of loosely collected vignettes and scenes from a number of Broadway shows, the play seemed to offer no coherent story-line and little room for character development. Most scenes were short and few characters returned twice. Ideally, the actors would have been able to transmit a sense of character to the audience within a few short moments, which is all they had. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so and therefore the characters remained two-dimensional and lifeless.

The play opened with what appeared to be a cast audition and continued with a scene from "Sialag 17", a psychological play set in a World War II Prisoner-of-War camp. The play proceeded to flash back and forth from the theatre to the play, from the theatre to another play, from backstage to the theatre to

a play and so on and so forth. If there was any connection between the scenes, it was not developed and it should have been. If there wasn't any connection, then why bother?

The two main characters were John and Robert, over-acted by Ari Schertz and Kenneth Rochlin of "The Dresser" fame. Both actors, but especially Rochlin, seemed oblivious to the need for subtlety in acting. Any humor their scenes offered was destroyed by the over dramatization of the lines and the heavy handed blocking and directing. A personal complaint now, but in view of the fact that the very new and beautiful theatre is also very small, was it necessary for John and Robert to scream quite so often?

The failure of the director, Rochlin and Schertz to develop the characters of John and Robert not only destroyed their own scenes, but ultimately undermined the entire play. The relationship between the aging actor and his younger, more handsome and more talented dressing-roommate was the topic of the greatest number of scenes and could have lent the entire play the cohesiveness it lacked. Their rivalry-ridden friendship is essentially a commentary on life in the theatre.

Perhaps Mamet was suggesting not that this relationship is unusual, but rather, that it is the norm. Robert, as portrayed by Kenneth Rochlin, was an eccentric, neurotic actor, and John, as acted by Ari Schertz, was a shallow youth obsessed with his

own good looks. Their relationship remained as nothing more than a humorous interjection, a comic study of two eccentric actors.

The play was not entirely bad, though. In fact, there were moments when, forgetting that finals were fast approaching and that there were at least twenty more worthwhile things I could have been doing, I actually enjoyed myself. The group scenes were most entertaining. The cast members seemed to be genuinely enjoying themselves, and their high spirits were transmitted to the audience. The sight of more than a dozen male college students dancing around on a small stage is always funny. When they are wearing long black Capota's and trying hard to remember their steps, it is even funnier.

These scenes were not just funny, though, they were also some of the best in the play. The slightly mocking, "I know I'm not perfect", attitude was particularly well suited for this type of production. Since most of the cast members are not drama majors, and do not have an indefinite amount of time to devote to rehearsals, they were hardly expected to be perfect. The audience appreciated the actors' fun and was able to participate in it more than in some of the other more self-important scenes.

Deserving special mention are Moshe Bellows and Dudi Finkelstein. Bellows' portrayal of Alan Strang, a psychologically disturbed man who, in this

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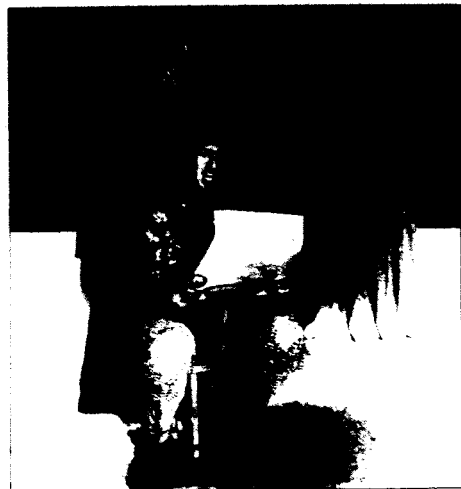
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About Women

by Nechama Goldman

Recently I had a conversation with my uncle which both amused and disturbed me. My uncle, a doctor, is a modern and professional man. He learns Daf Yomi and spends a lot of time helping his sons with their schoolwork, especially their Talmud studies.

Since he and my aunt live in the New York area, I visited them for Shabbat. Friday night I naively started chattering about women and their achievements in the Jewish communities. Once launched into this favorite topic, I waxed eloquent on the significance of Halacha and Torah in a woman's life. Projecting aloud, I spoke of the scores of dedicated young women, my friends, growing up to become the future Nehama Leibowitz's. No longer should women rely on men to teach them their halachot, like taking challah when baking bread. I conjured scenes of women, given the opportunity, running to embrace Mishna Torahs and eagerly open Chumashim in order to decipher complex Rashis and Rambans. I wound to my dramatic conclusion: as women, we no longer had to be passive spectators. Doors had opened for us to have spiritual and intellectual fulfillment in Judaism.

I stepped off of my soap box and expected applause. There was none. A deafening silence greeted the end of my idealistic rambling. I looked to my uncle. He cleared his throat, "Nechama, I'm not sure a woman's learning Torah is essential to the Jewish home. If she wants to learn it's nice, but it's certainly not necessary." Not necessary! I turned to look at my aunt at the other end of the Shabbat table. She shrugged and went back to teaching her six year-old daughter how to eat an éclair with grace.

I paused for a moment in thought. It is not necessary for

women to learn, yet it is necessary for my uncle to pursue Daf Yomi and it's very necessary for my cousins to learn Talmud every day. Further, it is fine for a woman to excel in a professional career. My uncle would encourage a woman to pursue careers in medicine, art, law, or accounting, provided of course that she have time to create the proper environment for her husband and sons to learn Torah. I looked around the table, noting the skirt lengths and absence of black hats. No, I was not in Meah Shearim or Boro Park. This conversation was taking place in New Rochelle, New York 1989.

Until that conversation I had not really thought of the difference with which men and women's learning Torah is regarded. At home my mother is constantly interrupting my father's Divrei Torah with her own opinions and ideas that she picks up during the week. While this may be annoying to my father, that is the way it has been for their twenty-one years of marriage. My mother always has something to say at the Passover Seder or in the Sukkah. They are the couple Rabbi Cooperman of Michlala speaks so highly of - the man who comes with his Talmud and the woman with her Tanach. Growing up in a house where my father learned with me anything that caught my interest, especially Talmud, and treated me as an intellectual equal in conversations ranging from Divine Providence to Creation, I did not truly know that sex discrimination existed, especially in terms of learning. For me, my first reaction to any friend, male or female, telling me an interesting interpretation to a Talmud text or relating to me something their Rebbe said in shiur, fills me with respect and admiration. Nothing turns me on more than a good D'var Torah. However, an article I recently read by a Mr.

Chaim Berman from London, gave me a good idea of the status quo. He described an imaginary date in Jerusalem between two yeshiva students, and the reactions of the boy and the girl to the other's spouting Torah.

To make the picture a little clearer, imagine a kosher restaurant in New York City. A couple is out on a date for the first time. He begins to tell her a funny story of the time he was in a restaurant and found a bug sitting in his salad. Instead of laughing and relating to him a similar experience, she launches into the sixty or so negative commandments that can be associated with eating a bug on Yom Kippur, citing Talmudic sources right and left. He, by the time she has finished her halachic discourse has either left her to pay the cheque or has mentally crossed her off as a loser, cursing whomever had suggested that they go out.

On the other hand, imagine the situation in reverse. It is the enthusiastic Yeshiva College student launching into the halachic intricacies of how to properly check lettuce, the way to tell a kosher insect from a non-kosher one and the punishment the Beit Din would inflict upon such a sinner. The absolute triteness of the topic would not deter the girl from hearing wedding bells. No doubt she would dance back to her dorm room and excitedly tell her roommates that she has found the talmid chacham who will build the Jewish home of her dreams.

While this may seem a little exaggerated, I remember all too well a discussion I had along similar lines. I relayed to my companion the conversation with my uncle, expecting him to sympathize with me. My companion did not seem put out by my interests in the Biological Sciences or in Plato and Aristotle. Surely he could handle my avid enthusiasm for Torah.

However, the indignation I showed over my uncle's response, coupled with my apparent desire to tackle as much Torah as my schedule would allow, caused this young professional to frown slightly. He continued the conversation by pointing out that he was looking forward to the day he would quiz his children on the Parshah and then give a D'var Torah. However, he did not anticipate his wife jumping in to contradict him with a Ramban she had just learned or the latest Rif she had deciphered in a Gemara class. Although he seemed to want to date an intelligent woman, he was clearly not interested in anyone who would threaten his status as the religious head of the household.

My grandmother has always told me to tone down my opinions, which I am inclined to assert, while dating so as not to scare my Bashert away. I always point out that if he is my Bashert, he is not going to be scared off by the immature verbosity of a twenty year-old no matter how convincing she may try to be. However, in lieu of recent events, while I still feel my grandmother is wrong, she may have an insight into the male personality I, in my youth, am lacking.

To illustrate, a pertinent issue erupted last week in one of the Talmud classes at SCW. Students espoused a feeling of insecurity in comparison to their male counterparts, specifically in the realm of Judaic Studies. The amount of constraint these students claimed to feel was astonishing. They pointed out that at the co-ed lectures and shiurim they attend, the male students rarely feel inhibited about hiding their intelligence, rather they are confident enough to ask the most stupid of questions in front of a roomful of people. They agreed that women, in contrast, often feel

the need to conceal their brightness, particularly in Torah, so as not to intimidate the men around them with the horrendous idea that they have the adequate brain power to learn seriously.

The teacher of the class was both fascinated and disturbed by what he was hearing. The class turned into an hour long discussion about the psychological and social differences separating intelligent men and women at Yeshiva University. He noted that at times he has thought of his students at SCW and wondered how many men he knew at YC who would be willing to deal with their intellectual assertion in fields traditionally limited to men. He worried about the difficulty his Talmud students might encounter given the social mores and stereotypes still existing in the Orthodox community in 1989.

Today Orthodox women are as active in the secular and professional world as men. They face the same dangerous influences men face in regard to Judaism. They have to make decisions regarding kashrut, shabbat, covering their hair etc., and the effect it will have on their professional lives. For men, the option of turning to Torah and Talmud to counter both academic and social pressure was always viable. Women today have the same intellectual and social needs and thus Torah is essential in serving to channel the many doubts and questions they encounter.

Women separating only have to cover their hair after they are married. There is no reason for them at any point in their lives to take on the Chumrah of covering their brains. "Any woman who feels she must curb her intelligence to get her man, cannot have all that much intelligence to curb." (Chaim Berman, Israel Scene, November 1988)

Engagements

Judy Mangen & Avi Melner
 Shavona Melamed & Isaac Soy
 Paige Levy & Judah Rosenstein
 Hahana Puroostaman & Hansur Soultmanathan

CORRECTIONS

Judy Paikin was spelled Paiken.
 Dr. Nancy Cahen has been a Spanish Professor at SCW for 27 years.

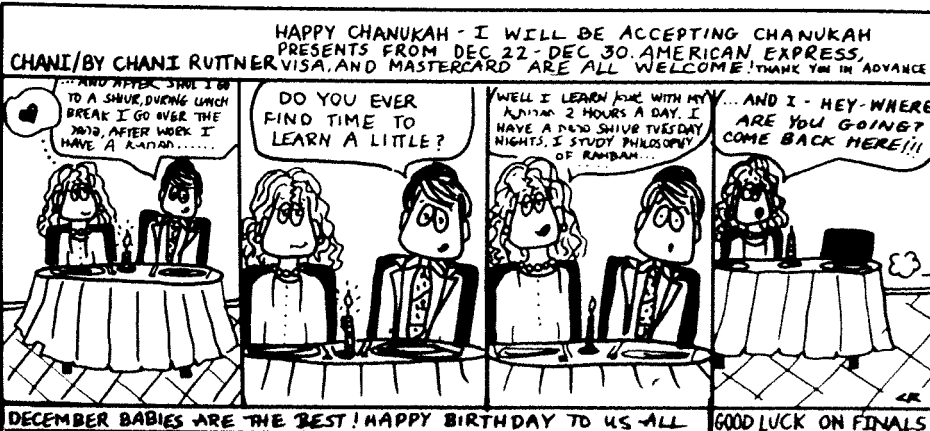
Letter Physics

Continued from page 2, Column 3.

I have approached several higher authorities and inquired why SCW cannot offer such a basic course and have received many excuses but no logical or reasonable answers. One science teacher, who asked to remain nameless, said that the reason why there is no "Physics for Poets" at SCW is that the Physics Department (HAH) is too "snobby", they refuse to teach a course in Physics on that elementary a level. An administrator told a fellow student in the same predicament as I, "chances are nothing is going to change, but put it in writing."

Here it is.
 Lunda Rayman
 SCW '90

P.S. Let it be known that at least three students currently taking Physics in SCW are joining the three students taking it outside for the Spring Semester



SSSJ Update

by Mindy Spear

Having completed their fourth board meeting and their first fund-raiser of the year, the members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry at SCW and YC are busy planning their year's events, including a carnival and the annual lobby to Washington.

The first annual SSSJ carnival will take place on Sunday, January 28, in the Max Stern Athletic Center on the YC campus. The carnival will run from 1-7 pm and will be composed of 20 booths including a main attraction for YU students—"Dunk the Dean." Featuring the superbowl for sports fans and games for all ages, the carnival is expected to attract Jewish youth groups, schools, adult

organizations, university clubs, and families. The main objective is fundraising for Soviet Jewry.

The lobby, on the other hand, which will be Wednesday to Thursday, February 7-8, will address political issues concerning Jews in the Soviet Union. The lobby's goals, which are enumerated on its flyer, are as follows: To obtain "freedom for refuseniks and poor relatives; greater cultural and religious freedoms; codification of Soviet emigration laws"; and freedom from "anti-Semitism in the U.S.S.R."

Other upcoming SSSJ events include a booksale, a Shabbaton for college students to be held in Riverdale, New York, and two student missions to the Soviet Union.

East Berlin

Continued on page 13, col 3

original Stalinist state were Jewish. The involvement of Jews in these repressive regimes was exploited by later East German governments who blamed many of the excesses of those governments on the "foreigners".

Early December saw the election of another Jew to a high government post. Gregor Gysi was born a Jew, though he does not practice the faith and is not a member of the community. He was elected chairman of the Communist party, a role which must be re-defined now that the government has undergone so

many changes. Many East German Jews fear the added exposure Gysi's election will bring them.

Since the upheavals in East Germany first began two months ago much Jewish attention has been focused on the issue of German re-unification. While this is an important consideration, Jews in the West must not ignore the position of Jews within the country. We may not concentrate exclusively on a country's foreign policy, ignoring the conditions of the Jewish citizens who choose to stay.

CLUB CANADA: Patriotism, But Not In America

by Debby Aharon

Patriotism? What is it? The Oxford American Dictionary defines it as "loyalty supporting one's country," but fails to point out where this patriotism belongs. Does it have the right to exist beyond one's borders? The following paragraphs not only publicize Club Canada events but also set the stage for the point I intend to get across.

On Sunday, December 17, at 7:30 pm, YU's Club Canada went to a Montreal Canadiens vs. New York Rangers hockey game at Madison Square Garden. The crowded stands were intimidating, but nevertheless, the club stood to sing Oh Canada while holding the Canadian flag for all who were looking up to the nose-bleed section to see.

At first, the crowd reacted by giving looks of confusion as if Canadians had horns, but this only endured until the familiar melody of the "Star-Spangled Spangled Banner" hummed through the stadium. I suppose that the "bomb's bursting in air" soothed their souls because the actual singing was certainly not

soothing. At least the Canadian anthem sticks to one octave!

As the game progressed, the Montreal Canadians scored the only goal in the first period. The bomb-smoke seemed to have cleared because the people's expressions indicated that their souls were no longer soothed.

By the end of the second period, sections of the crowd began to get agitated especially when the puck infiltrated the Ranger's net once again. The Rangers still had not made a dent in the scoreboard (although I'm sure they would have if they could have reached it).

The middle of the third period marked a turning point for some Americans who stood up and started throwing things at one certain Canadian, had the incredible audacity to take pride in his Canadian team. "I'm just glad that we got out of there alive," commented Cheryl Zainon, SCW Club Canada President.

I recognize (objectively of course) that I have put together two extreme reactions. On the one hand, the Americans who confused opponents' with ene-

mies', and on the other hand, the Canadian who confused candy wrappers' with hand grenades'.

Ms. Zainon was surely joking about her fear of death, but the concept of tolerance (or the lack thereof) from this exaggerated example is valid. Why did these people react in such a manner, and how many others felt the same way without materializing it, but instead yelled, "Go home!" or demonstrated their knowledge of obscene sign language?

The "If you don't like it here then leave" attitude was definitely weaved into the crowd's anger. How often have I heard, even from friends, that Canadians who reside in the US have no right to come to the States to complain? Isn't this just a way of forcing other's not only to conform to American standards but to hide one's patriotism for one's own country as well?

Not only among Americans do I find this tendency to suppress others opinions and beliefs but the general existence of the "superiority complex". People often get so caught up in their own society that they fail

to recognize that other decent societies exist. Many people go to the extent to convince themselves that their hometown is superior.

For example, the "I Love NY" slogan must have been imposed to improve the New Yorker's state of mind. The only people who need to say it are New Yorkers because they are so deeply rooted into the city's soil that they must assure themselves of its worth in order to live there! This statement would rarely exude from the lips of an out-of-state person let alone from those of an out-of-country person simply because an over-crowded city of people with pride does not particularly appeal to most.

So why do Canadians stay in America when such an attitude prevails? There are many reasons, but here is a decent analogy. Look at those who truly intend to make Aliyah. Why are they still in Galut? Maybe they must first complete a certain amount of education or maybe their parents need them at home for a couple more years. However, they know that although

Opinion — 41 Years

Continued from page 3, Column 4.

chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that the letter initiated by Theodore Mann (past president of the American Jewish Congress) and Hyman Bookbinder (former Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress), does not represent the "mood of the mainstream Jewish community, which is to give the Prime Minister his chance to wage peace his way." Therefore, despite the intentions of the signers for Shamir to return to Israel saying the American Jews are no longer with him—this is not the reality.

SSSJ CARNIVAL
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SPORTS TRIVIA

by Esti Weber

Answers to the quiz should be submitted as soon as possible to Esti Weber room 17F. The first Stern College student to correctly answer the quiz will receive a prize and will be mentioned in the next issue of **The Observer**.

1. Who won the Davis Cup? Whom did he beat?
2. What seven time Olympic gold medalist is making a come-back?
In what sport?
3. Which American won the closest Tour de France (bicycle race) in history?
4. Who is today's highest paid baseball player?
5. Which player recently broke the rookie rushing record in Football?
6. What team does former Nicks coach Rick Patino coach this year?
7. What Jets quarterback led the Jets to an upset victory over the Baltimore Colts in Superbowl?

Lady MACS Lose To Hunter

On Thursday night, December 8, the Lady Macs faced Hunter College. At half time Stern was down by nine points. Though they began catching up in the third quarter, the fourth quarter lapsed into one of defeat for the Lady Macs. The Hunter team had players who reached six feet in height. Not surprisingly, Stern had no players who came within that height range, making it difficult to block their opponents. The final score was 46-28.

MACABEES-A Modern Day Chanuka Prayer

by Debby Aharon and Shoshana Levine

"For the miracles, and for the salvation, and for the mighty shots on net, and for the victories and for the games which You performed for our alumni in those days, at this time.

In the days of Captain Dina Friedman, under the coaching of Mr. Weiner—the SCW captain and her team-mates—when the wicked University of Antioch rose up against Your SCW Macs team to make them forget Your pride and relinquish Your sportsmanship and compel them to stray from the statutes of Your will—You in Your great mercy cheered for them in the time of their despair, You took up their grievance, judged their claim, and avenged their defeat.

You delivered the strong into the court of the weak, the many wins into the hands of the few, the offense into the hands of the defense, the giants into the hands of the dwarfs, the wanton of wins into the hands of the

diligent players of Your SCW Macs. For Yourself, You made a great and honorable name in this world (that of Yeshiva University), and for Your SCW team You worked a great victory and salvation as this very day. Thereafter, Your players came to the locker-rooms of Your University (YU) and cleansed their uniforms, got into shape, and kindled the lights of the electric scoreboard, and they established these eight days of Chanukah to express thanks and praise to Your great devotion to the SCW Macs."

On this Chanukah, the year Tav Shin Nun, Tehe Shenat Nissim, may it be a year of redemption and may the tremendous miracle of Chanukah be recreated in our day and age. May the day come on which the Lady Macs will rise up against their opponents and triumph, and may the students at Yeshiva University have the opportunity to say "Ness Gadol Haya Poh." And let us say Amen.

Close Game Against New Rochelle

by Esti Weber

On Monday November 27, the Macs came extremely close to victory. They felt cheated of a win in their defeat by the College of New Rochelle. The Macs began the game with full force, and by half time had worked up a strong lead with a score of twenty to twelve.

Unfortunately, as the game wore on, the New Rochelle players began to improve. The result was a neck and neck score towards the end of the game. During the last five minutes of playing, each team's score increased when they moved downcourt with the ball. There were repeated shots

taken from the foul line. With only two seconds left on the clock, the Macs were ahead by two points and already thought they had clinched the game.

Unexpectedly, an opponent tossed a three pointer from half court and the ball swished through the net.

The final score, forty-nine to forty-eight, was disappointing and frustrating for the Lady Macs who had come close to winning. A positive outcome of this is that with such a close loss, the team realizes that victory is attainable, and that the continuing season has potential to be a success.



**Happy Chanukah
to all SCW students
and faculty
on behalf of
THE OBSERVER**

Lady MACS Basketball Schedule

Jan. 29	Hunter College (JV)	Home	7:30 pm
Feb. 5	SUNY Maritime	Home	7:30 pm
Feb. 7	Mt. St. Mary	Home	8:00 pm
Feb. 12	York College	Away	7:30 pm
Feb. 15	Northeastern Bible	Home	7:30 pm
Feb. 22	SUNY Maritime	Away	7:30 pm

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